

# Tanzania Highlights

Naturetrek Tour Report

11 – 25 February 2016

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Report & images compiled by Zul Bhatia



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Tour participants: Zul Bhatia (leader), Leakey Laizer & Yusuf Masawe (local guide/drivers)  
Together with 12 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This two week trip to Northern Tanzania, visiting the National Parks and the Ngorongoro Crater, lived up to all its expectations and more. The short rains had been very prolific and we encountered much longer grass than in a 'normal' year, resulting in fewer big cats being seen in the first part of the safari. There were, however, tens of thousands of animals on the Serengeti/Ngorongoro plains. We saw some very exciting mammals including Bat-eared Foxes, eight Black Rhinos, 42 Lions, four Cheetahs and three Leopards.

Mammal spotting was generally the order of most days with birds as a bonus. There were some very keen mammal observers on the tour which resulted in a trip list of 38 species of mammal. Also a reflection of the fact that there were several very keen birders resulted in us recording 286 bird species. Despite the fact that the rains had been very good, opportunistic breeders such as bishops, whydahs, widowbirds and weavers, with some notable exceptions, were mainly not in breeding plumages and therefore not very obvious and more of a challenge to find. Amongst the notable bird species were Dwarf Bittern, Three-banded Courser, Chestnut-banded Plover, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher and Montane Nightjar.

Our two local drivers/guides, Leakey and Yusuf were outstanding and made a huge contribution to the success of the safari. With pleasant personalities, nothing was too much trouble for them in order to keep us all happy. Everyone enjoyed the variety of places we stayed at, particularly the luxury bush camp near Lake Ndutu in the Serengeti and the wonderful Sopa Lodge situated on the highest point of the Ngorongoro Crater rim. At 7,800 feet above sea level, the hot water bottles at night were much appreciated!

## Day 1

**Thursday 11th February**

The tour started at London Heathrow (except for Lizzie and Matthew who were already in Tanzania) with an overnight flight to Nairobi. After a slight delay, we were on our way by 7.30pm. Although pretty full, the plane was comfortable and most of us managed some sleep.

## Day 2

**Friday 12th February**

The Kenya Airways flight arrived at Nairobi Airport in the early morning. It was quite hazy when we landed. It was a little chaotic at the airport (as is often the case) and quite hot inside the terminal. We started off our bird list by spotting Black Kite, Speckled Pigeon and Little Swift.

After a delay, we left at 9.15am on a short flight of less than an hour to Kilimanjaro International Airport in Northern Tanzania. Unfortunately Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, was under cloud but we did get good views of Mount Meru. At 4,562 metres above sea level, it was a striking sight.

We left the airport and, three-quarters of an hour later, arrived at the lovely Serena Mountain Lodge, by Lake Duluti, our base for the next two nights. We checked in to the fabulous rooms and relaxed for a while before lunch at 1pm. We all introduced ourselves and Zul gave a briefing. A siesta followed!

Just before we met up again at 3.30pm to birdwatch in the grounds of the lodge, there was excitement as a beautiful slim green snake was seen briefly in one of the small trees – our only snake of the safari. We birded for just over half an hour and sightings included Gabar Goshawk, Crowned Hornbill, Speckled Pigeon and Black-and-white Mannikin. We then met one of the lodge staff, Abdiel, who escorted us to the offices of the Lake Duluti Forest Reserve. It began to rain quite heavily so we took shelter under one of the open huts for a while. Once the rain had stopped it became quite hot and sunny, and we spent an hour birding at the edge of the lake. We had excellent views of Pied and Malachite Kingfishers and Long-tailed Cormorant. We also watched the local Taveta Golden Weavers and Grosbeak Weavers which were busy at their active colony in the reeds nearby.

We got back to the lodge at 5.30pm and met up with Lizzie and Matthew who had spent the day at Arusha National Park (NP) after a few days in the vast Selous Game Reserve in Southern Tanzania. After dinner we did the log, a daily ritual for all those who wanted to participate.

### Day 3

### Saturday 13th February

After meeting up with Leakey and Yusuf, our driver/guides for the whole trip, we left Mountain Village at 8.15am and half an hour later arrived at the entrance gate to Arusha NP where we met local guide, James Wolstencroft who joined us for the day. Whilst the drivers got our permits we were able to start birding in earnest, watching Red-rumped Swallows collecting mud for their nests. We looked at the informative interpretation there too.

Our first stop was at 'Serengeti Ndogo' (Small Serengeti in Swahili) where we started seeing the first of the large mammals of the trip. Quite a few Buffalo and some Zebra were present, and we also saw some Warthogs too. Best though was a flock of six Black Storks in flight; a very scarce bird in Tanzania.

Next we drove up to the rim of the Ngurdoto Crater, through very lush forest, where we saw our target mammal – the striking Black-and-white Colobus monkey. We saw about a dozen of them including three at the crater rim. We also saw two Blue Monkeys and both Augur and Mountain Buzzards. Best of all, however was the superb Narina Trogon, a bird that is very seldom seen on our trips, which Karen found and most of us had good views of it.

Stopping briefly to check Lake Longil, we arrived at Small Momella Lake to have our picnic lunch. It was very busy indeed when we arrived with four bus loads of Tanzanian school children! Fortunately, they left just after we arrived so we were able to enjoy the peace and quiet and see a few birds and our first hippopotamus too. We left there at 1.45pm, stopping to look at a lovely pair of Pangani Longclaw and a Levillant's Cuckoo, before arriving at Big Momella Lake where we were delighted to see a few hundred flamingoes. There were not many waders which was unusual, but we saw five Bushbucks, the only ones of the whole safari.

