

MALAWI: MIOMBO MAGIC

AUGUST 9–26, 2019



Yellow-throated Apalis

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The beautiful Schalow's Turaco with its luxuriant forward projecting crest was seen well several times in Malawi.

Our first-ever tour to Malawi was a great success. First, a few fast facts about Malawi. A land-locked country bordered by Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique, Malawi lies in south-central Africa. Originally titled as Nyasaland, a British colony, Malawi gained independence in 1965. The name Malawi means rising flames. The tourist citation is the “warm heart of Africa”; with this I can fully concur. The population is close to twenty million people, with most making a living from agriculture or fishing. The currency is the Kwacha. The country is most famous for Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa—home to a huge variety of Cichlid fish. Its geographic location combined with altitudinal variation (up to 8,500 feet) make it home to more than 650 species of birds including many that fall between South Africa and the East African region. There are seven national parks in the country and several relatively protected forests.

We had all arrived by August 11 and found ourselves in the very comfortable Kumbali Inn. An excellent patch of Miombo (*Brachystegia*) woodland surrounded the hotel, and it was not long before we found ourselves wandering about and taking in more than 50 species of birds. Among the more notable species were great views of Fiery-necked Nightjar, tail-pumping Green Woodhoopoes, African Gray Hornbills, Black-collared Barbets, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Lesser Honeyguide, stunning Gray-headed Bushshrike, White Helmetshrike, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Yellow-bellied

Eremomela, Lesser [Miombo] Blue-eared Starling, and the dazzling Scarlet-chested Sunbird. At dusk as we enjoyed cold beverages, Thick-tailed Galagos came wandering out of their daytime hiding sites and wandered past us, occasionally breaking into shrieking guttural cries.



The unusual Boulder Chat with its powerful song is endemic to south-central Africa: one of many localized species we searched for in Malawi.

We planned a big day to the famous Dzalanyama Forest, a two-hour drive from Lilongwe. It required an early start, but at sunrise we found ourselves deep in the forest at a small series of streams with profusely flowering Water trees (*Syzigium*) attracting a host of sunbirds. These included iridescent Amethyst, Miombo, Variable and, best of all, the highly localized blue, red, and yellow Anchieta's Sunbird. A skittish African Spotted Creeper made repeated visits, and our first of several encounters with the wonderful Schalow's Turaco caused some "oohs and aahs." As the day progressed, we racked up a lot of great bird sightings. Perched Banded Snake-Eagle, Black Goshawk, Lizard Buzzard, and Augur Buzzard had the raptors off to a good start. An amazing run with honeyguides included a mating pair of Green-backed Honeybirds, scope views of Scaly-throated Honeyguide, and in one mixed flock the scarce Pallid Honeyguide. Miombo specialties like Miombo Rock-Thrush, Pale-billed Hornbill, Boehm's Flycatcher, and the most bizarre of them all, the peculiar Boulder Chat, all gave great looks. Mixed flocks are a feature of these forests, so literally every time we stopped for one bird we would find more. Rufous-bellied Tit, Red-capped Crombec, Greencap Eremomela, Retz's Helmetshrike, both Yellow-bellied and Southern hyliotas, Reichard's Seedeater, Orange-winged Pytilia, the gorgeous Red-throated Twinspot, and the reed-warbler look-alike Gray-olive Greenbul meant that even some of the seasoned world listers in our party were racking up double digit lifers.

Before leaving Lilongwe, we spent the morning exploring along the banks of the Lilongwe River through a well-conceived nature sanctuary close to the city center. An African Black Duck with ducklings, a Giant

Kingfisher and, best of all, a White-backed Night-Heron, were found along the river itself. The surrounding Miombo held a few good birds as well, including our first Heuglin's Francolin, plenty of Helmeted Guineafowl, a Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, Black Cuckooshrike, Terrestrial Brownbul, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Gray-backed Carmaroptera, Olive Sunbird, and a lovely charm of Southern Cordonbleus with mixed in Red-throated Twinspots and Green-winged Pytilia. We had some kilometers to do, and we headed north to the Viphya Plateau. Breaking the drive at Kasungu Dam, we hoovered up a bunch of ducks, the best of which was a good scope view of the generally cryptic and sparse White-backed Duck. A Lesser Jacana actually walked into the same field of view but, sadly, up and flew before all could get on it. The last hour of daylight was spent birding the edge of the Luwawa Lodge where lovely Bronze Sunbirds continued our sunbird theme, a White-starred Robin posed brilliantly, and Black [Eastern] Sawwing Swallows hawked over the forest edge. One couple who, with Abasi's help, retrieved their late-arriving suitcases, came in at dark and found an African Wood-Owl and a Miombo Genet on their unscheduled night drive!



