

Selous and Ruaha - Undiscovered Tanzania

Naturetrek Tour Report

1 – 10 October 2015



Lions at a Giraffe kill



White-browed Coucal



Martial Eagle



African Buffalo with Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Report compiled by Rob Mileto
Images courtesy of Richard Dixon



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Kolado Emanuelle (driver – Ruaha) and six Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Thursday 1st October

London and Amsterdam

Most of us met at Heathrow Airport for the short flight to Amsterdam, where we met another guest and boarded an uneventful Kenya Airways flight to Nairobi.

Day 2

Friday 2nd October

Rufiji River Camp, Selous (via Nairobi and Dar es Salaam) Partly cloudy; hot pm

Our 2.5 hour wait at Nairobi airport in Kenya gave us the chance to tick off our first African birds: Pale-winged Starling, Pied Crow and Little Swift. The short flight to Dar es Salaam (via Zanzibar) gave us a fine aerial view of the iconic Mount Kilimanjaro. Following the immigration necessities on arrival, we transferred to the nearby domestic terminal and were soon in a small plane flying over the Tanzanian countryside. After about an hour and a half, we landed on a dirt airstrip and were greeted by staff from the lodge. A Palm-nut Vulture graced us with a slow fly past.

The transfer to the Rufiji River Camp was just a short drive and we were soon having a buffet lunch overlooking the grand Rufiji River, watching cute Blue Waxbills feeding nearby. We then had a welcome rest before coffee and cake with the added attraction of a Red-necked Falcon in the tree above us. It was then out in the Land Cruiser for the first of many game drives. We largely followed the river down to a lakeside and this meant we saw a fair few birds associated with water. This included many White-fronted Bee-eaters that nest in the sandy river cliffs, along with the smaller but equally colourful Little and Bohm's Bee-eaters. On the shorelines there were White-fronted Lapwing, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Saddle-billed Stork and Goliath Heron, and a scattering of Black Herons entertained us with their 'umbrella-ing' antics. Many mammals were also evident including Impala, Common Waterbuck, Baboons, Giraffe and a rather shy Bushbuck. Let's not forget reptiles! There were countless Nile Crocodiles on the lakeshore ranging from the very small and rather cute to the very large and rather scary. On our return a Crowned Eagle perched atop a nearby tree was a surprise treat.

A Masai guard accompaniment to drinks, dinner and listing was our first time for this protocol, that we were to follow on every night of our trip. They also accompanied us back to our rooms for a much needed sleep.

By consensus - bird of the day was Crowned Eagle.

Day 3

Saturday 3rd October

Selous Cloudy am; sunny pm

After an early coffee we were about to set off for a full day on safari when our departure was slightly delayed by another Red-necked Falcon, plucking an unfortunate small bird above us in the large baobab tree. It was then off into the wilds and we were soon amongst a plethora of wildlife including some noisy and colourful Green Wood

Hoopoes. We again made our way slowly towards the river through the 'Miombo' woodland that dominates the area near the lodge, and into more open Acacia-dominated savannah upstream. Choice birds en route were Common Scimitarbill, White Helmet-shrike, Black-collared and Crested Barbets, and the hat-trick of Von Der Decken's, Pale-billed and Southern Ground Hornbills.

When we arrived at the waterside we were greeted by a host of new mammals including Crawshay's Zebra (a subspecies of Plains Zebra), Blue Wildebeest and the curious-looking Lichtenstein's Hartebeest (which some treat as a separate species from other hartebeests). Here too there was a surfeit of waterbirds with African Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Striated Heron, African Openbill and Malachite Kingfisher all present. A large Nile Monitor put in an appearance, digging into the sand after some tasty morsel, but not finding anything, it moved away unrewarded.

A picnic breakfast was enjoyed with a lake view, complete with a Saddle-billed Stork feeding its very well grown chick. Wending our way slowly back, a Dickenson's Kestrel was a lovely treat, as was what appeared to be a pair of Sharp-tailed Glossy Starlings. These should not have occurred according to our books, but with those deep orange eyes clearly visible, it certainly looked like them! Under a shady tree there was a lone and sleepy Spotted Hyena to top the morning.

