NORTHERN TANZANIA
BIRDING & WILDLIFE IN THE SERENGETI, NGORONGORO CRATER AND BEYOND

OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 16, 2018

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For nature lovers the Serengeti has been called “the greatest show on earth,” not without good reason, for this huge and diverse ecosystem is home to several million large mammals plus a bewildering array of birds and smaller creatures. This tour took full advantage of this wealth as we covered an amazing transect from the shores of Lake Victoria east through the woodlands and plains of the Serengeti to immense Ngorongoro Crater, lush Lake Manyara, and semiarid Tarangire National Park. Every habitat visited had its specialties, and every day brought wonderful sightings. Few destinations have improved as the decades have gone by, but Tanzania certainly has. The facilities were good, with each lodge quite different and unique. Food was abundant and tasty, the people friendly, and, most important, the parks and reserves are in great shape. Our Tanzanian driver-guides Geitan Ndunguru and Roger Mwengi were delightful to be with, highly skilled, full of information, and always patient, cheerful, and ready for us. This is a country with a lot going for it!

Our visit was timed for a season of change, as the prolonged dry season gives way to the first showers of the oncoming rains. However, climate is never as strictly defined as one might hope, and this year the first rains were late and had not arrived over most of the region, making conditions quite dry. This was both good and bad. The mass migration of wildebeest and zebra was delayed in arriving in the areas that we visited, so we encountered only modest numbers of them, but resident mammals like the elephant, lion, and buffalo were concentrated near the remaining water sources. Waterbirds that spread out far and wide with the rains were bunched up in large numbers at a few key sites, while in the driest areas even small puddles attracted birds coming to drink. Because of the prolonged dry season, the grass was short or grazed bare in many areas, making things easier to spot, as well as setting many of the mammals on the move in search of greener pastures where the first showers had fallen and produced a flush of new growth. With the lack of rain, insectivorous birds were scarce, and the weavers and relatives were not breeding, but instead birds like raptors, francolins, bustards, and coursers that nest in the dry season were more conspicuous than expected. All said, we experienced a wonderful snapshot of a brief period in the course of a year on the ever-changing African plains.

Since everyone arrived a day early “to rest up from the long flights,” we of course began birding right away that morning, on the beautifully landscaped grounds of Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge. Set on the flanks of Mt. Meru, this environment is moister than most that we visited, and our relaxed day here added a number of birds not seen elsewhere, plus it provided a great introduction to many commoner species. Along the small lake and stream we had Giant Kingfishers and a Hamerkop calmly perched nearby, a lovely Mountain Wagtail foraging practically at our feet, and the very localized Taveta Golden-Weavers visiting nests in the marshes. Nearby jacarandas in glorious full bloom hosted calling Brown-hooded Kingfishers and Colobus monkeys, while a big fruiting fig tree was full of White-eared Barbets and several huge Silvery-cheeked Hornbills. Our
best surprise here was a very unexpected pair of colorful Brown-breasted Barbets exploring a potential nest site.

The first “official” day of the tour found us in nearby Arusha National Park, where a remarkable variety of habitats are found within a small area. Eleven species of mammals were spotted, including the rarely-seen Harvey’s Duiker, while the Momela Lakes produced an almost overwhelming wealth of waterbirds, including several Maccoa Ducks amidst the numerous Southern Pochards, both species of flamingos, our first fabulous Gray Crowned-Cranes, and three Black Storks, a rare migrant.

In the mossy mountain forest, a well-hidden Hartlaub’s Turaco finally posed for scope views, while on a brushy hillside colorful White-fronted Bee-eaters perched a few feet from our vehicles, one of them carrying a large swallowtail butterfly to its nest hole in a road bank.

The next day we flew to Mwanza on Lake Victoria, arriving as a rainstorm receded. This is the second largest city in Tanzania, and skirting the edge of it gave us a taste of the vibrant life of a bustling African city, including dozens of Marabou Storks at the refuse dumps. From here we drove north to lovely Speke Bay Lodge for a late lunch. Set right on the shore of placid Lake Victoria, we found the flowering ornamentals at the lodge swarming with Red-chested Sunbirds and weavers, while skulking Spotted Morning Thrushes and a Gray-capped Warbler fed at our feet. Late afternoon birding in the acacia savannah behind the lodge was especially productive, the call of the little Pearl-spotted Owlet attracting a ridiculous mob of small “bush birds” as well as the owlet itself. Shocking in color were the scarlet Black-headed Gonoleks, while far less expected was the beautiful Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike. The following morning we tracked down even more in this area, from specialties of the Lake Victoria shoreline to a family group of Spotted Thick-knees and the endemic Gray-breasted Spurfowl. Gorgeous Blue-capped Cordonbleus were commonplace, while we were lucky to get great looks at a skulking pair of brilliant Green-winged Pytilias that finally came out into the open.
After lunch we entered fabled Serengeti National Park for the long drive across the “Western Corridor.” Almost immediately we began encountering mammals—and then more mammals! This proved to be the only area on the tour that had received some rain, and clearly many animals had moved in as it freshened up. There were giraffe, buffalo, and a confusing assortment of antelope to sort out, including Impala, Grant’s and Thomson’s gazelles, Hartebeest, Topi, and even a few Eland, the largest of all. Milling around were a few compact lines of wildebeest and zebra, the lead part of the great migration, and as we came around a bend in a thicker patch of trees we suddenly had our first elephants. Nor did we neglect the spectacular larger birds that were spotted, including Ostrich; Secretarybird; Brown and Black-breasted snake-eagles and other raptors; White-bellied and Black-bellied bustards; and Southern Ground-Hornbills. All of this made for quite an introduction, but perhaps the biggest surprise of all was our “tented lodge” at Kubu-Kubu. Set on a hilltop with a magnificent view overlooking a vast area of the Serengeti, its many luxurious amenities made it feel like anything but “camping.”

Our game drives from Kubu-Kubu found us exploring the heart of the Serengeti, finding something to look at around every bend. As we approached Seronera on our first morning, we were delayed by an incredible line of African Buffalo crossing the road in front of us, numbering at least 1,000 animals and taking a long time to pass. There are few other places in the world where such a spectacular mass movement of large mammals still exists. The well-studied lions of the Seronera area are a major attraction, and on our second day in this area they were ridiculous. A few golden heads spotted in the grass proved to be an amazing pride when, one by one, they got up and deliberately marched right past our vehicles. Several adult lionesses led the way, and then cubs of several sizes magically popped up out of the tall grass, followed by a gimpy old male who was undoubtedly staying close to the pride for protection. In all there were at least 18 (maybe 20?) animals in this pride, its large size indicative of the richness of this area. However, those weren’t the last lions of the morning, for later we found four males with full manes lying in the shade of some acacias, looking very lazy and contented. Of course, it wasn’t all about lions. Birds were diverse too,
from sneaky Coqui Francolins to cryptic Double-banded Coursers to a perched White-headed Vulture and colorful Lilac-breasted Rollers, always a safari favorite. A stop at the Interpretive Center added some of the smaller species to our growing list, the tiny and obscure African Penduline-Tit perhaps best appreciated by your leaders.

