

Trip Report

Kenya and Tanzania Mega Mammal Safari 16th – 31st May 2011 (16 days)

Trip Report compiled by tour leader Gavin Lautenbach



Report

Our Mega Mammal Safari started at Lake Manyara which was our first stop on this incredibly diverse and scenic trip. We had some very keen interest in birds which was awesome so a lot of our time was spent watching some spectacular avian delights. We had a lovely sighting of an African Harrier Hawk as it searched the dead branches looking for tasty morsels. Further along we had a fantastic sighting of a herd of elephants of all different sizes right next to the road. Down on the floodplains we had good views of a raft of hippos which seemed to be struggling in the receding water. The game was plentiful; including Masaai Giraffe, Buffalo, Warthog and Thompsons Gazelle - all on the big open grassy plains. After lunch we slowly made our way towards Ngorongoro Crater.

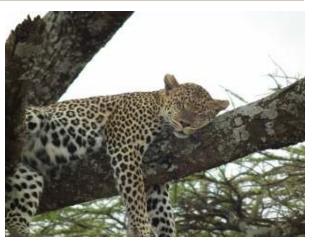
The look out over the Crater was a brilliant introduction to one of the greatest natural wonders of the world. It is a place where one could stand and stare in awe for hours. Early the next morning we headed down stopping for some great birds along the way. We found Bronzy, Golden-winged, Malachite and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds, Cape Robin-Chat, Streaky Seed-eaters, Brown Warbler and Southern Citril. Closer to the bottom we arrived just in



time to see the end of an interaction of Buffalo and Lions. The lions which were lying in the shade of a tree, were being chased by a herd of buffalo. We found Black Rhinoceros, good Hvaena, numbers of Golden and Black-backed Jackal and Slender Mongoose. We also had Grey-crowned Cranes, Kori Bustards, Rosy-throated Longclaws, Lanner Falcons and an African Rail at the Hippo pool.

Leaving the Crater we made our way towards Olduvai Gorge for a little cultural heritage. Also known as "the Cradle of Mankind" most famous of all discoveries, which revolutionized thinking on hominid evolution, have been those of Australopithecine hominid remains found by the Leakey family. We spent a little time at the museum at the site and admired replicas of the hominid fossils that used to inhabit the region. Then we went on to a Masaai Village which was fascinating to see and to experience something so foreign to our own. Simple lifestyles revolving around cattle and water, a meager existence in harsh hostile environments!

We entered the Serengeti and immersed ourselves in the abundant wildlife. We found a beautiful female Leopard lounging gracefully on the bough of a tree, close to her was the lifeless body a Thompsons Gazelle draped awkwardly over a nearby fork. A little further down the track we had two lionesses in magnificent condition perched precariously on a horizontal branch of an Acacia. We waited patiently for them to go down and were rewarded with an indecisive



downward fumble by one of the lionesses which made for fantastic photography. There were loads of elephants, good herds of buffalo and fantastic general game. We had a truly memorable experience when we came



across a female Cheetah and her two cubs literally lying on the road. She had just killed a Thompsons Gazelle and we waited patiently to watch them taking turns feeding on the carcass. Birding was equally sensational and we added some great birds to the list including Greycrested Helmet Shrike, Black Coucal, Greybreasted Spurfowl, Fishers Lovebird, Whitetailed Lark, Grey-headed Silverbill and Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill.

Sadly we left the iconic wilderness of the Serengeti behind and arrived at the green organic oasis of Gibbs Farm, a welcome and much enjoyed resting place. We took a little stroll in the nearby forest and enjoyed a little birding. Some of the highlights were Thick-billed

Weaver, Red-backed Mannikin, Brown-headed Apalis, Dusky Flycatcher, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Green-backed Honeybird and Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater. In the evening we were treated to a Montane Nightjar and a fantastic sighting of a Thick-tailed Bushbaby.

Then it was across the Namanga Border into Kenya and in to the scenic Amboseli National Park. A dry and desolate park fragmented by wetlands fed by subterranean springs. The backdrop of Mt Kilimanjaro makes for breathtaking views and spectacular photography. We spent some time at the wetlands and found Hottentot Teal, Black Heron, Collared Pratincole, Intermediate Egret, Kitlitz Plover, Purple Heron, Malagasy Pond Heron, Longtoed Lapwing, African Jacana and Little Stint. The game was excellent, massive numbers of elephants and buffalo spent their days in the greenery along with herds of waterbuck. Close to camp the resident troops of Yellow Baboon and Vervet Monkey were keeping the vigilant Masaai Warrior and buffet protector on his toes as their highly organised and timely raids keep staff busy and us

entertained during meals. We also found Pangani Longclaw, Ashy Cisticola, Slender-tailed Nightjar, Dideric's Cuckoo and the rather unique looking Secretary Bird. Wrapping up a great stay we headed off for Mt Kenya and unexpectedly finding a magnificent male Lesser Kudu along the way which was such a pleasant surprise.

Mt Kenya was amazing and it always feels as there is never enough time because there is so much to see. We had Red Bush Squirrel Buffalo, Defassa Waterbuck, Bushbuck, Warthog, Giant Forest Hog, Large Spotted Genet and African Savanna Hare. Birding was also spectacular and we found a number of great birds including Red-fronted Parrot, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Oriole Finch, Grey Apalis, Northern Double-collared Sunbird, White-stared Robin, Narina Trogon, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Kenrick's Starling, Grey-headed Nigrita, Brown-capped Weaver, African Hill Babbler, Slender-billed Greenbul and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird. We were very fortunate to get such quality birds in such a short space of time.

Shaba is known as one of the most scenically attractive reserves in Kenya and boasts a unique collection of game only found in this region. The reserve



consists of vast grasslands and Acacia thornveld, dissected by strips of verdant riverine forest. Our luxurious lodge was based along the riverine vegetation, just after lunch we found Bristle-crowned Starlings, Shikra, Grant's Wood Hoopoe and Red-bellied Parrot. Out in the dry Acacia thornveld we managed to find many of our targets, including Reticulated Giraffe, Beisa Oryx, Gerenuk and the incredibly stunning Grevy's Zebra.

We also found Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Pink-breasted Lark, White-throated Bee-eater, Southern White-faced Owl, Hunters Sunbird, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Parrot-billed Sparrow, Fan-tailed Raven and Brown-tailed Chat. Across the road at Buffalo Springs we also did very well finding Donaldson-Smiths Sparrow-Weaver, Somali Ostrich, Somali Courser, Vulturine Guineafowl, Tsavo Sunbird, Chestnut Sparrow, Dodson's Bulbul and Magpie Starling. We had a spectacular elephant sighting where we waited patiently for a very thirsty herd to cross the scrubby plains down towards the river. The closer they came to the river the quicker they moved, their enormous feet kicking up fine dust. Their excitement as they reached the water was contagious as they speedily drank from the silted water. Shoulder to shoulder in the river trunking liters of precious water into their mouths it was such a special moment to witness.

Another travel day to Lake Nakuru, on the way we made a critical stop to see a pair of Cape Eagle Owls which are being protected in and agricultural area close to the road. After a brief stop we headed straight to the water's edge of Lake Nukuru to see thousands upon thousands of Pelicans, Flamingoes and Cormorants.



During our time we saw White Rhinoceros with monstrous horns, Rothschild's Lions, Giraffe, Hyena, Lions and a Buffalo Calf that had just been born. On our last evening we had the privilege to see a Bushpig which opportunistically came into the camp to pick up left over food from around the bird feeder. There were numerous birds which we added to our list including Brown-

backed Honeybird, Broad-billed Roller, White-bellied Tit, African and Black Cuckoo, Giant Kingfisher, Little Rock Thrush, Gull-billed Tern, Mocking Cliff Chat, White-fronted Bee-eater and Brown-throated Martin.





