This little-known country is emerging as one of the birding and wildlife gems of the amazing African continent. Best known for the great lake that dominates the east of the country, Malawi, with its low population and relatively large areas of varied habitats, ensures a spectacular list of many African birds difficult to see in more familiar African tourist destinations like South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania. Combined with some amazing conservation efforts and the development of superb accommodations and national park infrastructure the tourists are starting to arrive in numbers. It is a good opportunity to visit before this well-kept secret becomes widely known.

On this tour we will visit the montane Nyika National Park, the lush lowlands of Liwonde National Park, Lake Malawi itself in the region of Chintheche and both the Viphya Plateau and Zomba Massif. All of these locations offer different habitats from the famously bird rich Miombo and Mopane woodlands, cloud forest, stunning wetlands, floodplains and excellent rolling grasslands.

Birding is outstanding and we expect a list of between 350-400 species including several Southern Rift endemics. Some of the special birds we will be searching for include Denham’s Bustard, Dickinson’s Kestrel, Boehm’s Bee-eater, Schalow’s Turaco, Pel’s Fishing-owl, Usambara Nightjar, Blue Swallow, White-winged Babbling-Starling, Malawi Batis, Yellow-throated Apalis, Scarlet-tufted Sunbird, Locust Finch and Red-throated Twinspot to mention a few.

Beyond the birds we can expect to see a good cross-section of mammals: African Elephant, Crayshaw’s Zebra, Eland, Roan and Sable Antelope, Waterbuck, Bushbuck, Red and Grey Duiker, Lichtenstein’s Hartebeest, Cape
Buffalo, Hippopotamus, Yellow Baboon, Samango Monkey, Bushbaby, Spotted Hyaena, Serval and leopard are all possible.

**August 9 & 10, Days 1 & 2: Travel to Malawi.** Tour participants should make plans to arrive in Lilongwe (airport code LLW) no later than 1:00 p.m. on August 11. We suggest that you connect through Johannesburg which may require an overnight layover. Those wishing to arrive early will have plenty of birds to keep them occupied until the start of the tour. Upon request, the VENT office will be happy to assist with any additional lodging and transfer arrangements.

**NIGHTS: In transit**

**August 11, Day 3: Arrival in Lilongwe.** After clearing customs at the airport we will head to our lodge to check in. Kumbali Lodge is very comfortable and set in great gardens on the edge of a patch of Miombo woodland. After getting settled in we will explore this nearby patch of woodland at the Lilongwe Nature Sanctuary. Here we will look for birds like Schalow’s Turaco, Lesser and Scaly-throated Honeyguide, African Broadbill, Black Cuckoo-shrike, Orange-breasted Bushshrike and Red-throated Twinspot. Further afield we can explore grasslands for the shy Locust Finch, scarce Orange-breasted Waxbill, Yellow-throated and Rosy-throated Longclaw with a chance for the localised Grey-rumped Swallow.

**NIGHT: Kumbali Lodge, Lilongwe**

**August 12, Day 4: Dzalanyama Forest Reserve.** We will make a full day (and an early start) for exploring the Miombo (**Brachystegia**) woodlands that are fabulously diverse and home to a bunch of regional endemics. Unfortunately, the woodlands are under intense pressure from charcoal cutters. Birds we will be on the lookout for today include Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Pale-billed Hornbill, Grey-headed Parrot, Brown-backed Honeybird, Eastern Saw-wing, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Stierling’s Wren-warbler, White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike, Retz’s and White-crested Helmet-shrike, Sousa’s Shrike, Green-capped Eremomela, Red-capped Crombec, Yellow-bellied and Southern Hyliota, African Spotted Creeper, Rufous-bellied and Miombo Tit, Amethyst, Miombo Double-collared, Western Violet-backed and the scarce Anchieta’s Sunbirds, Boulder Chat, Striped Pipit, Miombo Scrub-Robin and Miombo Rock-Thrush.

**NIGHT: Kumbali Lodge, Lilongwe**

**August 13, Day 5: Luwawa.** After breakfast we will head north and after a while will begin making our way up the Viphya Plateau. Although much of the area has been converted to farmland, there are still good pockets of mixed woodlands, wetlands and some forest at our ultimate destination for the day, Luwawa. We can expect to see a good cross-section of birds including Comb Duck, African Marsh-Harrier, African Olive Pigeon, Olive Woodpecker, Red-rumped Swallow, White-headed Sawwing, Chapin’s Apalis, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Tropical Boubou, Bronzed Sunbird, Forest Double-collared Sunbird, Bertram’s Weaver, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and Cabanis’s Bunting. We can try our luck to see some particularly skulking birds like Evergreen Forest Warbler and the Red-chested Flufftail.

