

Tanzania Wildlife and Birding Safari with Kenya Extension Species List | Oct 12 – 28, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Stephen Grace with local guides Martin Joho and Kalama Kitsao.
Our clients included Gene, Teri, David, Jan, Brian, Lori, Don and Chris.**

A 19-day journey from montane foothills to Rift Valley escarpments, alkaline lakes, and the classic Serengeti–Amboseli grasslands produced **384 species across 78 families**. Standouts included Tanzanian endemics such as Gray-breasted Spurfowl, Fischer’s Lovebird, Yellow-collared Lovebird, Beesley’s Lark, Kilimanjaro White-eye, Ashy Starling, and Rufous-tailed Weaver, along with near endemics including Gray-crested Helmetshrike, Maasai Apalis, Mbulu White-eye, Kenrick’s Starling, Tsavo Sunbird, Taveta Golden-Weaver, Kenya Rufous-Sparrow, and Southern Grosbeak-Canary.

Sought-after grassland specialists like Double-banded Courser, Buff-crested and Cori Bustards, and multiple sandgrouse species added to the excitement, while woodland and acacia highlights ranged from Schalow’s and Hartlaub’s Turacos to the radiant D’Arnaud’s Barbet and a fine suite of hornbills—Crowned, African Gray, Von der Decken’s, Northern Red-billed, and Silvery-cheeked. Wetland margins glowed with color and abundance: Malachite Kingfisher, African Jacana, Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Goliath Heron, African Spoonbill, Great White Pelican, and Greater Painted-Snipe. Waterbird diversity was outstanding across Momella Lakes, Lake Manyara, Tarangire Swamp, Amboseli Marshes, and Nairobi National Park.

Palaearctic migrants were consistent throughout the tour—Common Cuckoo, Montagu’s Harrier, Steppe Eagle, Yellow Wagtail, and Ruff—while Afro-tropical passerines shone across sunbirds, weavers, cisticolas and prinias, bushshrikes, and starlings. Both day and night brought memorable encounters: from the fierce diurnal Pearl-spotted Owlet to the elusive African Scops-Owl, and from the graceful African Paradise-Flycatcher to the distinctive Hamerkop. The raptor list was exceptional, featuring Martial, Crowned, and Long-crested Eagles; Secretarybird; Bateleur; Pygmy and Lanner Falcons.

Among the common yet charismatic species that delighted the group were Lilac-breasted Rollers, dazzling in every light; Superb Starlings, so familiar yet endlessly luminous; Speckled Mousebirds, whose sociable antics brought daily joy; Little Bee-eaters, flashing green and gold across the plains; and the incomparable Gray Crowned-Cranes—emblems of East African elegance.

Of conservation note, Beesley’s Lark persisted at Engikaret as a micro-range endemic, where careful off-road discipline and coordination with the local Maasai community ensured minimal disturbance. Vulture assemblages remained healthy

at several sites, with Rüppell's Griffon and Lappet-faced Vultures particularly noteworthy. Amboseli's spring-fed marshes supported high waterbird biomass, and our records of Chestnut-banded Plover aligned with expected seasonal use of shallow brackish pans. Endemics and near-endemics within the Tarangire–Manyara complex were recorded across multiple sectors, underscoring the importance of both the protected areas and adjacent community lands.

Nineteen days across northern Tanzania and southern Kenya delivered a comprehensive East African checklist that balanced iconic birds—cranes, bustards, rollers, turacos, and eagles—with subtle cisticolids, desert larks, and range-restricted endemics. High-quality views of coveted species such as Beesley's Lark, Taveta Golden-Weaver, Chestnut-banded Plover, Double-banded Courser, Greater Painted-Snipe, Schalow's and Hartlaub's Turacos, Secretarybird, Martial Eagle, and Gray Crowned-Crane anchored the trip. Wetland abundance at Momella, Manyara, Tarangire, and Amboseli, together with the urban-edge productivity of Nairobi National Park, rounded out a journey that united diverse ecosystems, exceptional guiding by local experts, and enduring moments of discovery.

BIRDS

384 species were recorded of which 1 was Heard Only, 7 were Endemic, 8 were Near Endemic, and 3 were Introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 384 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.

[Tanzania with Kenya Extension | 12–30 Oct 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

BIRDS (384 species)

E = Endemic **NE** = Near Endemic **I** = Introduced **H** = Heard Only

OSTRICHES: Struthionidae — (1)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* — (12 days). World's largest bird based on both height and weight; powerful legs built for 40 mph sprints and defensive kicks.

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae — (10)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* — (4 days). Social "whistlers" that gather in tight rafts on pans and marshes.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* — (1 day). Tawny duck; often feeds at dusk on seeds of aquatic grasses.

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* — (2 days). Sits low like a grebe; strong diver with white patch at the base of the bill.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* — (12 days). Bold eye patch; bright white forewings in flight; pairs loudly defend shorelines.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* — (2 days). Africa's largest "goose"; armed with a carpal spur and a red facial shield.

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota* — (2 days). Tiny dabbling duck; slate bill and compact shape on vegetated pools.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* — (1 day). Broad spatulate bill strains plankton from shallows (Palearctic migrant).

Cape Teal *Anas capensis* — (3 days). Delicate gray with pinkish bill; favors saline or brackish flats.

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythrorhynchos* — (3 days). Distinctive coral bill; often in mixed flocks with teals and pochards.

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma* — (2 days). Chestnut diving duck; red eye on males gleams in good light.

GUINEAFOWL: Numididae — (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* — (Seen every day but one of the tour—14 days). Helmeted, polka-dotted ground birds; vigilant “bush alarms” of the savanna.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (6)

Crested Francolin *Ortygornis sephaena* — (6 days). Crest flicks as pairs skitter along road verges.

Coqui Francolin *Campocolinus coqui* — (3 days). Tiny francolin; explosive take-off from grass clumps gives it away.

Hildebrandt’s Spurfowl *Pternistis hildebrandti* — (2 days). Rich rufous underparts; loud duets at first light.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus* — (5 days). Bare yellow throat patch and harsh calls from termite mounds.

Gray-breasted Spurfowl *Pternistis rufopictus* — **(E)** (2 days). Tanzanian endemic and Serengeti specialty; finely patterned breast with rufous flecks.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* — (3 days). Robust, dark spurfowl; bold red facial skin.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (10)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* — **(I)** (5 day). Cliff-dweller turned city staple.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* — (10 days). White “pearl” spots on wings; often on buildings and rocky outcrops.

