



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Kenya Mega

9th April – 4th May 2007



Golden Pipit in Shaba GR

All photos by David Hoddinott

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

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Our trip total of 821 species representing 80 families in 25 days reflects the phenomenal birding potential of Kenya, no wonder it's often considered the best birding destination in the world! This trip set a new record for the most species recorded on a 25 day tour to any country in Africa, including over 800 species SEEN!

Participants were treated to all six Kenyan endemics on our route; Jackson's Francolin, William's Lark, Sharpe's Longclaw, Aberdare Cisticola, Hinde's Pied-Babbler and Clarke's Weaver, with other highlights including stunning views of Somali Ostrich with chicks, Dwarf Bittern, all 8 species of Storks, approximately one million Lesser Flamingos at Lake Nakuru, Short-toed Snake-Eagle, Ovampo Sparrowhawk, Vulturine Guineafowl, White-spotted Flufftail, Lesser Moorhen, African Finfoot, Greater Painted-snipe, Crab Plover, Somali Courser, Great Snipe, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Delegorgue's Pigeon, Great Blue Turaco, 11 species of Cuckoos, African Grass-Owl, Sokoke Scops-Owl, Nubian Nightjar, Bat-like Spinetail, White-headed Mousebird, Narina & Bar-tailed Trogon, Blue-headed & Somali Bee-eater, Jackson's Hornbill, Green-backed Honeyguide, Mombasa and Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, African Broadbill, Friedmann's Lark, Golden & Malindi Pipit, Taita Apalis, Basra Reed-Warbler, Turner's Eremomela, Somali Crombec, Gambaga & Chapin's Flycatcher, Blue-shouldered & Gray-winged Robin-chat, Jameson's & Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Amani & Golden-winged Sunbird, Red-naped Bushshrike, Papyrus Gonolek, Abbott's & Magpie Starling, Somali Sparrow, Rufous-tailed Weaver, Fire-fronted Bishop, Locustfinch and Steel-blue Whydah.

Whilst the focus of the tour was certainly the rich assemblage of Kenyan endemics and East African specialties, we did not neglect the amazing diversity of mammals, ending up with 78 species. Some of the highlights included the big five and memorable Leopard & Cheetah sightings, the rare Angola Colobus & De Brazza's Monkey, Giant Forest Hog, Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk, Suni, Sable Antelope and Grevy's Zebra.

For more highlights and a detailed trip report read on

Tour Summary

Our record breaking tour started off in Nairobi where we had superb views of the interaction between a Common Fiscal and a Bronze Sunbird, the fiscal was seen stealing nesting material from the sunbirds nest. We watched as the irate male Bronze Sunbird tried in vain to protect his nest. Shortly afterwards we took a flight to the coastal town of Mombasa and after a delicious lunch drove down to the magical Shimba Hills NP. Our stay in this seldom visited park produced some wonderful birds and mammals including Palmnut Vulture, a pair of Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Eurasian Hobby, a friendly flock of Crested Guineafowl, stunning Fischer's Turaco, rare Lesser Cuckoo, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Crowned, Trumpeter and noisy Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, White-eared Barbet, Green-backed Woodpecker, displaying Flappet Lark, Red-tailed Anthrush, Croaking and Siffling Cisticola, Black-headed Apalis, Green-headed Oriole, Retz's Helmetshrike and Black-bellied Starling. Mammal highlights included regal Sable Antelope and the rare Angola Colobus Monkey.

Next we traveled to the rich Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and during our time in this diverse area we also visited Mida Creek, Sabaki River Mouth and Gongoni. Highlights included Dimorphic Egret, Short-toed Snake-Eagle (only the third record for Kenya), Little Sparrowhawk, Red-necked Falcon, the bizarre Crab Plover (a new family for several participants), migrant Madagascar Pratincole, Lesser Sandplover, Sooty Gull, melanistic Levaillant's Cuckoo, cute and highly sought after Sokoke Scops-Owl, Nubian and Fiery-necked Nightjar, Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, Bat-like Spinetail, Green Tinkerbird, Mombasa Woodpecker, Malindi and Sokoke Pipit, Short-tailed and Pale Batis, Yellow Flycatcher, African Crested-Flycatcher, elusive Scaly Babbler, Plain-backed and rare Amani Sunbird, Golden Palm and Clarke's Weaver and Zanzibar Bishop.



From Sabaki River Mouth we traveled to Tsavo East NP, highlights here included the majestic Verreaux's Eagle, Pygmy and Amur Falcon, Hartlaub's Bustard, Black-faced Sandgrouse, tiny Pearl-spotted Owllet, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Spot-flanked Barbet, Red-winged Lark, Gray-headed Bushshrike and Amethyst and localized Black-bellied Sunbird.

En route to Tsavo West NP we stopped at the Taita Hills that produced Striped Pipit, Stripe-faced Bulbul, rare Taita Apalis, beautiful White-starred Robin, Taita White-eye and Yellow-throated Wood-Warbler.

Tsavo West produced a wealth of dry country species and was certainly one of the highlights of the trip. Noteworthy species included African Hawk-Eagle, unique Secretarybird, Red-footed Falcon, Hildebrandt's Francolin, flocks of splendid Vulturine Guineafowl, White-bellied and Buff-crested Bustard, Double-banded Courser, Red-bellied Parrot, Eurasian and Plain Nightjar, nesting Somali Bee-eater, Abyssinian Scimitar-bill, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Pangani Longclaw, African Bare-eyed Thrush, Pale Prinia, Red-fronted Warbler, Moustached Grass-Warbler, migrant Basra Reed and Upcher's Warbler, Spotted Morning-Thrush, Pygmy Batis, Tsavo Sunbird, Rufous-tailed Shrike, Pringle's Puffback, Three-streaked Tchagra, highly elusive Red-naped Bushshrike, Fischer's Starling, localized Taveta Golden Weaver, Jameson's Firefinch, Blue-capped Cordonblue and beautiful Straw-tailed Whydah.

Then we were off to the Magadi Road that produced some fantastic birds including a large flock of Abdim's Stork, European and White-throated Bee-eater, Short-tailed Lark, Lynes' and Tiny Cisticola, Capped Wheatear, Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit, Chestnut Sparrow, Gray-headed Social-Weaver, stunning Purple Grenadier, Black-cheeked Waxbill, rare Steel-blue Whydah and Southern Grosbeak-Canary.

Leaving the dry country we traveled to the forested area of Thika, birding in the wonderful gardens with its cascading waterfalls produced some memorable birds including the highly sought after African Finfoot, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, striking White-headed Barbet, scarce Green-backed Honeyguide, Gray-olive Greenbul, Red-faced and Singing Cisticola and African Golden Weaver. Moving on to Kieni Forest we were treated to some forest jewels including Hartlaub's Turaco, magnificent Bar-tailed Trogon, Black-collared, Black-throated and Chestnut-throated Apalis, White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher and elusive Black-fronted Bushshrike. Thereafter we traveled to the Kinangop Plateau that produced several drumming African Snipe, rare Sharpe's Longclaw, Tinkling and Wing-snapping Cisticola and our only Red-throated Pipit.

At Lake Naivasha we spent time in the wonderfully lush hotel grounds, picking up a rare hepatic Common Cuckoo, White-fronted Bee-eater and Black-lored Babbler. A relaxing boat cruise on the lake produced Goliath Heron, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, African Fish-Eagle, Long-toed Lapwing, Gull-billed Tern, Giant Kingfisher, and Heuglin's Gull. Thereafter we traveled to the highland National Park of the Aberdares finding Lesser Kestrel, confiding Jackson's Francolin, Aberdare Cisticola and Moorland Chat.

En route from the Aberdares to Mount Kenya we picked up the localized and elusive Hinde's Pied-Babbler. Our time on Mount Kenya produced a wealth of good forest species including elusive Scaly



Francolin, Delegorgue's Pigeon, Dusky Turtle-Dove, stunning African Emerald Cuckoo, Scarce Swift, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Moustached Tinkerbird, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Eastern Mountain Greenbul, Mountain Yellow Warbler, tiny White-browed Crombec, magnificent Golden-winged Sunbird, Black-tailed Oriole, Sharpe's and rare Abbott's Starling, stunning Abyssinian Crimson-wing, Kandt's Waxbill, beautiful Oriole Finch and Thick-billed Seed-eater. On the lower slopes we found Black Stork, Black-breasted Snake-Eagle, Little Rock-Thrush and impressive Jackson's Widowbird.

From the lush forest clad slopes of Mount Kenya we traveled to the dry Acacia savanna parks of Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba. Here we were rewarded with many memorable sightings of rare birds and mammals including; Somali Ostrich with chicks, White-headed Vulture, Small Buttonquail, the impressive Kori Bustard, Spotted Thick-knee, Somali Courser, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Alpine Swift, White-headed Mousebird, Black-throated Barbet, Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, rare William's and Friedmann's Lark, magnificent Golden Pipit, Yellow-vented Eremomela, localised Somali Crombec, Banded Warbler, Somali Tit, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Fan-tailed Raven, magical Golden-breasted Starling, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver, nomadic Fire-fronted Bishop, Red-rumped Waxbill, Cut-throat and Somali Bunting. We also saw dozens of Harlequin Quail and were fortunate to watch a pair of Lanner stooping and catching two, the first of which was stolen by a Tawny Eagle. Mammals included the bizarre Gerenuk, Reticulated Giraffe, Grevy's Zebra and Beisa Oryx. A quick trip to Imenti Forest produced White-eared Barbet, Gray Cuckooshrike and Kenrick's Starling.

En route to Lake Nakuru we picked up African Rail, Cape Eagle-Owl, African Grass-Owl and Rufous-necked Wryneck. Lake Nakuru was spectacular with approximately one million Lesser Flamingo forming a pink lining along the lake edge, other highlights included Cape Teal, Southern Pochard, Steppe Eagle, Pied Avocet, Meyer's Parrot, calling Black Cuckoo, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Nyanza and Horus Swift, splendid Narina Trogon, Violet Woodhoopoe, a pair of Southern Ground-Hornbill, Wahlberg's Honeyguide and striking Mocking Cliff-Chat.



Three-banded Courser near Lake Baringo



Moving on to Lake Baringo we were treated to a host of nocturnal species at their day roost including a pair of cryptic Three-banded Courser, three stunning Northern White-faced Owl, Grayish Eagle-Owl and Slender-tailed Nightjar. Birding in the superb lodge grounds and nearby woodland produced an array of species including Black Heron, Comb Duck, elusive Dwarf Bittern, Lesser Moorhen, Greater Painted-snipe, Woodland Kingfisher, Madagascar Bee-eater, localized Jackson's Hornbill, Hemprich's Hornbill, Bearded Woodpecker, Gray Tit-Flycatcher, Brown-tailed Chat, Beautiful Sunbird, impressive Bristle-crowned Starling, Golden-backed and very localized Northern Masked Weaver and White-billed Buffalo Weaver.

A day trip to the remote Kapedo area produced our only Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, several Rufous-crowned Roller, Crested Lark and the highly sought after Somali Sparrow.

En route from Lake Baringo to Kitale we picked up the magnificent White-crested Turaco, Green-backed Eremomela, stunning Silverbird, rare Gambaga Flycatcher, Black-headed Gonolek and White-necked Raven.

From Kitale we traveled to the famous Kakamega Forest, en route finding Ross's Turaco, Eastern Plantain-eater, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Brown-backed Scrub-Robin, African Penduline-Tit, Yellow-billed Shrike, White Helmetshrike, Lesser Blue-eared and Bronze-tailed Starling and Heuglin's Masked-Weaver.

Kakamega Forest was simply phenomenal with many rare and secretive species seen including White-spotted Flufftail, Gray Parrot, impressive Great Blue Turaco, Yellowbill, Blue-headed Coucal, stunning Blue-headed Bee-eater, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Gray-throated and Yellow-billed Barbet, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Buff-spotted, Brown-eared and Golden-crowned Woodpecker, displaying African Broadbill, Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, Ansorge's, Joyful, Cabanis' and rare Toro Olive-Greenbul, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Brown-chested Alethe, White-chinned and Banded Prinia, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, localized Turner's Eremomela, Uganda Wood-Warbler, Southern Hyliota, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Chapin's Flycatcher, Equatorial Akalat, Blue-shouldered and shy Gray-winged Robin-Chat, African Shrike-Flycatcher, Chestnut, Jameson's and beautiful Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Scaly-breasted, Brown and Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Dusky Tit, Green Sunbird, Mackinnon's Shrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Luehder's Bushshrike, Square-tailed Drongo, Black-billed Weaver, Red-headed Malimbe and marvelous Red-headed Bluebill.

From Kakamega we traveled to the Busia area which produced an array of different species including Banded Snake-Eagle, Senegal Lapwing, Swamp and Pennant-winged Nightjar, striking Red-headed Lovebird, rare Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, Broad-billed Roller, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Olive-bellied, Copper and Red-chested Sunbird, Yellow-backed, Compact and Parasitic Weaver, Purple Glossy-Starling, Bar-breasted Firefinch, Zebra Waxbill and seldom seen Locustfinch. We also encountered the rare De Brazza's Monkey on several occasions.

Moving on to the Kisumu area near Lake Victoria we found several papyrus specialties including Papyrus Gonolek, Carruther's Cisticola and Papyrus Canary. Other species seen here include African Openbill and Black-billed and Double-toothed Barbet.

Our final destination was the magical Maasai Mara that produced many new birds and a host of wonderful mammal sightings including Saddle-billed Stork, Lappet-faced Vulture, majestic Bateleur,



stately Martial Eagle, Gray Kestrel, Coqui and Red-necked Francolin, Black-bellied Bustard, Wattled Lapwing, splendid Schalow's Turaco, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Black Coucal, Square-tailed Nightjar, localized Usambiro Barbet, Athi Short-toed Lark, Rufous-chested Swallow, Rosy-throated Longclaw, Trilling, Rock-loving and Tabora Cisticola, Miombo Camaroptera, Greencap Eremomela, Familiar and Sooty Chat, Red-throated Tit, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Swaheli Sparrow and stunning Cardinal Quelea.

On our return to Nairobi we picked up White-backed and Maccoa Duck and several stunning Malachite Sunbirds at Limuru Ponds.



Golden-winged Sunbird on Mount Kenya

Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist 5th Edition* (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to June 2005. The Kenyan Endemics are marked with an (E).

(821 species including splits and 13 heard only)

Ostriches *Struthionidae*

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus

Our first sightings were of several in Tsavo West National Park. Thereafter we encountered a pair en route to Kapedo and finally up to six daily in the Maasai Mara.

[Somali Ostrich]

Struthio [camelus] molybdophanes

We saw up to thirty individuals of this distinctive bird in Buffalo Springs NR. A pair with ten chicks was seen particularly well and the unstriped chicks were notable as they are distinctly striped in common ostrich.

NOTE: The subspecies recorded was S. c. molybdophanes which some authorities regard as a distinct species; Somali Ostrich. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.



Grebes *Podicipedidae*

Little Grebe*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Our first sighting was of twenty during the boat trip on Lake Naivasha, later peak numbers of sixty were seen on Lake Nakuru and finally twenty on Limuru Ponds on our last day.

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

Great (Eastern) White Pelican*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

First sighted at the salt works north of Sabaki River Mouth where we found three. A further twenty were seen on Lake Naivasha and our final sighting was of twenty-five at Lake Nakuru.

Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Great Cormorant*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Peak numbers of forty were seen during the boat trip on Lake Naivasha, a further dozen near Lake Victoria and scattered sightings elsewhere.

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant*Phalacrocorax africanus*

We recorded five of these widespread African cormorants at Lake Naivasha, a further three at Lake Victoria and scattered sightings elsewhere.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Gray Heron*Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, seen in small numbers throughout the trip with a high of ten at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

Small numbers seen throughout the trip with a high of thirty seen during the drive from Tsavo West to Isinya.

Goliath Heron*Ardea goliath*

A spectacular bird, one seen at Lake Naivasha, another at Shaba and finally one in the Maasai Mara, the largest heron in the world.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Our first sighting was of one at Lake Naivasha, several more at Lake Baringo and finally four at Lake Victoria.

Great (White) Egret*Ardea alba*

Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands throughout the tour with peak numbers of eight at Lake Nakuru and ten in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

Two were seen flying along the lake shore of Lake Baringo.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

Generally the least common of the three white, aquatic egrets, our first sighting was of one at a roadside dam en route to the Sabaki River mouth and later four were seen at the Limuru Ponds.

NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret E. brachyrhyncha Plumed Egret E. plumifera and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

Fairly commonly seen at scattered sites throughout the tour. Peak numbers of ten were seen at Mida Creek and a further five at Lake Nakuru.

