

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS

KENYA

3rd – 26th November 2012

TOUR REPORT

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We arrived at Nairobi Airport in the early afternoon, following a very long and tiring flight from Australia. Even so, we were very keen and up for the task of seeing a huge number of birds during the tour. So in the grounds of the airport and flying above it, our first birds of the tour included Marabou Stork, Black Kite, African Palm-Swift, Common Bulbul and Pied Crow.

Leaving the ever-expanding and traffic-locked city of Nairobi, we headed for the nearby peaceful haven of Nairobi National Park, an extensive area of true wilderness harbouring large game and many splendid birds, all set against the bizarre backdrop of city skyscrapers and large factories and numerous aeroplanes flying into and out of the adjacent Nairobi Airport! We spent the rest of the afternoon birding in the park. As is the case in the national parks of Kenya, we were restricted to viewing from the vehicle, but this was to work well for us throughout the tour, as much of the roof of our sturdy 4x4 vehicles could be removed, provided a 360 degree view of the surrounding landscape.

As we ate our picnic lunch in a picnic area just inside the parks gates, we were bombarded with a series of new birds as we watched Sacred Ibis, Red-eyed Dove, the beautiful Diederik Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Winding Cisticola, Pale Flycatcher, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, the very large Long-tailed Fiscal, Superb Starling, Rufous and House Sparrows, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Speke's and Baglafaecht Weavers, Brimstone Canary and Yellow-rumped Seedeater. Following lunch we drove down onto the plains, driving through the scattered acacias we added many more new birds including the stately Common Ostrich, Long-tailed Cormorant, a good number of Cattle Egrets, a very close Hamerkop, hovering Black-shouldered Kites, quite different from our similar looking Australian Kites, a distant Black-chested Snake-Eagle, one or two coveys of obliging Yellow-necked Spurfowls, large flocks of Helmeted Guineafowls and perhaps best of all, good close looks at both White-bellied and Hartlaub's Bustards. There was also Crowned Lapwing, Three-banded Plover, a splendid Dusky Turtledove, stunning Little Bee-eaters, numerous Red-naped Larks, Red-rumped Swallow, both Rosy-breasted Longclaw and the fear less common Pangani Longclaw, several Grassland Pipits, a couple of flocks of Yellow-bellied Eremomelas and we watched the very uncommon African Moustached Warbler, in full song. We saw a whole array of cisticolas, which included small Pecoral-patch and Wing-snapping, as well as larger Stout, Rattling, Winding and Croaking. We saw several Northern Pied Babblers, a rather sneaky Brown-crowned Tchagra, which was very reluctant to show himself, Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, large flocks of Red-billed Quelea and out-of-plumage White-winged Widowbirds, a few Red-cheeked Cordonbleus, stunning Purple Grenadiers, Crimson-rumped Waxbills, African Citrils, African Quailfinches and Brimstone and Yellow-fronted Canaries. We also enjoyed great looks at a pair of wintering Palearctic migrants, the very beautiful Pied Wheatear. We also saw a good number of mammals, a

couple of us had a quick look at a Slender Mongoose, we saw three Lions, herds of Common Zebra, amazingly, both Black and White Rhinoceros, Giraffe, African Buffalo, Common Warthog, Eland, Africa's largest antelope, Eastern Thompson's Gazelle, Impala and Kongoni. It was a great start to the tour.

The following morning a little birding in the grounds of our hotel in Nairobi produced several new birds which included very close Hadada Ibis, a large flock of Little Swifts, a few Speckled Mousebirds, an Olive thrush, a pair of White-eyed Slaty Flycatchers, Common Fiscal, several Pied Crows and Spectacled Weaver. There was also a Western Yellow Wagtail, a migrant from the northern Palearctic.

Following breakfast we drove to the south, heading for Lake Magadi, just north of the border with Tanzania. We made our first birding stop in a patch of acacia woodland, literally on the extreme southern edge of the ever expanding suburbs of Nairobi. The birding was very good and new birds came thick and fast. We observed a single African Hoopoe at very close quarters, beautiful Wire-tailed Swallows were flying all around us, we enjoyed great looks at the attractive Cape Robin-Chat and the equally attractive White-browed Scrub-Robin, a single Buff-bellied Warbler showed very well in a large acacia, as did a diminutive Red-faced Crombec. A singing Cisticola performed nicely and even bust into song for us, a Tawny-flanked Prinia showed well, a Yellow-breasted Apalis popped into view, along with a female Bronze Sunbird and a dazzling male Variable Sunbird took our breath away. We watched both Tropical and Slate-coloured Boubous, at one time we could see both species in the same field of view, a Hildebrandt's Starling bedazzled us, we saw several Chestnut Sparrows, the diminutive Grey-capped Social-Weaver showed very well, alongside the equally diminutive Speckle-fronted Weaver, we watched a family party of White-bellied Canaries and a pair of Streaky Seedeaters. However the bird that stole the show was the rarely observed Wahlberg's Honeybird. There was also a couple of Palearctic migrants, we had good looks at an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and a Willow Warbler.

We then made a series of birding stops in the splendid Ngong Hills, which produced a great many new birds. We saw a perched Eastern Chanting-Goshawk, a Dark Chanting Goshawk was observed in flight, as was a Shikra and we watched a pair of African Hawk-Eagles, the male was performing his spectacular display flight and guess what, the female, surprise surprise, took no interest at all! A pair of Crested Francolins crossed the road, a few Emerald-spotted Wood-Doves showed while we were having our picnic lunch, several Namaqua Doves were seen well and we found a tree full of African Mourning Doves, resting up during the heat of mid-day. We saw a few Laughing Doves very well, saw a White-bellied Go-away-bird, a party of Blue-naped Mousebirds, a pair of splendid Grey-headed Kingfishers attending a nest hole in the bank of a large river, a Rufous-crowned Roller was scoped as it sat on power lines and both Von der Decken's and African Grey Hornbills flew across the road in front of our vehicles. This area also produced no less than five separate species of barbets, Red-fronted Tinkerbird and Red-fronted, Black-throated, d'Arnaud's and Red-and-yellow Barbets, all of which were seen very well. Our main target bird in this area was the attractive and well marked, but unfortunately, all too rare Short-tailed Lark, which following a little searching, we saw extremely well. While searching for it we also enjoyed very good close looks at another very uncommon species of lark, the Fawn-coloured Lark. We observed the very attractive Fischer's Sparrow-lark on a couple of occasions. On one occasion we came across a large flock of hirundines, most of the flock were made up of Northern House Martins, a Palearctic migrant, there were also smaller numbers of Plain Martins and a single Barn Swallow, another Palearctic migrant. We saw a couple of Long-billed Pipits, an African Bare-eyed Thrush and a lovely Little Rock-Thrush. We saw three species of wheatears very well, the resident Shallow's Wheatear and two Palearctic migrants, the Northern and Isabelline Wheatears. A Spotted Morning-Thrush was

observed, along with a Northern Crombec, both Ashy and Levaillant's Cisticolas were seen well, as were Grey-backed Camaroptera and the Grey Wren-Warbler. A Chin-spot Batis popped up on one occasion, an African Paradise-flycatcher flew across the road in front of our vehicles, a pair of Abyssinian White-eyes were observed, we were transfixed by Marico, Hunters, Beautiful and Eastern Violet-backed Sunbirds. A single Isabelline Shrike showed well, yet another Palearctic migrant, a Brubru popped into view as did a pair of the uncommon Pringle's Puffbacks. Several Eurasian Golden Orioles, another Palearctic migrant, showed during our picnic lunch, Red-winged and Greater Blue-eared Starlings were observed, as was a Northern Grey-headed Sparrow and a pair of Yellow-spotted Petronias. Splendid Vitelline Masked Weavers were much admired as were Black-necked and Holub's Golden Weavers. We had a quick look at a female Green-winged Pyillia, we saw a male Red-billed Firefinch and a pair of very uncommon Southern Grosbeak-Canaries.

In the middle of the afternoon we reached Lake Magadi where our main target bird was the extremely range-restricted Chestnut-banded Plover, which we quickly located and saw very well in the scope. There was also a supporting cast of other new birds at the lake, which included many hundreds of superb Lesser Flamingos, good numbers of Black-winged Stilts, a few Blacksmith Lapwings and three species of Palearctic migrants, Ruff, Common Greenshank and Little Stint. New mammals along the roadside today included a troop of Olive Baboons, a couple of Unstriped Ground Squirrels, a Bushbuck, several Grant's Gazelles and a single Gerenuk.

A quick look around the grounds of our hotel in Nairobi, the following morning, produced several new birds which included African Darter, Mountain Buzzard, African Pied Wagtail, Yellow White-eye and Bronze Mannikin. We then drove out of Nairobi and travelled to Thika where we birded in the gardens and grounds of a large hotel. The Thika River was in flood and there was a huge amount of water swirling by us. The track along the riverbank was a little slippery, but our visit was very worthwhile with great looks at the following new species, Egyptian Goose, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Spot-flanked and White-headed Barbets, the uncommon Eastern Honeybird, Mountain Wagtail, Black Sawwing, a female Black Cuckoo-shrike, the simply stunning Ruppell's Robin-Chat, Grey-capped Warbler, White-bellied Tit, Abyssinian White-eye, Green-headed, Amethyst and Collared Sunbirds, Red-billed Firefinch and Rufous-backed Mannikin. We also added one more Palearctic migrant, a Common Sandpiper.

We continued our journey to Mount Kenya, making a quick stop at a papyrus swamp, on the outskirts of Thika. Here we found a few White-rumped Swifts flying over the swamp and a good number of African Golden Weavers in the papyrus. Our second birding spot was in an area of farmland at Muranga, here our main target bird was the endangered Hinde's Babbler. New birds here included African Swamphen, Lilac-breasted Roller, Cardinal Woodpecker, Lesser striped Swallow, the very beautiful White-headed Sawwing, Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul, Fork-tailed Drongo and Common Waxbill. We also saw three very uncommon species of birds, we enjoyed very good looks at a Little Bittern, in this instance, a migratory bird from the Palearctic, we found a roosting Spotted Eagle-Owl and had good looks at a Lesser Honeyguide. Try as we may, we only managed a quick glimpse at a Hinde's Babbler.

We continued on to Mount Kenya, where our destination for the night was the wonderful Mountain Lodge. We arrived just in time for lunch, just as a heavy downpour of rain hit the mountain. During lunch it rained very heavily and just as we finished having lunch, it stopped just as suddenly. We spent the rest of the afternoon birding from the roof of the lodge, which is a fantastic place from which to watch birds in the surrounding temperate rainforest. New birds for the tour included Great Sparrowhawk, Eastern Bronze-naped and Olive Pigeons, African Green-Pigeon, Red-fronted Parrot,

Hartlaub's Turaco, Mottled, Alpine and Scarce Swifts, the very large Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Rock Martin, Mosque Swallow, Cape Wagtail, Mountain Greenbul, Hunter's Cisticola, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Montane White-eye, Black-backed Puffback, Montane Oriole, Red-billed Oxpecker, Waller's and Sharpe's Starlings, and the beautiful Brown-capped Weaver. We also saw three species of Palearctic migrants, Green Sandpiper, Grey Wagtail and Blackcap. New mammals for the tour included Sykes's Monkey, Scrub Hare, Ochre Bush Squirrel, Blotched Genet, Southern Tree Hyrax and Waterbuck. We even enjoyed brief views of the very impressive peak of Mount Kenya. During the night some of us were woken by a member of staff in order to observe a Marsh Mongoose and a beautiful Leopard, which could be seen in the lodges spotlights, which lit up a large salt lick and waterhole in front of the lodge.

After breakfast the following morning, we were back up on the roof and new birds included Grey Heron, Black Stork, Tamborine Dove, Moustached Green Tinkerbird, White-eared Barbet, Yellow-whiskered and Slender-billed Greenbuls, White-starred Robin, Brown Parisoma, Grey and Black-throated Apalis's, Black-headed Weaver, Yellow-crowned Canary and Thick-billed Seedeater. Leaving the lodge we drove back down the mountain, birding as we did so. By the time we left the lush green forests of the mountain, we had added a further 10 species of raptors, Lizard Buzzard, African Harrier-Hawk, European Honey-Buzzard, Augur and Eurasian Buzzards and Wahlberg's, Booted, Long-crested, Martial and African Crowned Eagles. We admired a beautiful Klaas's Cuckoo, had good looks at the range restricted Tullberg's Woodpecker, observed the uncommon Angola Swallow, watched a beautiful male African Stonechat, saw the diminutive African Dusky Flycatcher, were thrilled by the stunning African Paradise-flycatcher, added Northern Double-collared Sunbird, the gorgeous Red-collared Widowbird, a beautiful male Yellow Bishop in full breeding plumage, enjoyed good looks at the Grey-headed Negrofinch and the equally stunning African Golden-breasted Bunting. We also enjoyed great looks at the very beautiful Guereza Colobus, an absolutely stunning species of monkey.

We then drove to nearby Naro Moru River Lodge, at the foot of Mount Kenya, where we had lunch. Following lunch we enjoyed a very pleasant walk through riverine forest and some adjacent farmland. Here we enjoyed more new birds for the tour which included Ring-necked Dove, the impressive looking Crowned Hornbill, we picked out a couple of Ethiopian Swallows sat on telegraph wires, amongst a large flock of Barn Swallows, admired a Cabanis's Greenbul, a pair of White-browed Robin-Chats, we had surprisingly good looks at a few normally more retiring Rufous Chatterers, saw the beautiful Tacazze Sunbird, the much smaller Easter Double-collared Sunbird, a few Cape Rooks, greatly admired the very beautiful Violet-backed Starling and some members of the group saw a Yellow-breasted Waxbill. We also enjoyed good looks at a migrant from the northern Palearctic, a beautiful Nightingale, which unfortunately, do not sing on their wintering grounds.

After breakfast the following morning we birded the nearby Solio Plain, a huge expanse of rolling grassland, which had until recently, been uninhabited. Now much of the plain has been taken over by a large ranch, which farms game animals and there is also a number of new settlements, housing squatters that have recently been evicted from Mount Kenya and the Aberdare Mountains National Parks. Even so, the Solio Plain is still a great place for observing grassland species and we found many new birds for the tour which included Black-headed Heron, a small group of African White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures, we saw a few Tawny Eagles, enjoyed good looks at both Common and Greater Kestrels, very much enjoyed watching small flocks of stunning Grey-crowned Cranes, saw one or two huge Kori Bustards, flocks of Black-winged Lapwings, enjoyed huge numbers of Red-capped Larks, Plain-backed Pipits, Northern Anteater Chats and a few Capped Wheatears and a small flock of Long-tailed Widowbirds. We also saw two migrants from

the Northern Palearctic, an adult female Pallid Harrier and several Whinchats.

We then drove up into the Aberdare Mountains National Park where we very much enjoyed the cool mountain air. An amazing 400 kilometres of electrified fencing now surrounds the Aberdare Mountains National Park, aimed at keeping the animals in and people out! Surely a sign of the times, this will undoubtedly increasingly happen to all the world's wild areas, as pressure on land and resources intensifies. Following a picnic lunch inside the park, we set off to find the parks special birds, slowly gaining in altitude as we did so. On a small lake we added Little Grebe, Yellow-billed Stork and the uncommon African Black Duck. We saw small flocks of Scaly Francolin and the near-endemic Jackson's Francolin, we had good looks at a Black Cuckoo, several obliging White-browed Coucals, a very close Greater Honeyguide, several perky Alpine Chats, even had good looks at the normally very skulking Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler, had good looks at a couple of Brown Woodland-Warblers, enjoyed good close looks at the endemic Aberdare Cisticola, admired a Black-collared Apalis, saw the rather skulking African Hill-Babbler very well, we saw good numbers of both Golden-winged and Malachite Sunbirds, watched a couple of Black-crowned Tchagras, a large flock of Slender-billed Starlings and the rather shy Abyssinian Crimsonwing. We also enjoyed good looks at the Common Rock-Thrush, a migrant from the Northern Palearctic. We also added new mammals for the tour which included Vervet Monkey, Spotted Hyena, African Elephant and several Bush Duiker. In the late afternoon we drove to Nyeri for an overnight stay.

As we were loading bags into our vehicles in the grounds of our hotel, the following morning, we saw a new bird for the tour, the attractive Southern Black Flycatcher. We then drove to a nearby quarry where we met up with a young man who is the guardian of a pair of Cape Eagle-Owls, which nest in the quarry. Here we enjoyed great scope views of a single bird which sat on a fully exposed rocky ledge. Other new birds here included Horus and Nyanza Swifts and Red-winged Starling. A little further down the road we did some birding at a small dam, where new birds included a Great Egret, a couple of Red-billed Teal, a few Yellow-billed Ducks, a Black Crake, a couple of Red-knobbed Coot, a few very close Brown Parrots and a couple of Pied Kingfishers.

A short drive took us to the famous Thompson's Falls and while admiring the falls a Peregrine Falcon flew by us and landed on some rocks along the edge of the falls, where we were able to enjoy great scope views, of this delightful falcon.

We then continued on to Lake Nakuru National Park, where we enjoyed a superb lunch. We then spent the rest of the afternoon birding around the lake. During the last twelve months Kenya had experienced much more rain than usual and many of its lakes, including Lake Nakuru, were holding far more water than usual. This had made Lake Nakuru far less alkaline than usual and because of this there was only a handful of Lesser Flamingos present, but there was a good covering of Greater Flamingos. The edge of the lake was literally packed with birds and new birds for the tour included Black-necked Grebe, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Great Cormorant, Little and Intermediate Egrets, Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbill, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Hottentot and Cape Teal, Southern Pochard, African Fish-Eagle, Pied Avocet, Grey headed Gull and Malachite Kingfisher. Plus a collection of Palearctic migrants which included a few Common Ringed Plovers and a large number of Wood and Marsh Sandpipers. Impressively huge and ancient Yellow Fever Trees surround the lake and birding these, also gave us a fine selection of new birds for the tour. Which included Green Woodhoopoe, Nubian and Bearded Woodpecker, African Grey Flycatcher, Arrow-marked Babbler, Northern Puffback, African Black-headed Oriole, Ruppell's Long-tailed Starling and Red-headed Weaver. We also found a few Eurasian Hoopoes, migrants from the Palearctic.

