

TANZANIA 19th September - 9 October 2023

Nyerere National Parks - northern Ruaha National Park - Usangu Wetlands, Ruaha - Katavi National Park

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We've visited many African countries and feel a constant draw to that continent. It was time for another trip in that direction but where? One country we'd not seen was Tanzania but the very popular northern circuit doesn't appeal to us as we prefer an away-from-it-all wilderness experience. Luckily, this can still be found in Tanzania's southern/central National Parks and that's where we decided to go. Most of our previous trips have been fairly independent, often self-drive, but we've reached the stage of wanting others to do the driving and make the detailed arrangements and also feel the need for some solid back-up should anything go wrong whilst we are away. We checked out a number of long-established operators and chose Audley Travel. We discussed our interests, preferences and previous experience in detail with our Audley contact and she certainly listened because the trip, for just the two of us, unfolded just as we'd hoped. Everything ran smoothly leaving us to concentrate on the wildlife. We were looking for a traditional-style 'safari' in areas of remote wilderness with a good mix of animals and birds in what is a transitional zone of northern and southern African species. We opted for four locations in three of Tanzania's southern/central parks: Nyerere, Ruaha (north and south) and Katavi. We saw a wealth of wildlife, more species than anticipated (see Species List at end of report) all amid some stunning scenery and were based in simple yet comfortable camps. Drivers and guides at each location were all very good to excellent, eyes like hawks, knew their patch well, quickly determined our particular interests and were easy to get along with. On many days we saw no other safari vehicles, having impressive wildlife action and serene surroundings all to ourselves. On a few occasions we were the only guests in camp. Food throughout was excellent and varied - it's amazing what can be produced without a fancy kitchen: dinners of pumpkin-stuffed ravioli, perfectly cooked beef, cauliflower cheese, sautéed vegetables, freshly baked bread, pastries, cakes, and tasty, filling breakfast or lunch out in the bush (complete with table cloths, napkins and *comfortable* chairs) using locally produced as much possible. Light aircraft flights gave spectacular views of rivers, lakes and mile after mile of African bush. It's quite something when a pilot walks up to you and says "Claydon for Nyerere? Hop on board".

ITINERARY

20 Sept	7 nights : Dar es Salaam to NYERERE NATIONAL PARK Arrived Dar es Salaam. Couple of hours at beach bar north of the city overlooking Msasani bay. Late afternoon flight to Nyerere National Park, Mtemere airstrip. Slow safari drive through Park to Lake Manze Camp. Rest of the week: morning/afternoon safari drives, 2 boat trips on Lake Nzerakela, 1 afternoon around camp.	NYERERE National Park Lake Manze Camp
27 Sept	5 nights : NORTHERN RUAHA NATIONAL PARK Morning safari drive in Nyerere ending at Mtemere airstrip for flight to Ruaha National Park (north), Msembe airstrip. Lunch beside the almost-dry Great Ruaha River. Safari drive to Mdongya Old River Camp. Following days: morning/afternoon safaris, 2 afternoons around camp.	Northern RUAHA N.Park Mdongya Old River Camp
2 Oct	3 nights : USANGU (southern Ruaha) Morning safari ending at Msembe airstrip Ruaha then transferred to another vehicle for onward safari ending late afternoon at Usangu Expedition Camp. Remainder of stay: extended safaris and conservation-driven activities.	USANGU (southern RUAHA)
5 Oct	4 nights : KATAVI NATIONAL PARK Pre-dawn drive to Jongomero airstrip for flight to Katavi National Park, Katavi airstrip. Safari drive to Katavi Wildlife Camp. Morning and afternoon safari drives, 1 afternoon in camp area.	KATAVI National Park Katavi Wildlife Camp
9 Oct	RETURN to DAR ES SALAAM Morning safari drive in Katavi ending at airstrip for flights back to Dar es Salaam via Ruaha, Iringa and Nyerere. Late afternoon in grounds of Salaam Serena Hotel.	DAR ES SALAAM Salaam Serena Hotel

SITES

Full species list at end of report

DAR ES SALAAM

The trip began in a beach bar overlooking Msasani Bay (Indian Ocean) just north of Dar es Salaam; no one was around, just **Sacred** and **Hadeda Ibises**, **Reed Cormorants**, **Whimbrels**, **Common Sandpipers**, **egrets** and **House Crows** busy along the shore. A **Lesser Striped Swallow** flew past and didn't linger. We stayed a couple of hours before returning to the airport for the flight to Nyerere.

NYERERE NATIONAL PARK

In late 2019 a large part of Selous Game Reserve was reclassified as National Park and renamed Nyerere. It's about 230kms from Dar es Salaam and driving could take maybe 5-7 hours on very poor roads but a light aircraft will get you there in well under an hour; we flew. Lake Manze Camp was a 1½ hour safari-drive from Mtemere airstrip. We spent 7 nights at this camp in a large, simple but very comfortable tent (super-comfortable bed, "en-suite" facilities with solar-powered hot shower and proper flush loo screened but open to the stars) tucked away beneath shady trees, well away from other tents (12 altogether but you can't really see them amongst the trees) and with a fabulous view from the shaded patio towards the lake. It was the end of the dry season so the lake was rapidly evaporating but the resulting shallow pools and marshy ground sprouting fresh vegetation attracted animals to both drink and graze which in turn gave us close range views of **Elephants**, various antelope, **Giraffes**, many birds and sometimes **Spotted Hyenas**. Animals stray into camp, elephants in particular liked to wander around our tent and the dining area at any time