A buffet lunch was followed by a welcome siesta. At 3:30pm it was tea (and cake) time and then out again through the woodland and back to the lakeside. We were soon in the presence of two species of helmet-shrike: White-headed with its pied plumage and punk haircut, and Retz's, resplendent in (mainly) black, but with a show-off bright red bill. The woodland also held such delights as the rather scary-looking Giant Sparrowhawk, the lovely Violet-backed Starling, piping Crowned Hornbills, and Speckle-throated and Bearded Woodpeckers. There was also a giraffe cow with a very young and very cute (but hardly tiny) calf.

This afternoon the lakeside held a small flock of White-faced Whistling Ducks, with a couple of Knob-billed Geese sneaking around amongst them. Both Lesser and African Jacanas also put in an appearance, as did a band of Banded Mongoose. Wending our way slowly back along the riverside in the rich orange light of an African sunset, we came across hundreds of White-fronted Bee-eaters busy dust bathing, with some waiting to dust bathe on and around the track we were driving down. During another lovely dinner we shared the dining area with a Yellow-winged Bat.

By consensus - bird of the day was Great Sparrowhawk and mammal of the day was Spotted Hyena.

Day 4

Sunday 4th October

Selous

Cloudy am; sunny pm

A welcome early morning (6.15am) coffee was taken before boarding a boat for a waterborne safari on the mighty Rufiji River. As we weaved in between sandbanks we spotted a couple of African Skimmers... and we soon spotted many more. Most were sitting or dozing, but at least one gave us a fine display of its skimming skills. We also managed to sneak up to some Malachite Kingfishers, iridescent in the early morning light. A Black Crake was also a welcome spot, as were the several fly pasts by groups of Reed Cormorants and a superb Giant Kingfisher.

Breakfast was on a small sand bar with African Spoonbill, Great Egret and Palm-nut Vulture in the distance, and a pair of very vocal African Fish Eagles nearby. As we finished off our hot drinks, elephants were heard and so of we set to find them - and very soon, find them we did - a herd of some 16 individuals led by a tusk-less matriarch with a scattering of sweet young calves in tow. There is something indescribably relaxing about watching elephants, so we floated around for a while just watching them go about their daily business. Eventually, we boated slowly back to camp past many bobbing or sunbathing hippopotamus (the latter being something they rarely do).

A fine buffet lunch was followed by a break, and then the usual tea/coffee/cake and out into the wilds once more. As we boarded our vehicle a Brown-headed Parrot screeched its presence in the tree above us. Soon after leaving we came across some other typically noisy birds; a flock of Green Wood Hoopoes - but these were remarkably quiet. Somewhat unsurprisingly, we saw many birds already seen on previous days, but White-browed Coucal, Bearded Scrub Robin and White-browed Scrub Robin were welcome additions. On the lakeside a troop of rather sleepy baboons looked out over an even sleepier hippopotamus deep in mud. As we drove on, a group of Southern Ground Hornbills were, as always, a welcome site. A fly past by their smaller cousin, the Trumpeter Hornbill proved all to brief. We had rather a double take on our return with another Spotted Hyena resting (and slobbering) under another shady tree.

By consensus - bird of the day was Giant Kingfisher and mammal of the day was African Elephant.

Day 5

Monday 5th October

The Selous

Hot & sunny

An all-day safari began after a hearty breakfast. Soon after leaving camp we paused to watch a kettle of vultures rise into the air. The majority were White-backed with at least one Lappet-faced, quite easily told from the rest by its larger size and darker look. Further along our travels we had a stunning view of a Crested Barbet busy feeding in and around a small tree. Our destination was a drying lake and we arrived to see a lone elephant grazing the lush waterside growth and a multitude of waterbirds including the first Hamerkop for some and a Great White Pelican for all. In the trees and bushes that lined the lake were a Golden-tailed Woodpecker, a rather dapper Eastern Black-headed Batis, and a Purple-banded Sunbird resplendent in the sunshine. This particular locality was also alive with Collared Palm Thrushes, all flashing their distinctive rufous tails as they flew. Not much further on we found a couple of very sleepy Lions in the shade of a bush, both doing very little other than the occasional re-positioning and yawning, as lions often do.

