



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Kenya Mega

2nd to 27th April 2009 (26 days)



Trip Report Compiled by: Brian Finch

Tour Summary

With Kenya in the grip of a very severe and unseasonal drought (officially it being the middle of the wet season), and the birds all too frequently silent and waterholes non-existent, it was evident that we were going to have to be very fortunate for some species. Many of the widespread African waterbirds were not encountered, or only in small numbers, forests were at times silent, and wet-season breeders had not returned. Notwithstanding these unusual conditions the final total romped in with an amazing 786 species seen and a further eighteen as mere voices in the wilderness. Even under these adverse conditions, Kenya still proved itself as probably the world's top birding destination for those with a penchant for variety.

Participants were treated to all six Kenyan endemics on our route; Jackson's Francolin, William's Lark, Sharpe's Longclaw, Aberdare Cisticola, Hinde's Babbler and Clarke's Weaver, plus the often

recognized endemic forms Taita Thrush, Taita Apalis and Taita White-eye, with other highlights including an impressive fall of Palearctic migrants, amongst eight francolin species, the first Red-winged Francolins recorded in the country for around twenty years, African Pygmy Geese, all 8 species of Storks, countless Lesser Flamingos at Lake Nakuru, Eleonora's and Sooty Falcons, Bat-Hawk twice, Long-legged Buzzard, Ovampo Sparrowhawk, five Bustard species, White-spotted Flufftail, Corncrake, all three breeding sub-saharan Thick-knees, Crab Plover, Somali Courser (one of four coursers), Madagascar Pratincole (one of three Pratincoles), Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (one of four Sandgrouse species) Delegorgue's Pigeon (one of fourteen Pigeon species), Great Blue Turaco (just one of ten Turaco species), 16 species of Cuckoos, Scheffler's form of African Barred Owllet, Sokoke Scops-Owl and seven other Owl species seen at daylight roosts, Forbes-Watson's Swift being only one of thirteen Swift species, White-headed Mousebird, Narina & Bar-tailed Trogon, Blue-breasted & Somali Bee-eater part of ten Bee-eater species found, Jackson's Hornbill just one of ten true hornbills, Pallid Honeyguide, Mombasa Woodpecker, African Broadbill, Friedmann's Lark just one of thirteen Lark species, Golden & Malindi Pipit, Taita Apalis plus another nine Apalis species, Basra Reed and Upcher's Warblers, Turner's Eremomela part of the clean sweep of the five Kenyan species, Somali and Green Crombecs, Gambaga & Chapin's Flycatcher, Blue-shouldered & Snowy-headed Robin-chat, Jameson's Wattle-eye, Amani & Golden-winged Sunbird just part of the twenty-eight species of Sunbirds recorded, Red-naped Bushshrike, Papyrus Gonolek, Abbott's & Magpie Starling representatives of the staggering twenty-four Starling species seen, Fire-fronted Bishop, Heuglin's Masked Weaver just one of an amazing twenty-five species of *Ploceus* Weavers met with, Kandt's Waxbill 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 80 species. Some of the highlights included the big five and memorable Leopard & Cheetah sightings, African Palm Civet, the rare Angola Colobus, Desert Warthog, Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk, Suni, Lesser Kudu and Grevy's Zebra.



Although the group arrived in Nairobi on the evening of the 1st April, the tour really started on the coast on the 2nd, and after being picked up and transferred to Shimba Hills Lodge we deposited the luggage in the rooms and had lunch, being robbed frequently by the stunning and cunning Red-bellied Coast Squirrels. Straight afterwards we left for Shimba Hills Park but not before admiring a low roosting pair of African Wood-Owls, and a Green-headed Oriole in the garden, but Brian was sadly on his own when a Bat Hawk flew over the lodge, stirring up the

large numbers of raucous Trumpeter Hornbills. Our stay in this seldom visited park produced some wonderful birds and mammals including Palmnut Vulture, Sooty Falcon, Eurasian Hobby, 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, colourful Yellow-throated Longclaw, Croaking and Siffling Cisticola, Black-headed Apalis, Green-headed Oriole, Retz's and Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrikes and Black-bellied Starling. Mammal highlights included the rare Angola Colobus, plus a nocturnal mammal show with several Small-eared Galagos with striking white tail-tips, whilst Blotched Genet, Civet and Marsh Mongoose arrived for handouts. Eastern Tree Hyrax were a prominent part of the natural chorus when we retired for the night.

Next we travelled to the rich Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and during our time in this diverse area we also visited Jilore Swamp, Mida Creek, Sabaki River Mouth and Gongoni. Highlights included Dimorphic Egret, Southern Banded Snake-Eagle, Eleonora's Falcon, the bizarre Crab Plover (a new family for

several participants), migrant Madagascar Pratincole, Lesser Sandplover, Sooty and huge Heuglin's Gulls, cute and highly sought after Sokoke Scops-Owl, African Barred Owllet, Fiery-necked Nightjar, Bohm's Spinetail and the very local migrant Forbes-Watson's Swift, Brown-breasted Barbet, Mombasa Woodpecker, Malindi and Sokoke Pipit, Short-tailed and Pale Batis, Little Yellow Flycatcher, elusive Scaly Babbler, rare Amani Sunbird, stunning Four-coloured Bush-Shrike, secretive Coastal Boubou, Golden Palm and an attractive group of fifteen Clarke's Weaver which included eight males in breeding dress, and were the first birds that had been seen this year having been absent for some time, and finally the dazzling red bumble-bee-like Zanzibar Bishop.

From Sabaki River Mouth we travelled to Tsavo East NP, highlights here included the majestic Somali Ostrich, Pygmy and Amur Falcons, Black-faced Sandgrouse, tiny Pearl-spotted Owllet, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Spot-flanked Barbet, Red-winged Lark, Grey-headed Bushshrike and Amethyst and localised Black-bellied Sunbird. One major highlight of the trip was waking up to a fall of migrants in the grounds of the lodge which included Rufous Bush-Chat, the very beautiful Irania, Sprosser, Olive Tree and Upcher's Warblers, Basra Reed Warbler and hundreds of other hungry migrants.

En route to Tsavo West NP we stopped at the Taita Hills that produced Stripe-faced Bulbul, rare Taita Apalis, elusive Taita Thrush, beautiful White-starred Robin, Taita White-eye and Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler. Having arrived on site early, we had to wait nearly an hour before seeing (or hearing) our first birds! The forest gave the appearance of being completely deserted, but persistence (or stubbornness) paid off.

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, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Hildebrandt's Francolin, flocks of splendid Vulturine Guinea fowl, White-bellied and Buff-crested Bustard, African Orange-bellied Parrot, Eurasian and Dusky Nightjar, White-throated Bee-eater, Abyssinian Scimitar-bill, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Scaly Chatterer, African Bare-eyed Thrush, Pale Prinia, Red-fronted Warbler, Tiny Cisticola, migrant Olivaceous and Barred Warbler, Spotted Morning-Thrush, Pygmy Batis, Tsavo Sunbird, Red-tailed Shrike, Pringle's Puffback, highly elusive Red-naped Bushshrike, Fischer's and breathtaking Golden-breasted Starling, localised Taveta Golden Weaver, Jameson's Firefinch, Blue-capped Cordonbleu and flamboyant Long-tailed Paradise, Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydah.



Then we were off to the Magadi Road that produced some fantastic birds including a ghostly male Pallid Harrier, Two-banded Courser, European Bee-eater, Foxy Lark, Lynes' and Ashy Cisticola, Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush, Northern Crombec, Chestnut Sparrow, Grey-headed Social-Weaver, stunning Purple Grenadier, Black-cheeked Waxbill and Southern Grosbeak-Canary.

Leaving the dry country we travelled to the forested area of Thika, birding in the wonderful gardens with its cascading waterfalls produced some memorable birds including Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, striking Spot-flanked Barbet, bouncy Mountain Wagtails, endemic Hinde's Babbler, the very local Grey-olive Greenbul, Red-faced and Singing Cisticola and African Golden Weaver. Moving on to Kieni Forest we found it initially extremely quiet, but were later treated to some forest jewels including Hartlaub's Turaco, an extravert Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Black-collared, Black-throated and

Chestnut-throated Apalis, White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher and the biggest surprise, a lost Doherty's Bushshrike. Thereafter we travelled to the Kinangop Plateau that produced Black-winged Plover, Red-capped Lark and the rare endemic Sharpe's Longclaw.



At Lake Naivasha we found the lake alarmingly low. Nevertheless we were entertained by a very tame Giant Kingfisher, as well as Grey-capped Warbler, and a good collection of "garden-type" birds. A relaxing boat cruise on the lake produced Goliath Heron, African Fish-Eagle, Gull-billed Tern, Malachite Kingfisher, and small variety of migrant waders. Thereafter we travelled to the highland

National Park of the Aberdares finding confiding Jackson's Francolin, Aberdare Cisticola and Moorland Chat.

Our time on Mount Kenya produced a wealth of good forest species including elusive Scaly Francolin, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Dusky Turtle-Dove, stunning African Emerald Cuckoo, Scarce Swift, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Moustached Tinkerbird, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Eastern Mountain Greenbul, effervescent Hunter's Cisticolas, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Abyssinian Ground-Thrush, magnificent Golden-winged Sunbird, Sharpe's and rarer Abbott's and Kenrick's Starling, stunning Oriole Finch, Kandt's Waxbill, beautiful Yellow-crowned Canary and Thick-billed Seedeater. On the lower slopes we found Steppe Eagle, Black-breasted Snake-Eagle, Little Rock-Thrush and impressive Jackson's Widowbird. The rarest find was a Long-legged Buzzard present in the same place on both days we were in the area.

From the lush forest clad slopes of Mount Kenya we travelled to the dry Acacia savanna reserves of Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba. Here we were rewarded with many memorable sightings of rare birds and mammals including; Verreaux's Eagle, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, the impressive Kori Bustard, Somali Courser, Water Thick-knee, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Somali Bee-eater, Alpine Swift, White-headed Mousebird, Grant's Wood-hoopoe, Black-throated Barbet, rare William's and Friedmann's Lark, Yellow-vented Eremomela, localised Somali Crombec, Banded Parisoma, Somali Tit, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Three-streaked Tchagra, Fan-tailed Raven, magical Magpie Starling, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver, nomadic Fire-fronted Bishop, glowing Golden Palm Weaver, Cut-throat and Somali Bunting. Mammals included the bizarre Gerenuk, Reticulated Giraffe, Grevy's Zebra and Beisa Oryx.



En route to Lake Nakuru we picked up African Rail, Cape Eagle-Owl, Rufous-necked Wryneck and Ethiopian Swallow giving a very musical refrain, with many spectacular Long-tailed Widowbirds tumbling in the air like so many badly flown kites! Lake Nakuru was spectacular with countless Lesser Flamingo forming a pink lining along the lake edge. Other highlights included Black-necked Grebe, abundant White Pelicans, Steppe Eagle, Temminck's Stint, Meyer's Parrot, curious Pearl-spotted Owllet, Nyanza and Mottled Swift, splendid Green Woodhoopoe, and a pair of secretive African Firefinch. Of course the backdrop of flamingos, pelicans and the consistent comings and goings of cormorants, gulls,

terns, waders, herons, ibis, spoonbills and other waterside and swamp species made the whole vista incomparable, and impossible to describe in mere words.

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, Spotted and Senegal Thick-knees, a pair of stunning Northern White-faced Scops Owl, diminutive African Scops Owl, sleepy Greyish Eagle-Owl and indifferent



Verreaux's Eagle-Owl. Birding in the superb lodge grounds and nearby woodland produced an array of species including Squacco Heron, White-faced Whistling-Duck, an elusive Eurasian Honey-Buzzard, Black-headed Plover, Woodland Kingfisher, staggeringly attractive Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, localised Jackson's Hornbill, Hemprich's Hornbill, Bearded Woodpecker, Red-and-Yellow Barbet, Lead-coloured Flycatcher, Brown-tailed Rock Chat, Beautiful Sunbird, impressive Bristle-crowned Starling, Golden-backed and very localised Northern Masked Weaver and White-billed Buffalo Weaver.

En route from Lake Baringo to Kitale we picked up the magnificent White-crested Turaco, gaudy Double-toothed Barbet, Green-backed Eremomela, Black-headed Batis, rare Gambaga Flycatcher, Black-headed Gonolek, stunning Marico Sunbird, aberrant Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver and flaming Zebra Waxbill.

From Kitale we spent the morning investigating the local area, finding such specialties as Black-billed Barbet, Pallid Honeyguide, Yellow-billed Shrike, Lesser Blue-eared, Bronze-tailed and Splendid Glossy Starlings, Brown-backed Scrub-Robin and the exceedingly elusive Heuglin's Masked Weaver. In the afternoon we travelled on to the famous Kakamega Forest.

