

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS
ZIMBABWE AND MOZAMBIQUE

21st November - 7th December 2014

TOUR REPORT

LEADER: Chris Doughty and Errol De Beer

This exciting birding transect, which began in the picturesque highlands of Zimbabwe and ended in the sprawling coastal plain of Mozambique, encompassed an amazing variety of very productive birding habitats. We enjoyed good weather throughout the entire tour, the accommodation was good throughout, as was the food, and our local guide Errol, proved to be a first class birding guide. We observed almost all of the endemics and regional specialities and just some of the many birding highlights included super looks at both Red-chested and Buff-spotted Flufftails, all three Zimbabwean Eastern Highlands endemics, Robert's Warbler, Chirinda Apalis and the splendid Swynnerton's Robin. The very skulking Barratt's Warbler was seen well, we observed the endangered Blue Swallow at very close quarters, and in the coastal forests of Mozambique we found all three of the areas skulking and uncommon specialities; we enjoyed a quick look at the hard to find, African Pitta, but were well compensated with super looks at both the White-chested Alethe and the highly localised East Coast Akalat. Mammal highlights included the usual monkeys, mongooses and antelopes, however, the Thick-tailed and Grant's Lesser Bushbabies were much more appreciated, and our most pleasing sighting was that of a very fine Side-striped Jackal, the noise of the Southern Tree Hyrax, in the dead of the night, was much less appreciated!

A lengthy flight from Perth to Harare, via Johannesburg, was followed by a refreshingly smooth immigration and customs at Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe. In the car park of the airport we saw a dozen or so Abdim's Storks, sitting on the fence posts of the airport, this intra-African migrant, is not a common bird, the tour was off to a great start.

From the airport, we drove to our hotel, on the outskirts of Harare, en route we saw a sprinkling of common South African birds, the inevitable Feral Pigeon, a flock of African Palm-Swifts and a couple of Pied Crows. We then did a little birding in the grounds of our hotel and here we added Arrow-marked Babbler, Dark-capped Bulbul, Kurrichane Thrush, the very beautiful White-browed Robin-Chat, Southern Black Flycatcher and Southern Grey-headed Sparrow.

Following lunch, we drove to the outskirts of Harare, to a small wetland known as Monavale Vlei, where we birded away the remainder of the afternoon. While driving through suburban Harare, on our way to the vlei we stopped for new birds along the side of the road, and these included Cattle Egret, Laughing Dove, Senegal Coucal, African Hoopoe, Willow Warbler, African Paradise-Flycatcher and the very beautiful Violet-backed Starling.

Monavale Vlei, held little water and as a result, there was very few wetland birds there, even so, we did see a very good selection of African birds. We were particularly pleased to find a splendid Jacobin Cuckoo, which sat up nicely for us, an uncommon White-throated Swallow flew around us and we enjoyed good prolonged looks at a pair of perched Pearl-breasted Swallows, a fine-looking Dark-capped Yellow Warbler responded very well to tape-playback and a flock of a dozen or so diminutive Orange-breasted Waxbills flew around us, allowing us to get very good looks at this uncommon and unpredictable species. There was also a supporting cast of other African birds

which included, Grey Heron, Sacred Ibis, Long-crested Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite, African Wattled Lapwing, Red-eyed Dove, Cape Turtle-Dove, Little Bee-eater, Croaking, Rattling and Levallant's Cisticolas, Tawny-flanked Prinia, a wintering Red-backed Shrike, Southern Fiscal, nest-building Southern Masked Weavers, a solitary Red-billed Quelea and no less than three species of widowbirds, Red-collared, White-winged and Yellow-mantled.

The following morning we spent the first hour of the day birding along the road, close to our hotel, in the outer suburbs of Harare. New birds for the tour were not hard to find and we added Black-headed Heron, the stunningly attractive Purple-crested Turaco, Little Swift, Cardinal Woodpecker, Bar-throated Apalis, Black-backed Puffback, Greater Blue-eared Starling, the attractive Red-winged Starling and Yellow-fronted Canary. Following breakfast, we drove to the nearby Christan Bank Nature Reserve, where we spent a very enjoyable morning birding in bolder-strewn Miombo woodland. New birds came thick and fast. A Brown Snake-Eagle flew above our heads, a pair of delightful Lanner Falcons flew around us a couple of times, an African Grey Hornbill flew into a nearby tree, and the diminutive Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird popped up right in front of us. A pair of Familiar Chats performed well for us, as did the beautiful Mocking Cliff-Chat. A Lazy Cisticola responded well to tape-playback, showing itself very well, a Spotted Flycatcher flitted into view, along with a pair of Pale Flycatchers. A small flock of delightful African Yellow White-eyes fed in a large tree, a pair of Chinspot Batis showed well and a Black-crowned Tchagra put in a brief appearance. Sunbirds were much in evidence and we enjoyed great looks at Amethyst, White-bellied, Miombo Double-collared and Purple-banded, a nearby flock of small birds feeding on the ground, included Jameson's Firefinch, Blue Waxbill and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. It was an impressive list of birds, however the bird of the morning was undoubtedly, a fine Collared Flycatcher, a very uncommon migrant from Eastern Europe. We also saw our first mammal of the tour here, when we observed a small troop of Chacma Baboons.

Following lunch, we drove to nearby Cleveland Dam, on the outskirts of Harare, unfortunately, there was not many wetland birds in evidence, but even so we managed to add Reed Cormorant, Purple and Squacco Herons, a stunning African Cuckoo-Hawk, Eurasian Moorhen and African Jacana, to our ever growing trip list. We then went for a game drive, in the adjacent Haka Game Reserve and new birds were observed regularly throughout the afternoon. A Hamerkop flew past us, a stunning Black-chested Snake-Eagle hovered overhead, we found a perched Lizard Buzzard, somewhat surprisingly, a Gabar Goshawk responded well to tape-playback, as it circled our group. A Swainson's Spurfowl showed well, there were several flocks of Helmeted Guineafowls, a pair of White-rumped Swifts flew overhead, a Fork-tailed Drongo popped into view, as did a pair of African Stonechats, and we taped in a large flock of very obliging Green-capped Eremomelas. We enjoyed prolonged looks at a Zitting Cisticola, saw a couple of Yellow-throated Longclaws, a brightly plumaged Yellow Bishop, a beautiful male Pin-tailed Whydah, a large flock of Common Waxbills, both Streaky-headed and Black-eared Seedeaters and best of all, prolonged looks at a very uncommon male Cuckoo Finch. We also observed a small group of Vervet Monkeys and good numbers of Burchell's Zebra, Blue Wildebeest and Impala, but best of all, we enjoyed a very good sighting, of the uncommon Side-striped Jackal.

The following day, we did some pre-breakfast birding in the tree-lined streets around our hotel in Harare, where we added Black-collared Barbet, Variable Sunbird and Bronze Mannikin. Following breakfast, we began the long drive to the Eastern Highlands and just after leaving Harare we added Wahlberg's Eagle and Lilac-breasted Roller along the roadside. We then made a short stop at a small farm dam, not far from Harare, where we enjoyed scope views of a Black Crake, as a pair of Lesser Striped Swallows flew above us. Next we made a short stop at an abattoirs, close to Bromley, where we found a large flock of Marabou Storks flying above the abattoir. Our next stop was a fine area of Miombo woodland, where new birds for the tour included a Eurasian Buzzard, a

fine male Black Cuckoo-shrike and Miombo Tit. A beautiful Grey-headed Bush-shrike responded well to tape playback and we saw a female Scarlet-chested Sunbird, very well. A Slender Mongoose ran across the road in front of the bus, just prior to our lunch stop.

We enjoyed a very fine lunch at a restaurant close to Macheke and in the garden, we enjoyed good looks at a wintering Icterine Warbler. After lunch, we drove to the Honde Valley, and roadside birding here produced African Black Duck, a splendid Augur Buzzard, a large flock of European Bee-eaters, several Barn Swallows, an Eastern Saw-wing, several common House-Martins, large flocks of Black-winged Bishops, a pair of Grey Waxbills and a flock of Red-backed Mannikins. Following dinner at our lodge in the Honde Valley, we enjoyed good looks in the spotlight, of a superb African Wood-Owl.

We spent the whole of the following day birding in the Honde Valley, and new birds were very much in evidence. We enjoyed scope views of a perched Shikra, some of us saw a fairly obliging Red-chested Flufftail, we scoped a Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, a Tambourine Dove flew past us, a Burchell's Coucal popped up for us and we saw Mottled, Common, African Black and Scarce Swifts in the skies above our heads. Speckled Mousebirds showed well and throughout the day we saw no less than four species of kingfishers, Malachite, African-Pygmy, Brown-hooded and Grey-headed. We scoped a pair of European Rollers, taped in the range-restricted Pallid Honeyguide, we enjoyed watching a pair of White-eared Barbets, we found a perched Wire-tailed Swallow, several Black Saw-wings flew overhead, Yellow-bellied Greenbuls proved rather obliging, a Cape Robin-Chat was much admired, as was a Little Rush-Warbler and a Cape Grassbird. A Yellow-breasted Apalis, showed well, both Short-winged and Singing Cisticolas duly obliged and the beautiful Red-winged Warbler, was greatly admired. A pair of Pale Batis flitted around a small tree, a Tropical Boubou skulked in the undergrowth, a splendid Brown-crowned Tchagra, came in well to tape, we saw our first House Sparrows of the tour, found a small breeding colony of Thick-billed Weavers, enjoyed great cope views of Golden Weaver and close looks at a few Yellow Weavers. Scope views of a stunning male Red-throated Twinspot, were greatly appreciated, as were good close looks at the very uncommon Magpie Mannikin.

