

# Tanzania's Great Migration

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 February - 2 March 2019

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Cheetah by Helen Griffiths



Spotted Hyena by Sue Burnley



Kori Bustard by Sue Burnley



Lion by Helen Griffiths

Report compiled by Will Wagstaff  
Images courtesy of Helen Griffiths & Sue Burnley



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Will Wagstaff (Leader), Emmanuel Kivuyo and Titus Ukenoa (local guides/drivers)  
With 12 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Thursday 21st February

### London to Nairobi

Most of the group assembled in London late in the afternoon for the Air Kenya Flight to Nairobi.

## Day 2

Friday 22nd February

### Nairobi to Ngorongoro Crater via Arusha and Lake Manyara National Park

Having arrived in the early hours and checked in for our flight to Kilimanjaro airport we had a few hours to kill so breakfast was a good idea. Suitably refreshed it was not long before we were on the hour long flight to Arusha. The captain took us very close to Mt Kilimanjaro and gave those on the right hand side of the aircraft a superb view of its snow-capped peak.

Once we had done all the immigration formalities etc. we boarded the bus that took us to Arusha Coffee Lodge where we met the last member of our party who was patiently waiting for us. Also waiting were Emmanuel and Titus who were to be our guides during the trip. So, having collected our lunches and divided ourselves between the two vehicles we set off towards the Lake Manyara National Park.

As we approached the park entrance it was obvious it was nesting season for the Yellow-billed Storks as many were in the air and every sizeable tree was festooned with their nests. As our guides sorted out our entry to the park we had a better view of these birds as well as of the scattering of African White Pelicans that were also nesting here. Once in the park we soon started to see wildlife with Olive Baboon being the most numerous mammal but we also saw Blue and Vervet Monkeys. Once we reached a more open area the number of birds on view increased with a very vocal flock of White-faced Treeducks on one pond, lots of Squacco Herons and handful of Black Heron, some of which were living up to their nicknames of 'Umbrellabird'!. One was so concentrating on fishing that it didn't notice it was having its tail pulled by a passing Glossy Ibis.

There was a good mixture of waders here too, with Blacksmith's and Long-toed Plovers being the most numerous. Both Common Fiscal and Long-tailed Fiscal were sitting on top of bushes. The largest birds of this area were the Ground Hornbill group that were strolling around the open grasslands. The mammals were not to be outdone as we had good views of Wildebeest as well as Plains Zebra grazing in groups. Some Common Warthog were also in the area and as we drove through another more wooded area we found our first African Elephants - a group of four were close to the track. One vehicle was lucky enough to get good views of a pair of Purple Grenadiers in this area. We also saw two Waterbuck a little further on and a huge troop of Olive Baboons out in the open. They were definitely the commonest mammals here.

We knew we were getting near the park entrance again as we could see all the storks in the sky but we also saw some Slivery-cheeked Hornbills to add to the mix.

Once on the road again we stopped for a comfort break at a visitor centre/shop where a cold drink was a popular purchase. The nesting Speke's Weavers in the car park were also popular.

Then it was time to hit the road again towards the crater. We stopped to have look from a viewpoint to whet our appetite for tomorrow. Down below us we could see animals scattered as far as the eye could see. It was only a short drive to the Rhino Lodge, our home for the next two nights, where we were welcomed with a fruit juice and were soon in our rooms.

We gathered in the main room for dinner before an early bed was calling as we had been on the go for quite some time.

## Day 3

Saturday 23rd February

### Ngorongoro Crater

After a 6 o'clock breakfast we were away a little after 0630 on our first proper safari drive. This took us along the ridge of the crater in some rather misty conditions, but it soon cleared as we neared the park entrance gate. A Variable Sunbird kept us entertained as we waited for the paperwork to get sorted before we headed down the steep entrance track into the crater.

Hildebrand's Francolins were seen occasionally very close to the track and a scattering of Helmeted Guineafowl were in the small clearings between the trees. A distant Secretarybird caused us to stop to have a look only to find one much closer to us perched in a small acacia. Once on the valley floor we stopped for a comfort break where a pair of Red-rumped Swallows was using the building as a nest site. Some Cape Buffalo were using the nearby wet patch as a wallow and some rather smart Superb Glossy Starlings were much photographed here.

Once out on the more open areas we soon got used to seeing Zebra and Wildebeest almost everywhere we looked. We also had ample chance to compare Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles. Our first Lion was a male that didn't seem to know where it was going as it walked back and forth, but it was being watched by all the Wildebeest and Zebras as well as by us.

We drove slowly along, stopping for anything that interested us. This included our first Eland and some Golden Jackals that appeared every now and then. A sleeping Spotted Hyena lifted its head to look at us before going back to sleep. At least it woke up unlike the Lion that was lying by a small roadside culvert and did not want to wake up even though it was very close to the road. All we could really see were its massive feet and tip of the tail. As the morning warmed up there were more White-backed Vultures in the air and the Abdim's Storks were certainly more common than earlier in the day. A Lilac-breasted Roller sat in the same small bush as a Red-winged Lark and a nesting pair of Rufous Sparrows.

We passed through a more wooded area that contained a different set of wildlife as we found some African Elephants, and a rather shy Bushbuck along with White-fronted Bee-eater, Grey-capped Warbler and two very well behaved Woodland Kingfishers.