Amazing views of the super shy Red-winged Francolin were one of several highlights at Nyika.

A chilly and windy morning had the birds off to a slow start around the guest house. It gathered momentum when our first chestnut-bibbed Chapin's Apalis perched conspicuously followed quickly by their lovely Bar-throated cousins. Forest Double-collared Sunbird added a splash of color, and a Fulleborn's Boubou popped up. After a great breakfast we were on the road through Mzuzu towards our

final destination of Nyika National Park. The following quote is from *Malawi Endangered Beauty* by David Kelly (2005).

“Nyika Plateau in Northern Malawi is totally unique in Africa, and anyone who has had the good fortune to experience the charm and thrill there often exclaims “am I really in Africa?” when they are on the high mountain grasslands. It is a birdwatcher’s paradise, and the magnificent ranges of mountains seen in dramatic weather change make it the most beautiful place to visit.” It was first gazetted in 1965 and protects 3,000 square kilometers of montane grasslands and Miombo woodlands with the protected area extending into Zambia. It is a true African drive on remote dusty roads to climb up into the high mountains here, reaching an altitude of 8,500 at the highest peaks. The amazing Chelinda Lodge makes it all the more special with open fires, log cabins, and very attentive staff. Climbing into the park we made some strategic stops for Common Quail, Brown Parisoma, Yellow-browed Seedeater, and Olive Woodpecker. Our first magnificent Denham’s Bustard was a big hit, as was our first magnificent Roan Antelope bull. We found Zebra, Eland, and Reedbuck, and our log cabins with their open fires.



The giant Denham’s Bustard is rarely seen outside of protected areas in this current era.

We had two full days to explore Nyika, and we started with a walk from the lodge through *Hagenia abyssinica* woods and scrubby secondary growth adjoining a massive pine plantation, a leftover from the colonial forestry era. It was quite birdy, and we stopped to look at Cape [Malawi] Batis, Churring Cisticola, delightful duetting Black-lored Cisticolas, a Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, stunning Malachite Sunbird, the localized Montane [Whyte’s] Double-collared Sunbird, and feeding flocks of Yellow-crowned Canaries. Strong winds made it hard to pull out calling Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler and Mountain Yellow Warbler, which we just glimpsed. After a good break we ventured to the south through the open moorlands enjoying more antelope viewing and finding different grassland birds like the wonderful views we enjoyed of Red-winged Francolins, both Rufous-naped and Red-capped larks, and the tiny Wing-snapping Cisticola. Late in the day we reached a granite outcrop with flowering proteas—a

site for the highly localized Scarlet-tufted Sunbird, a high-altitude endemic with a very long tail. The strong winds were not going to make it easy and, in fact, gave us a hell of a time, but eventually the male relinquished and everyone had good views. The female proved quite easy, sitting in the scope, yet few want to count this bird on a female view due to her well-camouflaged, decidedly un-flamboyant plumage! We spotlit our way home and found a well-behaved Side-striped Jackal, an extremely well behaved Montane [Usambara] Nightjar, and really hit the jackpot with not one but two Honey Badgers! We had good views of these legendary black and white carnivores.

On our second day we dedicated both morning and afternoon sessions to birding patches of excellent montane rainforest. It can be slow work in the forest interior, yet the birds cooperated with patience. By the end of the day we had enjoyed good looks at Bar-tailed Trogon, Moustached Tinkerbird, Fulleborn's Boubou, Black-browed Mountain Greenbul, Olive-sided Robin-Chat, and the shy White-chested Alethe. Our time in the afternoon was cut short by an elephant moving nearby, unseen but crunching branches well heard. Obviously you do not want to tangle with elephants while on foot, so we backed right away. Back out in the open, out of the forest, we scoped some rock outcrops and found a delightful trio of Klipspringers—the rock wallabies of the antelope world. We made a cautious approach and ended up getting some good photos of these graceful, typically shy ungulates. Mutable Sun Squirrel was another addition to our mammal tally, and we enjoyed further good viewing encounters with Roan Antelope, Zebra, and a good-sized herd of Eland.



The delicate Klipspringer with its stiletto-like hooves is a shy, rock specialist antelope.