Most of the following day was spent birding on the Nyanga Plateau, where new birds were found frequently throughout the day. A pair of Verreaux's Eagles flew directly above us, an immature Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk perched obligingly for us and an Alpine Swift flew overhead. The main bird we were looking for here, was the endangered Blue swallow, and fortunately, we observed a pair at very close quarters. A pair of White-necked Ravens flew overhead and we actually enjoyed good looks at the usually very skulking Barratt's Warbler. Wailing Cisticola proved plentiful, we found a pair of Roberts' Warblers, the first of the three Eastern Highlands endemics, that we were particularly looking for. An African Dusky Flycatcher proved to be very tame, as was a pair of White-tailed Crested-Flycatchers, we glimpsed a Southern Hyliota, saw several Cape Batis, a few African Pipits, we taped out the skulking Olive Bush-Shrike, enjoyed a large flock of Yellow-bellied Waxbills, admired several Cape Canaries and a beautiful Golden-breasted Bunting. In the late afternoon, we drove to our lodge in the Vumba Mountains, for a three nights stay.

The whole of the following day was spent birding in the Vumba Mountains. In particular we were looking for two endemic birds, Chirinda Apalis and Swynnerton's Robin. Early in the day, we picked out a pair of Chirinda Apalis, feeding in a tree, and we were able to observe them very well, for a prolonged period of time. In the afternoon, some of the group saw the Swynnerton's Robin very well. Although these were the two main target birds, there was also a very fine supporting cast of new birds which included, African Goshawk, the beautiful Livingston's Turaco, Crowned Hornbill, Lesser Honeyguide, Stripe-cheeked and Yellow-streaked Greenbuls, the very secretive

Orange Ground-Thrush, Olive Thrush, the stunning White-starred Robin, the dainty Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Red-faced Crombec, Western Olive and Collared Sunbirds, Michael saw a Black-fronted Bush-Shrike and we saw the very uncommon Red-faced Crimsonwing and Cabanis's Bunting. We also saw our first group of Samango Monkeys today.

We once again spent the whole day birding in the Vumba Mountains and even though we had spent much of the previous two days here, the area proved once again, to be extremely productive. An African Crowned Eagle circled overhead, an Emerald Spotted Wood-Dove, perched in a nearby tree, as did a Red-chested Cuckoo, a Beautiful Black Cuckoo responded well to tape playback, giving us a few fly-bys and a Dideric Cuckoo, sat up in a tree calling loudly. We watched a pair of Striped Kingfishers displaying to each other, a pair of Broad-billed Rollers showed well, a Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird sat in a tree above our heads, a Square-tailed Drongo, scolded us, we enjoyed great looks at a White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike and we saw both Cinnamon-breasted and Southern Black Tits. A Sombre Greenbul showed well, we had particularly good looks at a Miombo Rock-Thrush played hide-and-seek with a Red-capped Robin-Chat, admired the diminutive Yellow-bellied Eremomela, taped in a Red-faced Cisticola, an Ashy Flycatcher performed well for us, we found a rather obliging Orange-breasted Bush-shrike, we enjoyed super looks at the diminutive Brubru, a pair of Bronzy Sunbirds and a Village Weaver.

Our final morning in the Vumba Mountains had been reserved to try for the very difficult to see, Buff-spotted Flufftail. A speaker was placed in a likely spot on the forest floor, we stood close by, not moving a muscle, the speaker was operated by remote control and out rang the call of this tiny denizen of the forest undergrowth. In no time at all, a male Buff-spotted Flufftail appeared from the forest undergrowth and slowly made its way to the speaker, allowing us stunning looks at a very beautiful bird. On reaching the speaker he hurriedly turned around and ran off, in the direction he had come from. A splendid start to the day. Following breakfast we drove to Mutore. On the way, a Lemon Dove flew in front of our vehicle. In Mutore, while filling our vehicle with diesel, we observed a pair of Common Mynas. We then drove to the border post and crossed into Mozambique, for the second leg of our African transect. We then drove to our tented camp, close to Gorongosa, observing Yellow-billed Kite on the way. We broke the long drive with a birding stop at the Pungue River and new birds here included a Striated Heron, a superb Dickinson's Kestrel, a Three-banded Plover, a Green Sandpiper, a rare visitor, this far south in Africa, we also saw a Greater Painted-snipe and a couple of African Pied Wagtails. We did some birding close to our tented camp and new birds for the tour included Brown-headed Parrot, Trumpeter Hornbill and the very uncommon Speckle-throated Woodpecker.

The following day we woke up at 3am and began the gruelling drive to the upper slopes of nearby Mount Gorongosa, where our main target bird was the extremely range-restricted Green-headed Oriole. While still dark, we flushed a pair of Pennant-winged Nightjars off the road. Following a long and bumpy ride, we enjoyed a picnic breakfast and then began a rather demanding walk up the side of Mount Gorongosa. After some time we finally made it to the remaining forest that clings precariously to the upper slopes of this isolated mountain, which rises abruptly above the Mozambique coastal plain. In no time at all, we enjoyed good close looks at our main target bird, the range-restricted Green-headed Oriole. Other new birds for the tour included the illusive Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, the delightful African Green-Pigeon, a splendid pair of Grey Cuckoo-shrikes, a wintering Garden Warbler, the uncommon Broad-tailed Warbler and the equally uncommon Moustached Grass-Warbler, the very uncommon Anchieta's Tchagra and a pair of diminutive Red-billed Firefinches.

We spent the afternoon birding in broadleaf woodland close to our tented camp. New birds here

included a stunning Bateleur that glided overhead, the tiny Little Sparrowhawk buzzed by at head height, a Golden-tailed Woodpecker climbed a nearby tree, a stunning African Golden Oriole lit up the whole forest, while a party of White-crested Helmetshrikes made their way through the forest, and we also found an immature Miombo Blue-eared Starling. A quick look along the Pungue River, produced a Little Egret. After dark we taped in a Barn Owl at our tented camp.

We spent the following morning birding in a patch of broadleaf woodland, which proved very rewarding. A pair of stunning Levillant's Cuckoos flew into a nearby tree and we were able to see them very well and a pair of enormous Silvery-cheeked Hornbills flew over our heads. We admired a young male Greater Honeyguide and a very close Bearded Woodpecker. A bushfire burned out of control ahead of us and several Eurasian Buzzards and a large number of European Bee-eaters, as well as several dozen Barn Swallows, were catching insects fleeing from the bushfire. Closer inspection of the Barn Swallows produced a pair of Mosque Swallows. A Black-headed Oriole provided colour in the forest and a Stierling's Wren-Warbler was much appreciated. We then came across a flock of Retz's Helmetshrikes, a female Red-headed Weaver and a superb Green-winged Pytilia. Some of us also observed a Blue Duiker this morning.

In the mid-afternoon, following a short siesta, we walked through a small knee-deep stream, in order to gain access to the banks of the Pungue River. Here we found a good number of new and interesting birds. A White Stork circled overhead, a Woolly-necked Stork, foraged along the edge of a large reedbed, an African Fish-Eagle circled above us, and a Bat Hawk flew across the river and landed in a large tree, on the far bank. A Common and a Marsh Sandpiper, were seen on a large sandbank in the river and a Pied Kingfisher hovered over the river. We enjoyed scope views of an Eastern Nicator singing in deep cover and found several beautiful Southern Brown-throated Weavers, building nests in an extensive reedbed.

A little pre-breakfast birding around our tented camp produced two new birds, the attractive Common Scimitar-bill and a Bearded Scrub-Robin. The rest of the morning was taken up by a long drive to our eco-lodge, close to Caia, passing through native villages, and unfortunately recently cleared woodland. During the drive, a Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill flew across the road in front of us.

In the afternoon, we walked the nature trail at our very fine lodge, and here we added a pair of stunning Narina Trogons, a Mangrove Kingfisher, which at this time of year, leave the mangroves to nest in the forests of the interior. We very much enjoyed a stunning pair of range-restricted Woodward's Batis and a beautiful Black-bellied Starling. Ted enjoyed good looks at a Scrub Hare during the walk and we all enjoyed super looks at Red Squirrel, Red Duiker and the diminutive Suni.

The next two days of the tour, were reserved for searching for three of Africa's most difficult, skulking and elusive birds. The stunningly beautiful African Pitta, the White-chested Alethe and the delicate East Coast Akalat. We knew that the pittas had arrived on their breeding grounds, but the rains were late this year and this meant that they had not yet started breeding, and more importantly, the males had not started calling, and this would make locating and observing one extremely difficult. Quite frankly, we needed a miracle, in the form of rain, or a chance meeting in the forest. Following two very early morning starts, the miracle occurred, we stumbled across a pitta sitting on the floor of the forest, unfortunately, only some members of the group were able to get it in their binoculars, before it took flight. However, we did see the White-chested Alethe fairly well and then enjoyed point-blank looks at the beautiful and very striking East Coast Akalat.

Throughout the two days we also enjoyed a supporting cast of other lovely birds, which included a

juvenile Lappet-faced Vulture, a soaring Southern-banded Snake-Eagle, several haughty Crested Guinea-fowls, a pair of Crested Francolins, the rarely encountered Bronze-winged Courser, a simply stunning African Emerald Cuckoo, the skulking Green Malkoha, the rather spectacular Bohm's Spinetail, a Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, a small flock of Green Wood-Hoopoes, the very range-restricted Green-backed Woodpecker, the unobtrusive African Broadbill, a male Eurasian Golden Oriole illuminated the forest, a couple of Terrestrial Brownbills were observed, along with the Tiny Greenbul. Other new birds included White-browed Scrub-Robin, Black-headed Apalis and we greatly admired the beautiful and very active Livingstone's Flycatcher. A Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher, flicked around in the undergrowth, and we found a nesting pair of Black-and-white Flycatchers. We also enjoyed a fine flock of Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrikes, a pair of very uncommon Plain-backed Sunbirds, a small flock of rather plain Yellow-throated Petronias, a very handsome, nest building Dark-backed Weaver and enjoyed tremendous scope views of a non-breeding plumaged male Broad-tailed Paradise-Whydah. We also observed several new mammals for the tour, which included a family party of Dwarf Mongoose, which had taken up residence in a large termite mound. We also saw a few Common Warthogs, a Common Duiker and enjoyed great looks at two large species of antelope, Greater Kudu and Nyala. A little spot-lighting following dinner produced a Four-toed Elephant Shrew, a Thick-tailed Bushbaby and a couple of Grant's Lesser Bushbabies.