We spent the following morning birding around Lake Nakuru and once again new birds came thick and fast. Around the lakes edge we greatly admired a family party of Saddle-billed Storks, several beautiful African Jacanas, a good number of Spur-winged Lapwings and a large flock of Whiskered Terns. More Palearctic migrants included a few Northern Shoveler, a couple of Northern Pintails, a Eurasian Marsh-Harrier, a Montagu's Harrier, a couple of very uncommon Temminck's Stints, a few Gull-billed Terns, at least two uncommon White-winged Terns and a small flock of Sand Martins. Amongst the Yellow Fever Trees new birds included Brown Snake-Eagle, Striped Kingfisher, Common Scimitarbill, Grey Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Black-lored Babbler, Grey-backed Fiscal, Brubru and Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike. We also saw two more species of Palearctic migrants, the very large Steppe Eagle and the beautiful Eurasian Hobby. We also added one new mammal, the rather uncommon Bohor Reedbuck.

Following lunch at our lodge at Lake Nakuru, we drove to Hells Gate National Park, which is not far from Naivasha. Inside the park we birded a long narrow gorge which was lined with steep precipitous cliffs. Here we found a large nesting colony of Ruppell's Griffon Vultures, unfortunately, far fewer in number, than their used to be. Other new birds here included a pair of impressive Verreaux's Eagles, a couple of Lanner Falcons and a delightful pair of Cliff Chats. We then drove to Lake Naivasha, where we spent the night at a lodge by the lakeside.

Following breakfast we birded in the grounds of our lodge, which ran down to the shore of Lake Naivasha. New birds we encountered here included a few Black-crowned Night-Herons, a couple of Squacco Herons, the uncommon Black Egret, a couple of Purple Herons, a perched African Goshawk, which we were able to see well in the scope, several Eurasian Moorhens, an immature Red-chested Cuckoo and the very impressive Giant Kingfisher. Reluctantly leaving Lake Naivasha behind, we set off for Lake Baringo, further to the north. A quick stop at a roadside lake produced large numbers of White-faced Whistling-Ducks, a Silverbird and a beautiful male Pin-tailed Whydah, in full breeding plumage. Continuing on to Lake Baringo, we stopped to admire a Northern Red-billed Hornbill and a Striped Ground Squirrel, which was observed along the edge of the road.

We awoke the following morning to find the water levels of the lake were dramatically high and we watched as the sun, reflected in the swollen waters, slowly rose over the lake. Prior to breakfast some members of the group saw a Striated Heron and a Woodland Kingfisher, along the edge of the lake. Following breakfast we met up with two local bird guides, who took us to the day time roost of an African Scops-Owl and then called in the beautiful Pearl Spotted Owlet. We spent the rest of the morning birding in the scrub not far from our lodge. New birds here included the near-endemic Jackson's Hornbill, a splendid Greyish Eagle-Owl, the range restricted Pink-breasted Lark, a Red-fronted Warbler, a small flock of Brown Babblers, a couple of Northern Grey Tits who showed very well, as did the diminutive Mouse-coloured Penduline-Tit, we greatly admired the large Grey-headed Bushshrike, we saw several Northern White-crowned Shrikes, had a quick look at a flock of Wattled Starlings, enjoyed watching small flocks of both White-headed and White-billed Buffalo-Weavers, as well as Lesser Masked, Little and Golden-backed Weavers and African Firefinch. We also saw yet another Palearctic migrant, the rather drab Spotted Flycatcher. We also saw a Cape Hare, in this area.

Following a well earned lunch we returned to the bush with our local guides in order to hunt out some of the more secretive and illusive inhabitants of this arid country. Firstly, we were taken to see a pair of beautifully marked Heuglin's Coursers, who were sheltering from the heat of the sun. We were then taken to a day-time roost of Slender-tailed Nightjars, which were sat under thick cover and just about impossible to see, until they flushed from cover and even then, it took some

time before we were all able to enjoy good views of one sat out in the open. A pair of Spotted Thick-knees was next in line, they were hiding in the shadows of a large thorn-bush and we saw them incredibly well.

Behind Lake Baringo, there are kilometres of endless cliffs, which dominate the landscape and the following morning we birded this area, where we added the range-restricted Hemprich's Hornbill, the unassuming Brown-tailed Rock Chat, the well marked Spotted Morning-Thrush, the rather shy Lead-coloured Flycatcher, several Fan-tailed Ravens, large flocks of Bristle-crowned Starlings, a pair of Blue-capped Cordon-bleus and African Silverbill.

Leaving Lake Baringo, we set for the Kerio Valley and on the way, a Double-toothed Barbet flew in front of the bus. On our arrival at the Kerio Valley we did some birding on an attractive scrubby hillside and although it was hot and sunny, we were well rewarded with great looks at both the Ross's and White-crested Turacos, we also enjoyed good close looks at the very attractive Black-headed Gonolek, we enjoyed watching the antics of a small flock of White-crested Helmet-shrikes and we also enjoyed good close looks at the very uncommon Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver. Following a picnic lunch, we set off for the long drive to Kakamega Forest, in Western Kenya, not far from the border with Uganda. On the way we stopped at a supermarket in Eldoret, to buy some supplies and circling above the car park were a couple of Hooded Vultures.

The following morning after a very early breakfast, we were in position shortly after dawn, birding an area along the main track through the forest, which gave us a good vantage point to watch birds at different heights in the forest. The four main target species at Kakamega are Equatorial Akalat, Turner's Eremomela, Chapin's Flycatcher and African Shrike-flycatcher. We managed to find all four, in the first hour of birding! We saw a large number of new birds for the tour, as West African type rainforest, only occurs in Kenya, at Kakamega Forest. Flocks of Stuhlmann's Starlings were often observed flying overhead and could be seen perched in the highest bare snags. There were also cumbersome Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills which we watched as they bounced from branch to branch, before finding a comfortable perch, where they would sit hunched up, surveying the forest below them. Dead and rotting trunks attracted a pair of beautiful Yellow-billed Barbets and the treetops themselves were also favoured by Red-tailed Bristlebill and Northern Black Flycatcher. High in the canopy Square-tailed Drongos were often the leaders in the mixed-species feeding flocks, which included other species such as Olive-green Camaroptera, African Blue-flycatcher, Dusky Tit and Green Sunbird. Foraging Black-necked Weavers gleaned in the foliage along with Dark-backed Weavers that sang their strange, squeaky musical songs and we were very fortunate to see a Southern Hyliota high above our heads. A pair of White-headed Wood-hoopoes probed the mossy boughs and there were colourful Red-headed Malimbés, African Thrushes, nasal-tufted Grey-throated Barbets and colourful Yellow-spotted Barbets.

The mid-canopy was home to a number of greenbuls that included the brightly coloured Joyful Greenbul and the rather plain Ansorge's Greenbul. Mackinnon's Fiscal showed incredibly well low down in the canopy for a change. Bocage's Bush-shrike was a popular find as were two-tone Black-billed Weavers but one of the most stunning and popular species that sought the shelter of the vine tangles was Luhder's Bush-shrike and we enjoyed several good sightings of this very striking bird. Other species seen in Kakamega Forest included Blue-headed Bee-eater, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Olive-bellied Sunbird, Vieillot's Black Weaver and Southern Citril. There was also a large flock of European Bee-eaters, another migrant from the Palearctic.

In the undergrowth skulked the hardest of all the birds to see but we managed to get good looks at Brown-chested Alethe, Snowy-headed Robin-Chat, Chubb's Cisticola, White-chinned and Banded Prinias and Black-crowned Waxbill. We even managed to get good looks at the most skulking of all

birds, the White-spotted Flufftail. We also watched a troop of Blue Monkeys, moving through the canopy of the forest.

We spent the following morning birding around the now sugar cane dominated countryside around Mumias, which only a couple of years ago, was an area of rough grassland, which has now almost completely disappeared under cultivation. We searched for species which perhaps are more easily found in neighbouring Uganda, which was just a few kilometres away to the west of us. We really hit the jackpot, when we enjoyed good looks at the uncommon Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, this is the only area in Kenya where this predominately Ugandan bird occurs. The Yellow-throated Greenbul, a surprisingly attractive bird, for a greenbul was seen well and we also enjoyed good views of the Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird. We stumbled across a small flock of the decidedly uncommon Compact Weaver, who were busily weaving their intricately woven nests. Somewhat surprisingly, we saw our first Feral Pigeons of the tour, in one of the roadside villages, a Blue-spotted Wood-Dove popped up in front of us, we enjoyed good looks at both Blue-headed and Senegal Coucals, a brightly coloured Copper Sunbird, a stunning Yellow-mantled Widowbird and a small flock of the uncommon Bar-breasted Firefinch, also put in an appearance. We then returned to our lodge in Kakamega Forest, in time for lunch.

Following lunch and a short siesta we drove back into the forest, and birded one of the narrow trails in the forest. As we left the lodge a flock of White-throated Bee-eaters were spotted and we stopped to admire this intra-African migrant, a non-breeding visitor to Kenya, from breeding grounds further to the north. The birding was surprisingly good for the afternoon and we prised six new species for the tour, out of the forest. All six of them, are normally very difficult birds to find. We found a very responsive Black-billed Turaco, a surprisingly obliging Blue Malkoha, the rather secretive Hairy-breasted Barbet and the unobtrusive and rarely seen Least Honeyguide. We enjoyed watching a couple of displaying African Broadbills and we even managed to get a good look at a Uganda Woodland-Warbler.

Reluctantly leaving Kakamega Forest, we drove southwards to Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria. Here we found three Abdim's Storks sitting on the crossbar of one of the soccer goals, at the local soccer pitch! This species is an intra-African migrant, it is a non-breeding visitor to Kenya, from breeding grounds further to the north. We enjoyed flight views of a couple of African Open-billed Storks, enjoyed great looks at a Grey Kestrel, an Eastern Grey Plantain-eater performed well for us and a Broad-billed Roller was seen well in the scope, as it sat on telegraph wires. Our main reason for visiting this area was to search for a number of specialities that exist in the remnants of the once extensive papyrus swamps that surround Lake Victoria, however, this fast-disappearing habitat, makes assess increasingly difficult. We did remarkably well and managed to find all the sought after species, even the very difficult Papyrus Canary. The other papyrus specialities included Greater Swamp and White-winged Warblers, Carruther's Cisticola, Swamp Flycatcher, Red-chested Sunbird, the stunning Papyrus Gonolek and Yellow-backed Weaver.

Leaving Lake Victoria, we drove to an extensive area of rice paddies, close to Herero, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch, in a slightly shady spot we managed to find. We saw a number of new birds here which included African Marsh-Harrier, the very handsome Long-toed Lapwing, a few Banded Martins, several Fan-tailed Widowbirds, small numbers of both Souther Red and Black-winged Red Bishops and a very active group of Zebra Waxbills. We also added two more Palearctic migrants, Curlew Sandpiper and Red-throated Pipit.

We then set off for the long and somewhat bumpy drive, to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. We did a little roadside birding on the way, not far from Lolgorien, where we added Trilling Cisticola and the uncommon Red-headed Bluebill. As we entered the Masai Mara Game Reserve we found a

good number of Sooty Chats along the roadside and that evening, some members of the group were fortunate enough to enjoy good looks at a pair of African Wood-Owls, in the grounds of our lodge.

The following morning we gazed across an endless sea of grass, that is the Masai Mara, dotted not only with acacia bushes but with countless numbers of grazing antelope. We began our exploration of this area on the scrubby slopes of the Oloololo escarpment. The rock strewn hillsides were perfect habitat for the migrant Tree Pipit, which we saw well and the Familiar Chat, which also performed very well for us. As the morning warmed up, the raptors took to the skies and we added three more birds of prey to our ever growing list. The first was a magnificent Imperial Eagle, an uncommon Palearctic migrant to Kenya, this was followed by several sightings of the Bateleur, everyone's favourite, the third new bird was the very uncommon Western Banded Snake-Eagle, which we saw very well in flight. Another good find this morning was the diminutive Green-capped Eremomela, which has a very patchy distribution in Kenya. The best sighting of the morning was the very impressive Schalow's Turaco, with its extreme hairstyle and bright red wings.

Following lunch, as we were walking to our vehicles, a member of staff at the lodge, pointed out a very beautiful Narina Trogon to us, which started the afternoon off very well. We then ventured out onto the open plains in search of both mammals and birds. A small area of wetland had Spur-winged Geese around its perimeter, along with African Wattled Lapwing. In the grasslands we found a wintering flock of Lesser Kestrels, migrants from the Palearctic, we observed several Red-necked Spurfowls, a splendid Black-bellied Bustard, a small flock of European Rollers, yet another Palearctic migrant and a very close Flappet Lark, however, without doubt, the bird that stole the show, was the magnificent Secretary-bird, which was greatly admired by the whole group. New mammals here included a family party of Bat-eared Foxes, who unfortunately, were sleeping in long grass and basically, all we could see, was the top of their ears! We faired better with a large band of Banded Mongoose, we enjoyed good numbers of beautiful Topi, surely one of the most impressive antelopes in Africa and we also found a much less common Oribi.

We began our second full day in the Masai Mara Game Reserve by visiting a nearby escarpment, to search for the Rock-loving Cisticola, which try as we may we failed to find. However, we did find three other new birds, we enjoyed good looks at the very uncommon Ovambo Sparrowhawk, the very attractive Bare-faced Go-away-bird and the uncommon and range restricted Rufous-chested Swallow. We also had good looks at a few Yellow-spotted Hyrax, who were sunning themselves on the top of a large rounded rock.

We then spent the rest of the day driving from one side of the Mara, to the other, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way. As we traversed the plains, we found a good number of new birds. We made birding stops at a number of wetlands along the way and on one occasion we were pleased to enjoy good looks at the very uncommon Rufous-bellied Heron and a couple of White Storks, another migrant from the Palearctic. In the grasslands we found a fine pair of Coqui Francolins, the very beautiful Temminck's Courser, a couple of flocks of Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, we enjoyed watching a Great Spotted Cuckoo, another Palearctic migrant, we admired a beautiful Black-and-white Cuckoo and we played hide-and-seek with a White-tailed Lark. We were then taken to an isolated tree on the plains, nesting in the tree were a dozen or so Rufous-tailed Weavers. Until recently, this species was endemic to nearby Tanzania. However, a few years ago, half a dozen birds crossed the border into Kenya and now nest in this single tree, Tanzania's loss and Kenya's gain! New mammals today included Steinbuck, Kirk's Dikdik, Blue Wildebeest and best of all a stunning Cheetah, which we enjoyed all by ourselves. Following dinner, we did a little spot lighting and despite a few technical difficulties with the lodges vehicles, we enjoyed watching a Spring Hare, which looked like a miniature kangaroo and we also saw an Egyptian Mongoose. On arrival

back at our lodge, some of us were fortunate enough to see a Senegal Galago.

Today was very much a travel day, as we drove from the Masai Mara, back to Nairobi. Even before leaving the park, we added two new birds to the trip list, the handsome Golden-tailed Woodpecker and an attractive Brown-throated Wattle-eye. Leaving the Mara we headed out over the Loita Plains and were delighted to find a stunningly attractive Two-banded Courser along the roadside and a little later we found a small group of Swahili Sparrows.

On the way to Nairobi we made a detour up on to the Kinangop Plateau, near Magumu, to a remnant patch of high grassland to search for the endangered Sharpe's Longclaw, one of the few endemic birds to Kenya. Unfortunately, the grassland is rapidly disappearing, as it is being turned into agricultural land, with grave consequences for the longclaw. In no time at all we were enjoying good scope views of this rapidly disappearing species. Before arriving at Nairobi, we made one final birding stop at Marguu Swamp, near Limuru, where we added two species of uncommon ducks, the Moccoa and the White-backed.

The following day was once again very much a travel day, however, we began the day by birding a patch of thorn bush close to Lukenya, not far from Nairobi. The birding here was very good and new birds for the tour included Abyssinian Scimitarbill, the range-restricted Banded Parisoma, the uncommon and very attractive Red-throated Tit, Chestnut Weaver, Black-faced Waxbill and Straw-tailed Whydah. Around mid-day we arrived at Hunters Lodge at Kiboico, where we enjoyed lunch. The grounds of the lodge were full of birds and we managed to add three new birds to our ever growing list, Ashy Flycatcher, Black-bellied Sunbird and Grosbeak Weaver. We continued towards Tsavo East National Park, which would be our final destination today, on the way we made a brief stop at a Baobab Tree, where our guides knew that Mottled Spinetails nested. Right on cue we enjoyed super close looks at a few of these birds flying around the tree.

We arrive at Tsavo East National Park in good time and spent the rest of the afternoon driving to Patterson's Camp, regularly picking up new birds along the way. These included Pygmy Batis, a Lesser Grey Shrike, a rather uncommon Palearctic migrant, a few Parrot-billed Sparrows, a flock of Black-capped Social-Weavers and the very attractive Somali Golden-breasted Bunting. It was getting dark as we approached Patterson's Camp and we flushed a Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar, from the side of the road.

