



TRIP REPORT
PVT Hershberger Tanzania Tour

2 to 15 May 2012



Trip report by Tour Leader Markus Lilje

Day to Day itinerary...

Day 1, 2 May 2012	Kilimanjaro to Arusha (Ilboru Safari Lodge)
Day 2, 3 May 2012	Arusha National Park (Ilboru Safari Lodge)
Day 3, 4 May 2012	Arusha to Tarangire (Tarangire Safari Lodge)
Day 4, 5 May 2012	Tarangire National Park (Tarangire Safari Lodge)
Day 5, 6 May 2012	Tarangire to Lake Manyara (Lake Manyara Lodge)
Day 6, 7 May 2012	Lake Manyara to Serengeti (Seronera Lodge)
Day 7, 8 May 2012	Serengeti National Park (Seronera Lodge)
Day 8, 9 May 2012	Serengeti National Park (Seronera Lodge)
Day 9, 10 May 2012	Serengeti National Park (Lobo Lodge)
Day 10, 11 May 2012	Serengeti National Park (Lobo Lodge)
Day 11, 12 May 2012	Serengeti to Ngorongoro (Sopa Lodge)
Day 12, 13 May 2012	Ngorongoro Crater (Sopa Lodge)
Day 13, 14 May 2012	Ngorongoro to Gibbs Farm (Tloma Lodge)
Day 14, 15 May 2012	Gibbs Farm to Kilimanjaro and depart

Trip Report in detail...

Our tour began in Arusha, the Safari capital of Tanzania, which lies near Mt. Meru and the Arusha National Park (NP), our first destination on the tour. Soon after entering the park we encountered the first animals of the tour and got off to a flying start with many Common Zebra and African Buffalo feeding and resting on a very lush open area. This part of the park is made up of dense, low thickets and trees with more open patches of grass, where we also found the first of many Giraffe, here being represented by the Maasai race, the common form of Giraffe throughout most of east Africa. We then headed up into a higher part of the park, which is covered in much taller forest and home to possibly the biggest target for the first day of the tour – Guereza Colobus, which we managed to find without too much effort, even getting a number of good sightings throughout the day, including some all-white youngsters. The other interesting primates that occur in the park are the Blue Monkey and Olive Baboon that also showed really well and allowed for some photographs, before disappearing into the dark forest or moved away in the savanna. Other animals that were recorded during the day were Warthog, Waterbuck, Vervet Monkey, Bushbuck which is usually shy, but much easier to see in this park, where at least a dozen animals showed well. Finally we added Harvey's Duiker, a beautiful reddish forest antelope; that we were fortunate enough to see in a clearing, in addition to the smaller Blue Duiker that

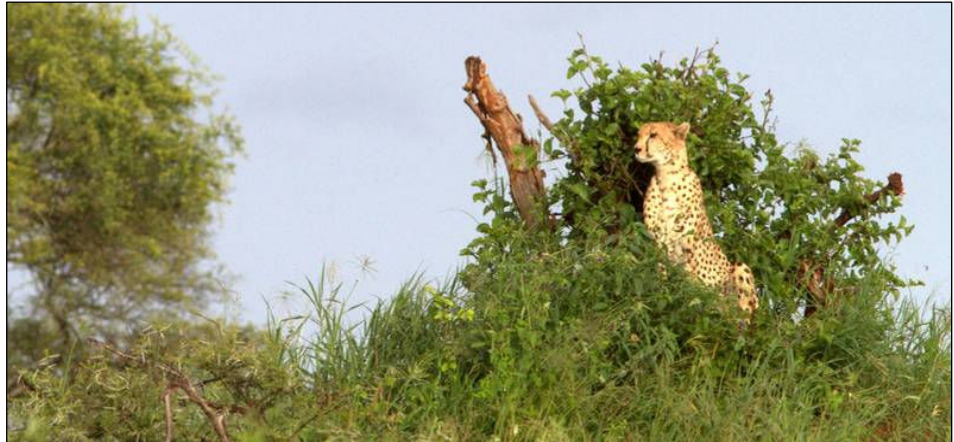
we had seen earlier during the day. Birds are another feature of this park and the variety of habitats means that there are a large number of species that call this park their home. The shy Green Malkoha was one of the unexpected highlights, calling from a thicket that we were finally able to entice it out of. Other top species included Brown-breasted and White-eared Barbets, Martial Eagle, Augur Buzzard, the beautiful Little and White-fronted Bee-eaters and Brown-hooded Kingfisher as well as Hartlaub's Turaco. Around the lakes there was a fair amount of action, with thousands of mainly Lesser, but also Greater Flamingos, as well as Cape Teal and White-breasted Cormorant. Just after leaving the park, we stopped at a small wetland, where we found Taveta and Thick-billed Weavers to end off an introductory day to some of the animals we would spend much more time with during the next 2 weeks.



Leaving the higher-lying area around Arusha, we headed west, excited to see what this destination had in store for us. First on the list of the well-known parks and reserves we visited on this tour was Tarangire National Park, with its Baobab-studded dry savannah, open grasslands and beautiful river scenery. On the way there we already found some great species, including our first Northern Red Bishop, Pymy Falcon and Blue-naped Mousebird. Our 2 days in Tarangire were quite amazing and there were very seldom stretches of more than a few minutes where we had nothing to look at; after some good recent rain the grasslands were lush and green and many bird species had come in to enjoy the plentiful food. The number of Elephant around the Tarangire river was astounding and we enjoyed many great moments, watching herds moving

around the vehicle, drinking, playing and fighting as well as their near-permanent feeding on grass and leaves. It was quite a surprise to encounter hundreds of these huge animals in the park, often dwarfed by the area's many huge baobab trees, as they are usually more a feature of the park in the dry season, when they are drawn to the permanent sources of water. Other mammals that we encountered included many Masaai Giraffe, ubiquitous Impala and smaller numbers of a few of the other antelope species, including a herd of the very uncommon Fringe-eared Oryx, many Olive Baboon and the smaller Vervet Monkey, Warthog, and then really good views of the both colonial mongoose species in the area: Banded and Dwarf. Helmeted Terrapin, a very large Leopard Tortoise and Striped Skink were the only reptiles we recorded during this section.

