

Tanzania's Great Migration

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 January – 1 February 2020



Lioness in tree, Nduvu



Southern Red Bishop



Cheetah with cubs



Zebra, part of the Great Migration - Nduvu

Report compiled by Tony Williams
Images courtesy of Nigel Cole



Naturetrek Mingledown Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HJ England
Barn

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Participants : Tony Williams (Naturetrek Leader) and Joseph (Local Driver/guide) with four Naturetrek clients

Summary

Heavy rain before and sometimes during our trip meant that quite a few roads were impassable; although this was a little inconvenient at times we managed to see a lot of wildlife. As the main aim was to witness one of the world's most spectacular wildlife phenomena, the trip was most obviously a success. Many of the herds of the Wildebeest and Zebra migration were close to our camp at Ndutu and we saw very large numbers on all the days we were there. We also had good views of Lions (including a mother with two very small cubs) and Hyenas that were accompanying the great herds, as well as many other mammal species. We had very good views of Cheetah, our first on the morning of our transfer to Ndutu and very close to the camp. We were very lucky to have very good views of Leopard and managed to have close views of Serval. The day in the crater was a success as usual, highlights being seven rhinos and several Lions. During the trip we saw about 200 species of bird, including such interesting ones as Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Chestnut-banded Plover, several Secretarybirds, Mottled Spinetail etc etc.

Both our accommodations, Rhino Lodge on the Ngorongoro crater rim and Kati Kati luxury camp on the side of Lake Ndutu were comfortable and very well placed for seeing wildlife easily. Our stays at both were made very enjoyable thanks to the very good food and the attentions of delightful and competent camp staff. Our driver/guide for the whole trip, Joseph, was also very pleasant and amenable and very much helped to make the trip a success.

Day 1

Thursday 23rd January

London

The five of us met in the departures hall in Heathrow's Terminal 2 before checking in luggage for our Ethiopian Airlines flight to Addis Ababa. We all went through security checks easily and quickly giving us time to sit together around a table for a drink and get to know each other; in fact most of us had already met on previous Naturetrek trips. The flight left on time and was as comfortable as flights can be.

Night on the aeroplane

Day 2

Friday 24th January

Change planes in Addis, Kilimanjaro, afternoon drive to Ngorongoro.

Our London flight arrived slightly ahead of schedule at the relatively new and very spacious Terminal 2 at Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport. We had a few hours to wait before boarding our onward flight for Kilimanjaro airport near Arusha, in Tanzania.

The wait in the airport lounge wasn't without interest; we took seats looking out across the runways looking for our first African birds. We saw just a few species: Black Kite, Rock Martin, Little Swift... and

one special one, the White-collared Pigeon, an Ethiopian endemic. We must have seen more than twenty of them and had very good views of courting birds; a slight reward for our airport wait.

The aeroplane left just slightly late for our two-and-a-half hour flight to Kilimanjaro Airport. We landed on time at around 12.20 and within a few minutes the doors of the aircraft opened to a pleasant 25°C. Once into the airport buildings we had a relatively easy time getting through the various entrance formalities, found our luggage and were outside at about 13.20 where Joseph, our driver/guide for the whole trip was waiting. He introduced himself and took us to “our” 4-wheel drive Toyota Land Cruiser. It was then time to drive towards our accommodation for the next two nights, the Rhino Lodge on the side of the Ngorongoro crater rim.

We left Kilimanjaro international airport and our route took us first to the bustling town of Arusha (Tanzania's third most populous city). We went around the outskirts of the town before heading south-westwards through a much more rural setting on the A23 tarmac road that goes to Dodoma (Tanzania's capital).

At Makuyuni we turned right on to the now tarmaced B144 road and continued on our way to the town of Mto Wa Mbu (translated “Mosquito River) next to Manyara National Park. We saw a few birds as we were driving along, some of which we were able to identify, the most interesting being a pair of Ashy Starlings, a very localized species.

We continued along the B144 as it wound its way up the East African escarpment and on to the important town of Karatu from where it was a short distance to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area gate, arriving twenty minutes before the official closing time of 18.00. Formalities here didn't take long but allowed us to have a comfort stop and leg stretch and admire the only obvious wildlife, a troop of Baboons waiting in the hope of stealing food from tourist vehicles – and as always they appeared well fed. Back in the vehicle it was only a short drive to the viewing point that overlooks Ngorongoro Crater; it was hard not to be impressed by the panoramic view over the crater (the most intact caldera on Earth).

