

# Southern Tanzania | Species List

September 22 – October 6, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**Guide Washington Wachira and Martin Joho with Peg Abbott and 8 participants:  
Ty, Bev, Steve, Lise, Jeff, Tammy, Steve and Brian.**

Compiled by Peg Abbott

## **SUMMARY:**

An incredible journey with top-rate Tanzanian-based guides Washington and Martin of Cisticola Tours and Peg Abbott of Naturalist Journeys. We added four nights on Pemba and Zanzibar to complement our long-planned (but pandemic delayed) trip to Southern Tanzania. We visited Sadaani, Ruaha, Mikumi, Nyerere (formerly Selous), and Udzungwa national parks, plus had time in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Miombo Woodlands. We drove too many miles (next time, we fly!) to reach these remote places but were thrilled with our sightings once there. Birds were extraordinary, highlights included seeing a number of endemics including four on Pemba, three at the Kilombero Marshes, and those expected on the mainland. Yellow-collared Lovebirds so brilliant that we almost missed four lionesses sleeping under them! A dazzling array of 8 species of kingfishers included close views of Mangrove and cracking views of Malachite and African Pygmy. We had three species of rollers - including time with two pair of Racket-tailed in the Miombo Woodland – and a grand array of colorful barbets, bee-eaters and sunbirds. Böhm's Bee-eater eating a Striped Policeman butterfly at eye-level 10 yards away seemed extraordinary, along the Rufiji River. We marveled at Africa's contingent of large stunning birds like Saddle-billed Stork seen on seven days, Southern Ground Hornbill, Gray-crowned Crane, Martial Eagle soaring above, Palm-nut Vulture, and - almost daily - African Fish Eagles chirping and gleaming from perches on palms. Time in the Eastern Arc Mountain foothills gave us a chance to see many new bird species, even for veteran Africa travelers, including the colorful Livingstone's Turaco, Trumpeter Hornbill, Black Cuckooshrike, Yellow-breasted Apalis and more. We saw a host of mammals including Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Zebra, Hippo, Giraffe, Yellow Baboon and some very localized primates. A rewarding journey!

Pre-tour, four of the group went to Pemba and Zanzibar Islands, with species seen noted here as

P= Pemba Island (September 18,19,20)

Z=Zanzibar Island (September 21)

## **ITINERARY**

September 22: Arrival Dar es Salaam

September 23: Dar es Salaam | Ruvu River | Saadani NP

September 24: Saadani NP | Wami Delta Boat Tour | Travel to Morogoro

September 25: Morogoro Hotel | Mikumi NP Gate Rest Stop | Udzungwa Mountains NP

September 26: Kilombero Swamp Floodplain | Udzungwa Mountains NP

September 27: Travel Day to Ruaha | Hondo Hondo Farm AM | Crocodile Camp Rest Stop in Valley of the Baobabs | Ruaha NP

September 28: Ruaha NP morning and afternoon game drives | Ruaha River Lodge

September 29: Ruaha NP morning and afternoon game drives | Ruaha River Lodge

September 30: Ruaha NP Travel Day to Vuma Hills | Mikumi NP

October 1: Miombo Forest at Kilosa Road | Vuma Hills

October 2: Vuma Hills Travel Day through Morogoro to Matambwe Gate, Nyerere NP

October 3: Nyerere NP Full day | Rufiji River Lodge

October 4: Nyerere NP Lake Mzizimia | Rufiji River Boat Trip | Rufiji River Lodge

October 5: Rufiji River Lodge to Dar es Saalam

October 6 – Departures / Flights onward / Half day birding for part of the group

**An eBird Trip Report with a map of the route and summary of checklists is available at:**  
<https://ebird.org/tripreport/162274>

**BIRDS: 328 species**

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae (5)**

**White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* (4+P) – A widespread and common species throughout much of Africa, we found them present in wetland areas. At Pemba we saw big numbers (hundreds, high count of 1000+) and at other locations groups of 20+. Numerous juveniles were in with adults in the flocks. In Nyerere NP, at Lake Mzizimia we found them on two days, and they were the first birds flushed when we walked out into the wetlands at the Kilombero Floodplain.

**White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus* (P) – A great chance to see this uncommon duck, present in the wetland we visited in Pemba, four individuals at Vumawimbi Pond.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (6) – Common along the big rivers at Ruaha NP and Nyerere NP, pairs typically seen together.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* (3) – One seen along the Ruaha River at dawn, and then two individuals seen on two mornings from the river view of the dining area at Nyerere NP – only seen in flight.

**African Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus auratus* (P) – Vumawimbi Pond on Pemba, two pairs were present among the lilies covering much of the water area.

**GALLIFORMES: Numididae (1)**

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* (7) – First encountered at Ruaha NP. Common from there going forward, seen in flocks of 8-15 on most sightings.

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianida (3)**

**Crested Francolin** *Ortygornis sephaena* (4) – Seen along roadsides we drove in Ruaha and Nyerere NP's.

**Hildebrandt's Spurfowl** *Pternistis hildebrandti* (2) – Uncommon, seen well on one day in each park, Ruaha and Nyerere (only one of the vehicles).

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer* (6) – Common and vocal, seen mainly in Ruaha and Mikumi NP's, first encounter in Saadanai NP.

#### **PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae (1)**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (P) – Just a lone individual in among the ducks at Vumawimbi Pond on Pemba. Seen also at the second pond visited there.

#### **COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae (10)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (4+P+Z) – Common in settled areas, cities, towns and villages.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* (13+P+Z) – Seen daily in good number, vocal.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* (12) – Seen regularly and in good number, almost daily.

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* (4) – Far less common than Red-eyed and Ring-necked Doves, we saw them mainly in Ruaha NP and on travel days.

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* (11+P HO) – We often heard them ahead of seeing them, but got good views as they would fly up from the road tracks and perch nearby.

**Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur afer* (2+P) – Similar to Emerald Spotted, but call is slower, and the wing shows distinct blue spots. We spotted one in the distance at Pemba in an agricultural area, then got good looks at a pair nesting on the lawn area of our hotel in Morogoro. We found them again at Hondo Hondo in the foothills of the Udzungwa Mountains.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* (Z HO) – Heard only, very early walking the trail in the reserve we visited on Zanzibar.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* (2) – Seen several times at Ruaha, including very good looks at a river overview stop where we scanned, the dove was there at close range.

**(E) Pemba Green-Pigeon** *Treron pembaensis* (P) – Excellent views as they fed in palms, as many as four at a time landing on the prolific clusters of fruit. Good photographic opportunity as well as an intriguing view.

**African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calvus* (1) – A quick flyby as we entered the field at Hondo Hondo, the lovely farm we birded at ahead of our long travel day to Ruaha NP.

#### **PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae (1)**

**Black-faced Sandgrouse** *Pterocles decorates* (3) – We repeatedly saw pairs, at times 3-4 alongside the dirt tracks we drove while at Ruaha NP. Seen on all three days at that location.

#### **OTIDIFORMES: Otididae (2)**

**Buff-crested Bustard** *Eupodotis gindiana* (2) – The first one we found was highly vocal and it was great to listen to its calls, watch it throw back its head. Seen on two days at Ruaha NP.

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* (2) – Seen on the road going into Vuma Hills as we passed through Mikumi NP. One of our vehicles encountered this species again on Oct. 2.