Dusky Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia lugens* — (4 day). Highland dove with smoky tones; favors montane edges.

Mourning Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* — (4 days). Pale dove of acacia country; mellow, repetitive coos.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* — (2 days). Heavysset; deep “I am the Red-eyed Dove” cadence.

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* — (Seen every day of the tour—15 days). Classic dry-country dove; incessant “work-har-der” call.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* — (1 day). Pinkish, scaled neck; tinkling, chuckling song.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* — (8 days). Tiny dove; flashes green wing-spots in dappled woodland light.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* — (6 days). Long-tailed, delicate; males with black face and chest panel.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus* — (1 day). Fruit-eating acrobat; lime and maroon plumage blends with fig foliage.

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae — (3)

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* — (1 day). Sandy brown bird of arid areas; fast, buzzing flight over pans.

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse *Pterocles gutturalis* — (1 day). Buff wings with yellow throat; larger than other sandgrouse; crepuscular inhabitant of grasslands and savannas.

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus* — (3 days). Dark mask and intricately marked body; tight flocks winging low to water at dawn.

BUSTARDS: Otidae — (4)

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* — (9 days). Heaviest flying bird; stately strides across open short-grass.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis* — (9 days). Subtle gray-brown; bursts into display flights over savanna.

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana* — (1 day). Tiny bustard; males whirr up in vertical display with crested crown.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* — (5 days). Males give a “champagne cork pop” display note.

TURACOS: Musophagidae — (4)

Bare-faced Go-away-bird *Crinifer personatus* — (3 days). Comedic “go-away!” calls; bare black face and tall crest.

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Crinifer leucogaster* — (6 days). Pale belly and floppy glide between acacias.

Schalow’s Turaco *Tauraco schalowi* — (1 day). Long-crested forest edge turaco; crimson wing-flash in flight.

Hartlaub’s Turaco *Tauraco hartlaubi* — (1 day). Emerald and cobalt jewel of montane thickets.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (5)

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* — (7 days). Heavy, skulking “bush-crow”; bubbling calls at dawn.
African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* — (1 day). Brilliant green and gold; ringing “pretty-Julia” song.
Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* — (2 day). Melancholy “it will rain” refrain; brood parasite.
African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* — (1 day). Looks like Common Cuckoo; orange-yellow bill base helps identify.
Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* — (1 day). Palearctic migrant; classic two-note call.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (1)

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* — (1 day). Seen on night drive at Tarangiere. Cryptic ground-sitter; flicks up at dusk along sandy tracks.

SWIFTS: Apodidae — (4)

African Swift *Apus barbatus* — (3 day). High, scything arcs over ridges; dark and long-winged.
Little Swift *Apus affinis* — (8 days). Short, cigar-shaped with bold white rump patch.
White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* — (3 days). Narrow white rump band; sickle-winged profile.
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* — (8 days). Comet-tailed swift with pointy wingtips circling palms and lodges.

RAILS, COOTS, AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (4)

African Rail *Rallus caerulescens* — (1 day). Secretive reed-runner; squeals from dense sedges.
Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* — (7 days). Common marsh bird; red and yellow bill, flicking white undertail.
Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* — (5 days). Twin red knobs on forehead during breeding; mass rafts on lakes.
Black Crane *Zapornia flavirostra* — (10 days). Jet black with lemon bill; remarkably confiding at marsh edges.

CRANES: Gruidae — (1)

Gray Crowned-Crane *Balearica regulorum* — (6 days). Regal dancer; golden crown and graceful bowing displays.

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae — (2)

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* — (2 days). Big-eyed night sentinel of stony flats.
Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* — (7 days). Riverine counterpart; mournful whistles by moonlight.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* — (10 days). Needle-legs and shrill calls over shallow pans.
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* — (7 days). Upcurved bill scythes surface films in elegant sweeps.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (10)

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (3 days). Neat breast band; quick “run-stop-peck” on shorelines.
Three-banded Plover *Thinornis tricolor* — (8 days). Two crisp chest bands plus a white brow.
Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris* — (5 days). Spidery toes for floating vegetation; smart black-and-white face.
Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* — (10 days). Metallic “tink-tink” calls; bold pied pattern.
Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* — (3 days). Red eye and wing spurs; assertive along shorelines.
Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus* — (1 day). Gray-brown with striking black primaries; highland lawns.
Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* — (9 days). White crown ring on gray cap; open short-grass specialist.
Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* — (2 days). Yellow facial wattles obvious in flight.
Kittlitz’s Plover *Anarhynchus pecuarius* — (4 days). Tiny pale plover of saline edges; swift dashes and short sallies.
Chestnut-banded Plover *Anarhynchus pallidus* — (1 day). Porcelain-fine coastal-saltpan specialist; slim bill and chestnut breast band.

PAINTED-SNIPE: Rostratulidae — (1)

Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* — (1 day). Females more colorful; skulk in vegetated shallows.

JACANAS: Jacanidae — (1)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* — (5 days). “Lily-trotter” walking on leaves with outrageously long toes.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (9)

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* — (2 days). Zig-zag flush; pale trailing edge in flight.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — (6 days). Teetering tail; sharp “tseep” along stony shores.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* — (6 days). Dark upperparts, white rump; often on small muddy pools.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* — (7 days). Spindly legs and fine bill; porcelain-gray tones.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* — (7 days). Speckled back; prefers marsh margins and swamp edges.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (2 days). Long upturned bill; ringing “tew-tew.”

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* — (7 days). Shape-shifter with orange legs; variable plumages, busy feeding action.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* — (1 day). Downcurved bill; often with stints on saline flats.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* — (9 days). Tiny, frenetic feeder; short fine bill.

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae — (3)

Double-banded Courser *Smutsornis africanus* — (2 days). Nocturnal gleaner; twin breast bands; loves stony plains.

Temminck’s Courser *Cursorius temminckii* — (2 days). Cinnamon cap and clean supercilium; runs like a wind-up toy.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* — (4 days). Aerial insect-hawk; swallow-like wings and red gape line.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (3)

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* — (4 days). Thick bill; hawks insects over wetlands.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* — (5 days). Graceful marsh tern; buoyant dipping flight.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* — (2 day). Black-and-white contrast in non-breeding plumage; agile over pans.

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae — (2)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* — (6 days). Pale pink giant; filters brine shrimp with comb-like lamellae.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* — (6 days). Deeper pink and dark bill; specializes on cyanobacteria of alkaline lakes.

