

# **COMPREHENSIVE MALAWI TRIP REPORT**

# 15 - 29 NOVEMBER 2017

By Dylan Vasapolli



Malawi's only endemic, Yellow-throated Apalis, showed well.

www.birdingecotours.com



#### Overview

Following the same route and itinerary as our set-departure Malawi tour, this tour was run specifically for our clients and saw us attempting to find as many new species as possible for them. This comprehensive tour takes in the best of Malawi. Beginning in the southern lowlands we explore a few national parks and the montane forests of the Zomba Plateau. We then move to the miombo-clad hills of the Dzalanyama Forest Reserve before continuing to the famous Nyika National Park in the north of the country. Our final destination is the Chintheche area on the shores of Lake Malawi before ending the tour in the capital, Lilongwe. Since the tour was run at the beginning of the austral summer, rain was expected during the tour and did hamper us somewhat, although it was a price that we paid happily in exchange for the excellent birding we enjoyed throughout the tour – a result of birding during the peak breeding season. A testament to the good birding saw us ending the tour on 380 species (plus 16 heard only) despite the rain challenges and the target-based nature of the trip, with us not focusing on widespread species.

#### Day 1, November 15. Arrival in Lilongwe

Art and Alicia landed in Lilongwe in the early afternoon, and after collecting them we made our way to our comfortable lodge on the outskirts of town, where we checked in, dropped our things, and prepared for a bit of afternoon birding.

A short ride later and we were at the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, where we spent the remainder of the afternoon until closing. It was rather quiet, but as we progressed along the walk we made some headway. Some thickets early on held a pair of **Black-throated Wattle-eyes** that showed well, along with **White-browed Robin-Chat** and **Olive Sunbird**. Some scanning of the river produced a pair of **African Black Ducks** along with **Hamerkop**, **Common** and **Green Sandpipers**, and **Pied Kingfisher**. As we progressed we picked up on the raucous notes of **Schalow's Turaco**, and had the bird within view in no time. We enjoyed great scope views of it as it sat contently, calling occasionally. Other species seen here included **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Black-backed Puffback**, **Tropical Boubou**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, and **Kurrichane Thrush**.

#### Day 2, November 16. Lilongwe to Lengwe National Park

With a long drive ahead of us today we had only a small bit of time in the morning to bird locally before having to set off. We concentrated our efforts in the gardens of our lodge and the surrounding woodlands. The birding was excellent to put it simply, and we never ran out of getting more species. The lush lodge gardens and thickets provided us with many species, including Speckled Mousebird, Willow Warbler, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Arrow-marked Babbler, African Yellow White-eye, Southern Black and Ashy Flycatchers, Collared, Olive, and Variable Sunbirds, Spectacled Weaver, Red-billed Firefinch, Bronze and Red-backed Mannikins, and a small group of the truly spectacular Red-throated Twinspots.

Moving into the surrounding mixed woodland the good birding continued, and here we added African Green Pigeon, Striped and Woodland Kingfishers, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Black-collared Barbet, Cardinal Woodpecker, Chinspot Batis, Long-billed Crombec, Garden Warbler, an excited group of the prized Green-capped Eremomelas, Violet-backed Starling, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Golden-breasted Bunting, and a mixed group of canaries made up of Southern Citril and Yellow-fronted and Brimstone Canaries.



With that excellent start behind us our breakfast went down well before we got onto the road for our long drive to Lengwe National Park in the lowlands of the southern part of the country. We made good progress and arrived at the entrance gate in the mid-afternoon. We made our way over to Nyala Lodge where we checked in and then headed out for an afternoon walk. The combination of thickets and open woodland here made for excellent birding, and we got a good taste of it this afternoon. A White-backed Vulture perched atop its nest got us off to a good start, while we added to our Kingfisher tally with finding Grey-headed. Little Bee-eaters hawked insects over an opening, while a noisy Broad-billed Roller kept watch over a small pond. The open woodlands held Red-faced Mousebird, Green Wood Hoopoe, Bearded Woodpecker, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Brubru, Sombre Greenbul, and Greater Blueeared Starling. Suddenly a large raptor flew in, and although it landed somewhat obscured, we were able to see enough of it to confirm that it was a magnificent Crowned Eagle. A final runthrough of some thickets on the edge of the lodge produced Bearded Scrub Robin and Collared Palm Thrush. Some of the mammals encountered on our walk included Nyala (for which the lodge and reserve is perhaps best known), Impala, Smith's Bush Squirrel, and Vervet Monkey. We enjoyed the first of many sundowners as dusk came!



A pair of Red-throated Twinspots paused for a few seconds.

#### Day 3, November 17. Lengwe National Park

We had a full day to spend exploring the depths of this park and began with a morning walk, taking us into some of the proper 'lowland thickets', before returning back to the lodge for a much-needed and delicious breakfast. Before we actually got into the thickets we passed through some mature open woodland and enjoyed some more widespread species, including a surprise Namaqua Dove, Levaillant's and Jacobin Cuckoos, Common Scimitarbill, Greater Honeyguide, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Southern Black Tit, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, and Grey Tit-Flycatcher. The thickets were pretty quiet, but some persistence paid off with the sought-after Böhm's Bee-eater, Crowned Hornbill, Retz's Helmetshrike, African Golden Oriole, Terrestrial Brownbul, Square-tailed Drongo, and Dark-backed Weaver, while Eastern Nicator called at regular intervals but refused to show. En route back to camp the open

www.birdingecotours.com



woodland again held a few different species, with the best being Marabou Stork, African Harrier-Hawk, a regal Martial Eagle, Rattling Cisticola, and Pin-tailed Whydah.

Following a break over the midday period we resumed birding on an afternoon drive, exploring other areas. A small ephemeral pond on the edge of a large patch of thicket held numbers of **Knob-billed Ducks, Egyptian** and **Spur-winged Geese, Yellow-billed** and **White Storks, African Openbill, Grey Heron, Hamerkop**, and many **Wood Sandpipers**. Our stop here also provided the difficult **Green Malkoha**, and we enjoyed some good views of this skulker. **African Emerald Cuckoo** taunted us but refused to show. As we pressed onward we enjoyed a number of raptors, including **White-backed Vulture**, **Black-chested** and **Brown Snake Eagles**, **Bateleur**, and **Wahlberg's Eagle**, before the track began turning less and less drivable. We should have taken our cue at this point but continued onwards and soon found ourselves embedded in a mud patch, which was carefully hidden under a mat of grass. We spent a little while trying to dig ourselves out and eventually came free. With smiles all around we made our way back to camp, but not before picking up the stunning **Livingstone's Flycatcher** and **Hildebrandt's Francolin** as a bonus. We added a few more mammals during the course of the day, including Yellow Baboon, Samango Monkey, Common Warthog, Cape Buffalo, and Suni.

#### Day 4, November 18. Lengwe National Park to Zomba.

With not too much ground to cover today we made the most of the morning in Lengwe with another morning walk. We focused on an area near to where we spent the previous afternoon and with overcast conditions enjoyed a productive walk. Highlights went to glorious views of a perched Crowned Eagle, Western Banded Snake Eagle, an African Goshawk displaying overhead, Black, Red-chested, African, and Common Cuckoos, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, African Grey Hornbill, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Grey-headed Bushshrike, the localized Pale Batis, Lesser Masked and Village Weavers, and Jameson's Firefinch.