Sadly after that it was the drive to Nairobi for everyone to go their separate ways. The tour had such contrasting scenery, incredible wildlife, stunning birdlife and overall a memorable experience. A special thanks to Steven and Nick our driver/guides who patiently sat for hours while we marveled at all we saw.

Annotated List of Mammal Species seen

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals" by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997.

Large-winged Bats Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat

Lavia frons

This attractive bat was recorded at our accommodation in the Serengeti.

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

Guereza (Black-and-white) Colobus *Colobus guereza*

This fantastic primate was seen on the Grumeti River, Mt. Kenya and at Lake Nakaru

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Olive Baboon

Papio [hamadryas] anubis

Large troops of this shaggy-haired creature were recorded throughout the tour. **Yellow Baboon**Papio [Hamadryas]

cynocephalus

We had a few troops in Amboseli.

Blue (White-throated/Sykes's) Monkey

Cercopithecus nictitans

mitis

First encountered in the forests of Lake Manyara, it was also seen at Gibbs Farm.

Vervet Monkey

Cercopithecus aethiops

This widespread African monkey was observed at most woodland/savanna sites during the tour.

Galagos Galagonidae

Greater Galago (Thick-tailed Bushbaby)

Otolemur

crassicaudatus

This species was seen in the gardens of Gibb's Farm.

Hares Leporidae

African Savanna (Scrub) Hare

Lepus victoriae

This species was recorded in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Unstriped Ground Squirrel

Xerus rutilus

First observed in Amboseli, it was then regularly recorded in Kenya's arid reserves.

Red Bush Squirrel

Paraxerus palliatus

We spotted this squirrel in the forested slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Golden Jackal Canis aureus

We had a few lying at the edge of Lake Magadi in Ngorongoro Crater.

Black-backed Jackal

Canis mesomelas

Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Amboseli and Shaba held views of this scavenger.

Mongooses Herpestidae

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguinea

Two separate sightings, one in Ngorongoro and the other in the Serengeti.

Dwarf Mongoose

Helogale parvula

We recorded these splendid little animals in the Serengeti.

Banded Mongoose

Mungos mungo

This gregarious species was seen well in the Serengeti.

Hyaenas Hyaenidae

Spotted Hyaena

Crocuta crocuta

We had really good numbers in Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti, Amboseli and at Lake Nakuru.

Genets & Civets Viverridae

Panther (Large-spotted) Genet

Genetta maculata

We had superb views of this beautifully patterned genet at our lodge on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Felidae Cats

Lion

Panthera leo

Our efforts exploring the Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti, Amboseli and Buffalo Springs we were rewarded with fantastic sightings of lion.

Leopard

Panthera pardus

We were extremely fortunate to see this fantastic predator lounging on the branch of a tree with its Thompsons Gazelle kill not too far away.

Cheetah

Acinonyx jubatus

Definitely one of the highlights of the trip, finding a female Cheetah with two small cubs that had just killed a Thompsons Gazelle. It was awesome to spend time and watch the animals on the carcass.

Hyraxes Procavidae

Yellow-spotted Hyrax

Heterohyrax brucei

Good numbers of these hyraxes were seen in the Serengeti.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

We had great elephant sightings on most days. We had some wonderful sightings and interesting interactions in Amboseli and Buffalo Springs where we watched a herd come down to drink.

Equidae Horses

Common (Burchell's /Plain's) Zebra Equus burchelli

We had great sightings throughout the trip, fantastic numbers in the Serengeti

Grevy's Zebra

Equus grevyi

This stunning animal which is now and endangered species was seen in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR. This species is under threat due to loss of grazing land, access to water and competition with increasing herds of domestic livestock.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae

White Rhinoceros

Ceratotherium simum

During our stay in Lake Nakuru NP we had a number with magnificent horns.

Black Rhinoceros

Diceros bicornis

We were fortunate to see a few of the endangered species in the Crater and at Lake Nakuru NP.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibious

Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti yielded views of this enormous animal.

Pigs Suidae

Bush Pig Potamachoerus

larvatus

We had one or two animals come into the bird feeding area of our lodge in Lake Nakuru.

Giant Forest Hog

Hylochoerus meinertzhageni

We observed this incredible animal from our lodge on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

This species was seen on most days of the trip in the grassland/savanna habitats.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Reticulated Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata

This magnificent animal was seen in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR's in north central Kenya.

Rothchild's Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis cottoni

During our visit to Lake Nakuru NP we spotted a couple of these range restricted giraffe.

Maasai Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi

Seen well in Lake Manyara and in Serengeti.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Thomson's Gazelle

Gazella thomsonii

The Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru produced this species.

Grant's Gazelle

Gazella granti

In addition to the aforementioned sites, we also found this antelope in Kenya's arid northern reserves.

Gerenuk

Litocranius walleri

Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR's produced sightings of this bizarre-looking animal.

Guenther's Dik-dik

Madoqua quentheri

The lava studded woodland of Shaba and Samburu held this species.

Kirk's Dik-dik Madogua kirkii

This tiny antelope was seen in Lake Manyara and in the Serengeti.

Klipspringer Oreotragus oreotragus

This rock dwelling antelope was spotted on an outcrop of boulders in Shaba NR.

African Buffalo Syncerus caffer

These bovids were seen on most days of the tour, with good views in Lake Nakuru NP and Mt. Kenya.

Lesser Kudu Tragelaphus imberbis

We were extremely fortunate to find a beautiful male on the side of the road leaving Amboseli.

Bushbuck Tragelaphus scriptus

First seen in Lake Manyara we later had brilliant sightings at the waterhole in front of our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

Eland Taurotragus oryx

The Ngorongoro Crater, the hills and Lake Nakuru NP yielded this massive species.

Bohor Reedbuck Redunca redunca

This species was found in the Serengeti.

Common WaterbuckNgorongoro, Amboseli, Shaba and in Buffalo Springs is where we had numerous sightings.

[Defassa Waterbuck] Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa

Seen well Serengeti, Mt Kenya and in Lake Nakuru NP.

Beisa Oryx Oryx gazella beisa

This stunning animal was found in the more arid areas of Buffalo Springs and Shaha.

Coke's Hartebeest (Kongoni) Alcelaphus buselaphus cokei

We recorded this large antelope on a daily basis in the Serengeti.

Blue Wildebeest

Connochaetes taurinus

Blue WildebeestConnochaetes taurinus

What a privilege to see the migration in all its magnitude in the Serengeti.

Topi (Tsessebe)Damaliscus lunatus

One of the fastest antelope over long distance, we found a few in the Serengeti.

Impala Aepyceros melampus

Tarangire, the Serengeti, Lake Nakuru and Buffalo Springs yielded this species.

Annotated List of Bird Species seen

Taxonomy used is based on: Gill, F. and M.Wright. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Notes indicate differences with the Clements Taxonomy.

Ostriches Struthionidae

[Common] Ostrich Struthio camelus

We observed this species in most reserves in Tanzania and also at Lake Nakuru in Kenya.

Somali Ostrich Struthio molybdophanes

These sought-after arid country birds were recorded in Buffalo Springs National Reserve.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Good numbers were seen on most days during the tour.

Vulturine Guineafowl

Acryllium vulturinum

These incredibly beautiful birds were observed in Buffalo Springs and Shaba.

Francolins & Quails Phasianidae

NOTE: Clements places all francolins and spurfowls into the genus Francolinus and does not use the common name Spurfowl for the larger francolins.

Coqui Francolin

Peliperdix coqui

Serengeti and Lake Nakuru produced sightings of this francolin.

Crested Francolin

We had a number of good sightings n the Serengeti and Amboseli.

Hildebrandt's Francolin

Pternistis hildebrandti

It was seen daily along the Ngorongoro Crater rim, and also in Lake Nakuru National Park.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl (Francolin) Pternistis leucoscepus

Good numbers in Amboseli and Buffalo Springs.