From the central area we traveled to the northeastern Serengeti, through miles of open woodland and heavily-grazed plains, en route finally finding the endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill (good spotting Victor!). This part of the Serengeti is moister and hillier, and here we headquartered at the classic old Lobo Lodge, built right amidst a long rock “kopje” and quite unique architecturally. Here we found comical hyrax and brilliant agama lizards scurrying everywhere and specialty birds like the Mocking Cliff-Chat and Red-winged Starling. Less amusing were the rather obnoxious baboons roosting and foraging around the lodge kopje.

Just outside the gate we found our first Klipspringers, a small antelope specially adapted to life on the rocks, but best of all was a large raptor spotted carrying a prey item into the crotch of a large fig tree. It proved to be an adult Crowned Eagle, considered the most powerful raptor in Africa and an absolute terror to the smaller creatures. We watched it gorge itself for a long time.
Finding animals in such a vast wilderness always involves a bit of serendipity, and luck was with us as we left the Lobo area. As we slowed for a vehicle stopped just ahead of us, we quickly realized that they had spotted something in the grass just off the track. Leopard! It was a good-sized one, frozen in position as it gazed intently at a rocky thicket. As we watched breathlessly, it very slowly and deliberately began stalking something that we could not see, finally making a rapid lunge—only to miss its target! Dejectedly, it then casually strolled across the road right behind our vehicles and disappeared into the grass, leaving us savoring an amazing experience with this most elusive of the large cats. The rest of this day we slowly worked our way eastward across the vast open plains, largely empty of game at this time of year. A picnic lunch at the Naabi Hill Gate was well-attended by an assortment of birds begging at our feet, and then we descended to the dry short-grass en route to Ndutu Lodge, stopping en route for eagles on the ground, close Kori Bustards, and a Golden Jackal that disappeared into a hole right before our eyes, perhaps its den.

Remote and intimate Ndutu Lodge was a favorite stop. Here we looked hard for cheetah on our game drives, never finding one, but in the meantime we watched sandgrouse coming to drink; saw both a juvenile and an adult Martial Eagle perched close at hand; and enjoyed elephants coming to the marsh to drink, splash, and eat. Back at the lodge, the pan of water attracted numerous small birds during the day, including Fischer’s Lovebirds and Rufous-tailed Weavers, both endemic to this region. One evening our dessert course, after yet another wonderful meal here, was interrupted by the entertaining antics of a family of young genets inside the lodge.

Leaving Ndutu we crossed the dusty plains to nearby Olduvai Gorge, in the rainshadow of the Crater Highlands. As we approached Olduvai we spotted several vultures on the ground, drove over to investigate, and soon had an amazing griffon show before us as they devoured a dead sheep. As more and more dropped from great heights, it quickly turned into a rowdy mob, the hungriest birds forcefully pushing into the crowd until several huge Lappet-faced Vultures arrived and took command. This species, with its massive beak, dominates all of the others, and they amply demonstrated this. Nearby it was thought-provocative to stand on the rim of the “Cradle of Mankind” and reflect on man’s origins, while the excellent new museum helped interpret all of this for us.

No safari to Northern Tanzania is complete without visiting Ngorongoro Crater, sometimes called the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” Here on the floor of the world’s largest caldera is an entire
eco-system in an area covering just over 100 square miles. Plains game is abundant, with all of the Big Five present, while freshwater and soda lakes attract numerous waterbirds, and the grasslands and yellowbark forests support numerous other species. Highlights of our amazing day here included lazy lions that were quite upsetting to a big male warthog trotting past them; the big bull elephant that took his time to cross the road between backed-up vehicles; a huge Kori Bustard just a few feet away; and 4 well-hidden Greater Painted-Snipe on the edge of the hippo pool. After considerable searching, we finally spotted a Black Rhino slowly moving through the brush. Yes, it was distant, but this prehistoric-looking beast is gravely endangered everywhere, and to see one at all is very special. (Little did we know that we would scope two more from high up on the rim the next day). Two thousand feet above the Crater floor, at the Sopa Lodge, we birded a completely different environment, the damp mountain forest. Here we found sunbirds swarming in the flowering trees, and Victor declared that the brilliant violet Tacazze was his favorite bird of the trip.

From the Crater we returned to paved roads and settled farms and villages to arrive at the Manyara Serena Lodge, perched right on the rim of the steep drop into the Great Rift Valley. Nearby Lake Manyara National Park was a study in contrasts, the lush forests fed by springs at the base of the escarpment seeming out of place amidst the dry and leafless scrub on the Rift wall. A great day of birding here produced a wide assortment of waterbirds, most of them very close at hand, including Black Herons performing their canopy-feeding act and magnificent Saddle-billed Storks quite oblivious to our presence as they probed the marsh. Other highlights included the trio of Verreaux’s Eagles cruising along the Rift wall; Broad-billed Rollers atop the forest canopy; a pair of Silvery-cheeked Hornbills dust-bathing in the road; and Red-and-yellow Barbets hopping around our feet at the picnic area. By now we were a bit blasé about the mammals around us, but we had to laugh at the “blissed out” buffalo bulls lying by the marsh and the colorful male Vervet Monkeys.

Scenic Tarangire National Park, our final stop on the tour, is best known for two things, baobabs and elephants. We saw both in abundance. This region of rolling plains and open woodland becomes quite desiccated by the end of the dry season, except for the water remaining in the Tarangire River and Silale Marsh, and it is to these life-sustaining sources of water that great numbers of animals make their way. At our lunch stop after entering the park, we watched entranced as a herd of over 100 elephants of all sizes strolled down a tree-studded hillside below us to reach the river. Then, upon arriving at our lodge for the night, we found a small group taking turns at an artificial waterhole just beyond our cabins. Watching them while out of the vehicles gave us a whole different perspective on these amazing creatures. Then, on our game
drives the next day, we tallied at least 300 individuals, a ridiculous count. However, it wasn’t only elephants here. Special birds included a pair of Three-banded Coursers hiding right beside the track; a tiny African Scops-Owl at its day roost, camouflaged to look exactly like part of the tree trunk; a droopy-lidded Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl under the crown of an acacia; a cryptic pair of rarely-seen Shelley’s Francolins; a male Ostrich leading a bevy of chicks to safety; endemic Yellow-collared Lovebirds on the lodge lawn; and nest-building Red-headed Weavers. We spotted three young lions here, bringing the total for the trip to at least 59, and passed innumerable large herds of buffalo. As we left Tarangire, reflecting back on all that we had seen and done in previous days, we were stopped by a milling line of wildebeest “on the move,” the hundreds of animals raising clouds of dust as they steadily marched past us towards the river. It was a fitting end to a great safari!

You were a great group to share it with, and it was special to be with Victor in Africa again after so many years. Enjoy the memories and photos! We hope to see you again on another VENT tour.
ITINERARY:

October 29-30, 2018: International flights for most of the group, with evening arrival and transfer from Kilimanjaro International Airport to Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge. Everyone in the group opted to arrive early.

