

## Tanzania, two days birding in and around Dar es Salaam,

14 & 25 July 2019

Dar had certainly changed a lot in the 16 years that had elapsed since last I was in Tanzania. Back in 2003 there had been one high rise in the city but now dozens adorning the city centre. As it was such a long time since I had been in East Africa I was looking forward to make contact again with the bird life of the Swahili coast.

I hadn't organised any local guiding prior to arriving in Dar and I was lucky to come across an advertisement for Bird Walks in "Advertising Dar" thus I contacted Andrew Majembe. I was absolutely delighted by Andrew's local knowledge of the birds as well as the sites within Dar and its surrounding area. He was very good company and I was impressed by his ability to imitate any number of bird calls. (birdingdarserengeti@rocketmail.com)

Note: House Sparrows and Indian House Crows, both introduced, are everywhere. Dark-capped Bulbul is also widely distributed.

14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 A full day



First site: Park of the University of Dar es Salaam with its settling ponds, this turned out to be an excellent site with a wide selection of species.

- Striped Kingfisher
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird
- Black-headed Heron

- Little Bee-eater
- Lesser Striped Swallow
- Blue-naped Mousebird
- Yellow-fronted Canary
- Red-faced Crombec
- Tawny-flanked Prinia
- Pale Batis
- Lizard Buzzard
- Blue Waxbill
- Zanzibar Red Bishop (This was the only male in full breeding plumage)
- Hadada Ibis
- Palm-nut Vulture
- African Jacana (numerous including several families)
- Little Swift
- Spotted Morning Thrush
- Yellow-throated Longclaw
- Black-backed Puffback
- Dark-capped Bulbul
- Rattling Cisticola
- Grey-headed Sparrow
- Hamerkop (seen from the car when driving to the next site)



Second site: Beach area near the Aga Khan Hospital. (Note the area where I had observed numerous waders in the past near the bridge is off limits to birders due to the presence of hooligans who have made birding around the bridge extremely unsafe).



- Grey Heron
- African Palm Swift
- Dimorphic Egret
- Common Tern
- Gull-billed Tern
- Greenshank (7 seen on 11 July)

Third site: Botanic Gardens and driving to Chamazi Swamp

- Red-fronted Tinkerbird
- Purple-banded Sunbird
- African Openbill Stork seen from the vehicle
- Brown-hooded Kingfisher (Bandari Pond)



Fourth site: Chamazi Swamp. (This swamp is under huge pressure from a dense local population and in spite of this it remains an interesting spot).

- Great White Egret
- **Rufous-bellied Heron** (This had to be the bird of the day)
- Intermediate Egret
- African Openbill
- Cattle Egret
- Little Egret
- Black Crake
- Red-billed Firefinch

- White-faced Whistling Duck
- Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul
- Black and White Mannikin
- African Sacred Ibis (seen from the vehicle)

25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 A half day

First site: Kawe Road: Driving to the first salt pan

- African Palm Swift
- Brown-breasted Barbet
- Lesser Striped Swallow
- Blue Waxbill
- Pied Kingfisher
- Sacred Ibis
- Cattle Egret



Second site: Jangwani mangroves and salt pans

- Scarlet-chested Sunbird
- Wire-tailed Swallow
- Dark-capped Bulbul
- Speckled Mousebird
- Wood Sandpiper
- Water Thick-knee (At least 30 present)
- African Reed Warbler
- Bronze Mannikin

- Red-eyed Dove
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow
- Zanzibar Red Bishop (large numbers but no males in breeding plumage)
- Little Egret
- African Spoonbill
- African Pipit
- Dimorphic Egret
- Long-tailed Cormorant
- Greenshank
- Black-winged Stilt (Large numbers present >30)
- Common Sandpiper
- Hadada Ibis
- Little Bee-eater
- Three-banded Plover
- Little Swift
- Striped Kingfisher



Third site: A salt pan near Kunduchi Beach Hotel

- Intermediate Egret
- Amethyst Sunbird
- African Openbill
- Palm-nut Vulture
- Emerald Spotted Wood Dove
- Malachite Kingfisher
- Namaqua Dove

- Blue-naped Mousebird
- Grey Plover (flock of 12 birds, very early date)
- Green-backed Heron
- Yellow-billed Stork
- Village Indigobird
- African Sacred Ibis

Fourth Site, an unnamed pond in Kunduchi

- Hamerkop
- Little Bittern (African, *payesii*)
- African Swamphen (7 individuals, 2 pairs of adults and 3 pulli)
- Black Crake (2 individuals out in the open)
- Brown-hooded Kingfisher

Mike Bowman (mike.bowman@bluewin.ch)  
Geneva  
Switzerland