of day. Night-time visitors could be more interesting but never a problem! Camp hosts, Shaun and Milli, couldn't be more helpful and it's a really well-run camp with properly-trained staff. Dinner, in the open by the camp fires, was always full of variety and flavour. It's worth taking a torch as **Rusty-spotted Genets** often turn up and even the occasional **Civet**. Vocal **Greater Thick-tailed Galago** (bushbabies) jump around the thatched roof in the evening. Activities available from camp are totally flexible, you choose long or short morning, afternoon or all-day safaris (we don't really like that expression but it's what most people call these trips out into the bush, so we'll use it), take a boat trip across a lake, walk with a ranger or simply relax in camp and enjoy the surrounds, colourful birds and passing mammals. We had the same driver and guide (Abu and Sadro) all week and really enjoyed their company. Both have a thorough knowledge of the area and respect for the wildlife and habitat. Wildlife in Nyerere is fabulous and prolific - masses of mammals and birds taking advantage of the remaining water, plenty of raptors such as **Martial Eagle**, a pair of **African Hawk Eagles** in display flight; a **Black Sparrowhawk**. There were frequent sightings of Bee-eaters: **Northern Carmine, Böhm's, White-fronted** and **Little. Von der Decken's** and **Southern Ground Hornbills** were common, **Crowned Hornbills** less frequent. In wooded and open bush we came across **Spotted Eagle-Owl, Broad-billed Roller, Common Scimitarbill, Bearded Woodpecker, Dickinson's Kestrel, Grey Go-away Birds, Brown-headed Parrot, Pale Batis, Long-tailed Fiscal, Lesser Striped Swallow, Crested Barbet**. In a dry riverbed where elephants had been digging **Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Reichenow's Seedeater** and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** were taking advantage of the small amount of exposed water. One morning we accidentally flushed three **Yellow-winged Bats** from their tree roost and throughout the week we often encountered very large, mobile flocks of **Wattled Starlings**. **Collared Palm Thrushes** were common, quite confiding around camp, and we saw one **Spotted Palm Thrush**. Most of the 'Blue-eared' starlings were **Greater** with only a few **Miombo** noted. As well as the ever-present **Common Impala** there were **Common Eland, Ellipsen ('Common') Waterbuck** and **Johnston's Wildebeest** (non-migratory, unlike the **Western White-bearded** in Serengeti). There were many **Lion** sightings - one group had recently made a kill and we could hear some of the pride still feeding (just out of sight behind bushes), others flopped down around us in the shade, bellies bulging and one youngster was draped over a large bough in a tree. At another site, by picturesque Lake Tagalala, a lone lioness was calling to her pride (we couldn't hear any response) and a big, dark-maned male was running along the far lake shore. Don't know how he did it, but Sadro, our guide, saw a **Leopard** deep inside a dense 'fan palm' bush very close to the sandy track we were driving along; it wasn't happy to see us and our driver backed off to give it space. After a while it rushed out carrying a big (dead) male **Yellow Baboon**. There are a number of good-sized lakes around Nyerere and we particularly enjoyed the morning boat trip around Lake Nzerakela with its hundred of huge **Nile Crocodiles** lazing on the banks, half-submerged **Hippos** staring menacingly at us and abundance of water birds. On our last morning in camp we were watching a colony of **Ruvu Weavers** (a highly localised endemic of eastern Tanzania) making good use of the camp's water bowls when a splendid male **African Paradise Flycatcher** put on a show. A very colourful end to our first week.

NORTHERN RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

Flying in to Msembe airstrip in northern Ruaha gave us fabulous views of the water courses, huge baobab trees, rocky outcrops, rugged hills, distant mountains; we could also clearly see a maze of animal trails criss-crossing vast, very dry, undulating plains. Ruaha is hot and dry for much of the year. Its location to the west of the Udzungwa mountains, running north-south through the centre of the country, gives it a slightly different weather pattern from the more well-known parks, with just one long rainy season from November-March rather than two (long+short rains) although needless to say, climate change is having an impact already. This is a transitional zone between the miombo woodland habitat commonly found to the south and west, and the much more open savannah typical of northern Tanzania and Kenya. This mix of north and south supports an interesting range of species and is one of the reasons we wanted to visit (there aren't many places where you can find two species of Kudu for example). Birdlife is also an interesting mix and we had a good handful of lifers (this could have been very much higher but we didn't do any real birding this time). The scenery is quite dramatic in parts with rolling hills, expansive open plains, impressive stands of baobabs (some are truly massive and very old) and of course the most dominant feature, the Great Ruaha River, which retains some water through the dry season - vital for wildlife.