As always this park showcases a great variety of woodland species, including Ashy, Superb and Hildebrandt's Starlings, the gorgeous Yellow-collared Lovebird and Red-bellied and Meyer's Parrots. Ground birds were also a feature of the park and we came across dozens of Black-faced



Sandgrouse, Yellow- and Red-necked Spurfowls, Crested and Coqui Francolins, flocks of Helmeted Guineafowl as well as the lovely Double-banded Courser that looked lost among all the long grass. Other species that were seen well included African Fish Eagle, Knob-billed Duck, Long-tailed Fiscal, Red-and-yellow Barbets, Mottled Spinetail and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus.

Although we were reluctant to leave the park, there was so much more that lay ahead and we headed onwards for an afternoon in Lake Manyara NP, where we enjoyed lunch under some huge mahogany trees. There were and had been some very heavy rainstorms around the area and some of the areas within the park were quite heavily flooded or even impassable. We did still manage some very good sightings though and marvelled at large numbers of breeding Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks as well as Pink-backed Pelicans near the entrance. Inside the park Black Bishop displayed and we got a close view of Crowned Hornbill, while some relaxed Elephants let us get very close to them, we saw sitting Giraffe and enjoyed flocks of Great White Pelicans flying overhead, heading towards the open water of the lake, where there were a few distant flamingos. Our accommodation was located on the edge of the western wall of the Great Rift Valley, with a beautiful view overlooking the lake and national park.



On the following day we headed into and through the huge Ngorongoro Conservation area, enjoying the great diversity of scenery and habitats. One of the highlights of the day was getting to enjoy a great view over the Crater itself, due to the great weather that greeted us there and we were able to pick out a

number of animals and herds on the distant plains, hundreds of metres below us. Driving further west, we moved from the lush crater rim to the arid area around the Olduvai Gorge area and then on to the short-grass area of the southern Serengeti. This drive got us views of Malachite Sunbird, Red-collared Widowbird and others, as well as Giraffe, Common Zebra and thousands of Blue Wildebeest lining the roadside near the entrance to the Serengeti. A great bit of behaviour was shown by some Tawny Eagles, trying to defend their kill against some scavenging Golden Jackals.

For the next 3 nights we were then based in the southern Serengeti, one of the great parks in the world and home to the famous migration of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle. During this time of year you stand a good chance of encountering some of the huge number of animals that make the annual round-trip of the area, although they were late this year and nobody was certain of what their movements were going to be. On the way from the gate to the lodge, built around a rocky outcrop, we already managed to find a small group of sleepy lions as well as a great Leopard, which was very interested in a young Kongoni, but was unable to get close enough to catch it. Here we already experienced what was going to become the usual pattern of rainbows and rainfall in the afternoons, causing many roads in the park to be flooded and impassable.

During the days in this part of the park we were never far from action, finding most of what we had hoped for without any trouble...and a lot more! Leopard seemed to be lining up to see us, with 6 animals that were seen by us over 4 days, most of them quite active and not just lying around as they often do. The best of the sightings lasted for well over 40 minutes and included views of this spotted animal sitting and looking around from a termite mound, marking its territory, crouching and unsuccessfully stalking up to some Bohor Reedbuck, catching a Helmeted Guineafowl and then climbing up a vertical tree with its dinner, before finally sitting down to pluck and eat it, while the rest of the guinea fowl flock made a huge racket. Lions also showed well, with sightings including a few females keeping watch over a recent kill from the thick branches of nearby trees and a group of small cubs just metres from our vehicle. Spotted Hyena, many Bat-eared Foxes, often mixed herds of Kongoni and Topi, Impala, Hippopotamus and others like the 2 species of Hyrax that entertained us around the



lodge. The most unexpected of the species we managed to find was undoubtedly the very scarce and mostly nocturnal Aardwolf, that was spotted early one morning, shortly after we left the lodge for a morning drive.



The birds were also not to be outdone in the Serengeti and we added many new species to our list, including Grey-breasted Spurfowl, White-bellied and Hartlaub's Bustards, Common Kestrel, Black Coucal, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Secretarybird, Kori Bustard, Taita Fiscal, Little Bee-eater, Three-banded Plover, Hooded Vulture, Cardinal Quelea, Purple Roller, Fischer's Lovebird, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Silverbird, Goliath Heron, Marabou Stork, Purple Grenadier and the Usambiro form of D'Arnaud's Barbet.

Our final two nights were spent in the north-eastern part of the national park, where we added a number of Klipspringer and our first adult male Lion to the list of recorded species during the tour. This area had also experienced huge downpours of rain in the days before we got there, with all but the main road being closed due to very muddy and sticky road conditions. Nonetheless it was still interesting seeing this more heavily wooded part of the park and we had some good general sightings that included a huge herd of hundreds of African Buffalo running through a large area of grassland. Birds we added were the distinctive Sooty and Ant-eater Chats, Tanzania Red-billed Hornbill, Green Wood Hoopoe, Long-tailed Cisticola, displaying Flappet Larks and Mottled Swift.

We then headed out of the Serengeti, really hitting the jackpot right as we got to the gate at the Nabi Hills – finally the wildebeest and zebra that make up the migrating herd in the Serengeti system had decided to move and were in this area in their hundreds of thousands. There were just animals spanning from one horizon to another, the two above mentioned species being joined by smaller numbers of Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles, Warthog, Topi and Kongoni. We drove to the Gol Koppies, just a few kilometres away to get better views of the herds and spent an hour or two there, just wondering at the masses of large animals all around...as was a lion, well hidden among some boulders.



This was a fitting and fantastic way to finish off our explorations of the Serengeti, before we headed east again. On the way we made a quick stop at a Masai village, where some had a look at the inner workings of a village of these well-known people, living among all the wildlife of this amazing region. Our next destination was the Ngorongoro, where we

spent a further 2 nights.

A day spent on the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater must surely rank as one of the top days of wildlife watching anywhere around the world. The sheer density of large animals in addition to their visibility and the constant crater-wall backdrop makes this an unforgettable day. We started off with some rain and thick mist as we headed down into the crater, but this soon abated and the cloud-cover we had throughout most of the day made for cool temperatures and no dust. One of the highlights came right at the start of the day, when we found a few sleepy lions having a break in the short grass and then spotted a huge, dark-maned male making its way straight down the road towards us. He carried on walking closer and closer and then right past the vehicle as if we were not there at all. What a start to the day! After this everything else struggled to live up to the levels of excitement. Due to the large amount of rain that had fallen the whole area was beautifully lush with carpets of yellow flowers covering some parts of the crater

floor. As mentioned above there is really never a time when there are not large mammals around and we had good views of 4 Black Rhino, thousands of Blue Wildebeest, many Hippo, African Elephant, including big tuskers and even a small herd, which is unusual in the Crater, Thompson's and Grant's Gazelle, African Buffalo, numerous Spotted Hyena and many Plains Zebra,



among others. Some of the birding highlights for the day were great Saddle-billed Stork, Rosy-throated Longclaw, Grey Crowned Crane, Ant-eater Chat, Dusky Turtle Dove, thousands of Lesser Flamingo and Spur-winged Goose. Around the rim of the crater we also added a few birds to our list, including Golden-winged Sunbird, Cape Robin-Chat and Hildebrandt's Francolin, before we were able to watch a great sunset over the crater from our lodge.