Kakamega Forest was simply phenomenal with many rare and secretive species seen including White-spotted Flufftail, much rarer Black-billed and the none the less impressive Great Blue and Ross's Turacos, responsive Bar-tailed Trogon, massive Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, colourful Yellow-spotted and Yellow-billed Barbets, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Golden-crowned Woodpecker, displaying African Broadbill, Anson's, Joyful, Cabanis' and rare Toro Olive-Greenbul, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Brown-chested Alethe, White-chinned and Banded Prinia, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, localised Turner's Eremomela, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Green Hylia, Chapin's Flycatcher, Equatorial Akalat, shy Blue-shouldered and Snowy-headed Robin-Chat, African Blue Flycatcher and inconspicuous Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Jameson's and comical Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Scaly-breasted, Brown and Pale-breasted Illadopsis, and the generically named though not endemic Grey-chested 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 travelled to the Busia area which produced an array of different species many on the extreme western edge of their range, species recorded included Banded Snake-Eagle, Senegal Coucal, Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, striking Red-headed Lovebird, numerous migrant Pygmy Kingfishers, Broad-billed Roller, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Whistling Cisticola, Green Crombec, Olive-bellied, Copper and Red-chested Sunbird, Marsh Tchagra, Yellow-backed, Compact and Parasitic Weaver, Purple Glossy-Starling, both Black-bellied and Bar-breasted Firefinch and Black-crowned Waxbill.

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, Eastern Plantain-eater 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 late White Storks, White-headed Vulture, majestic Bateleur, stately Martial Eagle, very rare Ovampo Sparrowhawk, Grey Kestrel, the rarely seen migrant though not necessarily that rare Corncrake, Coqui, Crested, Scaly Francolins and Red-necked Spurrow, but the most exciting being the discovery of Red-winged Francolins after some twenty years of no records from Kenya, Black-bellied Bustard, Wattled Plover, splendid Schalow's Turaco, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Black Coucal, localised Usambiro Barbet, White-tailed Lark, Rufous-chested Swallow, Rosy-throated Longclaw, Trilling, Rock-loving, Tabora and Black-backed Cisticola, Miombo Wren-Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Familiar and Sooty Chat, Red-throated Tit, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Swahili Sparrow and stunning Cardinal Quelea. At one point we had stopped for a handsome pair of Rufous-chested Swallows, and whilst looking at them Black Coucals started displaying and a magnificent Bat Hawk (a catch-up from Shimba for the participants) appeared at a distance and flew right towards and over the vehicle to the delight of all. In the grass we were finding the normal three small Cisticola species, Pectoral-patch, Desert and Zitting, but it was nicely complemented by three of the exceedingly rare Black-backed Cisticolas. One of the highlights for most people were a group of five pure and magnificent Grey-crested Helmetshrikes near Siana Springs.



On our return to Nairobi we picked up White-winged Widowbird not too far from the Nairobi Hotel.

It would be remiss to not mention the incredible accommodations visited on this trip, the members had never experienced such decadence, such superb settings and friendliest of people on a bird tour before and frequently expressed this as they sampled Kenya's delights. The dramatic changes of habitat over such short distances, arresting panoramas in all directions and unbelievable wealth of mammals as well as birds were all to leave them at times lost for words. All in all, this was a simply incredible tour!

Photo Credits: Vulturine Guinea fowl (A. Riley), Cheetah and Golden-breasted Starling (B. Finch), Sharpe's Longclaw, Friedmann's Lark and Lesser Flamingo, (A. Riley), Coqui Francolin (C. Rush).

Annotated List of Birds 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).

Total species recorded (including splits and heard onlys): 804

Ostriches Struthionidae

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus

We had seen well over 700 species before we encountered our first birds in the Maasai Mara.

[Somali Ostrich]*Struthio molybdophanes*

Our first birds were a pair in Tsavo East. Only three birds were seen in Samburu, usually a stronghold for them.

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 one on Lake Jilore, ten were seen during the boat trip on Lake Naivasha, later peak numbers of two-hundred were seen on Lake Nakuru. Other small numbers were seen in the highlands.

Black-necked Grebe*Podiceps nigricollis*

Our only birds were two on Lake Nakuru, birds in East Africa do not have a non-breeding plumage.

Pelicans Pelecanidae**Great (Eastern) White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

First sighted at the Sabaki River Mouth where we found a single bird. A further six were seen on Lake Naivasha and our final sighting was of an impressive thirty-thousand at Lake Nakuru.

Pink-backed Pelican*Pelecanus rufescens*

The initial sighting was of three at the Sabaki River Mouth. This was followed with one at Lake Jilore, and one at Lake Naivasha and finally a single bird at Lake Nakuru.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**Great Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo*

Peak numbers of over a thousand were seen during the boat trip on Lake Naivasha, and a similar figure at Lake Nakuru. Singles were seen near Lake Victoria and scattered sightings elsewhere.

Clements does not as of yet ratify the splitting of White-breasted Cormorant P. lucidus (the form we saw) from Great Cormorant.

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**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

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

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

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

Goliath Heron*Ardea goliath*

A spectacular bird, first one seen at Mida Creek, two seen at Lake Naivasha, with another at Baringo the largest heron in the world.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Our first sighting was not until the last few days, with two young birds at Kitale, and an adult at Lake Victoria.

Great (White) Egret*Ardea alba*

Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands throughout the tour with peak numbers of fifteen at Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World *A. a. egretta* which would become American Egret. There are also rumblings of a split between the Australasian and African-Eurasian forms. Neither splits are as yet not recognised by Clements.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

Over forty were feeding together at Lake Jilore, the only other sighting being an individual at Lake Victoria.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Two at Lake Arabuko were the only individuals encountered.

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 Lake Nakuru and a further twenty on the Sio River floods.

[Dimorphic Egret] *Egretta dimorpha*

We had one dark bird at Mida Creek.

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

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Our first sighting was of three at Lake Jilore with a maximum sighting of twelve at Lake Nakuru, small numbers also on Lake Baringo and Lake Victoria.

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 on the Sio floods and three hundred in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret (which is what is recorded in Africa) 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 Ewaso Nyiro River in front of the lodge at Shaba GR. Thereafter we found up to six 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 three on the Ewaso Nyiro River in front of the lodge at Shaba, and later up to six were seen at Lake Baringo.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Our first sighting was of one on the Sio River floods, which appeared to be an adult male of the nominate form, with further sightings outside the lodge on at Kisumu and another in the papyrus of Lake Victoria which appeared to be the resident form *payesii*.

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 six were seen at Lake Nakuru and thirty on Lake Victoria.

Storks Ciconidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Our first sighting was of five at Lake Jilore. There were twenty-five at Sabaki River Mouth. Small numbers were also seen at Shaba GR, Lake Nakuru, Lake Victoria and the Maasai Mara.

African Openbill*Anastomus lamelligerus*

Our first sighting was of two at Lake Arabuko, twenty at Lake Jilore and the maximum of up to two hundred at the Sio floods.

Black Stork*Ciconia nigra*

Two seen briefly on the Iten Swamp were the only individuals recorded.

Abdim's Stork*Ciconia abdimii*

Only one bird seen, a solitary flying bird near Ahero Rice Scheme.

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

The first were five birds over Mombasa, then two at Lake Arabuko. Otherwise singletons at Baringo and the Maasai Mara.

White Stork*Ciconia ciconia*

The first birds were nine over Kitale, and over one hundred were still present in the Maasai Mara.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Three at Lake Arabuko was the only instance the species was encountered.

Marabou Stork*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

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

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Seen regularly throughout the trip with a high of one hundred seen in the Nairobi.

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 twenty on Lake Victoria.

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

Ten were first seen at Lake Jilore, up to thirty at Lake Nakuru and finally three at Ahero Rice Scheme.

African Spoonbill*Platalea alba*

Four were seen during our day at Sabaki River Mouth with further sightings of fifteen at Lake Jilore, a few at Lakes Naivasha and Victoria and finally an impressive flock of one hundred and fifty at Nakuru.

Flamingoes Phoenicopteridae**Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus ruber*

Our first sighting was of over one hundred at Sabaki River Mouth, with further sightings of forty at Lake Jilore and at least two 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 fifty were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth and an unbelievable two hundred thousand estimated at Lake Nakuru, a spectacular and unforgettable sight.

Ducks Geese & Swans Anatidae**White-faced Whistling-Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

Fifty were found at Lake Jilore, a single bird on the Sio floods and ten on Lake Victoria.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck*Dendrocygna bicolor*

The first encounter was of a pair at Lake Jilore, the only other was a flock of fifteen at Lake Victoria.

White-backed Duck*Thalassornis leuconotus*

Fifteen birds were present on Lake Jilore.

Knob-billed (Comb) Duck*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

A total of eight were seen at Lake Jilore.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

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

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*

Five birds were found on Lake Jilore, a rare bird anywhere in Kenya.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa*

Two birds accompanied us as we walked down the Naro Moru River.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

Three were seen at Lake Naivasha, seven at Lake Nakuru, three at Kitale and our last birds were fifteen at what was left of Manguo Pond at Limuru.

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Two at Nakuru and fifteen at Manguo Pond, Limuru were the only birds.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

A pair at Lake Nakuru were the only birds seen.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

First birds were seven at Lake Arabuko followed by five at Lake Jilore.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One bird was at Mida Creek and another was at Lake Jilore.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*

One flew over Shimba Hills Lodge, but only Brian was there to witness it. Most fortunately one bird flew in towards the group from a long distance in the Maasai Mara, continued right over the participants, affording outstanding views.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Our first sighting was of one on Mt Kenya with a secretive individual at Lake Baringo.

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A well-known raptor seen in singly in open habitats at Tsavo East, Mt Kenya, Samburu, Lake Baringo and three in the Busia grasslands.

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 of the nominate migrant form in Shimba Hills.

[Yellow-billed Kite] *Milvus parasitus*

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

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 eight were seen at Lake Naivasha.

Palmnut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

We were fortunate to have excellent views with three sightings at Shimba Hills, two, one of which came in to bathe at Lake Arabuko.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Our only sighting was of four in Samburu.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

The normally common vulture in savanna areas, first sighted on Magadi Road, with one in Samburu and up to twenty in the Maasai Mara.

Rueppell's Griffon (Rueppell's Vulture) *Gyps rueppellii*

Three in the Maasai Mara, were the only birds recorded.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Aegyptius tracheliotus*

A single bird in Samburu, followed by three in the Maasai Mara.

White-headed Vulture *Aegyptius occipitalis*

One sitting on its nest in the Maasai Mara.

Black-breasted (-chested) 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 several in the Maasai Mara.

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*

Singles seen in Tsavo East and West NP, Samburu, Baringo, Kitale and the Maasai Mara.

Southern Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus fasciolatus*

Superb views of one perched at Shimba Hills and another in Sokoke Forest.

Western Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

One perched in the Busia grasslands.

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*

The first was at Sabaki River Mouth, followed by another at Lake Jilore. There was a male at Samburu, and our final bird at Lake Nakuru.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

A fine adult male on the Magadi Road, and females on Mt Kenya and in the Maasai Mara.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Four including adult males at Aruba, one on Mt Kenya, four in Samburu, one Naro Moru and three in the Maasai Mara.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded on many days of the trip. We saw our first one on Mt Kenya.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Only seen along the coast where we had four sightings in the Arabuko-Sokoke area.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Small numbers were seen in the Lake Baringo 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 Magadi Road, Samburu and Shaba.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

First two were in Tsavo East, with a further two at Lake Baringo.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

A secretive hawk, a few heard on the coast, but the first sighting came at Tsavo West, and one in the Maasai Mara.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Our first sighting was of one in Tsavo West, with another seen at Lake Baringo.

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus*

One seen at Kakamega.

Ovampo Sparrowhawk*Accipiter ovampensis*

We had a surprise encounter inside Kichwa Tembo camp in the Maasai Mara, where an adult perched at the edge of a clearing. A rare bird in Kenya.

Black Sparrowhawk*Accipiter melanoleucus*

One flying over at Thika, and one juvenile was seen in the garden at Kichwa Tembo, where it was being attracted by the squeals of a Red-legged Sun Squirrel domestic.

Eurasian Buzzard*Buteo buteo*

Our first bird was at Shimba Hills, then singles in Tsavos East and West, one at Kibwezi Forest, and further birds Mt Kenya, Kitale and the Maasai Mara.

Mountain Buzzard*Buteo oreophilus*

Our only birds were a pair on Mt. Kenya, that responded to imitations of their call.

Long-legged Buzzard*Buteo rufinus*

A large beautiful bird on Mt Kenya, seen in the same clearing on two consecutive days. A rare bird this far south.

Augur Buzzard*Buteo augur*

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

Lesser Spotted Eagle*Aquila pomarina*

Singles in Tsavo East and Samburu.

Tawny Eagle*Aquila rapax*

This large, resident eagle was seen in small numbers throughout the tour with highest numbers of seven in the Maasai Mara.

Steppe Eagle*Aquila nipalensis*

We had wonderful views of singles at Tsavo West, Samburu, Kitale and the Maasai Mara.

Wahlberg's Eagle*Aquila wahlbergi*

Single birds were seen over Sokoke, Samburu and the Kerio Valley.

Verreaux's Eagle*Aquila verreauxii*

We had good show of a family of three birds from our lodge in Samburu.

African Hawk-Eagle*Aquila spilogaster*

We enjoyed magnificent views of a pair at Shimba Hills, and another in Tsavo West.

Booted Eagle*Hieraaetus pennatus*

Our first was in the Shimba Hills, followed by a very pale bird in Kibwezi Forest.

Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

This one of Africa's great eagles, was seen on seven dates during the trip, equal numbers of adults and immatures.