Grey-breasted Spurfowl (Francolin)Pternistis rufopictus
This localised Serengeti endemic was seen in the national park. **Harlequin Quail**Coturnix delegorguei

Only a single bird was flushed in the Serengeti N.P.

Ducks & Geese Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

This duck was recorded in Lake Manyara and again at Amboseli.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

We found a few birds in the wetland/flooded grasslands sites of Lake Manyara and Amboseli.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

By far the most common waterfowl, it was seen on most days of the tour.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

This species was observed on saline lakes in Ngorongoro and Lake Nakuru..

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

A few birds were spotted at Lake Nakuru NP.

Red-billed Teal (Duck)

Anas erythrorhyncha

It was observed at wetlands/water bodies in the Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Red-billed Duck.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

We had a few birds in Amboseli and again in Lake Nakuru.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

We had good views at Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Nakuru.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

The saline lakes in Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Nakuru yielded sightings of these birds.

Lesser Flamingo Phoenicopterus minor

Good numbers were found at Lake Nakuru.

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Small numbers of this attractive stork were observed at scattered wetlands sites during the tour.

African OpenbillAnastomus lamelligerus

We managed to find a single bird on our last morning at Lake Nakuru.

White Stork Ciconia ciconia

This Palaearctic migrant species was found in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Saddle-billed Stork Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
Certainly one of the most stunning storks in the world, this species was seen in

Serengeti, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.

Marabou Stork Leptoptilos crumeniferus

This rather unfortunate-looking species was seen on most days at a variety of habitats.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

[African] Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

This widespread species was seen at various wetland sites throughout the trip.

Hadada (Hadeda) Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

First seen at Ilboru in Arusha, it was then recorded in Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and Amboseli held sightings of this species.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

Ngorongoro Crater, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru were where we found this interesting bird.

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

This widespread species was seen in Ngorongoro Crater.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron Butorides striatus

Two separate sightings were had in the Serengeti.

Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides

Good numbers were seen in the wetlands of Amboseli.

Malagasy Pond Heron

ardeola idae

We managed to find one in the flooded grasslands of Amboseli.

[Western] Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Another common and widespread bird, it was recorded on most days during the tour.

Note: Clements does not yet recognise the split of the Cattle Egret complex as yet.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

This widespread old-world heron was seen at most wetland sites during the tour

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Another common African heron, it was seen in suitable grassland habitat throughout.

Goliath Heron Ardea goliath

We had sightings of this enormous bird in the Serengeti, Amboseli and at Lake Nakaru.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea

This stunning heron was seen well in Amboseli.

[Western] Great (White) Egret Ardea alba

Seen at scattered localities fantastic numbers were seen in Amboseli. *Note: Clements does not yet recognise the split of the Great Egret complex as yet.*

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret Egretta intermedia We had a sighting at Lake Manyara and one at Amboseli. *Note: The Clements common name for this species is Intermediate Egret.*

Black Heron Egretta ardesiaca

We had two birds in the flooded grassland at Amboseli.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta

This common wetland species was recorded in the Serengeti, Speke Bay and Lake Nakuru.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

This unique African species was recorded on most days of the tour.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White PelicanPelecanus onocrotalus

These magnificent giants were seen well at Lake Nakuru NP.

Pink-backed Pelican Pelacanus rufescens

We had a few birds at Lake Nakuru.

Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant Phalacrocorax africanus

We only had a few sightings at Ngorongoro Crater and Amboseli.

Great (White-breasted) Cormorant Phalacrocorax lucidus
This large cormorant was seen in great numbers at lake Nakuru

This large cormorant was seen in great numbers at Lake Nakuru.

Note: Clements still regards this species as part of the Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo).

Anhinga's & Darters Anhingidae

[African] Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

Small numbers were seen in the Crater and again at Amboseli.

Secretarybird Sagittariidae

Secretarybird

Sagittarius serpentarius

We had a number of really good sightings throughout all the national parks we visited.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite

Elanus caeruleus

Fairly common and widespread they were seen at most sites visited.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-shouldered Kite. Some authorities lump this species with Australian Kite E. axillaris and the American E. leucurus White-tailed Kite.

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite Milvus migrans

Seen throughout the trip best views were in the picnic sites in the Crater where they circled overhead.

Note: Some authorities split this complex into Black Kite M. migrans and Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius. We observed the yellow-billed form on this tour. The IOC does not yet recognise this split.

African Fish Eagle Haliaeetus vocifer

This stunning raptor was seen well in the Serengeti.

Hooded VultureNecrosyrtes monachus
This small vulture was seen in the central part of the Serengeti.

(African) White-backed Vulture Gyps africanus

Good numbers of this common vulture were seen in the Serengeti...

Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon) *Gyps rueppellii*

We had great views the Serengeti, good numbers found around carcasses.

Note: The Clements common name for this species is Rueppell's Griffon.

White-headed Vulture Trigonoceps occipitalis

This uncommon vulture was found in the Serengeti.

Lappet-faced Vulture Torgos tracheliotus

Small numbers were recorded in the Serengeti and Amboseli.

Black-chested (-breasted) Snake EagleCircaetus pectoralis

We found this striking bird in the Serengeti and Buffalo Springs NR. *NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-breasted Snake-Eagle.*

Brown Snake Eagle Circaetus cinereus

We had good sightings whilst in the Serengeti and Buffalo Springs.

Bateleur Terathopius ecaudatus

This magnificent African raptor was recorded in Lake Manyara, Serengeti Amboseli and Buffalo Springs.

African Marsh Harrier Circus ranivorus

A single bird was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater.

We had great views in Lake Manyara, where we watched one hunting in a tree.

African Harrier Hawk Polyboroides typus

We had a fantastic sighting as we entered Lake Manyara.

Dark Chanting Goshawk Melierax metabates

A young bird was seen in Lake Manyara.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk Melierax poliopterus

Seen fairly often in the Serengeti and Amboseli.

Gabar Goshawk Micronisus gabar

Originally seen in Arusha we then had a bird overhead in Shaba.

Shikra Accipiter badius

We had a bird just after lunch outside of our lodge in Shaba.

Little Sparrowhawk Accipiter minullus

An individual was seen flying around our accommodation in Arusha.

African Goshawk Accipiter tachiro

We watched a bird displaying over head from our lodge in Arusha.

Augur BuzzardButeo augur

We observed this bird at most forested/higher altitude sites ,really good numbers at Lake Nakuru.

Tawny Eagle Aquila rapax

Regularly encountered in savanna/woodland habitats on the tour.

African Hawk-Eagle

Aquila spilogaster

We had good sightings of this raptor in Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro.

Martial Eagle

Polemaetus bellicosus

We were fortunate to have a few good views in Lake Manyara, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru.

Long-crested Eagle

Lophaetus occipitalis

Scattered sightings of this attractive bird were had throughout the tour **Crowned (Hawk-) Eagle** Stephanoaetus coronatus

We had a displaying bird circling overhead at Gibb's Farm.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Crowned Hawk-Eagle.

Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

Lesser Kestrel

Falco naumanni

A few birds were seen in the Serengeti on their northerly migration. Polihierax semitorquatus

This minute falcon was seen frequently in Serengeti and Buffalo Springs.

Amur Falcon Falco amurensis

This bird was recorded in Ngorongoro Crater.

Falco biarmicus Lanner Falcon

We observed at pair in Ngorongoro Crater and another pair at Amboseli. Falco peregrinus

Peregrine Falcon

We had one fly overhead at Gibbs Farm.

Bustards Otididae

Kori Bustard

Ardeotis kori

Our best views of this massive bird were in the Ngorongoro Crater.

White-bellied Bustard

Eupodotis senegalensis

The Serengeti and Amboseli produced some fantastic sightings.

NOTE: This species represents the northern form of White-bellied Bustard. Clements lumps the northern form of White-bellied Bustard E. senegalensis with the Southern African endemic Barrow's or Southern White-bellied Bustard E. barrowi.