After breakfast we picked up a flock of **Crested Guineafowls** just outside the camp before gathering our things, packing, and beginning our journey to Zomba. On our way out of Lengwe the agricultural fields produced **Variable Sunbird** and **Southern Brown-throated Weaver**. We made good ground, and after a quick car-wash in Blantyre (to get rid of all the mud from yesterday) we arrived in Zomba and checked into our comfortable hotel on top of the plateau. We enjoyed a good lunch before beginning birding around the hotel gardens. Here we enjoyed our first montane forest specials, including **Tambourine Dove**, Livingstone's Turaco, White-eared Barbet, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Olive-headed Greenbul, Black-headed Apalis, African Dusky Flycatcher, Cape Robin-Chat, and Forest Double-collared Sunbird.

With the hotel grounds exhausted we extended our search to a nearby tract of forest. We were off to a great start when we picked up a skittish **White-starred Robin**, and while we were trying to get some decent views of the robin a stunning **Yellow-throated Apalis** popped out of a bush and put on a great show for us. So Malawi's only endemic was out of the way! As we continued we added **African Olive Pigeon**, **Little** and **Placid Greenbuls**, and **Evergreen Forest Warbler** – with the latter only showing for the briefest period of time, leaving us wanting more, despite following up on many calling individuals. All too soon the heavens opened and promptly ended our birding for the day, and we made our way back to the hotel. The rain didn't relent until after dark, while we enjoyed a good, warm meal before retiring for the evening.



#### Day 5, November 19. Zomba Plateau

We woke to an overcast morning once again and set off to bird some of the remnant montane forest patches still remaining on the plateau. The weather held for the morning, and we enjoyed some truly excellent birding in a short span of time. Our main target was the rare and difficult Thyolo Alethe, and we began searching some prime tracts of forest. In no time, we were onto a calling bird, and time seemed to stop as I got onto it briefly before the bird moved off, with Art and Alicia having missed it. Fortunately, we were given a second chance as we picked it up again perched in the mid-strata, completely in the open. We enjoyed the bird and our great views for a time before it moved off, leaving us elated with our views! Then we focused our efforts on another highly-prized bird, White-winged Apalis, and while the apalis proved elusive, our efforts were rewarded with a number of other species. These included Long-crested Eagle, Livingstone's Turaco, Cape Batis, Square-tailed Drongo, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Olive-headed, Little, and Placid Greenbuls, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Yellowthroated and Black-headed Apalises, Garden Warbler, African Yellow White-eye, a far more cooperative White-starred Robin, Collared Sunbird, Red-faced Crimsonwing, Yellowbellied Waxbill, and Mountain Wagtail. Just as we were about to give up we struck gold and found a showy pair of White-winged Apalis that put on a great show for us.



After some searching, we managed to locate the prized White-winged Apalis.

After our highly successful morning we headed back for breakfast and afterwards set off on a drive around the plateau. Augur and Common Buzzards were seen in flight, while birding in the rank grasslands gave us African Yellow Warbler, Singing and Wailing Cisticolas, African Stonechat, Yellow Bishop, a surprise group of Green Twinspots, many groups of Yellow-bellied Waxbills, Bronze and Red-backed Mannikins, and Southern Citril. As we ascended above a certain altitude, we were plunged into some of the densest fog I have ever been in, and we could scarcely see the road in front of us. We made our way back down to below the fog line and emerged into a world we could once again see. Right on the verge we decided to try our luck at yet another calling Evergreen Forest Warbler, and this proved to be a good move, as we had a pair showing very well almost immediately. While driving alongside a tract of forest I heard

www.birdingecotours.com



the distinctive song of **Orange Ground Thrush**, and we headed in search of it. It didn't take us too long before we found the bird, calling from high up in the canopy, as this species so often does. We enjoyed it for some time before it moved off, and we were amazed at how many great birds we had already seen today.

With rain predicted for the afternoon period, we set off to bird the southern slopes of the Zomba Massive, searching for primarily Bertram's Weaver, one of our last remaining targets here, but, sadly, without success. But as soon as we arrived on site we had time enough to enjoy **Red-throated Twinspot** before the rain started, well earlier than it had been predicted. Similar to yesterday the rain didn't relent and put an early end to our birding efforts. Mammals are scarce here, and species seen during the day were limited to Yellow Baboon, Samango Monkey, and Red Bush Squirrel.

#### Day 6, November 20. Zomba to Liwonde National Park

Owing to our immensely successful day yesterday we needed only the morning around the greater Zomba area before continuing to our next destination, Liwonde National Park. A morning walk, searching for our missing Bertram's Weaver, sadly failed, but we did enjoy a plethora of other great species, similar to what we managed yesterday. Standout sightings went to Black Sparrowhawk, Livingstone's Turaco, Black Saw-wing, Yellow-throated Apalis, and Red-faced Crimsonwing.

After enjoying a good breakfast, we packed and headed down the mountain to try another area for the weaver, enjoying a showy **Striped Pipit** en route. Not being rained out allowed us to properly work the area for a time, but we sadly had to leave without finding our target. However, we still had some great birding, with highlights being **Augur Buzzard** and **White-necked Ravens** regularly moving overhead, the difficult **Pallid Honeyguide** perched and calling from within a massive Eucalyptus tree, **Singing** and **Red-faced Cisticolas**, **African Firefinch**, and **Red-throated Twinspot** all present, while some of the larger trees held a gaudy pair of **Whitewinged Apalis**. Before long we were at the entrance to the famous Liwonde National Park, only to be told that after recent rains the roads within the reserve were closed, and we had to head to an alternate entrance, from where we had to take a boat to our lodge.

After arriving and meeting up with our local guide Duncan we settled for lunch and a slight rest before our drive later in the afternoon. A stroll around the grounds gave us some better views of species we had seen already, such as Woodland Kingfisher, Böhm's Bee-eater, Tropical Boubou, Spotted Flycatcher, White-browed Robin-Chat, Collared Palm Thrush, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, and Southern Brown-throated Weaver.

Our afternoon drive was incredibly productive as we worked the mosaic of open floodplains, thicket, and mopane edge together with the majestic Shire River. The thicket areas held **Purple-crested Turaco**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Dickinson's Kestrel**, **Brown-headed Parrot**, the sought-after Lilian's Lovebird, and a pair of the unpredictable Orange-winged Pytilia. The woodland edges and the dry floodplain were very productive and provided **Palm-nut Vulture**, **Western Banded Snake Eagle**, **Bateleur**, **Wahlberg's Eagle**, Little Bee-eater, Meves's **Starling**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, and **Yellow-throated Longclaw**. The river was our last port of call, when we settled in and enjoyed a spectacular sundowner, with all the many waterbirds going about their business before the day ended. Species seen here included **Yellow-billed and Saddle-billed Storks**, **Black-crowned Night** and **Squacco Herons**, **Great Egret**, **White-breasted Cormorant**, **African Darter**, **African Fish Eagle**, **Water Thick-knee**, **Spurwinged Lapwing**, **Common** and **Green Sandpipers**, **Common Greenshank**, a small number of



African Skimmers, and Pied and Malachite Kingfishers. A night drive back to the lodge saw us connecting with Large-spotted Genet along with White-tailed, Marsh, and Meller's Mongooses and Scrub Hare.