We could see many mammals on the crater floor and managed to pick out distant Zebra, Buffalo, an Elephant and amazingly three Rhinos – an impressive start.

From there it was just a minute's drive to our home for the next two nights, the Rhino Lodge, where we arrived just after twenty-past-six. We were soon taken to our rooms with time for a shower and to relax before going for the evening meal. This is a relatively small and modest lodge, but more than adequate with friendly staff, good food, comfortable rooms and views over pristine Ngorongoro highland forest and its birds; I think we all enjoyed a decent night's rest at this quiet, relaxing site.

Night at Rhino Lodge.

Day 3

Saturday 25th January

Ngorongoro crater

Hot with sunny spells, some cloud cover, shower in late afternoon

With no time to waste, we had a quick cup of coffee or tea and set off at 6 o'clock with packed breakfasts and lunches for a whole day in the crater. The Rhino Lodge is well placed on the crater rim for a relatively short drive to the entrance to the descent road.

The drive around the crater rim road was done in some mist, but we saw a few birds, the most interesting species being the Red-collared Whydah, which we nearly always find in the thick grass along the side of the crater road near the airstrip.

We shortly arrived at the Western descent gate from where we could see the whole of the crater rim appearing above the thick mist covering the rest of the crater - a remarkable sight.

With just one other tourist vehicle present at this early hour, entrance formalities were quickly done and we were soon driving down the steep descent road into the crater looking at its fantastic array of wildlife.

It's difficult to describe a day in "the" crater in a few sentences; it deserves pages. The figures in the species list speak for themselves. There's hardly a minute goes-by without something of interest being seen.

We had been told that there had been a lot of unseasonable rain when we arrived in Tanzania and this was evident from the size of Lake Magadi on the crater floor and from the amount of standing water on the ground; quite a few of the roads were impassable which restricted our movements to some extent.

We had our breakfast stop and leg-stretch near the public picnic site on the southern edge of the Leraï forest, before continuing on our way along the northern side of the crater as the mist began to clear. Bird species came thick and fast only to be interrupted by a couple of Lionesses, a few Spotted Hyenas and Golden Jackals. The masses of male Fan-tailed whydahs in breeding plumage displaying over any long grass was presumably a result of the recent rains. A drab "lapwing" close to the road was either Black-winged or Senegal Plover, but to make sure of identification we wanted to see the bird's opened wing. So we cheated by trying to make the bird fly, a clap from the driver did the job as the bird raised its wings and flew; all of two yards! It is surprising how unafraid and easily approached most birds seem to be.

However the most exciting sighting was that of a Rhino (Black Rhinoceros is the only species that occurs in the crater) reasonably close to the road and in bright sunlight. Not only that, slightly further away we found another five Rhinos; the very remarkable sight of six together.

Once they had been admired at length we followed the track along the side of the Gorigor swamp with its many birds, including breeding-plumage Whiskered Terns. Shortly afterwards we arrived at the Ngoitokitok Springs picnic site where we ate our lunch later than expected, admiring the many birds there and the small lake with attendant Hippos.

Once lunch was over it was back into the vehicle and a drive back along the side of the marsh before climbing out of the crater of the ascent road. On the way out we had good views of yet another new bird for the day, a Jacobin Cuckoo. We arrived back at the Lodge just after 17.00 to be greeted by a couple of Common Waterbuck grazing on the lawn next to reception. We had enough time for a short rest and shower before the evening meal at 19.30. Some of us found time to have a drink on the veranda and look for a few birds in the surrounding gardens and forest adding a few new species to the trip list, best of all being a pair of Mottled Spinetails that were nesting in the restaurant building's roof.

Night at Rhino Lodge.

Night at Rhino Lodge

Day 4

Sunday 26th January

Ngorongoro to Ndotu, afternoon game drive

Time to move on with no time to waste, so we decided on a 7 o'clock departure. The Rhino lodge is well placed being very near the crater road which means we didn't need to lose time in making a detour. It's next to the road we would take to go between the Crater and Ndotu which means less time travelling and more time for looking. So after another good breakfast we were soon on our way to Ndotu.

After leaving the crater rim the road winds downwards and north-westwards through dry acacia savanna and eventually onto the immense Seregeti plain. We passed the Malanja depression which was now a lake that hasn't been so extensive for a very long time; yet more evidence of recent heavy rains.