GREBES: Podicipedidae — (1)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — (2 days). Timid diver; peeps and vanishes among reeds.

STORKS: Ciconiidae — (4)

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* — (1 day). Gapped bill adapted to prying apple snails.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* — (2 day). Harlequin bill pattern; statuesque fisher.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* — (8 days). Bare head scavenger; thermal-soaring with vultures.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* — (4 days). “Sewing-machine” feeding motion in shallows.

ANHINGAS AND DARTERS: Anhingidae — (1)

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* — (1 day). Snake-necked spearer; spreads wings to dry after dives.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (1)

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* — (5 days). Also known as Long-tailed Cormorant. Small, rusty-cheeked; perches on reeds between forays.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae — (4)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* — (7 days). Oil-green sheen; probes soft mud in lines.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* — (7 days). Black hood and tail; adaptable wetland feeder.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* — (10 days). Loud “haa-DA-da!” at dawn around towns and gardens.
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* — (5 days). Spatulate bill sweeps for invertebrates in ankle-deep water.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (12)

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* — (3 days). Crepuscular; squat profile on roosts.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* — (5 days). Active feeder with lively foot-stirring; black bill and golden feet.
Little Heron *Butorides atricapilla* — (2 day). Formerly lumped with Striated Heron species. Patient, short-billed ambusher along shaded banks.
Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris* — (1 day). Scarcer *Ardeola* with rich rufous underparts.
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* — (6 days). Transforms from buff statue to white-winged flyer.
Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* — (10 days). Follows hooves for flushed insects; often on big mammals.
Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (4 days). Tall, all-white spearer; deliberate stalks in open shallows.
Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha* — (5 days). Shorter, thicker bill.
Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea* — (11 days). Classic fisher similar to Great Blue Heron; broad diet from fish to rodents.
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* — (1 day). Reed-bed specialist; long neck forms an S-coil on strike.
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* — (9 days). Upland hunter; often in fields away from water.
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* — (3 days). World’s largest heron; hunts alone in deep channels.

HAMERKOP: Scopidae — (1)

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* — (9 days). Master architect; gigantic stick nests reused for years.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae — (1)

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* — (5 days). Cooperative herding lines corral fish to shore.

SECRETARYBIRD: Sagittariidae — (1)

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* — (5 days). Snake-stomping raptor; crane-like stride across grasslands.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (30)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* — (9 days). Kestrel-like hovering; crimson eyes over pale plumage.
African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* — (2 days). Double-jointed ankles raid holes and weaver nests.
Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* — (1 day). Unusual raptor fond of oil-palm fruits and fish.
White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* — (1 day). Scarce apex scavenger with powerful bill.
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* — (6 days). Massive “bone-cracker”; opens thick hides for other vultures.
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* — (1 day). Delicate, small-billed; picks scraps at carcass margins.
White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* — (8 days). Core savanna vulture; communal roosts on tall trees.
Rüppell’s Griffon *Gyps rueppelli* — (1 day). High-soaring cliff nester; record holders for altitude flights.
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* — (6 days). Tailless silhouette; rocking flight over open bush.
Western Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* — (1 day). Thick-legged serpent specialist in wooded savanna.
Black-chested Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* — (2 days). Pale eye; hangs high over open country hunting reptiles.
Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* — (4 days). Hefty, big-headed; often solitary. Piercing yellow-eyed gaze.
Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* — (2 day). Forest apex raptor; powerful, barred underparts.
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* — (4 days). Africa’s largest eagle; hunts hares, guineafowl, even young antelope.
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* — (1 day). Gothic crest; perches over wet fields for rodents.
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* — (1 day). Migrant *Aquila*; broad wings, steady soaring over plains.
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* — (10 days). Variable brown; opportunistic hunter and scavenger.
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* — (3 days). Striking black-and-white underparts; hunts in pairs.
Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates* — (4 days). Gray raptor with orange legs; sings rhythmic “chants.”
Eastern Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* — (4 days). Pale, long-tailed; quartering flights over scrub.
Little Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza minulla* — (1 day). Tiny accipiter; rapid, low woodland dashes.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* — (3 days). Quartering over reedbeds with tilting wings.
African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus* — (4 days). Larger reedbed hunter; broad hands and buoyant flight.
Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* — (1 day). Slim, graceful migrant; males ghost-gray.
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* — (1 day). Long-winged migrant coursing over grasslands.
Black Kite *Milvus migrans* — (3 days). Ubiquitous scavenger; deft mid-air food snatches.
African Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga vocifer* — (5 days). Iconic yodeling call; grabs fish with rough-scaled feet.
Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* — (8 days). Bold black-and-white morph; mountain foothill sentinel.
Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus* — (1 day). Highland forest edges; subtler than Augur.
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* — (2 days). Palearctic migrant buzzard over plains and ridges.

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae — (1)

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* — (1 day). Heart-shaped face; silent, moth-soft flight over fields at dusk.

OWLS: Strigidae — (3)

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis* — (1 day). Tiny nocturnal hunter; monotone “prrrp...prrrp” ventriloquizes from acacia.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* — (2 days). Day-active pygmy owl; false “eyes” on nape, bold scolding.

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis* — (1 day). Long-legged, low quartering over rank grass at dusk.

MOUSEBIRDS: Coliidae — (3)

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* — (10 days). Social, long-tailed “mice” sunbathe communally—constant crowd-pleasers.

White-headed Mousebird *Colius leucocephalus* — (1 day). Pale head; dry bush specialist.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* — (4 days). Azure nape flash; zips between thorn trees.

HOOPOES: Upupidae — (1)

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops* — (2 days). Fan-crested; probing decurved bill and soft “oop-ooop-ooop.”

WOODHOOPOES & SCIMITARBILLS: Phoeniculidae — (3)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* — (2 days). Iridescent “chucklers” in noisy family parties.

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* — (3 day). Curved bill pries insects from bark.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor* — (1 days). Slim, long-billed; favors arid thorn.

GROUND-HORNBILLS: Bucorvidae — (1)

Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* — (1 day). Slow patrols; booming dawn duets carry miles.

HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae — (5)

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* — (1 day). Light build; fluttery forest-edge flights.

African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* — (4 days). Slender, gray; frequent flyovers with piping calls.

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni* — (5 days). Male's red-and-white bill; classic Tarangire resident.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* — (4 days). Active ground forager around thorn scrub and acacia savanna; both sexes have red bills, the male's noticeably longer and heavier.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* — (2 days). Huge casque; fruiting fig specialist of highlands.