Leaving Patterson's Camp, we refuelled our vehicles in the town of Voi, where somewhat surprisingly, we added three new birds, the self introduced House Crow, the very large White-naped Raven and the beautiful Cut-throat Finch. We spent the rest of the day driving through Tsavo East National Park, driving through some very remote country before arriving at Watamu, on the coast. The birding in the park was very good and we added a whole swag of new birds, which included Somali Ostrich, a huge flock of over 200 migrating Amur Falcons, this was a tremendous spectacle and was greatly enjoyed by everyone. We saw a pair of rarely observed Harlequin Quail, flocks of stunning Vulturine Guinea fowl, the very small Buff-crested Bustard, the attractive Black-headed Lapwing, a large flock of Kittlitz's Plovers, a flock of Caspian Plovers, an uncommon Palearctic migrant and we enjoyed close looks at Black-faced Sandgrouse. We added no less than three new species of bee-eaters, the uncommon Somali, Madagascar, a non-breeding visitor to Kenya and best of all, the incredibly attractive Northern Carmine. We also added Red-winged Lark, attractive Chestnut-headed and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks, the delightful Golden Pipit, the range-restricted Tsavo Sunbird, Taita Fiscal, the attractive Rosy-patched Bushshrike, incredibly beautiful Golden-breasted Starling, both Magpie and Fischer's Starlings, Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver, Eastern Paradise-Whydah and the very uncommon Purple Indigobird. We also added four more species of

Palearctic migrants, Rufous Bushchat, Garden Warbler, Common Whitethroat and Red-backed Shrike. The best find today however, was a breeding colony of Somali Sparrows, at the Sala Gate, of Tsavo East National Park. This species has never before been recorded in southern Kenya. New mammals observed in the park today included a large troop of Yellow Baboons, the handsome Beisa Oryx and the range-restricted Desert Warthog. As we neared the end of our long journey, the humidity gradually increased as we approached the coast and we were finally greeted by the warm waves of the Indian Ocean lapping on the beach below our hotel. In the grounds of our beautiful resort there was an ornamental pond with papyrus growing in it and lots of nesting Golden Palm Weavers.

The next two days were spent in the marvellous Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, where the birding is never easy, but the rewards are many and varied. Over the course of the next two days my long-time friend and guide David came out of retirement, to ensure that in the thick, tangled forest, we found the many specialities of this intriguing area. New birds came thick and fast. We were very pleased to find a perched Southern Banded Snake-Eagle, David took us to a day-time roost of the nocturnal Bat Hawk, it was an absolute pleasure to be able to enjoy good scope views of this reclusive species, in full daylight. We also found a rather responsive Fischer's Turaco, which we saw amazingly well. By far the most sought after of all the specialities of this area, is the Sokoe Scops-Owl, which is endemic to this forest. Finding them at night can be very difficult, so one of the forest guides went into the forest before dawn, located one of these birds and then tracked it down at its day-time roost. Later in the day we drove with him to the spot, where following a short walk into the forest, we were able to see this little gem in broad daylight, which was a very special treat. We tracked down a Green Barbet, had good looks at the uncommon Scaly-throated Honeyguide, an Eastern Nicator showed surprisingly well and a Yellow-bellied Greenbul, was somewhat less obliging. We also saw Black-headed Apalis, Pale Batis, the dainty Little Yellow Flycatcher, the range-restricted Amani Sunbird, the amazing Four-coloured Bushshrike really tested our patience but eventually we all saw this stunning bird very well. We also enjoyed good looks at roving flocks of Chestnut-fronted and Retz's Helmetshrikes and the highly localised Black-bellied Starling. The sighting that most of us enjoyed the most, was a very responsive Thick-billed Cuckoo, this very uncommon species repeatedly flew towards us, on a number of occasions. Today I also had a fleeting glimpse of a fast disappearing Four-toed Elephant-Shrew.

We also visited nearby Mida Creek, where we checked out a high tide roost of migrant waders, from breeding grounds in the northern Palearctic. New birds here included Grey Plover, Lesser and Greater Sandpipers, Terek and Broad-billed Sandpipers, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone and Whimbrel. Three species of terns, once again, non-breeding visitors to Kenya, were also observed here. The Lesser Crested and Saunder's Terns breed to the north in Somalia and Common Terns, breed in the Palearctic.

Today we visited a different section of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and this worked well for us, enabling us to add yet more new species. We had a good look at the decidedly shy Green Malkoha, Bohm's Spinetails circled above the forest and we found a couple of obliging Trumpeter Hornbills. We enjoyed great views of a very responsive Eastern Green Tinkerbird and equally good views of the uncommon Pallid Honeyguide, we added three skulking species of bulbuls, Fischer's Greenbul, Northern Brownbul and Tiny Greenbul, they were all very vocal and eventually, we succeeded in getting good looks at them. We saw the Red-tailed Ant-Thrush and Forest Batis very well, a noisy party of rather nervous Scaly Babblers rather begrudgingly showed themselves and we enjoyed good looks at the very localised Plain-backed Sunbird.

We made a second visit to Mida Creek, where we added Eurasian Curlew, a non-breeding visitor

from the Palearctic and best of all we enjoyed scope views of several beautiful Crab Plovers. One of the very special birds of this area, is the uncommon and endemic Malindi Pipit. Our local guide David took us to the rather small Arabuko Swamp, where we managed to enjoy very good close looks, at this seldom seen species.

Reluctantly leaving the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest behind we drove further north along the coast to Kilifi, where we spent an hour or so birding. The only new bird we found was the uncommon Village Indigobird, which we saw very well. We then entered Tsavo West National Park, where we birded our way to our lodge where we would spend the night. We had only added one new bird in the park, the highly localised Red-naped Bushshrike, this is the only part of Kenya where this bird occurs. We then enjoyed the magnificent spectacle of a female Leopard with two full grown cubs, just as it was getting dark. As we were nearing the Voyager Safari Camp we spotted a Plain Nightjar on the track ahead of us and we watched it for some time, as it sat in the spotlight for us.

Following breakfast we spent an hour or so birding in the grounds of our lodge, where we saw a surprisingly large number of new birds. These included the uncommon Knob-billed Duck, a dark morph and equally uncommon Gabar Goshawk, a pair of Water Thick-knees, very close African Orange-bellied Parrots, the beautiful Violet Woodhoopoe, super looks at the range-restricted Brown-breasted Barbet and we found a good number of African Reed-Warblers and Taveta Golden Weavers nesting in a reedbed. We then set off for the nearby Taita Hills and along the way we enjoyed good looks at a large flock of White-headed Mousebirds and a large group of Dwarf Mongoose.

On our arrival at the Taita Hills, we concentrated our efforts in the Ngangao Forest Reserve, which is home to three critically endangered species of birds, Taita Thrush, Taita Apalis and Taita White-eye. Deep inside the forest we had to work very hard as none of the three specialities were prepared to give themselves up easily. The first one we encountered was the Taita White-eye, which we saw very well. Sometime later we also enjoyed good looks at the Taita Apalis but try as we may, we were unable to find the Taita Thrush. We did find some other new birds for the tour which included Stripe-cheeked Greenbul, Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler and Yellow-bellied Waxbill. We then drove to our overnight lodge and just before arriving there, we had fairly distant views of a couple of Southern Ground-Hornbills. We then completed our journey at the bizarre Taita Hills Salt Lick Lodge, with its turreted rooms on stilts, looking for the entire world like a series of rockets ready to blast off into outer space.

The following morning we did a little birding around the lodge, which netted our last bird of the tour, the uncommon Black-cheeked Waxbill. We then endured a rather fast and furious drive to Nairobi airport, where we arrived just in time to take our flight back to Australia. Our African adventure had come to an end, the birding had been hectic and the new birds were relentless. We had seen a total of 657 species of birds and 57 species of mammals, there is no doubt that Kenya remains the foremost wildlife experience in the world.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

OSTRICHES *STRUTHIONIDAE*

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* This unmistakable species was first encountered in Nairobi National Park and we saw small numbers elsewhere during the tour.

Somali Ostrich *Struthio molybdophanes* This more arid country species was seen well in small numbers in Tsavo East National Park.

GREBES *PODICIPEDIDAE*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Small numbers observed at various wetlands throughout the tour.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* A single bird, in breeding plumage was seen well on one occasion at Lake Nakuru.

PELICANS *PELECANIDAE*

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* We observed many hundreds of birds at Lake Nakuru.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* Up to a few dozen birds were present on Lake Nakuru.

CORMORANTS *PHALACROCORACIDAE*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Many hundreds at Lake Nakuru and then smaller numbers at other wetland sites.

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus* Also known as Reed Cormorant, we saw small numbers at most of the wetlands we visited.

DARTERS *ANHINGIDAE*

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* A single bird was observed in flight, flying over the Boulevard Hotel, in Nairobi and there was also small numbers present at Lake Naivasha.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNES *ARDEIDAE*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Widespread sightings of small numbers, at most of the wetlands we visited.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* A common and widespread species in Kenya, which we often found away from water.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Small numbers were observed at a few of the wetlands we visited.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Scattered sightings at most of the wetland areas we visited throughout the tour.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* One bird seen well in flight at Lake Naivasha. This is a very localised bird in Kenya, which is not often seen.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* In Africa this species is often referred to as Yellow-billed Egret, we found small numbers present at Lake Nakuru.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Small numbers were observed at most of the wetlands we visited.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Small numbers present at a few of the wetlands we visited.

Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris* This species only occurs in the far south of Kenya, where it is a very uncommon and secretive resident of abundant cover in temporary and permanent freshwater swamps. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at an individual, at a small wetland in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* In Kenya this is a very common and widespread species.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* An uncommon species in Kenya, we saw individuals at Lake Baringo and Lake Victoria.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Small numbers seen at a few of the wetlands we visited.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* A male of the migrant nominate race, was observed very well

indeed at a small dam in farmland at Murangu, while we were searching for Hinde's Babbler.

HAMERKOP *SCOPIDAE*

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* This bizarre bird is in a family of its own and it is common and widespread in Kenya.

STORKS *CICONIIDAE*

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* Small numbers present at scattered wetlands throughout the tour.

African Open-billed Stork *Anastomus lamelligerus* A couple of birds were seen well in flight at Kisumu, Lake Victoria.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* A single individual of this uncommon Palearctic migrant was present at the waterhole at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya and a couple of birds were also observed in the Aberdare National Park.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* Three of these uncommon non-breeding visitors to Kenya, from breeding grounds in northern Africa, were observed sat on the cross-bar of soccer goals at Kisumu, Lake Victoria. We also saw a small number in Tsavo West National Park. Bey El-Arnaut Abdim (1780-1827) was a Turkish governor of Dongola in the Sudan from 1821 until 1827. He was of great assistance to Ruppell on his North African expedition, and Ruppell named the stork after him, the type specimen of the stork was collected in the Sudan in 1823.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* Michael saw one of these birds at the waterhole at the Taita Hills Salt Lick Lodge, in Tsavo West National Park.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* A small number of these uncommon Palearctic migrants were observed in the Masai, Mara Game Reserve and in Tsavo West National Park.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* An uncommon stork in Kenya, we saw small numbers at a few of the wetlands we visited.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* This is a common and widespread species throughout Kenya, we saw large flocks on many occasions.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLSS *THRESKIORNITHIDAE*

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Common and widespread throughout Kenya, this species was revered and mummified in large numbers by the ancient Egyptians, who believed this bird to be the incarnation of Thoth, the god of wisdom and knowledge.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* This widespread species was always common and very noisy. The name is an onomatopoeic rendering of the birds call.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Small numbers of this widespread species of ibis were observed at Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Small numbers were observed at a number of wetlands we visited.

FLAMINGOS *PHOENICOPTERIDAE*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* Huge numbers were present at Lake Nakuru and then we saw a small number at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor* A poor showing at Lake Nakuru this year, where only a handful were present, however, it was gratifying to see large numbers present at Lake Magadi, earlier in the tour.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS *ANATIDAE*

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* An uncommon duck, we saw a small flock at Lake Nakuru and this was followed by a second flock in rice paddies at Herero.

- White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* Small numbers observed at various wetlands throughout the tour.
- White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus* We saw a few of this uncommon species, at Marguu Swamp, close to Limuru.
- Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Common and widespread, observed on most days throughout the tour.
- Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* Small numbers observed at a few of the wetlands we visited.
- Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* A pair of birds were observed at our lodge in Tsavo West National Park.
- African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa* A few pairs were observed at scattered localities throughout the tour.
- Cape Teal** *Anas capensis* Small numbers were present at Lake Nakuru.
- Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata* Small numbers were observed at a few of the wetlands we visited.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* A migrant from the northern Palearctic, we observed a small flock at Lake Nakuru.
- Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha* Small numbers were observed at a small lake near Ngobit, at Lake Nakuru and at Marguu Swamp, near Limuru
- Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota* Small numbers of this attractive species were observed at Lake Nakuru.
- Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* A migrant from the northern Palearctic, we observed small numbers at a few of the wetlands we visited.
- Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma* Small numbers were seen well at Lake Nakuru and again at Marguu Swamp, near Limuru.
- Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa* A few of this uncommon species, were present at Marguu Swamp, near Limuru.

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES *ACCIPITRIDAE*

- European Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* An uncommon Palearctic migrant to Kenya, which we saw very well on four separate occasions.
- Bat Hawk** *Macheiramphus alcinus* We were indeed fortunate to observe this very uncommon and nocturnal raptor, at a day-time roost in the Arubuko-Sokoke Forest.
- Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* We enjoyed several roadside sightings throughout the tour.
- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Small numbers present on most days of the tour.
- African Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* Small numbers present at most wetland areas, its call is one of the most evocative and haunting sounds of Africa.
- Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* A single bird was observed flying above a supermarket carpark in the town of Eldoret and we saw a handful of birds in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International, this species has undergone a very rapid decline in the last ten years and it is estimated that there are now less than 200,000 mature individuals. The main threat to this species are hunting, persecution at nesting sites and indiscriminate poisoning.

- African White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* Small numbers, never reaching more than 20, were observed throughout the tour. This species is now classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. It is estimated this species numbers no more than 300,000 mature

individuals. It has undergone a moderately rapid decline in recent years and the main threats to this species is habitat loss, a decline in wild food sources, hunting, persecution at nesting sites and indiscriminate poisoning.

Ruppell's Griffon Vulture *Gyps rueppellii* We saw a couple of hundred birds nesting in Hells Gate National Park, this is far less than used to nest at this site. We also saw a few birds in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. This species is now classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. It is estimated that this species numbers no more than 30,000 mature individuals. It has undergone a moderately rapid decline in recent years and the main threats to this species are as the African White-backed Vulture. Wilhelm Peter Eduard Simon Ruppell (1794-1884) was a German collector. He made two extended expeditions to northern and eastern Africa in the first quarter of the 19th century. Although he brought back large zoological and ethnographical collections, his expeditions impoverished him. He was also a collector in the broadest sense of the word and presented his collection of coins and rare manuscripts to the Historical Museum of Frankfurt, his home town.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* Small numbers observed at various locations throughout the tour. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International. It has a small declining population which is thought to be no more than 8,500 mature individuals. The threats to this species are the same as other vultures in Africa.

Black-chested Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* We saw an individual in Nairobi National Park and this was followed by a second sighting in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* Seen well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Southern Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus fasciolatus* We saw this very uncommon species on one occasion, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Western Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* This similar species is also very uncommon and once again we saw a single individual in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* This aberrant snake-eagle is an unmistakable raptor and was seen in small numbers over dry bush country. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International and it is thought to number no more than 100,000 mature individuals. It has undergone a moderately rapid decline in the last ten years. The main threat to this species is habitat loss, indiscriminate poisoning and pollution. The name means ' juggler ' in French and refers to the balancing mode of flight employed by this distinctive and spectacular bird.

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* One of these Palearctic migrants was observed at Lake Nakuru.

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus* A single bird was observed well, in the rice paddies, at Herero.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* We enjoyed three sightings of this Palearctic migrant, an immature, an adult female and a spectacular adult male. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The world population is currently estimated to be no more than 30,000 mature individuals. The main threats to this species are the destruction of its grassland habitat in the Russian Steppes, where it breeds and pesticide use in Africa may also be a problem.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* An adult female of this Palearctic migrant was observed at Lake Nakuru and this sighting was followed by an adult male, in the Masai, Mara Game Reserve. Colonel George Montagu (1751-1815) was a soldier and natural history writer and

served as a lieutenant-colonel in the English army during the American revolution. He was later court-martialed for what was referred to as `provocative marital skirmishing`! He then devoted his life to ornithology and following a long and distinguished career in the south of England, at the age of 64, he unfortunately died of lockjaw (tetanus) after stepping on a rusty nail.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* Also known as Gymnogene, meaning `bare-cheeked`, we enjoyed five separate sightings during the tour.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* An individual was observed in flight on Mt. Kenya and this was followed by a second sighting of a perched bird in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates* Our first sighting occurred in the Ngong Hills, a little to the south of Nairobi and our second sighting took place at Lake Baringo.

Eastern Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* We enjoyed several good sightings throughout the tour.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* Some members of the group had a dark morph bird fly right past us, at our lodge in Tsavo West National Park.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* We were fortunate to enjoy good scope views of a perched bird, on the edge of Lake Naivasha.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* We enjoyed a few scattered sightings throughout the tour, mainly of birds in flight. However, we enjoyed prolonged scope views of a perched individual at Lake Baringo.

Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis* A very scarce resident in Kenya, therefore we were very fortunate to observe a very close individual, flying above a rocky escarpment in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Great Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* Also known as Black Sparrowhawk, we saw an individual in flight, from the rooftop of the Mt. Kenya Lodge.

Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo* We enjoyed widespread sightings of this very variable Palearctic migrant.

