



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Kenya Mega Birding Tour

*1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012*



© Rich Lindie / Rockjumper Birding Tours

Jackson's Francolin by Rich Lindie

**Tour Leaders:** Brian Finch and Rich Lindie

**Trip Report compiled by:** Rich Lindie

### Tour Summary

It has been said time and time again by many people that Africa is THE birding continent, and a trip to Kenya certainly solidifies that notion. With almost 800 species seen in under four weeks, many of which were very colorful and spectacular, our Kenya Mega was a tour to remember! Add to this the amazing scenery, great accommodations, wonderful cultures and almost ninety mammal species, what else could you wish for when it comes to a taste of Africa and those that call it home?!

Participants were treated to five of the Kenyan endemics on our route, namely Jackson's Francolin, William's Lark, Sharpe's Longclaw, Aberdare Cisticola and Hinde's Babbler, only dipping on

Clarke's Weaver. Other highlights included 7 francolin species, 11 species of waterfowl, 7 stork species, 5 bustard species, White-spotted Flufftail, Crab-plover, Somali Courser, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (one of 4 species), 3 pratincole species, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Great Blue Turaco (one of 9 turaco species!), Mackinder's Eagle-Owl, Sokoke Scops Owl and 7 other owl species, White-headed Mousebird, Narina and Bar-tailed Trogons, Blue-breasted & Somali Bee-eater (part of 11 bee-eater species!), Jackson's Hornbill (just one of 10 true hornbills), Pallid Honeyguide, Mombasa Woodpecker and 11 other woodpeckers, African Broadbill, Friedmann's Lark, Golden and Malindi Pipits, 8 apalis species, Upcher's Warbler, Turner's Eremomela, Somali Crombec, Gambaga & Chapin's Flycatcher, Blue-shouldered & Snowy-headed Robin-Chats, 4 wattle-eyes, Amani, Violet-breasted and Golden-winged Sunbirds (a total of 27 sunbird species were recorded!), Red-naped Bushshrike, Papyrus Gonolek, Magpie Starling, Heuglin's Masked Weaver, Kandt's Waxbill and Steel-blue Whydah!



© Rich Lindie / Rockjumper Birding Tours

**White-headed Bee-eater by Rich Lindie**

Whilst the focus of the tour was certainly the rich assemblage of Kenyan and East African specialties, we did not neglect the amazing diversity of mammals, ending up with over 80 species! Some of the mammalian highlights included the “big five”, memorable Leopard & Cheetah sightings, the rare Angola Colobus and even rarer de Brazza's Monkey, Grevy's Zebra, curious and Gerenuk and Lesser Kudu – a total of 27 species of antelope were seen!

For more highlights and a detailed trip report, read on....

After a short flight to Mombassa, we climbed aboard our comfortable 4x4 mini-buses and departed for the short drive to the Shimba Hills. While waiting to be ferried across the river we were treated to our first views of Sooty Gull.

Arriving at the lodge, it took no time at all for the birding to begin. Ignoring check-in altogether, we had our first looks at some magnificent African Fish Eagles, a White-eared Barbet, White-throated Bee-eaters and Trumpeter Hornbills, not to mention the enormous Nile Monitors, White-headed Dwarf-Geckoes, colorful Zanj Sun Squirrels, a group of Angola Colobus and Zambian Hinged Terrapins nearby!

After lunch with a view, we headed out to Shimba Hills National Park. Here we found Eurasian Bee-eater, Red-backed Shrike, Crowned Eagle, Crowned Hornbill, Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike and some magnificent Sable antelope.

Evening then saw us back at the lodge for dinner in the company of some very cute Small-eared Galagos and a handful of other great mammals, including a Marsh Mongoose and Common Genet.

Day two saw us back in the Shimba Hills NP, and once again in the presence of some majestic Sable! On the bird front, we saw a calling Lesser Cuckoo (!), an African Golden Oriole, Crested Guineafowl, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Green-backed Woodpecker and Little Greebul.

Leaving for Mida Creek and the coast further north, we found ourselves 'stuck' at the ferry again, this time with better views of the Sooty Gull. With low tide at the creek itself, we didn't spend too much time there, and instead moved on to our wonderful accommodation in Malindi – but not before looking at Crab-plovers and Saunders's Terns!



© Rich Lindie / Rockjumper Birding Tours

**Sokoko Scops Owls by Rich Lindie**

Before entering the Arabuko-Sokoke forest the next morning, we made a stop at Gede Forest Station, where a short stroll provided us with some cooperative Scaly Babblers, a Pallid Honeyguide, roosting Eurasian Nightjar and a frustratingly shy Fischer's Turaco. The forest itself was very quiet in terms of bird activity – something we were to experience during our entire time on the coast, most likely as a result of the uncharacteristically dry weather gripping the area. Nonetheless, we finally picked up a Thick-billed Cuckoo, Sokoke Pipit, Dark-backed Weaver, Amani and Plain-backed Sunbirds, Bearded Scrub Robin, Black-bellied Starling, Black-headed Apalis, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Eastern Nicator, Pale and Forest Batis, Mombassa Woodpecker, Narina Trogon and Four-colored Bushshrike.

Lunch at Mida Creek was more productive than our previous visit there, providing us with Broad-billed Sandpiper and Little Stint, among other waders, before we moved off to the Arabuko Swamp. There, we had great views of Malindi Pipit and a small flock of very elegant Madagascar Pratincoles.

Morning of day four saw us at the Sabaki River mouth where, despite the heat, we saw Dimorphic Egret, White-fronted Plover, Eastern Black-headed Batis, Coastal Cisticola and an exceptional number of Violet-breasted Sunbirds. A great start to the day, but now the time had come to head to the famous Tsavo East NP, stopping *en route* for a wonderful trio of Sokoke Scops Owls!

Driving through the park to our accommodation, we were elated to find a group of Caspian Plovers (including some adults in breeding plumage), a magnificent Cheetah, Somali Coursers, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks, Pied Wheatear, Eurasian Rock Thrush, Secretarybird, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, White-headed Vulture, African Grey Hornbill and Hunter's Sunbird.

Our morning's birding session around the lodge grounds was productive indeed, and a very welcome change from the slow-paced birding we had become accustomed to on the coast. Highlights and new birds seen included Spotted Palm Thrush, Upcher's Warbler, Common Nightingale, Pearl-spotted Owlet and Common Whitethroat – all before a very large and enjoyable breakfast!

Driving to the Taita Hills, we were treated to a number of good sightings, including numerous Amur Falcons and a Lesser Spotted Eagle, Golden Pipit, Black-bellied Sunbird and Pink-breasted Lark; while further along the road we watched a small colony of African Golden Weavers.

The forest at Taita Hills was yet another reminder of our days on the coast. Dry and almost birdless, we were actually very lucky to finally go away with great views of Taita White-eye, White-starred Robin and, for some, a Taita Thrush.

That evening we found ourselves at our accommodation in yet more spectacular surroundings, and with even bigger creatures for company during dinner than before! Highlights seen from our dining area included a Leopard, African Elephants, African Buffalo, a Great Crested Porcupine, Greater Galagos and Freckled Nightjars!



© Rich Lindie / Rockjumper Birding Tours

Lions by Rich Lindie

Our full day in Tsavo West NP was spent mostly driving to or from Lake Jipe, situated on the border with Tanzania. As with any drive through such a pristine natural wilderness, we saw a good

number of both feathered and furred creatures alike. Highlights seen on the drive and at the lake itself include Red-naped Bushshrike, Taveta Golden Weaver, Double-banded Courser, Capped Wheatear, Sedge Warbler, Zanzibar Red Bishop, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Black Egret, Vulturine Guineafowl, Kori Bustard, Buff-crested Bustard, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Barred Warbler, African Bare-eyed Thrush, Pangani Longclaw, Lion, Maasai Giraffe, Elephant and Fringe-eared Oryx.

Making our way slowly toward Nairobi, we passed through some very productive dry scrub on our way to the edge of the park, finding a White-throated Robin (*Irania*), Pygmy Batis, a distant Friedmann's Lark, Purple Grenadier, Black-necked Weaver, Tsavo Sunbird, Red-fronted Warbler, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Red-bellied Parrot and Pygmy Falcon, before making the long drive to the capital.



© Rich Lindie / Rockjumper Birding Tours

**Buff-crested Bustard by Rich Lindie**

The grounds of our next accommodation once again provided us with the stage for our morning's birding, where we found our first Stout Cisticolas, Brimstone Canary and Garden Warbler. Then, after breakfast, we made our way along the Magadi Road. Passing through a range of habitats and elevations, we picked up a number of great birds, including Tiny and Lynes's Cisticolas, Southern Grosbeak Canary, Red-fronted Barbet, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Lanner Falcon, Black-faced Waxbill, Open-billed Stork, White-fronted Bee-eater, Steppe Eagle, Sombre Bulbul and Lesser Grey Shrike. After lunch in the company of Red-and-yellow Barbets and Grey-capped Social Weavers, we made our way to Thika. Once there, we stopped for a spot of birding before checking into our accommodation. Highlights of the short walk included Holub's Golden Weaver, Brown-backed Scrub Robin and Moustached Grass Warbler. Best of all, however, had to be the pair of Orange-winged Pytilia, feeding only a few meters away from us – a very rare bird in Kenya!

Another pre-breakfast 'potter' the following day round the lodge gardens and the forest below saw us watching Grey-olive Greenbuls, being the most important find, as well as enjoying views of Mountain Wagtail and Green-headed Sunbird. Next up, we visited Kieni Forest for most of the

remaining day. Birding the road through this forest we managed to find Black-fronted Bushshrike, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Mountain Buzzard, Mountain Oriole, White-bellied Tit, Brown Woodland Warbler, no less than five species of apalis (!) and Hartlaub's Turaco.

Driving closer to Lake Naivasha, we then passed through the Kinangop Grasslands where we had no trouble in finding the very sough-after Sharpe's Longclaw. We watched them feed in fields very close to the vehicle before completing the final leg of the journey to Lake Naivasha. With little daylight to spare, we birded the gardens of the lodge and along the lake shoreline, finding Brown-backed Honeybird, Arrow-marked Babbler, African Thrush and White-headed Barbet.

A change of pace the following day saw us begin with a leisurely boat trip around the lake. Birding highlights included a number of Sedge Warblers, Long-toed Plovers and a Little Bittern. Departing the shores of Naivasha, we then set off for the gates of Aberdares National Park, spotting a Red-throated Wryneck along the way. Inside the beautiful surrounds of the park, we found Jackson's Francolin, Aberdare Cisticola and Moorland Chat, before bumping into a group of truly Giant Forest Hogs, in broad daylight! As if that wasn't enough to take in for the day, we then made a detour to Wajee for a runaround with a group of Hinde's Babblers! Another great birding day in Kenya!

That evening at our lodge gave us yet more Leopard views, and both White-tailed and Marsh Mongoose once again.



**Abyssinian Ground Thrush by Rich Lindie**

Pre-breakfast birding from the lodge roof gave us great views of Mt. Kenya and a host of new birds, including Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Dusky Turtle Dove, Little Rush Warbler and White-browed Crombec, before we set off through the forest and up to higher parts of the mountain. During the drive we made a handful of stops for Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Golden-winged Sunbird, African Hill Babbler and Grey-headed Nigrita.

Unfortunately, lunch and birding at the meteorological station on the mountain was affected rather adversely by the heavens opening up. Indeed, after good looks at some tame Abyssinian Ground Thrushes and Jackson's Francolins, it was already time to retreat down the very slippery road. Further down, in slightly better weather and along much improved road conditions, we

worked to get good views of Cinnamon Bracken Warbler and Red-fronted Parrots.

Arriving back at our lodge, we briefly admired the resident Bushbuck one more time, before seeing an African Black Duck and a fantastic Verreaux's Eagle-Owl at the waterhole.

The next morning we spent time on the lodge roof yet again, finding Kandt's Waxbill and Yellow-crowned Canary, in addition to the species already seen there the previous day. Then, however, it was time to head back to the warm weather and dry country of Buffalo Springs and surrounds – where, upon arriving mid-afternoon, we immediately began finding a host of new birds. Highlights included a Scissor-tailed Kite, Eastern Imperial Eagle, a young Egyptian Vulture, Lesser Kestrel, Three-banded Courser and a pair of Spotted Thick-knees.

Following the theme of great accommodations on this tour, we checked into our very comfortable lodge amidst wonderful scenery and great birding. Dinner was followed shortly by a visit from a beautiful Striped Hyena, only meters from the restaurant!



**Vulturine Guinea fowl close-up by Rich Lindie**

Our full day in Samburu was another great success. Not only did we enjoy great birds, but the mammal-watching was enough to keep even a non-birder very happy. Birding the flat dry country and the slopes of Sopa Hill, we clocked up Somali Bee-eater, Grey-headed Silverbill, Verreaux's Eagle, Palmnut Vulture, Abdim's Stork, Somali Crombec, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Shining Sunbird, Vulturine Guinea fowl, White-headed Mousebird, Violet Woodhoopoe, Northern Puffback, Northern Brownbul and Rufous Chatterer, to name just some of the highlights. On the mammal front, we enjoyed multiple views of the very attractive Reticulated Giraffe, a pair of Gunther's Dikdiks 'snorting' at the Leopard that had just crossed in front of our vehicle, Elephant and Bat-eared Fox.

An early breakfast the next day allowed us to get to the lava fields of Shaba GR before it was too hot. Fortunately, we didn't have to remain there long anyway, as our William's Lark gave up pretty easily. In fact, we had great views of a dozen or so, in addition to a large gathering of Harlequin Quails. Returning slowly, we were extremely fortunate to find yet another very scarce lark –

Friedmann's. As it perched atop an *acacia* in song, we trained another scope to the hills for very good looks at a Klipspringer. The rest of the drive was punctuated by stops for goodies including Three-streaked Tchagra, Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark, Black-cheeked Waxbill, Brown-tailed Rock Chat and Grevy's Zebra.... And with that we said goodbye to the dry country and headed back to the highlands once more. Making just one planned stop along the way, we birded the roadside forest of Imenti, finding Kenrick's and Waller's Starlings, Green-backed Honeyguide, Sooty Falcon and Yellow-whiskered Greenbul.

We began day fifteen with a walk around our lodge grounds. Seeing nothing of note except African Black Duck, we set off across the Solio Plain. Making stops along the way, we picked up a handful of new birds for the tour; the most significant of these being Mackinder's Eagle-Owl at a day roost, both Nyanza and African Black Swifts, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, several Sharpe's Starlings, Brown Warbler and White-tailed Crested Flycatchers. Reaching Lake Nakuru, we took the direct route to our lodgings, seeing Broad-billed Rollers en route.

Lake Nakuru is justly famous for its flamingo population and the fabulous wildlife on its shores. We begin our exploration of the area by birding the expansive gardens of our lodge. Here we managed to find Arrow-marked Babblers before setting off on a circumnavigation of the lake itself. Initially hugging the shoreline, we filled our list with a host waders and waterbirds, including Dimorphic Egret, Temminck's Stint, Ruff and White-winged Tern. Then, making our way through woodland and open habitats further from the shore, we found 'Schalow's' Wheatear, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Bearded Woodpecker, Red-chested and African Cuckoos, Striped Kingfisher, Greater Honeyguide, Grey-crested Helmetshrike and Yellow-billed Oxpecker.

Making our way to Lake Baringo, we made a stop at Olbainita Swamp, but were unfortunately rained out before seeing anything significant.

During another 'potter' around the now partially flooded lodge grounds, we were successful in adding a few good species to our list, including Northern Masked and Little Weavers and White-billed Buffalo Weaver. Of course, many of these species were seen very well a short while later, coming down to the bird table outside our restaurant!

Heading farther afield, we met up with some local knowledge to help boost our list of nocturnal birds. Seeing Greyish Eagle-Owl, African Scops Owl, Northern White-faced Owl and Slender-tailed Nightjar all at day roosts was not a bad haul by any standards. Supporting species during the morning walks and afternoon boat ride included Hemprich's Hornbill, Goliath Heron, Shikra, Meyer's Parrot, Woodland Kingfisher, Jackson's Hornbill and Spot-flanked Barbet.

Leaving Lake Baringo behind, we aimed for the Kerio Valley where we had success with Gambaga Flycatcher, Western Black-headed Batis, White-crested Turaco and Black-headed Gonolek. Following that, we made a stop at Iten Swamp, where we found a good selection of birds, including African Snipe, African Marsh Harrier, Wattled Plover, Levillant's Cisticola, African Water Rail, Blue-headed Coucal and Orange-breasted Waxbill. Dragging ourselves away from the excellent birding, we then drove to Kitale for a one night's stay.

For a change, the next morning we ate breakfast before heading out into the field! Well fueled and rested, we first made a stop at Keringet Swamp. Almost as soon as we arrived, an African Hobby flew over to greet us. Finding Hartlaub's Widowbird, Ross's Turaco, Double-toothed Barbet, Chubb's Cisticola, Grey Crowned Crane and Yellow-throated Leaflove, we moved on to various other sites in the Kongelai area. Highlights and new birds abounded, including Yellow-billed Shrike, Lesser Blue-eared, Splendid and Bronze-tailed Starling, Grey Falcon, Heuglin's Masked Weaver, Black-throated Wattle-eye and a surprise Western Violet-backed Sunbird! We finally arrived at our accommodations in Kakamega shortly after dark, for the end of yet another great day.