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 singles on two dates on Mt Kenya. 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 eight birds seen together in the Maasai Mara (such an assemblage is unheard of) and a further four seen that same day, as well as a pair at the nest. A spectacular and unique African bird and much appreciated by the group.

Falcons Falconidae**Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus*

This diminutive dry-country species was observed several times in Samburu and Shaba GR, Lake Baringo and a further two in the Maasai Mara.

Lesser Kestrel*Falco naumanni*

The first were a party of ten at Tsavo East, thence a few over Tsavo West, ten at Naro Moru, with small numbers in the highlands and the Maasai Mara.

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus*

Single migrants were met with in three locations, Naro Moru, Lake Baringo and the Maasai Mara.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

Only a single individual was found in the Maasai Mara.

Red-necked Falcon*Falco chicquera*

Very good views of a hunting bird on the Sio floods.

Amur Falcon*Falco amurensis*

We had good views of ten in Tsavo West, and a single in Samburu.

Sooty Falcon*Falco concolor*

Single birds were seen over Sokoke, Mt Kenya and the Maasai Mara.

Eleonora's Falcon*Falco eleonora*

This scarce passage migrant was seen four times, Shimba Hills, Sokoke Forest, Kitale and the Maasai Mara.

Eurasian Hobby*Falco subbuteo*

Seen on eight days all over the country, with a maximum of six in the Maasai Mara.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

Seen usually in pairs at scattered sites and often in built up areas.

Pheasants & Partridges Phasianidae**Coqui Francolin***Francolinus coqui*

The first encounter with this beautiful species were a pair running across the road on approaching the Maasai Mara, better views were obtained of males calling at Siana Springs.

Red-winged Francolin*Francolinus levaillanti*

Probably the most significant sighting of the tour. In the Maasai Mara we first had a pair courting and bowing in display with wings spread much like grouse do in the northern hemisphere, and indifferent to our presence. A few kilometers away we encountered another roadside individual in the lush grass. These may be the first records of this species in Kenya for some twenty years.

Crested Francolin*Francolinus sephaena*

Seen in small numbers daily in Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba GR, Tsavos East and West NP and Lake Baringo area. Final birds were a pair in the Maasai Mara. Peak numbers of ten were seen in Shaba.

NOTE: Some authorities recognize the coastal race F. s. rovuma, Kirk's Francolin as a full species. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this species.

Scaly Francolin*Francolinus squamatus*

Several were seen along the roadside on Mt. Kenya and Aberdares NP, and finally a pair in Maasai Mara.

Hildebrandt's Francolin*Francolinus hildebrandti*

Three birds were seen well in Tsavo West NP, and the species was heard in Lake Nakuru.

Jackson's Francolin (E)*Francolinus jacksoni*

We had fantastic views of twelve in Aberdares NP, and a further five on Mt Kenya. A species restricted to high altitude sites in the bamboo zone.

Yellow-necked Francolin*Francolinus leucoscepus*

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

Red-necked Spurfowl*Francolinus afer*

Our first bird was seen from the restaurant in Kisumu, thereafter recorded commonly in the Maasai Mara up to a maximum of fifteen.

Common Quail*Coturnix coturnix*

One bird was heard calling briefly near Thomson's Falls.

Harlequin Quail*Francolinus afer*

Only seen in the Maasai Mara where we had two sightings of flushed male birds, and heard two other individuals calling.

Guineafowl Numididae**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

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

NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) which we recorded in Kenya is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl.) Neither IOC nor Clements recognise these splits.

Crested Guineafowl*Guttera pucherani*

Having failed to find the birds in Shimba and Sokoke we were treated to a roadside group of ten birds near Lake Jilore.

Vulturine Guineafowl*Acryllium vulturinum*

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

Cranes Gruidae**Grey Crowned-Crane***Balearica regulorum*

This handsome bird was seen a number of times on our trip, we had encounters of several on Mt Kenya and Lake Nakuru and the Maasai Mara, with a peak number of fifty in a fallow field near Kitale.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

Two obliging individuals were seen well in Kakamega Forest, others were heard in the Busia grasslands.

African Rail*Rallus caerulescens*

An extremely confiding individual was seen exceptionally well at a roadside dam near Thomson's Falls, also heard near Kitale.

Corn Crake*Crex crex*

One was seen spontaneously flying over the grassland on our drive through the Maasai Mara.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

Africa's common wetland crake, our first sightings were of two near Thomson's Falls, we enjoyed further sightings at Lake Baringo where we had a maximum of eight, also several at Keringet Swamp.

African Swamphen*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Three were seen at Lake Nakuru.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at several sites on the trip including peak numbers of five at Lake Nakuru.

Red-knobbed Coot*Fulica cristata*

Small numbers observed at several sites including our first sightings at Lake Naivasha, peak numbers of one hundred were recorded on the Nakuru Sewage Ponds. Our most interesting observations were the birds with whitish primaries at Lake Nakuru, presumably caused by bleaching rather than any vagrancy from South America!

Bustards Otididae

Kori Bustard

Ardeotis kori

A huge attractive bustard, small numbers were seen in several locations during the trip the maximum being a dozen in Tsavo East, and eight on the Isinya Road. Otherwise recorded in Buffalo Springs and Shaba GR's.

White-bellied Bustard

Eupodotis senegalensis

Small numbers seen in several locations throughout the trip with high numbers of four 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 IOC and most authorities and they are generally considered two distinct species.

Buff-crested Bustard

Lophotis gindiana

Good numbers seen in dry acacia woodland in Tsavo East where a maximum of six were found, and Tsavo West NP's, Magadi Road, and Samburu/Buffalo Springs/Shaba.

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 IOC and Clements.

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

We found four in the Maasai Mara and were entertained by the comical hiccup display.

Hartlaub's Bustard

Lissotis hartlaubii

Our only birds were six found on the Isinya road.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

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

Crab Plover Dromadidae

Crab Plover

Dromas ardeola

Up to twenty of these most unusual waders were seen at Mida Creek, although we had some nice views we managed to hit a neap tidal period whilst on the coast, and never saw a rising tide!

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

This characteristic wader was found in small numbers at Lake Jilore, Lake Naivasha, Shaba GR and later up to thirty were seen at Lake Nakuru.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

Had we not have found fifteen at Sabaki River Mouth we would have missed this most attractive species entirely.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

A pair of these attractive species had a territory on the lake edge at Lake Baringo all the time we were there.

Water Thick-knee*Burhinus vermiculatus*

Our first sighting was of four on the Ewaso Nyiro River in Shaba. Small numbers were also seen at Lake Victoria.

Spotted Thick-knee*Burhinus capensis*

A single of these cryptic birds was seen very well at Lake Baringo.

Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae**Somali Courser***Cursorius somalensis*

Six of these scarce cryptic birds were seen in Buffalo Springs.

Temminck's Courser*Cursorius temminckii*

Our first sighting was of two on approaching the Maasai Mara, a further two were seen near Siana Springs.

Double-banded Courser*Smutsornis africanus*

We had splendid views of a pair on the Magadi Road.

Three-banded Courser*Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

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

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole*Glareola pratincola*

A single bird flew over at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Madagascar Pratincole*Glareola ocularis*

A wonderful flock of four were found on the mudflats at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis*

We were fortunate to see two 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 several at Ahero Rice Scheme and a further two were seen near Lake Victoria.

Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)*Vanellus armatus*

Good numbers of this widespread species were seen at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru and at scattered dams in the highlands.

Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)*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 fifty on the coast.

Black-headed Lapwing*Vanellus tectus*

We found a wonderful pair at Lake Baringo.

Black-winged Lapwing*Vanellus melanopterus*

We recorded a flock of eight in the Kinangop grasslands and a further flock of twenty at Naro Moru.

Crowned Lapwing*Vanellus coronatus*

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

African Wattled Lapwing*Vanellus senegallus*

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

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover*Pluvialis squatarola*

Up to fifteen birds were seen at Mida Creek and Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

We saw a few at Mida Creek and up to fifty at the Sabaki River Mouth. Singles also at Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

Four of this attractive resident 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 Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Two were seen at Sabaki River Mouth.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

At least thirty were seen at Mida Creek and over a hundred at Sabaki River Mouth.

Snipes & Sandpipers Scolopacidae

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*

We would have missed this species if some children had not crossed the swamp at Iten in order to see us, and in doing so flushed six of this species.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

We were fortunate to find two of these birds feeding openly in the wetlands near Lake Nakuru.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeops*

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

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

We had great scope views of four at the Sabaki River Mouth and one in Mida Creek.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

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

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Twenty birds were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth and six more at Lake Jilore, with singles at Lake Naivasha, Nakuru and Baringo.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

We found four at the floodlit waterhole in front of our lodge on Mt. Kenya, and a scattering in upland swamps including Aberdares, and Lake Nakuru.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

We found fifty of these unusual shorebirds at Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen at most wetland fresh and coastal sites with a maximum of ten at Lake Nakuru.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Three were seen at Sabaki River Mouth still in non-breeding dress.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Over two hundred and fifty were seen at Sabaki River Mouth, over two hundred at Mida Creek and small numbers at numerous inland sites.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temmincki*

One seen in flight and heard at Lake Jilore, and excellent views of one on a freshwater swamp at Lake Nakuru.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Over one thousand each at Sabaki River Mouth and Mida Creek.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Seen at a scattering of inland sites with a maximum of twenty-five at Lake Nakuru.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Sooty Gull

Larus hemprichii

We enjoyed wonderful views of several at the ferry crossing en route to Shimba Hills NP and later over one hundred at Sabaki River Mouth.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

We had sightings of several at the Sabaki River Mouth, amongst the much more numerous Heuglin's Gulls.

NOTE: Up to one hundred of the race heuglini (sometimes regarded as a separate species, Heuglin's Gull L. fuscus) were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Grey-hooded (-headed) Gull

Larus cirrocephalus

The first birds were forty seen at Lake Naivasha and a further two-thousand five hundred at Lake Nakuru.

Common Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

We found a first summer and finally one adult in full breeding plumage at Lake Nakuru.

Gull-billed Tern

Sterna nilotica

Fifty at Mida Creek, seventy-five at Sabaki River Mouth and a few at Lake Jilore. Inland we had six at Lake Naivasha and twenty at Lake Nakuru.

Caspian Tern

Sterna caspia

We enjoyed good views of three at the Sabaki River Mouth, and four inland at Lake Jilore.

Lesser Crested Tern

Sterna bengalensis

Our first were poor views from the ferry crossing in Mombasa, with a further fifteen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Swift (Great Crested) Tern

Sterna bergii

Ten at Sabaki River Mouth were our only birds.

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Only two were seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Only one was seen at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Saunders's Tern

Sterna saundersi

Only a single bird at the Sabaki River Mouth.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybridus

Fifteen were seen at Lake Naivasha, some in breeding dress, and a further forty were chasing scraps from fishing canoes on Lake Victoria.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Forty were seen at Sabaki River Mouth, a few at Lake Naivasha, over five hundred at Lake Nakuru including several in full breeding plumage.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse

Pterocles exustus

Four were seen in Tsavo East NP and a further four in Shaba GR.

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse

Pterocles gutturalis

Twelve were seen coming to drink from a puddle on the Isinya road.

Black-faced Sandgrouse

Pterocles decoratus

Four seen in Tsavo West NP and only small numbers in Samburu GR.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse

Pterocles lichtensteini

We found one pair of this strikingly patterned bird in Buffalo Springs.

Pigeons & Doves 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 seventy-five in the Kisumu area.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon

Columba arquatrix

This African montane-forest pigeon was seen in small numbers on Mt. Kenya and over twenty on the Oloololo Escarpment in Maasai Mara.

Delegorgue's (Eastern Bronze-naped) Pigeon

Columba delegorguei

We had good views of up to twelve on Mt Kenya and heard the species in Kakamega Forest.

Dusky Turtle Dove

Streptopelia lugens

Only three birds were found 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 five hundred 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 small numbers regularly with a maximum of sixty at Samburu.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove

Turtur chalcospilos

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

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove

Turtur afer

Small numbers were seen daily around Busia and Kisumu.

Tambourine Dove

Turtur tympanistria

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 Baringo areas.

African Green-Pigeon

Treron calva

Amazingly elusive with a few on Mt Kenya, flying over elsewhere, but best seen in the Maasai Mara.

Parrots & Allies Psittacidae

Red-headed Lovebird

Agapornis pullarius

We had great views of three in the Busia grasslands, and another two near Malaba.

Fischer's Lovebird

Agapornis fischeri

Heard in the early morning at Lake Naivasha but strangely not seen.

Yellow-collared Lovebird

Agapornis personatus

A very nice bird posed well on the way to Baringo.

Red-fronted Parrot

Poicephalus gulielmi

We enjoyed fabulous views of up to forty on Mt. Kenya and later peak numbers of sixty 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 one at Naro Moru holding on tight in a strong wind. Thence scattered sightings elsewhere in the west.

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

A total of fifteen 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*

Three birds waited in a bare tree for the sun to warm them up in Kakamega Forest. One of the great blue birds of the World!

Schalow's Turaco*Tauraco schalowi*

Seen well in the Maasai Mara where there was a resident bird in Kichwa Tembo. The long floppy crests are very prominent in this form.

White-crested Turaco*Tauraco leucolophus*

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

Black-billed Turaco*Tauraco schuetti*

We were so fortunate to have very good views of a single bird in Kakamega Forest, where it is a rare species on the edge of its range.