We made various wildlife sightings as we drove along, stopping for the more interesting. We had good views of our first Giraffes, including a herd of 27, saw more Eland and added many new species to our quickly growing bird list, the highlights including very good views of a Lanner Falcon. As we passed the road leading to the nearby Oldupai (no spelling mistake – Olduvai is an European corruption) Gorge the number of mammals began increasing with more and more Wildebeest, Zebra and both Grant's and Thomson's Gazelles.

Our next stop was at the Serengeti National Park entrance, marked by a large sign spanning the road. After a leg stretch and having admired the many, many thousands of Wildebeest stretching into the distance we turned off the main road and followed the dirt track over the extensive plain that eventually arrives at Ndotu (the Swahili word for Genet). The track runs along the Serengeti/Ngorongoro Conservation Area boundary.

There was much to see but best of all was a group of three Cheetahs (a mother and two large cubs) not far from the road. We took our time to admire them, surely one of the most emblematic sights on the Serengeti plains.

We arrived at Ndotu Kati Kati camp a little later than planned, around 13.15, but not to worry as the staff were waiting for us with refreshing drinks and a very warm, welcoming introduction to the "camp". We were shown our "en-suite" tents, allowed a little time to wash and had an excellent midday meal.

Ndotu Kati Kati camp is along the top of an escarpment overlooking Lake Ndotu. It proved to be a very pleasant site and the staff at the camp couldn't have been kinder or more helpful; we had a very enjoyable five night stay.

There was a little time to unpack and settle into our tents before leaving on a game drive at 4 o'clock. Before then a few of the group found time to look at birds around the camp with highlights being many Straw-tailed and Steel-blue Whydahs in breeding plumage and Purple Grenadier.

The afternoon game drive proved quite productive despite some roads being impassable due to the rains. The most exciting sighting was of a pair of mating Lions. As the afternoon was coming to a close we saw flight after flight of hundreds, or probably thousands, of Abdim's Storks coming off the plains to go to their nighttime

roost. Back at Kati Kati camp before dark, it was obvious that many of the storks had elected to roost above our tents, an impressive sight.

Night at Kati Kati 1 camp. (our first of five nights there). The 1 because there are 3 Kati Kati sites very close together and all are very similar – we were in No.1.

Day 5

Monday 27th January

Ndutu to Serengeti in central Serengeti N.P.

No time for a “lie-in” this morning either with breakfast at 6.30 (some were even in for breakfast and ready to go before that even though it was still dark), and departure for a game drive at 7.

We took a picnic (boxed lunch) with us in order to stay out for the day and visit the Seronera area in the centre of the Serengeti National Park.

We took the “main” road out of Ndutu as far as the Serengeti entrance, stopping there for a while to stretch our legs before turning north on the main Serengeti road. We saw very, very many Zebra and Wildebeest; it's very hard to estimate the numbers, but there were a lot. We wrote down 10,000's in the log, but never mind the numbers, it was a very spectacular sight. They were everywhere, many walking in long lines going somewhere - where? Whatever, we were experiencing what must be one of the world's most spectacular wildlife phenomena, “Tanzania's Great Migration”.

Our next stop was at Naabi Gate, the administrative entrance to the Serengeti. So whilst Joseph looked after the paperwork we had a quarter-of-an-hour's birdwatching in the car park.

Continuing along the main road to Seronera we saw many Lions (13 in all today) near the road, including some fine males. There were some interesting birds, often perched of the roadside bushes, including many Lesser Kestrels, a pair of Greater Kestrels (never an easy species to find) and a very obliging male Amur Falcon.

We had our picnic at the Seronera tourist centre, along with many other people. The picnic area is quite interesting for wildlife, always providing very good views of several species of small bird that come to feed on the crumbs dropped by tourists. They included Grey-capped Social Weaver, Speckle-fronted Weaver and Usambiro Barbet (a separate species or a subspecies of d'Arnaud's Barbet, depending on which book you use). There were also a few mammals around including very tame Yellow-spotted Hyraxes.

However, one of the main reasons for coming to the area is to try to see Leopard. Whilst we were eating our packed lunch Joseph had had news of a Leopard in a tree not too far away but unfortunately it had descended the tree a while ago and hadn't been seen since.