We were met at the airstrip by the camp's guide and driver and, as it was lunchtime, they took us straight to a picnic area near the Rangers' station and government-run bandas (chalets). Sosteni and Shabani immediately set out a lovely spread under shade with views across the huge expanse of almost-dry, sandy riverbed (the Great Ruaha river). It was a peaceful setting; no people in sight just **Elephants**, a majestic **Zambezi Kudu** bull, a few **Common Impala** and various birds finding enough water to slake their thirst. Then it was more than an hour's 'safari' to reach camp. All guides ask what it is you particularly want to see and our response is always the same "we enjoy whatever we are lucky enough to encounter". Sosteni pushed us a bit on this and we admitted that the one mammal we've failed to see elsewhere is Lesser Kudu but we know they are tricky, have specific habitat requirements and are very shy. Ten minutes later, yes, a **Lesser Kudu** bull. Fantastic! Then came more specialties: **Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, Yellow-collared Lovebird, Crested Guineafowl** and **Ashy Starling**. We stopped so many times that it was late afternoon by the time we reached camp; as we enjoyed some cold beers a bull elephant began shaking fruits from a nearby tree, then calmly strolled past us. Mdonya Old River is 'sister' to Lake Manze camp and is run along similar lines with similar tents, although everything is much more open and spread out and the area is considerably drier with different vegetation. Being more remote than Nyerere there are fewer visitors; a couple of times we were the only guests. Meals were either under a large canopy or in the open close to the fire pit; food was excellent with a strong Italian influence presumably due to the nationality of the co-owner. Elephants, antelope, **Warthogs** and **Banded Mongoose** were frequent around camp during the day and **Square-tailed Nightjars, Pearl-spotted** and **African Scops Owls** (once a **Southern White-faced Owl**) were heard at night. **African Green Pigeons** gathered in pre-roost flocks around camp, then hundreds took flight at sunset. Lions roared nearby a few times and early one morning six walked between the tents; we found them later just beyond camp, 2 adult males, 2 adult females and 2 young males, all very active and playful in the cool of the morning; we stayed with them for 40 minutes. Again, safaris from this camp can be as long or as short as you wish, with or without packed breakfast or lunch. There are no lakes so boat trips are not an option. Rivers were extremely low right at the end of the dry season, wide expanses of deep sand was the norm but large pools and long, narrow stretches of water remained where, of course, we saw many animals coming to drink, making the trek from meagre grazing areas to water twice a day, morning and late afternoon. We chose to be out in the bush from early morning until lunchtime, returning to camp for a few hours then

going out again in the afternoon or remaining by our tent watching a multitude of mammals and birds (*White-browed Coucal, Slate-coloured Boubou, White-headed Buffalo Weaver, Red-necked Spurfowl, Black-backed Jackal, Banded Mongoose, Impala, Cape Buffalo, Warthog*, to name just a few). Out in the park we benefitted from Sosteni's and Shabani's extensive knowledge and understanding of the whole area and its wildlife. An acacia 'forest' was one of the breakfast stops - superb views of *Verreaux's Eagle Owl* and *a pair of Bat-eared Foxes*. Elsewhere *Purple-crested Turaco, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Hildebrandt's Spurfowl, White-bellied and Buff-crested Bustards, Speckled and Blue-naped Mousebirds, Grey-crowned Crane, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, White-crested Helmetsrike, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Northern Fiscal, Brown-throated Martin, Superb Starling, Ashy and African Grey Flycatchers, Fischer's Sparrow Larks*. Raptors were frequent: *Black-winged Kite, African Harrier Hawk, Tawny Eagle, Brown Snake Eagle, African Hawk Eagles, Gabar* and *Eastern Chanting Goshawks, Blacksmith* and *White-crowned Lapwings, Kittlitz's Plover, Winding Cisticola, White-browed Scrub Robin, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Red-headed Weaver, Red-billed Quelea, Cut-throat Finch*. Mammals and reptiles didn't disappoint: a *Leopard* leaning against a tree, *Hippos, Giraffes* and *Elephants* everywhere, *Zambezi Kudu, Thomas's Dikdik, Bruce's Rock Hyrax, Side-striped Jackal, Slender and Dwarf Mongoose, Red-headed Rock Agama*, huge *Nile Monitor Lizards*. During the 3½ hour drive from camp back to Msembe airstrip on our last morning here we saw *African Fish Eagle, European Bee-eater, Bearded Woodpecker, Crowned Lapwing, White-crested Helmet-shrike* and much more, so it was with mixed feelings that we left Mdonya - sorry to leave all this behind but keen to see what the next site would bring!