Fischer's Turaco*Tauraco fischeri*

A pair of these smart birds showed well in Shimba Hills NP, and the species was met with again in Sokoke Forest.

Hartlaub's Turaco*Tauraco hartlaubi*

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

Ross's Turaco*Musophaga rossae*

We had a delightful pair 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 eastern 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, Magadi Road, Samburu, Shaba and the Lake Baringo area.

Eastern Plantain-eater*Crinifer zonurus*

We found four of these comical birds feeding low in annuals by Lake Victoria.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Pied Cuckoo***Clamator jacobinus*

We had three sightings at scattered sites on the trip. Cuckoos were not to be encountered in numbers as most areas were dry and birds not breeding, and undoubtedly no hairy caterpillars for them to feed on.

Levaillant's Cuckoo*Clamator levaillantii*

We found one melanistic individual at Lake Baringo, our only example.

Great Spotted Cuckoo*Clamator glandarius*

The only sighting was of an immature at Buffalo Springs.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo*Cercococcyx montanus*

One flew across the road near Mountain Lodge, and disappeared into the forest never to be seen again.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Birds were noisy in the west, but the only bird seen well was in the Kerio Valley.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

We never saw this species though heard it at Kakamega on both days.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

This species was seen commonly in the east with peak totals of thirty seen during the drive from Malindi to Tsavo East. The species was more or less non-existent in the west.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

Heard in three localities, one finally appeared in the Kerio Valley.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*

We found our first ones in Shimba Hills NP where some of us saw a reddish hepatic individual. A further three were seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. The migration was only just underway. This is a rare bird in Africa !

Klaas' Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

We found one stunning adult male in the Maasai Mara and seen on several other occasions.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

We found two in the forest on Mt. Kenya and one in Kakamega, whilst the species was noisy but invisible in the Maasai Mara.

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.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

Our first sighting was of one at Keringet Swamp and several more were seen in papyrus at Kisumu.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

A few were seen very well in the Busia grasslands.

Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*

We heard several calling in the Maasai Mara and had good views of five, with one nest-building. A very attractive but uncommon species all through its African range.

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 Kenya.

Typical Owls Strigidae

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis*

One individual was found roosting at our lodge in Lake Baringo, and in the same place both days.

Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis*

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

Sokoke Scops-Owl *Otus ireneae*

An awesome bird! We were treated to fantastic views of two dark adults and an orange adult at their day roosts. Voted one of the cutest birds by several participants.

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

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

Greyish 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 in Tsavo West, but a very noisy and precocial young bird was the best at Lake Baringo.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii*

We had good views of a roosting pair at Shimba Hills Lodge, and another bird in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest was being mobbed by Scaly Babblers.

Pearl-spotted Owllet *Glaucidium perlatum*

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

African Barred Owllet *Glaucidium capense scheffleri*

We had a very obliging pair at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

NOTE: The form we saw is sometimes split as Scheffler's Owllet G. scheffleri, although this is not widely accepted.

Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae

Eurasian Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Two were seen flying around the small pond in front of our lodge in Tsavo West and one on the road at Sokoke.

Sombre Nightjar *Caprimulgus fraenatus*

One was flying around the pond at our lodge in Tsavo West.

Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar *Caprimulgus donaldsoni*

Birds were calling at dusk and in the middle of the night at Sagala Lodge, Tsavo East but could not be enticed closer.

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*

We had flight views of a noisy bird in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Abyssinian (Montane) Nightjar *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

The high-pitched eerie call of this nightjar was heard extremely distantly on Mount Kenya, but no amount of enticing would bring the bird within view.

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus*

We found a couple along the Ewaso Nyiro River at Samburu and a few at Lake Baringo.

Swifts Apodidae

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

Only up to five were seen on Mt. Kenya, not the usual flocks that are normal during unsettled weather. A further two were seen in Kakamega.

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*

Eight were coming in to drink at Lake Arabuko whilst we were there, giving some excellent views.

Bat-like (Bohm's) Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi*

We had wonderful views of three flying above Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful around palms in many locations throughout the trip. Peak numbers of two hundred were seen in the Arabuko-Sokoke 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 over us in Tsavo West and a further six were seen at Kitale and a final bird in the Busia grasslands.

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Ten were seen at Kieni, otherwise only small numbers were scattered in the highlands.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Twenty five were seen with House Martins in the Aberdares, and in the same association on Mt Kenya.

Forbes-Watson's Swift*Apus berliozi*

Just a single example of this local migrant afforded good views at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Nyanza Swift*Apus niansae*

The first birds were mixed in with a large group of swifts and migrating swallows in the Aberdares, later there were about forty flying around breeding cliffs at Lake Nakuru.

African Swift*Apus barbatus*

Up to twenty five were seen at a few highland sites, often with other swift species.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

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

Horus Swift*Apus horus*

Whilst looking at Yellow-billed Shrikes near Kitale, two birds appeared in a group of Little and White-rumped Swifts. This is a nomad, but apart from the regularity at breeding sites, no-one knows of its movements.

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*

Twelve of these localised 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 numbers in Tsavo West, Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba.

Trogons Trogonidae**Narina Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

One was seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, and a much more obliging bird was tracked down in Kichwa Tembo camp in the Maasai Mara.

Bar-tailed Trogon*Apaloderma vittatum*

A pair of these striking birds were seen very well at Kakamega Forest where they responded well to imitations of their call.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**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 saw a dozen or more in the scrub near Busia.

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

This beautiful woodland kingfisher was observed several times throughout the trip, peak numbers of four 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 good views of two in Shimba Hills NP and a further individual 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 two in the Maasai Mara.

Giant Kingfisher*Megaceryle maxima*

We enjoyed wonderful views of the Worlds largest kingfisher at Lake Naivasha where there were three, with further sightings at Shaba GR.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

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

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Blue-headed Bee-eater***Merops muelleri*

Sadly we only heard this species in Kakamega Forest, but no amount of searching would reveal its hidden perch.

White-fronted Bee-eater*Merops bullockoides*

Following the recent crash in the Rift Valley population for no explicable reason, and failing to find the species in Naivasha and Nakuru where it was until recently very common.... We were most relieved to find a pair with a dependant young on the way to Baringo.

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 four in Tsavo West NP.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater*Merops variegates*

We had great views of up four in the Busia grasslands, where they were alongside Little Bee-eaters.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater*Merops oreobates*

Seen in small numbers at most forested, high elevation sites. Peak numbers of twenty five were seen in the Thika.

Somali Bee-eater*Merops revoilii*

We had fantastic views of two in Buffalo Springs GR. A very local species of the aridlands.

White-throated Bee-eater*Merops albicollis*

A strikingly colored bee-eater seen first flying over at Shimba Hills, with peak numbers of over one hundred in Samburu and Shaba GR's.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater*Merops persicus*

Twelve flew over Tsavo West in the evening, but we had wonderful views of seven at Lake Baringo.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

Flocks of up to twenty were passing over all through the tour.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

A single bird fed around Lake Arabuko whilst we had our picnic, and a very tame individual perched on a stone next to the vehicle in Tsavo East.

Rollers Coraciidae**European Roller***Coracias garrulus*

Up to four hundred were seen in Tsavo East NP with further sightings scattered almost throughout the country including Mt Kenya.

Lilac-breasted Roller*Coracias caudata*

These magnificent birds were commonly encountered in good numbers throughout the trip with a high number of twenty birds seen on one day in Tsavo West NP.

Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller*Coracias naevia*

The first bird was seen in Samburu GR followed by two in Shaba GR the next day.

Broad-billed Roller*Eurystomus glaucurus*

Six of these stunning birds were seen very well in the Busia area, and one by Lake Victoria.

Hoopoes Upupidae**Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

One of these scarce migrants was seen in Buffalo Springs GR.

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. Never more than three on any given day.

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-Sokoke Forest.

Violet (Grant's) Woodhoopoe*Phoeniculus damarensis*

There was a breeding group of this species in the garden of our lodge in Buffalo Springs GR, where up to eight were seen.

White-headed Woodhoopoe*Phoeniculus bollei*

We had superb views of a curious family of six on Mt. Kenya and also hearing the species in Kakamega Forest.

Common Scimitar-bill*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Our first sighting was of two near Kitale and a further two in the Maasai Mara.

Abyssinian Scimitar-bill*Rhinopomastus minor*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP and Samburu and Shaba GR's, Kongelai and the Maasai Mara.

Hornbills Buterotidae**(Northern-) Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Commonly seen throughout the trip with peak numbers of one hundred 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 three in Tsavo East NP. We found a further three 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 eight daily in the Lake Baringo area and another pair on the Kongelai Escarpment. This is a very localised 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 three in Shimba Hills NP with a further sighting of ten in Kibwezi Forest, and a scattering of observations in the highlands.

Hemprich's Hornbill*Tockus hemprichii*

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

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

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

Trumpeter Hornbill *Ceratogymna bucinator*

Over forty were seen in Shimba Hills NP, with smaller numbers in Sokoke.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Ceratogymna brevis*

First seen in Shimba Hills NP with further sightings of up to twenty five on Mt. Kenya.

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

Only four were seen in Kakamega Forest, and the species was strangely absent from the Trans Mara Forest, Maasai Mara and Kitale district.

Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Our first sighting was of three in Tsavo East NP, a further five were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Barbets Capitonidae

Gray-throated Barbet *Gymnobucco bonapartei*

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

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis*

A group of eight was seen in Shimba Hills NP.

Green Barbet *Stactolaema olivacea*

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

Moustached Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus leucomystax*

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

Green Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus simplex*

We were only to be taunted by very infrequently calling birds in both Shimba Hills and Arabuko-Sokoke 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 Tsavo, Thika, Baringo and Maasai Mara.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

Only two birds were seen in Kakamega Forest.

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*

Our first sighting was of two on the Magadi Road with several more sightings in the drier areas of Shaba, Kongelai and the moister 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 Kitale.

White-headed Barbet

Lybius leucocephalus

Our first sighting was of five at Lake Naivasha with further exposure 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 Kitale, 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, Usambiro Barbet T. d. usambiro that we recorded in the Mara is sometimes treated as a full species. IOC and Clements do not recognize this split.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Greater Honeyguide

Indicator indicator

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was frustrating heard on the way to Baringo, then seen atypically playing around a termite mound in the grassland in the Maasai Mara.

Lesser Honeyguide

Indicator minor

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

Thick-billed Honeyguide

Indicator conirostris

We had poor views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Pallid Honeyguide

Indicator meliphilus

We found one singing on territory on the Kongelai Escarpment.

Wahlberg's Honeyguide

Prodotiscus regulus

We had brief views of two displaying on the Kongelai Escarpment.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

Rufous-necked Wryneck

Jynx ruficollis

We had wonderful views of a bird during the drive from Naro Moru to Mweiga and heard one at Lake Nakuru.

Nubian Woodpecker

Campethera nubica

This attractive savanna species was observed on many occasions including great sightings of birds at Baringo.

Mombasa Woodpecker

Campethera mombassica

After much searching and having frustrating views at Shimba Hills, we were finally rewarded with good views of one at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Green-backed Woodpecker

Campethera cailliautii

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

Cardinal Woodpecker

Dendropicus fuscescens

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

Bearded Woodpecker

Dendropicus 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

Dendropicus xantholophus

We had good views of one in Kakamega Forest.

Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

Small numbers were seen at Nakuru and Thika.

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

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

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

Our only sightings were of two in Tsavo East NP.

White-tailed Lark*Mirafra albicauda*

Only seen in the Maasai Mara, where up to fifteen seen with staggering good views alongside the vehicle, of a very musical and tireless individual.

William's Lark (E)*Mirafra williamsi*

We were fortunate to find at least twenty individuals of this rare and localised species in Shaba GR. One obligingly perched on a low rock allowing close-up views.

Friedmann's Lark*Mirafra pulpa*

We were so very lucky to find three of this exceedingly rare species in Shaba GR and coax them into song to confirm what they were.

Red-winged Lark*Mirafra hypermetra*

We enjoyed good sightings of up to twenty of this massive lark in Tsavo East 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 three displaying in Shimba Hills NP and a further two in the Maasai Mara.

Foxy (Fawn-colored) Lark*Calendulauda alopex*

We had good views of ten 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 up to fifty daily in Tsavo East and West NP and again in Samburu and Shaba.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

Six were seen in Tsavo East NP.

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix signata*

Good numbers of up to sixty were seen exceptionally well in Tsavo East, with further sightings at Shaba GR.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucopareia*

Our first sighting was of ten on the Magadi Road and thereafter found to be common in Samburu and Buffalo Springs, plus a few in the Maasai Mara.

Red-capped Lark*Calandrella cinerea*

Seen in small numbers on the Kinangop grasslands, en route from Naro Moru to Mweiga and in the Maasai Mara.

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

The first was at Sabaki River Mouth, then no more until ten at Naivasha, then fifty at Baringo feeding over dry scrub and small numbers around Lake Victoria and Busia.

Plain (Brown-throated) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

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

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

This large hirundine was seen well on the Solio Plain where there was a single bird, and the Maasai Mara where we found three individuals.