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus* An uncommon species, which we saw very well on several different occasions.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* We saw this common and handsome resident on several occasions during the tour. The Augur was a priest of ancient Rome who interpreted the will of the Gods by studying the flight of birds. He must surely have been one of the first ornithologists.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* One of these uncommon Palearctic migrants was observed well, circling above the Aberdare Mountains.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* We enjoyed a number of sightings of this common and very variable eagle.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* We enjoyed a few sightings of this Palearctic migrant.

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* We were very fortunate to enjoy a good sighting of this very uncommon Palearctic migrant, while we were birding along the Oloololo escarpment in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International

and is estimated that the world population is between 2,500 – 10,000 mature individuals and declining. The main threat to this species is the loss of habitat to intensive forestry, causing a shortage of large native trees. Other threats are loss and alteration of feeding habitats, shortages of small and medium-sized prey species, particularly ground-squirrels *Spermophilus* spp. Human disturbance at breeding sites, nest robbing and illegal trade, shooting, poisoning and electrocution by power lines. 450 Eastern Imperial Eagles were killed by collision with power lines during the 2009 breeding season in the Altai region of Russia, this is estimated to be 25% of the total population of the region. Hunting, poisoning, prey depletion and other mortality factors are also likely to pose threats along migration routes and in wintering areas.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* We enjoyed several good sightings of this intra-African migrant. Johan August Wahlberg (1810-1856) was a Swedish naturalist and collector. He travelled and collected widely in southern Africa between 1838 and 1856, sending thousands of specimens home to Sweden. He was exploring the headwaters of the Limpopo River, when like Prince Eugenio Ruspoli, he was killed by a wounded elephant.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* A pair of this spectacular eagle were observed very well sat on cliffs in the Hells Gate National Park and this was followed by a second sighting of a single bird flying above the cliffs at Lake Baringo. Jules Pierre Verreaux (1807-1873) was a French natural historian, a nephew of Delalande and married to the latter's sister. He was employed as an ornithologist and plant collector for the Musee of d'Histoire Naturelle, in Paris, which sent him to Australia in 1842. He returned to France, around 1851, with a collection of natural history specimens, reported to number 115,000 items.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* We observed one circling above the Ngong Hills, a little to the south of Nairobi and we observed a second bird in flight, in Tsavo West National Park.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* An uncommon Palearctic migrant which we saw in flight above Mt. Kenya and we saw a second bird perched in Hells Gate National Park.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this majestic bird, all the sightings were of birds in flight.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* We enjoyed several sightings of this majestic eagle throughout the tour, many of which were perched on roadside telegraph poles.

African Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* We enjoyed half a dozen sightings of this uncommon raptor, including a pair nesting inside the grounds of our lodge in Kakamega Forest.

SECRETARY-BIRD *SAGITTARIIDAE*

Secretary-bird *Sagittarius serpentarius* We enjoyed a number of good sightings of this extraordinary raptor during our time in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS *FALCONIDAE*

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* We saw a small flock of these beautiful falcons in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, they are an uncommon winter visitor from the eastern Palearctic.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Small numbers encountered throughout the tour.

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides* Also known as White-eyed Kestrel, we saw a couple of birds along a fence line on the Solio Plain.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* A single bird was seen well, while perched on a telegraph pole at Kisumu, Lake Victoria.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* One of the highlights of the tour, was the sight of a flock of 200 plus of these delightful falcons, hawking for insects in Tsavo East National Park. These eastern Palearctic migrants were on passage through Kenya, heading for wintering grounds

in southern Africa.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* This Palearctic migrant was observed in flight at Lake Nakuru and again in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* Up to four birds were seen very well in Hells Gate National Park.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* We enjoyed good scope views of a single bird perched on a rock face at Thompson's Falls.

PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES PHASIANIDAE

Scaly Francolin *Francolinus squamatus* We saw a pair of this uncommon francolin in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Jackson's Francolin *Francolinus jacksoni* We enjoyed several sightings of this Kenyan endemic while birding in the Aberdare Mountains National Park. Sir Frederick John Jackson (1859-1929) was an English administrator and explorer but also a naturalist and a keen ornithologist. He led a British expedition to make contact with Emin Pasha after the latter was isolated by the Mahdi's victory in the Sudan. In 1889 he led another expedition, financed by the British East Africa Company, to explore the new Kenya colony, and he later became its first governor. He was the Governor of Uganda from 1911 until 1918 and described the country as 'a hidden Eden, a wonderland for birds'. He wrote *The Birds of Kenya Colony and the Uganda Protectorate* in 1928.

Coqui Francolin *Francolinus coqui* A pair showed very well, on one occasion, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Crested Francolin *Francolinus sephaena* We enjoyed four sightings of this attractive species of francolin, at scattered locations during the tour.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Francolinus leucoscepus* This is a very common species in Kenya, we enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Francolinus afer* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this species, during our time in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei* A pair of birds flew right in front of one of our vehicles, in Tsavo East National Park.

GUINEAFOWL NUMIDIDAE

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* We enjoyed numerous and widespread sightings throughout the whole tour.

Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum* This amazing looking, intensely coloured species of guineafowl was seen well on several occasions in both of the Tsavo National Parks.

CRANES GRUIDAE

Grey Crowned-Crane *Balearica regulorum* We enjoyed many sightings of this elegant and beautiful bird.

RAILS GALLINULES AND COOTS RALLIDAE

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* One of the many highlights of this tour, was enjoying very good looks at one of these birds creeping through a small swamp in Kakamega Forest. Little wonder then that it was voted 'Bird of the Tour', by tour participants.

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Unlike most species of crakes, this one is particularly showy and we enjoyed several good sightings throughout the tour.

African Swampfen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* Unlike the Australian Swampfen, the African Swampfen is an uncommon and very shy bird, we were fortunate to enjoy good looks at a single bird at a small dam in farmland at Murangu, while searching for the Hinde's Babbler.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Small numbers observed at Lake Naivasha and at Marguu Swamp at Limuru.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* We saw a couple of birds on a small lake near Ngobit and half a dozen or so at Marguu Swamp at Limuru.

BUSTARDS *OTIDIDAE*

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* We saw small numbers of this impressively large species on the Solio Plain and in Tsavo East National Park.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis* We enjoyed a number of good sightings of this attractive species of bustard.

Buff-crested Bustard *Eupodotis gindiana* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this very small species of bustard at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* We encountered small numbers of this species while in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Hartlaub's Bustard *Lissotis hartlaubii* We enjoyed great looks at this very uncommon species of bustard, on the first day of the tour, in Nairobi National Park. Karel Johan Gustav Hartlaub (1814-1900) was an academic and explorer. He was Professor of Zoology at Bremen and collected in East Africa in 1857. He trained as a medical doctor but his hobby was 'exotic' ornithology and he published a number of papers on African birds, including checklists. He collaborated with Finsch on a book on the birds of Polynesia. He also founded the *Journal fur Ornithologie* with Cabanis. Many people sent him specimens, which he eventually donated to the Hamburg Museum. He wrote the first descriptions of over 30 southern African birds.

JACANAS *JACANIDAE*

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* We enjoyed many good sightings of this 'lily-trotter' throughout the tour.

CRAB PLOVER *DROMADIDAE*

Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* A dozen or so of this very beautiful bird, were seen well in the scope at Mida Creek, on the coast.

STILTS AND AVOCETS *RECURVIROSTRIDAE*

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* We observed small numbers in a number of wetland areas throughout the tour.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* Good numbers of this attractive species were present at Lake Nakuru.

THICK-KNEES *BURHINIDAE*

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* We enjoyed good looks at this dry country species at Lake Baringo and again in Tsavo West National Park.

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* We enjoyed good sightings of this species of thick-knee which always occurs around water, in both Tsavo National Parks.

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS *GLAREOLIDAE*

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* We saw small numbers of this species well in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and on the Loita Plains. Coenraad Jacob Temminck (1778-

1858) was a Dutch ornithologist, illustrator and collector. He was appointed the first Director of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, in Leiden, in 1820 and held that post until his death. He was a wealthy man who had a very large collection of specimens and live birds. His first task as an ornithologist was to catalogue his father's very extensive collection. His father was Jacob Temminck, for whom Le Vaillant collected specimens.

Two-banded Courser *Smutornis africanus* One of these very delicate and very beautiful species of courser was observed well along the roadside on the Loita Plains.

Heuglin's Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus* This stunning bird is also known as Three-banded Courser and at Lake Baringo we were taken to see a pair sheltering from the hot afternoon sun under a spreading thorn-bush. We enjoyed a second sighting in Tsavo East National Park.

Theodor von Heuglin (1824-1876) was born in Ditzingen, Germany, where the local school is named after him. He became a mining engineer and ornithologist. He is recorded as exploring Central Africa and Ethiopia in 1861. He also explored in eastern Africa and he published an account of its birds, *Ornithologie Nordost Afrika*, in 1869. Heuglin was a vocal opponent of evolutionary theories, perhaps since he was the son of the local priest in Ditzingen. He died of pneumonia and is buried in Stuttgart.

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS CHARADRIIDAE

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* We enjoyed widespread sightings of this handsome and common species of lapwing.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* Once again we enjoyed widespread sightings of this very smart and fairly common species of lapwing.

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris* We saw small numbers of this uncommon species of lapwing in rice paddies at Herero and again in a small wetland in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* We observed small numbers of this species during our time in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* This common species of lapwing was observed at regular intervals throughout the tour.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* We enjoyed a prolonged sighting of this very uncommon species of lapwing, in the Tsavo East National Park.

Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus* We saw large flocks of this uncommon species of lapwing on the Solio Plain and again in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* We saw small numbers of this Palearctic migrant at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus* Also known as Mongolian Sandplover, small numbers of this Palearctic migrant were present at the hide-tide roost at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii* A common Palearctic migrant, we found large numbers at the high-tide roost at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus* We were extremely fortunate to find a small flock of this very uncommon Palearctic migrant in Tsavo East National Park.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* We found a flock of approximately 20 birds roosting in a small wetland in Tsavo East National Park. Friedrich Heninrich Freiherr von Kittlitz (1799-1874) was a Polish-born German artist, naval officer, explorer and ornithologist. He was a

friend of Edward Ruppell, who encouraged his interest in natural history and he went with him to North Africa in 1831. Although he was not responsible for either collecting or describing this plover, his illustrations made from specimens that he shot in Egypt established the link between them.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* A common Palearctic migrant which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* We enjoyed several good sightings of this resident species, at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Chestnut-banded Plover *Charadrius pallidus* We observed a good number of this very uncommon species of plover at Lake Magadi, one of only two places where this species occurs in Kenya.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES *SCOLOPACIDAE*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Just a few of these Palearctic migrants were observed at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* A few of these Palearctic migrants were also observed at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* A good number of this Palearctic migrant were at the high-tide roost at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* We had widespread sightings of this common Palearctic migrant.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Once again we had widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* A Palearctic migrant, we saw small numbers throughout the tour.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* We saw small numbers of this uncommon Palearctic migrant throughout the tour.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* We had widespread sightings of this common Palearctic migrant throughout the tour.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* We saw a couple of these common Palearctic migrants at the high-tide roost at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* We saw a large number of this common Palearctic migrant at the high-tide roost at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* A common Palearctic migrant, we saw small numbers at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* A very uncommon Palearctic migrant, we were fortunate to observe two birds at very close quarters, at Lake Nakuru.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Our first sighting of this Palearctic migrant, was of a few birds at the rice paddies, at Herero and this was followed by a second sighting of ten or so birds at the high-tide roost at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* We were fortunate to find a couple of this uncommon Palearctic migrant at the high-tide roost, at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* A common Palearctic migrant which we saw well at scattered wetlands throughout the tour.

GULLS *LARIDAE*

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* We saw many hundreds of birds at Lake Nakuru, plus a few more at Lake Naivasha.

TERNs STERNIDAE

Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi* Half a dozen birds of this species were observed very well feeding along the edge of Mida Creek, on the coast. Howard Saunders (1835-1907) was a British ornithologist who worked at the British Museum. He was known as the 19th century's foremost expert on gulls and terns, and wrote books entitled *Sternae* and *An Illustrated Manual of British Birds* in 1889. His contemporary Swinhoe, named the gull when Saunders was completing a study of that family. Saunders clearly applied strict standards to sight records, at a time when field identification was in its relative infancy and optical aids were much inferior to modern equipment. He rejected his own sighting of a Masked Shrike near Gibraltar in May 1863, writing `as I am frequently sceptical of other people's identifications ... I do not want anyone to accept mine until the bird can be produced as proof.`

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* A Palearctic migrant, we saw small numbers at scattered localities throughout the tour.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* We saw a couple of these Palearctic migrants at Lake Nakuru and at Marguu Swamp, at Limuru.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* We saw good numbers of this species at various wetlands throughout the tour. Many hundreds were present at Lake Nakuru, where many were sporting their striking dark breasted breeding plumage.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A couple of these Palearctic migrants were observed well at Mida Creek, on the coast.

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* A few of these non-breeding visitors were also seen at Mida Creek, on the coast.

SANDGROUSE PTEROCLIDAE

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse *Pterocles gutturalis* We saw a couple of small flocks of this species while birding in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus* We saw this attractive species of sandgrouse very well, in both Tsavo National Parks.

PIGEONS AND DOVES COLUMBIDAE

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* Small numbers observed throughout the towns and villages.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* A common bird of cliffs and towns with a liking for man-made nesting sites.

Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* We saw good numbers of this large species of pigeon at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba delegorguei* Good numbers seen at Mountain Lodge, where they were coming down to drink at the waterhole. We also saw a small flock in flight in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Dusky Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia lugens* We enjoyed a few scattered sightings of this highland species during the tour.

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this species in the more arid areas of the tour.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Seen on almost every day of the tour, as it sang "I am a Red-eyed Dove".

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* An abundant dry country dove, which we saw on most days of the tour.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* A common and widespread dove, which we saw on

many occasions.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* A common and widespread dry country dove, which is more often heard than seen.

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur afer* We enjoyed good looks at a single bird, near Mumias, very close to the Ugandan border.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this dove, which is not always easy to see.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* A common and attractive dry country dove, which saw in the more arid areas of the tour.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus* Seen well at scattered localities throughout the tour.

PARROTS *PSITTACIDAE*

Brown Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* This species is also known as Meyer's Parrot, we saw a small flock very well at a small lake near Ngobit and we saw a second small flock in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

African Orange-bellied Parrot *Poicephalus rufiventris* We saw a small flock of this species in Tsavo West National Park.

Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gulielmi* We saw large numbers of this species at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya. We also saw small numbers in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

TURACOS *MUSOPHAGIDAE*

Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi* Seen well on the Oloololo escarpment, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Elva now has a small scar on her leg as a reminder of the sighting! Hermann Schalow (1852-1925) was a German banker in Berlin. He was also an amateur ornithologist who worked with both Cabanis and Reichenow. He wrote *The Musophagidae* in 1986 and *Beitrag zur Vogelfauna der Mark Brandenburg* in 1919. The Berlin Natural History Museum library is named the Schalow Library in his honour. In 1990 the wheatear was split from the Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*, of which it had formerly been considered a subspecies.

Black-billed Turaco *Tauraco schuettii* A very rare bird in Kenya, where it only occurs in Kakamega Forest. A single bird responded well to tape playback, allowing us to see it very well.

White-crested Turaco *Tauraco leucolophus* This, perhaps the most stunning of the 'green' turacos, showed well in the Kerio Valley.

Fischer's Turaco *Tauraco fischeri* We enjoyed great views of this attractive and uncommon species of turaco in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Dr. Gustav Adolf Fischer (1848-1886) was a German explorer of East and Central Africa. Fischer and Reichenow were obviously very close friends, as Reichenow described all six species of birds that bear the prefix Fischer.

Hartlaub's Turaco *Tauraco hartlaubi* We enjoyed fabulous views of this superb turaco at several locations throughout the tour.

Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae* We enjoyed two sightings of this stunning species, the first occurred in the Kerio Valley and the second took place in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Lady Ann Ross (1817-1857) was the wife of Rear Admiral Sir James Clark Ross who

discovered the Magnetic North Pole and the Ross Sea and Ice Shelf. The turaco was sent to her from West Africa during the time that she was stationed on St Helena. She kept the bird as a pet for ten years and sent sketches and moulted feathers to John Gould who named the turaco after her. The wings were once a popular addition to fashionable ladies hats.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides personatus* We enjoyed a couple of good sightings, during our time in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides leucogaster* We enjoyed several good sightings in the more arid areas of the tour.

Eastern Grey Plantain-eater *Crinifer zonurus* We enjoyed a good sighting of this species along the roadside at Kisumu, Lake Victoria.

CUCKOOS *CUCULIDAE*

Black-and-white Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* We saw this species in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and in Tsavo West National Park. This rainy-season migrant parasitises babblers and bulbuls.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* We saw this stunning species of cuckoo in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and in Tsavo East National Park. This species is a migrant from the Palearctic.

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti* We enjoyed great flight views of a very responsive bird which flew just over our heads on a number of occasions in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. It parasitises Retz's Helmet-shrike.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* Seen well on one occasion at Lake Naivasha. This species parasitises thrushes and robins.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* We saw this species very well in the Aberdare Mountains National Park and in Kakamega Forest. This cuckoo parasitises bush-shrikes.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* We enjoyed several widespread sightings of this species. It parasitises mainly warblers and sunbirds. Klaas was the Hottenot manservant of the ornithologist and collector Levaillant. The story goes that his wife was a beautiful servant girl named Narina, the Narina Trogon is named in her honour, she also just happened to be Levaillant's mistress.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* We enjoyed widespread sightings throughout the tour. The name is an onomatopoeic rendering of its call. This species parasitises weavers.

