

# Crossing the Zambezi: Zambia and Zimbabwe Safari Species List | July 24 – August 18, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Peg Abbott with local guide Frank Willems, with participants Nancy, Ann, Carol, Marjorie and Gerry.**

We had a grand two-country journey led by one of the top experts for the region, Frank Willems. We visited several safari parks: Kafue NP, South Luangwa NP, Mana Pools NP, as well as the Eastern Highlands of Africa's Eastern Arc Mountains in Zimbabwe and finally Victoria Falls, with transition days in Lusaka and Harare, both at bird-rich lodges. Highlights were many, from seeing vulnerable Wattled Cranes with a new chick, seeing the big charismatic birds like Saddle-billed Stork, Goliath Heron, Kori Bustard and Secretary Bird down to tiny colorful wonders such as Red-throated (Peter's) and Green-backed Twinspots, five species of bee-eaters, five dazzling turacos, six woodpeckers and 11 species of sunbird. We did really well with birds of prey, noting 28 hawks and relatives and four falcon species - headlined by 3 unexpected sightings of Bat Hawk! Eight species of barbets including Whyte's, Chaplin's, and Black-backed, were memorable. We had good luck with endemics, and recorded regional specialties from the Afromontane to the Mozambique and Zambezi lowlands. We birded a rich variety of habitats including Miombo and Mopane Woodlands, various wetlands, grasslands and montane forests. Watching Gurney's Sugarbird feed on colorful proteas our final day was a highlight. We also saw 48 species of mammals and some interesting herps as well.

Following is an annotated list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip listed by Family with Species Common Name *Scientific Name*:

## **BIRDS— (353 species in 84 families)**

The eBird link below details the species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Crossing the Zambezi: Zambia and Zimbabwe Safari | July 24 – August 18, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

### CODES:

HO indicates Heard Only

\*indicates Victoria Falls extension only, also extension is noted in day count as #E...)

AFMS = Afro-Montane Specialty (ours from the Zimbabwe portion of Africa's Eastern Arc Mountain ranges)

ZAMBS = Zambezi River Lowlands specialty

MOZLS = Mozambique Lowlands specialty

ENDEMIC = to Zambia or Zimbabwe, respectively

## **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae — (4)**

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* — (1) Two were spotted from the deck of our lodge in Mana Pools, a long way off but distinct, the only sighting of the trip.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* — (11+2E) Common. We first saw several pair in smaller ponds of Kafue National Park and a few along the main river where aquatic vegetation grew in the shallows. From there they became a regular feature of the riverine corridors and wetland lakes and ponds.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* — (7) We saw the first of this impressive species in vegetated shallows during our first outing sundowners served on the boat – a great first full day in Africa! We saw them in small numbers, typically 1-3 at most larger wetland areas with reed and other aquatic vegetation.

**\*Red-billed Duck** *Anas erythrorhyncha* — (1E) Seen at one of the water holes in Victoria Falls NP, Chamabondo section.

### **GUINEAFOWL: Numididae — (2)**

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* — (12+1E) Very common. Our first encounter with this common species, often found in groups of a dozen or more, was in Kafue, where we saw them regularly. Frank pointed out this population is more typical of Central Africa with a bulbous and not pointed head, so it was nice to have a chance to photograph them. Later in the trip at Luangwa and Mana Pools, we saw the more typical race so we could compare. Few sightings can make one laugh more readily than a sunset gathering. Peg describes them as playing soccer at sunset, as they seem to run off pent up energy with crazy cavorting and displays.

**Southern Crested Guineafowl** *Guttera edouardi* — (1) Local. Seen in a sandy soil section of Luawanga NP with brush and trees near the airstrip, a flock that we first encountered on the road, then followed a ways into the brush. Our only sighting for the trip.

### **PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae — (4)**

**Crested Francolin** *Ortygornis sephaena* — (1) Seen on our final day in Mana Pools, heading to the airport. One crossed the road and Peg was able to call it back, it came out to the edge to inspect us, then cocked its tail and ran across – our only sighting of the trip.

**Natal Spurfowl** *Pternistis natalensis* — (3+1E) We saw pairs of this inconspicuous species a few more times.

**Swainson's Spurfowl** *Pternistis swainsonii* — (5) We first saw this species down the fence row as we made the garden round at Wild Dogs Lodge in Lusaka. We then saw them repeatedly in the other parks, usually lone individuals or pairs.

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer* — (7+1E) Common and widespread. We saw several pair of this vocal species on each of our game drives in various parks.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (13)**

**Rock Pigeon (I)** *Columba livia* — (4) Seen in Lusaka and at the edge of the Wild Dogs property out by the airport in Zambia. Seen in Harare and larger towns in Zimbabwe.

**\*AFMS –Rameron Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* — (1) Seen only in the Eastern Highlands – with quick views. We also heard them more regularly calling.

**Eastern Bronze-naped (Delegorgue's) Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei* — (3) Seen in the highlands only. This is mainly a highlands species but does occur along the coast in moist forest of South Africa.

**\*AFMS - Lemon Dove** *Aplopelia larvata* — (3) We had one on a nest just below the main building at Seldomseen Lodge, and while on field outings in the highlands we saw several fly by quickly, heard them calling often.

**Mourning Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* — (4+1E) Seen in Mana Pools around the wetland areas and by our tented camp.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* — (13+2E) This was the first species Nancy and Ann worked out on their own in the Wild Dogs garden with their early arrival. Singing “I am... the Red-eyed Dove” they would prove to be common and widespread, but we continued to enjoy them. Common and widespread throughout the journey.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* — (13+2E) We did not encounter them in Lusaka, but once out of the city and into the bush they emerged. They were common and often in the road tracks while exploring Kafue NP.

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* — (8) First seen on the garden at Lusaka, several individuals. We had to look

carefully to note them among the more abundant Ring-necked but they were widespread in the parks.

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* — (15+2E) This lovely small dove was quite common and vocal.

**Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur afer* — (3) Seen only on the eastern side of the Eastern Highlands, best views along the roads coursing through the tea estates.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* — (5) Heard often and with some work we saw them, on all of our highland days.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* — (2) Only a few individuals spotted in Mana Pools NP.

**African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calvus* — (4) We had good views of this species, two or three at a time, almost always in Sycamore Fig trees with fruit in Kafue NP.

### **SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae — (1)**

**Double-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles bicinctus* — (2) Our first sighting was along the sandbar at sunset where we had so many African Skimmers, we were out for sundowners so had the scope set up for good views. We found a few the next day as we went out to the grassland area of Luangwa NP.

### **BUSTARDS: Otididae — (2)**

**\*Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori* — (+1E) Seen only on the final afternoon drive, an option that Peg and Carol took, not wanting to quit. We took the same route we missed them on in the morning and saw at least four individuals, in the Chamabondo section of Victoria Falls NP

**\*Red-crested Bustard** *Lophotis ruficrista* — (+1E-HO) Great to hear their loud calling, but impossible to find in thick grass as we drove through the Chamabondo section of Victoria Falls NP.

### **TURACOS: Musophagidae — (4)**

**Gray Go-away-bird** *Crinifer concolor* — (12+1E) Very common, in groups of 4-10 in Kafue NP where they often perched in tree tops, giving us good views. Widespread, we found them in all the parks other than the highlands.

**\*MOZLS - Purple-crested Turaco** *Gallirex porphyreolophus* — (6) While we saw this species in Luangwa NP, our best views were at York Lodge, a wonderful oasis that we came and went from while in Harare. Gerry described photographing them there like “shooting fish in a barrel” as they came repeatedly into water features, and flew from trees to palms and about the property, their calls being almost continuous there.

**Schalow’s Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi* — (4) This species was surprisingly common and flexible in habitat choice in Kafue. We heard it in thick trees around the lodge but were just as likely to find it in small tree clusters around the more open habitat driving around and exploring. We’d see 2-5 on each game drive, marveling at the color of their underwing in flight. On one drive we enjoyed a “two turaco” tree as one perched just above a Gray Go-away-bird. We did not find them again in Victoria Falls NP, but they are known to be there.

**\*AFMS - Livingstone’s Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii* — (7) Once in the highlands this species was very common. Memorable was one that caught the sun as we started our walk at the Botanic Garden near Seldomseen Lodge. Its colors were dazzling and no cameras ready! They launched often across openings and called often from dense tree crowns.

### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (3)**

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* — (5) Our first sighting was a good view of one close to the vehicle at a small pond we stopped at in Kafue NP. We also encountered individuals in Luangwa NP.

