

# BIRDS, MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS and REPTILES

seen in Tanzania nov 4 – Nov 23 2015

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African dwarf bittern

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## Introduction

A friend of mine encouraged me to consider an eco-trip to Tanzania for nature-studies. I was also introduced to a professional guide; James Alan Woolstencroft (James) in Arusha in north-eastern Tanzania. James is primarily a bird-guide, but with considerable knowledge about lots of other groups of animals and plants as well. Since I wished to study birds as well as mammals and what else we were going to come across, we started planning. Because Tanzania is not one of the very cheapest countries to tourist in, we agreed that James should try to arrange a budget trip. In May 2015 we felt we had arrived at an attractive itinerary.

James arranged a driver Mr Stanley Bupanga Mbogo (Stanley) with his car, a 1994 Toyota Landcruiser, short version with a pop-up roof. Stanley then made most of the reservations for the nights.

Tanzania is a quite East African country. The accommodations were to our satisfaction. A few times they were however quite “East African countryside-standard”. The arrangements were nevertheless charming, and also offering me a closer contact with the country. Most people seemed unfamiliar with schedules, itineraries and often also ”time.” Since Stanley spoke at least two languages besides English, and James, a Schotsman knew a bit of local languages too, there were occasions when local people “demanded a bit more time than we had planned for.”

I travelled by air from Copenhagen via Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro. Only four air-companies have hitherto obtained permission to land on Kilimanjaro Airport; Turkish Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, and Qatar Airways and KLM. Flight hours for the latter were excellent, provided you could take the first flight from Kastrup Airport, Copenhagen at 06:00.

### Itinerary in short:

Kilimanjaro Airport – Usa River; Fiona’s Birders Cottage, about half way between Kilimanjaro and Moshi – Arusha National Park – Usa River – Mkuru Camel Camp – Lark Plains – Isoitok – above the floor of the Rift Valley – Tarangire National Park – Lake Manyara National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area – Rhino Safari Lodge – Ngorongoro Conservation Area – Rhino Safari Lodge – Naabi Hill – Serengeti National Park – (Ikoma Gate) – Mugumu – periphery of Serengeti National Park – Wasso – Loliondo Highlands – Wasso – Lake Natron – Usa River; Fiona’s Birders Cottage – Same; Elephant Lodge – Mkomazi National Park – West Usambara Mountains; Mambo View Eco-Lodge – East Usambara Mountains; Amani; IUCN Guest House – Amani Zigi – via Moshi to Kilimanjaro Airport.



James



Stanley



Dismas



Gnous



Red dots refer to earlier trip. Green dots from left to right. (Not all sites mentioned are shown): Mugumu (upper dot), Serengeti ( Ikoma Gate), Loliondo Highlands (Wasso), Lake Natron (upper dot), Tarangire NP, Lake Manyara NP, Arusha NP, Usa River, Mt Meru (Mкуру Camel Camp), Mkuze NP (Same). West Usambara (Mambo View Eco Lodge), East Usambara (Amani)

## ITINERARY

### Nov 3

I landed on Kiloimanjaro Airport as scheduled. A taxi arranged by James picked me up and drove me to Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River. On the driveway up to the cottage we saw the first hares, which I recognized as scrub hares. (See below). We also saw some elands and a few nightjars taking off from the road. At the residence house I met James and the owner and hostess of Fiona's Birders Cottage; Ms Fiona. As soon as we had unloaded the taxi

we started to discuss birds and mammals. Fiona also has a great interest in mammals. She puts out fruit for mammals at night on the ground as well as on a small platform about one and a half metres off the ground, easily accessible by busbabies and palm civets. Fiona also has camera-traps. Enthusiastically she showed us her photo book with photos taken with her camera-traps. This included animals like small-eared greater galago, Gambian pouched rat, African palm civet, common genet, serval and bush duiker.

During a late meal the galago, the palm civet and some Wahlberg's epauletted fruit-bats were calling. I decided to do some night-watching from the porch of the residence, starting around 22:45. Since it had been a long day I was not fully alert when something moved at the small platform. I later discovered that the bananas on the platform were gone. About half an hour after midnight I scanned the edge of the little lawn in front of the porch and found a Gambian pouched rat just about to enter the lawn. This remarkable animal with fairly long legs, a long raised tail with white, more or less shining outer half reminded me at first sight of a vervet monkey. Sadly it did not seem too happy being spot-lighted.

#### Nov 4

In the morning Fiona served breakfast for us as well as for the birds. Her feeders were visited by brown-hooded kingfisher, red-throated twinspot, red-billed firefinch, northern grey-headed sparrow, olive-, variable-, scarlet-breasted- and amethyst sunbirds, chestnut-, lesser masked- and vitelline weavers.



Red-billed firefinch



Red-throated twinspot; female

After breakfast James and I took a walk along a little dust-road outside the gate of the cottage. Here we found several emerald-spotted dove, moustached warbler, Abyssinian white-eye, red-cheeked cordonbleu, Nubian woodpecker and white-eared barbet, but also the not so common brown-breasted barbet. Among newly arrived migrants we particularly noticed eastern nightingale (*Luscinia golzi*) and spotted flycatcher.

A little while later we took a walk together with Fiona to the river. Here we found grey olive greenbul and sombre greenbul.

When we returned from our walk Stanley had arrived with his vehicle. We then went towards Arusha National Park, and stopped at suitable habitats on our way. In some paddocks where some brindled gnous with a pale, almost buff skin-colour were held. Here we found an African cuckoo, grey hornbill and southern black flycatcher.

On our way back to Fiona's Birders Cottage I saw a man in a paddock looking like he was trying to catch something. We stopped. James and Stanley found out that he was catching moles, blesmols or mole-rats. We asked if he was going to check his traps any more that day. He replied he was going to check again between 14:00 and 15:00 and we were welcome to join him.

After lunch we returned to the area. There was nobody there at 14:30, so we went for a short walk around the paddock. Here we found a spotted eagle-owl and a little group of vervet monkeys. While photographing the owl Mr Raishidi Paulo had returned to his traps. He had caught two of those animals, at the time not identified. They later proved to be demon mole-rats (*Tachyryctes daemon*). One of them was alive and cooperative.



Demon mole-rat



Spotted eagle-owl

We also made a stop at a swamp next to the road where we soon found some Taveta weavers, altogether about 15. We then drove towards Arusha National Park while looking for birds and mammals.

After some discussion with park officials James managed to arrange a 24-hours visiting-permit, which allowed us to start watching inside the park in the evening. Target mammal here was Haley's duiker (*Cephalophus harveyi*). We did not find any that evening, but eight bushbucks, eight waterbucks, five blue monkeys, four black-and-white colobus, about 20 vervet monkeys and also a few hippos. Among birds we found trilling- and red-faced cisticolas, red-rumped swallow, eastern black-headed oriole and African jacana.

After supper, between 21 and 22 Fiona and I made a spotlighting tour by car on the land belonging to Fiona's Birders Cottage. By far the commonest bird on the road was square-tailed nightjar, but also one or two slender-tailed nightjars were there. During the drive we also found four or five impala, two Thomson's- and four Grant's gazelles, six Kirk's dik-dik and one bush duiker. When we returned to the cottage a white-bellied hedgehog crossed the lawn. During late evening the galago, the palm civet and the fruit bats were heard again.

## Nov 5

In the morning I started by going to the dump outside the wall surrounding the cottage. I was hoping to see some more of the Gambian pouched rat and also check my traps I had set the previous evening. I found no rodents at the dump, but in one of the traps I had caught two Natal multimammate rats. After breakfast Fiona joined us for another visit at the river. She sometimes sees the African finfoot here. We found no finfoot but some more grey-olive greenbul and a northern brownbul.

After breakfast we returned to Arusha National Park to look for the duiker and a number of birds. We started our drive along the road to Momella Gate.

Stanley's keen eyes were a great help when it came to spotting mammals in dense vegetation. During the morning we spotted five sunis and nine Harvey's duikers.

Not many vehicles had driven Mberga Loop lately. This morning it was wet after quite a bit of rain. Target species here was black-headed apalis, which we eventually found.

On our way back to Momella Road a huge tree had fallen across the small forest trail. Stanley took a walk around the tree and decided to try to make our way through the forest back to the

road. With four-wheel drive he moved twigs and young trees up to the width of about four centimetres and reached the road just about 75 metres beyond the fallen tree. During our drive we found a little group of placid greenbul, green barbet and silvery-cheeked hornbill.

We continued higher up along the road, turned off to Itikone Special Camp Site and arrived at an open area where we had lunch in the field. Meanwhile we spotted a crowned eagle passing over us. We heard African hill-babbler and cinnamon-bracken warbler and studied Montane white-eye (*Zosterops poliogastrus*), soon to become Kilimanjaro white-eye (*Z. eurycricotus*). Some blue monkeys and a black-and-white colobus were also here.

Our next two – three stops we made for Kenrick's- and Abbott's starlings and the indeed illusive green forest warbler. At our first stop we were surprised by an Abyssinian crimsonwing but found none of the target species. Our second stop gave us Kenrick's starling, Waller's starling and the warbler. Here also a very large group of olive baboon showed up. I tried to count them, but gave up at around 115. A few hundred metres further up we made another stop for Abbott's starling at a neat little waterfall. Here I saw my first green-banded swallowtail (*Papilio sp.*) but no Abbott's starling. We then continued down to Momella Lake where we saw some commoner waterbirds.

In the afternoon we continued towards Mkuru Camel Camp where we arrived about 17:00. This camp had electricity for only the kitchen and the dining-tent. Regardless they provided very good food. After supper we took a drive spotlighting in the Acacia-Commiphora Somali-Masai-bushland. Several hares of the savannah hare-type were seen. These showed hardly any russet on the neck. Despite the barren looking ground we here found our first spotted hyena and two fringe-tailed gerbils (*Tatera robusta*).



Harvey's duiker



Savannah hare

Continuing our search we met some Masais walking at night. James and Stanley talked with them and asked them if there was any area where we could see some spring hares. Two of them got into the car and guided us a few hundred metres to a place where there were several spring hares. We counted eight, running back and forth. While driving for those we started a zorilla, which ran in front of us for a while. After our spring hare-chase we drove the two Masais back to a suitable place and dropped them.

## Nov 6

Shortly before and during dawn a dusky- and a slender-tailed nightjar were calling. After dawn James and I took a walk around the camp. We found some red-faced tits, which we had briefly seen the previous evening. We also found the African kestrel (*Falco [tinnuculus] rufescens*), which is under discussion for a split, white-bellied go-away bird, banded parisoma and tiny cisticola.

After breakfast we continued to Lark Plains to look for the very local and thus endemic Beesley's lark (*Chersomanes beesleyi*).

When you reach the plains you find a sign informing about this bird and about protection for it. Sadly for the lark, but favourable for the Masai people the people are doing much better than they have done before. This has resulted in a rather quick increase among the Masais. Since most of them refuse to abandon their traditional way of living as well as thinking, they still want to have a lot of cattle. The grazing of a growing abundance of cattle is wearing hard on grasslands where their cattle are allowed to graze.

Those Masais who don't attend school but obtain their skills from home have also developed a rather unique technique to beg and to find reasons to start arguments, meant to get money from tourists coming to "Masai-land". James knews exactly where to search for the larks, so it did not take long to find Beesley's lark. Here were also found short-tailed lark, foxy lark, rufous-naped lark, red-capped lark, (*Calandrella cinerea*) and Athi short-toed lark (*C. athenis*). We were almost finished with our lark-studies when the first Masai discovered us. We paid the Engikaret village visitor fees, and left Lark Plains without extra time-loss.

During our stay at the plains we also saw lesser spotted- and steppe eagles, two secretary birds, Montague's harrier, white-eyed kestrel, grassveld pipit, tiny cisticola, black-crowned tschagra, red-faced crombec, Scalow's- and capped wheatears and Taita fiscal. Here we also saw a Speke's sand lizard, another savannah hare and some more Kirk's dik-dik.

Then James asked me whether I was interested in seeing Nairobi pipit (*Anthus [similis] chyuluensis*), a taxon which has been suggested to get full species-status very soon. It had started to rain rather heavily but we made an effort at Lengijave, a Masai word meaning windy place. Here were several grassland pipits (*A. cinnamomeus*) so it took a while before James found one. This site is also known to host Lynes's cisticola. This we did not find, but red-rumped swallow and a Kenya rufous sparrow were there.

Our next stop was Isoitok. The night we spent at Camp Isoitok. Here I saw the spotted palm thrush, which we hitherto had only heard. When I talked to the owner as well as the people working there they told me that slender mongoose, dwarf mongoose a ground squirrel and some rodents came into the camp-site nearly every night. The owner told me to watch out for scorpions if I went out at night. When I asked him if he could show me one, he walked over to some small stones next to one of the paths, turned over some of them and showed me a *Parabuthus*-scorpion, most likely *pallidus*. I set my traps. Before I went to bed I recorded some bats with my Pettersson 240X Ultra-sound Bat Detector.



Red-necked spurfowl



Coqui francolon

## Nov 7

. I got up at 02:00 to check the traps as well as look for the mammals mentioned above, but had no success. A few bats were recorded.

In the early morning we drove to Tarangire National Park. As soon as we got into the park we found the dwarf mongoose and a little while later also the banded mongoose. I also saw a small rodent crossing the sandy road but had no chance to even guess what species it was. The first birds we saw were two endemics; yellow-collared lovebird and ashy starling, the latter a species I had long wanted to see. Another bird I was pleased to see again was the desert cisticola. When we arrived at a resting site with a huge hollow baobab tree, I went inside. James and Stanley followed me. Soon we saw four young mottled spinetails and two Hildebrandt's horseshoe bats roosting inside the tree. After a cup of coffee on the hood we continued and soon reached a shallow wadi with some slowly running water. A bird I have long wanted to see well, and also thought was next to impossible to see well was the painted snipe. From the bridge over this little stream, less than thirty metres from us we waded three painted snipes peacefully foraging in the open.



Painted snipe

Besides those there was a mixture of migrants as well as more or less stationary waders like common-, green-, wood- and solitary sandpipers, little stint, blacksmith lapwing and three-banded plover. We also started a Bohor reedbuck started from the edge of the wadi. While driving in the park we also saw yellow-necked-, and red-necked spurfowls, crested- and coqui francolins, a family of southern ground hornbill; two adults and one young more or less posing less than 20 metres from the road. Grey- and northern red-billed hornbills were also present. Here we also saw my first rufous-tailed weaver, one of the endemics I had long wanted to see. Several species of mammals were numerous. Buffalos came out of the bush every here and there. Singles as well as little groups surprised us more than once. During our visit to the park we saw 14 species of mammals.