We drove along the Serengeti river (not much of a river - in Britain we'd call it a dried-up stream, but it does provide year-round water) looking for Leopard but without any luck, we did however spot a Topi and had good views of an Elephant. The wet conditions meant that we couldn't use many of the dirt roads and eventually we turned towards Ndutu via the “main” road.

We made the usual comfort stop at Naabi gate before continuing on towards “home” seeing many zebra and Wildebeest along the way and amazing numbers of Abdim's and White storks flying off the plains to their roosting sites.

We arrived back at 17h45 and enjoyed a hot shower and rest before having another very good dinner. As usual for those who wanted we did log after dinner not quite knowing what numbers to write in for Wildebeest or Zebra.

A second night at Kati Kati and more animal sounds during the night. Lion very close and the ever present Hyenas.

Day 6

Tuesday 28th January

Two game drives, Ndotu area

It had rained quite a lot overnight and was still raining when we went for breakfast (after having been provided with umbrellas) at 6.30. We had planned to leave on a game drive around 07.15 but took our time over breakfast and eventually left at 07.45 once the rain had stopped. There were periods of light rain during the first part of the morning followed by cloudy skies with sunny periods for the rest of the day.

The sighting of the morning was undoubtedly a Lioness with two small cubs searching for a hiding place. The Lioness was carrying one of the small cubs in her mouth, the other toddling along close behind. They eventually hid in some thick vegetation and we decided to leave the scene and let them have a little privacy.

We continued our game in the area of Ndotu with the morning providing more good sightings, including: a Lioness in full view in the lower branches of a tree, a lone Cheetah seen at very close range and the Wildebeest migration, with animals moving in the opposite direction to yesterday.

We arrived back at Kati Kati camp at around half-past midday with time for another very nice meal and a little rest. It was interesting to look at the very many butterflies of many different species in the camp area, but without a comprehensive field guide it's very difficult to identify them to species level.

We set off on another game drive just before four o'clock, looking for things in the vicinity of the camp. We saw nothing spectacular but did find a new mammal species for the trip thanks to a keen-eyed member of the party – a Slender Mongoose. Kirk's Dikdiks were common enough in the area but we hardly gave them a glance after a while.

Towards dusk we came across a very interesting incident, involving a Tawny Eagle apparently raiding nests in a Superb Starling colony in a large acacia. The starlings were very demonstrative as the eagle extracted and ate the nest contents, it was hard to believe that it could be so easy for the eagle; maybe the nest had been built by an inexperienced pair and was more accessible than would normally be the case.

The eagle was watched at close range and provided us with an opportunity to discuss the differences between this resident species and the very similar, migratory Steppe Eagle, of which we also saw many.

We arrived back at camp as the light was starting to fade with the same spectacle of thousands of Abdim's Storks flying over to their roosting sites.

The evening meal was very pleasant as ever, after which we did the log and then went to our tents ready for another night of African sounds.

Third night at Kati Kati.

Day 7

Wednesday 29th January

Ndutu area

It rained heavily again overnight - apparently very heavily. We had another excellent breakfast as had become the norm, at 06.30, before leaving on a game drive, again in the vicinity of Ndutu.

We'd only just got into the Toyota and moved about two metres, when we noticed a few small birds moving in a low bush in front of us. This gave us two more species to add to the ever-increasing list: Green-winged Pytilia and the charming and discreet Banded Parisoma (now considered to be a Sylvia warbler – so closely related to Blackcap, Whitethroat...).

The rains meant that road conditions weren't good and Joseph made the correct decision of keeping to the main tracks. The highlight of the morning was a female Lion laying high-up in a tree, probably trying to find a little breeze and less flies.

It was decided to go along the Ndutu lake shore on the way back to our camp. We looked at the birds on the lake edge, the most interesting probably the Chestnut-banded Plover. We also saw several small groups of Flamingoes close to.

We hadn't gone that far before we came across a couple of vehicles, one of which was stuck in the mud. Trying to help them seemed the only way to act; but after quite a lot of maneuvering and other vehicles joining in, we became stuck ourselves. We had to wait a little while for another vehicle to pull us out. It was a relief when it managed it successfully, and we were back in camp only slightly late for another tasty, buffet midday meal.

We left again on a game drive at 4 o'clock by which time the roads were starting to dry up. We saw many of the same mammals as before and had very good views of many, including very close Giraffe, one of which was very large. It towered over a vehicle coming the other way and we estimated it to be a good 5½ metres high – probably an exaggeration.