Leaving Nyika we descended from the plateau, out of the park gate, but not before making a strategic strike on the Zambian side for Yellow-streaked [Sharpe's] Greenbul that came in very well indeed. Denham's Bustards and Red-winged Francolins gave further good looks, and Yellow-bellied Waxbills were cute. In a good area for the Babbling Starling we made a lengthy stop. We found some excellent mixed flocks (12 species in one) that contained all but the hoped-for starling, so after lunch we continued on to Mvuvu, stopping to take in Mocking Cliff-chat and stunning Violet-backed and Red-winged starlings before we descended into the Rift Valley; by late afternoon we found ourselves at the beautiful Chintheche Inn on the shores of sky-blue Lake Malawi. At night, the sound of crashing waves sent us off to dreamland.

The region around Chintheche offers some interesting birding, the forests resembling the thick coastal forests of East Africa, very dense, full of vines, and generally giving the birds a good chance of avoiding detection. In our morning session we gradually wended our way in on a hunter's trail into the dense forest, even finding a couple of deadfall traps on the trail used to catch cane rats. It was slow to gain momentum, when all of a sudden up popped an East Coast Akalat for all to see. A shy and highly localized species, this is one of the region's greatest prizes. Next we spotted an African Broadbill and, as if on cue, it performed its remarkable aerial circuit display, which squeezes the air through its flight feathers to produce a sound like putting a piece of paper in a fan on high rotation. We watched it for quite a while. Stunning Purple-banded Sunbirds literally glowed iridescent while the Gray-olive Greenbuls and the odd, timid Little Greenbul popped up. Other birds that showed up included Green Malkoha, Red-capped Robin-Chat, and Black-throated Wattle-eye. A boat had been arranged for those keen to go snorkelling with the cichlid fish, but the wind was against us, and it was too rough to go. So we ventured to another forest site, this time hoping for the elusive Eastern Nicator. It was again pretty slow work, but things livened up when in swooped a flock of Retz's Helmetshrikes, and accompanying them was a fine Eastern Nicator. It gave amazing views. I had one last trick up my sleeve, so we shot back to the hotel at dusk, checked out the bamboo groves, and found a lovely African Barred Owlet—a good finale for the day.



This African Golden-Weaver has its eye on an unattended nest it can pilfer some grass strands from. They kept us entertained at Chintheche on the shores of Lake Malawi.

At breakfast we watched the antics of the nesting African Golden-Weavers, males pinching nesting material from the nests of their neighbors quite brazenly, if the well woven nests were left unattended. Then we drove well to the south to Salima, making a stop for birds at a small ephemeral wetland. Here everyone had great looks at the scarce Lesser Jacana, making up for the first sighting where most people missed it. The Lesser Jacanas were present with African Jacanas, while we had superb views of a pair of African Hawk-Eagles, and our first vocal African Fish-Eagle drifted over. At the hotel on the lake, Collared Palm-Thrush was tame. Snorkelling flat-lined again, this time due to the windy weather in the morning sending the regular boatmen home.



The delicate Lesser Jacana is a shy skulker, more like a crane, than its larger, showier relatives like the African Jacana.

Leaving Salima, we stopped to look at a Temminck's Courser with a chick before we drove further south to the Shire (pronounced Shi-ray) River near the town of Liwonde. This river is the only outlet from the massive lake and eventually flows into the Zambezi River. It is also the gateway to Malawi's most classic national park, also known as Liwonde. Crossing the river by boat, immediately noticing large numbers of Hippopotamus and giant Nile Crocodiles, we set up in the very comfortable Mvuu Safari Camp. Around the camp we quickly secured great views of the stunning Bohm's Bee-eater and the range-restricted Livingstone's Flycatcher—named for the great explorer. After lunch we were back on the river by boat and in the throng of excellent herds of wildlife—Impala, Waterbuck, Warthog, the occasional African Elephant, and a tremendous diversity of wetland birds. These included Egyptian Goose, African Spur-winged Goose, Wattled and Spur-winged lapwings, the peculiar African Openbill, Yellow-billed Stork, superb White-backed Night-Heron (one of ten species of herons seen on the boat trip), Black Crane, flocks of Gray-headed Gulls, and the occasional Gull-billed and Whiskered terns. Just at dusk we found a superb Pel's Fishing-Owl—a truly mesmerizing giant ginger mega! It perched out openly and raised its cape of head feathers in spectacular fashion.