Buff-crested Bustard

Lophotis (Eupodotis) gindiana

This species was seen as we were leaving Amboseli.

NOTE: The Clements scientific name for this species is Eupodotis gindiana.

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

We had good views of this attractive bustard in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae

African Rail

Rallus caerulescens

We were extremely fortunate to find one of these birds in the Crater.

Amaurornis flavirostra

We managed to get some great views of this confiding rail in Serengeti.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Wetlands in Tarangire NP and the Ngorongoro Crater were sites where this species was found.

Red-knobbed Coot

Fulica cristala

Good numbers were seen in the wetlands of Amboseli.

Cranes Gruidae

Grey Crowned Crane

Balearica regulorum

Seen throughout the trip, we had a good numbers at Amboseli.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray Crowned-Crane.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)

Burhinus vermiculatus

We had small numbers at Lake Manyara, Buffalo Springs and Lake Nakuru.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

We had sightings at Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirotra avosetta

We had a few birds in Lake Magadi in Ngorongoro Crater

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Long-toed Lapwing

Vanellus crassirostris

This stunning bird was seen well in the flooded grasslands of Amboseli.

Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus armatus

A common and widespread African bird, it was regularly recorded during the tour.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Blacksmith Plover.

Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus spinosus

First seen in Lake Manyara, it was later observed in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Spur-winged Plover.

Crowned Lapwing

Vanellus coronatus

Commonly encountered in more disturbed, open habitats during the trip.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

We found lots of mothers with youngsters in Lake Nakuru N.P.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

This small plover was recorded at most wetland sites during the tour.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

The only locality on the tour where we recorded this species was Amboseli.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

We found a single bird in a muddy pan in Amboseli.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Seen well in Serengeti, Amboseli and at Lake Nakuru.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

This Palaearctic shorebird was seen in Amboseli.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Birds close to breeding plumage were seen in the Serengeti and Amboseli.

Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Somali Courser

Cursorius somalensis

We recorded several of these arid country coursers on the dusty plains of Buffalo Springs NR.

Note: Clements does not recognise this species as a true species. He lumps the bird with Cream-coloured Courser C. cursor.

Double-banded Courser

Rhinoptilus africanus

Small numbers were observed on the degraded plains in the Serengeti and Amboseli.

Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Smutsornis.

Collared Pratincole

Glareola praticola

We had good sightings at Lake Manyara and at Amboseli.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Grey-hooded (-headed) Gull

Larus cirrocephalus

We recorded this species at Lake Nakuru NP.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Gull. **Gull-billed Tern**Gelochelidon nilotica

This bird was seen well at Lake Nakuru NP.

Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida

Good numbers were seen at Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.

White-winged TernChlidonias leucopterus

Amboseli produced sightings of this tern species.

Sandgrouse Pteroclidae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse

Pterocles exustus

The grasslands of the Serengeti and Amboseli held views of this elegant bird.

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse

Pterocles gutteralis

This absolute stunner was seen well in the Serengeti.

Black-faced Sandgrouse

Pterocles decoratus

Seen in good numbers in Buffalo Springs and Shaba.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse

Pterocles lichtensteinii

We found this cracking species in Shaba NR.

Doves & Pigeons Columbidae

Common (Feral) Pigeon (Rock Dove) Columba livia

Feral populations were seen in small towns in western Tanzania.

Speckled (Rock) Pigeon

Columba guinea

Seen in Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti and arid reserves on north central Kenya.

African Olive (Rameron) PigeonColumba arquatrix

This attractive pigeon was observed daily along the forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, we also had brilliant views on the edge of Lake Manyara.

Eastern Bronze-naped (Delegorgue's) PigeonColumba delegorguei

We had outstanding views at our lodge situated on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Delegorgue's Pigeon.

Dusky Turtle Dove

Streptopelia lugens

The rim of the Ngorongoro Crater as well as the Crater floor produced sightings of this bird.

Mourning Collared (African Mourning) Dove

Streptopelia decipiens

Encountered regularly at suitable woodland areas during the tour.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is African Mourning Dove.

Red-eved Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

This widespread & common dove was first seen at Lake Manyara and again at Mt Kenya

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove Streptopelia capicola

Common and widespread good sightings in the Serengeti.

Laughing (Palm) Dove

Streptopelia senegalensis

We had scattered sightings, good numbers in the drier areas of Kenya.

Emerald-spotted (Green-spotted) Wood DoveTurtur chalcospilos

This bird was seen in Lake Manyara and in the Serengeti.

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis

This attractive, long-tailed dove was recorded in Serengeti, Amboseli and the drier reserves of Kenya.

African Green Pigeon Treron calva

We unfortunately only had a flyby in Arusha.

Parrots & Allies Psittacidae

Fischer's Lovebird

Agapornis fischeri

These gorgeous birds were seen on most days in the Serengeti. It is an East African endemic.

Yellow-collared Lovebird

Agapornis personatus

This special little bird was seen around our accommodation at Lake Nakuru.

Red-fronted Parrot

Poicephalus gulielmi

Unfortunately we only had birds in flight at Mt Kenya.

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot

Poicephalus meyeri

We had good views in the Serengeti.

Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot

Poicephalus rufiventris

This beautiful bird was seen very well in Shaba and Buffalo Springs.

Turacos Musophagidae

Hartlaub's Turaco

Tauraco hartlaubi

Good views were had in Arusha and in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

We encountered this species in the Serengeti.

White-bellied Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides leucogaster

First seen close to the Namanga border we found good numbers in the I reserves of north central Kenya.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

Seen well and a variety of locations, first sighting was at Lake Manyara.

Black Coucal

Centropus grillii

We had a few sightings in the moist grasslands of the Serengeti.

Great Spotted Cuckoo

Clamator grandarius

We had a great sighting in the Serengeti.

Jacobin Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus

We had a great sighting of a perched bird in the Crater.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

Just a single sighting in Amboseli.

Black Cuckoo Cuculus clamosus

The woodland at the edge of Lake Nakuru held a sighting of this cuckoo.

Red-chested CuckooCuculus solitarius

We had good sightings of this very vocal bird at both Lake Manyara and Lake Nakuru.

African Cuckoo Cuculus gularis

We watched one eating a very large caterpillar at Lake Manyara.

Owls Strigidae

Southern White-faced Owl

Ptilopsis granti

We had two fantastic sightings one in Shaba and the other at Lake Nakuru.

Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle-Owl

Bubo capensis (mackinderi)

We spotted this attractive owl at a day roost in central Kenya

Note: The local race in East Africa is known as Mackinder's Eagle-Owl, B. c. mackinderi, however, the IOC does not yet recognise this as a full species.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Montane Nightjar

Caprimulgus poliocephalus

We heard and saw this fantastic bird at Gibbs Farm.

Slender-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus tristigma

We managed to find this bird on a day roost in Amboseli.

Swifts Apodidae

African Palm Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

Associated with palms we saw many birds in Lake Manyara Buffalo Springs.

Nyanza Swift

Apus niansae

We managed to find a few birds at Lake Nakuru on our last morning.

African [Black] Swift

Apus barbatus

Lake Nakuru NP and Buffalo Springs NR produced views of this species.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

By far the most common swift on tour, it was seen on most days in good numbers.

Horus Swift

Apus horus

We had a really good sighting in Lake Manyara.

White-rumped Swift

Apus Caffer

We had sightings in Lake Manyara and again in the Serengeti.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

This common and widespread bird was observed on most days of our tour.

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

The fast-flying, dry savanna species was seen during our stay at Ikoma.

Trogons Trogonidae

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

We were extremely fortunate to find the absolute stunner at Mt Kenya.

Rollers Coraciidae

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

This gorgeous bird was recorded on most days of the tour.

