

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS

ZAMBIA

8th – 25th August 2009

TOUR REPORT

LEADER: Chris Doughty

On our recent visit to the extensive Miombo woodlands, Mopane forests, dense thickets and riverine marshes of the small, friendly and little-known Central African country of Zambia, we recorded 236 species of birds and 32 species of mammals. The bird voted 'Bird of the Tour' was the spectacular and rarely encountered Pel's Fishing-Owl. Other bird highlights included such uncommon and range restricted species as Rufous-bellied Heron, Bat Hawk, Western-banded Snake-Eagle, Grey-crowned Crane, African Finfoot, Three-banded Courser, Lilian's Lovebird, Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Racket-tailed Roller, Chaplin's and Black-backed Barbets, African Broadbill, Woodland Pipit, Arnott's Chat, Bohm's Flycatcher, Miombo Tit, Anchieta's and Miombo Double-collared Sunbirds, Retz's Helmet-Shrike, White-winged Babbling Starling, Brown Firefinch, Reichard's Seed-eater and Cabanis's Bunting. We also found two species of birds which are vagrants to Zambia, which always adds spice to any tour. Both birds were found by Joy; the first was a pair of South African Cliff Swallows and the second, was a Black-tailed Godwit, in non-breeding plumage. Well done Joy. We did particularly well for mammals, the most memorable being a pair of South African Porcupines, Spotted Hyenas at their own kill, a splendid sighting of a Common Genet, a very close sighting of the rarely encountered Serval, two superb Leopard sightings, which included us following one as it was actually in the process of hunting, many sightings of Lions, including one pride at a kill and two sightings of the world's smallest species of Antelope, the Sharpe's Grysbok.

Following a long flight from Australia via Johannesburg, we arrived at Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. Unfortunately, not all of our luggage arrived with us. We then drove to a very fine hotel in town, where we spent a very comfortable night.

The following morning we did some birding in the grounds of our hotel and then we enjoyed a wonderful breakfast with a large number of Village Weavers and a couple of Lesser Masked Weavers, which were nesting above a small pond outside the dining room. The rest of the day was taken up with a long drive northwards to the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve. The only bird of note during the drive was a splendid Lizard Buzzard, sat on roadside telegraph wires and once inside the reserve we saw our first troop of Vervet Monkeys.

The Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve is a 10,000 hectare area of prime Miombo woodland; this easily accessible habitat is only found in the southern central part of Africa and holds a very distinctive avifauna and these were the birds we were particularly looking for on this tour. We spent two full days exploring the area; many of the trees were just beginning to show off their striking fresh green and orange leaves. The breeding season had already started, so the large bird

parties so characteristic of Miombo woodland had started to dissipate. Even so, there was plenty of birds on offer in the woodlands; we enjoyed watching three Ross's Turacos sat in the tops of trees, catching the early morning sun, we found several parties of Black-backed Barbets, a stunning African Broadbill, which sat motionless in a small tree, on a small branch no more than a metre above the ground, allowing perfect looks at one of Africa's most inconspicuous birds. We watched a fine Woodland Pipit walking around on the ground, this is an extremely range restricted species, which only occurs in large stands of Miombo woodland. In Riverine vegetation we saw the retiring Grey-olive and Cabanis's Greenbuls, a Kurrichane Thrush was digging for worms, Red-capped Crombecs flitted from tree to tree, a pair of Yellow-bellied Hyliotas slipped through the forest unobtrusively, a Bohm's Flycatcher sat motionless in a small tree, a pair of White-tailed Blue Flycatchers flitted through the sub-canopy, flowering mistletoe attracted Anchieta's and Miombo Double-collared Sunbirds, a few pairs of White-necked Ravens made a nuisance of themselves around the campsite, a Reichard's Seed-eater flitted into view momentarily and a Golden-breasted Bunting was observed feeding on the ground.

More widespread and well-known birds seen during our two days here included Yellow-billed Kite, Bateleur, Cape Turtle-Dove, Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, Little Bee-eater, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Cardinal Woodpecker, Plain-backed Pipit, Groundscraper Thrush, African Stonechat, Familiar Chat, Pale, Southern Black and African Dusky Flycatchers, Bar-throated Apalis, Amethyst and Variable Sunbirds, African Yellow White-eye, Eastern Black-headed Oriole, Brubru, Black-backed Puffback, Fork-tailed Drongo, Yellow-throated Petronia, Golden Weaver, African Firefinch, Fawn-breasted Waxbill and Bronze Mannikin.

The following day was very much a travel day as we drove from Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve to Chisanba, in central Zambia. During the long drive, new birds for the tour observed along the roadside included Yellow-billed Stork, Black-shouldered Kite, African Harrier-Hawk, the stunning Lilac-breasted Roller and while having our picnic lunch along the side of the road, a solitary White-winged Babbling Starling flew by; unfortunately, we were unable to relocate the bird, in the dense Miombo woodland. On arrival at the Chaplin's Barbet Guesthouse, new birds in the grounds of the lodge included a small flock of Red-necked Spurfowls, Crowned Hornbill, Tropical Boubou and a few Blue Waxbills.

We spent the early hours of the morning birding in the grounds of our lodge, which proved very rewarding, as we enjoyed watching a brown morph Wahlberg's Eagle flying overhead, a small group of Natal Francolins, several Laughing Doves, a family party of Red-faced Mousebirds, the very large Trumpeter Hornbill, one or two Black-collared Barbets, some tame Yellow-bellied Greenbuls, a stunning White-browed Robin-Chat, the diminutive Long-billed Crombec, some very confiding Tawny-flanked Prinias, the beautiful Yellow-breasted Apalis, a stunning male Scarlet-chested Sunbird, a Black-crowned Tchagra, a few Spectacled Weavers, a large flock of Yellow Bishops, a few Pin-tailed Whydahs and several beautiful Yellow-fronted Canaries. We were finally reunited with all of our luggage, before undertaking a long afternoon drive to McBrides Camp, in Kafue National Park. During the drive we had a puncture and while changing the tyre, we enjoyed good views of Black-breasted Snake-Eagle and African Grey Hornbill. Once in Kafue National Park, the night crept up upon us and during the drive to McBrides Camp we enjoyed superb looks a splendid Leopard, which just walked around in front of us, in our vehicles headlights. Chris also spotted Greater Galago, Four-toed Elephant Shrew and Scrub Hare.

Kafue is Zambia's oldest national park and the second largest national park in the world, encompassing more than 22,400 square kilometres of floodplain, shallow pools, Mopane woodland and savanna plain. We spent most of the day slowly drifting down the Kafue River, on a double decker boat, which proved a terrific way to watch birds. White-breasted and Reed Cormorants flew up and down the river and there were plenty of African Darters to be seen. We saw a few Striated Herons, a couple of Little Egrets, a solitary Intermediate Egret, enjoyed super close looks at a Goliath Heron, as the name suggests, one of the largest species of herons in the world. Hamerkops were fairly numerous, we enjoyed close looks at the very beautiful Saddle-billed Stork, noisy Hadada Ibis frequented the shallows, there were plenty of Egyptian Geese, we saw several very close African Fish-Eagles, there were White-backed Vultures flying overhead, as well as a couple of Martial Eagles. A Black Crake was glimpsed, we saw a few African Finfoots very well indeed, an African Jacana showed very well, we saw a large flock of Water Thick-knees, a couple of Three-banded Plovers, several Blacksmith and African Wattled Lapwings, a few Common Greenshanks, several Common Sandpipers, enjoyed great looks at nesting African Skimmers, kingfishers were well represented, we saw Brown-hooded, Giant and Pied Kingfishers and somewhat surprisingly several uncommon Half-collared Kingfishers. White-fronted Bee-eaters were seen very well and large numbers of both Lesser-striped and Wire-tailed Swallows flew up and down the river. On arrival at our tented camp, where we would spend the night, we went for a walk in the late afternoon. Here we saw a huge flock of Helmeted Guineafowl, African Green Pigeons fed in fruiting fig trees, the beautiful Meyer's Parrot was seen very well, we glimpsed a Schalow's Turaco in flight, enjoyed great looks at several Grey Go-away-birds, a Crested Barbet, an immature Greater Honeyguide, enjoyed good looks at several range restricted Arnott's Chats, saw a few Rattling Cisticolas, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-winged Black Tit, Brown-crowned Tchagra and several Red-billed Firefinches. New mammals today included a troop of Yellow Baboons, a few lionesses' several African Savanna Elephants, large number of Hippopotamus, a few African Buffalo, the very beautiful Bushbuck, the shy Bush Duiker and lots of Puku and Impala.