#### Day 7, November 21. Liwonde National Park

With a full day available for us to explore this great reserve, we began with a morning walk through some riverine frontage, searching for, among others, primarily Pel's Fishing Owl. It was a rather quiet morning with not much activity. Species we eked out included African Cuckoo-Hawk, Grey Go-away-bird, Green Malkoha, Klaas's Cuckoo, a family of African Wood Owls at their day roost, Giant Kingfisher, Southern Ground Hornbill, Livingstone's Flycatcher, and Bearded Scrub Robin. African Barred Owlet was heard only as we transferred to the other side of the river to resume our search, along with a try for the incredibly localized Brown-breasted Barbet. We enjoyed a roost of the prized White-backed Night Herons en route. We tried a few stakeouts for the barbet and were eventually rewarded when a Brown-breasted Barbet came to a fruiting tree. Although it moved around a lot and was pretty skittish, we enjoyed some excellent views of this sought-after species. Following our success here we resumed our search for the Pel's Fishing Owl, and, as if on cue, successfully managed to find one. Although the bird was mostly obscured, some careful positioning saw us enjoying some fine scope views of this glorious species before retiring for our (much needed) breakfast.



Pel's Fishing Owl was a bird high on our target list.

Following a midday break we regrouped for the afternoon stint and headed into the mature mopane woodland, searching for a few of our outstanding targets. The afternoon was excellent and saw us finding Brown Snake Eagle, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, Speckle-throated Woodpecker (one of our primary targets), Lilian's Lovebird, Marsh Warbler, Violet-backed and Greater Blue-eared Starlings, and Arnott's Chat. We again settled in for our sundowners with a majestic view of the river and enjoyed among others a Eurasian Hobby hunting overhead.

www.birdingecotours.com



We once again went on a night drive back to the lodge and enjoyed a stunning Verreaux's **Eagle-Owl**, while African Scops Owl was heard only. Today had also been a day for mammals, and species seen included the sought-after Sable Antelope along with African Elephant, Hippopotamus, Greater Kudu, Plains Zebra, Waterbuck, Bushbuck, and Short-snouted Sengi (Elephant-shrew), while our night drive added a calling Thick-tailed Greater Galago (Bushbaby) and excellent views of African Civet.

#### Day 8, November 22. Liwonde National Park to Dzalanyama Forest Reserve

We began the day with a morning boat cruise along the Shire River and enjoyed a wealth of life. Some of the birds seen included Yellow-billed Stork, African Openbill, African Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron, Western Osprey, Spur-winged Lapwing, Common Ringed Plover, a pair of Greater Painted-snipes feeding along the edges, African Jacana, Ruff, Gullbilled and Whiskered Terns, Giant Kingfisher, both Dickinson's Kestrel and Eurasian Hobby, a surprise Banded Martin, Lesser Masked Weaver, and African Pied Wagtail. Everpresent mammals were Hippopotamus and African Elephant.

We sadly had to gather our things, transfer back to our car, and continue onward, bringing our stay at this fantastic national park to an end. We made good ground as we transferred first back to Lilongwe and from there to the Dzalanyama Forest Reserve. We arrived in the mid-afternoon, and birded our way through the fantastic miombo woodland en route to the lodge. Our first stop for a party was a good one on the right on the woodland edge. We quickly acquainted ourselves with such specials as **Pale-billed Hornbill**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Green-capped Eremomela**, **Yellow-bellied Hyliota**, **Yellow-throated Petronia**, and **Reichard's** and **Black-eared Seedeaters** among other more common party members.

After we had checked into the basic Dzalanyama Forest Lodge the heavens opened up, and we took it easy, waiting for the rain to stop. Eventually it did, and we headed off on a late-afternoon walk through some of the mature miombo close to the lodge. It was a slow walk, and we managed to eke out a calling African Barred Owlet that showed well, along with a showy pair of Miombo Rock Thrushes and a Cabanis's Bunting. We enjoyed an excellent home-cooked meal before retiring for the evening.

# Day 9, November 23. Dzalanyama Forest Reserve

Dzalanyama is quite simply a magical place and an area I adore and love birding within. We had a full day to explore the reserve at our leisure, and with a number of target birds for the day we set off early and were off to a flying start. Birding in miombo woodland can be difficult at times, as one relies to be successful on finding bird parties that normally host the specials, and simply walking and spending as much time as possible in the woodland is the ultimate key to success. Very soon after leaving the lodge on our morning walk a few calls alerted us to a nearby party, and in no time we were surrounded by birds as the party moved through. It was an exceptionally exciting first party, as it contained species such as the highly-prized **Stierling's Woodpecker**, **Miombo Tit, Red-capped Crombec, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Yellow-bellied** and **Southern Hyliotas**, and a group of **African Spotted Creepers**, among others. Having had our fill and enjoying the views of the various species we pressed onwards to our final point at a dambo (a grassy/wetland break in the woodland). Our main target at the dambo was the difficult **Lesser Seedcracker**, of which we only managed brief views after a lengthy search, leaving us wanting more. Our time around the dambo wasn't without reward, though, as we enjoyed the



likes of Schalow's Turaco, Short-winged Cisticola, Red-winged Warbler, Black-winged Red Bishop, Yellow-mantled Widowbird, and another highly prized species, Anchieta's Sunbird.

We eventually began making our way back for breakfast but not before running into another party. Not as exciting as the first one, it still gave us a few new additions, namely Whitebreasted Cuckooshrike, Miombo Scrub Robin, and Wood Pipit.

Our midday period saw us tackling the many large rocky outcrops in the reserve, targeting a very unusual and highly-desired species, Boulder Chat. Our great day continued as we found and had great views of a small group of **Boulder Chats** at our first site. After having enjoyed them we came down from the hills and focused once again on the miombo. Approaching midday, activity was generally low, but we did quite well adding the difficult **Böhm's Flycatcher** and **Western Violet-backed Sunbird** to the list. We were also privy to finding a nest of the flycatcher and watched them at leisure around their nest.

We took a break over the lunch period and resumed birding in the afternoon, hoping to better our views of Lesser Seedcracker. After much effort we eventually tracked down a calling bird, but it was just hidden from sight, no matter where we positioned ourselves, and, frustratingly, went unseen. But after we had just about given up a last-ditch effort saw us find a stunning male Lesser Seedcracker, quietly perched in some nearby bushes, and fortunately it stuck around for us to enjoy it for a few moments before it disappeared into the vegetation once more. During our time here we added African Harrier-Hawk, Lizard Buzzard, Burchell's Coucal, Grey-olive Greenbul, Sand Martin, Holub's Golden Weaver, African Firefinch, and Brimstone Canary. On our walk back to the lodge we flushed a European Nightjar, and working a bird party further along we could add Souza's Shrike to the list, one of the last true miombo specials we had been missing so far. This brought an end to a truly fantastic day where everything seemed to go to plan!



Miombo birding at its finest: African Spotted Creeper ...





