

Tanzania Highlights

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 21 February 2013

Report compiled by Tony Williams



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Summary

As ever, a two week trip to Tanzania incorporating two days in the Ngorongoro crater and five days in the Serengeti, provided an incomparable wildlife spectacle!

On this trip we all saw most of the special things we might reasonably have hoped to have seen: vast herds of Gnu and Zebra, many Lions, Black Rhinos in the crater, all the antelopes and a very reasonable 330+ bird species, including the African broadbill. But arguably the best sighting was that of the 2 Leopard cubs playing in a dead tree. Both driver-guides were extremely friendly and informative and the group got on well together – everything went exceptionally well. Everybody has their own favourite moment but the highlight for me (Tony) was, as ever, seeing the vast numbers of Gnu and Zebra on the short-grass plains, it has to be seen to be believed!

Day 1

Thursday 7th February

Most of the group met together at Heathrow's revamped Terminal 4 in plenty of time for our early evening (19h00) Air Kenya departure for Nairobi.

Day 2

Friday 8th February

Sunny and warm with a downpour in the afternoon

We grabbed as much sleep on the 8 hour flight as we could, and disembarked on time at Nairobi international airport at around 06h30 local time (3 hours ahead of Britain), even at that time of day bathing in a much more user-friendly temperatures than we'd left in Britain.

We met up near the transfer desk and soon had everyone's boarding passes for the two flights (the group had been split into two for this next flight but there was little time difference) of just over half-an-hour to Kilimanjaro International Airport, with views of the snow-capped cone of Kilimanjaro just before landing. Whilst in the boarding lounge we had a look at a few birds visible outside which provided us with a taste of African species; we noted Little swifts, Superb Starling, African Pied Wagtail, Speckled Pigeon and one of the Black Kites. The two halves of the group met up again in the very pleasant "Kili" airport, had little trouble going through formalities and collecting luggage before meeting our waiting transfer driver. We were soon on the minibus with our luggage and on our way for the 45 minute drive to our lodge for the next two nights, on the eastern outskirts of Arusha.

We arrived at the very comfortable Mountain Village Lodge mid-morning, had a little wait before finding our rooms and arranged to meet back at the main building for lunch; this gave everyone the chance of a rest. The lodge is set in large grounds with several very large trees and well-kept gardens; it can be very good for birds. For the afternoon there was the choice of either having a rest and maybe enjoy the gardens, or having a walk round the nearby Duluti Lake, part of the government run Duluti forest reserve.

Seven of the eleven (we would meet up with the two remaining group members that evening) decided to visit Duluti Lake. It's a fifteen minute walk from the lodge to the reserve entrance where we paid our entrance fees and joined our local guide. The visit consists of a three to four mile walk around the crater lake, much of the time through woodland. Not only is it a good introduction to East African birds but we nearly always see some birds species here that we don't see elsewhere of the trip. Some of the more interesting species on this occasion included; African Cormorant, a close Barn Owl (well spotted by the local guide), two Giant Kingfishers and the restricted-range Taveta Weaver, all those present having good views of the males' distinctive orange markings on its yellow head. We also had good, close views of a few Monitor Lizards. After about two-thirds of the walk it started raining until we got back. Not to worry, the rain soon stopped and once in our comfortable rooms we all dried out and at 7pm went to the main building for a drink and meal. Here we met the two remaining members of the group who'd arrived before most of us and been into Arusha for the day. We enjoyed a good night's sleep at the Mountain Village Lodge.

Day 3

Sunday 9th February

Sunny and warm with some light cloud cover

For those who felt up to it there was a morning walk at 06h30 to have a quick look around the lodge gardens and search out a few birds. There were seven of us in all, and such good species as Brown-breasted Barbet and White-necked Raven made it well worthwhile. A good breakfast at around 07h15 was had by all, before our just after 8 o'clock departure for an all day outing to the nearby Arusha National Park. We met our two driver/guides for the next eleven days, Naturetrek's long-time friends Hassan and Leaky. It's about an hour's drive eastwards back along the main road from the lodge to the park entrance, with a few stops on the way to look at some birds, Cattle Egrets, Black-headed Herons and Southern Fiscal among the most common. Once at the gate the drivers had to check in, the rest of us looked at the birds nearby and admired Mount Meru close-by.

We were soon on our way within the park with the next stop just up the track to look over the Serengeti Ndogo (the small Serengeti) and see our first wild African mammals: Burchell's Zebra, Buffalo, Bushbuck, Warthog and Common Waterbuck, we also had good, close views of Blue (or Sykse's) monkey. We drove on upwards to the

rim of the Ngurdoto crater going through some very impressive unspoilt forest. The two specialities here are Eastern Black-and-White Colobus and Hartlaub's Turaco, but despite much searching we saw neither on the way up. On the way back down it was a different story and we all had good views of several Colobus monkeys and a few had a glimpse of the Turaco.

We had a short rest stop at the old Ngurdoto gate, admiring a close Blue monkey on the road and several attractive butterflies (in fact we saw very many butterflies on many occasions during the trip) at close range. We then took the track towards the Momela Lakes stopping several times on the way, particularly at Lake Longit, where we had distant views of several aquatic birds including: Red-knobbed Coot, White-backed Duck, African Jacana... and Hippos. Once at the first of the Momela Lakes we stopped for our picnic which we had on a small hillock overlooking the lake. Once again there were several birds around, the one that aroused the greatest interest being our first Crowned Crane. After a short rest we were off again in the two vehicles, firstly looking around the Momela Lakes. We saw a few mammals, with good views of Bushbuck, and several bird species including thousands of Lesser Flamingos with a few Greater mixed in. One of the highlights was a pair of Pygmy Kingfishers (never an easy species to see and one of the many African kingfishers that can occur far from water) digging a nesting tunnel on a small earth-bank near the road.