A pre-breakfast walk in a nearby area of Mopane woodland, produced several new birds which included a small flock of Common Scimitar-bills, a splendid Golden-tailed Woodpecker, a small flock of Yellow-bellied Eremomelas, a pair of Southern Black Tits, the very range restricted Miombo Tit, large numbers of Greater Blue-eared Starlings and a solitary and very uncommon Cabanis's Bunting. During the walk we also saw Warthog and Waterbuck. We then took the river boat back to McBrides Camp and as we did so, we added Great Egret, Malachite Kingfisher and surprisingly, a couple of South African Cliff Swallows, which were catching insects just above the surface of the river. According to the recent Atlas to the birds of Zambia, there are only seven previous sightings of this species in Zambia. We then had a long drive from Kafue National Park to the Itezhi-Tezhi Hydro Electric Dam, where we spent the night. We had our lunch in the town of Mumbwa, while we were having the bottom of our gearbox welded! This gave us some insight into the African way of life. Yet again, we endured an unscheduled night drive, but it was not all doom and gloom, as we did see a splendid Serval, who sat in front of our vehicle and washed itself, exactly the same as a domestic cat does!

The following day we had another long drive from Itezhi-Tezhi Dam, to our lodge in Livingstone, in the far south of Zambia. While having breakfast at our lodge we added Smith's Bush Squirrel and several Yellow Spotted Hyrax, sitting on a large rock, soaking up the rays of the early morning

sun. At a ferry crossing across the Kafue River, we enjoyed good looks at a few Grey-headed Gulls and an Ashy Flycatcher. Later in the day we stopped to admire a roadside Marabou Stork and we also saw several very attractive Magpie Shrikes. We had intended to visit Lochinvar National Park but a puncture put paid to that and once again we got to know the African villagers very well while we had a puncture repaired, by hand! During this time we did add Namaqua Dove and White-bellied Sunbird. During another unscheduled night drive, we enjoyed good looks at a Sharp's Grysbok, the world's smallest species of antelope, at the side of the road.

The following morning we enjoyed a good pre-breakfast birding session in the grounds of the Natural Mystic Lodge, which produced several new birds. These included Shikra, Terrestrial Brownbul, Bearded Scrub-Robin, a pair of Violet-backed Starlings and the uncommon, Jameson's Firefinch. We spent the rest of the morning at the world famous Victoria Falls National Park. The falls are a massive 1.6 kilometres wide and plunge in one massive sheet of water into a deep chasm, just 60 metres wide. It was a spectacular sight. The only new bird seen here was a large number of African Rock Martins which were nesting in the sheer cliffs, beside the falls. In the afternoon we drove to Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma. We arrived late in the afternoon and went birding at a large dam close to the lodge, where we saw our only Rufous-bellied Heron of the tour, our first Black-headed Heron, several Comb Ducks and best of all, a superb Bat Hawk, which flew directly overhead, just on dusk.

The Nkanga Conservation Area is a collection of farms that are actively protecting the local wildlife. The main reason for visiting here was to search for the Chaplin's Barbet, the only truly endemic bird of Zambia. The bird is restricted to an area as small as a few hundred square kilometres and only occurs where there are a good number of *Ficus sycomorus* fig trees. The owners of the Nkanga Conservation Area are so committed to conservation that they now have a young man who is studying the Chaplin's Barbet on a full time basis. He took us to an area where they had roosted the night before. In no time at all we had one in the scope, that we could all enjoy looking at, which was greatly appreciated by us all. Without the young man's help, they would have been almost impossible to find. Unfortunately, this delightful species is declining rapidly and very few remain. We spent the rest of the day birding in the conservation area and managed to find a good selection of new birds for the tour, which included Grey Heron, Brown Snake-Eagle, a magnificent adult Crowned Eagle, which circled directly above us, we saw many flocks of both Shelley's and Swainson's Francolins, enjoyed good looks at a Senegal Coucal, had a close encounter with a few Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, admired a small flock of Green Wood-Hoopoes, we managed to locate a pair of uncommon Southern Hyliotas and managed to find two new species of cisticolas, the widespread Desert Cisticola and the extremely range restricted Long-tailed Cisticola.

The following day was very much a travel day as we had to drive from Choma to Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba. We decided that we would make another attempt to visit Lochinvar National Park on the way. Unfortunately, we never made it, once again our vehicle let us down and we were forced to spend hours sitting by the roadside. Prior to our breakdown we had found a pair of Red-breasted Swallows and two immature African Cuckoo-Hawks flying directly above us. While waiting to be rescued from the side of the road, some of the group went birding, Chris saw a Gabar Goshawk and Barbara, Joy and Michael found a Pale Wren-Warbler. We also found a new

mammal for the list during the drive; we saw a small troop of Chacma Baboons. It was very late when we arrived at Chiboola Lodge on the shores of Lake Kariba.

We very much appreciated having a whole day to go birding in the grounds of Chiboola Lodge. We spent a good part of the morning and then the late afternoon exploring the thickets surrounding our camp on foot. The dense undergrowth of this riverine woodland provided us with gems like the infrequently encountered Little Sparrowhawk, who circled overhead, as we marveled at how small this species of accipiter really is. A Wood Sandpiper was found along the edge of the lake and we very much enjoyed watching the bird bobbing its tale up and down. We found our first Southern Red-billed Hornbills of the tour and we were very pleased to find two new species of woodpeckers; we watched a Bennett's Woodpecker clinging to the side of a tree and enjoyed watching a Bearded Woodpecker climbing up the main trunk of another tree. A delightful White-browed Scrub-Robin showed particularly well and we were able to admire its rufous rump and tail, which contrasted sharply against its broad, brilliant white wing bars. We enjoyed watching a pair of Tinkling Cisticolas, foraging around on the floor of the forest. One bird we particularly enjoyed watching, which was always in flocks, was the very elegant and extremely range-restricted Meves's Starling. Another attractive species we saw here and once again in large flocks, was the very attractive White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, they had many of their rather untidy, communal nests, crammed into one bush. Large flocks of Red-billed Queleas were also very much in attendance. We then found a little stunner here, the very beautiful Green-winged Pytilia, a stunning species of waxbill. We also found one or two extremely range restricted Brown Firefinches, feeding on the floor of the forest. A solitary Cinnamon-breasted Rock-Bunting popped into view and we enjoyed watching this brightly patterned species of bunting. We very much enjoyed drinking our sundowners as the sun slowly set and one or two nocturnal birds started to call. Soon we obtained point blank views of one of these nocturnal birds as it sat in the middle of our spotlight, just a few metres away from us. It was a superb Fiery-necked Nightjar and it just sat there and looked at us.

The following morning we said goodbye to Chiboola Lodge and its gracious host but not before adding a Red-winged Starling, to our ever growing trip list. We then took a boat trip across Lake Kariba, to Siavonga. While loading our vehicle, for the drive back to Lusaka airport, Michael pointed out a Collared Palm-Thrush, which we all enjoyed. In the afternoon we flew to South Luangwa National Park, for a three nights stay at the splendid Kafunta River Lodge. In the late afternoon new birds around the lodge included Squacco Heron, Sacred Ibis, good numbers of the extremely range restricted Lilian's Lovebirds and a pair of beautiful Mosque Swallows.