October 31, 2018: An optional “pre-tour day” of relaxation and very productive birding on the grounds of Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge.

November 1, 2018: All day excursion to Arusha National Park, entering at the Ngongare Gate and then working our way up to the Figtree Arch, where we enjoyed our picnic lunch in the lush mountain forest on the slopes of Mt. Meru. After that we birded our way around the Momela Lakes loop, returning to Ngare Sero in the late afternoon. Night: Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge.

November 2, 2018: Early departure for Kilimanjaro Int. Airport and the Precision Air flight to Mwanza, the second largest city in Tanzania. Geitan and Roger met us here, and after collecting our bags we set off for Speke’s Bay on Lake Victoria. We arrived in time for a late lunch and afternoon birding on the extensive grounds of the beautifully landscaped lodge. Night: Speke Bay Lodge.

November 3, 2018: Most of the morning was spent birding the grounds at Speke Bay Lodge. After lunch we entered Serengeti National Park at the Ndabaka Gate, on the far western edge of the park. We then began a long “game drive” eastward through the
entire Western Corridor of the park, before turning northward and arriving at our “tented camp” in the late afternoon. What a surprise it was, a very luxurious lodge with huge, well-appointed tents dramatically set on a hillside overlooking the vast acacia woodlands and grassy valleys of the Serengeti. Night: Kubu-Kubu Tented Lodge.

November 4, 2018: All day excursion to the central region of the park in the Seronera area, with a picnic lunch and a walk on the nature trail at the Interpretive Center before an afternoon cruise back to Kubu-Kubu Tented Lodge.

November 5, 2018: Morning game drive in the Seronera area, lunch at Kubu-Kubu, and then an afternoon game drive north to Lobo Lodge for the night.

November 6, 2018: Morning game drive around the kopjes and burns in the Lobo area, lunch at the lodge, and then an afternoon game drive. Night: Lobo Lodge.

November 7, 2018: Morning travel from Lobo Lodge to Seronera and then east across the plains to the Naabi Gate to the park for our picnic lunch. After lunch we drove across the dusty plains to Ndutu Safari Lodge, arriving with time for a late afternoon game drive to nearby Lake Ndutu, a shallow alkaline lake. Night: Ndutu Safari Lodge.

November 8, 2018: Morning game drive in the Ndutu area, including the marsh. Mid-day was spent at the lodge, enjoying the many birds right around the camp, and then an afternoon game drive. Night: Ndutu Safari Lodge.

November 9, 2018: After breakfast we birded our way across the dry plains to Oldupai Gorge, for a visit to the wonderful new museum. Then we climbed upslope to the rim of Ngorongoro Crater, descended the steep wall into the Crater, and had our picnic lunch in the vehicles at a yellowbark acacia grove on the Crater floor. Then we made our introductory game drive across the Crater, before climbing up to the Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge, set amidst the mountain forest at 7800 ft. elevation.

November 10, 2018: Into the Crater, for a full morning’s game drive. Picnic lunch on the edge of the yellowbark acacia forest and then back across the Crater grasslands and up the wall to arrive at the Sopa Lodge with time for some optional late afternoon birding around the grounds.

November 11, 2018: Pre- and post-breakfast birding around the Sopa Lodge grounds before driving around the Crater Rim, stopping at the spectacular viewpoint into the Crater before exiting the reserve and continuing to Lake Manyara Serena Lodge for lunch. After lunch we had the option of a shopping excursion, birding the beautiful grounds of the lodge or just relaxing a little.

November 12, 2018: Lake Manyara National Park until mid-afternoon and then up to nearby Manyara Serena Lodge on the rim of the Great Rift Valley escarpment.

November 13, 2018: Morning travel from Manyara Serena Lodge to the entry gate to Tarangire National Park, arriving there with time to bird the area and “climb” the baobab tree. Lunch and birding at Tarangire Safari Lodge before a game drive into the heart of the park to Tarangire Sopa Lodge for the night.

November 14, 2018: Morning game drive in Tarangire to the Silale Marsh, returning to the lodge for lunch and then a late afternoon game drive along the river. Night: Tarangire Sopa Lodge.

November 15, 2018: We worked our way out of Tarangire this morning, arriving at the gate about 10 a.m., then driving on to Arusha city and Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge, where we had lunch and day rooms. Late afternoon departure for Kilimanjaro Int.
Airport and flight to Amsterdam (for most of us), with onward connections from Amsterdam to the U.S. arriving on **November 16, 2018**.

**KEY:**
- NS = Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge & vicinity
- ANP = Arusha National Park
- LV = Lake Victoria region (Mwanza to Speke Bay)
- SNP = Serengeti NP (from the western gate through the Western Corridor to Kubu-Kubu Tented Lodge; the Seronera area including the Visitor’s Center; north to Lobo Lodge area and back; and then east to the park exit at the eastern Naabi Hill gate).
- Nd = Ndutu area
- Old = Oldupai Gorge area
- Ng = Ngorongoro Crater, from the rim to the floor of the caldera.
- LM = Lake Manyara National Park & vicinity, including the Lake Manyara Serena Lodge and the entrance road to it.
- Tar = Tarangire National Park
- hd = heard

**BIRDS:** Taxonomy follows *eBird/Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World v2017*. Some of our many highlights, favorites and rarities are **bolded**.