In mid-afternoon we arrived at the Momela gate and park headquarters where we arranged for a guided walk with an armed park ranger. One of the few chances we have of a decent walk on the trip (there are no lions in Arusha NP) it was pleasant to be out of a vehicle for a while. We saw some distant buffalo with nothing between them and us but grass, and the number of bird species seen on the trip continued to climb with White-fronted Bee-eater one of the more colourful species on the walk, well seen by all. Once back at the park gate we said our farewells to our pleasant and interesting guide before driving back to the lodge, the first half of the journey still within the park. This took longer than expected as we had several stops for some interesting mammals and birds, with good close views of several Red Duikers (a secretive forest antelope and the only ones we'd see on the trip) and a very close pair of Crowned Eagles. We arrived back at the lodge at 19h10, leaving enough time for an hour's free time before the evening meal. This was followed by the first of our daily evening logs, giving the chance to go over what had been seen that day for all who wanted.

Day 4

Monday 10th February

Sunny and hot with a little cloud cover

For the indefatigable enthusiasts (or insomniacs) there was another pre-breakfast bird walk around the lodge grounds at just after 06h30; understandably there were few takers, only 4 of us in all, but once again we saw a few interesting species including the only Violet-backed Starling of the trip. Breakfast was at 07h15 and into the vehicles with our luggage for a 08h10 departure from Mountain Village Lodge for our next destination in the Tarangire National Park. The first part of the drive took us from the eastern side of Arusha to the western, going straight through the middle of the city centre. This provided a good look at what life is like in many large African towns: busy, noisy, a multitude of roadside "sales outlets", very colourful (many full of flies). However Arusha was soon behind us as we left on the main Dodoma road stopping to look at a few birds along the way.

We eventually passed through Makuyuni, where the Ngorongoro road starts, driving on to the Tarangire park road a little farther south. It wasn't too long before we arrived at the new, impressive Tarangire park entrance with its large Boababs, where we had a short wait while the drivers checked in. The stop was as productive as ever with many new bird species and just as importantly, comfort facilities. After the short break it was back into the

vehicles for the hour-or-so's drive to Tarangire Sopa Lodge towards the centre of the park, in an impressive landscape dominated by large, ancient Boobabs. Not easy to go quickly with various splendid new mammal and bird species along the way: Elephant, Impala...European and Lilac-breasted Rollers, Northern White-crowned and Magpie Shrikes, White-headed Buffalo-weaver, Superb and the endemic Ashy Starlings...to mention just a few. There were Elephants by the hundred, for which the park is famed.

We finally arrived at the lodge at around 13h25 in time to find our rooms and have a very pleasant "midday" meal by the swimming pool, with accompanying Rock Hyraxes and various birds. After that there was time for a little rest before we set out for a late afternoon's game drive at 16h00. There wasn't that much time left as in Tanzania, being on the equator, sunrise is around 06h30 and sunset before 19h00; so it was along the main park road and back again. It was a chance to look at many new bird species for the trip; Meyer's Parrot, African Grey, Von Der Decken's and Northern Red-billed Hornbills. There were more mammals, Elephants and Impala became commonplace and we saw two species of mongoose, Banded and Dwarf. We arrived back at the lodge at just before 7pm to have enough time for a rest before the species log in the extensive bar lounge followed by a very nice, near-gourmet meal.

Day 5

Tuesday 11th February

Sunny and hot, overcast and cooler in the evening

Once again an earlyish breakfast at 06h30 before leaving for a game drive at 07h00. The idea was to visit Silale Swamp which is quite a way from the lodge so we needed as much time as possible to make sure of having a good look at the many mammals and birds we hoped to find. On the way we saw many new and interesting bird species far too numerous to list here; highlights included Pygmy Falcon, Yellow-billed Stork, Glossy Ibis, Secretarybird, Diederik's Cuckoo ... At times we were seeing new species every few minutes and often very close, many species are very colourful making a change from looking at "little brown jobs" back home. Mammals were ever-present with elephants "everywhere", (we wrote in 1,000s at log that evening), quite a few Dikdiks, many Impala and Giraffe and just after turning back from the swamp a keen-eyed group member shouted out and there were our first big cats; a group of three Lions in high grass. Not the best of views but they were quite close and it's always quite exciting seeing the first ones of the trip. All this was in some very pleasant scenery, with very large expanses of unspoilt grassy plains with large Boobabs and Date Palms dotted around, here and there.

On the way back to the lodge we stopped at a new bridge over the Tarangire River to watch bathing elephants, whilst there we added a new mammal species to the list, Reeduck, there were 6 of these very smart antelopes in the sparse riverside vegetation. We also saw more interesting birds; a pair of Water Thick-knees (a sort of African Stone Curlew), one sitting on its nest just yards from the vehicles, probably the best. With all that we saw that morning we didn't get back to the lodge until quite late, 13h50, but still in time to have another poolside lunch. After what seemed like a short rest we were at the front of the lodge ready for another game drive shortly after 16h30.

We'd only driven a few hundred yards when we found a very interesting bird. Admittedly not the most colourful or easily identified of species but among the many hunting Little Swifts (that nest in the lodge) were a couple of Mottled Spinetail, a sort of small swift that is quite rare and has the peculiarity of nesting only in Baobab trees. With not very much time before dark the game drive was restricted to the main park road. However it turned out to be most interesting as thanks to some enthusiastic searching by the group we found two Leopards, admittedly

distant views, but definite Leopards all the same. We also had very distant views of Bat-eared Foxes, unfortunately too distant and views too brief for them to be seen by all of us. We arrived back at the lodge once again at 19h00 with a little time for showers and the now expected fine evening meal and listing of the days sightings.