#### **MUSOPHAGIFORMES: Musophagidae (4)**

**Livingstone's Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii* (2) – A highlight of our walks at Udzungwa NP. We heard their low guttural calls from lush trees, and were able to see them well, perched and feeding and then flying between trees. Three landed literally right overhead one morning, a thrill!

**Purple-crested Turaco** *Tauraco porphyreolophus* (1) – This gorgeous species came to watch us at our picnic breakfast on the day we birded the Miombo Forest from Vuma Hills. Spectacular bird.

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus* (3) – Several individuals seen on all three days at Ruaha, often perched high in open crown trees uttering their name's sake call.

**Gray Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor* (1) – One individual seen in Nyerere on an afternoon game drive through small size forest where we had hoped to see Sable and Roan.

#### **CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae (5)**

**Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus* (1) – One individual seen, quite furtive but eventually peeking out of reed grasses at Kilombero Swamp, calling, and then seen in flight. This was the best place to find it on the trip.

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* (7+P+Z) – Seen fairly often, on both islands and then varied locations on the mainland. Within these repeated sightings, we had a look at the Burchell's subspecies one day at a water feature in Nyerere NP.

**Green Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares australis* (2+Z) – First encountered on Zanzibar walking a mix of agricultural fields and forest – it was sneaky and seen mainly in flight between small clusters of trees. Seen on both days walking trails of one of Africa's Eastern Arc Mountain areas, the Udzungwa Mountains.

**Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius* (1) – Seen well at the Hondo Hondo farm area in the foothills of the Udzungwa Mountains.

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* (3) – Heard on three different days of the trip, one giving a look in flight and upon perching in Ruaha NP.

#### **CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae (2)**

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis* (2 HO) – Heard only, two evenings from Vuma Hills, from our porches at the lodge. We did try to call it in our second night but no success on that.

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii* (3 HO) – Heard two nights from Ruaha just at dusk, with the full moon rising, memorable! Right at the bar / dining area. Heard again on Oct. 4 along the Rufiji at dawn.

#### **CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae (4)**

**African Swift** (1) – Seven individuals seen flying high from the lodge, at Ruaha.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* (7) – Seen in clusters, often near a water source or bridge.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* (2) – Spotted from the bridge we stopped at several times for a rest break while in Ruaha, good views as we could see them fly below us.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* (13+P+Z) – Very common, seen daily, often in groups flying above palms.

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae (2)**

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* (P) – Seen in wetlands, both ponds visited, on Pemba Island, a few individuals.

**Black Crane** *Zapornia flavirostra* (1) – Several individuals seen on our river trip in Nyerere NP on the Rufiji along the shoreline.

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae (1)**

**Gray Crowned-Crane** *Balearica regulorum* (1) – A distant scope view of two regal individuals from a rest stop and view point in Ruaha.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae (2)**

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* (10+P) – Quite common, heard or seen on many days, particularly as several of our camps were on big rivers, we heard and saw them frequently. We first saw them on Pemba Island, then at Sadaani NP, and then from Ruaha on, almost daily.

**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis* (1) – Seen only once, a couple individuals on one of the dry tracks we followed through arid vegetation in Ruaha NP.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* (6+P) – We found this species at each open water area we explored, often in good number. Seeing them in morning and afternoon light, with full reflections was particularly memorable.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae (11)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* (2+P) – We saw big numbers of this species in the thousands of shorebirds using the mud flats at the top of Pemba Island. Then on both days while at the coastal park of Saadani NP we found individuals present.

**Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* (2) – Individuals seen on two different days at Mikumi NP.

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* (3+P) – First seen in wetland areas of Pemba Island, we encountered them on three days while along the Rufiji River, a very wide river draining much of southern Tanzania. Also at Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP, a good place for multiple species of shorebirds.

**White-crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus albiceps* (6) – Loud and vocal, we were always aware of their presence, also known as White-headed Lapwing. Off the patio at Rufiji Lodge we watched territorial altercations with lots of chasing. On our boat trip on the Rufiji River we got very close looks at their fleshy bright colored wattles.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* (2) – We first found a group using close cropped grass as we explored at Ruaha, the place not far from where we watched some shy lionesses cross the road. Our sightings were limited to Ruaha NP and Mikumi NP.

**Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* (1) – Several individuals were seen as we walked out into the reed bed margins of agricultural fields at Kilombero Swamp.

**Tibetan (Lesser) Sand-Plover** *Charadrius mongolus* (P) – We were pleased to find a few of this species on the mudflats off the north tip of Pemba Island.

**Greater Sand-Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultia* (1+P) – More common than their Lesser cousins, we saw a number of this species off the north tip mudflats of Pemba Island. We also noted one at Saadani NP.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* (3+P) – Fairly common in appropriate habitat, coves of water features or river edges, we'd find 2-6 at a time in two locations, Saadani and Nyerere.

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* (5) – More widespread than the Common Ringed Plover, we often found them in similar habitats, edges of water features and rivers. We found this one mainly as lone individuals or pairs.

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus* (1) – Seen on the sandy margins on our boat trip on the Wami River at Saadani NP north of Dar es Salaam.

#### **CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae (1)**

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* (5+P) – Very common in wetland habitat, we saw adults and juveniles.

#### **CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae (15)**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* (2+P) – Seen on mudflats on the north end of Pemba and in larger water features at Saadani NP on two days.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* (P) – Just one individual, seen next to a Whimbrel for good comparison, on the north end of Pemba.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* (1) – Seen while at Saadani NP.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* (1) – One individual spotted on the far shore at Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP; we used the scope to get better views.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (P) – Seen amongst other shorebirds on the north tip of Pemba.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* (2) – Several seen well at Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* (1+P) – Seen at Saadani NP and on Pemba Island, a pattern of many of our shorebird sightings.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* (P) – Seen at the north end of Pemba on the mudflats.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* (3+P) – Seen at Saadani NP and then again at the end of our trip at Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* (1+P) – We saw several individuals at a distance when walking the mudflats at Pemba (20 noted among the 1000's of shorebirds there) but on the river trip at Nyerere on the wide Rufiji River we saw them at close range quite well.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* (8+P) – Very common, seen regularly any time around water features, lakes and rivers.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* (2+P) – First seen as we walked around Vumawimbi Pond on Pemba. We then spotted lone individuals in Ruaha NP and Nyerere NP.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* (3+P) – Conspicuous due to its large size, we noted this species at several water features.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* (3) – Seen less frequently than other species, but present.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* (4+P) – Seen often as lone birds or pairs, we found them at most water features.

#### **CHARADRIIFORMES: Dromadidae (1)**

**Crab-Plover** *Dromas ardeola* (1) – Incredible looks when at the north end of Pemba, walking out onto mudflats for an expansive view, so many shorebirds and at least 8-10 individuals of this charismatic species! Peg and Bev walked out as far as possible, threading their way between fisherman walking their catch in (no time to wait for tides) to get some photographs

#### **CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae (1)**

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincole* (4) – Seen on the ground at several locations for good viewing. Our last morning a group of 7 made a patio flyby following the course of the river.

#### **CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae (3)**

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* (2+P+Z) – Seen along coastal habitats on both islands and while at Saadani NP.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis* (P) – Seen on the mudflats and flying over the ocean while on Pemba.

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris* (4) – Seen on the sandbar in view of the patio of our lodge on the Rufiji River, and many seen flying and feeding at Lake Mzizimia Nyerere NP.