**NIGHT: Luwawa Forest Lodge, between Lilongwe and Mzuzu**

**August 14, Day 6: Nyika National Park.** After a morning walk we will drive towards Nyika National Park, arguably Malawi’s premier attraction. The drive will be punctuated with various birding stops in different habitats like palm savanna, rolling grasslands and wooded streams. Birds we will be on the lookout for include African Red-headed Falcon, Augur Buzzard, Broad-tailed Grass-warbler and Short-winged Cisticola. We should arrive at the Chelinda Lodge, nestled in some **Hagenia** woodland, to settle in for a three-night stay.

**NIGHT: Chelinda Lodge, Nyika National Park**
August 15-16, Days 7-8: Nyika National Park. There is a varied assemblage of habitats to explore in this spectacular montane national park close to the border of Zambia. The park is dominated by moorlands, rocky outcrops and pockets of forest. The cool mountain air is delicious and at night we can recap our adventures next to a fire.

Mammals are conspicuous. We should definitely see Plains Zebra (Crayshaw’s is the subspecies here), Eland, the spectacular Roan Antelope, Warthog, Grey and Red Duiker plus Samango Monkey. With luck we may encounter the delightful Serval as it hunts in the grassland, or perhaps Side-striped Jackal or the unusual Tree Hyrax.

Large birds found in the grassland include Denham’s and Black-bellied Bustard, Red-winged and Hildebrandt’s Francolin and Red-necked Spurfowl. Smaller grassland birds include the spectacular Blue Swallow, showy Montane Widowbird, Grassland Pipit, Black-lored and Churring Cisticola. Forest pockets are home to Lemon Dove, Crowned Hornbill, Bar-tailed Trogon, Moustached Tinkerbird, Olive Woodpecker, Dusky Turtle-Dove, Sharpe’s Greenbul, Southern Mountain Greenbul, Fulleborn’s Boubou, White-chested Alethe (very shy), Olive-flanked Robin-chat, Sharpe’s Akalat, Mountain Yellow-Warbler, Forest Double-collared Sunbird, Mountain Thrush, Evergreen Forest-Warbler, Malawi Batis, Slender-billed Starling and Waller’s Starling. Other birds we hope to see include Scarlet-tufted Sunbird (scarce), Malachite Sunbird, Ludwig’s Double-collared Sunbird and White-winged Black-Tit. More widespread species we may encounter include Rufous-naped Lark, Angola Swallow, Yellow-browed Seedeater, Yellow-crowned Canary, Baglafecht Weaver, and Yellow-bellied Waxbill with chances for a variety of raptors like Black-winged Kite or the enormous Martial Eagle.

At night we can go for a drive where we hope to spot nocturnal mammals like leopard, Serval or Spotted Hyena. There is a reasonable chance to see some night birds such as the Usambara Nightjar, Marsh Owl, Spotted Eagle-Owl and maybe with luck African Grass Owl.

NIGHTS: Chelinda Lodge, Nyika National Park

August 17, Day 9: Nyika National Park to Lake Malawi. After a final morning exploring Nyika National Park and hopefully tracking down anything we may have missed, we will move towards Lake Malawi for a two-night stay at Chintheche Inn. This hotel is set on quite beautiful white sand beaches on one of Africa’s great lakes. Between Nyika and the Lake we will make stops to explore more patches of Miombo. This habitat is bird rich and we can look for Miombo Pied Barbet, Bohm’s Flycatcher, Arnot’s Chat, Red-winged Warbler, Orange-winged Pytilia, Miombo Blue-eared Starling and hopefully the White-winged Babbling Starling. Forest glades will give us the chance to see Whyte’s Barbet, Fulleborn’s Boubou, Brown-headed Apalis, Brown Parisoma and East Coast Akalat.

NIGHT: Chintheche Inn, Bandawe

August 18, Day 10: Lake Malawi. The hotel gardens offer quite good birding and it is possible to see Palm-nut Vulture, African Barred Owlet, Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Yellow Weaver and Purple-banded Sunbird, just to mention a few species. It is also a great place to relax and have a swim in the crystal-clear water. Every room has its own beach view panorama of the shoreline of Lake Malawi. The lake is home to a famous diversity of colourful Cichlid fish (over 900 species) most famous for their mouth brooding behaviors. Snorkeling is possible (you can rent a mask from the hotel desk).