We had two full days to explore the famous South Luangwa National Park, Zambia's most famous wildlife sanctuary and it is the jewel of the nation's national park system. It is situated at the southern end of the Great Rift Valley and encompasses 9,065 square kilometres of unspoilt African wilderness. The shallow and very broad Luangwa River flows remarkably slowly, as it meanders its way through park, regularly changing its course, leaving behind characteristic oxbow lakes and lagoons. The floodplains and the surrounding savanna grasslands attracted vast numbers of both mammals and birds. Hippopotamus wallowed and grunted in the deeper pools, massive Nile Crocodiles basked on the sandbanks and African Savanna Elephants bathed and swam. Both days followed the same pattern; a small breakfast just after dawn, before setting off in our 4WD vehicle for a game and birding drive and back for a late brunch. We then had a siesta period during the heat of the day, before meeting at 4 o'clock, for a second game and birding drive, where we would

stay out after dark spotlighting for both birds and mammals, before returning to the lodge for a late dinner. This system worked perfectly. On the first, very full day, we found African Openbill wading in the shallows of one of the oxbow lakes along with several African Spoonbills. Small numbers of Hooded Vultures were observed flying overhead and very fortunately, a superb adult White-headed Vulture, Africa's rarest species of vulture, circled high above us. A perched Western-banded Snake-Eagle was a real treat, as this species is rarely encountered. We saw a distant Lanner Falcon in flight; we were able to approach small flocks of the stunningly attractive Grey-crowned Crane to within a few metres. In the river there were dozens of snorting Hippos and we found a few Black-winged Stilts, a few White-fronted Plovers, a couple of Marsh Sandpipers, a small flock of Little Stints, a solitary Curlew Sandpiper, a few Ruffs and best of all, Joy pointed out a Black-tailed Godwit, in non-breeding plumage. This species is a vagrant; this far south in Africa and it was a new bird for our splendid safari driver, Josephat. We saw a few White-browed Coucals very well indeed, enjoyed super looks at a massive Verreaux's Eagle-Owl; we could clearly see the bird's bright pink eyelids! One of the great highlights today were the small flocks of Southern Carmine Bee-eaters, which were simply spectacular. The much more subdued coloured Lesser Honeyguide, was also much appreciated, flocks of Brown-throated Martins, were nesting in the banks of the river and in the nearby woodlands we found Grey-headed Bush-Shrike, the very attractive Retz's Helmet-Shrike, Wattled Starling and Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver. However, by far the best bird of the day was the fabulous Pel's Fishing Owl that peered at us from the top of a nearby tree. The views of this huge orange nocturnal predator were out of this world, little wonder it was voted 'Bird of the Trip'. New mammals today included several Common Zebras, which we enjoyed watching as they drank at a small oxbow lake and we also saw several Giraffes today, which had both Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers in attendance. After dark our safari drive was enlivened by a superb Three-banded Courser and brilliant close looks at a Square-tailed Nightjar. New mammals for us during the night drive included great looks at the nocturnal White-tailed Mongoose, a pair of South African Porcupines and lots of Long-eared Slit-faced Bats.

We followed exactly the same schedule the following day and new birds included a couple of Tawny Eagles, circling overhead, a couple of Crowned Lapwings, a splendid African Barred Owlet in broad daylight and a male Collared Sunbird. We finally caught up with other species of swifts, which included Alpine, Little and African White-rumped Swifts and in the Mopane woodlands, we found the star bird of this habitat, the very beautiful, but all too uncommon, Racket-tailed Roller. New mammals included Dwarf and Banded Mongoose and Greater Kudu, a splendid species of large antelope. During the night drive we enjoyed super looks at a delightful Common Genet, in the spotlight and then we really hit the jackpot. A pride of Lions had made a kill no more than 300 metres from our lodge. A couple of lionesses had charged a large herd of Impalas; the herd had panicked and scattered in all directions. One Impala had been caught by the Lions and another had run right into three Spotted Hyenas, which promptly killed it and began to eat it, only 50 metres away from where the pride of Lions were eating their kill. Half a dozen or so Lions, feasted on the Impala, while the three Spotted Hyenas feasted on theirs. It did not take the Lions long to finish eating their Impala, especially as the male, had grabbed the largest share. Two large lionesses were still hungry and one of them decided that she would steal the kill from the Spotted Hyenas. It was very interesting to watch the following scenario unfold. As the lioness approached the Hyenas kill, one of the Hyenas picked up the Impala in its powerful jaws and carried it away from the approaching lioness; the two remaining Hyenas charged the lioness and she ran off back to the pride. A few seconds later the scenario was repeated by the second lioness, with exactly the same

result. Had the lionesses attached together and worked as a team, instead of individuals, they could well have stolen the Impala from the Hyenas. This provided a fitting climax to a great tour in a most welcoming and friendly country.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

PHALACROCORACIDAE

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Widely spread throughout most wetland areas.

Reed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus* Small numbers present in most wetland areas.

ANHINGIDAE

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* Small numbers observed, in a number of wetland areas.

ARDEIDAE

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* This species is resident in southern Africa and also a winter visitor from the northern Palearctic; small numbers were present throughout most wetland areas.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Small numbers scattered throughout a number of wetland areas.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* This uncommon and very large species of heron was observed well in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* We enjoyed a few scattered sightings of this widespread species of egret.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* In Africa, the Intermediate Egret is an uncommon bird; we saw it well in Kafue National Park and again at Lake Kariba.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Frequently encountered throughout most wetland areas.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* We enjoyed two very good sightings of this species during our time in South Luangwa National Park.

Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris* This range restricted and very uncommon small species of heron, was observed on one occasion at the dam at Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common and widespread throughout farmland.

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* Small numbers present throughout most wetland areas.

SCOPIDAE

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* We enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.

CICONIIDAE

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* First observed at a small dam near Kabwe and then small numbers were seen well in South Luangwa National Park.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* Small numbers seen well in South Luangwa National Park.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* An uncommon species, which we saw very well in both Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* Just a few scattered sightings throughout the tour.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Good numbers present during our time in the South Luangwa National Park

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Proved to be common in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Small numbers in recently acquired breeding plumage were present in South Luangwa National Park.

ANATIDAE

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* Good numbers observed in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* We enjoyed very good looks at this uncommon species at the dam, at Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma. Small numbers were also observed in South Luangwa National Park.

ACCIPITRIDAE

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* We very much enjoyed watching a pair of immature birds of this uncommon species, circling overhead, a little to the south of Lochinvar National Park.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* We enjoyed two sightings of this uncommon and rarely encountered species during the tour. Both sightings occurred at dusk, when this species starts to become active and begins hunting small species of bat. The first sighting occurred at Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma and the second sighting took place in South Luangwa National Park. The Bat Hawk never attempts to catch large flying foxes, it only seeks out small species of bats, it is probably opportunistic and has been known to take swifts and swallows.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Often observed perched on telegraph wires, along the roadside.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Small numbers recorded throughout the tour.

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* This superb species of eagle was commonly encountered in most wetland areas.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* A few birds were observed during our time in South Luangwa National Park.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* Small numbers were observed in Kafue, Victoria Falls and South Luangwa National Parks.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* Photographed by Joy in South Luangwa National Park, at the time Joy did not realise it was a species we had not previously seen.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* This uncommon species is by far the least common species of vulture occurring in Africa. Therefore, we were very pleased to enjoy a very good sighting of an adult bird in flight, in South Luangwa National Park.

Black-breasted Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this uncommon species of raptor, which feeds almost exclusively on snakes.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* Another uncommon species of raptor, which we saw perched and in flight, on a number of occasions.

Western-banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* Yet another uncommon species of raptor; we were very fortunate to enjoy great looks at a bird perched in a tree, close to the entrance of South Luangwa National Park.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* We enjoyed many good sightings of this spectacular species of raptor.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* We enjoyed a surprisingly large number of sightings, of this normally uncommon but attractive species of raptor.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* We enjoyed several good sightings, of this normally uncommon raptor.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* Seen by Chris, near Lochinvar National Park, followed by a second sighting, by the whole group, in South Luangwa National Park..

Shikra *Accipiter badius* We enjoyed a few scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* We enjoyed excellent looks at one of these small and very uncommon raptors, as it flew overhead, close to Siavonga, at Lake Kariba.