During the afternoon of the second day we visited the floodplains of the Zangue and Zambezi Rivers at Caia. We found plenty of new birds here, which included several African Openbills, a solitary Knob-billed Duck, several large flocks of White-faced Whistling-Ducks, a few wintering Amur Falcons, a couple of Black-winged Stilts, a couple of Common Ringed Plovers, a couple of Little Stints, a couple of large flocks of Wood Sandpipers, a couple of Common Greenshanks, a small flock of Collared Pratincoles, a pair of African Mourning Doves, several wintering Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, a flock of Brown-throated Martins and a single, wintering Yellow Wagtail.

Much of the following day was taken up by the long drive to Biera, on the coast. As we were leaving the lodge, we enjoyed good looks at a Southern Tree Hyrax, as it sat in a large hole in a nearby tree. Most of the journey was on a dirt road, so it was a rather bumpy ride for much of the journey. However, it was livened up by one or two new birds along the way. These included, a stunning pale morph Booted Eagle and a couple of huge Spur-winged Geese. On arrival at our seaside hotel at Biera, we found a pair of House Crows.

We spent the latter half of the afternoon birding the nearby Rio Savane Wetlands, where new birds included a single African Marsh-Harrier and large flocks of Fan-tailed Widowbirds.

Very early the following morning we spent a few hours back in the Rio Savanna Wetlands, and on the last birding day of the tour new birds included the beautiful Saddle-billed Stork, a pair of Blue Quail, a Black-bellied Bustard, a Senegal Lapwing, a beautiful Temminck's Courser, a Southern Red Bishop and a small flock of diminutive African Quailfinch. Following a late breakfast and a quick shower, it was off to the airport, where we said our final goodbyes to Errol, who had done such an outstanding job for us, and we begin a series of long flight back to Australia.

SYSTAMATIC LIST

CORMORANTS *PHALACROCORACIDAE*

Reed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus* A common resident, which we observed at a number of wetlands throughout the tour.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS *ARDEIDAE*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Another common resident, which we saw well, at a number of wetlands.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* A commonly encountered resident throughout the tour.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* An uncommon winter visitor to this part of Africa, we observed a single bird at Cleveland Dam, near Harare and this was followed by a second sighting of a single bird on the floodplain of the Zangue River at Caia.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* This species is both a resident species and a winter visitor in this part of Africa, we observed small numbers at a number of wetlands in Mozambique.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* A fairly common winter visitor to this part of Africa, we observed small numbers at Cleveland Dam, close to Harare and then we observed a single bird on the floodplains of the Zambezi River at Caia.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* A common resident, which we encountered in small numbers throughout the tour.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* An uncommon resident, which we saw well in the scope on one occasion, along the edge of the Pungue River, near Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

HAMERKOP *SCOPIDAE*

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* We enjoyed scattered sightings of this common resident, throughout the tour.

STORKS *CICONIIDAE*

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* We observed a small flock of this uncommon resident, on the floodplains of the Zangue River, at Caia.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* We enjoyed good sightings of wintering flocks, of this inter-African migrant, in the Harare area.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* An uncommon resident, which we observed on two occasions, the first, of a single bird, occurred along the edge of the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa and the second sighting, also of a single bird, occurred in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera, on the last day of the tour.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* An uncommon winter visitor, we observed a single bird circling overhead, along the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* This very attractive species is an uncommon resident, we saw a single bird on the last day of the tour, in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* A common resident which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS *THRESKIORNITHIDAE*

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* A common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Another common resident, we saw a flock very well in flight at the Catapu Lodge, close to Caia and then we observed a second flock at the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Beira.

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS *ANATIDAE*

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* A common resident, we observed several

flocks during our time in Mozambique, on the floodplains of the Zambezi & Zangue Rivers, close to Caia and in the Rio Savane Wetlands at Beira.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* A fairly common resident throughout this part of Africa, we observed two birds together in a wet meadow, close to Dondo, during the drive from Catapu Lodge to Beira.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* An uncommon resident, we saw a single bird amongst a flock of White-faced Whistling-Ducks, on the floodplain of the Zangue River, at Caia.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* An uncommon resident of secluded fast-flowing rivers and streams in mountainous, wooded habitat. This was exactly the habitat where we observed a single bird, in the Honde Valley, in Zimbabwe.

KITES, HAWKS AND EAGLES *ACCIPITRIDAE*

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* This uncommon resident was observed well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* This uncommon and nocturnal resident, was observed well on two occasions. The first occurred at dusk, along the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa and this was followed by a second sighting of a pair of birds at their day-time roost at Biera.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* A common resident which we saw on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Another common resident which somewhat surprisingly, we only observed in Mozambique, where we saw it on every day of the tour.

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* This very large species of eagle is also a common resident, and somewhat surprisingly, we only observed a single bird throughout the tour. This sighting took place along the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* A very uncommon resident throughout this part of Africa, we observed an immature bird in flight, close to the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, near Caia. This species is classified as 'Vulnerable' in Birdlife Internationals *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be approximately 5,700 mature individuals.

Black-chested Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* A common resident which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* Once again, another common resident which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Southern Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus fasciolatus* This is a very uncommon and range-restricted species, which we were very fortunate to observe on two separate occasions. The first sighting of a bird in flight occurred in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, and the second sighting, also of a bird in flight, took place in the Rio Savane Wetlands, near Biera. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' in Birdlife Internationals *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 670 – 2,000 mature individuals.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* A widespread and common resident, we observed it on most days of the tour during our time in Mozambique, where the habitat was more suited to this species.

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus* We observed this common resident on two separate occasions, while birding in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* Another common resident, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.

- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* Another common and widespread species, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.
- African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* Another common resident, which we also saw well on a few occasions.
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius* Yet another common resident, we only saw it on one occasion, where we were able to enjoy good scope views, of a bird perched in a tree, in the Honde Valley, in Zimbabwe.
- Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* Another common resident which we saw well on a couple of occasions in Miombo Woodland, close to Gorongosa.
- Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris* This species is an uncommon resident of forested areas. We were very fortunate to observe an immature perched in a tree, on the Nyanga Plateau, in Zimbabwe.
- Eurasian Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* A common Palearctic migrant to Africa, which we saw well on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* This beautiful bird is a common resident and we saw it very well on a few occasions during our time in Zimbabwe.
- Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* This common species is an intra-African migrant, which migrates to southern Africa to breed. We enjoyed many sightings throughout the tour, which included both dark and light morph birds. 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* We observed this fairly common resident on one occasion, when a bird flew overhead, while we were birding on the Nyanga Plateau, in Zimbabwe. The Verreaux family were French and consisted of a father and his three sons, who were all naturalists, collectors, taxidermists and most of all, dealers. They traded in Paris, from a huge emporium, dealing in stuffed birds and feathers, which they called the 'Maison Verreaux' the largest ever known 'Natural History Emporium'! The eagle is named after one of the sons, Jean Baptiste Edouard Verreaux (1810-1868).
- Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* This attractive raptor is a fairly common non-breeding Palearctic migrant to Africa. We saw a beautiful pale morph bird flying overhead, close to the village of Inhaninga, during the drive from Catapu Lodge to Bieria. The commando unit camped close by, was not impressed that we had stopped right next to their highly camouflaged camp site!
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* A common and widespread resident, which we saw very well on several occasions throughout the tour.
- African Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus* This huge species of eagle is an uncommon resident, which feeds mainly on monkeys and small antelopes. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at a bird circling overhead, in the Vumba Mountains, part of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 5,000 – 50,000 mature individuals.

CARACARAS AND FALCONS *FALCONIDAE*

Dickinson's Kestrel *Falco dickinsoni* This uncommon and range-restricted resident was seen well on one occasion, at the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa. We watched the bird flying around catching insects and returning to perch on telegraph wires over the river. Dr John Dickinson (1832-1863) was an English physician and missionary. He joined Livingstone but died of Black Water Fever in Nyasaland, now Malawi. He collected the type specimen of the kestrel himself.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* This fairly common species is a long distance Palearctic migrant to Africa. Amazingly, this species only breeds in far eastern Asia, including Siberia, Mongolia and China. Most species of migrant birds winter directly south of their breeding grounds, this species is an exception to the rule. Almost all raptors are adverse to flying over large stretches of water, this species is once again, the exception to the rule, as it flies from India across the Indian ocean to winter in south-eastern Africa. We observed a small flock of five individuals on the floodplain of the Zambezi River, at Caia.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* We observed a pair of this fairly common resident flying overhead, while we were birding in the Christian Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS *PHASIANIDAE*

Crested Francolin *Francolinus sephaena* We observed a pair of these common residents, at close quarters, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Swainson's Spurfowl *Francolinus swainsonii* We observed a single bird of this common but range-restricted species, while birding in the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare. William Swainson (1789-1855) was a naturalist and bird illustrator. He was born in Liverpool, the son of a collector of customs duty. He served for 8 years from 1807-1815 with the army commissariat and amassed a very large collection of zoological specimens. At the end of the Napoleonic war he retired on half-pay. From 1816-1818 he travelled and collected extensively throughout Brazil. In 1840 he travelled to New Zealand and became the country's first Attorney General. Unfortunately, most of his collections of specimens were lost on the voyage to New Zealand, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Blue Quail *Coturnix adansonii* We flushed a pair of these uncommon residents in a wet meadow, at the Rio Savane Wetlands, close to Biera.