The following morning I awoke to see an elephant walking past my room. We enjoyed a walking safari chaperoned by an armed ranger. The birds were on fire this morning with great sighting after great sighting, perhaps the best an incredible performance from the Green Malkoha. Other good birds included Palm-nut Vulture, Purple-crested Turaco, Gray Go-away-bird, Red-faced Mousebird, Southern Ground-Hornbill, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, Trumpeter Hornbill, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Greater Honeyguide, Dickinson's Kestrel, Lilian's Lovebird, Southern Black Tit, Long-billed Crombec, and much

more! After a siesta we drove through extensive Mopane woodlands enjoying some drinks of choice as the sun went down, and plenty of bird activity. A night drive was quite lively, in relatively quick succession having good views of Spotted Eagle-Owl, Side-striped Jackal, White-tailed Mongoose, and a beautiful Large-spotted Genet.



We had great luck to find this Pel's Fishing-Owl fishing on dusk at Liwonde National Park.

Our second full day at Liwonde started with a drive where one of the first sightings was a fine perched Crowned Eagle. Then we found the scarce Reichenow's [Speckle-throated] Woodpecker, a good mixed flock with White Helmetshrikes, the superb Bearded Scrub-Robin, and a close encounter with a bull elephant. Post breakfast we were back boating, and here we found a fabulous small herd of the legendary Sable Antelope. It is a stunningly beautiful jet black antelope with facial markings like an African mask and recurved horns one yard in length. The afternoon continued our great run with plenty of new birds for the trip ranging from African Green Pigeon, Dark Chanting-Goshawk, Crested Barbet, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Brown-headed Parrot, Marabou Stork, and an impressive flock of at least 40 African White-backed Vultures. A night drive was again lively with good views of Square-tailed and Fiery-

necked nightjars, a very tame White-tailed Mongoose, another Large-spotted Genet, Side-striped Jackal, and a brief view of the elusive Meller's Mongoose.



A magnificent male Sable Antelope dwarfs a Cattle Egret in Liwonde.

We had a final morning drive, and at the morning ritual of tea/coffee/biscuit we spoke of the Lions we had heard punctuating the still of night with their bellicose roars. We decided to head in that direction and soon found fresh tracks on the road; we turned the corner and there were two males, well maned, sitting right there! We enjoyed the views to ourselves for twenty minutes before reversing out and leaving them undisturbed. More good mammals included three glossy black, full adult male Sable Antelopes and a great sighting of two Bush Pigs running full trot right in front of us. Although moderately common, these shy suids are rarely encountered. The best bird of this morning session was a stunning Brown-necked Parrot that let itself be scoped in beautiful light. We left Liwonde National Park to the sounds of hippos snorting. We motored on to the old colonial capital of Zomba, home to some interesting buildings and a cooling of climate as we climbed up to 5,000 feet in altitude. We birded

some forest remnants and weedy bracken patches that were quite lively. Best were great views of the localized Bertram's Weaver and singing Southern Citril. After checking into the comfortable hotel we spent the last hour in another forest patch and attracted the stunning White-winged Apalis male down low for superb views of this glorious bird. Check it out on Google! The Apalis reigned supreme, as next up popped the endemic Yellow-throated Apalis and the more widely distributed Black-headed Apalis!



One of a pair of male African Lions found on a morning drive in Liwonde.

The next morning, as we enjoyed breakfast on the deck of the hotel, we shared our views with at least six Livingstone's Turacos. Palm fruits were the big attraction for the turacos, while the buffet had a similar effect on the participants. Wandering down some quiet hillside paths, we soon had an Evergreen Forest Warbler skulking past our binoculars, creeping about "mouse fashion," yet perching up on a fallen tree and giving great looks. Our good run continued with further views of the three Apalis species some had missed the day before, a stunning Forest Weaver, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Cabanis's [Placid] Greenbul, Stripe-cheeked [Olive-headed] Greenbul, Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler, and the mountain's biggest prize—the highly localized Thyolo Alethe, which was teed up in the scope for some great looks. After a break we explored higher up to the Emperor's View, named after a visit from Haile Selassie in 1932. We called in a Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird and found a tame Red-necked Spurfowl and a trifecta of tail-pumping Mountain Wagtails. Blue Monkeys studied us as carefully as we studied them.