- **Common Ostrich** (*Struthio camelus*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar (the largest bird in the world, but not very bird like. Especially entertaining was the pair with small chicks in Tarangire, the male leading them away to safety in the thick brush).
- White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) - LV, LM
- Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) - LM, Tar
- Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) - ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar
- Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*) – LM, Tar
- Hottentot Teal (*Spatula hottentota*) - Ng, LM
- Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) - Ng
- African Black Duck (*Anas sparsa*) - NS
- Cape Teal (*Anas capensis*) - ANP, Nd, Ng (beautiful specialty of alkaline waters)
- Red-billed Duck (Teal) (*Anas erythrorhyncha*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, LM
- Southern Pochard (*Netta erythrophthalma*) – ANP
- Maccoa Duck (*Oxyura maccoa*) - ANP
- Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*) - ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar
- **Hildebrandt’s Francolin** (*Pternistis hildebrandti*) - Ng (a roadside family group, including 2 chicks).
- Yellow-necked Francolin (Spurfowl) (*Pternistis leucosceps*) - Tar
- **Gray-breasted Francolin** (Spurfowl) (*Pternistis rufopictus*) - LV, Nd (nicely-patterned Tanzania endemic).
- Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl) (*Pternistis afer*) - Tar
- Crested Francolin (*Dendroperdix sephaena*) – SNP, Tar
- Coqui Francolin (*Peliperdix coqui*) - SNP, Nd, Tar
- **Shelley’s Francolin** (*Scleroptila shelleyi*) - Tar
- Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) - NS, ANP, Ng (including one on a nest at Ngare Sero)
**Greater Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) – ANP, Nd, Ng
Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*) - ANP, Ng
African Openbill (*Anastomus lamelligerus*) - LV
**Black Stork** (*Ciconia nigra*) – ANP
White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) – Ng
**Saddle-billed Stork** (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) - Ng, LM, Tar (wonderful to see this “Wow!” bird on three occasions).
**Marabou Stork** (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*) - NS, Mwanza, LV, SNP, Ng, LM (not the most handsome of birds).
Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*) - LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar
**Long-tailed Cormorant** (*Microcarbo africanus*) - LV
Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – LV (one bird).
Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) – Ng
Hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*) - NS, ANP, LV, SNP, Ng, LM, Tar
Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, LM
Black-headed Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*) - ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - NS, LV, LM
**Intermediate Egret** (*Ardea intermedia*) – ANP, Ng, LM
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) - LV, LM
**Black Heron** (*Egretta ardesiaca*) – LM (canopy feeding)
Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcus ibis*) – ANP, LV, SNP, Ng, LM, Tar
Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) - LV, LM
Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) – NS
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – Ng
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – ANP, Ng, LM, Tar
Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) - ANP, LV, SNP, Ng, LM, Tar
Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*) - NS, ANP, LV, LM
**African Spoonbill** (*Platalea alba*) – ANP, Ng, LM
**Secretarybird** (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar (this iconic African bird was seen striding through the grasslands often and well)).
Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Kili AP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar (populations of grass rats were high and this rodent feeder was often).
African Harrier-Hawk (*Polyboroides typus*) – LV
Palm-nut Vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*) – LV (lucky and observant Reid photographed an adult as it flew over Speke Bay Lodge).
**White-headed Vulture** (*Trigonocps occipitalis*) – SNP, Tar
Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) – SNP, Nd, Old, Ng, Tar (fearsome beak! These guys kicked butt when they came to the sheep carcass).
White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*) - SNP, Old, Ng, LM, Tar
Rüppell’s Griffon (*Vulture*) (*Gyps rueppellii*) - SNP, Old
**Bateleur** (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar
Black-breasted Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus pectoralis*) – LV, Nd, Tar
Brown Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus cinereus*) - SNP, Nd, Tar
**Crowned Hawk-Eagle** (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) – SNP, LM.
**Martial Eagle** (*Polemaetus bellicosus*) – Nd, Tar
Long-crested Eagle (*Lophaetus occipitalis*) – SNP, Nd
Wahlberg’s Eagle (Hieraaetus wahlbergi) – NS, SNP, Tar
Tawny Eagle (Aquila rapax) - SNP, Nd, Old, Tar
Steppe Eagle (Aquila nipalensis) - SNP, Nd, Old, Tar
**Verreaux’s Eagle (Aquila verreauxii)** - LM
**African Hawk-Eagle (Aquila spilogaster)** - Tar (nice look at a perched adult as we drove out of the park on our last day).

Dark Chanting-Goshawk (Melierax metabates) - SNP, Nd
Eastern Chanting-Goshawk (Melierax poliopterus) – Nd, Tar
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier (Circus aeruginosus) - SNP, Ng
African Marsh-Harrier (Circus ranivorus) - Ng
Pallid Harrier (Circus macrourus) - Nd
Montagu’s Harrier (Circus pygargus) - SNP, Nd

**Black Goshawk (Accipiter melanoleucus)** – NS (scope study of perched immature; this large accipiter is a notorious chicken thief in settled areas).

Black Kite (Milvus migrans) – Mwanza to LV, Ng, LM

**African Fish-Eagle (Haliaeetus vocifer)** - NS, ANP, LV, Ng (hd), LM, Tar (including wonderful yelping duets from the pair at Speke Bay).

Common Buzzard (Buteo buteo) - Ng, LM
Mountain Buzzard (Buteo oreophilus) – ANP, Ng
Augur Buzzard (Buteo augur) - ANP, Nd, Ng, LM

**Kori Bustard (Ardeotis kori)** - SNP, Nd, Ng (a decidedly impressive bird!).
White-bellied Bustard (Eupodotis senegalensis) - SNP, Nd, Tar
Black-bellied Bustard (Lissotis melanogaster) - SNP

**Black Crake (Amaurornis flavirostris)** - NS, SNP, Ng, LM (amusing to watch them scurrying over the backs of the hippos at several places).

Eurasian (Common) Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus) – SNP, Ng, LM
Lesser Moorhen (Gallinula angulata) – SNP, LM
Red-knobbed Coot (Fulica cristata) – SNP, Ng, LM

**Gray Crowned-Crane (Balearica regulorum)** - ANP, Ng (simply fabulous).
Water Thick-knee (Burhinus vermiculatus) - SNP

**Spotted Thick-knee (Burhinus capensis)** - LV, Nd

Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus) - ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM
Pied Avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta) – ANP, Nd, Ng, LM

**Long-toed Lapwing (Plover) (Vanellus crassirostris)** - Ng, LM, Tar
Blacksmith Lapwing (Vanellus armatus) - ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar
Spur-winged Lapwing (Vanellus spinosus) – ANP, SNP, LM
Black-winged Lapwing (Vanellus melanopterus) - Ng
Crowned Lapwing (Vanellus coronatus) - SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar
Wattled Lapwing (Vanellus senegallus) - LV, SNP
Kittlitz’s Plover (Charadrius pecuarius) - Nd, Ng, LM

Common Ringed-Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) – SNP, Nd, Ng, LM
Three-banded Plover (Charadrius tricollaris) – ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM
Chestnut-banded Plover (Charadrius pallidus) – Nd (distant birds along Lake Ndutu shoreline; a very localized specialty of the alkaline lakes).