We then went to the Momella Gate of the park where we met up with Msolwa, our armed escort, for a walk from the gate to the Tululusia Waterfall. Msolwa was an excellent guide with a vast knowledge of the area and its natural resources which he shared with us all. He took us very close to Buffalo – a very different experience than from a vehicle! A number of birds were also seen with highlights being several White-fronted Bee-eaters and a stunning male Eurasian Marsh Harrier lit up by the evening sun.

We left the Momella Gate at 5.35pm, exited the park at 6pm and were back at the lodge by 6.30pm. A great variety of birds had been seen today so, after dinner, the sightings log took a while.

## Day 4

## Sunday 14th February

Pam made a short speech to thank all the staff who had made our stay at Mountain Village so pleasant, and after loading the luggage and re-arranging many boxes of drinking water for the whole safari, we left at 8.45am. We got to the Ranger safari compound in Arusha at 9.15am where the vehicles were refuelled before heading off to Tarangire NP. Zul bought some typical Tanzanian snacks (Vitumbuwa and Mandazi) for all to try en route. There were hundreds of storks, both White and Abdim's, alongside the road for quite a way.

Just before Minjingu village we turned off the tarmac and, outside the park, saw many Zebra and Wildebeest, a few Giraffe and one Grant's Gazelle. We stopped at Tarangire NP Gate for the drivers to get our permits and saw many new birds including the Tanzanian endemic Yellow-collared Lovebird and Ashy Starling. We left the gate at 12.40pm.

Soon after entering the park we started seeing Elephants and had a lovely encounter with a group that came to within two metres of our vehicles: fabulous! We arrived at the lodge, with an awesome view, just after 1.30pm, dropped our bags at our tents, refreshed and went straight to lunch. We saw a lovely African Scops Owl which was roosting in the eaves of one of the tents. It was great to stay at this lodge with the Tarangire River below us, panoramic views all round, and some very tame birds too.

We went out at 4.10pm and stayed out till sunset at 7pm. Bird highlights were Grey Kestrel, Red-bellied Parrot and African Hoopoe.

## Day 5

## Monday 15th February

We had an early start and left the lodge at 6.15am. As the electricity didn't come on till 5.45am, some people who needed longer to get ready got dressed by torchlight. Our game drive took us to the River Circuit and the early morning light was fabulous. We had great views and many photographic opportunities of many birds including Tawny Eagle, Grey-headed and Striped Kingfishers, Three-banded Courser, Black-faced Sandgrouse and Pygmy Falcon. Mammals were in short supply despite checking a few normally-favoured spots.

We got back to the lodge at 9.30am for a well-deserved breakfast. At 10.30am only Karen and Mike joined Zul for a bird walk in the grounds where a very striking Red-and-yellow Barbet, Grey Woodpecker and Black-and-white Cuckoo were highlights. Most of the group enjoyed their 'time off' relaxing in the wonderful location. Just by sitting on the verandah, it was possible to see much wildlife. Peter saw and photographed a Beautiful Sunbird which everyone else missed.

We were off again at 3.30pm. We stopped at a small wetland en route to Serengeti Ndogo (Small Serengeti) where there was a very obliging Dwarf Bittern (a scarce bird) perched on a fallen tree. Next we stopped to check out a recently-created water body made by constructing a dam. Although it was a very attractive place, there was very little at it except a couple of Common Sandpipers. Soon after leaving there, Yusuf's vehicle got badly stuck and eventually had to be rescued by Leakey's vehicle using wire ropes! We got back to the lodge about 6.30pm.

## Day 6

## Tuesday 16th February

We left Tarangire Safari Lodge at 8.40am and had time for a last look at some birds in the park before exiting at 9.15am. Shortly after that, we stopped at a workshop where we watched craftsmen from the Makonde tribe at work, making sculptures out of the African Blackwood (or Ebony, as it is often erroneously called). This tribe from the SE Tanzania/Mozambique border area is famed for their skill at making ornaments, and Makonde art has become part of the important contemporary art of Africa today.

Next stop was at Esilale School near Mto wa Mbu, a local Masai school, where we learned quite a lot, not only about the school, but also about the lives of the children. We were shown around by the Head (Mr Kuya) and the Deputy Head (Mrs Kirenga). Many of the children have long walks to and from school; up to two hours each way. Everyone seemed to appreciate and was humbled by the visit, even though it was a bit distressing to see the lack of resources. The children were in good spirits though, appreciating our visit and singing for us.

We arrived at the wonderfully-located Manyara Serena lodge about 1.15pm and went straight to lunch as not all the rooms were ready. This was followed by some free time. A couple of people took advantage of the Infinity Pool with stunning views over Lake Manyara NP; rated as one of the best Infinity Pools in the world.

We left just after 3.30pm and entered Lake Manyara NP, at the bottom of the Rift Valley escarpment, at 4.25pm after completing the entry formalities. Travelling through the impressive groundwater forest with towering trees was slow as there were so many Olive Baboons to watch, and a few Blue Monkeys too. We also saw the impressive Silvery-checked Hornbill. We made for the Hippo Pool where a recently completed viewing platform afforded good views of the wetland. We saw quite a few mammals and birds from there including Hippos and our first Thomson's Gazelles of the safari. The best birds were Purple Heron, White-faced Whistling Duck, African Fish Eagle, African Marsh Harrier, African Jacana, and many waders including Wattled and Long-toed Lapwings. Peter again trumped some of the rest of us by getting a nice photograph of Eurasian Hobby. We all, however, saw three Broad-billed Rollers. We left the park just after 7pm after being told off for leaving it so late. We told them we were delayed by Elephants!