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae — (5)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* — (2 days). Riverbank colonies; graceful sallies over sandbars.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* — (10 days). Jewel of the dry plains; perches low and adds color everywhere.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates* — (2 day). Highland bee-eater with warm breast band.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* — (1 day). Elegant bands of migrants hawking insects with effortless agility.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* — (6 days). Vibrant travelers in loose flocks, their rolling *prrp* calls carrying across the sky.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (5)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* — (4 days). Tiny sapphire-and-flame torpedo on reed tips.

Gray-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* — (6 days). Perches in dry thorn far from water; sallying hunter.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* — (1 day). Creamy underparts; woodland ambushes for insects.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* — (3 days). Fine head-stripes; inhabits dry bush edges.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* — (4 days). Hovers like a drone, then plunges for fish.

ROLLERS: Coraciidae — (3)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* — (12 days). Iconic savanna acrobat; seven-hued display dives.

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* — (3 days). Heavier, earth-toned; harsh calls from high snags.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* — (1 day). Dusk forager with rapid, swooping chases.

AFRICAN BARBETS: Lybiidae — (8)

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* — (1 day). Colorful termite-mound sentry of dry country.

D’Arnaud’s Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii* — (5 days). Duetting pairs; neat spotted underparts.

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* — (1 day). Highland fig specialist; resonant “poop-poop” notes.

Northern Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus uropygialis* — (2 days). Rapid metronomic tinks from thorn scrub.

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata* — (2 day). Bold face pattern; found in arid acacia zones.

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa* — (2 days). Teardrop flanks; soft, rolling calls.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus* — (1 day). Chunky; white head pops against green canopies.

Brown-breasted Barbet *Lybius melanopterus* — (1 day). Coastal/highland edges; rich, bubbling notes.

HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae — (3)

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* — (3 days). Famous brood parasite; leads humans to wild bees.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* — (1 day). Subtle olive tones; clear, ringing whistles from forest edge.

Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus* — (2 days). Small and inconspicuous; thin, high calls in mixed woodland.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (4)

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus* — (1 day). Big, powerful woodpecker on dead limbs.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* — (2 days). Tiny; rapid, high rattles.

Mountain Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos spodocephalus* — (5 days). Found in highland acacia belts; pale gray head.

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* — (6 days). Freckled golden back; dry woodland specialist.

FALCONS: Falconidae — (6)

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* — (4 days). Mini-raptor that shares sociable weaver colonies.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* — (1 day). Palearctic migrant; buoyant hovering over plains.

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (2 day). Classic kestrel hover and stoop.

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides* — (3 days). Pale, big-headed; open country hunter.

Gray Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* — (4 days). Slate gray; sallies from telegraph poles.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* — (1 day). Muscular, fast pursuits over open steppe.

OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae — (2)

Fischer’s Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri* — (E) (3 days). Tanzanian endemic; tight, chattering flocks in savanna.

Yellow-collared Lovebird *Agapornis personatus* — (E) (2 days). Tanzanian endemic (with a population in Kenya of introduced birds); masked face; lively colony breeder.

AFRICAN AND NEW WORLD PARROTS: Psittacidae — (2)

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* — (4 days). Stocky, soft calls; feeds quietly in canopy.

Red-bellied Parrot *Poicephalus rufiventris* — (1 day). Male with brick-red belly; pairs at cavity nests.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae — (1)

African Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* — (1 day). Spectacular golden-yellow bird with black head and pink bill; flute-like whistles from mid-canopy.

WATTLE-EYES & BATISES: Platysteiridae — (3)

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata* — (1 day). Tiny flycatcher with bright eye-wattle.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* — (2 day). Bold black chest-band; crisp “whit” notes.

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo* — (1 day). Pocket-sized; thorn scrub sprite.

VANGAS: Vangidae — (2)

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* — (1 day). Crested, cartoon-like yellow eye wattle; parties coursing through acacia.

Gray-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops poliophus* — **(NE)** (1 day). Range restricted to highlands of Kenya and N Tanzania; ashy crest and piercing yellow eyes.

BUSHSHRIKES: Malaconotidae — (9)

Brubru *Nilaus afer* — (4 days). Musical, descending duets; neat black-and-white.

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* — (3 days). Male puffs back feathers in display.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* — (2 days). Rich whistles from thorn tangles.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* — (2 days). Antiphonal duets; glossy black with white sides.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster* — (1 day). Scarlet-and-black showstopper in dense scrub.

Slate-colored Boubou *Laniarius funebris* — (4 days). Completely dark gray; dry-country specialist; harsh, carrying calls.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus* — (2 days). Handsome, pink-breasted bushshrike of arid scrub; bold duet songs carry across the thornveld.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* — (2 days). Stunning yellow plumage with orange chest gives this skulker away in thick cover; ringing phrases from canopy.

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* — (1 day). Large “ghostbird” of the woodlands; rarely glimpsed, yet its deep, haunting “whhooooo” calls carry through the forest.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae — (1)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* — (8 days). Fearless mimic; mobbing raptors with swagger.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae — (1)

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* — (7 days). Long streaming tail in breeding plumage; elegant, looping sallies.

SHRIKES: Laniidae — (6)

Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus* — (4 days). Long-tailed, pied; perches conspicuously in groups.

Gray-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* — (4 days). Savannah sentinel.

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi* — (4 days). Super-long tail; hunts from roadside posts.

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis* — (6 days). Small black, white and gray shrike of arid scrub.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* — (4 day). “Butcherbird” of open farmlands.

White-rumped Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli* — (9 days). Social, with fluffy white rump and soft chatter.

CROWS & RAVENS: Corvidae — (3)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* — (9 days). Large, bold scavenger of towns and plains.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* — (1 day). Heavy bill, white wedge on back of the neck; inhabits mountainous terrain.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* (I) — (2 days). An introduced species from South Asia; range spreading inland from coast. Intelligent and opportunistic.

TITS & ALLIES: Paridae — (2)

Somali Tit *Melaniparus albiventris* — (1 day). Dry-country species, often found in pairs or small groups.

Red-throated Tit *Melaniparus fringillinus* — (2 days). Subtle throat color; acacia specialist.

LARKS: Alaudidae — (9)

Beesley's Lark *Chersomanes beesleyi* — (E) (1 day). Tanzanian endemic; tiny lark critically range restricted to rainshadow of Mt Meru.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia* — (7 days). Busy ground flocks on bare flats.