NIGHT: Chintheche Inn, Bandawe

August 19, Day 11: Salima. Today we will travel south along the lakeshore of Lake Malawi towards Salima. There is good birding to be had in patches of riparian woodland and Miombo along the way. Once near Salima a stop at a seasonally flooded wetland, known locally as a Dambo may produce more new species including hopefully African Pygmy-Goose, Collared Pratincole, Cut-throat Finch and Marsh Tchagra. After a good day of birding we will reach our well situated and comfortable hotel.
**August 20, Day 12: Liwonde National Park.** Saying farewell to Lake Malawi we will head to one of Malawi’s most famous wildlife sites, the fabulous Liwonde National Park, centered on the Shire River. We will be transported by boat to the wonderful Mvuu Camp. From here we can explore and go birding on foot and in safari vehicles.

**NIGHT: Mvuu Lodge, Liwonde National Park**

**August 21-22, Days 13-14: Liwonde National Park.** This national park protects a good variety of habitats from floodplain grasslands, riverine forest and mopane woodland. It boasts a bird list in excess of 350 species including a host of wetland birds ranging from Saddle-billed Stork to Pink-backed Pelican. Some of the big name birds include African Skimmer, Half-collared Kingfisher, White-backed Night-Heron, Pel’s Fishing-Owl, Dickinson’s Kestrel, Lillian’s Lovebird, Brown-breasted Barbet, Racket-tailed Roller, Bohm’s Bee-eater, Speckle-throated Woodpecker, Livingstone’s Flycatcher, Meve’s Starling and Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah. Mammal watching is excellent and we hope to see African Elephant, the extraordinary Sable Antelope, Cape Buffalo, Lichtenstein’s Hartebeest, Yellow Baboon and at night Thick-tailed Bushbaby. It will be hard to miss hordes of hippopotamus and giant Nile Crocodiles. Our lodge has spacious tents with en suite bathrooms and a private viewing platform over a lagoon.

**NIGHTS: Mvuu Lodge, Liwonde National Park**

**August 23, Day 15: Zomba.** We will head south to the Zomba Plateau to the old colonial capital of Zomba. The mountain, a huge granite outcrop rising to 7000 feet, has just a few pockets of native forest remaining in gullies. The plateau is home to a number of special African bird species like Livingstone’s Turaco, the endangered endemic Yellow-throated and White-winged Apalis, Malawi Batis and Olive Bush-Shrike. Our hotel commands spectacular views over the highlands which on a clear day can include Mount Mulanje.

**NIGHT: Ku Chawe Inn, Zomba**

**August 24, Day 16: Zomba.** We will have a full day birding in the Zomba district as the special birds here can take some finding and having the time will give us the best possible chance to see these while keeping a relaxed and comfortable pace.

**NIGHT: Ku Chawe Inn, Zomba**

**August 25, Day 17: Blantyre via Mount Mulanje.** Our last full day of birding in Malawi will require an early start as we would like to make the most of the important forest birding possible in Mount Mulange and Thyolo. Birds we will be searching for include Narina Trogon, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Little Green and White-eared Barbet, White-chested and Thyolo Alethe, Green-headed Oriole, Black-fronted Bush-shrike and a good diversity of bulbuls including Little Green, Stripe-cheeked, Gray-olive and Yellow-streaked. We will enjoy a celebratory meal in a fine restaurant at a very comfortable hotel.

**NIGHT: Ryall’s Hotel, Blantyre**

**August 26, Day 18: Departure for home.** Participants can schedule their flights home at any time today from Blantyre’s Chileka International Airport (airport code BLZ).

**TOUR SIZE:** This tour will be limited to 8 participants.

**TOUR LEADER: Dion Hobcroft**
Dion Hobcroft has been working for VENT since 2001. He has led many tours (more than 170) to Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, Bhutan, Indonesia, India, China, Southwest Pacific, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Japan, Russia, Alaska, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Antarctic. In 2007 and 2013-2017 alone Dion showed more than 2,000 species of birds to VENT clients. His informative, relaxed, and educational nature, combined with sharp eyes and ears, has established Dion as a favourite of many tour participants. His fieldwork for over 40 years on birds and other terrestrial vertebrates has allowed him to amass an extraordinary knowledge of the biodiversity in the Afro-Asia-Pacific region. Born in Tasmania and based in Sydney, Dion has travelled widely throughout Australasia, listing over 1,200 species, placing him in the top echelons of the region’s birders. He is very tuned-in to the songs of bird species in the Asia-Pacific region, and specializes in rare and elusive species. He is delighted to show these skulking rarities to his travel companions. Dion has published several papers on field ornithology, served on national and state rare bird committees, managed Birdline NSW, run introduction to ornithology courses for Sydney University, and, before he travelled so continuously, was a popular speaker with various natural history societies. Dion has worked for many research and government agencies ranging from the Antarctic Division, Department of Environment NSW, Agriculture Protection WA, Taronga Zoo, Australian Museum, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industry. Dion lives in Sydney with his wife, Lise, and two children, Grace (age 16) and Daniel (age 12).