En route to lunch, Frank's keen eye picked out a large male Eland amongst the trees. This, the largest of the African antelopes is always good, if tricky, to see. Promptly afterwards, a picnic lunch was enjoyed in the presence of a huge stately baobab (23 metres round) and then it was off again and into a landscape that is often viewed as traditionally African - tall giraffe-browsed acacias dotted across grassy plains. Here though, the streams were lined with Borasus and Doum Palms, and it was along one of these we chanced upon a small herd of elephant which we just had to watch for a while.

Heading back, most of the zebra, Impala and wildebeest were now sheltering from the heat under shady trees, as were more Eland that we managed to spot close by. This was a welcome end to our day long safari.

By consensus - bird of the day was Crested Barbet and mammal of the day was Lion.

Day 6

Tuesday 6th October

The Selous to Ruaha River Lodge

Hot with sunny intervals

For those that wanted another early morning, we had a stroll along the riverside as dawn broke. This is the best time to be out in the African wilds and the bird activity was outstanding. It was also good to see some of the common mammals like Impala, Waterbuck, Giraffe and a lonesome Warthog from this non-vehicular vantage point. A smart African Green Pigeon perched helpfully at the top of a nearby tree, as did a Klaas's Cuckoo which also helpfully gave us a burst of song, just in case we were in any doubt as to its identity. Other choice birds included a fine Violet-backed Starling, a Golden-tailed Woodpecker, several Eastern Black-headed Batis, a Spot-flanked Barbet, a White-browed Scrub Robin, some Scarlet-crested Sunbirds, and many fluting-voiced Black-headed Orioles. A small party of Greenbuls proved typically tricky to identify, but eventually we were pretty sure they were Cabanis's. Towards the end of our walk we explored an active hyena den complete with many bones and hooves, including a rather fresh warthog lower jaw. Strolling over towards the airstrip, a striking Orange-breasted Bushshrike proved a fine finale to our morning walk. The non-walkers were treated to a Red-faced Crombec at breakfast.

After breakfast it was time to bid farewell to the lovely Rufiji River Camp staff and board a small plane for the short (1.5-hour) flight to Ruaha National Park and the River Lodge. As we descended towards the airstrip we could see Elephant and Giraffe below us, and there were many more Elephants to be seen on the half hour drive to the lodge. Lunch at the lodge was also in the company of Elephants and their distant cousin the Rock Hyrax, with a fly past by an African Harrier-hawk. We had a short siesta after lunch, then tea/coffee/cake at 3.30pm.

By 4pm it was time to start our first proper exploration of this new area. New habitat meant new birds and we didn't get very far before we were seeing Jameson's Firefinch, Red-necked Spurfowl, White-crowned Shrike, Pearl-spotted Owlet, and the first of many Bare-faced Go-away-birds. We made our way down to the river where we stopped by the water to watch a big group of Banded Mongoose make their way towards us, oblivious to our presence. They ended up coming right up to... and then round and under the vehicle, filling the air with their gentle yet insistent contact calls. Also present was a small flock of Yellow-collared Lovebirds, a scattering of Laughing Doves, a pair of Speckled Pigeons, Grey Crowned Cranes and a lone Saddle-billed Stork and Black-faced Sandgrouse.

Back in camp, the return to our chalets was held up by... Elephants (there are a lot of elephants in Ruaha!). We had to wait patiently while they munched on the local vegetation before finally moving off far enough for us to safely access our rooms.

By consensus - bird of the day was Violet-backed Starling and mammal of the day was Banded Mongoose.

Day 7

Wednesday 7th October

Ruaha

Partly cloudy; hot

An all day game drive began at 6.30am after a quick coffee and a biscuit. New birds were in abundance including some lovely Buff-crested Bustards and three huge Verreaux's Eagle Owls, one making its deep booming call through the early morning stillness. Then, from a small bridge over a currently dry stream, White-rumped Swifts, Lesser Striped Swallows and a gaggle of White-headed Buffalo Weavers put in an appearance. Near a large rocky hill Tawny Eagle and African Hawk Eagle were seen in quick succession. Here too were many of the diminutive and unfeasibly thin-legged Kirk's Dik-Dik, and throughout we saw many Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbills and Ashy Starlings.