Pink-breasted Lark *Calendulauda poecilosterna* — (2 days). Warm wash on breast; sings from bushes.

Fawn-colored Lark *Calendulauda africanoides* — (3 days). Sandy tones; short flights between tufts.

Flappet Lark *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea* — (1 day). Displaying males make audible wing "flaps" overhead.

Rufous-naped Lark *Corypha africana* — (1 day). Upright singer on termite mounds.

Sentinel Lark *Galerida poecilosternum* — (3 days). Short-grass specialist; posts from low perches.

Short-tailed Lark *Spizocorys fremantlii* — (2 days). Tiny, elusive; close-cropped plains.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* — (3 days). Brick cap; neat breast streaks.

AFRICAN WARBLERS: Macrosphenidae — (3)

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* — (3 days). Short-tailed leaf-gleaner; thin, high tsee as it probes foliage.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* — (1 day). Warm rufous face; creeps and hops through mid-canopy.

Moustached Grass-Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* — (1 day). Long-tailed grass skulker; buzzy, accelerating song from rank cover.

CISTICOLAS & ALLIES: Cisticolidae — (17)

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* — (1 day). Restless canopy sprite; chips as it forages in loose parties.

Gray Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex* — (2 days). Dry-scrub duet singer; often ventriloquial and unseen.

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura* — (4 days). Loud "bleating" calls from tangles; stays stubbornly low.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* — (2 day). Pale, quick; active in acacia tops along edges.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* — (4 day). Lemon-washed breast; pairs flick and call antiphonally.

Maasai Apalis *Apalis stronachi* — (NE) (1 day). Range restricted to N Tanzania and SW Kenya; apalis of highland scrub; crisp white underparts.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* — (3 days). Tail-cocked, common edge bird; dry chipping song.

Red-fronted Prinia *Prinia rufifrons* — (1 day). Arid-zone prinia with rufous mask; restless in thornbush; gives its position away by wagging cocked tail.

Gray-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida* — (1 day). Thin, buzzy phrases from papyrus and rank growth.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* — (2 days). Rich face tones; favors marshy thickets.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* — (1 day). Vibrating trills over savannah grass.

Hunter's Cisticola *Cisticola hunteri* — (1 day). Highland tussock specialist with sharp, clipped notes.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* — (6 days). Common thornbush singer; classic "rattle" song.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus* — (5 days). Marsh edges; variable "winding" series.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* — (2 days). Harsh croaks from tall moist grass.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* — (3 days). Tiny, dry-plain bird; buoyant display flights.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens* — (1 day). Subtle chest patch; prefers short-grass plains.

REED & MARSH WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae / Locustellidae — (3)

African Yellow-Warbler *Iduna natalensis* — (1 day). Willowy reed-edge songster; slow, sweet phrases.

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* — (1 day). Tight reed beds; insistent ticking scolds.

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* — (1 day). Mouse-like runner in sedges; rarely shows, gives low churrs.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (11)

Black Sawwing *Psolidoprocne pristopectera* — (2 days). Dark swallow with shallow tail notch; flies low over valleys.

Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta* — (2 days). Pale martin with crisp chest band; found often in grasslands and wetlands.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* — (1 day). Drab, small-billed; flies low over marshes and ponds.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* — (1 day). Palearctic migrant; neat breast band, tight flocks.

Red-throated Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rufigula* — (4 days). Cliff follower along escarpments and cut banks.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (13 days). Familiar migrant; swirling aerialist over plains and water.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* — (7 days). Fine “wire” tail filaments; skims just above water.

Western House-Martin *Delichon urbicum* — (1 day). White rump; high, buoyant flight in mixed flocks.

African Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis cucullata* — (2 days). Rufous rump; bottle-shaped mud nests on structures.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* — (2 days). Fine underpart streaks; sweeping arcs over savanna.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* — (1 day). Large, broad-winged swallow; slow, powerful strokes.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae — (4)

Black-headed Mountain Greenbul *Arizelocichla nigriceps* — (1 day). Highland forest species with olive plumage and dark head; gives rich, bubbling calls from mid-canopy.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* — (2 days). Loud contact calls in riverine strips.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* — (9 days). Ever-present songster around lodges.

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* — (1 day). Drab olive bulbul with pale eye; rich, ringing calls in woodland and scrub.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae — (1)

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* — (1 day). Small, active highland warbler; soft brown tones and sweet descending trills from forest canopy.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae — (2)

Banded Parisoma *Curruca boehmi* — (3 days). Pale eye and chest band; dry scrub specialist, often in mixed parties.

Brown Parisoma *Curruca lugens* — (1 day). Dusky, robin-sized sylviid; flicks wings along rocky slopes and scrub.

WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae — (3)

Kilimanjaro White-eye *Zosterops euryzocotus* — (E) (2 days). Tanzanian endemic; highland species with bright yellow underparts and bold white eye-ring; active in mixed flocks.

Pale White-eye *Zosterops pallidus* — (1 day). Tiny canopy forager; neat pale eye-ring and subtle calls.

Mbulu White-eye *Zosterops mbuluensis* (HO) (NE) — (1 day). Range restricted to S Kenya and N Tanzania; inhabits highland edges; bold white eye-ring and bright yellow underparts.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES & ALLIES: Leiothrichidae — (4)

Rufous Chatterer *Argya rubiginosa* — (3 days). Bold, noisy desert bands; constant contact chatter.

Scaly Chatterer *Argya aylmeri* — (1 day). Secretive thornscrub groups; faintly “scaled” underparts.

Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei* — (3 days). Raspy, nasal chorus; common in Serengeti woodlands.

Northern Pied-Babbler *Turdoides hypoleuca* — (2 days). Striking black-and-white babbler of dry scrub; cooperative groups.

OXPECKERS: Buphagidae — (2)

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* — (6 days). Classic mammal “cleaner”; rides buffalo, zebra, giraffe.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* — (1 day). Yellow-based bill; similar mutualist on large ungulates.

STARLINGS: Sturnidae — (10)

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* — (1 day). Nuptial wattles on males in breeding.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* — (2 days). Amethyst males; white female heavily streaked.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* — (4 days). Cliffs and city towers; ruddy wing flash.

Sharpe’s Starling *Poeoptera sharpii* — (1 day). Highland canopy flocks.

Kenrick’s Starling *Poeoptera kenricki* — (NE) (1 day). Localized montane starling; restricted to Kenya and Tanzania.