USANAGU WETLANDS, Ruaha National Park

In 2008 Usangu Game Reserve merged with Ruaha and the area is now Tanzania's largest National Park. The complex waterways of Usangu are vitally important for both Ruaha and Nyerere (Selous). Usangu may be just one relatively small wetland (around 6,000 km.sq.) but the water, making its way down from the highlands, goes on to feed the Great and Little Ruaha rivers and in turn the Rufiji river system, thus supporting thousands of kms of southern Tanzania's wildlife regions. As hunting ceased so wildlife steadily increased with literally thousands of herbivores now on the floodplain and they are becoming more tolerant of vehicles. We stayed just 3 nights at *Asilia's* Usangu Expedition Camp - nowhere near enough time to enjoy such a place! It's an isolated camp (the nearest camp, Jongomero, is a couple of hours drive away) with just 4 huge luxury tents, in a stunning location with far-reaching views. There was one other couple in camp while we were there (we only saw them at meal times) and another couple arrived as we left. We can't praise the staff highly enough, all were extremely professional, knowledgeable and attentive, sensitive to individual preferences and obviously happy in their work (all were multi-tasking). The food was top-rate: a 'slap-up' brunch *cooked out on the plain*, a dinner beside one of the largest baobab trees in the region (estimated at 900-1000 years old) and always plenty of variety. Activities are varied but everything they do has purpose and is science-oriented: *Asilia's* aim is to determine how the area could be sustainably developed for tourism by first learning about and understanding the unique ecosystem and its trends and how it should be protected. Guests are encouraged to take part in whatever projects are underway. During our stay we spent two full days out on the floodplain and adjoining open woodland edge watching the abundant wildlife but also counting key species and recording sightings; we set small mammal live-traps (and released the captures immediately), used a thermal-imaging camera after dark and set trail cameras (identifiable features of the elephants, predators and other animals are added to the database; we had several images of a 'new' elephant with a distinctively-broken left tusk and conspicuous ear nicks). For much of the time it felt as though it was just us (and Seningo our guide) in a vast, untouched wilderness. Huge herds of *Ruaha Topi* and *Cape Buffalo* moved across the endless expanse of the drying grassy floodplain as well as smaller herds of *Plains Zebra, Sable Antelope* and *Defassa Waterbuck* and the more solitary *Bohor Reedbuck, Roan Antelope* and *Common Ostrich*. A nice surprise was a *Serval* stalking through the rough grassland. We visited the Douglas Bell Research Station behind camp and had a long chat with one of the researchers, Leena, about the various projects and future plans. Other species around Usangu included *White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose*, impressive flocks of *Knob-billed Duck, Blue-billed Teal, Black-bellied Bustard, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Grey Crowned Crane, Long-toed, Crowned, White-crowned, African Wattled* and *Blacksmith Lapwings, Greater Painted-snipe, African Jacana, Collared Pratincole, White-winged Tern, Marabou, Yellow-billed, Saddle-billed* and *African Openbill Storks, African Darter, Reed Cormorant, African Sacred Ibis, White-backed and Black-crowned Night Herons, Rufous-bellied Heron, Goliath* and *Purple Herons, Great White Pelican, Black-chested and Brown Snake Eagles, Martial Eagle, Marsh Owl, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Grey Kestrel, Myer's Parrot, Yellow-collared Lovebird, Grey-backed Fiscal, Flappet Lark, Superb Starling, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia, African Pipit, African Grass Rat* (trapped and released), *Hippopotamus, Maasai Giraffe, Cape Bushbuck, Common Eland, Thomas's Dikdik, Ruaha Topi, Plains Zebra, Leopard, two Servals, Side-striped Jackal* and *two Honey Badgers* were caught on one of our trail cameras. Usangu was a unique experience, really quite special, and we were very sorry to leave. The pre-dawn drive to Jongomero airstrip was brilliant (but very cold): in the headlights we saw several *Square-tailed Nightjars*, a *Small-spotted Genet*, lots of bats and a *Pearl-spotted Owlet*.

KATAVI National Park

Coming down to land in the previous parks was impressive but Katavi was on another level. The endless expanse of Katavungu Plain's savanna, marshes and water channels below us, with countless Cape Buffalo and antelopes visible, was breath-taking and never to be forgotten. This is a very remote area, rich in wildlife. We stayed at Katavi Wildlife Camp (formerly Foxes) in a tent similar to those at Lake Manze and Mdonya. The dining and lounge areas were comfortable and spacious but things weren't quite as well-organised here and it's looking a little tired - but that didn't detract from our enjoyment at all. Staff were very friendly and helpful, but were lacking leadership. They had an imaginative chef and we enjoyed the plentiful food. Bush breakfasts were more basic than we'd become accustomed to but were perfectly adequate. Our diver/guide was Romano and he certainly knows his patch well, knowledgeable about birds, mammals and plants, with interesting snippets of folklore and plant names and he was always helpful and keen to please. After each safari he would reappear in a different outfit ready to wait at tables! Safaris here were equally as good as the other parks and again we saw very few other vehicles. Hippos here are amazing, tightly-packed pods jostling and grunting for space in thick, muddy water or separate pods noisily defending their stretch of the river. Within 20 minutes of leaving the airstrip we watched a snoozing group of *Lions* that became suddenly alert and rushed off in pursuit of a hapless *Leopard*. Another day two lionesses were half-heartedly harassing a big old *Cape Buffalo* that had an injured leg. There were quite a few species not seen in other parks: *Common Buttonquail, Senegal Lapwing, Temminck's Courser, Shikra, African*

Marsh Harrier, Black-collared Barbet, African Hoopoe, Black-headed Oriole, Yellow-billed Kite, Magpie Shrike, White-bellied Tit, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Angola and Mosque Swallows, Pale Flycatcher, White-browed Robin-Chat, Arnott's Chat, Collared Sunbird, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow, Moustached Grass Warbler, Croaking and Zitting Cisticolas, Smith's Bush Squirrel, Chobe Bushbuck, Sharpe's Grysbok, Lichtenstein's Hartebeest.

RETURN to Dar es Salaam

We flew back from Katavi to Ruaha, on to Iringa to drop off an ex-pilot who needed a lift, then to Nyerere and finally Dar es Salaam. A driver met us for the journey to Salaam Serena Hotel; traffic can be really bad in the city but we were lucky with only a short stretch of congestion. The hotel was considerably more up-market than we are accustomed to but, as grand as it first appeared, there was a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and we enjoyed a good meal sitting outside listening to **Water Thick-knees** and **Woodland Kingfishers**. Next morning the calls of **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbirds** (new for the trip), **Dark-capped Bulbuls** and **House Crows** were the dominant sounds.

It had been a superb trip, we couldn't have asked for more. Audley Travel delivered exactly what we'd asked for and we heartily recommend them.