To round off the tour we had a great lunch at Gibb's Farm, just outside the Ngorongoro Conservation area, enjoying the lush gardens with its ever-attendant Collared and Bronzy Sunbirds, White-browed Robin-Chat, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters and Thick-billed and Baglafaecht Weavers. After lunch we headed out for a walk in the nearby forest, adding a

few lovely Black-throated Wattle-eye, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Grey Cuckooshrike, Mountain and Placid Greenbuls, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, African Hill Babbler, White-headed Barbet, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Grey-capped Warbler and Montane White-eye. After this we moved to our nearby accommodation for the final night with just the drive back to Arusha and some souvenir shopping left, before we headed to the airport on the last day.

As always this region delivered an astounding range of species in beautiful settings and is an absolute must for any serious wildlife enthusiast! We took time to not just see the animals, but were also able to witness many great interactions between different animals that really enriched the while tour.

Photographic credits: Lion in the Ngorongoro Crater, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Cheetah, Yellow-billed Stork, Leopard with Guinea fowl prey, Serengeti Acacia scenery, Blue Wildebeest migration, African Elephant and Saddle-billed Stork. All taken by Markus Lilje during the above tour.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of "The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals"; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.

Total species and forms recorded: 47

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

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

One the first day of the tour we enjoyed numerous very good sightings of this species, including some great close views in the forests of Arusha NP.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Olive Baboon *Papio [hamadryas] anubis*

Often seen in large troops, we saw them almost daily throughout the tour, where they often gave very close-up views and we could enjoy their antics just metres away.

Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans mitis*

4 or 5 small troops were seen in Arusha NP, where many were busily feeding, in Lake Manyara NP we witnessed some fairly aggressive interaction between two warring neighbour troops above our vehicle.

Vervet Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops*

Seen almost every day of the tour, common in fairly open savanna areas.

Hares Leporidae

African Savanna (Scrub) Hare *Lepus victoriae*

A single animal was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, where it clearly thought its camouflage was better than it was as we drove just a few feet past it.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

This species was seen in Tarangire NP.

Ochre Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus*

A few were seen in Tarangire NP woodlands.

Rats & Mice Muridae

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus*

We saw good numbers around the Nabi Hills Gate of the Serengeti.

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotus*

This very special little termite-eater was seen on a single afternoon, east of the Seronera area in the Serengeti, where we had some great views of over 20 individuals in at least 5 separate sightings!

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

Our best sighting was seeing two of these widespread Jackals chasing some Tawny Eagles to get at what turned out to be very disappointing scraps of food in the southern Serengeti. They prefer wide-open grasslands in this region and were also recorded in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*

A widespread species in Africa, seen in Tarangire NP, and very well in the Serengeti NP.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea*

A single animal was seen briefly in the northern part of the Serengeti NP.

Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon*

We were fortunate to get a view of one of these very large diurnal mongooses, when it crossed the road right in front of our vehicle in the central Serengeti NP—very hard to see in the very long grass in May.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*

A very cute little creature, we had great views of a number of colonies in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs, sunning in the open on logs or termite mounds.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*

As the previous species, these animals are communal, they showed very well over a few days in Tarangire and the Serengeti NP.

Hyaenas Hyaenidae

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta*

Very large numbers were seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, where they occur at a higher density than anywhere else, others were seen well on every day we had in the Serengeti.

Aardwolf *Proteles cristatus*

This is a very uncommon species in the Serengeti – we were fortunate to get to see one animal in the central Serengeti, where it was active in the still-dark early dawn.

Genets & Civets Viverridae

Small-spotted (Common) Genet *Genetta genetta*

A single animal was very briefly glimpsed as it hurried through on a wall at our Tarangire accommodations.

Cats Felidae

Lion *Panthera leo*

A total of 35 different animals were seen over 5 days in the Serengeti and

Ngorongor Crater, including some very memorable sightings: first we had 4 lionesses walking and resting in large *Acacia* trees in the central Serengeti, where we had very close views of 4 small cubs on the following day. In the Crater we had an amazing start to our day, when a magnificent male walked down the road towards and right past us, towards 7 other lions! Another lion in the Serengeti was very keen to get out of the sun and followed our vehicle around to benefit from our shade!

Leopard*Panthera pardus*

A gorgeous creature, amazingly we had 6 sightings in 4 days in the Serengeti! After a number of animals in trees, the best sighting of the trip was watching a Leopard unsuccessfully stalk some Bohor Reedbuck, before effortlessly muscling up a vertical tree to pluck a freshly-caught guineafowl in the Seronera area.

Cheetah*Acinonyx jubatus*

A single cheetah showed quite well for us, when it walked in some tall grass in Tarangire NP, before sitting up on a mound to survey the surroundings for a while.

Hyraxes Procaviidae**Rock Hyrax***Procavia capensis*

In the central Serengeti rocky areas, this species lives alongside the following one, this species being browner and larger.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax*Heterohyrax brucei*

Common around both our lodges in the Serengeti's outcrops.

Elephants Elephantidae**African Elephant***Loxodonta africana*

Another of the great animals of the tour - we saw huge numbers of these incredible creatures throughout the tour, in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs as well as the in the Ngorongoro Crater. It was great fun watching them playing, eating, drinking, trumpeting, threatening and just moving through the vegetation in the different areas. In some areas the elephants are very relaxed and allow for very close approaches.

Horses Equidae**Plain's (Common) Zebra***Equus quagga*

Seen in huge numbers in the southern Serengeti, where they seemed to form the majority of the leading edge of the migration as it headed towards the north-west around the Nabi Hills.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae**Black Rhinoceros***Diceros bicornis*

We had very good views of this endangered mammal in the Ngorongoro Crater, where there were 4 animals feeding and resting near the main lake.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibious

Another huge herbivore, we saw big numbers in Serengeti NP, where we also had a few walking around during the day and others warming themselves on a sandbar, the Ngorongoro Crater gave us some more sightings.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

We saw this species frequently throughout the tour, most of these animals seem fairly shy and runaway on approach, but we did finally get more cooperative animals in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Maasai Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi

Another animals that we spent a lot of time with, it was recorded well on 10 consecutive days; in Tanzania it is the only giraffe race.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Thomson's Gazelle

Gazella thomsonii

These delicate antelope were seen in Ngorongoro Crater after we had very large numbers among Wildebeest and zebras in the southern Serengeti's short grassland.