Hildebrandt’s Starling *Lamprotornis hildebrandti* — (5 days). Copper-bellied gloss; dry savanna.

Rüppell’s Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* — (3 days). Purple-blue iridescence; arid foothills.

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor* (E) — (3 days). Tanzanian endemic of Serengeti plains.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* — (Recorded every day of the tour—16 days—as well as pre-tour and post-tour). Crowd favorite—jewel-tone commoner at lodges.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* — (1 day). Electric blue-green gloss.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS & CHATS: Muscicapidae — (19)

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* — (1 day). Shade percher; flicks from low branches.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* — (3 days). Palearctic migrant; sally-hawking from posts.

African Gray Flycatcher *Bradornis microrhynchus* — (5 days). Pale gray; arid acacia zones.

Silverbird *Empidonax semipartitus* — (5 days). Silvery head, orange underparts; riverine perches.

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri* — (5 days). White eye-ring; highland gardens.

White-browed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* — (3 days). Flashy tail; sweet, varied song.

Cape Robin-Chat *Dessonornis caffer* — (3 days). Rich duets in cool gullies.

Rüppell’s Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa* — (1 day). Montane streams; bright rufous breast.

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* — (2 days). Confiding garden singer.

Spotted Morning-Thrush *Cichladusa guttata* — (4 days). Dawn songster around lodges.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* — (2 days). Palearctic migrant of grassy edges.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* — (1 day). Perches atop stems; tail flicks.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnodia cinnamomeiventris* — (1 day). Inhabits rock faces and buildings; rich whistles.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* — (1 day). Black male on burnt ground.

Northern Anteater-Chat *Myrmecocichla aethiops* — (1 day). Termite-mound sentinel; shows large white patches on wings in flight.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* — (1 day). Palearctic migrant, hopping on open flats.

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* — (2 days). Bold cap; display flights over short-grass.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* — (3 days). Pale, upright migrant.

Abyssinian Wheatear *Oenanthe lugubris* — (1 day). Dark highland wheatear on rocky slopes.

SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae — (10)

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis* — (5 days). Tiny; males flash purple mantle.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* — (2 days). Green gloss and thin squeaks in gardens.

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* — (5 days). Deep violet sheen; long decurved bill.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* — (2 days). Fiery chest blaze on males.

Bronze Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* — (2 days). Long tail streamers; bronzy gloss.

Golden-winged Sunbird *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* — (1 day). Highland giant with gleaming wings.

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris mediocris* — (2 days). Highland edges; double breast bands.
Gorgeous Sunbird *Cinnyris regius* — (5 days). Formerly Beautiful Sunbird. Aptly named either way—brilliant multi-hued male.
Tsavo Sunbird *Cinnyris tsavoensis* — **(NE)** (1 day). Range restricted to arid southeastern Kenya, with a small range extension into northeastern Tanzania.
Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* — (8 days). Common nectar-gleaner; variable plumage across zones.

WEAVERS & ALLIES: Ploceidae — (20)

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger* — (2 days). Massive stick nests; dry savanna squads.
White-headed Buffalo-Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* — (7 days). Crisp white and rust; loud chattering.
Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* — (3 days). Small, spotted brow; thorn scrub.
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* — (4 days). Big communal nests; roadsides.
Rufous-tailed Weaver *Histurgops ruficauda* — **(E)** (3 days). Tanzanian endemic with rufous tail.
Gray-capped Social-Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* — (4 days). Communal nest balls in acacias.
Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* — (3 days). Brilliant male; intricate pendant nests.
Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* — (3 days). Variable; gardens and forest edge.
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* — (4 days). Bold black collar.
Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* — (2 days). Yellow “spectacles”; clean two-note song.
Taveta Golden-Weaver *Ploceus castaneiceps* **(NE)** — (2 days). Restricted to SE Kenya and NE Tanzania; east Kilimanjaro specialty; vivid yellow.
Lesser Masked-Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* — (2 days). Dark mask; colony breeder.
Vitelline Masked-Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* — (3 days). Deep yellow; dry thorn savanna.
Speke’s Weaver *Ploceus spekei* — (4 days). Eastern Rift endemic around settlements.
Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* — (2 days). Abundant colony former near water.
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* — (3 days). Billions strong—aerial “smoke” over seed fields.
Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii* — (1 day). Localized dry-country bishop.
Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* — (3 days). Males puff in display; yellow wing panels.
White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* — (2 days). Nonbreeding males and females dull brown and streaked, faint white in wing hinting at breeding splendor.
Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* — (3 days). Males with flowing tails over marsh.

ESTRILDIDS: Waxbills & Allies — (13)

Gray-headed Silverbill *Spermestes griseicapilla* — (2 days). Quiet, seed-cracking groups in arid scrub.
Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata* — (1 day). Tiny flockers around villages.
Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor* — (1 day). Pied mannikin of moist edges.
African Silverbill *Euodice cantans* — (1 day). Pale, delicate calls; thornveld.
Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccyzygia quartinia* — (1 day). Highland edges; soft tsee notes.
Black-faced Waxbill *Brunhilda erythronotos* — (4 days). Masked, chestnut flanks; dry zones.
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* — (3 days). Red bill; grassy patches near water.
Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis* — (1 day). Tiny, cryptic ground forager; whirring flushes.
Purple Grenadier *Granatina ianthinogaster* — (5 days). Male violet and chestnut—spectacular.
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* — (5 days). Delicate blue with coral cheek patch.
Blue-capped Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* — (2 days). Bright blue cap; dry bush savanna.
Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* — (2 days). Olive wings, red face; often in pairs.
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* — (2 days). Glowing red males around compounds.

WHYDAHs AND INDIGOBIRDS: Viduidae — (1)

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* — (2 days). Breeding males striking with absurdly long tail streamers; nonbreeding males and females much plainer; often flocking near waxbills, their brood hosts.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (7)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (1) — (3 days). Human-commensal at lodges and towns.

Kenya Rufous Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus* — (NE) (4 days). Rufous-mantled highland sparrow; range restricted to Kenya and N Tanzania.

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* — (1 day). Common settlement sparrow.

Parrot-billed Sparrow *Passer gongonensis* — (2 days). Thick bill; found on dry plains.

Swahili Sparrow *Passer suahelicus* — (2 days). Coastal-eastern savanna sparrow.

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey* — (2 days). Chestnut male; colony associate of weavers.

Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow *Gymnoris pyrgita* — (4 days). Subtle yellow throat spot; found at thorn scrub edges.