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus

This species was seen in the Yellow-barked Acacia forest at Lake Nakuru.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Grey-headed (-hooded) Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala

Lake Manyara, Serengeti, Amboseli and Buffalo Springs held sightings of this attractive kingfisher.

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti

We recorded this species in Lake Manyara, Serengeti and at Lake Nakuru NP.

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis

Another truly stunning species, it was encountered in the woodland of Ngorongoro and Lake Manyara.

Malachite Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata

It was recorded in the wetlands of Amboseli.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

First seen around our lodge in Shaba it was seen very well on the edge of Lake Nakuru.

Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis

Seen well in the Serengeti, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

This great little bird was recorded frequently throughout the trip with our first sighting at Lake Manyara.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater

Merops oreobates

Preferring higher altitude version it was seen at Gibb's Farm and Mt Kenya.

White-fronted Bee-eater

Merops bullockoides

We had superb views of these birds at Lake Nakuru.

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

Good numbers of these birds were observed daily in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

Hoopoes Upupidae

African Hoopoe

Upupa africana

The southern cousin to the above species, it was seen very well in Lake Manyara and the Serengeti.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Green Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

Flocks of these noisy, irredescent birds were encountered at Lake Manyara and Serengeti.

Grants (Violet) Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus granti

We had a wonderful sighting at our accommodation in Shaba.

Common Scimitarbill

Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

Serengeti and Lake Nakuru provided sightings of this species.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill

Rhinopomastus minor

We had a number of good views in the Serengeti..

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Crowned Hornbill Tockus alboterminatus

We found a pair in Lake Manyara.

African Grey Hornbill Tockus nasutus

We found many of these birds at almost all the parks we visited, first seen in

Lake Manyara.

Northern Red-billed HornbillTockus erythrorhynchus
This species was encountered daily in the arid reserves of Kenya.

Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus ruahae*

We managed to find this range restricted bird in the Serengeti.

Northern (Eastern) Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris*

We had a number of good sightings in Shaba and Buffalo Springs.

Von der Decken's HornbillTockus deckeni
This attractive hornbill was seen well in the Serengeti.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill Bycanistes brevis

This magnificent hornbill was in Lake Manyara and the forested slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Ceratogymna.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

On our way back from Grumeti we found a small group of these charismatic birds.

African Barbets Lybiidae

Yellow-rumped (Golden-rumped) Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We had a great view of this little gem at our lodge at Mt. Kenya. **Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus*

We had a pair on the morning we left Mt Kenya.

Red-fronted Barbet (Pied Barbet) Tricholaema diademata

Best views were from the viewpoint at Naabi Hill, we did see a number of birds during our time in the Serengeti.

Note: The Clements common name for this species is Pied Barbet.

Red-and-yellow Barbet Trachyphonus erythrocephalus

We had a great sighting in Lake Manyara of this spectacularly coloured bird.

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

This species was found duetting in the Serengeti.

NOTE: The drabber sub-species, Usambiro Barbet (T. d. usambiro), that we recorded in the Serengeti is sometimes treated as a full species. This is due to larger size, greyer bill, and greenish tone to the head and a darker breast band. IOC does not recognize this split, but Clement's does.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Green-backed Honeybird (Honeyguide)Prodotiscus zambesiae

We encountered this elusive honeybird at Gibbs farm in the late afternoon.

Brown-backed Honeybird (Honeyguide)Prodotiscus regulus

We found a bee hive in Lake Nakuru and were lucky to find this species.

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Lesser HoneyguideIndicator minor

We found a bird at the Cape Eagle Owl site, the bird was calling from its territorial perch.

Greater Honeyguide

Indicator indicator

At the bee hive at Lake Manyara we had a great sighting of an adult male.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

Nubian Woodpecker

Campethera nubica

This common woodland species was recorded in the Serengeti.

Tullberg's Woodpecker

Campethera tullbergi

During our visit to Mt. Kenya we had a brief sighting of this forest woodpecker.

Cardinal Woodpecker

Dendropicos fuscescens

Lake Manyara, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru produced sightings of this bird.

Bearded Woodpecker

Dendropicos namaguus

Our only sighting of this bird was in the Serengeti.

[African] Grey Woodpecker

Dendropicos goertae

We had good views in the Serengeti and at Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: This species is lumped by IOC with Gray-headed Woodpecker (D. spodocephalus).

Wattle-eyes, Batises & Allies Platysteiridae

Chinspot Batis

Batis molitor

This fantastic little bird was seen in the Serengeti and Lake Manyara.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

White [Crested] Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatis

A small flock was seen amongst the fever trees in Lake Manyara.

Grey-crested Helmetshrike

Prionops poliolophus

We had a good sighting of this East African endemic in the Serengeti. This species has a range of less than 50000km² and is a highly sought-after bird in Kenya & Tanzania.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Rosy-patched Bushshrike

Rhodophoneus cruentus

We had a fantastic sighting in Amboseli.

Brown-crowned (Three-streaked) Tchagra

Tchagra australis

We had sightings in Serengeti and at Lake Nakuru.

Black-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra senegala

Ngorongoro Crater was where we found this species.

Black-backed Puffback

Dryoscopus cubla

We managed to find a single bird on Mt Kenya.

Northern Puffback

Dryoscopus gambensis

We were very fortunate to find this bird in Buffalo Springs.

Slate-colored Boubou

Laniarius funebris

Good numbers of this arid country bird were seen at suitable sites on the trip, it was common in the Serengeti.

Tropical Boubou

Laniarius aethiopicus

We had a great view at Ngorongoro Crater.

Black-headed Gonolek

Laniarius erythrogaster

We managed to find 2 of these stunning birds along the Grumeti River.

Brubru Nilaus afer

This woodland species was observed in Lake Manyara, Serengeti and the reserves of Northern Kenya.

Shrikes Laniidae

Magpie (Long-tailed) Shrike

Urolestes (Corvinella) melanoleucus

Good numbers of this bird were seen in the Serengeti.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Corvinella.

Northern White-crowned Shrike

Eurocephalus rueppelli

It was commonly encountered in the Serengeti.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White-rumped Shrike.

Grey-backed Fiscal Lanius excubitoroides

We recorded this species daily in the wooded grasslands of the Serengeti and again at Lake Nakuru.

Long-tailed Fiscal

Lanius cabanisi

First seen in Lake Manyara.

Taita Fiscal Lanius dorsalis

Was seen well in Amboseli, it was later recorded in Kenya's northern reserves.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

This very common bird was recorded regularly on the trip except in very arid areas.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae

Mountain (Montane/Black-tailed) Oriole

Oriolus percivali

This species was observed in the forests on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

(African) Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus larvatus

We had great views in Lake Nakuru, where we had a bird party around an owl. NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is African Black-headed Oriole.

Drongos Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

This common and widespread species was seen on most days on the trip.

Monarchs Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone viridis

We had numerous sightings of this attractive intra-African migrant, first sighting was at Lake Manyara.

Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae

Cape (Black) Crow

Corvus capensis

We had a number of birds passing the Ngorongoro Conservation area.

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

The urban areas and rural settlements attract this species; peak numbers spotted over Arusha.

Fan-tailed Raven

Corvus rhipidurus

We had a pair at the lodge in Shaba.

White-necked Raven

Corvus albicollis

First seen along the forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Tits Paridae

White-bellied Tit

Parus (Melaniparus) albiventris

We had daily sightings at Lake Nakuru NP.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Melaniparus.

Acacia (Somali) Tit

Parus (Melaniparus)

thruppi

We had a great sighting of a pair in Buffalo Springs where they responded to a party.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit

Anthoscopus musculus

We had a lovely flock of these minute birds at Shaba NR.

Grey (African) Penduline Tit

Anthoscopus caroli

In the late afternoon at Ikoma we had a flock right in front of us.

Larks Alaudidae

White-tailed Lark

Mirafra albicauda

The sparsely grassed areas of the Serengeti held a sighting of this rather difficult-to-locate bird.