Kakamega certainly had a lot to live up to, and that it definitely did. Our full day in the forest was filled with so many great birds that it would be difficult to list them all here. Highlights however included Greet Blue and Black-billed Turacos, three species of wattle-eye, White-spotted Flufftail, Bar-tailed Trogon, Blue-headed Bee-eater, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Petit's Cuckooshrike, African Broadbill, Dusky Tit, numerous greenbul species, Brown-chested Alethe, Grey-chinned Sunbird, Equatorial Akalat, Red-headed Malimbe, Red-headed Bluebill, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Southern Hyliota and Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher!

Our final morning at Kakamega was spent mostly in the vicinity of the lodge grounds or nearby, searching for a handful of species we hadn't caught up with the previous day. Among these, we were successful in finding Buff-spotted and Brown-eared Woodpeckers, Dusky-crested and Chapin's Flycatcher, before heading out to Busia.

Stopping briefly at a few sites, we added Compact Weaver and Red-headed Lovebird to the list, before retiring to our hotel in town.



© Rich Lindie / Rockjumper Birding Tours

**Grey-capped Social Weaver by Rich Lindie**

Returning to one of the sites visited on the previous day, we were pleased to see that the rain was holding off. And with that, we took an enjoyable morning walk through the grasslands, fields and small patches of woodland that characterize the area. The walk was very productive and we added a number of great species to the list, including Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Senegal Coucal, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, Olive-bellied and Copper Sunbirds, Brown Twinspot, Bar-breasted Firefinch, Fawn-breasted and Black-rumped Waxbills, Blue Malkoha, Black Cuckoo, several Cuckoo Finches, and the magnificent de Brazza's Monkey!

Later that morning we visited the Adungosi area, successfully locating Whistling Cisticola, Black-bellied Firefinch and Black-faced Waxbill. Aside from a stop to see the very elegant Rock Pratincole, the rest of the day was taken up by the long drive to Kisumu.

Lake Victoria, and more specifically, her papyrus-covered shores, was the reason we had come to Kisumu. Standing in this unique habitat in the early morning, we were treated to brilliant views of Papyrus Gonolek, Papyrus Canary, Little Bittern, Carruther's Cisticola, Northern Brown-throated and Slender-billed Weavers, Greater Swamp Warbler and a Great Reed Warbler. Thereafter, due to closed roads, we were forced to take a longer route to "the Mara". The drive, however, was not fruitless and we had some excellent views of Kori Bustard, White Stork, Temminck's Courser, Sooty Chat and Rosy-throated Longclaw. The evening was then spent in the lovely surroundings of our lodge, perched atop the escarpment and commanding excellent views over the Mara below.



Maasai Mara scenery by Rich Lindie

One might not expect lush forests to be a part of the birding experience in the Maasai Mara, but that's exactly where we headed on our first morning in the area. From our vantage point on the edge of a valley, we successfully found a host of target birds, including Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Trilling Cisticola, Grey-throated Barbet, Joyful Greenbul, Miombo (Pale) Wren-Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela and Purple-banded Sunbird.

Entering the reserve itself and the expansive grasslands, it was apparent how much rain had fallen in recent times, and just how bad some of the roads were! Nonetheless, we made our way around without hassle and we saw a very good selection of birds – and, of course, mammals. Highlights included Open-billed Stork, Dwarf Bittern, Rufous-bellied Heron, European Honey Buzzard, African Marsh Harrier, Black Coucal, Rufous-chested Swallow, Fan-tailed Grassbird, a Black-backed Cisticola and Cardinal Quelea.

The following day was to be a very exciting day, not only for the bird and animal sightings, but also for the adventure! Our mission was to get from the western part of the Mara to the east – which is easier said than done after such heavy rainfall, as we would soon find out. After attempting to use a couple of different routes, we settled on trying the only remaining route possible, despite the extremely poor condition of the roads. Fortunately, our excellent drivers were able to navigate these

– or rather the grasslands alongside them, in order to get us across, safe and sound. In between these thrilling bits of off-road driving, we did do some birding and animal spotting, of course. And it wasn't long before we were enjoying great views of yet more Mara specials, including Coqui Francolin, Montagu's Harrier, White-bellied Bustard, Senegal Lapwing, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Rufous-chested and Grey-rumped Swallows, Black Coucal, Southern Ground Hornbill, Flappet Lark and African Quail-Finch.

Reaching our lodge in yet another rain shower, and along yet another terrible road, we were very pleased to have made it, and with time for a hot shower and a great dinner!

Our final morning was spent in some woodland close to the lodge. Here, well above the Mara once again, we found 'Buff-bellied' Penduline Tit, Red-throated Tit, Tabora Cisticola, and a small group of Magpie Shrikes, to complete our set of targets. Breakfast was overseen by a calling pair of African Goshawks.



© Rich Lindie / Rockjumper Birding Tours

Coqui Francolin by Rich Lindie

The drive back to Nairobi was mostly uneventful on the birding front, apart from some Swahili Sparrows and Yellow-throated Sandgrouse just outside the Mara reserve, and a stop at the Manguo Ponds. Here we found our final species for the list – White-backed Duck. Not a bad end to a fantastic tour, filled with birds, great company and so much more!

All photos taken on the tour by Rich Lindie

## Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

**Total species recorded: 806 (plus an additional 17 species heard)**

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.11 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Kenyan Endemics are marked with an (E).

### Ostriches *Struthionidae*

**Common Ostrich***Struthio camelus*

Seen in Tsavo West, but most numerous in the Maasai Mara.

**[Somali Ostrich]***Struthio [camelus] molybdophanes*

We saw a handful in Tsavo East and many more in the Samburu area.

*NOTE: The subspecies recorded was S. c. molybdophanes which some authorities regard as a distinct species; Somali Ostrich. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Guineafowl Numididae****Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

Common and ubiquitous, encountered in good numbers at many sites.

*NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) which we recorded in Kenya is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl.) Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

**Crested Guineafowl***Guttera pucherani*

A wonderful group of these birds were seen near the reception in Shimba Hills.

**Vulturine Guineafowl***Acryllium vulturinum*

Our first encounter with this fabulous species was in Tsavo West, after which we saw them again in the Samburu-Shaba area.

**Pheasants, Fowl and allies Phasianidae****Coqui Francolin***Francolinus coqui*

We had fantastic views of multiple calling birds during our time in the Maasai Mara.

**Crested Francolin***Francolinus sephaena*

Seen in small numbers daily in Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba GR, Tsavos East and West NP and the Lake Baringo area.

*NOTE: Some authorities recognize the coastal race F. s. rovuma, Kirk's Francolin as a full species. Clements does not recognize this species.*

**Scaly Francolin***Francolinus squamatus*

Several were seen along the roadside on Mt. Kenya and in Aberdares NP.

**Hildebrandt's Francolin***Francolinus hildebrandti*

We saw this striking species in the lodge grounds at Lake Nakuru.

**Jackson's Francolin (E)***Francolinus jacksoni*

We had fantastic views in Aberdares NP and on Mt Kenya. An endemic species restricted to high altitude sites in the bamboo zone.

**Yellow-necked Francolin***Francolinus leucoscepus*

Large numbers were seen during our time in Tsavo West NP and again in the Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba area.

**Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl)***Francolinus afer*

Many were seen well in the Maasai Mara.

**Harlequin Quail***Coturnix delegorguei*

This species was particularly common in the lava fields in Shaba GR.

**Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae****White-faced Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

Seen at Lake Jipe first, and on every day in the Maasai Mara.

**Fulvous Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna bicolor*

Seen on the drive between Kisumu and the Maasai Mara.

**White-backed Duck***Thalassornis leuconotus*

Just before our final return to Nairobi, we stopped at Manguo Ponds, where we finally added this species to our trip list.

**Spur-winged Goose***Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen on six days of the tour, most notably the two days at Lake Baringo and our final two days in the Maasai Mara, where they were common.

**Knob-billed (Comb) Duck***Sarkidiornis melanotos*

We saw this species on just one occasion, while birding from the lodge grounds in Buffalo Springs.

**Egyptian Goose***Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Another common waterfowl species seen throughout the trip with high numbers at Lake Nakuru.

**Cape Teal***Anas capensis*

We had great views of this species at Lake Nakuru.

**African Black Duck***Anas sparsa*

Two birds were present in the waterhole at Forest Lodge on Mt. Kenya, while more were seen at Naro Moru.

**Yellow-billed Duck***Anas undulata*

Seen at various locations, with highest numbers observed at Lake Naivasha.

**Northern Shoveler***Anas clypeata*

A very lake drake was still present on Olbainita.

**Red-billed Teal (Duck)***Anas erythrorhyncha*

Seen at Lake Nakuru and during our drive to the Maasai Mara.

**Hottentot Teal***Anas hottentota*

We saw this diminutive species at Lake Nakuru and the Manguo Ponds, near Nairobi.

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

We had sightings of this species at various scattered locations in the highlands and in the Maasai Mara.

**Black-necked Grebe***Podiceps nigricollis*

Seen only at Lake Nakuru.

**Flamingoes Phoenicopteridae****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus ruber*

Seen together with the next species at Lake Nakuru.

*NOTE: Clements now splits the Old World Greater Flamingo P. ruber from the New World Caribbean Flamingo P. roseus.*

**Lesser Flamingo***Phoenicopterus minor*

Modest numbers of this species were seen at Lake Nakuru, where we estimated that there were a few thousand.

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

Seen at a number of locations throughout the tour, including Mida Creek, Lake Naivasha and Lake Nakuru.

**African Openbill***Anastomus lamelligerus*

Also pleasantly common during our tour, especially in the Lake Victoria area.

**Black Stork***Ciconia nigra*

Seen on three days of the tour – in the Naivasha area and during our drive between Nakuru and Baringo.

**Abdim's Stork***Ciconia abdimii*

We had great luck with this species this year, seeing it on ten days of the tour.

**White Stork***Ciconia ciconia*

We first saw this species during the drive between Mt. Kenya and Samburu, and then went on to see it on multiple other days.

**Saddle-billed Stork***Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

We saw this species on two occasions, including our first full day in the Maasai Mara.

**Marabou Stork***Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Seen commonly throughout the trip, nesting in Nairobi and peak numbers at Lake Nakuru.

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

Seen regularly throughout the trip.

*NOTE: The Malagasy T. e. bernieri and Aldabran T. e. abbotti are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis T. bernieri*

**Hadada Ibis***Bostrychia hagedash*

A typical sound of moist areas in Africa, we saw this bird in small numbers virtually daily.

**Glossy Ibis***Plegadis falcinellus*

Seen on just four days of the tour, starting with a few birds near to Tsavo East NP.

**African Spoonbill***Platalea alba*

Seen at a number of wetlands during the tour, with particularly good numbers at Lake Naivasha.

**Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae*****Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

We had a great view of this species during our morning boat trip around Lake Naivasha.

**Dwarf Bittern***Ixobrychus sturmii*

Who can forget the fantastic views we had of this species, in the flooded grasslands in Maasai Mara.

**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen on a handful of occasions during the tour, including a few in Tsavo West NP and more at Lake Baringo.

**Striated Heron***Butorides striatus*

Our first sighting was of one in front of the lodge at Shimba. Thereafter we found a few at Lake Baringo and singles in the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. Clements recognizes two full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens and the most widespread nominate form which we recorded on this tour. This split is not recognized by Handbook of Birds of the World (del Hoyo et al) who lump these forms under the nominate*

**Squacco Heron***Ardeola ralloides*

After our initial sighting in Tsavo West NP, this species was commonly seen at wetlands throughout the remainder of the tour.

**Rufous-bellied Heron***Ardeola rufiventris*

Also seen well in the Maasai Mara – no surprise given all the recent heavy rains.

**[Western] Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen accompanying herds of antelope, Buffalo or Elephants in the parks.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret (which is what is recorded in Africa) and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements*

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, seen in small numbers throughout the trip.

**Black-headed Heron***Ardea melanocephala*

Small numbers seen throughout the trip.

**Goliath Heron***Ardea goliath*

This spectacular bird was seen at Baringo and in the Maasai Mara.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

We had a number of great sightings of this species, most notably at Lakes Baringo and Naivasha.

**[Western] Great Egret***Ardea alba*

Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands throughout the tour with good numbers at Lake Nakuru.

*NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. There are also rumblings of a split between the Australasian and African-Eurasian forms. Neither splits are as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**Intermediate [Yellow-billed] Egret***Egretta intermedia*

seen at a handful of wetland sites including those in the Maasai Mara and Lake Jipe.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret E. brachyrhyncha Plumed Egret E. plumifera and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements*

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*

We saw this species in Tsavo West NP and at Lake Jipe.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Fairly commonly seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**[Dimorphic Egret]** *Egretta dimorpha*

Several seen at Mida Creek and Sabaki River Mouth, and at Lake Baringo.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Little Egret, as yet not recognised by Clements.*

### Hamerkop Scopidae

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This bizarre bird, forming a monotypic family endemic to the Afrotropics and Madagascar, was seen virtually daily, mostly single birds throughout the trip.

### Pelicans Pelecanidae

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

First sighted at Lake Naivasha and for the final time at Lake Baringo.

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*

Only seen at Lake Baring during our tour.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

**Reed [Long-tailed] Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*

We recorded good numbers of these widespread African cormorants at Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru and at Lake Victoria with scattered sightings elsewhere.

**White-breasted [Great] Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Large numbers were seen at Lake Naivasha, with very few encounters thereafter.

### Darters Anhingidae

**[African] Darter** *Anhinga rufa*

Seen at Lakes Naivasha and Baringo.

### Secretarybird Sagittariidae

**Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*

This iconic and very popular species was seen at a number of sites, including Tsavo East NP and the Maasai Mara.

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

Our first sighting was of one at Lake Baringo, while the next one was in the Maasai Mara.

**Black-winged [shouldered] Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

A well-known raptor seen in open habitats at Tsavo West, Mt Kenya, Samburu, Lake Baringo, Naro moru and Nakuru.

*NOTE: Some authorities lump the African and Asian Black-shouldered Kite E. caeruleus with Australian Kite E. axillaris and the American E. leucurus White-tailed Kite. Clements recognizes these three forms as full species.*

**Scissor- [African Swallow] tailed Kite** *Chelictinia riocourii*

We were very lucky to see one of the very special raptors in Samburu.

**[Yellow-billed Kite]** *Milvus parasitus*

This ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor was found in small numbers throughout our tour.

*NOTE: This locally breeding form of the Black Kite M. migrans is considered by most authorities as a distinct species, M. parasitus.*

*Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

One in the Samburu/Shaba area was the only individual recorded.

**African Fish-Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

A familiar bird whose ringing call is one of the archetypal sounds of Africa, we recorded small numbers around wetlands throughout the trip.

**Palm-nut Vulture***Gypohierax angolensis*

We were fortunate to have excellent views of this species at Shimba Hills, then more in the Samburu/Shaba area – including an individual perched only meters from a Leopard and its kill!

**Egyptian Vulture***Neophron percnopterus*

Our only sighting of this locally declining species was in Samburu.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

We saw this species just outside Shaba GR.

**White-backed Vulture***Gyps africanus*

Most common in Tsavo East and West, the Samburu/Shaba area, and in the Maasai Mara.

**Ruepell's Vulture [Griffon]***Gyps rueppellii*

Only recorded in the Samburu/Shaba area.

**White-headed Vulture***Trionoceph occipitalis*

This uncommon species was seen in Tsavo East NP and in Samburu.

**Lappet-faced Vulture***Torgos tracheliotus*

We had this enormous species in Samburu and in the Maasai Mara.

**Beudouin's Snake Eagle***Circaetus beudouini*

We were pleasantly surprised to see this species in the Busia Grasslands.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout the tour, with highest numbers in Tsavo, the Samburu/Shaba area, and the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: This resident Central and Southern African species is regarded by some authorities to be a form of Short-toed Eagle C. gallicus.*

**Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

Not uncommon in the same areas mentioned for the species above.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

The “tightrope-walker” of the raptor world is a handsome species that we found in healthy numbers in both Tsavo East and West, Shaba GR and Maasai Mara.

**Western Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

Singles only in Tsavo West NP and at Lake Nakuru.

**African Marsh Harrier***Circus ranivorus*

Only seen twice during our tour, with best views in the Maasai Mara.

**Pallid Harrier***Circus macrourus*

Seen by the roadside during our drive from Buffalo Springs to Naro Moru.

**Montagu's Harrier***Circus pygargus*

Seen on just one day of the tour, in the Maasai Mara.

**African Harrier-Hawk [Gymnogene]***Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded on many days of the trip. We saw our first one on day one!

**Dark Chanting Goshawk***Melierax metabates*

This species was seen in the Lake Baringo area and in the Maasai Mara.

**Eastern Chanting Goshawk***Melierax poliopterus*

Preferring drier areas to the previous species. Peak numbers of four were recorded in Tsavo East and West, and the Samburu/Shaba area.