#### **CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae (5)**

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus* (7) – Common and widespread.

**African Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia microscelis* (3) – Seen on our boat trip on the Wami River from Saadani NP, and then seen on the Rufiji River, both on the boat trip there and from our lodge patio overlooking the river.

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* (7) – Our first encounter was a close range and we watched it gulp down a fish at Saadani NP. We saw them along the river at Ruaha daily, and again along the Rufiji.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* (7) – Widespread, only fairly common, often seen in groups flying.

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* (8) – We had beautiful looks at this colorful species. Along the Rufiji we noted a high number of juvenile birds feeding together in small channels of the larger river.

#### **SULIFORMES: Anhingidae (1)**

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa* (1) – Two seen flying overhead while we walked into the fields at Kilombero Swamp.

**SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae (1)**

**Long-tailed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus* (6) – Common, seen regularly in small number.

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae (2)**

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (2) – Two individuals seen both times we visited Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens* (3) – Seen flying over head at Kilombero Swamp as we walked out into the fields at the edge of the reed beds and then seen on both days we visited Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP.

**PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae (1)**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* (9) – Very common, we saw them often, some at close range. One of the first we watched for some time shared the pond with a Saddle-billed Stork at Saadani NP and they were both successful fishing. Widespread at all our locations on the mainland.

**PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae (14)**

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea* (8+P) – Widespread and encountered frequently, usually seen as lone individuals.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* (8+P+Z) – A striking heron, one the most often encountered, usually as lone individuals.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath* (6) – We had great looks at this giant of a heron, standing five feet tall. We watched them perched on riverbanks, feeding and flying, typically lone individuals but one day we had three together looking off the patio from Rufiji River Lodge.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* (1) – Seen at only one location, the Kilombero floodplain area we visited to look for endemic cisticolas and other species.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* (9+P) – Common and widespread.

**Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret** *Ardea intermedia* (2) – We saw this species best while along the wide Rufiji River, from our lodge and on the boat trip

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* (7+P) – Common and widespread.

**Western Reef-Heron** *Egretta gularis* (P) – A furtive glimpse, mostly identified by what it could not be leaving this the only likely choice! Seen with other waders in rice fields near the coast at Pemba.

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* (2+P) – We saw a number of them out on the mudflats of Pemba at the edge of the ocean, fishing in their characteristic style of “tenting”, and it was great to watch them so active. We then spotted them both times we visited Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (9+P) – Seen very regularly, often in groups in fields, agricultural areas, on travel days and along the big rivers, flying to roost sites each evening in big number.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* (1) – Just after Jeff said, we haven’t yet seen a Squacco Heron, one flew right over he and Peg on the patio at Rufiji River Lodge – close views of all field marks.



**Malagasy Pond-Heron** *Ardeola idea* (2+P) – Memorable was one fishing at close range as we watched a group of Elephants come to a water hole in Mikumi NP. We also found them on Pemba and at the Kilombero floodplain.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* (8+P) – Common, widespread, usually as lone individuals but present in most wetland environments.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (2) – Several individuals seen perched and in flight as we walked the field margins of Kilombero Swamp Floodplain. Also a few seen on the boat trip on the Wami River in Saadani NP.

#### **PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae (4)**

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* (1) – Seen only one day, a couple of individuals in a cove of Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP.

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* (2) – Seen in Dar es Salaam near the hotel by Jeff, at the Kilombero Floodplain and on our final day along the Rufiji River.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* (7) – We often found this species first by hearing its insistent (namesake) call. Fairly common and widespread. High count was 12.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* (3) – We first encountered this species at Saadani NP on our boat trip, where we watched them feeding along the river. They were also at Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP, the high count there was 32.

#### **ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (2) – Seen along the river in Saadani NP and later along the Rufiji River.

#### **ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae (25)**

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* (1) – A lone individual hovering over the open area as we entered Mikumi NP for a game drive.

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* (4+P) – First encountered on Pemba, we had good looks at this species repeatedly along the river near our lodge at Ruaha, and then again at Nyerere NP.

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* (5+P) – A striking bird with so much white in the wing, we first found them at Pemba, then in coastal habitats at Saadani NP, where on our boat trip we found an adult and young one perched on a sand beach of the river. We then found them again along the Rufiji River at the end of our journey.

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (2) – Jeff spotted this species in flight as we had a picnic lunch at the entry to Nyerere NP, we then found it perched not long after that same day. Seen on a second day at Nyerere NP

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos* (2) – Seen in Mikumi NP and Nyerere, both times seen it was in flight but at close range to see it well.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* (2) – Vultures were not common for us to see on this journey, but in time we spied a few in Mikumi NP and Nyerere NP.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* (6) – Of the vultures seen this was the most common and widespread on our journey.

**Rüppell's Griffon** *Gyps rueppelli* (1) – A lone individual seen at one of our rest stops on Nyerere NP.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* (9) – Seen fairly often, both male and female adults and young birds. We often found young birds perched and were able to get very good views.

**Black-chested Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* (1) – Seen in Mikumi NP on the road into Vuma Hills where we stayed.

**Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* (2) – The first individual was seen in Ruaha NP, perched. The second was seen on our long travel day back from Ruaha, outside the park.

**Fasciated Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus fasciolatus* (1) – Formerly Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Washington had a look early on in the trip, then his 12X binoculars helped us all ID one perched far off on a snag, characteristic head and shape but important to see that tail!

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus* (2) – A magnificent raptor, an adult was seen in Ruaha NP where we had good views of this species as it flew over us at the lunch spot atop a rocky outcrop above the Ruaha River at our lodge there and then an immature in Mikumi NP.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* (1) – Good views of a perched bird with its crest up just as we were leaving Ruaha NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraetus wahlbergi* (3) – We had a light phase bird flying above us at our hotel in Morogoro on the 25th, another as we entered Ruaha NP, and later we spotted a more typical dark morph bird in Nyere NP.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* (2) – Several individuals seen while in Ruaha NP, both flying and perched.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster* (3) – First seen on a travel day from Morogoro, we then had a pair seen daily along the river from our lodge at Ruaha.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* (4) – Great views of this species, often in settled areas. Our first scope view was in the farm field we walked into at Hondo Hondo as we left the Udzungwa Mountains.

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* (3) – Seen on all three days at Nyerere NP.

**Eastern Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus* (2) – Seen at Ruaha NP, both times perched birds showing off their pattern and long legs well.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* (2) – First seen in Ruaha, then at Vuma Hills we had one from the parking lot we had a pair calling in flight as we boarded the vehicles to head to the Miombo Forest.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius* (2) – Seen on the road into Vuma Hills at Mikumi NP where we watched it perched and in flight. Another was seen at Nyerere NP at Lake Mzizimia,

**Black Goshawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus* (2) – First seen on the afternoon drive in Saadani NP, then on our walk at the Udzungwa Mountains from the headquarters.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* (2+P+Z) – Seen on both islands and while at Saadani NP in coastal area, then in Mikumi NP on our afternoon game drive.

**African Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* (9+P+Z) – Very common and widespread but we looked at them all, such a regal bird! Often vocal, Steve was able to get a photo of one tossing its head back to utter that bell-like chirp we heard so often. On our river trips we'd have 10+ but we never tired of seeing them. They loved to perch at tree top, and atop palms that had lost their leaf crowns. We watched one devour a fish on our boat trip on the Rufiji River.