One last morning and we ventured through Blantyre on a quiet Sunday morning, many people dressed in their Sunday best to attend church. We drove on to explore some remnant rainforest patches in a tea estate. Here we searched patiently for the highly-localized Green-headed Oriole, where a patient game of cat and mouse ensued. We made the hoped-for breakthrough and had a good long decent look in a well-placed hole in the forest greenery as the oriole regaled us with its liquid whistle. A mixed flock materialized, led by a pair of Square-tailed Drongos, numerous wing-flipping Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Green-backed Carmaroptera, and another fine Forest Weaver.



A stunning pair of Bohm's Bee-eaters hunt from a perch, the male on the left with his longer central tail rackets has his eye on an aerial insect. This species is also restricted to south-central Africa.

This wrapped up our birding. We enjoyed an afternoon relaxing in a very fine hotel in Blantyre, taking in a heroic inning from Ben Stokes to salvage the British cricket team in the Ashes, much to my Australian chagrin. Gin and tonics, dinner, and then off to bed for a very early departure for an on time flight to Johannesburg. All the participants looked back upon the tour as highly enjoyable, made even better with

the help of outstanding local leader Abasi, who really was fantastic, and our second driver, the very easy-going and broad-smiling Whyte. They helped showcase Malawi, as did the many other lodge managers and service providers we encountered throughout, many of whom went the extra hard yards to ensure our comfort in this quite remote and special African destination.



A beautiful little warbler, the Yellow-throated Apalis is endemic to Malawi.

BIRDS

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)

White-backed Duck (*Thalassornis leuconotus*)

Knob-billed Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*)

African Black Duck (*Anas sparsa*)

Yellow-billed Duck (*Anas undulata*)

Red-billed Duck (*Anas erythrorhyncha*)

Southern Pochard (*Netta erythroptalma*)

Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)

Hildebrandt's Francolin (*Pternistis hildebrandti*)

Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl) (*Pternistis afer*)

Red-winged Francolin (*Scleroptila levaillantii*)

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Introduced

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon (*Columba arquatrix*)

Dusky Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia lugens*)

Red-eyed Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*)

Ring-necked Dove (*Streptopelia capicola*)

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove (*Turtur chalcopsilos*)

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove (*Turtur afer*)

Tambourine Dove (*Turtur tympanistria*)

African Green-Pigeon (*Treron calvus*)

Denham's Bustard (*Neotis denhami*)

Livingstone's Turaco (*Tauraco livingstonii*)

Schalow's Turaco (*Tauraco schalowi*)

Purple-crested Turaco (*Tauraco porphyreolophus*)

Grey Go-away-bird (*Corythaixoides concolor*)

White-browed [Burchell's] Coucal (*Centropus superciliosus*)

Green Malkoha (*Ceuthmochares australis*)

Fiery-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus pectoralis*)

Rwenzori (Usambara) Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruwenzorii guttifer*)

Square-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus fossii*)

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*)

African Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*)

Red-knobbed Coot (*Fulica cristata*)

Black Crake (*Amaurornis flavirostra*)

Water Thick-knee (*Burhinus vermiculatus*)

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*)

Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus senegallus*)

Lesser Jacana (*Microparra capensis*)

African Jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*)

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Temminck's Courser (*Cursorius temminckii*)

Gray-hooded Gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*)

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybridus*)

African Openbill (*Anastomus lamelligerus*)

Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*)

Saddle-billed Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*)

Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*)

Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)

African Darter (*Anhinga rufa*)

Long-tailed Cormorant (*Microcarbo africanus*)

Great [White-breasted] Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus*)

Hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*)

Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Black-headed Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*)

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Intermediate Egret (*Ardea intermedia*)

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Black Heron (*Egretta ardesiaca*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

White-backed Night-Heron (*Gorsachius leuconotus*)

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)

Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*)

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

African Harrier-Hawk (*Polyboroides typus*)

Palm-nut Vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*)

White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*)

Black-breasted Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus pectoralis*)

Brown Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus cinereus*)
Banded Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus cinerascens*)
Crowned Eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*)
African Hawk-Eagle (*Aquila spilogaster*)
Lizard Buzzard (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*)
Dark Chanting-Goshawk (*Melierax metabates*)
Gabar Goshawk (*Micronisus gabar*)
African Goshawk (*Accipiter tachiro*)
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter rufiventris*)
Black Goshawk (*Accipiter melanoleucos*)
Black (Yellow-billed) Kite (*Milvus migrans aegyptius*)
African Fish-Eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*)
Augur Buzzard (*Buteo augur*)