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for the tour is $8,745 in double occupancy from Lilongwe (tour ends in Blantyre). This includes all meals from Dinner on Day 3 through breakfast on Day 19, accommodations as stated in the itinerary, ground transportation, park entrance fees, gratuities, and guide services provided by the tour leader and local guides. It does not include airfare from your home to Lilongwe and return, airport departure taxes, visa fees, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry or items of a personal nature. Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration, a small-party supplement may be charged.

The single supplement fee for the tour is $750. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodation, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The initial deposit for this tour is $500 per person. If you would like to pay your initial deposit by check, money order, or bank transfer, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay the initial deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard, Visa, or American Express at the time of registration. The VENT registration form (available from the VENT office or by download at www.ventbird.com) should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office.

PAYMENTS: Initial tour deposits may be made by MasterCard, Visa, American Express, check, money order, or bank transfer. All other tour payments, including second deposits, interim payments, final balances, special arrangements, etc., must be made by check, money order, or bank transfer (contact the VENT office for bank transfer information). Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation penalties and refunds are based on the following schedule: if cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of $250 per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be $100 per person. If cancellation is made fewer than 120 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions. **We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.**

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*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be $100 per person.

Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services, where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of the terms and conditions of any of the contract for transportation or travel services, all sums paid to VENT for services not received by you will be promptly refunded by VENT to you unless you otherwise advise VENT in writing.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of $50,000. CST #2014998-50.

**FUEL & FUEL SURCHARGES:** In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**EXCHANGE RATE SURCHARGES:** In the erratic global financial markets of today, it is difficult to predict foreign currency exchange rates over the long term or at the time of operation of a tour or cruise departure. Tour prices are based upon the rate of exchange at the time of itinerary publication. If exchange rates change drastically, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount. In many cases, these additional foreign exchange rate surcharges are passed to VENT by its vendors and suppliers.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends Travel Insured International as our preferred insurance provider. Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip.

Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after registering. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a “Cancel for Any Reason” clause among others. Contact Travel Insured International (800-243-3174 or www.travelinsured.com) prior to registration for details. Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than Travel Insured International, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

Medical Insurance which covers you for emergency evacuation/repatriation during the trip is recommended for this tour. This coverage is included in the Worldwide Trip Protector plan offered by Travel Insured International. If you do not choose to purchase the insurance through Travel Insured International, you may do so through another insurance provider. A good website for information and acquisition of emergency evacuation/repatriation insurance is: www.insuremytrip.com.

**AIR INFORMATION:** Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please be sure to check with the VENT office prior to purchasing your air ticket to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. VENT cannot be responsible for any air ticket penalties.

**BAGGAGE:** To ensure your comfort and that of your companions, please limit yourself to one medium-sized
suitcase or duffel bag and one carry-on bag.

**CLIMATE:** The temperatures will be warm to hot during the day and pleasantly warm at night. At Nyika and Zomba, it can be cloudier and distinctly cool at night. At Lake Malawi and Liwonde it can become hot during the mid-day. We retire for a siesta during the heat of the day when possible. Although this is Malawi’s dry season, rain is possible.

**CLOTHING:** Light-weight, neutral (dull)-coloured clothing that can be easily rinsed out and dried quickly (cottons or cotton blends) is recommended for the field. Long-sleeved shirts and long pants will help protect you from insects, thorny plants and sunburn. Shorts will be appropriate for some occasions. A sweater or jacket is useful for cooler nights and early mornings. Bring a bathing suit as there will be opportunities to swim. Dress is casual throughout. For protection from the sun a good wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen is highly recommended. You should also bring rain gear including an umbrella. Strong-soled shoes or hiking boots are essential as we will spend a good amount of time on our feet. We have designed this tour to avoid as much of the difficult terrain as possible and overall it is an easy tour. Generally an inexpensive laundry service will be available throughout the tour which should help you in deciding what to pack. Making use of laundry service means you will not need to bring as many items of clothing as you would otherwise.