[Dimorphic Egret]*Egretta dimorpha*

We had fantastic views of two at the Sabaki River Mouth.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Little Egret, as yet not recognised by Clements.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

Our first sighting was of four at Lake Naivasha with further sightings at Lake Nakuru and Lake Baringo.

Rufous-bellied Heron*Ardeola rufiventris*

Our first sighting was of two in the rice fields en route from Lake Victoria to Maasai Mara. We enjoyed sightings of a further five in the Maasai Mara.

Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen accompanying herds of antelope, Buffalo or Elephants in the parks, common throughout the trip with up to two hundred birds seen during the drive from Isinya to Thika.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret (which is what we recorded in Ethiopia) and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements

Striated Heron*Butorides striatus*

Our first sighting was of one on the pond in front of the lodge at Shimba Hills NP. Thereafter we found two on the Ewaso Nyiro River at Shaba GR and a further two at Lake Baringo.

NOTE: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. Clements recognizes two full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens and the most widespread nominate form which we recorded on this tour. This split is not recognized by Handbook of Birds of the World (del Hoyo et al) who lump these forms under the nominate

Black-crowned Night-Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Our first sighting was of a juvenile in Shimba Hills NP and later up to eight were seen at Lake Baringo.

Little Bittern*Ixobrychus minutus*

Our first sighting was of one at Lake Naivasha with further sightings at Lake Baringo, Keringet Swamp and Lake Victoria.

Dwarf Bittern*Ixobrychus sturmii*

After only half the group had good but brief views of our first one in Buffalo Springs we were finally rewarded with great sightings of several at a flooded roadside pan en route from Lake Baringo to Kapedo.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

This bizarre bird, forming a monotypic family endemic to the Afrotropics and Madagascar, was seen virtually daily, mostly single birds throughout the trip. We also witnessed several at their enormous nests. Peak numbers of eight were seen at Lake Nakuru and Lake Victoria.

Storks Ciconidae**Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis*

Our first sighting was of eight at Mida Creek. Small numbers were also seen at Lake Nakuru, Maasai Mara and roadside wetlands en route from Maasai Mara to Nairobi.

African Openbill*Anastomus lamelligerus*

Our first sighting was of several at Lake Victoria and later up to one hundred were seen at a swamp in the Maasai Mara.

Black Stork*Ciconia nigra*

We enjoyed fantastic views of four birds feeding at a roadside dam en route from Mt.Kenya to Samburu GR.

Abdim's Stork*Ciconia abdimii*

Our first sighting was brief views of five near Isinya, the following day we found a huge flock of four hundred on the Magadi Road. A further flock of one hundred was seen during the drive from Kakamega to Busia.

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

We recorded several near the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and small numbers in the Maasai Mara.

White Stork*Ciconia ciconia*

During the drive from Mt.Kenya to Samburu we encountered nine feeding in wheat fields, the following day a flock of twenty was seen flying over Samburu GR. A further eleven were seen flying near Lake Baringo and our final sighting was of one during the drive from the Maasai Mara to Nairobi.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

We were fortunate to find one at a large swamp in Maasai Mara.

Marabou Stork*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Seen commonly throughout the trip, nesting in Nairobi and peak numbers of thirty at Lake Nakuru.



Ibises & Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Seen regularly throughout the trip with a high of thirty seen in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: The Malagasy *T. e. bernieri* and Aldabran *T. e. abbotti* are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis *T. bernieri*

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

A typical sound of moist areas in Africa, we saw this bird in small numbers virtually daily and peak numbers of forty at Lake Nakuru. We also found one nesting with young.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Six were seen at Lake Naivasha, up to fifty at Lake Nakuru and finally six at Limuru Ponds.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

Up to twenty seen during our day at Sabaki River Mouth with further sightings at Lakes Naivasha, Nakuru and Victoria and finally Limuru Ponds.

Flamingoes *Phoenicopteridae*

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

Our first sighting was of four at Mida Creek with further sightings of at least one hundred on Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: Clements now splits the Old World Greater Flamingo *P. ruber* from the New World Caribbean Flamingo *P. roseus*.

Lesser Flamingo

Phoenicopterus minor

Up to two hundred were seen at the Sabaki River mouth and an unbelievable one million estimated at Lake Nakuru, a spectacular and unforgettable sight.

Swans, Geese & Ducks *Anatidae*

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Our only sighting was of two at Lake Naivasha.

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Thirty-five individuals of this attractive duck were seen near Lake Baringo and a further fifteen in Maasai Mara.

White-backed Duck

Thalassornis leuconotus

Twenty birds including young chicks were seen at Limuru Ponds.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Another common waterfowl species seen throughout the trip with a high of fifty birds in Lake Nakuru.

Comb Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

A total of six were seen at a roadside wetland en route from Lake Baringo to Kapedo. A single bird was also seen at a roadside wetland during the drive from Maasai Mara to Nairobi.

African Black Duck

Anas sparsa

Our first sighting was brief views of one on Mt. Kenya, later we had a further three near Naro Moru and finally a pair at a roadside wetland en route from Maasai Mara to Nairobi.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

We had superb views of one at Lake Nakuru, our only sighting.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

Commonly seen at Lake Naivasha and Limuru Ponds where we found twenty at each site.

Red-billed Duck

Anas erythrorhyncha

Small numbers were seen at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru with peak numbers of forty at Limuru Ponds.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

Four observed at Lake Naivasha, two at Lake Nakuru and two at Limuru Ponds.

Southern Pochard

Netta erythrophthalma

A pair was seen at a roadside dam near Naro Moru, a further three at Lake Nakuru and finally three at Limuru Ponds.

Maccoa Duck

Oxyura maccoa



Our first sighting was of four at a roadside dam en route from Maasai Mara to Nairobi and a further one at Limuru Ponds.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae

European Honey Buzzard

Aviceda cuculoides

Our first sighting was of two in Shimba Hills NP with several more sightings including six seen near the Kongelai Escarpment.

Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite

Elanus caeruleus

A well-known raptor seen in small numbers in open habitats throughout Kenya, peak numbers of six were seen in Tsavo West NP.

NOTE: Some authorities lump the African and Asian Black-shouldered Kite E. caeruleus with Australian Kite E. axillaris and the American E. leucurus White-tailed Kite. Clements recognizes these three forms as full species.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

We had wonderful views of one during the drive to Tsavo East NP.

[Yellow-billed Kite]

Milvus parasitus

This ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor was found in small numbers throughout our tour with a high of fifty birds around Nairobi and Mombassa.

NOTE: This locally breeding form of the Black Kite M. migrans is considered by most authorities as a distinct species, M. parasitus. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

African Fish-Eagle

Haliaeetus vocifer

A familiar bird whose ringing call is one of the archetypal sounds of Africa, we recorded small numbers around wetlands throughout the trip, peak numbers of ten were seen at Lake Naivasha.

Palmnut Vulture

Gypohierax angolensis

We were fortunate to have excellent views of two at Shimba Hills, one at Mida Creek and one at Samburu GR.

Hooded Vulture

Necrosyrtes monachus

Our first sighting was of two during the drive from Shimba Hills to Malindi, a further two were seen in the garden of Siana Springs Tented Camp in Maasai Mara.

(African) White-backed Vulture

Gyps africanus

The common vulture in savanna areas, first sighted in Tsavo West where we found four, later we recorded small numbers in Samburu area and up to twenty daily in Maasai Mara.

Rueppell's Griffon

Gyps rueppellii

Small numbers recorded at Samburu, Shaba and Maasai Mara.

Lappet-faced Vulture

Torgos tracheliotus

Small numbers recorded daily in the Maasai Mara, peak number of four on one day.

White-headed Vulture

Trigonoceps occipitalis

One male seen well whilst looking for William's lark in Shaba GR.

Short-toed Snake-Eagle

Circaetus gallicus

We had superb views of one near Sabaki River Mouth, a very rare bird in Kenya.

Black-breasted (~ched) Snake-Eagle

Circaetus pectoralis

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout the tour. Our first one was seen in Tsavo West and great views of one near Naro Moru.

NOTE: This resident Central and Southern African species is regarded by some authorities to be a form of Short-toed Eagle C. gallicus.

Brown Snake-Eagle

Circaetus cinereus

Small numbers seen in Tsavo West NP and again in the Maasai Mara.

Banded Snake-Eagle

Circaetus cinerascens

Our first sighting was of one flying over the forest at Kakamega and another two were seen in the Busia grasslands area.

Bateleur

Terathopius ecaudatus

The "tightrope-walker" of the raptor world is a handsome species that we found in healthy numbers in both Tsavo East and West, Shaba GR and Maasai Mara.

Western Marsh-Harrier

Circus aeruginosus



We had good views of one female in Tsavo West NP.

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

Our only sighting was of one in the rice fields en route to Maasai Mara.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded on many days of the trip. We saw our first one in the garden of the Boulevard Hotel on our first day.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Only seen along the coast where we found three in the Arabuko-Sekoke area.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Small numbers were seen in the Lake Baringo, Kapedo and Maasai Mara areas.

Eastern Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*

Preferring drier areas to the previous species. Peak numbers of ten were recorded in Tsavo West and small numbers recorded in Samburu, Shaba and Maasai Mara.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

Two melanistic individuals were seen in Tsavo West. We enjoyed good views of several in Samburu and Shaba GR's.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

Our first sighting was of one at Shimba Hills, one at Thika and finally one at Kakamega Forest.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Our first sighting was of one near Kapedo, another seen during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale and two more near Busia.

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus*

Several were seen in the Arabuko-Sekoke area.

Ovampo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

We had wonderful views of three catching insects, flushed by a troop of monkeys in Maasai Mara. A rare bird in Kenya.

Black Goshawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

One juvenile was seen in the garden at Lake Naivasha.

Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

We found one on the Magadi Road and another during the drive from Mt.Kenya to Samburu. **Mountain**

Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus*

Our first one was near Kieni Forest and later we had superb views of one on Mt.Kenya.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

A handsome buzzard that we observed in small numbers throughout the trip with a high of four birds seen in the Taita Hills.

NOTE: Some authorities lump the Southern African Jackal Buzzard B. rufofuscus and the Somalia Archer's Buzzard B. archeri within this species. Clements and most other authorities now recognize three full species.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

Two birds were seen soaring on a thermal in Tsavo East NP.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

This large, resident eagle was seen in small numbers throughout the tour with highest numbers of five in Shaba GR.

NOTE: The nominate African Tawny Eagle A. r. rapax may be split from the Asian Tawny Eagle A. r. vindhiana. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

We had wonderful views of one at Lake Nakuru NP.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

This common intra-African migrant was seen in small numbers throughout the trip. We enjoyed good sightings of several in both Tsavo East and West.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*

We had good but brief views of one in Tsavo East NP.



African Hawk-Eagle*Aquila spilogaster*

We enjoyed magnificent views of several, our first sighting was in Tsavo West with further sightings in Samburu and Shaba and finally en route to Kakamega.

Ayres' Hawk-Eagle*Hieraaetus ayresii*

We had brief views of a juvenile at Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and later a distant pair was seen at Kakamega Forest.

Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

This one of Africa's great eagles, was seen three times during the trip, an adult and juvenile were seen in Shaba and later an adult in Maasai Mara.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

A handsome raptor seen regularly throughout the trip, often perched on telephone poles alongside the road.

Crowned Hawk-Eagle*Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We had good views of a pair soaring at Shimba Hills NP, a further one on Mt. Kenya and finally one at Kakamega. This is Africa's version of the Harpy Eagle!

Secretarybird *Sagittariidae***Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

Observed in small numbers throughout the trip with a high of three birds seen on a single day in the Maasai Mara, including a pair at the nest. A spectacular and unique African bird and much appreciated by the group.

Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae***Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus*

This diminutive dry-country species was observed several times in Tsavo East, Tsavo West and Samburu GR.

Lesser Kestrel*Falco naumanni*

A small flock of five were seen in Tsavo West and later a flock of thirty was seen flying high over the Aberdares NP.

Eurasian Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus*

One was seen briefly flying along the grasslands on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

[Rock Kestrel]*Falco rupicolis*

We enjoyed good scope views of two near Lake Baringo.

NOTE: Some authorities recognize this resident form of Eurasian Kestrel as a full species. Clements does not recognize this split as yet.

Gray Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

We found small numbers daily in the Maasai Mara.

Red-necked Falcon*Falco chicquera*

This elegant species was seen exceptionally well near the Sabaki River Mouth where we found three birds.

Red-footed Falcon*Falco vespertinus*

We were very fortunate to find two flying over Tsavo West NP, a rare bird in Kenya.

Amur Falcon*Falco amurensis*

We had good views of several daily in both Tsavo East and Tsavo West.

Sooty Falcon*Falco concolor*

We had good views of one flying above us at Wajee Nature Reserve.

Eurasian Hobby*Falco subbuteo*

We had good views of many throughout the trip, peak numbers of eight were seen at Shimba Hills NP.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

Seen usually in pairs at scattered sites. Our most memorable was watching a pair hunting harlequin quails in Shaba GR. We enjoyed further sightings at Lake Baringo and Kapedo.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

We had superb scope views of an adult female on the mudflats at Sabaki River Mouth.



Pheasants & Partridges *Phasianidae*

Coqui Francolin*Francolinus coqui*

This beautiful species was seen exceptionally well on several occasions in the Maasai Mara.

Crested Francolin*Francolinus sephaena*

Seen in small numbers daily in Samburu GR and Lake Baringo area. Peak numbers of forty were seen in Tsavo West NP.

NOTE: Some authorities recognize the coastal race F. s. rovuma, Kirk's Francolin as a full species. Clements does not recognize this species.

Shelley's Francolin*Francolinus shelleyi*

One ran across the road in the late afternoon during our drive to Isinya.

Scaly Francolin*Francolinus squamatus*

Several were seen along the roadside on Mt. Kenya. A further one was seen in the grasslands of Busia and finally a pair in Maasai Mara.

Hildebrandt's Francolin*Francolinus hildebrandti*

Small coveys totaling nine birds were seen in Tsavo West NP.

Yellow-necked Francolin*Francolinus leucoscepus*

Large numbers were seen during our time in Tsavo West NP and again in Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba.

Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl)*Francolinus afer*

Recorded in small numbers only in Maasai Mara.

Jackson's Francolin (E)*Francolinus jacksoni*

We had fantastic views of fifteen in Aberdares NP. A species restricted to high altitude sites above the treeline.

Common Quail*Coturnix coturnix*

We had good views of six in montane grasslands between Lake Naivasha and Aberdares NP.

Harlequin Quail*Francolinus afer*

Our first one was seen briefly in Tsavo East NP and later we were treated to fantastic views of up to fifty in Shaba GR.

Guineafowl *Numididae*

Helmeted Guineafowl*Numida meleagris*

Common and ubiquitous, Helmeted Guineafowl were encountered in good numbers at many sites with highest daily count of fifty in Samburu and the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) which we recorded in Tanzania is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl.) Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

Crested Guineafowl*Guttera pucherani*

Our first sighting was of a wonderful flock in Shimba Hills NP, a further flock of twenty was seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Vulturine Guineafowl*Acryllium vulturinum*

Up to forty of these beautiful guineafowls were seen daily in Tsavo East and Tsavo West NP's and in Samburu GR.

Buttonquail *Turnicidae*

Small Buttonquail*Turnix sylvatica*

We found two in the grasslands of Shaba, whilst looking for william's lark.

Cranes *Gruidae*

Gray (Southern) Crowned-Crane*Balearica regulorum*

This handsome bird was seen a number of times on our trip, we had encounters of several at Lake Nakuru and Lake Baringo with peak numbers of twenty in the Maasai Mara.



Rails, Gallinules & Coots *Rallidae*

White-spotted Flufftail*Sarothrura pulchra*

An obliging individual was seen very well in Kakamega Forest.

Buff-spotted Flufftail*Sarothrura elegans*

We heard one at Wajee Nature Park and another at Kisumu.

Red-chested Flufftail*Sarothrura rufa*

We heard one at Keringet Swamp.

African Rail*Rallus caerulescens*

An extremely confiding individual was seen exceptionally well at a roadside dam en route from Shaba to Lake Nakuru.

African Crane*Crecoptis egregia*

One was seen briefly during our drive through the Maasai Mara.

Black Crane*Amaurornis flavirostra*

Africa's common wetland crane, our first sightings were of two at Lake Jipe, we enjoyed further sightings at Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo and peak numbers of three at Keringet Swamp.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at several sites on the trip including peak numbers of six at Limuru Ponds.