**Gabar Goshawk***Micronisus gabar*

Our first two were in Tsavo East, with further sightings at scattered locations thereafter.

**African Goshawk***Accipiter tachiro*

Seen on just three days of the tour, with great views of a perched pair above the restaurant at our lodge in the ‘Mara East’.

**Shikra***Accipiter badius*



We saw this species close to Lake Baringo.

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus*

We saw this species in the Arabuko-Sokoke region and in the Kitale area.

**Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris*

This uncommon forest species was seen on Mt. Kenya.

**Black Sparrowhawk [Goshawk]** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

Our first views in Arabuko-Sokoke were brief, but we went on to see this species very well, especially in the Kakamega area.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

We had some great views of this species during our time on the coast.

**Common [Eurasian] Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Commonly seen in higher-elevation areas.

**Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus*

We had great views of this vocal species in Kieni Forest and in the Aberdares.

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*

A handsome buzzard that we observed in small numbers throughout the trip.

*NOTE: Some authorities lump the Southern African Jackal Buzzard B. rufofuscus and the Somalia Archer's Buzzard B. archeri within this species. Clements and most other authorities now recognize three full species.*

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina*

Singles were seen in the vicinity of Lake Baringo and on our drive between Tsavo East and West.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

This large, resident eagle was seen in small numbers throughout the tour, most notably in large reserves.

*NOTE: The nominate African Tawny Eagle A. r. rapax may be split from the Asian Tawny Eagle A. r. vindhiana. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

We had wonderful views of a few singles, at scattered locations, including the Samburu/Shaba area.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*

Another great raptor that we were fortunate to see in the Samburu/Shaba area.

**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*

Two adults were seen flying around our lunch time spot in Shaba GR.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*

We enjoyed magnificent views in Tsavo West and in the Shimba Hill.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraetus wahlbergi*

We had numerous sightings in the Tsavo area, followed by numerous scattered sightings thereafter.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus*

We had a handful of sightings, including some on Mt. Kenya and in the Naro Moru area.

**Ayre's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraetus ayresi*

This great bird was seen in Tsavo West, Mt. Kenya, Samburu and Nakuru.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

This, one of Africa's great eagles, was seen on at a number of locations including some close adults in the Maasai Mara and Tsavo West NP.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

A handsome raptor seen regularly throughout the trip, often perched on telephone poles alongside the road.

**Crowned [Hawk-] Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We had great views of this magnificent raptor on Mt. Kenya and in the Shimba Hills.

### **Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae***

**Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus*

This diminutive dry-country species was seen in Tsavo West, Lake Baringo and the Samburu/Shaba area.

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*

Not commonly seen though recorded at a number of different sites, including Tsavo West, Naro Moru and the Samburu/Shaba area.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

A few individuals of this migrant were seen in Tsavo, Samburu and the Maasai Mara.

**Rock Kestrel** *Falco rupicolus*

Two seen on the Kongelai Escarpment.

**Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides*

We had just one encounter with this species – in the Mt. Kenya area.

**Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*

Our best views were certainly of the trio that was perched near the road in the Maasai Mara.

**Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

This gregarious raptor was seen in the Tsavo and Naivasha areas.

**Sooty Falcon** *Falco concolor*

We saw this species flying over at Arabuko-Sokoke and Imenti Forests.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Seen on several days, being most commonly encountered during the middle part of the tour.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*

Most of us were lucky enough to see this species flying over Keringi Swamp.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

Seen, mostly in pairs, at a few locations, including the Lake Baringo area.

### Bustards Otididae

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*

Some of us saw this species in Tsavo West NP, while we all had multiple great views on the edge of the Maasai Mara.

**White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Small numbers seen in several locations throughout the trip with highest numbers in the Samburu/Shaba area and the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: 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. This treatment is not followed by most authorities and they are generally considered two distinct species.*

**Buff-crested Bustard** *Eupodotis gindiana*

Good numbers seen in dry acacia woodland in Tsavo East and Tsavo West NP's, and the Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba area.

*NOTE: This species used to be lumped with the southern Red-crested Bustard E. ruficrista and the western Savile's Bustard E. savilei. All three of these species are now recognised by Clements.*

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster*

We found a few of these great birds in the Maasai Mara.

**Hartlaub's Bustard** *Lissotis hartlaubii*

Only seen on one day, between Tsavo West NP and Nairobi.

### Flufftails Sarothruridae

**White-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura pulchra*

Heard regularly and eventually seen in the Kakamega area.

**Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa*

One noisy bird at Keringet Dam could not be tempted to show itself. Nor could the bird at Lake Victoria!

### Finfoots Heliornithidae

**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis*

One female seen well but briefly by some of the group, ran out of the river at Blue Posts, and hid in the bushes not to be seen again.

**Rails, Gallinules & Coots *Rallidae*****African Rail***Rallus caerulescens*

We had multiple views of this species at Iten Swamp, between Baringo and Kitale.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

Africa's common wetland crake, our first sightings were at Lake Naivasha, enjoying further sightings at many localities including Lake Baringo.

**African Swamphen***Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Seen on just two days of the trip, at Lakes Jipe and Nakuru.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at a few small and large wetlands, including Lakes Nakuru and Naivasha.

**Red-knobbed Coot***Fulica cristata*

Small numbers observed at several sites including our first sightings at Lake Naivasha.

**Cranes *Gruidae*****Grey (Southern) Crowned-Crane***Balearica regulorum*

This handsome bird was seen on nine dates on our trip, we had encounters of several on Mt Kenya and Lake Nakuru and the Maasai Mara.

**Stone-curlews, Thick-knees *Burhinidae*****Water Thick-knee***Burhinus vermiculatus*

Seen well on a few occasions, most notably in the Maasai Mara.

**Spotted Thick-knee***Burhinus capensis*

A pair of these cryptic birds was seen very well, close to our lodge in Buffalo Springs, and a few times thereafter.

**Crab Plover *Dromadidae*****Crab-plover***Dromas ardeola*

A good number of these birds were seen during our time on the coast.

**Stilts & Avocets *Recurvirostridae*****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

This characteristic wader was found in small numbers at Lake Naivasha and only a few sites thereafter.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

There were very good of this most attractive species at Lake Nakuru, the only place that we encountered it.

**Plovers & Lapwings *Charadriidae*****Long-toed Lapwing (Plover)***Vanellus crassirostris*

We had great views of this species at Lake Naivasha.

**Blacksmith Plover (Lapwing)***Vanellus armatus*

Good numbers of this widespread species were seen at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru and at scattered dams the highlands.

**Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)***Vanellus spinosus*

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were sighted in small numbers throughout the trip.

**Black-headed Lapwing***Vanellus tectus*

We found a few of these wonderful birds in Tsavo East and West Nps.

**Senegal Lapwing***Vanellus lugubris*

We recorded this species in Tsavo East NP and in the Maasai Mara.

**Black-winged Lapwing***Vanellus melanopterus*

We recorded this species in the Kinangop grasslands, and other scattered grassland sites.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*

Good numbers seen throughout the trip at most locations.

**[Africa] Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*

Apart from our first sighting of a noisy pair near Kitale, we only saw this species in the Maasai Mara.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

A number of birds were seen at Mida Creek and Sabaki River Mouth.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

We saw a few at Mida Creek and at the Sabaki River Mouth, followed by more at Lake Nakuru

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

We saw this species at Lake Nakuru.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Seen on just three dates during the tour, with peak numbers at Lake Nakuru.

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*

This widespread but attractive species was seen in small numbers at various locations, including Lake Nakuru and the Maasai Mara.

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*

Some of these attractive residents were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

Seen only at Sabaki River Mouth.

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Seen at Mida Creek and at Sabaki River Mouth.

**Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*

What a fantastic species to see in breeding plumage! Something we were ecstatic to be able to do on our drive into Tsavo East NP.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

Our first were at Lake Jipe. A widespread and characteristic wader, this species was conspicuous in the marshy wetlands almost throughout, including at Lake Baringo, Lake Victoria and the Maasai Mara.

### Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

**African Snipe** *Gallinago nigripennis*

We saw this species well at Iten Swamp.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeops*

Seen only at Mida Creek and the Sabaki River Mouth.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

As with the previous species, only seen during our short time on the coast.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Singles were seen in Tsavo, and Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

First seen at the Sabaki River Mouth, then at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru, respectively.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

We were lucky to find this species during our drive from Tsavo East NP to Tsavo West NP.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands throughout the trip.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

We found a handful of these unusual shorebirds at Mida Creek and Sabaki River Mouth.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen at most freshwater and coastal wetland sites.

<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Seen only on one day, during our stay on the coast.	
<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Small numbers were seen along the coast.	
<b>Little Stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Seen on the shores of Lake Nakuru, and at the coastal sites.	
<b>Temminck's Stint</b>	<i>Calidris temmincki</i>
One was seen very well at Lake Nakuru.	
<b>Curlew Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Relatively numerous along the coast, while less so at Lake Nakuru.	
<b>Broad-billed Sandpiper</b>	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>
At least one individual was sighted at Sabaki River Mouth.	
<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Seen at a scattering of inland sites like Lake Nakuru, but also along the coast.	

### Coursers & Pratincoles *Glareolidae*

<b>Somali (Cream-coloured) Courser</b>	<i>Cursorius somalensis</i>
A small flock of these scarce birds were seen in Tsavo East, and a further two were seen at Buffalo Springs.	
<b>Temminck's Courser</b>	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
We had great views on the drive into the Maasai Mara, as well as in the reserve itself.	
<b>Double-banded Courser</b>	<i>Smutsornis africanus</i>
We had splendid views of this species at Lake Jipe.	
<b>Three-banded Courser</b>	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>
We enjoyed a fabulous sighting of this species in the Samburu/Shaba area.	
<b>Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
This species was seen at the Sabaki River mouth.	
<b>Madagascar Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>
We had fantastic views of this species during our search for Malindi Pipit, near the Arabuko Swamp.	
<b>Rock Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>
We were fortunate to see a solitary individual of this smart bird at a river crossing during the drive from Busia to Kisumu.	

### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae*

<b>Grey-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>
We saw this species at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru.	
<b>Sooty Gull</b>	<i>Larus hemprichii</i>
We enjoyed wonderful views of several at the ferry crossing en route to Shimba Hills NP , and on our return.	
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
This species was seen during our time on the coast.	
<i>NOTE: We also observed the sub-species Heuglini. The IOC does not currently accept this as a full species, while other authorities do.</i>	
<b>Gull-billed Tern</b>	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>
Our highest numbers were at Mida Creek and Sabaki River Mouth, but we also recorded this species at some inland lakes, including Lake Naivasha.	
<b>Caspian Tern</b>	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
This large, elegant species was seen on our last morning on the coast.	
<b>Swift [Great Crested] Tern</b>	<i>Sterna bergii</i>
Seen on one occasion, together with the following species, on the coast.	
<b>Lesser Crested Tern</b>	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>

Our first views were from the ferry crossing in Mombasa, with further views at Mida Creek and the Sabaki River Mouth.

**Saunders' Tern** *Sterna saundersi*

Good numbers were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

First seen at Lake Nakuru, and once more during our drive to the Maasai Mara.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Some were seen at Sabaki River Mouth, while our only remaining sightings were at Lake Nakuru.

### Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*

We saw this lovely species in Tsavo East NP and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** *Pterocles gutturalis*

This, our final sandgrouse for the tour, was seen as we were leaving the Maasai Mara, on the last day.

**Black-faced Sandgrouse** *Pterocles decoratus*

Seen on several dates in the Tsavo area, but more common in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles lichtensteinii*

An unusual species, that we only saw in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area

### Doves & Pigeons Columbidae

**Common [Rock] Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Commonly seen around larger towns and cities.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

Seen in good numbers throughout the tour, on just about every day!

**African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*

This Afro-montane forest species was only seen on Mt. Kenya.

**Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei*

As with the previous species, this handsome bird was only seen in the forests on Mt. Kenya, most notably from Mountain Lodge.

**Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata*

This species was seen on Mt. Kenya.

**Dusky Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia lugens*

First seen on Mt. Kenya and later at a handful of other high-elevation sites.

**Mourning Collared [African Mourning] Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*

Another fairly common savanna dove seen many times, with its distinctive call being a regular background sound during most of the trip. Sites where this species was seen include Lake Baringo and both Tsavo national parks.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

A dove that inhabits a wide range of moist woodland and forest habitats, and seen in regular numbers throughout the trip.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*

Common in open savanna in the drier parts of the country, seen in large numbers during most of the tour.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

A widespread, familiar species recorded in small numbers, regularly.

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*

This familiar woodland dove was seen at scattered localities throughout the trip, including Tsavo West NP.

**Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur afer*

Seen near to Kitale and at Lake Nakuru.

**Tambourine Dove***Turtur tympanistria*

The forest equivalent of the wood-doves, small numbers were seen at several forest locations, including the Shimba Hills and Kakamega.

**Namaqua Dove***Oena capensis*

Views of this attractive long-tailed dove were obtained at the driest sites, including Tsavo West NP and the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**African Green Pigeon***Treron calva*

Seen at a number of locations, but most commonly in the Maasai Mara and Kakamega.

**Parrots, Macaws & Allies *Psittacidae*****Red-headed Lovebird***Agapornis pullarius*

We had great views of a few, in the Busia area.

**Fischer's Lovebird***Agapornis fischeri*

We saw a handful of individuals around Lake Naivasha.

**Red-fronted Parrot***Poicephalus gularis*

We enjoyed fabulous views of small groups on Mt. Kenya.

**Meyer's (Brown) Parrot***Poicephalus meyeri*

We had scattered sightings, including some at Lake Baringo and in the Maasai Mara.

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

A few were seen in Tsavo West NP, where several males showed particularly well. Small numbers were also seen daily in the Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba area.

**Turacos *Musophagidae*****Great Blue Turaco***Corythaëola cristata*

A small group was seen well in Kakamega Forest. One of the great blue birds of the World!

**Black-billed Turaco***Tauraco schuetti*

We were so fortunate to have very good views in Kakamega Forest, where it is a rare species on the edge of its range.

**Fischer's Turaco***Tauraco fischeri*

Sadly, we only heard this species in the Arabuko-Sokoke area.

**White-crested Turaco***Tauraco leucolophus*

We enjoyed superb views of a few individuals in the Kitale area.

**Hartlaub's Turaco***Tauraco hartlaubi*

The first was an individual in at Kieni Forest, before we went on to see more on Mount Kenya.

**Ross's Turaco***Musophaga rossae*

We had great views of this 'cracking' bird at a few sites, including Busia and the Maasai Mara.

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird***Corythaixoides personatus*

A bizarre bird with enormous character; some were seen in the eastern Maasai Mara.

**White-bellied Go-away-bird***Corythaixoides leucogaster*

This dry country species was seen in small numbers daily in both Tsavo East and West NP's, the Samburu/Shaba area and at Lake Baringo.

**Eastern Plantain-eater***Crinifer zonurus*

We found a few of these comical birds near Kitale and at Lake Victoria.

**Cuckoos *Cuculidae*****Senegal Coucal***Centropus senegalensis*

We had our first sighting from the road between Kakamega and Busia. Thereafter, we saw this species the following day only, close to Busia.

**Blue-headed Coucal***Centropus monachus*

We saw this species very well, while birding a roadside swamp, between Baringo and Kitale.

**White-browed Coucal***Centropus superciliosus*

The commonest coucal during the tour and seen almost daily.

NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal *C. burchelli* from the northerly White-browed Coucal *C. superciliosus* which we recorded in Kenya

- Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*  
We had some fantastic views of this species in the Maasai Mara. A very attractive but uncommon species all through its African range.
- Blue Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares aereus*  
It took a little time and effort but we eventually had great views of this species in woodland near to Busia.
- Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*  
Seen on three days during the tour at separate sites, including Tsavo West and the Maasai Mara.
- Jacobin [Pied] Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*  
Seen only in Tsavo West NP.
- Thick-billed Cuckoo** *Pachycoccyx audeberti*  
After only hearing this species the day before, we were elated to finally see two in the Arabuko-Sokoke forest.
- Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*  
Our first encounter with this widespread species was at Lake Naivasha.
- Klaas' Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*  
Seen or heard at a handful of sites, including the Maasai Mara.
- Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*  
One individual almost went unseen as it was apparently perched to close to us while we were birding in the Busia area! Fortunately we all had great looks before it flew off into the distance.
- Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*  
Birds were noisy in many locations, but notoriously difficult to see. The only bird seen well was at Lake Nakuru.
- Madagascar Cuckoo** *Cuculus rochii*  
We were very surprised, but equally delighted, to find this species in Kakamega Forest.
- Lesser Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*  
We were very fortunate to see this species, and so well, in the Shimba Hills.
- African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*  
The first was one seen in woodland on the edge of Lake Nakuru, while others were seen in the Lake Baringo region.
- Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*  
This species was seen fairly frequently during the tour.