### **STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae (7)**

**(E) Pemba Scops-Owl** *Otus pembaensis* (1) – One of the highlights of the trip, finding this species in a dark forest, listening to several individuals and then having on respond to our calls and come in for wonderful views. A not to be forgotten experience!

**African Scops-Owl** *Otus senegalensis* (3) – We were so fortunate to have two Massai guards at Ruaha that loved birds, and they knew of a favorite roost of this small species. So in addition to listening to them at night, we got to see it on several mornings, using the same favored perch

**Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus* (2 HO) – Steve detected the deep call of this large owl from his tent, calling in the dawn hours. Peg heard it the following day, early.

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Ketupa lacteus* (1) – A funny encounter as Peg had talked about where to look for these large owls and within a few minutes Brian said, "like that one" as he spotted it roosting on a prominent tree limb. We watched and photographed this individual, called to other van, and while it flew in the interim, it was still visible for all. Great fun and serendipity!

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* (2) – Lone individuals seen on two separate days while driving the roads through woodland habitat at Ruaha NP.

**African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium capense* (1 HO) – Heard but not responsive on our night of owling from one of our porches while at Vuma Hills .

**African Wood-Owl** *Strix woodfordii* (1) – A wonderful experience at Rufiji River Lodge, we walked the path at night with our Massai guard, who waited patiently and then with delight as a pair came in to our test calls. We got to hear them duet and to see one individual well.

### **COLIIFORMES: Coliidae (2)**

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus* (9) – We saw this species often, in groups, noisy and feeding in fruiting shrubs. Often other species were found around them.

**Blue-naped Mousebird** *Urocolius macrourus* (4+P) – We saw this species on several days but while traveling to Nyerere NP we found a nest – fun!

### **BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae (1)**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* (3) – Always a show-stopper, we had good views of this species on the ground feeding and in flight. Seen in the Vuma Hills area of Mukumi NP, in the Miombo Forest and again at Nyerere.

### **BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae (3)**

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* (4) – First seen, several groups in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills, then encountered daily in Nyerere NP.

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* (1) – Seen on October 3, on a game drive in Nyerere NP.

**Abyssinian Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus minor* (2) – Seen on two days, working the bark of larger shade trees, in Ruaha NP.

### **BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucorvidae (1)**

**Southern Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri* (7) – Surprisingly common, we had excellent views of this species, often in a family group of four, at Saadani NP, and both Ruaha NP and Nyerere NP on quiet roads and the main highway cutting through Mikumi NP.

### **BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae (7)**

**Crowned Hornbill** *Lophoceros alboterminatus* (10+P) – The most common hornbill encountered, vocal and conspicuous.

**African Gray Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus* (6) – Seen in woodland areas of Ruaha NP, Mikumi NP and Nyerere NP. Most often seen as pairs.

**Pale-billed Hornbill** *Lophoceros pallidirostris* (1) – We were fortunate to see them in the Miombo forest along the Kilosa Road track, a group of at least 7 crossed the road and we watched them fan out into dense trees.

**Von der Decken's Hornbill** *Tockus deckeni* (4) – A large hornbill, often seen in pairs. First seen in Saadani NP, we then had them daily while at Ruaha NP. On our early morning walks there we got particularly good views.

**(E) Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus ruahae* (4) – Seen daily in Ruaha NP in good number. We watched them feeding on the ground, often in small groups at dawn and dusk, then more scattered as pairs throughout the day.

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** *Bycanistes brevis* (1) – Good views of birds coming off their roost areas early morning at Hondo Hondo near the Udzungwa Mountains.

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes buccinator* (3) – We had great views of this species while in the Udzungwa Mountains, with dozens going to roost one evening as we ended our walk at the park. Viewed from the main road, there was a steady stream of this large hornbill overhead – wow!

### **CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae (8)**

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* (4) – This gem was seen well, especially from our boat trips where we could view them eye to eye. A favorite of many, particularly the photographers! Seen both days on the Wami River and then again on the Rufiji.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta* (1+P+Z) – One of our land cruisers got a good look while exploring Nyerere on the final days of the trip, also seen well on Pemba, after trying several times at a road crossing near a school we heard and then watched one fly perch to perch and call. Also seen on Zanzibar.

**Gray-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* (3) – Fairly common at Saadani NP at the start of our trip, we found it again along the Rufiji, quite close to an active bee-eater colony.

**Mangrove Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegaloides* (1+P) – We worked really hard to see this species on Pemba, after hearing its loud call several times, we had success. Then on the boat trip on the Wami River they were actually quite common, posing for us.

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* (4) – Seen along the Wami River, in the Hondo Hondo area when we walked through farm fields by a small drainage, and then again along the Rufiji River at Nyerere NP.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* (6) – A kingfisher of the woodlands, its loud call most often alerted us to its presence. Widespread.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* (10) – As we spent time on big rivers, we saw this species often. There were several in view from our cabins at Ruaha and then again along the Rufiji. We saw them catch fish, and watched them chase each other, preen, dive.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* (9+P) – Highly vocal and widespread, we saw individuals and pairs along all size rivers and small pocket wetlands.

### **CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae (6)**

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* (4) – Big numbers seen as they were nesting in colonies along the Rufiji River, where we saw them daily while at Nyerere NP.

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* (12) – Widespread and common, they brightened up many a checklist. We watched them feeding, sallying forth from perches, tried to catch flight shots as they'd return. Often they would pose two or more to a branch.

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus* (4) – A beautiful woodland species, we found them in small clusters, once encountered there were often several present. Seen in Saadani NP, Ruaha NP, and Nyerere NP.

**Böhm's Bee-eater** *Merops boehmi* (2) – Seen only in one location at Nyerere by an entrance gate, but we got excellent looks at several and were in no hurry to leave them. We saw a few on the river, but this colony by the entrance gate gave us best photos and views.

**Madagascar Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus* (P) – This species was quite common on Pemba Island, seen by both ponds and in travel between birding sites on wires and tree tops.

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* (3) – Just a few individuals seen, in Saadani NP and Ruaha NP on game drives.

### **CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae (3)**

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* (12+Z) – Common and widespread, we first spotted one as we walked around a farm trail to find a troop of monkeys on Zanzibar. Once on the mainland we saw daily.

**Racket-tailed Roller** *Coracias spatulatus* (1) – A most wanted to see bird, we had really good views and lingered to watch two different pairs on our day in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* (6+P+Z) – Fairly common, best views were from our patio at Nyerere NP at the end of the trip where they vocalized a lot and were present in the big shade trees. Widespread in the open woodland habitat, Saadani, Vuma Hills / MikumiMikumi NP and Nyerere NP.

### **PICIFORMES: Lybiidae (8)**

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii* (2) – Seen well on the day we visited the Miombo Forest from Vuma Hills. We heard it again, its long persistent call, while in Nyerere NP.

**D'Arnaud's Barbet** *Trachyphonus darnaudii* (3) – A striking species we saw daily by the lodge at Ruaha, where a pair resided in the parking area by the dining. They were vocal and showy, the male particularly bright in color.

**White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis* (1) – Four were seen at Udzungwa Mountains NP on our first walk there, the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup>. Distinct races occur for this dark barbet, this was the southern Tanzania *leucogrammica* race referred to as white-lined. This race is associated with highland habitats in Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains and differs from populations in Kenya and Mali, Mozambique, Zimbabwe's highlands and KwaZulu-Natal South Africa. Nice to see well!