Lesser Moorhen*Gallinula angulata*

We enjoyed wonderful views of two at a flooded pan near Lake Baringo and later a further one was seen near Lake Victoria.

Red-knobbed Coot*Fulica cristata*

Small numbers observed at several sites including our first sightings at Lake Naivasha, peak numbers of thirty were recorded at Limuru Ponds.

Finfoots *Heliornithidae*

African Finfoot*Podica senegalensis*

We had good but brief views of one on a stream near Thika.

Bustards *Otididae*

Kori Bustard*Ardeotis kori*

A huge attractive bustard, small numbers were seen in several locations during the trip including two in Buffalo Springs, one in Shaba GR and a further two in the Maasai Mara. We were fortunate to see one in flight, the heaviest flying bird !

White-bellied Bustard*Eupodotis senegalensis*

Small numbers seen in several locations throughout the trip with high numbers of five birds in Tsavo West and several more seen in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: Clements lumps the northern form of White-bellied Bustard E. senegalensis with the Southern African endemic Barrow's or Southern White-bellied Bustard E. barrowi. This treatment is not followed by most authorities and they are generally considered two distinct species.

Buff-crested Bustard*Eupodotis gindiana*

Good numbers seen in dry acacia woodland in Tsavo East and Tsavo West NP's.

NOTE: This species used to be lumped with the southern Red-crested Bustard E. ruficrista and the western Savile's Bustard E. savilei. All three of these species are now recognised by Clements.

Black-bellied Bustard*Lissotis melanogaster*

We found one in the Maasai Mara.

Hartlaub's Bustard*Lissotis hartlaubii*

A pair was seen briefly in Tsavo East NP.



Jacanas *Jacanidae*

African Jacana*Actophilornis africanus*

A widespread and characteristic wader, this species was conspicuous in wetlands at Lake Baringo, Lake Victoria and the Maasai Mara.

Painted Snipes *Rostratulidae*

Greater Painted-snipe*Rostratula benghalensis*

We found five at a flooded roadside pan near Lake Baringo.

Crab Plover *Dromadidae*

Crab Plover*Dromas ardeola*

Up to two hundred and fifty of these most unusual waders were seen at Mida Creek.

Stilts & Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

Black-winged Stilt*Himantopus himantopus*

This characteristic wader was found in small numbers at Lake Naivasha and later up to one hundred and fifty were seen at Lake Nakuru.

Pied Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta*

One was seen at Lake Nakuru.

Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

Water Thick-knee*Burhinus vermiculatus*

Our first sighting was of six at Lake Jipe. Small numbers were also seen along the Ewaso Nyiro River at Shaba and at Lake Victoria.

Spotted Thick-knee*Burhinus capensis*

A pair of these cryptic birds was seen in Buffalo Springs.

Courasers & Pratincoles *Glareolidae*

Somali Couraser*Cursorius somalensis*

A single was seen in Buffalo Springs NR and later a total of seven were seen in Shaba a scarce dry country species.

Temminck's Couraser*Cursorius temminckii*

Our first sighting was of one near Gongoni, a further two were seen near Kapedo and up to eleven were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Double-banded Couraser*Smutsornis africanus*

We had splendid views of three at Lake Jipe and several more were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Three-banded Couraser*Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

We enjoyed a fabulous sighting of a pair near Lake Baringo.

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole*Glareola pratincola*

Three of these elegant waders were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Madagascar Pratincole*Glareola ocularis*

A wonderful flock was seen flying over our hotel in Malindi and a further one was seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis*

We were fortunate to see one of these smart birds at a river crossing during the drive from Kakamega to Busia.

Plovers & Lapwings *Charadriidae*

Long-toed Lapwing (Plover)*Vanellus crassirostris*

We had a wonderful sighting of one in Lake Naivasha and a further two were seen near Lake Victoria.

Blacksmith Plover (Lapwing) *Vanellus armatus*

Good numbers of this widespread species were seen at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru and at Limuru Ponds.

Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing) *Vanellus spinosus*

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were sighted in small numbers throughout the trip with peak numbers of twenty at Lake Naivasha.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*

We found a wonderful flock of eight near the Sabaki River Mouth. A further one was seen near Kapedo.

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris*

We had good views of four in the Busia grasslands.

Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus*

We recorded a flock of fifteen in the Kinangop grasslands and a further flock of six at Mwega.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*

Good numbers seen throughout the trip at most locations, peak numbers of twenty were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Our first sighting was of a pair in high altitude grasslands en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale. We enjoyed further sightings of several in the Maasai Mara.

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Up to eighty birds were seen at Mida Creek and a further thirty at Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

We saw three at Mida Creek and up to one hundred at the Sabaki River Mouth.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

At least ten were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

This widespread but attractive species was seen in small numbers at Shaba, Lake Baringo area and en route from Maasai Mara to Nairobi.

Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus*

Three were seen at Mida Creek and a further five at Sabaki River Mouth.

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

At least fifty were seen at Mida Creek and a further thirty at Sabaki River Mouth.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*

We enjoyed wonderful sightings of birds perched as well as several performing their drumming display flights in the Kinangop grasslands.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

We were extremely fortunate to find one of these rare birds in the wetlands near Busia.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

A flock of five was seen briefly at Lake Nakuru.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeops*

At least forty were seen at Mida Creek and a further two at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

We had great scope views of two at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Two were seen at Lake Naivasha and a further two at Lake Nakuru.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Six birds were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth and several more at a flooded pan near Lake Baringo.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

We found two at the floodlit waterhole in front of our lodge on Mt. Kenya.



Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands throughout the trip with peak numbers of ten at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru.

Terek Sandpiper*Xenus cinereus*

We found six at Mida Creek and up to twenty at Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

Two were seen at Sabaki River Mouth and a further eight at Lake Naivasha.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

One was seen at Mida Creek and a further three at Sabaki River Mouth.

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

Two were seen at Mida Creek and one at Sabaki River Mouth.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

Up to one hundred were seen at Sabaki River Mouth and ten at Lake Nakuru.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

Over one hundred were seen at Mida Creek and a further hundred at Sabaki River Mouth and two at Lake Nakuru.

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

Two at Sabaki River Mouth, thirty at Lake Naivasha and twenty at Lake Nakuru with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Red-necked Phalarope*Phalaropus lobatus*

Paul was very fortunate to see one from the beach at Malindi.

Gulls Laridae**Sooty Gull***Larus hemprichii*

We enjoyed wonderful views of five at the ferry crossing en route to Shimba Hills NP and later a further four at Sabaki River Mouth.

Heuglin's Gull*Larus heuglini*

Up to thirty were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth and a further one at Lake Naivasha.

Lesser Black-backed Gull*Larus fuscus*

We had a superb sighting of one at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Gray-headed Gull*Larus cirrocephalus*

Eight were seen at Lake Naivasha and a further thirty at Lake Nakuru.

Black-headed Gull*Larus ridibundus*

We found one at the Sabaki River Mouth, another at Lake Naivasha and finally one in full breeding plumage at Lake Nakuru.

Terns Laridae**Gull-billed Tern***Sterna nilotica*

Six at Mida Creek, two at Sabaki River Mouth, ten at Lake Naivasha and six at Lake Nakuru.

Caspian Tern*Sterna caspia*

We enjoyed good views of one at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Lesser Crested Tern*Sterna bengalensis*

Three were seen at Mida Creek and a further one hundred at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Great Crested Tern*Sterna bergii*

We saw our first one at the ferry crossing en route to Shimba Hills NP and a further six at Sabaki River Mouth.

Roseate Tern*Sterna dougallii*

A total of six were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

Up to one hundred were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.



Saunders' Tern*Sterna saundersi*

We saw fifteen very distant birds at Mida Creek however we were treated to superb views of two at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybridus*

A flock of fifteen were seen at Lake Naivasha.

White-winged Tern*Chlidonias leucopterus*

Five were seen at Sabaki River Mouth, a further twenty at Lake Naivasha including several in nearly full breeding plumage and small numbers at Lake Victoria.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse***Pterocles exustus*

Up to twenty were seen in Buffalo Springs and Shaba GR.

Black-faced Sandgrouse*Pterocles decoratus*

Seen in good numbers in Tsavo West NP and Samburu GR.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse*Pterocles lichtensteinii*

We enjoyed wonderful views of two pairs of this strikingly patterned bird, en route to Kapedo.

Doves & Pigeons Columbidae**Rock Pigeon***Columba livia*

Commonly seen around larger towns and cities.

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

Seen in good numbers throughout the tour with peak numbers of thirty in the Kisumu area.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon*Columba arquatrix*

This African montane-forest pigeon was seen in small numbers on Mt. Kenya and at Imenti Forest and a final sighting of two on the Oloololo Escarpment in Maasai Mara.

Delegorgue's (Eastern Bronze-naped) Pigeon*Columba delegorguei*

We enjoyed superb scope views of up to four, seen coming down to the muddy areas of the pond in front of our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

Dusky (Pink-breasted) Turtle-Dove*Streptopelia lugens*

We enjoyed good sightings of small numbers on Mt. Kenya. Another high altitude species.

African Mourning Dove*Streptopelia decipiens*

Another fairly common savanna dove seen many times, with its distinctive call being a regular background sound during most of the trip. Peak numbers of fifty were seen in the Lake Baringo area.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

A dove that inhabits a wide range of moist woodland and forest habitats, and seen in regular numbers throughout the trip.

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove*Streptopelia capicola*

Common in open savanna in the drier parts of the country, seen in large numbers during most of the tour.

Laughing (Palm) Dove*Streptopelia senegalensis*

A widespread, familiar species recorded in good numbers almost daily.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove*Turtur chalcospilos*

This familiar woodland dove was seen at scattered localities throughout the trip with peak numbers of six seen in Tsavo West NP.

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove*Turtur afer*

Small numbers were seen daily around Busia and Kisumu.

Tambourine Dove*Turtur tympanistris*

The forest equivalent of the wood-doves, small numbers were seen at forested sites throughout the trip.



Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

Views of this attractive long-tailed dove were obtained at several sites with peak numbers in the Samburu and Kapedo areas.

African Green-Pigeon*Treron calva*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the trip with peak numbers seen at Lake Naivasha.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies *Psittacidae***Red-headed Lovebird***Agapornis pullarius*

We had great views of three in the Busia grasslands.

Fischer's Lovebird*Agapornis fischeri*

Small numbers of this localized but gorgeous species were seen daily at Lake Naivasha and three were seen in scrub on the edge of Lake Victoria.

Yellow-collared Lovebird*Agapornis personatus*

Two were seen at Lake Naivasha.

Gray Parrot*Psittacus erithacus*

Up to seven were seen in Kakamega Forest, so much nicer to see them in the wild as opposed to the common cage bird ! Their numbers in the wild have dropped considerably due to illegal bird trade.

Red-fronted Parrot*Poicephalus gularis*

We enjoyed fabulous views of up to twenty on Mt.Kenya and later peak numbers of forty were seen at Naro Moru.

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot*Poicephalus meyeri*

A parrot of moister savanna and woodland, our first sighting was superb views of three at Lake Nakuru with scattered sightings elsewhere in the west.

Red- (African Orange-) bellied Parrot*Poicephalus rufiventris*

A total of ten were seen in Tsavo West NP, several males showed particularly well. Small numbers were also seen daily in Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba.

Turacos *Musophagidae***Great Blue Turaco***Corythaeola cristata*

Small groups were seen daily in Kakamega Forest. One of the great blue birds of the World !

Schalow's Turaco*Tauraco schalowi*

Seen exceptionally well in the Maasai Mara where we enjoyed scope views of a pair. The long floppy crests are very prominent in this sub-species.

White-crested Turaco*Tauraco leucolophus*

We enjoyed superb views of one during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale. A further individual was seen exceptionally well near Busia.

Fischer's Turaco*Tauraco fischeri*

A pair of these smart birds showed well in Shimba Hills NP.

Hartlaub's Turaco*Tauraco hartlaubi*

Six birds were seen at Kieni Forest and a further eight at Mount Kenya where they were conspicuously noisy at dawn.

Ross's Turaco*Musophaga rossae*

We had incredible views of four at Keringet Swamp and a further two in the Maasai Mara.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird*Corythaixoides personatus*

A bizarre bird with enormous character, this bird was seen in small numbers daily in the Maasai Mara.

White-bellied Go-away-bird*Corythaixoides leucogaster*

This dry country species was seen in small numbers daily in both Tsavo East and West NP's, Samburu, Shaba and the Lake Baringo area.

Eastern Plantain-eater*Crinifer zonurus*

We found three of these comical birds at the Kongelai Escarpment, a rare bird in Kenya.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

Pied Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus

We found small numbers at scattered sites throughout the trip. We enjoyed a good sighting of two on the Magadi Road.

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

We found one melanistic individual in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and a normal phase bird in the Maasai Mara.

Great Spotted Cuckoo

Clamator glandarius

Our first sighting was of one in Shaba GR, thereafter we found several in the Maasai Mara.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

We found a splendid adult in the Taita Hills. Several others were seen near Lake Baringo and in Kakamega Forest.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

We found our first one in Lake Nakuru NP and later several more in Kakamega Forest.

Common Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

This species was seen commonly throughout the trip with peak totals of twelve seen during the drive from Shaba to Naro Moru. A hepatic individual was seen at Lake Naivasha.

African Cuckoo

Cuculus gularis

We found one in gallery woodland in Samburu GR and later several were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Lesser Cuckoo

Cuculus poliocephalus

We found our first ones in Shimba Hills NP where some of us saw a hepatic individual. A further ten were seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest. This is a rare bird in Africa !

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

We found one stunning adult male on the Magadi Road and seen on several other occasions.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

We found two in the forest on Mt. Kenya.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

This widespread African species was seen exceptionally well in small numbers throughout the trip. We enjoyed good sightings of two in Tsavo West NP.

Yellowbill (Blue Malkoha)

Ceuthmochares aereus

We had superb views of several in Kakamega Forest.

[Green Malkoha]

Ceuthmochares australis

We heard one calling in Shimba Hills NP.

NOTE: Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

Our first sighting was of one in Kakamega Forest and several more were seen in the grasslands of Busia.

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

One was seen briefly in the Busia grasslands.

Black Coucal

Centropus grillii

We heard several calling in the Maasai Mara and had superb views of one adult carrying a large frog to presumably its nestlings.

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

The commonest coucal during the tour and seen almost daily.

*NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal *C. burchelli* from the northerly White-browed Coucal *C. superciliosus* which we recorded in Tanzania and Kenya*



Barn Owls *Tytonidae*

African Grass-Owl*Tyto capensis*

We had good but brief views of an adult in the grasslands near Mwega.

Typical Owls *Strigidae*

African Scops-Owl*Otus senegalensis*

One individual was heard calling from our lodge in Tsavo East.

Northern White-faced Owl*Ptilopsis leucotis*

We had magnificent views of three at a day roost near Lake Baringo.

Sokoke Scops-Owl*Otus ireneae*

An awesome bird ! We were treated to fantastic views of two adults and a juvenile at a day roost. Voted bird of the trip by several participants.

Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle-Owl*Bubo capensis*

We had fantastic views of an adult at a day roost near Mwega.

Grayish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinerascens*

A pair was seen well at a day roost near Lake Baringo.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*Bubo lacteus*

One was seen at the floodlit waterhole on Mt.Kenya, a pair at Lake Nakuru and another at Busia.

African Wood-Owl*Strix woodfordii*

We had good views of three in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and a further one at Wajee Nature Park.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

This diminutive diurnal owl was seen on sixteen occasions throughout the trip.

Red-chested Owlet*Glaucidium tephronotum*

We heard one calling in Kakamega Forest.

Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae*

Eurasian Nightjar*Caprimulgus europaeus*

Up to three were seen flying around the small pond in front of our lodge in Tsavo West.

Sombre Nightjar*Caprimulgus fraenatus*

We heard several calling in Tsavo East and found one dead bird in the Maasai Mara.

Nubian Nightjar*Caprimulgus nubicus*

We were very fortunate to find one near Gongoni whilst looking for malindi pipit.

Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar*Caprimulgus donaldsoni*

One was seen flying around the small pond in front of our lodge in Tsavo West.

Fiery-necked Nightjar*Caprimulgus pectoralis*

We had superb views of two in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Abyssinian (Montane) Nightjar*Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

The high-pitched eerie call of this nightjar was heard on Mount Kenya and on the Oloololo Escarpment in the Maasai Mara.

Swamp Nightjar*Caprimulgus natalensis*

We had incredible views of one in the grasslands near Busia and stumbled across its nest containing two eggs.