### Typical Owls *Strigidae*

- Sokoke Scops Owl** *Otus ireneae*  
An awesome bird! We were treated to fantastic views of three birds, huddled together at a day roost.
- African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*  
One obliging individual was found roosting near our lodge at Lake Baringo.
- Northern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis leucotis*  
We had magnificent views of two at a day roost at Lake Baringo.
- Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle-Owl** *Bubo capensis*  
We had fantastic views of one at a day roost near Mweiga, en route to Lake Nakuru.
- Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*  
A pair was seen very well at a day roost near Lake Baringo.
- Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Bubo lacteus*  
One was seen nightly at the waterhole in front of Mountain Lodge on Mt. Kenya, while more were seen at a day roost in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Strix woodfordii*  
An obliging pair was seen on two consecutive days, at a day roost, near the parking lot at our Shimba Hills accommodation.
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*



This diminutive diurnal owl was seen on a few occasions during the trip, beginning with our first sighting in the lodge grounds at Tsavo East NP.

### Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae*

#### **European [Eurasian] Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus europaeus*

Seen in Arabuko-Sokoke and on three dates in Tsavo West.

#### **Donaldson Smith's Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus donaldsoni*

We saw a handful of these birds during our drive to our lodge in Tsavo West NP.

#### **Freckled Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus tristigma*

A couple of these large nightjars were seen and heard flying around the balcony of our lodge in Tsavo West NP.

#### **Slender-tailed Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus clarus*

This species was seen flying around the lights at our accommodation in Tsavo East NP, and at a day roost in the Baringo area.

### Swifts *Apodidae*

#### **Scarce Swift**

*Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

Small numbers were seen on Mt. Kenya and over the highlands between Naro Moru and Lake Nakuru.

#### **Mottled Spinetail**

*Telacanthura ussheri*

Small numbers were seen over the Arabuko-Sokoke forest.

#### **Bohm's Spinetail**

*Tneaphrapus boehmi*

Seen together with the previous species.

#### **African Palm-Swift**

*Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful around palms in many locations throughout the trip.

*NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm-Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form *C. p. gracilis* by some authorities. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

#### **Alpine Swift**

*Tachymarptis melba*

Six were seen in Tsavo West; otherwise only ten were recorded from Mt. Kenya.

#### **Mottled Swift**

*Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Small numbers were scattered in the highlands, and close to Lake Naivasha.

#### **Nyanza Swift**

*Apus niansae*

We had great looks at this species at a breeding colony between Naro Moru and Lake Nakuru, and at Lake Nakuru itself.

#### **African Black Swift**

*Apus barbatus*

Seen on only two days of the the trip, at two separate sites, including the road between Naro Moru and Lake Nakuru.

#### **Little Swift**

*Apus affinis*

The common urban swift, with good numbers found throughout the trip.

#### **Horus Swift**

*Apus horus*

A handful of individuals of this species were seen in a mixed species flock, in the Lake Nakuru area.

#### **White-rumped Swift**

*Apus caffer*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites throughout the trip.

### Mousebirds *Coliidae*

#### **Speckled Mousebird**

*Colius striatus*

A common bird, with good numbers recorded almost daily.

#### **White-headed Mousebird**

*Colius leucocephalus*

A few of these localized, arid-zone birds were observed very well from the dining room in Buffalo Springs.

#### **Blue-naped Mousebird**

*Urocolius macrourus*

We found this species in numbers in Tsavo West, the Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba area, and around Baringo Lake.

### Trogon *Trogonidae*

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

Twosightings were had in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Bar-tailed Trogon** *Apaloderma vittatum*

One of these striking birds was seen very well at Kakamega Forest. Others were also heard there.

### Rollers *Coraciidae*

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

Several birds were encountered in the Shaba/Samburu/Buffalo Springs area, and at Lake Baringo.

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudata*

These magnificent birds were commonly encountered in good numbers throughout the trip.

**European Roller** *Coracias garrulus*

Seen on almost every day during the first half of the tour, often migrating overhead in large flocks.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

This distinctive species was seen at Arabuko-Sokoke, Lake Nakuru, and the Maasai Mara.

### Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*

This beautiful woodland kingfisher was observed several times throughout the trip, most notably in Tsavo West NP and Samburu.

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris*

Seen once in the Shimba Hills, and heard elsewhere.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

Seen on just two dates during the tour, including our second day at Lake Nakuru.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

This attractive woodlands species was seen in small numbers at Lake Baringo and most sites thereafter.

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

Seen at a handful of sites during the tour, including Lake Baringo.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

The small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, small numbers were seen regularly at scattered wetlands across the country.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

We enjoyed wonderful views of this enormous kingfisher at Lake Naivasha and Lake Baringo.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

This, the world's most widespread kingfisher, was observed in small numbers at many sites throughout the trip.

### Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

**Blue-headed Bee-eater** *Merops muelleri*

We had fine looks at this great species in Kakamega.

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*

The most widespread and familiar of a suite of look-alike bee-eaters, we saw good numbers throughout the trip.

**Blue-breasted Bee-eater** *Merops variegates*

We had good views of a few in the Busia grasslands.

**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** *Merops oreobates*

Seen in small numbers at most forested, high elevation sites.

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides*

First seen along the Magadi Road, and then once more at Lake Nakuru.

**Somali Bee-eater** *Merops revoilii*

We were lucky to catch up with this species in Shaba GR.

**White-throated Bee-eater** *Merops albicollis*

A strikingly colored bee-eater first seen at Shimba Hills, followed by sightings at various localities, including Samburu.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*

Despite being heard on a number of occasions, this species was only seen on one day, in Tsavo West NP.

**Olive [Madagascar] Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*

A small flock of these birds were seen in Tsavo West.

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

Small flocks were seen passing overhead, throughout the tour.

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicus*

We had this species while entering Tsavo East NP.

### Hoopoes *Upupidae*

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Seen once, during our time in the Samburu/Buffalo Springs area.

**African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana*

Frequently met within a variety of locations away from the coast.

### Woodhoopoes *Phoeniculidae*

**White-headed Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei*

We all caught up with this species in Kakamega Forest.

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

These garrulous birds were recorded at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and only two more sites thereafter.

**Violet (Grant's) Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus damarensis*

We had very close views of this species in the lodge grounds where we stopped for some drinks, in Shaba GR.

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

We only encountered this species on one day in the Mt. Kenya area.

**Abyssinian Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus minor*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP and other subsequent sites.

### Hornbills *Buterotidae*

**Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus*

We had great views in Shimba Hills NP with further wonderful sightings on Mt. Kenya and at Naro Moru.

**Hemprich's Hornbill** *Tockus hemprichii*

We enjoyed wonderful views of a few at Lake Baringo.

**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*

A common savanna hornbill that was seen in Tsavo East and West, Samburu, Lake Baringo and in the Maasai Mara.

**(Northern) Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Commonly seen throughout the trip with good numbers in Tsavo West, Lake Baringo and Samburu.

*NOTE: Some authorities have split the Red-billed Hornbill complex into five species, the form we recorded would become Northern Red-billed Hornbill and is the nominate form. Clements does not recognize these splits as yet.*

**Northern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus flavirostris*

We only encountered this species in the Samburu/Shaba area. This Eastern form occurs at much lower densities than the Southern African form, *T. leucomelas*.

**Von der Decken's Hornbill** *Tockus deckeni*

This strikingly marked hornbill was commonly seen in Tsavo East and West, with further sightings in Samburu.

**Jackson's Hornbill** *Tockus jacksoni*

We had superb views in the Lake Baringo area. This is a very localized species.

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Ceratogymna bucinator*

Seen only during the first few days of the trip, where they were commonly seen in Shimba Hills and the Arabuko-Sokoke area.

**Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna subcylindricus*

Seen well in Kakamega Forest, on both dates we were there.

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** *Ceratogymna brevis*

Small numbers on Mt. Kenya, and around Naro Moru.

### Ground Hornbills *Bucorvidae*

**Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

We finally got to grips with this species in the Maasai Mara – including a family group just outside our accommodation in the west of the reserve.

### Barbets *Capitonidae*

**Grey-throated Barbet** *Gymnobucco bonapartei*

Small numbers of this gregarious species were seen in Kakamega Forest, with further great sightings in the Maasai Mara.

**White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis*

We saw this species well in the Shimba Hills area.

**Green Barbet** *Stactolaema olivacea*

We had wonderful sightings over our four days in Shimba Hills NP and the Arabuko-Sokoke area.

**Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus simplex*

We were only to be taunted by very infrequently calling birds in both Shimba Hills and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Moustached Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus leucomystax*

After hearing it calling on several occasions we were finally rewarded with good sightings on Mt. Kenya and at Naro Moru.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Commonly encountered throughout the highland forests, and in Arabuko-Sokoke, where the sub-species is *fischeri*.

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus*

We found several in the Tsavo, Thika, Baringo, Kitale, Kakamega and Maasai Mara areas.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

We had a great sighting of one, near Busia.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*

A handful of these great birds were seen in Kakamega Forest.

**Red-fronted Barbet** *Tricholaema diademata*

Our first sighting was while birding along the Magadi Road.

**Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

We saw this species very well in the Baringo area and in the Maasai Mara.

**Black-throated Barbet** *Tricholaema melanocephala*

This barbet occurs in drier areas than the previous species. We found good numbers in Tsavo West NP and a few in the Samburu/Shaba area.

*NOTE: The Serengeti and northern Tanzanian form of this barbet, T. m. flavibuccalis is sometimes considered a different species (Yellow-cheeked Barbet).*

**White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus*

A few pairs were very conspicuous at Lake Naivasha, while we enjoyed further views at Lake Nakuru and two other sites.

**Double-toothed Barbet***Lybius bidentatus*

We had good views of this species, near Kitale and Lake Victoria.

**Yellow-billed Barbet***Trachyphonus purpuratus*

We had wonderful sightings of this ‘cracking’ species in Kakamega Forest. A most impressive barbet!

**Red-and-yellow Barbet***Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

This garishly colorful barbet was observed in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road, in Samburu GR and at Lake Baringo.

**D’Arnaud’s Barbet***Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Small numbers were seen at several sites, including Tsavo West NP and the Lake Baringo area.

**[Usambiro Barbet]***Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro*

This localized species was only seen in the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: The sub-species, T. d. usambiro that we recorded in the Mara is sometimes treated as a full species.*

**Honeyguides Indicatoridae****Cassin’s Honeybird***Prodotiscus insignis*

One seen very well in the garden at Rondo.

**Green-backed Honeybird***Prodotiscus zambesiae*

We saw two individuals of this species, in forest close to Naro Moru.

**Brown-backed [Wahlberg’s] Honeybird***Prodotiscus regulus*

We had good views of one at Lake Naivasha.

**Pallid Honeyguide***Indicator meliphilus*

One of these small birds perched momentarily in a dead tree in Sokoke Forest..

**Thick-billed Honeyguide***Indicator conirostris*

We had good views of one in Kakamega Forest.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

We saw this species on a handful of occasions, with great views below the Kongelai Escarpment.

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide***Indicator variegatus*

This species was first seen in forest between Naro Moru and Lake Nakuru.

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was frustratingly heard in several locations, but excellent views were eventually obtained at Lake Nakuru.

**Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae****Red-throated [Rufous-necked] Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis*

We had wonderful views of a bird by the roadside, just outside the Aberdares.

**Nubian Woodpecker***Campethera nubica*

This attractive savanna species was observed on many occasions, including great sightings of numerous birds at Lake Baringo.

**Mombasa Woodpecker***Campethera mombassica*

After a couple of days with no sign of this species, were delighted to finally see one in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Green-backed Woodpecker***Campethera cailliautii*

We had a few brief views of this species in the Shimba Hills.

**Tullberg’s Woodpecker***Campethera tullbergi*

After the excitement of our first encounter in the Kieni Forest, we were pleasantly surprised to see this species on two further occasions.

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker***Campethera nivosa*

This diminutive forest specialist was seen well in Kakamega.

**Brown-eared Woodpecker***Campethera caroli*

A few birds seen very well in Kakamega Forest.

**Speckle-breasted Woodpecker***Dendropicos poecilolaemus*

We were very lucky to find this rare bird in the Busia grasslands, where we had great views on two occasions.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

This widespread savanna woodpecker was observed on many occasions throughout the tour,

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus*

We saw at least three individuals at Lake Nakuru.

**Yellow-crested Woodpecker** *Dendropicos xantholophus*

We had excellent views of three in Kakamega Forest.

**[African] Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae*

One was briefly seen near the roadside in the Kitale area.

**Eastern Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Seen on three occasions during the tour, including a very obliging individual in the Lake Baringo area.

### Broadbills *Eurylaimidae*

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis*

We had wonderful scope views of a displaying male in Kakamega Forest.

### Wattle-eyes & Batises *Platysteiridae*

**African Shrike-Flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus*

A tough species to see well in Kakamega Forest, but most of us managed views of at least one.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya castanea*

One was seen well in Kakamega Forest.

**Jameson's Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya jamesoni*

We had very good views of males and females in Kakamega Forest; this can be a particularly elusive species.

**Forest [Short-tailed] Batis** *Batis mixta*

Some of these beautiful understorey birds were seen in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*

This widespread African batis was observed well on several occasions throughout the trip.

**Pale Batis** *Batis soror*

We had good views of this species in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**[Eastern Black-headed Batis]** *[Batis minor suahelicus]*

We saw this species calling at Sabaki River Mouth.

**Western Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor [erlangeri]*

Some very striking adults posed in an open tree for all to see, during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

*NOTE: This is a recent split, refer to (African Bird Club Aug05) ABC Vol 12 No 2 pg99. According to this paper by Michel Louette, Eastern Black-headed Batis. B. minor has two sub-species B.minor minor & B.minor suahelicus and Western Black-headed Batis. B. erlangeri has two sub-species B.erlangeri erlangeri & B.erlangeri congoensis.*

**Pygmy Batis** *Batis perkeo*

Small numbers were seen daily in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu GR and Lake Baringo.

**Brown-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira cyanea*

Both males and females were seen well in Kakamega Forest.

**Black-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira peltata*

One very obliging bird was seen on the Kongelai Escarpment.

### Helmetsrikes *Prionopidae*

**White[-crested] Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*

We had superb views of small flocks in Tsavo West NP and on the Kongelai Escarpment.

**Grey-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops poliophus*

We were so fortunate to find a flock of these stunning birds at Nakuru. This is an exceedingly rare species away from here.

**Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike***Prionops scopifrons*

We encountered many small flocks in Shimba Hills NP and in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Bushshrikes & Allies *Malaconotidae*****Grey-headed Bushshrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

We had several sightings of this large bushshrike including great views of our first pair in Tsavo West NP.

**Black-fronted Bushshrike***Telophorus nigriifrons*

We had great luck with this species during our visit to the forests between Thika and Naivasha.

**Bocage's [Grey-green] Bushshrike***Telophorus bocagei*

This species caused frustration for most in Kakamega Forest, though a few of us did manage decent views.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike***Telophorus sulfureopectus*

This striking and very vocal bird was seen well on a few occasions, including a few individuals in Tsavo West NP and at Lake Baringo.

**Four-coloured Bushshrike***Telophorus quadricolor*

One was seen briefly in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest - a very skulking species indeed!

**Rosy-patched Bushshrike***Rhodophoneus cruentus*

Seen in the drier habitats of Tsavo West NP and the Samburu/Shaba area.

*NOTE: Tsavo Bushshrike R. c. cathemagenus of Tsavo NP and south and west into Tanzania may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Samburu & Shaba.*

**Marsh Tchagra***Tchagra minuta*

We had excellent views in the Busia area.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra australis*

Our only views were of one on the Magadi Road.

**Three-streaked Tchagra***Tchagra jamesi*

We had great views of singletons in Samburu/Shaba and Tsavo West NP.

**Black-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra, singles were seen or heard in numerous locations, including Tsavo West, the Kitale area and the Maasai Mara.

**Pink-footed Puffback***Dryoscopus angolensis*

We had multiple sightings in Kakamega Forest.

**Black-backed Puffback***Dryoscopus cubla*

Several sightings during the tour, beginning with some in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Northern Puffback***Dryoscopus gambensis*

Seen at three dry-country sites, including the Samburu/Buffalo Springs area.

**Pringle's Puffback***Dryoscopus pringlii*

After a little searching we were rewarded with good sightings in Tsavo West NP.

**Slate-colored Boubou***Laniarius funebris*

Seen in small numbers throughout the drier reserves like Samburu.

**Luehder's Bushshrike***Laniarius luehderi*

We had many sightings of this wonderful bird in Kakamega Forest, yet another stunner!

**Red-naped Bushshrike***Laniarius ruficeps*

We had amazing views of a pair of this rare and seldom seen species in Tsavo West.

**Tropical Boubou***Laniarius aethiopicus*

A widespread shrike, commonly heard and less often seen on most days of the tour, after we had left the coast.

**[Coastal Boubou]***Laniarius (aethiopicus) erlangeri*

This recently split species was very commonly heard in Shimba Hills NP, and also in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest where a few were seen.

**Papyrus Gonolek***Laniarius mufumbiri*

At least one pair of this striking species was seen very well near Kisumu.

**Black-headed Gonolek***Laniarius erythrogaster*

We had great views in the Kerio Valley, with other sightings near Kisumu.

**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

Another widespread African savanna bird that we heard and saw throughout the tour, with especially good numbers in Tsavo and Samburu.

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

We saw this montane forest species at Kieni Forest.