FULL SPECIES LIST

BIRDS 239 species

COMMON OSTRICH *Struthio camelus*

Usangu: fairly common, 10 and 15.

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna viduata*

Nyerere: small and large flocks frequent; thousands around Lake Nzerakela. Usangu: common, flocks 35 to 100+.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Nyerere: 3 amongst a flock of White-faced *D. viduata* on 23rd.

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE *Plectropterus gambensis*

Nyerere: Single noted once only. Usangu: 2 on 3rd. Katavi: up to 4 most days.

KNOB-BILLED DUCK *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Usangu: common, two flocks 50 and c.200. Katavi: 2 juveniles on 8th.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Fairly frequent throughout, usually pairs.

BLUE-BILLED TEAL *Spatula hottentota*

Usangu: common, 100+ on 3rd, 30+ on 4th.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris*

Common throughout, often in large numbers.

EASTERN CRESTED GUINEAFOWL *Guttera pucherani*

Northern Ruaha: 5 on route to Mdonya Old River Camp on 27th, 2 on 30th.

CRESTED FRANCOLIN *Ortygornis sephaena*

Northern Ruaha: 2 on route from airstrip to camp, another 2 near camp. Usangu: 2 seen but heard frequently.

HILDEBRANDT'S SPURFOWL *Pternistis hildebrandti*

Northern Ruaha: occasional pairs and small groups, incl. female + 5 small chicks. Katavi: fairly common in small numbers.

RED-NECKED SPURFOWL *Pternistis afer*

Very common N. Ruaha, Usangu and Katavi but none seen in Nyerere.

SQUARE-TAILED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus fossii*

Northern Ruaha: 2 heard by tent each night but not seen. Usangu: at least 3 calling each night around cam; 6 seen in early hours on route from camp to Jongomero airstrip. Katavi: heard each night, not seen.

AFRICAN PALM SWIFT *Cypsiurus parvus*

Small numbers common in Nyerere, northern Ruaha and Katavi but none seen at Usangu.

WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT *Apus caffer*

Nyerere: single bird on approach to Manze camp.

BARE-FACED GO-AWAY-BIRD *Corythaixoides personatus*

Common in Northern Ruaha, Usangu and Katavi, none seen in Nyerere.

GREY GO-AWAY-BIRD *Crinifer concolor*

Nyerere: just a single bird, seen well, on 21st.

PURPLE-CRESTED TURACO *Gallirex porphyreolophus*

Northern Ruaha: 1 on 28th.

WHITE-BELLIED BUSTARD *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Northern Ruaha: pairs seen on 3 days.

BUFF-CRESTED BUSTARD *Lophotis gindiana*

Northern Ruaha: fairly common with 5 on 29th, 2 on 30th and 2 on 1st.

BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARD *Lissotis melanogaster*

Usangu: 2 singles on both 3rd and 4th.

WHITE-BROWED COUCAL *Centropus superciliosus*

Range of Burchell's/White-browed unclear and not all birds were seen well enough to properly identify.

Nyerere: frequent sightings. Northern Ruaha: all seen well were White-browed. Usangu: most appeared to be White-browed. Katavi: many sightings of White-browed.

BURCHELL'S COUCAL *Centropus burchellii*

Range of Burchell's/White-browed unclear and not all birds were seen well enough to properly identify.

At Katavi one on 5th showed clean white throat/breast, plain black head, barring on rump/upper tail and was presumably Burchell's *C.burchellii*.

KLAAS'S CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Nyerere: heard for several minutes in Lake Manze camp on 25th. Katavi: 1 calling for several minutes on 5th but not seen.

RED-CHESTED CUCKOO *Cuculus solitarius*

Nyerere: Heard for few minutes at Lake Manze camp on 23rd. Katavi: calling for several minutes in same area on 6th and 7th and another in different area on 8th - not seen.

AFRICAN CUCKOO *Cuculus gularis*

Katavi: heard for several minutes on two days but never seen.

YELLOW-THROATED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles gutturalis*

Usangu: small flocks over camp dusk and dawn. Katavi: 100+ near Chada plain on 8th and small groups past camp three mornings.

BLACK-FACED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles decoratus*

Northern Ruaha: Common, usually pairs but up to 4 together (fighting). Usangu: 1 on 2nd, pair on 3rd.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

Dar es Salaam: small flocks.

SPECKLED PIGEON *Columba guinea*

Northern Ruaha: pairs on three days. Katavi: occasional sightings of 2s/3s.

MOURNING COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decipiens*

Northern Ruaha: occasional sightings of 1-2, more often heard. Usangu: small numbers seen, more often heard.

RED-EYED DOVE *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Nyerere: small numbers. Northern Ruaha: 4 in Mdonya camp on 27th. Usangu: uncommon, 2 on 4th and 4 on 5th. None Katavi.

RING-NECKED DOVE *Streptopelia capicola*

Common, often very numerous, throughout.

LAUGHING DOVE *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Nyerere: frequent sightings of 1-3. Northern Ruaha: more numerous than in Nyerere. Katavi: 2 on 5th only.

EMERALD-SPOTTED WOOD DOVE *Turtur chalcospilos*

Nyerere: fairly common. Northern Ruaha: common. Katavi: common.

NAMAQUA DOVE *Oena capensis*

Nyerere: frequent in small numbers. Northern Ruaha: frequent in small numbers. Katavi: 1 male only on 6th.