... and Stierling's Woodpecker

#### Day 10, November 24. Dzalanyama to Luwawa Forest Lodge

With our spectacular day of birding yesterday our list of targets was short, and we focused our efforts toward the edge of the miombo, where we'd be looking for chiefly Whyte's and Miombo Pied Barbets. We had a surprisingly slow morning and had to work hard for any birds, and our targets went wanting. Highlights of the morning were Western Banded Snake Eagle, Shikra, Bearded Woodpecker, Black-throated Wattle-eye, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Redwinged Warbler, Miombo Scrub Robin, Wood Pipit, and great looks at Grey-olive Greenbul, while Rufous-bellied Tit eluded us and was heard only.

We bade Dzalanyama farewell and undertook our long drive northwards to Luwawa Forest Lodge, on the Viphya Plateau. A quick detour via Lifupa Dam in Kasungu National Park gave us a few common waterbirds such as Abdim's Stork, White-faced Whistling and Yellow-billed Ducks, Red-billed Teal, Red-knobbed Coot and our special target, Lesser Jacana.

In the mid-afternoon we arrived at the entrance track to Luwawa Forest Lodge and birded our way to the lodge. Some of the species seen included **Blue-spotted Wood Dove**, **Singing Cisticola**, **Bertram's Weaver** (which sadly didn't hang around very long), **Orange-breasted Waxbill**, and **African Pipit**.

After arriving at the lodge and checking in we joined one of the local birders who knew a spot for Whyte's Barbet. After being cooped up in the car for most of the day we opted to walk to/from the site. This proved a good move, as we were able to bird on the way and enjoyed both **African Marsh Harrier** and a few **Pallid Harriers** floating over the grasslands. We arrived in the stunted miombo and almost immediately got onto a bird perched atop some dead branches – **Whyte's Barbet!** Success, and we enjoyed some scope views before the bird disappeared. We headed up to a nesting spot to see if we could get better views, but alas, the bird wouldn't show again. Other species present here included **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Northern Fiscal, Trilling Cisticola, Garden Warbler**, and **African Firefinch**.

We made our way back to the lodge and investigated a grassy area near the lodge, which produced **Moustached Grass** and **African Yellow Warblers** along with **Fan-tailed Grassbird** and **Croaking Cisticola**. All too soon darkness came, and we settled in for a good meal.



#### Day 11, November 25. Luwawa Forest Lodge to Nyika National Park

With today going to be a tight day time-wise, we had only a brief period of birding available around the lodge before we had to get going. We focused initially on the forested areas adjacent to the lodge, which was excellent, and here we recorded Schalow's Turaco, Fülleborn's Boubou, Black-browed Greenbul, Bar-throated and Chapin's Apalises, Green Twinspot, and Red-faced Crimsonwing before the mechanical purring of African Broadbill started. We aligned ourselves and managed to pick up an individual displaying, enjoying good scope views of this highly-desired species! We then birded through some scrub habitat and wetland fringes before making our way through another patch of forest. Species seen included Blue-spotted Wood Dove, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Olive Woodpecker, Evergreen Forest and Red-winged Warblers, White-starred Robin, Bronzy and Forest Double-collared Sunbirds, Bertram's, Spectacled, and Holub's Golden Weavers, Blackwinged Red Bishop, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, and Southern Citril. The large dam held little besides Malachite Kingfisher, while an inlet had calling African Rail, Red-chested Flufftail and Little Rush Warblers, but, try as we might, we were unable to get views.

Before long we were on the road, heading for Nyika National Park. While the park wasn't too far away it took a good few hours to get to the camp after entering. This large park is one of the country's 'best-kept secrets' and one of my all-time favorite places to visit, harboring not only a wealth of biodiversity but also a great number of sought-after species and generally excellent birding – not to mention its unique setting.

We arrived at the park around midday and immediately started looking for our first target, **Black-backed Barbet**, which eventually cooperated after giving us only brief views a number of times initially. Rain clouds had been building up throughout the morning, and they were now looking as though they would burst. Luckily we got back to the car just in time as the heavens opened up shortly after.



We eventually managed good views of the difficult Black-backed Barbet.



We continued the drive to Chelinda Camp, and as soon as the rain stopped a wealth of bird activity arose and we set out to investigate. We were in some stunted miombo, and one of our main targets on this stretch, **Rufous-bellied Tit**, began calling, and we enjoyed a few individuals a few moments later as they bounced around the trees. We also enjoyed other species such as **Miombo Tit**, **Red-capped Crombec**, **Willow Warbler**, **Stierling's Wren-Warbler**, **Miombo Scrub Robin**, and **Tree Pipit**, before forcing ourselves away.

We eventually exited the miombo and saw the rapid change in habitat as we neared the top of the plateau. Small forest patches surrounded by rolling grasslands were now the order of the day, and we stopped to investigate one of the first forest patches we found. We had quite a bit of excitement here, as both **Olive-flanked Ground Robin** and **White-chested Alethe** began calling not far away. Sadly, we were to only hear these two 'ghost' birds for now.

We continued our way to the lodge, stopping occasionally for a few more new birds, and arrived at our comfortable lodge shortly before sunset. Species seen along the way included Hildebrandt's Francolin, Lizard Buzzard, African Olive Pigeon, Moustached Tinkerbird, Olive Woodpecker, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Black-browed Greenbul, Greyrumped and Red-rumped Swallows, Mountain Yellow and Cinnamon Bracken Warblers, Fan-tailed Grassbird, a plethora of Cisticolas including Singing, Trilling, Wailing, Croaking and Short-winged, Chapin's Apalis, Waller's Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and Malachite and Whyte's Double-collared Sunbirds. We also enjoyed a large herd of Roan Antelope, Common Eland, and Plains Zebra, along with a lone Oribi.

# Day 12, November 26. Full day at Nyika National Park

We had the day to spend within Nyika, and we headed off on a morning walk to start the day with local guide Alam. It didn't take us long before we had our first flyby of **Blue Swallow**, and it is encouraging to note how well this species seems to be doing here. We also managed to find the two localized **Cisticolas** of the area, **Black-lored** and **Churring**. **Montane Widowbird** was next before we found a large flock of **Yellow-crowned Canaries** and the difficult **Yellowbrowed Seedeater**. **White-necked Ravens** were a regular sight overhead, and just as we started making our way back for breakfast we located a nearby covey of **Red-winged Francolin** before a mighty **Denham's Bustard** flew overhead and landed on the opposite hillside.

Following breakfast we joined up with Steven and headed to the Zovo Chipolo Forest, where we would try for Bar-tailed Trogon, among others. Upon arrival at the forest a vocal **Olive-flanked Ground Robin** was first to appear, giving us incredible views, before a **Fülleborn's Boubou** popped up, giving us better views than on the previous day. We enjoyed other forest species such as **Schalow's Turaco**, **White-tailed Crested Flycatcher**, **Black-browed Greenbul**, **Chapin's** and **Brown-headed Apalises**, **White-starred Robin**, and **Moustached Tinkerbird** before we found a calling **Bar-tailed Trogon**. We managed to track the bird down, but it was mostly obscured, but then we noticed another individual, much closer and completely in the open. We enjoyed breathtaking views of this prized species, as both birds went about their business, unperturbed by us, before we left them be. **Abyssinian Thrush** went by unseen. As we exited the forest we enjoyed a flyby **European Honey Buzzard** along with **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk**, before a glorious **White-headed Saw-wing** floated into view and stuck around at the forest edge.