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus* (4+Z) – We saw the coastal form and heard its long drawn out call while in Zanzibar, then the highland form at the Udzungwa Mountains on our walks there.

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus* (3) – Seen and heard in Saadanai NP.

**Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa* (1) – This bird was the highlight of our lunch stop on a long travel day heading west to Ruaha. We enjoyed birding and a stretch at the Crocodile Camp in the Valley of the Baobabs. Almost immediately out of the vehicles this barbet captured our attention, perching up in plain view and calling relentlessly. Our only encounter of the journey.

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus* (2) – We saw this bird on a couple of days while at Nyerere, the best views along the river by the park gate where we got out to walk to see nesting bee-eaters at close range.

**Brown-breasted Barbet** *Lybius melanopterus* (5) – A fairly common barbet of woodland and forest edge, we had good opportunity to see and photograph this species at Saadani, on our travel day over to Ruaha, and while at Nyerere NP.

#### **PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae (2)**

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor* (2) – Seen in the Miombo forest, then again in Nyerere NP at Lake Mzizimia.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator* (1) – We had good views just after our breakfast break in the Miombo Forest from Vuma Hills; two individuals flew across the road and then perched for some time in view.

#### **PICIFORMES: Picidae (7)**

**Rufous-necked Wryneck** *Jynx ruficollis* (1) – One of the first birds we encountered in a big mixed flock moving through the Miombo Forest from Vuma Hills. Vocal and flying tree to tree, we got very good views.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Chloropicus fuscescens* (6) – Widespread, seen in varied habitat, often with other species.

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Chloropicus namaquus* (1) – Two individuals seen mid-morning in the Miombo Forest, a very good site for woodpecker varieties on our journey. Male and female.

**Green-backed Woodpecker** *Campethera cailliautii* (4) – We encountered this species on both walks in the Udzungwa Mountains, and then we found four individuals while exploring the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills. Our last sighting was at Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP, one of our favorite spots there.

**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica* (2) – Seen morning and afternoon at Ruaha our first day there, the first sighting at the airstrip. We heard one a few days later, same open woodland habitat type.

**Reichenow's (Speckle-throated) Woodpecker** *Campethera scriptoricauda* (1) – Formerly Speckle-throated, Jeff spotted this species first as we hopped out of the vehicles to scope out a fast moving flock. We had several chances to see this species well while spending a full morning in the Miombo habitat from Vuma Hills.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni* (5) – First encountered in lush forests in the UdzungwaUdzungwaUdzungwaUdzungwa Mountains, we found them again on our day in the Miombo Woodland habitat from Vuma Hills and on one day while at Nyerere NP.

#### **FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae (3)**

**Gray Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus* (4) – This species was common in Ruaha, seen daily there.

**Dickinson's Kestrel** *Falco dickinsoni* (P) – We saw them a number of times while on Pemba. The most notable was watching a pair at a nest in a palm cavity behind our local guide's home. Male and female perched and preened in the nest vicinity after she emerged. Several individuals observed, flying and perched.

**Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera* (1) – A great sighting as this species swooped down on the shorebirds and jacanas at a small water feature in Mikumi NP, dramatically putting all up in flight.

#### **PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae (1)**

**(E) Yellow-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis personatus* (2) – This bird was so lovely to observe and try to photograph, some of us almost missed our first Lion sighting! We were looking up when the first of four females on the move in Ruaha NP went through and Washington in the other vehicle had to alert us!

#### **PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae (2)**

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri* (5) – Fairly common in Ruaha NP and on our travel day back from there to Mikumi NP. We often heard them in flight, but in time got to see quite a few perched.

**Brown-headed Parrot** *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* (3+P) – We first encountered this species on Pemba Island, then it was the large parrot encountered along the Rufiji River at low elevation at the end of our trip.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae (2)**

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Coracina pectoralis* (1) – Two individuals were chasing each other around in the crowns of trees in the Miombo Woodland outside of Vuma Hills, a nice find. Uncommon in Miombo Woodlands, with a split range mainly in Uganda and Southern Tanzania, it was a nice species to see.

**Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava* (2) – Male and female seen well on our first walk in the UdzungwaUdzungwaUdzungwaUdzungwa Mountains, not far from the entry gate, feeding. We encountered them again the next day; this was the only place we encountered them.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae (2)**

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus* (4) – Our best views were probably walking around the grounds of the Morogoro Hotel before starting our long travel day to Ruaha.

**African Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus* (4) – A lovely large oriole, great to hear and see, widespread.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae (2)**

**Pale Batis** *Batis soror* (1) – This is a Miombo specialist and four individuals were encountered in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills.

**Eastern Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor* (4) – Seen on both ends of our trip in Saadani NP and Nyerere NP. They were typically fairly low in trees and shrubs and confiding, providing us good looks.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae (2)**

**White Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* (5) – We enjoyed several episodes of watching this highly vocal and social species. They were seen mainly in open woodland in Ruaha NP and Nyerere NP.

**Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii* (2) – Less widespread than the White Helmetshrike, we found a group feeding together in the Miombo Woodland and on our travel day back through the Mikumi NP area our final day.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae (9)**

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer* (6) – Widespread, seen mostly as pairs, often at rest stops at the various parks or around our lodgings.

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* (8+Z) – Very common, we encountered them as a group in Zanzibar and mainland. The coastal form on Zanzibar has plain back wings below the shoulder bar which Washington was quick to point out to us. This was one of the more common woodland species encountered. Vocal, the male and female differ quite a bit in plumage; they were nearly almost found in pairs.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* (7) – Fairly common and widespread, we often had them feeding around our lodgings, or encountered them at rest stops. Their musical call drew our attention.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* (4) – We found this species most commonly in Ruaha NP, where they were most often encountered low in shrubby vegetation. Overlaps in habitat with Black-crowned, on two days while at Ruaha we noted both species.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* (6) – Seen well and heard while in the Udzungwa Mountains and while at Vuma Hills.

**Zanzibar Boubou** *Laniarius sublacteus* (2+P+Z) – Seen on both islands and the mainland where we found it in our lowest elevation areas, the coast and Nyerere NP.

**Slate-colored Boubou** *Laniarius funebris* (4) – This almost black boubou was common around our cabins at the Ruaha NP, vocal and active – we saw them often.

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike** *Telophorus sulfureopectus* (1 H0) – We were sad not to find this beauty but we did hear it well, hiding. We were in Miombo Forest with so many species to see, just not enough time to wait for it.

**Gray-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* (3) – Seen well in Saadani NP on one of our walks, a pair. We head them later in the trip at Vuma Hills.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae (2)**

**Common Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii* (2) – The common drongo of the Udzungwa Mountains, the only location we found this species.



**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* (9+Z) – Common and widespread in Zanzibar and on 8 days of our trip, all locations except the coast and Udzungwa Mountains.

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae (2)**

**African Crested-Flycatcher** *Trochocercus cyanomelas* (1) – This very secretive species was found in thick vegetation on the trail at Udzungwa Mountains NP, a showy plumage, dazzling!

**African Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* (1+P) – This species was common on Pemba, encountered a number of times, but on the mainland found only one day at Lake Mzizimia where we had two individuals.