Grant's Gazelle

Gazella granti

Seen at a variety of similar savanna sites as the smaller previous species; smaller numbers.

Steenbok

Raphicerus campstris

Fairly uncommon in this part of its range and especially hard to find in the tall grass at this time of the year – one animal was seen in Tarangire NP.

Kirk's Dik-dik

Madoqua kirkii

A tiny antelope that was fairly commonly encountered in Tarangire NP, a few were also seen in the Serengeti a few days later.

Klipspringer

Oreotragus oreotragus

This antelope is superbly adapted to the rocky slopes that it inhabits – a few were seen well in the Lobo area of the northern Serengeti.

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer

Recorded almost daily throughout, we had a memorable herd of around 500 animals that were suddenly unsure and all ran off in the the open northern savanna in the Serengeti NP.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

Arusha NP must be one of the top places to see this animal in the open – it is often much shyer and associated more with thickets and forests.

Eland

Taurotragus oryx

The largest antelope eluded us in the Serengeti, but we enjoyed very good views of a number of these very impressive animals in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Bohor Reedbuck*Redunca redunca*

Around 8 were seen well on a day in the central Serengeti, where they only just managed to escape being caught by a Leopard that then had to settle for a guineafowl.

Common Waterbuck*Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

Tarangire and Serengeti NPs gave us some very good opportunities to see this large animal at close quarters, showing off its white ring around the tail.

Defassa Waterbuck*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

Good views were had of a single male in the central Serengeti, where they live side-by-side with the above form.

Fringe-eared (Beisa) Oryx*Oryx beisa*

Although this species is known from the south of Tarangire NP, it is very unusual as far north as we saw it and was one of the biggest surprises of the tour! We had a herd of 21 animals.

Coke's Hartebeest (Kongoni)*Alcelaphus buselaphus cokei*

After we had a few in Tarangire NP, it was commonly encountered in the Serengeti, where they often associated with Topi, as well as in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Blue Wildebeest*Connochaetes taurinus*

One of the highlights of the tour was getting to see these animals almost covering all the grassland from one horizon to another around the Nabi Hills in the southern Serengeti as we were about to leave the park. We spent some time in the Gol Koppies area, enjoying the herds around us...as was a lion on one of the outcrops. The rest of the Serengeti and Tarangire were devoid of this species, but we did see good numbers in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Topi (Tsessebe)*Damaliscus lunatus*

These swift, long distance runners were seen very well in the Serengeti.

Impala*Aepyceros melampus*

Widespread, and seen in a variety of savanna woodland areas on every day in the Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Harvey's Duiker*Cephalophus harveyi*

This forest species was seen very well in a clearing in the Arusha NP, where it was feeding and allowed for great views.

Blue Duiker*Philantomba monticola*

Another uncommon species in the area – we had a single animal in the high forest of Arusha NP.

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.7 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

NP = National Park

Our total species recorded were 277

Ostriches Struthionidae

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*
Common throughout.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*
One of the most widespread species during the tour.

Francolins & Quails Phasianidae

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui*
We had good views of numerous birds in savannah habitats in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

Shelley's Francolin *Scleroptila shelleyi*
An uncommon francolin – 4 were seen well on the road near Lobo Lodge.

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena*
A widespread woodland francolin, seen in the Serengeti NP.

Hildebrandt's Francolin *Pternistis hildebrandti*
We had this uncommon species on the way down into the crater on the roadside.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis leucoscepus*
We had some really great views of this very large and colourful species in Tarangire NP.

Grey-breasted Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis rufopictus*
A Serengeti endemic, where we saw them daily and very well.

Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis afer*
Seen daily and well in Tarangire NP.

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei*
This is a nomadic species that erupts in areas after rain – Tarangire and the northern Serengeti.

Ducks & Geese Anatidae

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*
About 6 birds were seen well in Arusha NP – this species prefers waterbodies with floating vegetation.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*
This huge bird was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, where they were feeding on seeding grass.

Knob-billed (Comb) Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
We had some great views of this great bird in Tarangire NP.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*
The most common waterbird of the tour – seen almost daily.

Cape Teal*Anas capensis*

A bird of slightly saline waters - initially seen in Arusha NP, others in the southern Serengeti.

Red-billed Teal (Duck)*Anas erythrorhyncha*

We saw them in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Hottentot Teal*Anas hottentota*

The smallest duck was recorded in Arusha NP.

Southern Pochard*Netta erythrophthalma*

Around 40 birds were recorded at our lunch-stop lake in Arusha NP.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen at a few waterbodies in Arusha NP.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae**Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus ruber*

A few birds were seen well, closest views in Arusha NP.

Lesser Flamingo*Phoenicopterus minor*

More common than the previous species, the highlight was a large flock over the grasslands in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Storks Ciconiidae**Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis*

Hundreds were seen breeding in trees around Lake Manyara, where we enjoyed great views.

White Stork*Ciconia ciconia*

A few birds were seen in the southern Serengeti, where they were around the large wildebeest/zebra herds.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

We enjoyed great close-up views of 2 of these majestic birds in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Marabou Stork*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

This huge, very impressive bird was seen at various localities throughout the Serengeti NP.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**African Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

A few birds were seen in the southern Serengeti.

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

A few birds were seen in the Arusha area.

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

A few birds were seen in a small pool of water in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

Dwarf Bittern*Ixobrychus sturmii*

One of the stand-out birds of the tour – an individual was seen near the Tarangire River in tall grass.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron*Butorides striatus*

A single bird was seen well in Serengeti NP.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

A single bird was seen in Arusha NP, on the edge of one of the lakes.

Western Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Fairly commonly recorded on tour. Often seen in close proximity to big game.

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

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

This bird was commonly seen on the tour near wetlands.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

Commonly recorded in suitable open-country habitat, many in the central Serengeti.

Goliath Heron*Ardea goliath*

The world's largest heron, 4 were recorded in the Serengeti NP.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

A single bird was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We only found a single bird in Arusha NP.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

Belonging to a monotypic African family, recorded frequently at wetland sites during the tour.