Spotted Eagle-Owl (*Bubo africanus*)
Pel's Fishing-Owl (*Scotopelia peli*)
Pearl-spotted Owlet (*Glaucidium perlatum*)
African Barred Owlet (*Glaucidium capense*)
African Wood-Owl (*Strix woodfordii*)

Speckled Mousebird (*Colius striatus*)
Red-faced Mousebird (*Urocolius indicus*)

Bar-tailed Trogon (*Apaloderma vittatum*)

Eurasian (African) Hoopoe (*Upupa epops africana*)

Green Woodhoopoe (*Phoeniculus purpureus*)

Common Scimitarbill (*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*)

Southern Ground-Hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*)

Crowned Hornbill (*Lophoceros alboterminatus*)

African Gray Hornbill (*Lophoceros nasutus*)

Pale-billed Hornbill (*Lophoceros pallidirostris*)

Southern Red-billed Hornbill (*Tockus rufirostris*)

Trumpeter Hornbill (*Bycanistes bucinator*)

Malachite Kingfisher (*Corythornis cristatus*)

Brown-hooded Kingfisher (*Halcyon albiventris*)

Striped Kingfisher (*Halcyon chelicuti*)

Giant Kingfisher (*Megaceryle maxima*)

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

Little Bee-eater (*Merops pusillus*)

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops hirundineus*)

Bohm's Bee-eater (*Merops boehmi*)

Lilac-breasted Roller (*Coracias caudatus*)

Crested Barbet (*Trachyphonus vaillantii*)

White-eared Barbet (*Stactolaema leucotis*)

Moustached Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus leucomystax*)

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*)

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*)

Black-collared Barbet (*Lybius torquatus*)

Green-backed Honeybird (*Prodotiscus zambesiae*)

Pallid Honeyguide (*Indicator meliphilus*)

Lesser Honeyguide (*Indicator minor*)

Scaly-throated Honeyguide (*Indicator variegatus*)

Greater Honeyguide (*Indicator indicator*)

Cardinal Woodpecker (*Chloropicus fuscescens*)

Olive Woodpecker (*Chloropicus griseocephalus*)

Bennett's Woodpecker (*Campethera bennettii*) Heard only

Reichenow's [Speckle-throated] Woodpecker (*Campethera scriptoricauda*)

Dickinson's Kestrel (*Falco dickinsoni*)

Lilian's Lovebird (*Agapornis lilianae*)

Brown-necked Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*)

Meyer's Parrot (*Poicephalus meyeri*)

Brown-headed Parrot (*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*)

African Broadbill (*Smithornis capensis*)

Black-throated Wattle-eye (*Platysteira peltata*)

Cape (Malawi) Batis (*Batis capensis dimorpha*)

Chinspot Batis (*Batis molitor*)

White Helmetshrike (*Prionops plumatus*)

Retz's Helmetshrike (*Prionops retzii*)

Brubru (*Nilaus afer*)

Black-backed Puffback (*Dryoscopus cubla*)

Black-crowned Tchagra (*Tchagra senegalus*)

Brown-crowned Tchagra (*Tchagra australis*)

Tropical Boubou (*Laniarius major*)

Fulleborn's Boubou (*Laniarius fuelleborni*)

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*)

Grey-headed Bushshrike (*Malaconotus blanchoti*)

White-breasted Cuckooshrike (*Coracina pectoralis*)

Black Cuckooshrike (*Campephaga flava*)

Northern Fiscal (*Lanius humeralis*)

African Golden Oriole (*Oriolus auratus*)

African Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus larvatus*)

Green-headed Oriole (*Oriolus chlorocephalus*)

Square-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus ludwigii*)

Fork-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*)

African Crested Flycatcher (*Trochocercus cyanomelas*) Heard only

African Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone viridis*)

Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*)

White-necked Raven (*Corvus albicollis*)

Eastern Nicator (*Nicator gularis*)

Rufous-naped Lark (*Mirafra africana*)

Red-capped Lark (*Calandrella cinerea*)

Angola Swallow (*Hirundo angolensis*)

Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*)

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)

Lesser Striped-Swallow (*Cecropis abyssinica*)

Rufous-chested Swallow (*Cecropis semirufa*)

Black [Eastern] Sawwing (*Psalidoprocne pristoptera orientalis*)

Grey-rumped Swallow (*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*)

White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher (*Elminia albicauda*)

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

Rufous-bellied Tit (*Melaniparus rufiventris*)

Southern Black-Tit (*Melaniparus niger*)

African Spotted Creeper (*Salpornis salvadori*)