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* — (5) One surprised us in Lusaka, in a small tree cluster on the lawn of Wild Dogs Lodge, but Ann was able to see and describe the head well. We saw it again the following day for good confirmation. We saw two varieties of this species, the nominate at Wild Dogs and Luangwa NP, and Burchell’s at the highlands and Aberfoyle area.

**Burchell’s Coucal** *Centropus burchellii*— (2) Seen in the highlands at Aberfoyle Lodge and surrounding tea estates.

**Klaas’s Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* — (1) We had good views on our outing to lower elevation at the Katiyo Estate in Zimbabwe.

### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (2)**

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis* — (4-HO) This call brightened up the night at both Wild Dogs Lodge and Kafue NP, uttered not long after dark and intermittently until just before dawn.

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii* — (3) Seen on our night returns from afternoon game drives in Luangwa NP.

### **SWIFTS: Apodidae — (7)**

**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* — (1) Seen in one flock at one of the main waterholes at Mana Pools NP on our way in, while having tea and snacks. A few were in with more numerous Bat-like Spinetails.

**Bat-like Spinetail** *Neafrapus boehmi* — (3) Seen regularly by one of the waterholes at Mana Pools NP, and also out in the grasslands there.

**Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* — (2) It was a thrill to catch a flight of this patchy in distribution species, while in the highlands.

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* — (1) We had a sizeable group flying above us our middle day at Luangwa NP when we ventured out to the grasslands.

**\*AFMS - Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* — (2) Seen on travel days to and from the highlands.

**Little Swift** *Apus horus* — (3+1E) Small flocks seen in several of the national park areas we frequented.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* — (15+1E) First seen on our travel day to Kafue NP in a small village with palm trees, then around a long palm by the boat docking area we used daily to meet up with our game drives from Mukambi Safari Lodge. They would prove to be one of the most common species we encountered, always around palms but predictably so.

### **FLUFFTAILS: Sarothruridae — (1)**

**Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa* — (1-HO) Two individuals were calling back and forth but we could not urge them out from thick grasses as we explored a maze of trails of the Katiyo Estate, lower in elevation and close to the Mozambique border.

### **RAILS, CRAKES, AND COOTS: Rallidae — (2)**

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* — (1) One individual seen in the shallow margin of the Kafue River across from our lodge.

**Black Crake** *Zapornia flavirostra* — (3) Our first sighting was one walking across the backs of Hippos clustered along the edge of the Kafue River, fun! We had them again in a few more wetland areas.

### **FINFOOTS: Heliornithidae — (1)**

**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis* — (4+1E) We were so happy to find this species with ease, and to get to watch it run on the water as it got nervous crossing open water, then glide smoothly once among secretive branches of the shoreline. Its distinctive markings and shape were wonderful to be able to study as we saw them on the main river and in several of the larger pools of Kafue NP. We saw them regularly from our lodge, where we took a boat across the river each time we did a safari drive. We encountered one again along the banks of the Zambezi on our sunset boat cruise there.

### **CRANES: Gruidae — (1)**

**\*ZAMBS - Wattled Crane** *Bugeranus carunculatus* — (2) We found three birds together at a quiet pool in the woodland of Kafue NP, sharing the pond with another giant, a female Saddle-billed Stork. We then found a nest our final morning, tipped off by the carnivore project team, we made a detour to see it, and were rewarded as one chick had hatched, and the adult was standing up so we could see one egg, and one chick. Such an elegant species and rewarding to see it doing well here.

### **THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae — (1)**

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* — (10+1E) We could hear the wails of this species from the river margin as we walked to breakfast with our escorts each morning at Mukambi Safari Lodge in Kafue NP. We then found several on the margins of small ponds that we could study, feeding, resting and in flight. They proved to be regular along the rivers in all of the parks we visited. Ann described their call as reminiscent of North America's Canyon Wren, but more mournful.

#### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (1)**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus* — (7) Fairly common and seen regularly at water features throughout much of our journey.

#### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (7)**

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* — (7) Seen very well along rivers and waterways, most of our sightings were in Luangwa and Mana Pools NP.

**Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* — (8+1E) We first saw a lone individual in Kafue NP. We then had widespread and very regular sightings at the other parks, mainly seen in pairs set up at each waterhole.

**White-crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus albiceps* — (8+1E) Widespread and very much at home along the banks of the larger rivers that defined each park we visited.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* — (4+1E) Seen away from water in open areas, including the air strip at Harare.

**Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* — (3+1E) We saw 1-2 individuals at a time, in small woodland freshwater ponds while in Kafue NP. We had other sightings in Luangwa NP and later on our final game drive in Victoria Falls NP.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Anarhynchus pecuarius* — (1) Just one individual seen a long way away on a sandbar, in Mana Pools and spotted from Camp.

**White-fronted Plover** *Anarhynchus marginatus* — (2) Seen only in Luangwa NP, but we got good views, along rivers and edges of waterholes.

#### **JACANAS: Jacanidae — (2)**

**Lesser Jacana** *Microparra capensis* — (1) Three individuals spotted and seen well, feeding in shallow vegetated area of the Kafue River not far from our lodge, our only sighting of the trip, on floating aquatic vegetation.

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* — (10+1E) Quite common along the river shore, and in some of the larger vegetated freshwater ponds in all of the parks we visited other than the highlands.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (4)**

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* — (9) Seen along the banks of the major rivers of the area in small number.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* — (6) Present at many of the smaller, more isolated woodland ponds, with some open mud and shoreline vegetation. Also seen in quiet bends of the river with vegetation.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* — (7) Seen in oxbows and lagoons off the main river, feeding.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* — (3) Seen daily from our camp in Luangwa NP where we had a good view of the river.

#### **PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae — (2)**

**\*ZAMBS - Three-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus cinctus* — (2) A wonderful sighting in Mana Pools our final day, two birds that were sitting in the grassland area, turned out to be brooding two young chicks and we watched as they moved them off into the shade.

**\*Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis* — (1E) Peg spied on from our sunset boat cruise on the Zambesi River and we got good views.

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* — (2) Seen at a distance, flying and perched on grassy areas between river channels.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (2)**

**Gray-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* — (1) A lone individual resting in vegetation in a shallow area of the

Kafue River not far from our lodge was the only sighting of the trip.

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris* — (3+1E) Great views along the Luangwa River where we found them paired up and starting to nest. We heard them while scanning the river in Mana Pools, then picked up sightings of another group, also nesting, on the Zambezi River sunset boat cruise.

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae — (5)**

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus* — (11+1E) Fairly common in Kafue NP, along the river and in isolated smaller freshwater ponds. Common at all the parks, the most numerous of the wading birds we saw, with long lines of them spotted at sunset, returning to roost sites.

\***Black Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* — (1E) One individual seen on our final game drive at one of the pools in the Chamabondo section of Victoria Falls NP.

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* — (10) We encountered several individuals, each time alone, in various freshwater ponds of Kafue NP. In all the parks, both male and female seen.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* — (8+1E) We first saw several individuals, and then a cluster of 30+ at a pond where dry-down conditions were concentrating catfish at Kafue NP. They were present at all watered areas of the various parks, and we had a few scavenging on a lion carcass as well.

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* — (9) Single individuals seen here and there in small wetland ponds of Kafue NP. We then found good sized groups, some in breeding plumage at Luangwa NP. At one waterhole we witnessed a big drama when an African Fish Eagle swooped down on one and chased it acrobatically, as if it kill it. But we realized it had seen it catch a fish and was harassing it to disgorge the catch. Memorable!

#### **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae — (1)**

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa* — (1+1E) One individual seen along the Kafue River, sunning itself. We saw another on our Zambezi River boat cruise at sunset.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (2)**

**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus* — (5+1E) Long lines of birds returning to their roost was our introduction to this species along the Kafue River, near our lodge. We saw them amply again along the Zambezi at the end of our trip.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (3) Less common than the Long-tailed, but multiple individuals seen along the Kafue River, the main location we saw this species on our trip.

#### **IBIS AND SPOONBILL: Threskiornithidae — (4)**

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* — (4) We saw this species mainly in Mana Pools NP.

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* — (9+1E) A few were first spotted among other waders at Kafue NP along the main river channel in vegetated areas. We then found them to be widespread and got good looks, particularly from the hide at Flatdogs Camp, where we got excellent photos.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* — (11+1E) Seen flying over our hotel outside the airport in Lusaka, and then at Kafue NP in freshwater ponds and along the main river. We often heard them ahead of seeing them, common and widespread.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* — (5) We thoroughly enjoyed watching their feeding antics, often mixed in with the more abundant Yellow-billed Storks.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (12)**

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax* — (5) A lone individual was first spotted in thick vegetation at a pond in Kafue NP. We encountered them in secretive, tree-lined lagoons a few at a time in several of the parks.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* — (3) Not common, but present in wetland areas, often as lone individuals.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* — (8) A lone individual flew in while we were watching Hippos in a small freshwater pond in Kafue NP, our first of several sightings. In Mana Pools one stood poised to hunt, bent over a fish-billed lagoon,

its tension took our breath away!