Pelicans Pelecanidae**Great White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

A huge waterbird, it was seen very well at Lake Manyara, where we had close fly-over views.

Pink-backed Pelican*Pelacanus rufescens*

These birds breed at a colony near Lake Manyara, where we could enjoy good views.

Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae**White-breasted Cormorant***Phalacrocorax lucidus*

We had good views of a single bird in Arusha NP on the first day of the tour.

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

Secretarybird Sagittariidae**Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

This fascinating bird was seen on 5 of the days on tour, always a popular and sought-after species.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

We encountered this species on a number of occasions on the tour, where it was seen in small numbers in savanna and grassland areas.

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.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

After our first views in Tarangire NP, we had further views in the Serengeti.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

We had some good views of this small vulture in the Serengeti, near an old lion kill.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

We recorded good numbers of this species in savanna areas throughout the tour.

Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon) *Gyps rueppellii*

A single bird was seen very well among the migrating wildebeest herd, near a recently devoured one.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

2 birds were seen well in flight over the central Serengeti NP.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

The largest vulture in Sub-Saharan Africa, we recorded them in small numbers, in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

Black-chested(-breasted) Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

A very smart raptor...seen on 4 days of the tour.

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

A large upright brown eagle of open savanna, seen twice on the tour.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

A characteristic and distinctive raptor of the African savanna, we saw them on a number of occasions in suitable habitat during the tour.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*

This species, also known as the Gymnogone, was seen in Tarangire NP and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

An inhabitant of moister savanna than the following species, we had good numbers in the central Serengeti, including a very relaxed sub-adult.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*

Surprisingly we only had a single bird as we headed out of the Serengeti NP.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

A single melanistic individual was seen in the central Serengeti as we headed back towards the Ngorongoro area.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

A fairly common inhabitant of higher altitudes, where we had a number of good views.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

The common brown eagle in most savanna areas, seen in good numbers in the Serengeti NP.

Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

Africa's largest savanna eagle, we were lucky with this species, recording 4 birds, mostly in the Serengeti area, with the first record being a young bird in Arusha NP.

Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae**Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus*

This tiny raptor was seen on a number of occasions in savanna areas during the tour, with very good numbers in the northern Serengeti. This is the smallest raptor on the continent, and uses the nest of the White-headed Buffalo Weaver for nesting in this area.

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus*

This migrant species was seen over open grasslands in the southern Serengeti.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

Single birds were seen in Tarangire NP and again in the Serengeti – a very distinctive species.

Bustards Otididae**Kori Bustard***Ardeotis kori*

A contender for heaviest flying bird on earth, we saw good numbers in the southern Serengeti and then around 25 in the Ngorongoro Crater.

White-bellied Bustard*Eupodotis senegalensis*

Seen on 5 consecutive days in the central Serengeti's grasslands.

Black-bellied Bustard*Lissotis melanogaster*

We had good views of these smallish grassland bustards in the Serengeti.

Hartlaub's Bustard*Lissotis hartlaubii*

We had a good view of a single male in the endless grasslands of the central Serengeti.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae**African Crake***Crex egregia*

We were very happy to have one of these birds walking down the road in grassland of the northern Serengeti.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

We saw this smart rallid in wetlands along the river in the Seronera area of the Serengeti NP.

Red-knobbed Coot*Fulica cristata*

The Ngorongoro Crater provided us with views of this species.

Cranes Gruidae**Grey Crowned Crane***Balearica regulorum*

Very large numbers of this beautiful bird were seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, smaller numbers in Arusha, Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee (Dikkop) *Burhinus vermiculatus*

We had 3 birds in both Tarangire and Serengeti NPs, along rivers.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

Great views of two birds on the last morning in Tarangire NP, another in northern Serengeti.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Very small numbers in Arusha, the Serengeti NP and Ngorongoro Crater.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover) *Vanellus armatus*

Regularly recorded on the tour.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*

Seen on a few days in shorter grassland.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

A bird seen with a tiny youngster in Tarangire NP, a few others later in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

A small wetland plover, it seen widely in small numbers during the tour, mainly in the Serengeti.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

We only had a single bird on the first day in Arusha NP.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

We had a number of birds that showed well in Lake Manyara.

Courasers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus*

Due to all the rain and the long grass these birds were all forced onto the roads and we had good views of many of them in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and the Serengeti NPs.

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

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

4 birds in good breeding plumage were seen on our day in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse *Pterocles gutturalis*

One bird was seen in flight on the last morning in Tarangire NP.

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus*

We had great views of a good number of birds during our time in Tarangire NP.

Doves & Pigeons Columbidae

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Seen well at our lodge on the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*

2 birds were seen during our descent to the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Mourning Collared (African Mourning) Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

A few were seen and heard at the entrance to the Serengeti.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

2 birds were seen in each of Arusha NP and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Very common during the tour, particularly in the Serengeti.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

A few birds were seen in Tarangire and the Lerai forest in the Crater.

Emerald-spotted (Green-spotted) Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*

A dainty woodland dove, we saw them in Tarangire NP.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

Both Arusha NP and the Gibb's farm forest gave us views of this shy forest species.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

A delicate, long-tailed dove, one was seen on the first afternoon we had in Tarangore NP.

Parrots & Allies Psittacidae

Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri*

Endemic to the east Africa, we saw them daily while in the Serengeti, also at Lake Manyara NP.

Yellow-collared Lovebird *Agapornis personatus*

Another east African endemic, we saw them in very good numbers in Tarangire NP.

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri*

Recorded in Tarangire NP and then seen again in the Serengeti.

Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot *Poicephalus rufiventris*

We had excellent views of this species in Tarangire NP, although they refused to pose for photos.

Turacos Musophagidae

- Hartlaub's Turaco** *Tauraco hartlaubi*
This beauty was seen well in Arusha NP.
- Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus*
Seen daily in Tarangire and in smaller numbers in the Serengeti.
- White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster*
Common in East Africa, we had good numbers in Tarangire NP.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

- White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus*
Commonly recorded on the tour, mainly in somewhat moister and taller grassy savannas.
- Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*
A single bird showed well in the Serengeti.
- Green Malkoha (Yellowbill)** *Ceuthmochares australis*
This is a shy species that we were fortunate to find in a fairly open area, where it eventually showed well in Arusha NP.
- Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*
This scarce species was seen very well in the southern Serengeti NP.
- Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*
A single sub-adult was seen on the way down into the Ngorongoro Crater.
- Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*
Recorded on 2 days during the tour: Tarangire NP and in the Ngorongoro Crater.
- Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*
Tarangire NP and the Ngorongoro provided good views of males of this weaver-parasitizing species.
- Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*
This bird is much more often heard than seen, we had one that showed well at the entrance to Tarangire NP, other were heard.