## Day 7

## Wednesday 17th February

We left Manyara Serena Lodge at 7.40am and stopped at the bustling town of Karatu for fuel and some cartons of bottled water. It had been much hotter than in a 'normal year' so we were using the water we had brought from Arusha pretty fast. The entrance gate to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Lodware Gate) was very busy indeed, so whilst the drivers were getting our permits, Zul gave everyone an introduction to the area using the very helpful relief map at the Information Centre. He pointed out various features of interest of the whole area, some of which we would be visiting. It was great for everyone to see the scaled relief map and it helped us get our bearings. Finally we left the gate area about an hour after we had arrived. A quarter of an hour later we were getting our first views of the Ngorongoro Crater – always very special. Bob found us a mother and baby Black Rhinoceros and we were able to get good views through the telescope. It was difficult to tear ourselves away and we spent about half an hour at the viewpoint, leaving about 10.50am. We made a brief stop at the Grzimek memorial further round the crater rim. The Grzimeks (father Bernard & son Michael) were passionate about conservation of the area, brought it to world attention, and worked tirelessly to promote the creation of the Serengeti National Park. Sadly, Michael, at the tender age of 24, was killed when his light plane collided with a

Ruppell's Griffon Vulture whilst doing an aerial survey. Bernhard Grzimek wrote the best-selling book *Serengeti Shall Not Die*, and was director of the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) for over 40 years. Even today, FZS is still involved in the conservation of the area.

We carried on round the rim of the crater and enjoyed the spectacular views of the Ngorongoro Highlands with its magnificent forest dripping with mosses and lichens, and various extinct volcanoes, before dropping down to the Serengeti plains. We started seeing lots of animals, both in the Highland grasslands and on the plains. Notable birds en route were many Capped Wheatears.

Naabi Hill, the exit gate for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the entrance gate to the Serengeti NP, was very busy but the time spent getting the permits was well used as there were many tame birds to see and photograph. Some people also took the short walk up to a high viewpoint overlooking the plains. It looked particularly impressive today with all the animals populating the plains. Many Lesser Kestrels were seen over the plains too.

Because of the delays at the gates it was getting past 'normal' lunch time, so Zul bought some soft drinks and biscuits to keep us going. We turned off the main Naabi Hill to Seronera road at 2.20pm; still with 32 kilometres to go to our next lodge. Because the road was not too good in places due to recent rains, we didn't get to the Serengeti Sopa Lodge till 3.20pm. Fortunately, they were still serving lunch.

We went out again just after 5pm. Few mammals were about, although Topi was new for the trip. Best birds were Grey-breasted Francolin (a Tanzanian endemic) and Coqui Francolin. Later, at dinner, it became apparent how busy the lodge was. A Freckled Nightjar was calling persistently as darkness fell.

## Day 8

## Thursday 18th February

It had been a week since we had started our safari and we had still not encountered any big cats, a very unusual occurrence on a Naturetrek safari! The prolific short rains leading up to our visit had meant long grass was everywhere and cats were hidden. Leaving just after 7.30am with packed lunches, we went out for the whole day to the Seronera area of Serengeti NP, an area famed for its predators. There was much to see. Particularly nice were the many Montagu's Harriers (up to 30 a day) with the occasional Pallid Harrier that we saw daily during our time in the Serengeti. A very close Hartlaub's Bustard and a Taita Fiscal were other highlights today. We also saw our first Defassa Waterbuck and Coke's Hartebeeste.

Just as we were approaching Seronera, we chanced upon a lovely group of at least six Bat-eared Foxes very close to our vehicles. They seemed relaxed and not in a hurry to disappear, so we spent some time with them. A short while later we were delighted to watch a pair of mating Lions, our first big cats of the trip. Then we saw two Leopards. Just before midday we found another two Lions, this time up a tree. Whilst negotiating a large broken down truck in the middle of the road, we got stuck in a muddy hollow and had to do some work with bits of wood and rocks to get out. It didn't delay us for long and was all part of the adventure.

We had our lunch at the Seronera Visitor Centre with its many tame birds and Rock Hyrax around the picnic tables. Unfortunately, the excellent raised visitor trail highlighting some of the features of the Serengeti was closed due to refurbishment. After lunch we followed up a report of another Leopard not far from the Seronera

airstrip. We soon found it, but it was not particularly photogenic as it was wedged in a tree with only its back and tail showing. We waited a while and our patience was rewarded as it got up, sat up and stared intently for a couple of minutes before dropping down from the tree. We saw it rising briefly over the long grass as two Warthog ran off. The Leopard then returned to the tree carrying a Warthog! Although we didn't actually see the kill, it was very exciting. Surprisingly, we didn't hear any squeals from the Warthog. It must have been taken by complete surprise.

We stopped at Downey's Dam to look at the many Hippopotamus and waterbirds, and then headed back to the Serengeti Sopa Lodge with a stop to look at a fine Black-breasted Snake Eagle and some groups of Elephants and Giraffes en route. We got back to the lodge at 5pm. It had been a brilliant day.

There was a lot of sheet lightning whilst we were having dinner, and it was very windy at night.

## Day 9

## Friday 19th February

We left the Serengeti Sopa lodge just after 7.30am. Rufous-crowned Roller not far from the lodge was new for the trip. We spent a while watching a male Impala herding his many females together as they had got split up in to two groups on opposite sides of the road! At the concrete bridge we watched the hippopotamus for a while and realised there was actually a largish Nile Crocodile there too. Just after the bridge we watched the antics of an Olive Baboon troupe for some time.

