

Tanzania's Highlights

Naturetrek Tour Report

14th – 28th January 2023



African Elephant



Mwanza Flat-headed Rock Agama



Greater Kestrel



Leopard

Tour report and images kindly written and compiled by client Sue Bowler



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Tour participants: Mohamed Rashid (Leader, local guide/driver) with six Naturetrek clients

Summary

There are insufficient superlatives to describe this holiday but, in a nutshell, it was a magnificent 14-day trip with some absolutely awesome sightings. These included close encounters with seven Cheetahs, the first of which hunted and caught a young Wildebeest, 63 lions including watching a male at close quarters devour a half a Zebra and four Leopards, one of which climbed down the tree it was resting in with its Zebra carcass prior to walking away. We saw fighting Hippos, an eagle fight, and over 220 species of bird. New-born Wildebeest and Impala trying to stand for the first time plus several black Rhinoceros and a Serval. A truly memorable trip - even our guide said it was exceptional and words alone do not do it justice.

Day 1 & 2

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th January

London Heathrow to Serena Lodge, Lake Duluti

The holiday started with an uneventful overnight flight to Addis Ababa. On arrival, our first Tanzanian birds were Pied Crows, feeding on the ground in the sunshine. After meeting entry requirements, we met up with Mohamed, our leader, guide and driver. The 45-minute drive to our hotel was uneventful.

By mid-afternoon we were at the Serena Lodge, overlooking Lake Duluti. After dropping our luggage and freshening up, Mohamed gave a quick briefing on what to expect and what to watch out for, then the rest of the party were introduced to us. Late afternoon, we set off for a walk around the extensive hotel gardens. Here there were Crowned Hornbill and Woodland Kingfishers. A fine early evening wildlife stroll was followed by a lovely dinner and an early night.

Day 3

Monday 16th January

Arusha National Park

After breakfast the Toyota Landcruiser, that was to be our transport for the next two weeks awaited. Here too was Mohamed, our excellent local guide and driver. It was a short drive to the entrance gate of Arusha National Park, where we popped up the top of the vehicle making it into a mobile viewing platform for safaris.

Whilst we waited for Mohamed to complete the short entrance formalities, we spotted a Long-tailed Fiscal. Shortly after entering, we had a very close sighting of our first Elephant, a young male who walked by the vehicle within touching distance. Next we saw Waterbuck, Olive Baboon, Warthog, Plains Zebra, Maasai Giraffe and African Buffalo and had great sightings of a troop of Blue Monkeys drinking in a small stream.

We then met a park guide and walked to a nearby waterfall, sighting White-fronted Bee-eaters on the banks of a stream. On foot we had close encounters with Warthog, Plains Zebra, Maasai Giraffe and African Buffalo.

We then drove on to Lake Momella spotting Bushbuck, Waterbuck, and a shy Red Duiker on the way.

Arriving at the lake we saw hundreds of both Lesser and Greater Flamingo, some sleeping and others feeding on the lake. We also had good sightings of a Black-headed Heron, Little Grebe, Three Banded Plover, Cape Teal, African Grey Flycatcher, Yellow-fronted Longclaw, Little Bee-eaters and a Yellow Bishop.

We stopped for lunch at a raised picnic site to enjoy lunch which was very welcome until a small group of baboons decided they would like some too and ran onto the table chancing their luck and escaping with some of our picnic!

After lunch we had good sightings of Guereza (Colobus) up in the trees - shy but gorgeous. We also watched some Golden Weaver birds collecting their nesting material, lots of Wire-tailed Swallows and Grey-fronted Spurfowl. Our first Hippo of the trip was spotted at distance as we looked over landscape of the park.

On arriving back at our hotel, we had a lovely dinner before retiring for the evening.

Day 4

Tuesday 17th January

Tarangire National Park

We left Arusha early this morning to head to Tarangire camp where we were to arrive for lunch. Whilst Mohamed was completing the necessary paperwork, we had our first sighting of Superb Starlings.