We enjoyed a fine bush breakfast watching Elephants drink from a nearby spring. It was then off again to see what else we could find. From another bridge we spotted a sneaking Brown-crowned Tchagra and much more obvious Magpie Shrikes. Here too was a pair of Crested Barbets and a Speckle-throated Woodpecker. Nearby, we came across a pair of Southern Tree Hyrax, rather inspiringly, in a large tree. Lunch was taken with the dancing fly pasts of Common Dotted Border and other butterflies.

The afternoon started with a family of Southern Ground Hornbills, the adult male and female of which were focused on a booming duet, the male making slightly deeper notes that followed (or preceded, depending on who started!) the female's less deep offerings. This engrossing activity allowed us to approach a good deal closer than is usual for this rather shy species. Soon afterwards we found a small pride of Lions lazing under a shady tree, but keeping half an eye on a large herd of African Buffalo; also lazing but on the far shore of the river. Not long before we were due back in camp, our local guide Whiteman received a call to inform him of three Lions on the carcass of a giraffe they had recently taken down. This was worthy of a detour and as we approached, it seems the news had already reached the local Black-backed Jackals, a couple of which also seemed to be making their way to the same place. We were soon at the rather grizzly scene - a maneless male and his two partly maned chums had already largely eaten their fill with scavengers as yet absent. Returning to camp, we had no elephant to contend with today.

By consensus - bird of the day was Southern Ground Hornbill and mammal of the day was Kirk's Dik-Dik.

Day 8

Thursday 8th October

Ruaha

Hot & sunny

After the usual coffee and biscuit at dawn we set off, back to the lion kill. There was a good deal less of the giraffe present, and scavengers were still rather sparse. There was a solitary jackal waiting patiently for a gap in the line of lions still visiting the carcass, and a lithe Slender Mongoose watching the proceedings from atop a nearby rock (though it was unclear if it had any interest in giraffe meat). As an added bonus, a couple of Golden-breasted Buntings came to perch in a nearby bush, resplendent in the yellow, black and white plumage. Moving on, we soon spotted their comparatively drab but still rather 'spicy' coloured cousin, the Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. After another bush breakfast we saw some Grey-headed Social-weavers and Speckle-fronted Weavers busy building nests and feeding, and it was around that time that the bush telephone (these days being a mobile phone) brought news of a Leopard in a tree. En route we managed to spot a Speckled Pigeon on a nest in a large baobab and an Eastern Chanting Goshawk perched helpfully on the top of a small tree. A Pigmy Falcon also

perched perfectly for us on a bush just metres from the vehicle, and a massive herd of Buffalo next to the track was too good to pass up, so we also had a short stop there. So, eventually, it was Leopard time and the said beast was a male adolescent in the fork of a large tree. Initially, it looked our way with its piercing yellow eyes but then settled looking away. We drove around to the other side of the tree, only to find out view hidden by a large branch! Luckily, it soon decided to swap its branch for one higher up and in more shade, pausing in the main fork for a long while that gave us all excellent viewing and photographic opportunities. After a super morning we returned to camp for lunch and a short siesta, followed by tea/coffee/cake before the afternoon drive.

Before we had even left the camp grounds we had added two new birds to our list: the dinky Black-faced Waxbill and the stunning Grey-headed Bushshrike. Not long after we added a third; a couple of elegant Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters. Making our way slowly to the riverside we spotted many lovely birds such as Grey Kestrel and Grey Crowned Crane. We stopped for a leg stretch by some riverside pools and here were our first Nile Crocodiles for this Park, and the usual variety of waterbirds. As we watched, a flock of guineafowl ran headlong for the bushes in a cacophony of alarm calls. For a few seconds we were left somewhat flummoxed as to the cause as there was no obvious predator to be seen - then sailing around the corner came an elegant Pallid Harrier. It quartered slowly in front of us before lazily making its way upstream and landing. We headed vaguely in its direction and on to a bridge from where we were refreshed by the cooling breeze and we had aerial views of the many hippopotami in the river pools below us.

We travelled back to the camp as the sun set in its usual orangey-pink glory and prepared ourselves for drinks, dinner and listing. By consensus - bird of the day was Pigmy Falcon and mammal of the day was Leopard.