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 East Africa. The more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin P. pusilla, which is resident in East and north-east Africa. Furthermore over-wintering Palearctic birds, which do occur as far south as Ethiopia, would become Pale Crag Martin P. obsolata.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

This common palearctic migrant was seen virtually daily with peak numbers of a two thousand in the Tsavo East NP.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

We had wonderful views of about six at Sabaki River Mouth. The most endearing individual was the singing bird of the northern race sitting on the fence on Solio Plain.

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*

Our first sighting was of several on the roadside en route near Thomson's Falls, thereafter we encountered small numbers at Mumias and Lake Victoria.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

This elegant swallow was seen throughout the tour at many locations, peak numbers of ten 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 three separate 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 Thomson's Falls with further sightings at scattered sites including four at Keringet Swamp collecting mud from a puddle in front of the vehicle.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

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

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

We found small numbers around Mt Kenya, but one flock of over three hundred in the Aberdares.

White-headed Sawwing *Psalidoprocne albiceps*

Our first sighting was of four during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale with further sightings of up to forty at Kakamega Forest, and others in Lake Victoria and the Maasai Mara.

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 twelve at Buffalo Springs. Adult males were identified where possible, the Yellow-headed *lutea* was recorded in the Rift Valley and Solio Ranch, the Blue-headed *flava* was seen at Sabaki River Mouth, the Ashy-headed *cinereocapilla* was seen at Buffalo Springs, the Grey-headed *thunbergi* was at Baringo but by far the rarest and probably most attractive was the extremely rare White-headed *leucocephala* on Solio Ranch. Three dark headed females from Kisumu were in all likelihood female Black-headed *feldeggii*.

Mountain Wagtail

Motacilla clara

Our first sighting was of three birds at Thika, followed by another two at Naro Moru, and singles at Ndaragwa and Kakamega.

Golden Pipit

Tmetothylacus tenellus

Driving through the very dehydrated bushland of Tsavo East, we came across a green swathe at Aruba, which had obviously received a local heavy shower. This was naturally a great focal point for birds and we had great sightings in this small area. None more impressive than the twenty five Golden Pipits, mostly adult males, that were singing from the trees and groups of dazzling males involved in aerial chases like black and gold butterflies. What a show they put on for us, a truly spectacular bird! We only saw a single bird in Tsavo West, and four more in Samburu.

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 twenty daily in the Maasai Mara.

Rosy-throated Longclaw

Macronyx ameliae

We had good views of up to fifteen in the Maasai Mara, yet another stunning bird.

Sharpe's Longclaw (E)

Macronyx sharpei

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

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

This widespread pipit was first sighted on Solio Ranch 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 saw several in the very short grasslands of the eastern Maasai Mara.

African (Grassland/Grassveld) Pipit

Anthus cinnamomeus

Scattered birds observed throughout the trip, maximum recorded was six on Solio Ranch.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather 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 three in the Maasai Mara.

Sokoke Pipit*Anthus sokokensis*

After a good deal of searching we were finally rewarded with sightings of three of these unusual pipits in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

After birds flew over without stopping (or even being seen!) in Tsavo and Thika, we were rewarded with fine views of small parties of up to six birds on Mt Kenya.

Red-throated Pipit*Anthus cervinus*

We had good views of one male in breeding dress in the Aberdares.

Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae**Grey 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 one at our picnic spot on the edge of the Aberdares.

Petit's Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga petiti*

This is usually such a prominent component of mixed parties at Kakamega, and it was a surprise to only hear one from the interior of the forest.

Black Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga flava*

The first bird was a female in Thika, this was followed by three in Naivasha, one Lake Nakuru, a couple in Baringo and a fine adult male in the Maasai Mara.

Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga quiscalina*

A pair 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 well over one hundred 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 are widely recognised as full species (Somali Bulbul P. somaliensis and Dodson's Bulbul P. dodsoni) the latter which we recorded in Kenya, although Clements does not treat them as distinct, and furthermore, several other forms (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 Tsavo East and West, and Buffalo Springs/Samburu/Shaba, 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 up to five 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 very musical species of secondary growth, we saw a pair near Busia, and another in the Trans-Mara Forest.

Grey Greenbul*Andropadus gracilis*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Ansorge's Greenbul*Andropadus ansorgei*

Only two were seen 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, and heard them in the Maasai Mara.

Sombre Greenbul*Andropadus importunus*

First seen in Shimba Hills NP, thence a scattering of birds on the coast, and heard in Tsavo West NP, and Thika.

Yellow-whiskered Bulbul (Greenbul)*Andropadus latirostris*

Several birds were seen at Mount Kenya and the Aberdares, and a further ten or more 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 of these attractive birds 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, and a further five in the Busia grasslands.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul*Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Up to fifteen were seen in Shimba Hills NP and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and a further two in Kibwezi Forest.

Joyful Greenbul*Chlorocichla laetissima*

One of the most striking of the Greenbul group, we had superb views of up to ten in Kakamega Forest, and heard them in the Trans Mara and Maasai Mara.

Cabanis' Greenbul*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Up to eight were seen well in Kakamega Forest.

Fischer's Greenbul*Phyllastrephus fischeri*

Several were seen in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, but were not exactly extravert.

[Placid Greenbul]*Phyllastrephus placidus*

We found three in the Taita Hills, and heard birds 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-Sokoke Forest.

Northern Brownbul*Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Our first bird was at Samburu, followed by three at Lake Baringo.

Grey-olive Greenbul*Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*

We had a pair at Thika, one of which was devouring a caterpillar.

Toro Olive-Greenbul*Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

We had superb views of up to four in Kakamega Forest.

Tiny Greenbul*Phyllastrephus debilis*

Having heard the bird in Shimba Hills NP, small numbers were seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Honeyguide Greenbul*Baeopogon indicator*

A frustrating species, that in one area called both dates we were at Kakamega, and even though in tall canopy close to the road, would not fly or be coaxed into view.

Common Bristlebill*Bleda syndactyla*

Although hearing many, we had brief views of one on a track in Kakamega Forest.

Eastern Nicator*Nicator gularis*

Again although we heard many in Shimba Hills NP, we found one of this shy species in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

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

Brief views of two in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

White-tailed Ant-Thrush*Neocossyphus poensis*

We had good views of two in Kakamega Forest.

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush*Monticola saxatilis*

Up to two seen Tsavo East and West, Mt Kenya, Buffalo Springs/Samburu/Shaba GR.

Little Rock-Thrush*Monticola rufocinereus*

We had a single bird during the drive from Mt. Kenya to Samburu.

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

Up to twenty 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*.

[Taita Thrush] (E)*Turdus helleri*

A most frustrating species endemic to the Taita Hills where a single bird was seen, and two others heard.

African Thrush*Turdus pelios*

Our first sightings were of three in Lake Nakuru NP with further sightings in the Kerio Valley, around Kitale up to a maximum of ten around Kakamega Forest.

African Bare-eyed Thrush*Turdus tephronotus*

We had wonderful views of several in Tsavo West NP.

Abyssinian Ground-Thrush*Zoothera piaggiae*

One bird was seen briefly at the Met. Station on Mt Kenya.

Brown-chested Alethe*Alethe poliocephala*

We had very good views of two in Kakamega Forest.

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

We had wonderful views of a pair at Thika, and in the Maasai Mara, whilst hearing the concealed birds at numerous other sites in the highlands and west of the country.

Singing Cisticola*Cisticola cantans*

We had poor views of several at Thika, excellent observations at Keringet Swamp and heard birds at several other places in the highlands and the west.

Whistling Cisticola*Cisticola lateralis*

After an easy time locating this species, we had superb views of one near Busia.

Trilling Cisticola*Cisticola woosnami*

We had great views of three in the Trans-Mara Forest, and a couple more in the Maasai Mara.

Chubb's Cisticola*Cisticola chubby*

Having heard the bird at Keringet, we had superb views of up to four in Kakamega Forest.

Hunter's Cisticola*Cisticola hunteri*

With our first numerous birds in the Aberdares, up to fifty were observed daily on Mount Kenya. This is a noisy high-altitude species that members of the group found endearing.

Rock-loving Cisticola*Cisticola aberrans*

A rare bird in Kenya, we only heard birds high up on the escarpment in the Maasai Mara.

Boran Cisticola*Cisticola bodessa*

After a failed attempt on the way to Samburu, we located a posing singing bird in the Kerio Valley, and heard others at this site.

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*

We had great views of pairs on the Magadi Road and in Shaba GR.

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

We had good views of one posing bird on the Magadi Road.

Winding Cisticola*Cisticola [galactotes] marginatus*

One of the commonest wetland cisticolas, our first sighting was of a pair in the garden at Whistling Thorns, 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 several in sisal on the way to Sokoke, and several at Lake Jilore.

Carruther's Cisticola*Cisticola carruthersi*

A total of three were seen in frustrating short spurts, but as many as a dozen were calling in the papyrus around Lake Victoria.

Tinkling (Levaillant's) Cisticola*Cisticola tinniens*

Our first sighting was of three near Thomson's Falls with a further sighting of seven en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Stout Cisticola*Cisticola robustus*

We saw our first one on the Nanyuki main road to Samburu, with many further sightings including large numbers in Maasai Mara.

Croaking (Striped) Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

A denizen of moist bushed grassland, two birds were seen well in Shimba Hills NP, and the species was heard in the Maasai Mara.

Aberdare Cisticola (E) *Cisticola aberdare*

We had wonderful views of five in the Aberdares NP. An extremely localised species.

Tabora Cisticola *Cisticola angusticaudus*

After a lengthy search we were finally rewarded with a great sighting of one in the Maasai Mara.

Siffling Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*

We found four in the grasslands in Shimba Hills NP.

Tiny Cisticola *Cisticola nanus*

We had a good sighting of three 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 heard in Tsavo East, with sightings of up to five in the Maasai Mara.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*

A pair seen singing on a territory in the Maasai Mara.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens*

Three were seen on Solio Ranch and peak numbers of up to twenty seen in the Maasai Mara.

Black-backed Cisticola *Cisticola eximia*

We were most fortunate to locate two territories in the Maasai Mara. This is a very rare species in Kenya.

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 three were seen in Samburu GR.

White-chinned Prinia *Prinia leucopogon*

We had wonderful views of up to eight in Kakamega Forest, with others in the Busia grasslands.

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 two in Kieni Forest with further sightings on Mt Kenya.

Bar-throated [Taita] Apalis (E) *Apalis thoracica [fuscigularis]*

We had good views of three 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*

Three of these beautiful apalises were seen at Kieni Forest and others heard on Mt Kenya and in Kakamega Forest.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

This widespread, woodland apalis was first seen in the garden at Naro Moru, with further sightings at Mt. Kenya and Maasai Mara.

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 two in Tsavo West NP, a further five in Samburu GR and finally two in Lake Baringo.

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 four at Kieni Forest and heard many more on Mount Kenya.

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala*

Small numbers were seen daily in Shimba Hills NP and in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest on the east coast.

Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

Two were seen at Kieni Forest, several more on Mount Kenya and the Aberdares, and heard in the Maasai Mara.

Red-fronted Warbler *Urorhipis rufifrons*

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

Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida*

A conspicuous musical, loud and dominating songster. We had superb views of a pair at Thika with many other sightings elsewhere on the trip.

Green-backed [Grey-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 Grey-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 Grey-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 several in Kakamega Forest.

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

We had excellent 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.

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex*

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

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

African Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

We heard this species on several occasions and finally seeing birds on Mt Kenya and at Iten Swamp.

White-winged Scrub-Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis*

We heard several in the papyrus of Lake Victoria, but they would not show themselves.

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 extravert at Kieni.

Black-faced Rufous-Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*

A stunning bird, we had good sightings of up to eight in Kakamega Forest.

Moustached Grass-Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

Our first birds were at Thika, with excellent views of several in the Busia grasslands.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Small numbers were seen at dry localities in Tsavo East and West NP, and several wetlands including Lake Naivasha and Lake Baringo.

Eurasian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One seen well at Lake Naivasha, and another on Mt Kenya.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Two were seen in Tsavo East NP with a further sighting on Mt Kenya.

Great Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

We had our first bird feeding in the middle of the road at Mt Kenya, and up to four at Lake Baringo.

Basra Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*

We had wonderful views of two in Tsavo East NP.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*

We had superb views of four at Lake Victoria.

Lesser Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

This reed-bed songster was seen well at Iten Swamp.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

The first were three in Tsavo East NP, thereafter singles Mt Kenya, and Lake Baringo and several Samburu.

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*

We had good views of one in Tsavo East NP, and one at Lake Baringo.

Olive Tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*

Singles seen in both Tsavo East and Tsavo West NP's.

African Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta natalensis*

We had wonderful views of two at Thika, then one Mt Kenya and a further sightings at Keringet Swamp and the Busia grasslands.

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta similes*

We enjoyed great sightings of three in the forest on Mt. Kenya.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was first observed at Lake Naivasha, with further sightings at the Kongelai Escarpment and in the Maasai Mara.

Yellow-vented Eremomela *Eremomela flavicrissalis*

We had superb views of five in Samburu GR and Shaba GR.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*

Our only bird was seen in Tsavo West NP.

Greencap Eremomela *Eremomela scotops*

A flock of three of these social birds was seen in the Maasai Mara.

Green-backed Eremomela *Eremomela canescens*

We had wonderful views of a pair en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Turner's Eremomela *Eremomela turneri*

We had superb views of up to five in Kakamega Forest.