We were then out in the early morning sunshine and into a plethora of birds including Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Pied Kingfisher, Bataleur Eagles in flight and on the ground, Lilac-breasted Rollers and White-bellied Bustard to name but a few.

Our first mammal sighting was soon after entering the park where at distance we saw a female Lion with four cubs resting in the shade of a tree. There were large herds of Elephant, Impala, Bushbuck and Zebra.

Groups of Banded Mongoose were running along stopping periodically to sit tall and proud whilst checking for predators.

Following a lovely lunch, we checked into our luxury tents before heading out for the afternoon drive which produced amongst the bird sightings Hildebrandt's Starling, Barefaced Go-away Bird, a Golden-tailed Woodpecker, an Eastern Chanting Goshawk and Blue-breasted Cordon Bleu. We also had a very close sighting of Kirk's Dik-dik. At the river we spotted Water Thick-knee, Blacksmith Lapwing and Saddle-billed Stork. The landscape in this park included many Baobab trees and Candelabra Euphoria trees.

This evening prior to dinner we completed the list for the last 2 days.

Day 5

Wednesday 18th January

Tarangire National Park

An early breakfast, then we set off for our morning safari and were soon seeing lots of birds, including Helmeted Guineafowl, Namaqua Dove, Crested Francolin, Purple Grenadier and African Jacana. Then we had a superb view of an African Fish Eagle perched high on a tree surveying the area. The lake area brought us a Pink-backed Pelican and much closer views of Hippopotamus. D'arnauds Barbets and Rufous-tailed Weaver were spotted near the toilet stop.

We then had very good views of a Secretary Bird striding close by. Upon coming to a termite mound near the road, we realised it was inhabited by a family of very cute Dwarf Mongoose and the photographers got some lovely shots.

One of the group had a great spot of an African Eagle Owl sleeping in a tree and once again Mohamed kindly reversed to give us all fantastic views.

A family of Elephants entertained us for some time, some drinking, others having mud baths and scratching against the trees. The family had a few youngsters who were play fighting and cooling themselves by flapping their ears.

After lunch we came across our second Lion sighting, this time three males who were resting in some bushes, until one got up and proceeded to walk within feet of us.

We also had good views of male and female Reedbucks. Vervet Monkeys and a large troop of Olive Baboons near the road.

On return to camp, we ordered our showers and had some time prior to our pre-dinner beers and the last two days' list.

Day 6

Thursday 19th January

Tanangire to Lake Manyara National Park

Following breakfast whilst heading out of Tanangire park we saw yet more birds of prey including Tawny Eagle, Brown Snake-eagle, a Fan-tailed Widow Bird, Red-necked Spurfowl, Mayer's Parrots, Yellow-collared Lovebirds, Spur-winged Geese and the very unusual looking Knob billed Ducks.

We came across another family of Elephants with many young and an enormous herd of Buffalo; there must have been between two and five hundred. We got close shots of a female Lion who was resting, although she was plagued by many flies that virtually covered her face.

Once out of the park Mohamed drove us through and around a local market which was very colourful and interesting to see how the locals, many of whom were Maasai, live and shop.

We arrived at Lake Manyara for a lovely lunch. Walking around the grounds of this lovely hotel we spotted many butterflies, an Emerald Sunbird, Agama Lizard and African Ground Squirrel in a tree!

Once fed, we headed down the rift and into the national park gates at its bottom.

Our first sighting here was of Olive Baboons and there were a large troop climbing in and around a large tree. There were also some close to the vehicle and many young. Close to the road there was a magnificent Silvery-cheeked Hornbill.

We also had good views of Blue-capped Cordon Bleu, Streaky Seedeaters, White-crowned Shrike, White-faced Whistling Ducks and Red-billed Firefinch.

The lake, which had risen considerably in level over the past few years, was drowning trees to form a rather eerie skeleton forest.

Day 7

Friday 20th January

Travel to Serengeti Central Nyikani Camp

An early 6.30am breakfast was enjoyed before we set off towards our next camp. Today at the crater viewpoint there was an absolutely breath-taking view.

As we started to descend off the highlands, we got views of the Maasai villages and came across more close sightings of both male and female Lions.