**Greater Painted-Snipe (Rostratula benghalensis)** - Ng
African Jacana (Actophilornis africanus) – NS, Ng, LM, Tar
**Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*) – LM (close studies, a scarce migrant).  
**Ruff** (*Calidris pugnax*) - ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM  
**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*) - LM  
**Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, LM  
**Common Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*) - SNP, LM  
**Common Sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*) - ANP, LV, Ng, LM  
**Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*) - ANP, Tar  
**Common Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*) – LV, Nd, Ng, LM  
**Marsh Sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) - SNP, Ng, LM  
**Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*) - ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM  
**Temminck’s Courser** (*Cursorius temminckii*) - SNP  
**Double-banded Courser** (*Smutsornis africanus*) - SNP, Nd, Tar  
**Three-banded (Heuglin’s) Courser** (*Rhinoptilus cinctus*) - Tar  
**Collared Pratincole** (*Glareola pratincola*) – Ng, LM, Tar  
**Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Nd, Ng, LM  
**White-winged Tern** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) - Nd, LM (winter plumage only).  
**Whiskered Tern** (*Chlidonias hybrida*) - LV, LM  
**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** (*Pterocles exustus*) – Nd (multiple looks at all three species of these cryptic and beautiful desert-adapted birds).  
**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** (*Pterocles gutturalis*) - Nd, Tar  
**Black-faced Sandgrouse** (*Pterocles decoratus*) – SNP, Tar  
**Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) – feral in cities and towns.  
**Speckled Pigeon** (*Columba guinea*) - LM  
**Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon** (*Columba arquatrix*) - Ng  
**Mourning Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decipiens*) - LV, Nd, Tar  
**Red-eyed Dove** (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) - NS  
**Ring-necked Dove** (*Streptopelia capicola*) - LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar  
**Laughing Dove** (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar  
**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** (*Turtur chalcospilos*) - LM, Tar  
**Tambourine Dove** (*Turtur tympanistria*) - NS  
**Namaqua Dove** (*Oena capensis*) - Old  
**African Green-Pigeon** (*Treron calvus*) – NS, LV, SNP (good looks at several well-camouflaged birds feeding in a fruiting fig near Lobo Lodge).  
**Schalow’s Turaco** (*Tauraco schalowi*) – Ng (very vocal around the Sopa Lodge, but elusive; finally seen by some after considerable effort!).  
**Hartlaub’s Turaco** (*Tauraco hartlaubi*) – ANP (ooh and aah! One stayed put for long scope views).  
**Bare-faced Go-away-bird** (*Corythaixoides personatus*) - SNP, Tar  
**White-bellied Go-away-bird** (*Corythaixoides leucogaster*) – Tar (comical).  
**White-browed Coucal** (*Centropus superciliosus*) – NS, ANP, LV, SNP, LM, Tar  
*(the “water-bottle” bird).  
**Klaas’s Cuckoo** (*Chrysococcyx klaas*) – NS (heard only).  
**Red-chested Cuckoo** (*Cuculus solitarius*) – NS (seen), Ng (hd), LM (hd) (in spite of it’s very persistent “it-will-rain” song the rains were late and had not yet started).  
**African Cuckoo** (*Cuculus gularis*) - Tar  
**Common Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*) - ANP
African Scops-Owl (*Otus senegalensis*) – Tar (seen at its day roost; so very well designed to look like the acacia bark!).

Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl (*Bubo lacteus*) – Ng, Tar
Pearl-spotted Owlet (*Glaucidium perlatum*) – LV, Tar

**Mottled Spinetail** (*Telacanthura ussleri*) – Tar (a specialty of baobab country).
Mottled Swift (*Apus aequatorialis*) – Ng, LM
Common Swift (*Apus apus*) – SNP (low-flying migrants ahead of a rainstorm).
African (African Black) Swift (*Apus barbatus*) - NS

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) NS, Kili AP, LV, SNP, LM, Tar
White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*) – ANP, SNP, Ng, Tar
African Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*) - NS, LV, SNP, LM, Tar

**Speckled Mousebird** (*Colius striatus*) - ANP, LV, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar (the most widespread of this uniquely African family).
Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urococlis macrourus*) – LV, SNP, LM
Bar-tailed Trogon (*Apaloderma vittatum*) – ANP (heard only).

**Eurasian Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*) – ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng (hd), Tar (we saw the resident *africana* race, split as the “African” Hoopoe by some authorities).

Abyssinian Scimitar-bill (*Rhinopomastus minor*) - SNP

**Southern Ground-Hornbill** (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) – SNP (parties of these strange birds were seen three times, foraging methodically through the grasslands).
Crowned Hornbill (*Lophoceros alboterminatus*) - NS, ANP, LM
African Gray Hornbill (*Lophoceros nasutus*) - SNP, LM, Tar
Von der Decken’s Hornbill (*Tockus deckeni*) - SNP, Nd, LM, Tar

**Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill** (*Tockus ruahae*) - SNP (this is a recent split from what used to be called simply “Red-billed Hornbill”, now divided into multiple species by most authorities. This new species is endemic to Tanzania and we had good looks at them while en route to Lobo Lodge).

Northern Red-billed Hornbill (*Tockus erythrorhynchus*) - Tar

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** (*Bycanistes brevis*) - NS, ANP, LM
Malachite Kingfisher (*Corythornis cristatus*) - LV, LM

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher** (*Ispidina picta*) – LV
Gray-headed Kingfisher (*Halcyon leucocephala*) - NS, LV, SNP, LM, Tar

**Woodland Kingfisher** (*Halcyon senegalensis*) - LV, Ng (brilliant).
Brown-hooded Kingfisher (*Halcyon albiventer*) – NS, ANP
Striped Kingfisher (*Halcyon chelicuti*) - SNP

**Giant Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle maximus*) - NS
Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) - LV

**White-fronted Bee-eater** (*Merops bullockoides*) – ANP, Ng (an especially attractive bee-eater).

Little Bee-eater (*Merops pusillus*) - ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, LM, Tar
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater (*Merops oreobates*) - ANP, Ng

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** (*Merops persicus*) - Tar (great looks; a migrant from the Middle East).

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) - NS, SNP, LM, Tar
European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) - Old
Lilac-breasted Roller (Coraciculus caudatus) - SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar (this beautiful and bold bird is a perennial safari favorite; we saw 5-10 daily in the areas listed).

Broad-billed Roller (Eurystomus glaucurus) – LM

Red-and-yellow Barbet (Trachyphonus erythrocephalus) - Old, LM, Tar
D’Arnaud’s Barbet (Trachyphonus darnaudii) - LV, SNP, Nd, Tar

White-eared Barbet (Stactolaema leucotis) - NS, ANP
Red-fronted Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus pusillus) - LM, Tar
Red-fronted Barbet (Tricholaema diademata) - SNP
Spot-flanked Barbet (Tricholaema lacrymosa) – ANP, SNP, LM
White-headed Barbet (Lybius leucocephalus) – SNP

Brown-breasted Barbet (Lybius melanopterus) - NS

Greater Honeyguide (Indicator indicator) – LM (heard only).

Nubian Woodpecker (Campethera nubica) – ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar
Cardinal Woodpecker (Dendropicos fuscescens) - LV, SNP
Bearded Woodpecker (Dendropicos namaquus) - Tar

Mountain Gray Woodpecker (Dendropicos spodocephalus) – SNP, Ng, Tar (now considered to be specifically distinct from (African) Gray Woodpecker (D. goertae) of farther north and west).

Pygmy Falcon (Polihierax semitorquatus) - SNP, Nd, Tar
Eurasian Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus) - SNP, Nd

Gray Kestrel (Falco ardosiacaeus) – SNP
Eurasian Hobby (Falco subbuteo) – Ng, LM

Lanner Falcon (Falco biarmicus) - Ng

Fischer’s Lovebird (Agapornis fischeri) - SNP, Nd (a delightful little parrot found only in Tanzania; especially prominent around Ndutu Lodge).

Yellow-collared Lovebird (Agapornis personatus) - Tar (also endemic to Tanzania; frequent in Tarangire).

Meyer’s (Brown) Parrot (Poicephalus meyeri) – SNP, LM, Tar

Red-bellied (Orange-bellied) Parrot (Poicephalus rufiventris) – Tar (feeding on the baobab flowers).

Black-throated Wattle-eye (Platysteira peltata) – NS (by some).