Our afternoon saw us undertake a drive into the grasslands, bound for a rocky hill where we hoped to find Scarlet-tufted Sunbird. The regular **Angolan Swallow** showed well, and we encountered a number of coveys of **Red-winged Francolin** along with an unexpected group of



Temminck's Coursers. The dam held little besides African Black Duck and Green Sandpiper, but then a Lanner Falcon graced the sky. Rufous-naped Larks and African Pipits showed at regular intervals, while I was the only one to get view of a flushed Common Quail that exploded off the road. Banded Martins were seen quartering the grass, but we were unable to see the small specks that were Wing-snapping Cisticolas, despite their call persisting throughout the afternoon. We arrived at the Scarlet-tufted Sunbird site just in time for the clouds and rain to move in. Only Steven and I caught a fleeting sight of a distant sunbird, which otherwise remained heard only, before we called it quits here and slowly made our way back to the lodge.

Mammals seen throughout the day included the same species as yesterday with the addition of Common Duiker.

We undertook a night drive coming back, and although it was slow going we did manage to find **Spotted Eagle-Owl** and a skittish **Montane** (Ruwenzori) **Nightjar**, while a Side-striped Jackal was the mammal highlight, rounding up another fantastic day.



The exquisite Bar-tailed Trogon never fails to impress.

# Day 13, November 27. Nyika National Park to Chintheche

With our main goal to get as soon as possible into the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve to search for some localized specials we started early from Chelinda Camp. Our trip out of the reserve was quick going for the most part, although we did have a few stops, where we were able to pick up species such as **Dusky Turtle Dove**, **Lemon Dove**, **Moustached Tinkerbird**, **Olive Woodpecker**, **Cape Batis**, **Pearl-breasted** and **Mosque Swallows**, **Black-lored** and **Churring Cisticolas**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **White-chested Alethe** (finally, some brief views obtained of this master skulker!), **Whyte's Double-collared Sunbird**, **Yellow Bishop**, **Montane Widowbird**, and **Tree Pipit**, among others. As we approached the exit gate the heaven opened up again and an absolute deluge came down.

We headed to the now reasonably close Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, within which the road deteriorated rapidly until we reached an impassable section now flooded from the recent rains.

www.birdingecotours.com



We decided to not head further and retraced our steps for a bit to bird a few of the remnant patches of miombo further up on the access road. As it turned out this proved to be a good move, as the rain stopped and the birds came alive. We began working the tall hillside miombo and encountered our first party consisting mainly of **Rufous-bellied Tits**, but we also noted **Crowned Hornbill**, **Stierling's Wren-Warbler**, **Miombo Blue-eared Starling**, **Miombo** and **White-browed Scrub Robins**, **Collared Flycatcher**, **Miombo Rock Thrush**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, **Yellow-throated Petronia**, and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**. Try as we might, though, we could not find the two big Vwaza specials, Babbling Starling and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver. **Broad-billed Rollers** were in evidence, as was **Meyer's Parrot**, while a **Narina Trogon** called from a distant valley and both **White-headed Saw-wings** and **Lesser Striped Swallows** flitted about overhead.

We were trying for better views of the parrots when a distant, but very distinct **African Pitta** called. I couldn't believe it, as not only is this one of the most-wanted birds within Africa, but also a rare summer visitor to the region and here completely out of habitat -- I fumbled at getting the words out. After composing myself we immediately set off after the bird, and fortunately for us it continued calling and displaying, leading us right to it. It was within a massive tree along a riverbed, and it took a little while to get some good views of the bird as it kept jumping around and displaying near the top of the tree, mostly obscured. But bit of patience ensured that we finally had excellent views of **African Pitta**. Eventually we had to pull ourselves out of the riverbed, after having our fill, with now two birds calling along this stretch of the dry riverbed.



African Pitta just about to launch into its display – a truly unforgettable experience!

A **Senegal Coucal** was the last noteworthy bird before we called it quits here to continue onwards to Chintheche, where we would stay overnight. Following an uneventful drive we arrived in the late afternoon shortly before dusk, when we settled in and enjoyed sundowners, looking over the beautiful Lake Malawi from our comfortable lodge.

Mammal highlights for the day included Slender Mongoose and Southern Reedbuck, both in Nyika.

www.birdingecotours.com



#### Day 14, November 28. Chintheche and surrounds

We woke to a thunderstorm and rain this morning, which put paid to our morning birding. We waited for it to clear and headed out on a walk of the lodge and surrounds. Although the weather was pretty awful we eked out Striated and Black Herons, White-breasted Cormorant, African Fish Eagle, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, African Green Pigeon, Purple-crested Turaco, African Black Swift, Giant and numerous Pied Kingfishers, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Terrestrial Brownbul, Red-faced Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Garden Warbler, Ashy Flycatcher, Collared and Purple-banded Sunbirds, Eastern Golden Weaver, and African Pied Wagtail, among others.

It rained on and off through the morning, but the weather fortunately improved over the afternoon, which saw us heading to a forest patch to try for East Coast Akalat. Unfortunately, soon the road to our destination became impassable due to the recent rain. We were able to access the road from the other end and gave that a try. This proved to be successful, although the road was in bad shape, and it was very slow going. We were not able to reach the original forest we wanted to go to and instead investigated a few smaller forest patches we had passed en route, which looked excellent. Here we were able to enjoy virtually all of the other specials of the area, including Green Malkoha, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Green-backed Woodpecker, Bluemantled Crested Flycatcher, views of Eastern Nicator at long last, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Red-capped Robin-Chat, and Collared Flycatcher, but, try as we might, no akalat. After trying for a quite some time we gave up and made our way slowly back to the lodge, where we settled in for our last sundowner of the trip.

#### Day 15, November 29. Chintheche to Lilongwe and departure

With a longish drive back to Lilongwe we started fairly early in the morning, noting a similar spectrum of birds to what we had found the previous day. We wanted to explore a nearby wetland, but just as we arrived the heavens opened up again, so we got back into the car and hit the road instead. Not far from the lodge we came across a young **Bat Hawk** flying parallel with the car; however, we lost the bird when we pulled off. The drive was relatively uneventful until we arrived at a dry dambo north of Lilongwe around midday.

The weather was still overcast, but the rain seemed to be holding. So we set off to look for a few additional species, chief among them being Locust Finch and Rosy-throated Longclaw. The area was pretty birdy, and we enjoyed many species, from raptors such as **Pallid Harrier** and **Amur Falcon** to ground-dwelling species such as **Common Buttonquail**, **Fischer's Sparrow-Lark**, and **Red-capped Lark** to rank-growth species such as **Moustached Grass** and **African Yellow Warblers**, and there were a number of **Common House Martins** overhead. **Cisticolas** were well represented with **Red-faced**, **Singing**, **Croaking** and **Zitting**, while also present were **Yellow-throated Longclaw**, **Yellow-mantled Widowbird**, **Black-winged Red** and **Yellow Bishops**, and many seedeaters, including **Jameson's Firefinch**, **Common** and **Orange-breasted Waxbills**, **Village Indigobird**, and **Pin-tailed** and **Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs**. We seemed to be unable to find the two chief targets, though, but just as we had practically given up we managed to flush a group of **Locust Finches**, but they disappeared as dark specs, as this species usually does. We headed to the area where they landed and searched for a while, sadly without luck.



Time had come to head to town to drop Art and Alicia off at their hotel, where they would spend the night and fly back home the following day, while I would begin the drive back to South Africa the following morning as well.



