

# HIGHLAND ZIMBABWE TO COASTAL MOZAMBIQUE SET DEPARTURE BIRDING TRIP REPORT

#### 21 NOVEMBER – 05 DECEMBER 2023

By Dominic Rollinson



African Pitta performed beautifully for us in the lowland forests of Mozambique.



#### Overview

Zimbabwe and Mozambique are incredibly bird-diverse countries and this set departure birding tour exemplified this avian diversity as we birded miombo woodlands, lush open floodplains, tropical savannas, highland and lowland forests and coastal mudflats, ensuring a good selection of highly desirable bird species. This Zimbabwe and Mozambique birding tour is timed to ensure that we have an excellent chance of seeing the mythical **African Pitta**, and we were successful in finding this most-wanted species and enjoyed prolonged views of a displaying male. Due to various logistical constraints, relatively few birders get to visit these under-birded countries, however, for those who are willing to venture off the beaten track, fantastic birding awaits!

We started in Harare, where we birded nearby miombo woodlands and open floodplains which kickstarted our bird list with the likes of Boulder Chat, African Spotted Creeper, Green-backed Honeybird, Miombo Rock Thrush and Wood Pipit, before we made our way to the picturesque Eastern Highlands (adding Blue Swallow en route). As always, the birding here was excellent as we found various forest specials such as Swynnerton's Robin, Red-faced Crimsonwing, Chirinda Apalis, Roberts's Warbler, Orange Ground Thrush, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Buff-spotted Flufftail and had brief views of the most-wanted Lesser Seedcracker. Some lower altitude specials seen away from the forests included Marsh Tchagra, Moustached Grass Warbler, Red-winged Prinia and Black-winged Bishop.



We could not have asked for better views of **Swynnerton's Robin** in the Byumba Mountains.

We then said goodbye to Zimbabwe and crossed into the lowlands of Mozambique. We birded the savannas and floodplains of Gorongosa National Park, which were packed full of large mammals



as well as some classy birds such as African Skimmer, Long-toed Lapwing, White-headed Vulture, Bateleur and Collared Palm Thrush. We then excitedly transitioned to the lowland forests near the Zambezi delta where, after extensive searching, we eventually found African Pitta, as well as some other specials such as White-chested Alethe, East Coast Akalat, Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, African Broadbill, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Livingstone's Flycatcher and Lowland Tiny Greenbul. The trip finished as we birded the coastal grassland and mudflats near to Beira, which further added Rufous-bellied Heron and several interesting shorebird species.



East Coast Akalats were rather confiding in the coutadas of Mozambique.

Despite this being our set departure tour, we were able to make the trip happen with just two clients and so essentially ran the tour as a private trip for Barbara and Chris. As such, we birded at a slightly more leisurely pace at times and enjoyed taking some time off to relax, which meant the total bird list was not as high as we might normally get on this trip, nevertheless, we found most of our targets and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. We recorded 352 bird species in Zimbabwe and Mozambique as well as a range of interesting mammal species. Complete bird, mammal and reptile/amphibian checklists can be found at the end of this report.

### **Detailed Report**

#### Day 1, 21st November 2023. Arrival in Harare and Christon Bank birding

Chris, Barbara and I met in Johannesburg Airport, still wiping sleep from our eyes as we boarded the red-eye flight to Harare. We were, however, really excited about the prospect of two weeks of



fun birding in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. After arriving in Harare, we met our local driver, Fungai, who took us straight to our hotel. We settled in, had an enjoyable lunch and then headed north of the city to a patch of miombo woodland, known as <a href="Christon Bank">Christon Bank</a>. Here, the primary target was <a href="Boulder Chat">Boulder Chat</a>, which did not take much effort to find, and we managed to see at least three individuals as they hopped across the large boulders and gave their high-pitched musical song. As can often be the case with miombo birding, the woodlands were very quiet, nevertheless, we did eventually find a feeding party which held Black-collared Barbet, Black-backed Puffback, Barthroated Apalis, Willow Warbler and Amethyst, Scarlet-chested and Eastern Miombo Sunbirds. On our drive back, Fungai spotted a Lizard Buzzard, while a small wetland delivered White-faced Whistling Duck, Little Grebe and Common Moorhen. After an enjoyable first afternoon's birding, we headed back to our Harare hotel for a tasty meal, and excitedly discussed our trip and the birds we were hoping to find.