After our visit to Tarangire National Park we had a short discussion whether we should take a trip up to Ufiome Forest Reserve. We decided to do so, since we then would come into forest with considerable streak of Miombo, and thus some Miombo birds. The reserve is also known to host 13 species of carnivores. Most of them are nocturnal and thus hard to see during the day. Among birds, we got the miombo double-collared sunbird and brown-headed apalis, but also Hartlaub's turaco, pallid honeyguide, yellow-throated petronia, lemon dove and eastern nicator. James also pointed out the African woodwhite (*Leptidea dupncheli*) to me. In the evening we returned to the Camp at Isoitok Research Area.



Red-capped lark



Spotted palm thrush

## Nov 8

After breakfast we drove to Lake Manyara National Park just south-east of Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Around the entrance there is a green area surrounding a little museum. It has potential for several good birds and for ochre bush squirrel, but this morning we found only silvery-cheeked hornbill, mocking cliff chat and a few more common birds.

When we left the entrance and drove into the park we rather immediately found a perched African hawk-eagle, a Levalliant's cuckoo, and also an African wood-hoopoe. Along the road through the park we found two crested guineafowl, a black stork gently resting in a small pool, Hildebrandt's francolin, a group of eight Rüppell's vultures, D'arnaud's barbet, red-fronted tinkerbird, and yellow-bellied greenbul. On our way out to the western entrance of the park we saw our only Natal red duiker. At this entrance we found our only red-headed weaver for the trip, and also leopard tortoise and Nile monitor. Here James also pointed out a guineafowl butterfly (*Hamanumida daedalus*).

We had a lunch on the hood while we watched three species of swifts.

We then headed for another Hippo Point. Along the road we saw grey-rumped swallow and grey-crowned cranes. At Hippo Point there was water and therefore also waterbirds like African spoonbill, yellow-billed stork, black-, yellow-billed-, great- and little egrets, grey-, black-headed and squacco herons, glossy- sacred and hadada ibises, knob-billed duck, African jacana, long-toed lapwing and water thick-knee. Since there was a fair amount of water about 30 hippos were gathered here.

Our next stop was at some palm-trees where we were going to look for collared palm-thrush. It took a while before we located one. A spotted palm-thrush, a grey woodpecker and sulphur-breasted bush-shrike were also noted here. A white-headed vulture passed over us.

We then headed for Rhino Lodge, situated on the ridge of the Ngorongoro Crater. Reaching the ridge there was a great outlook over the southern limit of the crater-bottom. A telescope was mounted here on firm ground, for tourists. The telescope happened to be focused on two brush rhinoceros resting several kilometres away. We could just barely make out they were rhinoceros. We arrived at Rhino Lodge at dusk. Here safety precautions were rigorous. After

dark you were not allowed to cross the lawn between dining room and bedrooms, a distance less than 50 metres, without a native in company. First thing when we arrived I took a stroll around the houses together with a young Masai, armed with a spear. The real threat here are the buffalos. Normally they behave nicely, but occasionally, however rarely, an odd one might have a bad day.

After dark I learned that a genet often came up to and onto the porch. I asked the people to tell me if they saw it. I also learned that bush pig was possible to see here. The Masai-watchers stayed up every night to watch the fire at a fireplace next to a small lawn bordering the forest. They usually saw at least one bush pig when they put out something eatable on the lawn. I told them I very much would like to see this animal. Already before I had finished my evening meal they came and told me a bush pig had come out. When I got to the fireplace-balcony the pig was gone. I stayed for a while. The genet came out, and as expected at this altitude it was a large-spotted genet (*Getetta maculata*). I went back to the dining-room to finish my dinner. Thereafter I returned to the “fireplace-balcony”. Then a second bush pig had come out. It stood undisturbed on the lawn and chewed some vegetable. A little while later a white-tailed mongoose appeared on the lawn. About an hour later the Masai-watchers put out some more vegetables and another bush pig cane out. Then it started to rain and the animals were less anxious to come out.

The two young Masai-men, Mr Ponja Kisele and Mr Nina Narishet (e-mail-adresses below) working here will be happy to do their best to show people these wonderful animals. So if you come here and want to see these animals you can ask for either one of the two.

While waiting for the animals to come out I recorded at least two bats with my bat detector.



African buffalo



Bush pig

## Nov 9

In the morning it was foggy around the lodge. We headed for the Ngorongoro Crater-bottom. As we descended the fog lifted. When we were nearly all the way down to the plain we stopped because James knew that Lynes's cisticola dwells here. We didn't have to wait long before we spotted two individuals of this species.

Meanwhile we also got a good chance to study the long-billed pipit (*Antus similis*) and could compare them to the Nairobi pipit (*Anthus [similis] chyuluensis*). Even in the field they looked different. Here we also studied a pair of (Goodson's) plain-backed pipit (*Anthus leucophrys/[vaalensis] goodsoni*). We also encountered the first grass rats (*Arvicanthis*) (See below). Sadly, they were not very willing to pose in front of the camera.

When we came out on the plains we drove in a reasonable speed. We met another vehicle with eco-tourists. Stanley rolled down the window and talked to the driver of the other car. Stanley told us that there were two brush rhinoceros about two and a half kilometres ahead and wondered if I wanted to see them. I suggested we should look at them when we got there.

Stanley's reaction was obvious. He did not expect me to be that reserved about driving over to get a closer look at the rhinos, so he asked me again. I felt his anxiety, so I agreed on going there. The following two and a half kilometres were by far the fastest we did in the crater. We reached a small group of vehicles, and the rhinos peacefully grazing in front of us about 400 metres from the vehicle. Here was also golden jackal, spotted hyena and the first of two bat-eared foxes for the trip. We also saw our first kongoni here. After a while we continued to another Hippo Point, where we found more waterbirds; four white pelican, four yellow-billed stork, hottentot- and red-billed teals, a pair of northern shoveler, ruff, avocet, a pair of Kitzlit's plover, black crane, common moorhen, malachite kingfisher, banded martin and lesser swamp warbler. A rather big number of sacred ibis were gathered here. I made an effort to count them and came to about 200. About sixty hippos had gathered in the pool. Along the road near this water we saw two black-winged lapwing, Nyanza- and European swifts. Also winding cisticola, grey-rumped swallow and grey-crowned crane were nice. We then drove up some hills on the south western side of the crater. We had started to see brindled gnou in fair numbers. On the mild slopes and hills they were gathered in large flocks, interspersed with smaller flocks of buffalo and zebra. While having lunch we were practically surrounded by gnous. I tried to estimate the number of gnous during the day. It could have been anything between 12- and 20 000 heads.

During lunch on the ground a heavy lapped-faced vulture took to its wings close to us, caught air and then soared for a while nearly right over us. While driving away from the hills we were informed that there were lions just a little further on. We drove there too, and eventually found three, initially all resting but after a while at least one started to move in our direction. While studying the lions we discovered a kill not far from us, thanks to vultures descending towards it. Already two white-headed-, one lappet-faced-, two white-backed- and a hooded vulture were assembled. A black-backed jackal and a spotted hyena had also started to show some interest in the kill.



Lappet-faced vulture



Brindled gnou and plains zebra

On our drive back to the lodge we made a stop at the rest-area just before the road starts to climb out of the crater. James had seen these grass rats here sometimes. When we stopped just about 100 metres from the rest-house we started to get out of the car. Since I was closest to the door I stepped out first. As soon as I set my feet on the ground a magnificent bull buffalo arose only about ten meters away from me. We were probably just as surprised both of us. I stepped back into the vehicle, and he didn't seem to pay much attention to the meeting. We moved about fifty metres closer to the rest-house before we stepped out again, but re-discovered no grass rats. Back at Rhino Lodge after dark the bush pigs, the large-spotted genet and the white-tailed mongoose were there. Also a galago (not identified) was calling.

## Nov 10

In the morning we drove down to the crater basin again and continued northwest inside Ngorongoro Conservation Area. While driving we saw a black-chested snake-eagle, Montague's harrier and a few cape rook. At a quarter to ten we reached the Gateway to Serengeti National Park. We stopped here for a while to survey the surroundings. James told me that the grass vegetation is burnt by the authorities every four years to re-generate it faster. This of course favours the small grazers feeding mainly on short and brittle grass. Hence, man has once again interfered with natural succession and maybe changed the natural balance. When we looked around us we saw Thomson's gazelles everywhere. Since the area is plain and about 320° were visible I tried to estimate the number of Thomson's gazelle's by counting them one by one on the visible 320° with my binoculars 8x25 and add the average for the remaining 40°. It added up to about 1200 heads. More than 99% were Thomson's gazelles. Besides the Thomson's I could only count five Grant's gazelle.



Grant's gazelle



About two hours later we reached Naabi Hill. Here James wanted to show me more grass-rats and the Mwanza flat-headed agama. The lizards worked well. James saw some grass rats but they were disturbed by other tourists and did not want to come out again. Here we also saw black-lored babbler and red-billed buffalo-weaver.

We continued northwest, saw some more secretary birds, shrikes, steppe buzzard and greater kestrel. Also a great plated lizard (*Gerrhosaurus major*) allowed me to study it sitting in an opening of an old termite-mound. The gnous increased in numbers. Soon a continuing stream of gnous, sometimes only about 20 heads wide and at other times over 100 heads wide started to flow. It continued nearly for the rest of the day. I made an effort to count them, by estimating hundred heads at the time. After about 25000 I gave up. The number seen during the day may rather have exceeded 75 000 heads, than fall below 75 000 heads.

Zebras were sometimes seen in pure flocks but were more often interspersed in among the gnous. The largest herds of zebras held a little bit over 600 heads.



Mwanza flat-headed agama



Leopard with killed gnou

Even if I could not make any more accurate estimation than this, it is easy to realize the number was a lot smaller than the numbers Bernhard and Michael Grizmek presented in

“Serengeti Darf Nicht Sterben” in 1959. They estimated the number of heads of greater wildlife to be about 367 000.

We saw some more lions and also met a tourist-vehicle informing us about a leopard with a slayed gnu in a tree another three kilometres further on. We stopped by at the site and enjoyed the performance of this feeding leopard.

Soon we reached Seronera Visitors Centre where we stopped for lunch. Around the tables and benches on firm ground there were both habituated yellow-spotted bush hyrax and habituated black-necked rock hyrax, but on the adjacent rocks there were less habituated rock hyraxes. From the nearby bush edge and onto the open some grass rats (*Arvicanthis sp.*) were running back and forth. These animals seemed to have bigger and rounder ears than the previous ones. Among birds the Usambiro barbet some superb- and some Rüppell’s starlings were around.



Unidentified *Arvicanthis*- grass rat



Superb starling

On our road to Retima we turned off towards another hippo point and found our first grey-breasted francolin and Burschell’s starling, also more lion, more eland, more topi, impala, Kirk’s dik-dik and leopard tortoise.

In the afternoon we reached Ikoma Gate where we saw more Usambiro barbets and also a flock of about ten grey-headed silverbill.

We then continued to Hotel Tembo in Mugumu to have supper and check in for the night. During supper it rained pretty heavily.

After supper we drove back to Ikoma Gate to do some spotlighting along little roads around the gate, where this was allowed. We soon saw more scrub-/savannah hares. Since we had discussed the amount of russet in the neck of these hares, Stanley ambitiously turned off from the dirt road for a closer look at our first hare. He was not aware of how quickly this soil turns slippery when wet. As soon as the fourth wheel left the dirt road we were stuck. Due to Stanley’s limited experience of driving in this, we were stuck here for about one and a half hours. While working with getting the vehicle back onto the road a spotted eagle-owl kept calling. We then continued our night drive until we were stuck again. During the night drive we saw a serval, some dik-diks and altogether five scrub-/savannah hares.

## Nov 11

In the morning we drove into the western periphery of the Serengeti Echo System. The rain had created several moist areas and shallow water-pools. Here we saw more coqui francolin and grey-breasted spurfowl. An African dwarf bittern took off from one of these shallow pool-edges and landed less than ten metres from our vehicle, and James caught sight of a harlequin quail. We saw another flock of about 15 grey-headed silverbill. Some more black-colored babblers, a few more of the African waders showed up, like Senegal lapwing and African wattled lapwing. We found four brown parrot, several lilac-breasted- and a single

rufous-crowned roller. A rosy-breasted longclaw popped up next to our vehicle. African grey hornbill and flapped lark were common. James caught a glimpse of our first Tanzanian red-billed hornbill. It took about another two hours before we saw the second one. This area is the extreme north of the distribution for this species.



Grey-breasted spurfowl



Tanzanian red-billed hornbill

A Holub's golden weaver showed up next to our vehicle. James also got a strange creature on his iPhone. I took some photos. When I had returned to Sweden I identified it as a Devils flower mantis (*Idolomantis diabolica*).

We drove on and stopped at sights good for grey crested helmet-shrike. Among other sites we stopped at Sagakwa and played a recording, but were not successful. While searching for this bird a ratel crossed the road a little ways ahead of us. A little while later we reached a probably permanent water-pool where a serrated hinged terrapin was sunbathing on a log sticking out of the water. During the morning we also saw some elephants, giraffes, dik-diks, two black-chested serpent eagles, a few vultures including lappet-faced- and white-headed vultures.

In the afternoon we reached Ikovongo Game Control Area. Our target bird species here were African penduline tit and Karamoja apalis. The latter occurs here at least seasonally but is never common. Nor is it common anywhere else. We didn't find it. Here is also a good area for several resting arid-country migrants. Among the latter we found several northern-, a few isabelline- and a pied wheatear, a group of Temminck's courser, a Hartlaub's bustard and a pipit that initially puzzled us. After a while of intense study it proved to be a (Zenker's) plain-backed pipit (*Anthus leucophrys/[vaalensis] zenkeri*). Here were also a few topi, two kongoni and a group of elephants.

In the evening we returned to Hotel Tembo in Mugumu.

## Nov 12

We started our drive towards Fort Ikoma. Our only new species for our trip-list before Ikoma Gate was a Gabar goshawk of the dark phase. Our departure included an exit through Ikoma Gate. Here we saw the same species of birds as we did two days ago. The mammals were pretty much the same. I asked one of the men working at the gate if he knew about any roosting bats. It proved, he did. He went to the office building, got a pair of keys, walked over to a nearby hut and opened it. On one of the girders two De Winton's long-eared bats were roosting. Stanley soon came over and wanted to leave. He claimed what we were doing was illegal. Neither James nor I understood why this should be illegal. We continued to Klein Gate. On our way we passed a carcass of a gnou where many vultures had gathered. About 40

of them where Rüppell's- and about 25 were African white-backed vultures. In the crowd of vultures we also spotted a lappet-faced vulture. A steppe eagle and a European honey-buzzard passed over us. While watching these we also saw a slender mongoose.

Near Lobo Camp we stopped at some kopjes to have lunch on the hood. Here we found lesser kudu, sooty chat, winchat, long-tailed cisticola and Wahlberg eagle. On the kopje we saw more black-necked rock hyrax and next to the base of the kopje we saw our only klippspringers, five eland, four giraffe, four waterbuck and also more Mwanza flat-headed agamas. While rolling away from the kopje we spotted an agama in top of a five metres high bush. It proved to be a blue-headed tree agama. Another specimen of this agama was seen closer to the ground not far from this one (James). On our way to Klein Gate we saw some Fischer's lovebird, anteater chat and a group of 24 banded mongoose.



Klippspringer

At Klein Gate we stopped for paper-exercise but also a cup of coffee on the hood. There were plenty of lizards at and around the gate's office. I did my best to find something else than red-headed agama, but was not successful.

We continued our drive through about five metres high, fairly dense acacia-habitat when James suddenly heard African penduline-tit. We stopped of course immediately. Despite intense efforts I did not manage to see any of the two birds James had spotted.

We arrived at a booked hotel in Wasso at dusk. First thing I did was to walk around the nearest corner to look for some spots to set some of my traps. I had just got around the corner when a young Masai, nearly two metres tall, dressed in traditional Masai clothes, carrying a Masai-spear almost the same length stood behind me and said: "It is forbidden. What do you want?" That soon proved to be the hotel's night-guard Mr Kaiki – L Meikweri, and his English was quite good.

Again Stanley's bookings were annulated and had to be re-negotiated since James and I had, and still have a somewhat different skin-colour. In this hotel nothing seemed to function properly. The personnel was the most un-service-minded I believe I have met. I have slept on many places where no service was expected, but here they claimed they had service.

After dinner we talked to the manager and asked him to make sure breakfast would be prepared for us at 06:00. He promised it would be ready.

### Nov 13

On my walk from my room to breakfast I glimpsed a small rodent impossible to identify. When James and I arrived for breakfast there was nobody and no breakfast. We asked for breakfast twice during the next half hour. As soon as a woman cook arrived about twentyfive minutes after six we got our breakfast within ten minutes. We then drove for the Loliondo Heights. Here we hoped to find Ayres' hawk eagle, brown-backed woodpecker, moustached green tinkerbird and grey apalis, all breeding in these forest patches.

We got a good start before and in the first forest patch between 07:30 and eight, finding European golden- and African black-headed orioles, grey apalis, grey-capped warbler, our first wattled- and greater black-eared starlings, mountain thrush and yellow white-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*). We also got good views of Hartlaub's turaco here. James also glimpsed a rodent crossing the road, why I set some traps at the edge of the road a few metres into the bush. These were to be picked up when we returned to Wasso in the afternoon. Here we also found a southern tree hyrax, peacefully resting in an opening half way up a tree.



Southern tree hyrax



Hunter's cisticola

As soon as we left the forest patch the altitude was about 2500 metres a.s.l. Here we saw some pipits, which proved to be more Nairobi pipits (*Anthus chyuluensis*). While I tried to get close enough to get some decent photos a Masai came down from the hillside and told us it was illegal to leave the road. He started an argument and after some time he called the office in charge of Loliondo Community Wildlife Protection Area. After a while two well educated Masai gentlemen arrived, both named Mark. We all soon agreed that we had done nothing wrong, except we needed a permit to move freely in this protected area, and of course it cost some money. This way we lost two and a half of the mornings best hours for bird- as well as other wildlife watching. When we had settled the matter the younger Masais present insisted that we should have a local with us in the car. We brought one. After ten minutes he started to argue for more money. This time we could refer to our permit and everything was settled. We made some more stops in forest patches. We saw a black sparrowhawk, thick-billed seedeater, Hunter's cisticola and two crowned eagles. We drove past the last forest patch and reached a little lake. Here some birds had gathered. Among those were an African black duck, four



little greebe, four yellow-billed stork and eight yellow-billed duck. On our way back to town we stopped in the forest patches again and saw chestnut-breasted bee-eater, about ten eastern double-collared sunbird and moustached green tinkerbird. I also photographed some butterflies. One of them was a green-banded swallowtail (*Papilio sp.*). The other one seems to be either a swallowtail or a swordtail. Efforts to identify the two butterflies from photos failed.

When Stanley and I unpacked the car at the hotel a bat hawk passed over us.

Before dinner I booked Kaiki to help me finding suitable spots for setting some traps after dinner. He was not within sight as agreed but eventually showed up. We walked maybe 300 metres from the hotel. I set some traps in a hedge according to his suggestions. Immediately thereafter he asked me for money. I gave him some, but he insisted on more. I told him I would give him more if he helped me to collect the traps the following morning. We agreed to meet at six o'clock. James, Stanley and I had planned to leave at 06:00.

### Nov 14

This morning breakfast was served less than five minutes after 05.30 as agreed. I then started to look for Kaiki, but did not find him, so I tried to retrieve my traps on my own. I had caught one rather pale brownish grey little rat. When returning to the hotel Kaiki showed up. I asked him if he knew what species the rat was. He suggested a species and then asked for "the money." I had promised him some more money if he helped me to retrieve the traps. When I told him that in my country we never charge for helping people setting or retrieving any traps. He listened attentively and looked a bit surprised. I gave him some more money for his identification of the rat. He then said: "Give me your binoculars!" I explained to him why I could not do that. He then said: "Give me your watch!" We then had a discussion about the advantage of using a watch as well as using time when we make arrangements. Since he obviously was educated, he soon seemed to realized the advantages.

The rat was not the species he suggested. I commenced the identification-work when I got back to Sweden. This taxon has long been called African meadow rat (*Myomys fumatus*). But recent studies have shown that it is not this genus. It is now Brockmann's myomyscus (*Myomyscus brockmani*).

We left the hotel in Wasso and to begin with headed for the little village Sonjo. However we did not find the right turnoff but continued for a few kilometres back towards Klein Gate before we realized it. Along the road we saw several more wattled starlings, Hildebrandt's francolin and we were back in the distribution-area for northern red-billed hornbill. Here I also got a chance to photograph another population of *Arvicanthis*-rats, which appeared to have large rounded ears but a slightly longer tail than population at Seronera Visitors Centre.



Black-faced sandgrouse



*Arvicanthis*-grass rat with slightly longer tail

We soon returned to the turnoff where we were supposed to turn towards Sonjo. Since road signs were not frequent and the quality of the road encouraged us to ask whether this was the actual road, we did. People to ask were scarce. It took a while before we found anyone at all and even longer, someone who could give us answers we regarded as trustworthy. During one of these stops I found a helmeted terrapin (*Pelomedusa subrufa s.l.*) (See below) on the side of the road. We continued towards the Great Rift Valley. Along the road we found a male black-faced sandgrouse, a Levillant's cuckoo, pale chanting goshawk, Somali sparrow and rufous-crowned roller.

A few kilometres before we reached the ridge from which we could see Lake Natron, we stopped at some little water puddles on the road and saw several Namaqua dove and red-billed quelea. Meanwhile another Somali sparrow started to sing.

Shortly after that Stanley felt like checking one of our tyres, and discovered another puncture. Since it takes a while to change a tyre James and I decided to walk ahead, despite about 30° and sun from a clear sky. Our walk gave us another cardinal woodpecker and another pair of African kestrel (*Falco [tinnuculus] rufescens*), apparently breeding here. About 40 minutes later Stanley and his vehicle caught up with us.

We stopped at the ridge where we could see the southern part of Lake Natron and had a coffee on the hood. Here James demonstrated two dragonflies; wandering glider (*Pantala flavescens*) and keyhole glider (*Travesa basiliaris*), before we continued down into the very dry Acacia-habitat and eventually reached Natron River Lodge.

Here we rather immediately found black-throated barbet and white-throated bee-eater.

After a late lunch we strolled around the lodge for a while, looked for birds, ochre bush squirrel and epauletted fruit bats. The latter particularly interesting since the habitat seems more suitable for East African- than for Wahlberg's epauletted fruit bat.



White-throated bee-eater

When the temperature started to drop, about three thirty we drove down to Lake Natron.

At the office situated next to the lake we were obliged to pick up a guide, since there are possibilities to get stuck on the way to the edge of the lake. We met Matthew, a Masai traditionally dressed, but a scholar. While James and Matthew arranged necessary papers we

found a southern long-tailed lizard in a square about two by two metres, probably vegetable-garden with some sparse vegetation.

The last 3 – 400 metres down to the lake we walked. The classic species for tourists at this site is the lesser flamingo. Flamingos were not numerous. Matthew estimated the number to about 25000 lesser- and about 50 greater flamingos. Here was also a group of white pelican, a few greater cormorant, probably over 20 wood sandpiper, about 35 ruff & reeve, odd green sandpiper and greenshank, several curlew sandpiper and little stint, about five chestnut-banded plover, a few gull-billed tern and a single white-winged tern. While studying the birds on the shore I picked up a *Sterna*-shaped tern crossing the lake. It was dark above, either dark brown or black, and white or whitish underneath. James immediately suggested we should look for features coinciding with those of bridled tern, but despite we focused on that species we were not able to see quite enough characteristics to assess its identity.

Over the damp naked banks a species of a huge fascinating spider wasp (*Pompilidae sp.*) patrolled back and forth.

On our way back to the settlements we saw a spotted thick-knee before we stopped at Moivaro Lodge. Target species here was a dormouse, which James had seen here during previous visits. Sadly the lodge had changed its palm-leaf-roof since James was here last time, which very well may be the reason why we didn't find the dormouse. As a poor consolation here were some well visible yellow-winged bats.



Southern long-tailed lizard



Yellow-winged bat

When we returned to Natron River Lodge I made some bat-recordings with my Petersson 240X-bat recorder. Calls sounding like a *Myotis*-species were recorded and so were epauletted fruit bats and at least one more species. An epauletted fruit bat was also seen but not recorded.

## Nov 15

In the morning we finally caught up with ochre bush squirrel, which seemed to have avoided us previously during our trip. Here were at least two individuals. Since neither I nor James were satisfied having missed the dormouse at Moivaro Lodge, we returned on our way out of the Great Rift, but with no success this time either.

On our drive out we crossed an area about 80 kilometres long, controlled by three different clans of Masais. Each klan had put up a gate where they charged travellers for money. Because of this the distance of about 75 kilometres of terribly corrugated gravel road cost us 40 US dollars.

In the late afternoon we came back to Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River. Before that we said Good Bye to Stanley and welcomed Dismas Aloyce Mboya (Dismas) as our new driver. At Fiona's we had plenty of experiences to exchange. Also a birthday was acknowledged -

James's. After that Fiona and I went spotlighting on foot. We saw three bush duiker and heard the bushbaby and square-tailed nightjar. Before I went to bed I made some recordings of bats.

### Nov 16

Before breakfast we again heard the small-eared greater galago. We saw Fiona's "feeder-birds" again. When we drove out of Fiona's estate a slender mongoose crossed the road. We drove east towards Mkumazi National Park. Before we reached Moshi we passed a road-killed common genet.



Red-cheeked cordonbleu



Brown-hooded kingfisher

Mkumazi National Park we reached about ten o'clock in heavy rain. Already around the entrance we saw the two target sunbirds; black-bellied- and Tsavo-, but also Hunter's sunbirds. At the parking lot visitors are warned for the impertinent vervet monkeys. We saw some. After having arranged necessary papers we took a slow walk along the road leading to the entrance. Already while driving up to the entrance office we saw an unstriped ground squirrel. We now saw it again. Since it rained quite a bit we were discussing how to proceed. Then a brushy-tailed mongoose crossed the road. Crested francolin and trilling cisticolas were also active near us.

When the rain ceased we drove a short distance and walked a path leading into the Acacia-dominated savannah. Here we found two black cuckoo, a Levaillan't cuckoo, yellow-spotted petronia, Dárnaud's barbet, lilac-breasted roller and again Dobson's bulbul. Several black-lined plated lizard (*Gerrhosaurus nirolineatus*) were here. I also made my first acquaintance with two butterflies; Yellow pansy (*Junonia hierta*) and double-banded orange (*Colotis aurigineus*). Also an eye-cayching velvet mite (*Dinothrombium* sp.) was here.

We also saw our first yellow baboon for the trip, a much more long-legged species than the olive baboon.

In the afternoon we continued to Elephant Motel in Same. The motel has the reputation of hosting elephant shrew/sengi (*Rhynchocyon/Petrodromus/Elephantulus*). Hotel people said they are not big and colourful, which makes the genus *Rhynchocyon* less probable. The habitat seems less suitable for *Petrodromus*. There are two species of *Elephantulus* known in Tanzania. The habitat seems suitable for the genus. Known distribution suggests *E. brachyurus*.

The hotel people told us that they see them every now and then in the edges of the motel garden and once in a while in central parts of the garden too. They can be seen any time of the day but are easiest at dawn and dusk.



Double-banded orange



Yellow pansy

I looked around in the area as well as connected areas to the hotel ground for about an hour in the afternoon but failed to find any. While searching I found a Speke's hinged tortoise (*Kinixys spekei*).

At sunset we started a spotlighting drive on the road running next to the Mkumazi National Park. It took until it was almost dark before Dismas spotted the first rodent. I did not manage to get my eyes onto it, and neither to the next one. The next animal we found was a mother serval with three kittens. We could follow them for several minutes. A little while later we saw a spotted eagle-owl next to the road.

Where the road crosses an offshoot of South Pare Mountains a servaline genet made an effort to cross the road, but turned around when it met us. (See below).

On our way back to Same we again saw the rodent. This time we saw it well. James and Dismas could confirm it was the same species they had seen before. It was characteristic indeed, and Kingdon excludes all but Hildegaard's broad-headed stink mouse (*Zelotomys hildegardae*). (See below).

A litter closer to Same a white-tailed mongoose was seen on the road, and in the outskirts of the town another white-tailed mongoose crossed the road. We returned to Elephant Motel shortly before nine p.m. I then picked up a torch and took a spotlighting walk for the sengis, but had no success.

### Nov 17

It rained rather heavily during the night and the rain was still quite intense at breakfast.

We drove to the gate for Mkumazi National Park. While James arranged the papers a local worker attracted our attention to a red-headed agama laying eggs.



Nest with eggs Red-headed agama



Wet Verraux's eagle-owl with African edible bullfrog

The rain had fallen quite heavily so we started our drive into the park by staying at the more solid roads. Several African edible bullfrogs were sitting and moving in the shallow water on the road. One had turned into breakfast for a Verraux's eagle-owl, now wet and perched in the open. Two vulturine guineafowl showed up on the road. The second bat-eared fox for our trip was spotted by the side of the road. Yellow baboons were also out walking in the rain. After maybe two hours the rain ceased. Shortly after that we started to drive on the normally solid, but after the rain not quite so solid roads. A lot of the smaller roads here run over "Black Cotton", a black fern having received its name because it has proved to be the best soil for growing cotton. When this soil is dry it is no problem to walk and drive on, but when it turns wet it turns extremely slippery and easy to sink into. It also sticks to your footwear to the extent that clumps turn so big and heavy you can hardly walk. Nor are these clumps easy to get rid of.

We started our drive on less solid roads with Black Cotton soil, but did not get far until the car started to slide sideways even when we drove forwards in about ten km/h. Of course we got stuck several times, but Dismas was experienced with this kind of driving, so we usually got free rather quickly.

Meanwhile we saw a little group of Amur falcons, some lesser kestrel, a buff-crested bustard, Fischer's starling, green-winged pytilia (James), sulphur-breasted bush-shrike and also some migrants, like willow warbler, red-backed shrike, garden warbler, nightingale, common whitethroat (James) and olivaceous warbler (James).

About two hours before noon we reached grassy plains. In some of the little puddles on the track several *Pelomedusa subrufa sensu lato*-terrapins had gathered. (See below)



*Pelomedusa subrufa sensu lato*



*Pelomedusa subrufa sensu lato*

We stopped here for some coffee on the hood. While having coffee a four-wheeler with three rangers came up to us to find out if we needed any help. They suspected we were stuck, having stopped here. When they found out we were all right they left us.

We continued over the grasslands. Here we found another Hartlaub's bustard and two of our few long-crested hawk-eagles for the trip.

Around noon we had reached the Rhino Camp where a project raising bush rhino for future liberation, is going on. Here we saw lesser kudu at two occasions swiftly crossing the road. After lunch on the hood we focused on black coucal, which James rather regularly during the years had seen in somewhat swampier parts of the park. We therefore sought damper parts of the park with not quite so solid tracks and made stops where it looked good for black coucal in particular. During this drive we saw our only martial eagle during the trip, a young one. Here we also saw some European bee-eater, another Tsavo sunbird, two water thick-knee and a woolly-necked stork. The latter particularly pleased James. We also found an adult imperial eagle. This species is known to straggle as far south as southern Kenya. Here were another

two vulturine guineafowl, some Von der Decken's hornbill, eastern chanting goshawk and nubian woodpecker, Levallant's cuckoo. Among mammals we saw some more kongoni, a few more eland, another unstriped ground squirrel. During the afternoon we saw another white-throated savannah monitor.



Hartlaub's bustard



Vulturine guineafowl

The surface of the road was rather slippery but Dismas had this far been able to manoeuvre our vehicle, avoiding to get stuck. Now the soil was slightly wetter and less carrying. We eventually got stuck in this Black Cotton soil. The time was just past 16:30. We tried to get it free for about half an hour, but in the end the vehicle did not move at all. James called the park's emergency number. The first efforts failed. During the following efforts the connection was so bad that we could not forward any message. The next effort we were barely audible for the receiver. We tried to explain where in the park we were stuck. After about an hour the manager said he was going to send a four-wheel-drive rescue-vehicle. After about another hour we saw lights approaching, but it took a long time until the jeep reached the area where we were stuck, only to get stuck itself about 200 metres from us. The rescue-people then called for a tractor to get us out. It took about another hour before we could see the lights from the approaching tractor. Meanwhile the frog concert had increased to the extent where we hardly could hear each other when talking. The concert was magnificent. It took about another hour before we saw the rescue-tractor slowly, slowly approaching us. When it reached us. It first pulled out their colleagues and then pulled out us. We then of course drove out of the park in column. We returned to Elephant Motel shortly before 02:00.

## Nov 18

Before breakfast at 08:00 I picked up my traps. They were empty. After breakfast I went out to look for the sengi. I asked locals working at the motel. They seemed a bit surprised I had not seen them. They tried to help me finding one. By their way of searching it was obvious they knew these animals, but they didn't find any either.

We then headed for Usambara Mountains. In Mombo we picked up our local expert Martin Joho James (Martin). While climbing the Western Usambaras in rather heavy rain we saw two Angola colobus. When we reached the western Usambaras we first drove to Mambo View Eco Lodge and got settled. Thereafter Dismas transported Martin and me to Mpanga School. From there we walked initially through a sparse settlement and then into Shagai Forest. The forest is protected by law. But as long as people living in settlements surrounding the forest still pick up supply for survival, particularly wood for building and firewood, there is a threat. Local organisations for protection of the forest have been established and do have positive impact in reducing the illegal activities.

Martin lured the birds to call by whistling and then worked with a recorder. During about an hour we found the rather illusive canopy-living Usambara weaver, moustached green tinkerbird, Usambara boubou (*Laniarius [fuelleborni ssp.] usambaricus*, African tailorbird and black-throated bush-shrike. An evergreen forest warbler, a normally rather elusive species flew right by us. Some Kenrick's- and Wallers starlings were also here.

We returned to Mambo View Eco Lodge after dark. On arrival James told me that Usambara nightjar can be heard from the balcony of the lodge and can also be seen resting on the driveway. Sometimes the freckled nightjar also occurs here. I listened to the call of these two nightjars occurring here on James's ipod and set my alarm clock at 01:45.

## Nov 19

When I woke up and got out there was a thin mist covering the lowest ten metres above the ground and vegetation. The air was moist. Drops of water were hanging on the leaves and the sky was cloudy. As soon as I got out I heard a freckled nightjar. Shortly after the freckled nightjar had stopped I heard the much higher pitched Usambara nightjar shortly before 02:00. Also a galago and a bush hyrax were calling then. From about 02:15 I heard none of these animals.



African edible bull-frog



Martial eagle juv.

After breakfast Dismas drove Martin and me back to Mpanga School at Shangai Forest. Before we reached Usambara Mountains I had told James that I very much wanted to see Lushoto mountain squirrel if possible. I asked Martin about the chances to find one. He replied that he sees them almost every second time when he visits this forest. He saw one last time he visited the forest.

Target species of the day hence were spot-throat, Usambara akalat and Lushoto mountain squirrel. We started by a revision of most of the species we saw previous evening. This included birds at nest of Usambara weaver and also of Usambara double-collared sunbird and better views of streak-throated greenbul, black-headed mountain greenbul and African tailorbird. Here we also saw chestnut-breasted bee-eater, Shelley's greenbul, placid greenbul, Kurrichane thrush and yellow-throated woodland warbler. White-chested alethe was heard several times but difficult to see.

After about two hours of birdwatching Martin spotted a Lushoto mountain squirrel, rather high in the canopy. Ten minutes later he spotted another one and a little while later another two.

Despite Martins' frequent whistling for the Usambara akalat it took quite a while before he heard one. At that stage his batteries to his iphone were finished. I offered him a new battery, but neither one of us had any "Philips® screwdriver. Martin quickly walked back to the settlement, changed batteries and returned in an hour. Meanwhile I occupied myself with



photographing a Lushoto mountain squirrel and chased an Usambara white-eye (*Zosterops spec. nova*).

We then continued our search for the akalat and the spot-throat. Not until the temperature started to drop we got in contact with the shy but curious Usambara akalat. When it didn't want to come to us we left the small forest-path and sneaked down to its territory. Eventually we had it flying back and forth about a metre over our heads.

It took about another hour before Martin located a spot-throat. We lured it for some time but it didn't want to come in. The next one, a little while later was more cooperative. It was eventually seen gently sneaking on the forest floor.



Lushoto mountain squirrel



Tanganyika mountain squirrel

Back at the Mambo View Eco Lodge I met a local, working at the lodge. He was anxious to show me his fenced-in turtles. Meanwhile we talked about other animals. The man offered to take me around in the evening, to show me some big rodents and the “black three hyrax”, audible from here at night. Black tree hyrax was his name for it to keep it separated from “The grey tree hyrax”. The black tree hyrax we call eastern tree-hyrax. Distribution maps also show that eastern tree-hyrax occur here. Sadly the local did not show up as agreed.

## Nov 20

I got up when my alarm woke me up at 01:45. When I got out the sky was clear and dry and there was hardly any wind. To me it looked to be a perfect night for nocturnal activities, but the night was all silent. I walked down to the dining room and entrance and tried to get out on the driveway since it looked inviting for nightjars. I grabbed the door and pulled to open it but it was locked. As soon as I did, much to my surprise a local night-guard unlocked the door from the inside and opened it. When I told him I had in mind to walk the road a little ways, he asked if I liked him to join me. We walked only until the road seemed less inviting for nightjars. There was nothing. When we got back to the lodge, the night-guard asked me if I wanted to see the galago. Of course I did. So the guard and I walked the path next to the valley down to the lookout, maybe 150 – 200 metres one way. We didn't find anything on our way down, but when we were almost back at the dining room and office-room he spotted it, sitting in a tree about two metres above surrounding vegetation. It was a smallish animal unwilling to be photographed and rather quickly climbed down into lower vegetation to avoid the beam. On Nov 22 I met with Zola (Hamisi Jafari). He said that the galago here is Usambara galago (*Galago orimus*).

After breakfast we drove over to the research station and IUCN Guest House in Amani in the Eastern Usambaras.

As soon as we had settled and had our lunch we took a walk in the area. One of the first birds we saw here was the green-headed oriole, which proved to be common. Fischer's turaco was also present here.

Rather immediately we found a tree flowering on bare branches. Here we found several Amani sunbird, Usambara violet-backed sunbird and banded green sunbird within fifteen minutes. After this exposé Martin and I continued a little further on a four-wheel path and saw palmnut vulture but also the neat southern banded snake-eagle.



Palmnut vulture



Southern banded snake-eagle

We also found a Tanganyika mountain squirrel, which was fairly cooperative. Our rooms were not quite in the mood this evening, and nor the following evening, since neither running water and consequently not hot water either was available through any pipes. However a young handsome local woman provided a "running woman with hot water". After dinner James and I took a stroll around the research station to listen and to look for whatever we could find. Behind the research station a Swiss biologist spotted a pair of eyes reflecting the beam from his flashlight. It took a while until we could see the animal well enough to identify it as an African palm civet. On the wall of the research station I also photographed a peculiar gecko. Martin told me about the green ibis which rather regularly come flying over the research station. According to him, best time in the morning was between 05:30 and 05:45, and best time in the evening was 17:30 to 18:00. He also told me that the Usambara eagle-owl was regularly heard here, and every now and then also seen. Best time to hear it was between 04:00 and 05:00. To prepare myself properly I listened to the Usambara eagle-owl on James's iphone.

## Nov 21

My alarm woke me up at 04:10. Already while putting my clothes on inside my room I heard the Usambara eagle-owl. It called regularly for about one hour. Towards the end I noticed the call sounded double. This reminded me a lot about Tengmalm's owls (*Aegolius funereus*) when they are calling close to each other at the same time far away. It is quite difficult to assess whether there is one or two calling. I asked Martin whether the male and female Usambara eagle-owl also break in on each others calls. He confirms they do.

While walking around the settlement I found an Angola fruit bat.

After breakfast Dismas drove me and Martin to a place named Kwamakuru. From here we walked not quite a kilometre on a vehicle-track. Here Martin started to whistle. It took a while

before a Sharpe's akalat was responding. While luring one close enough to us for me to see it, another two were heard. We then penetrated an area with dense undergrowth, a suitable



African palm civet

habitat for Usambara thrush, endemic for Usambara- and Pare Mountains. After some sneaking Martin heard one. We sneaked closer trying to see it, but it took off through the slightly higher undergrowth only giving us a glimpse of itself. During this walk we also found square-tailed drongo and grey wagtail.

Martin then took me to Turaco Trail, to show me long-billed tailorbird and Krettschmer's longbill. Already at the beginning of this trail he started to play long-billed tailorbird on his iphone. After having played about 15 minutes at the same sport a Krettschmer's longbill appeared. It is a rather skulky bird living in the dense low- and mid height vegetation, but after some convincing luring it was seen well. Martin continued to lure for long-billed tailorbird. It showed up shortly after the longbill had revealed itself. There were two skulky but yet fairly cooperative birds. During the morning we also saw two African green pigeon, two tambourine dove and another long-crested hawk-eagle.

After lunch we took a walk on the path from the research station towards Emau Hill. Martin told us that this path is good for several chameleons and frogs at night. Half way up to the opening it started to rain. We continued however. While on the open banana-plantation on top we saw trumpeter- and silvery-cheeked hornbills and white-chested alethe. We also saw a handsome butterfly; citrus swallowtail (*Papilio dardanus*). When we got back to the research station we found a speckel-lipped skink on the cemented stairs.

Since I had expressed a desire to see the green ibis James suggested we should go to Mbomore Hill towards the evening, because here the ibises fairly regularly pass on their way between their roosting-site and their feeding-ground. They usually pass between 17:30 and

18:00. We went there. While waiting for ibises we saw the two hornbills and the turaco, white-breasted akalat, black-fronted bush-shrike, gerygone and a mottled spinetail again. We also heard an African barred owlet. Martin picked up the call of another Sharpe's akalat. Martin also suggested we should walk the little Mbomoro Hill Trail after we had seen or missed the ibises since this was good for several of the chameleons and frogs. The ibises did not come, but we got some nice chameleons and frogs (See below).



Usambara three-horned chameleon



Big-eyed tree-frog

## Nov 22

Between 02:00 and 03:00 I walked the trail leading to Emau Hill. I heard a large-eared greater galago, and another mammal I didn't recognize, but nothing else.

Martin had booked another group for Nov 22, but also arranged another local specialist; Hamis Jafari (Zola). We said good-bye to Martin and met Zola. We then drove to a lower elevation and another IUCN guesthouse at Zigi by the entrance of the park.

We then drove just a little ways down the road and walked some hundred metres from there, primarily for the Usambara hyliota. James had seen it several times here, but today it was not cooperative. On the other hand we here picked up banded green- and grey sunbirds, little yellow flycatcher, little greenbul, crowned eagle, Watberg's eagle and a number of species mentioned above. Here we also saw a red-bellied coast squirrel and an Angola colobus.

When we returned to the guesthouse in Zigi the rain ceased. Then Zola pointed out a few more butterflies; mocking swallowtail (*Papilio dardanus*) and black swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*). He also told me that there was a good trail for chameleons and frogs starting opposite the guesthouse. It was not part of the original trip, so I needed to negotiate a price for it. Zola did not directly reply to my offer, so I thought he was not up to it. At about eight in the evening I looked for him but did not find him. I therefore went to bed since I was tired. About a quarter of an hour later he knocked on my door and asked if I wanted to go. It took me less than five minutes to get ready. We started by looking for a critically endangered frog and a likewise critically endangered dragonfly; Amani flatwing (*Amanipodagrion gilliesi*) despite their imago period predominantly is Januari – March. Zola told me he had participated in a research project on the species and told me there are usually some imago around despite this. While searching we found many bearded pygmy- and one soft-horned chameleons. Despite Zola's experience of the frog we did not find it, but eventually we found a single imago Amani flatwing. After a bit of searching, when Zola had picked up some pygmy chameleons, we returned to the guesthouse for a closer look at them. The locals working at the guesthouse had apparently heard I was interested in seeing some chameleons, so they came in with nearly a dozen pygmy chameleons. Another young man came in with a Cape file snake (*Mehelya capensis*) he had caught just outside the guest house. The chameleons all proved to be bearded pygmy chameleons.

### Nov 23

We had breakfast at about 06:00 as usual and returned to the site where we searched for Usambara hyliota. We walked a little ways up along a path where we had been the day before. Here we saw the square-tailed- and the Usanbara drongos, African golden- and forest weavers, black-bellied starling, little yellow flycatcher, Fischer's turaco, green barbet and the two species of hornbill. A Böhm's spinetail flew over us. James spotted a chestnut-bellied helmet-shrike coming in. James had chosen a strategic spot where this species usually stops by to forage, but this time it did not.



Usambara drongo

We then walked down to the road. On the way down I photographed a handsome butterfly; forest glade nymph (*Aterica galene*). Along the road we found plain-backed sunbird, short-tailed batis and rufous-tailed anthrush.

Then we had to head for the Airport in Kilimanjaro. About two hours before departure I said goodbye to James and Dismas.

### CHECKLIST: BIRDS Tanzania Nov 2015

#### English name

Common ostrich  
Great white pelican  
Little grebe

#### Scientific name

*Struthio camelus*  
*Pelecanus onocrotalus*  
*Tachybaptus ruficollis*



Square-tailed nightjar

White-breasted cormorant  
 Long-tail cormorant  
 Cattle egret  
 Squacco heron  
 Striated heron  
 African dwarf bittern  
 Little egret  
 Intermediate egret  
 Black egret  
 Great egret  
 Purple heron  
 Grey heron  
 Black-headed heron  
 Hamerkop  
 Yellow-billed stork  
 Black stork  
 Woolly-necked stork  
 Marabou stork  
 Sacred ibis  
 Hadada ibis  
 Glossy ibis  
 African spoonbill  
 Greater flamingo  
 Lesser flamingo  
 Egyptian goose  
 Knob-billed duck  
 White-faced duck

*Phalacrocorax lucidus*  
*Phalacrocorax africanus*  
*Butobuculus ibis*  
*Ardepla ralloides*  
*Butorides striatus*  
*Ixobrycus smithii*  
*Egretta garzetta*  
*Egretta intermedia*  
*Egretta ardesiaca*  
*Egretta alba*  
*Ardea purpurea*  
*Ardea cinerea*  
*Ardea melanocephala*  
*Scopus umbretta*  
*Nycteria ibis*  
*Ciconia nigra*  
*Ciconia episcopus*  
*Leptoptilos crumeniferos*  
*Threetskiornis aethiopicus*  
*Bostrychia hagedash*  
*Plegadis falcinellus*  
*Platalea alba*  
*Phoenicopterus ruber*  
*Phoenicopterus minor*  
*Alopochen aegyptiaca*  
*Sarkidornis melanotos*  
*Dendrocygna viduata*

Red-billed teal  
 Hottentot teal  
 Yellow-billed duck  
 African Black duck  
 Northern shoveler

*Anas erythrorhyncha*  
*Anas hottentotta*  
*Anasundulata*  
*Anas sparsa*  
*Anas clypeata*



Wolly-necked stork



Eastern chanting goshawk

Yellow-billed kite  
 Black-shou kite  
 Secretary bird  
 African fish eagle  
 Palm-nut vulture  
 Hooded vulture  
 White-headed vulture  
 African white-backed vulture  
 Lappet-faced vulture  
 Rüppell's vulture  
 Black-chested snake-eagle  
 Southern banded snake-eagle  
 Eurasian marsh harrier  
 Montague's harrier  
 Pallid harrier  
 Eastern chanting goshawk  
 Dark chanting goshawk  
 Gabar goshawk  
 African goshawk  
 Great sparrowhawk  
 Bat hawk  
 African harrier hawk  
 European honey buzzard  
 Augur buzzard  
 Mountain buzzard  
 Steppe buzzard  
 Imperial eagle  
 Tawny eagle  
 Steppe eagle  
 Wahlberg's eagle  
 Lesser spotted eagle  
 African hawk-eagle

*Milvus aegyptius*  
*Elanus caeruleus*  
*Sagittarius serpentarius*  
*Haliaeetus vocifer*  
*Gypohierax angolensis*  
*Necrosyrtes monachus*  
*Trionoceph occipitalis*  
*Gyps africanus*  
*Totgos tracheliotus*  
*Gyps ruepellii*  
*Circaetus pectoralis*  
*Circaetus fascicolatus*  
*Circus aeruginosus*  
*Circus pygargus*  
*Circus pallidus*  
*Melierax poliopterus*  
*Melierax metabates*  
*Melierax gabar*  
*Accipiter tachiro*  
*Accipiter melanoleucus*  
*Macheiramphus alcinus*  
*Polyboroides typus*  
*Pernis apivorus*  
*Buteo augur*  
*Buteo oreophilus*  
*Buteo vulpinus*  
*Aquila heliaca*  
*Aquila rapax*  
*Aquila nipalensis*  
*Aquila wahlbergi*  
*Aquila pomarina*  
*Aquila spilogaster*

Long-crested eagle  
 Bateleur  
 Martial eagle  
 African crowned eagle  
 Common kestrel  
 Lesser kestrel,  
 Greater kestrel  
 African kestrel  
 Pygmy falcon  
 Eurasian hobby  
 Amur falcon  
 Lanner falcon  
 Helmeted guineafowl  
 Crested guineafowl  
 Vulturine guineafowl  
 Coqui francolin  
 Hildebrandt's francolin  
 Crested francolin  
 Yellow-necked spurfowl  
 Grey-breasted spurfowl  
 Red-necked spurfowl  
 Harlequin quail  
 Black crake  
 Red-knobbed coot  
 Common moorhen

*Lophaetus occipitalis*  
*Terathopius ecaudatus*  
*Polemaetus bellicosus*  
*Stephanoaetus coronatus*  
*Falco tinnuculus*  
*Falco naumanni*  
*Falco rupicoloides*  
*Falco rufescens*  
*Polihiera semitorquatus*  
*Falco subbuteo*  
*Falco amurensis*  
*Falco biarmicus*  
*Numida meleagris*  
*Guttera pucherani*  
*Acryllium vulturinum*  
*Peliperdix coqui*  
*Pternistis hildebrandti*  
*Dendroperdix sephaena*  
*Pternistis leucoscepus*  
*Pternistis rufopictus*  
*Pternistis afer*  
*Coturnix delegorguei*  
*Amauornis flavirostra*  
*Fulica cristata*  
*Gallinula chloropus*



Black-bellied bustard



African wattled lapwing

African jacana  
 Grey crowned crane  
 Kori bustard  
 White-bellied bustard  
 Buff-crested bustard  
 Black-bellied bustard  
 Hartlaub's bustard  
 Black-winged stilt  
 Pied avocet  
 Spotted thick-knee  
 Water thick-knee

*Actophilornis africanus*  
*Balearica regulorum*  
*Ardenotis kori*  
*Eupodotis senegallensis*  
*Eupodotis gindiana*  
*Eupodotis melanogaster*  
*Eupodotis hartlaubi*  
*Himantopus himantopus*  
*Recurvirostra avosetta*  
*Burhinus capensis*  
*Burhinus vermiculatus*



Temminck's courser  
 Blacksmith lapwing  
 Spur-winged lapwing  
 Long-toed lapwing  
 African wattled lapwing  
 Crowned lapwing  
 Black-winged lapwing  
 Senegal lapwing  
 Kitzlit's plover

*Cursorius temmincki*  
*Vanellus armatus*  
*Vanellus spurius*  
*Vanellus crassirostris*  
*Vanellus senegallus*  
*Vanellus coronatus*  
*Vanellus melanopterus*  
*Vanellus lugubris*  
*Charadrius percuaris*



White-eyed kestrel



Lanner falcon

Three-banded plover  
 Chestnut-banded plover  
 Painted snipe  
 Ruff & reeve  
 Common sandpiper  
 Wood sandpiper  
 Green sandpiper  
 Greenshank  
 Marsh sandpiper  
 Little stint  
 Curlew sandpiper  
 Grey-headed gull  
 Heuglin's gull  
 Bridled tern  
 Gull-billed tern  
 White-winged tern  
 Black-faced sandgrouse  
 Yellow-throated sandgrouse  
 African green-pigeon  
 Speckled pigeon  
 Feral pigeon  
 Emerald-spotted wood dove  
 Tambourine dove  
 Namaqua dove  
 Cape Turtle dove  
 Red-eyed dove  
 African mourning dove  
 Laughing dove

*Charadrius tricollaris*  
*Charadrius pallidus*  
*Rostratula benghalensis*  
*Philomachus pugnax*  
*Actitis hypoleucos*  
*Tringa glareola*  
*Tringa ochropus*  
*Tringa nebularia*  
*Tringa stagnatilis*  
*Calidris minuta*  
*Calidris ferruginea*  
*Larus corrocephalus*  
*Larus heuglini*  
*Sterna anaethetus*  
*Sterna nilotica*  
*Chlidonias leucopterus*  
*Pterocles decoratus*  
*Pterocles gutturalis*  
*Treron calvus*  
*Columba guinea*  
*Columba livia*  
*Turtur chaloispilos*  
*Turtur tympanistris*  
*Oena capensis*  
*Streptopelia capicola*  
*Streptopelia semitorquata*  
*Streptopelia decipiens*  
*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Dusky turtle dove  
 Lemon dove  
 Brown parrot  
 Brown-headed parrot  
 African orange-bellied parrot  
 Fischer's lovebird  
 Yellow-collared lovebird  
 Hartlaub's turaco  
 Fischer's turaco  
 Schalow's turaco  
 White-bellied go-away-bird  
 Bare-faced go-away-bird  
 Levalliant's cuckoo  
 African cuckoo  
 Common cuckoo  
 Red-chested cuckoo  
 Black cuckoo  
 Barred long-tailed cuckoo  
 Diederik's cuckoo  
 Klaas's cuckoo  
 African emerald cuckoo

*Streptopelia lugens*  
*Aplopelia lavata*  
*Poiocephalus meyeri*  
*Poiocephalus cryptosanthus*  
*Poiocephalus rufiventris*  
*Agapornis fischeri*  
*Agapornis personatus*  
*Tauraco hartlaubi*  
*Tauraco fischeri*  
*Tauraco schalowi*  
*Criniferoides leucogaster*  
*Coythaxoides personatus*  
*Clamator levallantii*  
*Cuculus gularis*  
*Cuculus canorus*  
*Cuculus solitarius*  
*Cuculus clamosus*  
*Cerococcyx montanus*  
*Chrysococcyx caprius*  
*Chrysococcyx klaas*  
*Chrysococcyx cupreus*



White-rowed coucal

White-browed coucal  
 Verraux's eagle-owl  
 Spotted eagle-owl  
 Usambara eagle-owl  
 Pearl-spotted owl

*Centropus superciliosus*  
*Buteo lacteus*  
*Buteo africanus*  
*Bubo (poensis) vosseleri*  
*Glaucidium perlatum*

African barred owlet  
 Square-tailed nightjar  
 Slender-tailed nightjar  
 Freckled nightjar  
 Usambara nightjar  
 Little swift  
 White-rumped swift  
 Nyanza swift  
 African black swift  
 Eurasian swift  
 African palm swift  
 Böhm's spinetail  
 Mottled spinetail

*Glaucidium capense*  
*Caprimulgus fossii*  
*Caprimulgus clarus*  
*Caprimulgus tristigma*  
*Caprimulgus guttifer*  
*Apus affinis*  
*Apus caffer*  
*Apus niansae*  
*Apus barbatus*  
*Apus apus*  
*Cypsiurus parvus*  
*Neafrapus boehmi*  
*Telacanthura usseri*



Mottled spinetail, juv.



Kori bustard

Speckled mousebird  
 Blue-naped mousebird  
 Striped kingfisher  
 Grey-headed kingfisher  
 Brown-hooded kingfisher  
 Woodland kingfisher  
 Malachite kingfisher  
 African pygmy kingfisher  
 Little bee-eater  
 Cinnamon-chested bee-eater  
 White-throated bee-eater  
 European bee-eater  
 Blue-cheeked bee-eater  
 White-fronted bee-eater  
 European roller  
 Lilac-breasted roller  
 Rufous-crowned roller  
 Green wood-hoopoe  
 African hoopoe  
 Common scimitarbill  
 Eastern yellow-billed hornbill  
 Northern red-billed hornbill  
 Tanzanian red-billed hornbill  
 Von der Decken's hornbill

*Colius striatus*  
*Colius macrourus*  
*Halcyon chelicutis*  
*Halcyon leucocephala*  
*Halcyon albiventris*  
*Halcyon senegalensis*  
*Alcedo cristata*  
*Ispidina picta*  
*Merops pusillus*  
*Merops oreobates*  
*Merops albicollis*  
*Merops apiaster*  
*Merops persicus*  
*Merops byullockoides*  
*Coracias garrulus*  
*Coracias caudatus*  
*Coracias naevius*  
*Phoeniculus purpureus*  
*Upupa africana*  
*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*  
*Tockus flavirostris*  
*Tockus erythrorhynchus*  
*Tockus ruahae*  
*Tockus deckeni*

African grey hornbill  
 Crowned hornbill  
 Trumpeter hornbill  
 Silvery-cheeked hornbill

*Tockus nasutus*  
*Tockus alboterminatus*  
*Bycanistes bucanistor*  
*Bycanistes brevis*



Von der Decken's hornbill



Silvery-cheeked hornbill

Southern ground-hornbill  
 Moustached green tinkerbird  
 Green barbet  
 White-eared barbet  
 Red-fronted tinkerbird  
 Red-fronted barbet  
 Black-throated barbet  
 Brown-breasted barbet  
 Dárnaud's barbet  
 Usambiro barbet  
 Red-and-yellow barbet  
 Greater honeyguide  
 Lesser honeyguide  
 Pallid honeyguide  
 Nubian woodpecker  
 Cardinal woodpecker  
 Bearded woodpecker

*Bucorvus leadbeateri*  
*Progoniulus leucomystax*  
*Stactolaema olivacea*  
*Stactolaema leucotis*  
*Pogoniulus pusillus*  
*Tricholaema diademata*  
*Tricholaema melanocephala*  
*Lybius melanopterus*  
*Trachyphonus darnaudii*  
*Trachyphonus usambiro*  
*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*  
*Indicator indicator*  
*Indicator minor*  
*Indicator meliphilus*  
*Campethera nubica*  
*Dendropicos fuscescens*  
*Dendropicos namaquus*



Southern ground hornbill



Usambiro barbet

Grey woodpecker  
 Olive woodpecker

*Dendropicos goertae*  
*Dendropicos griseocephalos*

## Passerines



Long-billed pipit

Foxy lark  
Rufous-naped lark  
Flappet lark  
Athi short-toed lark  
Red-capped lark  
Short-tailed lark  
Beesley's lark  
Fischer's sparrowlark  
Rock martin  
Plain martin  
Sand martin  
Banded martin  
Common house martin  
Red-rumped swallow  
Red-chested swallow  
Lesser striped swallow  
Barn swallow  
Wire-tailed swallow  
Black saw-wing  
White-headed saw-wing  
Grey-rumped swallow  
African pied wagtail  
Mountain wagtail  
Grey wagtail

*Calendulauda alopex*  
*Mirafra africana*  
*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*  
*Calandrella athensis*  
*Calandrella cinerea*  
*Pseudalaemon fremantlii*  
*Chersomanes beesleyi*  
*Eremopterix leucopareia*  
*Hirundo fuligula*  
*Riparia paludicola*  
*Riparia riparia*  
*Riparia cincta*  
*Delicon urbicum*  
*Hirundo daurica*  
*Hirundo lucida*  
*Hirundo abyssinica*  
*Hirundo rustica*  
*Hirundo smithii*  
*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*  
*Psalidoprocne albiceps*  
*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*  
*Motacilla augimp*  
*Motacilla clara*  
*Motacilla cinerea*

Yellow wagtail  
 Yellow-throated longclaw  
 Pangani longclaw  
 Rosy-breasted longclaw  
 Grassland pipit  
 Long-billed pipit  
 Nairobi pipit  
 Bush pipit

*Motacilla flava*  
*Macronyx croceus*  
*Macronyx aurantiigula*  
*Macronyx ameliae*  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*  
*Anthus similis*  
*Anthus chyuluensis*  
*Anthus caffer*



Rufous-naped lark



Schalow's wheatear

Tree pipit  
 (Goodson's) plain-backed pipit  
 (Zenker's) plain-backed pipit  
 Eastern nicator  
 Dark-capped bulbul  
 Dobson's bulbul  
 Little greenbul  
 Placid greenbul  
 Northern brownbul  
 Grey-olive greenbul  
 Cabanisis's greenbul  
 Yellow-streaked greenbul  
 Shelley's greenbul  
 Zanzibar sombre greenbul  
 Black-headed mountain greenbul  
 Stripe-faced greenbul  
 Yellow-bellied greenbul  
 White-starred robin  
 Sharpe's akalat  
 Usambara akalat  
 White-chested alethe  
 Cape cossypha  
 White-browed cossypha  
 Rüppell's cossypha

*Anthus trivialis*  
*Anthus leucophrys*[*vaalensis*] *goosoni*  
*Anthus leucophrys*[*vaalensis*] *zenkeri*  
*Nicator gularis*  
*Pycnonotus tricolor*  
*Pycnonotus dobsoni*  
*Andropadus virens*  
*Phyllastrephus placidus*  
*Phyllastrephus strepitans*  
*Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*  
*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*  
*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*  
*Andropadus masukuensis*  
*Andropadus importunus*  
*Arizelocichla nigriceps*  
*Arizelocichla milanjensis ssp. strifacies*  
*Chlorocichla flaviventris*  
*Pogonocichla stellata*  
*Sheppardia sharpeyi*  
*Sheppardia montana*  
*Pseudalethe fuelleborni*  
*Cossypha caffra*  
*Cossypha heuglini*  
*Cossypha semirufa*



White-browed cossypha



Tiny cisticola

Kurrichane thrush  
 Mountain thrush  
 Usambara thrush  
 Spot-throat  
 Red-tailed ant-thrush  
 European rock-thrush  
 Northern anteater chat  
 Sooty chat  
 Whinchat  
 Common stonechat  
 Capped wheatear  
 Mocking cliff-chat  
 Northern wheatear  
 Isabelline wheatear  
 Pied wheatear  
 Schalow´s wheatear  
 Eastern nightingale  
 Nightingale  
 White-browed scrub-robin  
 Spotted palm-thrush  
 Collared palm-thrush  
 Dark-capped yellow warbler  
 African reed warbler  
 Cinnamon bracken warbler  
 Evergreen forest warbler  
 Olivaceous warbler  
 Garden warbler  
 Barred warbler  
 Common whitethroat  
 Blackcap  
 Buff-bellied warbler  
 Willow warbler  
 Yellow-throated woodland warbler  
 Brown woodland-warbler  
 Kretschmer´s longbill  
 Northern crombec  
 Red-faced crombec  
 Yellow-bellied eremomela

*Turdus libonyanus*  
*Turdus abyssinicus*  
*Turdus roehli*  
*Modulatrix stictigula*  
*Neocossyphus rufus*  
*Monticola saxatilis*  
*Myrmecocichla aethiops*  
*Myrmecocichla nigra*  
*Saxicola rubetra*  
*Saxicola torquata*  
*Oenanthe pileata*  
*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*  
*Oenanthe oenanthe*  
*Oenanthe isabellina*  
*Oenanthe pleschanka*  
*Oenanthe schalowi*  
*Luscinia golzi*  
*Luscinia megarhynchos*  
*Cercotrichas leucoleucophrys*  
*Cichladusa guttata*  
*Cichladusa arquata*  
*Chloropeta natalensis*  
*Acrocephalus baeticatus*  
*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*  
*Bradypterus lopezi*  
*Iduna pallida*  
*Sylvia borin*  
*Sylvia nisoria*  
*Sylvia communia*  
*Sylvia atricapilla*  
*Phyllolais pulchella*  
*Phylloscopus trochilus*  
*Phylloscopus ruficapillus*  
*Phylloscopus ambrovirens*  
*Macrosphenus kretschmeri*  
*Sylvietta brachyura*  
*Sylvietta whytii*  
*Eremomela icteropygialis*

Banded parisoma  
 Grey-backed camaroptera  
 Moustached warbler  
 African tailorbird  
 Long-billed tailorbird

*Parisoma boehmi*  
*Camaroptera brachyura*  
*Melocicla mentalis*  
*Artisomis metopias*  
*Artisomis moreaui*



Pied chat



Desert cisticola

Pectoral-patch cisticola  
 Croaking cisticola  
 Zitting cisticola  
 Desert cisticola  
 Tiny cisticola  
 Rattling cisticola  
 Wailing cisticola  
 Ashy cisticola  
 Lyne's cisticola  
 Winding cisticola  
 Singing cisticola  
 Red-faced cisticola  
 Hunter's cisticola  
 Trilling cisticola  
 Long-tailed cisticola  
 Tawny-flanked prinia  
 Grey-capped warbler  
 Grey wren-warbler  
 Yellow-breasted apalis  
 Chestnut-throated apalis  
 Grey apalis  
 Black-headed apalis  
 Brown-headed apalis  
 Bar-throated apalis  
 White-eyed slaty flycatcher  
 Southern black flycatcher  
 African grey flycatcher  
 Pale flycatcher  
 Ashy flycatcher  
 Spotted flycatcher  
 Dusky flycatcher  
 Chin-spot batis

*Cisticola brunnescens*  
*Cisticola natalensis*  
*Cisticola juncidis*  
*Cisticola aridulus*  
*Cisticola nanus*  
*Cisticola chiniana*  
*Cisticola lais*  
*Cisticola cinereolus*  
*Cisticola distinctus*  
*Cisticola marginatus*  
*Cisticola cantans*  
*Cisticola erythropis*  
*Cisticola hunteri*  
*Cisticola woosnami*  
*Cisticola angusticauda*  
*Prinia subflava*  
*Eminia lepida*  
*Calamonastes simplex*  
*Apalis flavida*  
*Apalis porphyrolaema*  
*Apalis cinerea*  
*Apalis melanocephala*  
*Apalis alticola*  
*Apalis thoracica*  
*Duoptornis fischeri*  
*Melaeornis pammelaina*  
*Brandornis microrhynchus*  
*Bradornis pallidus*  
*Muscicapa caerulescens*  
*Muscicapa striata*  
*Muscicapa adusta*  
*Batis molitor*



Short-tailed batis  
 African paradise-flycatcher  
 Silverbird  
 White-tailed crested flycatcher  
 Little yellow flycatcher  
 African hill-babbler  
 Black-lored babbler  
 Northern pied babbler  
 Red-throated tit  
 African penduline-tit  
 Yellow white-eye  
 Abyssinian white-eye  
 Kilimanjaro white-eye  
 Mbulu white-eye  
 Usambara white-eye  
 Golden-winged sunbird  
 Eastern double-collared sunbird  
 Miombo double-collared sunbird  
 Usambara double-collared sunbird  
 Amethyst sunbird  
 Banded green sunbird

*Batis mixta*  
*Terpsiphone viridis*  
*Empidonax semipartitus*  
*Elminia albonotata*  
*Erythrocerus holochlorus*  
*Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*  
*Turdoides sharpei*  
*Turdoides hypoleuca*  
*Parus fringillinus*  
*Anthoscopus caroli*  
*Zosterops senegalensis*  
*Zosterops abyssinicus*  
*Zosterops euricricotus*  
*Zosterops mbuluensis*  
*Zosterops spec. nova*  
*Nectarinia reichenowi*  
*Cinnyris mediocris*  
*Cinnyris manoensis*  
*Cinnyris usambaricus*  
*Chalcomithra amethystina*  
*Anthreptes rubritorques*



Taita fiscal



Long-tailed shrike

Olive sunbird  
 Grey sunbird  
 Marico sunbird  
 Purple-banded sunbird  
 Scarlet-chested sunbird  
 Hunter's sunbird  
 Beautiful sunbird  
 Black-bellied sunbird  
 Variable sunbird  
 Tsavo sunbird  
 Collared sunbird  
 Amani sunbird  
 Plain-backed sunbird  
 Eastern violet-backed sunbird  
 Uluguru violet-backed sunbird  
 Northern fiscal

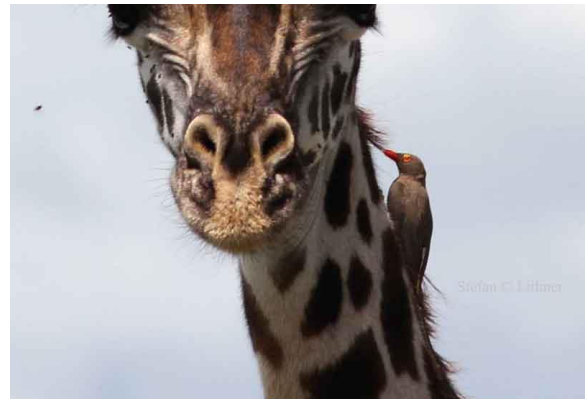
*Cyanomithra olivacea*  
*Nectarinia veroxii*  
*Cinnyris mariquensis*  
*Cinnyris bifasciatus*  
*Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
*Chalcomitra hunteri*  
*Cinnyris pulchellus*  
*Cinnyris nectarinioides*  
*Cinnyris venustus*  
*Cinnyris tsavoensis*  
*Hedydipna collaris*  
*Hedydipna pallidigaster*  
*Anthreptes reichenowi*  
*Anthreptes orientalis*  
*Anthreptes neglectus*  
*Lanius humeralis*

Taita fiscal  
 Long-tailed fiscal  
 Grey-backed fiscal  
 Red-backed shrike  
 Magpie shrike  
 Tropical boubou  
 Slate-coloured boubou  
 Usambara boubou  
 Brubru  
 Black-backed puffback  
 Black-crowned tchagra  
 Brown-crowned tchagra  
 Rosy-patched bush-shrike  
 Orange-breasted bush-shrike  
 Grey-headed ush-shrike  
 Black-fronedt bush-shrike  
 Northern white-crowned shrike  
 Chestnut-fronted helmet-shrike  
 Fork-tailed drongo  
 Sqare-tailed drongo  
 Usambara drongo  
 House crow  
 Pied crow  
 Cape rook  
 White-naped raven  
 Eastern black-headed oriole

*Lanius dorsalis*  
*Lanius cabanisi*  
*Lanius excubitoroides*  
*Lanius collurio*  
*Corvinella melanocephala*  
*Laniarius aethiopicus*  
*Laniarius leucorhunchus*  
*Laniarius [fuelleborni ssp.] usambaricus*  
*Nilaus afer*  
*Dryoscopus cubla*  
*Tschagra senegallus*  
*Tschagra australis*  
*Rhodophoneus cruentus*  
*Telophorus sulfureopectus*  
*Malacronotus blanchote*  
*Telophorus nigrifrons*  
*Eurocephalus anguititmenes*  
*Prionops scopifrons*  
*Dicrurus adsimilis*  
*Dicrurus ludwigii*  
*Dicrurus spec. nova*  
*Corvus splendens*  
*Corvus albus*  
*Corvus capensis*  
*Corvus crassirostris*  
*Oriolus larvatus*



Ashy starling



Red-billed oxpecker

Green-headed oriole  
 Eurasian golden oriole  
 Yellow-billed oxpecker  
 Red-billed oxpecker  
 Ashy starling  
 Kenricks´ starling  
 Red-winged starling  
 Waller´s starling  
 Greater blue-eared starling  
 Black-bellied starling

*Oriolus chlorocephalus*  
*Oriolus oriolus*  
*Buphagus africanus*  
*Buphagus erythorhynchus*  
*Cosmopsarus unicolor*  
*Poeoptera kenricki*  
*Onychognathus morio*  
*Onychognathus walleri*  
*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*  
*Lamprotornis corruscus*

Rüppell's starling  
 Superb tarling  
 Hildebrandt's starling  
 Fischer's starling  
 Wattled starling  
 Kenya rufous sparrow  
 House sparrow  
 Chestnut sparrow  
 Speckle-fronted weaver  
 Northern grey-headed sparrow  
 Swahili sparrow  
 Yellow-spotted petronia  
 Yellow-throated petronia  
 Cut-throat  
 White-browed sparrow-weaver  
 Grey-capped social weaver  
 Red-billed buffalo-weaver  
 White-headed buffalo weaver  
 Rufous-tailed weaver  
 Lesser masked weaver  
 Vitelline masked weaver  
 Speke's weaver  
 Spectacled weaver  
 Black-necked weaver  
 Baglafaecht weaver  
 Chestnut weaver  
 Holub's golden weaver

*Lamprotornis purpuropterus*  
*Lamprotornis superbus*  
*Lamprotornis hildebrandti*  
*Spreo fischeri*  
*Creatophora cinerea*  
*Passer rufocinctus*  
*Passer domesticus*  
*Passer eminibey*  
*Sporopipes frontalis*  
*Passer griseus*  
*Passer suahelicus*  
*Petronia pyrgita*  
*Petronia superciliaris*  
*Amadina fasciata*  
*Plocepasser mahali*  
*Pseudonigrita arnaudi*  
*Bubalornis niger*  
*Dinemellia dinemelli*  
*Histurgops ruficauda*  
*Ploceus intermedius*  
*Ploceus velatus*  
*Ploceus spekei*  
*Ploceus ocularis*  
*Ploceus nigricollis*  
*Ploceus baglafaecht*  
*Ploceus rubiginosus*  
*Ploceus xanthops*



Holub's golden weaver



Taveta weaver

African golden weaver  
 Taveta weaver  
 Usambara weaver  
 Red-headed weaver  
 Red-billed quelea  
 Red-collared widowbird  
 Fan-tailed widowbird  
 Yellow bishop  
 Green-winged pytilia  
 Red-throated twinspot

*Ploceus subaureus*  
*Ploceus castaniceps*  
*Ploceus nicolli*  
*Anaplectes melanotis*  
*Quelea quelea*  
*Euplectes ardens*  
*Euplectes axillaris*  
*Euplectes capensis*  
*Pytilia melba*  
*Hypargos nivepoguttatus*



Red-throated twinpot, male

Red-faced crimsonwing	<i>Cryptospiza reichenowii</i>
Red-cheeked cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Blue-capped cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>
Purple grenadier	<i>Granatina ianthinogaster</i>
Red-billed firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Common waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Grey-headed silverbill	<i>Odontospiza griseicapilla</i>
African quail-finch	<i>Ortyospiza atricollis</i>
Bronze mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Black-and-white mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>
Eastern paradise-whydah	<i>Vidua paradisea</i>
Pin-tailed whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
White-bellied canary	<i>Serinus dorsostriatus</i>
Yellow-crowned canary	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>
Thick-billed seedeater	<i>Serinus burtoni</i>
African citril	<i>Crithagra hyposticta</i>
Yellow-rumped seedeater	<i>Serinus xanthopygius</i>
Streaky seedeater	<i>Serinus striolatus</i>
Somali bunting	<i>Emberiza poliopleura</i>
Cabanis's bunting	<i>Emberiza cabanisi</i>

## MAMMALS



Stefan © Lithner  
Savanna Elephant

Taxa presented in order according to Kingdon J.; The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals 2004, below referred to as Kingdon.

**Angola pied colobus**

*Colobus angolensis*

Two were seen during heavy rain while we climbed the West Usambaras Nov 18 and one was seen near Zigi in Eastern Usambaras Nov 22.

**Guereza colobus**

*Colobus guereza*

Some seen in Arusha NP Nov 5.

**Olive baboon**

*Papio anubis*

We saw it regularly in most of the parks west of Usa River. In Arusha NP Nov 5 we found a huge flock. I gave up counting having passed 115.

**Yellow baboon**

*Papio cynocephalus*

Small groups were seen in Mkomazi NP Nov 16 and 17.

**Vervet monkey**

*Tantalus pygerythrus*

We saw it several times during the trip. Particularly where there were chances for them to steal food from people, but also crossing our road on several occasions. Largest group, about 20 we saw in Arusha NP Nov 5.

**Mitis monkey**

*Cercopithecus mitis*

We saw this species several times in Arusha NP Nov 4 - 5, and in the Usambaras Nov 19 – 23.



Angola colobus



Mitis monkey

**Large-eared greater galago**

*Otolemur crassicaudatus*

This species was heard regularly at night both around Amani Research Station and Zigi in East Usambara Mountains Nov 19 – 22.

**Small-eared greater galago**

*Otolemur gennettii*

This species was heard around Fiona's Birders Cottage outside Usa River Nov 3 – 5 and Nov 15 – 16.

**Usambara galago**

*Galagoides orinus*

A smallish galago said to belong to this species we saw at Mambo Wiew Eco Lodge; West Usambaras in the early morning of Nov 20.

**Straw-coloured fruit bat**

*Eidolon helvum*

A group of maybe 30 were gathered roosting in palm-trees in central Arusha Nov 17. Odd ones were seen besides these.



Straw-coloured fruit bat



Hildebrandt's horseshoe bat

**Wahlberg's epauletted fruit bat**

*Epomophorus wahlbergi*

According to James this is the Epauletted Fruit Bat in NE Tanzania. Distribution maps also say this is the only larger *Epomophorus* in the area (i.e. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)). It was calling frequently at Fiona's Birders Lodge outside Usa River Nov 3-5.

EFB's were also heard at Elephant Motel in Same Nov 16. Distributions of EFB-species are not yet fully known. We hold the EFBs in Same plausibly also to belong to this species.

**Angola fruit bat**

*Lissonycteris angolensis*

One was seen near Amani Research Station; East Usambaras in the morning of Nov 22.

**East African epauletted fruit bat not assessed** *Epomophorus minimus*

According to distribution maps Lake Natron is the only place where this species reaches Tanzania, while Wahlber's EFB occurs as far west as the eastern ridge of the Great Rift Valley. The habitat around Lake Natron is predominately very dry, except for a few clumps of trees around Natron River Camp and Moivaro Lodge. EFBs which may belong to this species were heard and one was seen at Natron River Camp Nov 14.

**Yellow-winged bat**

*Lavoia frons*

This species we saw in and around Moivaro Lodge Nov 14 and 15.

**Hildebrandt's horseshoe bat**

*Rhinolophus hildebrandti*

Two were seen roosting together with two juvenile mottled spinetails in a giant hollow baobab tree in Tarangire National Park Nov 7

**De Winton's long-eared bat**

*Laephotis wintoni*

Two were found roosting in the ceiling of a hut at Ikumu Gate; Serengeti Nov 12.

**White-bellied hedgehog**

*Atelerix albiventris*

One was seen strolling across the lawn of Fiona's Birders Cottage in the evening of Nov 4. One was found dead near the dump just outside the wall surrounding the cottage Nov 3.

## Hares

Foley et al.; Larger Mammals of Tanzania 2014, deals with two species; cape hare (*Lepus capensis*) and savannah hare (*L. victoriae*) but does not mention scrub hare *L. saxatilis*. The authors focus on differences in length of ears, amount of rufous on the nape and shape of head. Kingdon uses cape hare and scrub hare (*L. saxatilis* [syn. *L. crawshayi*]) and states: "Over 30 subspecies named including *saxatilis*, *whytei*, *victoriare*, *ansorgei*, *fangei* and *cantopus*."

All hares we saw fell within the definition of savannah hare/scrub hare with long ears and gentle ear – nose profile, however with varying intensity of russet or rufous patch on neck. The first two hares we saw on the driveway to Fiona's Birders Cottage Nov 3 showed a lot more russet on nape than later encountered savannah/scrub hares. All individuals we saw during spotlighting around Mkuru Camel Camp Nov 5 and outside Mugumu Nov 10 – 11 showed very little/hardly any russet at all (See below).

## Unstriped ground squirrel

*Xerus rutilus*

This species we saw in Mkumazi NP, one Nov 16 and at least two Nov 17.

## Tanganyika mountain squirrel

*Paraxerus lucifer*

In Eastern Usambara Mountains one was seen near Amani Research Station on Nov 20 and another one was seen along the trail to Emau Hill Nov 21.

## Luschoto mountain squirrel

*Paraxerus vexillarius*

The IUCN Red List regards the species as Near Threatened. It is largely restricted to the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania, but has been recorded from a number of locations including Mount Kilimanjaro. Its population and threats are not known. The threat is probably mainly that the species is confined to Eastern Arc Montane Forest habitat and might be dependent on access to such. (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/16202/0>)

During Nov 19 we saw eight altogether in Shangai Forest; Western Usambaras.

## Red-bellied coast squirrel

*Paraxerus palliatus*

Nov 23 we saw one near Zigi in Eastern Usambaras.

## Ochre bush-squirrel

*Paraxerus ochraceus*

Two were seen at Natron River Lodge in the morning of Nov 15.



Ochre bush squirrel



Tanganyika mountain squirrel



### Spring hare

*Pedetes capensis*

During spotlighting around Mkuru Camel Camp, two local Masais showed us to an area where we counted eight spring hares Nov 5.

### Demon mole-rat

*Tachyryctes daemon*

One was caught alive Nov 4 in a paddock near Fiona's Birders Cottage; Usa River.

### Fringe-tailed gerbil

*Tatera robusta*

Two, probably female and young were seen Nov 5 during spotlighting near Mkuru Camel Camp.

The animals were determined to species by using distribution data from:

<https://www.iucnredlist.org>, measurements and detailed descriptions to a large extent from Luo Biological Dictionary, and a few reliable photos of species in question.

### Grass rats

*Arvicanthis*

Some were seen at base of Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9. Others were seen at Naabi Hill and others yet were seen at Seronera Visitors Centre in Serengeti NP Nov 10. Some were seen at Ikumu Gate; Serengeti, and others were seen on Loliondo Highlands Nov 13.

Identification: Three species are known to occur in Tanzania; *A. niloticus*, *A. nairobiae* and *A. somalicus*. Search for images on the internet present the same images for all three species. I have found no reliable literature for determination, and nobody prepared to give any statement. Mammals of the Word volumes covering rodents are not yet printed.

One group shows large, rounded dark or darkish ears and rather short tail (upper right).

Another group seem to have large, rounded ears but rather long tail (lower right), and another type seems to have shorter, somewhat pointed and pale ears (left).



*Arvicanthis* Grass rats



**Gambian pouched rat***Cricetomys gambianus*

One was seen during night watch from terrace of Fiona's Birders Cottage, Rio Usa Nov 4. Fiona has caught several good photos of this species here with photo-traps.

**Hildegard's broad-headed stink mouse***Zelotomys hildegardae*

Three were seen during spotlighting along Mkumazi National Park; Nov 16 18:15 – 20:50. We all saw one crossing the road at close range. James and Dismas saw another two of the same species at the edge of the road.

Identification: Its body size (HB) was estimated to be between 11 and 14 centimetres (larger than a House Mouse (*Mus domesticus*) but smaller than a Root Vole (*Microtus oeconomus*). Pure white on underside including chin and throat reaching high on sides of body and head, creating a distinct border between white and greyish brown. The tail was as long as HB or slightly longer, and looked pure white, or possibly with a very pale upper greyish white close to base of tail. Ears were prominent.

Features of this species according to Kingdon offers only one alternative; Hildegard's Broad-headed Stink Mouse (*Zelotomys hildegardae*). Species with similar features exist, but none of these are known from this part of Africa.

**Natal multimammal rat***Mastomys natalensis*

Two individuals were caught in live traps, in shrub vegetation next to Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River Nov 5. After having been studied they were released.

**Brockmann's myomyscus***Myomyscus brockmani*

One was caught in live trap Nov 14 in the outskirts of Wasso.

Identification: Notable features were size estimated to 11 – 14 ½ centimetres, tail longer than head-body. Hump above eye, blunt nose, big eyes, soft fur, biggish roundish ears, no distinct border of colour between flanks and belly. Features narrowing down genera to *Myomys* or possibly but not likely *Aethomys*. Studying known distribution and preferred habitat for each of the 16 species excluded all but *Myomys fumatus* and *Myomyscus brockmani*. Further studies reveal that Van der Straeten and Robbins (1997) have demonstrated the holotype of *fumatus* to be an example of *Mastomys* and not *Myomys*.

<http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/biology/resources/msw3/browse.asp?id=13001590>

I feel rather confident this is the species, but I am still open to alternative suggestions.

**Golden jackal***Canis aureus*

One was seen in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9.



Banded mongoose



Dwarf mongoose

**Black-backed jackal***Canis mesomelas*

This species was common in Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti Nov 9 – 11.

**Bat-eared Fox***Otocyon megalotis*

One was seen in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9 and one in Mkumazi National Park Nov 17.

**Zorilla***Ictonyx striatus*

During spotlighting around Mkuru Camel Camp Nov 5, two Masais showed us to an area where there were spring hares. While spotlighting spring hares a Zorilla was started.

**Ratel***Mellivora capensis*

One was seen crossing the road at Sagakwa; periphery of Serengeti Eco System on Nov 11.

**Banded mongoose***Mungos mungo*

We found the species in Tarangire NP Nov 7 and Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9. On our way to Klein Gate; Serengeti we counted a group of 24 Nov 12.

**Dwarf mongoose***Heliogale parvula*

One was seen in Tarangire NP Nov 7.

**Slender mongoose***Herpestes sanguineus*

One was seen near Lobo Camp Nov 12 and one was seen on the driveway out from Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River Nov 16.



Spotted hyena

**White-tailed mongoose***Ichneuma albicauda*

One was seen at Rhino Lodge in the evening of Nov 8, and two were seen during spotlighting along the edge of Mkumazi NP Nov 17.

**Bushy-tailed mongoose***Bdeogale crassicauda*

One was seen crossing the road to the entrance of Mkumazi NP before lunch Nov 16.  
 Comment: I have many times looked at the illustration of this species in Kingdon and doubted that a mongoose really could look like that. Much to my surprise the resemblance was very strong.

**Spotted hyena***Crocuta crocuta*

Our first spotted hyena we encountered during spotlighting around Mkuru Camel Camp Nov 5. We also saw some in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9 and 10, and in Serengeti NP Nov 10.

**Common Genet***Genetta genetta*

One was found road-killed west of Arusha Nov 16.

**Large-spotted genet***Genetta maculata*

One was seen running in the backyard and one was seen on the porch of Rhino Lodge on the edge of Ngorongoro Crater Nov 8 and 9.

**Servaline genet***Genetta servalina*

Driving from Same spotlighting on the road along southern side of Mtomazi National Park, just crossing an offshoot of South Pare Mountains Nov 16 a servaline genet made an attempt to cross the road.

Comment: It appeared comparatively dark. Seeing its head and face it looked emaciated. The tail appeared rather short for a genet, but particularly lean. Unlike common genet (*Genetta genetta*) and large-spotted genet (*G. maculata*) with wide/thick and tapered tails, the tail on this animal was not tapered at all. It showed about the same width from base to tip, reminding me of the tail of a domestic cat. The tip of the tail was either black or possibly with a pale outer tip (last half centimetre)

Both James and I have seen common genet and large-spotted genet prior to this animal. We know that this species is very uncommon on Tanzanian mainland. We know that it has been recorded in the Armani Nature Reserve. We also know the search for small and medium size mammals is not yet common in remoter parts of this country.



Servaline female with three kittens



Lion

**African palm civet***Nandinia binotata*

One was calling at Fiona’s Birders Cottage near Usa River at night Nov 3 – 5 and one was seen outside Amani Research Station; East Usambaras in the evening of Nov 20.

**Serval***Felis serval*

One Serval was seen during spotlighting near Ikumu Gate; Serengeti Nov 10, and a mother with three kittens were seen during spotlighting outside Mkomazi NP Nov 16.

**Leopard***Panthera pardus*

One was seen in Ngorongoro Crater with a killed gnu Nov 9.

**Lion***Panthera leo*

In Ngorongoro Crater we saw three lions Nov 9, and another little group further north in Ngorongoro Conservation Area Nov 10.

**Cheetah***Acinonyx jubatus*

One cheetah was seen in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9.

**Black-necked rock hyrax***Procavia johnsoni*

At least two were seen at Seronera Visitors Centre in Serengeti NP Nov 10, and one was seen near Lobo Camp Nov 12.

**Yellow-spotted bush-hyrax***Heterohyrax brucei*

At least two were seen at Seronera Visitors Centre in Serengeti NP Nov 10.

**Southern tree hyrax***Dendrohyrax arboreus*

One was seen on Loliondo Highlands Nov 13.

**Eastern tree hyrax***Dendrohyrax validus*

A tree hyrax was heard calling between 02:00 and 02:10 from Mambo Wiew Eco-lodge. West Usambaras Nov 20.

According to people working here who had seen the animal, said it is “The black tree hyrax”. referring to this species (See p. 25)



Black-necked rock hyrax



Plains zebra

**Savanna elephant***Loxodonta Africana*

Eight were seen in Tarangire NP Nov 7, at least 40 were seen in Lake Manyara NP Nov 8, one was seen in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9, about 25 were seen in the peripheri of Serengeti Eco System Nov 11, a group of about twelve were seen in Ikowongo GCA Nov 11 and at least twelve were seen in center of Serengeti NP Nov 12.

**Plains zebra***Equus quagga*

Zebras were seen daily from Nov 4 though Nov 12. The largest numbers were seen on the plains of Ngorongoro CA and Serengeti NP: Nov 9 about 750, Nov 10 around 2500, with largest flock of about 600 heads, Nov 11 about 150 and Nov 12 about 250.

**Brush rhinoceros***Diceros bicornis*

Two were seen on Nov 8 at a frightful distance in Southern Ngorongoro Crater and two were sen well in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9.



Bush rhinoceros



Giraffe

**Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibious*

A few odd ones were seen in Arusha NP Nov 4. We saw some gathered in pools, so called "Hippo Pools." We saw about 30 in Ngoronoro CA Nov 8, about 60 in Ngorongoro CA Nov 9 and some were seen in Serengeti NP Nov 10.

**Bush pig***Potamochoerus larvatus*

Two were seen on the backyard lawn from the fireplace balcony of Rhino Lodge on the edge of Ngorongoro Crater after dark Nov 8

**Common warthog***Phacohoerus africanus*

We saw several during Nov 4 – Nov 12, but they were not the most intensively studied creatures. The largest number we counted were about 50 in Lake Manyara NP Nov 8.

**Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis*

Giraffes we saw almost every day from Nov 5 through Nov 12. No day we saw more than about 20 heads.

**African buffalo***Syncerus caffer*

Buffalos we saw during seven days from Nov 5 through Nov 12. The largest amount we saw was in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9 where we estimated the number to at least 450 heads.

**Lesser kudu***Tragelaphus imberbis*

The species was seen at two occasions, both in Mkumazi NP Nov 17.

**Eland***Taurotragus oryx*

We saw the species six days; Two to six at Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River Nov 3 and 4, two in in Tarangire NP Nov 7, eight in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 10 about 20 near Lobo Camp in Serengeti NP Nov 12 and about 15 in Mkumazi NP Nov 17.

**Bush duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

This we saw during spotlighting at Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River; one Nov 4, and three Nov 14. We also saw one in Lake Manyara NP Nov 8.

**Natal Duiker***Cephalophus natalensis*

Our only sighting we made in Tarangire NP Nov 7.

**Harvey's duiker***Cephalophus harveyi*

In Arusha NP we counted nine heads Nov 6.

**Suni***Neotragus moschatus*

In Arusha NP we counted six heads Nov 6.



Steenbuck



Bohor reedbuck

**Steenbuck***Raphicerus campestris*

We saw at least six in Tarangire NP Nov 7 and three near Lobo Camp Nov 12.

**Klippspringer***Oreotragus oreotragus*

Near Lobo Camp we saw a female and a pair Nov 12.

**Kirk's dik-dik***Madoqua kirkii*

We saw about ten around Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River Nov 4 (- some of these during spotlighting), and we also saw some here Nov 15 and 16. We saw at least six in Tarangire NP Nov 7, about ten in Ngorongoro Crater CA and Serengeti on Nov 10, some in Serengeti Nov 12 and at least five in Mkumazi NP on Nov 17.

Those seen around Usa River and in Mkomazi NP belong to subspecies *M. k. kirkii*.

Those we saw in Tarangire NP belong to the subspecies *M. kirkii thomasi*, and those seen in Serengeti NP belong to the subspecies *M. kirkii cavendisi*.

**Bohor reedbuck***Redunca redunca*

One was seen in Tarangire NP Nov 7, one in Serengeti NP Nov 10 and two in Serengeti NP Nov 12.

**Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

A few were seen during at least five days. Largest number we saw in Serengeti NP Nov 12, where we counted at least 20.

**Thomson's gazelle***Gazella rufifrons*

Fairly frequently seen during the trip. Largest number seen around the Gateway to Serengeti National Park Nov 10. where the number was estimated to about 1200.

**Grant's gazelle***Gazella granti*

This gazelle we saw during five days from Nov 4 through Nov 15. The largest number was estimated in Serengeti NP Nov 10 when we saw about one hundred.

**Gerenuk***Litocranius walleri*

Gerenuk we saw only near Fiona's Birders Cottage, where some are kept in a game reserve.

**Impala***Aepyceros melampus*

At least a few were seen almost daily except in the Usamaba Mountains.

**Topi***Damaliscus lunatus*

Eight were seen around Ikumu Gate; Serengeti Nov 8. about 15 were seen in Ngorongoro CA and Serengeti Nov 10, about 15 were seen while exploring the periphery of Serengeti Ecosystem Nov 11 and about 40 we saw in Serengeti Nov 12.

**Kongoni***Alcelaphus buselaphus*

Between five and twenty were seen daily in Ngorongoro Crater CA and Serengeti NP Nov 8 – 12. and about twenty were seen in Mkomazi NP Nov 17.

**Brindled gnu***Connochaetes taurinus*

About 25 we saw outside Usa River in a Game Reserve. In Ngorongoro Crater CA and Serengeti we saw gnous Nov 8 – 12. In Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9 we estimated the number to be between 12000 and 20 000. During our drive through Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti Nov 10 a continuous stream of gnous between twenty and over 100 heads wide wandered past us for about six hours. I made an effort to estimate the number by counting them hundred at the time but gave up after about two hours. Then I had reached 25000. There may have been thrice this number.



African buffaloes



## REPTILES

The species are listed in order as in Spawls et al; A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa 2004, below referred to as Spawls et al.



Leopard tortoise

### TORTOISES AND TERRAPINS

#### **Leopard tortoise**

*Geochelone pardalis*

One was seen in Lake Manyara NP on Nov 8. One was seen in Ngorongoro Crater Nov 9. One was found on our road to Retima; Serengeti Nov 10. Two were seen in the periphery of Serengeti eco system on Nov 11 and one was seen in Mkomazi NP on Nov 16.

#### **Previously: helmeted terrapin**

*Pelomedusa subrufa sensu lato*

This superspecies has recently been studied throughout Africa and Arabian Peninsula including DNA-sequencing, and is now divided into twelve species. Three of these have been assessed in Tanzania; *P. kobe* (spec. nova), *P. naumanni* (spec. nova) and *P. subrufa sensu stricto*. In the Arusha area they have all been found to live in sympatry or at least close proximity. <http://www.biotaxa.org/Zootaxa/article/viewFile/zootaxa.3795.5.2/8380>. The specimen in south and central Tanzania are assumed to be *P. kobe*, (pers. comm. Stephen Spawls). The distance between Arusha and Mkumazi National Park is less than 150 kilometres as the crow flies. Hence the terrapins in Mkumazi National Park Nov 17 obviously can belong to either of these three species.

The article mentioned above (Fig 2) reveals findings of *P. naumanni* from the highlands south and east of lake Victoria in Tanzania to northern Kenya. No other *Pelomedusa subrufa s.l.*-species was identified by the research team in the suggested distribution area for *P. naumanni*.

One specimen was found near Sonjo along the road from Wasso to Lake Natron. Even if the specimen is found within this range we can not with certainty exclude the other two species.

**Speke's hinged Tortoise**

*Kinixys spekei*

One was seen at Elephant Motel in Same Nov 16.

**Serrated hinged tortoise**

*Pellusios sinuatus*

One was found sunbathing on a log in a pond in the periphery of Serengeti eco system Nov 11

**SNAKE**

**Cape file snake**

*Mehelya capensis*

While studying chameleons in the kitchen of the guest house in Zigi; east Usambaras , a local man came in with this snake, which he had caught while we were spotlighting along a trail outside the guesthouse Nov 22.

**LIZARDS**

**Tropical house gecko**

*Hemidactylus mabouia*

One was seen at Isoitok Nov 6. Another one was seen in Amani; East Usambaras Nov 21.



Tropical hose gecko



Blue-headed tree-agama

**Speckle-lipped skink**

*Mabouya maculiliabris*

We found one on the stairs of the research centre in Amani Nov 20 and at least one running on the cement outside the guesthouse in Zigi; East Usambaras Nov 21.

**Speke's sand lizard**

*Heliobolus spekii*

One was seen on Lark Plains near Mount Meru on Nov 6.

**Southern long-tailed lizard**

*Latastia longicauda*

One was seen in a fenced in garden next to the office at southwestern Lake Natron Nov 14.

**Great plated lizard**

*Gerrhosaurus major*

One was found sitting in the opening of a termite mound in Ngorongoro Crater CA Nov 10.

**Black-lined plated lizard**

*Gerrhosaurus nirolineatus*

Several were seen in a semi-arid habitat in Mkomazi NP Nov 16.

**Blue-headed tree-agama**

*Acanthocercus atricollis*

Two were seen in a treetop near Lobo Lodge in Serengeti NP and one was seen along the road leaving the area (James) Nov 12.

**Red-headed rock-agama**

*Agama agama*

The species was seen several times during the trip. A local worker showed us a nest with eggs outside the office of Mkumazi NP Nov 17.

**Mwanza flat-headed agama**

*Agama mwanzae*

We saw some at Naabi Hill Nov 10 and several near Lobo Lodge in Serengeti NP Nov 12.



Southern long-tailed lizard



Usambara two-horned chameleon

**Usambara three-horned chameleon**

*Chameleo dermensis*

At least six were seen during spotlighting on Mbumole Hill Trail; East Usambaras Nov 21.

**Usambara two-horned chameleon**

*Chameleo fischeri*

One was seen along the driveway to Mambo View Eco Lodge in the evening of Nov 19.

**Usambara soft-horned chameleon**

*Chameleo tenue*

We saw one during spotlighting along a trail just outside the guesthouse at Zigi Nov 22.

**Bearded pygmy chameleon**

*Rhampholeon brevicaudatus*

During spotlighting along Mbumole Hill Trail; East Usambaras Nov 21 we saw at least three, and during spotlighting around Zigi; East Usambaras some locals became aware of what we were looking for, and came in with about ten. Altogether we saw about a dozen Nov 22.

**Usambara pitted pygmy chameleon**

*Rhampholeon temporalis*

During spotlighting along Mbumole Hill Trail; East Usambaras Nov 21 we found two.

**White-throated savannah monitor**

*Varanus albigularis*

One was seen in Mtomazi NP Nov 17.

**Nile monitor**

*Varanus niloticus*

In Maniara National Park we saw one near the eastern entrance and at least one at Hippo Point in Manyara National Park Nov 8.

## FROGS

### Smooth-sided toad

*Bufo guttatus*

At least two were seen in the garden at Fiona's Birders Cottage near Usa River Nov 4.

### Kreft's warthy frog

*Callulina krefftii*

One was seen along Mbomore Hill Trail East Usambaras Nov 22.

### Edible bull frog

*Pyxicephalus edulus*

It was abundant on the roads in Mkumazi NP during the morning's heavy rain Nov 17.

### Usambara reed frog not assessed

*Hyperolius mariae*

This frog was present along the Mbomore Hill Trail; East Usambaras Nov 21. Our local bird expert, also with considerable knowledge about wildlife in the area used the name *H. spanticolata*.

<https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperolius> recognizes 129 species. Search for "spanticolata" on internet does not find any match.

Among above 129 species only three are found in this geographical area. Reading research papers indicate that *H. mariae* is the most plausible alternative.

**not assessed**

*Probidicepsis macrodactylus*

During spotlighting along the Mbomore Hill Trail; East Usambaras Nov 21 our local guide used this name for one frog. Search on the internet gives one single match; a frog photographed in East Usambaras.

### Big-eyed tree-frog

*Leptopelius vermiculatus*

Several were seen during spotlighting along Mbomore Hill Trail; East Usambaras Nov 21.



Usambara soft-horned chameleon

## BUTTERFLIES

The species are listed in alphabetic order for their scientific names, even though common names are placed first.

### **Forest glade nymph**

*Aterica galene*

A few were seen Nov 22 and 23 near Zigi; East Usambara Mountains.

### **Double-banded orange**

*Colotis aurigineus*

Some were seen in Mkumazi National Park Nov 17.

### **Guineafowl butterfly**

*Hamanumida daedalus*

At least two were seen in Lake Manyara NP Nov 8.

### **Large spotted swordtail**

*Graphium anthesus*

At least one was seen Nov 23 at Zigi; East Usambaras.

### **Yellow pensy butterfly**

*Junonia hierta*

At few were seen in Mkumazi National Park Nov 16.

### **African woodwhite**

*Leptidea duponcheli*

At least four were seen in Ufiome Forest Reserve Nov 7.

### **Mocking Swallowtail**

*Papilio dardanus*

At least one was seen Nov 23 at Zigi; East Usambaras.

### **Citrus swallowtail**

*Papilio demodocus*

One was seen near Emau Hill Nov 21 and one was seen outside the guest house at Zigi; both in East Usambaras.



Guineafowl butterfly



Forest glade nymph

### **Unidentified swallowtail/swordtail**

*Papilio/Graphium sp.*

One was seen on Loliondo Highlands Nov 13. It does not look impossible to identify, but sadly I have not found any images coinciding with this animal. (See photo below).

### **Green-banded swallowtail**

*Papilio sp.*

Butterflies with this common name were seen several times. More than one

species are involved. None of them were eager to pose in front of the camera. One in Arusha National Park Nov 5 had a band looking than on the following ones. The specimen on Loliondo Highland had a broad turquoise band and another band with rather large white subterminal spots on its hind-wings. Specimen on East Usambaras showed a bluish band.



Large-spotted swordtail



Unidentified swallowtail/swordtail

## DRAGONFLIES

### Amani flatwing

*Amanipodagrion gilliesi*

One was seen at Zigi; East Usambara Mountains Nov 22.

### Wandering glider

(Migratory dragonfly)

*Pantala flavescens*

some were seen at the eastern ridge of Great Rift Valley overlooking Lake Natron Nov 14.

### Keyhole glider

*Tramesa basiliaris*

We saw some at the eastern ridge of Great Rift Valley overlooking Lake Natron Nov 14.

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