Crowned Eagle *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus* This uncommon species is one of the largest eagles in the world and feeds mainly on small antelopes and monkeys. We were very fortunate to have an adult bird fly directly overhead, in the grounds of Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* We enjoyed two sightings of adult birds circling overhead in South Luangwa National Park.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi* Our first sighting occurred in the grounds of the Chaplins Barbet Guesthouse, at Chisamba, followed by a second sighting, in the grounds of Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma. John August Wahlberg (1810-1856) was a Swedish naturalist and collector. He studied chemistry and pharmacy at Uppsala in 1829 and worked in a chemist's shop in Stockholm whilst studying at the Skogsinstitutes (Forestry Institute). He traveled and collected widely in southern Africa between 1838 and 1856, sending thousands of specimens home to Sweden. He returned briefly to Sweden in 1853 but was soon back in Africa where he was in Walvis Bay until 1854. He was exploring the headwaters of the Limpopo when he was unfortunately killed by a wounded elephant.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this very large species of eagle, the largest species of eagle in Africa, while birding in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

FALCONIDAE

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* We enjoyed somewhat distant looks at a single bird in South Luangwa National Park.

PHASIANIDAE

Shelley's Francolin *Francolinus shelleyi* A pair of this rather uncommon and range restricted species burst from cover and flew away from us, while we were birding in Miombo woodland, close to Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma. Sir Edward Shelley (1827-1890) was an English traveler and was the nephew of the famous poet. As a young man he was an army officer but resigned his commission in order to travel in Africa, where he lived with the local people for a good number of years. Livingstone records having met him during his time in Africa.

Natal Francolin *Francolinus natalensis* We observed a small flock, close to the Chaplins Barbet Guesthouse, at Chisamba, this was our only sighting.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Francolinus afer* The common francolin of Zambia; which we observed well on several occasions.

Swainson's Spurfowl *Francolinus swainsoni* This common but range restricted species was seen very well at Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma and in South

Luangwa National Park. William Swainson (1789-1855) was a naturalist and bird illustrator. He was born in Liverpool, the son of a collector of customs duty. After elementary education, he worked as a junior clerk and then in the army commissariat, in Malta and Sicily. After serving in the army for 8 years he retired from the army at the end of the Napoleonic wars, on half-pay. In 1816 he left for Brazil and on his return in 1818 he set about endeavoring to sort out his zoological specimens. In 1840 he left for New Zealand and became the country's first Attorney General. Unfortunately, most of his specimen collection was lost during the voyage to New Zealand, he remained in New Zealand for the rest of his life.

NUMIDIDAE

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* A common and conspicuous bird throughout much of Zambia.

GRUIDAE

Grey Crowned-Crane *Balearica regulorum* We enjoyed terrific looks at this very attractive species during our time in South Luangwa National Park.

RALLIDAE

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostris* Observed very well at a number of wetland areas throughout the tour.

HELIORNITHIDAE

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* This rare species of finfoot was seen very well on a number of occasions along the Kafue River, in Kafue National Park and by some members of the group, along the Zambezi River, at the Natural Mystic Lodge, at Livingstone.

JACANIDAE

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Common and widespread throughout most wetland areas.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Only seen on one occasion, a small party was observed on a sandbank in the Luangwa River, in the South Luangwa National Park.

BURHINIDAE

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* We enjoyed many good sightings of this attractive species in wetland areas of Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

GLAREOLIDAE

Three-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus* This uncommon and range restricted species inhabits Mopane and Miombo woodland and is mainly active at night. We were very fortunate to observe this species in the spotlight, during each of our night drives in South Luangwa National Park.

CHARADRIIDAE

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* This beautiful species of lapwing was seen very well in

both Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps* This extremely beautiful and range restricted species, was glimpsed by Chris on top of Victoria Falls, in the Victoria Falls National Park and then proved to be extremely common around the Luangwa River, in the South Luangwa National Park.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* A solitary pair was seen very well on one occasion in South Luangwa National Park.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Frequently observed, in most wetland areas.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Small numbers seen very well, along the Luangwa River, in the South Luangwa National Park. Friedrich Heinrich Freihers 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. Between 1826 and 1829 he undertook a round-the-world journey, under Lutke, following which he published *Twenty-Four views of the Vegetation of the Coast and Islands of the Pacific*, in 1861.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* This attractive species was observed well in both Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* Mainly a bird of the African coast; it does however, occur along some of the larger rivers in the interior of Africa. We observed four birds very well along the Luangwa River, in the South Luangwa National Park.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* This species is a Palearctic migrant to South Africa and never over-winters. It is an abundant winter visitor to the Sahel belt, immediately to the south of the Sahara Desert, occurring in the tens of thousands. South of this area it is only known as a vagrant. Therefore, we were very fortunate to find a bird in non-breeding plumage, on a sandbank in the Luangwa River, in South Luangwa National Park. It was a life bird for our local guide, Josephat, who was our guide in South Luangwa National Park.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* A couple of birds were observed well in the South Luangwa National Park.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Small numbers present in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* First observed along the edge of Lake Kariba, at Siavonga, followed by two more birds which were observed in the South Luangwa National Park.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Small numbers over-wintering in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* A solitary bird, probably a recently arrived migrant, was observed along the Luangwa River, in South Luangwa National Park.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* A small flock of Little Stints was also observed along the Luangwa River, in South Luangwa National Park.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Small numbers of Ruff were also observed along the Luangwa River, in South Luangwa National Park.

LARIDAE

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus* Chris observed one flying over the Itzhi-Tezhi Dam and

later on the same day, we all enjoyed very good looks at a few birds, at the ferry crossing, on the Kafue River.

RYNCHOPIDAE

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* We enjoyed super looks at this attractive species, along the Kafue River, in Kafue National Park and along the Luangwa River, in South Luangwa National Park.

COLUMBIDAE

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* Small numbers present throughout the towns and villages of Zambia.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Small numbers observed on a few occasions.

Cape Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia capicola* Recorded on every day of the tour.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* This species also proved to be a very common bird throughout Zambia.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* In Zambia the Namaqua Dove is an uncommon non-breeding visitor. We encountered small numbers throughout the tour.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calva* We enjoyed many good sightings of this attractive species.

PSITTACIDAE

Lilian's Lovebird *Agapornis lilianae* We enjoyed excellent looks at this superb, small and extremely range restricted species of parrot, during our time in South Luangwa National Park. Lilian Elizabeth Lutley Sclater (1870-1957) was a British naturalist who accompanied her brother, William Lutley Sclater, on an expedition to Nyasaland (now Malawi) where the lovebird was collected.

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* We enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour. Dr. Bernhard Meyer (1767-1836) was a physician who is noted for his contributions to German ornithology. He wrote *Naturgeschichte der Vogel Deutschlands*, in 1805 and *Taschenbuch der Deutschen Vogelkunde*, in 1810. The parrot is native to Africa and Meyer is not known to have traveled there.

MUSOPHAGIDAE

Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi* This beautiful species of turaco was only seen on one occasion and only in flight, this sighting occurred in the Kafue National Park. Hermann Schalow (1852-1925) was a German banker from Berlin. He was also an amateur ornithologist who worked with both Cabanis and Reichenow. He wrote *Die Musophagidae* in 1886 and *Beitrage zur Vogelfauna der Mark Brandenburg* in 1919. The Berlin Natural History Museum's library is named the Schalow Library, in his honour.

Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae* None of us will ever forget the three Ross's Turacos sunning themselves at the top of trees, early one morning, in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

We also enjoyed a second sighting of this species in the Kafue National Park. Lady Ann Ross (1817-1857) was the wife of Rear-Admiral Sir James Clark Ross (1802-1862) the discoverer of the Magnetic North Pole. While stationed on St. Helena, Lady Ross received a live specimen of the turaco from an unknown locality in West Africa and kept it in captivity for 10 years. The official description was based on a sketch and some moulted feathers which she sent to John Gould, who named the turaco after her.

Grey Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor* A widespread species, which we observed in most forested areas.

CUCULIDAE

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* A couple of birds were observed very well during our time at the Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* First observed close to Siavonga, on the shore of Lake Kariba, followed by a couple of very good sightings in South Luangwa National Park.