Chinspot Batis (Batis molitor) – ANP, LV, SNP, LM (cute!).

Brubru (Nilaus afer) – SNP, Nd
Black-backed Puffback (Dryoscopus cuba) - NS, ANP, Nd, Ng, LM
Black-crowned Tchagra (Tchagra senegalus) – Ng, LM

Brown-crowned Tchagra (Tchagra australis) – ANP, SNP, LM, Tar

Tropical Boubou (Laniarius aethiopicus) – NS (hd), ANP (hd), Ng (seen well).

Black-headed Gonolek (Laniarius erythrogaster) – LV (the most intense scarlet imaginable).

Slate-colored Boubou (Laniarius funebris) – LV, SNP, Nd

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike (Telophorus sulfureopectus) - LV

Black Cuckoo-shrike (Campephaga flava) - Ng

Red-backed Shrike (Lanius collurio) – SNP, Nd

Isabelline (Red-tailed) Shrike (Lanius isabellinus) – LM, Tar

Gray-backed Fiscal (Lanius excubitorius) - LV, SNP, Nd

Long-tailed Fiscal (Lanius cabanisi) - Tar
Taita Fiscal (Lanius dorsalis) - Nd
Northern Fiscal (Lanius humeralis) - ANP, Ng, LM
**Magpie Shrike** (Corvinella melanoleuca) - SNP, Tar (the singing groups of 4-6 birds in Tarangire were especially delightful).
White-rumped Shrike (Eurocephalus rueppelli) - SNP, Nd, Tar
**Eurasian Golden Oriole** (Oriolus oriolus) – LV, SNP, Nd, Ng (far more sightings of this uncommon and declining migrant than expected, including a dead one at Lobo Lodge and several bright ones in a fruiting fig at the Crater lakeside rest stop).
African Black-headed Oriole (Oriolus larvatus) - Tar
Fork-tailed Drongo (Dicrurus adsimilis) - SNP, Nd, LM, Tar
**African Paradise-Flycatcher** (Terpsiphone viridis) – NS, ANP, LV, SNP, Ng (always a favorite).
Cape Crow (Cape Rook) (Corvus capensis) – SNP (on the eastern plains).
Pied Crow (Corvus albus) – NS, Arusha area, SNP, LM, Tar
White-necked Raven (Corvus albicollis) – ANP, Ng
Fischer’s Sparrow-Lark (Eremopterix leucopareia) - SNP, Nd, Old, Ng
Foxy Lark (Calendulauda alopecus) – SNP, Tar
Rufous-naped Lark (Mirafra africana) - SNP, Nd, Ng
Flappet Lark (Mirafra rufocinnamomea) - SNP
Red-capped Lark (Calandrella cinerea) - Nd, Old, Ng
Somali Short-toed Lark (Alaudala somalica) - Old
Plain (Brown-throated) Martin (Riparia paludicola) – SNP, Ng
Banded Martin (Riparia cincta) - ANP, Tar
Rock Martin (Ptyonoprogne (Hirundo) fuligula) - SNP, SNP, Old, Ng, LM, Tar
Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) – all localities; an abundant Palearctic migrant seen daily in varying numbers.
Angola Swallow (Hirundo angolensis) - LV
Wire-tailed Swallow (Hirundo smithii) - NS, ANP
Red-rumped Swallow (Cecropis (Hirundo) daurica) – ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng
Lesser Striped-Swallow (Cecropis (Hirundo) abyssinica) – NS, ANP, SNP
Mosque Swallow (Cecropis (Hirundo) senegalensis) - Tar
Black Sawwing (Psalidoprocne pristoptera) - ANP, Ng
**Gray-rumped Swallow** (Pseudhirundo griseopyga) – Ng
**Red-throated Tit** (Melaniparus fringillinus) - SNP
African (Gray) Penduline-Tit (Anthoscopus caroli) – SNP
Eastern Mountain-Greenbul (Arizelocichla nigriceps) – Ng
Stripe-cheeked Greenbul (Arizelocichla milanjensis) - ANP
Yellow-bellied Greenbul (Chlorocichla flaviventris) - LM
Little Greenbul (Eurillas virens) – NS (heard only)
Common Bulbul (Pycnonotus barbatus) - NS, ANP, LV, SNP, Old, Ng, LM, Tar
(see every day but one, and at every location except Ndufu).
Red-faced Crombec (Sylvietta whytii) – LV, SNP, Ng, Tar
(African) Moustached Grass-Warbler (Melocichla mentalis) - ANP
Brown Woodland-Warbler (Phylloscopus umbrovirens) - Ng
Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus trochilus) – ANP, LV, SNP
Eastern Olivaceous-Warbler (Iduna pallida) – LV, SNP
Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*) - SNP
Lesser Swamp-Warbler (*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*) - LV
Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler (*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*) – Ng (heard only)
Bar-throated Apalis (*Apalis thoracica*) - Ng
Yellow-breasted Apalis (*Apalis flavida*) - SNP, LM
Black-headed Apalis (*Apalis melanocephala*) - ANP
Brown-headed Apalis (*Apalis alticola*) - Ng
Green-backed Camaroptera (*Camaroptera brachyura*) - NS, ANP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM (by voice one of the most widespread “warblers” but not easy to see).
Red-faced Cisticola (*Cisticola erythrops*) - Ng
Singing Cisticola (*Cisticola cantans*) - ANP, Ng
Trilling Cisticola (*Cisticola woosnami*) – ANP (singing everywhere this trip).
Hunter’s Cisticola (*Cisticola hunteri*) - Ng
Rattling Cisticola (*Cisticola chiniana*) - LV, SNP, LM, Tar
Winding Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*) - LV, SNP, Nd, LM
Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola junciidis*) – SNP
Pectoral-patch Cisticola (*Cisticola brunnescens*) - SNP, Ng
Gray-capped Warbler (*Eminia lepida*) - LV, SNP, Ng
Buff-bellied Warbler (*Phyllolais pulchella*) - LV
Tawny-flanked Prinia (*Prinia subflava*) - LM, Tar
Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*) - Nd
Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) – Nd
Banded Warbler (Parisoma) (*Sylvia boehmi*) - SNP, Nd, Tar (hd)
African Yellow White-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*) – SNP (Lobo Lodge).
Broad-winged (Montane) White-eye (*Zosterops poliogaster*) - ANP, Ng
Black-lored Babbler (*Turdoides sharpei*) - SNP, Nd
Northern Pied-Babbler (*Turdoides hypoleuca*) – Tar
Dusky-brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapula adusta*) - ANP, Ng
Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapula striata*) - ANP, LV, SNP, Tar
Swamp Flycatcher (*Muscicapula aquatica*) - LV
Grayish (African Gray) Flycatcher (*Bradornis microrhynchus*)–LV, SNP, Nd, Old, LM, Tar
Ashy Flycatcher (*Fraseria caerulescens*) - LM
**Silverbird** (*Melaenornis semipartitus*) - LV, SNP, Nd, Tar (elegant).
White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis fischeri*) – ANP, Ng
Red-backed Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas leucophrys*) - Tar
Cape Robin-Chat (*Cossypha caffra*) - Ng
**Rueppell’s Robin-Chat** (*Cossypha semirufa*) – NS (a very accomplished dawn songster that includes much mimicry in its repertoire).
White-browed Robin-Chat (*Cossypha semirufa*) - SNPLM
**Collared Palm-Thrush** (*Cichladusa arquata*) - LM
Spotted Morning-Thrush (*Cichladusa guttata*) - LV, LM, Tar
Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) - Ng
African Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) - ANP, Ng
Northern AnteaterChat (*Myrmecocichla aethiops*) - Ng
Sooty Chat (*Myrmecocichla nigra*) – SNP

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours 18 Northern Tanzania, November 2018
Mocking Cliff-Chat (*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*) – SNP, Tar (amidst the kopje around Lobo Lodge).