Boulder Chat was seen well at Christon Bank, near Harare.

#### Day 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. Miombo birding in Haka Park

We had an early start this morning as we made our way to the nearby <u>Haka Park</u>, which is an impressive nature reserve right on the edge of the hustle and bustle of Harare. Upon entering the tranquility of the park's thick miombo woodlands and open floodplains, we soon forgot that we were just a few short kilometers from the country's capital city. The birding started in earnest this morning, we kept at it and managed to tick off many of our targets. Miombo birding is centered around finding feeding bird parties and then sticking with them while various species filter in and out. Using this method, we managed to find **White-breasted Cuckooshrike**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Grey Penduline Tit**, **Long-**



billed Crombec, Southern Yellow White-eye, White-throated Robin-Chat, Eastern Miombo Sunbird and Streaky-headed Seedeater.



Eastern Miombo Sunbirds were common and conspicuous across Zimbabwe.

After a couple of hours birding the miombo woodlands we headed out into the open floodplains where we looked for Rosy-throated Longclaw, which would unfortunately not oblige. Nevertheless, we did find **Buffy Pipit**, **Yellow-throated Longclaw**, **Croaking**, **Zitting** and **Palecrowned Cisticolas** and **Abdim's Stork**. Birding the woodland thickets in the floodplain, we eventually managed to find a **Whyte's Barbet** as well as the bright and noisy **Purple-crested Turaco**.

After a long and productive morning, we headed back into the city for our lunch and some time off during the heat of the day. We ventured out again in the late afternoon to try to track down some of our remaining targets. We once again visited Haka Park and decided to bird the open floodplain first off, where we soon found Yellow-mantled Widowbird, Cuckoo-finch, Copper Sunbird, Buffy Pipit, Desert Cisticola, African Grey Hornbill, African Wattled Lapwing and more Abdim's Storks. The woodlands were again a little on the quiet side, however, some persistence eventually saw us adding Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Cardinal Woodpecker, Black Cuckooshrike, Arrow-marked Babbler, Kurrichane Thrush and a brief African Cuckoo-Hawk. Tired, but content, we made our way back for another delicious meal for our final night in Harare.



#### Day 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. Transfer to Honde Valley, birding en route

With several important miombo specials still missing, we decided to leave the city early and spend a couple of hours birding the miombo woodlands of <u>Gosho Park</u>, about 70 km southeast of Harare. The woodlands proved much livelier, compared to the last two days, and by again working through feeding parties, we soon ticked off the likes of **Green-capped Eremomela** (a classic feeding party starter!), **Chinspot Batis**, **Tropical Boubou**, **Miombo Tit**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **Miombo Rock Thrush**, **Green-backed Honeybird**, **Wood Pipit**, **Violet-backed Starling**, **Black-eared Seedeater** and **Golden-breasted Bunting**. There were also good numbers of **Whyte's Barbets** around too – always a great bird to see!



Miombo Rock Thrush were seen in miombo patches while in Zimbabwe.

We then left Gosho Park and kept making our way southeast towards the Eastern Highlands, however, another stop in some nearby miombo woodlands saw us strike gold when we found an obliging **African Spotted Creeper** and **Collared Flycatcher** within a few minutes of each other. Feeling content, we hopped back in our vehicle and proceeded with our journey towards the <u>Honde Valley</u>. After a quick lunch stop, we made a very bumpy detour near Inyanga which eventually resulted in some very distant views of **Blue Swallows** as they fed above the grasslands. Here, we got our first taste of Eastern Highlands birding when we added the likes of **Roberts's Warbler**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Wailing Cisticola** and **Cape Robin-Chat**.





African Spotted Creeper was an early trip highlight.

In the mid-afternoon we started our descent into the Honde Valley (adding **Singing Cisticola** en route) and, after negotiating the long windy road, we eventually arrived at the beautiful Aberfoyle Lodge. After a long day on the road, we decided to take it easy for the remainder of the afternoon and simply took in the beauty of the area while enjoying a glass of wine, with the early evening serenity only broken by the squeals and squabbles of the local **Blue Monkeys** coming from the nearby forests.