Owls Strigidae

- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*
The only owl during the tour – one was seen well in Tarangire NP.

Swifts Apodidae

- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*
One bird was seen very well around some baobabs at the entrance to Tarangire NP.
- Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*
A huge swift, seen in the Serengeti NP.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
The commonest swift on tour, seen daily in the central Serengeti NP.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird*Colius striatus*

Widespread and seen on most days of the tour outside the Serengeti.

Blue-naped Mousebird*Urocolius macrourus*

We had great views of one bird on the way to Tarangire NP, with another sighting inside the park.

Rollers Coraciidae**Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller***Coracias naevia*

This roller was seen on a single day in the central Kruger, where we recorded 3 birds; all seen well.

Lilac-breasted Roller*Coracias caudata*

This common and colourful bird is always very popular, this tour was no exception.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Grey-headed (-hooded) Kingfisher***Halcyon leucocephala*

Fantastic views were had of this striking bird in Tarangire NP.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher*Halcyon albiventris*

3 birds were seen on the first day, showing well in Arusha NP.

Striped Kingfisher*Halcyon chelicuti*

A small woodland species that was seen on 6 days in Tarangire NP.

Woodland Kingfisher*Halcyon senegalensis*

This is a beautiful species that was seen well on a number of days, mainly in the Serengeti NP.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

2 birds were seen in flight in Tarangire NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

We saw this delightful bird at a number of sites throughout the tour.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater*Merops oreobates*

A montane forest inhabitant, we saw it at Gibb's Farm, near the entrance.

White-fronted Bee-eater*Merops bullockoides*

Another stunning species – showed well. Lovely views of this species at Lake Nakuru, after initial views south of the Namanga border crossing.

Olive Bee-eater*Merops superciliosus*

3 birds were seen well in Arusha NP.

Hoopoes Upupidae**African Hoopoe***Upupa africana*

This unique and interesting species was seen on a number of occasions.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae**Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

2 of these iridescent birds were seen well in the far northern region of the Serengeti NP.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor*

A very good-looking species, seen in the Serengeti, where it was feeding in whistling thorns.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus*

3 birds were seen at very close quarters in Lake Manyara NP's forest.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Seen virtually daily while in Tarangire and the southern Serengeti.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A very common species in the woodlands of Tarangire NP, many daily there.

Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rauhae*

This is a recently split species, we had great views of a single bird in the northern Serengeti.

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni*

Commonly encountered in Tarangire NP, with a few single birds in the Serengeti.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

This regal bird was well seen in Tarangire NP on a few occasions, with 2 birds later in the Serengeti.

African Barbets Lybiidae

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis*

2 birds were seen well, if a little distantly in Arusha NP.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

2 birds presented themselves at close range in the Gibb's Farm gardens near the Ngorongor Crater.

Brown-breasted Barbet *Lybius melanopterus*

Another barbet seen in Arusha NP, where it was seen around a nesting hole in the forest edge.

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

This colourful bird was seen very well in Tarangire NP on 2 consecutive days – always a favourite.

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

This species was seen in the Serengeti, with best views around the Seronera picnic site.

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, however Clement's does.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

A young bird showed well around a baobab at the entrance to Tarangire NP.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae**Nubian Woodpecker***Campethera nubica*

Most commonly encountered woodpecker species during the tour, seen in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker*Campethera abingoni*

This woodpecker was seen well on a walk from Gibb's farm in the nearby forest.

Eastern Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Eastern Good views of this species were had in Tarangire NP and in Amboseli.

Wattle-eyes, Batises & Allies Platysteiridae**Chin-spot Batis***Batis molitor*

2 birds were seen well just after we entered Arusha NP on the first morning of the tour.

Black-throated Wattle-eye*Platysteira peltata*

A stunning little forest species that showed very well during our Gibb's Farm walk.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae**Orange(Sulphur)-breasted Bushshrike***Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A single beautiful bird was seen in central Serengeti woodland.

Brown-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra australis*

This bird was seen in Tarangire NP, the Serengeti and on our walk at Gibb's Farm.

Black-backed Puffback*Dryoscopus cubla*

A single bird was seen well in Arusha NP, near the gate.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius aethiopicus*

One bird showed well in the thickets near our lunch site in Arusha NP.

Brubru*Nilaus afer*

The bird with the telephone call – seen on a number of occasions in the Serengeti NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**Grey Cuckooshrike***Coracina caesia*

An elegant species, we saw it during our walk at Gibb's Farm.

Black Cuckooshrike*Campephaga flava*

Arusha NP got us brief views of a male bird in the forest area.

Shrikes Laniidae**Magpie (Long-tailed) Shrike***Urolestes melanoleucus*

Commonly recorded in Tarangire and in the Serengeti.

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

Northern White-crowned Shrike*Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Also commonly recorded in Tanzania's parks.

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

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

This is a common species in the Serengeti NP.

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi*

Tarangire NP has a lot of these birds, as does the area around Arusha.

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis*

This species showed very well in the Serengeti, in more open woodland.

Northern (Common) Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

Widespread, and seen in open country throughout the tour, mainly around higher altitude.

NOTE: Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris* was recently split by IOC into Southern Fiscal *L. collaris* found in southern and south-central Africa, and Northern Fiscal *L. humeralis* (which we saw) found over much of east Africa and across to savannas in west Africa.

Drongos Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Widespread and seen at scattered localities throughout the trip, mainly the Serengeti.

Monarchs Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

This smart species was seen at a few scattered locations throughout the tour, first at Arusha NP.

Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae

Cape (Black) Crow *Corvus capensis*

A single bird was seen in open south Serengeti grasslands, near the migrating herds.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Widespread, and often seen near to human habitation.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

Seen in the highland grassland on the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata*

This very distinctive and beautiful species was seen well in the Gibb's Farm gardens.

Tits Paridae

Red-throated Tit *Parus (Melaniparus) fringillinus*

We saw this east African endemic in stunted *Acacia* woodland Serengeti.

Larks Alaudidae

Rufous-naped Lark*Mirafraga africana*

Abundant in relatively moist grassland, we had the call as a constant soundtrack in the Ngorongoro Crater in particular, but also widespread elsewhere.

Flappet Lark*Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

This bird was seen and heard in the northern Serengeti, where we saw it well.