Day 6

Wednesday 12th February

Hot and sunny with clouds at times, a little rain at Manyara

A proposed pre-breakfast bird walk saw the leader standing outside the lodge entrance at 06h30, alone. Understandably nobody turned out this morning, what with packing to do and a 7 o'clock breakfast. We left the lodge at 8 o'clock having a game drive out of Tarangire park seeing more of the same species of mammals and a few Grant's Gazelles (new for the trip) and still adding bird species to our ever-increasing list. The highlight was unexpected, a close female Lion walking quite close to the vehicles in high grass. Unfortunately she quite quickly walked away from us, a nice sighting all the same. A few more birds were seen at the park entrance gate as Hassan booked us out of the park. A little later we were back onto a tarmac road, we drove the short distance to Makuyuni and turned off onto the new road that goes as far as the Ngorongoro Conservation Area entrance gate.

From there it was a relatively easy and uninteresting drive as far as the very busy market town of Mto wa Mbu, next to Manyara National Park. Once through the town we drove the hair-pin bend road up to the top of the Rift Valley escarpment and down a short, rough, unsurfaced track to the refurbished Lake Manyara Hotel, arriving at 13h20. Once in the lodge it didn't take long to find our rooms for that night, have a very short relax and lunch at just after 2 o'clock. After lunch we met up with Hassan and Leakey at the lodge entrance at 15h00 and drove the short distance back to the park. The first part of the park road goes through some ancient preserved forest, it then opens out into small, short grass plains in front of the extensive Manyara Lake. Although only a relatively short visit we saw an impressive number of bird and mammal species, many new and spectacular. In the forest we saw our one and only Palm-nut Vulture – a strange bird, rare in Tanzania. There were spectacular numbers and variety of waterbirds at the hippo pool; which also had 40 or more Hippos, we saw mainly backs with the occasional unsubmerged head. Birds included Spur-winged Plover, Flamingos, Yellow-billed Storks, many Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbills, and Black-crowned Night Herons... We left the park well after 6 pm to be back at the lodge just after 7. A very full day - filling in the bird and mammal list that evening took quite some time. We had our evening meal and night at the Manyara Hotel.

Day 7

Thursday 13th February

Sunny and hot with a little rain in the afternoon

A pre-breakfast bird walk around the well-kept lodge gardens for a few members of our group (good views of Scarlet-chested Sunbird probably the highlight).

After another large breakfast (its amazing what one can eat when it's all laid out and ready!) before meeting at the lodge entrance. As always the drivers were ready and waiting, so we paid our bills, they put the luggage into the vehicles and we thus left Manyara at some time after our meeting at 7h45 for a drive to the Serenera Lodge in the Serengeti, a long way... The first part of the road is smooth and easy, but once we arrived at the impressive (if only for the number of vehicles waiting for the necessary permits) Ngorongoro Conservation Area entrance gate,

the road then changed to gravel tracks. We had a short wait and comfort stop as Leakey checked in, and once off it would be unsurfaced roads from now on (the Tanzanian authorities don't allow the construction of tarmac roads within any conservation areas – a little uncomfortable at times but very ecologically recommendable) until we would be back at the gate 7 days later.. Once again we did a little bird watching whilst waiting, but saw little of interest.

The road climbs for a while and then runs around the rim of the Ngorongoro crater. We stopped at the appropriate place for a spectacular panoramic views right across the crater floor from where the nearer of the thousands of grey specks could be identified as Buffalos or Elephants. But there was no time to dawdle; we had to keep going as it was still quite a way to Serengeti. Along the crater rim road we did however stop to have a good look at a few Red-collared Widowbirds that seem to be resident in the wetter areas of tall grass there, the only time we'd see them. There were plenty of other species to see along the way; several new bird species were encountered including Capped Wheatear and Cape Rook.

We finally arrived at the Naabi Hill park entrance which lies quite a way inside the Serengeti park, seeing many Gnu and Zebra from the road. We didn't see the large numbers of Gnu that we often see in this part of the Serengeti, the position of the large migratory herds varies from one year to the next and this year were obviously elsewhere. We had our late picnic at the Naabi gate and whilst there had close, very close, views of several interesting bird species including Hilderbrandt's Starling. The drive between the Naabi gate and Serengeti is often interesting; this time we saw our first Spotted Hyena and had good views of a family of Bat-eared Foxes, never an easy species to see. Other new mammal species for the trip included Coke's Hartebeest and distant Eland and there were Thompson's Gazelle by the hundred. On nearing the Seronera Lodge we saw a large group of Hippos in a small reservoir next to the road with attendant Black Crakes and our first Topi – a very strange multi-coloured antelope. We finally arrived at the Serengeti Wildlife Lodge in the heart of the Serengeti at 17h15, found our rooms and had a little time for a rest before the evening meal followed by the species log in the bar-lounge, allowing all those interested to ask questions on the days sightings. We enjoyed our first night at Seronera Wildlife Lodge.

Day 8

Friday 14th February

Sunny and hot with some clouds, 30 minutes of rain in the afternoon

The hundred yard walk to breakfast provided for unexpected good wildlife watching – next to the rooms on the ground we found a very colourful African Tiger Snake feasting on a brood of small Little Swift chicks, we presumed it had previously entered the nest (a House Martin type of affair) and evicted the occupants that had then fallen to the ground and that the snake has “rushed” down to eat them. There is always plenty of wildlife to see around the lodges, at Seronera there is always a resident family of Banded Mongoose, Hyraxes loafing everywhere and several species of small finches to see – this morning they included both Red-cheeked and Blue-capped Cordon-bleus.

