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.

14th 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)

25th 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, paysii)
• African Swamphen (7 individuals, 2 pairs of adults and 3 pulli)
• Black Crake (2 individuals out in the open)
• Brown-hooded Kingfisher

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