A large wet area a short distance from the road contained a good number of Hippo but as they were lying low in the water/mud there was not much of them on view until a young one clambered up on the bank. There was a

lot of birdlife here ranging from Glossy and Sacred Ibis, Hottentot Teal, many Cattle Egrets, a lone Greater Flamingo and some African Spoonbill.

On the open plains we found a very distant couple of Black Rhino which stood up and sat down a few times but never came any nearer. We had seen several Kori Bustard during the morning but we now found a male giving a full display to an invisible female, which was quite impressive. A little further on we could see all the grazing animals looking in one direction so our drivers took us over for a look. There had obviously been a lot going on as we could see several Lions, Spotted Hyena's carrying various body parts and both Golden and Black-backed Jackals in the area. Some of the male Lions were on the move but most of the females were resting. In all we could see at least eleven individuals in this pride. We spent a while here watching all the comings and goings including another Rhino before deciding it was time for lunch. We started off with good intentions but got diverted by our first Ostriches of the trip and a much better view of some more Eland.

Just as we reached the picnic area at Ngoitokitok springs and lake the heavens opened so we had to quickly shut the open roof before reaching our parking place where we had our lunch while the rain tipped down. Out on the lake we could see there were quite a few Hippo on the far side of the pool but we had to wait for the rain to stop before we had a proper look. As soon as the rain stopped Speke's Weavers and Rufous-tailed Weavers were out in force. The former seemed to be very good at taking bits of packed lunch from some other vehicles that were parked nearby and the Yellow-billed Kites were also very much on the lookout for food.

Our route in the afternoon took us back to the main lake, this time to see the huge flocks of Greater and Lesser Flamingos that were feeding along the water's edge. There were also large flocks of Avocets and Black-winged Stilts in the shallows. It was a good place for wading birds as we also saw many Ruff, plus Crowned and Black-winged Plovers. It was no great surprise that we had good views of a Lanner Falcon here with all this food about. We had seen a pair earlier that had showed very well, but the one we saw this afternoon surpassed any Lanner that we have seen as it was oblivious of the vehicles and allowed an amazingly close approach as we drove by and stopped to take photographs- very much the bird sighting of the day.

On the drier areas we saw a good mix of chats from the very smart Abyssinian Wheatears we saw on the way down to the Capped Wheatears and Northern Anteater Chats on the plains along with a scattering of European Wheatears.

Going to and from the lunch site we had seen a couple of Elephants but later in the afternoon we had good views of two more much larger individuals which stood and posed for us.

We then did the short drive to another Hippo pond where they were much closer to the track. Although not lifting their heads out of the water one did insist in rolling so we had a good view of its underside. There was plenty of birdlife here as well with at least 18 Black-crowned Night Herons perched around the reeds along with a pair of Grey Crowned Cranes, a Three-banded Plover and some Moorhens walking along the backs of the Hippo.

We had just re-joined the main track when our attention was drawn to a small head popping up out of the grass. As we got nearer we could see that it was a male Caracal, an amazing animal to see. It was flicking its ears but

was otherwise static as it looked for prey. It did duck down into the grass as some noisy lapwings flew by before eventually vanishing but not before we had all had a good look at such a difficult creature to see.

This side of the crater was good for birds of prey as we saw a Tawny Eagle, several Montagu's and Marsh Harriers as well as a Black-winged Kite.

Pretty much everywhere we went there were loads of European Swallows zipping low over the ground and lots of Yellow Wagtails of various races in with the herds of Wildebeest and Zebra.

It was then time to slowly head out again but not before we saw some more Lions, at least five Rhinos in one group (albeit a long way away) plus some new birds in the shape of a couple of White Storks flying over, a Yellow-billed Duck, some more African Spoonbills and Great Egrets. In the wooded section we found a female and then a male Bushbuck on different sides of the track. Just before we started the climb back to the crater rim we found some Wattled Starlings and Red-billed Oxpeckers on a group of Wildebeest very close to the road.

It didn't take long to get back to the top and then back to the lodge at the end of an excellent day out. The evening log call before took a while as we had seen so much, and to round off the day we had an amazing light show during dinner as a passing thunderstorm threw out many flashes of lightning.

## Day 4

Sunday 24th February

### Ngorongoro to the Serengeti Plain

Our conversation at breakfast this morning was dominated by the amazing storm that had hit in the middle of the night with some incredible torrential downpours. However as we left just after 7.30am the rain had stopped and there were breaks in the cloud.

It was a bit misty as we left the heights but that did not stop us finding our first Giraffe grazing on the acacia trees not far from the road. We stopped several times in the next few miles as these charismatic species were seemingly unconcerned by our presence and just wanted their photo taken! There were a few nice small birds in these areas with Blue-capped Cordon Blues, Scaly-fronted Weavers and lots of Superb and Hildebrand's Glossy Starlings to admire.

Once down the hill we continued along the highway where we started to see lots of Thompson's Gazelles on either side of the road along with a few Kori Bustards and a Secretarybird. Overhead there were a few vultures circling and also a group of Lesser Kestrels in a thermal. At one point there was a movement of Wildebeest in progress, as a single line of males that seems to stretch for miles were running in the opposite direction a few hundred yards from the road.

Having turned off the road we came across a couple of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse right in front of us. The drive to Katikati Camp took us over the open countryside that so typifies this area. We started to see a few more Grant's Gazelles plus Black-backed and Golden Jackal and a couple of rather inactive Spotted Hyenas. There were several small groups of Eland as we started to reach the more wooded area where our camp was situated. We were soon made welcome and settled in before having a very nice lunch. There was a pleasant breeze blowing up from the valley below as we ate and enjoyed a siesta before gathering at 3pm for the afternoon drive.