We left for a game drive at 07h30 heading towards the distant Moru Kopjes (Kopje being an Afrikaans word given to a rock outcrop. The driver/guides had been told that that was where part of the Gnu herd was, so we were on our way. We had a quick stop next to the reservoir to have another look at the Hippos, a few different waders and more Black Crakes, before moving off to the Moru Kopjes; or so we thought... Just a short distance afterwards we noticed two distant safari vehicles with all passengers looking in the same direction, probably

something worth investigating. A large dead tree next to the road was a playground for two Leopard cubs, we had fantastic views for over a quarter of an hour as they chased each other around – we eventually left with no sign of mum. From then on we were moving through different habitat, open long grass plains, with associated different bird species, the best both Yellow-throated and Rosy-throated Longclaws. We did eventually get to the Gnu and Zebra herds, and what a sight! No matter how many times you've seen such a spectacle, the site, smell and sounds are very remarkable, a natural wonder: at evening log we wrote in 10,000s for each of the two species. There were as would be expected the accompanying large predators, we saw a few Lions and 3 Hyenas.

It was time to return as we had a fair drive back to the lodge but once again as so often in the Serengeti there were more sightings to come. Not far from the lodge we came across a pride of Lions, some resting quite high up in Acacia trees. We stopped to have a good look and realised there were more members of the pride in the grass. It was very difficult to make a count as the animals moved around coming into sight then disappearing in the grass again. The guess was that there were as many as 17 of them but there may well have been more. We eventually arrived back at the lodge for lunch slightly after 13h00 – what a morning!

Once again, after lunch and a little rest it was time for another game drive, we walked off to the waiting vehicles and driver/guides at 16h30. What was left of the afternoon was spent in the vicinity of the lodge. Apart from very good views of many more Hippos and a few Impala, Topi, Giraffe and Elephants we saw few mammals – I think we were starting to get a little blasé. Birds were out in number, we added many new species to our trip list during the afternoon including a couple of species of woodpeckers, the delightfully named Brubru, and had good views of the smartly plumaged Silverbird. We arrived back at the lodge a little before 7pm for the accustomed short rest in our rooms followed by the evening meal and a very long and exciting species log. We enjoyed a second night at Seronera Wildlife Lodge.

Day 9

Saturday 15th February

Blue skies, sunny and hot, no rain

A pre-breakfast bird walk for a few provided us yet again with a few more bird species. This was followed by another big breakfast and a little more time to pack before putting the luggage into the vehicles. We left Seronera Lodge at 07h30 for the drive northwards to Lobo Lodge, not far from the border with Kenya and the Masai Mara (the Serengeti's extension in that country). We took our time looking for wildlife before arriving at the Retima hippo pool on the Orangi River. We had a leg stretch and comfort stop here and had very good views of Hippos - there were more than 200, some out of water. A few large Crocodiles were lying on the sandbanks.

The scenery varies along the way with far fewer open plains than in the southern Serengeti, the slightly more rolling country is generally covered with acacia woodland and there are many more kopjes (characteristic “inselbergs” or rocky outcrops).

With a change of habitats comes a change of species, birds along the way included the Serengeti endemic, the Grey-breasted Francolin, and we noted our first Dark Chanting Goshawk. We also saw a group of 3 Bat-eared Foxes close to the road, but they are shy animals and not everybody had a good look at this group before they disappeared underground.

We arrived at Lobo in good time for lunch; the lodge is integrated into one of the larger kopjes which provides us a chance to have a good look at some typical rock-dwelling species such as the very colourful Cliff Chat, amongst others. As usual we had a welcomed “welcome drink”, found our rooms and had a short rest before having lunch in the rather splendid restaurant.

Around the lodge during the next couple of days we saw a few acacia woodland bird species, some such as Purple Grenadier, Pied Wheatear, Spot-flanked Barbet and Pin-tailed Wydah were of interest.

Our game drive was at 16h30 game drive. On our way out we had good looks at the resident Klipspringers, a charming specialist rock-hopping antelope and hoped for Cinnamon-breasted Buntings. We arrived back at the lodge at about 18h40. This was the first of two nights at Lobo lodge.

Day 10

Sunday 16th February

Sunny and hot with some clouds and a little rain in the afternoon

The day was made up of two game drives. The first departing at 08h30, returning at 12h40 and the second from 16h30 to 18h35. It was quite a lazy day compared to most but it did allow us to catch up on sleep with a not so early morning departure and to have a bit of a break at midday.

During the morning game drive we were almost on our own, there were very few other tourist vehicles about as we drove around the area to the east of the lodge. It produced good sightings of Klipspringer and various bird species, including the hoped for Verreaux's Eagles. The star attraction of the day was a group of 7 Lions that included 5 young males. We had our 2nd night at Lobo Lodge.

Day 11

Monday 17th February

Sunny and hot, cloudy during the morning and evening, no rain

This was to be the fullest day of the trip, with a relatively early start (07h30) followed by an all day drive to Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge; but with some fantastic viewing on the way. We stopped at the visitor centre near Seronera for a break, where we saw more bird species, new for the trip: Black-faced Waxbills and a Black-and-white Mannikin. Once we were nearing Naabi gate it was obvious that the Gnu herds had been moving as we started to see more and more of them (we'd been along this road just a few days earlier and seen hardly any!). In the log that evening we entered 100,000s, exactly how many there were is impossible to say, but the figures give an idea of the astounding numbers. With them were many Zebra and the local Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles. With all this prey about it's not surprising that we also saw two groups of Lions and a few Hyenas along the way. We stopped for a picnic at the Naabi gate as just before midday.

The road after Naabi Gate was still full of game with more Gnu, Zebra and Thompsons Gazelles as before. There were also plenty of birds to see including flocks of Lesser Kestrels hunting the insects stirred up by the mammals. We arrived at our next stop as planned, the famous Oldupai (no, there's no spelling mistake as our guide pointed out) Gorge. We were given an interesting talk about the site in the shade and visited the small museum and spent a little time looking for at quite a collection of small birds: Firefinches, various weavers, White-browed Scrub-robin.