GUINEAFOWL *NUMIDIDAE*

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* We observed several large flocks of this common and widespread resident, throughout the tour.

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani* We observed a few flocks of this uncommon resident in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia. We also observed a pair of birds in the grounds of the Catapu Lodge, which is also close to Caia.

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS *RALLIDAE*

Buff-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans* This rather elegant and uncommon resident performed wonderfully for us, in dense forest in the Vumba Mountains, part of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. A male bird walked out of the dense forest and into a small opening, and walked right up to the remote controlled speaker, which was broadcasting its call, realising that it was not a bird, it then raced back into dense cover, following exactly the same route it had taken. Little wonder that this bird was voted 'Bird of the Tour', by tour participants.

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa* Another uncommon resident, and once again, a male bird walked right up to the remote controlled speaker, in a small wetland, in the Honde Valley, of Zimbabwe.

Black Crane *Amaurornis flavirostra* A common resident which we only saw on one occasion, we

enjoyed scope views of a single individual, along the edge of a small dam, just outside Harare.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* A common resident which we saw well at the Cleveland Dam, near Harare and again at the small dam just outside Harare, where we saw the Black Crane.

BUSTARDS OTIDIDAE

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* A fairly common resident, we observed an adult male, in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.

JACANAS JACANIDAE

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* A common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions at wetlands in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

PAINTED-SNIPES ROSTRATULIDAE

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* An uncommon resident, we were very fortunate to enjoy good scope views of this very shy and retiring species, along the edge of the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa.

STILTS AND AVOCETS RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* A few of these uncommon resident birds, were seen well, on the floodplain of the Zambezi River, at Caia.

COURSERS AND PRATINCOLES GLAREOLIDAE

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* A single individual of this uncommon resident, was observed at close quarters, in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera. 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.

Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* This uncommon and nocturnal resident, flushed up from the road prior to dawn, as we were driving to the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, near Caia.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* In this part of Africa, the Collared Pratincole is thought to be an uncommon non-breeding winter visitor, from breeding grounds in Europe and Western Asia. We observed a small flock very well, on the Zangue River floodplain, at Caia.

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS CHARADRIIDAE

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris* This species is an uncommon resident, we observed a single individual, at close quarters, in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* This species of lapwing is a common resident, which we saw well in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* This species is a common Palearctic migrant to Africa, we saw two birds together on the Zambezi River floodplain, at Caia.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* The Three-banded Plover is a common resident of Africa. We observed a single bird along the edge of the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES SCOLOPACIDAE

- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* This species is a common Palearctic migrant to southern Africa, we observed a single bird feeding on a large sandbank in the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa. This was followed by a second sighting, of a single bird in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* The Green Sandpiper is a rare vagrant, this far south in Africa, from breeding grounds in the northern Palearctic. Therefore, we were very fortunate to observe a single bird along the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* The Common Greenshank is a common Palearctic migrant to Africa. We saw two birds together on the Zambezi River floodplain, at Caia.
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* This species is an uncommon Palearctic migrant to this part of Africa. We observed a single bird roosting on a large sandbank in the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* This species is a very common Palearctic migrant to this part of Africa, where we enjoyed several large flocks.
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* The Little Stint is a common Palearctic migrant to Africa, we observed a couple of birds on the Zambezi River floodplain, at Caia.

PIGEONS AND DOVES COLUMBIDAE

- Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* A common resident throughout the towns and villages of both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.
- Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei* This species is an uncommon resident in this part of Africa. We saw a few birds very well, in the rainforests on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.
- Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata* This uncommon resident has secretive habits and is difficult to see well. A single bird flew across the road in front of our bus, while we were driving through the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- African Mourning Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* In this part of Africa, this species is a very uncommon resident, therefore, we were fortunate to observe a pair very well, on the Zangue River floodplain, at Caia.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* A very common and conspicuous resident, which we observed on most days of the tour.
- Cape Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* Yet another common resident, which we also saw very well, on a number of occasions.
- Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* Another common resident, which surprisingly, we only observed in and around the suburbs of Harare.
- Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* A common resident, which we observed well on numerous occasions.
- Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur afer* This species of wood-dove is an uncommon resident, which we only observed on one occasion, in the Honde Valley of Zimbabwe.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tynpanistria* Another common resident that is more often heard than seen, we enjoyed a few good sightings, mainly of birds in flight, however, we did see a perched individual.
- African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calvus* Another common resident, we observed large numbers while birding on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

PARROTS PSITTACIDAE

- Brown-headed Parrot** *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* A locally common resident, which we saw very well, on a few occasions, in the Gorongosa area.

TURACOS *MUSOPHAGIDAE*

Livingstone's Turaco *Tauraco livingstonii* This attractive species is a fairly common resident, which we saw very well on a number of occasions.

Purple-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus* Another fairly common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions. We even observed it nest building, in the suburbs of Harare.

CUCKOOS *CUCULIDAE*

Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* This fairly common bird is an intra-African migrant, which breeds in southern Africa and winters just south of the Sahara. We observed a single bird very well, on the first day of the tour, at Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* Another fairly common species, it is also an intra-African migrant, which breeds in southern Africa and winters south of the Sahara. Our first sighting, was of a single bird, close to Gorongosa. We saw it a second time, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, not far from Caia. Francois Le Vaillant (1753-1824) was a French traveller, explorer, collector and naturalist. He was born in Dutch Guiana, now Surinam, the son of the French consul there. Birds attracted his interest from an early age and he spent a lot of his time collecting specimens. As a result, he became acquainted with many of Europe's private collectors. He went to the Cape Province of South Africa, in 1781, in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, the first real ornithologist to visit the area. Where he both explored and collected specimens, eventually publishing, a six volume book, *Historie Naturelle des Oiseaux d'Africa*, which is a classic of African ornithology. This work was published between the years 1801 and 1806 in Paris, and contained 144 colour-printed engravings. Le Vaillant sent over 2,000 skins of birds to Jacob Temminck, who financed his expeditions.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* This common species is an intra-African migrant, which breeds in southern Africa and winters south of the Sahara. A bird responded very well to tape playback, during our time in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* The Black Cuckoo is a fairly common intra-African migrant, which breeds in southern Africa and winters south of the Sahara. A bird responded well to tape playback, giving us several fly-bys, during our time in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* In this part of Africa, this very attractive species is a fairly common resident. We observed a male very well, while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* This species is a fairly common intra-African migrant, which breeds in southern Africa and winters just south of the Sahara. We observed a male bird perched in a large tree, on one occasion, while birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Green Malkoha *Ceuthmochares australis* In this part of Africa, this species is a secretive and uncommon resident of coastal forests. We saw a single bird very well indeed, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* A common resident, which we saw on several occasions.

Burchell's Coucal *Centropus burchellii* This species is also a common resident, we saw it well in

the Honde Valley, in Zimbabwe and then enjoyed a second sighting, on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique. William John Burchell (1781-1863) was an English explorer-naturalist who went to the Cape of Good Hope in 1810 and undertook a major exploration of the interior of South Africa between 1811-1815, during which he travelled more than 7,000 kilometres through largely unexplored country. He published his two-volume work, 'Travels in the Interior of Southern Africa', in 1822 and 1824. Burchell was the first person to describe the White Rhinoceros. He was renowned as a meticulous collector, botanist and artist. Among the species named in his honour are Burchell's Zebra and a small forest tree *Burchellia bubalina*. He returned to London in 1815 to work on his collections. In 1825 he spent two months in Lisbon and then proceeded to Brazil where he collected extensively, not returning again to England until 1830. He became increasingly reclusive and in the last two years of his life became seriously ill, eventually taking his own life.

BARN OWLS *TYTONIDAE*

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* A fairly common resident in this part of Africa, we taped in a single bird, at our tented camp, in Miombo Woodland, close to Gorongosa.

OWLS *STRIGIDAE*

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii* We observed this common resident very well, in the grounds of our lodge in the Honde Valley, in Zimbabwe and some of us observed a second bird, in the grounds of the Catapu Lodge, close to Caia.

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES *CAPRIMULGIDAE*

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* In this part of Africa, the race involved, is a common resident, which we saw very well in the spotlight, on a few occasions.

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius* This incredibly beautiful bird is a common intra-African migrant, which breeds in southern Africa and winters just south of the Sahara. We observed a pair of birds, at they flew up from the road, in Miombo Woodland, close to Gorongosa.

SWIFTS *APODIDAE*

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* As the name would suggest, this species is a scarce resident throughout most of its range in eastern Africa. The race *myoptilus* are summer breeding birds, which only breed in the mountainous areas of eastern Zimbabwe, close to the border with Mozambique. While birding in the Honde Valley, we came across a large mixed species flock of swifts, and some of these birds were Scarce Swifts, of this migratory race.

Bohm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* A common, but highly localised endemic, we observed a single bird flying over the forest, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia. Dr. Richard Bohm (1854-1884) was a German traveller and zoologist who worked in Tanzania and Zaire during the late 1800s until his premature death from malaria. He wrote *Von Sansibar zum Tanganjika*, which was published in 1888.

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* An abundant resident, in this part of Africa, which we observed on most days of the tour.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* In this area of Africa, this species is an uncommon resident. We observed a single individual, as it flew above our heads, while birding on the Nyanga Plateau, in Zimbabwe.