Our track this afternoon stayed in the trees until we reached a lake that contained good numbers of Greater Flamingo plus a few Lesser Flamingos. There were also some Cape Teal and a good mix of waders that included Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Ruff and Little Stint. On the drier area a little further along there were some very tame Two-banded Coursers and a Kittlitz's Plover.

However all these were soon surpassed as we saw a Lioness sprawled in the vegetation. She spent most of her time lying down but would occasionally lift her head to look at the large groups of Wildebeest and Zebra that were passing along the side of the valley. A lone Elephant was visible on the bank behind us as we watched the Lion. We kept thinking she would move but in the end we decided to go and look elsewhere. It was just as well we did as our drivers took us to a location where we could enjoy superb views of our first Cheetah. As with the Lion it would sit up and then lie down again but was also intently watching something in the distance. We moved around a few times to get a better view of this beautiful cat that had been very much a target species for some of the group. The Hooded Vulture and two Lappet-faced Vultures perched on the tree above the Cheetah were almost ignored. Just as we were leaving she got up and stalked off, still keeping a very direct gaze on what had attracted her attention.

We then popped back to look at the Lioness which was briefly joined by a second individual. It was then time to head for the camp. On the way we got very nice views of some Northern White-crowned Shrikes, a superb Pygmy Falcon that was perched next to the road and two Secretarybirds on treetops not far from home. The thundershower in the distance did give us some rain but not as heavy as last night. It did make the tracks difficult but our drivers got us back safe and sound in time for a little relaxation before dinner looking out at a superb sunset.

We had another excellent meal in the dining area before we did the log or relaxed by the fire on a mild evening at the end of an excellent day. The last bird species to be added to the list today were the Slender-tailed Nightjars that were hunting above us as the light faded from the sky.

## Day 5

Monday 25th February

### Central Serengeti

It was a very foggy dull start to the day after the thunderstorms in the night. It had certainly left the tracks very muddy as we drove out the camp after breakfast. At first the fog made it difficult to see anything other than close to the track, but it soon lifted and turned into a glorious day - the warmest we'd had so far.

We had not long left the tree line before we found a group of Hyenas devouring their recent kill. Each one was soon trotting off with their choice cut. There was a Golden Jackal seeing what it could find when the main kill had been moved and it was soon challenged by a Tawny Eagle that was also keen on the scraps. It was amazing to see this going on right next to us.

Despite the rain it had been a good night for the hunters as we then found a pride of Lions, two adult males, a young male and three females, with what looked to be what was a left of a Wildebeest. One of the males was enjoying his food for a while whilst the other was keeping a close eye on one of the females. The light was superb now the sun was out so we spent some time photographing the activity. It seemed that they all took turns in moving around and showing off. As earlier there was another Golden Jackal on the lookout but it was staying

well away from the Lions. The space given to the Lions was quite obvious as there were hardly any grazing animals close by and they were at the centre of a large circle of grass without any herbivores.

It was then time to carry on to the main track where another Tawny Eagle was perched on the only tree in the area. We headed towards the centre of the park passing quite a few European Rollers on the way and flocks of Mourning Doves, plus a quite a few Kori Bustards.

We arrived at one of the park gates situated on a small hill. We made good use of the facilities as well as the shop and café and we also had a walk up to the viewpoint above the buildings where some incredibly colourful Agama Lizards were sunbathing on the paths. From the top we had a wonderful view out over the plains on all sides. There were a mixture of vultures, eagles and kestrels circling above us. With both Arrow-marked and Black-lored Babblers, Black-faced Waxbills and lots of glossy starlings closer at hand.

We had not been on the move for long before we stopped to have a look at some of the Greater Kestrels that perched in this area. Only a few miles further on we found the first Hartebeest and then the first Topi only a short distance away. These were close enough to the road for us to get some good photos while we enjoyed the scenery of this superb location.

We then did a short detour off the road to go and look at a pride of Lions resting after a kill. We could work out the kills location as there was a steady stream of vultures and eagles coming to land only a short distance away. It took quite a while to count all the Lions as they kept popping up in different locations. In the end we counted at least sixteen, which included males, females, and some cubs. Once we had taken enough photos we set off again to where two Cheetahs had been reported and we found them resting on the side of one of the many termite mounds for a while before moving a few yards to sprawl out in the vegetation. The excitement of this area didn't end there as our drivers were then instrumental in helping another vehicle that was well and truly bogged down. It didn't take too long to get it out in the end but watching all the discussions and suggested methods kept us entertained!

One more deviation from the road also worked well for us as we had only gone a few minutes off the 'highway' when we saw a Leopard resting in one of the big acacia trees. It was not the best of viewing angles but we could see it laid out along one of the branches. We could also see its kill high up in the tree, although as it was up in the canopy it was difficult to say exactly what unfortunate species it was.

On the road again we noted that there were a lot less grazing animals in this area which was due to the taller grass unlike the first area we had driven through this morning which was teeming with wildlife. However we did see some more Hartebeest plus a few more Montagu's and Pallid Harriers and as we got near to our lunch stop we had more distant views of another Cheetah on another termite mound.