We made a short detour to visit Lake Magadi and were rewarded with excellent views of many waders including Little Stint and Ruff, and many ducks too. On our way back to the main road we had a lovely encounter with a group of very relaxed Elephants that came so close to us, and at one point a pair of White-bellied Bustards were next to us; such striking birds.

Just before we reached the main Naabi Hill to Seronera road, we hit a very muddy patch and one of our vehicles got grounded on a rock in the middle of road. There was no option but to all get out, take all our luggage out, raise the vehicle, dig and shove rocks under the back wheels and reverse out. We negotiated the muddy patch on foot whilst Yusuf and Leakey went off-road to get past the muddy patch. We lost about half an hour due to our little adventure, getting to Naabi Hill at 12.20pm. Twenty minutes later, we were off again. Shortly after taking the turning to Lake Nduu we came across four Lions with a partly-eaten Zebra carcass. Several Spotted Hyenas were nearby too.

We arrived at the Kakakuona (Swahili for Pangolin) Camp, on the slope above Lake Nduu at 1.30pm. After we had been introduced to our luxury tents (a couple of double beds, flushing toilet, shower, electricity, furniture etc.) and had a very nice lunch, the Camp manager Jackson gave us a briefing.

We went out again at 4pm, down to Lake Nduu (sometimes called Lake Lagarja), where there were many Greater Flamingoes and lots of waders including the very local and beautiful Chestnut-banded Plover. A Spotted Hyena resting near the lake edge gave excellent photographic opportunities. We also came across a very obliging Blacksmith Plover sitting on a nest containing one egg. We got back to our camp at dusk, via a different route past another campsite, near where we saw several of the Tanzanian endemic Fischer's Lovebirds and three Spotted Thick-knees.

## Day 10

## Saturday 20th February

We had an early breakfast, and with packed lunches, left camp at 7.40am. Today we were concentrating on finding Cheetah and were going to the Gol Kopjes, one of the best areas for this big cat in the whole of the Serengeti NP. This area was made famous by Hugo Von Lawick, a famous wildlife cameraman who had a camp near Lake Ndutu and made many films in the Gol Kopjes area. En route we encountered a couple of Black-backed Jackals and a remarkable group of 200+ Eland, an animal often only encountered in very small numbers. In all, we estimated we had seen more than 350 Eland today.

We had to get a special permit to visit the Gol Kopje area and so called briefly at Naabi Hill. No sooner had we gone a short distance on the main road and we came across four Cheetahs together! We had them to ourselves and were able to get right alongside them, cameras and videos snapping away!

We saw the largest of the vultures, the Lappet-faced Vulture, several times. They appeared to be breeding as we saw them carrying nesting materials. Other notable birds seen were Secretarybird, Cape Rook, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse and many Lesser Kestrels. An amazing sight was a Montagu's Harrier trying to strike an African Hare close to our vehicle.

A group of six Lions, including a radio-collared one, were well admired and photographed too. They looked splendid, sitting out in the open on short grass. With all the rainfall this season, short grass was a rare commodity. There were so many animals around the Gol Kopjes today and we saw another large group of Eland (100+). We enjoyed spending time watching Zebras coming down to drink at a water-filled hollow. We also enjoyed watching a pair of Dung Beetles going about their business, rolling a ball to a suitable spot to bury.

We had our packed lunches at a lovely small kopje and were able to stretch our legs too. Lizzie went off to 'find a bush' and flushed our only Barn Owl of the trip! Having had a great time and seen some special wildlife, we started to make our way back in the mid afternoon. We saw the four Cheetahs again, but they were quite distant this time and there was a lot of heat haze too. We arrived back at camp at 4.40pm.

## Day 11

## Sunday 21st February

We birded around the camp before we left and Pearl-spotted Owlet, Blue-naped Mousebird, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Black Bishop (sadly in non-breeding plumage) and Beautiful Sunbird were the highlights. The camp staff gathered to say goodbye to us when we left at 8am. There were fourteen of them: two waiters, three chefs, five that looked after tents, three drivers and of course the Camp Manager Jackson. We had really enjoyed staying at this wonderful camp and so we were sad to leave.

Our first stop was at the Ranger Post near Lake Ndutu where we had to sign out of the Serengeti NP and get our permits for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. When we got there, the staff had relocated their office to a vehicle by the airstrip as they were expecting guests to arrive by plane, so off we went there. The bonus of going there was that the toilets were better than the primitive 'long-drop' ones at the official Ranger Post!

After getting our permits, we set off to the area where there were big concentrations of Wildebeeste including many calving. It was wonderful to spend some time with them. Rushing over to witness a newly-born calf that



Yusuf told us about via the radio, Leakey's vehicle hit a hidden Aardvark hole (we were allowed off road here) which probably resulted in the puncture we got a few minutes later. Whilst the wheel was being changed, a Rufous-naped Lark kept us company, singing away sweetly. Two large male Lions had decided to sleep right in the middle of the road and were completely unphased by any vehicles coming or going, so gave brilliant views. Shortly after that, we had a close Spotted Hyaena carrying its prey (a young Thomson's Gazelle).