Day 9

Friday 9th October

Ruaha

Partly cloudy; hot

Our last full day safari started, as usual, with tea/coffee/biscuits at sunrise. As we left, the Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters were back, which was a bonus for those that had missed them previously. Also present was a Beautiful Sunbird; oh so nearly in its resplendent breeding plumage. On the now three-day-old lion-killed giraffe carcass, the three Lions were still feeding on the meat that remained, and a Black-backed Jackal was still in attendance, hoping to snatch a tasty morsel. The curious mongoose had been replaced by a few patiently waiting Tawny Eagles. Heading towards our breakfast stop, we chanced upon a huge herd of Buffalo watering themselves along the river and especially at a spring. It was a mostly peaceful affair with only the odd scuffle over choice drinking spots. We were soon watering and feeding ourselves, overlooking the same river. Somewhat amazingly, here were our first Blacksmith Lapwings – a bird that is usually ubiquitous on safaris, but had, to date, eluded us.

Refreshed and ready, we headed off towards 'Little Serengeti', an area of rolling grassy plain dotted with acacia, reminiscent of the famous park further north. This new habitat brought us several new species. One of the first was a pair of Spotted Thick-knees, camouflaged in the shade of a thicket. Once out in the open plain, a small group of gazelle were evident: too small and light coloured for Impala, they looked like Grant's Gazelle. Shortly after, close inspection of a pair of gazelle taking shade under a tree revealed them to be Oribi, apparently now very rare in the Park. A pair of stately White-bellied Bustard was also new.

Approaching our lunch stop, a small looking kudu in the bushes turned out to be the rather shy and retiring Lesser Kudu – our third new mammal for the day. Having enjoyed the lovely fayre on offer, we headed back

towards the Ruaha River where an elegant Black-winged Kite was yet another new bird for the trip. On the river bank a group of Elephants were enjoying the shade of the acacias and one, the matriarch, was partaking of a dust bath. She was so relaxed that she allowed us to approach within just a few metres with no signs of any concern. However, we did not dwell too long as Whiteman informed us that their usual trick in such circumstances is to give the onlookers a dust bath too, if they get too annoying! We arrived back at camp around 4pm for a welcome tea/coffee/cake, followed by showers and a rest before, for the last time, the Maasai guard escorted us at 7.30pm to drinks, dinner and lists.

By consensus - bird of the day was Spotted Thick-knee and mammal of the day was African Buffalo.

Day 10

Saturday 10th October

Ruaha to Nairobi (via Zanzibar & Dar es Salaam)

Hot & sunny

For those that were feeling keen, an early(ish) breakfast was followed by a birding/wildlife walk through the camp - no pressure, but we were about five bird species short of the nice round 200 species seen on the trip! Luckily there was a lot of bird activity and we soon added some rather fine Mottled Spinetails and Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird to our list. Next came Arrow-marked Babbler and Lesser Honeyguide. With just one species to go we ascended to a viewpoint and then... a movement in a bush turned out to be a Red-fronted Tinkerbird - job done! From the viewpoint (which doubled as an alternative dining area) we looked out over the fine African landscapes we had enjoyed travelling through, complete with those 200 or so bird species and 39 mammal species we had managed to spot; but now sadly it was time to make our way home.

Two of the party disembarked in Zanzibar for a few days of sun and seaside. The rest of us continued to Dar es Salaam and then Nairobi, where we said our goodbyes to another of the team who was travelling back via Amsterdam. Around 11pm the remaining four boarded a plane back to the UK. It was an uneventful flight with at least a little bit of sleep.