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae (3)**

**Long-tailed Fiscal** *Lanius cabanisi* (2) – Not common, but seen well at Mikumi NP initially and then another sighting going into Nyerere NP once past the gate.

**Magpie Shrike** *Lanius melanoleucus* (2) – Social, we found groups of this showy species at Ruaha, once by a dry water crossing and once near our lodge.

**White-rumped Shrike** *Eurocephalus ruppelli* (3) – Seen on both days in Ruaha NP, both at the lodge and out on game drives.

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae (3)**

**House Crow** *Corvus splendens* (9+P+Z) – Common, especially so around towns, buildings, and farms.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* (10+P+Z) – Common and widespread. We saw several pair nesting in the tall cell phone towers.

**White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis* (2) – Seen in the same stretch of road climbing up from the Valley of the Baobabs in route to Ruaha NP.

**PASSERIFORMES: Hyliotidae (1)**

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster* (1) – Seen very well on our day in the Miombo, first two and then a single individual, in different mixed flocks.

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae (1)**

**Rufous-bellied Tit** *Melaniparus rufiventris* (1) – Seen at close range with enough time to watch feeding behavior in the Miombo woodland

**PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae (1)**

**African Penduline-Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli* (1) – The smallest bird seen on our journey, a flock of five individuals in thin branches of tall trees, seen well.

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae (2)**

**Fischer's Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia* (1) – Present in low numbers in Ruaha NP.

**Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* (1) – Seen well from the bus and walking around in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills.

**PASSERIFORMES: Nicatoridae (1)**

**Eastern Nicator** *Nicator gularis* (1) – We had one outing where we had really good views of this secretive species, in Udzungwa NP on a trail into the mountains from the Visitor Center. It was cooperative and crossed the path several times, perching at heights we could see it well.

**PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae (1)**

**Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii* (3) – Seen at three locations, Ruaha NP, the Miombo forest where we had a high count of four, and in Nyerere NP, mostly as lone individuals and often with other species in a feeding flock.

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae (13)**

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis* (1) – One individual seen on one day, in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills.

**Greencap Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops* (3) – Seen at three locations, first at Saadani NP, then in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills and finally in Nyerere NP, feeding as pairs.

**Stierling's Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes stierlingi* (1) – A specialty of Miombo woodland, seen there from Vuma Hills, in a mixed flock.

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura* (5+Z) – Common and vocal little wren-like songster in Zanzibar, at Ruaha at several locations and in Mikumi NP.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* (5+Z) – Seen in Zanzibar, and then widespread, at the Morogoro Hotel, in the Udzungwa Mountains, at Ruaha and Nyerere national parks.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* (4) – Seen at the Morogoro Hotel, and in Ruaha and Mikumi NP's. high count was three individuals.

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops* (1) – Seen in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills, singing.

**(E) Kilombero Cisticola** *Cisticola bakerorum* (1) – One of the highlights of the trip, we were enchanted with this boisterous and loud cisticola. They put on quite a show, in pairs, dueting as they perched on swaying reeds. We were thrilled to find two pair, then another on both sides of the bridge we stopped at in the Kilombero Floodplain.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* (7) – Widespread and common

**(E) White-tailed Cisticola** *Cisticola anderseni* (1) – We suspect that this species was nesting, as we saw three lone individuals on our first walk at the Kilombero Floodplain, then one that came in quite close to sing and sing after we crossed the bridge. Overshadowed by its dueting cousin, the Kilombero Cisticola, we still appreciated seeing this very local specialty.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* (P+Z) – Fairly common on Pemba, we also saw it on Zanzibar but not on the mainland.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus* (2) – Our first sighting was memorable as it was noted above sleeping Lions in Mikumi NP. We stayed there some time so got very good looks. We also saw this species in Nyerere NP as we entered the first afternoon.

### PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae (3)

**African Yellow-Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* (1) – One individual seen behind a gas station at a rest stop crossing over to Ruaha

**Common Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* (1) – We had good views of this species on the morning we went to Kilombero Floodplains, eye-level view in a mix of species seen by a small water feature.

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (1) – Seen with the Common Reed Warbler and other species at the Kilombero Floodplains area.

### PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae (5)

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* (2) – Seen on two days in Ruaha, from the bridge where we took a rest stop.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (4) – Seen on our first day driving to Saadani, on other travel days, in Ruaha and from Rufiji River Camp. High count at Saadani was 12.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* (11+P+Z) – Very common and widespread.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* (12+P+Z) – Very common and widespread, our most frequently encountered swallow. The high count at one location was ten.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* (3) – Probably the same individuals, seen each morning we were at Ruaha River Camp, sunning themselves at the top of a huge tree, 1-2 individuals.

### PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae (4)

**Sombre Greenbul** *Andropadus importunes* (5+Z) – We saw four of the Zanzibar subspecies on our walk there, and then at two locations on the mainland, we saw two on our Wami River Delta boat trip and near the end of our trip another individual in Nyerere NP.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* (4) – Heard on two days in coastal areas at Saadani NP and later encountered at Ruaha NP near our lodge.

**Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens* (2+Z) – Seen on Zanzibar and on both afternoon walks in the Udzungwa Mountains, they were always vocal and busy, 2-3 individuals at a sighting.

**Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus* (13+P+Z) – Seen daily, often the first music of the morning and final tones into the night. Very common.

### PASSERIFORMES: Scotocercidae (1)

**Livingstone's Flycatcher** *Erythrocercus livingstonei* (1) – Seen on September 26 by some of our group on a walk in the Udzungwa Mountains – a nice pickup by Washington by call, followed by a quick fly by.

### PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae (1)

**Banded Parisoma** *Curruca boehmi* (1) – Seen in a mixed flock in Ruaha on one day, September 29, by one of our vehicles.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae (2)**

**Southern Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops anderssoni* (1) – Seen at Crocodile Camp at our lunch stop rest stop en route to Ruaha NP.

**(E) Pemba White-eye** *Zosterops vaughani* (1) – Seen well near the home of our local guide, Kombo. Then seen by our resort, and on all the days we were at Pemba.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae (1)**

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* (4) – A noisy gang was present each morning around the parking area and dining room overlooking the river at Ruaha River Lodge. We found them again in Mikumi NP.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae (2)**

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* (4) – Seen in Ruaha and Nyerere national parks, often with Yellow-billed Oxpecker, but red-billed remained the more numerous. High count 12.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* (4) – Seen in Ruaha and Nyerere national parks, on large mammals. High count 2.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae (9)**

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* (2) – Flocks seen on two occasions in Nyerere NP.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* (3) – First seen in the Miombo forest, a lovely starling with very different plumage in the male and female. Seen in Nyerere NP at two locations, at the Mtemere Gate where we walked by the river the high count was 20.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio* (2) – A couple of individuals seen well on both days in Ruaha NP.

**Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri* (1) – One sighting in the Udzungwa Mountains our first afternoon walk there.

**Black-bellied Starling** *Notopholia corusca* (P+Z) – Seen regularly on the islands only. High count 4.

**(E) Ashy Starling** *Lamprotornis unicolor* (4) – Very common but limited to Ruaha NP, this endemic species was lovely to watch – high count of 25 near the airstrip.

**Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus* (6) – Seen at the Mikumi NP gate coming and going, and on one day in Ruaha. At Vuma Hills present at our lodge.