**Petit's Cuckooshrike***Campephaga petiti*

We had great sightings of this species in mixed feeding parties at Kakamega.

**Black Cuckooshrike***Campephaga flava*

Seen well in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, and at two subsequent sites.

**Purple-throated Cuckooshrike***Campephaga quiscalina*

A couple was seen very well on Mt Kenya.

**Shrikes *Laniidae*****Yellow-billed Shrike***Corvinella corvina*

We had very good views of one on the Kongelai Escarpment, between Kitale and Kakamega.

**Magpie Shrike***Corvinella melanoleucus*

We were most fortunate to find a flock behind our lodge in the Eastern Maasai Mara.

**Northern White-crowned Shrike***Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Small numbers were seen daily at the following sites; Tsavo East and West NPs, Samburu and Shaba GRs, the Lake Baringo area and the Maasai Mara.

**Red-backed Shrike***Lanius collurio*

A common Palearctic migrant, seen on virtually everyday during the first half of the tour.

**Isabelline (Rufous-tailed) Shrike***Lanius isabellinus*

Seen well in Tsavo West NP and along the Magadi Road.

*NOTE: Some authors recognize this bird as distinct from Turkestan Shrike *L. phoenicuroides*.*

**[Red-tailed] Shrike***Lanius phoenicuroides*

Single birds seen in Tsavo West NP and the Lake Naivasha area.

**Mackinnon's Shrike***Lanius mackinnoni*

We found a resident pair in our garden in Kakamega Forest.

**Lesser Grey Shrike***Lanius minor*

Recorded regularly in the drier reserves, including Tsavo West NP.

**Grey-backed Fiscal***Lanius excubitoroides*

Small numbers were seen almost daily during our time at Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo area and the Maasai Mara, as well as at other sites.

**Long-tailed Fiscal***Lanius cabanisi*

Apart from a sighting near to the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, all were seen in Tsavo West NP.

**Taita Fiscal***Lanius dorsalis*

Many were seen in Tsavo West NP and in the Samburu/Shaba GR.

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

Commonly seen throughout the tour with sightings of small numbers virtually daily, away from the coast.

**Orioles & Figbirds *Oriolidae*****Eurasian Golden Oriole***Oriolus oriolus*

Impressive coastal movements many everyday. Away from the coast we had many sightings of singles and small groups.



**African Golden Oriole***Oriolus auratus*

Just one stunning bird was seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Green-headed Oriole***Oriolus chlorocephalus*

Unfortunately, this species was only heard in the Shimba Hills. A very local species.

**Western [Black-headed] Oriole***Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We eventually had good views in Kakamega Forest.

**Mountain Oriole***Oriolus percivali*

Seen on Mount Kenya, for example.

**[African] Black-headed Oriole***Oriolus larvatus*

Not uncommon, and recorded on multiple days, at scattered sites.

**Drongos *Dicruridae*****Square-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus ludwigii*

We had wonderful views of this species in Kakamega Forest.

**Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

This is a familiar, ubiquitous bird that was seen throughout the tour in good numbers.

**Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*****Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher***Trochocercus cyanomelas*

We unfortunately couldn't get a glimpse of any calling birds in Arabuko-Sokoke.

**Red-bellied Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone rufiventer*

We were fortunate to observe one bird in Kakamega Forest.

**African Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

A handsome bird recorded in small numbers at many localities including great sightings of several white morph males.

**Crows & Jays *Corvidae*****House Crow***Corvus splendens*

Recorded in large numbers around Mombasa and Malindi.

**Cape Crow***Corvus capensis*

Seen in small numbers in most highland areas.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers throughout the tour.

**Fan-tailed Raven***Corvus rhipidurus*

First seen in Shaba GR then in the Baringo area.

**White-necked Raven***Corvus albicollis*

Seen during our drive to Thika, and in the Maasai Mara.

**Fairy-Flycatchers *Stenostiridae*****African Blue Flycatcher***Elminia longicauda*

Seen regularly in Kakamega Forest and again in the Maasai Mara.

**Dusky Crested Flycatcher***Elminia nigromitratus*

We all caught up with this shy species in Kakamega Forest.

**White-tailed Crested Flycatcher***Elminia albonotatus*

A pair of these beauties was seen in forest between Naro Moru and Lake Nakuru.

**Tits & Chickadees *Paridae***

**White-bellied Tit***Melaniparus albiventris*

First observed at Thika with further sightings at Mount Kenya and Lake Nakuru and Kongelai.

**Dusky Tit***Melaniparus funereus*

A few small flocks of this social species were seen in Kakamega Forest.

**Red-throated Tit***Melaniparus fringillinus*

We had fantastic sightings of this species in the Maasai Mara – albeit during the rain at times!

**Acacia [Somali] Tit***Melaniparus thruppi*

Our first sighting was of one in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu.

**Penduline Tits *Remizidae*****Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit***Anthoscopus musculus*

We had superb views at Lake Baringo.

**[Buff-bellied Penduline-Tit]***Anthoscopus sylviella*

We had fantastic views in the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this species from African Penduline-Tit, A. caroli.*

**Nicators *Nicatoridae*****Eastern Nicator***Nicator gularis*

Again although we heard several in Shimba Hills NP, we only laid eyes upon this shy species in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Larks *Alaudidae*****William's Lark (E)***Mirafra williamsi*

We successfully found this rare and localized species in the lava field grasslands of Shaba GR - A couple obligingly perched on a low rocks allowing close-up views.

**Friedmann's Lark***Mirafra pulpa*

After very distant views of this exceedingly rare species in Tsavo West NP, we were ecstatic to have prolonged scope views in Shaba GR.

**Rufous-naped Lark***Mirafra africana*

This widespread lark species was seen in small numbers on many days of the trip, with highest counts in the Maasai Mara.

**Red-winged Lark***Mirafra hypermetra*

We enjoyed good sightings of this massive lark in Tsavo West NP.

**Flappet Lark***Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Seen on two consecutive days in the Maasai Mara, including one in display.

**Foxy (Fawn-breasted) Lark***Calendulauda alopex*

Seen in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road and in the Samburu/Shaba area.

*NOTE: This species has now been split from Fawn-coloured Lark C. africanoides.*

**Pink-breasted Lark***Mirafra poecilosterna*

We had excellent views of singing birds in Tsavo West NP and in the Samburu/Shaba area.

**Red-capped Lark***Calandrella cinerea*

Seen in small numbers in the Mt. Kenya area, en route from Naro Moru to Lake Nakuru and during our journey to the Maasai Mara.

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark***Eremopterix leucotis*

We saw this species in Tsavo East NP.

**Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark***Eremopterix signata*

Upon our return from the lava fields in Shaba GR, we saw this species by the roadside.

**Fischer's Sparrow-Lark***Eremopterix leucopareia*

We had multiple encounters with this species, including flocks along the Magadi Road and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***

**Dodson's Bulbul***Pycnonotus dodsoni*

This dry country form of the Common Bulbul replaced the previous form in Tsavo East and West, and Buffalo Springs/Samburu/Shaba. Recent field-guides have split these species.

NOTE: See next species.

**Dark-capped (Common) Bulbul***Pycnonotus [barbatus] tricolor*

A ubiquitous species and one of the few birds to be recorded on nearly every day of the trip, with numerous daily tallies in excess of well over fifty individuals.

NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species. Two further splits are widely recognised as full species (Somali Bulbul *P. somaliensis* and Dodson's Bulbul *P. dodsoni*). Furthermore, several other forms (i.e. Egyptian Bulbul *P. arsinoe* and Dark-capped Bulbul *P. tricolor*) are likely to be recognised as distinct once genetic analysis and further study is completed.

**Kakamega Greenbul***Andropadus masukuensis*

We enjoyed wonderful views of a few birds, trunk-feeding in Kakamega Forest.

NOTE: Shelley's Greenbul *A. masukuensis* is sometimes split, making the ones we observed becoming Kakamega Greenbul *A. kakamegae*.

**Olive-breasted Greenbul***Andropadus nigriceps [kikuyuensis]*

This form of the Eastern Mountain-Greenbul has been split by recent field-guides; we observed some of these attractive birds on Mount Kenya.

NOTE: The nominate Black-headed Mountain-Greenbul *A. nigriceps* is sometimes split as Olive-breasted Mountain-Greenbul *A. kikuyuensis*

**Stripe-faced Greenbul***Andropadus milanjensis [striifacies]*

We unfortunately only heard this species in the Taita Hills.

NOTE: This species has been split three ways by some authorities, Stripe-cheeked Bulbul, *A. milanjensis* of Eastern Zimbabwe & Mozambique, Stripe-faced Greenbul, *A. striifacies* of SW Kenya and Tanzania – the one we observed – and Olive-headed Greenbul, *A. olivaceiceps* of Malawi.

**Little Greenbul***Andropadus virens*

A very musical species of secondary growth, our first was in Shimba Hills, and later we saw another individual near Busia.

**[Little] Grey Greenbul***Andropadus gracilis*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

**Ansoerge's Greenbul***Andropadus ansorgei*

Seen in Kakamega Forest.

**Plain Greenbul***Andropadus curvirostris*

Likewise, only seen in Kakamega Forest.

**Slender-billed Greenbul***Andropadus gracilirostris*

We recorded several on Mt Kenya with further sightings in Kericho and Kakamega Forest.

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul***Andropadus latirostris*

Several birds were seen in Kieni Forest, in the Naro Moru area, and in Kakamega Forest.

**Sombre Greenbul***Andropadus importunus*

Seen on two occasions, including one on the Magadi Road

**Honeyguide Greenbul***Baeopogon indicator*

A frustrating species, which was only heard in Kakamega Forest.

**Joyful Greenbul***Chlorocichla laetissima*

One of the most striking of the Greenbul group, we had superb views in Kakamega Forest, and in the Maasai Mara.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul***Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Good numbers were seen in the Arabuko-Sokoke area.

**Yellow-throated Leaflove [Greenbul]***Chlorocichla flavicollis*

We had wonderful views at Keringet Swamp, while more were heard or seen on later dates.

**Northern Brownbul***Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Most of us had great looks at this species in Shaba GR, while others caught up at Lake Baringo.

**Grey-olive Greenbul***Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*

We had excellent views of this extremely local species at Thika.

**Toro Olive-Greenbul***Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

We had superb views in Kakamega Forest.

**Fischer's Greenbul***Phyllastrephus fischeri*

Seen poorly in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest – unfortunately this vocal species is very difficult to actually see.

**Cabanis' Greenbul***Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Seen well in Kakamega Forest.

**[Placid (Cabanis') Greenbul]***Phyllastrephus placidus*

We heard this species on a few occasions before finally seeing it well on Mt. Kenya.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Cabanis' Greenbul, P. cabanisi. Clements does not accept this split as yet*

**Tiny Greenbul***Phyllastrephus debilis*

Another species that can be difficult to lay eyes on, we were lucky to see at least one in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Red-tailed [Common] Bristlebill***Bleda syndactyla*

Although hearing many, we did have a couple of good views in Kakamega Forest.

**Swallows *Hirundinidae*****White-headed Sawwing***Psalidoprocne albiceps*

Only seen in the west, with sightings at various sites, including Kakamega Forest, Lake Victoria and the Maasai Mara.

**Black Sawwing***Psalidoprocne pristopectera*

Small numbers of this distinctively shaped species were seen at several forest locations during the tour.

*NOTE: The Black Sawwing P. pristopectera complex was split into 8 full species, which caused extreme confusion with regard to their distributions and field identification; however, all authorities including Clements have now accepted one species.*

**Grey-rumped Swallow***Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

We were lucky to find two amongst a mixed feeding flock of swallows in the Maasai Mara.

**Brown-throated (Plain) Martin***Riparia paludicola*

This species was seen in small numbers at several sites throughout the trip.

**Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)***Riparia riparia*

The first were seen during our time on the coast. We then had sightings at various sites throughout the tour, including the Maasai Mara.

**Banded Martin***Riparia cincta*

This large hirundine was seen on a number of occasions at a handful of sites, including Tsavo West NP and the Maasai Mara.

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

This common Palearctic migrant was seen virtually daily.

**Angola Swallow***Hirundo angolensis*

Seen on four separate dates, including the day we traveled from Mt. Kenya to Buffalo Springs.

**Ethiopian Swallow***Hirundo aethiopica*

We saw this species very well on three separate dates, including some pairs nesting under park gates, in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Wire-tailed Swallow***Hirundo smithii*

This elegant swallow was seen throughout the tour at many locations.

*NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form which would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow which would be H. filifera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Rock Martin***Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen in small numbers at numerous sites during the trip, including excellent views of several perched individuals at our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

*NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form P. f. fuligula would remain as Rock Martin and does not occur in East Africa. The more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin P. pusilla, which is*

resident in East and north-east Africa. Furthermore over-wintering Palearctic birds, which do occur as far south as Ethiopia, would become Pale Crag Martin *P. obsolata*.

**[Common] House Martin***Delichon urbica*

We found small numbers at many sites, including the Magadi Road and around Mt. Kenya.

**Lesser Striped Swallow***Cecropis abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow, recorded at many locations throughout the tour.

**Red-breasted [Rufous-chested] Swallow***Cecropis semirufa*

We had wonderful views of this large swallow in the Maasai Mara - our only sightings.

**Mosque Swallow***Cecropis senegalensis*

Another large and attractive swallow. Our first sightings were on the drive to Samburu, followed by sightings at scattered sites, including the Maasai Mara.

**Red-rumped Swallow***Cecropis daurica*

This species was regularly observed in many locations, though mostly during the second half of the tour.

**Cettia Bush Warblers & allies Cettidae****(Little) Yellow Flycatcher***Erythrocercus holochlorus*

We had wonderful views of a few individuals in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Green Hylia***Hylia prasina*

After a frustrating few attempts to see calling birds, we finally had great views in Kakamega Forest.

**Leaf Warblers & allies Phylloscopidae****Yellow-throated Wood Warbler***Phylloscopus ruficapillus*

We found this species in the Taita Hills.

**Uganda Woodland Warbler***Phylloscopus budongoensis*

Seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

**Brown Woodland Warbler***Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

A delightful montane forest species with an attractive tinkling song. Seen at a few highland locations, including Mt. Kenya and Kieni Forest.

**Willow Warbler***Phylloscopus trochilus*

Birds were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Reed Warblers & allies Acrocephllidae****Greater Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus rufescens*

We had superb views of a few, on the shores of Lake Victoria, near Kisumu.

**Lesser Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

This reed-bed songster was first seen well at Lake Jipe, then at a handful of sites thereafter.

**Great Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

We had excellent views at Lake Victoria, near Kisumu.

**Sedge Warbler***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Our first were a couple Lake Jipe, and thereafter seen at several in the west of the country.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

We had great views of this migrant in the Busia area.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler***Hippolais pallida*

We first had great views in Tsavo East NP. Thereafter, we saw this species a number of times, especially in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Upcher's Warbler***Hippolais languida*

We had good views of one in our lodge grounds in Tsavo East NP.

**Dark-capped (African) Yellow Warbler***Chloropeta natalensis*

We had great views of this species near Thika and on one occasion thereafter.

**Mountain Yellow Warbler***Chloropeta similes*

We enjoyed great sightings in the forests on Mt. Kenya.

**Grassbirds & allies *Megaluridae***

**Fan-tailed Grassbird** *Schoenicola brevirostris*

We had wonderful views in the Maasai Mara.

**Little Rush [African Bush] Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

We saw this species well, at the waterhole in front of Mountain Lodge on Mt Kenya, and at Iten Swamp.

**White-winged Swamp [Scrub-] Warbler** *Bradypterus carpalis*

We heard this species in swamp, close to Busia.

**Evergreen Forest Warbler** *Bradypterus lopezi*

We only heard this species during our day birding the forests between Thika and Lake Naivasha.

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

We heard many and finally had stunning views of some obliging birds on Mt. Kenya.

**Cisticolas & Allies *Cisticolidae***

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

We had wonderful views of a one at Thika, and again at numerous other sites with suitable habitat.

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*

Heard on several occasions, but only seen along the Magadi Road.

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*

After an easy time locating this species, we had superb views of one near Busia.

**Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami*

We had great views of this species, giving its distinctive call, on our first morning in the Maasai Mara.

**Chubb's Cisticola** *Cisticola chubby*

We saw this species on every day in Kakamega Forest.

**Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunteri*

With our first birds in the Aberdares, we went on to observe this species daily on Mount Kenya. This is a noisy high-altitude species that members of the group found endearing.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*

This savanna species was regularly seen during our time in Tsavo, the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area and the Maasai Mara.

**Boran Cisticola** *Cisticola bodessa*

This was a frustrating species, where we were unable to coax singing birds into view in the Kerio Valley.

**Ashy Cisticola** *Cisticola cinereolus*

We had great views of these birds in Tsavo West NP.

**Lynes (Wailing) Cisticola** *Cisticola [lais] distinctus*

We had good views of posing birds along the Magadi Road.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola [galactotes] marginatus*

One of the commonest wetland cisticolas, our first sighting was at Lake Jipe.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this widespread African species into five species. Winding Cisticola C. galactotes that we observed, would become C. marginatus and occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola C. haematocephala that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola C. luapula occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola C. galactotes of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola C. lugubris endemic to Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

**Coastal [Winding] Cisticola** *Cisticola haematocephala*

We had great views in coastal grass at Sabaki River Mouth.