STRIGIDAE

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* We enjoyed two wonderful sightings of this species in broad daylight, in South Luangwa National Park. Jean Baptiste Edouard Verreaux (1810-1868) was a French naturalist, collector and dealer. He worked with his brother J.P. Verreaux, in China and in South Africa's Cape Colony. The Verreaux family traded in Paris from a huge emporium for stuffed birds, which they called the Maison Verreaux.

Pel's Fishing-Owl *Scotopelia peli* We were very fortunate to find one of these splendid birds while birding in the South Luangwa National Park. It is an extremely uncommon bird and was voted 'Bird of the Trip', by our participants. Hendrik Severimus Pel (1818-1876) was the Dutch Governor of the Gold Coast (now Ghana) between 1840-1850. He was an amateur naturalist but also a trained taxidermist and acted as such for the Dutch State Museum of Natural History. He first described the Pel's Fishing Owl in 1851.



African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* A diurnal species of owl, which we saw very well, in broad daylight, in South Luangwa National Park.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* During our night drive at Chiboola Lodge, on the shores of Lake Kariba, we observed one of these birds in the spotlight, just a few metres away from us. Ted was so excited about photographing this bird, it led to a small mishap, I feel sure that you will join with me in wishing Ted a speedy recovery from the injuries he sustained.

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* This species was also observed incredibly well in the spotlight, during one of our night drives in the South Luangwa National Park.

APODIDAE

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Common and widespread throughout Zambia.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* This species is an intra-African migrant and at this time of year it is a fairly regular non-breeding visitor to South Luangwa National Park, where, thanks to Michaels keen eyes, we saw a few birds very well.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Just before the main gate into South Luangwa National Park, a large bridge spans the Luangwa River. Dozens of Little Swifts were nesting under this bridge, somewhat surprisingly, this was the only time we recorded this species.

African White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* An intra-African migrant; we saw one amongst a large flock of Little Swifts, in South Luangwa National Park.

COLIIDAE

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus* A common and widespread bird throughout much of Zambia.

ALCEDINIDAE

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* This widespread but uncommon species, was seen particularly well, during our boat trip along the Kafue River, in Kafue National Park.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata* A common and widespread species which we saw on one occasion during our boat trip on the Kafue River, in Kafue National Park. We saw it a second time at the Natural Mystic Lodge, at Livingstone.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* We enjoyed several good sightings throughout the tour.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* This large species of kingfisher was also seen well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* A common and conspicuous bird throughout the tour.

MEROPIDAE

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* We enjoyed many fine looks at this very attractive species of bee-eater.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* A very common and widespread species.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this Miombo speciality.

Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides* Several birds of this exquisite species were observed during one of our days in the South Luangwa National Park. Shortly they would

begin nesting in the banks of the Luangwa River.

CORACIIDAE

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudata* This beautiful bird is common and widespread throughout the whole of Zambia.

Racket-tailed Roller *Coracias spatulata* An uncommon bird of Mopane and drier Miombo woodlands. We were very pleased when Michael Alderman pointed out an adult and an immature bird, in Mopane woodland, in the South Luangwa National Park.

UPUPIDAE

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* This very attractive species was glimpsed close to Chongo and then seen much better in the South Luangwa National Park.

PHOENICULIDAE

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* A fairly common inhabitant of Miombo woodland, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Common Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* This widespread species was seen well on a few occasions.

BUCEROTIDAE

Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris* This fairly common bird was at the extreme western edge of its range at Lake Kariba and in the South Luangwa National Park, where we saw it well at both places.

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus* Another widespread species which was seen well throughout the tour.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus* Common and widespread throughout Zambia.

Trumpeter Hornbill *Ceratogymna bucinator* We enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.

CAPITONIDAE

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

Chaplin's Barbet *Lybius chaplini* The only truly endemic Zambian bird. Classed as near-threatened in 'Threatened Bird of the World'. Recent studies have shown that this bird is in fact far less common than previously thought and its status should be revised to endangered. We enjoyed good scope views of an individual perched in the top of a fruiting fig tree, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma. Sir Francis Drummond Percy Chaplin (1866-1933) was a civil servant who was an administrator in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Nyasaland (now Malawi) from 1914 until 1923. .

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* Another widespread and common species of large barbet, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Black-backed Barbet *Lybius minor* This very uncommon and range restricted species was seen well in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve and again in the Kafue National Park.

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* We saw this very attractive species of barbet, very well on several occasions throughout the tour.

INDICATORIDAE

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* An immature bird of this species was observed briefly during our time in the Kafue National Park.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* This uncommon species of honeyguide, was seen well on one occasion in the South Luangwa National Park.

PICIDAE

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii* An uncommon woodpecker of southern Africa; we saw it well on one occasion, close to Chiboola Lodge, on the shores of Lake Kariba.

Edward Turner Bennett (1797-1836) was a British naturalist. In 1822 he promoted the setting up of a London entomological club. This was developed in association with the Linnean Society into a zoological club which was the starting point for the establishment of the Zoological Society of London in 1826, of which he became the first vice-secretary. In 1831 he became secretary and held this post until his premature death in 1836, aged just 39. Andrew Smith one of the most outstanding collectors and travelers of his era, named the woodpecker after him. .

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* This common and widespread species of woodpecker was observed well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* This very common and widespread species of woodpecker was commonly observed throughout the tour.

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus* This large and uncommon species of woodpecker was seen well at Chiboola Lodge, on the shores of Lake Kariba and again in South Luangwa National Park.

EURYLAIMIDAE

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* This uncommon and range restricted species was seen extremely well on one occasion in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola* Local and scarce in Zambia, however, it proved to be fairly common, nesting in river banks, in South Luangwa National Park.

African Rock Martin *Hirundo fuligula* A common and widespread resident over the greater part of Africa, it occurs in the vicinity of rocky hills, cliffs and gorges. We observed it on only one occasion, a large group was present and presumably nesting, in the Victoria Falls National Park.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* A common and conspicuous swallow throughout Zambia.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Hirundo abyssinica* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

Red-breasted Swallow *Hirundo semirufa* An uncommon bird of high plateau grasslands, we saw a single pair very well, a little to the south of Lochinvar National Park.

Mosque Swallow *Hirundo senegalensis* A species with a wide distribution throughout Africa, it is an uncommon species in Zambia, we observed a solitary pair very well, in South Luangwa National Park.

South African Cliff Swallow *Hirundo spilodera* This species breeds in South Africa and has been observed occasionally as it passes through western Zambia in very small numbers,

between August and November, enroute to its wintering grounds in Zaire. With only seven previous records for Zambia, we were very fortunate that Joy pointed out a pair hawking for insects just above the surface of the water, during our boat trip on the Kafue River, in Kafue National Park.

MOTACILLIDAE

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Yet another very common and conspicuous bird.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* This widespread African species was observed well on one occasion in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

Woodland Pipit *Anthus nyassae* Sometimes treated as a race of Long-billed Pipit but it should be given full species status. This species only occurs in extensive Miombo woodland and we were very fortunate to see a pair particularly well during our time in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Black-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Observed on every day of the tour.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* A fairly common resident throughout Zambia.

Cabanis' Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanis* This range restricted species is endemic to south central Africa, we observed a bird in flight in riverine vegetation, while birding in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve. Jean Louis Cabanis (1816-1906) was the most influential European ornithologist of his day. He founded the Journal for Ornithology 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.

Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris* A fairly common bird throughout the dry thickets and riparian forests of southern and central Africa., which we saw well on a few occasions.

Grey-olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* An extremely range restricted species of south central Africa. It is a shy inhabitant of thick tangles along forested streams and rivers, exactly the habitat where we saw a small flock, in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

TURDIDAE

Groundscraper Thrush *Psophocichla litsipsirupa* This fairly common species of thrush was observed well in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve and again in the Nkanga Conservation Area.

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyanus* Surprisingly, we only observed this common species of thrush, in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve, where it was common.

CISTICOLIDAE

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* A common species of scrub and thickets, which we saw well during some pre-breakfast birding at McBrides Camp, in the Kafue National Park.

Tinkling Cisticola *Cisticola rufilatus* An uncommon bird of open woodland, which we saw very well foraging on and close to the ground, close to Chiboola Lodge, on the shores of Lake Kariba.