## Day 4, 24th November 2023. Honde Valley birding

We had the full day at our disposal to bird the Honde Valley and surrounds and decided to make an early start as we headed to the nearby Katiyo Tea Estate with Aberfoyle Lodge's expert bird guide, Morgan. At the tea estate we targeted several lowland specials, as we worked our way through the various wetlands and forest patches scattered throughout the area. In the wetland areas and adjacent scrub we managed to find Marsh Tchagra, Moustached Grass Warbler, Shortwinged Cisticola (heard only), Red-winged Prinia, Holub's Golden Weaver, Black-winged Bishop and African Firefinch. The lowland forest patches were equally productive as we added the likes of Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Livingstone's Turaco, Crowned Hornbill, White-eared Barbet, Lesser Honeyguide, African Broadbill, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Pale Batis, Black Saw-wing, Purple-banded Sunbird, Grey Waxbill and Red-throated Twinspot.

It didn't take long before the oppressive mid-morning heat of the lowlands forced our birding to a stop and so we started making our way back to our lodge for lunch. En route we stopped near the



Pungwe River, which added further new birds such as **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill**, **Chirinda Apalis**, and a large swift flock containing **Scarce** and **Mottled Swifts**.



Massive Silvery-cheeked Hornbills kept us entertained in the Eastern Highlands.

After lunch and some early afternoon downtime, we headed out again with Morgan and worked hard to find **Little Spotted Woodpecker** while, unfortunately, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeons would not show for us. Next, Morgan took us to an area where he had recently seen the rare Lesser Seedcracker. After waiting at the stakeout for a while, a small dark finch flew by which we strongly suspected was the seedcracker. We then called Morgan over and crept up closer to the bush, the bird then flew out of the bush and right past Chris and Morgan, who confirmed the identity as **Lesser Seedcracker**. It was disappointing that we didn't all manage good views, however, it was a fantastic way to end another great day of birding.

#### Day 5: 25th November 2023. Honde Valley birding and transfer to Byumba

For our final morning at <u>Aberfoyle Lodge</u> we took a walk around the lodge grounds. This was a little slow going, but we did manage to find a few more good birds such as **Palm-nut Vulture**, **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, **African Black Duck**, **Half-collared Kingfisher** (only seen by me), **Olive** and **Variable Sunbirds**, **Dark-backed Weaver**, **Yellow Bishop**, **Black-and-white Mannikin**, **Green Twinspot**, **Grey Waxbill** and **Mountain Wagtail**.

Unfortunately, it was soon time to leave Aberfoyle Lodge and make our way south to the <u>Bvumba Mountains</u>, where we were staying at the lovely <u>Seldomseen Guest Cottages</u>. The guest cottages



are set right in prime highland forest, with some great birding right on our doorstep. In the late afternoon we took a stroll around the forest, where we were soon acquainted with some of the area's common forest species, such as Livingstone's Turaco, Cape Batis, Black-fronted Bushshrike, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Roberts's Warbler, Chirinda Apalis, Barratt's Warbler (heard only), Stripe-cheeked Greenbul, White-starred Robin and Cape Canary. We heard Swynnerton's Robin calling nearby, however, despite a dedicated search, we were unable to find this forest skulker. That evening we enjoyed a beautiful sunset and, while we sat outside enjoying a drink, we were lucky enough to find a lovely male Bronzy Sunbird which posed well for us in the dying light.



Mountain Wagtails were seen in the stream near Aberfoyle Lodge.

## Day 6, 26th November 2023. Byumba Mountains birding

This morning, we were joined by Bulawesi, the local bird guide who knows the area and its birds like the back of his hand. We again worked the forests and spent time birding along the forest trails and from the road edges, and soon racked up a good list of forest species, including the likes of Livingstone's Turaco, African Emerald Cuckoo, Scaly-throated Honeyguide (seen briefly), Cape Batis, Olive Bushshrike, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Terrestrial Brownbul, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Orange Ground Thrush, Olive Thrush, Red-capped Robin-Chat, White-starred Robin, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and a few brief sightings of Red-faced Crimsonwings. One of the absolute highlights of the morning was when we had lovely views of a male Buff-spotted Flufftail, which walked out in the open and was then chased by another male. Flufftails are Africa's supreme avian skulkers and it was amazing to have the rare chance to watch



these birds out in the open. Non-birding highlights included several sightings of **Mutable Sun Squirrels**, which were seen scurrying about the treetops, as well as brief views of a **Blue Duiker**.