Blue Malkoha *Ceuthmochares aeeus* The Yellowbill has recently been split into this and the following species, which are geographically separable. This species only occurs in western Kenya and we saw this uncommon species very well on one occasion, in Kakamega Forest.

Green Malkoha *Ceuthmochares australis* This uncommon species is a non-breeding migrant to eastern Kenya, from further south in Africa. We saw it very well on one occasion in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* We saw this uncommon species on one occasion at Mumias, close to the Ugandan border.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* This fairly common species of coucal only occurs in Kenya in the area around Mumias. Fortunately, we enjoyed a couple of good sightings in this area.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* We enjoyed many good sightings at scattered localities throughout the tour.

OWLS *STRIGIDAE*

Sokoke Scops-Owl *Otus ireneae* We were taken to a day-time roost of this very uncommon bird, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. The bird was a rufous morph individual which we saw

amazingly well. It was first described as recently as 1966 and until recently it was believed to be endemic to the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. However, in 1992 it was discovered in the East Usambara Mountains of Tanzania. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. It is estimated that the world population is less than 2,500 birds. The main threat to this species is habitat loss, as it has a very small and fragmented range.

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis* Once again, we were taken to a day-time roost by our local guides at Lake Baringo.

Cape Eagle-Owl *Bubo capensis* We enjoyed good scope views of an individual at the regular stakeout, at the quarry near Ngobit.

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* We stumbled across a bird at its day-time roost in farmland at Murangu, while searching for Hinde's Babbler. We also saw a second bird while spotlighting in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens* We stumbled across a bird at its day-time roost at Lake Baringo.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii* Some members of the group saw a pair of this species in the grounds of Kichwa Tembo Lodge in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* Seen well on a few occasions throughout the tour. The call of this bird is very useful in attracting small birds.

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES *CAPRIMULGIDAE*

Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar *Caprimulgus donaldsoni* We flushed a bird from the track at dusk, just before arriving at Patterson's Camp, in Tsavo East National Park. Arthur Donaldson-Smith (1846-1939) was an American traveller and big-game hunter, who seems to have spent a great deal of time in East Africa. He was probably in Ethiopia in 1896 and may have been present at the Ethiopian victory over the Italians at the Battle of Adwa. He published *Through Unknown African Countries* in 1897. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus* We enjoyed prolonged looks in the spotlight, at one of these non-breeding migrants, from breeding grounds further north in Africa, at dusk, in Tsavo West National Park.

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* We saw one particularly well at Lake Baringo, where we were taken to a day-time roost site by local guides. We enjoyed simply stunning looks, at very close quarters.

SWIFTS *APODIDAE*

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* We saw good numbers of this swift flying above the forest at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* We enjoyed two good sightings of this uncommon species, the first occurred at Mtito Andei, when we watched a number of birds flying around their nesting tree. The second sighting was of a single bird flying above the Arabuko Swamp.

Bohm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* We saw a few of this uncommon swift flying over a small pond, in an open area next to the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Dr. Richard Boehm (1854-1884) was a German traveller and zoologist who worked in Tanzania and Zaire during the late 1800's until his premature death from malaria. He wrote *Van Sansibar zum Tanganjka*, which was published in 1888.

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* We enjoyed a good number of sightings usually at lower elevations, where palms were growing.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* This species is both resident and a migrant from the Palearctic. We saw

a couple of small flocks flying above Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Mottled Swift *Apus aequatorialis* We enjoyed good sightings of this large species of swift on a few different occasions.

Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae* We saw a good number flying around the quarry near Ngobit and then saw many thousands nesting along the cliffs in Hells Gate National Park. Nyanza is a province in western Kenya and a Bantu word, meaning 'lake'.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* An abundant bird throughout Kenya. The Taita Hills Salt Lick Lodge was little more than a giant Little Swift nest box!

Horus Swift *Apus horus* In Kenya this species is mainly an intra-African breeding migrant. It usually leaves for non-breeding grounds in southern Africa in September. However, they have been known to linger until December. We saw a flock of 10 birds or so, at the quarry near Ngobit. Horus, son of Ra (also known as Osiris), was one of the Gods of ancient Egypt, usually depicted as a falcon-headed man.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* We enjoyed a good number of sightings, scattered throughout the tour.

MOUSEBIRDS *COLIIDAE*

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* Seen on almost every day of the tour, it is a member of one of the few families that are endemic to Africa.

White-headed Mousebird *Colius leucocephalus* A highly localised species, we saw a few near Maktau and then half a dozen or so in Tsavo West National Park.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* This species occurs in more arid areas than the two previous species and we saw it well on several occasions.

TROGONS AND QUETZELS *TROGONIDAE*

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* Fortunately for us an employee at the Kichwa Tembo Camp, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, pointed out a beautiful male to us in the grounds of the camp, where we enjoyed prolonged looks at it. The species was described by James Stephens in 1815 and was named by Levaillant for his beautiful Hottentot mistress and the word means 'flower'. Klaas, of Klaas's Cuckoo fame, was Levaillant's servant and Narina's unfortunate husband!

KINGFISHERS *ALCEDINIDAE*

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristatus* We enjoyed a handful of sightings of this jewel-like kingfisher.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* We enjoyed a few scattered sightings of this kingfisher, which is often found far from water.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* A fairly common species, which we saw very well on several occasions.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* A widespread species, which we saw well on several occasions.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* One of the least colourful of the kingfishers and also one of the less common in Kenya. However, we did see it well at Lake Nakuru and in Tsavo West National Park.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maximus* One of the largest species of kingfishers in the world, we saw it well at Lake Naivasha and again while having lunch at Hunters Lodge, at Kiboico.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* We enjoyed several good sightings of this beautiful species of kingfisher.

BEE-EATERS *MEROPIDAE*

Blue-headed Bee-eater *Merops muelleri* This species only occurs in Kakamega Forest in Kenya, where we enjoyed good looks at an individual.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* A widespread, attractive and easily seen species.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates* A brightly coloured and easily seen highland species.

Somali Bee-eater *Merops revoilii* We saw a few pairs very well in Tsavo East National Park, more sombrely coloured than most bee-eaters but it is still a very special bird.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* A few small flocks of this non-breeding migrant, from breeding grounds in northern Africa, were observed throughout the tour.

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* We saw this species well in both of the Tsavo National Parks.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Small flocks of this Palearctic migrant were observed on a few occasions.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* We observed a small flock of this absolutely stunning species of bee-eater, in Tsavo East National Park. In Kenya this species is a non-breeding visitor, from further north in Africa.

ROLLERS *CORACIIDAE*

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* This Palearctic migrant was regularly encountered in the more arid areas we visited, in the second half of the tour. On one occasion, while we were birding in Tsavo East National Park, a scattered flock of over 100 birds flew overhead, all heading in a southerly direction.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* Small numbers of this very attractive roller were encountered at widespread locations throughout the tour.

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevius* An uncommon resident, we enjoyed good scope views of a bird perched on telegraph wires, while birding in the Ngong Hills, a little to the south of Nairobi.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* We saw individuals of this uncommon species very well at Kisumu, Lake Victoria and Tsavo West National Park.

HOOPOES *UPUPIDAE*

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this Palearctic migrant at Lake Nakuru.

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* We enjoyed a handful of sightings of this resident species.

WOODHOOPES AND SCIMITAR-BILLS *PHOENICULIDAE*

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* A few family parties observed throughout the tour.

Violet Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus damarensis* An uncommon bird of more arid areas, we enjoyed a couple of sightings in the Tsavo West National Park.

White-headed Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei* We observed a pair very well in Kakamega Forest.

The woodhoopoes are one of the few families that are endemic to Africa.

Common Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* We enjoyed a few scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Abyssinian Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus minor* We saw it well in thorn-bush country at Lukenya and again in the Tsavo East National Park.

HORNBILLS *BUCEROTIDAE*

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* A common species, which we saw well on several occasions.

- Jackson's Hornbill** *Tockus jacksoni* We saw this near endemic very well on a few occasions, in the Lake Baringo area.
- Von der Decken's Hornbill** *Tockus deckeni* We enjoyed several good sightings of this attractive hornbill. Baron Carl Claus von der Decken (1833-1865) was a German explorer. His first expedition in 1860 was to Lake Malawi. He explored East African and was the first European to try to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. In 1861, together with a geologist, he visited the Kilimanjaro massif. A year later, he ascended the mountain to 13,780 feet, approaching its permanent snow cap and mapping the area. He also established its height to be about 20,000 feet. In 1863 he went to Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands. His final journey was to Somalia in 1865, when he sailed up the River Jubba until his ship, the Welf foundered in the rapids above Bardera. There he and three other Europeans were killed by Somalis.
- Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus* Small numbers observed at a few locations.
- Hemprich's Hornbill** *Tockus hemprichii* We saw a few birds very well in the Lake Baringo area. Wilhelm Friedrich Hemprich (1796-1825) was a German traveller and collector, principally of marine animals, but he also discovered many new birds. Hemprich died during a bout of Massawa fever, whilst on a collecting expedition in northeast Africa.
- African Gray Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus* A fairly scarce bird in Kenya, even so, we enjoyed a few scattered sightings.
- Trumpeter Hornbill** *Ceratogymna bucinator* An uncommon species which we saw well, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and again in the Taita Hills.
- Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** *Ceratogymna brevis* An impressive bird which we saw very well on a number of occasions.
- Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna subcylindrica* We saw this large species of hornbill very well, in both Kakamega Forest and the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Southern Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri* We were fortunate to find a pair of this uncommon species, in Tsavo West National Park.

BARBETS *CAPITONIDAE*

- Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus* We saw a few of these beautiful barbets, during our time in Kakamega Forest.
- Red-and-yellow Barbet** *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* Another beautiful species of barbet which we saw well on several occasions, at scattered locations.
- D'Arnaud's Barbet** *Trachyphonus darnaudii* We enjoyed many good sightings of this beautiful barbet. D'Arnaud was a French explorer and big-game hunter. His first trip was an Egyptian expedition looking for the source of the White Nile and he penetrated further than any other previous expedition. He also explored the Sudan from 1841-1842 and Ethiopia in 1843.
- Grey-throated Barbet** *Gymnobucco bonapartei* This bizarre species of barbet, with its unusual nasal tufts was easy to find in Kakamega Forest and we also saw it once in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis* We enjoyed good looks at this uncommon species from the rooftop of Mountain Lodge, at Mt. Kenya.
- Green Barbet** *Stactolaema olivacea* A speciality of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, it took a little finding but then we saw it well.
- Eastern Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus simplex* This uncommon species is another Arabuko-Sokoke Forest speciality, which we saw particularly well on one occasion.
- Moustached Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus leucomystax* This highland speciality, was observed very well at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.
- Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus* We saw this species well at Mountain Lodge,

on Mt. Kenya and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus* We saw this species well on a number of occasions.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* We observed this uncommon species very well in the scope, at Mumias, very close to the border with Uganda.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* This striking barbet is another Kakamega speciality, which we saw well there.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta* This uncommon species of barbet is another Kakamega speciality, which we saw very well on one occasion.

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata* We saw this handsome species well, on a number of occasions.

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Regular sightings throughout the tour.

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala* Seen well in the Ngong Hills, a little to the south of Nairobi and again in Tsavo West National Park. The race concerned is *stigmatothorax*, which has a brown, rather than a black throat.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus* A striking bird, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

Brown-breasted Barbet *Lybius melanopterus* We enjoyed a good sighting of this species in the grounds of our lodge in Tsavo West National Park.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* One of these birds flew across the road in front of our vehicles at Kabarnet and then later in the day we saw it particularly well in the Kerio Valley and we also saw it in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

HONEYGUIDES *INDICATORIDAE*

Eastern Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiae* We enjoyed really close looks at this very uncommon species, at the Thika River, at Thika.

Wahlberg's Honeyguide *Prodotiscus regulus* Another very uncommon species of honeyguide, which we saw very well on one occasion, in scrubland on the southern outskirts of Nairobi. Johan August Wahlberg (1810-1856) was a Swedish naturalist and collector. He travelled and collected widely in southern Africa between 1838 and 1856, sending thousands of specimens home to Sweden. He was exploring the headwaters of the Limpopo River, when like Prince Eugenio Ruspoli, he was killed by a wounded elephant.

Pallid Honeyguide *Indicator meliphilus* Another very uncommon species of honeyguide, which once again we saw well, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis* A very uncommon species of the forest interior, it is another Kakamega speciality, we enjoyed very close looks at an individual in Kakamega Forest.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* A much more common and widespread species, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* Another uncommon honeyguide, we saw it very well on one occasion, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* The most common and widespread of the honeyguides, we enjoyed a few good sightings of this species.

WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES *PICIDAE*

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* We enjoyed several good sightings of this common and widespread woodpecker, at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* This species of woodpecker just gets across the Kenyan border and into the Masai Mara Game Reserve. We saw it very well on one occasion in the grounds of the Siana Springs Camp.

Tullberg's Woodpecker *Campethera tullbergi* We saw this locally common highland species on one occasion, on the slopes of Mt. Kenya. Tycho Fredrick Hugo Tullberg (1842-1920) was a Swedish zoologist. He gained a doctorate in philosophy at Uppsala in 1869 and became a lecturer there in 1871. He was instrumental in the development of modern zoological veterinary medicine in Sweden. Between 1882 and 1907 he was Professor of Zoology at Uppsala and after 1902 he was the Chairman of the Linnean Society of Hammarby. He was an academic as opposed to someone active in the field. He published several books in Swedish, English and German.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendropicos poecilolaemus* This species just gets across the border from Uganda, into the area around Mumias. Where fortunately, we enjoyed good scope views of an individual.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* A common and widespread species of woodpecker, which we saw very well on several occasions.

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus* We observed a couple of these large woodpeckers, at Lake Nakuru.

Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae* We also observed this species of woodpecker on a couple of occasions, at Lake Nakuru.

BROADBILLS *EURYLAIMIDAE*

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* We enjoyed very good looks at a few displaying males, twirling around on their perches, like a mechanical toy, in Kakamega Forest.

LARKS *ALAUDIDAE*

White-tailed Lark *Mirafra albicauda* An uncommon bird of grasslands, which we saw well on one occasion, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Red-winged Lark *Mirafra hypermetra* We saw this large, heavy lark of arid areas, in the two Tsavo National Parks.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana* A large and very common species of lark, which we saw well on many occasions.

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* We watched one of these birds displaying above the Oloololo escarpment, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. The name refers to the mechanical noise made by the bird during its display flight.

Pink-breasted Lark *Calendulauda poecilosterna* A common lark of more arid areas, we enjoyed several sightings throughout the tour.

Fawn-coloured Lark *Calendulauda africanoides* Our first sighting of this lark took place, in the Ngong Hills, while we were searching for the very uncommon Short-tailed Lark. We enjoyed a second sighting, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* We observed a pair of this uncommon but attractive species, in Tsavo East National Park.

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix signatus* We saw a few birds very well, during our time in the Tsavo East National Park.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia* We saw small flocks of this attractive species, in the Ngong Hills, at Lake Magadi and on the Solio Plain.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* This attractive species of lark proved to be very common on the Solio Plain and we also saw smaller numbers in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Short-tailed Lark *Pseudalaemon fremantlii* We were very fortunate to find this very uncommon but very distinctive species of lark on an open plain, a little to the south of the Ngong Hills.

SWALLOWS *HIRUNDINIDAE*

White-headed Sawwing *Psalidoprocne albiceps* We saw small flocks of this attractive species of swallow at regular intervals throughout the tour.

- Black Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne pristopecta* This elegant swallow was seen well on many occasions.
- Plain Martin** *Riparia paludicola* A common and conspicuous swallow throughout the western half of Kenya.
- Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* Also known as Bank Swallow, this Palearctic migrant was observed in small flocks at Lake Nakuru and at Kisumu, Lake Victoria.
- Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* We observed a few birds flying over the rice paddies at Herero and a few more flying over grassland in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* This Palearctic migrant was definitely on the move throughout the tour and we constantly came across huge flocks of migrating birds, sometimes numbering into the hundreds.
- Angola Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis* We saw small numbers at a few different localities.
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* We enjoyed several widespread sightings of this very attractive species, but nowhere was it common.
- Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica* An uncommon bird in Kenya, we picked out a couple sat on telegraph wires, amongst a large flock of Barn Swallows, at Naro Moru River Lodge.
- Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* We enjoyed a number of widespread sightings throughout the tour.
- Common House-Martin** *Delichon urbicum* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant were noted throughout the tour.
- Lesser Striped-Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* A common species, we regularly encountered small numbers throughout the tour.
- Rufous-chested Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa* An uncommon species of swallow, which only occurs in the southwestern area of Kenya. We saw an individual very well, during our time in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* Small numbers observed on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* We had widespread sightings of this common species, throughout the tour.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS *MOTACILLIDAE*

- Grassland Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* Widespread sightings of small numbers of birds throughout the tour.
- Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis* Seen well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.
- Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* Once again, we saw small numbers of this species, at scattered localities throughout the tour.
- Malindi Pipit** *Anthus melindae* This species is endemic to Somalia and the Malindi area of Kenya. Therefore, we were very fortunate to enjoy good scope views of one of these birds in the Arabuko Swamp. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The population is unknown. Much of the range of this species is under threat by developers. A large percentage of the land is proposed for large-scale conversion to agriculture, for growing sugar cane and oil seed.
- Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* We saw small numbers of this Palearctic migrant, in the rice paddies at Herero and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* A small flock of this Palearctic migrant was observed well, along the Oloololo escarpment, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Golden Pipit** *Tmetothylacus tenellus* We enjoyed very good sightings of these beautiful birds who launched themselves into glittering, fluttering display flights, in both of the Tsavo National Parks.