Foxy Lark*Calendulauda alopex*

A single bird was seen well in the woodland of Tarangire NP, where it was calling.

NOTE: This species is treated as a race of Fawn-coloured Lark (*M. africanoides*) by some authorities.

Red-capped Lark*Calandrella cinerea*

A single bird was seen very well in the short grass in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucopareia*

A very small, distinctive lark, seen frequently in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**Dark-capped Bulbul***Pycnonotus tricolor*

We saw them every day aside from in the dry north of Kenya.

NOTE: Part of another very confusing polytypic species complex. In Africa the IOC nomenclature recognises the following good species: Common Bulbul (*P. barbatus*), Dark-capped Bulbul (*P. tricolor*), Somali Bulbul (*P. somaliensis*) and Dodson's Bulbul (*P. dodsoni*). Clement's lumps all of the above as Common Bulbul (*P. barbatus*).

(Eastern) Mountain Greenbul*Andropadus nigriceps*

This species was seen a few times near Gibb's Farm.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul*Chlorocichla flaviventris*

We saw this species on Mt Kenya; another skulking greenbul of the undergrowth and midstorey.

Placid Greenbul*Phyllastrephus placidus*

We saw this species on Mt Kenya; another skulking greenbul of the undergrowth and midstorey.

Martins & Swallows Hirundinidae**Black Saw-wing***Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Recorded on 2 days of the tour, Arusha NP and Gibb's farm, usually near forest habitats.

Banded Martin*Riparia cincta*

We recorded good numbers of this large grassland species around the Ngorongoro Crater.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

A few birds were recorded during the tour, another bird in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

A few birds were seen at scattered locations, best views at the picnic spot in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Fairly good numbers were seen around rocky areas in the central Serengeti.

Lesser Striped Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

We enjoyed some good views of perched birds along watercourses in the Serengeti.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

This large swallow showed well in the southern Serengeti NP.

Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica*

Seen in higher altitude around Arusha and later in the northern Serengeti NP.

Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae**Moustached Grass Warbler***Melocichla mentalis*

A single bird was seen really well in thickets in Arusha NP.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Singing Cisticola***Cisticola cantans*

This cisticola was seen well in Arusha NP, after its distinctive call was heard.

Trilling Cisticola*Cisticola woosnami*

The bird's ringing call was heard frequently throughout Arusha NP, where we enticed it from its hiding place early on in the day.

Hunter's Cisticola*Cisticola hunteri*

A noisy species, also seen on the tour's first day in Arusha NP.

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola chiniana*

The common cisticola species in woodland areas throughout the tour.

Winding Cisticola*Cisticola marginatus*

Moist grassland hosts this widespread species, we recorded it in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

Long-tailed (Tabora) Cisticola*Cisticola angusticauda*

A single bird was seen in the northern Serengeti, where it showed very well.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

This species was very common in the Serengeti where more were heard than seen.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola*Cisticola brunnescens*

Another tiny cisticola that was seen in the very short grass of the southern Serengeti and the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Bar-throated Apalis*Apalis thoracica*

2 birds were seen well in the forest above Gibb's Farm, during our walk there.

Brown-headed Apalis*Apalis alticola*

One of these birds was seen well in some thick tangles above Gibb's Farm.

Grey-capped Warbler*Eminia lepida*

An attractive species, it was seen at Gibb's Farm where it sang during our walk.

Grey(Green)-backed Camaroptera*Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Seen well at Gibb's Farm, a tiny undergrowth species.

Laughingthrushes Leithrichidae**Black-lored Babbler***Turdoides sharpei*

A fairly common species in the woodland of the Serengeti NP.

Sylvid Babblers Sylviidae

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

This songster was seen well on the trail above Gibb's Farm.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Abyssinian (White-breasted) White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus*

Recorded at the dry Olduvai Gorge.

Montane (Broad-ringed) White-eye *Zosterops poliogastrus*

We had a flock of these tiny birds moving through the vegetation near Gibb's Farm.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

A few birds seen in Arusha NP and good numbers at scattered sites in the Serengeti.

Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

An inhabitant of moist savanna, we saw them daily in the Serengeti NP.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

This is one of the most common birds in savanna areas of Tanzania.

Hildebrandt's Starling *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*

Another beautiful starling; we saw them daily in small numbers in the Serengeti.

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor*

Endemic to Tanzania, we saw them in Tarangire NP, where they are very common.

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

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

2 birds were seen in Arusha on the tour's final day.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

The first birds were seen in Tarangire NP, with others in the Serengeti and Crater.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Much more common than the previous species, it was seen in all reserves during the tour.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*

The distinctive orange tail was seen crossing the rim road of the Ngorongoro Crater, with better views later in the same area.

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Great views were enjoyed around Gibb's Farm as well as at our accommodations in the same area.

- Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata*
A beautiful songster, we saw it in Tarangire NP.
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*
Seen in scrubby vegetation in Arusha NP on the tour's first day.
NOTE: Clement's does not recognise this as a full species and lumps it with Eurasian Stonechat.
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*
The road into the Serengeti provided a good view of this species, as did Lake Manyara and the Crater.
- Mourning Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugens schalowi*
We had brief views of one bird crossing the road near the Ngorongoro Crater.
NOTE: The form we saw is sometimes split as Schalow's Wheatear O. schalowi, however this treatment is not followed by IOC or Clements.
- (Northern) Anteater Chat** *Myrmecocichla aethiops*
2 birds were seen in the northern Serengeti, before we had better views in the Crater.
- Sooty Chat** *Myrmecocichla nigra*
A bird whose distribution just reaches the northern Serengeti, where we enjoyed views of many birds.
- Pale (Mouse-coloured) Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*
Commonly recorded in savanna areas throughout much of the trip.
- Silverbird** *Empidonis semipartitus*
An often underrated species, it was seen fairly frequently in the Serengeti NP.
- Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*
A few birds were seen well around the Gibb's farm gardens and nearby forest.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*
A small, forest associated species, seen in Arusha NP and around Gibb's Farm.