**Carruther's Cisticola** *Cisticola carruthersi*

A few of these birds were admired in papyrus near Kisumu.

We saw this species at two different wetland sites, near to Kitale, including Iten Swamp.

**Stout Cisticola** *Cisticola robustus*

We saw our first one right outside the Whistling Thorns garden, and went on to see many more in the Maasai Mara.

**Aberdare Cisticola (E)** *Cisticola aberdare*

We had wonderful views of one in the Aberdares NP. An extremely localized species.

**Croaking (Striped) Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

A denizen of moist bushed grassland – we saw this species a few times in Shimba Hills NP.

**Tiny Cisticola** *Cisticola nanus*

We had a good sighting along the Magadi Road.

**Short-winged [Siffling] Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*

Seen on the day we transferred from Nairobi to Thika.

**Long-tailed [Tabora] Cisticola** *Cisticola angusticaudus*

After a little searching we were finally rewarded with a great sighting in the eastern Maasai Mara.

**Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

Seen on a handful of occasions, but most common in the Maasai Mara.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*

This tiny species was seen along the road to Lake Jipe, and in Samburu.

**Black-backed Cisticola** *Cisticola eximia*

We were most fortunate to locate this species in long grass in the Maasai Mara. This was originally thought of as a very rare species in Kenya.

**Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*

Peak numbers were seen in the Maasai Mara.

**Wing-snapping Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii*

Unfortunately, only heard during our tour.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, seen at many sites throughout the trip.

**Pale Prinia** *Prinia somalica*

We enjoyed good views in Tsavo West NP, the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs and at Baringo.

**Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*

A stunning bird, which we found in small numbers in Kakamega Forest.

**White-chinned Prinia** *Prinia leucopogon*

We had wonderful views in Kakamega Forest.

**Black-collared Apalis** *Apalis pulchra*

We encountered this striking species in Kieni Forest, on Mt Kenya, and in Kakamega.

**Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*

This common *Acacia*-inhabiting species was only seen in the Tsavo area and nearby.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

This widespread, woodland apalis was first seen on many occasions.

*NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of A. f. viridiceps, or Brown-tailed Apalis of Somalia, adjacent Ethiopia and Northern Kenya.*

**[Brown-tailed Apalis]** *Apalis viridiceps*

We had wonderful views of several in Tsavo West NP.

*NOTE: See the previous species.*

**Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*

Some of these beautiful apalises were seen at Kieni Forest.

**Black-headed Apalis** *Apalis melanocephala*

Small numbers were heard and seen in the Shimba Hills and in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Chestnut-throated Apalis** *Apalis porphyrolaema*

An Apalis of montane forest, we heard its “ringing telephone” call on several occasions and saw one at Kieni Forest and several more on Mount Kenya.

**Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*

A canopy species that we found daily in Kakamega Forest.

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

A few were seen at Kieni Forest, while more were seen on Mount Kenya.

**Red-fronted Apalis [Warbler]***Urorhipis rufifrons*

Pairs of this arid-zone species were seen in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road and in the Samburu area.

**Grey-capped Warbler***Eminia lepida*

A conspicuous musical, loud and dominating songster. We had superb views of a bird at Thika and others in the Naro Moru area.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera***Camaroptera [brevicaudata] brachyura*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard throughout the trip with regular sightings during the tour. We only observed the Grey-backed form.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is likely to be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of C. brevicauda, or Grey-backed Camaroptera from the nominate Green-backed Camaroptera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Olive-green Camaroptera***Camaroptera chloronota*

We had superb views in Kakamega Forest.

**Grey Wren-Warbler***Calamonastes simplex*

This species was found to be fairly common in the drier areas of Tsavo, the Magadi Road, the Samburu/Shaba area and Lake Baringo.

**Miombo Wren-Warbler***Calamonastes undosus*

We had excellent views in the Maasai Mara.

**Black-faced Rufous-Warbler***Bathmocercus rufus*

A stunning bird, we had good sightings in Kakamega Forest.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela***Eremomela icteropygialis*

Strangely, this species was only seen along the Magadi Road.

**Yellow-vented Eremomela***Eremomela flavicrissalis*

We had superb views in Shaba GR and at Lake Baringo.

**Green-capped Eremomela***Eremomela scotops*

Some of these effervescent birds were seen in the Maasai Mara.

**Turner's Eremomela***Eremomela turneri*

We had superb, though often brief views in Kakamega Forest.

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

Our first bird was at Thika, with further excellent views in the Busia grasslands and in the Maasai Mara.

**Northern Crombec***Sylvietta brachyura*

Our first birds were in Tsavo, followed by others in Samburu and at Lake Baringo.

**Red-faced Crombec***Sylvietta whytii*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road, at Lake Baringo and in the Maasai Mara.

**Somali Crombec***Sylvietta isabellina*

We had good views in Shaba area. A lucky find as this species is on the extreme western edge of its range here.

**Green Crombec***Sylvietta virens*

One noisy bird was seen very well in the Busia grasslands.

**White-browed Crombec***Sylvietta leucophrys*

Not only did we see this species well at Kieni Forest, but we went on to see a few more on Mt. Kenya.

**Babblers & Parrotbills *Timalidae*****Scaly-breasted Illadopsis***Illadopsis albipectus*

Most of us got views of this skulker in Kakamega Forest, and many more were heard.

**Pale-breasted Illadopsis***Illadopsis rufipennis*

Seen only in Kakamega Forest.



**Brown Illadopsis***Illadopsis fulvescens*

We had birds singing in Kakamega Forest, but were not able to observe them, apart from shaking stems and a few feathers!

**Grey-chested Illadopsis***Kakamega poliothorax*

This species was particularly noisy and was heard on many occasions in Kakamega Forest. Fortunately we didn't have settle with only hearing it, as we had great views on more than one occasion.

**Rufous Chatterer***Turdoides rubiginosus*

We had wonderful sightings in Naro Moru, Samburu and near Lake Baringo.

**Black-lored Babbler***Turdoides sharpei*

A small flock was seen near Kisumu.

**Brown Babbler***Turdoides plebejus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Lake Baringo area.

**Arrow-marked Babbler***Turdoides jardineii*

The first examples of this widespread African woodland babbler were at Lake Naivasha, then we saw more at Lake Nakuru, and finally in the Maasai Mara.

**Scaly Babbler***Turdoides squamulatus*

A noisy flock of this species was seen well at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Hinde's Babbler***Turdoides hindei*

It took some persistence, but we had great views of a small flock at Wajee Forest.

**Northern Pied-Babbler***Turdoides hypoleucus*

Our first encounter with this attractive species was in the garden at Whistling Thorns.

**Sylviid Babblers *Sylviidae*****African Hill Babbler***Illadopsis abyssinica*

Seen well in forest on Mt Kenya.

**Garden Warbler***Sylvia borin*

Our first bird was on the Magadi Road, with further sightings at a handful of locations, including Imenti Forest.

**Barred Warbler***Sylvia nisoria*

We saw this often uncommon species in Tsavo West NP.

**Common [Greater] Whitethroat***Sylvia communis*

Quite commonly seen in Tsavo West NP and later in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Brown Warbler (*Parisoma*)***Parisoma lugens*

We had wonderful views of a pair foraging in *Acacia abyssinica* trees en route from Naro Moru to Lake Nakuru.

**Banded Warbler (*Parisoma*)***Parisoma boehmi*

After great views along the Magadi Road, it was a bonus to see this great little species in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs.

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

Several were seen in Tsavo West NP and over the following days, until we reached Lake Naivasha.

**African Yellow White-eye***Zosterops senegalensis*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Kakamega and Busia areas, and in the Maasai Mara.

**Kikuyu White-eye***Zosterops poliogaster*

Regularly encountered on Mt.Kenya and in the Naro Moru area.

**Taita White-eye***Zosterops silvanus*

A busy feeding flock was seen in the Taita Hills.

*NOTE: Several authorities split this species from Broad-ringed White-eye, Z. poliogaster. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**Hyliotas Hyliotidae****Yellow-bellied Hyliota***Hyliota flavigaster*

We had wonderful views in the Maasai Mara. This is a very small and very localized population.

**Southern [Kakamega] Hyliota***Hyliota australis*

We had wonderful views in the canopy at Kakamega.

**Starlings Sturnidae****Wattled Starling***Creatophora cinerea*

This irruptive species was first observed on the coast, followed by sightings of small groups over much of the country.

**Black-bellied Starling***Lamprotornis corruscus*

Seen daily in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling***Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Commonly seen at scattered upland localities throughout the trip.

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling***Lamprotornis chloropterus*

We had good looks at this species in the Kitale area.

**Bronze-tailed Starling***Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had superb views, near the Kongelai Escarpment.

**Splendid Starling***Lamprotornis splendidus*

We had excellent views at the Keringet Swamp. This is another very localized species in Kenya.

**Rueppell's Starling***Lamprotornis purpuropterus*

A large striking starling, which we saw in many areas, including Lake Baringo and the Maasai Mara.

**Golden-breasted Starling***Lamprotornis regius*

Commonly seen in Tsavo East and West NPs and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Spring's area. One of Africa's most beautiful birds!

**Superb Starling***Lamprotornis superbus*

Another of the most attractive starlings, we recorded large numbers throughout the tour.

**Hildebrandt's Starling***Lamprotornis hildebrandti*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road and in the Maasai Mara.

**Fischer's Starling***Spreo fischeri*

Seen in Tsavo East and West NPs, and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Violet-backed Starling***Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

First met with on our travel day between Tsavo and Nairobi. Thereafter we had scattered sightings elsewhere in the highlands.

**Red-winged Starling***Onychognathus morio*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites including several in Nairobi.

**Slender-billed Starling***Onychognathus tenuirostris*

Four birds were found at Nyahururu alongside the falls.

**Waller's Starling***Onychognathus walleri*

Seen at Imenti Forest, where we were able to compare it to the similar Kenrick's Starling

**Bristle-crowned Starling***Onychognathus salvadorii*

Only seen in the Lake Baringo area, where we even saw them in the lodge grounds.

**Stuhlmann's Starling***Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

Seen daily in the Kakamega Forest.

**Kenrick's Starling***Poeoptera kenricki*

We successfully found this species at Imenti Forest.

**Sharpe's Starling***Pholia sharpii*

We saw this scarce species at Ndaragwa Forest, between Naro Moru and Lake Nakuru.

**Magpie Starling***Speculipastor bicolor*

Seen by most of us in the Tsavo area, and encountered on a few occasions at Lake Baringo.

**Oxpeckers *Buphagidae***

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*  
Commonly seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

We saw this species, most often in association with Buffalo, in Tsavo West, at Lake Nakuru and in the Maasai Mara.

**Thrushes & Allies *Turdidae***

**Red-tailed Rufous [Ant-]Thrush** *Neocossyphus rufus*

Brief views of a few in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, while more were heard in the Shimba Hills

**White-tailed Rufous [Ant-]Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis*

We had good views in Kakamega Forest.

**Abysinian Ground Thrush** *Zoothera piaggiae*

A few very tame birds were seen well at the Met. Station on Mt Kenya.

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

We first spotted this species in the grounds of our lodge at Lake Naivasha.

**[African] Bare-eyed Thrush** *Turdus tephronotus*

We had wonderful views of several in Tsavo West NP.

**Olive [Mountain] Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus [abyssinicus]*

Up to a dozen were seen daily on Mt.Kenya, and other highland locations, including the gardens of the Red Court Hotel, on day one.

*NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex may be split into a range of up to 10 full species. The form which we recorded Mountain Thrush T. o. abyssinicus would be recognised as distinct within this confusing complex. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits, some of which are already well accepted e.g. Taita Thrush T. helleri.*

**Taita Thrush** *Turdus helleri*

Some of us were lucky enough to see this species in the Taita Hills

**Brown-chested Alethe** *Alethe poliocephala*

We had very good views of a few birds in Kakamega Forest.

**Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***

**White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*

We found this beautiful Afro-montane forest robin in the Taita Hills first, with further adults and immatures on Mt.Kenya.

**Equatorial Akalat** *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

We had good views of this reclusive species in Kakamega Forest.

**East Coast Akalat** *Sheppardia gunningi*

An individual gave a refrain in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest on one morning, but we were unable to see the bird.

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*

A few of these birds were seen in Tsavo West NP only.

**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*

We had great looks at this species in Tsavo East NP.

**White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis*

This great species was seen near in Tsavo West NP.

**Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra*

Only seen on Mt. Kenya and in the Naro Moru area.

**Grey-winged Robin-Chat** *Cossypha polioptera*

We had superb views in Kakamega Forest.

- Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat** *Cossypha cyanocampter*  
Another shy species that we only saw in Kakamega Forest.
- Ruppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa*  
Seen in small numbers in Mt. Kenya and at Thika.
- White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*  
The crescendo calls of this handsome species led us right to the bird on numerous occasions, most often in the grounds of whichever lodge we were staying at.
- Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla*  
We had great views on every day during our time in Kakamega Forest.
- Spotted Palm [Morning] Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata*  
Another beautiful songster that we first observed in the lodge grounds in Tsavo East NP and later saw in small numbers throughout the tour in dry scrub.
- Bearded Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*  
We had good views in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, including an individual that repeatedly flew into the road in front of our parked vehicles.
- Brown-backed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*  
We saw this species near Thika and in the Maasai Mara.
- White-browed [Red-backed] Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*  
This widespread African scrub robin of mainly moist areas was seen at several localities throughout the tour, with most records from Mt Kenya, and one in the Maasai Mara.  
*NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would become White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African C. l. zambesiana would remain as Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African C. l. leucoptera would become White-winged Scrub-Robin.*
- White-winged (White-browed) Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas (leucophrys) leucoptera*  
We saw several of this attractive and distinctive form in the dry acacia scrub of Tsavo East and West, where we had a maximum of seven, and also the Samburu region.  
*NOTE: See the previous species.*
- Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*  
This species was seen in both Tsavo East and West National Parks.
- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*  
After brief views on day 5, most of us were very happy to catch up with this species in Shaba GR, and at other sites, later in the tour.
- [African] Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*  
This widespread and familiar bird was common throughout the highlands region on both sides of the Great Rift Valley.
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* After our initial encounter in the Lake Jipe area, we went on to see this species on three more days during the tour.
- Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellinus*  
Seen on a number of occasions, including a number of sightings in the Tsavo area.
- Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
Seen in the Tsavo area and on two other days during the tour.
- Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*  
Single birds were seen in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road and in the amburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area
- Abyssinian/Mourning Wheatear** *Oenanthe [lugubris/lugens] schalowi*  
We enjoyed great views in the Lake Nakuru area.  
*NOTE: This extremely variable complex with an extensive range and many distinctive isolated populations is a perfect candidate for multi-splitting. The resident Ethiopian form O. l. lugubris is usually treated as a full species within Schalow's Wheatear O. schalowi (this complex includes O. l. schalowi of Kenya/N. Tanzania and O. l. vauriei of Somalia.)*
- Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*  
A few individuals of this wing-flicking and rock-loving species were observed on the Oloololo Escarpment in the Maasai Mara – part of the only known resident population in Kenya.
- Brown-tailed (Rock) Chat** *Cercomela scotocerca*

First views were had in Shaba GR, followed by others in the Lake Baringo area. This species favors black lava flows.

**Moorland Chat***Cercomela sordida*

Only seen during our time in the Aberdares NP, but seen very well.

**[Northern] Anteater Chat***Myrmecocichla aethiops*

First seen in the highlands between Thika and Lake Naivasha. After which, this species was commonly seen in highland areas.

**Sooty Chat***Myrmecocichla nigra*

Seen daily in the Maasai Mara.

**Mocking Cliff Chat***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

We had stunning views at Lakes Nakuru and Baringo.

**Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush***Monticola saxatilis*

Seen commonly in Tsavo East and West, and at a few sites following that.

**Little Rock Thrush***Monticola rufocinereus*

Seen at a handful of locations, including one in the Kerio Valley.

**White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher***Melaenornis fischeri*

Found commonly in montane forests throughout the trip.

**Northern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis edolioides*

Small numbers seen in Kakamega Forest, Keringet Swamp and the Maasai Mara.

**Southern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis pammelaina*

We saw this species in Tsavo West NP and on one other occasion.

**Pale Flycatcher***Bradornis pallidus*

Seen at many sites throughout the tour, from the coast, right through to Kakamega.

**African Grey Flycatcher***Bradornis microrhynchus*

This active flycatcher prefers drier areas than the previous species, and was consequently seen at different sites, but also on a regular basis.

**Silverbird***Empidonis semipartitus*

This handsome bird was seen by the roadside, just outside Kisumu.

**Spotted Flycatcher***Muscicapa striata*

Seen throughout the tour, until we left the Lake Baringo area.

**Gambaga Flycatcher***Muscicapa gambagae*

A pair of this exceedingly rare species was found and watched in the Kerio Valley.

**Swamp Flycatcher***Muscicapa aquatica*

We had superb views near Kisumu, where we even saw them sallying for insects from a jetty on Lake Victoria.