Back on lower lying ground, a young Augur Buzzard was perched on a tree. A comfort stop gave us the opportunity to see Red-headed Weavers, Rufous Larks and Agama Lizards.

Entering the plains, ungulates, especially Wildebeest, Zebra and Thomson's Gazelle started to appear in profusion. Here too, there were numerous Kori Bustard and a fabulous nearby sighting of a Lesser Kestrel.

World-famous as it is, the actual Serengeti Park boundary is quite modestly marked and we were within its boundary before we knew it.

Our first encounter was with a female Cheetah who was sitting in long grass by the side of the road. After a short while she got up to drink in a puddle at the roadside and we had incredible close-up views for some time. Whilst watching her we had not noticed a herd of Wildebeest getting nearer. When her thirst was quenched, she returned to her hiding place and intently watched as the herd got ever closer. We watched her for some time and Mohamed had spotted a couple of very young babies within the herd. Then she went for it! It really was awesome to see her run towards the herd which were now about a hundred yards away. She caught one of the young and we then saw her return with it to her favourite spot in the long grass with the Wildebeest in her mouth. This was a very emotional moment for us all; two of the group had done five previous safaris and not encountered cheetah!! We all agreed how lucky and privileged we were to witness this, and it will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

We arrived at Central Nyikani, our first Serengeti camp, a little late for lunch but elated and were greeted with hot towels and a welcome drink.

Our afternoon drive brought us many more bird sightings including a young Steppe Buzzard, a Lappet-faced Vulture, our first Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Yellow-fronted Longclaw and Red-fronted Sunbird.

Just when we thought the day couldn't get any better, we came across a Leopard resting in the fork of a tree, a first for some of us and a truly magnificent cat.

Day 8

Saturday 21st January

Nyikani Central Serengeti

The dawn at 6.15am gave us a lovely sunrise over the plains. We were to spend the day exploring central Serengeti and after a herd of Impala we had good sightings of a Grey-backed Shrike, then Fisher's Lovebirds poking their heads out of a nest hole before they decided to show themselves on the higher branches. As we came to the river, we were treated to a good view of a large Nile Crocodile sunning itself on a mud bank. Nearby was a herd of wallowing Hippopotamus and whilst watching this, one large male strayed into the space of another male which resulted in a small skirmish until the other male returned from whence he had come.

Having missed out on seeing tree Lions at Lake Manyara we were delighted to come across three female Lions sleeping at rather awkward angles along the branches of a large Acacia tree.

A small group of Topi were then sighted and a large herd of Zebra were drinking at one of the watering holes.

Our next encounter was with two male Lions, one of which had clearly eaten very well and was wandering away whilst the other was devouring the remaining half of a Zebra carcass. We watched as he munched his way to a full stomach whilst a large flock of vultures gathered above. Later whilst visiting a kopje we saw two well fed female Lionesses resting on the rocks. Mohamed thought these were probably the Lionesses who had made the kill. We also spotted several Rock Hyrax on a nearby kopje.

Amongst our bird sightings this afternoon were Grey-capped Social Weaver, Isabelline Wheatear, and a Dark-capped Bulbul.

Whilst returning to camp Mohamed spotted our first Hyena sleeping beneath a tree and whilst we all doubted him, as we could not get a glimpse, he was proved correct when he manoeuvred the vehicle to within feet of the Hyena.

We returned to camp for a lovely barbeque (braai) buffet dinner.

Day 9

Sunday 22nd January

Central Camp to Ndutu in southern Serengeti

The deep sound of Lions echoed through camp overnight along with the noise of Hyena. By 6.30am we gathered for breakfast after which we were ready to move further south.

The first bird of the day was a rather handsome, Black-bellied Bustard. As we drove on, a male and female Ostrich were displaying near the road. Huge herds of wildebeest, Zebra and Antelope could be seen across the plains as far as the eye could see, a part of the migration.

The next encounter was our third Leopard of the trip, which was resting, with the remnants of a Zebra up in a tree. Whilst at first it seemed to be settled, something made it decide to get up, pick up the carcass, climb down the tree and jump to the ground. We had stunning views of the animal as it did this.