**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardeola rufiventris* — (4) Seen daily in Mana Pools, in the lagoon closest to our camp. We saw multiple individuals and had good views.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* — (7) We first found this beautiful heron in golden light as we cruised down the Kafue NP on our arrival day there, perfect beginning of our journey. We found them regularly in small numbers in wetland areas on our safari drives.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* — (4) Seen following African Buffalo and other grazing animals in grassland areas of the parks.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* — (12+1E) Seen at quite a few of the small ponds first in Kafue NP, and then in other parks of the journey. We had them regularly along the margin of the main rivers and in lagoons and ponds, 1-3 individuals at a time.

**Yellow-billed Egret** *Ardea brachyrhyncha* — (4) We saw this species often in the company of its larger cousin, the Great Egret. We had time at Mana Pools to study the differences well.

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea* — (8) Seen from our hotel outside the airport in Lusaka flying over morning and evening.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* — (1) Just one very quick sighting in Mana Pools, along the river.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* — (11) We saw many individuals, at times totally away from water features, hunting insects and frogs. One evening departing from our sundowners on the banks of the Luangwa River, we had a group of eight or more in a wet pocket of land above the river and we watched them hunt and fly in and out.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath* — (7) Our first sighting was a lone individual was unmistakable along the shore of the pond at Fig Tree Camp as we dined at lunch on our full day exploring Kafue NP. We spotted several at a distance, then in Mana Pools we had one at the closest lagoon to our camp, standing like a sentinel daily.

#### **HAMERKOP: Scopidae — (1)**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* — (10) This species is one everyone really wanted to see and we first found over a dozen at a pond drying down in Kafue NP, feeding, sunning themselves and interacting. We then found them at several wetland areas, sometimes perched along the shore, other times in trees. We admired their huge nests and always enjoyed encountering them.

#### **SECRETARYBIRD: Sagittariidae — (1)**

**\*Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius* — (1E) We made a huge effort to find this species and almost gave up, just at sunset our final day – success! It was great to see them roosting up in a tree.

#### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (26)**

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* — (3) One individual, perched and then flying, on the last morning game drive Peg and Carol did from Mukambi Safari Lodge in Kafue. We had a few other individuals along the way.

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* — (6) First seen on our travel day, just before leaving Kafue NP after lunch. Fairly common and widespread.

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* — (3) Best seen at Aberfoyle Lodge in the Honde Valley, where we had a pair just starting a nest.

**African Cuckoo Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides* — (1) An excellent sighting, and a surprise, at our break time after lunch it buzzed through the grounds of Seldomseen Lodge, then circled repeatedly above us.

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis* — (4) We first saw several immature individuals in flight over Kafue NP and one mature adult. This species is in serious decline so we noted each one as we explored.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos* — (1+1E) Another species in decline, we were able to see just two individuals in our 20+ days.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* — (5) Fairly common in number, we saw them often associated with Lion prides where they could scavenge and procure a meal.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* — (10) The common vulture encountered throughout our journey.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* — (10) Seen on each day of our time in Kafue NP, most in flight but one good view of a

perched adult on a morning game drive. We then continued to see them regularly throughout our journey.

**Western Banded Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens* — (9) One was seen on each walk at Wild Dogs Lodge, likely nesting in the habitat beyond the property. Also seen in Kafue NP, and then in several of the areas we visited, including South Luangwa, Mana Pools and at the end of the trip at Victoria Falls on the safari drive there.

**Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* — (5) One individual first seen in Kafue NP and then encountered, with good photo ops on several locations. Most sightings were in Luangwa NP.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus* — (3) A perched individual was studied well in Kafue NP, but the most memorable was one that flew at eye-level, almost sheering off the windshield of our vehicle as it zoomed across to the river, likely on some prey. This was one of two sightings in Luangwa NP and memorable.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* — (1) Our record for the trip was thanks to Ann and Nancy who dove right in at the start at Wild Dogs Lodge where Nancy got a photo of one in flight.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* — (3) One lone individual was first seen atop a probable nest in Kafue NP. We had good looks at one in Luangwa NP that had just consumed prey, and we spied them again in Victoria Falls NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* — (1) One seen as we searched for Lesser Seedcracker in the lower Honde Valley.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster* — (3) A pair was first seen in flight, circling above us, at one of our rest stops in Kafue NP. We had a few other chances to admire them. Seen again at Mana Pools.

**Bat Hawk** *Macheiramphus alcinus* — (3) This is a difficult species to find, and we were thrilled to encounter it on three occasions. We got excellent looks each time.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* — (2) Both times we saw this species, in Luangwa and Mana Pools NP, it was a rapid flight through, in search of prey.

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* — (1) Just one chance to see this beauty perched for great photos on its long legs in the grassland section of Luangwa NP.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* — (8) Good views several times, on our travel day, from Mukambi Safari Lodge, and in Kafue NP. We found them to be quite common, seeing them in each of the parks on several days, including at Aberfoyle Lodge in Honde Valley.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* — (7) Seen by the group that went on the walking safari as they returned to Mukambi Safari Lodge.

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* — (2 +1E) Briefly seen flying into a huge tree along the river on our sunset boat cruise from Mukambi Safari Lodge.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius* — (1) Great views in a surprising open location.

**Ovampo Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter ovampensis* — (2) Seen at two locations in the highlands.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* — (2) Seen in the Mana Pools area, and then in Victoria Falls NP.

**African Fish-Eagle** *Ichthyophaga vocifer* — (9) And Iconic and stunning bird. Several individuals, mature and immature, seen in Kafue NP. We saw them at each location, noted on 17 eBird checklists with 73 magnificent individuals in total.

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* — (1) Peg spied this beauty on the wing above a dramatic granite monolith in the highlands, our only sighting of the trip.

### **OWLS: Strigidae — (5)**

**African Scops-Owl** *Otus senegalensis* — (6-HO) Heard nightly while in Kafue NP at Mukambi Safari Lodge and at our lodge in Mana Pools NP.

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Ketupa lactea* — (1) Carol put in a strong request and Frank and our local guide were able to find one in a huge Natal Mahogany tree coming out of Flatdogs Camp into Luangwa NP.

**Pel's Fishing-Owl** *Scotopelia peli* — (1-HO) How we wish we could have found this beauty, it was not by lack of trying, and Frank did some great networking with colleagues to help steer our efforts. We did hear them not far from our camp in Mana Pools NP.

**African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium capense* — (5) We encountered two individuals while out and about in Kafue NP, fine views both times. We also heard them calling around our hotel. Widespread, it was also encountered at Mana Pools and



near Aberfoyle Lodge in the Honde Valley on the east side of Zimbabwe's highlands.

**African Wood-Owl** *Strix woodfordii* — (5) One of the delights of the highlands was several chances to see this impressive owl, hear it calling and see it in flight, first in Luangwa we heard it, then were able to find it a couple of times in the highlands.

**MOUSEBIRDS: Coliidae — (2) Family endemic to Africa**

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus* — (5) Seen at several locations in the highlands.

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus* — (10) Quite common and first seen in Kafue NP, small flocks of 4-6 would often cross our path. Noted on 11 eBird checklists, over 100 individuals in total.

**TROGONS: Trogonidae — (1)**

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* — (2) Jewelry on wings, what a stunning bird. We got to see males on two occasions and we saw them well, feeding and pretty oblivious to our presence.

**HOOPOES: Upupidae — (1)**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* — (9) First seen on the grounds of Wild Dog Lodge, then seen several times, lone individuals, in Kafue NP. Seen in all parks, and also in the highlands. Noted on 13 eBird checklists.

**WOODHOOPOES: Phoeniculidae — (2)**

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* — (10) We had several flocks of this species first seen on our game drives in Kafue NP. One group called loudly and displayed, turning upside down in asynchrony on an exposed limb – quite a show! We then found them to be quite common and recognized their calls.

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* — (7) Individuals and likely pairs encountered on game drives in Kafue NP, several times. They were widespread, and while not common, we had them in each park and in the highlands, typically a pair at a time.

**GROUND-HORNBILLS: Bucorvidae — (1)**

**Southern Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri* — (8) We had really good sightings of this species, in family groups, first in Kafue NP, then Luangwa and Mana Pools. We watched family groups and learned to age the chicks, which typically are one a year.

**HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae — (7)**

**Crowned Hornbill** *Lophoceros alboterminatus* — (11) Seen perched atop trees and first seen in flight in Kafue NP, a few individuals each day there. We then found them at each of the parks, all the way to the end of our journey at Victoria Falls NP.

**\*Bradfield's Hornbill** *Lophoceros bradfieldi* — (1-E) Seen on our final afternoon, very good views in Victoria Falls on our afternoon safari drive.

**African Gray Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus* — (10) Quite common and vocal and first seen in Kafue NP where groups of 2-8 seen several times a day on game drives. They stayed with us at most locations, and we heard them often, watched them in flight, perched and displaying.

**\*Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas* — (1-E) Great views on the morning game drive in Victoria Falls NP.

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus rufirostris* — (7) Quite common and widespread. We watched them feeding on Elephant dung, and in grasslands.

**\*AFMS - Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** *Bycanistes brevis* — (3) What an impressive bird! Seen in the highlands as family groups in the canopy.

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator* — (4) First seen as pairs seen flying along the riverine habitat and between lines of riverine habitat in Kafue NP, some days we had several pair. We then saw them again at Victoria Falls.

### **BEE-EATERS: Meropidae — (5)**

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* — (13) This colonial nesting species was seen along the riverine habitat in good number in Kafue NP. Nest sites were not active but we'd see 4-10 individuals at a site, and sometimes inland feeding.

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* — (12) Quite common, often as pairs, seen on all game drives in Kafue NP.

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus* — (6) Two individuals seen perched high on woodland trees, sallying out for insects, in Kafue NP.

**\*ZAMBS - Bohm's Bee-eater** *Merops boehmi* — (1) A regional specialty we were happy to find two different groups while in Kafue NP.

**\*ZAMBS - Southern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicoides* — (3) Seen quickly on a wire in route to Flatdogs Camp and again on an optional game drive in Mana Pools, this species was just arriving back and we were lucky to find them.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (6)**

**Half-collared Kingfisher** *Alcedo semitorquata* — (1) We had really close and stunning views of this species on the sunset boat trip in Kafue NP when Frank spotted it perched low over the river not far from our boat.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* — (7) Our first individual seen along the river shore in Kafue NP flying low, perching and diving in for small fish. We then caught sightings at several locations in Luangwa and Mana Pools.

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* — (14) We got great views right from the start from one that frequented the lawns and gardens of Wild Dog Lodge. We heard or saw them a couple of times in Kafue NP.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* — (3) Seen as lone individuals, often located by hearing them first, in Kafue NP, at least one on most game drives.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* — (7) Several individuals were seen along the main river in Kafue NP.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryls rudis* — (9) A couple of individuals seen on small ponds in Kafue NP.

### **ROLLERS: Coraciidae — (2)**

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* — (12) Not common, but at least one a day seen in Kafue NP.

**Racket-tailed Roller** *Coracias spatulatus* — (2) Two different pair were observed on different days in Kafue NP.

### **AFRICAN BARBETS: Lybiidae — (8)**

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii* — (5) Their long trill calls clued us in to their presence and we managed good sightings on a couple of days in Kafue NP. We then saw them in South Luangwa, at our hotel in Harare, and in Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River cruise.

**White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis* — (6) Seen at all locations in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Whyte's Barbet** *Stactolaema whytii* — (2) Seen at York Lodge in Harare, then seen at the historic roadside rest, and at the lower (drier habitat – Miombo) stretches of the Bvumba Road.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus* — (8) Seen at all mountain locations in Zimbabwe.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* — (5) With some work we coaxed a persistent calling bird into view while in Kafue NP. This species was seen at diverse locations, Goshu Park, York Lodge, Victoria Falls on safari – more open habitats than Yellow-rumped.

**ENDEMIC (to Zambia) - Chaplin's Barbet** *Lybius chaplini* — (1) A family group of four seen in a fruiting Sycamore Fig tree in Kafue NP, much to the delight of all of us.

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus* — (8) Seen at Wild Dogs Lodge, a pair frequenting the grounds, and then in Kafue NP we saw family groups, often four at a time. This species was widespread at safari national parks, at Seldomseen Lodge in the mountains, and at Victoria Falls walking the trails there.

**Black-backed Barbet** *Pogonornis minor* — (2) We saw this lovely species first in the pool area of Mukambi Lodge, then again at the pond where we were served lunch at Fig Tree Lodge. Not common, but vocal and present in Kafue.

### **HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae — (5)**

**Brown-backed (Wahlberg's) Honeyguide** *Prodotiscus regulus* — (1) Two individuals seen on Bvumba Road, in Zimbabwe, **Pallid Honeyguide** *Indicator meliphilus* — (1) Seen on the grounds of Aberfoyle Lodge in Zimbabwe.

a nice find.

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor* — (5) Good looks at a couple of individuals on separate days in Kafue NP. Then seen at South Luangwa, at Mana Pools investigating a sap leak alongside other species, and finally at Aberfoyle Lodge.

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus* — (4) Seen at several locations in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator* — (4) Located by call, then visual, we had a couple of encounters with this species in Kafue NP. We recorded them on one outing each in South Luangwa and Mana Pools, then encountered them at the lower elevation we visited on the Katiyo Tea Estate.

#### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (6)**

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Chloropicus namaquus* — (2) Seen in both South Luangwa NP and at Mana Pools.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* — (11) Quite common in Kafue NP, several pairs seen on game drives there. We then found them at just about every destination on the journey.

**Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicos griseocephalus* — (3) Seen on the grounds of Wild Dog Lodge and then again on the grounds of Mukambi Safari Lodge where they liked the taller trees.

**Green-backed Woodpecker** *Campethera maculosa* — (4) One individual seen and studied on our four-woodpecker game drive our first full morning in Kafue NP. We then did not see them again until daily sightings at Aberfoyle Lodge in Zimbabwe and at the neighboring Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Bennett's Woodpecker** *Campethera bennettii* — (5) One individual seen very well in Kafue NP, feeding. We had a sighting one day at our camp (Flatdogs) in South Luangwa, then saw them daily in Mana Pools, where our best looks were there on the parks massive and stately trees.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera albingoni* — (7) A calling bird alerted us to its presence, in the vicinity of a Bennett's we had been watching while in Kafue NP – a good comparison. At Mana Pools they were common, and we had one at the lunch break circling the limb of a tree above the dining area. We found them again at Seldomseen Lodge in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

#### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (4)**

**\*ZAMBS - Dickinson's Kestrel** *Falco dickinsoni* — (1) We had a great view of this species when we went to find species farther down the valley from Aberfoyle Lodge, in a small grove of trees we circled several times. It perched out in the open and was seen right away on our arrival there.

**Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera* — (2) Quick views of one flying to a utility tower to perch on our travel day up to Kafue NP. One additional sighting of a perched bird leaving Flatdogs Camp in South Luangwa.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* — (2) We had a quick sighting of a flyby at Charles Prince Airport after one of our domestic flights, but then had nice long views of a lone individual atop a rock monolith at Goshu Park our final day of the trip.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* — (1) This sighting, just over the falls, was our saving grace from a visit to Mtazari Falls, which in the drought proved to be a rough road to a disappointing location, our only bust of the trip.

#### **OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae — (1)**

**ENDEMIC (to Zambia) - Lilian's Lovebird** *Agapornis lilianae* — (9) We saw a pair at sunset on the early arrival day at Wild Dogs Lodge and then had another fly by while eating there as a full group the following day. Frank says they are expanding their range and now are regularly present here. Our high count for this widespread species was 110+ in South Luangwa, and they were seen daily on each outing in Mana Pools.

#### **NEW WORLD PARROTS: Psittacidae — (2)**

**Brown-necked Parrot** *Poicephalus fuscicollis* — (2) We struggled with this species, both sightings (South Luangwa and later at Mana Pools just before we saw the Nyala buck) were quick and distant fly-bys that Frank called out.

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri* — (11) Common in Kafue NP, seen mainly as pairs, often flying, sometimes perched. This parrot was ubiquitous in the safari national parks, particularly regular on outings in Mana Pools. We had them at our lodge in Harare, and while absent from the mountains in Zimbabwe, we picked them up again on safari drive in Victoria Falls NP.

#### **AFRICAN BROADBILLS: Calyptomenidae — (1)**

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis* — (1-HO) We had hopes of finding this beauty, but a pair below us were skulkers, heard on a side trail from all the mountain tea plantations in Zimbabwe.

#### **CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae — (2)**

**\*AFMS - Gray Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia* — (1) Two individuals were seen at the Vumba Botanical Gardens.

**Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava* — (2) Seen on the grounds of our lodge at Aberfoyle, and earlier in the trip on an outing walking the Bvumba Road.

#### **OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae — (2)**

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus* — (2) Seen on two days on the grounds of Aberfoyle Lodge.

**African Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus* — (10) Heard and seen in Kafue NP, several individuals each day. We found them again singing from the tall, stately trees in Mana Pools, and finally at Aberfoyle Lodge and vicinity.

#### **WATTLE-EYES AND BATISES: Platysteiridae — (4)**

**Black-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira peltata* — (5) Widespread, we first encountered this highly patterned small species at Mukambi Lodge in Kafue. They were on the grounds of Stretch's Camp in Mana Pools, and we had them again in Zimbabwe at Aberfoyle.

**Cape Batis** *capensis* — (3) Seen on three outings in the mountains of Zimbabwe, part of Africa's Eastern Arc of mountain Sky Islands.

**Chinspot Batis** *molitor* — (11) Seen several times and heard others in Kafue NP. We saw them on all days in Mana Pools NP, then on the Bvumba Road in the Zimbabwe mountains, and at Victoria Falls.

**\*MOZLS - Pale Batis** *soror* — (1) Just one individual seen in the lowland site past Aberfoyle Lodge we dropped down to for some drier habitat species, at Katiyo Tea Estate.

#### **VANGAS AND HELMETSHRIKES: Vangidae — (2)**

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* — (9) Great views of a lively flock on several occasions in Kafue NP. They turned out to be quite common in all the safari national parks and on the final safari drive in Victoria Falls. Our best views were in Mana Pools where small gangs were often on the ground, hopping up on dead logs and feeding with a frenzy.

**Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii* — (9) Several groups seen, including good views at several rest stops, in Kafue NP. This species was always up in the trees, quite acrobatic in feeding and highly interactive with each other. They were as present in the mountain terrain as in the safari national parks but always a treat to encounter.

#### **BUSHSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Malaconotidae — (9)**

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer* — (9) Seen at Wild Dogs Lodge and a few individuals in Kafue NP. Widespread at the safari national parks and in the mountains, and on our final day at Gosha Park, a rock wonderland.

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* — (20) Common and widespread.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *senegalus* — (6) Several individuals seen and heard singing, lovely musical song. Less common in Kafue than the Brown-crowned though at times we saw both in close proximity. Most often seen as lone individuals, we had them in South Luangwa, Mana Pools and in Zimbabwe on the Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *australis* — (7) Common in Kafue NP, where the high count on one outing was four. We had them in South Luangwa, Mana Pools and at the end of the trip in lower elevations on the Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* — (15) We first watched a vocal pair in the garden at Wild Dogs Lodge in Lusaka. We saw them at several locations including our lodge in Kafue NP. They then proved to be common and widespread at all parks and all elevations.

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike** *Telophorus sulfureopectus* — (7) Seen in Kafue NP, not common and typically around our lodge and other lush areas. We picked them up again on two drives in Mana Pools.

**\*AFMS - Olive Bushshrike** *Telophorus olivaceus* — (2) Seen on the grounds of Seldomseen, our first lodge visited in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Black-fronted Bushshrike** *Telophorus nigrifrons* — (3) Seen in the mountains of Zimbabwe, best views were at the botanical gardens.

**Gray-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* — (9) Several lone individuals seen in Kafue NP. The most common of the bush shrikes, with sightings at Mana Pools, Bvumba Road and other locations.

#### **DRONGOS: Dicruridae — (2)**

**Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii* — (5) The common drongo in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* — (15) Very common throughout the journey.

#### **MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae — (1)**

**African Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* — (1) An immature male made a brief pass through our camp in Luangwa NP.

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae — (2)**

**\*Magpie Shrike** *Lanius melanoleucus* — (1-E) Seen on both safari drives in the Chamabonda section of Victoria Falls NP.

**Southern Fiscal** *Lanius collaris* — (3) Seen at three locations in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (2)**

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* — (10) Common at Wild Dogs Lodge and around Lusaka, on our travel day to Kafue as well. They proved to be common and widespread, comfortable around human settlement, seen especially on travel days.

**White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis* — (7) Seen in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

#### **HYLIOTAS: Hylotidae — (1)**

**\*ZAMBS - Southern Hyliota** *australis* — (4) Seen at the historic roadside rest on the way to Zimbabwe's mountains, there in the mountains, and on our final outing to Goshu Park in route back to Harare.

#### **FAIRY FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae — (1)**

**White-tailed Crested Flycatcher** *Elminia albonotata* — (2) Seen around our lodge and the botanic gardens of Zimbabwe's mountains.

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae — (2)**

**Southern Black-Tit** *Melaniparus niger* — (5) Family groups seen on a couple of occasions on game drives through woodlands in Kafue NP. We did not see this species again until a coffee break in Zimbabwe at the historic Roadside Rest, where it was quite tame. We saw them at Bvumba Road and again on safari in Victoria Falls.

**\*ZAMBS - Miombo Tit** *Melaniparus griseiventris* — (2) Seen well in Miombo forest we accessed on the Bvumba Road with our guide from Seldomseen, then again at Goshu Park our final morning.

#### **PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae — (1)**

**African Penduline-Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli* — (3) Seen at a stop in Kafue NP where we had a lot of bird activity, alerted to its presence by its high call and seen in flight, short perch sessions. We then had a big gap and picked them up again on

Bvumba Road in Zimbabwe, and at Gosha Park, the rock wonderland visited our final morning.

**LARKS: Alaudidae — (3)**

**Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* — (2) Seen in open grassland areas of Kafue NP.

**\*Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana* — (1-E) Singing and perched up in view on our game drive in Victoria Falls NP.

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* — (2) A few individuals seen on the air strip at Harare coming and going to Mana Pools.

**NICATORS: Nicatoridae — (1)**

**Eastern Nicator** *gularis* — (1) Seen and heard by the swimming pool at Flatdogs Lodge before one of our safari drives, then heard a few spots again that same day.

**AFRICAN WARBLERS: Macrosphenidae — (3)**

**Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii* — (3) Seen in Miombo forest along with Miombo Tit.

**Long-billed (Cape) Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens* — (9) Seen on the hotel grounds of Wild Dog Lodge, Lusaka. Heard in Kafue NP.

**Moustached Grass-Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* — (1) Several highly vocal individuals were seen the day we descended to our lowest elevation from Aberfoyle Lodge. Great scope views, right out of the bus.

**CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae — (18)**

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *icteropygialis* — (1) Seen in Miombo forest on lower Bvumba Road.

**\*ZAMBS - Greencap Eremomela** *scotops* — (3) Seen best at a bridge crossing and then several other locations of Bvumba Road, often with mixed flock.

**\*AFMS - Roberts's Warbler** *Oreophilais robertsi* — (4) Highly vocal and entertaining when seen, it was a skulker in the mountains of Zimbabwe, best seen at Seldomseen Lodge on the trails. Six (three pair) was the high count on an outing there.

**\*ZAMBS - Stierling's Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes stierlingi* — (1-HO) Heard in a thicket area of Kafue NP.

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *brachyura* — (8) Common and widespread.

**Bar-throated Apalis** *thoracica* — (6) Widespread in the mountains of Zimbabwe, in mixed flocks, four was the high count.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *flavida* — (12) Seen well at Wild Dogs Lodge, then heard on several days in Kafue NP. They proved to be common and widespread at most locations of the journey.

**\*AFMS - Chirinda Apalis** *chirindensis* — (4) Seen well at Seldomseen Lodge.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *subflava* — (8) Seen well at Wild Dogs Lodge and then in Kafue NP, including at Mukambi Lodge. Seen at South Luangwa, up in the Zimbabwe mountains, and at Victoria Falls.

**Red-winged Prinia** *erythroptera* — (2) Seen in the lower, more arid section of land we explored below Aberfoyle.

**Red-faced Cisticola** *erythroptera* — (2) Calling and seen well on our morning walk with 42 species at Wild Dogs Lodge. Our best looks were on the loop walk we took at lower elevation from Aberfoyle, at the Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Singing Cisticola** *cantans* — (3) Seen at Aberfoyle, other mountain sites and lower reaches of Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Rock-loving (Lazy) Cisticola** *aberrans* — (1) Just one individual seen at Aberfoyle Lodge.

**Rattling Cisticola** *chiniana* — (3) Seen several times on outings in South Luangwa NP and Mana Pools NP.

**Croaking Cisticola** *natalensis* — (3) Fairly common in grassland areas of Kafue NP, the only location we saw them on this trip.

**Siffling (Short-winged) Cisticola** *brachypterus* — (1) One lone individual of this species was seen alongside Croaking for good comparison while in Kafue NP.