**CURRENCY:** It is only possible to exchange US dollars, South African Rand, Euros and Pounds Sterling in Malawi and the best place to do it is at the airport upon arrival. Please remember cash notes have to be printed post 2007, and in mint condition to be exchanged, with no tears, discoloration or other damage. The local currency known as Kwacha is the only acceptable or usable form of cash. Visa, American Express, MasterCard and Diners Club credit cards are accepted at just a very few locations in Lilongwe, but have limited use elsewhere in the country. Please note Kwacha cannot easily be changed outside of Malawi when you leave, so if you have surplus currency please change it back at the International Airport.

**DOCUMENTS:** A valid passport containing at least one blank page for entry stamp is required for United States and Canadian citizens to enter Malawi. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least six months following your departure from Malawi. U.S. and Canadian citizens staying in Malawi for less than 30 days will be able to receive a visa upon arrival. The cost for this at the time of publication $75 USD payable in USD cash on arrival. However the country may soon be moving to an e-visa system and it is wise to check the following site www.immigration.gov.mw for any updates. Citizens of other countries should check with their consulate/embassy for instructions.

It is very important that your passport be on your body at all times. We caution against carrying your passport in your backpack or purse.

If you have been to certain countries in mainland Africa (excludes South Africa) or Asia or had a stop-over for one night en route, Malawi health authorities may check to see that your cholera and yellow fever inoculations are up to date and shown on your International Health Card, although this has not been the case in recent experience.

**EQUIPMENT:** You should pack a pair of binoculars in good repair along with a belt pack or backpack (for carrying books, sunscreen, extra memory cards etc.). As a precaution, it is a good idea to pack your binoculars, a change of clothing, toiletry items, medication, and travel documents in your airline carry-on bag. Your leader will have a spotting scope, however, if you have one and wish to bring it, please feel free to do so. You will want to pack an alarm clock, a water bottle or canteen, a strong flashlight, a washcloth, film or flash cards and batteries for your camera (Malawi is a very photogenic place and offers lots of opportunity for photography), and between-meal snacks such as trail mix. Insects are few and generally not a problem, but the best way to avoid any chance of disease is to not get bitten, so bring a small amount of repellent such as Cutter's or OFF. A collapsible walking stick can be useful. If you think you need one bring it along, although we will not be going over much hilly or uneven terrain.

**COMMUNICATION:** Wifi is available in the hotel in Lilongwe but not at most hotels where we stay. It is often quite slow and frustrating but ok for small emails, not good for sending videos! It is quite easy to get your phone set to international roaming and text message home as an easy alternative. Contact your telco for the best plan. As a general rule turn off your mobile data in your phone settings when overseas.
**HEALTH:** It is important to note that modern medical facilities and prescription drugs are not common in Malawi, so you should be in reasonable health to consider this tour. If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication especially liquids exceeding 100 ml.

Malaria is present including the chloroquine-resistant strain; all areas are at a moderate risk. There are several options for malaria prophylaxis including atovaquone-proguanil, mefloquine and doxycycline. These medications are available by prescription only. Please consult your physician or local travel clinic for recommendations. Yellow fever is not present in Malawi and vaccinations are required for entry into Malawi only if you are arriving from an infected area. As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers’ Information Line at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), or you can check their website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

**MISC:** Electricity - 230 volts, type G power adaptor needed (three prong South African type plugs). Please note the adaptor is best ordered online.

Language - Malawi: English and Chicha is spoken
Time - Malawi is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time

**SUGGESTED READING:** A number of traditional booksellers and online stores list excellent inventories of field guides and other natural history resources that will help prepare you for this tour. We recommend www.amazon.com which has a wide selection; www.buteobooks.com and www.nhbs.com which specialize in ornithology and natural history books; and www.abebooks.com for out-of-print and hard-to-find titles.

The following two books are highly recommended and offer complete and up to date information on all the birds and mammals of Malawi:
The recommended field guide, also available as an app.

Other useful alternatives include:

**TIPPING:** Tipping (restaurant staff, porters, drivers, local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that tips are not expected and are entirely optional. Tips should be given directly to your tour leader; they should not be sent to the VENT office.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category.
for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air
schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full
settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. Where this is necessary,
notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless
arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and
exchange rates in effect on April 10, 2018 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The
right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk
entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission,
or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines,
when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or
passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United
States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.

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