Then it was back in the vehicles for a short drive to a Masai village for a guided visit. Nearly everyone visited the village and although everything seems a little contrived all those who took part seemed to be glad to have made the decision to go. There were a few interesting birds around the village, including Yellow-spotted Petronia, another species that is never easy to find.

After that it was another hour's drive to the Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge, where we arrived at around 6 o'clock. We all found our rooms, each one with what must be one of the best "bedroom views" in the world, as they all look out across the entire Ngorongoro Crater. The lodge lounge has an extensive veranda overlooking the crater and from it we saw many birds during our stay. Some came gliding by on the uplifting air, Mountain Buzzard and White-necked Ravens were the best. The flowering plants in front of the rooms were quite attractive to birds, and there were more species to be seen around the lodge. We later met up in the spacious bar lounge for evening drinks and dinner. It had been a long, tiring day, but I'm sure one that many of the party will remember with pleasure for a long time to come. We stayed the 1st night at the Ngorongoro Wildlife lodge.

Day 12

Tuesday 18th February

Sunny and warm with a little cloud and slight rain in the afternoon

We decided on having the whole day in the crater with a picnic lunch. We left the lodge at 07h55, travelled along the crater rim road looking at birds on the way. A day in the "crater" is always very exciting and it didn't disappoint today, there were lots of mammals to see as usual; of the more interesting we found twelve Lions, more than 15 Hyenas and two or three Black Rhinos and three or four distant grey blobs (also Rhinos), the species that everybody wants to see, and a Ngorongoro speciality. Most of the ones we saw today were quite a long way off and we never got close, despite waiting for ones on the move to come our way, only to see them turn around after a short while and move off in the opposite direction. In the end we had to be satisfied with reasonable views of two at separate times that were quite active but never came within a few hundred metres of the road. Apart from Rhino the only new mammal species for the trip was Golden Jackal, not usually numerous, we were lucky to see at least eight during the day.

There were, once again, several species of bird that were new for the trip, including: Lanner Falcons (seen at very short distance), Dusky Turtle Doves (a dark highland version of our own Turtle Dove) and Schalow's Wheatear, as well as many species we'd seen little of before, the best maybe several Crowned Cranes and Kori Bustards. We ate our picnic lunch at the official picnic site at the Ngoitokitok Springs, in front of the hippo-filled lake in the company of various birds; among them Fan-tailed Widowbird and Speke's Weaver which were new for the trip.

The main sightings of the afternoon were more of the same, sometimes it wasn't easy to choose as there was something in every direction: Lions, Hyenas, Jackal.

With dark clouds rolling over the crater rim and the threat of rain it was decided to head back to the lodge. To do this we had to take the northern-eastern exit, as the southern exit road which would have been far quicker for us, was being repaired and thus closed to vehicles. We climbed up to the crater rim and followed the rim road round to our lodge, some of us having a glimpse of a Leopard running across the road. We arrived back at around 4 o'clock. There was time for a rest for those who wanted or the option of a short walk around the lodge entrance looking for birds, which gave us the chance to have a good look at, and identify, a few small brown

jobs: among them White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and Streaky Seedeater. Later on, we did the species log, had our evening meal and enjoyed a 2nd night at Ngorongoro Wildlife lodge.

Day 13

Wednesday 19th February

Sunny and quite cloudy throughout the day, no rain

An earlier breakfast and start at 7am today to have plenty of time in the crater before coming back up for a late lunch at the lodge, at just before 1 o'clock.

We checked in at the Seneto entrance gate and made the steep descent into the crater. We saw many of the species we'd seen yesterday, highlights being a total of 12 Lions including a pair mating next to the road, another 18 or more Hyenas (our best days count), another Black Rhino (unfortunately in the distance) more Golden Jackals and on the rim a new species for the trip, a Steinbok (we never see many of these small antelopes).

Many of the birds we looked at were species we'd seen yesterday, but with a little searching we still saw quite a few species new for the trip: Yellow-throated Sandgrouse and Kittlitz's Plover were seen close to the road and the Hippo pool, with its few attendant Hippos and lush aquatic vegetation. Once we had started to head for home we had very good views of two Amur Falcons (or Eastern Red-footed Falcons as they were once called) which for one member of the party was the bird species of the trip.

In the afternoon, after lunch, we picked up the obligatory park guide at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority headquarters and went for a walk on the crater rim moorland. The walk took us towards Lake Eyasi, home of the click language Hadzabe tribe. During the walk we had good distant views of this large lake. There was relatively little wildlife, however almost as soon as we'd started the walk a lone, smallish, sand-coloured antelope passed in front of us; but what was it? ...it is now thought that it was an Oribi, although original thoughts were of Mountain Reedbuck. We arrived back at the lodge a little after 18h30. Third and last night at Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge

Day 14

Thursday 20th February

Sunny and warm all day, no rain.

Much of today was taken up by the return journey to Arusha. We left the lodge at 08h00 for the short drive to Gibbs Farm (an old colonial coffee plantation) arriving there at 09h50. The first part of the journey was along the crater rim road, with our last views of the crater. Further on we passed through the Lodoare gate at the border of the NCA (Ngorongoro Conservation Area) and had to stop to check out.

Once at Gibb's Farm we sat down in the very well kept gardens on the terrace in front of the main building. There was a choice of what to do next; either have a rest in the gardens with coffee or tea, have a guided walk around the farm which produces much of the produce for the excellent meals served there, or as four of us did, a walk through the forest as far as the Elephant Caves, returning on foot into the NCA. This unspoilt primary forest can be very good for birds and gives us a chance to see forest species we haven't had the chance of seeing elsewhere. This year we had a few sightings of the fabulous Schalow's Turaco and saw 4 of the diminutive

White-tailed Blue Flycatchers, a Mountain Greenbul, a Grey-capped Warbler and more besides. The best bird, maybe of the whole trip, and one we didn't see until almost the very end of our walk was an African Broadbill and extremely close it was too. A very nice end to the walk, and what was our last real look at wildlife.