Rufous-naped Lark

Mirafra africana

One of the more common larks of the trip, it was recorded on most days in suitable grassland habitat.

Flappet Lark

Mirafra rufocinnamomea

We had wonderful views in the Serengeti.

Pink-breasted Lark

Mirafra poecilosterna

This very vocal species was encountered daily in the arid northern reserves of Kenya.

Red-capped Lark

Calandrella cinerea

A lark that is fond of dry, patchy grassland, it was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, en route to the Serengeti and at Lake Nakuru.

Athi (Somali) Short-toed Lark

Calandrella athensis

We had sightings of this bird in display flight in the southern Serengeti.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix leucopareia

Numerous throughout the tour, it was recorded on most days in arid/broken ground areas.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

[Dodson's] (Common) Bulbul

Pvcnonotus dodsoni

This arid-country species was seen in Buffalo Springs and Shaba NR's.

NOTE: Part of another very confusing polytypic species complex. In Africa the IOC nomenclature recognises the following good species: Common Bulbul (P. barbatus), Darkcapped Bulbul (P. tricolor), Somali Bulbul (P. somaliensis) and Dodson's Bulbul (P. dodsoni). Clement's does not and lumps the above as Common Bulbul (P. barbatus).

[Dark-capped] (Common) Bulbul

Pycnonotus tricolor

This ubiquitous species was seen on most days of the trip.

(Eastern) Mountain Greenbul

Andropadus nigriceps

We obtained sightings of this bird in Arusha and at Mt Kenya.

NOTE: IOC splits the Mountain Greenbul complex into several species: including the nominate Mountain Greenbul (A. nigriceps) endemic to the highland forests of S Kenya & N Tanzania, Yellow-throated Greenbul (A. chlorigula) endemic to S Tanzania and Black-browed Greenbul (A. fusciceps) endemic to Malawi, N Mozambique & extreme S Tanzania.

Slender-billed GreenbulAndropadus gracilirostris

A single bird was seen in the car park at Mt. Kenya.

Cabanas's Greenbul Phyllastrephus cabanis

We managed to find a single bird during our short time at Mt Kenya.

Martins & Swallows Hirundinidae

White-headed Sawwing

Psalidoprocne albiceps

This elegant species was seen gliding over the Grumeti River.

Black Sawwing

Psalidoprocne pristoptera

This species was observed at all higher altitude forested sites on the tour. NOTE: The Black Sawwing (P. pristoptera complex) was split into 8 full species, which caused extreme confusion with regard to their distributions and field identification, however, all authorities including IOC have now accepted one species.

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin

Riparia paludicola

A small flock of birds were seen flying over the shore of Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Plain Martin.

Banded Martin

Riparia cincta

The grasslands of the Ngorongoro Crater held views of this large hirundine.

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica

There were some late leavers in Ngorongoro and in the Serengeti.

Wire-tailed Swallow

Hirundo smithii

We found individuals and pairs along most water bodies during the tour.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne fuligula

Our first sighting was around Olduvai George.

Lesser Striped Swallow

Cecropis abyssinica

This intra-African migrant was recorded regularly during our time spent in Tanzania, with great sightings in the southern Serengeti.

Mosque Swallow

Cecropis senegalensis

We had a sighting of this large hirundine at Mt Kenya.

Red-rumped Swallow

Cecropis daurica

Seen daily in the Ngorongoro Conservation area, the Serengeti and then in Shaba Buffalo Springs NR.

Leaf Warbler & Allies

Brown Woodland Warbler

Phylloscopus

umbrovirens

We had a great sighting of this little forest dweller at Gibbs Farm.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

Lesser Swamp Warbler

Acrocephalus gracilirostris

This species was seen at a small wetland in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Mountain Yellow Warbler

Chloropeta similis

The forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater and Gibbs Farm produced sightings of this species.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola

Cisticola erythrops

This species was observed in the scrubby edge habitat on the Crater rim.

Hunter's Cisticola

Cisticola hunteri

This sociable and highly vocal bird was observed on the forested rim of the Crater & at Mt. Kenya.

Rattling Cisticola

Cisticola chiniana

This common woodland bird was recorded in suitable habitat.

Boran Cisticola

Cisticola bodessa

On our way to Shaba we managed to call up a single bird next to the side of the road.

Winding Cisticola

Cisticola marginatus

We found this species at scattered wetland/moist grassland sites in Tarangire NP.

NOTE: The IOC nomenclature has split this widespread African group into five species. Winding Cisticola (C. galactotes) that we observed, is now C. marginatus and occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola (C. haematocephalus) that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola (C. luapula) occurring largely in Zambia, Rufouswinged Cisticola (C. galactotes) of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola (C. lugubris) endemic to Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

Zitting Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

The Serengeti produced views of this widespread species.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola

Cisticola brunnescens

During our day in the Crater we had sightings of this diminutive bird.

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

We caught up with this species at Lake Nakuru.

Buff-bellied Warbler

Phyllolais pulchella

We had a number of sightings of this tiny bird in the Serengeti.

Bar-throated Apalis

Apalis thoracica

A pair of these forest birds was seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

Our only sighting was in Lake Manyara.

NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species may be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of Brown-tailed Apalis (A. f. viridiceps) of Somalia and adjacent Ethiopia. IOC does not as yet recognise this split.

Grey Apalis

Apalis cinerea

We found this species as we were leaving Mt Kenya.

Brown-headed Apalis

Apalis alticola

On our walk at Gibbs farm we managed to find this species.

Grey-capped Warbler

Eminia lepida

We enjoyed an excellent sighting in the Lerai Forest in the Crater.

The first half of the tour had many sightings of this common woodland bird.

Grey-(Green) backed Camaroptera

Camaroptera

brevicaudata

Regularly recorded throughout the tour, it was first seen in Lake Manyara.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela

Eremomela icteropygialis

We found a single bird at Ikoma where we were staying.

Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

Northern Crombec

Sylvietta brachyura

We enjoyed good views of this bird in in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR.

Red-faced Crombec

Sylvietta whytii

We had a great sighting in the Serengeti.

Babblers Timalidae

African Hill Babbler

Pseudoalcippe abyssinica

We found 1 of these birds in the forested slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Rufous Chatterer

Turdoides ayleri

We had a group at the Cape Eagle Owl site in Kenya.

Black-lored Babbler

Turdoides sharpei

The woodland of the Serengeti produced sightings of these vocal birds.

Arrow-marked Babbler

Turdoides jardineii

This species was seen well at Gibbs Farm and at Lake Nakuru.

Sylvid Babblers Sylviidae

Brown Warbler (Parisoma)

Sylvia (Parisoma)

lugens

Got a great look at this Acacia Abyssinica specific bird heading down the Crater road.

Banded Warbler (Parisoma)

Sylvia (Parisoma) boemi

We had good views at Lake Manyara and in the Serengeti.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Kikuyu (Broad-ringed/Montane) White-eye

Zosterops poliogastrus

The forests of Ngorongoro, Gibbs Farm and Mt Kenya is where we found this species..

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Broad-ringed White-eye.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

We had a number of sightings in the Serengeti often associated with animals.

Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

We had good numbers at Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling.

Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling

Lamprotornis purpuroptera

This sleek starling was observed almost daily in the Serengeti & Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Rueppell's Glossy-Starling.

Superb Starling

Lamprotornis superbus

This ubiquitous, yet attractive bird was seen in good numbers on most tour days.

Hildebrandt's Starling

Lamprotornis hildebrandti

This gorgeous bird was found in Lake Manyara, the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.

Fischer's Starling

Lamprotornis fischeri

We managed to find this attractive Starling on the way from Namanga to Amboseli.

Red-winged Starling

Onychognathus morio

Best views were at Shaba and Buffalo Springs.

Kenrick's Starling

Poeoptera kenricki

We had a perched bird as we were leaving Mt Kenya.