Long-tailed Cisticola *Cisticola angusticaudus* Sometimes treated as a race of Neddicky, this viable species is a locally common resident of Zambia and Tanzania. A bird of open

woodland with a grassy understorey; we saw it very well in the Nkanga Conservation Area and again in the South Luangwa National Park.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* A locally abundant species in Zambia, it prefers semi-arid open plains. We saw it very well on one occasion in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* A common bird, which was seen well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* This fairly common species was observed by Barbara and Joy in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* Seen well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Observed regularly throughout the tour.

Pale Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes undosus* An uncommon and extremely range restricted species of open woodland. Barbara, Joy and Michael observed this species, while waiting to be rescued south of Lochinvar National Park.

SYLVIIDAE

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* A widespread species occurring throughout much of Africa, Chris observed it in open woodland in Kafue National Park and it was seen again by all the group in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma.

Red-capped Crombec *Sylvietta ruficapilla* A Miombo woodland speciality of central Africa; we saw it very well on a few occasions in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens* Endemic to southern Africa, Zambia is at the northern edge of its range. We saw it well on a number of occasions.

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* A widespread African species, which occurs in open woodland. We observed this species in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve and again in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma.

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis* This species predominately occurs in Miombo woodland of southern Africa. We saw this species very well in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near Choma.

MUSCICAPIDAE

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus* A common and widespread flycatcher throughout Africa, which we observed well on several occasions.

Southern Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* A common endemic of eastern and southern Africa. We saw it on many occasions throughout the tour.

Boehm's Flycatcher *Muscicapa boehmi* Endemic to Miombo woodland of central Africa. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at this species in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve. Dr. Richard Boehm (1854-1909) was a German traveler and zoologist who worked in Tanzania and Zaire during the late 1800's until his premature death from malaria. He wrote *Von Sansibar zum Tanganjika*, which was published in 1888.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* A widespread flycatcher, which occurs throughout much of Africa. Surprisingly, we only saw it on one occasion, however, we did see it very well, while birding in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* Another widespread African flycatcher; we saw it first at the Itezhi-Tezhi Hydro Electric Dam and again in the South Luangwa National Park.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* Another widespread African flycatcher, which we saw well on a few occasions.

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* This widespread African species was observed very well on a few occasions.

Collared Palm-Thrush *Cichladusa arquata* Endemic to central Africa, we observed this fairly common species at Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba and once again, while having a very up-market picnic lunch, in South Luangwa National Park..

Bearded Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* Endemic to eastern and southern Africa; this attractive species was observed and photographed in the grounds of the Natural Mystic Lodge, at Livingstone.

White-browed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* This widespread African species was seen very well on one occasion, close to Chiboola Lodge, on the shores of Lake Kariba.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* Seen well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris* A widespread species throughout Africa which we saw well on a few occasions.

Arnott's Chat *Myrmecocichla arnotti* A Miombo woodland specialty which is endemic to central Africa. We enjoyed many good looks at this attractive species throughout the tour. David Arnott (1822-1894) was a renowned, unscrupulous South African attorney. He lived in Colesberg and contributed fossil reptiles, mammals, birds and insects to the South African Museum between 1858 and 1868.

PLATYSTEIRIDAE

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata* Endemic to eastern and central Africa. This rather uncommon species of flycatcher was observed very well on one occasion, in riverine forest, in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* This common batis of east and southern Africa, it proved to be very common throughout Zambia.

MONARCHIDAE

White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* This uncommon species of flycatcher is endemic to central Africa. We saw a pair very well on one occasion, while birding in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve

TIMALIIDAE

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* This widespread central African species, proved to be common throughout Zambia.

PARIDAE

White-winged Black-Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas* This widespread African species was observed on one occasion in Kafue National Park.

Southern Black-Tit *Melaniparus niger* Endemic to southern Africa, it is a bird of broad-leaved woodland. We saw it well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Miombo Tit *Melaniparus griseiventris* Yet another Miombo woodland speciality, which is endemic to central Africa. We saw it well in Kafue National Park and again in the Nkanga

Conservation Area, near to Choma.

NECTARINIIDAE

Anchieta's Sunbird *Anthreptes anchietae* Another Miombo woodland speciality, which is confined to a small area in central southern Africa, where it is locally common. We saw this species well in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve and again at a service station in the town of Serenje. Jose de Anchieta (?-1897) was an independent Portuguese naturalist and collector in Africa, in particular in Angola and Mozambique. He collected many types of mammals and reptiles. A bat, a cobra, a chameleon, a python and a frog, amongst others, all share the vernacular name 'Anchieta's'

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei* A widespread species found throughout much of Africa, we only observed this species in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve and in the grounds of the Chaplins Barbet Guesthouse, in Chisamba.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* Another species of sunbird which occurs throughout much of Africa, Joy photographed one in the grounds of Masuka Lodge and we all saw one or two very well, in South Luangwa National Park.

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* A common bird of eastern and southern Africa, we observed this species on many occasions throughout the tour.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* This species is found throughout much of Africa and we observed it well on many occasions throughout the tour.

Miombo Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris manoensis* A Miombo woodland specialty of central Africa, it proved to be quite common in all areas of Miombo woodland.

White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* Endemic to southern central Africa, we saw it very well on several different occasions.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* A common and widespread species throughout Africa, it also proved to be common and widespread throughout much of Zambia.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* Common and widespread throughout much of Africa, it also proved common and widespread throughout Zambia.

ORIOLIDAE

Eastern Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* A widespread African oriole, which we saw very well on several occasions.

LANIIDAE

Magpie Shrike *Corvinella melanoleuca* An uncommon endemic to Tanzania, Mozambique and southern central Africa. In Zambia it is an uncommon bird of the southwest; we saw it very well, close to Kasenga and again in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma.

MALACONOTIDAE

Brubru *Nilaus afer* This very small species of shrike is common and widespread throughout Africa, we saw it well on several occasions.

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* A widespread species throughout eastern and southern Africa, it proved to be common throughout Zambia.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala* Common and widespread throughout much of Africa; we saw it well at the Chaplins Barbet Guesthouse at Chisamba and again in Kafue National Park.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* This species is also common and widespread throughout much of Africa, as it was in Zambia.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus* Yet another species which is common and widespread throughout much of Africa, this was also the case in Zambia.

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* A fairly common and widespread species throughout Africa, somewhat surprisingly, we only recorded this species south of Lochinvar National Park and again in South Luangwa National Park.

PRIONOPIDAE

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* The common helmet-shrike throughout Africa, we enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* Endemic to central Africa; we recorded it in the grounds of the Natural Mystic Lodge, in Livingstone and again in South Luangwa National Park. Andres Jahan 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 Retsius (1796-1860), who was Professor in Anatomy and Physiology at the Karolinsk Institute or Carl Gustaf Retzius (1798-1833), who was veterinary professor in Stockholm. Other sources say it was named after A J Retzius himself.

DICRURIDAE

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* The common savanna drongo of Africa. Common and widespread throughout Zambia.

CORVIDAE

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* The common crow throughout Africa, including Zambia.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* Restricted in distribution to mountainous and hilly areas of eastern and southern Africa. This attractive species was common in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve.

STURNIDAE

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* A widespread species throughout eastern and southern Africa. We recorded a small flock of this species in South Luangwa National Park.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* The common glossy starling of Africa, it proved common throughout much of Zambia.

Meves' Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii* Endemic to central Africa and Angola. In Zambia it is a highly localised but very common species, which occurs in large social flocks. We found it

to be common at Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba and throughout South Luangwa National Park. Frederick Wilhelm Meves (1814-1891) was a German ornithologist and teacher, who worked for the Zoological Museum in Stockholm for much of his life. In 1840, before moving to Sweden, he worked in the Anatomical/Zoological Museum at Kiel where he made contact with the ornithologist Fr. Boie. Boie had Swedish connections; he taught at Uppsala. Through him, Meves became a curator at the Riksmuseet's Zoological Department in 1841 and remained in that job until 1877. During those 36 years he took part in many expeditions, both in Sweden and abroad and made many valuable additions to the museum's collections. He published several ornithological works including Overview of Royal Science Academy Collections, in 1854. Contribution to Swedish Ornithology, in 1868, Ornithological Observations in Northwest Russia 1869 and Uber den Schurr laut der Bekassine in 1876.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* This species is a fairly common resident and intra-African migrant, throughout much of Africa. Some members of the group observed a pair of birds very well, in the grounds of the Natural Mystic Lodge, in Livingstone.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* A widespread species throughout eastern and southern Africa. In Zambia it only occurs along the extreme eastern edge of the country. We saw a single bird in flight, in the ground of Chiboola Lodge near Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba, while we were in the motor boat.