**Chapin's Flycatcher***Muscicapa lendu*

We all had great looks in Kakamega Forest. A rare species and, apart from this area, an Albertine Rift endemic.

**African Dusky Flycatcher***Muscicapa adusta*

This is a common forest-edge species that we recorded in small numbers at several highland and western sites.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus plumbeus*

A rare bird in Kenya, we had superb views of one in the Baringo Lake area.

**Sunbirds Nectarinidae****Plain-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes reichenowi*

A few stunning adult males were seen well in Arabuko-Sokoke.

**Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes orientalis*

Small numbers were seen daily in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road, in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Spring's area and the Lake Baringo area.

**Western Violet-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes orientalis*

One of the most surprising finds of the trip! We were very excited to bump into this species near the Kongelai Escarpment – completely unexpected!

**Grey-chinned [Green] Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*

We found this small canopy species in Kakamega Forest, where we even had one feeding just a few meters away from us.

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*

A common and widespread species. We had good views of several at the coastal sites, and at many places thereafter.

**Amani Sunbird** *Hedydipna pallidigaster*

We had wonderful views in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. A rare and localized species.

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*

Our first sighting was in Thika, followed by numerous other sightings in forested highland areas.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*

Common in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Kakamega, but seen at other sites too.

*NOTE: Most authorities lump Eastern and Western Olive Sunbirds. Clements treats them as separate species. We saw the western sub-species in Kakamega.*

**Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*

We had to work hard to see this species, finally finding some in the garden at Rondo.

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystine*

Our first sighting was of one stunning male in Thika, followed by sightings at many other upland sites throughout the trip.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

After our first sightings on day eight of the tour, this species was seen almost daily.

**Hunter's Sunbird** *Chalcomitra hunteri*

This dry country species was observed in Tsavo East and Tsavo West NP's, in the Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba area and around Lake Baringo.

**Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze*

We eventually all caught up with this species on Mt. Kenya.

**Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*

This attractive long-tailed sunbird was first encountered in the garden of our Nairobi hotel, on day one. We then had numerous other sightings throughout highland portions of the trip.

**Golden-winged Sunbird** *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*

This stunning bird was recorded in small numbers on Mt. Kenya, and in the Busia area.

**Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*

This bird proved relatively easy this year, showing on two days, in the Busia area.

**Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris preussi*

First seen in Kieni Forest, then several were seen on Mt. Kenya, at Naro Moru, and in Kakamega Forest.

**Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris*

This stunning little species was seen daily on Mt. Kenya.

**Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchella*

This exquisite sunbird was first seen in Tsavo West NP, then along the Magadi Road and finally in the Lake Baringo area.

**Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*

This dry country species was recorded in small numbers in the Kitale area, the Kongelai Escarpment and in the Busia area.

**Red-chested Sunbird** *Cinnyris erythrocerca*

We had superb views of one of these smart birds at the Mumias Bridge, and several near Kisumu.

**Black-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris nectarinioides*

Our first sighting was in Tsavo, followed by more of these stunning birds in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*

The first bird was at Mida Creek, then this species was not seen again until we reached the Maasai Mara.

**Tsavo Sunbird** *Cinnyris tsavoensis*

Recorded only in Tsavo West NP, where we had great views.

*NOTE: Some authorities lump this species with Purple-banded Sunbird, C. bifasciatus. Clements accepts this split.*

**Violet-breasted Sunbird** *Cinnyris chalcomelas*

We had great views of many, including stunning males, feeding in a *Combretum* near the Sabaki River Mouth.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venusta*

Seen on five consecutive days, between Tsavo West and Lake Naivasha.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*

This distinctive sunbird was seen daily in the Busia grasslands.

### Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*

Commonly seen in the drier areas of Tsavo West NP, Samburu and Shaba GRs and Lake Baringo area.

**Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*

We found pairs in the Kerio Valley and the Kongelai Escarpment.

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

Observed only in Buffalo Springs and Shaba GR where we found many, daily.

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

We found up many active little birds on the Magadi Road, some of which which were happy to share our picnic area, and more in the Maasai Mara.

**Black-capped Social Weaver** *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*

Seen daily in Tsavo West NP and in the Samburu/Shaba/ Buffalo Springs area where they were found actively nesting in huge colonies.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

This cosmopolitan species was commonly seen around Mombasa and Malindi and again in several locations near human habitation, extending out to remote locations such as the Maasai Mara. The birds in Kenya are the large and bright race *indicus*, not the nominate found in Southern Africa.

**Kenya [Rufous] Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus*

Small numbers seen at several sites including Whistling Thorns, Naro Moru, Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru, and the Maasai Mara.

*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 is endemic to Socotra.*

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*

Small numbers seen almost daily in the west, during the second half of the tour.

*NOTE: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into 5 full species, which are fully recognised, by Clements and other authorities.*

**Parrot-billed Sparrow** *Passer gongonensis*

Large numbers seen in Tsavo West NP and Lake Baringo, and in Samburu GR.

**Swahili Sparrow** *Passer suahelicus*

We all caught up with this species on the final day, just as we were leaving the Maasai Mara - a very localized species in Kenya.

**Chestnut Sparrow** *Passer eminibey*

After our first birds on the Magadi Road, we had further good views in the Samburu/Shaba/ Buffalo Springs area.

**Yellow-spotted Petronia** *Petronia pyrgita*

Seen fairly regularly during the first half of the trip, with peak numbers in the Samburu area.

### Weavers & Widowbirds *Ploceidae*

- White-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis albirostris*  
Seen daily in the Lake Baringo area.
- Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*  
Very good numbers seen in Tsavo East and West NP.  
*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate group would become Southern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver and the form which we recorded in Kenya would become B. intermedius Northern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*
- White-headed Buffalo Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli*  
Good numbers seen in Tsavo West NP, the Samburu/Shaba area and at Lake Baringo.
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*  
First seen in Shaba GR, but also recorded around Lake Baringo and in the Maasai Mara.
- Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*  
Pairs and singles were seen at a handful of sites, including Kakamega.
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*  
A common weaver of moister, open habitats, we saw good numbers in numerous locations throughout the tour, except along the coast and in the Tsavo Nps.
- Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*  
We had good views of this species near Kisumu only.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*  
Small numbers were seen in the Lake Baringo area, including birds coming down to the bird table.
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*  
A common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge, we found small numbers at Thika for example.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*  
First sightings were in Tsavo West NP, while others were seen in moister habitat, including Kakamega Forest.
- Black-billed Weaver** *Ploceus melanogaster*  
We had wonderful views of three in Kakamega Forest.
- Eastern [African] Golden Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus*  
After getting great looks at birds at a breeding colony near the Taita Hills, we had a few more bonus sightings during the rest of the tour.
- Holub's (Large) Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*  
A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, we observed this species at a handful of sites, including Naro Moru and the Maasai Mara.
- Heuglin's Masked Weaver** *Ploceus heuglini*  
We had superb views at a nesting colony near the Kongelai Escarpment. This is an extremely rare bird in Kenya.
- Golden Palm Weaver** *Ploceus bojeri*  
What a stunning bird! We saw a few at the entrance to Tsavo East NP and had fantastic views of adult males in full breeding plumage at our lodge in Buffalo Springs GR.
- Taveta Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus castaneiceps*  
We saw some of these fantastic birds at Lake Jipe.
- Northern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus castanops*  
We found several in the papyrus around Lake Victoria.
- Northern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus taeniopterus*  
Seen daily at Lake Baringo. This species is extremely difficult to see anywhere apart from this site.
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*  
We recorded many in Tsavo West NP and a handful of other sites subsequently.
- Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus*  
Small numbers were seen in on the Magadi Road.



**Speke's Weaver***Ploceus spekei*

Peak numbers were seen at nesting colonies in various locations – especially near bus stops!

**Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

Seen on one day at the coast, in Tsavo West and throughout the west.

**Viillot's [Black] Weaver***Ploceus nigerrimus*

We eventually found this species in the garden in Kakamega.

**Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver***Ploceus melanocephalus*

We saw this attractive species at four separate locations, including the Busia and Kisumu areas.

**Golden-backed Weaver***Ploceus jacksoni*

We were treated to a number of these weavers, in a variety of plumages at Lake Baringo – often coming down to eat scraps in the garden.

**Chestnut Weaver***Ploceus rubiginosus*

We observed quite a few individuals of this nomadic species in Tsavo West NP, with further sightings in Samburu and Shaba GRs.

**Compact Weaver***Pachyphantus superciliosus*

Good numbers were seen in the Busia grasslands.

**Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver***Ploceus bicolor*

Our first sightings were in Arabuko-Sokoke, while the only other sightings came from Kakamega Forest. (In East Africa this is known as Dark-backed Weaver).

**Brown-capped Weaver***Ploceus insignis*

The first individuals of this handsome forest weaver were seen in Kieni Forest, followed by our only other sightings, on Mt. Kenya.

**Red-headed Malimbe***Malimbus rubricollis*

These smart birds were seen in Kakamega Forest.

**Red-headed Weaver***Anaplectes rubriceps*

We had numerous sightings of this very smart bird.

*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 Kenya would become Red-winged Weaver A. leuconotos.*

**Cardinal Quelea***Quelea cardinalis*

We had excellent views of numerous birds in breeding plumage, in the Maasai Mara.

**Red-headed Quelea***Quelea erythroptera*

W

**Red-billed Quelea***Quelea quelea*

We first found the “African avian locust” in Tsavo East NP. Thereafter, it was recorded in small numbers in widely distributed localities.

**Black Bishop***Euplectes gierowii*

It took some searching but we finally located a few, near Busia.

**Zanzibar [Red] Bishop***Euplectes nigroventris*

Seen only in the Tsavo National Parks, most notably at Lake Jipe.

**Black-winged [Red] Bishop***Euplectes hordeaceus*

We saw this species at the Adungosi Hills, near to Busia.

**(Southern) Red Bishop***Euplectes orix*

Our first and only birds were seen at Lake Jipe.

**Yellow Bishop***Euplectes capensis*

We had many sightings during the second half of the tour.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird***Euplectes axillaris*

Good numbers during the second half of the tour, especially in the Maasai Mara.

**Yellow-shouldered Widowbird***Euplectes macrocercus*

We saw some of these great birds in the Busia grasslands.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two species. Yellow-shouldered Widowbird, E. macrocercus and Yellow-mantled Widowbird, E. macrourus. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**[Yellow-mantled Widowbird]***Euplectes macrourus*

Breeding birds were common in the Maasai Mara.

**Marsh Widowbird** *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We saw this species at Keringet Swamp and near Busia.

**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*

Many were seen in Tsavo West NP.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*

Seen elsewhere but numerous in the Maasai Mara.

**Long-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes progne*

Seen in highland grasslands between Naivasha and Mt. Kenya and between Naro Moru and Nakuru.

**Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni*

Aside from individuals seen elsewhere, including the Solio Plains, we had our best views in the Maasai Mara.

### Waxbills & Allies *Estrildidae*

**White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus*

A couple was seen very well in Kakamega Forest.

**Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapilla*

Small numbers were seen on Mt. Kenya and in Kakamega Forest.

**Orange-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia afra*

Definitely a highlight for some, given its rarity status in Kenya! We found a pair of these beauties in scrub, not far from Thika.

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP and along the Magadi Road.

**Cut-throat (Finch)** *Amadina fasciata*

First seen at the entrance to Tsavo East NP, where we had wonderful views of males and females.

**Abyssinian Crimson-wing** *Cryptospiza salvadorii*

Unfortunately, this shy species was only heard during our tour.

**Red-headed Bluebill** *Spermophaga ruficapilla*

These very striking birds were seen in Kakamega Forest.

**Red-throated [Peter's] Twinspot** *Hypargos niveoguttatus*

We had multiple brief sightings at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*

Three seen extraordinarily well near Busia.

**Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*

A few individuals of this stunning firefinch were seen in the Adungosi Hills, after a lengthy search, that is.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

Low numbers were seen in the Busia grasslands.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

Commonly seen in small numbers throughout the trip including some on day one, at our Nairobi hotel

**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*

After good views at Thika, we had further sightings at Lake Nakuru.

**Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*

This species was seen in Tsavo West NP.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

This widespread species was seen commonly throughout the tour.

**Blue-capped Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

Although seen at other sites, including Tsavo West NP, we all appreciated the very tame individuals at one of the lodges in Shaba GR.

**Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

We enjoyed excellent views of this stunning species, on multiple occasions.

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill***Estrilda quartinia*

Seen in the Thika area, on Mt. Kenya and in Kakamega.

**Fawn-breasted Waxbill***Estrilda paludicola*

These attractive little birds were seen in the Busia grasslands.

**Crimson-rumped Waxbill***Estrilda rhodopyga*

Seen especially well at Lake Baringo.

**Black-rumped Waxbill***Estrilda paludicola*

Also only seen in the Busia grasslands.

**Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild*

Small numbers were seen at many locations including Mt. Kenya, Lake Nakuru NP and the Maasai Mara.

**Black-crowned Waxbill***Estrilda nonnula*

Seen only in the Kakamega area, where we had great looks at a flock by the roadside.

**Kandt's Waxbill***Estrilda kandti*

Seen only on Mt. Kenya, where we had great views.

*NOTE: Recently Kandt's Waxbill, E.kandti of East Africa has been split from Black-headed Waxbill, E.atricapilla of West Africa. Clements accepts this split.*

**Black-faced Waxbill***Estrilda erythronotos*

We enjoyed wonderful sightings along the Magadi Road.

**Black-cheeked (Red-rumped) Waxbill***Estrilda chamosyna*

Seen in Shaba GR only.

**Orange-breasted [Zebra] Waxbill***Amandava subflava*

These birds gave us brief views at Iten Swamp and in the Busia area.

**African Quailfinch***Ortygospiza fuscoerissa*

This species was seen in the Samburu/Buffalo Spings area, and in the Maasai Mara.

**African Silverbill***Lonchura cantans*

We first saw this species along the Magadi Road, and then went on to see it on numerous occasions in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Grey-headed Silverbill***Lonchura griseicapilla*

A few small flocks of this great little species were seen in Shaba GR.

**Bronze Mannikin***Spermestes cucullatus*

This is a familiar African species, which we saw on numerous occasions.

**Black-and-white Mannikin***Lonchura bicolor*

We saw this species on the coast, in Kakamega and in the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: Some authorities split Black-and-white Mannikin, L.bicolor and Brown-backed Mannikin, L.nigriceps.*

**[Red-backed Mannikin]***Lonchura nigriceps*

Seen at a few highland sites, including Mt. Kenya.

*NOTE: See the previous species.*

### Indigobirds: Viduidae

**Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeate*

We saw this species on the very first morning, in the grounds of our Nairobi hotel. Thereafter, we had a few more encounters, but not many!

**Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

This species was seen in Tsavo West NP, Shaba GR, and on almost everyday during the last week of the tour.

**Steel-blue Whydah***Vidua hypocherina*

We had brief views of a few individuals in Samburu GR.

**Straw-tailed Whydah***Vidua fischeri*

An amazing bird that we saw very well in Tsavo West NP and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Long-tailed [Eastern] Paradise Whydah***Vidua paradisaea*

Only seen in the Tsavos and along the Magadi Road.

**Cuckoo [Parasitic Weaver] Finch***Anomalospiza imberbis*

Seen well in the Busia area, and in the grasslands of the Maasai Mara.

**Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*****Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout the trip, including Tsavo West, Samburu and the Maasai Mara.

**Cape Wagtail***Motacilla capensis*

Pairs were seen daily at the pond in front of our lodge on Mt. Kenya, and at several other highland sites.

**Mountain Wagtail***Motacilla clara*

Our first sighting was at Thika, where we had great views.

**African Pied Wagtail***Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird that we found throughout the trip.

**Golden Pipit***Tmetothylacus tenellus*

We were lucky with this striking species in Tsavo West NP and again in Shaba GR.

**Sharpe's Longclaw (E)***Macronyx sharpei*

We were fortunate to find these rare birds on the Kinangop Plateau, where we were all able to see this rarely recorded species on the ground for outstanding views.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw***Macronyx croceus*

Common during the final week of the tour, particularly in the Maasai Mara.

**Pangani Longclaw***Macronyx aurantiigula*

We were fortunate to find these very attractive birds in Tsavo West NP.

**Rosy-throated Longclaw***Macronyx ameliae*

We had great views in the Maasai Mara - yet another stunning bird.

**African Pipit***Anthus cinnamomeus*

Scattered birds observed throughout the trip, on many days of the tour.

*NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a 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 known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.*

**Long-billed Pipit***Anthus similis*

We found single birds on the Magadi Road, followed by others at various sites, including the Maasai Mara.

**Buffy Pipit***Anthus vaalensis*

We saw several in the very short grasslands of the eastern Maasai Mara.

**Plain-backed Pipit***Anthus leucophrys*

This widespread pipit was seen at a few sites, including the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. Clements does not recognise this split.*

**Tree Pipit***Anthus trivialis*

We saw this species in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road and in the Aberdares.

**Sokoke Pipit***Anthus sokokensis*

After a great deal of searching we were finally rewarded with sightings of a pair of these unusual pipits in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Malindi Pipit***Anthus melindae*

We had a fantastic sighting of a pair in the Arabuko Lake area.