We had our lunch stop on the picnic tables at the main information centre in the middle of the park. This was an amazing place for wildlife as there were both Yellow-spotted and Tree Hyrax here along with Dwarf Mongoose that were looking for titbits around the tables. Also on the lookout for a free lunch were our first Grey-capped Social Weavers, Scaly-fronted Weavers and a few of the very colourful Usambiro Barbets. After lunch we had time for a quick look around their interpretive walk before setting off to explore a little more.

We found another Topi in a more wooded setting with a Pygmy Falcon close to the road. A Dark Chanting Goshawk was hiding in the crown of another tree and a Black-chested Snake Eagle was on a nest in one of the dead trees.

We explored a wetland area for a while where we saw several species of wading bird including the very pretty Three-banded Plover that was standing next to the tallest heron in the world, a Goliath Heron. This immense bird showed well in the afternoon sun. The deeper waters in this area were a haven for Hippo and one pool in particular had well over eighty individuals in a very small stretch of water. Occasionally we would see a head come up out of the water but there were generally doing very little. Back on the drier areas again we came across another Cheetah sat in the taller grasses so we had now seen four of these magnificent animals in one day. The only other cats we saw this afternoon were two male Lions that were asleep under a roadside bush.

As we got nearer to our camp the numbers of Wildebeest and Zebra increased enormously with dots visible all the way to the horizon in all directions. That was probably why there were so many Hyena in this area. Some were making the most of the overnight rain as they were lying in the muddy puddles in the tracks. In all some 35+ were in this area.

As we drove the last section of the trail in late afternoon a Giraffe stuck its head up to be added to the list. As it was just before 5pm when we returned we had time to enjoy the wildlife and scenery around the camp before the sun went down. From here we could see there was a steady passage of Wildebeest and a few Zebras going along the valley floor where a Giraffe was browsing on the higher branches of the acacia trees.

As last night the Slender-tailed Nightjars gave us a quick flyby as they set off to hunt for the night while we settled down for our evening meal after yet another incredible day.

## Day 6

Tuesday 26th February

### Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Our plan today was to spend the morning relatively close to the camp, return for lunch and then set out again in the afternoon. That was definitely a good decision by our drivers as we had yet another incredible day. We started in the grassy valley with its temporary pools that we could see from the camp. On the way we soon realised that there were thousands of Wildebeest and Zebra on the move today, sometimes in large groups and at others in long lines that appeared to go on forever. It was difficult to know where to look today as we saw so much. One of the first attractions of the day were a group of Giraffe that contained a young one that very endearingly stood next to its mother to ensure we took loads of photos. This was followed by the biggest Elephant we had seen which also posed beautifully.

We had a quick stop at the park entrance before returning to where we had seen a male Lion in the distance. The first vehicle got in sight of it just as it vanished into some tall reeds. A little later we saw two Lionesses in another marsh but as they were rather difficult to see we decided to carry on. The lake we had passed contained a long line of Flamingos in the deeper water and had a mixture of waders in the shallows that included Ruff, Greenshank, Black-winged Stilt, Little Stint and later in the morning a Marsh Sandpiper.

We kept stopping every now and then to look again at the amazing number of animals on the move that now included some very young Wildebeest. We decided to have a look in an area that is known for its Cheetah and we found two brothers lying in the long vegetation. They did all we could have asked from posing at every angle to yawning and eventually sauntering off to give everyone superb views of this charismatic species. It was one of those experiences that will stay in the mind forever.

Our drivers then decided to head back to where the Lionesses had been earlier which again proved to be a magical experience as they were now on the bank with eight cubs. It was as if they had gone for a morning walk with the children. The chance to see these so close to us was memorable, especially when two of the cubs took a short cut under one of the vehicles and one of the females passed by almost close enough to touch. They seemed oblivious to us so that when one of the females picked up one of the cubs she still carried on past us with the rest of the family following on.

We spent the last part of the morning enjoying the spectacle of the migrating herds but also managed to find two Leopard Tortoises and some Black-backed Jackals. It had also been a good morning for birds with some good views of Black-winged Kites, Montagu's and Pallid Harriers, an African Hoopoe plus a good scattering of other birds, but the avian highlight of the morning was the crowd of vultures feeding on the carcass of a young Zebra. The constant squabbling between the Ruppell's Vultures meant the smaller White-backed Vultures didn't get much of a look in. There was a steady stream of new birds coming to join the frenzied throng until there was a sudden panic and most left the carcass. It took a little while for them to be sure it was safe but they then started to get back to business. It was also time for our lunch so we made our way back to the camp.

Following lunch, that included the 'tortoise bread', we had a lazy start to the afternoon before gathering at 3.30pm for our afternoon drive. Our drivers decided that it was a good idea to head back to the area we had visited in the morning as it had been so lively. Although there was less evidence of any migration there were still plenty of Wildebeest and Zebra in the area. We had a look around a more wooded location for a while where we found quite a few Tawny Eagles at roost along with a Dideric Cuckoo and one vehicle were lucky enough to see a Dark Chanting Goshawk make a kill and eat it while the other vehicle saw a Gabar Goshawk and White-headed Vulture, so what with a Secretarybird as well it was a good afternoon for raptors.

There were quite a few Giraffe around again this afternoon as we headed down towards the marsh area where we found that the two female Lions with their cubs were not far from where we had left them earlier in the day. The cubs were very playful, one in particular was having a great game 'hunting' its parents tail. Our timing was excellent as we had not been there long before they started to move back towards the reeds and gave us an excellent view as they did so. As happened in the morning one of the mothers picked up a cub by the scruff of its neck to carry it down the bank. They were heading out into the reeds as we left the site. Having missed the male Lion by minutes the morning we went to have a look to see if it had come out and sure enough he was sitting in the afternoon sun with a gang of Hooded Vultures in close attendance. The afternoon light and the way that it kept turning its head in different poses caused yet more Lion photos to be taken.