White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys*

Frustratingly one called from the other side of a huge clearing on Mt. Kenya, but could not be enticed into view.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

Our first bird was in Tsavo East NP, followed by three in Tsavo West NP, then singles Samburu GR and Lake Baringo.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites including our first two in Tsavo West NP, several en route from Lake Baringo to Kitale and a further three on the Kongelai Escarpment and singles in the Maasai Mara.

Somali Crombec*Sylvietta isabellina*

We had great views of a pair in Samburu GR. A lucky find as this species is very rare in Kenya.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

One noisy bird was seen in the Busia grasslands.

Green Hylia*Hylia prasina*

A total of three were seen in Kakamega Forest including excellent views of one.

Yellow-throated Wood-Warbler*Phylloscopus ruficapillus*

We had great views of three in the Taita Hills.

Uganda Wood-Warbler*Phylloscopus budongoensis*

Up to fifteen were seen daily in Kakamega Forest.

Brown Woodland-Warbler*Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

Two individuals were observed at length at Kieni Forest, a delightful montane forest species with attractive tinkling song, and a further four on Mt. Kenya.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

Birds were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour, with a maximum of fifty in Tsavo East NP.

Common Chiffchaff*Phylloscopus collybita*

One was heard singing on Mt Kenya.

Yellow-bellied Hylia*Hylia flavigaster*

We had wonderful views of a male in the Maasai Mara. This is a very small and very localised population.

Fan-tailed Grassbird*Schoenicola brevirostris*

We had wonderful views of two displaying in a grassy clearing in Maasai Mara.

Garden Warbler*Sylvia borin*

Our first bird was on Mt Kenya, with a further three sightings in the highlands and west.

Barred Warbler*Sylvia nisoria*

One watched foraging in dead branches near the ground at some length, whilst waiting for the ticketing operation in Tsavo West NP.

Greater Whitethroat*Sylvia communis*

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

Brown Warbler (Parisoma)*Parisoma lugens*

We had wonderful views of a bird foraging in *Acacia abyssinica* trees en route from Naro Moru to Lake Nakuru.

Banded Warbler (Parisoma)*Parisoma boehmi*

This dry country species was first seen with a pair in Tsavo West NP, and heard on the Magadi Road and Samburu GR.

Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Silverbird*Empidonax semipartitus*

Our only sighting of this most beautiful bird, was one on the way from Nakuru to Baringo.

Pale Flycatcher*Bradornis pallidus*

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

African Grey 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 ten in Samburu GR.

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher*Melaenornis fischeri*

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

Northern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis edolioides*

Small numbers seen in Kakamega Forest, Keringet Swamp and the Maasai Mara, where we saw a maximum count of six.

Southern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis pammelaina*

A pair were seen extremely well in Samburu GR.

Spotted Flycatcher*Muscicapa striata*

We found numbers but only in the east with a maximum of fifty in Tsavo West NP.

Gambaga Flycatcher*Muscicapa gambagae*

A pair of this exceedingly rare species were found during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale.

Swamp Flycatcher*Muscicapa aquatica*

We had superb views of three at the Sio floods and up to six near Lake Victoria.

Chapin's Flycatcher*Muscicapa lendu*

We were very fortunate to see one of this very localised 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*

Our first bird was in Shimba Hills NP, thence recorded Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Kakamega and the Maasai Mara.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus plumbeus*

A rare bird in Kenya, we had superb views of one on both days at Lake Baringo, and another pair in the Kerio Valley.

White-starred Robin*Pogonocichla stellata*

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

Equatorial Akalat*Sheppardia aequatorialis*

We had brief views of two of this reclusive species in Kakamega Forest.

East Coast Akalat*Sheppardia gunningi*

An individual gave a short refrain in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, on one morning, but thereafter there was no sign of the species and the forest remained virtually silent. Usually it is such a noisy species.

Thrush Nightingale*Luscinia luscinia*

Up to six seen in the lodge in Tsavo East NP.

White-throated Robin*Irania gutturalis*

One stunning male posing for long periods during our migrant fall in Tsavo East, and a female by a popular roadside rubbish dump!

Cape Robin-Chat*Cossypha caffra*

Up to ten birds were seen daily on Mt. Kenya.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat*Cossypha cyanocampter*

We had exceptionally good views of two individuals of this extremely reclusive species in Kakamega Forest.

Rueppell's Robin-Chat*Cossypha semirufa*

Seen in small numbers in Mt Kenya, Isinya and at Thika.

- White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*
The crescendo calls of this handsome species led us right to the bird and we had incredible views at Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru where we had a maximum of six, and in the Maasai Mara where it was showy in the lodges we stayed at.
- Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla*
We had great views of a bird in Kakamega Forest.
- Spotted Morning-Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata*
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** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*
We had good views of three in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.
- Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*
This widespread African scrub-robin of mainly moist areas, was seen at many localities throughout the tour with most records from Mt Kenya.
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.
- White-winged (White-browed) Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas (leucophrys) leucoptera*
We saw this attractive and distinctive form commonly in the dry acacia scrub of Tsavo East and West, and the Samburu region.
NOTE: See the previous species.
- Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*
A single individual of this only Palearctic member of the genus was seen very well on our migrant fall in Tsavo East NP.
- Brown-backed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*
We had wonderful views of one near the Kongelai Escarpment.
- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*
Only single individuals seen at Lake Nakuru, en route to Baringo and the Maasai Mara.
- African (Common) Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*
This widespread and familiar bird was common throughout the highlands region on both sides of the Great Rift Valley.
- Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Most had moved north, but we had two in Tsavo East NP, and one at Lake Naivasha.
- Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellinus*
Four birds were seen very well in Tsavo East NP.
- Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*
The only sighting was of an adult male in Tsavo East NP.
- Schalow's (Mourning) Wheatear** *Oenanthe [lugens] schalowi*
We enjoyed a great sighting of three on the Magadi Road.
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.
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*
Seen in small numbers on Solio Ranch and in the Maasai Mara.
- Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*
Five of this wing-flicking and rock-loving species were observed on the Oloololo Escarpment in the Maasai Mara, the only known resident population in Kenya.

Brown-tailed (-Rock) Chat*Cercomela scotocerca*

First heard in Shaba GR with up to five seen in the Lake Baringo area. This species favours black lava flows.

Moorland Chat*Cercomela sordida*

A total of twelve were seen during our time in the Aberdares NP.

Northern Anteater-Chat*Myrmecocichla aethiops*

First seen on Solio Ranch, a maximum of eight at Lake Nakuru, and a couple in the Maasai Mara.

Sooty Chat*Myrmecocichla nigra*

Up to fifteen seen daily in the Maasai Mara.

Mocking Cliff-Chat*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

We had stunning views of a pair at Lake Baringo, with one further pair on the Kongelai Escarpment.

Wattle-eyes Platysteiridae**Brown-throated Wattle-eye***Platysteira cyanea*

Up to three seen in Kakamega Forest, with further birds in the Maasai Mara.

Jameson's Wattle-eye*Platysteira jamesoni*

We had brief but good views of two singles in Kakamega Forest, this can be a particularly elusive species.

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye*Platysteira concreta*

One bird gave an alarm call at Kakamega, but the real alarm was that we could not find it!

Short-tailed Batis*Batis mixta*

Two of this beautiful understorey species were seen in the Arabuko-Sokoke 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-Sokoke Forest.

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

We found three 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 pg 99. 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 heard this species calling at Lake Jilore, but unfortunately time was against us and we could not pursue it.

NOTE: See note for previous species.

Pygmy Batis*Batis perkeo*

Small numbers were seen daily in Tsavo East and West NP with further sightings in Samburu GR and Lake Baringo.

Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae**(Little) Yellow Flycatcher***Erythrocerus holochlorus*

We had wonderful views of five in Arabuko-Sokoke 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 fleeting views of two at Kieni Forest.

Dusky Crested-Flycatcher*Elminia nigromitatus*

We were very lucky to have excellent views of this scarce and secretive species at Kakamega 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 at Lake Baringo.

Babblers Timalidae**Scaly-breasted Illadopsis***Illadopsis albipectus*

We had good but brief views of one in Kakamega Forest, although many more were heard.

Brown Illadopsis*Illadopsis fulvescens*

We had good looks at two near the road in Kakamega Forest.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis*Illadopsis rufipennis*

We had good views of three roadside birds in Kakamega Forest.

Grey-chested Illadopsis*Kakamega poliothorax*

This species was particularly noisy and was heard on many occasions in Kakamega Forest, with three birds being seen, and one very well.

African Hill Babbler*Illadopsis abyssinica*

We found two single birds in forest on Mt Kenya.

Scaly Chatterer*Turdoides aylemeri*

After a diligent search, we finally tracked down four birds in Tsavo West NP. Then encountered the species a second time when three turned up whilst we had our picnic on the Magadi Road.

Rufous Chatterer*Turdoides rubiginosus*

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

Black-lored Babbler*Turdoides sharpei*

Small numbers were seen firstly poorly at Lake Naivasha, then well near Lake Victoria and the Maasai Mara.

Scaly Babbler*Turdoides squamulatus*

One family led us a merry chase at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, but another group tormenting an African Wood Owl were much easier to see.

Northern Pied-Babbler*Turdoides hypoleucus*

Six of these attractive and localised babblers were seen in the garden at Whistling Thorns, and a further one on Mt Kenya.

Hinde's Pied-Babbler (E)*Turdoides hindei*

We had good views of five en route to Naivasha. This is a very localised 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 ten birds.

Tits Paridae

White-bellied Tit*Melaniparus albiventris*

First observed at Thika with further sightings at Mount Kenya and Lake Nakuru, Kongelai, and the Maasai Mara. An attractive and common species in Kenya.

Dusky Tit*Melaniparus funereus*

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

Red-throated Tit*Melaniparus fringillinus*

After being tormented by calling birds that we never saw on the Magadi Road, we had fantastic multiple sightings 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 a pair at Lake Baringo.

African Penduline-Tit*Anthoscopus caroli*

One was seen very well at the Kongelai Escarpment.

[Buff-bellied Penduline-Tit]*Anthoscopus sylviella*

We had fantastic views of two 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 Nectarinidae**Plain-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes reichenowi*

Mere complaining noises in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest was all that we were to experience from the almost complete silence that greeted us.

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, Kibwezi Forest, Kakamega Forest and the Maasai Mara.

Amani Sunbird*Hedydipna pallidigaster*

We had wonderful views of three in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. A rare and localised species.

Green-headed Sunbird*Cyanomitra verticalis*

Our first sighting was a single bird at Thika, followed by wonderful views of a pair in Kieni Forest and numerous other sightings in forested highland areas.

Eastern Olive-Sunbird*Cyanomitra olivacea*

Small numbers were observed at Shimba Hills NP, Taita Hills, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Mt Kenya.

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 up to five 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 upland sites throughout the trip.

Green-throated Sunbird*Chalcomitra rubescens*

We had superb views of over twenty in a flowering tree in Kakamega Forest.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird*Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Our first sightings were at the Nairobi hotel, then 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*

Our first two were in the Aberdares, followed by two stunning males and a dowdy female at Naro Moru.

Bronze Sunbird*Nectarinia kilimensis*

This attractive long-tailed sunbird was first encountered in the Taita Hills. 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, Kisumu and the Maasai Mara. Arguably the world's most impressive sunbird!

Malachite Sunbird*Nectarinia famosa*

We had stunning views of up to six adult males in partial breeding plumage, feeding on roadside Aloes near Naro Moru.

Olive-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris chloropygius*

We found several in the scrub in the Busia grasslands.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird*Cinnyris preussi*

First seen in Kieni Forest, then several were seen at Naro Moru, and more in 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 as a vagrant in Tsavo West NP, then a couple along the Magadi Road with numerous 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 three of these smart birds at the Mumias Bridge, several during the drive from Busia to Kakamega and numerous sightings near Lake Victoria.

Black-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris nectarinioides*

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

Purple-banded Sunbird*Cinnyris bifasciatus*

The first bird was at Sabaki River Mouth, then several were found on the Oloololo Escarpment.

Tsavo Sunbird*Cinnyris tsavoensis*

Up to twenty were recorded in Tsavo West NP.

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

Variable Sunbird*Cinnyris venusta*

We had great views of up to ten at Thika with scattered sightings elsewhere, including the very different northern white-bellied race in Shaba GR.

Copper Sunbird*Cinnyris cupreus*

Up to forty were seen daily in the Busia grasslands.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kerio Valley, Kitale, Kakamega and Busia areas, and the Maasai Mara.

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

Up to ten seen at Kieni Forest and regularly encountered on Mt. Kenya with a maximum of thirty.

[Taita White-eye] *Zosterops silvanus*

We had superb views of ten in the Taita Hills, but getting this sighting was the result of careful searching as birds disappeared into the forest gloom without showing themselves.

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

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

Up to twenty were seen in Tsavo West NP with a further sighting on the Magadi Road.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Impressive coastal movements with up to two hundred in a day. Away from the coast we had many sightings of singles and small groups.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

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

Green-headed Oriole *Oriolus chlorocephalus*

We had a superb individual in the car-park of our lodge in Shimba Hills, and heard others in the National Park.

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 two in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest with further widespread sightings at Lake Naivasha, Naro Moru, Lake Baringo area, Kongelai Escarpment and the Maasai Mara.