Sunbirds Nectarinidae

- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
This dainty little sunbird was commonly seen at Gibb's Farm, including some very close views.
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*
A single bird was seen well on the first day in Arusha NP – a very dark sunbird, often restricted to higher ground.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
The male is a gorgeous bird; we saw one at the entrance to Tarangire NP.
- Bronzy (Bronze) Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*
We saw them in Arusha NP and then at Gibb's Farm, a large sunbird of higher-lying habitats.
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*
A single bird was seen very well on the Ngorongoro Crater rim, as we headed towards the Serengeti.
- Golden-winged Sunbird** *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*
This fabulous species was another of the sunbirds that we saw in scrub on the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris mediocris*

We were very surprised to see just a single bird during our walk from Gibb's Farm.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchella*

A bird that certainly does its name justice! Tarangire and the central Serengeti produced sightings.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venusta*

This stunning small bird was seen in Arusha NP, at Olduvai Gorge and finally at Gibb's Farm.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae**Rufous-tailed Weaver** *Histurgops ruficauda*

An east African endemic; we saw it daily after leaving the Arusha area.

Grey-capped (headed) Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

Close-up views of this tiny bird were had in the Serengeti's Seronera area.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen in association with human settlements.

Kenya (Rufous) Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus*

We saw this bird in fairly open woodland in the southern Serengeti NP.

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

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

The general area around Tarangire NP provided many views of this species.

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

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey*

Great views of one bird on a bush in Tarangire – a full breeding-plumage male.

Weavers & Allies Ploceidae**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*

Recorded commonly at scattered locales throughout the tour, beginning with Tarangire NP.

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*

A common, and colourful savanna inhabitant seen many times during the trip.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

The central Serengeti area had good numbers of this species, with superb views at Seronera picnic site.

Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

We had good views of this bird around a colony near Arusha NP and in the garden at Gibb's Farm.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

This very distinctive weaver showed well in good numbers in the Gibb's Farm area.

Taveta (Golden-) Weaver *Ploceus castaneiceps*

A very bright and range-restricted species: seen well near Arusha NP.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

Seen on 2 days in the Serengeti, this is a small, pale-eyed species.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

A common species at Olduvai Gorge after we had our first sighting as we left Tarangire NP.

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei*

Common in the Ngorongoro Crater, where we had very close views, others near Arusha NP.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

This widespread species was seen along a river near the Hippo pool in the Serengeti NP.

Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*

A few beautiful red-headed males were seen well in the central Serengeti grasslands.

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*

Around half a dozen of these lovely birds in great plumage were seen in the Lake Manyara thickets.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

Another stunner in breeding plumage – we had good numbers on the drive to Tarangire NP.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Seen very well in the Ngorongoro Crater, after first views in Arusha NP.

Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

Common in the tall grass on the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater.

White-winged Widow *Euplectes albonotatus*

Probably the most widespread of the widowbirds on the tour, frequent in tall grasslands of Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Recorded in Arusha NP and around the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, where they were in displaying.

Jackson's Widowbird *Euplectes jacksoni*

We had brief views of a bird jumping in its display on the crater rim, before we got better views inside the Crater later, where we had around 5 males.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

A widespread species, seen briefly in the Serengeti NP.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

An attractive species that was seen in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NP.

Blue-capped Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

The central Serengeti area had a few of these lovely little seedeaters.

Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus (Granatina) ianthinogaster*

Another stunning seedeater, we saw them fairly frequently in the Serengeti's woodland.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Estrilda quartinia*

A forest waxbill that was encountered and seen well during our walk at Gibb's Farm.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

2 birds were seen well in Arusha NP on the first day of the tour.

Black-faced(cheeked) Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos*

We had good views of this bird as it came in to drink at a small pool on the road in the Serengeti NP.

African Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

A tiny bird that is very tough to see on the ground – we got lucky with it on the way into the Crater.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura (Spermestes) cucullata*

A tiny species that was seen well in a small flock on the first day in the Arusha NP.

Indigobirds Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

A brood parasite, seen well during our afternoon in Lake Manyara NP.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Small numbers were seen almost daily in the Serengeti, where the males were seen sporting good breeding plumage.

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri*

Another stunner in good plumage – a single male showed off for us near Olduvai Gorge.

Long-tailed (Eastern) Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea*

Unfortunately this bird was only seen in flight, as well as one without a tail that showed better – both seen in the Tarangire NP.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

This distinctive species showed well at Gibb's Farm's garden.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

Our best sighting was of three birds flying and calling around a Leopard in some tall grass in the central Serengeti.

Pangani Longclaw *Macronyx aurantiigula*

Another longclaw that showed very well, this time on day 1 in Arusha NP.

Rosy-throated (Pink-throated) Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae*

We had fantastic views of this gorgeous species in the Ngorongoro Crater.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Recorded on a number of occasions in the Serengeti's grasslands.

Finches Fringillidae

Southern Citril*Crithagra (Serinus) hyposticta*

One bird showed very well during our day in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Reichenow's (Yellow-rumped) Seed-eater *Crithagra (Serinus) reichenowi*

2 birds showed quite well in scrubby vegetation in Arusha NP.

Yellow-fronted Canary*Crithagra (Serinus) mozambica*

2 birds were seen in woodlands in the northern Serengeti, where they had joined a small flock.

Streaky Seedeater*Crithagra (Serinus) striolata*

On the day we had in the Crater, we enjoyed good views as we got back to the rim in the afternoon.

Thick-billed Seedeater*Crithagra (Serinus) burtoni*

Good views of 2 birds were had on the walk in the forest near Gibb's Farm.

Buntings Emberizidae**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

A species of rocky areas, it was seen a few times in northern Serengeti NP.

Golden-breasted Bunting*Emberiza flaviventris*

Another very colourful species that was seen well in the woodlands of the northern Serengeti.

Annotated List of Reptiles recorded**Total species recorded: 9****Helmeted/Marsh Terrapin***Pelomedusa subrufa*

A single animal was seen sunning itself near a little pool in Tarangire NP.

Leopard Tortoise*Geochelone pardalis*

This species is usually more often seen after rains as it was in this case, where we had 2 large individuals in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Speke's Hinged Tortoise*Kinixys spekii*

An uncommon species that was seen well, crossing the road in the Serengeti, showing its much flatter carapace and hinges.

Legless Skink sp.*Acontias sp*

A single one of these was found in the sand of Tarangire NP – very hard to identify to species level.

Striped Skink*Trachylepis striata*

A few of these very widespread lizards were seen at a few locations.

Red-headed Rock Agama*Agama agama*

Oldubai Gorge, and the Serengeti NP produced sightings.

Mwanza Flat-headed Agama*Agama mwanzae*

These beautiful lizards were common on rocks in the central Serengeti NP.

Nile Monitor*Varanus niloticus*

Only 2 of these large lizards were seen during the tour: in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

Small numbers were seen very well in the central Serengeti, where we had a few out of the water in a river near the large Hippo pools.

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