Plain Nightjar*Caprimulgus inornatus*

We had fantastic views of two flying around the small pond in front of our lodge in Tsavo West.

Slender-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus clarus*

We found one near Gongoni, one along the Ewaso Nyiro River at Samburu and then spectacular views of three near Lake Baringo.

Square-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus fossii*

We had fantastic views of one in front of our lodge in the Maasai Mara.

Pennant-winged Nightjar*Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

A female was seen flying over the grasslands near Busia.

Swifts Apodidae

Scarce Swift

Schoutedenapus myoptilus

Up to fifty were seen on Mt. Kenya, several were heard making their unusual clicking call.

Bat-like (Bohm's) Spinetail

Neafrapus boehmi

We had wonderful views of six flying above Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

African Palm-Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

Plentiful around palms in many locations throughout the trip. Peak numbers of thirty were seen in the Arabuko-Sekoke area.

NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm-Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba

One was seen flying high above us in Samburu GR and a further one was seen at Shaba.

Mottled Swift

Tachymarptis aequatorialis

Small numbers were seen well during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Common Swift

Apus apus

Our first sighting was of a flock of ten in Tsavo West NP with further sightings on Mt. Kenya and in Samburu GR.

Nyanza Swift

Apus niansae

Our first sightings were of several near Mwea where we saw the cape eagle-owl and later we enjoyed fantastic views of at least twenty at eye-level at Lake Nakuru.

African Swift

Apus barbatus

A flock of ten was seen flying around some buildings where they may be nesting, near Lake Naivasha.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

The common urban swift, with good numbers found throughout the trip.

Horus Swift

Apus horus

We had great views of up to twenty-five at Lake Nakuru NP and a further six were seen in the Maasai Mara.

White-rumped Swift

Apus caffer

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites throughout the trip.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

A common bird, with good numbers recorded almost daily.

White-headed Mousebird

Colius leucocephalus

Eight of these localized arid-zone birds were observed very well at Samburu.

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

The fast-flying, savanna cousin of red-faced mousebird and sporting a most unlikely blue patch on its nape, we found this species in small numbers in Tsavo West, Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba.

Trogon Trogonidae

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

A pair of these beautiful birds was seen at Lake Nakuru NP.

Bar-tailed Trogon

Apaloderma vittatum

Two of these striking birds were seen at Kieni Forest and a further three in Kakamega Forest.



Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

Shining-blue Kingfisher*Alcedo quadribrachys*

We heard this species at a small stream near Busia.

Malachite Kingfisher*Alcedo cristata*

The small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, small numbers were seen regularly at scattered wetlands across the country.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher*Ispidina picta*

We had wonderful views of a pair at Thika and several more in the scrub near Busia.

Gray-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher*Halcyon leucocephala*

This beautiful woodland kingfisher was observed several times throughout the trip, peak numbers of five were seen during the drive from Kisumu to Maasai Mara.

Woodland Kingfisher*Halcyon senegalensis*

This attractive woodlands species was seen in small numbers at Lake Baringo and the Busia and Kisumu areas.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher*Halcyon albiventris*

We had superb views of two in Shimba Hills NP and a further two at Thika.

Striped Kingfisher*Halcyon chelicuti*

Our first one was seen in Buffalo Springs with several sightings thereafter including three in the Busia area and a further three in the Maasai Mara.

Giant Kingfisher*Megaceryle maxima*

We enjoyed wonderful views of the Worlds largest kingfisher at Lake Naivasha, with further sightings near Mwea and at Keringet Swamp.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

The world's commonest kingfisher was observed in small numbers at many sites throughout the trip, peak numbers of twelve were seen at Lake Naivasha.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Blue-headed Bee-eater*Merops muelleri*

One of these elegant birds was seen in Kakamega Forest.

White-fronted Bee-eater*Merops bullockoides*

Our first sighting was of one on the Magadi Road and later twenty individuals of this strikingly beautiful bee-eater were seen near Lake Naivasha, our final sighting was of eight at Lake Nakuru.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

The most widespread and familiar of a suite of look-alike bee-eaters, we saw good numbers throughout the trip with good sightings of five in Tsavo West NP.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater*Merops variegates*

We had great scope views of up to six in the Busia grasslands.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater*Merops oreobates*

Seen in small numbers at most forested, high elevation sites. Peak numbers of twenty were seen in both the Thika area and in Kakamega Forest.

Somali Bee-eater*Merops revoilii*

We had fantastic views of one in Tsavo West NP, this bird was seen nesting in a roadside bank, this must surely be the Southern most breeding record, a very lucky find !

White-throated Bee-eater*Merops albicollis*

A strikingly colored bee-eater seen first along the Magadi Road, with peak numbers in Samburu and Shaba GR's.

Madagascar Bee-eater*Merops superciliosus*

We had wonderful views of five at a flooded roadside pan near Lake Baringo.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

A flock of ten was seen along the Magadi road and a further two on Mt.Kenya.



Rollers *Coraciidae*

European Roller

Coracias garrulus

Up to twenty were seen in Tsavo East NP with further sightings of small numbers in Tsavo West and the Maasai Mara.

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

These magnificent birds were commonly encountered in good numbers throughout the trip with a high number of six birds seen on one day in Samburu GR.

Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller

Coracias naevia

Two birds were seen in Samburu GR with peak numbers of six seen in the Kapedo area.

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus

Three of these stunning birds were seen very well in the Busia area.

Hoopoes *Upupidae*

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

One of these scarce migrants was seen near Lake Baringo and another near Kapedo.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar (*U. marginalis*) and Eurasian *U. epops*. The white-winged African form is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe (*U. senegalensis*) with the fourth species, being African Hoopoe (*U. africana*). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.*

[African Hoopoe]

Upupa Africana

We had several sightings at scattered sites throughout the country. We had good sightings of three in Tsavo West NP.

Woodhoopoes *Phoeniculidae*

Green Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

These garrulous birds were recorded at many sites throughout the trip with our first sighting of three in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Violet (Grant's) Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus damarensis

We enjoyed great sightings of at least eight of these localized and attractive woodhoopoes in Lake Nakuru NP.

White-headed Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus bollei

We had superb views of one on Mt. Kenya with a further sighting of three in Kakamega Forest.

Common Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

Our first sighting was of two in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Abyssinian Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus minor

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP and Samburu and Shaba GR's.

Hornbills *Buterotidae*

(Northern-) Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus

Commonly seen throughout the trip with peak numbers of twenty birds observed at Samburu.

NOTE: Some authorities have split the Red-billed Hornbill complex into five species, the form we recorded would become Northern Red-billed Hornbill and is the nominate form. Clements does not recognize these splits as yet.

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Tockus flavirostris

Our first sightings were of two in Tsavo West NP. We found a further five in Samburu GR. This Eastern form occurs at much lower densities than the Southern African form, *T. leucomelas*.

Jackson's Hornbill

Tockus jacksoni

We had superb views of up to six daily in the Lake Baringo area. This is a very localized species.

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Tockus deckeni

This strikingly marked hornbill was commonly seen in Tsavo East and West with further sightings in Samburu and Maasai Mara.

Crowned Hornbill

Tockus alboterminatus



We had great views of five in Shimba Hills NP with a further sighting of two in Maasai Mara.

Hemprich's Hornbill *Tockus hemprichii*

We enjoyed wonderful views of a pair near Lake Baringo, our only sighting of the trip.

African Gray Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

A common savanna hornbill that was seen in Tsavo East and West and Lake Baringo and Kapedo areas.

Trumpeter Hornbill *Ceratogymna bucinator*

Small numbers were seen in Shimba Hills NP.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Ceratogymna brevis*

Eight seen in Shimba Hills NP with further sightings on Mt. Kenya and at Imenti Forest.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna subcylindricus*

Up to six were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Our first sighting was of three in Tsavo West, a further pair was seen exceptionally well in Lake Nakuru NP and our final sightings were of several in Maasai Mara.

Barbets Capitonidae

Gray-throated Barbet *Gymnobucco bonapartei*

Up to thirty of this gregarious nesting species were seen in Kakamega Forest.

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis*

A group of six was seen in Shimba Hills NP and our only other sighting was of ten at Imenti Forest.

Green Barbet *Stactolaema olivacea*

We had wonderful sightings in Shimba Hills NP and at Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Moustached Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus leucomystax*

After only having brief views of one at Thika and hearing it calling on several occasions we were finally rewarded with good sightings at Mt. Kenya.

Green Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus simplex*

After a great deal of time and effort we were finally rewarded with a fantastic sighting of one in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Small numbers were seen at several sites including great sightings of several on Mt. Kenya and in Kakamega Forest.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

We had a great sighting of two near Busia.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus*

We found several in the Isinya and Thika areas.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

NOTE: This species is sometimes split as Hairy-breasted Barbet, T. hirsuta of West Africa and Streaky-throated Barbet, T. flavipunctata of Central Africa. We observed the latter species. Clements does not yet accept this split.

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*

Our first sightings was of two on the Magadi Road with several more sightings in the Maasai Mara.

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

We had wonderful views of a pair in Tsavo East with further sightings in the Taita Hills, Kongelai Escarpment and Maasai Mara.

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala*

This barbet occurs in drier areas than the previous species. We found several in Tsavo West NP and in Samburu and Shaba GR's.

NOTE: The Serengeti and northern Tanzanian form of this barbet, T. m. flavibuccalis is sometimes considered a different species (Yellow-cheeked Barbet).



Black-billed Barbet*Lybius guifsobalito*

We had a great sighting of one near Lake Victoria.

White-headed Barbet*Lybius leucocephalus*

Our first sighting was of two at Thika with further sightings at the Kongelai Escarpment.

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

We had good views of one en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale and further sightings near Busia and Lake Victoria.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

We had wonderful sightings of several in Kakamega Forest. A most impressive barbet.

Red-and-yellow Barbet*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

This garishly colorful barbet was observed on the Magadi Road, Samburu GR and Lake Baringo area.

D'Arnaud's Barbet*Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Small numbers were seen at several sites including ten in Tsavo West NP and up to five daily in the Lake Baringo area.

NOTE: The sub-species, T. d. usambiro that we recorded in the Serengeti is sometimes treated as a full species. Clements does not recognize this split.

[Usambiro Barbet]*Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro*

Up to three were seen daily in the Maasai Mara. A localized species !

NOTE: The sub-species, T. d. usambiro that we recorded in the Serengeti is sometimes treated as a full species. Clements does not recognize this split.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae**Scaly-throated Honeyguide***Indicator variegatus*

We had wonderful views of one in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was seen during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

This savanna species was observed commonly at many sites throughout the trip.

Thick-billed Honeyguide*Indicator conirostris*

We had great views of two in Kakamega Forest.

Pallid Honeyguide*Indicator meliphilus*

We found one in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Green-backed Honeyguide*Prodotiscus zambesiae*

We enjoyed a good sighting of one at Thika, a seldom seen species.

Wahlberg's Honeyguide*Prodotiscus regulus*

We had brief views of two displaying at Lake Nakuru.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae**Rufous-necked Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis*

We had wonderful views of six during the drive from Naro Moru to Mwega and a final sighting of one at Kitale.

Nubian Woodpecker*Campethera nubica*

This attractive savanna species was observed on many occasions including great sightings of three during our day trip to Kapedo.

Mombasa Woodpecker*Campethera mombassica*

After much searching we were finally rewarded with good views of one at Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Green-backed Woodpecker*Campethera cailliautii*

We found one on our first day in Shimba Hills NP.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

We had wonderful views of three in Kakamega Forest.

Brown-eared Woodpecker*Campethera caroli*

We had superb views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker*Dendropicos poecilolaemus*

We were very fortunate to have stunning views of a male in the Busia grasslands, a rare bird throughout its range.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

This widespread savanna woodpecker was observed on many occasions throughout the tour.

Bearded Woodpecker*Dendropicos namaquus*

This large, drumming woodpecker was seen once in Samburu GR and our only other sighting was of one near Lake Baringo.

Golden-crowned Woodpecker*Dendropicos xantholophus*

We had fantastic views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Gray Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

Small numbers were seen at Isinya and Thika.

Brown-backed Woodpecker*Dendropicos obsoletus*

Some of us had good but brief views of one on the Kongelai Escarpment.

Broadbills *Eurylaimidae***African Broadbill***Smithornis capensis*

We had wonderful scope views of two males in Kakamega Forest.

Larks *Alaudidae***Singing Bushlark***Mirafra cantillans*

Our first sightings were of three on the Magadi Road with further sightings at Samburu and Shaba GR's.

William's Lark (E)*Mirafra williamsi*

We were fortunate to find five of this rare and localized species in Shaba GR. One obligingly perched in a low bush allowing incredible close-up views.

Friedmann's Lark*Mirafra pulpa*

Yet another very rare species that we found on this tour and were afforded superb scope views of one at Shaba. By the number that we heard calling we estimated up to thirty birds displaying and presumed to be breeding in the area.

Red-winged Lark*Mirafra hypermetra*

We enjoyed good sightings of several in Tsavo East and West and a further three in Shaba GR.

Rufous-naped Lark*Mirafra africana*

This widespread lark species was seen in small numbers on many days of the trip with highest count of fifty in the Maasai Mara in a single day.

Flappet Lark*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

We found two displaying in Shimba Hills NP and a further two in the Maasai Mara.

Foxy (Fawn-breasted) Lark*Calendulauda alopex*

We had good views of two on the Magadi Road and further sightings in Samburu and Shaba.

NOTE: This species has now been split from Fawn-coloured Lark C. africanoides and is recognized as a full species by Clements

Pink-breasted Lark*Mirafra poecilosterna*

We had excellent views of several daily in Tsavo West NP and again in Samburu and Shaba.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

Two were seen in Buffalo Springs NR.

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix signata*

Small numbers were seen exceptionally well in Shaba GR.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucopareia*

Our first sighting was of six on the Madagi Road and thereafter found to be common in Samburu and Buffalo Springs.



Red-capped Lark*Calandrella cinerea*

Seen in good numbers en route from Lake Naivasha to the Aberdares and in the Maasai Mara.

[Athi Short-toed Lark]*Calandrella athensis*

We had superb views of one in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Somali Short-toed Lark, C. somalica but is not as yet recognized as a full species by Clements.

Crested Lark*Galerida cristata*

We had wonderful views of three near Kapedo. The most southerly records of this species.

Short-tailed Lark*Pseudalaemon fremantlii*

We had fantastic views of two on the Magadi Road.

Swallows *Hirundinidae***Bank Swallow***Riparia riparia*

We had good views of four at Lake Naivasha and several more in the Lake Baringo area.

Plain (Brown-throated) Martin*Riparia paludicola*

This species was seen in small numbers at several sites throughout the trip with peak numbers of fifty seen at Lake Naivasha.

Banded Martin*Riparia cincta*

This large hirundine was seen very well in the Maasai Mara where we found three individuals.

Gray-rumped Swallow*Hirundo griseopyga*

One was seen briefly in Lake Nakuru NP and later we were rewarded with fantastic views of a pair in the Maasai Mara.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen in small numbers at various sites during the trip, including excellent views of several perched individuals at our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form P. f. fuligula would remain as Rock Martin and does not occur in Ethiopia. The more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin P. pusilla, which is resident in Ethiopia. Furthermore over-wintering Palearctic birds, which do occur in Ethiopia, would become Pale Crag Martin P. obsolete. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

This common palearctic migrant was seen virtually daily with peak numbers of a hundred in the Maasai Mara.

Ethiopian Swallow*Hirundo aethiopica*

We had wonderful views of three near the coast during the drive from Shimba Hills to Mida Creek, a further three in Buffalo Springs NR and finally twenty in the Kapedo area.

Angola Swallow*Hirundo angolensis*

Our first sighting was of a pair en route from Lake Naivasha to the Aberdares, thereafter we encountered small numbers near Naro Moru and the Kitale area.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

This elegant swallow was seen throughout the tour at many locations, peak numbers of six were seen in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form which would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow which would be H. filifera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Rufous-chested Swallow*Cecropis semirufa*

We had wonderful views of two pairs in the Maasai Mara, our only sightings.

Lesser Striped-Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow, recorded at most locations throughout the tour.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

Another large attractive swallow, our first sightings were at Mt. Kenya with further sightings at scattered sites including four at Keringet Swamp.



Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica*

This species was regularly observed in many locations throughout the tour.

House Martin*Delichon urbica*

We found small numbers near Lake Nakuru and up to ten daily in the Maasai Mara.

White-headed Sawwing*Psalidoprocne albiceps*

Our first sighting was of three during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale with further sightings of up to twenty at Kakamega Forest.

Black Sawwing*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Small numbers of this distinctively shaped species were seen at several forest locations during the tour, first sighted in Shimba Hills NP.