**Zitting Cisticola** *juncidis* — (1) One individual studies alongside Croaking in Kafue NP, likely others in tall grass areas.

### **REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae — (1)**

**African Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* — (1) Seen on the Katiyo Tea Estate on an outing from Aberfoyle.

### **GRASSHOPPER WARBLERS: Locustellidae — (2)**

**\*AFMS - Barratt's Warbler** *Bradypterus barratti* — (5) Seen well in the mountains of Zimbabwe at several locations.

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala* — (1) Seen at Aberfoyle Lodge.

### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (7)**

**Black Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* — (7) Common flying over Aberfoyle Lodge, the botanic gardens, high count was 50+.

**Gray-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* — (5) The common swallow of the safari parks, 30 was high count.

**Plain Martin** *Riparia paludicola* — (8) Common and widespread in the safari parks, 12 was the high count.

**\*Southern Crag (Rock) Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* — (1) Seen at Aberfoyle Lodge, our first afternoon arriving there.

**Red-throated Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rufigula* — (1-E) Seen at Victoria Falls at the falls, as we walked the rim area.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* — (17) Seen in Kafue NP daily, not large numbers but present.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* — (11) Seen very well where numerous individuals were nesting under a bridge.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* — (5) Two different pairs encountered in Kafue NP, good views.

### **BULBULS: Pycnonotidae — (7)**

**\*MOZLS - Sombre Greenbul** *Andropadus importunus* — (4) Seen in the mountains of Zimbabwe, including the lower elevation at Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* — (8) Several were seen in Kafue NP, often where other bird species were actively feeding.

**\*AFMS - Stripe-cheeked Greenbul** *Arizelocichla milanjensis* — (4) Widespread in the mountains of Zimbabwe, first seen at Seldomseen Lodge.

**\*AFMS - Yellow-streaked Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* — (4) Seen at Aberfoyle, the botanic gardens, mountain terrain.

**Terrestrial Brownbul** *Phyllastrephus terrestris* — (9) Seen on each of our walks at Wild Dog Lodge in Lusaka, in denser shrubbery. We then saw this ground-feeder at all of the safari parks and on one day at Seldomseen Lodge in the mountains.

**Gray-olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* — (1) A nice find in the pool area just after lunch while at Mukambi Safari Lodge.

**Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus* — (20) Very common in variety of habitats, seen daily.

### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae — (1)**

**\*AFMS - Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler** *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* — (1) Present at both Seldomseen Lodge and the botanic gardens nearby, in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

### **WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae — (1)**

**Southern Yellow Whie-eye** *Zosterops anderssoni* — (12) Seen at Wild Dogs Lodge and then several small flocks seen in Kafue NP at our lodge and out on game drives. We kept encountering them at almost all locations of the journey, widespread.

### **LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae — (1)**

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* — (11) Our introduction was a noisy, comical family group that frequented the pool area at Mukambi Safari Lodge, providing mealtime entertainment. Seen just about everywhere on our journey,

with high counts of groups of 8 at Mana Pools.

### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae — (1)**

**\*ZAMBS - African Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis salvadori* — (1) A great find, in lower Bvumba Road where we walked a loop trail into Miombo, a specialty there, but we had to work for it.

### **OXPECKERS: Buphagidae — (2)**

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* — (9) We saw them on Kudu and Hippo in Kafue NP, several groups encountered, but not numerous. They became numerous in some of the other safari parks, with high counts of 30 in South Luangwa and 40 in Mana Pools, also seen on the safari loop in Victoria Falls NP.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* — (4) Surprisingly this less-common species was our first oxpecker encountered in Kafue NP. Along with the much more common Red-billed, we saw them on Kudu and Hippo. We saw a few in South Luangwa NP as well.

### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (9)**

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* — (1) Just one sighting, in South Luangwa NP.

**Common Myna (I)** *Acridotheres tristis* — (2) Seen around humans, best looks at Charles Prince Airport after one of our domestic flights.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* — (1) Seen just once, in a massive tree not far from Aberfoyle Lodge on a small farm, a dozen of them.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio* — (1+2E) Seen at Froggy Farms Coffee Estate on the way out of the mountains at the end of our trip, and then very common in the Victoria Falls area.

**\*ZAMBS - Meves's Starling** *Lamprotornis mevesii* — (9) Common and widespread throughout.

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus* — (1) The Miombo variety was seen as several flocks passed through, moving as a group, perched up on tree tops for good views.

**\*ZAMBS - Sharp-tailed Starling** *Lamprotornis acuticaudus* — (1) Out of range in Kafue, Frank was very careful of the idea, but a flock of about 20 flew in and perched while we were taking a break at a small pond in Kafue, so we could maneuver for good views to verify.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* — (7) Quite common at Kafue and South Luangwa NPs, and we found them also at Harare, at York Lodge. High count was a group of 50 in South Luangwa.

**\*Cape Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens* — (1-E) Only one sighting, on the safari drive in Victoria Falls NP.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae — (3)**

**\*AFMS - Orange Ground-Thrush** *Geokichla gurneyi* — (3) Seen at Seldomseen Lodge and the botanic gardens nearby.

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana* — (10) Good views on the grounds of Wild Dog Lodge, Lusaka. We then found them at Mana Pools NP, they were common the mountain areas of Zimbabwe, and our final sighting was at Gosha Park in route back to Harare.

**\*AFMS - Olive Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus* — (2) Seen on the grounds of Wild Dog Lodge and then again on our last morning at Mukambi Safari Lodge in Kafue NP.

### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae — (16)**

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* — (4) Several locations in the mountains of Zimbabwe, best views perched up on low shrubs at the botanic gardens.

**Pale Flycatcher** *Agricola pallidus* — (1) Two individuals seen at Gosha Park our final morning, great to get new birds up until the very end of the journey!

**Gray Tit-Flycatcher** *Fraseria plumbea* — (2) Seen at Seldomseen Lodge and the botanic gardens nearby.

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Fraseria caerulescens* — (6) Two seen off the deck at Fig Tree Lodge in Kafue NP, posing well on small shrubs at close range. Seen at Mana Pools on several occasions and on the grounds of Aberfoyle Lodge.



**Southern Black-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina* — (8) Encountered on several walks at Wild Dogs, close to Fork-tailed Drongo for good comparison. A few were seen at Kafue NP, South Luangwa, Mana Pools and at one location in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Bearded Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* — (1) Just seen one time, at Mana Pools NP.

**\*ZAMBS - Miombo Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas barbata* — (2) Seen well and photographed in Kafue NP in woodlands.

**Red-backed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* — (2) Seen and heard in Kafue NP in woodlands.

**\*AFMS – White-browed (Cape) Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* — (2) Seen in the mountains, and heard singing beautifully, from our lodge at Seldomseen and at the botanic gardens nearby.

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* — (15) This beautiful songster woke us up at Wild Dog Lodge and was seen on the grounds. Also seen in Kafue NP in “bird parties” encountered on our game drives. They proved to be widespread and common.

**Collared Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata*— (1) Seen by those of the group that took the walking option from Mukambi Lodge in Kafue NP.

**\*AFMS - White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata* — (1) Zimbabwe mountains - forest species.

**\*AFMS - Swynnerton’s Robin** *Swynnertonia swynnertoni* — (2) Seen quickly with much effort, a very furtive species, at Seldomseen Lodge and the botanical gardens nearby.

**\*ZAMBS - Miombo Rock-Thrush** *Monticola angolensis* — (2) Great views, seen on the loop walk we took on lower Bvumba Road in Zimbabwe, from Seldomseen Lodge.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* — (5) Widespread in the mountains of Zimbabwe, at varying elevation.

**\*ZAMBS - Arnot’s Chat** *Myrmecocichla arnotti* — (3) Several pairs seen in mature woodland habitat in Kafue NP.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* — (3) A couple of individuals seen in open grassland where areas had been burned, so short grass and termite mounds was the habitat.

### **SUGARBIRDS: Promeropidae — (1)**

**\*AFMS - Gurney’s Sugarbird** *Promerops gurneyi* — (1) Seen very well in varied colored protea flowers and native shrubs at the edge of the protea farm, in the Zimbabwe highlands. Carol spotted the first one after we’d searched for a bit, in all we saw three quite actively feeding.

### **SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae — (11)**

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* — (16) Common, vocal, male and female seen in Lusaka in the garden on the white flowering tree, and then also off the deck at Mukambi Safari Lodge.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* — (5) Common in the mountains and at our lodges there.