Familiar Chat (*Cercomela familiaris*) - SNP
Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) - SNP, Ng

**Abyssinian ("Schalow’s") Wheatear** (*Oenanthe lugubris schalowi*) - Ng {The subspecies *schalowi* of Kenya & Tanzania is sometimes treated as a species separate from the Ethiopian and Somali populations).

Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) – Nd
Capped Wheatear (*Oenanthe pileata*) - SNP, Nd, Ng
Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) – Nd
Abyssinian Thrush (*Turdus abyssinicus*) - Ng (formerly known as the Olive Thrush (*T. olivaceus*), but now split from that southern African form).

Wattled Starling (*Creatophora cinerea*) - Kili AP, LV, SNP, Nd, Tar

**Violet-backed Starling** (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*) - NS, LM, Tar
Red-winged Starling (*Onychognathus morio*) - ANP, SNP, LM, Tar
Kenrick’s Starling (*Poeoptera kenrickii*) - NS
Hildebrandt’s Starling (*Lamprotornis hildebrandti*) - SNP, Nd, LM, Tar
Rueppell’s Starling (*Lamprotornis purpureopterus*) - LV, SNP

**Ashy Starling** (*Lamprotornis unicolor*) - Tar (this less-than-spectacular starling is unique to north-central Tanzania and found nowhere else in the world).

**Superb Starling** (*Lamprotornis superbus*) - Kili AP, LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar (a colorful and bold safari favorite seen almost everywhere that we went).
Greater blue-eared Starling (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*) - SNP, Tar
Red-billed Oxpecker (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*) - ANP, SNP, Ng, LM, Tar

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** (*Buphagus africanus*) - SNP, Nd (what a unique foraging niche! This is much the scarcer of the two and it tends to prefer larger animals like buffalo and giraffe).

Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird (*Anthreptes orientalis*) – LM
Collared Sunbird (*Hedydipna collaris*) - NS, Ng
Olive Sunbird (*Cyanomitra olivacea*) - NS
Amethyst Sunbird (*Chalcomitra amethystina*) – NS, LM
Scarlet-chested Sunbird (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*) - LV, SNP, Old, LM, Tar

**Tacazze Sunbird** (*Nectarinia tacazze*) - Ng (the largest and the most spectacular of the many colorful sunbirds seen; this is an important family in Africa).
Bronze Sunbird (*Nectarinia kilimensis*) - ANP, Ng

**Golden-winged Sunbird** (*Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*) - Ng
Eastern Double-collared Sunbird (*Cinnyris mediocris*) - Ng
Beautiful Sunbird (*Cinnyris pulchellus*) - Tar
Mariqua Sunbird (*Cinnyris mariquensis*) - SNP (Lobo area)

**Red-chested Sunbird** (*Cinnyris erythrocercus*) – LV (common and conspicuous in the beautiful flowering ornamentals at Speke Bay Lodge).

Variable Sunbird (*Cinnyris venustus*) - NS, ANP, LV, SNP, Ng, LM (the most widespread sunbird).

Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) - LV, Ng, LM

**Mountain Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*) - NS, LM (sleek birds of clear streams).
African Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla aguimp*) - NS, ANP, LV, SNP, Old, Ng, LM, Tar
African (Grassland) Pipit (*Anthus cinnamomeus*) - Ng
Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*) – SNP, Ng
Plain-backed Pipit (*Anthus leucophrys*) – SNP, Nd, Ng
Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) - LV, Ng
**Yellow-throated Longclaw** (*Macronyx croceus*) - LV, SNP (amazingly convergent with the meadowlarks of the New World in appearance and song).
Rosy-throated Longclaw (*Macronyx ameliae*) - SNP (glimpsed).
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza tahapisi*) – SNP, Ng
Golden-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza flaviventris*) – SNP, LM
Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*) - SNP (only in the northeastern Serengeti at Lobo Lodge).
Reichenow’s (Yellow-rumped) Seedeater (*Serinus reichenowi*) - LV, LM
White-bellied Canary (*Serinus dorostratus*) - LV, SNP, Nd, Old, LM
Streaky Seedeater (*Serinus striolatus*) - Ng
Thick-billed Seedeater (*Serinus burtoni*) – ANP
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - Mwanza, LV, SNP, Old, LM (introduced)
Kenya Rufous Sparrow (*Passer rufocinctus*) - Nd, Old, Ng
Northern Gray-headed Sparrow (*Passer griseus*) – ANP, LM
Swahili Sparrow (*Passer suahelicus*) - SNP, Nd, Old, LM, Tar
Chestnut Sparrow (*Passer eminibey*) - LV, Nd
Yellow-spotted Petronia (*Petronia pyrgita*) - Tar
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver (*Bubalornis niger*) - Kili AP, SNP, Nd, Tar
**White-headed Buffalo-Weaver** (*Dinemellia dinemelli*) - SNP, Tar
Speckle-fronted Weaver (*Sporopipes frontalis*) - SNP, Nd, Tar
**Rufous-tailed Weaver** (*Histurgops ruficauda*) - SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar (a Tanzanian endemic with a large sloppy globular nest).
Gray-headed Social-Weaver (*Pseudonigrita amaudi*) – LV, SNP
**Red-headed Weaver** (*Anaplectes rubriceps*) - Tar
Baglafecht Weaver (*Ploceus baglafecht*) - ANP, Ng, LM
Little Weaver (*Ploceus luteolus*) – SNP (Naabi Hill; non-breeding plumage).
Slender-billed Weaver (*Ploceus pelzelni*) - LV
**Taveta Golden-Weaver** (*Ploceus castaneiceps*) - NS (nesting in the lakeside marshes; the most localized of the many fascinating weavers that we saw).
Northern Brown-throated Weaver (*Ploceus castanops*) - LV
Lesser Masked-Weaver (*Ploceus intermedius*) - LV
Vitelline Masked-Weaver (*Ploceus vitellinus*) - SNP, Old, LM (now split from the Southern Masked-Weaver (*P. velatus*) of southern Africa).
Speke’s Weaver (*Ploceus spekei*) - Ng
Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) - LV
Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*) - LV
Red-billed Quelea (*Quelea quelea*) - Ng, LM
**Black Bishop** (*Euplectes gierowii*) – Old, LM (one non-breeding plumaged male at the Olduvai water drip initially misidentified as a Red-collared; another was seen begging at the Manyara picnic tables. Bishops and widowbirds breed in the latter part of the rains when plenty of seed is available and that is when the males show off their fine breeding plumage. At this season they are dressed in cryptic sparrow-like browns).
Yellow Bishop (*Euplectes capensis*) - Ng
Red-collared Widowbird (*Euplectes ardens*) - Ng (a male at the Sopa Gate, in non-breeding plumage but retaining the long tail feathers).
Fan-tailed Widowbird (*Euplectes axillaris*) - Ng, Tar (in the marshes, looking a bit like young male Red-winged Blackbirds).
Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver (*Amblyospiza albifrons*) - NS
Crimson-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda rhodopyga*) - Ng
**Black-faced Waxbill** (*Estrilda erythronotos*) - SNP, Old
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu (*Uraeginthus bengalus*) - SNP, LM
**Blue-capped Cordonbleu** (*Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*) - LV, SNP, Nd, Old, LM, Tar (swarms of these gorgeous little finches).
Purple Grenadier (*Granatina ianthinogaster*) - SNP, Nd, Ng
**Green-winged Pytilia** (*Pytilia melba*) - LV, LM (another stunning “dime store” finch, seen beautifully in the thickets at Speke Bay Lodge)
Red-billed Firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegala*) - LV, Ng, LM, Tar
African Quailfinch (*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*) - SNP
Bronze Mannikin (*Spermestes cucullatus*) – NS, LV, LM
Black-and-white Mannikin (*Spermestes bicolor*) – NS (the distinctive “Rufous-backed” race).