Sharpe's Longclaw *Hemimacronyx sharpei* We enjoyed excellent scope views of a few of these endangered birds, on the Kinangop Plateau near Magumu. This Kenyan endemic is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. The population is estimated to be 20,000 individuals and declining rapidly. The main threat to this species is habitat loss. The vast majority of the birds range, which is highland tussock grass, is being converted to agriculture. It is believed that emergency measures need to be taken to stop the subdivision of land on the Kinangop Plateau. Within the next decade it is thought that only 20% of tussock grassland will be left on the plateau. Richard Bowdler Sharpe (1847-1909) was a British zoologist. He was the Assistant Keeper of the Vertebrate Section of the British Museum's Zoology Department from 1895 until his death from pneumonia in 1909. He had a particular interest in classification and phylogeny and its relation to evolution. He wrote descriptions of over 200 species of birds. He was co-author of the series *Birds of Europe*. While working for the British Museum in the Department of Zoology, he commenced his massive *Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum*, which appeared in 27 volumes between 1874 and 1898. Sharpe founded the British Ornithologists' Club in 1892 and edited its Bulletin for many years. The Western Negrofinch *Nigrita (canicapilla) emiliae* was originally named after his wife Emily. They had many children, judging by the title of C.E. Jackson's book, published in 1994, *Richard Bowdler Sharpe and His Ten Daughters!*

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* We enjoyed several scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Pangani Longclaw *Macronyx aurantiigula* We saw this uncommon species on one occasion, in Nairobi National Park. The Pangani River runs through northeastern Tanzania and terminates at the Indian Ocean at Pangani, south of Tanga.

Rosy-breasted Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae* We saw this attractive species of longclaw in Nairobi National Park and again in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* This common species was observed on most days of the tour.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant were observed throughout the tour.

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* Small numbers of this species were observed well on a few occasions.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* A few of these uncommon Palearctic migrants, were observed in four different localities.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* A beautiful wagtail of fast flowing streams, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

CUCKOOSHRIKE *CAMPEPHAGIDAE*

Black Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga flava* We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the tour, predominantly of females.

BULBULS *PYCNONOTIDAE*

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* Seen on every day of the tour.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei* In Kenya, this species only occurs in Kakamega Forest, where we saw a few very well. Dr. William John Ansorge (1850-1913) was an English explore and collector who was active in Africa in the second half of the 19th century. He wrote *Under the African Sun* in 1899.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris* A forest canopy species which we saw well at Mountain Lodge on Mt. Kenya and in Kakamega.

Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* Seen well in the central highlands in

farmland at Murangu, while searching for Hinde's Babbler and then seen again in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest along the coast.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris* Small numbers seen well throughout the tour.

Mountain Greenbul *Andropadus nigriceps* A bird of highland forests, we saw it well on a couple of occasions at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Stripe-cheeked Greenbul *Andropadus milanjensis* We observed this species very well in the Ngangao Forest, in the Taita Hills.

Yellow-throated Greenbul *Chlorocichla flavicollis* Somewhat surprisingly, this species of greenbul avoids dense forest, occurring only in remnant forest. We saw it in such forest at Mumias, close to the border with Uganda and we saw it a second time, in the grounds of a hotel in Kisumu, Lake Victoria.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* This large and noisy species of greenbul was seen well in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and in the Ngangao Forest, in the Taita Hills.

Joyful Greenbul *Chlorocichla laetissima* A common, noisy and easily seen greenbul of Kakamega Forest.

Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* A great skulker in thick undergrowth, mainly in highland forest. We were fortunate to see one well at the Naro Moru River Lodge. Jean Louis Cabanis (1816-1906) was the most influential European ornithologist of his day. He founded the Journal for Ornithologie and edited it for over 40 years. Although he never visited Africa himself, various collectors sent skins to him at the Berlin Museum. Reichenow, who succeeded him at the museum and described the bunting, was his son-in-law.

Fischer's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus fischeri* A shy and difficult to observe bird, however, we did manage to see it well on one occasion, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans* A fairly common bird of thickets in the coastal lowlands, we saw a small flock on one occasion in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Tiny Greenbul *Phyllastrephus debilis* Another skulking greenbul of coastal forest, we did see it very well on one occasion in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* Also known as Common Bristlebill, it is a secretive but attractive species of thick forest undergrowth. We saw it well on one occasion in Kakamega Forest.

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* A common but often difficult to see species, which we saw well on one occasion in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES *TURDIDAE*

Red-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus* Another shy and retiring species, which we saw surprisingly well on one occasion, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Common Rock-Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* Also known as Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, we saw small numbers of these Palearctic migrants at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Little Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufocinereus* An uncommon and localised bird of rocky escarpments and broken hill country, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus* An abundant bird throughout the western half of Kenya.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* Seen well at a number of places in Western Kenya.

African Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus tephronotus* This common but secretive species, was seen well in the Ngong Hills, a little to the south of Nairobi and in Tsavo West National Park.

Brown-chested Alethe *Alethe poliocephala* We enjoyed surprisingly good looks at this secretive species in Kakamega Forest.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES *CISTICOLIDAE*

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* Only seen on one occasion, in thorn-bush country on the southern outskirts of Nairobi.

- Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops* This skulking species was seen well by some members of the group in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami* This grassland species was seen well at Loggarien and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Siffling Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus* An inconspicuous cisticola of bushed grassland, which some members of the group saw well in Nairobi National Park.
- Chubb's Cisticola** *Cisticola chubbi* Another Kakamega Forest speciality, which we saw well there on a number of occasions. Ernest Charles Chubb (1884-1972) was an ornithologist who became curator of the Museum of Durban, South Africa. His father Charles, a fellow ornithologist, had been a curator at the British Museum but was knocked down and killed by a car as he left the premises, in 1924. Chubb senior wrote the *Birds of British Guiana*, based on the collection of Frederick Vavasour McConnell and with Lord Brabourne, *The birds of South America*. In 1945 Ernest became president of the Southern African Association for Advancement of Science.
- Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunteri* An East African endemic, it is the highland equivalent of the preceding species, which we saw well on several occasions. H.C.V. Hunter (1861-1934) was ironically a big game hunter and zoologist. Hunter's Hartebeest was first discovered in 1888 and is named after him.
- Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* A common, conspicuous and widespread cisticola, which we saw well on many occasions.
- Ashy Cisticola** *Cisticola cinereolus* A common cisticola of dry bush country, which we saw well in the Ngong Hills, south of Nairobi and in Tsavo East National Park.
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes* A common species of cisticola, which is almost always around water, we saw it well on several occasions.
- Carruthers's Cisticola** *Cisticola carruthersi* In Kenya this species is restricted in distribution to Lake Victoria, where it only occurs in papyrus swamps and fortunately, we saw it very well there. Alexander Douglas Mitchell Carruthers (1882-1962) was an explorer and naturalist. He was educated at Haileybury and Trinity College, Cambridge and then trained in land survey and taxidermy. He went with the British Museum expedition to Ruwenzori from 1905 to 1906 and travelled in Russian Turkistan and the borders of Afghanistan from 1907 until 1908. He also explored the deserts of Outer Mongolia and the upper Yenisey River in 1910, with John H. Miller and Morgan Philips Price. Carruthers was honorary secretary of the Royal Geographical Society between 1916 and 1921. His publications include *Unknown Mongolia*, in 1913, *Arabian Adventure* in 1935 and *Beyond the Caspian, A Naturalist in Central Asia*, in 1949.
- Stout Cisticola** *Cisticola robustus* A common bird of open grassland, which we saw well on many occasions.
- Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* An uncommon bird of tall grassland, which we saw well in Nairobi National Park and again, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Aberdare Cisticola** *Cisticola aberdare* This bird is endemic to Kenya and occurs only in high grassland, on either side of the Great Rift Valley. We managed to see it very well, during our visit to the Aberdare Mountains National Park. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International, its population is estimated to be 10,000 and declining. The main threat to this species is habitat loss and even in the areas where it is protected such as the Aberdare Mountains National Park, fires in the dry season, possibly started by illegal honey-gatherers, sometimes burn large areas of moorland and is a further threat, given that densities are much lower in recently burned areas.
- Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens* This small species of cisticola is a common bird of grassland areas, which we saw well in Nairobi National Park and at Lake Nakuru.
- Wing-snapping Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii* An uncommon bird of open grassland and moorland,

fortunately we saw it very well, in Nairobi National Park.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* A common and widespread species, which we saw well on several occasions.

Banded Prinia *Prinia bairdii* A bird of thick forest undergrowth, we managed to see it well on a couple of occasions in Kakamega Forest.

White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon* We also saw this attractive species in Kakamega Forest.

Black-collared Apalis *Apalis pulchra* A colourful and attractive warbler, which we saw very well on a few occasions.

Taita Apalis *Apalis fuscigularis* We were very fortunate to be shown one of these rare birds by our local guides, in the Ngangao Forest, in the Taita Hills, where numbers appear to be very low indeed. Endemic to the Taita Hills of Kenya, it is classified as Critically Endangered by Birdlife International. This species now only occurs in five tiny forest fragments in the Taita Hills and the total population is between 60 - 130 individuals and declining rapidly. Obviously the main threat to this species is the loss of habitat. Most of the original forest in the Taita Hills has been cleared for cultivation or reforested with non-native trees. Wildfires or drought is a very serious threat to this species, because of its highly fragmented range.

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni* A very beautiful bird which occurs in the canopy of highland forest, we saw it very well on a few occasions at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* A common forest species, which we saw on several occasions at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Chestnut-throated Apalis *Apalis porphyrolaema* Another bird of the canopy of highland forests and once again, we saw it at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala* We saw this apalis very well on a couple of occasions in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea* A common bird of highland forest, which we saw well at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya and again in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Red-fronted Warbler *Urorhipis rufifrons* A small, tail-wagging bird of dry bush country, which we saw well at Lake Baringo and Tsavo East National Park.

Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida* A beautiful species of warbler which we saw well on a few occasions.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* A common and widespread species, which we saw well on many occasions.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota* Another Kakamega speciality, which we saw very well on a couple of occasions.

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex* An attractive warbler of dry bush country, which we saw well on several occasions.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS SYLVIIDAE

White-winged Warbler *Baradypterus carpalis* In Kenya this species only occurs in the papyrus swamps around Lake Victoria, where we saw an individual very well.

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* A skulker of dense undergrowth, we saw it surprisingly well on one occasion, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

African Moustached-Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* An uncommon bird of rank herbage fortunately, they do sit on the top of cover to sing. This was exactly the situation, when we enjoyed our only sighting of a single bird in Nairobi National Park.

African Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus* An uncommon bird, which we found nesting in the grounds of Voyager Safari Camp in Tsavo West National Park.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens* In Kenya this species only occurs in the

papyrus swamps around Lake Victoria, where we saw an individual very well.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* An uncommon Palearctic migrant, which we saw well in thorn-scrub on the southern outskirts of Nairobi and again in Tsavo East National Park.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* A common bird of thorn-bush country, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* A fairly common species, we saw a small flock in Nairobi National Park, followed by a second small flock in Tsavo East National Park.

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* An uncommon and localised species, which we saw well on one occasion in the Masai, Mara Game Reserve.

Turner's Eremomela *Eremomela turneri* Another Kakamega speciality, which we saw well there. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. This species is restricted to a patchy distribution in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The population is estimated to be between 6,000- 15,000 individuals and declining. The main threat to this species is the destruction of the rainforest it lives in. These forests are quickly disappearing due to encroachment for cultivation, uncontrolled tree-felling and charcoal making. There is little known about H.V. Allan Turner (1876-1953) who lived in Kenya from 1909 until his death.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* A common resident of dry bush country, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* Another common resident, which we all saw well on a number of occasions.

Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* The only place in Kenya where this species occurs, is the Taita Hills. We were fortunate to see a bird very well, in the Ngangao Forest.

Uganda Woodland-Warbler *Phylloscopus budongoensis* Another Kakamega speciality, which we saw very well.

Brown Woodland-Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* A bird of highland forest, we enjoyed good looks on one occasion, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* We enjoyed several widespread sightings of this common Palearctic migrant.

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis* Yet another Kakamega speciality, this species is particularly uncommon and we were very fortunate to see an individual surprisingly well.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* We saw good numbers of this Palearctic migrant, at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* One of these Palearctic migrants was seen well in Tsavo East National Park.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Another Palearctic migrant which we saw well in both Tsavo National Parks.

Brown Parisoma *Parisoma lugens* A bird of highland forest, which we saw very well on a number of occasions.

Banded Parisoma *Parisoma boehmi* An uncommon bird of dry thorn-bush country, we saw it very well in this habitat at Lukenya, southwest of Nairobi.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS *MUSCICAPIDAE*

Silverbird *Empidonax semipartitus* We enjoyed super looks at this beautiful species of flycatcher, at Kimose on our way to Lake Baringo and again in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

- Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus* A common species which we saw well on many occasions.
- African Grey Flycatcher** *Bradornis microrhynchus* Another common flycatcher of more arid country than the above species, which we saw well on many occasions.
- White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis fischeri* A very common species of highland forest, which we also saw well on many occasions.
- Northern Black-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides* A common flycatcher of Western Kenya, which we saw well on a few occasions.
- Southern Black-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina* This uncommon species occurs throughout central Kenya, further to the east than the above species. We saw it very well on one occasion, in the grounds of the Outspan Hotel, at Nyeri.
- Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* We enjoyed widespread sightings of this common Palearctic migrant throughout the tour.
- Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica* This localised species, which occurs in swamps and papyrus beds, was seen well in a papyrus swamp at Kisumu, Lake Victoria.
- Chapin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa lendu* This rare and little known species of the forest canopy is another Kakamega speciality. We were very fortunate to see a single bird extremely well, early on our first morning in Kakamega Forest. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International and it is estimated that the current population is between 2,500 – 10,000 individuals. The main threat to this species is the destruction of forests for timber and agriculture. Dr. James Paul Chapin (1889-1964) was an American ornithologist. He was joint leader of the Lang-Chapin Expedition, which made the first comprehensive biological survey of what was then the Belgian Congo, from 1909 until 1915. He was ornithology curator for the American Museum of Natural History and president of the Explorers Club from 1949 to 1950. He wrote *Birds of the Belgian Congo* in 1932, which largely earned him the award of the Daniel Giraud Elliot Gold Medal that year.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* This small and very widespread forest flycatcher, was seen well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.
- Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens* Also known as Blue-grey Flycatcher, we saw this uncommon species on one occasion, in the grounds of Hunters Lodge, at Kiboico.
- Lead-coloured Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus* Also known as Grey Tit-Flycatcher, we saw this uncommon species on one occasion, at Lake Baringo.
- White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata* This very beautiful bird is a shy inhabitant of undergrowth in highland forest, we saw it very well on Mt. Kenya and again in the Ngangao Forest, in the Taita Hills.
- Equatorial Akalat** *Sheppardia aequatorialis* An uncommon Kakamega speciality, which we saw well on one occasion.
- Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* We enjoyed good looks at this rather shy Palearctic migrant, at the Naro Moru River Lodge and again in Tsavo West National Park.
- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* We enjoyed many good sightings of this widespread highland species.
- Ruppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa* A fairly common bird of highland forest, which we saw well along the Thika River at Thika and at Mountain Lodge, on Mount Kenya.
- White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* This species is the lowland equivalent of the previous species, it is common and widespread and we saw it well on many occasions.
- Snowy-headed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla* This attractive species is a shy inhabitant of dense forest, we saw it well on one occasion, in Kakamega Forest.
- Spotted Morning-Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* A striking species, which we saw well on a few occasions.
- White-browed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* A common species in a wide variety of

habitats, which we saw well on several occasions.

Rufous Bush-Chat *Cercotrichas galactotes* A Palearctic migrant, which we saw well on one occasion in Tsavo East National Park.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this common Palearctic migrant.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this attractive species.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* A common and widespread Palearctic migrant, which we saw well on many occasions.

Schalow's Wheatear *Oenanthe schalowi* This uncommon species is endemic to the Rift Valley areas of Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania. We saw it well in the Ngong Hills, a little south of Nairobi and in Hells Gate National Park.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* This Palearctic migrant favours arid country and we saw it well in Nairobi National Park and at Lake Baringo.

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* This handsome species is a common and widespread inhabitant of short grassy plains, we saw a few birds very well on the Solio Plain.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* A common Palearctic migrant of dry bush country, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour. The name refers to a dirty yellowish buff colour and is probably referable to Queen Isabella I of Castile (1451-1504) whose armies laid siege to Granada. Isabella who expected a quick victory vowed not to change her underwear until the city was won. This would have all been well and good, if the siege had not lasted for eight months!

Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris* A family party were observed well on the Oolololo escarpment, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Brown-tailed Rock Chat *Cercomela scotocerca* This unobtrusive and rather plain species, was seen well at Lake Baringo, where it is at the southern edge of its range.

Alpine Chat *Cercomela sordida* Also known as Moorland or Hill Chat, these endearing birds were easily seen in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Northern Anteat-Chat *Myrmecocichla aethiops* A common resident of open country, which we saw well on many occasions.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* In Kenya this species only occurs in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, where it is common and conspicuous.

Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* Also known as Mocking Cliff Chat, we saw this attractive species very well, on a few occasions.

WATTLE-EYES *PLATYSTEIRIDAE*

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* Another speciality of Kakamega Forest, we did well to see both males and females of this uncommon and attractive species.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea* Also known as Common Wattle-eye, we saw it well on one occasion, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata* An uncommon species, which we saw very well on one occasion, in Kakamega Forest.