After a couple of hours of forest birding, we made our way out into the nearby grasslands to see if we could improve our views of Blue Swallow. Unfortunately, we could not find any of these rare swallows. We did, however, find Horus Swift, Wahlberg's Eagle, Common Buzzard, Cape Grassbird, Singing and Wailing Cisticolas, African Yellow Warbler, Western House Martin and African Firefinch.

For our afternoon birding we headed to the nearby Bvumba Botanical Garden, which is a lovely birding spot with open lawns interspersed with forest patches. We mostly concentrated on the forest patches, where the highlight was a confiding Swynnerton's Robin, which showed beautifully for us. Other notable species here included Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Cape Batis, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Chirinda Apalis, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Holub's Golden Weaver and Cape Canary. We searched the garden's lawns for the migratory Tree Pipit, however, with the area as dry as it was, we speculated that this species was yet to arrive in the area in good numbers. Thus concluded another wonderful day's birding, with just about all the area's highland forest specials having made their way onto our list.



White-tailed Crested Flycatchers were common and confiding in the Mbumba Mountains.

## Day 7, 27th November 2023. Byumba Mountains birding

This morning, we birded the miombo woodlands on the lower slopes of the Bvumba Mountains, where we were after our final few miombo specials. Bulawesi took us to a patch of miombo, where we mostly focused on finding Cinnamon-breasted Tit, which unfortunately proved elusive. We



did, however, find African Olive Pigeon, Mottled and African Black Swifts, Red-faced Crombec, Green-capped Eremomela, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Striped Pipit, Black-eared Seedeater and Cabanis's Bunting.



Black-eared Seedeater tucking into a juicy insect.

We then proceeded to drop in altitude as we made our way down to the Burma Valley. Here we targeted woodland and open country species and found the likes of Augur Buzzard, Peregrine and Lanner Falcons, Black Cuckooshrike, African Golden Oriole, Black-crowned Tchagra, Green-winged Pytilia and Jameson's Firefinch. In the late morning the lowlands had heated up significantly and we again decided to head back to our accommodation to enjoy lunch and some downtime before our afternoon birding session.

In the late afternoon we had another go at Blue Swallow and waited on the edge of a dam where the swallows often come to drink. Despite many other aerial feeders feeding above the dam, we could not find any Blue Swallows. Some of the afternoon's highlights while birding from the edge of the dam included Alpine, Common, Little, White-rumped and African Palm Swifts, Western House Martin, European Honey Buzzard, Brown Snake Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Black Sparrowhawk, African Yellow Warbler and a displaying Fan-tailed Grassbird.

## Day 8, 28th November 2023. Transfer to Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique

Our final morning around Seldomseen did not produce much different, however, we did get further looks at White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Bronzy Sunbird and Yellow-bellied Waxbill, before



enjoying our final delicious sit-down breakfast. We then packed our bags and made our way to the Mozambique border. Thankfully, the border crossing was relatively straightforward and we soon said our goodbyes to our Zimbabwean driver, Fungai, and were welcomed by our Mozambiquan driver, Esmeraldo.

We were soon on our way through Mozambique and bought supplies in the town of Chimoio, before making our way north towards <u>Gorongosa National Park</u>. We birded the woodlands outside of the park, which were quiet, however, we found **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **Lizard Buzzard**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Little Bee-eater**, a confiding **Stierling's Wren-Warbler**, as well as a small herd of the *lichtensteinii* subspecies of **Hartebeest**, which is sometimes considered a full species. We then checked into our accommodation and enjoyed our first of many traditional Mozambican (Portuguese) dinners.

## Day 9, 29th November 2023. Gorongosa National Park birding

Gorongosa National Park has been restocked with megafauna since the end of the civil war and nowadays has vast herds of antelope with good numbers of predators too, making it on par with some of Africa's top wildlife havens. This morning, we had a private game drive on an open-top safari vehicle with a highly experienced ranger, which was a thoroughly enjoyable way to see the park and its amazing wildlife and birdlife. The birding was wildly productive and, while traversing the vast Urema Floodplain, we added the likes of **Knob-billed Duck**, **Blue-billed Teal**, **Rednecked Spurfowl**, **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Long-toed Lapwing**, **Collared Pratincole**, **African Skimmer**, **African Openbill**, **Saddle-billed** and **African Woolly-necked Storks**, **Goliath Heron**, **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, **White-winged Widowbird** and **Black-winged Bishop**.