We arrived back at Gibb's Farm just after 12pm, said thank you to our guide and after a little wait had an excellent buffet lunch. After that it was coffee or tea and then onto the vehicles for the journey back to Arusha. Nothing much of note during the drive until we arrived on the outskirts of Arusha, the bustle, traffic and noise a shock to the system after 10 days of large, open, unpopulated wildlife reserves. We changed vehicles in central Arusha before going on towards Kilimanjaro International Airport for our flight home. We arrived at the airport in plenty of time before catching the flight to Nairobi and from there our Air Kenya flight to Heathrow.

Day 15

Friday 21st February

We arrived back at Heathrow on time, picked up all of our luggage, and said our farewells...

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted, f = a few; m = many; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>			10	15	1	✓	6	f	f	✓	✓	f	
2	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		12	2	f	✓	m	f	✓	✓	m	✓	✓	
3	Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>													1
4	Coqui Francolin	<i>Peliperdix coqui</i>				2									
5	Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>				1									
6	Scaly Francolin	<i>Pternistis squamatus</i>		4											
7	Hildebrandt's Francolin	<i>Pternistis hildebrandti</i>											3		
8	Yellow-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i>			6	✓	✓								
9	Grey-breasted Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis rufopictus</i>							✓		1				
10	Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>			6	✓	✓								
11	White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>		10											
12	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		5		1							f	f	
13	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	1												
14	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		1			m		f				f	m	
15	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>		20											
16	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>						5				2			
17	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>													2
18	Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>		2											
19	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2	m		1									
20	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		10				1000s	✓						2
21	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>		1000s						f			1000s	1000s	
22	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>				2	100		2		1				
23	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>									1				
24	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	100s		f			✓				m	m	m	f
25	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	20		f	30	f	f				f	f	f	2
26	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>											1		
27	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>		✓			4	✓	30	30	f	m	m	f	1
28	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		5	6		10						f	f	
29	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	2	1	1		1								

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
30	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				15	100									
31	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>				2	6									
32	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					50									
33	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	4													
34	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1										
35	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	20	✓	✓	✓	100s	✓					m	f	m	✓
36	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	4	✓	1	f	1		1			1	1	1		
37	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	2		3	f		5	f	1	1	f	2	2	2	
38	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>				1						1				
39	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	2	1		1										
40	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>				2	2		1		1	5				1
41	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					2									
42	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>					20									
43	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	20+				1								2	
44	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	50	4									1			
45	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>				2		3		1		3				
46	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1	1											
47	Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>					1									
48	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>						4+	12	2	✓	✓				
49	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	2	□	✓		1									
50	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	1		✓			f					10	f		
51	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	2			2	1									
52	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>					1									
53	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>										3				
54	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>			2	1			✓	✓	f	✓	f			
55	Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>					3			✓	f	✓	f			
56	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>									1					
57	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>						1	1		1		2			
58	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>		1	2											
59	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>				1					1					
60	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>			f	f	✓			1		✓	2			
61	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						1				2				

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
62	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>				1										
63	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>									1		1			
64	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>					2									
65	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>				1										
66	Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>			1											
67	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1				1									1
68	Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>											2	1		
69	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>		3	3			✓					3	f		
70	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>			4	✓	1	1		2	2+	2	1	2		
71	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>				2			1				1	1		
72	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>									2					
73	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>								1						
74	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>		1	1	2			1		1					
75	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>			1	1										
76	Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>		2												
77	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>				2		1		1						
78	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>										50				
79	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						2	2			1	1			
80	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>						1	1							
81	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>				1			1		1					
82	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>													2	
83	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>											2			
84	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>				2		f		4	1	10	4	10		
85	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>								2		2		1		
86	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>						6	2	1			2			
87	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		1												
88	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>		30												
89	Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>		1					2				f	30+		
90	Water Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>				2	4			1						
91	Spotted Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>						2								
92	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		8					2							
93	Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>				6										

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
94	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>		4		2+	✓		f	✓		f	m	m	
95	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>					6								
96	Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>											4		
97	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>					4	60	✓			f	f	f	
98	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>							3					6+	
99	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>				3	2	2	f	1		1		3	
100	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>						1							
101	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>		30+		✓	✓								
102	African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>							1						
103	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						1							
104	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				1			2			1			
105	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				1	1	1							
106	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		1	2	3	2	✓	f			4			
107	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			1		1		2			1		1	
108	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		f				✓	f					1	
109	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		f		1	100	✓	f			1	m	m	
110	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>				1	4	1							
111	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glaucopelia pratincola</i>					200								
112	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	1												
113	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>												f	
114	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				2									
115	Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>												15	
116	Black-faced Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>				3	4					2			
117	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	1		3		3					f	15	f	
118	African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	1					✓							
119	Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>												1	
120	Dusky Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>										1	30		
121	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>					10					1			
122	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>						1							
123	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	✓		f	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>				1									
125	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>					4+								1