White-winged Babbling Starling *Neocichla gutturalis* This very uncommon species of open woodland, has four isolated populations. One in Angola, one in Tanzania, one in northern Zambia and one in eastern Zambia. While enjoying a picnic lunch, just north of the town of Serenje, Chris observed a bird in flight, flying through the forest. Unfortunately, we were unable to relocate the bird.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Common and widespread throughout eastern and southern Africa, we enjoyed good looks in South Luangwa National Park

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* This species is the common oxpecker of west Africa and is very patchily distributed throughout the rest of southern Africa. We watched a few small flocks in South Luangwa National Park.

PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Introduced to Africa from Europe, it was not uncommon the larger towns of Zambia.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* The common sparrow of southern Africa. It reaches its northern limit in Zambia. We saw the species well on several occasions. Please note Clements erroneously refers to this species as Cape Sparrow.

Yellow-throated Petronia *Petronia superciliaris* The common petronia of southern Africa. We enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.

PLOCEIDAE

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger* A widespread species throughout eastern and southern Africa. In Zambia it is extremely localised occurring in the far south of the country and in the upper Luangwa Valley. It proved to be fairly common in South Luangwa National Park.

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* A common bird of eastern and southern Africa. In Zambia it only occurs in southern and eastern parts of the country. It proved

very common at Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba and again in South Luangwa National Park.

Lesser Masked-Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* Common and widespread throughout eastern and southern Africa. We only observed this species nesting in the grounds of our hotel in Lusaka and in a reedbed along the edge of the Kafue River, in the Kafue National Park.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* A common species throughout eastern and southern Africa, including Zambia.

Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* Widespread throughout eastern and central Africa, it proved quite common throughout Zambia.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* The most widespread and common weaver in Africa; we saw it very well on a few occasions.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* A common and widespread species throughout Africa as it was in Zambia. We enjoyed particularly good looks at this species, as we watched a pair nest building in the grounds of McBrides Camp, in Kafue National Park.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* A widespread and endemic resident of Africa; it is highly nomadic and probably truly migratory in some regions. It maybe the most abundant species of bird in the world, forming huge flocks which can devastate cereal crops, it is Africa's 'feathered locust'. We saw small flocks on several occasions.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* A widespread African species; we saw a large flock very well in the grounds of the Chaplins Barbet Guesthouse, at Chisamba and a second flock in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma.

ESTRILDIDAE

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* A widespread African species, we saw it well near Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba and again in South Luangwa National Park

Brown Firefinch *Lagonosticta nitidula* Endemic to southern central Africa where it is an uncommon resident. We saw a few birds very well indeed, feeding on the ground, in the grounds of the Chiboola Lodge, on the shore of Lake Kariba, not far from Siavonga.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Common and widespread throughout much of Africa, including Zambia.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* Common and widespread throughout much of Africa, including Zambia.

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* A widespread but uncommon species throughout eastern and central Africa. We saw it well in the grounds of the Natural Mystic Lodge, in Livingstone and in the grounds of the Chiboola Lodge, close to Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba. James Sligo Jameson (1856-1888) was an Irish hunter, explorer and naturalist. He collected in Borneo, South Africa, Spain, Algeria, the Rocky Mountains and finally in the Belgian Congo, where he died of hemorrhagic fever, at Bengali, whilst on an expedition with Stanley to rescue Emin Pasha. According to his obituary in The Times of 8 November 1890, he witnessed a cannibal banquet in the Upper Congo and was accused by Stanley of instigating it. He wrote *Story of the Rear Column of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition*, which was published posthumously in 1890.

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* A common and widespread resident of southern central Africa, including Zambia.

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola* A fairly common resident of eastern and southern central Africa; we saw small flocks very well on a few separate occasions.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Widespread and common throughout west, east and central Africa, including Zambia.

VIDUIDAE

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* This species is very common and widespread throughout Africa, including Zambia.

FRINGILLIDAE

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus* A common and widespread canary throughout much of Africa, including Zambia.

Reichard's Seedeater *Serinus reichardi* This species has two centers of distribution, one in the Ethiopian highlands and the other in Miombo woodlands of central Africa. Chris saw it briefly in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve. Paul Reichard (1845-1938) was a German geographer and engineer. He collected in East Africa between 1880 and 1884 and sent ethnographical specimens to the museum in Berlin. He wrote a number of papers including *Deutsch-Ostafrika Das Land und seine Bewohner*, in 1882 and *Das Afrikanische Eisenbahn und sein Handel*, in 1899.

EMBERIZIDAE

Cinnamon-breasted Rock-Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* A common and widespread species throughout much of Africa, including Zambia. We saw it on one occasion, in the grounds of the Chiboola Lodge, close to Siavonga, on the shores of Lake Kariba.

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* A common and widespread species throughout much of Africa, including Zambia. We recorded it in the Mutinondo Wilderness Reserve and again in the grounds of Masuka Lodge, in the Nkanga Conservation Area, near to Choma.

Cabanis' Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* A widespread, but uncommon species throughout much of western and central Africa. We saw a solitary bird very well indeed, amongst a mixed species feeding flock, at our tented camp in Kafue National Park.

MAMMALS

Yellow Baboon *Papio cynocephalus* One of the smallest baboons, they are common throughout east Africa, including Zambia. The males are often twice the female's body weight. The average troop size is 20 – 50, but has been recorded as high as 100. Young Yellow Baboons are tolerated while in their “baby fur”, as they molt into adult colouration, females take their place at the base of the troop hierarchy. Males are driven off and must battle their way into another troop.

Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus* This is the largest species of baboon in the world; we observed a small troop a little to the south of Lochinvar National Park. Its wide diet ranges from roots and seeds to insects and young antelopes. In the wild, it is known to use tools such as sticks.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* We enjoyed watching several small troops throughout the tour. It is the typical monkey of Miombo woodland, where *acacia* dominated riverine strips are their primary habitat.

Greater Galago *Otolemur crassicaudatus* This is the largest species of bushbaby and was seen by Chris during the night drive to McBrides Camp, in Kafue National Park. He locates insects at night by using its huge eyes and ears, it grabs them by hand in a split second. It also scrapes gum and sap with its comb-like, protruding lower incisor and canine teeth. It lives in small family groups, of a male and female pair, or two females, with young.

Large-eared Slit-faced Bat *Nycteris macrotis* This was the common small species of bat that was nesting in the thatch of our rooms, during our time in Kafue National Park. The main food items of this species include crickets, grasshoppers, moths, flies, cicadas and flying termites. Spiders and scorpions are plucked from vegetation, the ground, or caught in flight. This species emerges late and retires early.

Four-toed Elephant-Shrew *Petrodomus tetadactylus* Chris saw a few of these mammals during the night drive to McBrides Camp, in Kafue National Park. The long, pointed snout, which is flexible and highly sensitive, gives elephant-shrews their name. They have keen senses of hearing and vision and long, powerful back legs, which enable them to run swiftly around their territory. These secretive animals occur only in Africa, the Four-toed Elephant-Shrew lives in dense evergreen undergrowth in forest and woodlands. It lives without any burrows or shelters and uses well worn pathways, with regularly spaced cleared areas of bare earth. It is most active in the early morning and evening, when it feeds mainly on ants and termites, it will also take crickets and grasshoppers.

Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis* We saw this species very well during our night drives in the South Luangwa National Park. As a special adaptation to the high temperatures in this region they have very large, naked ears in which fine veins help to cool the blood.