Attractive Red-necked Spurfowl were common in Gorongosa National Park.



The woodlands and savanna areas further added Palm-nut, White-headed, Hooded and White-backed Vultures, Bateleur, Crowned, Martial and Wahlberg's Eagles, Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Southern Ground Hornbill, Broad-billed Roller, Redwinged Prinia, Collared Palm Thrush and Lemon-breasted Canary. Some of the mammalian highlights for the morning included African Elephant, Common Warthog, Hippopotamus, Greater Kudu, Southern Reedbuck, Oribi, Nyala, Cape Bushbuck and Impala, with massive herds of Waterbuck littered across the Urema Floodplain. The large troops of both Vervet Monkeys and Chacma Baboons further kept us entertained, as we enjoyed watching them getting up to mischief.



This huge Verreaux's Eagle-Owl was seen in Gorongosa National Park.

This afternoon we again headed out on a private open-top vehicle, but this time headed to a different section of the park where we birded taller grassland areas and open woodland areas. Highlights of the afternoon's drive included Black-bellied Bustard, Saddle-billed Stork, Pink-backed Pelican, Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Mosque Swallow, Red-necked and Amur Falcons, Broad-billed Roller and Black-chested Snake Eagle. We drove back in the dark and further added Water Thick-knee and Grant's Lesser Galago. We returned to camp and enjoyed another tasty meal which capped off a wonderful day's birding and wildlife-viewing.



## Days 10-13, 30<sup>th</sup> November-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. Transfer to and birding the lowland forests of the Zambezi River delta area

We left Gorongosa early in the morning (with a family of **Bushpigs** seen as we left) and took the long and bumpy road north to the Catapu area, where we were based for the next four nights to explore the lowland forests of the area. En route northwards, we stopped briefly at a patch of lowland forest, which held a single **Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo**, a very rare intra-African migrant to central Mozambique. We then had three full days to bird the Catapu area, summarised in a single account below.

During our time up north, we spent a lot of time birding the lowland forests of the *coutadas* (concessions) where we mostly concentrated on finding **African Pitta** and other forest specials. Some of our highlights deep in the lowland forests included **Southern Crested Guineafowl**, **Green Malkoha**, **African Broadbill**, **Woodwards' Batis**, **Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike**, **Eastern Nicator**, **Black-headed Apalis**, **Lowland Tiny Greenbul**, **East Coast Akalat**, **White-chested Alethe** and **Red-throated Twinspot**. The undoubted highlight of our time in the deep dense lowland forests was our fantastic views of a displaying **African Pitta**. We were beginning to get anxious about our prospects of seeing the elusive pitta when we hadn't even heard a bird calling but, thankfully, on our final morning in the *coutadas*, a showy bird obliged!



We were overjoyed with our views of African Pitta.

The open woodland areas held a different mix of species and yielded the likes of Livingstone's Flycatcher, Mangrove Kingfisher, Plain-backed Sunbird, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, African Goshawk, Crowned



Eagle, Brown-necked Parrot, Pale Batis, Red-winged Prinia, Mosque Swallow, Retz's Helmetshrike, Little Sparrowhawk and Purple-crested Turaco. Non-birding highlights in the woodlands and lowland forests included many Suni and Natal Red Duiker which were regularly seen diving off the road into thick bush.



Cute and energetic **Livingstone's Flycatchers** were common in the lowlands of central Mozambique.

On one of our mornings in the area we attempted to reach the Senna area on the edge of the Zambezi River, the only known locality to see Böhm's Bee-eater in the southern African subregion. Unfortunately, with the large amount of rain the area had recently received, and after almost three hours of extremely slow progress, we decided we would have to cancel this trip. We did, however, add **Rufous-winged Cisticola** and **Southern Brown-throated Weaver** on this failed bee-eater excursion.

## Day 14, 4th December 2023. Long transfer to the coast at Beira

Today's transfer was a long one and so we decided to hit the road early and try to get most of the drive out of the way in the morning. We had a few lunch and toilet stops en route, but otherwise drove straight through and arrived in Beira in the early afternoon.