We arrived back around 18.30 and fell into what was now a normal routine; hot shower, drink around the camp fire, evening meal at 19.30 followed by the log.

Fourth and penultimate night at Kati Kati.

Day 8

Thursday 30th January

Serengeti including Seronera

Once again we were up quite early with breakfast at 6.30 just as it was getting light (again, some were even in for breakfast and ready to go before that even though it was still dark), and departure for a game drive at 7.00 on what was our last full day of watching wildlife in Tanzania. We took a picnic (boxed lunch) with us in order to stay out for the day and visit the Seronera area in the centre of the Serengeti National Park. There was only a little light rain overnight so that the tracks were in better condition than the previous morning.

The day started well, and we hadn't gone far along the road towards Naabi Hill than we saw a group of excited birds, Vultures, Eagles and Maribou Storks, on a half-eaten carcass. It was a recently killed Grant's Gazelle and Joseph soon found the culprits, a mother Cheetah and large cub not far away on the other side of the road. We had good views of them.

As we drove onwards we went through part of the "great migration" with not so many Wildebeest but thousands of Zebra, a spectacular sight. As usual these great herds are an attraction for the larger predators - we saw Spotted Hyenas throughout the day, counting at least 48.

We had a comfort-stop and leg-stretch at Naabi gate as Joseph signed-in, the little time spent looking at birds in the surrounding acacias produced more new species for the trip, the best of which was an Abyssinian Scimitarbill.

From there we followed the main road northwards, stopping to see some very popular roadside Lions along the way.

On approaching the Seronera area Joseph had news over the radio that a Leopard was visible in a reasonably close tree, so we rushed off to the spot. We were in luck and despite the presence of many tourist vehicles we had reasonable views of the Leopard in the tree before it quickly climbed down – sigh of relief, just in time! The Leopard started walking through the grass, its progress shown by the occasional appearance of its swishing tail above the grass, and it was moving towards us. It eventually passed within less than ten yards of our vehicle and we had fabulous views as it crossed a few yards of more open ground. We had been very lucky and had very good views despite the presence of many tourist vehicles.

Next stop was at the Seronera picnic site again. Here we had our picnic whilst watching a few more new species for the trip and as the wildlife here is very used to visitors we had good, close views of Banded Mongoose, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu and others.

Along the Seronera river we saw Hippos, a small Crocodile and our only Striated Heron of the trip. On our way back we stopped to look at the same Lions as in the morning but by far the most exciting observation was that of a Serval as it quickly crossed the road quite a long way in front of us. We drove to where it had disappeared and had close if rapid views, mainly of its head sticking out of the grass.

Next halt was Naabi Hill Gate where we had the usual comfort stop and wait for completion of formalities, although this didn't take long.

We took the short way back to Ndotu with three African Hoopoes seen just as we left Naabi Gate. Nothing much else of real note, except the now expected hundreds of Abdim's and White Storks gathering and flying off to roost.

We arrived back at camp at slightly after 17h30 which gave us some time to start packing in the light before the now normal evening procedure of hot shower, followed by a drink in front of the camp fire, dinner at half-past seven, log and then bed.

Fifth and last night at Kati Kati.

Day 9

Friday 31st January

Drive Nduvu to Seronara airstrip, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Addis Ababa airports

So, breakfast as usual at first light, at around 0630, before bags were out of our tents and loaded into the vehicle for just after 7.00.

We said our fond and emotive farewells to the Kati Kati staff, who had all been genuinely very friendly and helpful over our five night stay, which we had all very much enjoyed.

Due to the bad road conditions Joseph decided to drive to the airstrip via the “main” Nduvu road, a longer way round but we didn’t want to get stuck this morning. Crossing the plains to the east of Nduvu we saw all of the usual game, many Hyenas, but otherwise nothing of particular note before our now familiar stop and leg-stretch at Naabi gate.

From there to Seronera we saw what were presumably the same Lions as yesterday, more Hyenas and a nice new bird for the trip, a Grey Kestrel, perched next to the road.

We arrived at the Seronera airstrip at 0950 in plenty of time for our 1109 flight for Arusha. Whilst waiting we saw a few birds around the airstrip “terminal”, including our first Lesser Striped Swallows.