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus* (5) – Seen daily in Mikumi NP and Nyerere NP, high count was 9.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* (1) – Seen in Mikumi NP, ten individuals on our afternoon game drive.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae (1)**

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana* (1) – Seen in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills, down on the ground for very good viewing.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae (12)**

**African Gray Flycatcher** *Bradornis microrhynchus* (3) – Seen in Ruaha NP either as individuals or pairs, daily.

**Pale Flycatcher** *Agricola pallidus* (2) – One seen in Saadani NP and then two in Nyerere, both ends of our journey.

**Gray Tit-Flycatcher** *Fraseria plumbea* (3) – Formerly known as Lead-colored Flycatcher, we had three sightings of one individual in the Udzungwa Mountains, in the Miombo forest, and on one day while in Nyerere NP.

**Southern Black-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina* (1) – One seen well late in the morning on our walk in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills.

**Bearded Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* (2 + ZHO) – This species was elusive for us, not for lack of trying, one of our vehicles was able to see it in Nyerere, for the others it remained a heard only, a distinct one! We all heard from the brush as we waited to clear paperwork for our walk in the Udzungwa Mountains. It was heard only earlier on the walk in the forest reserve on Zanzibar.

**Red-backed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* (3) – Seen on an afternoon game drive at Saadani NP and then on two days in Ruaha NP.

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* (2) – Two were seen at our stop by the Ruvu River and rice fields, and we had another singing at lunch, heard only, at our lodge in Saadani.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis* (2+Z) – First seen on the lush forest trail at the reserve on Zanzibar, we had this species again seen clearly on both our walks in the afternoons in the Udzungwa Mountains.

**Collared Palm-Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata* (2) – We worked to see this loud songster but eventually got good views. They liked to thick shrubs around Lake Mzizimia which we visited on two subsequent days.

**Spotted Morning-Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* (2) – We had a good study one morning at our hotel in Morogoro where we walked the grounds, it was singing to alert us and we got good views. We encountered this species again at a waterhole rest stop in Nyerere NP.

**Mocking Cliff-Chat** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* (1) – One sighting in the morning on a walk from our camp with the Massai guards that liked to bird. Unexpected, it was a nice find!

**Arnott's Chat** *Myrmecocichla arnotti* (1) – Seen only on one day, but at several locations in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills, one was quite close to the car on the bank of the road, putting on quite a show. Our high count was five, they appeared together in at least family groups.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae (11)**

**Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes orientalis* (4) – First seen well at the Crocodile Camp Rest stop where we had it at close range. We then saw it a number of times in Ruaha NP.

**Uluguru Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes neglectus* (1) – One individual seen on our first afternoon walk near headquarters, at Udzungwa NP.

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* (5+Z) – Seen in forested areas, on the lush walk we took on Zanzibar, on both afternoon walks in the Udzungwa Mountains, and then a final time later in the trip in big trees by our camp on the Rufiji River in Nyerere NP.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* (5+P+Z) – Seen on both islands, particularly common on Pemba Island. We saw them in forested areas on the mainland in days following.

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystine* (1) – Seen at just one location, Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP, three individuals.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* (9+Z) – The most common sunbird encountered, male and females seen regularly. Often perched and vocalizing. Seen on 10 eBird checklists.

**Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus* (3) – Seen well while in Ruaha, first sighting was on our way there at the Crocodile Camp rest area in Baobab Valley. Then one or two individuals seen daily in Ruaha.

**Shelley's Sunbird** *Cinnyris shelleyi* (1) – Excellent looks at a few individuals on our day in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills. Perched and possible to photograph.

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus* (5+Z) – Seen on a number of days, widespread locations.

**(E) Pemba Sunbird** *Cinnyris pembae* (P) – Surprisingly common and often in the shrubs right at our hotel by the dining room. One day we saw 5 in one area near our local guide's home. They were vocal and easy to find – locally common, globally rare!

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* (1) – Seen at the airstrip at Ruaha NP.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae (19)**

**White-headed Buffalo-Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli* (2) – We first encountered them at the airstrip at Ruaha NP waiting for Brian's lost luggage to appear. Great to have a new bird at most every stop! We saw them quite a few times then while on game drives at Ruaha.

**Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis* (3) – A pretty weaver, seen on three days while at Ruaha NP, in small number, high count was five.

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* (6) – First encountered at the gate of Mikumi NP where we saw it at its nests, coming and going. They were present around our camp and on game drives in Nyerere NP. Their nests decorated trees like Christmas ornaments. Six was our high count at one location.

**Gray-headed Social-Weaver** *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* (2) – Seen on both days on game drives at Ruaha, one location we had 50 of them, a rest stop with water towers attracting them in.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps* (4) – This beauty always brought out the cameras! We saw them daily in Ruaha, including one that was nesting in the eaves of our lunch spot. There were present in the Miombo forest from Vuma Hills. We also saw them on our travel day from Vuma Hills as a nice bonus to a "hide in the bushes" pit stop.

**Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis* (1) – Two individuals seen together on an afternoon game drive in Ruaha NP.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* (1HO) – Heard only, we were paying attention to other birds and thought we'd have another chance at spotting it! On the grounds of the Morogoro Hotel.

**African Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus* (2+Z) – This is a stunning weaver, great to get views along the Ruvu River our first day, and then with everyone together at Hondo Hondo in the foothills of the Udzungwa Mountains. Those on Zanzibar also had views there.

**(E) Kilombero Weaver** *Ploceus burnieri* (1) – A major “target bird” of our foray to the Kilombero flood plains, which are sadly quickly disappearing to local agriculture. We found three individuals at our first stop and seven at the second stop on the other side of the bridge.

**(E) Ruvu Weaver** *Ploceus holoxanthus* (5) – We had good looks in Saadani NP at two locations including our boat trip, where they were on nests allowing close views and photos. We had brief views along the Ruvu bridge near Bagamoyo town. Then the whole group got to see them along the Rufiji River where they were coming in to drink fresh water, again allowing for close views and photos. A localized species to find – nice!

**Lesser Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* (2) – Seen on the grounds of our hotel at Morogoro and then again at the Mtemere Gate at Nyerere NP. Six was our high count for this species.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* (5) – Fairly common and widespread. Seen in Saadani NP, on our travel day with the morning walk at Hondo Hondo and our rest stop along the river at Crocodile Camp. We saw them in Miombo forest from Vuma Hills and in both national parks, Ruaha and Nyerere. High counts were 50 at two locations, Ruaha and Hondo Hondo.

**Forest Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor* (2+Z) – Also known as Dark-backed Weaver, we had very good looks at this species in shrubs on the The South Forest trail at Jozani Chwaka Bay NP on Zanzibar, then we saw them in lush vegetation of the forests of the Udzungwa Mountains on both afternoon walks there.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* (3) – At Ruaha we saw them often and in good number, typically 20-80 noted for a list. On the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> of September we hit a area of huge activity, our note of 800 was probably a low count. This is the world's most numerous bird and we got a small sample of that! We also saw them in Nyerere NP near the Mtemere Gate.

**Black-winged Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus* (4+P) – This show species was still in breeding plumage and the males were most cooperative in posing atop reeds and rushes. Seen on both days at several stops in Saadani NP, at Kilombero Swamp and then on our long travel day to Ruaha NP.