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
126	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			1	10	✓						1			
127	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>		4												
128	Fischer's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>							10	f	m	✓	✓			
129	Yellow-collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis personatus</i>			20	✓	40									
130	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>			1		1	2				1				
131	Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>												1		4
132	Hartlaub's Turaco	<i>Tauraco hartlaubi</i>		1												
133	Bare-faced Go-away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>			2	3	✓				1	2+				
134	White-bellied Go-away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>			1	1						1	1			
135	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>		4	4	✓				f	2+	f	2	2		
136	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>														1
137	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>			2											
138	Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>				2			2							
139	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>				1										
140	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>						H	H							H
141	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>			1	1										
142	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			1											
143	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1													
144	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>				2										
145	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	4							f						
146	Mottled Swift	<i>Tachymarptis aequatorialis</i>											1			
147	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		2							✓					
148	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
149	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>				✓	2									
150	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	✓	✓						2	2+	f	1	1		f
151	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>		1	1											
152	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>			20+	✓	✓	✓	f	1	f	f				
153	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			10+	✓	✓			2		f	1			1
154	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>					3									
155	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>		2												
156	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			2	3	2		1							
157	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>				1	1							1		

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
158	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	3													
159	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>				3	2									
160	Little Bee-Eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		1	10+	✓	✓				2+	f	2	1	f	✓
161	Cinnamon-chested Bee-Eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>		3										2		4
162	White-fronted Bee-Eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>		6												
163	Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>				20										
164	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			1	2						H		30	30	
165	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>		1		1					1		1			
166	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>				3										
167	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>					3									
168	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>			1	1	6			2	1	2				
169	Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>			2	✓	✓			1						
170	Von Der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>			10	✓	✓				6					
171	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes brevis</i>	✓				20+									
172	Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>			6								6			
173	White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>	4													
174	Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>									4	2	1			
175	Black-throated Barbet	<i>Tricholaema melanocephala</i>		1												
176	White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>										2				
177	Brown-breasted Barbet	<i>Lybius melanopterus</i>		4	✓											
178	Red-and-yellow Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>			3	✓										
179	Usambiro Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii usambiro</i>								3	1					
180	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>														1?
181	Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>								2						
182	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>				1										
183	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>			1											
184	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>			1					1						
185	Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>		2									1			
186	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>		1	1											
187	Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>								10	✓		1			
188	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>	1													3
189	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>								2		1				

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
190	Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>			m	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	f			
191	Northern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus ruppelli</i>			m	✓	f		f	m	m	m			
192	Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>						1	f	20	✓	f			
193	Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>			f	3	f								
194	Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>		10									2+	f	2
195	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	1	1											1
196	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicurus adsimilis</i>	1		1	✓	f		1	1					
197	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>									3		1	1	3
198	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>						10		1		6		f	
199	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓		✓		15							30	20
200	White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>		3										9	
201	White-tailed Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia albicauda</i>													4
202	Red-throated Tit	<i>Parus fringillinus</i>							2						
203	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafrā africana</i>											1		
204	Red-winged Lark	<i>Mirafrā hypermetra</i>		2				✓	✓			✓	f	✓	
205	Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafrā rufocinnamomea</i>				H									
206	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>						1					f	f	
207	Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>			2				✓			f			
208	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus layardi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
209	Mountain Greenbul	<i>Arizelocichla nigriceps</i>													1
210	Black Saw-Wing	<i>Psaldoprocne pristoptera</i>		1				✓							f
211	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		f											
212	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>												1+	
213	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
214	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>									2	1			
215	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>							10	6		f	f	f	
216	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				1									
217	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>		2			2		f	f		2			
218	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>						2	f	f			f		f
219	Moustached Grass Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>		3											
220	Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>		2											
221	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			H							2			

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
222	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>								1						
223	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>					1									
224	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>														1
225	Trilling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>													1	
226	Hunter's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola hunteri</i>													1	
227	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>			1	1					1					
228	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				1				✓						
229	Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>								3						
230	Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>														2
231	Black-headed Apalis	<i>Apalis melanocephala</i>											2			
232	Grey-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>														1
233	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	1	2												
234	Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>										f	1			
235	Northern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides hypoleuca</i>				3										
236	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>					50	f				f				
237	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>			1		2									
238	Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>						1	4	f	f	✓				
239	Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	f	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
240	Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>			1			f	✓	✓	f	✓	✓	✓	✓	
241	Ashy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis unicolor</i>			10	✓	✓									
242	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>			1											
243	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	f	2	f	f	f	f	f	f
244	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			2	✓			f		✓	f	f			
245	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>			10+						f	✓	f			
246	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>									2		1			2
247	Spotted Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa guttata</i>		1			1									
248	White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Erythropygia leucophrys</i>										2				
249	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		3+												
250	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		f									✓	✓	✓	
251	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>						f			1	f			f	
252	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>							1							
253	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			1							1			1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
254	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									6	f				
255	Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>											3	2	2	
256	Sooty Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla nigra</i>										4				
257	Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>									1	1	3			
258	White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Dioptrornis fischeri</i>												f	f	f
259	African Grey Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>				1						1				
260	Silverbird	<i>Empidornis semipartitus</i>				1				2			1			
261	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				1	2			3	1					
262	African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>														1
263	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>														1
264	Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>														1
265	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>						1	1		1	1				
266	Tacazze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>														1
267	Bronzy Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>							1							1
268	Eastern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mediocris</i>												f		✓
269	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	1							4						
270	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>							1							
271	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		2	1								3	1		1
272	Rufous-tailed Weaver	<i>Histurgops ruficauda</i>			f	✓	1	✓		f			f	f		
273	Grey-capped Social Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita araudi</i>								20	f		m			
274	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2						✓				f			m
275	Kenya Sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>			2											
276	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>			10	✓	✓			f			f			
277	Chestnut Sparrow	<i>Passer eminiibey</i>			50						20					
278	Yellow-spotted Petronia	<i>Gymnoris pyrgita</i>											2			
279	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				2			
280	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>					✓	4			f	f	f			5
281	Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	10	f												f
282	Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>		4										1		✓
283	Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>														1
284	Taveta Weaver	<i>Ploceus castaneiceps</i>	3													
285	Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>		10				✓	✓				f			