Sombre Greenbul (*Andropadus importunus*)

Black-browed Mountain Greenbul (*Arizelocichla fusciceps*)

Stripe-cheeked [Olive-headed] Greenbul (*Arizelocichla milanjensis olivaceps*)

Yellow-bellied Greenbul (*Chlorocichla flaviventris*)

Little Greenbul (*Eurillas virens*)

Terrestrial Brownbul (*Phyllastrephus terrestris*)

Grey-olive Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*)

Cabanis's [Placid] Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus cabanisi placidus*)

Yellow-streaked Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*)

Sharpe's Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus [flavostriatus] alfredi*)

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

Red-capped Crombec (*Sylvietta ruficapilla*)

Cape (Long-billed) Crombec (*Sylvietta rufescens*)

Livingstone's Flycatcher (*Erythrocercus livingstonei*)

Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler (*Phylloscopus ruficapilla*)

Brown Parisoma (*Sylvia lugens*)

African Yellow-Warbler (*Iduna natalensis*)

Mountain Yellow-Warbler (*Iduna similis*) Heard only

Evergreen Forest Warbler (*Bradypterus lopezi*)

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler (*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*)

Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*)

Greencap Eremomela (*Eremomela scotops*)

Green-backed Carmaroptera (*Carmaroptera brachyura*)

Bar-throated Apalis (*Apalis thoracica*)

Yellow-throated Apalis (*Apalis flavigularis*)

White-winged Apalis (*Apalis chariessa*)

Yellow-breasted Apalis (*Apalis flavida*)

Chapin's Apalis (*Apalis chapini*)

Black-headed Apalis (*Apalis melanocephala*)

Brown-headed Apalis (*Apalis alticola*)

Tawny-flanked Prinia (*Prinia subflava*)

Red-winged Prinia (*Prinia erythroptera*)

Red-faced Cisticola (*Cisticola erythrops*)

Singing Cisticola (*Cisticola cantans*)

Black-lored Cisticola (*Cisticola nigriloris*)

Wailing Cisticola (*Cisticola lais*)

Churring Cisticola (*Cisticola njombe*)

Rufous-winged Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*)

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Wing-snapping Cisticola (*Cisticola ayresii*)

African Yellow White-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*)

Arrow-marked Babbler (*Turdoides jardineii*)

Yellow-bellied Hyliota (*Hyliota flavigaster*)

Southern Hyliota (*Hyliota australis*)

Dusky-brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa adusta*)

Bohm's Flycatcher (*Bradornis boehmi*)

Grey Tit-Flycatcher (*Fraseria plumbea*)

Ashy Flycatcher (*Fraseria caerulescens*)

Southern Black-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis pammelaina*)

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis fischeri*)

Bearded Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*)

Red-backed Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas leucophrys*)

Olive-flanked Robin-Chat (*Cossypha anomala*)

Cape Robin-Chat (*Cossypha caffra*)

White-browed Robin-Chat (*Cossypha heuglini*)

Red-capped Robin-Chat (*Cossypha natalensis*)

Collared Palm-Thrush (*Cichladusa arquata*)
White-starred Robin (*Pogonocichla stellata*)
Cholo Alethe (*Chamaetylas choloensis*)
White-chested Alethe (*Chamaetylas fuelleborni*)
East Coast Akalat (*Shepphardia gunningi*)
Miombo Rock-Thrush (*Monticola angolensis*)
African Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*)
Boulder Chat (*Pinarornis plumosus*)
White-headed Black Chat (*Myrmecocichla arnotti*)
Mocking Cliff-Chat (*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*)
Familiar Chat (*Oenanthe familiaris*)

Kurrichane Thrush (*Turdus libonyana*)

Violet-backed Starling (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*)
Red-winged Starling (*Onychognathus morio*)
Waller's Starling (*Onychognathus walleri*)
Meve's Starling (*Lamprotornis mevesii*)
Lesser [Miombo] Blue-eared Starling (*Lamprotornis chloropterus elisabeth*)
Greater Blue-eared Starling (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*)

Red-billed Oxpecker (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*)

Anchieta's Sunbird (*Anthreptes anchietae*)
Western Violet-backed Sunbird (*Anthreptes longuemarei*)