Bristle-crowned Starling

Onychognathus salvadorii

This attractive arid-country bird was seen daily in Shaba NR.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus africanus

We recorded this species in the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.

Red-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

Much more common than the aforementioned species, it was seen on most days.

Thrushes & Allies Turdidae

African Thrush

Turdus pelios

In the gardens of Thompsons Falls is where we found this species.

[Abyssinian] (Olive) Thrush

Turdus olivaceus abyssinicus

This higher altitude species was seen on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex may be split into a range of up to 10 full species. The form which we recorded is Abyssinian Thrush (T. o. abyssinicus) would be recognised as distinct within this confusing complex. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

White-stared Robin

Pogonocichla stellata

We were very fortunate to get a sighting from the car park and from the road at Mt Kenya.

Cape Robin-Chat

Cossypha caffra

Good views were had of this bird in Ngorongoro Crater and Mt Kenya.

Rüppell's Robin-Chat

Cossypha semirufa

Occurring at higher altitudes, it was found Ilboru, and Gibb's Farm.

White-browed Robin-Chat

Cossypha heuglini

First seen in the Serengeti then again at Lake Nakuru.

Collared Palm Thrush

Cichladusa guttata

We did well to find this species at the top of a palm tree in Lake Manyara.

Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush

Cichladusa guttata

Our initial sighting was at Lake Manyara followed by good views in Amboseli and in Buffalo Springs NR.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Spotted Morning-Thrush.

White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub Robin

Erythropygia

(Cercotrichas) leucophrys

We found a bird calling at Oldupai Gorge.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. I. leucophrys group would become White-browed Scrub Robin, the Central African C. I. zambesiana would remain as Red-backed Scrub Robin and the Northern African C. I. leucoptera would become White-winged Scrub Robin. IOC does not as yet recognise these splits.

African Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

We recorded this species along the forested rim of the Crater.

NOTE: Clement's does not recognise this as a full species and lumps it with Eurasian Stonechat.

Capped Wheatear

Oenanthe pileata

En route to the Serengeti we had numerous sightings of this species which thrives in disturbed arid habitat.

Mourning Wheatear

Oenanthe lugens

We had a few birds on the side of the road on our way to Namanga border. NOTE: This extremely variable complex with an extensive range and many distinctive isolated populations is a perfect candidate for multi-splitting. IOC recognises the resident Ethiopian

form, Abyssinian Wheatear (O. lugubris), as a full species but does not consider Schalow's Wheatear (O. schalowi), the form we recorded in Tanzania as a full species yet.

Brown-tailed Rock Chat

Cercomela scotocerca

We found this rather drab-looking bird on the black lava flows near Shaba NR.

Note: The Clements common name for this bird is Brown-tailed Chat.

(Northern) Anteater Chat

Myrmecocichla aethiops

We observed this species in the grasslands of the Crater, Lake Nakuru and the central plateau of Kenya.

Note: The Clements common name for this bird is Northern Anteater-Chat.

Mocking Cliff Chat

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

Lake Nakuru produced a few sightings of this beautiful bird.

Little Rock Thrush

Monticola rufocinereus

We had a lovely sighting on the edge of Lake Nakuru.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher

Dioptrornis (Melaenornis) fischeri

This higher altitude flycatcher was commonly recorded along forest edge ay suitable sites.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Melaenornis.

Pale Flycatcher

Bradornis pallidus

We found a single bird on our last morning at Lake Nakuru.

African Grev Flycatcher

Bradornis microrhynchus

Regularly recorded in drier woodland during the trip; being very common in the Serengeti.

Silverbird

Empidornis semipartitus

This stunning species was found in the Serengeti.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

This Palaearctic migrant was seen along the Western Corridor in the Serengeti.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

We observed this diminutive species at Gibbs and again at Mt. Kenya.

Sunbirds Nectarinidae

Eastern (Kenya) Violet-backed Sunbird

Anthreptes orientalis

First recorded at Lake Manyara, it was later seen in Kenya's arid northern reserves.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird.

Collared Sunbird

Hedydipna collaris

The forests around Arusha and Mt Kenya held views of this pretty species.

(Eastern) Olive-Sunbird

Cyanomitra olivacea

This species was recorded in the gardens of Ilboru and at Mt Kenya.

Amethyst Sunbird

Chalcomitra amethystine

We recorded this bird at Ilboru in Arusha.

Scarlet-chested SunbirdChalcomitra senegalensis

This beauty was regularly encountered in the Serengeti.

Hunter's Sunbird Chalcomitra hunteri

Several birds were found in Buffalo Springs and Shaba NR's in Kenya.

Bronzy (Bronze) Sunbird Nectarinia kilimensis

We recorded this species at the higher altitude forested sites of Ngorongoro,

Gibbs Farm and Mt Kenya

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Bronze Sunbird.

Malachite Sunbird Nectarinia famosa

We found this magnificent species in the scrubby habitat along the Crater rim.

Golden-winged Sunbird Drepanorhynchus reichenowi

Another stunning bird, it was seen well along the Ngorongoro Crater Rim.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird Cinnyris reichenowi

Found in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird Cinnyris mediocris

It was fairly common at the forest edge of the Crater and on the slopes of Mt.

Kenya.

Beautiful Sunbird Cinnyris pulchella

The drier woodland in the Serengeti held views of this beauty.

Marico Sunbird

Cinnyris mariquensis

This species was recorded at several sites on the trip in suitable woodland. Our

best views were in Buffalo Springs NR.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Mariqua Sunbird. In addition, some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. osiris which is recorded in N Kenya

& Uganda to Eritrea would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Marico Sunbird.

Black-bellied SunbirdGood numbers of these birds were seen in the riparian forest along the Ewaso Nyiro River in Shaba NR and Buffalo Springs.

Tsavo Sunbird Cinnyris tsavoensis

We were very fortunate to get a sighting in Shaba, it responded to Pearlspotted Owlet.

Variable Sunbird Cinnyris venusta

This species was seen in Arusha and Shaba.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver Plocepasser mahali

Seen daily in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser donaldsoni*

Buffalo Springs NR's yielded good numbers of this species.

Rufous-tailed WeaverHisturgops ruficauda

The Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti held views of this East African endemic. Interestingly enough, it was once considered a Tanzanian endemic but was recently discovered in the Maasai Mara in Kenya.

Grey-capped (headed) Social Weaver Pseudonigrita arnaudi

Good numbers were seen at close quarters in the Serengeti.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Social-Weaver.

Black-capped Social Weaver Pseudonigrita cabanisi

Good numbers of this gregarious species were seen in Buffalo Springs NR.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Small numbers of this introduced species was seen at urban sites during the tour.

Kenya (Rufous) Sparrow

Passer rufocinctus

We recorded this attractive sparrow at scattered localities, including excellent sightings on the way to and in the Serenegti

NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Rufous Sparrow (P. shelleyi) occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Rufous Sparrow (P. motitensis) occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous Sparrow (P. rufocinctus) occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow (P. cordofanicus) occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow which is endemic to Socotra.

[Northern] Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus

Lake Manyara was where we first encountered this species.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Sparrow.

Parrot-billed Sparrow

Passer gongonensis

An arid country species, it was observed daily in the national reserves of Kenya.

Swahili Sparrow

Passer suahelicus

This bird was seen in small numbers in the Serengeti.

Chestnut Sparrow

Passer eminibey

We had very good views of this bird in drier woodland of Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR.

Yellow-spotted Petronia

Gymnoris (Petronia) superciliaris

We had great views during our picnic in Buffalo Springs.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC nomenclature, namely Petronia.

Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver

Bubalornis niger

Another gregarious species, we found then in the Serengeti & north central Kenya.

NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate group would become Southern Red-billed Buffalo Weaver and the form in Ethiopia would become Northern Red-billed Buffalo Weaver (B. intermedius). IOC does not as yet recognize this split.