After a long time in the car, we took it easy for a while before some late afternoon birding along a stretch of coastline in front of our hotel. This did not add a great deal of interest, besides **Caspian** and **Common Terns**, **Grey-headed Gull**, **Little Egret** and hoards of the introduced **House Crow**,



but was a pleasant way to spend our final afternoon of birding. This evening we enjoyed a seafood dinner on the coast and discussed some of our favorite birds of the trip being an easy one, **African Pitta**.



**African Broadbill** were watched as they gave their mechanical-sounding display flight in the coutadas.

## Day 15, 05th December 2023. Departure from Beira

For our final morning of the trip we took a drive through some coastal grasslands on the way to the Rio Maria mouth to see if we could find any interesting shorebirds. We had vague hopes of finding Crab-plover but knew it was a long shot here and, unfortunately, luck was not on our side this morning. Nevertheless, as we drove through the grasslands, we put up a flock of **Orange-breasted Waxbills** and managed to see a single **Rufous-bellied Heron**, both of which were new trip birds. At the estuary mouth we found a good selection of shorebirds, including **Grey**, **Common Ringed**, **Three-banded** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Eurasian Curlew**, **Sanderling**, **Little Stint**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Common Greenshank**. We then headed back to our accommodation to have breakfast and pack our bags, before a final transfer to the airport (adding two last-minute trip birds en route – **African Marsh Harrier** and **Purple Heron**), where the trip concluded. Thanks to Barbara and Chris for making this trip the success it was, and for the many great birds, memories and laughs along the way.



## **Bird List - Following IOC (13.2)**

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, birds seen by the guide only are marked with a (L) after the common name, all other species were seen both by clients and guide.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)</b>	
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
Knob-billed Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca
Blue-billed Teal	Spatula hottentota
African Black Duck	Anas sparsa
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
Southern Crested Guineafowl	Guttera edouardi
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae	1
Natal Spurfowl	Pternistis natalensis
Red-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis afer
Red-necked Spuriowi	1 termistis ajer
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Square-tailed Nightjar (H)	Caprimulgus fossii
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Scarce Swift	Schoutedenapus myoptilus
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus
Mottled Swift	Tachymarptis aequatorialis
Common Swift	Apus apus
African Black Swift	Apus barbatus
Little Swift	Apus affinis
Horus Swift	Apus horus
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	Crinifer concolor
Purple-crested Turaco	Gallirex porphyreolophus
Livingstone's Turaco	Tauraco livingstonii





**Scientific Name** 

**Common Name** 

Plovers (Charadriidae)



Microcarbo africanus

Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)

Reed Cormorant

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornith	idae)
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Rufous-bellied Heron	Ardeola rufiventris
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala
Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus
Pink-backed Pelican	Pelecanus rufescens
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitrida	ae)
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus
Palm-nut Vulture	Gypohierax angolensis
European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus
African Cuckoo-Hawk	Aviceda cuculoides
Hooded Vulture - CR	Necrosyrtes monachus
White-backed Vulture - CR	Gyps africanus
White-headed Vulture - CR	Trigonoceps occipitalis
Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus pectoralis
Brown Snake Eagle	Circaetus cinereus
Southern Banded Snake Eagle	Circaetus fasciolatus
Bateleur - EN	Terathopius ecaudatus
Crowned Eagle	Stephanoaetus coronatus
Martial Eagle - EN	Polemaetus bellicosus
Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus occipitalis
Wahlberg's Eagle	Hieraaetus wahlbergi
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	Hieraaetus ayresii
Lizard Buzzard	Kaupifalco monogrammicus
African Goshawk	Accipiter tachiro



Common Name	Scientific Name
Little Sparrowhawk	Accipiter minullus
Ovambo Sparrowhawk	Accipiter ovampensis
Black Sparrowhawk	Accipiter melanoleucus
African Marsh Harrier	Circus ranivorus
Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius
African Fish Eagle	Icthyophaga vocifer
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo
Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur
Owls (Strigidae)	
African Barred Owlet (H)	Glaucidium capense
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Ketupa lactea
African Wood Owl (H)	Strix woodfordii
7 mican wood owi (ii)	Sirix woodjoruu
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus
Twogong (Trogonides)	
Trogons (Trogonidae)	Anglodowng naving
Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	Upupa africana
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus
Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas
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Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	Bucorvus leadbeateri
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Crowned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus
Trumpeter Hornbill	Bycanistes bucinator
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	Bycanistes brevis
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus
European Roller	Coracias garrulus
Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris



Common Name	Scientific Name
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti
Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis
Mangrove Kingfisher	Halcyon senegaloides
African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina picta
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus
Half-collared Kingfisher (L)	Alcedo semitorquata
Giant Kingfisher (H)	Megaceryle maxima
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	Merops hirundineus
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	Merops nubicoides
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
White-eared Barbet	Stactolaema leucotis
Whyte's Barbet	Stactolaema whytii
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus
Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus
Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Green-backed Honeybird	Prodotiscus zambesiae
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	Indicator variegatus
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Golden-tailed Woodpecker (H)	Campethera abingoni
Little Spotted Woodpecker	Campethera cailliautii
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Red-necked Falcon	Falco chicquera
Amur Falcon	Falco amurensis
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
African & New World Parrots (Ps	
Brown-necked Parrot	Poicephalus fuscicollis
Brown-headed Parrot	Poicephalus cryptoxanthus
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Common Name	Scientific Name
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	·
African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Southern Fiscal	Lanius collaris
Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	Community
House Crow	Corvus splendens
Pied Crow	Corvus albus
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
White-tailed Crested Flycatcher	Elminia albonotata
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	•
Southern Black Tit	Melaniparus niger
Miombo Tit	Melaniparus griseiventris
	· · · ·
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Grey Penduline Tit	Anthoscopus caroli
Nicators (Nicatoridae)	
Eastern Nicator	Nicator gularis
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra africana
Delles le (Decesses d'Alexa)	
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	A. J J
Sombre Greenbul (H)	Andropadus importunus
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Chlorocichla flaviventris
Stripe-cheeked Greenbul	Arizelocichla milanjensis
Lowland Tiny Greenbul Terrestrial Brownbul	Phyllastrephus debilis
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	Phyllastrephus terrestris
	Propositive tricolor
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	)
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia
Blue Swallow - VU	Hirundo atrocaerulea
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
Western House Martin	Delichon urbicum



Common Name	Scientific Name
Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis
Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica
Greater Striped Swallow	Cecropis cucullata
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Crombecs, African Warblers (Mac	rosphenidae)
Moustached Grass Warbler	Melocichla mentalis
Cape Grassbird	Sphenoeacus afer
Red-faced Crombec	Sylvietta whytii
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens
Yellow Flycatchers (Erythrocercida	
Livingstone's Flycatcher	Erythrocercus livingstonei
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	Phylloscopus ruficapilla
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocepha	alidae)
African Yellow Warbler	Iduna natalensis
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Fan-tailed Grassbird	Catriscus brevirostris
Barratt's Warbler (H)	Bradypterus barratti
Little Rush Warbler (H)	Bradypterus baboecala
Cigtical of P. Allier (Cigticalides)	
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	Cisticals and none
Red-faced Cisticola (H)	Cisticola erythrops
Singing Cisticola	Cisticola cantans
Lazy Cisticola (H)	Cisticola aberrans
Rattling Cisticals	Cisticola chiniana
Wailing Cisticola	Cisticola lais
Rufous-winged Cisticola	Cisticola galactotes
Levaillant's Cisticola (H)	Cisticola tinniens
Croaking Cisticola	Cisticola natalensis
Short-winged Cisticola (H)	Cisticola brachypterus
Neddicky (H)	Cisticola fulvicapilla
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis
Pale-crowned Cisticola	Cisticola cinnamomeus
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava
Red-winged Prinia	Prinia erythroptera
Roberts's Warbler	Oreophilais robertsi
Bar-throated Apalis	Apalis thoracica
Yellow-breasted Apalis (H)	Apalis flavida
Black-headed Apalis (L)	Apalis melanocephala