**MAMMALS:**
Guereza Colobus (*Colobus guereza*) – NS, ANP
Olive (Anubis) Baboon (*Papio anubis*) – ANP, SNP, Ng, LM, Tar
Vervet Monkey (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*) – SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar
Blue Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*) – NS, ANP, Ng, LM
galago (bushbaby) sp? (*Galago* or *Otolemur* sp?) – NS, LM (heard after dark).
Fruit Bat sp? – LM (Reid saw one).
insectivorous bats sp? - unidentified but at least a few seen most places.
Yellow-winged Bat (*Lavia frons*) – LV, Tar
Scrub Hare (*Lepus saxatilis*) – LV, Nd
Unstriped Ground Squirrel (*Xerus rutilus*) - Tar
Huet’s (Ochre) Bush Squirrel (*Paraxerus ochraceus*) – NS, Ng, LM, Tar
Grass Rat sp? (*Arvicanthis* sp?) – LV, SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar
**Leopard** (*Panthera pardus*) – SNP
**Lion** (*Panthera leo*) – SNP, Ng, Tar
Spotted Hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*) – SNP, Nd
**Common (Golden) Jackal** (*Canis aureus*) – Nd, Ng (we watched one disappear into a burrow on the flat and barren plains near Ndutu).
Black-backed Jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) – LV, SNP, Ng, Tar
Slender Mongoose (*Herpestes sanguinea*) -SNP, Nd, Tar
Dwarf Mongoose (*Helogale parvula*) – SNP, LM, Tar
Banded Mongoose (*Mungos mungo*) – SNP, LM, Tar
**Common (Small Spotted) Genet** (*Genetta genetta*) – Nd
Tree Hyrax (*Dendrohyrax arboreus*) - Ng
Bush (Yellow-spotted) Hyrax (*Heterohyrax brucei*) – SNP, Tar
Black-necked Rock Hyrax (*Procavia johnstoni*) - SNP
African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) – SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar
Common (Burchell’s) Zebra (*Equus burchelli*) – ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar
Black (Hook-lipped) Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) – Ng
Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) – ANP, SNP, Ng
Common Warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) – ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar
Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) – ANP, SNP, Nd, LM, Tar
Brindled Gnu (Blue Wildebeest) (*Connochaetes taurinus*) – SNP, Ng,LM, Tar
African (Cape) Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) – ANP, SNP, Nd, Ng, LM, Tar (with the season so dry they were concentrated into huge herds near or moving towards water sources. We watched at least 1000 cross the road near Kubu-Kubu and in Tarangire we saw numerous herds of 100-500).
Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) – ANP, LV, LM
Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) – SNP, Ng, Tar
Kirk’s Dikdik (*Madoqua kirkii*) - SNP, Nd, Tar
Steinbuck (*Raphicerus campestris*) – SNP, Nd
Klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*) - SNP
Harvey’s Duiker (*Cephalophus harveyi*) – ANP
Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*) - SNP
Bohor Reedbuck (*Redunca redunca*) – SNP, Nd, Tar
Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*) – ANP, SNP, LM, Tar (we saw the “Common”, with the ring around the rump, at Arusha and Tarangire, and the “Defassa” race in the Serengeti and Manyara)
Grant’s Gazelle (*Gazella granti*) – SNP, Nd, Ng, Tar
Red-fronted (Thomson’s) Gazelle (*Gazella rufifrons thomsonii*) SNP,Nd, Ng
Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) – SNP, Nd, LM, Tar
Topi (*Damaliscus lunatus*) - SNP
Kongoni (Red Hartebeest) (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*) – SNP, Nd, Tar

REPTILES:
Leopard Tortoise (*Geochelone pardalis*) – SNP, LM
Tropical House Gecko (*Hemidactylus mabouia*) – NS, LV, LM, Tar
“striped skink” (*Mabuya sp?) – SNP, Ng, Tar (*Mabuya* skinks, likely of several species, were seen at or near several of the lodges).
tree agama sp? (*Acanthocercus sp?) – LV, Nd (the large blue-headed agama).
Mwanza Flat-headed Agama (*Agama mwanzae*) - SNP
Red-headed Rock Agama (*Agama agama*) – Old, LM, Tar (the amazingly brilliant males were all over the place at the Tarangire Sopa Lodge).
Side-striped Chameleon (*Chamaeleo bitaeniatus*) – LV (shown to us by the gardener pruning the trees).
Nile (Water) Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) - LV
Nile Crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) – SNP
Frog sp? – LM

AND A FEW OTHER INTERESTING CREATURES:  this is a rather random selection!
“land crab” – NS
“rhinoceros beetle” – NS
“locusts” or “grasshoppers” – Ng (the vehicles flushed purple; emerald and red; yellow and red ones from the grass).

butterflies – not abundant at this dry season and with so many other things happening with the birds and mammals we did not pay much attention to them. Pierids (“sulphurs and whites”) were dominant in the grasslands, but in the moister wooded areas we saw a variety of swallowtails (Papilionidae). Both of these families are large and dominant in Africa. We also saw a smattering of Nymphalidae, including “African monarchs” and “pansy”. We also spotted many tiny “blues” (Lycaenidae), another big group in Africa.

Termite mounds – present throughout, but they vary greatly in size and form depending on the local substrate. They were most notable and impressive in Tarangire. We did not see the actual insects; they emerge with the first heavy rains.