A little further on we watched a strange spectacle as a Hyena with a gazelle Carcass kept leaving it only to have a nearby Golden Wolf sneak in for its share. The Hyena would then return, re-pick up the carcass before again putting it down. The wolf kept returning each time this happened. Eventually the Hyena went for a drink and cool down in a nearby stream before returning to pick up its meal then walking off.

We arrived at Ndutu camp in Southern Serengeti in time for lunch. After settling into our accommodation and admiring the views of flamingos on the lake we went out for our afternoon safari.

A Verreaux's Eagle was one of our first sightings, high in a tree scanning the surroundings for prey. On part of the dried-up river bed we found three male Lions sleeping - they had clearly recently had good meals and were enjoying resting in the afternoon sun. Close by in the sky were two fighting eagles which we watched for a while.

We then came across a fourth Leopard resting comfortably in a tree and had some nice views of waders including Little Stint foraging in the mud of a shallow pool.

Further on were a female Lion stretched out on the ground, another troop of Banded Mongoose, and a female Cheetah resting and having a roll and scratch in the dust. We also saw close sightings of Kori Bustard and Red-throated Spurfowl (Francolin).

We returned to camp for showers, sundowners, and the day's checklist, prior to dinner.

Day 10

Monday 23rd January

Central Camp to Ndutu in southern Serengeti

We had a 6.30am breakfast and were soon on the road again. One of our first sightings today was a nearby Southern Ground Hornbill, followed by Little Bee-eaters, a Whitecrested Helmet Shrike and Dusky Turtle Doves.

Next, we came across a mother Hyena with a cub. A little farther on was a Cheetah resting close to a young Wildebeest carcass, her face was bloody and she had clearly had a good meal. A vulture arrived on top of a nearby tree, whilst she kept a close watch to ensure her meal was safe from scavengers.

Heading to the river there were large herds of Wildebeest with more Hyena bathing and drinking in the water. Large flocks of Lesser Flamingo were also feeding, and an area of old Wildebeest bones and skulls showed us the casualties of previous river crossings.

Hildebrandt's Starling was having a bath and preen, a young Bateleur was perched on a branch and a spectacular Augur Buzzard was atop an Acacia tree surveying the area.

Behind the vehicle trotted a Leopard Tortoise.

A massive Hamerkop nest was our next point of interest and Lappet-faced Vultures sat next to White-headed Vultures allowing us to see their differences.

More female Lions rested up in a tree and then a couple of young male Maasai Giraffe were practicing their neck fighting. A Long-crested Eagle was perched on a branch devouring a lizard and we had good sightings of Yellow-fronted Canary, European Roller and Rattling Cisticola.

As we arrived back to camp there were several Grass Rats obligingly nibbling away to conclude our day's photography.

Day 11

Tuesday 24th January

Ndutu to Ngorongoro via the Oldupai Gorge

All packed up by 7.30am, we set off and almost immediately came upon our first and only Steenbok of the holiday; it was obligingly watching us watching her.

We then viewed a male Kori Bustard displaying - no females in sight, he must have been practicing his routine.

The light was just right this morning to view the herds across the plains, hundreds and thousands of Zebras and Wildebeest could be seen spread out to the far horizon with raptors flying above. Having seen more Eland, we headed on, passing a group of four close sandgrouse by the road.

By late morning we were at the Olduvai Gorge and listening to the museum guide explain that Olduvai is the Maasai name for the Wild Sisal that abounds in this area and from which the true name of the gorge comes. The museum has some excellent exhibits about this cradle of humankind and the prehistoric landscapes and wildlife the early hominids found themselves amongst.

By mid-afternoon we had arrived at Ngorongoro Serena Safari lodge that was to be our luxury accommodation for the next three nights. The views from the rooms were truly breath-taking and must be one of the best the world has to offer.

After a relaxing couple of hours on the balcony, we met in the bar for our list completion and pre-dinner entertainment of African music and acrobatics.