The main lake was full of Flamingos again, feeding in the shallow water right across to the far bank. On the closer shore were good numbers of Little Stint and a few Ruff.

It was all too soon that we had to start heading back to the camp via the ranger station. On the way we had good views of Yellow-necked Spurfowl and a male Red-footed Falcon flew over the ranger station as we stopped. Just before we got back to the camp we found a dead tree that contained a nice flock of roosting White Storks that were yet another good photo opportunity.

We were later back tonight as it had just gone 6.30pm but that still gave us time to be ready for dinner by 7.30. It was rather magical sitting outside just before dinner under a cloudless sky filled with stars with the planet Mars visible above us at the end of a day with very full camera memory cards!

## Day 7

Wednesday 27th February

### Central Serengeti

Our earlier start at 0630 after breakfast at 0600 meant that we were on the main plain when the sun was just starting to come up over the distant mountains, which was wonderful for photography, especially when the subject was as charismatic as a trio of Golden Jackal cubs that were mock fighting right beside the road. They put on a wonderful show for us until they ran across the road to the sunny side so we decided to leave them and to see what else was on the move this morning. There were a good number of Hyenas along the track. Two did have the remains of a kill but the rest were mostly sprawled out as they had nothing to do, The Wildebeest and Gazelles were certainly giving them a wide berth.

As we neared the main road there were more and more Zebra, especially as we headed towards the park entrance. Some were drinking in the roadside puddles, which gave us some super reflections as they bent down to drink. As the road was slightly lower than the plain at this point it also meant we were at eye height to the Zebra, which was yet another good photographic opportunity. As we got near to the wooded hill on which the ranger station was situated we had excellent views of perched Black-winged Kites, European Rollers and the somewhat less colourful Isabelline Wheatears.

We had a break for a comfort stop at the ranger station which enabled us to check on the progress of the Little Weaver nest that Emmanuel had found last time we passed through. It was nearing completion and the pair was seen mating. There were also a few Blue-capped Cordon-bleu's around the car park.

Heading off along the main road we turned away to the north after a few miles and soon found two of the younger members of the pride of Lions that we had seen here previously. They were not that easy to view and photograph as only their heads were showing so we continued along our way. Another trio of Lions were found a few miles away but again they were rather distant. We did get good views of some White-bellied Bustards along the way along with many Lesser Kestrels resting on the ground out of the stiff breeze that was blowing today. We also saw a few Montagu's Harriers on the ground but it was in flight that they gave their best views, often only a few yards from the track.

We had a drive around one of the 'Koppies' looking for owls with no luck but did discover an African Paradise Flycatcher flitting around the rocks and trees. Somewhat easier to see were the four Lions sprawled out as only Lions can in the shade of a tree. There was one young male and three Lionesses in this group. They looked very full and were not bothered by us taking yet more photos.

We were heading towards a distant female Cheetah and her cubs when we found another Cheetah walking parallel to the track through the long grass. Having stopped for a quick look we then headed over to where the female was with her four well grown young sat on a termite mound. This was a perfect situation, as the light was with us and the rolling plains of the Serengeti behind them. The female must have been a good hunter to get all four young to be this size. They also knew how to pose for the cameras, as they constantly looked left and right as well as interacting with each other. Eventually one of the young decided it was time to move and they all strolled off through the grass as we left.

It was then time for lunch so we aimed for an area we could use as our stop. On the way we found yet another Cheetah as well as a pond that contained a good mix of wading birds including quite a large flock of Collared Pratincoles. A little later we found another small pond with some waders that included Marsh Sandpiper, Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plover and an African Snipe, plus a Terrapin - not a bad haul from a tiny pond.

During our lunch stop we had to keep an eye on the Superb Starlings that were on the lookout for any scraps. They were so tame that one landed on one of our hats for a split second- sadly not long enough for a photo.

On the move again we only had a short drive to where two male Lions were snoozing on a grassy bank. One was a very smart individual, the other it must be said had seen better days. They were sat a few yards apart for a while but the smarter one then went over and laid out with the other as if to give him company. It seems that we could do no wrong with Cheetahs today as we soon found another not far from the track. This one, a pregnant female, had recently made a kill judging by the blood on her nose. She seemed intent on something on the distant horizon as she didn't give us much of a look at all. One of the single Cheetahs we had seen in the morning was still in the same place as we started our return journey but we did see two families of Warthogs we had not seen on the way out. One had a good sized family of four young, the other only two.

Rollers, kites and Harriers dotted our return route along with an array of larks and a few Two-banded Coursers. As we go close to the main road we found yet two more Cheetahs perched high on a bank. They were not far from two juvenile Lions that were sitting on a grassy hillock only a short distance away. It seemed that each pairing knew the other was there.

Once on the main road we made good time to the ranger station for a comfort stop. As earlier there was a mix of birds in this wooded area that included the very attractive Silverbird and we also had a brief but good view of a Black-faced Waxbill. As earlier it was noticeable that we were now in Zebra territory, which then graduated into more Wildebeest strewn grasslands. There were still some Hyenas in this area but not as many as we had seen earlier in the day. On the last section of the day along with the expected Dikdik we also added Giraffe to the day's list.