NOTE: The Black Sawwing P. pristoptera complex was split into 8 full species, which caused extreme confusion with regard to their distributions and field identification, however, all authorities including Clements have now accepted one species.

Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae***African Pied Wagtail***Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird that we found throughout the trip.

Cape Wagtail*Motacilla capensis*

Up to four were seen daily at the pond in front of our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

Yellow Wagtail*Motacilla flava*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout the trip with peak numbers of eight at Sabaki River Mouth.

Mountain Wagtail*Motacilla clara*

Seen on our first day at the stream in front of Boulevard Hotel with further sightings at Thika.

Golden Pipit*Tmetothylacus tenellus*

Our first sightings were of several in non-breeding plumage in Tsavo West NP, however we were treated to magnificent views of several adult males in full breeding plumage in Samburu and Shaba GRs. What a show they put on for us, a truly spectacular bird !

Yellow-throated Longclaw*Macronyx croceus*

This meadowlark-like bird was first found in the grasslands in Shimba Hills NP with many further sightings including up to fifty daily in the Maasai Mara.

Rosy-throated Longclaw*Macronyx ameliae*

We had good views of two daily in the Maasai Mara, yet another stunning bird.

Pangani Longclaw*Macronyx aurantiigula*

Our first sighting was of one near Gongoni with a further two seen in Tsavo West NP.

Sharpe's Longclaw (E)*Macronyx sharpei*

We were fortunate to find up to twenty of these rare birds on the Kinangop Plateau. We were all able to see this rarely recorded species on the ground for outstanding views.

Striped Pipit*Anthus lineiventris*

We had good but brief views of one in the Taita Hills.

Plain-backed Pipit*Anthus leucophrys*

This widespread pipit was first sighted in Lake Nakuru NP with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. Clements does not recognise this split.

Buffy Pipit*Anthus vaalensis*

We had great views of several in the grasslands of the Maasai Mara.

African (Grassland/Grassveld) Pipit*Anthus cinnamomeus*

Numerous birds observed throughout the trip, particularly abundant at the Sabaki River Mouth.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.

Malindi Pipit*Anthus melindae*

We had a fantastic sighting of a pair near Gongoni.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similes*

We found one on the Magadi Road and a further two in the Maasai Mara.

Sokoke Pipit *Anthus sokokensis*

After a good deal of searching we were finally rewarded with wonderful sightings of three of these unusual pipits.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

We had good views of one on the Kinangop Plateau.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

Gray Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina caesia*

We enjoyed several sightings of this montane forest species, first two at Kieni Forest, a further two on Mount Kenya and finally three at Imenti Forest.

Petit's Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga petiti*

Up to five were seen daily in Kakamega Forest including a pair nesting.

Black Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga flava*

One female was seen in Tsavo West NP and a male on the Magadi Road.

Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga quisqualina*

Two males were seen very well on Mt Kenya.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

Dark-capped (Common) Bulbul *Pycnonotus [barbatus] tricolor*

A ubiquitous species and one of the few birds to be recorded on nearly every day of the trip, with numerous daily tallies in excess of twenty individuals.

*NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species. Two further splits, which we recorded in Kenya are widely recognised as full species (Somali Bulbul *P. somaliensis* and Dodson's Bulbul *P. dodsoni*) although Clements does not treat them as distinct, and furthermore, several other forms (including ones which we recorded i.e. Egyptian Bulbul *P. arsinoe* and Dark-capped Bulbul *P. tricolor*) are likely to be recognised as distinct once genetic analysis and further study is completed.*

[Dodson's (Common) Bulbul] *Pycnonotus [barbatus] dodsoni*

This dry country form of the Common Bulbul replaced the previous form in Samburu, where we observed numerous individuals. Recent field-guides have split these species.

NOTE: See previous species.

Shelley's Greenbul *Andropadus masukuensis*

We enjoyed wonderful views of three in Kakamega Forest.

*NOTE: Shelley's Greenbul *A. masukuensis* is sometimes split with the ones we observed becoming Kakamega Greenbul *A. kakamegae*. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

A species of secondary growth, we had good views of one near Busia.

Gray Greenbul *Andropadus gracilis*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*

Up to five were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

We found several in Kakamega Forest.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*

We recorded several on Mt Kenya with further sightings in Kakamega Forest.

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus*

One was seen at the Sabaki River Mouth and two at Thika.

Yellow-whiskered Bulbul (Greenbul) *Andropadus latirostris*

Two birds were seen at Mount Kenya and a further two in Kakamega Forest.



Eastern [Olive-breasted] Mountain-Greenbul*Andropadus nigriceps [kikuyuensis]*

This form of the Eastern Mountain-Greenbul has been split by recent field-guides, we observed up to six birds daily on Mount Kenya.

NOTE: The nominate Black-headed Mountain-Greenbul *A. nigriceps* is sometimes split as Olive-breasted Mountain-Greenbul *A. kikuyuensis* Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Stripe-cheeked [-faced] Bulbul*Andropadus milanjensis [striifacies]*

We were fortunate to find three in the forest of the Taita Hills.

NOTE: This species has been split three ways by some authorities, Stripe-cheeked Bulbul, *A. milanjensis* of Eastern Zimbabwe & Mozambique, Stripe-faced Greenbul, *A. striifacies* of SW Kenya and Tanzania – the one we observed and Olive-headed Greenbul, *A. olivaceiceps* of Malawi. Clements does not as yet accept these splits.

Yellow-throated Greenbul*Chlorocichla flavicollis*

We had wonderful views of two at Keringet Swamp.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul*Chlorocichla flaviventris*

A couple were seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and a further three in Kibwezi Forest.

Joyful Greenbul*Chlorocichla laetissima*

One of the most striking of the Greenbul group, we had superb views of eight in Kakamega Forest.

Cabanis' Greenbul*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Fischer's Greenbul*Phyllastrephus fischeri*

Several were seen in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

[Placid Greenbul]*Phyllastrephus placidus*

We found two in the Taita Hills, two at Kieni Forest and two on Mt.Kenya.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Cabanis' Greenbul, *P. cabanisi*. Clements does not accept this split as yet

Terrestrial Brownbul*Phyllastrephus terrestris*

We heard this species in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Northern Brownbul*Phyllastrephus strepitans*

One was seen briefly at the Sabaki River Mouth and later two birds were seen exceptionally well in Tsavo West NP on our final day in the reserve.

Gray-olive Greenbul*Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*

We had superb views of six at Thika.

Toro Olive-Greenbul*Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

We had superb views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Tiny Greenbul*Phyllastrephus debilis*

Small numbers were seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Common Bristlebill*Bleda syndactyla*

We had brief views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Eastern Nicator*Nicator gularis*

We found one of this shy species in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Thrushes & Allies Turdidae**Red-tailed Ant-Thrush***Neocossyphus rufus*

One was seen in Shimba Hills NP and a further two in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

White-tailed Ant-Thrush*Neocossyphus poensis*

We had good views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush*Monticola saxatilis*

We enjoyed great views of one in Samburu GR.

Little Rock-Thrush*Monticola rufocinerus*

We had superb views of four during the drive from Mt.Kenya to Samburu.

Olive [Mountain] Thrush*Turdus olivaceus [abyssinicus]*

Small numbers were seen at the Boulevard Hotel in Nairobi and thereafter up to eight were seen daily on Mt.Kenya.



NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex may be split into a range of up to 10 full species. The form which we recorded Mountain Thrush *T. o. abyssinicus* would be recognised as distinct within this confusing complex. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits, some of which are already well accepted e.g. Taita Thrush *T. helleri*.

African Thrush*Turdus pelios*

Our first sightings were of four in Lake Nakuru NP with further sightings around Kitale and Kakamega Forest.

African Bare-eyed Thrush*Turdus tephronotus*

We had wonderful views of several in Tsavo West NP and a further one of this elusive species was seen in Samburu GR.

Brown-chested Alethe*Alethe poliocephala*

We had good but brief views of three in Kakamega Forest.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Red-faced Cisticola***Cisticola erythrops*

We had wonderful views of one at Thika.

Singing Cisticola*Cisticola cantans*

We had superb views of several at Thika, one at Keringet Swamp and another at Busia.

Whistling Cisticola*Cisticola lateralis*

After a good deal of searching we finally had superb views of one near Busia.

Trilling Cisticola*Cisticola woosnami*

We had great views of three in the Maasai Mara.

Chubb's Cisticola*Cisticola chubby*

We had superb views of three in Kakamega Forest.

Hunter's Cisticola*Cisticola hunteri*

Up to ten were observed daily on Mount Kenya. This is a noisy high-altitude species.

Rock-loving Cisticola*Cisticola aberrans*

A rare bird in Kenya, we were fortunate to have superb scope views of one in the Maasai Mara.

Boran Cisticola*Cisticola bodessa*

A good search produced wonderful views of one en route from Mt. Kenya to Samburu.

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola chiniana*

This savanna species was regularly seen during most of our tour with a high of ten birds on one day in Maasai Mara.

Ashy Cisticola*Cisticola cinereolus*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP and we had great views of up to five in Shaba GR.

Lynes (Wailing) Cisticola*Cisticola [lais] distinctus*

We had good scope views of two on the Magadi Road.

Winding Cisticola*Cisticola [galactotes] marginatus*

One of the commonest wetland cisticolas, our first sighting was of one at Lake Jipe, with further observations of several around Lake Victoria.

NOTE: Some authorities split this widespread African species into five species. Winding Cisticola *C. galactotes* that we observed, would become *C. marginatus* and occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola *C. haematocephala* that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola *C. luapula* occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola *C. galactotes* of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola *C. lugubris* endemic to Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

[Coastal Cisticola]*Cisticola haematocephala*

We had great views of three at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Carruther's Cisticola*Cisticola carruthersi*

A total of three were seen in the wetlands around Lake Victoria.

Tinkling (Levaillant's) Cisticola*Cisticola tinniens*

Our first sighting was of three on the Kinangop Plateau with a further sighting of one en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Stout Cisticola*Cisticola robustus*

We saw our first one on the Magadi Road with many further sightings including large numbers in Maasai Mara.



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- Croaking (Striped) Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*
A denizen of moist grassland, two birds were seen in Shimba Hills NP.
- Aberdare Cisticola (E)** *Cisticola aberdare*
We had wonderful views of five in the Aberdares NP. An extremely localized species.
- Tabora Cisticola** *Cisticola angusticaudus*
After a lengthy search we were finally rewarded with a great sighting of one.
- Siffling Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*
We found two in the grasslands in Shimba Hills NP.
- Tiny Cisticola** *Cisticola nanus*
We had a good sighting of one in Tsavo West NP with a further sighting of two on the Magadi Road.
- Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
The world's most widespread cisticola was first seen in Samburu GR with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.
- Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*
One bird was observed in Buffalo Springs NR, three in the Kapedo area and up to ten in the Maasai Mara.
- Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*
Five were seen in Lake Nakuru NP and peak numbers of up to fifty seen in the Maasai Mara.
- Wing-snapping Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii*
Our first sighting was of one on the Kinangop Plateau and a further four were seen en route from Lake Naivasha to the Aberdares.
- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*
Another noisy and familiar African warbler, seen at many sites throughout the trip with peak numbers seen in the Maasai Mara.
- Pale Prinia** *Prinia somalica*
We enjoyed good views of two in Tsavo West NP. A further one was seen in Samburu GR.
- White-chinned Prinia** *Prinia leucopogon*
We had wonderful views of up to six daily in Kakamega Forest.
- Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*
A stunning bird which we found in small numbers in Kakamega Forest.
- Black-collared Apalis** *Apalis pulchra*
Our first sighting was of three in Kieni Forest with further sightings in Kakamega Forest.
- Bar-throated [Taita] Apalis** *Apalis thoracica [fuscigularis]*
We had superb views of four in the Taita Hills.
NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Bar-throated Apalis, A. thoracica. Clements does not as yet accept this split.
- Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*
One of these beautiful apalises was seen at Kieni Forest and another in Kakamega Forest.
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
This widespread, woodland apalis was first seen in dry scrub on the Magadi Road with further sightings at Mt. Kenya and Naro Moru.
NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of A. f. viridiceps, or Brown-tailed Apalis of Somalia, adjacent Ethiopia and Northern Kenya. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.
- [Brown-tailed Apalis]** *Apalis viridiceps*
We had wonderful views of three in Tsavo West NP, a further two in Samburu GR and finally two in the Maasai Mara.
NOTE: See the previous species.
- Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*
A canopy species and we found up to four daily in Kakamega Forest.
- Chestnut-throated Apalis** *Apalis porphyrolaema*
An apalis of montane forest, we heard its "ringing telephone" call on several occasions and saw three at Kieni Forest and several more on Mount Kenya.
- Black-headed Apalis** *Apalis melanocephala*
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Small numbers were seen daily in Shimba Hills NP and in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest on the east coast with a further sighting of three in Imenti Forest.

Gray Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

Two were seen at Kieni Forest and several more on Mount Kenya.

Red-fronted Warbler *Urorhipis rufifrons*

Four individuals of this very arid-zone species were seen in Tsavo West NP with further sightings of two on the Magadi Road and one in Samburu GR, they seem to prefer tumbleweed like vegetation on the driest rocky plains.

Gray-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida*

We had superb views of a pair at Thika with many sightings elsewhere on the trip.

Green-backed [Gray-backed] Camaroptera *Camaroptera [brevicaudata] brachyura*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard throughout the trip with regular sightings during the tour. We only observed the Gray-backed form.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is likely to be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of C. brevicauda, or Gray-backed Camaroptera from the nominate Green-backed Camaroptera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

We had superb views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Miombo Camaroptera [Pale Wren-Warbler] *Calamonastes undosus*

We had excellent scope views of one in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Stierling's Wren-Warbler, C. stierlingi. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Gray Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex*

This species was found to be fairly common in the drier areas of Tsavo West NP and Samburu and Shaba GR's.

Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

African Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

We heard this species on several occasions and finally saw one at Keringet Swamp.

White-winged Scrub-Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis*

We heard several in the wetlands of Busia and at Lake Victoria.

Cameroon Scrub-Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi*

We heard one in the Taita Hills and another in Kieni Forest.

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

We heard many and finally had stunning views of one in the Aberdares NP.

Black-faced Rufous-Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*

A stunning bird, we had good sightings of two in Kakamega Forest.

Moustached Grass-Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

We found two in Tsavo West NP and a further three in the Busia grasslands.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Small numbers were seen at several wetlands including Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo and Limuru Ponds.

Eurasian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One was seen mobbing a Pearl-spotted Owlet in Samburu GR.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Three were seen in Tsavo West NP with a further sighting on the Magadi Road.

Great Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

We had one sighting on the Magadi Road with further superb views of several at Lake Naivasha.

Basra Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*

We had wonderful views of one in Tsavo West NP.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*

We had superb views of one in the Busia wetlands and a further four at Lake Victoria.

Lesser Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

This reed-bed songster was seen well at Lake Jipe.



Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>
We had good views of two in Tsavo West NP.	
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Chloropeta natalensis</i>
We had wonderful views of two at Thika and a further pair at Keringet Swamp with scattered sightings elsewhere.	
Mountain Yellow Warbler	<i>Chloropeta similes</i>
We enjoyed great sightings of two in the forest on Mt.Kenya.	
Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>
This <i>Acacia</i> -inhabiting species was first observed at Lake Naivasha, with further sightings at the Kongelai Escarpment and in the Maasai Mara.	
Yellow-vented Eremomela	<i>Eremomela flavicrissalis</i>
We had superb views of three in Samburu GR.	
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP, Magadi Road and the Maasai Mara.	
Greencap Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>
A flock of five of these social birds was seen in the Maasai Mara.	
Green-backed Eremomela	<i>Eremomela canescens</i>
We had wonderful views of three en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale.	
Turner's Eremomela	<i>Eremomela turneri</i>
We had superb views of up to ten in Kakamega Forest.	
White-browed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta leucophrys</i>
We had good views of one on Mt.Kenya.	
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>
A pair of this dry <i>Acacia</i> woodland species was seen in Samburu GR.	
Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>
Small numbers were seen at scattered sites including three en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale and a further three in the Maasai Mara.	
Somali Crombec	<i>Sylvietta isabellina</i>
We had outstanding views of two in Samburu GR. A lucky find as this species is very rare in Kenya.	
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>
A total of three were seen in Kakamega Forest including excellent views of one.	
Yellow-throated Wood-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapillus</i>
We had great views of one in the Taita Hills.	
Uganda Wood-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus budongoensis</i>
Small numbers were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.	
Brown Woodland-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>
Four individuals were observed at length at Kieni Forest, a delightful montane forest species and a further two on Mt.Kenya.	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Small numbers were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
We had good views of one in the Taita Hills.	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
We had good but fairly brief views of two at Lake Naivasha and another one in Samburu GR.	
Southern Hylia	<i>Hylia australis</i>
We had wonderful views of three in Kakamega Forest. This is a very localized population.	
Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Schoenicola brevirostris</i>
We had wonderful views of one displaying in a grassy clearing in Kakamega Forest.	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>



Our first sighting was of one in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest with a further two seen on the Magadi Road and one at Imenti Forest.