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* (1) – One individual spotted as we birded in Miombo Forest from Vuma Hills, a colorful male.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* (1) – Seen on the Wami River, Saadani NP.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* (1) – Seen at both locations we stopped at on either side of the bridge at Kilombero Swamp. At the first stop we had a big group of 20 at the edge of the reeds.

**Grosbeak Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons* (1) – Seen at just one location, two individuals at Hondo Hondo in the Udzungwa Mountain foothills.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae (10)**

**Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullate* (6+P+Z) – Very common on both islands, and then regular along the coast at Saadani and into the Udzungwa Mountains, then notably absent from Mikumi NP, Ruaha NP and Nyerere NP.

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Spermestes bicolor* (1+P+Z) – On the mainland our only location was at Hondo Hondo, the foothills of the Udzungwa Mountains, we had a good study of this clean-plumaged species.

**Java Sparrow** *Padda oryzivora* (P) – We found this species near a schoolyard where the roost in some large trees and were still present when we got there to look. We were able to see them down on the ground feeding, then they flitted away to forage the neighborhood. A happy find!

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* (2) – A few of these individuals with their “lipstick beaks” were seen at two locations - Saadani NP and then later at Lake Mzizimia in Nyerere NP.

**Southern Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus angolensis* (8) – The most common by far of the three cordonbleu species we saw one to four individuals repeatedly on several days, often flocking with other species.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* (4) – Seen in Ruaha and Mikumi.

**Blue-capped Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* (1) – One sighting of this really lovely species, in Ruaha, it was foraging in shrubs at eye-level so we got good looks.

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* (5) – Widespread but not common, we’d find one or two at a time, always a delight as they are so colorful and patterned. Often feeding with other small songbird species.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* (7) – Common and widespread, our high count was 10 on one checklist while in Ruaha NP.

**Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* (1) – Seen on just one day, but three times that day, on a stretch of road we took in and out of our lodge in Ruaha NP.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae (3)**

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* (1) – A bright moment happened on a very long travel day when we spotted this elegant species.

**Eastern Paradise-Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea* (2) – Seen in Ruaha NP and then in Nyerere NP by the Mtemere Gate.

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeate* (4) – A few individuals seen at Kilombero Swamp and then later seen on two days, a few individuals in Ruaha NP.

#### **PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae (4)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (6+P) – Common and widespread.

**Northern Gray-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus* (2+P) – Washington has us look closely at this species as this area is supposed to have Southern Gray-headed by the books, but in his experience on our route he’s found only Northern. So we had repeated study while at Morogoro Hotel and in the little roadside village by the bridge at Kilombero Swamp.

**Swahili Sparrow** *Passer suahelicus* (3) – Seen regularly while in Ruaha NP, 4-6 individuals at a time.



**Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow** *Gymnoris superciliarys* (2) – Formerly called Petronia, we saw this rather plain and chunky species in shrubs while exploring Mikumi on game drives and around the lodge.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae (3)**

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* (7+P) – Common and widespread. Typically seen as 1-2 individuals with as many as four at a time. They loved the swimming pool areas by our hotel on Pemba and sang loudly. Often by rivers and water.

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* (2+P+Z) – Seen in Saadani NP and then again in the Kilombero Swamp outside of the Udzungwa Mountains as well as on both islands, multiple times there. Our high count on one checklist was 4.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus* (1) – Seen both in the morning and in the afternoon of our game drives in Saadani NP, in open grassland habitat. Seen singing, good views.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae (3)**

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* (6) – Fairly common, widespread. The high count was 10 seen in the foothills of the Udzungwa Mountains at Hondo Hondo where we walked the farm trails one morning.

**Southern Citril** *Crithagra hyposticta* (1) – Seen at the gas station at a stop in Iringa. Always birding – our only record of the trip.

**Reichenow's Seedeater** *Crithagra reichenowi* (3) – Seen in Saadani NP on an afternoon game drive, found in Ruaha NP and then on our final day leaving Nyerere NP. Small numbers, 2-4 individuals.

### **PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae (2)**

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris* (2) – Our first encounter was en route to the lodge in Saadani NP and then we saw it there again as we were eating lunch. We did not see them again until Ruaha NP where we found one just as we were departing for the morning game drive.

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi* (3) – An individual was seen each of three mornings at Ruaha River Lodge on our morning walks from the parking lot, present in with a little bird party we enjoyed sorting out.

## **MAMMALS: 41 species**

### **HYRAXES (2)**

**Bush Hyrax** *Heterohyrax brucei*

**Eastern Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax validus*.

### **ELEPHANTS (1)**

**Bush Elephant** *Loxodonta africana*

### **PRIMATES (8)**

**(E) Udzungwa Red Colobus** *Ptilocolobus gordonorum*

**Angola Colobus** *Colobus angolensis*

**(E) Zanzibar Colobus** *Philiocolobus kirkii*

**Zanzibar Sykes Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis albogularis*

**Small-eared Greater Gallago (Bushbaby)** *Otolemur garnettii garnettii*

**Yellow Baboon** *Papio cynocephalus*

**Vervet Monkey (Pemba Green)** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus nesiotus*

**Eastern Vervet Monkey (Mainland)** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus centralis*

#### **SQUIRRELS (4)**

**Striped Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus flavovittis* () –

**Ochre Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus ochraceus* () –

**Smith's Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus cepapi* xxx () –

**Red-bellied Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus palliatus* () –

#### **FRUIT BATS (2)**

**Straw-colored Fruit Bat** *Eidolon helvum* () –

**(E) Pemba Flying Fox** *Pteropus voeltzkowi* () – **DOGS AND ALLIES**

#### **CANIDS (1)**

**Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas*

#### **CATS (2)**

**Lion** *Panthera leo*

**Leopard** *Panthera pardus*

#### **HYENAS (1)**

**Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta crocuta*

#### **MONGOOSES (4)**

**Ichneumon (Egyptian) Mongoose** *Herpestes ichneumon*

**Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguineus*

**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo*

**Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula*

#### **HORSES AND ALLIES (1)**

**Common Zebra** *Equus quagga*

**PIGS (2)**

**Bushpig** *Potamochoerus larvatus*

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*

**HIPPOPOTAMUSES (1)**

**Common Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius*

**GIRAFFES (1)**

**Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis*

**OXEN (1)**

**African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer*

**SPIRAL-HORNED BOVINES (3)**

**Greater Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus*

**Common Eland** *Tourotrogus oryx*

**DUIKERS (1)**

**Bush Duiker** *Sylvicapra grimmia* () –

**DIKDIKS (1)**

**(E) Ugogo Dikdik** *Madaqaua thomasi* () –

**REEDBUCKS (1)**

**Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca*

**KOBS (2)**

**Common Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

**Defassa Waterbuck** *Kobus defassa*

**IMPALAS (1)**

**Impala** *Aephyceros melampus*

**TOPI, WILDEBEESTS AND ALLIES (1)**

**Brindled Gnu** *Connochaetes taurinus*

**REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS: 10 species**

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*

Nile Monitor Lizard *Varanus niloticus*

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia*

(E) Pemba Day Gecko *Phelsuma parkeri*

Flat-headed/ Tree Gecko *Hemidactylus platycephalus*

Variable Skink *Trachylepis varia*

Speckle-lipped Skink *Trachylepis maculilabris*

(E) Dodoma Red-headed/ Rock Agama *Agama dodomae*

Guttural Toad *Amietophrynus gutturalis*

Natal Puddle Frog *Phrynobatrachus natalensis*