We were back in the camp around 4pm which gave us a bit of time to rest and sit and admire the view before coming back to the dining area to watch the sun go down at the end of a very enjoyable day.

## Day 8

Thursday 28th February

### Ngorongoro Conservation area

It was another early start today but everyone was up for a 0600 breakfast and we were on the road just after 0630 heading back into the valley below to see what we could find on a beautiful morning. It didn't take long to find some Lions as we found a male just finishing off a kill with three females close by. The latter started to wander off so the male had to move quickly to catch them up before they all sat down again. Talk about indecisive! We had to go and check in at the ranger station but that enabled us to see some Vitelline Masked Weavers that were nesting there.

Once the paper work was sorted we then went back to the Lions, but as they had not moved we went to have a look for the rest of the pride that had been reported nearby. It took a few minutes to see where they were but we found a couple of males and two females resting under some small trees. Once we had watched them for a while we set off to explore the surrounding countryside. Between us all we managed a great haul of wildlife in the next few hours as we saw two groups of Bat-eared Foxes, a species that had been high on the wish list! We also managed to see three species of jackal as a Side-striped Jackal was added to the Black-backed and Golden Jackals we had already seen.

There was a good array of birdlife with several species of Fiscal Shrike, Nubian Woodpecker, Spotted Thick-knee plus the always attractive Black-winged Kites and European Rollers. We also managed to find several Cheetah that were doing everything from lazing around, walking and some were lucky enough to see one chasing down and catching a Thompson's Gazelle only to have it stolen by a Hyena that then left it. At least one of the Cheetahs was more successful as we came across it chomping away, occasionally lifting its bloody muzzle for all to see as it looked around. We had a drive out to waterhole to see what animals were coming to drink. Sadly the answer was none but there was a mixture of birdlife there including quite a large flock of Collared Pratincoles plus a variety of waders.

In late morning we were watching a group of four Lionesses out on the more open grasslands that were definitely on the lookout for food. We left them for a while before coming back and having our lunch watching them in the distance. At one point it looked like a Wildebeest was going to get too close as one of the Lionesses took an interest and started to move towards it only for the Wildebeest to suddenly realise the danger it was in and rapidly headed the other direction.

One never knows what is going to appear when out on these open areas and that proved to be the case when a Marsh Owl jumped up from a small tuft of vegetation and stood in full view only a few yards away. Thankfully it stayed long enough for all to see. Our first owl of the trip and such good views as well.

We spent a while watching Cheetahs and Lions this afternoon before decided that the Lions were not going to hunt after all so we went to see what else we could see. We had just reached the reed bed where we had seen Lions before when we got word that the Lionesses with cubs were coming out a little further along the valley. As we arrived they were just making their way to dry land. They then gave us a tremendous show as they strolled by. One female took four cubs up into the bush while the other Lioness lay down and allowed her four cubs to suckle right in front of us. Another female trying to rest nearby didn't seem to appreciate being bothered by four

very active cubs! One of the cubs only fed for a while before climbing all over its mother and then going to sleep under a nearby shrub.

We then started to make our way home only to be diverted by a bull Elephant that came down to the pool we were passing to drink and have a splash. Another Elephant was on the bank near the camp as we got back to the tents a little after 4pm ready for a cuppa and to sit and admire the view.

As we did our final log call after dinner we could add another animal to the days list as a Leopard was calling nearby. It was obviously a night for making your presence felt as we could also heard Hyenas gibbering away and later in the evening a male Lion was roaring in the valley below. What a way to end the day!

## Day 9

Friday 1st March

### Serengeti to Arusha for homeward bound flights

We had a slight lie in this morning as breakfast was not until 0630 but this gave us time to be packed, all paid up and ready to leave at 0730 with our drivers Titus and Emmanuel at the wheel for the last time. We had only been going for a few minutes when we spotted a group of Banded Mongoose beside the track. They hung around for some time, doing their Meerkat impressions, standing up to see what was around. The track to the main road had less Zebra and Wildebeest than we had seen recently and they were now heading back towards the southwest. We did find a few Hyena beside the track along with a single Golden Jackal. The lone tree by the main road again contained a Tawny Eagle.

There were a good many Zebra drinking from the roadside puddles on either side of the ranger station with many more animals on the far side than previously. We did add a few new birds to the list this morning with the first being a Great Spotted Cuckoo perched on a roadside bush and we later added Black Coucal, Grey Kestrel and Whinchat.

There was a good mix of mammals seen this morning as we saw a few Topi, several Hartbeest and a scattering of Warthogs along with the expected masses of Zebra and Wildebeest. We were passing some of the 'koppies' when we noticed that one of them had a pride of Lions scattered along its horizon. In all there were seven that we could see, one of which tried climbing the tree at one end of the outcrop but had to reverse backwards when it couldn't progress any further.

The Hippo pools close the to the road again contained a good number along with two Little Bee-eater's and a range of wading birds feeding on insects on the 'mud'.

We were only a short distance from the airport when we gathered there were two more Lions not far away. They were sat up in one of the acacia trees as the first of our vehicles arrived but one had seen something and was soon off on the hunt. The other sat watching progress for a while before deciding it wanted to join in so was very quickly down and off into the long grass. We kept an eye on them but it seems they could not find what they had seen from their aerial perch. We watched them for a while before we had to go as we had a plane to catch.