WAGTAILS, PIPITS & LONGCLAWS: Motacillidae — (9)

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* — (1 day). Found around shaded streams; bouncing tail.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* — (3 day). Migrant in wet meadows.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* — (10 days). Bold pied pattern; found around rivers and parking lots.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* — (4 days). Plain open-country pipit; parachute songs.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* — (1 day). Rocky slopes with longer bill.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* — (4 days). Drab; runs and pauses on tracks.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* — (1 day). Meadowlark look-alike with bright throat and long hallux.

Pangani Longclaw *Macronyx aurantiigula* — (2 days). Orange throat; coastal/lowland grass.

Rosy-throated Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae* — (1 day). Pink blush; marshy grasslands.

FINCHES: Fringillidae — (6)

Southern Citril *Crithagra hyposticta* — (1 day). Spotted yellow flanks; found at highland edges.

Reichenow's Seedeater *Crithagra reichenowi* — (4 days). Localized highland seedeater.

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata* — (5 days). Small yellow canary with pale belly and fine back streaks; common in arid scrub and dry acacia bush.

Southern Grosbeak-Canary *Crithagra buchanani* — (NE) (2 day). Thick bill; range restricted to dry savanna of Kenya and N Tanzania.

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata* — (2 days). Found in highland gardens; heavily streaked.

Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni* — (2 days). Found in montane habitat; hefty bill.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae — (2)

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* — (1 day). Lemon breast and zebra head stripes.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* — (1 day). Inhabits dry rocky slopes; sweet tinkling song.

MAMMALS — (61 species)

Procaviidae: Hyraxes and Tree Hyraxes — (1)

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis* — Observed two days in the Serengeti. Despite their small, rodent-like appearance, hyraxes are the elephant's closest living relatives, sharing specialized tusk-like incisors and complex social calls.

Elephantidae: Elephants — (1)

African Bush Elephant *Loxodonta africana* — Encountered daily. The largest land mammal on Earth; family groups led by matriarchs, communicating across miles via low-frequency rumbles.

Cercopithecidae: Old World Monkeys — (6)

Mount Kilimanjaro Guereza (Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza caudatus* — Observed near Arusha National Park. This long-tailed subspecies glides between trees in montane forest with striking black-and-white plumage.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* — Widespread and often seen, except in Amboseli, where replaced by Yellow Baboon. Highly social, complex troop hierarchies.

Yellow Baboon *Papio cynocephalus* — Seen in Amboseli. Notable for golden coats and more slender build than Olive.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* — Common, seen on 12 days. Males sport turquoise-blue skin on the abdomen—one of Africa's most recognizable primates.

Sykes's Monkey (Blue Monkey) *Cercopithecus mitis albobularis* — Common in Arusha NP forests. Named for their bluish-gray pelage and gentle facial expressions.

Manyara Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis manyaraensis* — Endemic to Lake Manyara forests; a recently described Blue Monkey subspecies distinct in genetics and vocalizations.

Galagidae: Galagos or Bush Babies — (1)

Northern Lesser Galago *Galago senegalensis* — This Bush Baby was spotted by eyeshine during Tarangire night drive. Agile nocturnal leapers with calls that echo eerily through the acacia woods.

Sciuridae: Squirrels — (1)

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus* — Common and confiding at Tarangire NP. Diurnal and social, often sunning near burrows.

Muridae: Rats — (1)

Sundevall's Acacia Rat *Thallomys paedulus* — Seen on night drive at Tarangire; identified by ranger. Builds spherical grass nests in thorn trees.

Pedetidae: Springhares — (1)

East African Springhare *Pedetes surdaster* — Seen on Tarangire night drive; bounding rodent with kangaroo-like leaps and luminous eyeshine.

Leporidae: True Hares — (1)

African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae* — Observed on five days. Long-legged and swift, relying on camouflage and explosive bursts to evade predators.

Chiroptera: Bats — (9)

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* — Seen frequently on Tarangire night drives and confirmed by park ranger. A distinctive, leaf-nosed "false vampire" bat of open acacia woodland; hunts insects from low perches and is one of Africa's few bats easily seen by spotlight.

Species identified via Echo Meter 2 acoustic detections:

Smith's Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus smithersi* — Recognized by its characteristic constant-frequency call; horseshoe-shaped noseleaf aids in echolocation. Roosts in tree hollows and caves.

Yellow Bat *Scotophilus dinganii* — Large vesper bat with golden-yellow fur; forages in open woodland and near lights.

Egyptian Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida aegyptiaca* — Fast-flying bat adapted for high, open-air hunting; emits loud social chirps audible to human ears.

Little Free-tailed Bat *Chaerephon pumilus* — Common around lodges; swift aerial insectivore with rapid, high-pitched clicks.

Cape Serotine Bat *Neoromicia capensis* — Small insectivorous bat often roosting in buildings; flexible hunter active even in light rain.

Long-tailed House Bat *Neoromicia tenuipinnis* — Typically roosts in roof thatch or under bark; feeds on small moths and

beetles.

Robert's Flat-headed Bat *Mimetillus moloneyi robertsi* — Tiny forest-edge species with broad, flattened skull adapted for gleaning insects from leaves.

Matale Long-fingered Bat *Miniopterus natalensis* — Fast, looping flier of open habitats and caves; known for long, narrow wings suited to endurance flight.

Canidae: Canids — (3)

African Wolf *Canis lupaster* — Seen at Ngorongoro and Serengeti. Recently recognized as distinct from Golden Jackal, with wolf-like genetics.

Black-backed Jackal *Lupulella mesomelas* — Common, vocal species; observed chasing lions at Amboseli and scavenging at night in Tarangire.

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis* — Observed at Ngorongoro; feeds mainly on termites, using its huge ears to detect prey underground.

Felidae: Cats — (5)

Lion *Panthera leo* — Seen on nine days. Observed resting and feeding many times; a lioness seen tending cubs on a Serengeti kopje; a lioness seen chasing Spotted Hyenas away from a cub at Amboseli.

Leopard *Panthera pardus* — Seen in Serengeti and Tarangire; often draped in acacia branches.

Serval *Leptailurus serval* — Seen three times, including one hunting and pouncing on prey on Ngorongoro crater floor.

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* — Observed at Serengeti and Tarangire. The world's fastest land mammal, specialized for short, explosive chases.

African Wildcat *Felis lybica* — Seen on Tarangire night drive; nearly indistinguishable from domestic cats, its descendants.