AFRICAN GREEN PIGEON *Treron calvus*

Northern Ruaha: pre-roost gatherings around camp, at least 70 on 30th and >100 on 1st Oct. Katavi: 1 on 7th.

BLACK CRAKE *Zapornia flavirostra*

Nyerere: 1 Lake Nzerakela island. Usangu: 1 on 4th. Katavi: 1 on 6th.

GREY CROWNED CRANE *Balearica regulorum*

Northern Ruaha: two pairs on 29th. Usangu: probably the same pair seen on two days.

COMMON BUTTONQUAIL *Turnix sylvaticus*

Katavi: 1 flushed on 7th.

WATER THICK-KNEE *Burhinus vermiculatus*

Nyerere: occasional pairs. Northern Ruaha: pairs seen two day. Usangu: uncommon, pairs on two days.

Katavi: occasional sightings of 2s-4s, heard each night. Dar es Salaam: two heard at dusk from hotel grounds.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

Nyerere: Common and numerous. Northern Ruaha: just 2 on 30th. Usangu: fairly common, up to 12 together.

LONG-TOED LAPWING *Vanellus crassirostris*

Usangu: common.

BLACKSMITH LAPWING *Vanellus armatus*

Northern Ruaha: 6 on 28th, 9 on 30th. Usangu: common with many chicks seen. Katavi: common.

SPUR-WINGED LAPWING *Vanellus spinosus*

Nyerere: common. Katavi: fairly common, usually pairs.

WHITE-CROWNED LAPWING *Vanellus albiceps*

Nyerere: common. Northern Ruaha: 2 on 27th, 5 on 29th. Usangu: pair on 2nd.

SENEGAL LAPWING *Vanellus lugubris*

Katavi: 6 on 6th.

CROWNED LAPWING *Vanellus coronatus*

Nyerere: uncommon, pairs on two days only. Northern Ruaha: pair on 29th only. Usangu: 6 pairs, 2 chicks. Katavi: fairly common, up to 6 together.

AFRICAN WATTLED LAPWING *Vanellus senegallus*

Usangu: 2 on 3rd, 4 on 4th. Katavi: pairs on two days.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Nyerere: fairly common, 2-10 per day.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Nyerere: 2 singles on 24th.

KITTLITZ'S PLOVER *Charadrius pecuarius*

Northern Ruaha: 1 on 29th.

WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER *Charadrius marginatus*

Nyerere: 2 on 23rd and 1 on 26th.

GREATER PAINTED-SNIPE *Rostratula benghalensis*

Usangu: 3 together on 3rd.

AFRICAN JACANA *Actophilornis africanus*

Nyerere: singles on three days. Usangu: common in small groups up to 8 together, including juvs. Katavi: 3 singles.

EURASIAN WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Dar es Salaam: 1 on shoreline.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Nyerere: 1 with Ruff on 26th.

RUFF *Calidris pugnax*

Nyerere: 6 on 26th.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Nyerere: 2 singles 25th, 120+ around one lake on 26th. Northern Ruaha: 2 on 29th. Usangu: just 1 seen.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Dar es Salaam: 1 on shoreline. Nyerere: 1-3 seen most days. Northern Ruaha: 3 singles on 29th. Katavi: fairly common, 2s/4s.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Nyerere: 1 on 25th only.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*

Nyerere: 2 on 25th, 10+ on 26th.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Nyerere: up to 4 on five days. Northern Ruaha: 4 on 29th. Usangu: singles/2s common. Katavi: 1-3 each day.

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Nyerere: frequent sightings of 1-2. Northern Ruaha: 6 on 29th only. Usangu: just 1 seen. Katavi: singles/2s three days.

TEMMINCK'S COURSER *Cursorius temminckii*

Katavi: 4 near camp on 7th.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*

Usangu: common and numerous; many chicks.

AFRICAN SKIMMER *Rynchops flavirostris*

Nyerere: fairly common, largest gatherings 50+ and 100+, 2s/3s elsewhere. Northern Ruaha: Single on Ruaha river 29th.

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Usangu: 5 on 3rd.

AFRICAN OPENBILL *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Nyerere: common in varying numbers, 75, 60 and 30 on three days, just 1-2 other days. Usangu: some very large gatherings (100, 200⁺). Katavi: common, usually in small groups up to 6 but 35 on 7th.

MARABOU STORK *Leptoptilos crumenifer*

Nyerere: frequent sightings of up to 5 most days; larger gathering, 30+, on 25th included juvs. Usangu: 2 on 3rd, 1 on 4th. Katavi: large numbers, gatherings up to 350 on Katisunga plain, many roosting in trees near camp.

YELLOW-BILLED STORK *Mycteria ibis*

Nyerere: common in high numbers, including large gatherings of 150+. Usangu: at least 3 pairs. Katavi: common in small numbers, up to 10 together.

SADDLE-BILLED STORK *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Nyerere: 1 on 26th. Usangu: 1 on 2nd, 6 (three pairs) 3rd and pair on 4th. Katavi: up to 3 daily plus pair with 2 juveniles.

AFRICAN DARTER *Anhinga rufa*

Usangu: 2 singles on 2nd.

REED CORMORANT *Microcarbo africanus*

Dar es Salaam: 1 on shoreline. Usangu: 6 on 4th.

AFRICAN SACRED IBIS *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Dar es Salaam: 6 on shoreline. Nyerere: common in small numbers. Usangu: at least 6 on 3rd. Katavi: singles three days.