Forest Batis *Batis mixta* A shy bird of thick coastal forest, which we saw well on a couple of occasions in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* One of the few species of birds that is named after the plumage of the female. We saw both male and females very well, on a number of occasions.

Pale Batis *Batis soror* Also known as East Coast Batis, we saw this uncommon species on one occasion, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo* A fairly common bird of semi-arid country, which we saw well in both Tsavo National Parks.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS *MONARCHIDAE*

Little Yellow Flycatcher *Erythrocercus holochlorus* A fairly common bird of lowland coastal forest, which we saw well on a few occasions in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

African Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* A bird of the forests of southwestern Kenya, which we saw well on a few occasions.

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Some stunning males, of both colour morphs, complete with long tails, were observed at widespread localities throughout the tour.

BABBLERS *TIMALIIDAE*

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* A shy and retiring species of highland forest, we saw it very well on one occasion, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosa* A bird of dry bushland, which we saw very well at the Naro Moru River Lodge and at Lake Baringo.

Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei* We saw a family party very well, in Lake Nakuru National Park.

Scaly Babbler *Turdoides squamulata* An uncommon bird of thick bush country, we saw a small party fairly well in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Northern Pied-Babbler *Turdoides hypoleuca* An East African endemic, which we saw well in Nairobi National Park and in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Hinde's Pied-Babbler *Turdoides hindei* A localised, endangered Kenyan endemic, which a few of us glimpsed in farmland at Murangu. This species is classified as Vulnerable by Birdlife International. The current population is estimated to be between 1,000 - 2,000 individuals and decreasing rapidly. This species is dependant upon secondary vegetation, favouring dense stands of *Lantana* that has replaced the natural thickets that were presumably once its home, in open woodland on steep-sided valleys. A rapidly increasing human population and intensive farming within its range means that remaining patches of thicket are being rapidly cleared. The presence of *Lantana* has probably slowed its decline and may even have enabled it to colonise or re-colonise intensively farmed land. Other potential threats are pesticide use, predation, brood parasitism by the Black-and-white Cuckoo and low genetic diversity. Dr. Sidney Langford Hinde (1863-1931) was Medical Officer of the Interior in British East Africa and a Captain in the Congo Free State Forces, as well as a naturalist and collector. He was also a Provincial Commissioner in Kenya and collected there too. A viper which he collected is named in his honour. He wrote *The fall of The Congo Arabs*, in 1897 and *The Last of the Masai*, with Hildergarde in 1901.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus* We saw a small flock of this species at Lake Baringo.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* Seen well on a number of occasion throughout the tour.

TITS AND CHICKADEES *PARIDAE*

White-bellied Tit *Melaniparus albiventris* We saw this common species in a wide variety of habitats, on several occasions.

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus* Another Kakamega speciality, we saw this uncommon species very well on one occasion.

Red-throated Tit *Melaniparus fringillinus* We saw this very attractive East African endemic in dry bush country at Lukenya, a little to the southwest of Nairobi.

Northern Grey Tit *Melaniparus thruppi* Also known as Somali Tit, we saw a pair very well at Lake Baringo.

PENDULINE TITS *REMIZIDAE*

Mouse-coloured Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus musculus* An uncommon bird of dry bushland, we saw a couple very well at Lake Baringo.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS *NECTARINIIDAE*

- Plain-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes reichenowi* An uncommon bird of thick coastal forest, we saw a pair very well in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. This species is classified as Near Threatened by Birdlife International. The current population is unknown but it is known to be decreasing. The main threat to this species, is the usual one, habitat loss. As in many parts of the world, coastal lowland forest is being cleared to create homes and holiday resorts.
- Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes orientalis* A bird of semi-arid areas, we observed this unusual, warbler-like sunbird on several occasions throughout the tour.
- Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris* Another Kakamega speciality, we saw this uncommon species very well on one occasion, in Kakamega Forest.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* We enjoyed widespread sightings of this species but only in small numbers.
- Amani Sunbird** *Hedydipna pallidigaster* This species is a rare East African endemic, in Kenya it only occurs in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, where we saw it very well on one occasion. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International. The current population is thought to number less than 10,000 individuals and declining. The main threat to this species is the destruction of its favoured primary forest and is restricted to small areas of coastal and riverine forest in Kenya and northern Tanzania. Amani is situated in the East Usambara Mountains of Tanzania but this species is far easier to see in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis* A fairly common bird of highland areas, which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* A common and widespread species, which occurs in a wide variety of habitats, we saw it well on many occasions.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Another common species which inhabits a wide variety of habitats, we also saw it well on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Hunter's Sunbird** *Chalcomitra hunteri* Very similar in appearance to the previous species but prefers semi-arid bush country, where we saw it well on many occasions.
- Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze* A fairly common bird of montane forest, we saw small numbers at the Naro Moru River Lodge and then saw much larger numbers in the Aberdare Mountains National Park. The species is named after the Tacazze River, in Ethiopia.
- Bronze Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* A common bird of forest edge and woodland, we saw small numbers, at scattered locations throughout the tour.
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa* This attractive species is a fairly common inhabitant of moorlands and montane forest. We saw it well on several occasions feeding on Giant Lobelias, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.
- Golden-winged Sunbird** *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* Surely one of the most beautiful species of sunbird in the world, unfortunately, we only saw one pair, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius* Another Kakamega speciality, which we saw well there, on a few occasions.
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi* A fairly common species of southwest Kenya, which we saw well on several occasions.
- Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris* A common bird of the Central Highlands of Kenya, we saw it well at the Naro Moru River Lodge and a pair were observed nest building at Thompsons Falls.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus* A very attractive bird of semi-arid areas, we saw it well in the Ngong Hills, a little south of Nairobi and again at Lake Baringo.
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis* A common and widespread species of open woodland and

bush country, which we saw well on many occasions.

Red-chested Sunbird *Cinnyris erythrocerus* In Kenya this species only occurs in the southwest, mainly around Lake Victoria, where it has a preference for lakes and marshes. We saw this attractive species very well at Kisumu, on Lake Victoria and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Black-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris nectarinioides* A common bird of semi-arid areas, we saw it first when we had lunch at Hunters Lodge, at Kiboico and we also saw small numbers in Tsavo West National Park.

Tsavo Sunbird *Cinnyris tsavoensis* The isolated western race of Purple-banded Sunbird has recently been split off, to form this species. It is a bird of arid areas, which we saw well in both Tsavo National Parks.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* A common and widespread species, we saw the yellow-bellied race in the Central Highlands and the white-bellied race in the arid areas of both Tsavo National Parks.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* In Kenya this fairly common species only occurs in the southwest, we saw it well at Mumias, close to the Ugandan border.

Eastern Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* A common bird of the forest interior, it was seen by some members of the group, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

WHITE-EYES ZOSTEROPIDAE

Montane White-eye *Zosterops poliogaster* A brightly coloured white-eye of highland forest, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* A common bird of the forests of western Kenya, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Taita White-eye *Zosterops silvanus* This Kenyan endemic only occurs in the Taita Hills and Mt. Kasigau. We saw a few birds very well during our time in the Taita Hills. This species is classified as Endangered by Birdlife International and it is estimated that has a total population of 7,000 individuals, most of which occur on the undisturbed Mt. Kasigau. The main threat to this species is habitat loss.

Abyssinian White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus* Another common white-eye of the forests of western Kenya, which we saw well on a few occasions.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES ORIOLIDAE

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* We enjoyed many good sightings of this beautiful Palearctic migrant.

African Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* We enjoyed many widespread sightings throughout the tour.

Montane Oriole *Oriolus percivali* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this highland forest species at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

SHRIKES LANIIDAE

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* A Palearctic migrant, which we saw well on a number of occasions.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* Also known as Red-tailed Shrike, it is another Palearctic migrant, from further east than the preceding species, we enjoyed a few good sightings throughout the tour.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* An uncommon Palearctic migrant, which we saw perched on the top of a bush, in Tsavo East National Park.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* We saw this large species of shrike, very well on

several occasions.

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi* Another large species of shrike, which we also saw well on several occasions.

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis* A bird of dry open grassland, we saw it well on a couple of occasions in Tsavo East National Park.

Mackinnon's Fiscal *Lanius mackinnoni* A pair of this species were resident in the garden of the Rondo Retreat Lodge, in Kakamega Forest. Archibald Donald Mackinnon CMG, OBE (1864-1937) served as a medical officer in Uganda from 1894 to 1897 and was then Director of Transport there from 1898 to 1899. Sharpe described the shrike from a specimen collected in Kenya by F.J. Jackson.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris* A familiar roadside bird, which we saw on many occasions throughout the tour.

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli* A common bird of dry bush country, which we saw on a regular basis.

BUSH-SHRIKES AND ALLIES *MALACONOTIDAE*

Brubru *Nilaus afer* We saw this diminutive species of bushshrike, on several occasions.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* A common bird of dry country, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Pringle's Puffback *Dryoscopus pringlii* An uncommon bird of semi-arid bushland, we saw a pair very well in the Ngong Hills, a little to the south of Nairobi. Colonel Sir John Wallace Pringle (1863-1938) was the Chief Inspector of Railways in Uganda from 1891 until 1892.

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* A common species, which we observed on many occasions throughout the tour.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* We saw this species very well, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park and again in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* This species is far more common in Kenya and we saw it well on many occasions throughout the tour.

Red-naped Bush-shrike *Laniarius ruficeps* We saw this shy, localised and very attractive species, on one occasion, in the Tsavo West National Park.

Luhder's Bush-shrike *Laniarius luehderi* We had super looks at this very attractive species in Kakamega Forest. W. Luhder (1847-1873) was a German naturalist who collected in Cameroon in 1872. He wrote an article, *Notizen uber den Bock*, in 1871.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus* A common bird of the forest undergrowth, which we saw well on many occasions.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster* We enjoyed good looks at this stunningly attractive species in the Kerio Valley and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Papyrus Gonolek *Laniarius mufumbiri* In Kenya, this species only occurs in dense papyrus swamps at Kisumu, at Lake Victoria. It is a shy species and can often be difficult to observe, so we did well to have really good looks at a solitary bird.

Slate-coloured Boubou *Laniarius funebris* The most sombre-plumaged of the bush-shrikes, we saw it on many occasions throughout the tour.

Rosy-patched Bush-shrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus* We enjoyed many good looks at this very beautiful bird, in both of the Tsavo National Parks.

Bocage's Bush-shrike *Telophorus bocagei* Also known as Grey-green Bush-shrike. We enjoyed a few good looks at this attractive species in Kakamega Forest. Jose Vicente Barboza du Bocage (1823-1907) was Director of the National Zoological Museum of Lisbon, Portugal,

which is now named in his honour. He became known as the father of Angolan ornithology and wrote *Ornithologie d'Angola*. He also collected sponges and other specimens.

Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus* A stunningly colourful bird which we saw well at Lake Nakuru and again in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Four-coloured Bush-shrike *Telophorus viridis* This magnificent creature is an ultra skulker, following a great deal of persistence, we all managed to get a good look at this very beautiful bird in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. This species is aptly named Gorgeous Bush-shrike in southern Africa.

Grey-headed Bush-shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* We saw this large species of bush-shrike very well at Lake Baringo and again in Tsavo East National Park.

HELMETSHRIKES AND ALLIES *PRIONOPIDAE*

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* Also known as White Helmetshrike. A bird of open woodland, we saw a small flock in the Kerio Valley, followed by a second small flock in Tsavo East National Park.

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* An uncommon species which occurs in a variety of woodland, we saw a couple of family parties very well, in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Anders Johan Retzius (1742-1821) was a Swedish naturalist and Professor of Natural History, Economy and Chemistry in Lund. The shrike may have been named after one of his sons; Anders Adolph Retzius (1796-1860), who was Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at the Karolinska Institute, or Carl Gustaf Retzius (1798-1833), who was a veterinary professor in Stockholm. Other sources say it was named after A.J. Retzius himself.

Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike *Prionops scopifrons* A bird of coastal forests, we saw a couple of large flocks, during our time in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

DRONGOS *DICRURIDAE*

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* We saw a few pairs very well in Kakamega Forest.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Also known as Common Drongo, we saw it on most days of the tour.

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES *CORVIDAE*

House Crow *Corvus splendens* Often treated with the utmost disdain, this species was first noticed in Mombasa in 1947 and is now abundant in coastal areas. It will be interesting to see how the current extermination programmes will affect the species.

Cape Rook *Corvus capensis* A highland grassland species, which we saw well on several occasions.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* An abundant species, which we saw on most days of the tour.

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus* We saw several birds very well at Lake Baringo, this is the southern edge of this birds range.

White-naped Raven *Corvus albicollis* This enormous species is quite uncommon in Kenya, we saw a pair during a petrol stop at the township of Voi and we saw a second pair in the Tsavo West National Park.

STARLINGS *STURNIDAE*

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* Small flocks observed at regular intervals throughout the tour. Some birds were beginning to attain breeding plumage.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Commonly encountered in suitable habitat throughout the tour.

Ruppell's Long-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* We regularly encountered large

flocks of this species throughout much of the tour.

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius* Almost certainly the most beautiful starling in the world, it is a bird of dry bush country, which we saw well in both of the Tsavo National Parks.

Black-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis corruscus* We saw large flocks of this species in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and smaller numbers in the Tsavo West National Park.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* Another very beautiful starling, which is very common in Kenya, we saw it on most days of the tour.

Hildebrandt's Starling *Lamprotornis hildebrandti* This East African endemic is a bird of open woodland and bush country, which we saw on many occasions throughout the tour. Johann Maria Hildebrandt (1847-1881) was a German who collected in East Africa, Madagascar and the Comoro Island from 1872 until his death. He was also interested in languages and in 1876 published *Zeitschrift für Ethiopia*.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Yet another very beautiful species of starling, the male is simply stunning. We observed several pairs at the Naro Moru River Lodge and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Fischer's Starling *Spreo fischeri* A bird of dry bush country, we saw small numbers in Tsavo East National Park.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* A common bird which is normally observed in the vicinity of rocky hills or cliffs, we saw it well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris* Mainly a bird of highland forest, usually observed in the vicinity of waterfalls. We watched a very active flock at a beautiful waterfall in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri* We saw small flocks of this species in the canopy of highland forests at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya and in the Aberdare Mountains National Park. Gerald Waller was an English naturalist who collected in East Africa. In about 1888 the British East Africa Association became known as the Imperial British East Africa Company and two members of the company submitted a Draft of Concession to his Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar, by which he ceded to Britain his land on the African mainland. One of these officers was Gerald Waller. The Gerenuk or Giraffe Gazelle *Litocranius walleri* also commemorates Waller in the binomial.

Bristle-crowned Starling *Onychognathus salvadorii* A bird of semi-arid country in the north of Kenya, we saw small flocks at the cliffs at Lake Baringo. This is the southern edge of this birds range.

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni* A bird of the canopy of highland forests, we saw it very well on many occasions during our time in the Kakamega Forest. Professor Dr. Franz Stuhlmann (1863-1928) was a German zoologist and naturalist who collected in East Africa from 1888 until 1900. He did not confine himself to zoological specimens, as a number of the artefacts he collected in Africa are now anthropological exhibits in museums. Stuhlmann travelled with Emin Pasha and after Emin's murder the German government published a monograph by Stuhlmann *Dr Franz Stuhlmann: Mit Emin Pasha ins Herz von Africa*.

Sharpe's Starling *Pholia sharpii* This species is an uncommon bird of the canopy of highland forests. We saw small numbers at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Magpie Starling *Speculipastor bicolor* An uncommon starling of semi-arid country, we saw a couple of small flocks in Tsavo East National Park.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* We enjoyed many sightings of small numbers of birds throughout the tour.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* Less common than the previous species, we saw

small numbers in Nairobi National Park and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS *PASSERIDAE*

- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* This species has increased rapidly in numbers, since jumping ship in Mombasa, early in the 20th century. It occurs mainly in coastal towns but is rapidly spreading inland in south-eastern and southern Kenya, as far North as Nairobi. It is usually found near human habitation. We saw it well on many occasions.
- Somali Sparrow** *Passer castanopterus* This was by far the biggest find of the tour, we found a breeding colony of this species at the Sala Gate, in Tsavo East National Park. This species has not previously been recorded in southern Kenya.
- Kenya Rufous Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus* A common bird of the Central Highlands, which we saw well on many occasions.
- Northern Gray-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus* This species prefers higher rainfall areas than the next species, we saw it well on many occasions.
- Parrot-billed Sparrow** *Passer gongonensis* A bird of semi-arid areas, which we saw well on many occasions.
- Swahili Sparrow** *Passer suahelicus* In Kenya this species only occurs in a small area of the southwest. We saw a small flock on the Loita Plains.
- Chestnut Sparrow** *Passer eminibey* Seen well on the southern outskirts of Nairobi, Lake Baringo and Tsavo East National Park. Most birds were in non-breeding plumage, however, we did see some males in beautiful full-breeding plumage.
- Yellow-spotted Petronia** *Petronia pyrgita* A rather nondescript species of dry bush country, which we saw well on many occasions.