South African Ground-Squirrel *Geosciurus inauris* We observed this species in the grounds of our lodge, on the shores of Itezhi-Tezhi Hydro Electric Dam and in the grounds of the Natural Mystic Lodge, at Livingstone. The large claws of this species of ground squirrel enable it to burrow into hard, dry, stony soil. Its diet is opportunistic, ranging from seeds, bulbs, roots, insects and birds eggs. It mainly lives in colonies of 6-10 individuals but in some cases there are up to 30 or more.

Smith's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus cepapi* We enjoyed many sightings of this species in both Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks, as well as in the grounds of the Chiboola Lodge,

on the shores of Lake Kariba. This species shows a preference for low-level vegetation and shade, spending much of its time on the ground. It relines its nest each night with freshly plucked leaves.

South African Porcupine *Hystrix africaeustralis* We were very fortunate to observe this species on both of our night drives in South Luangwa National Park. These rodents forage up to 15 kilometres each night. They are looking for roots, bulbs, berries and other fruit. During the day they rest in caves or rocky crevices. They communicate with one another by means of quill rattles, piping squeaks and grunts.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* This is the smallest species of mongoose in the world and we disturbed a pair one afternoon, in South Luangwa National Park. It forms packs of 2 – 20 individuals, which inhabit the termite mounds of their range. They use the termite mounds as shelter. They feed on insects, lizards, snakes, birds, eggs and mice. All members of the pack help to care for small offspring, which can number up to six per female..

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* We saw one pack running away from us on the ground, in South Luangwa National Park. The Banded Mongoose eats a variety of small prey items, ranging from termites to birds eggs. It normally occurs in packs of 15 - 20, which includes one dominant male.

White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda* We saw this species very well during the two designated night drives in South Luangwa National Park. This species is very much associated with riverine woodland and is nocturnal and generally solitary. It is predominately insectivorous, however, it will eat frogs, mice, reptiles, scorpions, sun spiders and wild fruit. It will also dig for termites and beetles.

Spotted Hyena *Crocota crocuta* We saw this, the largest species of the hyaena in the world, extremely well in South Luangwa National Park. We even saw them at a recent Impala kill. The social system of Spotted Hyenas is female dominated and based on the clan, which varies from 5 or fewer adults to 50 or more. The clan occupies a communal den, uses communal latrines, and jointly defends its territory. The famous hyenas laugh is used to signify submission to a senior clan member.

Common Genet *Genetta genetta* This species has a wide distribution throughout Africa and occurs in a wide range of drier habitats from seasonally arid woodlands to sparsely bushed near-desert. They are able to live without water and are fast but clumsy killers, relying on speed and agility and cryptic colouring to catch food. They eat a large variety of food items, consisting mainly of rodents, birds and reptiles. We were fortunate to observe this species during our second night drive in South Luangwa National Park.

Serval *Felis serval* Resembling a small cheetah, with its lean body and long limbs, a Serval has yellowish fur with black spots. We were extremely fortunate to observe a solitary individual washing itself, in front of our stationary vehicle, during an unscheduled night drive, in Kafue National Park. Having located prey, usually at dusk and mainly by hearing, the Serval excels at the cat pounce. It leaps up to 4 metres horizontally and more than 1 metre in height to strike the victim with its forepaws. It eats rats and similar sized rodents, birds, fish and large insects such as locusts. Frogs are a favorite with wetland-dwelling Servals.

Leopard *Panthera pardus* We enjoyed two spectacular sightings of this uncommon species of cat; the first occurred during an unscheduled night drive in Kafue National Park and the

second, even better sighting, occurred in South Luangwa National Park, during a designated night drive, when we joined a Leopard as it hunted for Impala. It makes a kill approximately every three days. This species is adaptable to human presence and hunt to within a few kilometres of big cities. They are a great survivor despite numerous threats.

Lion *Panthera leo* We enjoyed very good Lion sightings in both Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks. We watched them tear an Impala to pieces and quickly dispose of it, less than 300 metres from our lodge, in South Luangwa National Park. Lions form close-knit, long term social groups, known as prides. Prides occupy home ranges and members cooperate to hunt large prey such as zebra, wildebeest, Impala and buffalo. Adult males either live alone, or in coalitions of 3 – 5 relatives, originating from the same pride. The coalition defends a large area against other male coalitions and holds mating rights over prides within it, this tenure generally last only 2 – 3 years.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei* We enjoyed super close looks at a group of these animals in the grounds of our lodge, on the shores of Itezhi-Tezhi Hydro Electric Dam. It lives in colonies of 4 – 40, with one dominate male, other males and females and young. It usually lives in rocky outcrops and crags, where it makes a grass-lined nest.

African Savanna Elephant *Loxodonta africana* We very much enjoyed watching several small herds of elephants, the largest living land animal in the world, we saw then very well in both Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks. The male African Elephant can attain a height of 4 metres and weights nearly 10 tons.

Common Zebra *Equus quagga* We enjoyed watching small numbers of zebras in South Luangwa National Park. This very successful animal has a diet, which is 90% grass; the remaining 10% consists of leaves and buds.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* Hippopotamuses are still abundant in many parts of Africa, we enjoyed watching large groups splashing around in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks. This huge animal has a semi-aquatic lifestyle and is thought to be more closely related to whales than to other even toed hoofed mammals. They can float and swim and may remain submerged for over five minutes.

Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* We enjoyed several good sightings of this long-legged pig, with a large head, in both Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks. When running, its tail is held straight and upright. Generally active by day, it lives in mixed groups of 4-16 young males or females with young. They shelter and raise their young in grass-lined burrows, dug by themselves or by Aardvarks.

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* The Giraffe is the tallest mammal in the world and can browse at higher heights than any other mammal. We enjoyed tremendous sightings during our time in South Luangwa National Park. Feeding, drinking and other activities occur in the morning and evening. During the heat of the day it spends most of the time cud-chewing. The Giraffes main predators are Lions, Leopards and hyenas.

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer* Good numbers of the African Buffalo were present in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks. The African Buffalo needs to drink every day and is never found farther than 15 kilometres from water. It feeds mainly at night and during cooler periods of the day, feeding mainly on grasses and leaves. The single calf is born following a 340 day gestation period and is fiercely protected by the mother and often by other members of the herd.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* We encountered this beautiful species of antelope in Kafue National Park, the Nkanga Conservation Area and South Luangwa National Park. It is a

browser and solitary, except when courting or when a mother is with her young.

Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* We observed a few of these very large antelopes in South Luangwa National Park. The male Greater Kudu is one of the tallest and longest-horned antelopes and has a long throat fringe.

Bush Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* One of the smallest antelopes, we enjoyed a few good sightings in Kafue National Park. It is mainly a nocturnal browser but it also takes small animals and carrion. It lives alone or in pairs and males defend their territories against rivals.

Sharpe's Grysbok *Raphicerus sharpei* We saw the world's smallest species of antelope during an unscheduled night drive, at Livingstone and we also saw it again during the scheduled night drive at Chiboola Lodge, on the shores of Lake Kariba. They are mainly solitary but sometimes in pairs and are mainly nocturnal, lying up during the heat of the day in thick cover. They are predominantly browsers, but will also eat grass. The single young may be born at any time throughout the year. The gestation period is 7 months.

Puku *Kobus vardonii* One of the least common antelopes in Africa, where there are high population densities it forms leks, in areas of low population density it only forms territories. The long coat is a uniform golden yellow and the horns are approximately 50cm in length. The Puku grazes morning and evening and, like other plains antelope, they have the ability to flee rapidly from danger. Large numbers of this uncommon antelope were observed in both the Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* One of the heaviest antelopes, the Waterbuck has coarse, long, oily hair that ranges in colour from grey to red-brown and darkens with age. The horns, normally present only in the male, are up to 1 metre in length. Up to 90% of its diet is grass; the rest is made up of leaves. When threatened, the Waterbuck usually dashes to water, where it swims fast or submerges except for the nose. Small numbers were observed in the Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus* We saw many Impalas in Kafue and South Luangwa National Parks; they are very adaptable feeders and form large mixed herds during the dry season. During the breeding season bachelor males compete with one another for territories and females.