Day 12

Wednesday 25th January

Ngorongoro Crater

To make the most of the world-renowned crater, we had planned a 6.00am start to a full day out with a packed breakfast and lunch. The lodge kindly supplied us with a lovely coffee and cake in the restaurant area before we set off.

Our first sighting was an African Hare crossing the road. Then we had a fabulous sunrise. Descending the one kilometre or so to the crater base on a winding track, we moved on to enjoy Wildebeest, African Buffalo, Gazelle and the occasional African Elephant on the plains stretching out into the distance. Our aim today was a hope to see a black Rhinoceros.

Hamerkop, a young Augur buzzard, white storks and Hadada Ibis were amongst our first sightings. At the side of the road a couple of young male Impala were having a play fight locking horns and bashing one another about. There were aptly named wastepaper flowers littering the ground.

Then we saw a Lion chasing an animal which turned out to be our only Serval of the trip, which was gone as quickly as we saw it and only a couple of us managed to get an image of it.

A family of Lions was walking along close by, consisting of three females and several cubs and they were relaxed until a lone young male appeared nearby watching the group. He hung around for a while until the three females baring their teeth at him several times saw him off. While this was happening, the cubs had all vanished unseen into the longer grass.

Then at some distance we saw our first two Black Rhinoceros - magnificent beasts made even more so by their intact horns. Having watched them for some time it was time to head to the picnic site for a very delicious late breakfast. On the way we came across a Black-winged Stilt.

The area by the lake was very picturesque and the local wild Masked Weaver birds were there to greet us. They were also tucking into the remnants of another groups picnic, that had been left whilst they looked at the three White Pelicans on the lake.

The lake and shore also had a Yellow-billed Stork, Cattle and Little Egret, Reed Cormorant, resting swallows, Blacksmith Lapwing and Knobbed Coot.

Having gathered the remains of our picnic and donated it to the local people staffing the facilities we were ready to move on.

Our next stretch of water supplied us with views of Ruff, African Spoonbill, Lesser Flamingo and Cape Teal amongst various waders.

A great view of a Golden Wolf was followed by a great view of a Pin-tailed Whydah perched on a twig. We watched the ungulates feeding and saw more Eland with Red-billed Oxpeckers feeding from them.

In the sky were large flocks of Abdim's Stork, some of which landed to feed amongst the animals. Many Black-winged Kite were seen, and we also saw Sacred Ibis, Steppe Eagle, and Tawny Eagle.

Mid to late afternoon the sky turned dark and we watched the weather come across the crater so we headed back to the hotel after a full and rewarding day.

Day 13

Thursday 26th January

Ngorongoro Crater

An early start again to make the most of the day. As the dawn broke, we were in the crater watching a family of Lions, the cubs playing together in the early morning light and we observed them for some time. Even at this young age it was clear to see the dominant one who kept pestering and pouncing on one of its siblings until it would play; all very entertaining.

We were watching the Wildebeest very carefully today, as it was obvious how many calves had been born overnight, and we were not disappointed. We soon came across a wet calf trying to get up on its feet, to feed from the mother who still had part of the fluid filled amniotic sac dangling from her rear. The calf soon found its legs and suckled, so we moved on to a small wooded lake with a few hundred Marabou Stork feeding in the waters.

A little farther on three young male lions were seen feeding on a carcass. We then came across two more Black Rhinoceros and this time although still distant they were much closer than the previous day. We watched for some time hoping they may come nearer but alas it was not to be.

Close views of Crowned Crane and Grey Heron preceded our breakfast stop. Again, there were the Masked Weavers but also Fan-tailed Widowbirds and Spectacled Weavers. Our next new-born wildebeest of the day followed, taking a little longer to find its feet and feed.

As we drove on a very pregnant Hyena loped by looking for some shade, which it soon found in a storm drain. Many more Buffalo were about in this area of the crater and as a herd passed us by, they were being plagued by many, many oxpeckers, both Red and Yellow-billed. They were also accompanied by very young calves. More buffalo were wallowing in a small lake accompanied by Cattle Egret feeding from them.