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* This species is a common resident, we observed small numbers in the Honde Valley and on the Nyanga Plateau, both sightings occurred in Zimbabwe.

Common Swift *Apus apus* A common Palearctic migrant, we observed a small number of this

species, in the mixed species swift flock we observed during our time in the Honde Valley.

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus* In this part of Africa this species is a locally common resident. Once again, we observed small numbers in the mixed species flock of swifts, we observed in the Honde Valley.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* This species is a common resident, which we observed on most days of the tour.

Horus Swift *Apus horus* This fairly common resident was observed by Karen and Errol, at a lunch time stop in the Vumba Mountains, of Zimbabwe.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* In this part of Africa, this species is a common resident. We observed a single individual, flying above our heads, in the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

MOUSEBIRDS *COLIIDAE*

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* A widespread and common resident, which we saw on many occasions, during the Zimbabwe section of the tour.

TROGONS AND QUETZALS *TROGONIDAE*

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* An uncommon but widespread resident, which we saw well at Catapu Lodge, close to Caia and in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, which is also close to Caia. The species was described by James Stephens in 1815 and was named by Levaillant for his beautiful Hottentot mistress, Narina, which in the local language, means 'flower'. Klaas, of Klaas's Cuckoo fame, was Levaillant's servant and Narina's husband!

KINGFISHERS *ALCEDINIDAE*

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristatus* A fairly common resident of wetland areas, which we saw very well on several occasions.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* This uncommon species is an intra-African migrant, it is a summer breeding species in Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. This unobtrusive species is a forest inhabiting bird, which we saw well on two separate occasions. The first sighting occurred in the Honde Valley, in eastern Zimbabwe, and the second sighting took place on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* This fairly common species is also an intra-African migrant, and is a summer breeding species in Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. We enjoyed several good sightings throughout the tour.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* This common species is also an intra-African migrant, and is a summer breeding species in Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. We first observed this species in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa, and this was followed by a second sighting in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Mangrove Kingfisher *Halcyon senegaloides* This species only occurs in coastal forest along the east coast of Africa, where it is a common resident. We saw it very well in this habitat, during the Mozambique part of the tour.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* This species is a locally common resident, which we saw very well on several occasions.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* This small species of Kingfisher is a fairly common resident, we watched a pair duetting to each other, on one occasion, in the Vumba Mountains, of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* A common resident of wetland areas, somewhat surprisingly, we only observed this species on one occasion, we saw a single individual, very well along the Pungue River, close to Gorongosa.

BEE-EATERS *NEROPIDAE*

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* This small species of bee-eater is a common and widespread resident, which we saw well on many occasions.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* The Swallow-tailed Bee-eater is an uncommon and localised resident. We saw a single bird, very well, while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* This rather plain species of bee-eater is an uncommon, non-breeding, Palearctic migrant, from breeding grounds in the former Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirghizia. We observed small wintering flocks along the coast, in Mozambique.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* This very beautiful species of bee-eater is an uncommon, non-breeding, Palearctic migrant, from breeding grounds in southern Europe and the former Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirghizia. We enjoyed many good sightings throughout the whole of the tour.

ROLLERS *CORACIIDAE*

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* The European Roller is an uncommon, non-breeding, Palearctic migrant, from breeding grounds in Europe and the former Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirghizia. We frequently encountered single individuals, usually sat on telegraph wires, along the side of the road, both in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* This very beautiful species is a common resident, which we saw well, on a few occasions.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* This common species is an intra-African migrant, and is a summer breeding species in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. We saw it very well on many occasions throughout the tour.

HOOPOES *UPUPIDAE*

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* In this part of Africa, the African Hoopoe is a common resident, which we saw well, on several occasions.

WOODHOPPOES AND SCIMITAR-BILLS *PHOENICULIDAE*

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* A common resident, we enjoyed a couple of flocks, while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Common Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* This species is a fairly common resident, we observed a pair of birds very well, in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

HORNBILLS *BUCEROTIDAE*

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas* This species is a common resident, which somewhat surprisingly, we only observed on one occasion, when a bird flew across the road in front of our bus, close to Inhaninga, during the drive from our tented camp, close to Gorongosa, to the Catapu Lodge, close to Caia.

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus* A locally common resident, which we saw well on several occasions.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus* This species is a common resident, which somewhat surprisingly, we only observed on one occasion, in the Christian Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

Trumpeter Hornbill *Ceratogymna bucinator* A thinly distributed resident species, across a wide range of southeastern Africa, which is locally common in many areas. We saw it very well on several occasions.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Ceratogymna brevis* A locally common resident, which we only saw

once, a pair of birds flew over our heads, while birding in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

BARBETS

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* This species is an uncommon resident, which we saw well on a number of occasions, during the Zimbabwe section of the tour.

Whyte's Barbet *Stactolaema whytii* A common resident which was observed by some members of the group, while birding in the suburbs of Harare. Alexander Whyte FLS (1834-1905) was a government naturalist in Nyasaland, now Malawi, where he collected extensively under the patronage of Sir Harry Johnston, between 1891 and 1897. Britten wrote *The Plants of Milanji, Nyasa-land, Collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte* in 1894, and Thomas Oldfield wrote *On the mammals obtained by Mr. A Whyte in Nyasaland*, and presented to the British Museum by Sir H.H. Johnston in 1897.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* A fairly common resident, which we saw well on two separate occasions. The first sighting occurred, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe and the second sighting, occurred in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Another common resident, which somewhat surprisingly, we only observed on one occasion, in the Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* Another common resident, which we saw well in the suburbs of Harare and again, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

HONEYGUIDES *INDICATORIDAE*

Pallid Honeyguide *Indicator meliphilus* We observed this uncommon resident, very well on one occasion, in the Honde Valley, in eastern Zimbabwe.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* This species is a common resident, which we saw well on one occasion, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* A fairly common resident, we observed an immature male, while birding in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES *PICIDAE*

Speckle-throated Woodpecker *Campethera scriptoricauda* A fairly common resident, with a very small range along the east coast of Africa, from Tanzania to Mozambique. We enjoyed a few very good looks in the coastal forests of Mozambique.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* A fairly common resident, which we saw well, in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii* This species is an uncommon resident, we saw it well on two separate occasions, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* A common and widespread species which we saw well in the suburbs of Harare, and in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus* A fairly common resident, which we saw well on a couple of occasions, while birding in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

BROADBILLS *EURYLAIMIDAE*

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* We saw this uncommon resident on two separate occasions, while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

PITTAS *PITTIDAE*

African Pitta *Pitta angolensis* In this part of Africa, the African Pitta is an intra-African migrant, and is a summer breeding visitor to Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It is a particularly difficult species of pitta to observe, it forages in the shade on the forest floor, standing motionless for long periods, in the leaf litter. This was exactly what the bird was doing when we observed a single bird, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

SWALLOWS *HIRUNDINIDAE*

Eastern Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne orientalis* This and the following species are currently lumped together. As a result of a paper published a year ago, which unfortunately, is littered with errors. The two species should be separated. This species is a common resident, which proved particularly common in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne holomelaena* This species is also a common resident, which we saw very well on a few occasions, in the Honde Valley, in eastern Zimbabwe.

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola* This species is a common resident, we observed a large flock, which were nesting in a partially constructed bridge, across the Zambezi River at Caia. The Portuguese had started to construct the bridge and then suddenly all Portuguese personnel were called back to Portugal, to resist a military coup that had taken place in their homeland.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A very common and widespread non-breeding Palearctic migrant, which we observed on most days of the tour.

White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis* This fairly common species is an intra-African migrant, and is a breeding visitor to this part of Africa. We observed the bird very well at Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare and then we saw a second bird, in the Honde Valley in eastern Zimbabwe.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* This beautiful species of swallow is a common resident, which we saw well on many occasions throughout the tour.

Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata* In this part of Africa this species is a scarce and sparsely distributed resident. We saw a pair of birds very well, as they perched in a dead tree, in the Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare.

Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea* This very rare species is a summer breeding migrant to Zimbabwe, from wintering grounds in the Lake Victoria Basin. We observed a pair at very close quarters, on the Nyanga Plateau, in eastern Zimbabwe. This species is classified as 'Vulnerable' In Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 1,000 – 2,500 individuals.

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum* This species is a common Palearctic migrant, which we observed very well on many occasions, during our time in eastern Zimbabwe.

Lesser Striped-Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* This beautiful species is a common resident, in this part of Africa, which we saw well on many occasions.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* The Mosque Swallow is an uncommon resident, we observed a pair of birds, amongst a very large flock of Barn Swallows, which were feeding on insects fleeing from a bushfire, in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS *MOTACILLIDAE*

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* This common resident is a widespread species throughout southern Africa, where we saw it very well, on a few occasions.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* This beautiful species is a fairly common resident, which we saw well in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Another common and widespread resident, which we saw well on a few occasions, during the Mozambique section of the tour.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* The Yellow Wagtail is an uncommon, non-breeding Palearctic

migrant to Africa. We only observed one bird, in flight, on the Zambezi River floodplain, at Caia.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES *CAMPEPHAGIDAE*

White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina pectoralis* This species is an uncommon resident, which we saw well on two separate occasions; the first sighting took place in the Vumba Mountains, of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, the second sighting occurred in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

Grey Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina caesia* This species of cuckoo-shrike is also an uncommon resident. We saw it very well on one occasion, in the rainforest of Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Black Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga flava* This species is a locally common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions.

BULBULS *PYCNONOTIDAE*

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* An abundant resident, which we saw on literally every day of the tour.