Day 11

Sunday 11th October

London

Mostly sunny but cold

Our plane arrived on schedule at London Heathrow around 6.30am. We said our goodbyes to each other and went our separate ways with fond memories of what had been a great trip.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>							9			
2	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		16	20							
3	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>		2								
4	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	10	13	15	21	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	3	100+	30	19	32	✓	✓	✓		
6	Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>					4					
7	Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>					19	21	✓	✓	✓	
8	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	1	1	3	24	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	2	13	14	11	2		4			
10	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	1	2			1	6			5	
11	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>					4	11	✓	✓		
12	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	1	25		29						
13	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	12	2	5	7		9	✓	✓		
14	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		1	10							
15	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>		11	10	6						1
16	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	1	2	4		1		1			
17	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		2	2		1					
18	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	3	2	11	2						5
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	1	2	2	4	2	✓			
20	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	1	2	3	1			1			
21	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			1	1						
22	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	1		3	15	2	4	1			
23	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	1	4	4							
24	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	3	2	11	26						
25	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		2	1	3	2	2	4			1
26	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				1						
27	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		29	39	2	21					
28	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>									1	

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
29	African Harrier-hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		1		1	1				
30	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	1		5	1					
31	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>		2				2	2		
32	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		4	1	16		10	1	✓	
33	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>				1					
34	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>		2		1		1			
35	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>		1		1					
36	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>									1
37	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		5		9	2	3	4	6	
38	Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	1	2							
39	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>						1		2	
40	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>						2	3	6	
41	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>						4	1		
42	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>						3	1		
43	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>							1	2	
44	Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>		1							
45	Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>		1							
46	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>							1	1	
47	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	1	17	18	11	2	7	✓	✓	✓
48	White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>								3	
49	Buff-crested Bustard	<i>Lophotis gindiana</i>						5	3		
50	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>		2							
51	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>			2	1					
52	Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>					2		2	2	
53	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	6		4		4				1
54	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>								2	
55	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1	15	17		4	10	✓	✓	
56	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>								2	
57	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	1	7	4	2		2	✓	✓	
58	White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>	10	17	21	25	12	11	✓	✓	
59	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>								2	
60	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		11							

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
61	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	1			1			2	1	
62	Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>		3							
63	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	3	2	6	5	3	3	✓	✓	
64	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	4								
65	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	3	2	3	4		1		1	
66	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								1	
67	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2	2	4	10		1	✓	✓	
68	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	6	4	15	6	5	1	✓	✓	
69	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		10							
70	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		4							
71	African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>	3								
72	Black-faced Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>					3		2		
73	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>					2		3	2	
74	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>			4			1			
75	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
76	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>					9	11	✓	✓	
77	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	12	4	11	19		2		4	
78	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>		1					1	5	
79	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>		1			1				
80	Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>					1	9	12	✓	
81	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>			1	1				1	
82	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>					1				
83	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>					2	1	1		1
84	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>						3	3		
85	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>					1			1	
86	Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>caprimulgus fossii</i>		H							H
87	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>									6
88	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	10	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	14								
90	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>						12			
91	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>					9				
92	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>		8		9	4	19	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
93	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	1	4			6		1		
94	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	1	3	5		1				
95	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				2					
96	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>					1				
97	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>		1	6	2					
98	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>			1						
99	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	6	6	30+	12	4	3	✓	✓	✓
100	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>							2	2	
101	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	12	11	14	17		2	4	12	
102	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>	28	100+	57	19					
103	Böhm's Bee-eater	<i>Merops boehmi</i>	2		1	2	1				
104	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>							4	9	4
105	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		6	14	3			12	9	
106	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>	1	2							
107	Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>		5	5	17		15	4	12	
108	Tanzania Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus ruahae</i>					6	60+	✓	✓	✓
109	Von Der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>		2				14		2	
110	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>	4	3	2	2	2		4	1	
111	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	4	4							
112	Pale-billed Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros pallidirostris</i>		2		1					
113	Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>	6	3	1	100					
114	Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>									1
115	Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>					1				
116	Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>	1	1							
117	Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>		1		1		2			
118	D'Arnauld's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii</i> #								2	
119	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>									1
120	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>			H						
121	Speckle-throated Woodpecker	<i>Campethera scriptoricauda</i>		2		1		1			
122	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>				1	1				
123	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops fuscescens</i>	1	1			1				
124	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops namaquus</i>		1							