Greater Whitethroat*Sylvia communis*

Up to eight were seen in a day in Tsavo West NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Brown Warbler (Parisoma)*Parisoma lugens*

We had wonderful views of two foraging in *Acacia abyssinica* trees en route from Samburu to Lake Nakuru. A further one was seen en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Banded Warbler (Parisoma)*Parisoma boehmi*

This dry country species was first seen on the Magadi road with a further great sighting of two in Samburu GR.

Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Silverbird*Empidonax semipartitus*

Our first sighting was wonderful views of four during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale. Small numbers were also seen in the Maasai Mara.

Pale Flycatcher*Bradornis pallidus*

This species was seen in small numbers at scattered sites throughout the trip, seen daily in the Maasai Mara.

African Gray Flycatcher*Bradornis microrhynchus*

This active flycatcher that prefers drier areas than the previous species was seen many times throughout the trip with peak numbers of twenty in Samburu GR.

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher*Melaenornis fischeri*

Found commonly in montane forests throughout the trip, up to twenty seen daily on Mt. Kenya.

Northern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis edolioides*

Small numbers seen in Kakamega Forest and the Maasai Mara.

Southern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis pammelaina*

One was seen in Samburu and two en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Spotted Flycatcher*Muscicapa striata*

We found small numbers in Tsavo West NP and along the Magadi Road.

Gambaga Flycatcher*Muscicapa gambagae*

One was seen during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Swamp Flycatcher*Muscicapa aquatica*

We had superb views of four near Lake Victoria.

Chapin's Flycatcher*Muscicapa lendu*

We were very fortunate to see one of this very localized species in Kakamega Forest. A rare species and apart from this site an Albertine Rift endemic.

African Dusky Flycatcher*Muscicapa adusta*

This is a common forest-edge species that we recorded in small numbers at several sites including Lake Nakuru NP and Mount Kenya.

Ashy Flycatcher*Muscicapa caerulescens*

One was seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest with our only other sighting of one in the Maasai Mara.

Gray Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus plumbeus*

A rare bird in Kenya, we had superb views of one near Lake Baringo.

White-starred Robin*Pogonocichla stellata*

We found this beautiful Afro-montane forest robin first in the Taita Hills, where we had wonderful views of an adult. Further sightings were had in Kieni Forest and on Mt. Kenya.

Equatorial Akalat*Sheppardia aequatorialis*

We had fantastic views of four of this reclusive species in Kakamega Forest.

East Coast Akalat*Sheppardia gunningi*

One of these extremely shy birds was seen briefly in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Thrush Nightingale*Luscinia luscinia*

We heard one calling in the camp in Tsavo East NP.



Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
One was seen briefly in Tsavo West NP.	
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
Small numbers were seen daily on Mt. Kenya.	
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>
We had exceptionally good views of this extremely reclusive species in Kakamega Forest.	
Gray-winged Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha polioptera</i>
One of these stunning birds was seen very well in Kakamega Forest.	
Rueppell's Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha semirufa</i>
Seen in small numbers in Nairobi, Isinya and at Thika.	
White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
The crescendo calls of this handsome species led us right to the bird and we had incredible views at Lake Naivasha and in the Maasai Mara with peak numbers of eight at Naro Moru	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
We had great views of a pair in Kakamega Forest.	
Spotted Morning-Thrush	<i>Cichladusa guttata</i>
Another beautiful songster that we first observed in Tsavo East NP and later saw in small numbers throughout the tour in dry scrub.	
Bearded Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
We had good views of one in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.	
Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
This widespread African scrub-robin was seen at many localities throughout the tour with most records from the Lake Baringo area.	
<i>NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would become White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African C. l. zambesiana would remain as Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African C. l. leucoptera would become White-winged Scrub-Robin. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits</i>	
Brown-backed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas hartlaubi</i>
We had wonderful scope views of one near the Kongelai Escarpment.	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
We had brief views of one at Lake Naivasha.	
African (Common) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
This widespread and familiar bird was common during the drive from Thika to Lake Naivasha.	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
One adult male was seen in Shaba GR.	
Schalow's (Mourning) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe [lugens] schalowi</i>
We enjoyed a great sighting of a pair en route from Lake Naivasha to the Aberdares.	
<i>NOTE: This extremely variable complex with an extensive range and many distinctive isolated populations is a perfect candidate for multi-splitting. The resident Ethiopian form O. l. lugubris is usually treated as a full species within Schalow's Wheatear O. schalowi (this complex includes O. l. schalowi of Kenya/N. Tanzania and O. l. vauriei of Somalia.) Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.</i>	
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Seen in small numbers on the Magadi road and in the Maasai Mara.	
Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>
A pair of this wing-flicking and rock-loving species was observed on the Oolololo Escarpment in the Maasai Mara.	
Brown-tailed (-Rock) Chat	<i>Cercomela scotocerca</i>
Up to four were seen in Shaba GR with further sightings in the Lake Baringo area. This species favours black lava flows.	
Moorland Chat	<i>Cercomela sordida</i>
A total of twenty-five were seen during our time in the Aberdares NP.	
Northern Anteater-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>



Up to twenty seen in the Lake Naivasha area with scattered sightings elsewhere including small numbers at Lake Nakuru.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*

Up to twenty seen daily in the Maasai Mara.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

We had stunning views of two pairs in Lake Nakuru NP with one further sighting on the Kongelai Escarpment.

Wattle-eyes *Platysteiridae*

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

We had superb views of two pairs in Kakamega Forest.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

A pair was seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*

After a lengthy search we found a pair with one juvenile in Kakamega Forest.

Jameson's Wattle-eye *Platysteira jamesoni*

We had stunning views of two pairs in Kakamega Forest, this can be a particularly elusive species.

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira concreta*

Two of these magnificent birds were seen in Kakamega Forest. Our second sighting was particularly pleasing as the bird remained in clear views for a lengthy period.

Short-tailed Batis *Batis mixta*

Two of this beautiful understory species were seen in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

This widespread African batis was observed well on several occasions throughout the trip including great views in the Maasai Mara.

Pale Batis *Batis soror*

We had good views of three in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

[Western] Black-headed Batis *Batis minor [erlangeri]*

We found two during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

NOTE: This is a very recent split, refer to (African Bird Club Aug05) ABC Vol 12 No 2 pg99. According to this paper by Michel Louette, Eastern Black-headed Batis. B. minor has two sub-species B.minor minor & B.minor suahelicus and Western Black-headed Batis. B. erlangeri has two sub-species B.erlangeri erlangeri & B.erlangeri congoensis.

Clements does not as yet accept this split.

[Eastern Black-headed Batis] *[Batis minor suahelicus]*

We had wonderful views of a pair near the Sabaki River Mouth. The pair seen in Tsavo East NP were also this species.

NOTE: See note for previous species.

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo*

Small numbers were seen daily in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu GR.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

(Little) Yellow Flycatcher *Erythrocerus holochlorus*

We had wonderful views of two in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

African Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

Small numbers were seen daily at Kitale, Kakamega Forest and in the Maasai Mara.

White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch) *Elminia albonotata*

We had good views of three at Kieni Forest and a further two at Mount Kenya.

African Crested-Flycatcher *Trochocercus cyanomelas*

A pair of this smart species was seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*



A handsome bird recorded in small numbers at many localities including great sightings of several white morph males in full breeding plumage.

Babblers *Timalidae*

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis albipectus

We had good but brief views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Brown Illadopsis

Illadopsis fulvescens

We had good looks at one near a pond in Kakamega Forest.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis rufipennis

We had good views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Gray-chested Illadopsis

Kakamega poliothorax

This species was particularly elusive and was heard on many occasions in Kakamega Forest.

African Hill Babbler

Illadopsis abyssinica

We found three in Kieni Forest and a further two on Mt Kenya.

Rufous Chatterer

Turdoides rubiginosus

We had wonderful sightings at Naro Moru, Samburu and near Lake Baringo.

Black-lored Babbler

Turdoides sharpei

Small numbers were seen very well at Lake Naivasha and near Lake Victoria.

Scaly Babbler

Turdoides squamulatus

A flock of five was seen briefly in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and later we enjoyed fabulous views of four near the Sabaki River Mouth.

Northern Pied-Babbler

Turdoides hypoleucus

Two of these attractive and localized babblers were seen at Isinya and a further two near Wajee Nature Park.

Hinde's Pied-Babbler (E)

Turdoides hindei

We had brief views of three at Wajee Nature Park. This is a very localized species.

Brown Babbler

Turdoides plebejus

Small numbers were seen daily in the Lake Baringo area.

Arrow-marked Babbler

Turdoides jardineii

This widespread African woodland babbler was only observed in Lake Nakuru NP where we found six birds.

Chickadees & Tits *Paridae*

White-bellied Tit

Melaniparus albiventris

First observed at Thika with further sightings at Mount Kenya and Lake Nakuru, an attractive and uncommon species.

Dusky Tit

Melaniparus funereus

A total of ten of this social species were seen in Kakamega Forest.

Red-throated Tit

Melaniparus fringillinus

We had excellent views of one on the Oloololo Escarpment and several more in the Maasai Mara.

Somali Tit

Melaniparus thruppi

Our first sighting was of one in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu, Shaba and Lake Baringo areas.

Penduline Tits *Remizidae*

Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit

Anthoscopus musculus

We had superb views of four on the Magadi Road and a further two in Samburu GR.

African Penduline-Tit

Anthoscopus caroli

Two were seen very well at the Keringet Swamp.

[Buff-bellied Penduline-Tit]

Anthoscopus sylviella

We had fantastic views of three in the Maasai Mara.



NOTE: Some authorities split this species from African Penduline-Tit, *A. caroli*. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters *Nectarinidae*

- Plain-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes reichenowi*
A total of four were seen in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest including several splendid males.
- Kenya (Eastern) Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes orientalis*
Small numbers were seen daily in Tsavo West NP, in Samburu and Shaba GR's and the Lake Baringo area.
- Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*
We found two of this canopy species in Kakamega Forest.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*
We had good views of several at Thika and in Kakamega Forest.
- Amani Sunbird** *Hedydipna pallidigaster*
We had wonderful views of two in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest. A rare and localized species.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*
Our first sighting was wonderful views of a pair in Kieni Forest with further sightings of a pair nesting at Naro Moru and daily sightings of small numbers in Kakamega Forest.
- Eastern Olive-Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*
Small numbers were observed at Shimba Hills NP and Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.
NOTE: Most authorities lump Eastern and Western Olive Sunbirds. Clements treats them as separate species.
- Western Olive-Sunbird** *Cyanomitra obscura*
We had good views of several daily in Kakamega Forest.
NOTE: See previous species.
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystine*
Our first sighting was of one stunning male in Tsavo East NP with further sightings at many other sites throughout the trip.
- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*
We had brief views of one in Kakamega Forest.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Our first sightings were on the Magadi Road with further sightings virtually daily thereafter.
- Hunter's Sunbird** *Chalcomitra hunteri*
This dry country species was observed in Tsavo East and Tsavo West NP's and in Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba GR's.
- Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze*
After an extensive search we found three stunning males at Naro Moru.
- Bronze Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*
This attractive long-tailed sunbird was first encountered at Hotel Boulevard on the first day where we watched a fiscal shrike stealing nesting material from its nest. We had numerous other sightings throughout the trip.
- Golden-winged Sunbird** *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*
This stunning bird was recorded in small numbers on Mt. Kenya, Naro Moru and at Limuru Ponds. Arguably the world's most impressive sunbird!
- Red-tufted Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia johnstoni*
Two birds were seen briefly flying across the road in the Aberdares NP.
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*
We had stunning views of two males in full breeding plumage on our last day en route from the Maasai Mara to Nairobi.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*
We found several in the scrub in the Busia grasslands.
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris preussi*
Four were seen at Naro Moru, and several more at Kakamega Forest.
- Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris*



Small numbers were seen daily on Mt.Kenya.

Beautiful Sunbird*Cinnyris pulchella*

This exquisite sunbird was first seen along the Magadi Road with further sightings in the Lake Baringo area.

Mariqua Sunbird*Cinnyris mariquensis*

This dry country species was recorded in small numbers on the Magadi Road, Kitale area and Kongelai Escarpment.

NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. osiris which we recorded in Kenya would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Mariqua Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Red-chested Sunbird*Cinnyris erythrocerca*

We had superb views of six of these smart birds during the drive from Kakamega to Busia and further sightings near Lake Victoria.

Black-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris nectarinioides*

Our first sightings were of two in Tsavo East NP. A further eight of these stunning birds were seen at Samburu GR. A very localized species.

Purple-banded Sunbird*Cinnyris bifasciatus*

One male was seen at Thika and another on the Oloololo Escarpment.

Tsavo Sunbird*Cinnyris tsavoensis*

Small numbers were recorded daily in Tsavo West NP.

NOTE: Some authorities lump this species with Purple-banded Sunbird, C. bifasciatus. Clements accepts this split.

Shining Sunbird*Cinnyris habessinicus*

We had superb views of a pair in Shaba GR and a further two near Kapedo.

Variable Sunbird*Cinnyris venusta*

We had great views of up to ten at Thika with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Copper Sunbird*Cinnyris cupreus*

Up to eight were seen daily in the Busia and Kisumu areas.

White-eyes *Zosteropidae*

African Yellow White-eye*Zosterops senegalensis*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kitale, Kakamega and Busia areas.

Broad-ringed (Montane) White-eye*Zosterops poliogaster*

Up to ten seen at Kieni Forest and regularly encountered on Mt.Kenya.

[Taita White-eye]*Zosterops silvanus*

We had superb views of five in the Taita Hills.

NOTE: Several authorities split this species from Yellow White-eye, Z. senegalensis. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

White-breasted (Abyssinian) White-eye*Zosterops abyssinicus*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP with a further sighting at Wajee Nature Park.

Old World Orioles *Oriolidae* Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

We found twenty in Shimba Hills NP and a further ten at Sabaki River Mouth with scattered sightings elsewhere.

African Golden Oriole*Oriolus auratus*

Two of these stunning birds were seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Green-headed Oriole*Oriolus chlorocephalus*

We had brief views of one flying across the road in Shimba Hills NP.

Western Black-headed Oriole*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had good but brief views of two in Kakamega Forest.

African (Eastern) Black-headed Oriole*Oriolus larvatus*

Our first sighting was of three in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest with further sightings at Lake Naivasha, Naro Moru, Lake Baringo area and Kongelai Escarpment.

Black-tailed (Mountain) Oriole*Oriolus percivali*

Small numbers were observed in the Aberdares NP, on Mount Kenya and at Imenti Forest.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

A common palearctic migrant, we recorded peak numbers of one hundred in Tsavo West NP including several stunning males.

Rufous-tailed Shrike

Lanius isabellinus

Two were seen in Tsavo West NP.

Lesser Gray Shrike

Lanius minor

Peak numbers of forty were seen in Tsavo West NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Gray-backed Fiscal

Lanius excubitoroides

Small numbers were seen daily during our time at both the Lake Baringo area and the Maasai Mara.

Long-tailed Fiscal

Lanius cabanisi

Small numbers were seen near Gongoni and peak numbers of fifteen were seen in Tsavo West NP.

Taita Fiscal

Lanius dorsalis

Seen in small numbers in Tsavo East NP and several more in Samburu GR.

Somali Fiscal

Lanius somalicus

We found two near Kapedo.

Mackinnon's Shrike

Lanius mackinnoni

We found one in Kakamega Forest.

Common Fiscal

Lanius collaris

Commonly seen throughout the tour with sightings of small numbers virtually daily.

Yellow-billed Shrike

Corvinella corvina

We had fantastic scope views of eight on the Kongelai Escarpment.

White-rumped (Northern White-crowned) Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Small numbers were seen daily at the following sites; Tsavo East and West NPs, Samburu and Shaba GRs, Lake Baringo area and the Maasai Mara.

Bushshrikes & Allies *Malaconotidae*

Brubru

Nilaus afer

Another widespread African savanna bird that we heard and saw throughout the tour, peak numbers of three were seen in Samburu GR.

NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru N. afer, Black-browed Brubru N. nigritemporalis, Angola Brubru N. affinis and Southern Brubru N. brubru. Only the Northern Brubru occurs in Kenya and Tanzania. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Northern Puffback

Dryoscopus gambensis

We had wonderful views of several in the Lake Baringo area.

Pringle's Puffback

Dryoscopus pringlii

After a great deal of searching we were rewarded with good sightings of several in Tsavo West NP and again in Samburu GR.

Black-backed Puffback

Dryoscopus cubla Several sightings during the tour

including one on Mt. Kenya, another at Naro Moru and a couple in the Maasai Mara.

Pink-footed Puffback

Dryoscopus angolensis

We had good sightings of a pair daily in Kakamega Forest, including great scope views of a female on her nest.

Marsh Tchagra

Tchagra minuta

We had great views of one in a forest clearing in Kakamega Forest and several more in the Busia grasslands.

Black-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra senegala

The most widely distributed tchagra, we had good views of two at the Sabaki River Mouth.

NOTE: Moroccan Tchagra T. s. cucullata of north-west Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.



- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*
We had superb views of two on the Magadi Road and several at Naro Moru.
- Three-streaked Tchagra** *Tchagra jamesi*
We had great views of a pair in Tsavo West NP.
- Red-naped Bushshrike** *Laniarius ruficeps*
We had amazing views of this rare and seldom seen species. What a cracker !
- Luehder's Bushshrike** *Laniarius luehderi*
We had wonderful views of yet another stunner, in Kakamega Forest.
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*
A widespread shrike commonly heard and less often seen, we saw several of these birds at Thika, Lake Naivasha and on Mt.Kenya. Peak numbers of six were seen at Naro Moru.
- Black-headed Gonolek** *Laniarius erythrogaster*
We had great views of two on the Kongelai Escarpment.
- Papyrus Gonolek** *Laniarius mufumbiri*
One of these striking birds was seen very well near Lake Victoria.
- Slate-colored Boubou** *Laniarius funebris*
Seen in small numbers throughout the trip, peak numbers of eight were seen in both Tsavo West NP and Samburu GR.
- Rosy-patched Bushshrike** *Rhodophoneus cruentus*
Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP and Samburu and Shaba GRs. This is a stunningly marked species.
NOTE: Tsavo Bushshrike R. c. cathemagmenus of Tsavo NP and south and west into Tanzania may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Samburu & Shaba. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.
- Gray-green Bushshrike** *Telophorus bocagei*
We heard one in Kakamega Forest.
- Sulphur (Orange) -breasted Bushshrike** *Telophorus sulfureopectus*
One was seen well in Samburu, another at Naro Moru and several in the Lake Baringo area.
- Four-colored Bushshrike** *Telophorus quadricolor*
One was seen very briefly in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest, a very skulking species.
- Doherty's Bushshrike** *Telophorus nigrifrons*
One was seen briefly by Daniel on Mt.Kenya.
- Black-fronted Bushshrike** *Telophorus nigrifrons*
One of these beautiful birds was seen in Kieni Forest.
- Gray-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*
We had several sightings of this large bushshrike including great views of our first one in Tsavo East NP.

Helmetsrikes *Prionopidae*

- White Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*
We had superb views of a flock of six on the Kongelai Escarpment. They were seen feeding young at the nest.
- Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii*
Small flocks of six were seen in Shimba Hills NP and Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.
- Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike** *Prionops scopifrons*
We encountered small flocks in Shimba Hills NP and peak numbers of thirty in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

- Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii*
We had wonderful views of four in Kakamega Forest.
- Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*
This is a familiar, ubiquitous bird that was seen throughout the tour in good numbers.



Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae*

- House Crow** *Corvus splendens*
Recorded in large numbers around Mombassa and Malindi.
- Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*
Seen in small numbers in the Lake Naivasha area and on Mt. Kenya.
- Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*
A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers throughout the tour.
- Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*
Up to five were seen in Samburu GR and several more in the Kapedo area.
- White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*
Two birds were seen at their northern limit en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

- Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*
This irruptive species was first observed in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu GR and the Maasai Mara.
- Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
Small numbers seen at scattered localities throughout the trip.
- Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
Up to thirty of this very localized species were seen at the Kongelai Escarpment.
- Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
We had superb views of a pair, near their nest in the Busia area.
- Splendid Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus*
We had wonderful views of a pair at the Keringet Swamp. This is another very localized species in Kenya.
- Purple Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureus*
Yet another very localized species in Kenya, we were fortunate to have superb views of one in the Busia grasslands.
- Rueppell's (Long-tailed) Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuropterus*
Our first sighting was in Lake Nakuru NP and good numbers seen daily in the Kitale area and in the Maasai Mara.
- Golden-breasted Starling** *Lamprotornis regius*
Small numbers seen in Tsavo East and West NPs and up to eight seen in Samburu GR. One of Africa's most beautiful birds!
- Black-bellied Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis corruscus*
Up to forty seen daily in both Shimba Hills NP and Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.
- Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*
Another of the most attractive starlings, we recorded large numbers throughout the tour.
- Hildebrandt's Starling** *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*
Small numbers were seen daily in both Tsavo West NP and the Maasai Mara.
- Violet-backed (Plum-colored/Amethyst) Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
Up to one hundred were seen in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest with scattered sightings elsewhere.
- Fischer's Starling** *Spreo fischeri*
Seen in small numbers in Tsavo West NP and Samburu GR.
- Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*
Small numbers seen at scattered sites including several in Nairobi.
- Slender-billed Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*
Three were seen flying by some of the group on Mt. Kenya. A further flock of twelve birds was seen flying near a waterfall en route from Naro Moru to Lake Nakuru.
- Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*
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Small numbers were seen on Mt.Kenya and at Imenti Forest.

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Kenrick's Starling *Poeoptera kenricki*

A couple was seen on Mt.Kenya and up to eight in Imenti Forest.

Bristle-crowned Starling *Onychognathus salvadorii*

Up to twenty were seen in Shaba GR and a further twenty daily in the Lake Baringo area. Several were seen riding on goats.

Sharpe's Starling *Pholia sharpii*

Small numbers were seen at Mt.Kenya and Imenti Forest.

Abbott's Starling *Pholia femoralis*

We were fortunate to see a pair of these rare starlings on Mt.Kenya.

Magpie Starling *Speculipastor bicolor*

We had magnificent views of a stunning male in Shaba GR and a further five in the Kapedo area.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Commonly seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

Up to seven seen daily in the Maasai Mara.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

This cosmopolitan species was commonly seen around Mombassa and Malindi and again in several locations near human habitations.

Somali Sparrow *Passer castanopterus*

A total of three stunning males were seen near Kapedo.

Kenya Rufous Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus*

Small numbers seen at several sites including sightings at Naro Moru and Lake Baringo.

NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Rufous Sparrow P. motitensis occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous Sparrow P. rufocinctus occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow P. cordofanicus occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow is endemic to Socotra.

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Small numbers seen in Kitale, Kakamega and Busia areas.

NOTE: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into 5 full species, which are fully recognised, by Clements and other authorities.

Parrot-billed Sparrow *Passer gongonensis*

Small numbers seen in Tsavo West NP and peak numbers of thirty were observed in Samburu GR.

Swaheli Sparrow *Passer suahelicus*

Several were seen in the Maasai Mara, a localized species in Kenya.

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey*

We had good views of up to thirty on the Magadi Road, a further ten in Samburu GR and one near Kapedo.

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Petronia pyrgita*

Seen fairly regularly throughout the trip with peak numbers of six seen in both Samburu GR and the Maasai Mara.

Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*

White-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

Up to thirty were seen daily in the Lake Baringo and Kapedo areas.

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

Up to thirty seen in Tsavo West NP and small numbers in Samburu and Shaba GRs.



NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate group would become Southern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver and the form which we recorded in Kenya would become *B. intermedius* Northern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

- White-headed Buffalo-Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli*
Good numbers seen in Tsavo West NP, Samburu and Shaba GRs and Lake Baringo area.
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*
First seen in Samburu GR with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.
- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*
Commonly seen in the drier areas of Tsavo West NP, Samburu and Shaba GRs and Lake Baringo area.
- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*
We found small numbers during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale with a further sighting at Keringet Swamp.
- Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser donaldsoni*
Observed only in Buffalo Springs where we found up to twenty daily.
- Rufous-tailed Weaver** *Histurgops ruficauda*
A species up until now thought to be endemic to Tanzania. We had fantastic views of a flock of six in the Maasai Mara. The first confirmed record of this species in Kenya, what a Mega find !
- Gray-headed (-capped) Social-Weaver** *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*
We found up to ten on the Magadi Road with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.
- Black-capped Social-Weaver** *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*
Good numbers were seen daily in Tsavo West NP and at Samburu and Buffalo Springs where they were found actively nesting in huge colonies.
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*
A common weaver of moister, open habitats, we saw good numbers in several locations throughout the tour.
- Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*
We had good views of two in the Busia grasslands and a further six near Lake Victoria.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*
Small numbers were seen in the Lake Baringo and Kipedo areas.
- Lesser Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*
Small numbers were recorded in Tsavo East, Tsavo West and Lake Baringo areas.
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*
A common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge, we found small numbers at Thika, Lake Naivasha and on Mt Kenya.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*
Up to six were seen daily in Kakamega Forest with scattered sightings elsewhere.
- Black-billed Weaver** *Ploceus melanogaster*
We had wonderful views of three in Kakamega Forest.
- African Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus*
We found three at Thika.
- Holub's (Large) Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*
A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, we observed this species on our first day at the Boulevard Hotel with further sightings at scattered sites including good views of several on the Magadi Road.
- Golden Palm Weaver** *Ploceus bojeri*
What a stunning bird ! We had fantastic views of several males in full breeding plumage near the Sabaki River Mouth.
- Taveta Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus castaneiceps*
Another very localized species, we had good views of several at Lake Jipe.
- Northern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus castanops*
We found a total of three in the wetlands around Lake Victoria.
- Heuglin's Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus heuglini*



We had superb views of five at a nesting colony near the Kongelai Escarpment.

Northern Masked-Weaver *Ploceus taeniopterus*

Up to ten were seen daily at Lake Baringo. This species is extremely difficult to see anywhere apart from this site.

Vitelline Masked-Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Small numbers were seen in Samburu and Shaba GRs with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Commonly seen in the Lake Baringo area and the Maasai Mara.

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei*

Peak numbers of up to forty were seen at nesting colonies en route from Mt. Kenya to Samburu GR with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Vieillot's Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

Our first sighting was of one in Kakamega Forest with further sightings in the Busia grasslands.

Clarke's Weaver (E) *Ploceus golandi*

A total of twenty were seen in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest, a very lucky find.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

Up to twenty were seen around Lake Victoria.

Golden-backed Weaver *Ploceus jacksoni*

We had fantastic views of up to twenty of these stunning weavers, at Lake Baringo.

Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus*

We first observed this nomadic species in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu and Shaba GRs and the Lake Baringo area.

Forest Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*

Our first sighting was of three in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and peak numbers of six in Kakamega Forest.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

A pair of this handsome forest weaver was seen in Imenti Forest with further sightings in Kakamega Forest.

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantus superciliosus*

Up to six were seen daily in the Busia area.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

Two of these smart birds were seen in Kakamega Forest.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

We had good sightings on the Kongelai Escarpment and in Samburu GR with scattered sightings elsewhere.

NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the southern nominate group would remain Red-headed Weaver and the northern black-faced form which we recorded in Kenya would become Red-winged Weaver A. leuconotos. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*

We had excellent views of a flock of ten in breeding plumage in the Maasai Mara.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

We first found the "African avian locust" near the Sabaki River Mouth where we observed small numbers. In Tsavo East NP we found flocks numbering several thousand.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

We observed two males of this amazing bumblebee-like bird displaying over rice fields en route from Lake Victoria to the Maasai Mara.

Fire-fronted Bishop *Euplectes diadematus*

One was seen briefly in Tsavo West NP, however we were treated to phenomenal views of three stunning males in full breeding plumage in Samburu GR. Certainly one of the birds of the trip !

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*

After a lengthy search we found two males in the Busia area.

Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Up to five of these striking birds were seen in the Busia area.



(Southern) Red Bishop*Euplectes orix*

Ten of these lovely birds were seen displaying over the rice fields en route from Lake Victoria to Maasai Mara.

Zanzibar Bishop*Euplectes nigroventris*

Up to twenty were seen near the Sabaki River Mouth and a further eight at Lake Jipe.

Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped/Cape Widow)*Euplectes capensis*

Our first sighting was of one on the Magadi Road with many sightings thereafter.

Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird*Euplectes axillaris*

Good numbers were observed during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.

White-winged Widowbird*Euplectes albonotatus*

Our first sighting was of a splendid male in Tsavo West NP with a further sighting of one in Samburu GR.

Red-collared Widowbird*Euplectes ardens*

Up to thirty were seen on the Magadi Road with further sightings on Mt. Kenya.

Marsh Widowbird*Euplectes hartlaubi*

Four of these localized birds were seen in the Busia area.

Long-tailed Widowbird*Euplectes progne*

Fantastic males in full breeding plumage were seen displaying in the highland grasslands around Mt. Kenya and near Mwega.

Jackson's Widowbird*Euplectes jacksoni*

Up to twenty seen in the grasslands around Mt. Kenya and Mwega.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird*Euplectes macrocercus*

Small numbers were seen in the scrub and secondary growth in the Busia area.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two species. Yellow-shouldered Widowbird, E. macrocercus and Yellow-mantled Widowbird, E. macrourus. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

[Yellow-mantled Widowbird]*Euplectes macrourus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Maasai Mara.

Parasitic Weaver*Anomalospiza imberbis*

Up to five were seen in the Busia grasslands.

Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver*Amblyospiza albifrons*

Several were seen at the hotel Boulevard, Nairobi on our first day with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae**White-breasted Nigrofinch***Nigrita fusconota*

We had wonderful views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Gray-headed Nigrofinch*Nigrita canicapilla*

Small numbers were seen on Mt. Kenya and in Kakamega Forest.

Green-winged Pytilia*Pytilia melba*

Small numbers were seen at several sites including good views of eight on the Magadi Road.

Green-backed Twinspot*Mandingoa nitidula*

We heard this species in Kakamega Forest.

Abyssinian Crimson-wing*Cryptospiza salvadorii*

Four of these stunning birds were seen exceptionally well on Mt Kenya, a very shy retiring species.

Red-headed Bluebill*Spermophaga ruficapilla*

Up to four of these striking birds were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Bar-breasted Firefinch*Lagonosticta rufopicta*

Up to eight were seen daily in the Busia grasslands.

Red-billed Firefinch*Lagonosticta senegala*

Commonly seen in small numbers throughout the trip with peak numbers of eighty in a day in the Maasai Mara.

Black-bellied Firefinch*Lagonosticta rara*

Two of these stunning firefinches were seen near Busia.