We stopped back at the airstrip to use the toilets before leaving the Ndutu area. There were a lot of Black-winged Lapwings on the plains including a flock of 38; a very striking bird. Next stop was in a lovely area of Acacia Tortilis woodland where we had our picnic lunches. We were joined by a Masai woman and her two grown-up children and we were able to have friendly banter and take a few photographs of them too. After lunch, we visited a Masai village located on the right before the Oldupai turning. Our guide was Laizer, the son of the Chief. The men welcomed us with singing and dancing and then it was the turn of the women. The village visit gave us a small insight in to their lives. They took us inside their huts and some people even visited the children's school. It was all very colourful and fascinating. We were able to photograph everything and everyone to our heart's content. We were also offered to buy some of their jewellery and crafts, at vastly inflated prices. The village visit is not always to everyone's liking, but most of our group seemed to enjoy it.

Our next major stop was Oldupai Gorge where we had a lecture given by one of the guides. Most people also appreciated the museum, looking at the (replica) artefacts and reading the information provided. Remains of early man dating back almost two million years have been found here and it is one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world. It was made famous by the Leakey family and has been instrumental in furthering the understanding of early human evolution. No wonder it is often called the Cradle of Mankind.

We left Oldupai at 4.40pm, climbed up to the Ngorongoro Crater rim and drove about halfway round the perimeter to get to the wonderful Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge, our base for the next three nights. We arrived at the Sopa Lodge at 6.40pm. Unfortunately Julia, who had been slightly unwell for a couple of days, took a turn for the worse and was seen by the Lodge Doctor (Noel Mboya) on arrival. She was well looked after but sadly was not fit enough to accompany us into the Crater on the next two days. The views of the crater were great from the lodge, our rooms were massive, and the whole place was very impressive. A nice touch for most of us was having a hot water bottle placed in to our beds each night!

## Day 12

## Monday 22nd February

We left the lodge at 7.40am with picnic lunches and arrived at the crater entrance gate ten minutes later. We began our descent to the crater floor a few minutes later. The descent and ascent are so easy when staying at the Sopa Lodge, although the lodge is off the beaten track. We took our time going down, looking for wildlife en route. We had great views of an Augur Buzzard and also saw the gorgeous African Flame Lily *Gloriosa superba*.

Inside the crater, we first headed to the area known as Engitati Hill (Kilima Meza or Round Table), a superb viewpoint over that part of the Crater. En route, we came across an area where there were at least five Jackson's Widowbirds in their splendid full breeding plumage.

At the Round Table area there were so many Elephants including some very large 'tuskers'. Feeding around their feet were several White Storks and Crowned Cranes. We also saw our second Whinchat of the day, a scarce

species in N Tanzania. Next, we drove slowly through the Lerai Forest, but did not see much there except a very loud Grey-capped Warbler displaying very close to our vehicle. Just a short distance away from the forest, we came across three Lions, a superb male and two females, next to the road. They caused a traffic jam and some drivers who left the road to get past the jam were caught by the park rangers and subjected to on-the-spot fines.

At midday we finally caught up with a Black Rhinoceros, the target species for almost everyone that visits the Crater as it's sadly so rare or absent everywhere else. Although we had quite good views as it was moving, our drivers correctly guessed where it would cross a road and we raced to that spot and waited. We were rewarded with brilliant frame-filling views. We were elated as sometimes the rhinoceros can prove difficult to find as some of the areas they frequent are closed off to human visitors. Frequently, one has to be content with large, distant sleeping lumps in the heat haze: not for us!

Lunch was at the Ngoitokitok Springs. En route we had a Golden Jackal with three very cute pups. The lunch spot was a beautiful place, albeit very busy, and gave us a chance to stretch our legs. We left there at 1.45pm. Some Buffalos wallowing in a small wet hollow right by us were quite entertaining and we watched these for a while. Several Grey-crowned Cranes were nearby too.

We got back to the lodge in the late afternoon and there was enough time for those who wanted to explore the grounds. Several good birds were seen including Cape Robin-chat, Golden-winged Sunbird, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Brown-backed Woodpecker and Cinnamon Bracken Warbler.

## Day 13

## Tuesday 23rd February

It was an early start for us today; leaving with a packed breakfast at 6am. Tea and biscuits were available from 5.30am which we all found very welcome. Several Montane Nightjars were seen; flushed as we descended the crater slopes in the dark. It was great to be able to get down so early as the tourists staying at the main concentration of lodges on the rim wouldn't be getting there until a bit later. We had the place to ourselves for a while. When we got to the place where we had seen the Jackson's Widowbirds yesterday, they were there again, actively displaying. It was entertaining to watch as they exploded vertically from the tall grass! We also had good views of the tiny Pectoral-patch Cisticola, a difficult group of birds to identify.

As we reached the Round Table area, it was full of Lions and we saw at least 14 of them. There were also many more Elephants than yesterday. In all, we counted 81 during the day – a very impressive number as normally daily totals in the crater are in single figures. The very lush grass this year obviously suited them. Through the telescope from the Round Table viewpoint, we were able to identify a lot of waterbirds in the vast swamps including Glossy Ibis and Hottentot Teal. A toilet stop at the picnic site near the Seneto descent was followed by a little bit of exploration of that area and we found the localised Schalow's Wheatear.

Stopping at the picnic area at the edge of the Lerai Forest to have our packed breakfasts, a Black-faced Vervet stole some food from one of us and then climbed in to one of the vehicles through an open window, stole an apple and sat in full view, eating it. Throughout it all, it was carrying a very small baby on its belly! We had stopped to look at some Eland and Wildebeeste when someone noticed that there was an African Hare sheltering under a large rock at the edge of the road pretending it wasn't there. We got great views and many photographs too.