Viverridae: Genets and Civets — (2)

Common Genet *Genetta genetta* — Multiple sightings on Tarangire night drives; sleek, spotted, cat-like nocturnal predator.

African Civet *Civettictis civetta* — Seen once at Tarangire; large, strikingly patterned omnivore producing musky scent once used in perfumes.

Hyaenidae: Hyenas — (1)

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta* — Seen on 10 days. Noted feeding on buffalo carcass at Tarangire; complex social structure led by dominant females.

Herpestidae: Mongooses — (4)

Slender mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus* — Agile solitary hunter, quick and wary; glimpsed at Serengeti.

White-tailed mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda* — Nocturnal species seen on Tarangire night drive; Africa's largest mongoose.

Banded mongoose *Mungos mungo* — Common in roving packs; cooperative diggers with sentinels posted.

Common Dwarf mongoose *Helogale parvula* — Seen at Serengeti and Tarangire; tiny social carnivore often seen near termite mounds.

Equidae: Horses and Zebras — (1)

Plains Zebra *Equus quagga* — Seen daily. Each individual has unique stripe pattern that deters biting flies and aids recognition.

Rhinocerotidae: Rhinos — (2)

White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* — Mother and calf seen closely at Nairobi NP. Square-lipped grazer of open plains.

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* — Shy species seen in distance at Serengeti and Nairobi NP; smaller, prehensile-lipped browser preferring dense bush.

Suidae: Hogs — (1)

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* — Seen nearly daily; kneels on calloused forelegs to graze short grasses.

Hippopotamidae: Hippos — (1)

Common Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* — Seen on eight days. Amphibious grazer; emerges at dusk to feed on land.

Giraffidae: Giraffes — (1)

Masai Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi* — Seen almost daily; intricate vine-like spots unique to each individual aid thermoregulation. Young males observed in “necking” battle at Arusha NP.

Bovidae: Bovids — (18)

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer* — Seen on all but one day. Form massive herds; unpredictable and powerful.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* — Shy antelope of woodland edges, seen on six days.

Common Eland *Tragelaphus oryx* — Largest antelope, seen in Tarangire and Nairobi NP.

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris* — Small, alert antelope seen twice in Serengeti grasslands.

Kirk’s Dik-dik *Madoqua kirkii* — Tiny antelope very common at Tarangire lodges; monogamous pairs marking territories with preorbital glands.

Thomson’s Gazelle *Eudorcas thomsonii* — Common, graceful grazer of short grass.

Grant’s Gazelle *Nanger granti* — Taller, paler relative of Thomson’s, favoring drier plains.

Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri* — Seen near Amboseli; stands upright to browse high shrubs.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca* — Seen in moist grasslands; males utter sharp whistles when alarmed.

Common Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus* — Seen on six days; noted for white “toilet-seat” rump ring.

Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa* — Seen once in Serengeti; lacks rump ring of nominate subspecies.

Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus* — Seen once in Serengeti; rock specialist walking on hoof tips.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus* — Seen nine days; leaping antelope with synchronized herds.

Topi *Damaliscus lunatus* — Seen in Serengeti and Tarangire; fast, alert, often atop termite mounds scanning for predators.

Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus* — Seen at Ngorongoro and Tarangire.

Coke’s Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii* — Common at Serengeti and Nairobi NP; high-shouldered design aids endurance running and short-grass grazing.

Common (White-bearded) Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* — Serengeti herds seen making Great Migration.

Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus* — Observed at Tarangire and Amboseli; short-distance migration.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS — (9 species)

Leopard Tortoise *Stigmochelys pardalis* — Seen at Arusha lodge and Serengeti; striking black-and-yellow carapace pattern.

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* — Seen seven days; ancient predator over 16 feet long in some rivers.

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia* — Common in lodges; chirping call often heard at night.

African Striped Skink *Trachylepis striata* — Seen at Tarangire; shiny bronze lizard basking on rocks.

Red-headed Agama (Common Agama) *Agama agama* — Seen at Arusha and Serengeti; males display brilliant red and blue during territorial disputes.

Nile Monitor *Varanus niloticus* — One seen swimming in Tarangire River; formidable aquatic predator.

Flap-necked Chameleon *Chamaeleo dilepis* — One seen at Serengeti by day, another on Tarangire night drive; color-shifting master with prehensile tail.

Guttural Toad *Sclerophrys gutturalis* — Heard and seen at Manyara Serena; distinctive deep croak around lodge ponds.
Battersby's Green Snake *Philothamnus battersbyi* — Seen at Amboseli; elegant nonvenomous arboreal species preying on frogs and geckos.

PALEOANTHROPOLOGY SPECIES DISCUSSED AT OLDUVAI GORGE

Australopithecus afarensis — (~3.9–2.9 million years ago)

Best known from Ethiopia (“Lucy”), but closely related species occupied similar Rift Valley habitats. Bipedal yet partly arboreal—an early experiment in upright walking before the genus *Homo*.

Paranthropus boisei — (~2.3–1.2 million years ago)

Robust early hominin first discovered at Olduvai by Mary Leakey in 1959. Massive jaws and molars adapted for grinding tough vegetation earned it the nickname “Nutcracker Man.”

Homo habilis — (~2.4–1.4 million years ago)

Discovered by Louis and Mary Leakey at Olduvai Gorge in 1960. Often called “**Handy Man**,” it’s the earliest known species of *Homo* associated with Oldowan stone tools—flakes used for butchery and processing plants.

Homo erectus — (~1.9 million–100,000 years ago)

The first hominin with modern body proportions and the first to leave Africa. Olduvai fossils document its advanced toolmaking (Acheulean handaxes) and increased brain size.

Archaic *Homo sapiens* — (~600,000–200,000 years ago)

Represents transitional populations between *Homo erectus* and anatomically modern *Homo sapiens*. Fossils from later Pleistocene deposits in East Africa, including sites near Olduvai Gorge and the Ndutu Beds, show increased cranial capacity, reduced brow ridges, and more rounded skulls while retaining robust features. Often linked to *Homo heidelbergensis* or *Homo rhodesiensis*, these hominins likely mastered fire, hunted cooperatively, and produced refined Acheulean and early Middle Stone Age tools—precursors to the cultural and cognitive innovations of modern humans.

Homo sapiens — (~300,000 years ago–present)

Later deposits in the gorge contain evidence of early modern humans—refined tools, pigments, and symbolic artifacts marking cognitive and cultural leaps.