One of many sunsets experienced on the tour

I would like to kindly thank Art and Alicia for the good times and especially the many exceptional sightings we had, including the vast majority of the region's specials. Although the rain hampered us somewhat, the excellent birding we continually had made up for this, and our African Pitta experience will no doubt remain with me for the rest of my life! Our trip was mightily successful, scoring just under 400 species in two weeks, especially considering the target-based nature of this trip!

<u>CUSTOM TOUR MALAWI BIRD LIST - NOVEMBER 2017</u> Status: NT = Near-threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically Endangered		
	ANSERIFORMES	
Ducks, Geese and Swans	Anatidae	
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata	1
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	1
Knob-billed Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos	1
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	1
African Black Duck	Anas sparsa	1
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata	1
Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha	1
	GALLIFORMES	
Guineafowl	Numididae	





Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris	1
Crested Guineafowl	Guttera pucherani	1
Pheasants and allies	Phasianidae	
Red-winged Francolin	Scleroptila levaillantii	1
Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena	Н
Hildebrandt's Francolin	Pternistis hildebrandti	1
Red-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis afer	Н
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix	1
	CICONIIFORMES	
Storks	Ciconiidae	
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis	1
African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	1
Abdim's Stork	Ciconia abdimii	1
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	1
Saddle-billed Stork	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis	1
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer	1
	PELECANIFORMES	
Ibises, Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae	
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	1
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash	1
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	1
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba	1
Herons, Bitterns	Ardeidae	
White-backed Night Heron	Gorsachius leuconotus	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	1
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	1
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	1
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	1
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	1
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala	1
Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath	1
Great Egret	Ardea alba	1
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia	1
Black Heron	Egretta ardesiaca	1
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	1
Hamerkop	Scopidae	
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta	1
	SULIFORMES	
Cormorants, Shags	Phalacrocoracidae	



Flufftails	Sarothruridae	
	GRUIFORMES	
Denham's Bustard - NT	Neotis denhami	1
Bustards	Otididae	
6	OTIDIFORMES	
Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur	1
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	1
African Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer	1
Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius	1
Pallid Harrier - NT	Circus macrourus	1
African Marsh Harrier	Circus ranivorus	1
Black Sparrowhawk	Accipiter melanoleucus	1
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	Accipiter rufiventris	1
Shikra	Accipiter badius	1
African Goshawk	Accipiter tachiro	1
Lizard Buzzard	Kaupifalco monogrammicus	1
Wahlberg's Eagle	Hieraaetus wahlbergi	1
Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus occipitalis	1
Martial Eagle - VU	Polemaetus bellicosus	1
Crowned Eagle - NT	Stephanoaetus coronatus	1
Bat Hawk	Macheiramphus alcinus	1
Bateleur - NT	Terathopius ecaudatus	1
Western Banded Snake Eagle	Circaetus cinerascens	1
Brown Snake Eagle	Circaetus cinereus	1
Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus pectoralis	1
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	1
African Cuckoo-Hawk	Aviceda cuculoides	1
European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus	1
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	1
African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus	1
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus	1
Kites, Hawks and Eagles	Accipitridae	1
Ospreys Western Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	1
Ospravs	Pandionidae	
Affical Daiter	Anhinga rufa ACCIPITRIFORMES	1
Anhingas, Darters African Darter	Anhingidae	1
White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax lucidus	1
Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus	1



Red-chested Flufftail	Sarothrura rufa	Н
<b>Rails, Crakes and Coots</b>	Rallidae	
African Rail	Rallus caerulescens	Н
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata	1
	CHARADRIIFORMES	
Buttonquail	Turnicidae	
Common Buttonquail	Turnix sylvaticus	1
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees	Burhinidae	
Water Thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus	1
Plovers	Charadriidae	
Spur-winged Lapwing	Vanellus spinosus	1
African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus	1
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	1
Painted-snipes	Rostratulidae	
Greater Painted-snipe	Rostratula benghalensis	1
Jacanas	Jacanidae	
Lesser Jacana	Microparra capensis	1
African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	1
Sandpipers, Snipes	Scolopacidae	
Ruff	Calidris pugnax	1
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	1
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	1
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	1
Coursers, Pratincoles	Glareolidae	
Temminck's Courser	Cursorius temminckii	1
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers	Laridae	
African Skimmer - NT	Rynchops flavirostris	1
Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus	1
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	1
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	1
	COLUMBIFORMES	
Pigeons, Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Dove	Columba livia	1
African Olive Pigeon	Columba arquatrix	1
Lemon Dove	Columba larvata	1
Dusky Turtle Dove	Streptopelia lugens	1
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	1
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola	1



Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis	1
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur chalcospilos	1
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur afer	1
Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria	1
Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis	1
African Green Pigeon	Treron calvus	1
	MUSOPHAGIFORMES	
Turacos	Musophagidae	
Livingstone's Turaco	Tauraco livingstonii	1
Schalow's Turaco	Tauraco schalowi	1
Purple-crested Turaco	Tauraco porphyreolophus	1
Grey Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides concolor	1
	CUCULIFORMES	
Cuckoos	Cuculidae	
Senegal Coucal	Centropus senegalensis	1
Burchell's Coucal	Centropus burchellii	1
Green Malkoha	Ceuthmochares australis	1
Levaillant's Cuckoo	Clamator levaillantii	1
Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus	1
Diederik Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius	1
Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas	1
African Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx cupreus	Н
Black Cuckoo	Cuculus clamosus	1
Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius	1
African Cuckoo	Cuculus gularis	1
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	1
	STRIGIFORMES	
Owls	Strigidae	
African Scops Owl	Otus senegalensis	Н
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo africanus	1
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Bubo lacteus	1
Pel's Fishing Owl	Scotopelia peli	1
African Wood Owl	Strix woodfordii	1
African Barred Owlet	Glaucidium capense	1
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES	
Nightjars	Caprimulgidae	
European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	1
Montane Nightjar	Caprimulgus ruwenzorii	1
	APODIFORMES	



Swifts	Apodidae	
Mottled Spinetail	Telacanthura ussheri	1
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus	1
Common Swift	Apus apus	1
African Black Swift	Apus barbatus	1
Little Swift	Apus affinis	1
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer	1
	COLIIFORMES	
Mousebirds	Coliidae	
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus	1
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus	1
	TROGONIFORMES	
Trogons	Trogonidae	
Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina	Н
Bar-tailed Trogon	Apaloderma vittatum	1
	CORACIIFORMES	
Rollers	Coraciidae	
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus	1
Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus	1
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	Halcyon leucocephala	1
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris	1
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti	1
Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis	1
African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina picta	1
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus	1
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima	1
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	1
Bee-eaters	Meropidae	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	Merops hirundineus	1
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus	1
Böhm's Bee-eater	Merops boehmi	1
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus	1
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	1
	BUCEROTIFORMES	
Hoopoes	Upupidae	
African Hoopoe	Upupa africana	1
Wood Hoopoes	Phoeniculidae	
Green Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus	1



Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas	1
Ground Hornbills	Bucorvidae	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	Bucorvus leadbeateri	1
Hornbills	Bucerotidae	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus rufirostris	1
Crowned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus	1
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus	1
Pale-billed Hornbill	Lophoceros pallidirostris	1
Trumpeter Hornbill	Bycanistes bucinator	1
	PICIFORMES	
African Barbets	Lybiidae	
White-eared Barbet	Stactolaema leucotis	1
Whyte's Barbet	Stactolaema whytii	1
Moustached Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus leucomystax	1
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus	1
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus	1
Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus	1
Brown-breasted Barbet	Lybius melanopterus	1
Black-backed Barbet	Lybius minor	1
Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii	Н
Honeyguides	Indicatoridae	
Pallid Honeyguide	Indicator meliphilus	1
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor	1
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	Indicator variegatus	1
Greater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator	1
Woodpeckers	Picidae	
Speckle-throated Woodpecker	Campethera scriptoricauda	1
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera abingoni	1
Green-backed Woodpecker	Campethera cailliautii	1
Bearded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus	1
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens	1
Stierling's Woodpecker - NT	Dendropicos stierlingi	1
Olive Woodpecker	Dendropicos griseocephalus	1
<b>*</b>	FALCONIFORMES	
Caracaras, Falcons	Falconidae	
Dickinson's Kestrel	Falco dickinsoni	1
Amur Falcon	Falco amurensis	1
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo	1
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus	1



	PSITTACIFORMES	
African & New World Parrots	Psittacidae	
Meyer's Parrot	Poicephalus meyeri	1
Brown-headed Parrot	Poicephalus cryptoxanthus	1
Old World Parrots	Psittaculidae	
Lilian's Lovebird - NT	Agapornis lilianae	1
	PASSERIFORMES	
Broadbills	Eurylaimidae	
African Broadbill	Smithornis capensis	1
Pittas	Pittidae	
African Pitta	Pitta angolensis	1
Wattle-eyes, Batises	Platysteiridae	
Cape Batis	Batis capensis	1
Chinspot Batis	Batis molitor	1
Pale Batis	Batis soror	1
Black-throated Wattle-eye	Platysteira peltata	1
Helmetshrikes	Prionopidae	
Retz's Helmetshrike	Prionops retzii	1
Bushshrikes	Malaconotidae	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	Malaconotus blanchoti	1
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus	1
Marsh Tchagra	Bocagia minuta	Н
Brown-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra australis	1
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus	1
Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus cubla	1
Fülleborn's Boubou	Laniarius fuelleborni	1
Tropical Boubou	Laniarius major	1
Brubru	Nilaus afer	1
Cuckooshrikes	Campephagidae	
White-breasted Cuckooshrike	Coracina pectoralis	1
Black Cuckooshrike	Campephaga flava	1
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Souza's Shrike	Lanius souzae	1
Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	1
Northern Fiscal	Lanius humeralis	1
Figbirds, Orioles	Oriolidae	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	1
African Golden Oriole	Oriolus auratus	1
Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus	1



Drongos	Dicruridae	
Square-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus ludwigii	1
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	1
Monarchs	Monarchidae	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	Trochocercus cyanomelas	1
African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	1
Crows, Jays	Corvidae	
Pied Crow	Corvus albus	1
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis	1
Fairy Flycatchers	Stenostiridae	
White-tailed Crested Flycatcher	Elminia albonotata	1
Tits, Chickadees	Paridae	
Southern Black Tit	Melaniparus niger	1
Rufous-bellied Tit	Melaniparus rufiventris	1
Miombo Tit	Melaniparus griseiventris	1
Nicators	Nicatoridae	
Eastern Nicator	Nicator gularis	Н
Larks	Alaudidae	
Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix leucopareia	1
Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra africana	1
Flappet Lark	Mirafra rufocinnamomea	Н
Red-capped Lark	Calandrella cinerea	1
Bulbuls	Pycnonotidae	
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor	1
Black-browed Greenbul	Arizelocichla fusciceps	1
Olive-headed Greenbul	Arizelocichla olivaceiceps	1
Little Greenbul	Eurillas virens	1
Sombre Greenbul	Andropadus importunus	1
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Chlorocichla flaviventris	1
Terrestrial Brownbul	Phyllastrephus terrestris	1
Grey-olive Greenbul	Phyllastrephus cerviniventris	1
Placid Greenbul	Phyllastrephus placidus	1
Swallows, Martins	Hirundinidae	
White-headed Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne albiceps	1
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera	1
Grey-rumped Swallow	Pseudhirundo griseopyga	1
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	1
Banded Martin	Riparia cincta	1
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	1



Angolan Swallow	Hirundo angolensis	1
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii	1
Blue Swallow - VU	Hirundo atrocaerulea	1
Pearl-breasted Swallow	Hirundo dimidiata	1
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	1
Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica	1
Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis	1
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	1
Crombecs, African Warblers	Macrosphenidae	
Moustached Grass Warbler	Melocichla mentalis	1
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens	1
Red-capped Crombec	Sylvietta ruficapilla	1
Yellow Flycatchers	Erythrocercidae	
Livingstone's Flycatcher	Erythrocercus livingstonei	1
Leaf Warblers and allies	Phylloscopidae	
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	Phylloscopus ruficapilla	1
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	1
Reed Warblers and allies	Acrocephalidae	
Marsh Warbler	Acrocephalus palustris	1
African Yellow Warbler	Iduna natalensis	1
Mountain Yellow Warbler	Iduna similis	1
Grassbirds and allies	Locustellidae	
Little Rush Warbler	Bradypterus baboecala	Н
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler	Bradypterus cinnamomeus	1
Evergreen Forest Warbler	Bradypterus lopezi	1
Fan-tailed Grassbird	Schoenicola brevirostris	1
Cisticolas and allies	Cisticolidae	
Red-faced Cisticola	Cisticola erythrops	1
Singing Cisticola	Cisticola cantans	1
Trilling Cisticola	Cisticola woosnami	1
Black-lored Cisticola	Cisticola nigriloris	1
Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana	1
Churring Cisticola	Cisticola njombe	1
Wailing Cisticola	Cisticola lais	1
Croaking Cisticola	Cisticola natalensis	1
Short-winged Cisticola	Cisticola brachypterus	1
Neddicky	Cisticola fulvicapilla	1
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1
Wing-snapping Cisticola	Cisticola ayresii	Н



Chats, Old World Flycatchers	Muscicapidae	
Abyssinian Thrush	Turdus abyssinicus	Н
Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus libonyana	1
Orange Ground Thrush	Geokichla gurneyi	1
Thrushes	Turdidae	
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus	1
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus africanus	1
Oxpeckers	Buphagidae	
Waller's Starling	Onychognathus walleri	1
Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio	1
Violet-backed Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster	1
Meves's Starling	Lamprotornis mevesii	1
Miombo Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis elisabeth	1
Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus	1
Starlings, Rhabdornis	Sturnidae	
African Spotted Creeper	Salpornis salvadori	1
Treecreepers	Certhiidae	
Southern Hyliota	<i>Hyliota australis</i>	1
Yellow-bellied Hyliota	Hyliota flavigaster	1
Hyliotas	Hyliotidae	
African Yellow White-eye	Zosterops senegalensis	1
White-eyes	Zosteropidae	
Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	1
Sylviid Babblers	Sylviidae	
Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides jardineii	1
Laughingthrushes	Leiothrichidae	
Green-capped Eremomela	Eremomela scotops	1
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	Calamonastes stierlingi	1
Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata	1
Green-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brachyura	1
Brown-headed Apalis	Apalis alticola	H
Chapin's Apalis	Apalis chapini	1
White-winged Apalis - VU Black-headed Apalis	Apalis melanocephala	1
Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida Apalis chariessa	1
Yellow-throated Apalis - EN	Apalis flavigularis	
Bar-throated Apalis	Apalis thoracica	1
Red-winged Warbler	Heliolais erythropterus	1
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	-