At 11.30am we saw the beautiful Serval, one of the smaller cats. It didn't stay around for long, but we had great views. A few minutes later we saw three Lions (almost certainly the same ones as yesterday), and one of them disappeared into a culvert under the road, seeking shade. Around midday we came across six Lions including a mating pair that mated as we watched. They were all very relaxed and completely unbothered by all the vehicles focussing attention on them. One of the males sat down in the middle of the road and caused a bit of a traffic hazard by everyone having to manoeuvre round him without going off road (strictly not allowed). This brought our Lion count for the morning in the Crater to 23. Just after we left the Lions, we came across a Black Rhinoceros which gave quite good views.

We stopped to look at Lake Magadi. There were tantalisingly large numbers of birds (mainly waders and flamingoes) at the soda lake (L Magadi), but with no road nearby, the smaller species were too distant to identify. We did identify Grey-headed Gull though – new for the trip. Fortunately, when we had explored Lake Ndutu a few days ago (when we were based at the bush camp in the Serengeti), we would have seen most of the same species as found on L Magadi. There were so many Black-winged Lapwings around on the grasslands near the roads today. One flock totalled at least 80 birds.

We called at the Hippo Pool, usually a great place for them and many waterbirds, but there was only one Hippopotamus and some Blacksmith Lapwings. In this very wet year, there were obviously many more choices available to the wildlife. Shortly after leaving the Hippo Pool, we saw two more Rhinoceros on our way out of the crater. We exited the gate at 1.15pm and were at the lodge ten minutes later.

In the afternoon we went on a walk in the forest near the Sopa Lodge with an armed ranger, Abdi. It was a great walk, but although we enjoyed it, and Abdi was very knowledgeable, the birds weren't co-operating and we saw very little. However, in the Lodge grounds, Zul found a young White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and Oriole Finch, the latter being new for the trip.

## Day 14

## Wednesday 24th February

Our time at in the Ngorongoro area had sadly come to an end. There was, however, some time for birding in the grounds and taking in the breathtaking views of the crater before we left the lodge just after 8am. We stopped at the main viewpoint from where we had first seen the Crater for ten minutes, and got to the exit gate at 9.10am. The exit formalities and toilet stop were completed quite quickly and we were away at 9.20am. Tarmac road again after over a week without it!

After a short drive through the busy town of Karatu, we stopped at a roadside workshop where Makonde carvers (Ujamaa Wood Carvers) were plying their crafts. It was great to see them at work and many of us bought some of their handiwork. A few minutes after leaving, we arrived at the wonderful Gibb's Farm. Everyone was instantly impressed by the ambience of the place. Gibb's is an old coffee plantation with wonderful flower and vegetable gardens, great views and a superb place for just 'chilling out'. It is next to the Ngorongoro Highland Forest Reserve and so has some very good birding too. The bird table was frequented by many birds. We spent about two hours here, with most people just relaxing, whilst others took a tour of the gardens, looked at the fantastic cottages, looked at farm animals, or just exploring the place on their own. Green-headed and Bronze Sunbirds were new birds for the trip.

We had an early lunch at 11.30am and afterwards thanked Leakey and Yusuf for all that they had done for us on the safari: they had both been outstanding driver/guides. We then said goodbye to Lizzie and Matthew who went off with Yusuf on another adventure to Lake Natron, whilst the rest of us went to Arusha with Leakey and a new driver, Mwita. We arrived at Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha about 3.30pm and transferred the luggage to the airport transfer bus. After saying thanks and goodbye to Zul, the group headed to the airport for their flight to Nairobi, and then onwards to London Heathrow.

## Day 15

Thursday 25th February

After an overnight flight, we arrived back in the UK where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

## Species Lists

Birds (K= thousand; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>			11	6	3	3	4	3	30	8	50	30	
2	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>					3					2			
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	12	1											
4	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	6	1			2								
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			1	2	3		2	1			1	4	
6	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		1			1	6	5			20	2	10	
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					1								
8	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				1									
9	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>								1					
10	Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>				1									
11	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		6	30		100	100					200	10	
12	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		1	2	3							2	4	
13	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			1		25						2	1	
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		6	3										
15	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>			500		200	100		30			500	500	
16	Eurasian White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			100		50	50		100	100	100	200	200	
17	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>					4	20	3	20	10	20	6	2	
18	Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		1	6		5					4	5	4	
19	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	4	2						1					
20	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>											20	15	
21	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>					1							1	
22	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>								500		500	P	P	
23	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>		300						1K			P	P	
23	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>		6	3										
24	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>					4			1					
25	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>		30	1	4	6		2	20	11	2	4	30	
26	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		1			1						1	5	
27	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>		120						75		12		10	
28	Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>								1			1	1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
29	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>												4		
30	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>												10	75	
31	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		1*		1				4	2	2			1	
32	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans aegyptius</i>	10		2		1	5					2			1
33	African Fish-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>			1		3		1							
34	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>										2				
35	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	4		2	2	1	1	10	6	2	6	10	6		
36	Ruppell's Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>										5				
37	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>						2		2	4		3	2		
38	Black-breasted Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>							1		1					
39	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>						1	1			1		1		
40	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1				1	1	2	1					
41	African Marsh-harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>					1									
42	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>								2	1	1	1			
43	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>							30	20	30	10			4	
44	Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>								1		1				
45	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>						1				1				
46	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	1													
47	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		4												
48	Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>		1												
49	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>		1	2			3				1	4	6		
50	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>				2		1	1	1	2	1	1	1		
51	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>		1												
52	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>							1	1	3	1				
53	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>				1		2	1		1		1			
54	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>						100	10	20	40	20				
55	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>									1					
56	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>							2	1	4					
57	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>			1											
58	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					1									
59	Coqui Francolin	<i>Francolinus coqui</i>						4								
60	Crested Francolin	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>			6	6	4									