From then on everything went very smoothly and as planned. Our flight to Arusha, transfer to the Mount Meru Hotel for a very pleasant lunch, transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport (an hour’s drive from Arusha) at 15.15, before catching our Ethiopian flight to London via Addis Adaba.

Day 10

Saturday 1st February

Our flight from Addis to Heathrow also arrived on time and once at Heathrow baggage reclaim it was time to say our farewells.

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Species Lists

Birds

			January 2020							
	Common name	Scientific name	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		20	a few	a few	3		a few	a few
2	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>				2				
3	Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>		1						
4	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>		3	1					
5	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		many	✓	many	✓	✓	2	
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		a few						
7	African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>		a few						
8	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>		2	a few		10	a few		
9	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>		✓						
10	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		20	a few	a few	✓	✓	a few	
11	Hildebrandt's Francolin	<i>Pternistis hildebrandti</i>		2						
12	Grey-breasted Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis rufopictus</i>			4	3	✓	✓	✓	
13	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓	many	a few	✓	100s	✓	✓
14	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>		1	a few		1	30	✓	
15	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		a few						
16	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	6							
17	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>		many	10,000	1,000s	many	many	many	many
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			20/30	100	a few	1	a few	
19	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>		1						
20	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>		a few	20	a few	20	many	✓	3
21	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		a few	a few				✓	
22	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		1						
23	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>		7						
24	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>							1	
25	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓✓	many	✓	✓	✓	
26	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		a few	1					
27	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		a few		a few	a few	a few	a few	a few
28	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		2						

	Common name	Scientific name	January 2020							
			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
29	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		20		5				
30	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>			4	a few	4			
31	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		4		2			1	
32	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		1			1*			
33	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>				1	1	1	1	
34	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		a few	a few	✓	✓			2
35	Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>			a few	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>		2	10	✓	✓	2+		
37	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		1		2			1	
38	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaelus occipitalis</i>						1		
39	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>				a few	a few	✓	✓	✓
40	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>			many	a few	a few	✓	✓	✓
41	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				1				
42	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				1				
43	African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>				1				
44	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>				3				
45	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				1			✓	✓
46	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓						
47	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		1						
48	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			1		2			
49	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>			a few			1		
50	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>		a few	a few	1			3	
51	White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>				2				1
52	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>		1	1	1			1	
53	Black Crake	<i>Amauornis flavirostra</i>				5			1	1
54	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>								1
55	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>		a few	many					
56	Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>		10+						
57	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>				1				
58	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>				5		3	3	2
59	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		a few	✓	✓	✓	✓		
60	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓			✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	January 2020							
			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
61	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>			10					
63	Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>		1					10	
64	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		a few	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>						1		
66	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>			2					
67	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>		1		2	2			
68	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>			2			10		
69	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		a few	many		1	✓	✓	
70	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			2			1		
71	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		2	a few			✓		
72	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				1				
73	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						1		
74	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1						
75	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		6	a few	1		✓	1	
76	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		5	1	1		2	20+	1
77	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			H		1		H	
78	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>			10	20+	many	✓	✓	✓
79	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		a few	30	1	many	✓	✓	
80	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		20						
81	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			20	many	many	500+	1000s	
82	Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>			1++					
83	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>			1	10	✓	H	40	a few
84	Dusky Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>		2	3					
85	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>				2	✓	✓		
86	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		H				✓		
87	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>			a few		✓			
89	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>			1	1	1	1		
90	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>				3		1	1	
91	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>		1	1					
92	Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>			2		3			1