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* This species is a common resident along the east coast of Africa, we saw it very well on one occasion, in the Vumba Mountains, of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Stripe-cheeked Greenbul *Andropadus milanjensis* The Stripe-cheeked Greenbul is a fairly common resident, with three isolated, very small ranges in central, east Africa. We enjoyed very good looks at a pair of birds, while birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* This species is a common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions, in the Honde Valley and the Vumba Mountains of Zimbabwe.

Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris* Another common resident, I saw a pair feeding on the ground right next to my cottage at the Catapu Lodge, near Caia, in Mozambique.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* Yet another common resident, which we saw well on two separate occasions; the first sighting occurred in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, and this was followed by a second sighting in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve near Caia, in Mozambique.

Tiny Greenbul *Phyllastrephus debilis* This species is a common but highly localised resident, with two isolated ranges along the east coast of Africa. We saw it very well, during our time birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* This species is a common, but shy resident. We were fortunate to enjoy good scope views, of a bird in full song, deep inside a large tree, close to the Pungue River, near Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES *TURDIDAE*

Miombo Rock-Thrush *Monticola angolensis* This species is an uncommon resident, which we saw well on one occasion, while birding in the Vumba Mountains, of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Orange Ground-Thrush *Zoothera gurneyi* A scarce and very shy resident, which is always difficult to see well. We glimpsed a bird in the Vumba Mountains, and I saw one hopping around on the lawn in front of my cottage, also in the Vumba Mountains.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus* A common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions, during our time in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyanus* Another common resident, which we saw well, on most days of the tour.

White-chested Alethe *Alethe fuelleborni* An uncommon resident in southern Mozambique, this

skulking species is always difficult to see well. We enjoyed a very good, but somewhat brief sighting, of a single bird, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES *CISTICOLIDAE*

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* The Red-faced Cisticola is a locally common resident of tall grassland in damp hollows, we saw it well on one occasion, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* This species is a common resident of thick undergrowth, bracken and briar, which we saw well on two separate occasions; the first sighting took place in the Honde Valley, in Zimbabwe and the second sighting took place on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Lazy Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans* This species is an uncommon resident, of rocky slopes, which we saw well on two separate occasions; the first sighting occurred in the Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare, and the second sighting took place in the Honde Valley.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* This species is a very common resident, of savanna grasslands and lightly wooded areas, we saw it very well on a few occasions, during the tour.

Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* This species is a common resident of montane grassland, this was exactly the habitat, where we enjoyed several sightings, while birding on the Nyanga Plateau, part of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens* This species of cisticola is an uncommon resident of rank grassland and sedges. We observed a couple of birds at Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare, and this was followed by a second sighting, of a few birds at Cleveland Dam, which is also on the outskirts of Harare.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* A common resident of tall grassland and seasonal wetlands, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* This species of cisticola is a fairly common resident of broadleaf woodland, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* This widespread species of cisticola is a common resident of open grassland and seasonally flooded, grassy wetlands. We saw a couple of individuals very well in the Haka Game Reserve, close to Harare and at the Rio Savane Wetlands, close to Biera, in Mozambique.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* This species is a common resident, which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Roberts's Warbler *Prinia robertsi* This species is a locally common resident, but has an extremely small range. We saw it very well on the Nyanga Plateau and in the Vumba Mountains, both areas are part of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. This species is endemic to eastern Zimbabwe and adjacent Mozambique. J. Austin Roberts (1883-1948) was a South African zoologist. He was born in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1883 and died in a traffic accident in 1948. During the first half of the 20th century he was the most prominent ornithologist in southern Africa. He worked at the Transvaal Museum for 38 years studying birds. Although he did not have formal academic training, he received several high academic awards and an honorary doctorate. Roberts is best remembered for his *Birds of South Africa*, a landmark publication in African ornithology, which first appeared in 1940, and was a best seller in its numerous subsequent editions. Benson named the warbler after him.

Red-winged Warbler *Prinia erythroptera* This species is a local and uncommon resident, which

fortunately, we saw well on two separate occasions; the first sighting took place in the Honde Valley of Zimbabwe, and this was followed by a second sighting in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* A common resident throughout Zimbabwe, where we saw it well on many occasions, it does not occur in Mozambique.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flava* A common resident which we saw well in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala* The Black-headed Apalis is an uncommon resident, which we saw well on one occasion, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Chirinda Apalis *Apalis chirindensis* This very scarce species, has a tiny range along the coast of east Africa, where it is locally common. We were fortunate to observe a pair very well, on one occasion, while birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* A common resident throughout much of Africa, we saw it very well on several occasions.

Stierling's Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes stierlingi* An uncommon resident, which we saw well on two occasions; the first sighting occurred in Miombo woodland close to Gorongosa, and the second sighting occurred in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia. Dr N. Stierling was a German naturalist who collected in Nyasaland, now Malawi, and Tanganyika, now Tanzania, between 1887 and 1901. Reichenow named the warbler after Dr. Stierling.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS SYLVIIDAE

Little Rush-Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* A locally common resident, which we observed very well, at a small wetland in the Honde Valley, of Zimbabwe.

Barratt's Warbler *Bradypterus barratti* An uncommon resident, we were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at this very shy species, on the Nyanga Plateau, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. F.A. Barratt (c.1847-1875) was a collector in the Transvaal, Sharpe described the warbler from a specimen collected in the Transvaal and sent to the British Museum by Barratt in 1875.

Moustached Grass-Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* A fairly common resident, which we observed well on one occasion, in tall grassland on the slopes of Mount Gorongosa.

Cape Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer* An uncommon resident which we saw well in the Honde Valley and again in the Vumba Mountains, both sightings occurred in Zimbabwe.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* This species is a fairly common non-breeding Palearctic Migrant, from breeding grounds in northern Europe. Our first sighting took place at our lunch stop in the town of Macheke, in Zimbabwe, and this was followed by a second sighting, in Miombo woodland close to Gorongosa.

Dark-capped Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta natalensis* This species is a locally common resident, which we saw very well on a few occasions.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* This species is a fairly common resident of savanna scrub, we observed a single individual while birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* This species is a locally common resident of open woodland, which we saw very well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* This species is a fairly common resident of woodland areas, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.

Yellow-throated Wood-Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* A locally common resident of evergreen forest, which we saw very well, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* This species is a common non-breeding Palearctic

migrant; we saw it first in the suburbs of Harare and this was followed by a couple of sightings in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis* This attractive species is an uncommon resident, which we first observed on the Nyanga Plateau and this was followed by a second sighting in the Vumba Mountains, both sightings occurred in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Broad-tailed Warbler *Schoenicola brevirostris* An uncommon resident, which we saw well in grassland on Mount Gorongosa. This species is classified as 'Vulnerable' In Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 individuals.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* The Garden Warbler is a common non-breeding Palearctic migrant. They are rather shy on their wintering grounds in Africa, however, we managed to see one very well, in the rainforest on the upper slopes of Mount Gorongosa.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS *MUSCICAPIDAE*

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus* We saw this common resident in the Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare, in Zimbabwe, and again in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* This species is a common resident, which we saw very well on a number of occasions, throughout the tour.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* This species is a common non-breeding Palearctic migrant, which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* This species is also a common resident, we saw it well on the Nyanga Plateau, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe and in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* This species is a common resident, we enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* The Collared Flycatcher is a rare non-breeding Palearctic migrant, from breeding grounds in eastern Europe. The whole population winters in south-central and southern Africa. We observed a single bird in non-breeding plumage extremely well, at Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare. This is at the southern edge of this birds wintering grounds.

White-starred Robin *Pogonochila stellata* This very beautiful species is a common resident throughout its range, we saw it very well on a few occasions, during our time in the Vumba Mountains, of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Swynnerton's Robin *Swynnertonia swynnertoni* Another beautiful species, unfortunately, this species is very rare, its distribution is literally four small dots along the east coast of Africa. We invested some time on this species, to ensure that we enjoyed good looks at it, and we saw it well in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. This species is classified as 'Vulnerable' in Birdlife International's *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is estimated to be between 2,500 – 10,000 individuals. Charles Francis Massy Swynnerton (1877-1938) was principally an entomologist. He was born in India and worked in Africa, becoming the first game warden in Tanganyika, now Tanzania, between 1919 and 1929. He then spent ten years between 1929 and 1938 as head of tsetse fly research in East Africa. He published papers on many aspects of natural history, including *On the birds of Gazaland, Southern Rhodesia* in 1907. He was killed in an air-crash.