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* — (5) Seen on a game drive in Kafue, with a mixed flock, feeding. They were at all our Zimbabwe mountain locations and at Gosha Park, the rock wonderland visited our final day.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* — (12) Quite common in the white-flowering tree at Wild Dog Lodge and active at the lodge in Kafue NP around the pool. They proved to be common and widespread.

**\*AFMS - Bronze Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* — (3) A mountain species, seen on several outings there, best views of one perched up at the botanical gardens.

**\*AFMS - Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa* — (1) Seen quickly at a distance from the cabin with the amazing view that had been sold off from Seldomseen Lodge, and then again at Froggy Farm, also very quick.

**\*ZAMBS - Eastern Miombo Sunbird** *Cinnyris manoensis* — (5) Seen at all locations in Zimbabwe.

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus* — (3) Seen at Mana Pools, then again at the lower elevations of Zimbabwe at Katiyo Tea Estate.

**White-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala* — (9) Common at all safari national parks of Zambia and at Mana Pools.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* — (9) Best seen as the most common sunbird species seen at Wild Dogs Lodge on the grounds. It turned out to be widespread and common for the rest of the journey.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus* — (1) Seen only on flowering shrubs at Charles Prince Airport.

### **WEAVERS: Ploceidae — (17)**

**Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis niger* — (2) Seen at South Luangwa NP, working on its massive stick nests.

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* — (7+1E) Seen commonly at all safari national parks, and then again at Victoria Falls on our safari drive there.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps* — (2) Seen at Mana Pools NP in those lovely massive trees.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* — (9) A few individuals seen very well, nest building at Wild Dogs Lodge. They proved to be widespread, both in safari national parks and up into the mountains.

**Holub's Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops* — (8) A nesting pair observed by the pool where they had decorated the area with multiple nests, stunning color of the male was a delight to see at close range.

**Lesser Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* — (4) A few were seen when we studied eye color of the mixed weaver flocks at Wild Dog Lodge.

**Southern Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus* — (4) Seen mixed in with Village and Lesser Masked at Wild Dog Lodge, demanding a study to find some textbook individuals.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* — (2) Numerous at Wild Dog Lodge near the airport in Lusaka.

**Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor* — (5) Seen in the forests around Seldomseen Lodge.

**Red-billed Quelea** — (5) Seen at South Luangwa daily, then again at Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix* — (3) Seen infrequently at South Luangwa, then again at Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Black-winged Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus* — (2) A mountain species, seen at and around Aberfoyle Lodge.

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* — (5) A lone individual seen feeding along a dry river when we stopped to view Lesser Striped Swallows, just after the entrance gate to Kafue NP. We picked them up again almost daily in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura* — (3) Common in grasslands at Kafue NP, the only location of the trip we encountered them.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* — (1) Seen in non-breeding plumage, in good number (40+) at Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* — (1) A large, lone individual perched up by the pool area, mixed in with Yellow-mantled Widowbirds at Mukambi Safari Lodge.

**Grosbeak Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons* — (6) Seen at York Lodge, then at most locations of the Zimbabwe mountains. High count on an outing was 12.

### **WAXBILLS: Estrildidae — (15)**

**Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullata* — (7) Common at Wild Dog Lodge, and seen in Kafue NP. Also common in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Spermestes bicolor* — (4) Less common than Bronze but present at Wild Dog Lodge. We picked them up again in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

\*AFMS - **Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Coccyzygia quartina* — (1) Seen at Aberfoyle and the mountain botanic garden we visited, best view by the area we checked in, on the edge of a clearing.

\*AFMS - **Green-backed Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula* — (2) Seen high in trees by our cabins at Aberfoyle Lodge.

\*AFMS - **Red-faced Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza reichenovii* — (2) Seen at Seldomseen Lodge and the nearby botanic gardens.

**Black-tailed Waxbill** *Glaucostrelda perreini* — (2) Seen at and around Aberfoyle Lodge.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* — (4) Seen at both lodges in the Zimbabwe mountains and at Katiyo Tea Estate. High count was 10.

**Southern Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus angolensis* — (15) Very common, widespread. Seen on 24 eBird checklists, with a high count of 50 at South Luangwa NP.

**Lesser Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes minor* — (1-HO) We made a huge effort to see this highly local species at the lower elevation we explored from Aberfoyle. Frank, roaming to find it, got a look but for the rest of us, despite diligent and patient effort it remained heard only.

**Green-winged Pytilia *melba*** — (3) A stunning species found typically with other ground-feeding species in the safari national parks habitat.

**\*ZAMBS – Red-throated (Peters’s ) Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus*** — (3) Seen well on one of the game drives at Kafue NP, in dense vegetation. We struggled in dark light to get photos. Then we had a very tolerant one coming to a water drip at Aberfoyle Lodge in the Zimbabwe Mountains later in the trip.

**Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*** — (11) Seen in the gardens and grounds at Wild Dog Lodge, especially near small water features and the garden. They then proved to be one of the most common mixed flock species and we saw them often throughout the trip.

**African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*** — (1) Quick looks at a river crossing on the Katiyo Tea Estate.

**Jameson’s Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*** — (1) Seen at one location in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Brown Firefinch *Lagonosticta nitidula*** — (1) A few individuals seen by the pool area at Mukambi Safari Lodge.

### **INDIGOBIRDS: Viduidae — (3)**

**Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*** — (3) A few individuals seen at Wild Dogs Lodge. Seen again on two days in Mana Pools NP.

**Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*** — (2) First seen drinking at a small water pool by a leaking hose at Wild Dog Lodge.

**Purple Indigobird *Vidua purpurascens*** — (1) Seen with a flock of Village Indigobirds using a small water pool by a hose leak at Wild Dog Lodge in Lusaka.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (4)**

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*** — (7) Seen at our lodge in Lusaka, then seen on travel days in towns and villages.

**Northern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*** — (2+1E) Seen at our lodge in Lusaka, 2-4 at a time, then seen again in the park at Victoria Falls, Chamabonda section.

**Southern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*** — (6) Very common at all safari national parks, high count on two days 100+ at Mana Pools.

**Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow *Gymnoris supercilialis*** — (7) A few individuals seen on game drives in tall brush in Kafue NP. Seen in the Zimbabwe mountain areas including Katiyo Tea Estate and at Gosha Park our final morning.

### **WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae — (7)**

**\*AFMS - Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*** — (3) Quite tame round Aberfoyle Lodge where we found them regularly. We watched courtship and watched one wag its tail sky high provocatively, a new concept of that tail function!

**African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*** — (16) Common and widespread. First seen at the lodge in Lusaka and also at the boat dock daily at Mukambi Safari Lodge in Kafue NP. We then had them in all areas with ponds or river edges, vocal and common, they were often near our lodgings and would perch on docks, roofs, patio railings.

**African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*** — (1+1E) The most common pipit in open grassland areas.

**Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*** — (1) One seen on our first morning game drive in Kafue NP in an open area.

**Buffy Pipit *Anthus vaalensis*** — (1) Two seen well near the vehicle in Kafue NP on one of our stops, the only sighting of our trip.

**Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris*** — (4) Peg spotted the first at a roadside rest as we ascended into the highlands, we then saw them at several locations once at elevation and in woodlands.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*** — (1) Excellent looks at this species on our day from Aberfoyle down to a lower elevation Katiyo Estate on the east side of the country, within sight of Mozambique.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (5)**

**Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*** — (8) Common, seen in small flocks at various locations.

**Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*** — (7) Common in small flocks at various locations.

**Black-eared Seedeater *Crithagra mennelli*** — (1) We found several individuals of this species in a mixed flock bird party at Gosha Park, our final stop in the Miombo woodland habitat.

**Streaky-headed Seedeater** *Crithagra gularis* — (3) Seen regularly in the highlands, a few individuals at a time.

\***AFMS - Cape Canary** *Serinus canicollis* — (1) Seen on the grounds of Seldomseen Lodge.

### **OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae — (2)**

**Cabanis's Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi* — (1) Spotted in Miombo Forest on a day trip from Seldomseen Lodge, expected there, but we only found one individual.

\***Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris* — (1-E) A welcome sighting on our two safari drives into the Chamabando section of Victoria Falls National Park, mopane habitat.

### **MAMMALS: — (48 including three distinct subspecies)**

**Four-toed Elephant Shrew** *Petrodromus tetradactylus* — (1) Seen on two days in South Luangwa NP.

**Malbrouck Monkey** *Chlorocebus cynosuros* — (4) Common in Kafue NP.

**Blue Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis* — (5) Common in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Vervet Monkey** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* — (10+2E) Common and widespread.

**Yellow Baboon** *Papio cynocephalus* — (4) The common baboon of South Luangwa NP.

**Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus* — (8+3E) The common baboon of Mana Pools NP and the Zimbabwe mountains area.