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
61	Yellow-necked Francolin	<i>Francolinus leucoscepus</i>			3	6	1								
62	Grey-breasted Francolin	<i>Francolinus rufopictus</i>						3	2	2	1				
63	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		2	2	2	3	6	10	20	10	6	3	6	
64	Grey-crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>			1		2						20	20	
65	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>					1		5						
66	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>						1		4	6	1	1	1	
67	White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>							1	2					
68	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>								1				1	
69	Hartlaub's Bustard	<i>Lissotis hartlaubii</i>							1						
70	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>					4								
71	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					40		2	100		12		2	
72	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>				2				2					
73	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>								3					
74	Double-banded Courser	<i>Smutsornis africanus</i>				8	10		4	2					
75	Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>				3									
76	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					100				1				
77	Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>					6							30	
78	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	12	4	2	20		3	100	1	10	20	30		
79	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	2			2									
80	Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>									38	30	100		
81	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>				15			4	12	50	20	10		
82	Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>				1									
83	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								10		10			
84	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>					2			20		6			
85	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>			1	3			3	1					
86	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>								10		20			
87	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>							3						
88	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>										8			
89	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					10		2			4			
90	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			1			1							
91	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			1	1									
92	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		10	1		10		15	10				1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
93	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	1	1	4								
94	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		2			4				100		100		
95	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									5		10		
96	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		2			50			20	50		75	3 30	
97	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>												4	
98	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>											2		
99	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>									100				
100	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>									10				
101	Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>										6			
102	Black-faced Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>				8									
103	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	2									3			
104	Dusky Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>											2 1		
105	African Mourning Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>			1	2		2			10	10	6		
106	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	2				2							3 1	
107	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		4	30	30	10	6	10	20	30	20			
108	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>			1						10	10	12		
109	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>				H	1								
110	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>				2					2				
111	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>	H											1	
112	Fischer's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>							2	20	1	4			
113	Yellow-collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis personatus</i>			10	12	6								
114	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>				1		1							
115	Red-bellied Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>			4										
116	Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>												2H	
117	Hartlaub's Turaco	<i>Tauraco hartlaubi</i>		10											
118	Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>						2	3						
119	White-bellied Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>			2	2									
120	Black-and-white Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>					1			1		1		1	
121	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>		1											
122	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>					1								
123	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	H		1	2	2								
124	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>			1	1									



	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
125	Klaas' Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>									1				
126	African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	H						H						
127	Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>				1					2	2			
128	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>				2		2	3	1					
129	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>									1				
130	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>			1	1	1								
131	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>									H	1			
132	Montane Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruwenzorii</i>													5
133	Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>						H							
134	African Palm-swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	6		12										
135	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	40			1	50								
136	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	6	4	2	1	2				1	4	10	4	
137	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>									6	6			
138	Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>		1											
139	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>	1												
140	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>				2									
141	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			2								H	1	
142	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>		H		2	1								
143	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	1												
144	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>		6											
145	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		4	2										
146	Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>		2									2	1	
147	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				3	1								
148	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1												
149	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudata</i>			12	20	6	10	10	6	3	4			2
150	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevia</i>								1					
151	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>					3								
152	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>			1							2			
153	Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>			1	6		2							
154	Von Der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>			4	10	4	2							
155	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>	2												
156	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>			2	1		4							

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
157	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna brevis</i>	10	1	2		6								
158	Southern Ground-hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>				4									
159	White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>	6	10	2										
160	Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>									1				
161	Red-and-yellow Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>				3	1								
162	D'arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii</i>								2					
163	Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>				1									
164	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>						1							
165	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>			1	1									
166	Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>			1	3									
167	Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos obsoletus</i>											1		
168	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>		6				4	8	12	12	20	8	25	
169	Fischer's Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>						20	50	10	30	10		30	
170	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>									4		6	10	
171	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		6											
172	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>											4		
173	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>									4		2		
174	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		1	300	10	20	10	20	50		100	50	100	
175	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>		1											
176	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>		2	2	4				3					
177	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		4									4	6	
178	Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>		6				2						4	
179	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>						2	1	1					
180	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						1					1	5	
181	Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>					1								
182	Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>								2					
183	Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>												5	
184	Pangani Longclaw	<i>Macronyx aurantiigula</i>		2											
185	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>							2						
186	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>					1								
187	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>											1		
188	Black Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>		2											

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
189	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	10	10	2	2						1	1	2	10	4
190	Trilling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>		4H												
191	Hunter's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola hunteri</i>											4	8		
192	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>			6	10	6	10	6	6	2	4				
193	Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>					1	2								
194	Pectoral-patch Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>									10				2	
195	Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>							1							
196	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>										2				
197	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>										2				
198	Black-headed Apalis	<i>Apalis melanocephala</i>		6H												
199	Grey-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>											3	1		
200	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	H	1								2	1			
201	Moustached Grass Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>		1												
202	Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>						3								
203	Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>			2	1										
204	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							H			1	4			
205	Cinnamon Bracken Warbler													1		
206	Silverbird	<i>Empidonax semipartitus</i>				1										
207	African Grey Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>				1		2	2							
208	White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>	2										6	3	2	
209	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1	2		1			2					
210	African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>		2									4	4		
211	Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>		1					1							
212	Cape Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>											1			
213	Spotted Morning-thrush	<i>Cichladusa guttata</i>				1										
214	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>											2	1		
215	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>						2				2	6	5		
216	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>								2	1	1				
217	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>						20			12	6		1		
218	Schalow's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens schalowi</i>												2		
219	Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>				2?										
220	Nightjar sp.							1								