Collared Sunbird (*Hedydipna collaris*)
Olive Sunbird (*Cyanomitra olivacea*)
Amethyst Sunbird (*Chalcomitra amethystina*)
Scarlet-chested Sunbird (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*)
Bronze Sunbird (*Nectarinia kilimensis*)
Malachite Sunbird (*Nectarinia famosa*)
Scarlet-tufted Sunbird (*Nectarinia johnstoni*)
Miombo Sunbird (*Cinnyris manoensis*)
Montane [Whyte's] Double-collared Sunbird (*Cinnyris ludovicensis*)
Forest Double-collared Sunbird (*Cinnyris mediocris*)
Purple-banded Sunbird (*Cinnyris bifasciatus*)
White-breasted Sunbird (*Cinnyris talatala*)
Variable Sunbird (*Cinnyris venustus*)

Mountain Wagtail (*Motacilla clara*)
African Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla aguimp*)
African (Grassland) Pipit (*Anthus cinnamomeus*)
Plain-backed Pipit (*Anthus leucophrys*)
Yellow-throated Longclaw (*Macronyx croceus*)

Yellow-fronted Canary (*Crithagra mozambicus*)
Southern Citril (*Crithagra hypostictus*)
Brimstone Canary (*Crithagra sulphurata*)
Yellow-browed Seedeater (*Crithagra whytii*)
Reichard's Seedeater (*Crithagra reichardi*)

Yellow-crowned Canary (*Serinus flavivertex*)

Cabanis's Bunting (*Emberiza cabanisi*)

Golden-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza flaviventris*)

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza tahapisi*)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Introduced

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow (*Passer griseus*)

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow (*Passer diffusus*)

Yellow-throated Petronia (*Gymnornis superciliaris*)

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver (*Plocepasser mahali*)

Red-headed Weaver (*Anaplectes rubriceps*)

Bertram's Weaver (*Ploceus bertrandi*)

Baglafaecht Weaver (*Ploceus baglafaecht*)

Spectacled Weaver (*Ploceus ocularis*)

African Golden-Weaver (*Ploceus subaureus*)

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

Southern Brown-throated Weaver (*Ploceus xanthopterus*)

Lesser Masked-Weaver (*Ploceus intermedius*)

Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*)

Forest Weaver (*Ploceus bicolor*)

Black-winged Red Bishop (*Euplectes hordeaceus*)

Yellow Bishop (*Euplectes capensis*)

Buff-shouldered Widowbird (*Euplectes psammocromius*)

Yellow-bellied Waxbill (*Coccothraustes quartinia*)
Southern Cordonbleu (*Uraeginthus angolensis*)
Peter's Twinspot (*Hypargos niveoguttatus*)
Green-winged Pytilia (*Pytilia melba*)
Orange-winged Pytilia (*Pytilia afra*)
Red-billed Firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegala*)
African Firefinch (*Lagonosticta rubricata*)
Cut-throat (*Amadina fasciata*)
Bronze Mannikin (*Spermestes cucullata*)
Black-and-white (Red-backed) Mannikin (*Spermestes bicolor*)

Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*)
Broad-tailed Paradise-Whydah (*Vidua obtuse*)
Village Indigobird (*Vidua chalybeata*)

MAMMALS

Yellow Baboon (*Papio cyanocephalus*)
Vervet Monkey (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*)
Blue Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*)

Greater Galago (*Otolemur crassicaudatus*)

Scrub Hare (*Lepus saxatilis*)

Mutable Sun Squirrel (*Heliosciurus mutabilis*)

Smith's Bush Squirrel (*Paraxerus cepapi*)

Lion (*Panthera leo*)

Spotted Hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*) Heard only

Side-striped Jackal (*Canis adustus*)

Honey Badger (*Mellivora capensis*)

Slender Mongoose (*Herpestes sanguinea*)

White-tailed Mongoose (*Ichneumia albicauda*)

Meller's Mongoose (*Rhynchogale melleri*)

Large-spotted Genet (*Genetta maculata*)

Miombo Genet (*Genetta angolensis*)

African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)

Common Zebra (*Equus burchelli crawshayi*)

Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)

Common Warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*)

Bush Pig (*Potamochoerus larvatus*)

Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*)

Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*)

Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*)

Bush Duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*)

Klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*)

Bohor Reedbuck (*Redunca redunca*)

Defassa Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)

Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*)

Roan Antelope (*Hippotragus equines*)

Sable Antelope (*Hippotragus niger*)

REPTILES

African House Gecko (*Hemidactylus* sp.)

Bill's Tree Agama (*Acanthocerus branchi*)

Rainbow Skink (*Trachylepis margaritifer*)

Nile Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*)

Nile Crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*)