	Common name	Scientific name	January 2020							
			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
93	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>							2	
94	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>								1
95	Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>				H	H			
96	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>		2						
97	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>								✓
98	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		a few						3
99	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>							2	
100	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>		a few	1					
101	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>				1				
102	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>		1	1	✓	a few	✓	✓	a few
103	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓			✓	a few
104	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracais naevia</i>			1					
105	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>				4	✓		2	
106	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>							2+	
107	Abyssinian Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus minor</i>							1	
108	Von der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>				2				
109	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	1							
110	Red-fronted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema diademata</i>			1					
111	Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>							1	
112	D'Arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii usambiro</i>				3				
113	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus fuscescens</i>					1			
114	African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus goertae</i>					3			
115	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			✓	many	✓		✓	
116	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>				2				
117	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>								1
118	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>				1				
119	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>			1					
120	Fischer's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>			4	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Slate-coloured Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>						1		
122	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>		2						
123	Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>								
124	Northern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus ruppelli</i>			4	✓	✓	2+	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	January 2020							
			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
125	Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>			a few		1		1	
126	Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>			1	a few				
127	Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>		✓	✓					
128	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	1		2	1	a few	2		
129	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>				2			1	2
130	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	many			✓			✓	
131	Red-throated Tit	<i>Melaniparus fringillinus</i>							1	
132	Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>		a few	a few	✓	✓			✓
133	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafrā africana</i>		✓	a few	✓			✓	✓
134	Fawn-coloured Lark	<i>Mirafrā africanoides</i>				✓				
135	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>		a few					1	
136	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>								1
137	Black Saw-wing	<i>Psaldoprocne pristopectera</i>		4+						
138	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>		1						
139	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		many	many	✓		✓		
140	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			2		2	2		
141	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	1							
142	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>								2
143	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>		2						
144	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		2	2				2	
145	Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>					1			
146	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>		✓					1	
147	Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>		✓		✓			✓	
148	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>							✓	
149	Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>					2		2	
150	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>			H	1				
151	Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>					5			
152	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>							3	
153	Banded Parisoma	<i>Sylvia boehmi</i>						3		
154	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>			many	many	many	many	✓	
155	Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>		many	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
156	Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>		a few	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

			January 2020							
	Common name	Scientific name	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
157	Ashy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis unicolor</i>	2							
158	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>								
159	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>								
160	White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>			2					
161	Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>					3			
162	Silverbird	<i>Empidonax semipartitus</i>				3	2	1		
163	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				1				
164	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>							1	
165	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				2				
166	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>			1					
167	Anteater Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>		many	✓			1		
168	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		2	✓				2	a few
169	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>		a few	many					✓
170	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				1				
171	Abyssinian (Schalow's) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugubris schalowi</i>		2 or 3						
172	Eastern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mediocris</i>		1				1		
173	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓					2		
174	Kenya Sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>		a few	✓	10			✓	
175	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
176	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>					2			
177	White-headed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>			1					
178	Rufous-tailed Weaver	<i>Histurgops ruficauda</i>		✓	a few					
179	Grey-capped Social Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaudi</i>				a few			✓	
180	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>				a few			✓	
181	Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>		a few	1					
182	Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginos</i>					3			
183	Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>			many	many	many	✓	✓	
184	Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>		✓						
185	Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>		many						
186	Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>					a few			
187	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			1	50+				
188	Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>					7	1		

			January 2020							
	Common name	Scientific name	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
189	Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>		many		many			✓	✓
190	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>				2+				
191	Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>			2+					
192	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>						1		
193	Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>					5 or 6			
194	Blue-capped Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>							1	
195	Purple Grenadier	<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>			1			1		
196	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>				1	1	3	1	
197	Steel-blue Whydah	<i>Vidua hypocherina</i>			1					
198	Straw-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua fischeri</i>			2	a few	✓	✓	✓	
199	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		a few						
200	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>				1				
201	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>		1						
202	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>			1+		2	1		
203	Streaky Seedeater	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>		2						

Mammals

			January 2020							
	Common name	Scientific name	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
1	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	✓	40+		10	3			
2	Yellow-spotted Hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>				10+			✓	
3	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>			1	5+			1	
4	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	a few			3			4	5
5	African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>							1	1
6	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>			3		1		2	
7	Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>							1	
8	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>		6	2	13	5*	1	5	4
9	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>							1	

	Common name	Scientific name	January 2020							
			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
10	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>						1		
11	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>							6	
12	Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>		4	10+	H	H		48	30+
13	African Golden Wolf	<i>Canis anthus</i>		10		3				6
14	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		1	2		4+	6	10	
15	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		many	10,000s	10	many+	a few	✓✓✓	✓✓
16	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	3*	6						
17	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		a few		3				
18	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>		15		50+	H		✓✓	a few
19	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>			a few	40	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii</i>			5	15			a few	1
21	Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>		many	10,000s	1000s	many+	a few	✓✓✓	✓✓
22	Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>				1			1	
23	Thomson's Gazelle	<i>Eudorcas thomsonii</i>		many	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓
24	Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>		4						
25	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus</i>		2						
26	Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>			9	4	a few	1		1
27	Grant's Gazelle	<i>Nanger granti</i>		many	many	many	many	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
28	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>		many	10			12	8	200
29	Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>		50+	a few				15	40
30	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>			100	1	60	50	30	a few