HADADA IBIS *Bostrychia hagedash*

Dar es Salaam: 2 on shoreline. Nyerere: frequent sightings, often in pairs. Northern Ruaha: 2 on 29th. Usangu: 4 on 3rd. Katavi: pairs and small groups common.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Nyerere: occasional pairs on three days. Usangu: 12+ on 3rd.

AFRICAN SPOONBILL *Platalea alba*

Nyerere: common, including some large gatherings (80+ on 25th and 26th) and a nesting colony at Lake Nzerakela.

WHITE-BACKED NIGHT HERON *Gorsachius leuconotus*

Usangu: 1 at reed-fringed pool on 4th.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Usangu: 2 at reed-fringed pool on 4th. Katavi: 1 by tent at dusk on 5th.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides*

Nyerere: singles on three days. Usangu: common, usually singles/2s but 8 together on 3rd.

RUFIOUS-BELLIED HERON *Ardeola rufiventris*

Usangu: 2 on 3rd.

WESTERN CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

Nyerere: common. Usangu: very common, hundreds. Katavi: common.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Dar es Salaam: 1 on shoreline 20th, 1 over hotel grounds on 10th. Nyerere: common in small numbers. Usangu: 12+ on 3rd, 7 on 4th. Katavi: Common.

GOLIATH HERON *Ardea goliath*
Nyerere: singles on five days. Usangu: 2 singles. Katavi: common, up to 5 sightings each day.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*
Usangu: 1 on 4th.

GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba*
Nyerere: Common, up to 6 most days plus breeding colony at Lake Nzerakela. Usangu: common. Katavi: 1-2 each day.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET *Ardea intermedia*
Nyerere: occasional sightings of 1-2.

BLACK HERON *Egretta ardesiaca*
Nyerere: 3 together on 26th.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*
Nyerere: not common, just 1-2 each day.

WESTERN REEF/DIMORPHIC EGRET *Egretta gularis/dimorpha* ?
Dar es Salaam: very common along shore, mostly dark birds.

HAMERKOP *Scopus umbretta*
Nyerere: occasional sightings of 1-3. Northern Ruaha: 1 only. Usangu: occasional sightings singles/2s.
Katavi: fairly common, usually pairs.

GREAT WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Nyerere: 1 on 21st, 50+ and 20+ 25th. Usangu: 1 on 3rd. Katavi: Occasional small flocks and singles; 50+ roosting on tree.

PINK-BACKED PELICAN *Pelecanus rufescens*
Nyerere: flock of 30 on 23rd.

BLACK-WINGED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*
Northern Ruaha: fairly common, 5 sightings. Usangu: common 3 or 4 on 3rd, 3 on 4th.

AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK *Polyboroides typus*
Nyerere: 1 on 21st. Northern Ruaha: 1 standing in pool of water on 28th, another bathing on 29th.

PALM-NUT VULTURE *Gypohierax angolensis*
Nyerere: fairly common, 1 on 22nd, 2 singles on 25th, 1 on 27th. Katavi: common, up to 8 per day including several juveniles.

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE *Gyps africanus*
Nyerere: common in small numbers. Usangu: 2 on 3rd. Katavi: 2-6 seen daily.

RÜPPELL'S VULTURE *Gyps rueppelli*
Nyerere: 1 on 21st.

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE *Trigonoceps occipitalis*
Nyerere: 1 on 22nd.

BLACK-CHESTED SNAKE EAGLE *Circaetus pectoralis*
Usangu: 1 on 3rd, 3 flying together 4th.

BROWN SNAKE EAGLE *Circaetus cinereus*
Northern Ruaha: 1-2 each day. Usangu: 2 on 3rd, 2 on 4th. Katavi: 1 near camp on 7th.

BATELEUR *Terathopius ecaudatus*
A common sight throughout, including immature birds.

MARTIAL EAGLE *Polemaetus bellicosus*
Nyerere: 1 on 22nd. Usangu: 1 on 4th. Katavi: 1 immature near camp.

TAWNY EAGLE *Aquila rapax*
Northern Ruaha: 1-3 each day. Katavi: 1 immature on 7th.

AFRICAN HAWK-EAGLE *Aquila spilogaster*
Nyerere: 2 together on 26th. Northern Ruaha: 1 on 28th.

LIZARD BUZZARD *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
Nyerere: 2 singles at Lake Nzerakela on 24th.

GABAR GOSHAWK *Micronisus gabar*
Northern Ruaha: singles on three days.

EASTERN CHANTING GOSHAWK *Melierax poliopterus*
Northern Ruaha: Common, up to 5 per day.

SHIKRA *Accipiter badius*
Katavi: 1 in camp on 8th.

BLACK SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter melanoleucus*
Nyerere: 1 on 25th.

AFRICAN MARSH HARRIER *Circus ranivorus*
Katavi: 4 singles (probably 3 birds).

YELLOW-BILLED KITE *Milvus aegyptius*
Katavi: singles on three days.

AFRICAN FISH EAGLE *Haliaeetus vocifer*
Nyerere: very common. Northern Ruaha: 1 on 29th, 1 on 2nd. Usangu: 1 on 3rd, 6ads + 2 juvs on 4th. Katavi: very common/numerous.

PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET *Glaucidium perlatum*
Nyerere: 1 on 23rd, others heard. Northern Ruaha: heard frequently but not seen. Usangu: 1 seen pre-dawn on route from camp to Jongomero airstrip.