**Finches *Fringillidae***

**Yellow-crowned Canary***Serinus flavivertex*

This species was seen well on Mt. Kenya.

*NOTE: This species complex has been split into two, the nominate southern group is now Cape Canary and the form which we recorded in Kenya has become S. flavivertex Yellow-crowned Canary.*

**Western Citril***Serinus frontalis*

Small numbers were seen in Thika with further sightings at Mt. Kenya, Naro Moru and the Maasai Mara.

*NOTE: This complex is now treated as 3 full species, Southern Citril, S. hypostictus, the central Western Citril S. frontalis which we observed and the nominate African/Abyssinian Citril S. citrinelloides of Ethiopia.*

**Southern Citril***Serinus hypostictus*

We saw up to fifteen species in Kakamega Forest and surrounds, and in the Kisumu area.

**Papyrus Canary***Serinus koliensis*

We were fortunate to see this sometimes difficult species near Kisumu. A rare bird indeed!

**Reichenow's Seedeater***Serinus reichenowi*

We first had great looks along the Magadi Road, with scattered sightings elsewhere during the tour.

**Yellow-fronted Canary***Serinus mozambicus*

Our first sightings were at Shimba Hills, with further sightings in the Busia grasslands, the Kitale and Kisumu areas, and in the Maasai Mara.

**Southern Grosbeak-Canary***Serinus buchanani*

We tracked down some calling birds along the Magadi Road, for great views.

**White-bellied Canary***Serinus dorsostriatus*

Seen in several locations throughout the trip, but first observed along the Magadi Road.

**Brimstone Canary***Serinus sulphuratus*

This large seedeater was first seen at Whistling Thorns, thence at a few other sites.

**Streaky Seedeater***Serinus striolatus*

Seen daily on Mt. Kenya with scattered sightings elsewhere in the highlands.

*NOTE: Clements recognizes the Tanzanian race S. whytii as a full species Yellow-browed Seed-eater.*

**Thick-billed Seedeater***Serinus burtoni*

We had superb views on Mt. Kenya.

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

We had widely distributed sightings away from the coast, including birds in Shaba GR and the Maasai Mara.

**Somali Bunting***Emberiza poliopleura*

The pretty buntings were seen in Tsavo West NP, along the Magadi Road and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area

**Golden-breasted Bunting***Emberiza flaviventris*

Seen on numerous occasions during the second half of the tour.

**Annotated List of Mammal Species:**

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals' by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997, with a few additional up-to-date changes.

**Shrews *Soricidae*****Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew***Rhynchocyon chrysopygus*

Seen briefly on a few occasions in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Porcupines *Hystricidae*****Crested Porcupine***Hystrix cristata*

One very large individual was seen coming to the restaurant for scraps, in Tsavo West NP.

### Hares *Leporidae*

#### **Cape Hare**

*Lepus capensis*

We saw this species in the highlands around Mt. Kenya and in the Maasai Mara.

#### **African Savanna Hare**

*Lepus victoriae*

Seen at lower elevations than the previous species, including Lake Baringo.

### Squirrels *Sciuridae*

#### **Unstriped Ground Squirrel**

*Xerus rutilus*

Seen almost daily in Tsavo West NP, the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area and at Lake Baringo.

#### **Striped Ground Squirrel**

*Euxerus erythropis*

We were delighted to find this species on the edge of Tsavo West NP, and at two subsequent sites to boot!

#### **Ochre Bush Squirrel**

*Paraxerus ochraceus*

First seen in Tsavo West NP, with further sightings at Mt. Kenya and Lake Baringo.

#### **Red-legged Sun Squirrel**

*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

Seen in the Arabuko-Sokoke area.

#### **Zanj Sun Squirrel**

*Heliosciurus undulatus*

This brightly-colored species was easily seen around our accommodation in the Shimba Hills.

#### **African Giant Squirrel**

*Protoxerus stangeri*

We had good views of a few in Kakamega Forest.

### Mice *Muridae*

#### **Unstriped Grass Mouse**

*Arvicanthis niloticus*

Seen at two locations, including Lake Nakuru, with the following species.

#### **Four-striped Grass Mouse**

*Rhodomys pumilio*

Most of us had great views of this species as it ran around the bird feeding station at our lodge in Lake Nakuru.

#### **Rusty(rufous) -nosed Rat**

*Oenomys hypoxanthus*

We saw this species while waiting for a flock of Hinde's Babbler to emerge, in Wajee Forest.

### Cats *Felidae*

#### **African Wild Cat**

*Felis silvestris*

We saw this cute little beast in Tsavo East NP.

#### **Lion**

*Panthera leo*

Prides and individuals of these regal beasts were seen exceptionally well in Tsavo West NP, Samburu and in the Maasai Mara.

#### **Leopard**

*Panthera pardus*

One large adult came to feed on meat left out by staff at our lodge in Tsavo West NP every night. Another was seen at the waterhole in front of Mountain Lodge and yet another was seen crossing the road in Shaba GR.

#### **Cheetah**

*Acinonyx jubatus*

Some of us had a magnificent individual by the roadside, during our drive in to Tsavo East NP.

### Genets & Civets *Viverridae*

#### **Blotched Genet**

*Genetta tigrina*

Seen every night at Mountain Lodge, on Mt. Kenya.

#### **Small-spotted Genet**

*Genetta genetta*

Seen especially well at our lodge in Shimba Hills.

#### **African Civet**

*Civettictis civetta*

We had exceptional views of one at Shimba Hills Lodge.

### Weasels *Mustelidae*

**Dwarf Mongoose**

*Helogale parvula*

We saw this species in the Tsavo area and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Banded Mongoose**

*Mungos mungo*

These entertaining creatures were seen in the Maasai Mara.

**Marsh Mongoose**

*Atilax paludinosus*

We saw one at the floodlit waterhole at Shimba Hills Lodge and at Mountain Lodge.

**White-tailed Mongoose**

*Ichneumia albicauda*

As with the above species, we had wonderful views at our accommodation in Shimba Hills and at Mountain Lodge.

### Hyaenas *Hyaenidae*

**Striped Hyaena**

*Hyaena hyaena*

One magnificent individual was seen very close to the restaurant at our accommodation in Buffalo Springs.

**Spotted Hyaena**

*Crocuta crocuta*

Seen in all of the large reserves, with several in the Maasai Mara.

### Dogs & Allies *Canidae*

**Black-backed Jackal**

*Canis mesomelas*

Recorded on three dates, including some in the Maasai Mara.

**Bat-eared Fox**

*Otocyon megalotis*

We had great views of a pair in daylight, in Samburu GR.

### Bats *Chiroptera*

**Straw-colored Fruit Bat**

*Eidolon helvum*

Heard in Shimba Hills, and seen in the Maasai Mara.

**Yellow-winged Bat**

*Lavia frons*

We had great views of this species from our restaurant in Buffalo Springs, and once more in the grounds of our lodge at Lake Baringo.

### Galagos *Galagonidae*

**Greater Galago**

*Otolemur crassicaudatus*

We had great views at our lodge in Tsavo West NP.

**Silver Galago**

*Otolemur argentatus*

We heard them calling at the lodge in the eastern Maasai Mara.

**Small-eared Galago**

*Otolemur garnetti*

Some of these delightful animals were coming in to food handouts in Shimba Hills Lodge.

### Colobid Monkeys *Colobidae*

**Angola Colobus**

*Colobus angolensis*

We had great views of this rare primate in the Shimba Hills.

**Guereza Colobus**

*Colobus guereza*

This, arguably the most beautiful of all monkeys, was seen on Mount Kenya and again in Kakamega Forest.

### Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*

**Olive Baboon**

*Papio anubis*

Seen at a number of locations, including Samburu, Buffalo Springs, Mt. Kenya and the Maasai

Mara.

**Yellow Baboon**

*Papio cynocephalus*

Small numbers were seen in Shimba Hills NP, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Tsavo West NP.

**Syke's Monkey**

*Cercopithecus mitis*

Seen throughout the trip in good numbers, on Mt. Kenya for example.

**[Blue Monkey]**

*Cercopithecus mitis*

Seen in the Maasai Mara and a few in Kakamega. Note that this species is sometimes only considered a sub-species of the previous one.

**Vervet Monkey**

*Cercopithecus aethiops*

Small numbers were seen almost daily in many locations including Samburu and Shaba GRs.

**Red-tailed Monkey**

*Cercopithecus ascanius*

We had great views in Kakamega Forest.

**De Brazza's Monkey**

*Cercopithecus ascanius*

We had good views in a palm grove in the Busia grasslands. This is a globally threatened species.

**Pigs Suidae**

**Bush Pig**

*Potamochoerus larvatus*

We were very surprised to see this species in broad daylight on Mt. Kenya – making up one of three species of wild pig seen that day!

**Giant Forest Hog**

*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

We saw a small group of these spectacular beasts at a waterhole on Mt. Kenya, in broad daylight!

**Desert Warthog**

*Phacochoerus africanus*

A few of these individuals were seen on our first day in Tsavo East NP.

**Common Warthog**

*Phacochoerus africanus*

Another familiar savanna animal that we found in suitable habitat throughout the trip, small numbers were observed in most reserves with peak numbers of fifty in the Maasai Mara.

**Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae**

**Hippopotamus**

*Hippopotamus amphibious*

Fairly common along waterways throughout the tour and even a hazard in some of the lodge grounds!

**Giraffes Giraffidae**

**Reticulated Giraffe**

*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*

This distinctive and beautiful form was seen regularly in the Buffalo Springs/Shaba/Smaburu area.

**Rothschild's Giraffe**

*Giraffa camelopardalis cottoni*

We saw just a few of this form at Lake Nakuru.

**Maasai Giraffe**

*Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi*

Large numbers of this race of giraffe were seen in Shimba Hills, Tsavo West NP and the Maasai Mara.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae**

**African Buffalo**

*Syncerus caffer*

This fearsome animal was observed in all the savanna national parks, with large numbers throughout the tour. Small numbers were also seen on Mt Kenya.

**Bushbuck**

*Tragelaphus scriptus*

This elegant and attractively marked, mainly nocturnal antelope, was seen first in Shimba Hills NP with further sightings in Tsavo West NP and at Mt.Kenya where they were almost permanently around the lodge waterhole.

**Lesser Kudu**

*Tragelaphus imberbis*

We had great views in Tsavo West NP.

**Eland**

*Taurotragus oryx*



This species, the largest of the antelope, was observed first in Tsavo West NP with further sightings at Lake Nakuru and in the Maasai Mara.

**Bush Duiker** *Sylvicapra grimmia*

Seen in the Mt. Kenya area and in the Maasai Mara.

**Harvey's Duiker** *Cephalophys herveyi*

Seen at Kieni Forest and two other sites.

**Black-fronted Duiker** *Cephalophus nigrifrons*

One of the participants was lucky enough to see this species near Mountain Lodge.

**Suni** *Neotragus moschatus*

We had great looks at this diminutive forest dweller in Arabuko-Sokoke.

**Steenbok** *Raphicerus campestris*

We only saw this species in Tsavo West NP, on day six.

**Oribi** *Ourbia ourebi*

We had great looks at a small, relaxed group of these dainty antelope in the Maasai Mara.

**Klipspringer** *Oreotragus oreotragus*

Upon our return from the lava fields in Shaba we spotted this species on a rocky slope in the distance.

**Kirk's Dik-dik** *Madoqua kirkii*

Seen daily in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in most other large reserves.

**Guenther's Dik-dik** *Madoqua guentheri*

We had great views of a pair in Shaba GR, snorting at a leopard nearby.

**Mountain Redbuck** *Redunca fulvorufula*

Seen in the highlands between Shaba and Naro Moru.

**Bohor Redbuck** *Redunca redunca*

This reed-loving antelope was seen very well at Lake Jipe, and on one other occasion.

**Defassa Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, on Mt. Kenya, and in the Maasai Mara.

**Common Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

Seen daily in Tsavo West NP and in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Grant's Gazelle** *Gazella granti*

Small numbers seen in Tsavo East and West, in Samburu and Shaba GRs, and a few other reserves.

**Thomson's Gazelle** *Gazella thomsonii*

See at many locations throughout the tour, including the Maasai Mara.

**Gerenuk** *Litocranius walleri*

The first were in Tsavo East NP. We then observed more individuals of this long-necked, arid-zone antelope species first near in good numbers in Buffalo Springs, Samburu and Shaba Grs.

**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus*

This most familiar of antelope species is another savanna specialty that was seen with frequency during almost all days of the tour in suitable habitat.

**Topi (Tsessebe)** *Damaliscus lunatus*

Observed daily in the Maasai Mara.

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

Seen in small numbers at a number of sites including Shimba Hills and the Maasai Mara.

**Jackson's Hartebeest (Kongoni)** *Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel*

We saw this species on the Solio Plains.

**Blue Wildebeest** *Connochaetes taurinus*

Apart from introduced animals at Naivasha, some were seen in the Maasai Mara and in Tsavo West NP.

**Sable** *Hippotragus niger*

These beautiful beasts were seen very well, on a number of occasions, in Shimba Hills NP

**Beisa Oryx** *Oryx gazelle beisa*

These impressive antelope were seen in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Fringe-eared Oryx***Oryx gazelle callotis*

These equally impressive antelope were seen in Tsavo East and West National Parks.

**Rhinoceroses *Rhinocerotidae*****White Rhinoceros***Ceratotherium simum*

Small numbers of these powerful animals were observed at Lake Nakuru.

**Black Rhinoceros***Diceros bicornis*

We saw this declining species in the Maasai Mara.

**Horses *Equidae*****Common (Burchell's) Zebra***Equus burchelli*

An animal restricted to the savanna and seen on many days during the tour in small numbers. We encountered them in Tsavo East NP, at Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru NP and in the Maasai Mara where we saw many daily.

**Grevy's Zebra***Equus grevyi*

We were fortunate to see some of these large and elaborate zebra in the Samburu/Shaba area.

**Hyraxes *Hyracoidea*****Rock Hyrax***Procavia capensis*

We saw this species at a handful of sites, including Baringo.

**Yellow-spotted Hyrax***Heterohyrax brucei*

Seen on day seven of the tour.

**Southern Tree Hyrax***Heterohyrax arboreus*

Despite being heard on many occasions, this species was only seen once!

**Eastern Tree Hyrax***Heterohyrax validus*

One seen at Naro moru, though heard commonly on Mt. Kenya.

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

Elephants were common and conspicuous in the savanna parks throughout the tour, with numerous close encounters of drinking, bathing and feeding individuals. We had superb views of many in Tsavo East and West NPs, Samburu GR, and in the Maasai Mara with further sightings of small numbers on Mt. Kenya.

**Annotated List of Reptile and Amphibian Species:****Helmeted Terrapin***Pelomedusa subrufa*

Seen in Shaba GR, and in the Maasai Mara.

**Leopard Tortoise***Geochelone pardalis*

Seen at a few locations, including Tsavo West and Lake Baringo.

**Zambian Hinged Terrapin***Pelusios rhodesianus*

Seen in the 'pond' in front of our accommodation at Shimba Hills.

**Tropical House Gecko***Hemidactylus mabouia*

We had good views of these friendly creatures virtually throughout.

**White-headed Dwarf Gecko***Lygodactylus picturatus*

We had good views of several in Shimba Hills NP.

**Rainbow Skink***Mabuya margaritifera*

We had wonderful views of this species in the Samburu/Shaba/Buffalo Springs area.

**Striped Skink***Mabuya striata*

We found our first individuals in Shaba GR.

**Speke's Sand Lizard***Heliobolus spekii*

We had wonderful views of animals in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

**Blue-headed Tree Agama***Acanthocercus atricollis*

One was on a rock in the Maasai Mara.

**Red-headed Rock Agama***Agama agama*

Commonly seen in Tsavo West NP and Lake Baringo area and elsewhere.

**Elementeita Rock Agama***Agama caudospina*

Three were seen at Mweiga.

**Mwanza Flat-headed Agama***Agama mwanzae*

Several individuals were seen daily in the Maasai Mara.

**Finch's Rock Agama***Agama finchi*

We had great views of at least four in the Busia area.

**Smooth Chameleon***Chamaeleo laevigatus*

Our only chameleon was in a papyrus bed at Kisumu.

**White-throated Savanna Monitor***Varanus albigularis*

One was seen in Tsavo East NP.

**Nile Monitor***Varanus niloticus*

One was at Shimba Hills, and two were seen in Lake Baringo, and a few in the Maasai Mara

**Nile Crocodile***Crocodylus niloticus*

Four at Shaba in the Ewaso Nyiro River adjacent to our hotel, a few in Lake Baringo and several seen in the Maasai Mara.

**Guttural Toad***Bufo gutturalis*

We found one near Kitale.

**Rocket Frog sp***Ptychadena sp.*

Several of this difficult genus were seen in damp areas. One froze in the Busia grasslands.

**Rockjumper Birding Tours CC****Worldwide Birding Adventures**

Registration number 2001/059480/23

PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa

Tel: +27 33 394 0225

Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225

Email: [info@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:info@rockjumperbirding.com)

Alternative email: [rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com](mailto:rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.rockjumperbirding.com](http://www.rockjumperbirding.com)