WEAVERS AND ALLIES *PLOCEIDAE*

- White-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis albirostris* In Kenya this species occurs in the arid areas of northwestern Kenya. We saw a few of these birds at Lake Baringo which is at the southern edge of its range.
- Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis niger* A bird of dry bush country, which we saw well in Tsavo East National Park.
- White-headed Buffalo-Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli* A common bird of thorn-bush country, which we saw well at several locations throughout the tour.
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis* A species of wooded grassland, we saw a pair of birds in dry bush country, on the southern outskirts of Nairobi.
- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* An abundant but very beautiful species, which we saw well on many occasions.
- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus* This is an uncommon bird of dry bushland, we enjoyed super, prolonged looks at a bird in the Kerio Valley.
- Rufous-tailed Weaver** *Histurgops ruficauda* Up until very recently this bird was endemic to Tanzania. However, very recently, a small colony has been established across the border into Kenya, in the Masai, Mara Game Reserve. We were taken to the communal nesting tree of the colony in the Masai Mara.
- Grey-capped Social-Weaver** *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* A bird of open wooded country, we saw small flocks on a number of occasions.
- Black-capped Social-Weaver** *Pseudonigrita cabanisi* A bird of arid areas, we saw a few small flocks in both Tsavo National Parks.
- Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis* This uncommon bird is another Kakamega speciality, where we saw a male very well.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps* A widespread bird which we saw well on several

occasions, we saw mainly females but we did see some full breeding males, which are quite spectacular.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* A very common bird of the Central Highlands, which we saw well on many occasions.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* An uncommon bird of dry bush country, we saw birds in breeding plumage at Lake Baringo.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* An uncommon bird which occurs in a variety of habitats, we saw it first in the Ngong Hills and then again in Kakamega Forest.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* A common bird which occurs in a wide variety of habitats, we enjoyed good looks of this species on many occasions.

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster* Another uncommon Kakamega speciality, we saw a pair of these very striking birds in Kakamega Forest.

African Golden-Weaver *Ploceus subaureus* This species nests in papyrus swamps, we found two breeding colonies, the first was near Thika and the second was at Hunters Lodge at Kiboico.

Holub's Golden-Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* In Kenya this species only occurs in open wooded grasslands of the southwest, where we saw it very well on many occasions. Emil Holub (1847-1902) was a Bohemian (Czech) naturalist who also studied South African fossils. Like his father he trained as a physician but was always fascinated by wildlife and foreign lands, and his compelling ambition was to follow in the footsteps of David Livingstone. He has been described as 'a doctor of medicine, a zoologist, a botanist, a hunter, a taxidermist, an artist and cartographer, an avid collector of specimens and above all a keen observer'. His first trip to Africa was in 1872 and he practised as a doctor to pay his way. He travelled extensively in south-central Africa gathering varied and valuable natural history material, including over 30,000 specimens! On his return from his first trip he wrote *Seven years in Africa*. In 1883 he took another trip to Africa, which ended in disaster, after ten weeks when a number of the party died from malaria and all the equipment was lost. When he returned to Europe he fell upon hard times and was forced to sell much of his collection. He, too, eventually died from malaria, which he had contracted on his second trip.

Golden Palm Weaver *Ploceus bojeri* Almost endemic to Kenya its range just creeps into coastal Somalia and Tanzania. This species was nesting in the grounds of the Turtle Bay Resort, where we were staying on the coast, at Watamu.

Taveta Golden-Weaver *Ploceus castaneiceps* This East African endemic is only known from the central border areas of Kenya and Tanzania. We saw some birds in breeding plumage in the Tsavo West National Park.

Lesser Masked-Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* A common bird of bush country, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Vitelline Masked-Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* A common weaver which occurs in a variety of habitats, we saw it well on a few occasions.

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei* A common weaver of dry bush country, which we saw well on many occasions. Captain John Hanning Speke (1827-1864) was a British explorer. He was the first European to see Lake Victoria and it was he who proved it to be the source of the Nile. Speke joined Burton's expedition to discover the source, not because he was particularly interested in finding it, but he was interested in the prospect of going big game hunting. Speke hunted to supply food for the expedition but he also observed the behaviour and ecology of birds, one of which was named after him. He was killed by his own shotgun when he stumbled over a stile whilst out shooting in England, however, it is widely believed that he committed suicide.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus* Another Kakamega speciality. We saw several small flocks there, on a number of occasions. Louis Jean Pierre Vieillot (1748-1831) was a French ornithologist and businessman who lived in Haiti for a number of years. He and his

family eventually fled to the United States during the French Revolution, but later he returned to France, where he died in poverty. His fellow Frenchmen Buffon and Cuvier largely overshadowed him but his contributions to ornithology are very significant and Lesson described him as a genius. In Vieillot's time a number of ornithologists mistook juveniles, females or moulting individuals of known birds for new species. Vieillot was the first to study these plumage changes, which was in itself a major breakthrough in accurate identification. He was also an early proponent of studying live birds and not only the dead skins housed in museum collections. During his lifetime he described a great many species and his name appears in the scientific name of many more, such as that of the Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo *Saurothera vieilloti*.

- Yellow-backed Weaver** *Ploceus melanocephalus* Also known as Black-headed Weaver. This species always nests around water. We found large numbers nesting in the papyrus swamps at Kisumu, Lake Victoria.
- Golden-backed Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni* We observed this uncommon weaver at Lake Baringo, where we saw it well.
- Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus* A bird of dry woodland and bush country, we saw a few at Lukenya, southwest of Nairobi and we also saw larger numbers in Tsavo East National Park.
- Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor* Also known as Forest Weaver, we saw this forest inhabiting weaver in Kakamega Forest and in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.
- Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis* A bird of highland forest, which we saw well at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya and in Kakamega Forest. This is a very unusual weaver, it climbs along the branches of trees, just like a sittella.
- Compact Weaver** *Pachyphantus superciliosus* A very uncommon bird of wooded grasslands which just creeps across the Ugandan border in the far west of Kenya. We were very fortunate to watch a small flock nest building in wooded grasslands at Mumias.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* Common, widespread and sometimes abundant. We regularly saw flocks of this bird, most of them were fairly small, however, there were a couple of flocks that numbered over 100 birds.
- Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix* This uncommon species just creeps across the border from Tanzania into southwestern Kenya. We saw a small number of birds in the rice paddies at Herero.
- Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus* We saw a couple of this uncommon species, in the rice paddies at Herero, with much larger numbers of the preceding species.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* A bird of bushy grasslands we enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the tour.
- Black Bishop* *Euplectes gierowii* A bird of tall wet grassland, in Kenya it only occurs in the southwest, where we saw a single bird at Mumias.
- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* A bird of moist grassland, which we saw well on a few occasions.
- Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura* In Kenya this species only occurs in moist grasslands of the southwest. We enjoyed good scope views of a few birds at Mumias, close to the border with Uganda and we saw a few birds in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* A bird of tall grass and rank herbage. We saw a single breeding plumaged male, on the lower slopes of Mt. Kenya.
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* Also known as Red-shouldered Widowbird, it is a bird of marshy areas and wet grasslands. We enjoyed sightings in the rice paddies at Herero and again in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.
- Long-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes progne* A bird of wet grassy areas, we saw a small flock on the Solio Plain and a single male at a small lake near Ngobit.
- Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni* This East African endemic is a bird of highland

grassland, some members of the group observed a small flock on the Solio Plain.

Grosbeak Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* Also known as Thick-billed Weaver. This species always nests over water, we found a nesting colony at Hunters Lodge at Kiboico and at a papyrus swamp in the grounds of the Voyager Safari Camp, in Tsavo West National Park.

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES *ESTRILDIDAE*

Grey-headed Negrofinch *Nigrita canicapillus* An uncommon bird of highland forest, we saw it very well on the slopes of Mt. Kenya and in Kakamega Forest.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccygia quartinia* We saw a single birds of this beautiful species at Naro Moru River Lodge and in the Ngangao Forest, in the Taita Hills.

Abyssinian Crimson-wing *Cryptospiza salvadorii* We only saw this uncommon and attractive species, on one occasion, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga* We saw this species on the first day of the tour, in Nairobi National Park.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* We enjoyed widespread sightings throughout the tour.

Black-faced Waxbill *Estrilda nigriloris* An uncommon bird which only occurs in southern Kenya, we saw a few birds very well in thorn-bush country at Lukenya, a little to the southwest of Nairobi.

Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula* A forest edge species, which we saw well on a few occasions, while birding in Kakamega Forest.

Black-headed Waxbill *Estrilda atricapilla* A common high country speciality, which we saw on one occasion, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park.

Black-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos* A common bird of semi-arid bush country, it was the last bird we added to our list, on the last day of the tour, in Tsavo West National Park.

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* We saw a pair of these birds along the roadside at Lolgarien.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* A common and attractive species, which we observed on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

Blue-capped Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* A close relative of the preceding species, it is an uncommon bird of semi-arid country. We saw a pair very well at Lake Baringo and then we saw a few more birds in Tsavo East National Park.

Purple Grenadier *Granatina ianthinogaster* We saw this common but very attractive species on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* We enjoyed many good sightings of this very beautiful waxbill.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* A common bird of the Central Highlands, which we saw well on numerous occasions.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta* A very uncommon bird of overgrown cultivation and lush vegetation near water, which just creeps across the border from Uganda, at Mumias. Somewhat surprisingly we enjoyed scope views of this species in its preferred habitat.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* A rather shy and uncommon bird, which we only saw on one occasion, at Lake Baringo.

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* Somewhat surprisingly, we only saw this common bird on one occasion. We saw it very well at a petrol station in the township of Voi.

Zebra Waxbill *Sporaeginthus subflavus* An uncommon bird of marshy grassland and cultivated areas, they always occur in small flocks which tend to fly around at top speed, rarely giving good views. This was the case when we saw them on the one occasion, in the rice

paddies, at Herero.

African Quailfinch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa* An uncommon bird of short grassland, which we saw somewhat fleetingly, in Nairobi National Park.

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullatus* Small numbers were observed at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Rufous-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps* A recent split from Black-and-white Mannikin. It is an uncommon species, which we saw along the Thika River at Thika and again at the Naro Moru River Lodge.

African Silverbill *Lonchura cantans* An uncommon bird of semi-arid bush country, we saw small flocks at Lake Baringo and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Grey-headed Silverbill *Lonchura griseicapilla* This is also an uncommon bird of semi-arid bush country and once again, we saw small flocks at Lake Baringo and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

INDIGOBIRDS *VIDUIDAE*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* By far the most widespread whydah in Kenya, which we saw well on many occasions. This species parasitises Common, Black-rumped and Fawn-breasted Waxbills.

Eastern Paradise-Whydah *Vidua paradisaea* A bird of semi-arid country, which we saw very well on one occasion in Tsavo East National Park. This species parasitises the Green-winged Pytilia.

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri* An uncommon bird of bush country, we saw males in breeding plumage at Lukenya, southwest of Nairobi and in Tsavo West National Park. This species parasitises the Purple Grenadier.

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* This is the most common and widespread indigobird in Kenya and it occurs in a wide variety of habitats. We saw a single adult male while birding at Kilifi. This species parasitises Red-billed Firefinch.

Purple Indigobird *Vidua purpurascens* We saw an adult male of this uncommon species, sat on telegraph wires in Tsavo East National Park. This species parasitises Jameson's Firefinch.

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES *FRINGILLIDAE*

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* A common bird of the Central Highlands, which we saw well on many occasions.

African Citril *Serinus citrinelloides* An attractive forest edge species, which we saw well in Nairobi National Park and in farmland at Murangu, while searching for Hinde's Babbler.

Southern Citril *Serinus hypostictus* A recent split from the preceding species, we saw it well in Kakamega Forest and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Papyrus Canary *Serinus koliensis* In Kenya this uncommon species only occurs in papyrus swamps at Kisumu, at Lake Victoria. Fortunately, we enjoyed some good looks at this species, while birding at Kisumu.

Yellow-rumped Seedeater *Serinus reichenowi* Also now as Reichenow's Seedeater, we enjoyed many sightings of this rather drab species.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus* We enjoyed many scattered sightings of this widespread species.

White-bellied Canary *Serinus dorsostriatus* Occurs in drier areas than the preceding species, we saw this uncommon bird in bush country on the southern outskirts of Nairobi and in Tsavo East National Park.

Southern Grosbeak-Canary *Serinus buchanani* An uncommon bird of southern Kenya, we saw it well in the Ngong Hills and at Lukenya, a little southwest of Nairobi.

Brimstone Canary *Serinus sulphuratus* A common bird of the Central Highlands, where we

enjoyed several good sightings.

Streaky Seedeater *Serinus striolatus* A very common species of the Central Highlands, which we saw well on many occasions.

Thick-billed Seedeater *Serinus burtoni* A rather shy and uncommon bird, we saw a few birds very well at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya and a couple in Kakamega Forest.

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, SEEDEATERS AND ALLIES *EMBERIZIDAE*

Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* A widespread but never numerous species, which inhabits rocky areas, cliff bases and escarpments. We enjoyed good sightings in Nairobi National Park and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

African Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* A common bird of wooded grasslands, we saw this beautiful species very well on several occasions.

Somali Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza poliopleura* A common bird of dry bush country, which we also saw well on a few occasions.

MAMMALS

Guereza Colobus *Guereza kikuyuensis* This attractive primate, although at present still common,

is suffering a slow decline due to habitat destruction and hunting for their beautiful skins. We saw them well on many occasions.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* Officially listed as 'vermin' and certainly common. We saw many large troops.

Yellow Baboon *Papio cynocephalus* A *Brachystegia* woodland specialist that is also considered 'vermin'. We saw several large troops in both of the Tsavo National Parks.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis* We saw this species very well in Kakamega Forest and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Sykes's Monkey *Cercopithecus albogularis* We saw good numbers of this species on Mt. Kenya, in the Aberdare Mountains National Park and in the Arabuko-Sokoke National Park.

Red-tailed Monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius* We saw this attractive species of monkey very well in Kakamega Forest and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Senegal Galago *Galago senegalensis* A few of us saw this species of bush-baby at the Siana Springs Camp, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Four-toed Elephant-Shrew *Petrodromus tetradactylus* One seen by myself in the Arabuko-Sokoke National Park.

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis* Seen at Lake Baringo and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis* One seen after dark at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus* We saw this species in the Ngong Hills, south of Nairobi and close to Mumias, not far from the border with Uganda.

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus* We saw this species at Lake Baringo and in Tsavo West National Park.

Ochre Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus* Seen well at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya, Lake Baringo and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium* We saw this attractive species of squirrel in Kakamega Forest and in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest National Park.

Heuglin's Striped Grass Mouse *Lemniscomys zebra* Seen well below the bird feeding tables at the Sarova Lion Hill Lodge, in Lake Nakuru National Park.

Spring Hare *Pedetes capensis* This beautiful mammal looks like a miniature kangaroo and we saw it very well on the night drive at Siana Springs Camp.

Black Backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* Small numbers seen at Lake Nakuru, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and in Tsavo West National Park.

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis* A family party was seen hiding in long grass in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* Seen very well on the night drive at Siana Springs Camp.

Slender Mongoose *Galerella sanguinea* Seen briefly on one occasion, on Mt. Kenya.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* A small band was seen in the Tsavo West National Park.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* We saw a few small bands in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* A nocturnal species which we saw at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and in Tsavo East National Park.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta* We saw this heavily built hyaena in the Aberdare Mountains National Park, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and in the Tsavo West National Park.

Blotched Genet *Genetta tigrina* Seen well at the feeding table at Mountain Lodge, after dark.

Leopard *Panthera pardus* One seen at the floodlit waterhole at Mountain Lodge, during the night. We then enjoyed a tremendous sighting of a female with three full grown cubs, just before dusk in Tsavo West National Park.

Lion *Panthera leo* We saw females in Nairobi National Park, a small pride at Lake Nakuru and a few more prides, including males in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* We saw one resting in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and then saw one walking in Tsavo West National Park.

Black-necked Rock Hyrax *Procavia johnstoni* We saw this species at Lake Nakuru and at the cliffs at Lake Baringo.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei* This cliff-dwelling hyrax was observed very well on one occasion in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Southern Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax arboreus* First observed along the Thika River and then also seen in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* Some memorable moments with these giants particularly those ones painted red by the soil.

Common Zebra *Equus quagga* We saw a great many of these beautiful animals.

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* We enjoyed great looks at this endangered species in Nairobi National Park and again at Lake Nakuru.

White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* We saw this species well in Nairobi National Park and at Lake Nakuru. Judging by the numbers seen at Lake Nakuru they would appear to be breeding very successfully. All White Rhinoceros in Kenya came from South Africa and at the end of the year 2000, there were approximately 130 in the country.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* We saw mainly eyes and ears! At several localities.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* This wonderful animal was seen well on many days of the tour.

Desert Warthog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus* We saw this species very well in both of the Tsavo National Parks.

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* We enjoyed many wonderful sightings of this very special mammal.

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer* We saw large numbers in many areas throughout the tour.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* We enjoyed many good looks throughout the tour.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx* Small numbers of this, Africa's largest antelope, were observed on many occasions.

Bush Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* We saw a surprising large number during our time in the Aberdare National Park.

Steinbuck *Raphicerus campestris* A pair observed on one occasion in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Oribi *Ourebia ourebi* We saw one of these small and very uncommon species of antelope, in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Kirk's Dikdik *Madoqua kirkii* This tiny species of antelope was seen well in both Tsavo National Parks.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca* An uncommon species of antelope, which we saw well at Lake Nakuru and in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* Common and conspicuous in many of the areas we visited.

Eastern Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas thomsonii* Large numbers encountered throughout the tour, particularly in the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti* Small numbers observed in many of the areas we visited.

Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri* This strange antelope was seen well in the Ngong Hills and both Tsavo National Parks.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus* Commonly encountered throughout the whole tour.

Topi *Damaliscus korrigum* This beautiful species of antelope was seen well in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and Tsavo East National Park.

Kongoni *Alcelaphus buselaphus* Seen well on several occasions.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetas taurinus* Small numbers observed in the Masai Mara Game Reserve and Tsavo West National Park.

Beisa Oryx *Oryx beisa* This beautiful species of antelope was observed very well in both of the Tsavo National Parks.