**Kinda Baboon** *Papio kindae* — (4) Several big troops seen in Kafue NP, one alerted us with loud alarm calls to a Leopard, one of our best sightings!

**Peters's Epauletted Fruit Bat** *Epomophorus crypturus* — (3) This species roosted around the trees of Wild Dog Lodge and we could hear them at dinner and throughout the night.

**Smith's Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus cepapi* — (11+1E) Common in Kafue NP, family groups seen. Then widespread at other safari parks including Mana Pools.

**Mutable Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus mutabilis* — (1) Heard, and seen by some in the mountain area near our lodge at Aberfoyle.

**African Savannah Hare** *Lepus victoriae* — (4) Two were seen on the night drive returning to our lodge in Kafue NP.

**Side-striped Jackal** *Lupulella adusta* — (1) Seen once in Kafue NP.

\***Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas* — (1-E) Seen at a distance on our safari drive in Victoria Falls NP.

**African Wild Dog** *Lycaon pictus* — (1) We worked daily to see them and were so thrilled to find a pack at dusk, we had already laid out sundowners when we got the word, but grabbed them and drove like crazy when a friend of our driver was kind enough to pass a tip.

**African Civet** *Civettictis civetta* — (1) A night drive sighting in South Luangwa NP.

**Rusty-spotted Genet** *Genetta maculata* — (1) A night drive sighting in South Luangwa NP.

**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo* — (4) Fairly common in South Luangwa and seen one day in Mana Pools as well.

**Common Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguineus* — (9) Seen a couple of times, lone individuals, first in Kafue NP and then South Luangwa and Mana Pools.

**Common Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* — (3) Such a cute mammal to watch its antics, seen mainly in Mana Pools.

**Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta* — (11+1E) Seen in the daytime, and then again on the night return to our lodge in Kafue NP.

Also heard around the lodge in Kafue NP. They were heard often in all the other parks, and none of us would forget the close encounter with Stretch's acclimated female around the campfire circle there. Peg and Carol got good looks at some pups when on the second game drive in Victoria Falls NP.

**African Wild Cat** *Felis lybica* — (1) Seen by one of our vehicles in Mana Pools NP, a lucky find!

**Leopard** *Panthera pardus* — (4) Seen by our full group in a rather incredible sighting, where we watched it inspect a troop of baboons, a flock of guineafowl, then follow a narrow ditch with ease, almost completely hidden down to a pond, where it tactically walk behind shrubs and laid down, scanning a herd of Puku. We had this all to ourselves, one of the real treats of Kafue NP! Carol and Peg who chose the game drive our final morning had another sighting of a large female on a termite mound, which peeked out at close range through branches of shrubs.

**Lion** *Panthera leo* — (4) Three full-bellied females were seen on the optional game drive; at the same pond our group had observed so many Hamerkops in Kafue. Seen all days while in Luangwa NP.

**African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* — (12+2E) Breeding groups with multiple ages of young were seen regularly in Kafue NP, one we patiently waited to go past as they blocked the road. We saw long males, and watched them use their huge feed to uproot the coarse grasses. At Victoria Falls we had to wind our way back through the herds at waterholes and had some very close encounters, memorable!

**Plains Zebra** *Equus quagga* — (4+1E) Seen on Mana Pools, often with mixed herbivore herds. Seen at Victoria Falls NP on our safari drive there.

**Crawshay's Zebra** *Equus quagga crawshayi* — (3) The subspecies seen in South Luangwa NP, an isolated population.

**Warthog** *Phacochoerus aethiopicus* — (11+1E) Common and widespread throughout.

**Bushpig** *Potamochoerus larvatus* — (1) Kafue, one sighting. As this is not an easy mammal to find, we were lucky.

**Hippopotamus** *amphibius* — (12+1E) First seen in Kafue NP, including several family groups with very small piglets. Then seen throughout the journey at water areas, common.

**East African (Thornicroft) Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi* — (4) The giraffe subspecies we saw at Mana Pools. An isolated subspecies of Massai Giraffe.

**\*Southern Giraffe** *Giraffa* — (2-E) Seen on both the boat trip and on safari drives at Victoria Falls NP.

**Greater Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* — (10+1E) Beautiful views of both male and females were first seen in Kafue NP. We found them subsequently in all the safari national parks.

**Southern Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus sylvaticus* — (9+1E) First seen around our lodge in Kafue NP. We had them at all the safari national parks, and then at Seldomseen Lodge in the Zimbabwe Mountains. Also at Victoria Falls.

**Nyala** *Tragelaphus angasii* — (2) Memorable sightings of this elegant mammal in Mana Pools NP.

**Southern Reedbuck** *Redunca arundinum* — (2) Two small groups encountered on game drives in Kafue NP.

**Common Eland** *Taurotragus oryx* — (4) Seen regularly in Mana Pools NP.

**African (Cape) Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer* — (6+1E) Seen in South Luangwa NP and Mana Pools NP, some were in healthy, large herds.

**Common Wildebeest** *Connochaetes taurinus* — (1E) Seen at Victoria Falls NP, the nominate species

**Common (Cookson's) Wildebeest** *Connochaetes taurinus cooksoni* — (1) One individual spotted on our long exploratory day from Flatdogs Camp in South Luangwa NP.

**Common Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* — (8) Widespread, other than Kafue where there is a different subspecies.

**Defassa Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa* — (3) This is the form seen in Kafue NP, and we found them daily, in groups.

**Sable Antelope** *Hippotragus niger* — (1+1E) One lone male seen secretively drinking at a water hole in the woodlands in Kafue NP. A beautiful group seen in Victoria Falls NP.

**Hartebeest (Kongoni)** *Acelaphus buselaphus* — (2) Seen in the open grassland section of Kafue NP on our full day over to Fig Tree Lodge, open grassland habitat rimmed by woodland.

**Puku** *Kobus vardonii* — (8) Very common in Kafue NP, several were pregnant and we saw a few with nursing young.

**Sharpe's Grysbok** *Raphicerus sharpei* — (2) One individual encountered on the optional morning game drive in Kafue NP, it stayed quiet for us to study and get some good photos. We then had a second chance at seeing this species on another game drive in Kafue.

**Impala** *Aepyceros malampus* — (11+2E) Very common in all safari national parks, big herds.

**\*Steenbok** *Raphicerus campestris* — (1-E) Seen in Victoria Falls NP only.

**Blue Duiker** *Philantomba monticola* — (2) A great find, at Seldomseen Lodge on the trails and at the nearby botanic garden where one made a quick flash run across an opening a few observed.

## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (15)**

**Serrated Hinged Terrapin** *Pelusios sinuatus* — (5) Seen at the Hamerkop Pool in Kafue NP, walking out of the water along a muddy channel. Also seen in South Luangwa and Mana Pools.

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus* — (12+1E) First seen along the main river and in freshwater ponds at Kafue NP. Then

seen commonly in all safari national parks of both countries.

**Wahlberg's Striped Skink** *Trachylepis wahlbergii* — (7) Seen around the pool at Mukambi Lodge, Kafue NP, then at Mana Pools NP and on one day in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Rainbow Skink** *Trachylepis margaritafera* — (2) Gorgeous, seen on two days at Aberfoyle Lodge.

**Variable Skink** *Trachylepis varia ssp.* — (1) Seen by those that took the walk at Kafue NP from our lodge there.

**Tropical House Gecko** *Hemidactylus mabouia* — (5+2E) Widespread, at our lodges.

**Common Dwarf Gecko** *Lygodactylus capensis* — (5+1E) Seen at Kafue and South Luangwa and Victoria Falls.

**Marshall's Pygmy Chameleon** *Rhampholeon marshalli* — (3) Seen and photographed at Seldomseen Lodge, it stayed in the same bush by the staff housing and we visited often.

**Southern Tree Agama** *Acanthocercus atricollis* — (1) Seen in the mountains of Zimbabwe.

**Nile Monitor Lizard** *Varanus niloticus* — (2+1E) South Luangwa and Mana Pools, Victoria Falls.

**Mopane Snake** *Hemirhagerrhis nototaenia* — (1) Seen by one vehicle in South Luangwa NP.

**Puff Adder** *Bitis arietans* — (1) Seen on the grounds at Flatdogs Camp, coming in from safari.

**Clawed Frog** *Xenopus laevis* — (2) Seen around our lodge in South Luangwa.

**Painted Reed Frog** *Hyperolius marmoratus* — (1) Called loudly each night in the small pool by the entrance to Aberfoyle Lodge.

**Gray Foam-nest Treefrog** *Chiromantis xerampelina* — (5) Common and vocal at South Luangwa and Mana Pools.