Our guides said goodbye as we passed through the security clearance after our bags had been weighed and it was not long before we were taken out to the aircraft, which we filled with one of our group being the intrepid co-

pilot! We had great views of the Serengeti and the high ground near Ngorongoro as the 55 minute flight to Arusha flew low enough to see below in some detail.

Once on the ground we were soon out of the terminal, where we said goodbye to one of our group who left us here and boarded two minibuses for the drive to the Arusha Serena Hotel. This rather nice hotel was to be our home for the afternoon before our flight back to the UK.

We had a very nice lunch before making use of the comfortable grounds for a relaxing afternoon as we made use of the day rooms to get repacked and ready to be picked up at 1800. In the heat of the afternoon there was not much bird activity but we did see some White-cheeked Barbets, a Nubian Woodpecker and some African Golden Weavers plus the ubiquitous Dark-faced Bulbuls.

Our drive to the airport took us past some of the main shopping areas with all their colourful wares out for all to see. As we left the main town of Arusha we stopped for a photo of Mount Kilimanjaro which was glowing in the evening sun. At the airport we were soon checked in and through all the security so we had time for a drink etc before being called for our flight which took off on time for the first leg to Dar-es-Salaam.

## Day 10

## Saturday 2nd March

The aircraft was much fuller on the second leg to Amsterdam but arrived a little early, giving us time to explore the airport before the final flight to London, again landing early on a rather cool overcast day.

So ended a very enjoyable safari with so many highlights out of the forty species of mammal and over two hundred species of bird that we saw in a spectacular setting.

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## Species Lists

Mammals (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March							
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
1	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	4	8	1		2		2	
2	Southern Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i>		2		✓				
3	Yellow-spotted Hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>				✓				
4	Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	2	1						
5	Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	20+	20+			3			10+
6	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	✓	✓	✓					2
7	African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>		✓						
8	African Hare	<i>Lepus habessinicus</i>				1	2	1		
9	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>			1	4	2	10	4	
10	Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>		1 male						
11	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>		14+	2	24	11	11	23	9
12	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>				1				
13	Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>				6+				
14	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	1							
15	Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>		3						
16	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>								12+
17	Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>		8+	4	35+	5	36+	7	8
18	Side-striped Jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>							1	
19	African Golden Wolf (Jackal)	<i>Canis anthus</i>		6+	2	4		3	3	1
20	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		2	1		4		3	
21	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>							13	
22	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	30+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>		6						
24	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	✓	20+	2	10+	2	10+	1+	4
25	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>		80+		100+				20+
26	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>			50+	12+	10+	1		
27	Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii</i>				50+	6+	10+		20+
28	Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>				2		2		3

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March							
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
30	Thomson's Gazelle	<i>Eudorcas thomsonii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus</i>	2	2						
32	Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>			8	4	6+	5		
33	Grant's Gazelle	<i>Nanger granti</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>			2					
35	Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>				2				
36	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	20+	✓	✓		6			
37	Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>		12+	50+				20+	2
38	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>		2						
39	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>			50+	2	20+	2	3	
40	Unidentified Bat					1				

## Birds

1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		8+	12+	10+	4	10+	2	2
2	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	80+	✓						
3	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		1						
4	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	20+	30+	10+	20+	10+	10+	30+	10+
5	Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>		3						
6	Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>		1						
7	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>			20+	2	2	2	7	
8	Helmeted Guinea fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Hildebrandt's Francolin	<i>Pternistis hildebrandti</i>		6+	2					
10	Yellow-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i>					7		1	
11	Grey-breasted Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis rufopictus</i>				4		2		
12	Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>					1		3	1
13	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		3						
14	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
15	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
16	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	✓	30+	✓		1			
17	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>			1					
18	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	20+	✓	✓	10		10+		
19	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		2	50+	10+	20+	10+	30+	10+

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March							
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
20	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>		1						
21	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	10+	6+	10+	30+	50+	10+	50+	
22	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	3	100+	✓		3			
23	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>								H
24	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	✓	100+				3		
25	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>		8						
26	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	11	18						
27	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	10+	3						
28	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓		✓		20+	4	✓
29	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	20+	10+	3+	1				
30	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			20+	10+	6	1	1	10+
31	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>				1				
32	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		3						
33	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	3							
34	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	2	1						
35	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	20+							
36	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	1	3	3		2	4	2	
37	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		1	2	6+	4+	10+	6+	2
38	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>			1	2	6	2	6+	2
39	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		20+		10+	10+	2	2	1
40	Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	6+		3	6+	30+		6+	2
41	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>				2	1			
42	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>			2	6+	4	1	1	
43	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>				2	1			1
44	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>				1				
45	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>					3	2	1	1
46	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>								1
47	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>							1	
48	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		1	3	6+	10+	2	6+	1
49	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>					1			
50	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				1	1		1	
51	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>							1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March								
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	
52	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>								1	
53	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		3		1	1				
54	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>			3+	2	6+	10+	2	6+	
55	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		4	2	20+	10+	20+	6+	1	
56	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	10+	20+							
57	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	3	3+	2	1					
58	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>		10	6	8+		4	3	3	
59	White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>				1		5	2		
60	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>		1							1
61	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>	10+		6+						
62	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	3+	6							
63	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>		1							
64	Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	1	20+							
65	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>							1		
66	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1	✓		2	6+	1	2		
67	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		✓							
68	Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>	6+	20+							
69	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	10+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
70	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>				2					
71	Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>		20+		50+		20+		10+	
72	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	2	15+	✓	✓	30+	✓	✓	✓	
73	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>			1		20+	10+	6+		
74	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>		1	1	2	1	10+			
75	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	✓								
76	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	6+	50+	10+	2	2	2	3	2	
77	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			50+	2	50+	6+	4	30+	
78	African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>		1		1		1		1	
79	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		2							
80	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					1	1			
81	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	6+	1		3	2	1	1	1	
82	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			1						
83	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1		1		1				