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
125	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>							1		
126	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>		1	1	1			1	2	2
127	Dickinson's Kestrel	<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>		1							
128	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	2	1							
129	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		1							
130	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>					4	9		✓	✓
131	Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>		2	1	2					
132	Yellow-collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis personatus</i>					19	14	✓		
133	Pale Batis	<i>Batis soror</i>				1	2				
134	Eastern Black-headed Batis	<i>Batis minor</i>				1	4				
135	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>		6	14	10			9	✓	
136	Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>		10							
137	Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>							1		
138	Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>					1				
139	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>						1	2	2	1
140	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	1			1	2	1			
141	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>			1						
142	Slate-coloured Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>					1	6	12	✓	✓
143	Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>					7	9	11	✓	
144	Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>		1		5					
145	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>			1		6				
146	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	2	4	5	3	14	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>		2							
148	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	10								
149	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	2								
150	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>					1				
152	Cabanis's Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus cabanisi</i>					9				
153	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	3	2	4						2
154	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>							5		2
155	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>		2			2	8	2		7
156	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>		1			1				

	Common name	Scientific name	October										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
157	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				1							
158	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>					1						
159	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>									1	1	
160	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	1		1		2						1
161	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>											1
162	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>					1						
163	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	12	10	3	6							
164	Sharp-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis acuticaudus</i>		2?									
165	Superb starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	4				5	19	2	✓	✓		
166	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		7			1						
167	Ashy starling	<i>Cosmopsarus regius</i>					39	50+	50+	✓			
168	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>	4										
169	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	2								20		
170	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>		4	9	11							
171	Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>			1								
172	White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>					1						
173	White-browed Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>			1								
174	African Grey Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>		2			1				3		
175	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>						2					
176	Collared Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>		1		14	3	1					
177	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1									
178	Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes orientalis</i>											2
179	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>					1						
180	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	3				4						
181	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>									2		
182	Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>			1	1	1						
183	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>						1					
184	White-browed Sparrow-weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	15	✓	✓	✓	✓						
185	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>					1	30+	✓	✓	✓		
186	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>		2		8	4						
187	White-headed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>						9	17	✓	✓		
188	Eastern Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>	4	2	4	14							

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
189	Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>					5			2	
190	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>							1	1	
191	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>					14		3		
192	Grey-headed Social-weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita araudi</i>							4		
193	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>					2	2			1
194	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>					6				
195	Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>					17	12	9	✓	
196	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	3	3		2					
197	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>					16	12	11	✓	
198	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>			2						
199	Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>								2	
200	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>		3	9		2	4	3	✓	✓
201	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>							2		
202	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>							5		

Mammals

1	Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>		1							
2	Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus wahlbergi</i>					12	12	12	10	10
3	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	10	31	51	35	9	3	3	7	
4	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	60+	200+	100's	100's	51	3	15		10
5	Masai Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	20	42	29	100's	25	25	10	30	
6	Kirk's Dik-Dik	<i>Rhynchotragus kirki</i>						19	11	9	
7	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	2		1						
8	Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>				11				2	
9	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	16	19	8	9	4	19	21	17	28
10	Lesser Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>								1	
11	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	30	25	62	71	4				
12	Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>					3	13	5	27	
13	Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>			1						
14	Lichtenstein's Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus lichtensteinii</i>		20	5	9					
15	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>		70	61	100's					
16	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	60+	500+	300+	100's	100+	200+	100+	100s	100s

	Common name	Scientific name	October									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
17	Grant's Gazelle	<i>Gazella granti</i>									3	
18	Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>									2	
19	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>		2	7	7		200+	200+	400+		
20	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		323	45	100's	31	54	21	71		
21	Southern Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i>						2		1		
22	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>					40+	100+	50+	30	29	
23	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>			16	11	65	175	75	101	45	
24	Unstriped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>	3	4	21		12					
25	Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>						6	12	9	2	
26	Striped Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus flavovittis</i>	3	10								
27	African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>					1					
28	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>						2	3	1		
29	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>							1			
30	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	15	51		4	60+	35	40	31	12	
31	Eastern Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>				1	3		3	1		
32	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>		1	1							
33	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>				2		10	2	3		
34	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>							1			
35	Yellow Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	10	9	52	31	70	90+	100+	110's	23	
36	Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	10	27	10	40	20+	10+	30+	30+	12	

Amphibians and Reptiles

Grey Foam-nest Treefrog, *Chiromantis xerampelina*

A Gecko, *Hemidactylus* sp.

Red-headed Agama, *Agama agama*

Nile Monitor, *Varanus niloticus*

A striped Skink, *Trachylepsis* sp.

Nile Crocodile, *Crocodylus niloticus*

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