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
286	Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>												2+	✓	
287	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>						10	1							
288	Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>					✓									
289	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>					1									
290	Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>			1+											
291	Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>										f	f	f		
292	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>								10	2					
293	Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>						3								
294	Orange-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia afra</i>					1		1							
295	Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>			2											
296	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>					4							2+		
297	African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>									2					
298	Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>				✓			1		2	4				
299	Blue-capped Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>							2	✓						
300	Purple Grenadier	<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>								1						2
301	Yellow-bellied Waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia quartinia</i>													1	
302	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>							1							
303	Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>										4				
304	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>		4												
305	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>			1	1	1			4	2					
306	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>								3	1					
307	Steel-blue Whydah	<i>Vidua hypocherina</i>										1				
308	Straw-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua fischeri</i>										1				
309	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>										m	f	m		
310	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	2	1	2	✓	✓							1		1
311	Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>									2					
312	Pangani Longclaw	<i>Macronyx aurantiigula</i>							2							
313	Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>							1							
314	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>					4			1			1			
315	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>						2								
316	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>											1			
317	Southern Citril	<i>Crithagra hyposticta</i>					2							2+		1

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
318	Reichenow's Seedeater	<i>Crithagra reichenowi</i>									2					
319	White-bellied Canary	<i>Crithagra dorsostriata</i>						2	1	✓		✓				
320	Streaky Seedeater	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>	1										f	f	f	
321	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>								1	10					

ADDITIONS or CORRECTIONS to the list

322	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>														1 H	
323	Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>									1	2 H					
324	African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>		2													
325	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>										1					
326	Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>															3
327	African Broadbill	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>															1
328	Singing Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra cantillans</i>		1	1					1							
329	African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>											1				
330	Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>														2	
331	Schalow's Wheatear												2	4+			
332	White-headed Buffalo Weaver				20	✓				✓	m	✓					
333	Chestnut Weaver																
334	Black-winged Red Bishop											2					1
335	Paradise Whydah						1										

Note : due to a change in the common names and order of bird species compared to previous lists (see below) slight errors occurred in the list done during the trip, they are listed below and the above list has been corrected accordingly :

The large, dark sparrowhawk we saw on the morning walk of the 3rd day we noted as Great Sparrowhawk is on the list as Black Sparrowhawk

The Red-billed Hornbills we saw, mainly at Tarangiré, were in fact Northern Red-billed Hornbills *Torckus erythrorhynchus* and not Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbills

The pipits that we were calling Grassland Pipits are in fact on the list as African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* and weren't Bushveld Pipits *Anthus caffer*

The Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* doesn't occur in the part of Tanzania visited, all the Coucals we saw were White-browed Coucals *Centropus superciliosus*

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted, f = a few; m = many;)

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
1	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	20	f	6	✓	m	f	10	f	f	10	20		
2	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	6			7	f	100	400		40	30	6		
3	Masai Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	30	40	60	f	f	1	<10	f	40				
4	Kirk's Dik-Dik	<i>Rhynchotragus kirki</i>	1		5+		3	2	4		2				
5	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>							6	m	2				
6	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	10+	1		1				1		1	1		
7	Eland	<i>Taurotragus derbianus</i>					2(+)					f	f		
8	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	30	f	✓	✓									
9	Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>							1			2	8		
10	Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>			6		3								
11	Topi	<i>Damaliscus korrigum</i>					1	14	f	f	f				
12	Coke's Hartebeeste	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii</i>					6		f	20+	f	2	1		
13	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>					100s	10,000s			100,000s	1000s	1000s	✓	
14	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>		m	m	f		m	f	f	f				
15	Grant's Gazelle	<i>Gazella granti</i>				4	f				f	f	100		
16	Thomson's Gazelle	<i>Gazella thomsoni</i>				20	100s		f		m+	100s	100s		
17	Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>	10												
18	Steinbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>											1		
19	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	m	f	f	f		f	f	40	f	f	m		
20	Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>	30	f		100	m	10,000s	f	1	1000s	m	m		
21	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>										2 (4)	-1		
22	Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>		f	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
23	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>		100s	1000s	m	20	5	5	30	15	f	f	✓	
24	African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>					m		1		m				
25	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>			4				1		2	1			
26	Golden (Common) Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>										8+	6		
27	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>			-2		4		3						
28	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>					1			1					
29	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>		14	✓	20	20+	50	15						
30	Eastern Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>						15	10		m				

	Common name	Scientific name	February											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
31	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>					1	3			5	15	18	
32	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>			3	1		21+		7 (5♂)	7	12	10	
33	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>			2			2 + (1)				1		
34	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	30+		30	m	✓		m	m	f	50		m
35	Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	7			10								
36	Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	3	✓	✓	✓	f	✓	✓	f	f	f	f	
37	Eastern Black & White Colobus	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	15											
38	Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>					1	1						

Note: If for the mammal list we were to use the species as defined in the "Handbook of the Mammals of the World" by Lynx editions, sister series to the highly acclaimed "Handbook of the Birds of the World" our list would be longer. For example the few Thomson's Gazelles we saw at Manyara National Park would be classed as a different species to the Thomson's Gazelles we saw in the Serengeti and we would have Eastern Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas thomsonii* for those seen at Manyara and Seregeti Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas nasalis* for those in the Serengeti. Similarly there would be two species of Gnu and maybe other differences I (Tony) haven't had time to unravel. The "Handbook of the Mammals of the World - HMW" is big, heavy and costly (although good value if buying books by the kilo) and far from complete but the first two volumes are out and well worth having a look at if you have the chance.

Reptiles & Amphibians

	Common name	Scientific name	February											
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
1	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>						1	3					
2	Red-headed Rock Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			
3	Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>												
4	Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>			1	2								
5	Skink sp.				1									
6	Gecko sp.		✓			✓								
7	African Tiger Snake	<i>Telescopus semiannulatus</i>						1						
8	Terrapin sp.								1				1	