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March							
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
84	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>			10+		50+	20+	20+	
85	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	1	100+				80+	180+	
86	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>		10+	1					10+
87	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		1	10	30+	2	1	3	
88	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	6+	4+						
89	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>			50+			1		
90	Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>			2		3+			
91	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	10+	3	2	10+	4	20+	10+	10+
92	Dusky Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>		50+						
93	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>				50+		20+		10+
94	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		20+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			3		2		1	
97	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	1	2		1	1	1		
98	Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>								1
99	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>								1
100	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>				1				
101	Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>					1	1	H	
102	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	1							
103	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>					1			
104	Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>							1	
105	Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>			2	1		2		
106	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	10+							
107	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		30+	✓	✓	1		1	
108	Nyanza Swift	<i>Apus niansae</i>		10+	2	1				
109	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>				10+	2	2		2
110	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	10+	1					1	
111	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>			1					
112	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>		1	1	3+	2	3	1	3
113	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			20+	20+	10+	20+	10+	2
114	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	1		1					
115	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>		2						

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March							
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
116	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	1							
117	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		1						2
118	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>		1						
119	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>		1	2			2		
120	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>						1		
121	Abyssinian Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus minor</i>							1	
122	Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>	5							
123	Von der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>	2					1		
124	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>	2							
125	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes brevis</i>	4							
126	White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>								4+
127	White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>		2						
128	D'Arnaud's (Usambiro) Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii usambiro</i>	4				3		4	
129	Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>							4	1
130	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>						2		
131	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>			1					
132	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>		2						
133	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>			2	1	1		1	1
134	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			50+	100+	20+	50+	20+	100+
135	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>			1	4		1	2	3
136	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>								1
137	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>		1		1				
138	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					1			
139	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1						
140	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		2						
141	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>				1				2
142	Fischer's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>			6+	4	10+	2+	20+	2
143	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>		2		1		1		
144	Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>		2						
145	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>							1	
146	Northern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus ruppelli</i>			20+		20+	10+	10+	
147	Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>			3	2	2	1	3	1

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March							
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
148	Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>	1							
149	Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>			1		1	3	2	
150	Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	2	10+	10+	4	4+	2	1	
151	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	1		2	2	4	1	2	1
152	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>						1		
153	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>			1	10+		6+	1	1
154	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓							
155	Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>		6+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
156	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
157	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>				2		1		
158	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	✓	✓		4+				✓
159	Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>		1						
160	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	2	6+		4		2		
161	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	1							
162	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
163	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>				2		2		
164	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		6+	2	6+		2		1
165	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					1			
166	Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>		3+						
167	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>				2	1			
168	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				1&H		✓	✓	
169	Grey-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>		1						
170	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>		1&H					3	
171	Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>			2				2	
172	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>			2					
173	Banded Parisoma	<i>Sylvia boehmi</i>					H	1		
174	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>		10+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
175	Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>				2				
176	Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
177	Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>	✓	10+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
178	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>		2	2					
179	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>					10+			

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March								
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	
180	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>		10=	6+	1			6+	12+	1
181	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>								1	
182	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>				1			1		
183	Silverbird	<i>Empidonax semipartitus</i>			2	2			2		2
184	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		1							
185	Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>		1							
186	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>		1							
187	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>									1
188	Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>		30+	6+					1	
189	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		10+	10+	10+					
190	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>		10+	20+	4	2	6+	3	1	
191	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>						3		1	
192	Abyssinian (Schalow's) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugubris schalowi</i>		10+	2						
193	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		1							
194	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>					1	1			
195	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>	1	1	1	1				1	1
196	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>							2		2
197	Rufous (Kenya) Sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>		2	✓						
198	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>			✓	✓			2		6+
199	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>			4	2	6+				
200	Rufous-tailed Weaver	<i>Histurgops ruficauda</i>		30+		20+	10+	10+	6+		
201	Grey-capped Social Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaudi</i>				20+					
202	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>			10+	20+	6				
203	African Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus aureoflavus</i>									2
204	Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>		4							
205	Taveta Weaver	<i>Ploceus castaneiceps</i>									2
206	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>				1		2			
207	Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>								4	
208	Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>	10+	✓	10+	2	4				
209	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>				4					
210	Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>		6+							
211	Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	1								

	Common name	Scientific name	February/March							
			22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
212	Blue-capped Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>			2	4				
213	Purple Grenadier	<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>	2							
214	Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>				2		1		
215	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>					3			
216	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	1	✓	✓	2		6+	1	1
217	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	2			1				
218	Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>						1		
219	Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>		3+				3		
220	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>		3+	✓	✓	1	2	6+	1
221	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>		10+	✓	✓	1		1	
222	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	2		1					
223	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>			3	✓		2	2	4
224	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>			2					

## Other Taxa

1	Southern Tree Agama	<i>Acanthoceras atricollis</i>			2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>					3			
3	Unidentified Terrapin							1	2	
4	Dung Beetle sp							✓	✓	



Kori Bustard by Sue Burnley



Black Heron &amp; Egyptian Goose by Helen Griffiths



Golden Jackal by Sue Burnley