We then came across a very newly born Impala calf, which had clearly just been born within seconds of us pulling up. We all watched this comical little calf try, try and try to get up on its feet and after just short of an hour it had made it, but not yet found its feed. What a wonderful sight to witness; nature at its finest.

A Black-necked Grebe was spotted on the next stretch of water followed by a large group of White-headed Vultures that were gathered and stretching their wings; they appeared just to be resting on the ground.

As the weather again closed in for the day, we made our way back to the hotel.

Day 14

Friday 27th January

A slightly later breakfast this morning prior to our check out and journey back to Arusha for lunch. It was a little strange to get back to the hustle and bustle of the city, but we all agreed what a magnificent trip it had been.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>			✓	✓								
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>			✓	✓								
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>			✓	✓								
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>	✓								✓			
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>									✓		✓	
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	✓									✓	✓	
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>						✓					✓	
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓							
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>			✓									
Hildebrandt's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis hildebrandti</i>	✓											
Yellow-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i>		✓		✓					✓			
Grey-breasted Spurfowl - E	<i>Pternistis rufopictus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>				✓								
Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>											✓	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>						✓						
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓									
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓											
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer personatus</i>		✓	✓	✓								
White-bellied Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer leucogaster</i>	✓	✓										
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>		✓						✓			✓	
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>							✓		✓	✓		
Hartlaub's Bustard	<i>Lissotis hartlaubii</i>			✓									
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	✓				✓						✓	
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>			✓									

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>			✓									
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>							✓	✓	✓			
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>				✓								
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>									✓			
Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>						✓	✓		✓			
Black-faced Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>					✓							
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓									
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>					✓		✓					
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	✓											
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		✓				✓						
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>								✓	✓			
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>			✓									
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			✓				✓					
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>						✓						
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓						
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>							✓		✓		✓	
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>		✓										
Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>			✓							✓	✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓											
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>											✓	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>		✓										
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓			✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	✓		✓	✓						✓		
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>		✓										
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>						✓						
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>	✓								✓	✓		
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>									✓	✓		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>										✓		

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>										✓		
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>							✓		✓		✓	
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	✓	✓										
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓								✓	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>										✓		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓										
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓									
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓				
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>						✓						
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>											✓	
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>										✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>								✓		✓	✓	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>										✓	✓	
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>		✓		✓						✓	✓	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓					✓		✓		✓	
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>		✓								✓		
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>									✓		✓	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	✓								✓			
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	✓								✓			
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			✓						✓		✓	
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>									✓		✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>						✓	✓				✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						✓						
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	✓											
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>		✓	✓									
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓		✓									
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓							✓	✓		
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>										✓	✓	

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>			✓									
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓									
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				✓						✓	✓	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>					✓					✓	✓	
Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>						✓	✓	✓			✓	
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>					✓		✓					
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>						✓						
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>				✓						✓		
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>							✓					
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>						✓	✓					
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>								✓		✓		
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>							✓					
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>			✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>						✓						
Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>					✓		✓	✓				
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>		✓	✓				✓					
Ovambo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>				✓								
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>		✓					✓					
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						✓	✓					
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>			✓									
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>			✓									
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	✓	✓										
Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>		✓										
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>		✓										
Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	✓		✓					✓				
Von Der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>	✓											
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>	✓											

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	✓				✓							
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes brevis</i>												
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>					✓							
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓			
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>				✓								
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	✓			✓		✓						
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓		✓								
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	✓			✓					✓			
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>	✓											
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓		✓									
D'arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			
Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>	✓											
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>		✓										
Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>	✓											
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>							✓					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					✓							
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>			✓									
Fischer's Lovebird - N	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>						✓			✓	✓		
Yellow-collared Lovebird - E	<i>Agapornis personatus</i>		✓			✓			✓	✓			
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>			✓							✓		
Slate-coloured Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>					✓							
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>	✓							✓	✓		✓	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>							✓	✓				
Northern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus ruppelli</i>		✓						✓	✓			
Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>							✓					
Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>		✓	✓									
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	✓											
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓						
Fischer's Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>						✓						
Red-winged Lark	<i>Mirafr hypermetra</i>								✓		✓		