- East Coast Akalat** *Sheppardia gunningi* Another lovely bird, which once again has only four isolated ranges, along the east coast of Africa. We saw a single bird very well indeed in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' In Birdlife Internationals *Threatened Birds of the World*'. Its population is estimated to be between 10,000 – 20,000 individuals.
- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* A common and widespread resident in eastern Zimbabwe, where we saw it well, on a number of occasions.
- White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* This very beautiful species is a common resident throughout Zimbabwe, which we saw very well on a few occasions.
- Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis* A common but shy resident, which we saw well on two occasions; the first sighting occurred in the Vumba Mountains, of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe and the second sighting took place on the edge of rainforest on Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.
- Bearded Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* A fairly common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions, in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa, in Mozambique.
- White-browed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* A common resident, which somewhat surprisingly, we only observed on one occasion, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* A common resident, which we saw well on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris* This species is an uncommon resident, which we saw particularly well in the Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.
- Mocking Cliff-Chat** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* This attractive species is an uncommon resident. We watched a pair for sometime in the Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

WATTLE-EYES *PLATYSTEIRIDAE*

- Black-and-white Flycatcher** *Bias musicus* This species is a fairly common resident, we were fortunate to observe a pair nest building in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.
- Cape Batis** *Batis capensis* A common resident, which we saw well on a few occasions in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- Woodward's Batis** *Batis fratum* This species is a locally common resident, which we saw well along the nature trail of the Catapu Lodge, close to Caia and also in the nearby Zambezi Coutada Reserve. The Reverend Robert B. Woodward (1848-1899) and his brother John D.S. Woodward (1849-1899) were Anglican missionaries in Natal, South Africa, between 1881 and 1899. They were both deeply interested in ornithology and sent many specimens to Sharpe at the British Museum. They were co-authors of *Natal Birds*, which was published just before their deaths.
- Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor* The Chinspot Batis is a common resident throughout Zimbabwe, where we saw it well on a number of occasions, it does not occur in Mozambique.
- Pale Batis** *Batis soror* The Pale Batis is a fairly common resident of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, where we saw it well, on a few occasions.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS *MONARCHIDAE*

Livingstone's Flycatcher *Erythrocercus livingstonei* This species is an uncommon resident, which we saw very well on one occasion, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique. David Livingston (1813-1873) was a Scottish doctor and missionary, and undoubtedly the most famous African explorer. Livingston is remembered as the first European to have gone into the heart of Africa, and as someone who came to be regarded as a saint in his own lifetime. He worked in a cotton mill from the age of ten, earning extra income by selling tea from farm to farm. He studied Latin and Greek on his own, and elected to become a missionary, when he was persuaded that science and theology were not in opposition. He undertook his missionary training at the London Missionary Society and studied medicine, in Glasgow. Livingstone left for South Africa in 1840. His many expeditions brought him fame as a surgeon and scientist, but his missionary efforts were less successful. He sympathised with the lot of the indigenous people and so made enemies amongst the white settlers. It greatly annoyed them, that he learned the languages and tribal customs of the people he tried to convert. Nevertheless, his indictment of the slave trade, eventually led to the abolition of slavery. In 1853 he led an expedition into the interior of the continent, which lasted three years. During this expedition he discovered Victoria Falls, which sealed his fame on his return to Britain in 1856. His last expedition, begun in 1866, was to search for the source of the Nile. False reports of his death, and the public's 'need to know' where the lost explorer was, led to Stanley's equally famous mission to find him.

White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata* This species is a fairly common resident, which we saw well on the Nyanga Plateau and again in the Vumba Mountains, both sightings occurred in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher *Trochocercus cyanomelas* This bird is a fairly common resident, which we saw well on one occasion, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* A common resident throughout both Zimbabwe and Mozambique, which we saw very well on many occasions.

BABBLERS *TIMALIIDAE*

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* A locally common resident of dense thickets, in open woodland, we enjoyed a few very good sightings throughout the tour.

TITS AND CHICKADEES *PARIDAE*

Southern Black-Tit *Melaniparus niger* This species is a common resident of Miombo woodland, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.

Cinnamon-breasted Tit *Melaniparus pallidiventris* An uncommon resident of Miombo woodland, we saw an individual very well, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Miombo Tit *Melaniparus griseiventris* A common resident of Miombo woodland, which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

CREEPERS *CERTHIIDAE*

Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori* A sparse and localised resident of Miombo woodland, Una saw one of these birds while we were birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS *NECTARINIIDAE*

- Plain-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes reichenowi* We observed a pair of these scarce birds in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia. This species is classified as 'Near Threatened' In Birdlife Internationals *Threatened Birds of the World*. Its population is unknown.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* This common and widespread resident was observed well on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Western Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra obscura* A common resident of forest habitats, which we saw well on a few occasions, in the Zimbabwe section of the tour.
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* A common resident of savanna woodlands, which we saw well on many occasions throughout the tour.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* A very common resident of wooded savanna, which we saw very well on a few occasions, during the Zimbabwe section of the tour.
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* A common resident of forest edge and woodland, we observed a single individual very well, on one occasion, while birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- Miombo Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris manoensis* A common resident of Miombo woodland, which we saw well on a few occasions, during the Zimbabwe section of the tour.
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus* A common resident of savanna woodland, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.
- White-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala* A common resident of dry savanna woodland, we observed a pair very well, while birding in the Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* A common resident of thornbush savanna, which we saw well on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

WHITE-EYES ZOSTEROPIDAE

- African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* A common resident of woodland areas, which we saw well on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES ORIOLIDAE

- Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* This species is a fairly common non-breeding Palearctic migrant. We saw it very well on one occasion, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.
- African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus* In this part of Africa, this species is a common resident of broadleaf and savanna woodlands. We observed this species on two occasions; the first sighting occurred in Miombo woodland close to Gorongosa and this was followed by a second sighting, in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.
- Green-headed Oriole** *Oriolus chlorocephalus* A fairly common highly localised resident. We saw a few birds very well in rainforest on the upper slopes of Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique. This isolated race, is the most southerly of all the races of this species.
- Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus* This species is a fairly common resident of mature woodlands and forest. We observed this species on two separate occasions; the first sighting took place in Miombo woodlands, close to Gorongosa, and the second sighting occurred in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

SHRIKES LANIIDAE

- Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* This beautiful species is a common non-breeding Palearctic migrant. Which we saw on numerous occasions throughout the tour.
- Southern Fiscal** *Lanius predator* A common resident of open areas, which we saw well on many occasions during the Zimbabwe section of the tour.

BUSHSHRIKES AND ALLIES MALACONOTIDAE

- Brubru** *Nilaus afer* In this part of Africa, this species is a common resident of mature Miombo woodland. We saw an individual very well, while birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* A common resident of dense savanna woodland and forest edge, which we saw well on numerous occasions throughout the tour.
- Anchieta's Tchagra** *Tchagra minutus* An uncommon resident of tall grassland and swampy areas. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at a single individual, on the grassed slopes of Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique, where this species is at the very southern edge of its range. 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, among others, all share the vernacular name 'Anchieta's.'
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* A common resident of open woodland, which we saw well on numerous occasions throughout the tour.
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* A fairly common resident of savanna woodland, which we saw well on a few occasions throughout the tour.
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus* A common resident of dense woodland, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.
- Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Telophorus sulfureopectus* A common resident of woodland areas, we saw an individual very well, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- Olive Bushshrike** *Telophorus olivaceus* An uncommon resident of evergreen forests, we saw it well on the Nyanga Plateau and in the Vumba Mountains, both areas are in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- Black-fronted Bushshrike** *Telophorus nigrifrons* This species is an uncommon and highly localised resident. Michael observed one in deep cover, while we were birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.
- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* A fairly common resident of savanna woodland, a individual responded well to tape playback in an area of Miombo woodland, close to Marondera, in Zimbabwe.

HELMETSHRIKES AND ALLIES *PRIONOPIDAE*

- White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* In this part of Africa, this species is a fairly common resident of Miombo woodland. We observed two flocks of this species while birding in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.
- Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii* A locally common resident of Miombo woodland, we observed a couple of small flocks, while birding in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa. 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 locally common resident of lowland riverine forest. We observed a couple of small flocks while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

DRONGOS *DICRUIDAE*

- Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii* A locally common resident of wooded habitats, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour.
- Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* A very common resident of wooded habitats, which we

saw well on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS *CORVIDAE*

House Crow *Corvus splendens* This species is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and self introduced to the east coast of Africa, having been brought there by ships from India. We found a couple of pairs around our hotel in Beira, on the coast of Mozambique.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* A very common resident, which we saw on most days of the tour.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* This species is a locally common resident of hilly and mountainous country. We observed a few pairs very well, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

STARLINGS *STURINIDAE*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* This species is endemic to southern Asia, but has been introduced by man to several parts of Africa. We observed a pair of birds in the township of Mutore, in Zimbabwe.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* A common resident of savanna woodland, somewhat surprisingly, we only observed a single bird, in the suburbs of Harare.

Miombo Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis elisabeth* A fairly common resident of Miombo woodland, we observed an immature bird in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

Black-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis corruscus* A locally common resident of coastal forest, we observed it well, coming into the bird feeder at the Catapu Lodge, and we also saw it in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, both areas are close to Caia.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* A common resident of open woodland, which we saw well on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* A common resident of rocky outcrops, gorges and mountainous regions. Now many populations have established themselves in urban areas, where tall buildings are a good substitute for rocky outcrops. We saw this species very well on several occasions during the Zimbabwe section of the tour.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS *PASSERIDAE*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* We observed this introduced species, on a few occasions during the tour.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* A common resident, I observed a single individual in the suburbs of Harare, which somewhat surprisingly, was our only sighting.

Yellow-throated Petronia *Petronia superciliaris* This species is a locally common resident of woodland areas. We observed a small flock, on one occasion, while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

WEAVERS AND ALLIES *PLOCEIDAE*

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* A fairly common resident of broadleaf woodland, we found a couple of females and a splendid male in full breeding plumage, in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* A common resident of woodland areas, which we saw well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Yellow Weaver *Ploceus subaureus* A locally common resident of river floodplains. We found a few birds present in the Honde Valley, in eastern Zimbabwe.

Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* A locally common resident of bushy areas with tall grass. We found a few pairs nesting in a reedbed, with much larger numbers of Thick-billed Weavers, in the grounds of our hotel in the Honde Valley, in eastern Zimbabwe.

Southern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus xanthopterus* This attractive species is a locally

common resident of tall reedbeds. We found a nesting colony in a reedbed along the Pungue River, near to Gorongosa. We enjoyed a second sighting of a few birds in a reedbed, in the Zambezi River floodplain, at Caia.

Southern Masked-Weaver *Ploceus velatus* A common resident of open savanna, we saw it very well during the first three days of the tour, around Harare.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* A common resident of bushy savanna, which we saw very well on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor* A locally common resident of forested areas, we saw a few birds very well while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia.