Common Name	Scientific Name
Chirinda Apalis - VU	Apalis chirindensis
Grey-backed Camaroptera (H)	Camaroptera brevicaudata
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	Calamonastes stierlingi
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis
Green-capped Eremomela	Eremomela scotops
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Southern Yellow White-eye	Zosterops anderssoni
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leio	thrichidae)
Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides jardineii
Treecreepers (Certhiidae)	
African Spotted Creeper	Salpornis salvadori
C41 Dll-l	1)
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnid	1
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
Black-bellied Starling	Notopholia corusca
Violet-backed Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus
Red-billed Oxpecker	Bupitagus et ytti ot yttetus
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Boulder Chat	Pinarornis plumosus
Orange Ground Thrush	Geokichla gurneyi
Olive Thrush	Turdus olivaceus
Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus libonyana
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (M	<b>Juscicapidae</b> )
Bearded Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas quadrivirgata
White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys
Pale Flycatcher	Agricola pallidus
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (H)	Fraseria plumbea
Ashy Flycatcher	Fraseria caerulescens
Southern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis pammelaina
African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata
Swynnerton's Robin - VU	Swynnertonia swynnertoni
White-starred Robin	Pogonocichla stellata
White-chested Alethe	Chamaetylas fuelleborni
White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini





Common Name	Scientific Name
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estr	
Bronze Mannikin	Spermestes cucullata
Black-and-white Mannikin	Spermestes bicolor
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	Coccopygia quartinia
Green Twinspot	Mandingoa nitidula
Red-faced Crimsonwing	Cryptospiza reichenovii
Grey Waxbill	Glaucestrilda perreini
Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild
Orange-breasted Waxbill (L)	Amandava subflava
Blue Waxbill	Uraeginthus angolensis
Lesser Seedcracker	Pyrenestes minor
Green-winged Pytilia	Pytilia melba
	-
Red-throated Twinspot Red-billed Firefinch	Hypargos niveoguttatus
	Lagonosticta senegala
African Firefinch	Lagonosticta rubricata
Jameson's Firefinch	Lagonosticta rhodopareia
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduida	e)
Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura
Cuckoo-finch	Anomalospiza imberbis
	Themese spin time eress
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Mountain Wagtail	Motacilla clara
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp
Yellow-throated Longclaw	Macronyx croceus
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus
Wood Pipit	Anthus nyassae
Buffy Pipit	Anthus vaalensis
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Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae	e)
Lemon-breasted Canary	Crithagra citrinipectus
Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra mozambica
Brimstone Canary	Crithagra sulphurata
Streaky-headed Seedeater	Crithagra gularis
Black-eared Seedeater	Crithagra mennelli
Cape Canary	Serinus canicollis
<b>Buntings</b> (Emberizidae)	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris
Cabanis's Bunting	Emberiza cabanisi



Species Seen	327
Species heard only	22
Leader only	3
Total species recorded	352

## **Mammal List**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis
_	
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant - EN	Loxodonta africana
Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)	
African Savanna Hare	Lepus victoriae
Squirrels (Sciuridae)	
Mutable Sun Squirrel	Heliosciurus mutabilis
Smith's Bush Squirrel	Paraxerus cepapi
Galagos (Galagidae)	
Grant's Lesser Galago	Paragalago granti
Old World Monkeys (Cercopith	posidos)
Chacma Baboon	Papio ursinus
Vervet	Chlorocebus pygerythrus
Blue Monkey	Cercopithecus mitis
Bitte Workey	Cercopunecus muis
Mongooses (Herpestidae)	
Slender Mongoose	Herpestes sanguineus
3	, ,
<b>Equines (Equidae)</b>	
Plains Zebra	Equus quagga
Suids (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus
Bushpig	Potamochoerus larvatus
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotami	
Hippopotamus - VU	Hippopotamus amphibius



Common Name	Scientific Name
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Nyala	Tragelaphus angasii
Cape Bushbuck	Tragelaphus sylvaticus
Greater Kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Common Eland	Tragelaphus oryx
Suni	Nesotragus moschatus
Impala	Aepyceros melampus
Oribi	Ourebia ourebi
Southern Reedbuck	Redunca arundinum
Waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus
Hartebeest	Alcelaphus buselaphus
Common Wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus
Blue Duiker	Philantomba monticola
Natal Red Duiker	Cephalophus natalensis
Giraffes and Okapi (Giraffida	ne)
Southern Giraffe	Giraffa giraffa

Species Seen	28

## **Reptile and Amphibian List**

Common name	Scientific name
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	Crocodylus niloticus
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Kirk's Rock Agama	Agama kirkii
Plated Lizards (Gerrhosauridae)	
Common Giant Plated Lizard	Matobosaurus validus
Skinks (Scincidae)	
African Striped Skink	Trachylepis striata
Rainbow Skink	Trachylepis margaritifera

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Species seen: