# **Northern Tanzania**

## A Reconnaissance

A Greentours Trip Report

29<sup>th</sup> October – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

by Ian Green

This was also a family holiday with our 5 year-old daughter so it was not approached in the same way as a full-on Mammal-watching trip might be. Having said that she did pretty well and she was possibly the first five-year old out on a Tarangire night safari! So bear in mind that we didn't always start as early as we might, and that I missed the odd safari when she needed a break. Hence a gap or two in the description below. Hopefully though it will give you an idea of what to expect.

## 29th October to the Serengeti

Today was the long overland journey to the Serengeti. It was long but we were able to get a picture of the changing landscapes as we drove south over the Athi Plains from Nairobi across the border at Namanga and thence to Arusha dominated by the impressive Mount Meru above – though not visible today. Heading west we covered some very dry country before reaching the greenery that surrounds Lake Manyara and thence across the top of Ngorongoro to the Serengeti. There was so much interest too in seeing what the locals were up to as we traversed the countries.



Heading into the Naabi Hill Gate of Serengeti we'd gone just a few hundred metres when two Lappet-faced Vulture were spotted next to the track, sitting quietly. A Golden Jackal played with something meaty nearby. Realising something had recently made a kill we looked ahead and sure enough lying just a few metres off the road was an adult female Cheetah. She proved a delight walking around and occasionally rolling in the grass and all from just a few metres range.

We were in a hurry to get to the lodge after our long journey but things transpired to hold us up. A pride of seven Lions for instance, the male with a striking main of black and yellow hair. There were Tawny Eagles and more Lappet-faced Vultures on the low acacias that were so rare that definitely you can say that they dot the savannah.

## 30<sup>th</sup> October Serengeti

Well, we saw a lot! The Serengeti is awesome! But I didn't write it down...





#### 31<sup>st</sup> October Serengeti



We left at nearly seven this morning, but were going to be out for the full day. It was a glorious sunny morning, the landscape with its tinge of fresh green grass and shiny acacias was superb. Two grumpy old Cape Buffalo complained at our passage. There were then plenty of Impala – they seem to like the bush country rather than the open, and once into the open, abundant Thomson's Gazelle. We came across a small group of Dwarf Mongooses and a little later two Slender-tailed Mongooses skedaddled across our path. We entered a large tract of dry grass country where ungulates seemed few yet perversely there were predators everywhere. First up was a male Leopard lounging under a tree. He was some distance away so views were not great though when suddenly a female stood up on a termite mound a few metres the other side of the tree things became clearer. It was the mating season! However that was about the extent of the action for us as they both then lay down and were only visible when they raised

their heads. A magnificent party of Elephants cruised by.



As we watched them we became aware of a couple Lions approaching though these were soon lost in a little valley and never reappeared. Only a little further along and during a brief comfort stop we spotted more Lions! Two fine males walking along the slope above us. We tried to manoeuvre into position but they had reached the shade they

sought and lie down out of site. Next, and

again only a short distance along was a Leopard, this one was obligingly lounging in an African Sausage Tree and we could view him at our leisure. Wonderful animal. Amazingly as we



left this Leopard another one was spotted just 500

metres away. This one was truly a heavy-duty male Leopard, so strong looking. He meandered across the savannah seemingly unsure where to go and passed us very close – what an animal. He though was soon forgotten was lonely another 500m up then track lying in the shade of a big rock was truly the king of Lions! What an animal. He was sleepy as we arrived but realising that we needed to show a bit of form he woke up, sate up and fixed

us with those deep honey-yellow eyes. And job done he lay back for another snooze.

Almost exhausted by all this cat action we were then confronted with a pride of around ten Lions that initially at least seemed intent on hunting that most difficult of prey, Cape Buffalo. We, and others, sat transfixed as the pride used our vehicles to approach close to the Buffalo, one or two of whom were wallowing in the stream. There were half a dozen young cubs with the Lions which led us to suspect they were not so serious about the hunt, and soon they, and the Buffalo relaxed.



Meanwhile there were was a nice scattering of Bohor Reedbuck along the valley. Also Hippos wherever we could see water – sometimes the rivers were like Hippo soup and it would have been no exaggeration to say that you could have walked across the river without getting wet by stepping on their back – not a very wise thing to do though. We stopped for lunch at a picnic spot and here there were Bush Hyraxes sunning themselves on the roof and a carpet of Banded Mongoose fossicking about.

There were any number of great birds seen during the day. The almost endemic (to the Serengeti) Grey-necked Spurfowl a nice

find. There was two fine Southern Ground Hornbills, Rufous-tailed Weavers, Magpie Shrikes, and close to the big pride of Lions were groups of Quailfinches.

Evening back at the lodges produced sightings of Senegal Bushbaby for most of us as well as several Chameleons. Spotted Hyenas called below the lodge.

## 1<sup>st</sup> November Serengeti



enjoyed stopping and watching them. The males chasing each other out of their territories always caused a general commotion – you had to concentrate hard to see who should be where! We spotted two Spotted Hyenas moving steadily then rapidly through the landscape – they had spotted something. It may be that they were the same two Hyenas we spotted twenty minutes later lounging in a kind of 'I/m not here' way under the shade of a

The morning started with a small herd of Defassa Waterbuck outside the lodge. Impala were full of beans as we drove on males sparring and females running hither and thither. We saw many Topi during the morning, such handsome beasts and here and there groups of much paler Cocke's Hartebeest. There were huge numbers of Thompson's Gazelles again and we



wait-a-bit thorn thirty metres away from a freshly killed Cape Buffalo. The two male Lions who had taken the buffalo could hardly move so full were they! Even closer at hand (to the Lions) was a Blackbacked Jackal, almost as close to the carcass as the two Lions. We spent twenty minutes at a river viewpoint where you could get out and walk and there were toilets. Down in the river was an extraordinary scene. Bank to bank Hippos! There were several really quite young Hippos and quite a bit of action all round – it was noisy place! One Hippo did a very good Kermit the Frog impersonation.

We headed east into drier country. The 'game' changed too. Now there were more Warthogs and



spotted more Klipspringer, this time three animals perfectly close to the safari-cruiser. There was even a brilliant red and blue Agama sharing the tiny kopje with them, indeed we saw several in this area. On one kopje we found a superb Black-necked Rock Hyrax, and in a bush next to it two Bush Hyraxes!

Grant's Gazelles appeared in numbers. Also Ostriches. Nearing the Four Season's lodge we found the landscape quite different interrupted by may low kopjes. We had come here to look for Klipspringer and almost immediately Abraham found one. We continued noting lots of Topi, Gazelle and Cape Buffalo in the slopes below the lodge's waterhole. Just round the other side Diana



There were again some fine birds during

the morning. A Martial Eagle stayed perched roadside for us and there were two fine Pygmy Falcons. I think we identified five vulture species, and there was also Dark Chanting Goshawk, Gabar Goshawk, Common Buzzard and African Hawk Eagle. Smaller species included Black-backed Puffback, Eurasia Roller, Pangani Longclaw and White-tailed Lark.

In the afternoon most went out for a game drive, Zoe and I stayed behind and enjoyed the pool. Where we found a nice Yellow-winged Bat. We had a sterling view too of tens of thousands of ungulates on the plain below. The majority were Western White-bearded Wildebeest though there were good numbers of Zebra and Gazelle too. A Cliffchat was seen.

The afternoon drive produced many Spotted Hyenas including a group of eleven. There were huge numbers of Wildebeest and Zebra. There were groups of elegant Eland too.

Back at the lodge Irene, the baby Cavendish's Dik-dik kept us entertained at dinner (and the staff), and there were more sightings of Senegal Bushbaby and chameleon and a Cape Hare was seen.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> November Serengeti & Ngorongoro

A slightly later start this morning saw us breakfasted and packed up in the landcruiser by not long after seven-thirty. We did a morning safari through the Serengeti and then drove to Ngorongoro arriving there around five.

Hardly had we left the gates when a bunch of Elephants stopped us. We drove through open Acacia woodland for a while before emerging into the wide open shortgrass plains. Highlights during the morning include Lons, of course. Specially as they were up a tree! Four Lions (and a fifth on the



ground) draped themselves in various fashions in an African Sausage Tree. One stood posing halfway up the tree. Later near the gate we encountered a group with two fine black-maned males and several cubs. Here there was lots of rolling around and waving of legs in the air! Best though was a superb Leopard up an acacia tree. He posed elegantly along a shaded branch for a while. A beautifully marked animal with a lovely cinnamonyellow colouration. It wasn't long before

he got up and elegantly jumped down the tree for a shady spot in the bushes. At the same spot was a Grey Kestrel, one of several seen this morning, a Lesser Kestrel and a Black-chested Snake-Eagle. There were two fine Black-backed Jackals that we followed for a while, they caused some consternation ahead of them as a dik-dik reached the speed of light in no time at all and even two

Zebra showed unease! Warthogs were plentiful too. We found some Black-winged Plovers and lots of rollers. Magpie Shrikes were noticeable.

We lunched by Lake Magadi where a large herd of Zebra provided much interest. The males were quite agitated and circulated through the groups chivvying and moving their own kith and kin. By the water were Marsh Sandpiper, an anting Whitebrowed Coucal, a Red-knobbed Coot and a fine collection of Yellow-billed Stalks. Lesser Flamingos dotted the water.

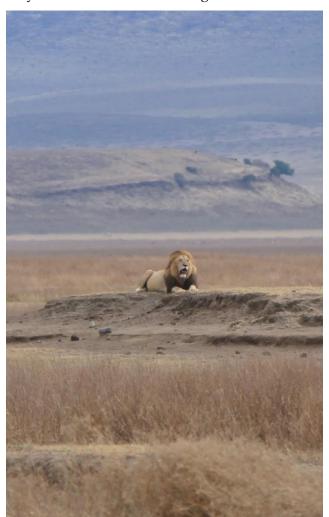




Heading out across the open country between Serengeti and Ngorongoro we had great looks at a pair of Golden Jackals and later a single who seemed to have some kind of rodent for lunch. At the later gate we found plentiful rodents running around – Grass Rats. As we rose up the slopes of Ngorongoro we found a large group of Giraffe. Arriving at the Serena Lodge we were soon enjoying the incredible vistas of the crater. Huge numbers of animals could be seen down inside. There were Elephants in the property around the room. After dinner Seda spotted a Bushy-tailed Mongoose just outside the room.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> November The Ngorongoro Crater

We went early down into the crate, staring at six, just as it got light. Conditions were cold and wet on the rim and didn't get much better as we descended. Still it was cold with some rain as we reached the crater floor but soon any rain stopped and it got steadily brighter and warmer. The rain returned only as we returned to the lodge.



What to say. Ngorongoro is wildlife soup! A huge number of mammals of impressive diversity were seen and 124 species of bird all in eight hours. Lions were immediately evident. First we spotted our own, then we saw eight lazy Lions lying by some others in landcruisers. Two of these were a male and female lying together in exhaustion suggesting it had been a busy night. Later we saw a single male sitting atop a raised area of land. He looked simply kingly sitting so proud, His coat was two tone but pale and his mane dark. And his station with a superb crater wall background and grumpy weather made for fabulous photos. We



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looked hard this morning for Caracal and Serval but found neither, our best small predator find being two Bat-eared Foxes who didn't seem to know which way to go. Two Black-backed Jackals sat back from a recent kill as a horde of Rueppell's Griffon and African Whitebacked Vultures dealt with things. Later we saw three separate Golden Jackals, their coats matching the tawny-yellow grassland to the last hair. There were large herds of both Common Zebra and the intra-crater migratory local Wildebeest. At one point we were atop a small hill and looking round counted around 6000 animals, mostly these two species. A female Defassa Waterbuck provided much entertainment careening round a low hill chasing others into action including two Bohor Reedbuck. There were Hippos in the water and out, and two very distant Black Rhinos. Groups of Cape Buffalo here and there, one old bull walking past with around twenty Red-billed Oxpeckers on his back. There were Spotted Hyenas, perhaps ten in all. Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles were common and

there was a herd or two of Coke's Hartebeest.

The birds were amazing. Large flocks of Lesser Flamingos of a particularly bright lurid pink lined the lakeshore, a few Greater Flamingos among them. There were a few White Pelicans and a couple of groups of Yellow-billed Storks. Maribou Storks flew over as did Lappet-faced Vultures and both Common and Augur Buzzards. African Spoonbills, Sacred Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Squacco, Night, Blacknecked and Grey Herons populated the wetlands. Ducks including Cape Teal, Hottentot Teal and Northern Shoveler. There was a rich variety of waders, Black Crakes, Purple Swamphen, Long-toed Lapwing and Avocet. Kori Bustard sightings reach double figures and included one bird sitting on a a nest right by the road. Hildebrandt's Francolins were noted on the way in and we saw Black-bellied Bustard. Paradise Flycatcher, Red & Yellow Barbet, Black-crowned Tchagra, Capped Wheater and Schalow's Wheater were among the many smaller birds seen.

We arrived back at the lodge for a late lunch and relaxed for the rest of the afternoon. Notable sightings up here were a few Bushbuck, Collared??? Sunbird and Tropical Boubou. After darkness fell there was a Bush Duiker...

## 4th November Ngorongoro Crater

We had a more leisurely start this morning and left the lodge at 07.45 and were soon driving along the ridgetop road which not unusually was foggy this morning. The sight of a Giraffe looming out of the fog in front of us will live long in the memory! Soon we were down on the crater floor and were to spend the rest of the day there getting back to the lodge at 17.30.



What a day. As is so often the case it began with Lions. There was 11 of them in the pride including three males. One of the males was as yesterday lying exhausted with a female. The other two males were lounging near an already well-eater wildebeest that wasn't there the day before. Easy pickings... Predictably there were a couple of Spotted Hyenas waiting their chance. This started an amazing day for this species. They were everywhere. At one point we had eleven in one on and either side of the road, and just 500m further along another group of seventeen demolishing the remains of a Buffalo. Earlier we'd seen half a dozen by one of the wetlands and we continued to see them through the day – somewhere between 40 and 50 in total. There were more Lions too. Another ride of 7 were seen and after our picnic a male and a female were watched mating twice in quick succession.

However the big mammal highlight of the day in the crater was a superb Serval which Abraham spotted walking in the afternoon grasslands. Luckily it walked right over to us and we spent a happy half an hour with this most beautiful cat often just metres away. Approaching the car it stopped by a tussock and sat for a while carefully watching for rodent movement, but eventually it got up and scratched a bit, then walked right past the back of the vehicle onto the other side and gradually away. A wonderful sighting.



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There were Rhinos too. Two Black Rhinos were seen in the afternoon and one in the morning, all distant. Elephants were in the forest, we saw half a dozen and in amongst the Yellowbark Acacias were lots of Olive Baboons and Vervet Monkeys. Around the saline lake were large crowds of Common Zebra, Wildebeest and Thompson's Gazelles as well as large groups of Cape Buffalo. Ostriches were here and there and Grant's Gazelle too and the numbers of Warthogs were impressive. Late in the day Eland started to appear. Waterbuck and Bohor Reedbuck were noted as well. Abraham spotted a lounging Black-backed Jackal.

Again birdlife was richly diverse. A superb Sooty Falcon hunted dragonflies over the lunch spot swamp and on the way out two superb Lanner Falcons sat on the group. We had great sightings of all Lappet-faced, Rueppell's Griffon, African White-backed and Hooded Vultures. An African Fish Eagle flew over put the wildfowl up. Today we added Comb Duck to these. An African Water Rail was a great find and in the same spot were Common Waxbills. The numbers of Kori Bustards and Grey Crowned Cranes were very impressive. At our picnic there was an aerial assault from Black Kites and a ground attack from Helmeted Guineafowl.

After dusk around the lodge we had a very close up sighting of a Bush Pig (what an animal!) and several Bushbuck were seen too. We missed the Porcupine...

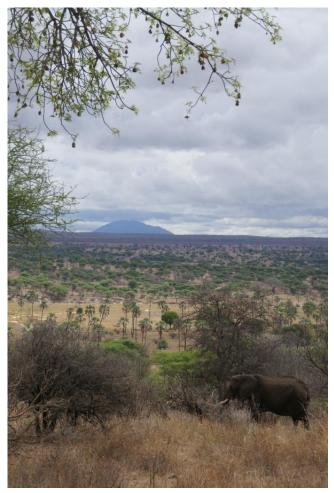
#### 5<sup>th</sup> November to Tarangire

We left the Ngorongoro Crater at 8am and drive east towards Lake Manyara where there was a large bunch of Olive Baboons in town. Ay another smaller town we saw Common Zebra happily grazing away. At a viewpoint of Lake Manyara we saw Brown Snake Eagle.

Lunch was taken at the gate to Tarangire National Park and the we gam drove into the park arriving at the lodge at around five-thirty. The highlight en route was probably the Cheetah with two little cubs. They were not close but still we spent half an hour with them.

The night drive was something else! Animals everywhere. We started within a minute of leaving with a Common Genet and then another and then a series of Spring Hares. These proved numerous. At point five of these not-so-little 'kangeroos' hopped towards, in all we probably saw 35-40. Soon there were more Genets, these totalled seven for the drive. Out first White-tailed Mongoose was nice as was the Giraffes which gently sailed off into the distance. We saw another couple of the White-tailed Mongooses and a pair of Bat-eared Foxes. A Porcupine sauntered past. We found a female Spotted Hyena with a rather cute baby, running around and generally doing bonkers cub things. The den was right by the road. We saw many Impala, lots of Dik-diks, a few Waterbuck too. There were a number of Senegal Bushbabies in the trees and Ruko the driver and spotlighted pulled one out of the hat with a tiny 'Musk Shrew' that ran around roadside and he even found an ??? Elephant-Shrew.

## 6<sup>th</sup> November Tarangire





We had a morning game drive. Tarangire is famous for its Warthogs and these were certainly common this morning. Soe had been dustbathing in red dust, some in grey... There were herds of Elephants, large groups of Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest and some nice encounters with Giraffes. Zebra were numerous and so too Impala. Here and there we came across Common Waterbuck and there were a number of Bohor Reedbuck about. Banded

Mongoose seemed almost as common as the warthogs at times! We saw a Black-backed Jackal and Lions. There were 10 Lions lounging under some trees near the river and later we found a female with two small cubs and she had taken down a Wildebeest. We saw a Tawny Eagle flying in to have a look at the carcass and so did she, racing out from cover to ensure the eagle didn't stay! Birdlife was

abundant and varied. Highlights included a Verreaux's Eagle who may well have been looking for the Bush Hyraxes we saw on a rocky outcrop, a Gabar Goshawk, Green-winged Pytilia, lots of Magpie Shrikes, two Purple Grenadiers, and many more! Later at the lodge there were many Dwarf Mongooses and found an endearing Oche Bush Squirrel in front of the restaurant.

We elected to rest for the afternoon with another night drive in prospect. This we started at seven-thirty and were soon in amongst the Spring Hares! There were many again tonight. Almost the first animal we saw was a Bushbuck, apparently rathe scarce in Tarangire and



later we came across two Steenbocks. Of course there were many Dik-diks (they are Ugogo Dik-diks here), Impala, Wildebeest and the like. Soon we saw a pair of Bat-eared Foxes, then another pair with

three tiny cubs, and then more – it seemed Bat-eared Foxes were everywhere tonight! The first of two White-tailed Mongooses sauntered across the road. Then it all went a bit pear-shaped as a storm swept over us. The first brush was short and we continued but soon after the rain returned heavier and this time didn't stop. After a little while Ruko decided it was time to give up and return, a wise decision given the difficulty of seeing the tracks – and we were on small ones here. It took both driver and ranger leaning our or over the windscreen and holding torches to find our way. After fifteen minutes or so we were on a larger harder track and speeding back to base. The vehicles are open-sided and we all got extremely soaked including five-year old Zoe who chatted cheerily all the way back to base keeping the rest of our spirits up!

## 7<sup>th</sup> November Tarangire to Amboseli



Due to heavy rain in the Amboseli area our original plans of a morning game drive in Tarangire and an evening one in Amboseli were completely scuppered. A bridge was down near Namanga and so instead of using that crossing we had to spend all day almost completely circumnavigating Kilimanjaro and entering Kenya from the Taveka gate. On the plus side we were able to see the fabulous lush country on the route and watch the lives of locals as we went – a fascinating region with lush vegetation and a vigorous and hard-working population. We saw Blue Monkeys en route.

We arrived at the Amboseli Kimani gate late afternoon and drove quickly through the park to the Ol Tukai Lodge, passing plenty of game as we went, and settled in.

Most of us went out on a night safari with Shem. Brief views of both Serval and African Wild Cat were had. There were so many Senegal Bushbabies in the trees. Something with a pig-like snout evaded definitive identification... Meanwhile I'd seen a Serval just outside the fence close to our room!

#### 8<sup>th</sup> November Amboseli



In the morning we passed the lake, the Lesser and Greater Flamingos beautifully lit in the morning sun then went round the back of the woodland there where there was a bunch of Lions lounging. A fine male looked impressively large though the manes on Lions in Amboseli and nothing like the magnificent beasts we saw in the Serengeti. A family of four Bat-eared Foxes followed. Then there were lots of Elephants, including a group sleeping on



their feet. Still in walking formation it was rather like a still life. There were lots of Impala, Thomson's Gazelles, Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest and Warthogs. There were Ostriches aplenty and birdlife was exceptionally rich – we saw 125 species during the day!



The afternoon drive was all about Cheetah. After a brief dalliance with some Elephants Shem heard there was a Cheetah further down the road. We soon reached the spot. The male Cheetah was lying up on a little mounds just five metres off the road. We parked amid

quite a few other vehicles and watched. We spent an hour and a half with this animal watching what he was up to. Most of the time he just lay there watching in the far distance. Occasionally he got up and look round the full 360 degrees carefully assessing the game. The game was largely in other parts though there were a few of his favourite – Thomson's Gazelles – in the area. Too far though. He, and we, waited patiently. We all tensed up as a Warthog's



trajectory took it past the Cheetah, but he decided thar was too risky and ignored it. As the sun lowered he decided to use the vehicles to try and get closer to the gazelle. He trotted carefully along

next to us and then stopped awhile. Shem positioned our vehicle opposite some gazelle in the hope it was the right spot. Sure enough he did come along to us, but somehow the gazelle became aware and after some will he wont' he moments he decided that it just wasn't going to work. And then a very interestingly thing happened. He playfully rolled an elephant dung down the bank, jumped on it again and flicked it up like a footballer... Playful... or was he annoyed?

Tonight's night drive was exceptional. We started with many bushbabies as we left the hotel and the first of several White-tailed Mongooses. There were Hippos, Buffalo and Elephants. We picked up a ranger from the airfield and soon after spotted two female Lions and a tardy male on the hunt. There were a couple of fun Bat-eared Foxes and some distant Jackals and a few Spotted Hyenas. Some Spring Hares chased across the savannah. Thomson's Gazelles and Wildebeest were abundant. A number of these were running past us and we wondered why...then two female Lions appeared walking purposefully across the short grass. Should have guessed! Next was a fine Wild Cat quite close to the road. Soon after another cat – a Serval watched stalking through longer grass. Soon after we fund another by road and really good close-up views of this Serval. Then another... three in quick succession. Shem spotted some tiny baby Blacksmith Plovers on the road. Dropping the ranger off at the airfield we noted the two female and one male Lions just across the runway, and Spotted Hyenas all around. Close to the hotel we spotted an African Civet.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> November Amboseli

Morning game drive I wasn't present but I know they saw a Python!

The afternoon game drive was quiet as we looked for but failed to find the reported Cheetahs. Plenty of gazelle, Elephants and Hippos to keep us occupied though.



Tonight we saw pretty much all the same species as the previous night. An African Civet was seen just as left the gate and thirty seconds later there was a superb African Wild Cat right by the road! More Hippos and Buffalos. It started to rain, at times quite strongly, and this hampered our efforts, but we

still found a Serval, getting even better views of one waiting to catch fish or frogs from an overflow by a causeway. There were a couple of Whitetailed Mongooses and

many, many Hyenas. There was a small nightjar right by the road. Returning we found a Serval close to the hotel entrance.



Heading back to the rooms a White-tailed Mongoose scuttled by and puddle frogs called.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> November to Nairobi

We awoke to continuous rain! We hadn't planned to do a game drive anyway but the planned walk into the derelict Amboseli Lodge opposite had to be cancelled too – apparently the decaying buildings are home to many bats.

Leaving at eleven we headed through a drenched landscape. Much of Amboseli is very flat and so water puddled everywhere and in paces it was flowing quite strongly across roads and through mini streambeds. Shem told us that a week later hardly an animal would be seen inside Amboseli as the grass grew in the community lands beyond and they would leave to take advantage of that. As we eft the Kirmani gate Seda spotted a fine male Lesser Kudu roadside. The journey to Nairobi took nearly five hours. Passing through pleasant bushed country most of the way we still saw many animals – Yellow Baboon, Giraffe, Zebra, Impala and one Unstriped Ground Squirrel- it was good to see that there are considerable mammal populations even outside the national parks.

## Systematic List Number 1 Mammals

The taxonomy follows Kingdon's Field Guide to African Mammals (2015).

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Lesser Red Musk Shrew	Crocidura hirta	one on a night drive in Tarangire
Rufous Elephant Shrew	Elephantulus rufescens	one on a night drive in Tarangire
Small-eared Galago	Galago garnetii	One at Amboseli
Senegal Galago	Galago senegalensis	noted nightly at the Serena Lodge, Serengeti,
		also at Tarangire, and common at and
		around Ol Tukai, Amboseli
Yellow-winged bat	Lavia frons	1 at the Serena Lodge, Serengeti
Vervet monkey	Cercopithecus aethiops	throughout
Syke's blue monkey	Cercopithecus mitis	seen as we skirted Kilimanjaro
Yellow baboon	Papio cynocephalus	Amboseli
Olive baboon	Papio anubis	frequent in Northern Tanzania
African golden wolf	Canis lupaster	1 in the Serengeti and 3 en route to
<u> </u>	•	Ngorongoro and 3 inside the crater there
Side-striped jackal	Canis adustus	A family of six was much enjoyed in the
• ,		Serengeti. A scarce animal
Black-backed jackal	Canis mesomelas	Small numbers throughout
Bat-eared fox	Otocyon megalotis	2 in the Ngorongoro, c.10 on one night drive
		in Tarangire and c.6 on another in Amboseli
East african civet	Civettictis civetta	singles every night drive in Amboseli
Common genet	Genetta genetta	7 on one night drive in Tarangire
Bushy-tailed Mongoose	Bdeogale crassicaudata	1 in the Serena Ngorongoro Lodge
Dwarf mongoose	Helogale parvula	Quite common in the Serengeti and
		Tarangire
Slender mongoose	Helogale sanguineus	a total of 6 seen in the Serengeti
White-tailed mongoose	Ichneumia albicauda	seen nightly in Tarangire and Amboseli
Banded mongoose	Mungos mungo	frequent throughout
Spotted hyaena	Crocuta crocuta	seen just about dauly, often in numbers,
- ,		indeed on one day in the Ngorongoro we
		saw more than 50 and daily sightings
		elsewhere often exceeded 15
Cheetah	Acinonyx jubatus	Superb encounter with a female on the first
	* *	day as we were driving into the Serengeti. 2
		more seen there. Then a mother with cubs at
		Tarangire, and finally a male spent the
		afternoon with us in Amboseli!
Serval	Felis serval	One superb daytime encounter for half an
		hour in Ngorongoro, then 7 night sightings
		in Amboseli
African Wild cat	Felis sylvestris	singles every night drive in Amboseli.
Lion	Panthera leo	unbelievably we made a 119 Lion sightings.
		Mostly different animals though a little
		overlap. Highest day count was 20.
		Highlights were the pride thinking about
		hinting Buffalo, five Lions up a tree, the
		-

many wonderfully maned males, and in particular the fabulous male posing in the Ngorongoro Leopard Panthera pardus On one day in the Serengeti we saw 4. One, a large male, walked across the savannah and passed right by us. Others were up trees. As we leaving the Serengeti we saw another up a tree and watched it climb down African elephant Loxodonta africana Recorded daily. Great to such numbers in the Serengeti and Amboseli in particular Plain's zebra Equus burchelli Recorded daily in numbers in all protected areas with huge numbers in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro White rhinoceros Ceratotherium simum Several of this translocated species in our short session in Nairobi NP Black Rhinoceros Diceros bicornis 2 on the first day in the Ngorongoro and 3 the second day there, all distant Southern Tree Hyrax Dendrohyrax arboreus Heard at night in the forests surrounding the Ngorongoro Serena Lodge Heterohyrax brucei Noted in most areas Yellow-spotted bush hyrax Black-necked hyrax seen on one of the rocky outcrops in the Procavia johnstoni Serengeti and also a few in Tarangire Bush Pig Potamochoerus larvatus One at close range in the Ngorongoro Serena Lodge was much appreciated Common warthog Phacochoerus africanus common throughout, especially at Tarangire Hippopotamus Hippopotamus amphibius Recorded daily and often common, even abundant in the Serengeti where rivers were often 'hippo soup'! Giraffe Giraffra camelopardalis widespread and common, sometimes outside protected areas too Coke's hartebeest Alcelaphus busephalus widespread but not so common Topi Damaliscus lunatus this handsome animal was quite common in the Serengeti Western White-bearded Wildebeest Connochaetes taurinus mearnsii super-abundant in the Serengeti where herds numbering many thousands seen, ten thousand or more visible from the lodge. Also in Ngorongoro Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus common in Tarangire and in Amboseli

ImpalaAepyceros melampuswidespread and commonGrant's gazelleGazella grantiiwidespread and common

Thomson's gazelle Gazella thomsonii widespread and common with huge

numbers in the Serengeti

African buffalo Syncerus caffer widespread and common

Common eland Taurotragus oryx seen in all areas but not common

Lesser kudu Tragelaphus imberbis 1 male seen as we were leaving Amboseli.
Bushbuck Tragelaphus scriptus Up to 4 daily at the Ngorongoro Serena

Lodge and 1 in Tarangire

Harvey's Red Duiker Cephalolophus harveyi seen two nights at the Ngorongoro Serena

Lodge

Cavendish's dik-dik Madoqua (kirkii) cavendishii Common in the Serengeti

Ugogo dik-dik Madoqua (kirkii) thomasii Tarangire

Klipspringer Oreotragus oreotragus 6 seen on rocky outcrops in the Serengeti

Steenbock Rhapicerus campestris 3 seen in Tarangire

Defassa Waterbuck Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa a few Serengeti and Ngorongoro

Waterbuck Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus Tarangire and Amboseli Bohor reedbuck Redunca redunca scattered throughout

Unstriped ground squirrel Xerus rutilus Tarangire and north of Amboseli

Ochre bush squirrel Paraxerus ochraceus Tarangire Safari Lodge

Acacia Rat Thallomys paedulcus Serengeti Serena Lodge where quite

common

Unstriped Grass Rat Arvicanthis niloticus Naabi Gate and also another picnic spot

both in the Serengeti

Crested porcupine *Hystrix cristata* One on night drive in Tarangire Scrub hare *Lepus saxatilis* Common at night in most areas

#### **Systematic List Number 2**

**Birds** 

The nomenclature follows Stevenson & Fanshawe *et al.* (2013). To give an idea of frequency of sightings we give a figure at the end of the comments section which indicates the number of days out of 9 on which a species was seen -6/9 means that a species was noted on 6 days out of 9.

Common ostrich Struthio camelus widespread

White Pelican Pelecanus onocrotalus Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Pink-backed pelican Pelecanus rufescens Amboseli

Little grebe Podiceps ruficollis Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Black-ncked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis 3 Amboseli

Long-tailed cormorant Phalacrocorax africanus Ngorongoro, Tarangire

African darter Anhinga rufa Nairobi NP

Black-crowned night heron Nycticorax nycticorax Ngorongoro, Amboseli at night

Cattle egret Bubulcus ibis throughout

Squacco heronArdeola ralloidesNgorongoro, AmboseliLittle egretEgretta garzettaNgorongoro, AmboseliBlack egretEgretta ardesiacaTarangire, Amboseli

Intermediate egret Egretta intermedia scattered Great egret Casmerodius alba scattered Goliath heron Ardea goliath Amboseli Grey heron Ardea cinerea scattered throughout Black-headed heron Ardea melanocephala Hamerkop Scopus umbretta scattered Saddle-billed stork Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis scattered Marabou stork Leptoptilus crumeniferus throughout Yellow-billed stork Mycteria ibis throughout Sacred ibis Threskiornis aethiopica throughout Hadada ibis Bostrychia hagedash throughout

Glossy ibis Plegadis falcinellus Ngorongoro, Amboseli African spoonbill Platalea alba Ngorongoro, Amboseli Lesser flamingo Phoenicopterus minor Ngorongoro, Amboseli Greater flamingo Phoenicopterus ruber Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Egyptian goose Alopochen aegyptiacus throughout Spur-winged goose Plectopterus gambensis Amboseli

Knob-billed duck Sarkidiornis melanotus Ngorongoro, Amboseli White-faced whistling-duck Dendrocygna viduata Nairobi NP, Amboseli

Fulvous whistling-duck Dendrocygna bicolor Amboseli

Southern pochard Netta erythrophthalma Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Yellow-billed teal Anas undulata Nairobi NP

Red-billed teal Anas erythrorhynchos Ngorongoro, Amboseli
Hottentot teal Anas hottentota Ngorongoro, Amboseli
Cape teal Anas capensis Ngorongoro, Amboseli
Northern Shoveler Anas clypeata Ngorongoro, Amboseli

White-backed duck Thalassornis leuconotus Amboseli
Black kite Milvus migrans throughout
Black-shouldered kite Elanus caeruleus throughout
Secretary bird Sagittarius serpentarius throughout

African fish-eagle Haliaeetus vocifer One Ngorongoro and common in Amboseli

Rueppell's vulture Gyps rueppellii throughout
African white-backed vulture Gyps africanus throughout
Lappet-faced vulture Torgos tracheliotus throughout
White-headed vulture Trigonoceps occipitalis Serengeti

Hooded vulture Neophron monachus Serengeti, Ngorongoro

Black-chested snake-eagle Circaetus pectoralis singles Serengeti, Ngorongoro

Montagu's harrierCircus pygargusscatteredPallid harrierCircus macrourusscatteredPale chanting-goshawkMelierax poliopterusAmboseli

Dark chanting-goshawk Melierax metabates singles twice in Serengeti

Gabar goshawk Melierax gabar scattered

Ovambo sparrowhawk Accipiter ovampensis Single immature at Tsavo (East). 1/9.

Augur buzzard Buteo augur frequent except Amboseli
Common Buzzard Buteo buteo Serengeti, Ngorongoro

Tawny eagle Aquila rapax throughout

Verreaux's eagle Aquila verreauxii 1 fine adult Tarangire

African hawk-eagle Hieraaetus spilogaster 1 Serengeti

Ayre's hawk-eagle Hieraaetus ayresii 1 over the airport hotel Nairobi!

Bataleur Terathopius ecaudatus throughout

Verreaux's eagle Aquila verreauxi 1-2 on three dates at Tsavo (East). 3/9.

Polemaetus bellicosus Martial eagle 1 Serengeti Crowned eagle Stephanoaetus coronatus 1 Amboseli Sooty falcon Falco concolor 1 Ngorongoro Lanner falcon Falco biarmicus 1-2 Ngorongoro Greater kestrel Falco rupicoloides One at Amboseli Hobby Falco subbuteo 1 Tarangire Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni 1 Serengeti Grey Kestrel Falco ardesiaceus 3 Serengeti

Pygmy falcon Polihierax semitorquatus 2 Serengeti, also Amboseli

Helmeted guineafowl Numida meleagris throughout

Coqui Francolin Francolinus coqui A few seen in the Serengeti
Crested francolin Francolinus sephaena scattered throughout

Hildebrandt's FrancolinFrancolinus hildebrandtiNgorongoroShelley's FrancolinFrancolinus shelleyi5 Serengeti

Yellow-necked spurfowl Francolinus leucoscepus scattered throughout

Red-necked spurfowlFrancolinus aferTarangireGrey-breasted spurfowlPternistis rufopictusSerengetiAfrican Water RailRallus caerulescens1 Ngorongoro

Black crake Limnocorax flavirostra scattered throughout
Red-knobbed coot Fulica cristata Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Common moorhen Gallinula chloropus scattered

Purple gallinule Porphyrio porphyrio singles both days Ngorongoro (same bird!)

Grey crowned crane Balearica regulorum throughout
Kori bustard Otis kori throughout
White-bellied bustard Eupodotis senegalensis throughout

Buff-crested bustard Eupodotis ruficrista Serengeti, Tarangire
Black-bellied bustard Eupodotis melanogaster Ngorongoro, Amboseli

African jacana Actiphilornis africanus Nairobi NP, Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Black-winged stilt Himantopus himantopus throughout

Pied avocet Recurvirostra avosetta Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Water thick-knee Burhinus vermiculatus Amboseli

Temminck's courserCursorius temminckiifrequent SerengetiTwo-banded courserRhinoptilus africanusSerengeti, AmboseliCollared pratincoleGlareola pratincolaNgorongoro, Amboseli

Blacksmith lapwing Vanellus armatus throughout Spur-winged lapwing Vanellus spinosus scattered

Long-toed lapwing Vanellus crassirostris Nairobi NP, Amboseli

Crowned lapwing Vanellus coronatus throughout Black-winged lapwing Vanellus melanopterus 3 Serengeti African wattled lapwing Vanellus senegallus Serengeti Kittlitz's sandplover Charadrius pecuarius locally frequent Three-banded plover Charadrius tricollaris throughout Charadrius dubius Little ringed plover 1 Ngorongoro Common ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula scattered Ruff Philomachus pugnax throughout

Common sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos throughout
Wood sandpiper Tringa glareola throughout

Green sandpiper Tringa ochropus Nairobi NP, Tarangire

Spotted redshank Tringa erythropus 1 Serengeti Common greenshank Tringa nebularia Amboseli Marsh sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis scattered Little stint Calidris minuta throughout Temminck's stint Calidris temminckii Ngorongoro Curlew sandpiper Calidris ferruginea Ngorongoro Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago scattered Gull-billed tern Gelochelidon nilotica Amboseli

Whiskered tern Chlidonias hybridus Ngorongoro, Amboseli
Black-faced sandgrouse Pterocles decoratus Tarangire, Amboseli
Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse Pterocles exustus Serengeti, Ngorongoro
Yellow-throated sandgrouse Pterocles gutturalis Serengeti, Ngorongoro

Speckled pigeon Columba guinea scattered Eastern bronze-naped pigeon Columba delagorguei Ngorongoro Emerald-spotted wood-dove Turtur chalcospilos Amboseli Namaqua dove Oena capensis Amboseli Ring-necked dove Streptopelia capicola throughout African mourning dove Streptopelia decipians Amboseli throughout Laughing dove Streptopelia senegalensis African orange-bellied parrot Poicephalus rufiventris Tarangire Brown parrot Poicephalus meyeri Serengeti

Fischer's lovebird Agapornis fischeri throughout in Tanzania

White-bellied go-away-bird Corythaixoides leucogastor Tarangire
Bare-faced go-away-bird Corythaixoides personata Serengeti
African cuckoo Cuculus gularis Amboseli
White-browed coucal Centropus superciliosus throughout
African scops owl Otus senegalensis Tarangire

Pearl-spotted owlet Glaucidium perlatum Tarangire

?????? nightjar Caprimulgus ???? whilst spotlighting at Amboseli

Scarce swift Schoutedenapus myopitilus Ngorongoro

Eurasian swift Apus apus Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Little swift Apus affinis widespread

White-rumped swift Apus caffer Serengeti, Ngorongoro

Horus swift Apus horus Amboseli

African palm swift Cypsiurus parvus Nairobi, Amboseli

Speckled mousebird Colius striatus widespread

Blue-naped mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Nairobi NP, Serengeti

Pied kingfisherCeryle rudisAmboseli.Grey-headed kingfisherHalcyon leucocephalawidespreadBrown-hooded kingfisherHalycon albiventrisAmboseli

Striped kingfisher Halycon chelicuti Serengeti, Tarangire

Alcedo cristata Malachite kingfisher scattered Little bee-eater Merops pusillus throughout European bee-eater Merops apiaster scattered Lilac-breasted roller Coracias cordata throughout European roller Coracias garrulus Serengeti Rhinopomastus minor Tarangire Abyssinian scimitarbill African hoopoe Upupa africana scattered Silvery-cheeked hornbill Bycanistes brevis Manyara

Red-billed hornbill Tockus erythrorhynchus Serengeti, Tarangire von der Decken's hornbill Tockus deckeni Serengeti, Tarangire African grey hornbill Tockus nasutus Serengeti, Tarangire Southern ground-hornbill Bucorvus leadbeateri Serengeti, Tarangire Red-and-yellow barbet Trachyphonus erythrocephalus Ngorongoro, Tarangire

D'Arnaud's barbetTrachyphonus darnaudiiTarangireUsambiro barbetTrachyphonus usambiroSerengetiGreater honeyguideIndicator indicatorSerengeti

Nubian woodpecker Campethera nubica Tarangire, Amboseli

Cardinal woodpeckerDendropicos fuscescensAmboseliGrey woodpeckerMesopicos goertaeSerengetiWhite-tailed larkMirafra albicaudaSerengetiRufous-naped larkMirafra africanathroughoutSinging bush larkMirafra cantillansNairobi NP

Flappet lark Mirafra rufocinnamomea Serengeti, Ngorongoro – scarce though

Red-capped lark Calandrella cinerea Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Fischer's sparrow-lark Eremopteryx leucopareia Amboseli

Rock martin Ptyonoprogne fuligula almost throughout

Plain martin Riparia paludicola Ngorongoro
Sand martin Riparia riparia Ngorongoro
Banded martin Riparia cincta scattered
House Martin Delichon urbica Ngorongoro
Grey-rumped swallow Pseudhirundo griseopyga Amboseli

Mosque swallow Hirundo senegalensis Serengeti, Amboseli

Red-rumped swallow Hirundo daurica throughout

Lesser striped swallow Hirundo abyssinica Tarangire, Amboseli

Barn swallow Hirundo rustica throughout, sometimes super-abundant

Wire-tailed swallow Hirundo smithii Serengeti

African pied wagtail Motacilla aguimp Tarangire, Amboseli Yellow wagtail Motacilla flava almost throughout Mountain wagtail Motacilla clara One near Arusha

Yellow-throated longclaw Macronyx croceus Serengeti, Ngorongoro Pangani longclaw Macronyx aurantiigula Ngorongoro, Tarangire Rose-breasted longclaw Macronyx ameliae Serengeti, Ngorongoro Grassland pipit Anthus cinnamoneus Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Plain-backed pipit Anthus leucophrys scattered