Black-tailed (Mountain) Oriole *Oriolus percivali*

Small numbers were heard at Kieni and on Mount Kenya, but the only sighting was of one from the roof of the lodge crossing a narrow gap from one tree to another. Never before considered a problem to see.

Shrikes Laniidae

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

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

Rufous-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Three were seen in Tsavo West NP and one in Samburu GR.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Peak numbers of seventy were seen in Tsavo West NP with abundant sightings throughout the tour.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

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

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi*

Small numbers were seen near Gongoni and peak numbers of twenty were seen in Tsavo West NP and smaller numbers around Nairobi.

Taita Fiscal*Lanius dorsalis*

Up to twenty five were seen in Tsavo East NP and several more in Samburu and Shaba GR, with a final bird in the Maasai Mara.

Mackinnon's Shrike*Lanius mackinnoni*

We found one resident in our garden in Kakamega Forest.

Common Fiscal*Lanius collaris*

Commonly seen throughout the tour with sightings of small numbers virtually daily, away from the coast.

Yellow-billed Shrike*Corvinella corvina*

We had very good views of six 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 five 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 Samburu GR, Lake Nakuru and 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.

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 up to four in Kakamega Forest.

Marsh Tchagra*Tchagra minuta*

We had brief views of one in the Busia grasslands.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra, but not seen until the end of the tour in the Maasai Mara!

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

Brown-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra australis*

We had brief views of one in the Busia grasslands, but much better sightings in the Maasai Mara.

Three-streaked Tchagra*Tchagra jamesi*

We had great views of a single bird in Samburu GR.

Red-naped Bushshrike*Laniarius ruficeps*

We had amazing views of this rare and seldom seen species in Tsavo East. What a cracker !

Luehder's Bushshrike*Laniarius luehderi*

We had wonderful views of four birds, in Kakamega Forest, yet another stunner.

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.

[Coastal Boubou]*Laniarius (aethiopicus) erlangeri*

This recently split species was very commonly heard in Shimba Hills NP, and also in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest where three were seen.

Black-headed Gonolek*Laniarius erythrogaster*

We had great views of three in acacias in the Kerio Valley, with other sightings in the Busia Grasslands and Lake Victoria.

Papyrus Gonolek*Laniarius mufumbiri*

Two of these striking birds were seen very well near Lake Victoria.

Slate-colored Boubou*Laniarius funebris*

Seen in small numbers throughout the trip, peak numbers of twenty were seen in Tsavo West NP.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike*Rhodophoneus cruentus*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo East and 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.

Grey-green Bushshrike*Telophorus bocagei*

We saw two 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 well in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, a very skulking species.

Doherty's Bushshrike*Telophorus nigrifrons*

One was seen behaving extravertly at Kieni in a locality not recorded previously.

Grey-headed Bushshrike*Malaconotus blanchoti*

We had several sightings of this large bushshrike including great views of our first one in Tsavo East NP.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae**White Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

We had superb views of a flock of six straight-crested birds in Tsavo West NP, and at Lake Baringo and on the Kongelai Escarpment, parties of curly-crested birds.

Grey-crested Helmetshrike*Prionops poliolophus*

We were so fortunate to find a flock of five stunning birds in the Maasai Mara. This is an exceedingly rare species away from the birds of Lake Nakuru, where White Helmetshrike traits are present in the birds resident there. Luckily there are no White Helmetshrikes anywhere near the Maasai Mara, and the birds are pure.

Retz's Helmetshrike*Prionops retzii*

Small flocks of six were seen in Shimba Hills NP and a more stationary group of five was studied well in Kibwezi Forest.

Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike*Prionops scopifrons*

We encountered small flocks in Shimba Hills NP and peak numbers of thirty in Arabuko-Sokoke 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 Mombasa and Malindi.

Cape Crow*Corvus capensis*

Seen in small numbers in most highland areas, first met with near Naro Moru.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers throughout the tour.

Fan-tailed Raven*Corvus rhipidurus*

Two were seen in Samburu GR and up to seven in Baringo and the Kerio Valley area.

White-necked Raven*Corvus albicollis*

Three birds were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Starlings Sturnidae**Wattled Starling***Creatophora cinerea*

This irruptive species was first observed in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in many localities over much of the country.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Commonly seen at scattered upland localities throughout the trip.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chloropterus*

Up to forty of this very localised species were seen at the Kongelai Escarpment.

Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had superb views of six, near the Kongelai Escarpment.

Splendid Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis splendidus*

We had wonderful views of a ten at the Keringet Swamp. This is another very localised species in Kenya.

Purple Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis purpureus*

Yet another very localised 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 five seen in Samburu GR. One of Africa's most beautiful birds!

Black-bellied Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis corruscus*

Up to seventy five seen daily in both Shimba Hills NP and Arabuko-Sokoke 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 in both Tsavo West NP and the Maasai Mara. Our best view was of a pair on a bush at Lake Baringo.

Violet-backed (Plum-colored/Amethyst) Starling*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

First met with at Thika, thereafter with scattered sightings elsewhere in the highlands.

Fischer's Starling*Spreo fischeri*

Up to fifteen seen in Tsavo East and West NP.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites including several in Nairobi.

Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

Fifteen birds were resting by Thomson's Falls, and another fifteen were flying over the site.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri*

Small numbers were seen on Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares.

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

Small numbers were seen daily in the garden at Kakamega Forest.

Kenrick's Starling *Poeoptera kenricki*

Four birds were seen on Mt. Kenya associating with three other montane starling species at a fruiting tree.

Bristle-crowned Starling *Onychognathus salvadorii*

Up to eight were seen in Shaba GR and a further fifteen daily in the garden at Lake Baringo where they were feeding on Neem Tree fruits.

Sharpe's Starling *Pholia sharpii*

Fifteen were seen at Mt. Kenya feeding in a mixed starling assemblage at a fruiting tree.

Abbott's Starling *Pholia femoralis*

We were fortunate to see a pair of these rare starlings on Mt. Kenya, frustratingly flying over, but were later rewarded with a female associating with feeding Sharpe's Starlings at a fruiting tree.

Magpie Starling *Speculipastor bicolor*

Our first birds were seen briefly in Buffalo Springs GR, this was followed by twenty five in Shaba GR and five in the garden at Lake Baringo.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Commonly seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

Up to four seen in the Maasai Mara.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

This cosmopolitan species was commonly seen around Mombasa and Malindi and again in several locations near human habitations, extending out to remote locations such as the Maasai Mara. The birds in Kenya are the large and bright race *indicus*, not the nominate found in Southern Africa.

Kenya Rufous Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus*

Small numbers seen at several sites including sightings at Whistling Thorns, Naro Moru, Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru, other highland areas and the Maasai Mara.

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 Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Small numbers seen on the coast, whilst the remainder of the species is in the west 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*

Large numbers seen in Tsavo West NP and Lake Baringo, and peak numbers of fifty were observed in Samburu GR.

Swahili Sparrow *Passer suahelicus*

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

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey*

After our first birds in Tsavo West, we had good views of up to thirty in Shaba GR.

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Petronia pyrgita*

Seen fairly regularly throughout the trip with peak numbers of ten seen in both Samburu GR and the Lake Baringo.

Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

White-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

Up to twenty five were seen daily in the Lake Baringo area.

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

Up to sixty seen in Tsavo East and 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, Lake Baringo area and Maasai Mara.

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 and Shaba GR where we found up to fifty daily.

Grey-headed (-capped) Social-Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

We found up to fifteen on the Magadi Road, which were happy to share our picnic.

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 Sio floods and a further four near Lake Victoria.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

Small numbers were seen in the Lake Baringo area.

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*

First two were in dry acacia/commiphora scrub in Tsavo West NP, then up to six were seen in in Kakamega Forest where they inhabit the canopy of the rain-forest... this seems a bit enigmatic!

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

We had wonderful views of three in Kakamega Forest.

African Golden-Weaver*Ploceus subaureus*

We found several breeding near Taita Hills, and up to ten in non-breeding plumage at Thika.

Holub's (Large) Golden-Weaver*Ploceus xanthops*

A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, we observed this species first with three near Taita Hills, then occasional birds were seen at Keringet Swamp and the Maasai Mara.

Golden Palm Weaver*Ploceus bojeri*

What a stunning bird! We had a frustrating time with a disappearing male and not so attractive females in sisal on the way to Sokoke, but fantastic views of an adult male in full breeding plumage in Buffalo Springs GR.

Taveta Golden-Weaver*Ploceus castaneiceps*

One male played the disappearing game near Taita Hills, and was not seen by all.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver*Ploceus castanops*

We found a total of five in the papyrus around Lake Victoria.

Heuglin's Masked-Weaver*Ploceus heuglini*

We had superb views of twenty at a nesting colony near the Kongelai Escarpment. Watching the birds at close quarters as they demonstrated their weaving prowess. This is an extremely rare bird in Kenya.

Northern Masked-Weaver*Ploceus taeniopterus*

Up to twenty five 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, breeding plumaged birds coming to our picnic on the Magadi Road.

Village Weaver*Ploceus cucullatus*

Commonly seen on the coast, Tsavo West and in the Lake Baringo area and throughout the west.

Speke's Weaver*Ploceus spekei*

Peak numbers of up to thirty 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 several in the garden in Kakamega Forest with further sightings in the Busia grasslands.

Clarke's Weaver (E)*Ploceus golangi*

A total of fifteen were seen in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, a very lucky find indeed especially as eight were adult males in breeding plumage and it was the first time the resident birders on the coast had seen them this year.

Black-headed Weaver*Ploceus melanocephalus*

Our first birds were four at Mumias Bridge, several nesting on the Sio floods, thereafter up to thirty were seen around Lake Victoria. (Called Yellow-backed Weaver in East Africa to avoid confusion with Village Weaver which used to be called Black-headed Weaver).

Golden-backed Weaver*Ploceus jacksoni*

After the first adult male on the road from Nakuru to Baringo, we had fantastic views of up to six of these weavers in a variety of plumages at Lake Baringo, but a colony of very beautiful males was found in a reed bed on leaving Kisumu.

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 two in Shimba Hills NP, a few were in mixed assemblages in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and peak numbers of four in Kakamega Forest. (In East Africa this is known as Dark-backed Weaver).

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

Three individuals of this handsome forest weaver were seen in Kakamega Forest.

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantes superciliosus*

Up to four were seen daily in the Busia grasslands.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

Two of these smart birds were seen in Kakamega Forest.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

The first bird recorded was not until Lake Naivasha, thereafter we had good sightings on the Kongelai Escarpment and in the Maasai Mara.

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 up to twenty in breeding plumage in the Maasai Mara.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

We first found the “African avian locust” in Tsavo East NP, and it was recorded in small numbers in widely distributed localities, with a maximum of three hundred recorded in Shaba GR.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

We observed a single male 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 Samburu GR, but did not stay long enough for all to see it.

Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

A single male was seen on the Sio floods.

(Southern) Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

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

Zanzibar Bishop *Euplectes nigroventris*

Our first bird was a male in sisal on the way to Sokoke, a brighter male was found near Taita Hills.

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

Our first sighting was of one in Tsavo West NP with many sightings thereafter.

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

Good numbers were observed during the drive from Lake Baringo to Kitale, also numbers over the Ahero Rice Scheme, with impressive numbers in the Maasai Mara numbering over five hundred birds.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

Six flew across the road near Naivasha, and not seen by all so several roadside birds as we arrived at our hotel in Nairobi on the final day was viewed as a fine finale to the tour.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Our first birds were in breeding plumage near Mt Kenya, and seen in several locations in the highlands with a maximum of one hundred and fifty in the Maasai Mara.

Long-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes progne*

Fantastic males in full breeding plumage were seen displaying in the highland grasslands around Mt. Kenya and near Mweiga. A maximum of sixty near Thomson’s Falls.

Jackson's Widowbird *Euplectes jacksoni*

Up to twenty seen in the grasslands around Mt.Kenya and Mweiga, with a maximum of one hundred and fifty in the Maasai Mara where the entertaining bouncing lek display was seen.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes macrocercus*

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

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*

Breeding birds were common in the Maasai Mara, with a maximum of fifty seen.

Parasitic Weaver *Anomalospiza imberbis*

One was seen in the Busia grasslands flying over, and three in the grasslands of the Maasai Mara.

Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

The first birds were flying over Shimba Hills NP, fifteen were found in the Iten Swamps, but the best bird was a close individual in the Maasai Mara.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Grey-headed Negrofinch *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 five on the Magadi Road.

Abyssinian Crimson-wing *Cryptospiza salvadorii*

Heard at Kieni Forest, and finally superb views of a male feeding on open short grass near Mweiga.

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla*

Up to four of these striking birds were seen in Kakamega Forest, but did not sit in the open for long.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

Up to eight were seen in the Busia grasslands, including two feeding openly on the road.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Commonly seen in small numbers throughout the trip with peak numbers of twenty five in a day in Lake Nakuru NP.

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*

Two of these stunning firefinches were seen near Busia, after a lengthy search.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

We had wonderful views of a single male at Lake Nakuru.

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*

One male seen at our lodge in Tsavo West NP.

Peter's Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus*

Pairs were seen at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, one couple was on the road but others remained in cover.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

This widespread species was seen commonly throughout the tour.

Blue-capped Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

Small numbers were seen in Tsavo West NP and again on the Magadi Road and Lake Baringo.

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*

The first birds were five seen very briefly in the Taita Hills. This attractive bird was then seen daily in small numbers on Mount Kenya, and other birds were seen elsewhere in the highlands.

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola*

A total of six were seen in the Busia grasslands.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda rhodopyga*

The first seen were ten at the roadside rubbish tip near Tsavo East NP, thence small numbers were seen in Samburu GR with a further sighting of fifteen in Shaba GR.

Common Waxbill*Estrilda astrild*

Small numbers were seen at Mt.Kenya, Lake Nakuru NP and the Maasai Mara.

Black-crowned Waxbill*Estrilda nonnula*

Our first were a few near Kitale, then singles in Kakamega Forest and a further two in the Busia grasslands.

Kandt's Waxbill*Estrilda kandti*

We found four 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 at the rubbish tip near Tsavo East NP.

Zebra Waxbill*Amandava subflava*

We found twenty five feeding in ploughed land near Iten Swamp, and a further five at Ahero Rice Scheme.

African Quailfinch*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

Our first birds were ten near Thomson's Falls, birds were heard at Baringo, but finally over five-hundred were found in the grasslands in the Maasai Mara where they fed in the roadside ditches.

African Silverbill*Lonchura cantans*

First seen in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu and Shaba GR.

Grey-headed Silverbill*Lonchura griseicapilla*

First a few were seen at the rubbish tip near Tsavo East, then parties of up to fifteen birds were found in Samburu GR, Shaba GR, Lake Baringo and the Maasai Mara.

Bronze Mannikin*Spermestes cucullatus*

This is a familiar African species, seen in good numbers especially in the Kisumu area.

Black-and-white Mannikin*Lonchura bicolor*

We found several in the Busia grasslands, and a few in the Maasai Mara.

NOTE: Some authorities split Black-and-white Mannikin, *L. bicolor* and Red-backed Mannikin, *L. nigriceps*. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

[Red-backed Mannikin]*Lonchura nigriceps*

Commonly seen in many highland sites, with a maximum of twenty five on Mt Kenya.

NOTE: See the previous species.

Cut-throat (-Finch)*Amadina fasciata*

Up to ten seen in Samburu and Shaba GR.

Indigobirds Viduidae**Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeate*

After two females on Mt Kenya, we were treated to a male in Kisumu.

Steel-blue Whydah*Vidua hypocherina*

We had incredible views of two males in full breeding plumage on the rubbish tip near Tsavo East NP.

Straw-tailed Whydah*Vidua fischeri*

Our first bird was a male at the rubbish tip near Tsavo East NP, thereafter we had several sightings in the countries drier parts, but the most surprising was finding three adult and one immature male in the Maasai Mara in lush terrain.

Pin-tailed Whydah*Vidua macroura*

This species was commonly seen throughout the trip.

Eastern Paradise Whydah*Vidua paradisaea*

Our first sighting was most unexpected at Lake Arabuko were we had an adult male and two females. Subsequently birds were seen in several dry localities with a maximum of twelve in Tsavo West NP.

Oriole Finch*Linurgus olivaceus*

We had superb views of four on Mt.Kenya.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies Fringillidae**Yellow-crowned Canary***Serinus flavivertex*

This species was seen in good 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 frontalis*

Small numbers were seen in Thika with further sightings at Naro Moru, Kitale 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.

Southern Citril*Serinus hypostictus*

We saw several of the grey-faced race *brittoni* in Kakamega Forest.

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 Busia grasslands, Kisumu area and in the Maasai Mara.

Southern Grosbeak-Canary*Serinus buchanani*

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 rubbish tip near Tsavo East, with further sightings on the Magadi Road, Samburu area and Maasai Mara.

Brimstone (Bully) Canary*Serinus sulphuratus*

First seen at Whistling Thorns, thence Lake Naivasha, Kerio Valley, Kitale and the Maasai Mara.

Streaky Seedeater*Serinus striolatus*

Up to seventy five were seen daily on Mt. Kenya with scattered sightings elsewhere in the highlands.

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 five on Mt.Kenya.

Buntings Emberizidae**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

We finally had sightings of up to six birds in the Maasai Mara.

Golden-breasted Bunting*Emberiza flaviventris*

We found our first few on Mt Kenya, we had other highland observations where it was most numerous in the Kerio Valley, thence Kongelai Escarpment and finally in the Maasai Mara.

Somali Bunting*Emberiza poliopleura*

A maximum of twenty were seen in Tsavo West NP with smaller numbers in Samburu and Shaba GR.

Annotated List of Mammal Species

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

Total species recorded: 80

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

Angola Colobus *Colobus angolensis*

We had views of a dozen, 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 one hundred seen daily in Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba GRs. A further ten were seen in the Maasai Mara.

Yellow Baboon *Papio cynocephalus*

Small numbers were seen in Shimba Hills NP, Arabuko-Sokoke 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. Blue Monkeys were seen in Kakamega and the Maasai Mara.

Vervet Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops*

Small numbers were seen daily in many locations including Samburu and Shaba GRs.

Red-tailed Monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*

We had good views of four in Kakamega Forest and a few in the Maasai Mara.

Galagos Galagonidae

Small-eared Galago *Otolemur garnetti*

Four of these delightful white-tipped animals were coming in to food handouts in Shimba Hills Lodge.

Greater Galago *Otolemur crassicaudatus*

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

Silver Galago *Otolemur argentatus*

We heard them calling at Kitchwa Tembo in the Maasai Mara, but did not see them.

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Straw-colored Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*

About six were seen around our lodge in 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.

Peter’s Epauletted Fruit Bat *Micropteropus pusillus*

This persistent vocalist kept up its territorial calls at night in the Maasai Mara.

Free-tailed Bat sp *Mops sp*

Many ground-level bats were seen in various parts of the country, the genus is large and complex.

Mauritian Tomb Bat *Taphozous mauritanus*

These bats with conspicuous white wing membranes were seen leaving their roosts at dusk, at our lodge in Tsavo East NP.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

Just one individual was seen briefly at Lake Baringo.

Elephant Shrews Macroscelidea

Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew *Rhynchocyon chrysopygus*

Several were seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Hares Leporidae

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis*

We found two in the Maasai Mara.

African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae*

One was seen briefly in each of Samburu and Shaba GR.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

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

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

One was seen near Thika.

Red-bellied Coast Squirrel *Paraxerus palliatus*

We had incredible views of eight 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 and several highland locations.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

We had an incredible experience in the Maasai Mara, where one was attracting the attentions of a Great Sparrowhawk.

Zanj Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus undulatus*

A couple of this noisy animal was seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*

We had good views of two in Kakamega Forest.

Pouched Rats Cricetomyinae

Giant Gambian Rat *Cricetomys gambianus*

One was seen at Thika.

Porcupines Hystricidae

Crested Porcupine *Hystrix cristata*

We had wonderful views of one in Tsavo West NP.

Groove-Toothed Rats Otomyinae

African Grass Mouse *Arvicanthis niloticus*

A group of four was seen in the Maasai Mara.

Typical Striped Grass Mouse *Lemniscomys striatus* and sp

A couple of these rodents were seen by various members in the highlands.

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Black-backed Jackal*Canis mesomelas*

Three were seen in Tsavo East NP with further sightings in the Maasai Mara.

Mustelids Mustelidae**Zorilla (Striped Polecat)***Ictonyx striatus*

One found dead on the road near Thika.

Mongoose Herpestriidae**Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguinea*

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

Egyptian Mongoose*Herpestes ichneumon*

This uncommon species was determined to get to the remains of the meat bait in Tsavo West NP.

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.

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 one at the floodlit waterhole at Shimba Hills Lodge.

White-tailed Mongoose*Ichneumia albicauda*

We had wonderful views of one on Mt. Kenya.

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

Singles seen Samburu GR and Mount Kenya, with several in the Maasai Mara.

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

We had wonderful views of one at our lodge in Shimba Hills.

African Civet*Civettictis civetta*

We had wonderful views of one at Shimba Hills Lodge.

African Palm Civet*Nandinia binotata*

One was seen crossing the road in Kakamega Forest.

Cats Felidae**Lion***Panthera leo*

Princes 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. On both nights at our lodge on Mt Kenya, one visited the waterhole.

Cheetah*Acinonyx jubatus*

The fastest ground mammal in the world, we had a magnificent female with three cubs sitting on a rock in the Maasai Mara.

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

Good numbers were seen at Lake Baringo.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax

Heterohyrax brucei

Up to twenty seen in Tsavo West NP.

Southern Tree Hyrax

Heterohyrax arboreus

Tree Hyraxes on Mt Kenya, and seen in Naro Moru River Lodge garden were of this extremely noisy species. The animals at Siana Springs in the Maasai Mara are a mystery, having different night vocalisations and a white (not cream or orange) dorsal crest. This does suggest the Western Tree Hyrax *H. dorsalis* but it is not recorded from western Kenya.

Eastern Tree Hyrax

Heterohyrax validus

Animals that came into the bar area at Shimba Hills Lodge were of this 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 and West NP, Samburu GR, 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 twenty of these large and elaborate zebra in Buffalo Springs.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae

White Rhinoceros

Ceratotherium simum

Three of these powerful animals were observed at Lake Nakuru.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibious

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

Pigs Suidae

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.

Desert Warthog

Phacochoerus aethiopicus

We saw two pairs of this edge of range species in Tsavo East NP, where they did not stay in view for long.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Reticulated Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata

Peak numbers of twelve of this distinctive form were found at Buffalo Springs and Shaba GR.

Maasai Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi

Large numbers of this race of giraffe were seen throughout the tour with a peak number of forty 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 three hundred in a day. Numbers 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 had good views of five 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.

Bush Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

We had one in dense bush in the Maasai Mara.

Suni

Neotragus moschatus

Our first was a single animal in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, then two much better sightings on Mt Kenya.

Klipspringer

Oreotragus oreotragus

We had superb views of a pair right by the roadside at Shaba GR.

Kirk's Dik-dik

Madoqua kirkii

Up to one hundred seen daily in Tsavo West NP with further sightings in Samburu, Shaba and Maasai Mara GRs.

Guenther's Dik-dik

Madoqua guentheri

We had great views of a pair in Samburu GR.

Bohor Reedbuck

Redunca redunca

Three of this reed-loving antelope was seen very well in Tsavo West NP.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa

Up to thirty 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 eight 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. Larger numbers of this graceful species recorded in Samburu and Shaba GRs.

Thomson's Gazelle

Gazella thomsonii

Many seen in Lake Nakuru NP, Solio Ranch and up to forty 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 one hundred observed daily in the Maasai Mara.

Coke's Hartebeest (Kongoni)	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel</i>
Seen in small numbers in Tsavo West NP and up to twenty daily in the Maasai Mara.	
Jackson's Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel</i>
A herd of fifty was seen on Solio Ranch.	
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Thirty were seen in the Maasai Mara.	
Beisa Oryx	<i>Oryx gazelle beisa</i>
Up to fifteen of these impressive antelope were seen in the Buffalo Springs GR.	

Annotated List of Reptile and Amphibian Species

Total species recorded: 78

Helmeted Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>
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 Tsavo West NP.	
Zambesi Hinged Terrapin	<i>Pelusios zambesicus</i>
One was found in a ditch in the Busia grasslands.	
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>
One was found near Lake Baringo.	
Speke's Hinged Tortoise	<i>Kinixys spekii</i>
We were most fortunate to find an individual in Shimba Hills.	
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
We had good views of these friendly creatures virtually throughout.	
White-headed Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus picturatus</i>
We had good views of one in Shimba Hills NP and another one in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.	
Rainbow Skink	<i>Mabuya margaritifer</i>
We had wonderful views of several including good views of a male in Tsavo West NP and Shaba GR.	
Striped Skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i>
We found individuals in the Samburu and Shaba GR and the Maasai Mara.	
Speke's Sand Lizard	<i>Heliobolus spekii</i>
We had wonderful views of animals in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Shaba GR, Baringo and Kongelai Escarpment.	
Southern Long-tailed Lizard	<i>Latastia longicaudata</i>
Two were seen in Tsavo West NP, and another at Lake Baringo.	
Blue-headed Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>
One was on a fence post on the Isinya road.	
Red-headed Rock Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>
Commonly seen in Tsavo West NP and Lake Baringo area and elsewhere.	
Elementeita Rock Agama	<i>Agama caudospina</i>
One was seen at Iten Swamp.	
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 at least ten in the Busia area.	
Jackson's Three-horned Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo jacksoni</i>

We had great views of one at Kieni Forest.

White-throated Savanna Monitor

Varanus albigularis

One was seen in Tsavo East NP, and another at Samburu GR.

Nile Monitor

Varanus niloticus

One was at Shimba Hills, and two were seen in Samburu GR.

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

Only singles at Shaba in the Ewaso Nyiro River adjacent to our hotel, a few in Lake Baringo and several seen in the Maasai Mara.

Forest Cobra

Naja melanoleuca

One was in the Busia grasslands.

Guttural Toad

Bufo gutturalis

We had fantastic views of one in the Busia grasslands.

Rocket Frog sp.

Ptychadena sp.

Several of this difficult genus were seen in damp areas.