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- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*
We had wonderful views of a pair at Thika.
- Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*
Up to six were seen daily at our lodge in Tsavo West NP.
- Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*
This widespread species was seen commonly throughout the tour.
- Blue-capped Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*
Small numbers were seen daily in Tsavo West NP and again on the Magadi Road.
- Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*
We enjoyed excellent views of this stunning species in Tsavo West NP, Magadi Road and the Maasai Mara.
- Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Estrilda quartinia*
This attractive bird was seen daily in small numbers on Mount Kenya, a further two were seen in the Maasai Mara.
- Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola*
A total of eight were seen in the Busia grasslands.
- Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga*
Small numbers were seen in Samburu GR with a further sighting of thirty in Shaba GR.
- Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*
A pair was seen by some participants near a stream, in the Busia area.
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*
Small numbers were seen at Mt.Kenya, Lake Nakuru NP and the Maasai Mara.
- Black-crowned Waxbill** *Estrilda nonnula*
We found four in Kakamega Forest and a further two near Busia.
- Kandt's Waxbill** *Estrilda kandti*
We found three on Mt.Kenya.
NOTE: Recently Kandt's Waxbill, E.kandti of East Africa has been split from Black-headed Waxbill, E.atricapilla of West Africa. Clements accepts this split.
- Black-cheeked (-faced) Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos*
We enjoyed wonderful sightings of four on the Magadi Road.
- Red-rumped (Black-cheeked) Waxbill** *Estrilda chamosyna*
We had wonderful views of four in Shaba GR and a further two near Kapedo.
- Zebra Waxbill** *Amandava subflava*
Small numbers were seen in the Busia area.
- African Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*
Two were seen on the Magadi Road, a further two in Samburu GR and finally one in the Maasai Mara.
- Locustfinch** *Paludipasser locustella*
Up to three were seen daily in the Busia grasslands. This is a rare bird in Kenya.
- African Silverbill** *Lonchura cantans*
First seen in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu GR.
- Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullatus*
This is a familiar African species, seen in good numbers in the Kisumu area.
- Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*
We found ten in the Busia grasslands.
NOTE: Some authorities split Black-and-white Mannikin, L.bicolor and Brown-backed Mannikin, L.nigriceps. Clements does not as yet accept this split.
- [Brown-backed Mannikin]** *Lonchura nigriceps*
We found thirty at Thika.
NOTE: See the previous species.
- Cut-throat (-Finch)** *Amadina fasciata*
Several were seen on the Magadi Road and large numbers of over one hundred in Samburu GR.
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Indigobirds: Viduidae

- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeate*
One was seen on Mt.Kenya and another near Kisumu.
- Purple Indigobird** *Vidua purpurascens*
One was seen at our lodge in Tsavo West NP.
- Steel-blue Whydah** *Vidua hypocherina*
We had great views of three males in full breeding plumage on the Magadi Road with a further sighting of one in Samburu GR.
- Straw-tailed Whydah** *Vidua fischeri*
Two of these stunningly marked birds in breeding plumage were seen in Tsavo West NP with a further sighting in Samburu GR.
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*
This species was commonly seen throughout the trip.
- Eastern Paradise Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea*
Up to twenty males in full breeding dress were seen on the Magadi Road.
- Oriole Finch** *Linurgus olivaceus*
We had superb views of one on Mt.Kenya.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies Fringillidae

- Yellow-crowned Canary** *Serinus flavivertex*
This species was seen in small numbers daily, on Mt.Kenya.
NOTE: This species complex has been split into two, the nominate southern group is now Cape Canary and the form which we recorded in Kenya has become S. flavivertex Yellow-crowned Canary.
- Western Citril** *Serinus hypostictus*
Small numbers were seen in Thika with further sightings at Naro Moru, Kakamega Forest and the Maasai Mara.
NOTE: This complex is now treated as 3 full species, Southern Citril, S. hypostictus, the central Western Citril S. frontalis which we observed and the nominate African/Abyssinian Citril S. citrinelloides of Ethiopia.
- Papyrus Canary** *Serinus koliensis*
We were fortunate to see one near Lake Victoria. A rare bird indeed !
- Reichenow's Seedeater** *Serinus reichenowi*
We had superb views of several in Tsavo West NP and again on the Magadi Road with scattered sightings elsewhere.
- Yellow-fronted Canary** *Serinus mozambicus*
Our first sighting was of three near the Sabaki River Mouth with further sightings in the Kisumu area and in the Maasai Mara.
- Southern Grosbeak-Canary** *Serinus buechanani*
One bird was observed very well on the Magadi Road.
- White-bellied Canary** *Serinus dorsostriatus*
Seen in several locations throughout the trip, we first observed this species on the Magadi Road with further sightings in the Kisumu area and Maasai Mara.
- Brimstone (Bully) Canary** *Serinus sulphuratus*
First seen at Isinya with further sightings of peak numbers of four at Kisumu.
- Streaky Seedeater** *Serinus striolatus*
Up to twenty were seen daily on Mt.Kenya with scattered sightings elsewhere.
NOTE: Clements recognizes the Tanzanian race S. whytii as a full species Yellow-browed Seed-eater.
- Thick-billed Seedeater** *Serinus burtoni*
We had superb views of four on Mt.Kenya.



Buntings *Emberizidae*

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting*Emberiza tahapisi*

We found our first one en route from Mt. Kenya to Samburu with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.

Golden-breasted Bunting*Emberiza flaviventris*

We found our first two on the Magadi Road, an unusual sighting at this elevation. Thereafter we encountered small numbers in the Maasai Mara.

Somali Bunting*Emberiza poliopleura*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP with peak numbers of forty seen in Samburu GR.

Annotated List of Mammal Species:

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals' by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997.

(78 species)

Colobid Monkeys *Colobidae*

Angola Colobus*Colobus angolensis*

We had superb views of three daily, in Shimba Hills NP. This is a rare monkey.

Guereza Colobus*Colobus guereza*

This mature-leaf folivore, arguably the most beautiful of all monkeys, was seen on Mount Kenya and again in Kakamega Forest.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*

Olive Baboon*Papio anubis*

Up to sixty seen daily in Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba GRs. A further six were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Yellow Baboon*Papio cynocephalus*

Small numbers were seen in Shimba Hills NP, Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and Tsavo West NP.

Blue Monkey*Cercopithecus mitis*

Seen throughout the trip in good numbers. At Mount Kenya we found several small troops, this sub-species is sometimes split as Syke's Monkey.

Vervet Monkey*Cercopithecus aethiops*

Small numbers were seen daily in Samburu and Shaba GRs.

De Brazza's Monkey*Cercopithecus neglectus*

We had fantastic views of at least six of these rare monkeys daily in the Busia grasslands.

Red-tailed Monkey*Cercopithecus ascanius*

We had good views of four in Kakamega Forest.

Galagos *Galagonidae*

Greater Galago*Otolemur crassicaudatus*

We had great views of one at our lodge in Tsavo West NP.

Silver Galago*Otolemur argentatus*

Some of us had great views of one at Kitchwa Tembo in the Maasai Mara.

Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*

Straw-colored Fruit Bat*Eidolon helvum*

About seventy were seen during the drive from Busia to Kisumu.

Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat*Epomophorus wahlbergi*

Twenty-one were seen at a roost during the drive from Tsavo West to Isinya and a further fifty at a roost in Shaba GR.

Mauritian Tomb Bat *Taphozous mauritanus*

One was seen flying into a roost in Malindi.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

We found three in Samburu GR and a further two near Busia.

Elephant Shrews *Macroscelidea*

Four-toed Elephant Shrew *Petrodromus tetradactylus*

One was seen in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew *Rhynchocyon chrysopygus*

We had brief views of two in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Hares *Leporidae*

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis*

We found two en route from the Aberdares to Mt. Kenya.

African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae*

One was seen briefly in Shaba GR.

Squirrels *Sciuridae*

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

Small numbers were seen daily in Tsavo West NP and Samburu and Shaba GRs.

Red-bellied Coast Squirrel *Paraxerus palliatus*

We had incredible views of five of these stunning squirrels in Shimba Hills NP.

Ochre Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus*

First seen in Tsavo West NP with further sightings at Mt. Kenya.

Zanj Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus undulates*

We had good views of several in Shimba Hills NP.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*

We had good views of two in Kakamega Forest.

Nutria *Myocastoridae*

Nutria *Myocastor coypus*

Several were seen near our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

Pouched Rats *Cricetomyinae*

Giant Gambian Rat *Cricetomys gambianus*

One was seen on Mt. Kenya

Groove-Toothed Rats *Otomyinae*

African Grass Mouse *Arvicanthis niloticus*

A group of four was seen in the Maasai Mara.

Dogs & Allies *Canidae*

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*

One was seen in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.

Mustelids *Mustelidae*



Zorilla (Striped Polecat)*Ictonyx striatus*

One was seen during the drive into our lodge on Mt.Kenya.

Spot-necked Otter*Lutra maculicollis*

We had good views of two in Lake Victoria.

Porcupines *Hystricidae***Crested Porcupine***Hystrix cristata*

We had wonderful views of one in Tsavo West NP.

Mongoose *Herpestidae***Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguinea*

Africa's most widespread mongoose was seen well on Mt.Kenya and in the Maasai Mara.

Dwarf Mongoose*Helogale parvula*

This cute termite-mound dwelling mongoose with a prominent pink nose was seen in Samburu.

Somali Dwarf Mongoose*Helogale hirtula*

We saw two in Tsavo West NP and one near Kapedo.

Banded Mongoose*Mungos mungo*

These entertaining creatures were seen in Tsavo West NP and again in the Maasai Mara.

Marsh Mongoose*Atilax paludinosus*

We had wonderful views of two at the floodlit waterhole on Mt.Kenya.

White-tailed Mongoose*Ichneumia albicauda*

We had wonderful views of two on Mt.Kenya and a further one near the Maasai Mara.

Hyaenas *Hyaenidae***Spotted Hyaena***Crocuta crocuta*

This carnivore was first seen at our lodge on Mount Kenya with further sightings of two at Lake Nakuru and five in the Maasai Mara including some young cubs.

Genets *Viverridae***Blotched Genet***Genetta tigrina*

We had wonderful views of one at our lodge on Mt.Kenya.

Cats *Felidae***Lion***Panthera leo*

Prides of these regal beasts were seen exceptionally well in the Maasai Mara.

Leopard*Panthera pardus*

One of the most sought after of African mammals, we were fortunate to find three individuals in Tsavo West NP. Our final sighting was incredible views of a relaxed Leopard on the road in the early morning.

Cheetah*Acinonyx jubatus*

The fastest ground mammal in the world, we had two sightings, stunning views of three in Tsavo East NP and a further sighting of one in the Maasai Mara.

Hyraxes *Hyracoidea***Rock Hyrax***Procavia capensis*

Good numbers were seen at Lake Nakuru.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax*Heterohyrax brucei*

Up to twenty seen in Samburu GR.

Eastern Tree Hyrax*Heterohyrax validus*

We heard the loud screams of this nocturnal species on Mount Kenya and finally saw one and scoped it calling. I very localized species.

Elephants *Elephantidae*

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

Elephants were common and conspicuous in the savanna parks throughout the tour, with numerous close encounters of drinking, bathing and feeding individuals. We had superb views of many in Tsavo East NP and in the Maasai Mara with further sightings of small numbers on Mt. Kenya.

Horses *Equidae*

Common (Burchell's) Zebra

Equus burchelli

An animal restricted to the savanna and seen on many days during the tour in small numbers. We encountered them in Tsavo East NP, at Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru NP and in the Maasai Mara where we saw over one hundred daily.

Grevy's Zebra

Equus grevyi

We were fortunate to observe five of these large and elaborate zebra in Buffalo Springs.

Rhinoceroses *Rhinocerotidae*

White Rhinoceros

Ceratotherium simum

Two of these powerful animals were observed at Lake Nakuru.

Hippopotamuses *Hippopotamidae*

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibious

Fairly common along waterways throughout the tour, first observed in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Lake Naivasha and the Maasai Mara.

Pigs *Suidae*

Giant Forest Hog

Hylochoerus meinertzhageni

We had incredible views of four at the floodlit waterhole in front of our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

Another familiar savanna animal that we found in suitable habitat throughout the trip, small numbers were observed in most reserves with peak numbers of thirty in the Maasai Mara.

Giraffes *Giraffidae*

Reticulated Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata

Peak numbers of twenty-eight of this distinctive race were found at Buffalo Springs daily.

Rothschild's Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis cottoni

We were fortunate to see two of this endangered race at Lake Nakuru.

Maasai Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi

Large numbers of this race of giraffe were seen throughout the tour with a peak number of twenty individuals seen during one day in the Maasai Mara.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates *Bovidae*

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer

This fearsome animal was observed in all the savanna national parks, with large numbers throughout the tour, peak numbers were recorded in the Maasai Mara where we found up to two hundred in a day. Fifty-three were also seen at our lodge on Mt Kenya.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus



This elegant and attractively marked, mainly nocturnal antelope, was seen first in Shimba Hills NP with further sightings at Mt. Kenya and the Maasai Mara.

Lesser Kudu *Tragelaphus imberbis*

We saw two briefly in Tsavo West NP.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx*

This species, the largest of the antelope, was observed first in Tsavo West NP with further sightings at Lake Nakuru and in the Maasai Mara.

Harvey's Duiker *Cephalophus harveyi*

We had wonderful views of one crossing the road in Shimba Hills NP.

Suni *Neotragus moschatus*

We had fantastic scope views of three from the viewing platform at our lodge on Mt. Kenya.

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris*

One was seen briefly in Samburu GR.

Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus*

We had brief views of one in Tsavo West NP with a further great sighting of two in Samburu GR.

Kirk's Dik-dik *Madoqua kirkii*

Up to twenty seen daily in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu and Shaba GRs.

Guenther's Dik-dik *Madoqua guentheri*

We had great views of a pair in Shaba GR.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*

This reed-loving antelope was seen very well in the Aberdares NP.

Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

Up to twenty seen daily at Lake Naivasha and small numbers seen on Mt. Kenya, Lake Nakuru and the Maasai Mara.

Common Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

Up to ten seen daily in Tsavo West NP and a further five in Shaba GR.

Grant's Gazelle *Gazella granti*

Small numbers seen in Tsavo East and West NPs. Large numbers of this graceful species recorded in Samburu and Shaba GRs.

Thomson's Gazelle *Gazella thomsonii*

Up to twenty seen in Lake Nakuru NP and up to three hundred daily in the Maasai Mara.

Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri*

We observed a few individuals of this long-necked, arid-zone antelope species first near in good numbers in Buffalo Springs, Samburu and Shaba GRs including several individuals standing upon hind legs to feed in classic style.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*

This most familiar of antelope is another savanna specialty, was seen with frequency during almost all days of the tour with peak numbers of one hundred plus in the Maasai Mara.

Topi (Tsessebe) *Damaliscus lunatus*

Up to forty observed daily in the Maasai Mara.

Coke's Hartebeest (Kongoni) *Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel*

Seen in small numbers in Tsavo West NP and up to twenty daily in the Maasai Mara.

Jackson's Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel*

A herd of ten was seen near Mwega.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus*

Up to thirty were seen at Lake Naivasha and a further twenty in the Maasai Mara.

Sable Antelope *Hippotragus niger*

We had fantastic views of a herd of thirty-two in Shimba Hills NP, the only site in Kenya.

Beisa Oryx *Oryx gazelle beisa*

Up to sixty of these impressive antelope were seen in the Buffalo Springs NR.



Annotated List of Reptile and Amphibian Species: (27 species)

Helmeted Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>
One seen in Shimba Hills NP, another at Samburu GR and one in the Maasai Mara.	
Serrated Hinged Terrapin	<i>Pelusios sinuatus</i>
We had great views of one at Samburu.	
Brook's Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus brooki</i>
We found two in Tsavo East NP.	
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
We had good views of two in Tsavo West NP.	
White-headed Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus picturatus</i>
We had good views of one in Shimba Hills NP and another one in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.	
Rainbow Skink	<i>Mabuya margaritifera</i>
We had wonderful views of several including good views of a male in Tsavo West NP.	
Striped Skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i>
We found one in the Maasai Mara.	
Speke's Sand Lizard	<i>Heliobolus spekii</i>
We had wonderful views of five in the Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.	
Southern Long-tailed Lizard	<i>Latastia longicaudata</i>
One was seen in Tsavo West NP.	
Blue-headed Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>
We had good views of two in the Busia area and a further one in the Maasai Mara.	
Red-headed Rock Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>
Commonly seen in Tsavo West NP and Lake Baringo area.	
Elementeita Rock Agama	<i>Agama caudospina</i>
We had fantastic views of a male near Mwega.	
Mwanza Flat-headed Agama	<i>Agama mwanzae</i>
Several individuals were seen daily in the Maasai Mara.	
Finch's Rock Agama	<i>Agama finchi</i>
We had great views of five in the Busia area.	
Side-striped Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo bitaeniatus</i>
We had great views of one in the Busia grasslands.	
Flap-necked Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>
We had good views of one in Tsavo East NP.	
Von Hoehnel's Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo hoehnelii</i>
We had wonderful views of a superb male during the drive from Naro Moru to Lake Nakuru.	
Mt. Kilimanjaro Two-horned Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo tavetanus</i>
We had fantastic views of one in the Taita Hills.	
White-throated Savanna Monitor	<i>Varanus albigularis</i>
One was seen in Shaba GR and a further four in the Lake Baringo area.	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Two were seen in Shaba and a further two at Lake Nakuru.	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Numerous at Shaba in the Ewaso Nyiro River adjacent to our hotel and several enormous ones seen in the Maasai Mara.	
White-lipped Snake	<i>Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia</i>
We enjoyed wonderful views of one in the Maasai Mara.	
Black Mamba	<i>Dendroaspis polylepis</i>



We found a small one in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest and a futher one was seen in the Busia area.

Guttural Toad

Bufo gutturalis

We had fantastic views of one in Arabuko-Sekoke Forest.

Shimba Hills Reed-Frog

Hyperolius rubrovermiculatus

We were very fortunate to see one in the bathroom of our Lodge in Shimba Hills NP, a very rare frog.

Peter's Reed-Frog

Hyperolius sp.

We found one in Tsavo West NP.

Painted Reed-Frog

Hyperolius glandicolor

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