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafr</i> <i>africana</i>					✓	✓						
Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafr</i> <i>rufocinnamomea</i>						✓						
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella</i> <i>cinerea</i>										✓		
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus</i> <i>tricolor</i>	✓				✓							
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus</i> <i>barbatus</i>						✓						
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne</i> <i>pristoptera</i>	✓											
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo</i> <i>smithii</i>	✓									✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo</i> <i>rustica</i>	✓		✓									
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis</i> <i>daurica</i>				✓				✓				
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola</i> <i>cantans</i>		✓										
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola</i> <i>chiniana</i>								✓				
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola</i> <i>lais</i>	✓											
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola</i> <i>juncidis</i>								✓				
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola</i> <i>aridulus</i>						✓						
Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides</i> <i>sharpei</i>							✓					
Rufous Chatterer	<i>Argya</i> <i>rubiginosa</i>								✓	✓			
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora</i> <i>cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis</i> <i>superbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hildebrandt's Starling - N	<i>Lamprotornis</i> <i>hildebrandti</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Ashy Starling - N	<i>Lamprotornis</i> <i>unicolor</i>		✓										
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus</i> <i>africanus</i>	✓			✓							✓	
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus</i> <i>erythrorhynchus</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Abyssinian Thrush	<i>Turdus</i> <i>abyssinicus</i>					✓							
African Grey Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis</i> <i>microrhynchus</i>		✓						✓				
Silverbird	<i>Empidonis</i> <i>semipartitus</i>			✓									
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha</i> <i>heuglini</i>										✓		
Spotted Morning Thrush	<i>Cichladusa</i> <i>guttata</i>				✓								
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe</i> <i>oenanthe</i>										✓		
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe</i> <i>pileata</i>									✓			
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe</i> <i>isabellina</i>						✓			✓			
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe</i> <i>pleschanka</i>							✓					
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra</i> <i>amethystina</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓					

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>							✓					
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>					✓	✓	✓					
Chestnut Sparrow	<i>Passer eminibey</i>							✓	✓				
Kenya Sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>							✓	✓				
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>		✓										
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓									
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓				
White-headed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>		✓	✓									
Rufous-tailed Weaver - E	<i>Histurgops ruficauda</i>			✓									
Grey-capped Social Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaudi</i>						✓			✓			
Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>		✓				✓			✓	✓		
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	✓											
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	✓								✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓			
Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>	✓											
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>										✓		
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>				✓								
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	✓											
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>										✓	✓	
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>				✓					✓			
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>								✓				
Purple Grenadier	<i>Granatina ianthinogaster</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓		
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		✓							✓			
Blue-capped Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>				✓		✓						
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>				✓								
African Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>	✓											
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>				✓								
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	✓									✓		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>										✓	✓	
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>						✓						
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>	✓				✓							
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>					✓			✓	✓			

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Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Streaky Seedeater	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>				✓							
Yellow-crowned Canary	<i>Serinus flavivertex</i>								✓			

Mammals

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		January 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Southern Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i>				✓			✓	✓				
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>										✓		
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓				
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>				✓		✓				✓		
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>		✓		✓			✓					
African Golden Wolf (Jackal)	<i>Canis lupaster</i>			✓				✓			✓	✓	
Side-striped Jackal	<i>Lupulella adustus</i>										✓		
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>										✓	✓	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Masai Giraffe - N	<i>Giraffa tippelskirchi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓			
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>	✓				✓							
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Coke's Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>			✓			✓						
Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>						✓	✓					
Thomson's Gazelle - N	<i>Eudorcas thomsonii</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Kirk's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Grant's Gazelle	<i>Nanger granti</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>									✓			

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Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>			✓									
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>					✓							
Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>				H								
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	✓			✓								
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		
Guereza	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	✓											
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>										✓	✓	
Unstriped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>				✓								
African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>							✓	✓	✓			

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Nile Monitor,	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Mwanza Flatheaded Rock Agama	<i>Agama mwanzae</i>
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>
House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>



Clockwise from top left – Cheetah, Cheetah, male Hippos, New-born Impala calf with mother