Bearded Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas quadrivirgata	1
Miombo Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas barbata	1
White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys	1
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	Myioparus plumbeus	1
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher	Melaenornis fischeri	1
Southern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis pammelaina	1
Pale Flycatcher	Melaenornis pallidus	1
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	1
Ashy Flycatcher	Muscicapa caerulescens	1
African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta	1
Böhm's Flycatcher	Muscicapa boehmi	1
White-chested Alethe	Pseudalethe fuelleborni	1
Thyolo Alethe - EN	Pseudalethe choloensis	1
Olive-flanked Ground Robin	Cossypha anomala	1
Cape Robin-Chat	Cossypha caffra	1
White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini	1
Red-capped Robin-Chat	Cossypha natalensis	1
White-starred Robin	Pogonocichla stellata	1
Collared Palm Thrush	Cichladusa arquata	1
Collared Flycatcher	Ficedula albicollis	1
Miombo Rock Thrush	Monticola angolensis	1
African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus	1
Arnott's Chat	Myrmecocichla arnotti	1
Boulder Chat	Pinarornis plumosus	1
Sunbirds	Nectariniidae	
Anchieta's Sunbird	Anthreptes anchietae	1
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	Anthreptes longuemarei	1
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris	1
Olive Sunbird	Cyanomitra olivacea	1
Amethyst Sunbird	Chalcomitra amethystina	1
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis	1
Bronzy Sunbird	Nectarinia kilimensis	1
Malachite Sunbird	Nectarinia famosa	1
Scarlet-tufted Sunbird	Nectarinia johnstoni	Н
Whyte's Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris whytei	1
Forest Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris fuelleborni	1
Purple-banded Sunbird	Cinnyris bifasciatus	1
Variable Sunbird	Cinnyris venustus	1
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches	Passeridae	



House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	1
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer griseus	1
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer diffusus	1
Yellow-throated Petronia	Gymnoris superciliaris	1
Weavers, Widowbirds	Ploceidae	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser mahali	1
Thick-billed Weaver	Amblyospiza albifrons	1
Bertram's Weaver	Ploceus bertrandi	1
Spectacled Weaver	Ploceus ocularis	1
Eastern Golden Weaver	Ploceus subaureus	1
Holub's Golden Weaver	Ploceus xanthops	1
Southern Brown-throated Weaver	Ploceus xanthopterus	1
Lesser Masked Weaver	Ploceus intermedius	1
Southern Masked Weaver	Ploceus velatus	1
Village Weaver	Ploceus cucullatus	1
Dark-backed Weaver	Ploceus bicolor	1
Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea	1
Black-winged Red Bishop	Euplectes hordeaceus	1
Yellow Bishop	Euplectes capensis	1
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	Euplectes macroura	1
Montane Widowbird	Euplectes psammacromius	1
Red-collared Widowbird	Euplectes ardens	1
Waxbills, Munias and allies	Estrildidae	
Orange-winged Pytilia	Pytilia afra	1
Green Twinspot	Mandingoa nitidula	1
Red-faced Crimsonwing	Cryptospiza reichenovii	1
Lesser Seedcracker	Pyrenestes minor	1
Red-throated Twinspot	Hypargos niveoguttatus	1
Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala	1
African Firefinch	Lagonosticta rubricata	1
Jameson's Firefinch	Lagonosticta rhodopareia	1
Blue Waxbill	Uraeginthus angolensis	1
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	Coccopygia quartinia	1
Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild	1
Orange-breasted Waxbill	Amandava subflava	1
Locust Finch	Paludipasser locustella	1
Bronze Mannikin	Lonchura cucullata	1
Red-backed Mannikin	Lonchura nigriceps	1
Indigobirds, Whydahs	Viduidae	



Village Indigobird	Vidua chalybeata	1
Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura	1
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	Vidua paradisaea	1
Wagtails, Pipits	Motacillidae	
Mountain Wagtail	Motacilla clara	1
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp	1
Yellow-throated Longclaw	Macronyx croceus	1
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus	1
Wood Pipit	Anthus nyassae	1
Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	1
Striped Pipit	Anthus lineiventris	1
Finches	Fringillidae	
Southern Citril	Crithagra hyposticta	1
Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra mozambica	1
Brimstone Canary	Crithagra sulphurata	1
Reichard's Seedeater	Crithagra reichardi	1
Black-eared Seedeater	Crithagra mennelli	1
Yellow-browed Seedeater	Crithagra whytii	1
Yellow-crowned Canary	Serinus flavivertex	1
Buntings, New World Sparrows	Emberizidae	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi	1
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris	1
Cabanis's Bunting	Emberiza cabanisi	1
TOTAL		380

Common Name	Scientific Name	Trip
	PRIMATES	
	Cercopithecidae	
Yellow Baboon	Papio cynocephalus	1
Vervet Monkey	Chlorocebus pygerythrus	1
Samango Monkey	Cercopithecus mitis labiatus	1
	Galagidae	
Thick-tailed Greater Galago	Otolemur crassicaudatus	Н
	LAGOMORPHA	
	Leporidae	
Scrub Hare	Lepus saxatilis	1
	RODENTIA	



	Sciuridae	
Red Bush Squirrel	Paraxerus palliatus	1
Smith's Bush Squirrel	Paraxerus cepapi	1
	Thryonomyidae	
Greater Cane Rat	Thryonomys swinderianus	1
	CARNIVORA	
	Canidae	
Side striped Jackal	Canis adustus	1
	Herpestidae	
Meller's Mongoose	Rhynchogale melleri	1
Common Slender Mongoose	Herpestes sanguineus	1
Marsh Mongoose	Atilax paludinosus	1
White-tailed Mongoose	Ichneumia albicauda	1
	Viverridae	
Large-spotted Genet	Genetta maculata	1
African Civet	Civettictis civetta	1
	MACROSCELIDEA	
	Macroscelididae	
Short-snouted Sengi	Elephantulus brachyrhynchus	1
	PROBOSCIDEA	
	Elephantidae	
African Elephant	Loxodonta africana	1
	PERISSODACTYLA	
	Equidae	
Plains Zebra	Equus quagga	1
	CETARTIODACTYLA	
	Suidae	
Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus	1
	Hippopotamidae	
Hippopotamus	Hippopotamus amphibius	1
	Bovidae	
African Buffalo	Syncerus caffer	1
Common Eland	Tragelaphus oryx	1
Greater Kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros	1
Nyala	Tragelaphus angasii	1
Bushbuck	Tragelaphus scriptus	1
Roan Antelope	Hippotragus equinus	1
Sable Antelope	Hippotragus niger	1
Waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus	1



Southern Reedbuck	Redunca arundinum	1
Impala	Aepyceros melampus	1
Suni	Neotragus moschatus	1
Oribi	Ourebia ourebi	1
Common Duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia	1
TOTAL		32