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* A common resident of well-wooded areas, generally found around water. We found a large nesting colony in a patch of reeds at our hotel in the Honde Valley, in eastern Zimbabwe.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* A common resident of semi-arid areas. Somewhat surprisingly, we only observed a single bird of this species, while birding in the Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* A common resident of tall grassland and cultivated areas in open country, usually near water. We only saw this species on the last day of the tour, in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.

Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* A common resident of tall grassland and overgrown areas of abandoned cultivation. We observed several small flocks very well, throughout the tour.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* A common resident of grassland areas and forest fringes. We enjoyed many good sightings of this species throughout the tour.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* A locally common resident of tall bushed grassland. We saw a few birds very well on the first day of the tour, in the Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* A common resident of moist grassland and marshy areas with trees and scrub, but it only occurs in Zimbabwe and is absent from Mozambique. Good numbers were present at Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare and in the Haka Game Reserve, also on the outskirts of Harare.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* A common resident of bushed grassland, which we saw well on many occasions throughout the tour.

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* A common resident of tall grassland, often in moist or swampy areas. This species does not occur in the part of Zimbabwe we travelled through, however, we found it to be plentiful in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera, in Mozambique.

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES *ESTRILDIDAE*

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccygia quartinia* A locally common resident of shrubby grassland. We watched a few large flocks, during the course of the tour.

Red-faced Crimson-wing *Cryptospiza reichenovii* A fairly common resident of dense undergrowth in primary and secondary forest. We enjoyed very good looks at this rather skulking species, during our time in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

Grey Waxbill *Estrilda perreini* This species is a highly localised and uncommon resident. Therefore, we were fortunate to observe a bird in flight, in the Honde Valley and then much better looks at a pair of birds on the ground, in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands, of Zimbabwe.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astril* A common resident of tall grassland, which we saw well on many occasions throughout the tour.

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* This species is a common resident of acacia woodland, we

enjoyed many good sightings throughout the tour.

Red-throated Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus* This very attractive species, is a common resident of lowland thickets, in riparian forest. We enjoyed a few good sightings in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* This attractive species is a locally common resident of acacia woodland, which we saw very well on a few occasions, during the Mozambique section of the tour.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* A common resident of open grassy woodland, we saw a few on the grassed slopes of Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* A common resident of long grass and bushes, we saw it very well in the Honde Valley, of Zimbabwe and on the grassy slopes of Mount Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* A common resident of semi-arid woodland, which we saw well on several occasions throughout the tour. **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 haemorrhagic fever, at Bangala, 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.

Orange-breasted Waxbill *Sporaeeginthus subflava* This species is a locally uncommon resident of open grassy areas. We were very fortunate, that on the first day of the tour, at Monavale Vlei, on the outskirts of Harare, we saw a flock of approximately a dozen or so of these birds, which we were able to get a good look at.

African Quailfinch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa* A locally common resident of wet marshy grassland. We saw a few birds on the last day of the tour, in the Rio Savane Wetlands, at Biera.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullatus* A common and widespread resident of grassy open woodland, we observed small flocks, on numerous occasions throughout the tour.

Red-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps* A common resident of broadleaf woodland, which we saw well in the Honde Valley, of Zimbabwe, and close to Gorongosa, in Mozambique.

Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides* The Magpie Mannikin is a rare resident, which occurs in riparian forest and grassy brush country along rivers. We were extremely fortunate to find a nesting pair in the grounds of our lodge, in the Honde Valley, of Zimbabwe.

INDIGOBIRDS *VIDUIDAE*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* A common resident of grassy and open shrubby habitats, we observed this species on many occasions throughout the tour.

Broad-tailed Paradise-Whydah *Vidua obtusa* A highly localised, but fairly common resident of Miombo and riverine woodland. Una pointed out a male in non-breeding plumage, while we were birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia. Fortunately, the male sat in a tree for a long period, and we were able to enjoy prolonged scope looks at this highly localised species.

Cuckoo Finch *Anomalospiza imberbis* A very uncommon and highly localised resident of open grassland and savanna. Therefore, we were very fortunate to observe an adult male in full plumage, for a prolonged period of time, while birding in the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES *FRINGILLIDAE*

Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis* This species is a common resident of forest edge and clearings, we saw small flocks on the Nyanga Plateau and in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands, of Zimbabwe.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus* A common resident of lowland open woodlands, we enjoyed many good sightings, throughout the tour.

Black-eared Seedeater *Serinus mennelli* This species of seedeater is a fairly common resident of broadleaf woodland, we watched a small flock feeding on the ground, at the entrance to the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

Streaky-headed Seedeater *Serinus gularis* This species is a common resident of sparsely wooded country, which we saw well, on a few occasions.

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, SEEDEATERS AND ALLIES *EMBERIZIDAE*

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* This species is an uncommon resident of rocky hillsides, exactly the habitat where we enjoyed our only sighting, of a pair of birds feeding on the ground, in the Christan Bank Nature Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* This very attractive species is a locally common resident of broadleaf woodland, we enjoyed several good sightings of this species throughout the tour.

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* A scarce resident of broadleaf woodland, we saw a single individual very well, while birding in the Vumba Mountains, in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe.

MAMMALS

- Four-toed Elephant Shrew** *Petrodronus tetradactylus* The largest species of elephant-shrew in southern Africa; we had a quick look at one of these nocturnal mammals, which ran across the track we were driving along, while spot-lighting one evening, after dinner, in scrub, close to the Catapu Lodge, at Caia, in Mozambique.
- Thick-tailed Bushbaby** *Otolemur crassicaudatus* On the same evening, we watched one of these nocturnal mammals, the largest species of bushbaby in southern Africa, walk sedately across a main road and climb the boundary fence of the Catapu Lodge, where we were staying.
- Grant's Lesser Bushbaby** *Galagoides zanzibaricus* On the same evening, we enjoyed good looks in the spot-light, of a couple of these uncommon and range-restricted mammals, in a patch of scrub, very close to Catapu Lodge, at Caia, in Mozambique.
- Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus* We enjoyed good looks at a few troops of this species throughout the tour, this is the only species of baboon, in southern Africa.
- Vervet Monkey** *Cercopithecus aethiops* This familiar species can be found in a wide range of more open woodland. We saw a troop in the Haka Game Reserve, in Zimbabwe, and this was followed by a second sighting, of a troop foraging along the edge of the Pungue River, not far from Gorongosa.
- Samango Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis* This less well known species of monkey, is confined to heavily forested areas along the east coast of Africa. We saw several troops throughout the tour, in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique.
- Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatilis* This species of hare, prefers tall grassland, bushes and scrub, which gives it more substantial cover in which to hide. Other species of hares and rabbits in this part of Africa, prefer more open areas. Ted observed this mammal while we were walking the nature trail of the Catapu Lodge, close to Caia, in Mozambique.
- Red Squirrel** *Paraxerus palliatus* This species is confined to dense coastal forests which occur along the east coast of Africa. We saw it well along the nature walk of the Catapu Lodge and in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, both areas are close to Caia, in Mozambique.
- Side-striped Jackal** *Canis adustus* This species of jackal, occurs in more well watered areas of southern Africa, than its close relative, the Black-backed Jackal, which also occurs in this area. It is a rare mammal, and we were fortunate to enjoy very close and prolonged looks at this predominantly nocturnal mammal, late one afternoon, in the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.
- Slender Mongoose** *Galerella sanguinea* Diurnal and solitary, it tends to use tracks and is most often seen crossing a road or track, directly ahead of your vehicle. This describes perfectly the circumstances of our two sightings, during the tour. The first, occurred close to Bromley, in Zimbabwe, and the second, took place in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.
- Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* Unlike the Slender Mongoose, the Dwarf Mongoose prefers to live in packs of up to 30 individuals. They usually dig their communal dens in termite mounds, and this is exactly where we observed a small troop, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.
- Southern Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax arboreus* Unlike the various species of rock hyrax, the tree hyrax are nocturnal. We became very familiar with its blood curdling barks and screams during the middle of the night, while staying at the Catapu Lodge, close to Caia, in Mozambique. We saw a single individual very well, in a large hole in a tree, as we were leaving the lodge.

Burchell's Zebra *Equus burchellii* The Burchell's Zebra is identified from other species of zebras,

by having yellowish-grey shadow stripes, on the white between the black stripes of the rump. Small numbers of this species, were present in the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus* Warthogs are diurnal, resting at night in holes in the ground, usually using deserted Aardvark holes. We saw a small family party, during our time in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* When the adult males fight, during the rut, the contestants drop to their knees and spar with their horns. We saw a good number of these fine beasts, in the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

Blue Duiker *Philantomba monticola* A common and widespread species of forest inhabiting antelope. We saw one or two in Miombo woodland, close to Gorongosa.

Red Duiker *Cephalophus natalensis* This species only occurs in the coastal forests of eastern Africa, where we saw it well on several occasions

Common Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* Common and widespread throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa, we saw a single individual, in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.

Suni *Neotragus moschatus* Confined to the coastal forests of eastern Africa, this diminutive species of antelope gives off a strong body odour, which is thought to act as an insect repellent. We saw it well on a few occasions in the grounds of Catapu Lodge and in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, both areas are close to Caia, in Mozambique.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus* During the wet season, this species feeds almost exclusively on grass, whereas, during the dry season, it moves into areas of woodland, where it browses on shrubs. We saw a good number in the Haka Game Reserve, on the outskirts of Harare.

Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* This very large species of antelope, is able to browse at greater heights than other species of antelopes, which gives it a distinct advantage. We saw a few, while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.

Nyala *Tragelaphus angasi* This beautiful species of antelope, is confined to coastal forest, in a small area of southeast Africa. We saw a family party very well, while birding in the Zambezi Coutada Reserve, close to Caia, in Mozambique.