Zanzibar sombre greenbulAndropadus importunusTarangire, AmboseliCommon bulbulPycnonotus barbatusalmost throughoutNorthern anteater chatMyrmecocichla aethiopsNgorongoroCliffchatMyrmecocichla cinnamomeiventrisSerengeti

Northern wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe Serengeti, Ngorongoro

Isabelline wheatear

Oenanthe isabellina

Ngorongoro, Amboseli
Pied wheatear

Oenanthe pleschanka

Ngorongoro

Schalow's wheatear Oenanthe schalowi Ngorongoro Capped wheatear Oenanthe pileata Ngorongoro Spotted morning-thrush Cichladusa guttata Amboseli Stonechat Saxicola torquata Ngorongoro Nairobi Northern olive thrush Turdus olivaceus White-browed robinchat Cossypha heuglini Ngorongoro Lesser swamp warbler Acrocephalus gracilirostris Ngorongoro Willow warbler Phylloscopus trochilus Serengeti Icterine warbler Hippolais icterina Serengeti

Pectoral-patch cisticola Cisticola brunnescens presumably this in Ngorongoro?

Zitting cisticola Cisticola juncidis Ngorongoro Cisticola natalensis Croaking cisticola Ngorongoro Cisticola chiniana Rattling cisticola Serengeti Winding cisticola Cisticola galactotes throughout Red-faced crombec Sylvietta whitii Serengeti Camaroptera brachyura scattered Grey-backed camaroptera

<mark>Apalis</mark>

Grey-capped warbler Eminia lepida Ngorongoro
Buff-bellied warbler Phyllolais pulchella Tarangire
Banded parisoma Parisoma boehmi Serengeti

Brown parisoma Parisoma lugens Amboseli entrance gate!

African grey flycatcher Bradornis microrhynchus **Tarangire** Pale flycatcher Bradornis pallidus **Tarangire** Chinspot batis Bradornis molitor Serengeti Spotted flycatcher throughout Muscicapa striata Dusky flycatcher near Arusha Muscicapa adusta Ashy flycatcher Muscicapa caerulescens Ngorongoro Southern black flycatcher Melaeornis pammelaina Ngorongoro

African paradise-flycatcher Terpsiphone viridis Ngorongoro, Amboseli

Arrow-marked babbler Turdoides jardineii Serengeti
Black-lored babbler Turdoides sharpie Ngorongoro

Northern pied babbler Turdoides hypoleucus Nairobi NP, Amboseli

Scarlet-chested sunbird Nectarinia senegalensis Tarangire
Beautiful sunbird Nectarinia pulchella Amboseli
Mariqua sunbird Nectarinia mariquensis Serengeti
Collared sunbird Anthreptes collaris Ngorongoro

Lesser grey shrikeLanius minorSerengeti, NgorongoroFiscalLanius dorsalisNgorongoro, AmboseliGrey-backed fiscalLanius excubitoroidesSerengeti, NgorongoroMagpie shrikeUrolestes melanoleucasSerengeti, Tarangire

Brubru Nilaus afer Serengeti
Black-headed Tchagra Tchagra senegala Ngorongoro

Tropical boubou Laniarius ferrugineus Ngorongoro

Slate-coloured boubou Laniarius funebris Serengeti, Tarangire, Amboseli

Malaconotus blanchoti Grey-headed bush-shrike Amboseli Northern white-crowned shrike Eurocephalus rueppelli throughout Fork-tailed drongo Dicrurus adsimilis scattered Corvus albus Pied crow scattered Corvus albicollis White-necked raven Ngorongoro Cape rook Corvus capensis Serengeti African black-headed oriole Oriolus larvatus Amboseli

Yellow-billed oxpecker Buphagus africanus Nairobi, Tarangire

Red-billed oxpecker Buphagus erythrorhynchus throughout

Red-winged starling Onychognathus morio Nairobi, Amboseli

Rueppell's long-tailed glossy starling Lamprotornis purpuropterus Serengeti
Superb starling Lamprotornis superbus throughout
Hildebrandt's starling Lamprotornis hildebrandti throughout

Fischer's starling Spreo fischeri one exit gate of Amboseli

Violet-backed starling Cinnyricinclus leucogastor Serengeti Creatophora cinerea throughout Wattled starling House sparrow Passer domesticus Amboseli scattered Rufous sparrow Passer rufocinctus Chestnut sparrow Passer eminibey Serengeti Swahili sparrow Passer suahelicus Ngorongoro

Rufous-tailed weaver Histurgops ruficaudus Serengeti, Ngorongoro Speckle-fronted weaver Sporopipes frontalis Serengeti, Tarangire White-browed sparrow-weaver Plocepasser mahali Nairobi, Amboseli

Grey-capped social-weaver Pseudonigritta arnaudi Serengeti

White-headed buffalo-weaver Dinemellia dinemelli almost throughout Red-billed buffalo-weaver Bubalornis niger Serengeti, Amboseli

Black-headed weaver Ploceus cucullatus Amboseli

Speke's weaver Ploceus spekei departure gate at Amboseli

Taveta golden weaver Ploceus castaneiceps Amboseli

Lesser masked weaver Ploceus intermedius Serengeti, Amboseli

Vitelline masked weaver Ploceus vellatus scattered
Chestnut weaver Ploceus rubiginosus Amboseli
Black-necked weaver Ploceus nigricollis Serengeti

Baglafecht weaver Ploceus baglafecht almost throughout Jackson's widowbird Euplectes jacksoni Ngorongoro Yellow bishop Euplects capensis Ngorongoro Green-winged pytilia Pytilia melba Tarangire

Red-billed quelea Quelea quelea Tarangire, Amboseli

Red-cheeked cordon-bleu Uraegnithus bengalus scattered

Blue-capped cordon-bleu Uraegnithus cyanocephalus Serengeti, Tarangire

Purple grenadier Uraegnithus ianthinogastor Tarangire

Red-billed firefinch Tarangire, Amboseli Lagonosticta senegala

Waxbill Estrilda astrild Ngorongoro Crimson-rumped waxbill Estrilda rhodopyga Amboseli

Black-faced waxbill Estrilda erythronotus Serengeti, Tarangire Serengeti, Ngorongoro Ouailfinch Ortygospiza atricollis

Red-billed firefinch indigobird Hypochera chalybeata Amboseli White-bellied canary Serinus dorsostriatus Serengeti

Streaky seedeater Serinus striolatus Ngorongoro, Tarangire