	Common name	Scientific name	February													
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
219	Northern Anteater-chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>												4		
220	White-tailed Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia albicauda</i>												1		
221	African Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>												H		
222	Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>								1	1					
223	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>			4			1								
224	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>				2	1									
225	Bronze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>														2
226	Golden-winged Sunbird	<i>Drepanorhynchus reichenowi</i>											4	4		
227	Eastern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mediocris</i>											2	2		
228	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>				1				1	2					
229	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		3												
230	Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	1	1												
231	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticali</i>														1
232	Montane White-eye	<i>Zosterops poliogastrus</i>											2			
233	African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>			1		1		2	1						
234	Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>						10	20	10						
235	Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>					1									
236	Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>								1						
237	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>		2									4	6		
238	Magpie Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>			6	10	12			20						
239	Northern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>			10	20	12	20	20	15						
240	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>									2					
241	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>													H	
242	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>		1		2	2	2								
243	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>		H												
244	Slate-coloured Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>			1		1				1					
245	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>			2	4	2	1	2	4		2				
246	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>									4					
247	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	20		12		1	3								
248	White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>											1	3		
249	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>							50	100	1K	1K				
250	Ruppell's Glossy-starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuropterus</i>						6								

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
251	Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	2		30	40	20	30	40	100	10	50	2	6	
252	Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>			1			10		1	1	1			
253	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>						1							
254	Ashy Starling	<i>Spreo unicolor</i>			20	30	6								
255	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>			2	2									
256	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>		6	2		1	1	1			4	30		
257	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>								1	4		10		
258	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1										2		
259	Kenya Rufous-sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>												1	
260	Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>			6	5		12		1					
261	Red-billed Buffalo-weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>			2	20	10	6	20	25					
262	White-headed Buffalo-weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>			12	20		20	20	10					
263	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>						4	10	10	2	2			
264	Rufous-tailed Weaver	<i>Histurgops ruficauda</i>				12	10	20	12		6	10	20	12	
265	Grey-headed Social-weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita araudi</i>							30			2			
266	Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>	6	1									2	1	
267	Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>			1										
268	Taveta Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus castaneiceps</i>	30												
269	Vitelline Masked-weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>								10	6	6			
270	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>				20		1	20						
271	Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>											10		
272	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>		2											
273	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>				30									
274	Black Bishop	<i>Euplectes gierowii</i>										1			
275	Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>												8	
276	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>				20			1						
277	Jackson's Widowbird	<i>Euplectes jacksoni</i>											6	4	
278	Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	20	10											
279	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>												2	
280	Blue-capped Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>			2				1						
281	Purple Grenadier	<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>										1			
282	Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Lonchura bicolor</i>	2												

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
283	Oriole Finch	<i>Linurgus olivaceus</i>												1	
285	White-bellied Canary	<i>Serinus dorsostriatus</i>						1			1	1			
286	African Citril	<i>Serinus citrinelloides</i>	2												
286	Streaky Seedeater	<i>Serinus striolatus</i>											4	4	

## Mammals

1	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>		20		3	3		6	3	3		30	10	
2	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>		5			20	5	30	12			30	40	
3	Masai Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>		20	12	3	3	20	30	20	20	30			
4	Kirk's Dik-Dik	<i>Rhynchotragus kirki</i>			3	4	2	2			4				
5	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>		5											
6	Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>						26				350	75	30	
7	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>		12	20	5	3								
8	Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>							1	20			2		
9	Topi	<i>Damaliscus korrigum</i>						5	10	10	1				
10	Coke's Hartebeeste	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii</i>							6	10	1		1		
11	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>			20		40	2K		25	3	5K	2K	1K	
12	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>			150	100	50	75	20	100	100	75			
13	Grant's Gazelle	<i>Gazella granti</i>			1			100	3	50	500	100	50	100	
14	Thomson's Gazelle	<i>Gazella thomsoni</i>					4	1K		200	1K	1K	1K	1K	
15	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>		60				50	300	4	3	4	150	300	
16	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		20	15		100	5K		1K	5K	3K	500	300	
17	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>						2					3	3	
18	Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>			4				5						
19	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>			75	100	46	10	50	50		2	50	81	
20	Unstriped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>			2	2	1								
21	Ochre Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus ochraceus</i>				2									
22	African Hare	<i>Lepus habessinicus</i>									1			1	
23	African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>						1				20			
24	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>						3	2	2	4		4		
25	Golden (Common) Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>									3	4	4	2	
26	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>							6						

	Common name	Scientific name	February												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>			15	20	10								
28	Eastern Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>			5	6									
29	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>				1	H	6		3	8	10	10	10	
30	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>							4	4	6	2	3	23	
31	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>							3						
32	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>									4				
33	Serval	<i>Felis serval</i>												1	
34	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>		40	50		100	40	30	40	6		100	30	
35	Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>		2			6							2	
36	Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>			30	6	12	6	12	10				12	
37	Eastern Black-and-white Colobus	<i>Colobus guereza</i>		12											
38	Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus sp.</i>				20			15						

## Other Taxa

1	Green snake sp.		1												
2	Agama sp							3	6		20				
3	Lizard sp.							1							
4	Skink sp.								1						
5	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>								1					
6	Dung Beetle sp										2	2			
7	Fireball Lily	<i>Scadoxus multiflorus</i>		50											
8	African Flame Lily	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>											4	2	