White-headed Buffalo Weaver

Dinemellia dinemelli

This colourful bird was seen in Serengeti, Amboseli Shaba and Buffalo Springs.

Speckle-fronted Weaver

Sporopipes frontalis

Oldupai Gorge and Serengeti produced this species.

Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver

Amblyospiza albifrons

This weaver was found at Gibb's Farm.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Grosbeak Weaver.

Baglafecht Weaver

Ploceus baglafecht

Fairly common and widespread we first found this species at Lake Manyara.

Spectacled Weaver

Ploceus ocularis

We had a good sighting of this attractive weaver at Gibbs Farm.

Lesser Masked Weaver

Ploceaus intermedius

It was encountered at Lake Manyara.

Vitelline Masked Weaver

Ploceus vitellinus

We found good numbers in the Serengeti.

Speke's Weaver

Ploceus spekei

We had a number of sightings, initially seen in Kenya at a toilet stop on the way to Mt Kenya and then seen again at Lake Nakuru NP.

Brown-capped Weaver

Ploceus insignis

We had a sighting of this species in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Red-headed Weaver

Anaplectes melanotis (rubriceps)

We had a female close to Mt Kenya.

NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the southern nominate group would remain Red-headed Weaver and the northern black-faced form which we recorded in Tanzania would become Red-winged Weaver (A. leuconotos). IOC does not as yet recognize this split.

Cardinal Ouelea Ouelea cardinalis

We had a small flock in the Serengeti.

Red-billed Quelea Quelea quelea

Large flocks of these birds were seen in in Lake Manyara and in Kenya's arid northern reserves.

Yellow-crowned Bishop

Euplectes afer

We had a flock in the flooded grasslands of Amboseli. [Southern] Red Bishop Euplectes orix

This striking species was recorded in the grasslands of Ngorongoro Crater rim and in the Serengeti.

Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird

Euplectes axillaris

Red-collared Widowbird

We found this species in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.

The Ngorongoro Crater was where we found this striking bird.

Long-tailed Widowbird

Euplectes progne

Euplectes ardens

We had phenomenal views of this magnificent species displaying on the way to Lake Nakuru NP.

Jackson's Widowbird

Euplectes jacksoni

We had some cracking view of some displaying birds on the way to Lake Nakuru.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch) Nigrita canicapillus

We had great views in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Negrofinch.

Green-winged Pytilia

Pytilia melba

Our only views of this gorgeous species were in the Serengeti.

Amadina fasciata Cut-throat [Finch]

A pair was seen in the Acacia woodland that fringed the Buffalo Springs airstrip.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is just Cut-throat.

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

This common & widespread firefinch was seen at Ilboru and in the Serengeti. Blue Waxbill (Blue-breasted Cordon-bleu) Uraeginthus angolensis

Seen well in the Serengeti.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu

Uraeginthus bengalus

The Serengeti and Lake Nakuru produced sightings of this attractive species.

Blue-capped Cordon-bleu

Uraeginthus cyanocephalus

We found this little beauty in the Serengeti.

Purple Grenadier

Uraeginthus

(Granatina)

ianthinogaster

This stunning species was recorded in in the Serengeti.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Granatina.

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

Arusha NP, the Ngorongoro Crater and Mt. Kenya yielded views of this bird.

Black-faced (-cheeked) Waxbill

Estrilda erythronotos

We managed to get great views of these stunning birds in the Serengeti.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-cheeked Waxbill.

African Quail-Finch

Ortygospiza fuscocrissa

We were treated to good sightings of this striking bird in the Ngorongoro Crater Buffalo Springs.

Grey-headed Silverbill

Lonchura griseicapilla

We were very lucky to have such a great sighting in the Serengeti.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC nomenclature, namely Odontospiza.

Bronze Mannikin

Lonchura (Spermestes) cucullata

This common and widespread species was sighted at Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spermestes.

Red-backed Mannikin

Lonchura (Spermestes) nigriceps

Ilboru and the forests at Gibb's Farm produced sightings of this species. NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spermestes.

Indigobirds Viduidae

Village Indigobird

Vidua chalybeata

Found at Lake Manyara and again at Serengeti.

Pin-tailed Whydah

Vidua macroura

First seen in Ngorongoro, we also had a few sightings in the Serengeti.

Steel-blue Whydah

Vidua hypocherina

We enjoyed an excellent sighting of a male in full breeding plumage on the way back from Grumeti.

Straw-tailed Whydah

Vidua fischeri

We had a great sighting of this stunner in the Serengeti.

Long-tailed (Eastern) Paradise Whydah

Vidua paradisaea

This attractive bird was seen on the first day at Lake Manyara.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Eastern Paradise-Whydah.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Cape Wagtail

Motacilla capensis

We had a pair at the waterhole at Mt Kenya.

Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail

Motacilla clara

We had a great sighting at a small stream at Lake Manyara.

African Pied Wagtail

Motacilla aquimp

This pied species was recorded regularly throughout the trip first seen at Ilboru.

Yellow-throated Longclaw

Macronyx croceus

This species was recorded in Ngorongoro an in the Serengeti.

Pangani Longclaw

Macronyx aurantiigula

We had a number of outstanding views in Amboseli.

Rosy-throated (Pink-throated) Longclaw

Macronyx ameliae

This gorgeous species was observed in the grasslands of the Crater and the Serengeti.

African Pipit

Anthus cinnamomeus

It was seen in the Crater, Serengeti, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is know about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

We found a pair in the Serengeti.

Finches Fringillidae

Southern Citril *Crithagra (Serinus) hyposticta*

Gibb's Farm and the forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater held sightings of this bird.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC nomenclature, namely Serinus.

Reichenow's Seed-eater

Crithagra (Serinus) reichenowi

This species was recorded at a toilet stop close to the equater.

White-bellied Canary

Crithagra (Serinus) dorsostriata

First seen at Lake Manyara, it was then recorded daily in the Serengeti. *NOTE:* Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC nomenclature, namely Serinus.

Brimstone (Bully) Canary

Crithagra (Serinus) sulphurata

On the way Lake Nakuru, where we stopped for the Cape Eagle Owl we found a pair.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC nomenclature, namely Serinus.

Streaky Seedeater

Crithagra (Serinus) striolata

First seen at Gibb's Farm, it was then observed daily on the forested rim of the Crater and at Mt. Kenya.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC nomenclature, namely Serinus.

Thick-billed Seedeater

Crithagra (Serinus) burtoni

It was encountered on the forested rim of the Crater and in the forest of Gibbs Farm.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC nomenclature, namely Serinus.

Oriole Finch

Linurgus olivaceus

What an incredible bird, we were extremely fortunate to see them in the car park at Mt Kenya, thanks to fellow Rockjumper guide Rainer.

Buntings Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Emberiza tahapisi

We had a sighting of a single bird drinking from a road side puddle in Shaba.

Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

This gorgeous bird was found at Lake Nakuru NP's.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Helmeted Terrapin

Pelomedusa subrufa

Only a single sighting in the Serengeti.

Leopard Tortoise

Geochelone pardalis

We had a medium sized tortoise next to the side of the road.

Red-headed Rock Agama

Agama agama

We had a number of these reptilians in the Serengeti.

Tropical House Gecko

Hemidactylus mabouia

One or two individuals were seen at our lodge in the Serengeti.

Rock Monitor Varanus albigularis

We had a great sighting in Amboseli.

Nile MonitorWe had a few sightings in Lake Manyara, Serengeti, Shaba and Buffalo Springs. **Nile Crocodile**Crocodylus niloticus

Some absolute monsters were seen along the Grumeti River.

Jacksons Chameleon Chamaeleo jacksoni

What an awesome find in the gardens of Ilboru in Arusha.

Guttural ToadBufo guteralis

We had a toad join us for our list on one of the evenings at our lodge in the Serengeti.

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