AFRICAN SCOPS OWL *Otis senegalensis*
Northern Ruaha: heard each night/morning but not seen. Katavi: heard dawn and dusk in camp but not seen.

SOUTHERN WHITE-FACED OWL *Ptilopsis granti*

Northern Ruaha: heard each night, not seen.

MARSH OWL *Asio capensis*

Usangu: 1 on 3rd.

SPOTTED EAGLE-OWL *Bubo africanus*

Nyerere: roosting pair on 23rd.

VERREAUX'S EAGLE-OWL *Bubo lacteus*

Northern Ruaha: 1 in acacia 'forest'. Katavi: 1 by Chada plain.

SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD *Colius striatus*

Nyerere: occasional flocks 10-12 and 2 at water bowl in camp. Northern Ruaha: occasional singles and one small flock.

BLUE-NAPED MOUSEBIRD *Urocolius macrourus*

Northern Ruaha: flocks c. 15 two days. Usangu: often heard, briefly seen at woodland edge. Katavi: common, flocks up to 20.

AFRICAN HOOPOE *Upupa Africana*

Katavi: singles on 7th and 8th.

GREEN WOOD HOOPOE *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Nyerere: common. Northern Ruaha: occasional sightings. Katavi: common.

COMMON SCIMITARBILL *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Nyerere: occasional sightings 2s/3s each day. Northern Ruaha: 2 on 27th, 2 on 28th.

SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Nyerere: common, usually 3-4 together although two groups, 7+5, on 22nd. Northern Ruaha: common, up to 5 together. Katavi: groups of 2-5 common.

TANZANIAN RED-BILLED HORNBILL *Tockus ruahael*

Northern Ruaha: Very common in pairs and small groups. Usangu: common. Katavi: very common.

VON DER DECKEN'S HORNBILL *Tockus deckeni*

Nyerere: pairs frequent. Northern Ruaha: 2s/3s frequent.

CROWNED HORNBILL *Lophoceros alboterminatus*

Nyerere: pairs on three occasions. Northern Ruaha: pairs on 27th and 28th.

AFRICAN GREY HORNBILL *Lophoceros nasutus*

Nyerere: pairs frequent. Katavi: 2s/4s fairly common.

LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER *Coracias caudatus*

Common throughout.

BROAD-BILLED ROLLER *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Nyerere: 1 on 27th. Katavi: 1 on 5th.

GREY-HEADED KINGFISHER *Halcyon leucocephala*

Nyerere: fairly common. Northern Ruaha: 1 on 1st Oct.

BROWN-HOODED KINGFISHER *Halcyon albiventris*

Nyerere: 1 in Lake Manze camp. Katavi: common, occasionally seen, more often heard.

STRIPED KINGFISHER *Halcyon chelicuti*

Nyerere: fairly common, up to 3 most days.

WOODLAND KINGFISHER *Halcyon senegalensis*

Dar es Salaam: 1 in hotel grounds.

AFRICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER *Ispidina picta*

Nyerere: 1 on 24th.

MALACHITE KINGFISHER *Corythornis cristatus*

Nyerere: singles on four days. Usangu: 2 singles on 3rd and again 4th.

PIED KINGFISHER *Ceryle rudis*

Nyerere: common. Northern Ruaha: c.6 along Ruaha river on 29th. Usangu: 2 at small pool 4th.

SWALLOW-TAILED BEE-EATER *Merops hirundineus*

Northern Ruaha: fairly common in small numbers. Katavi: single on 7th.

LITTLE BEE-EATER *Merops pusillus*

Common throughout, but less frequent at Usangu.

WHITE-FRONTED BEE-EATER *Merops bullockoides*

Nyerere: common, 10-20 on four days.

BÖHM'S BEE-EATER *Merops boehmi*

Nyerere: 1-2 on three days. Katavi: two pairs on 7th.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

Northern Ruaha: flock c.20 on 29th. Katavi: c.6 near Chada plain on 8th.

NORTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATER *Merops nubicus*

Nyerere: 25+ on 25th, smaller numbers on 26th and 27th.

YELLOW-FRONTED TINKERBIRD *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Dar es Salaam: 1 calling Serena hotel garden on 9th and 10th, not seen.

BLACK-COLLARED BARBET *Lybius torquatus*

Katavi: heard on 6th but not seen.

CRESTED BARBET *Trachyphonus vaillantii*

Nyerere singles/pairs seen on three days; often heard. Katavi: 2 singles on 5th.

D'ARNAUD'S BARBET *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Northern Ruaha: fairly common in 2s/3s; often heard. Usangu: 2 on 4th.

GREATER HONEYGUIDE *Indicator indicator*
 Nyerere: heard two days but not seen. Northern Ruaha: 1 seen 27th, 2+2 seen 29th. Katavi: heard twice in camp but not seen.

NUBIAN WOODPECKER *Campethera nubica*
 Northern Ruaha: brief views on two days, often heard.

BEARDED WOODPECKER *Chloropicus namaquus*
 Nyerere: pairs and singles on three days.

CARDINAL WOODPECKER *Dendropicus fuscescens*
 Nyerere: pair on 24th. Northern Ruaha: heard in camp. Katavi: 1 on 8th.

GREY KESTREL *Falco ardosiaecus*
 Usangu: 1 on 4th.

DICKINSON'S KESTREL *Falco dickinsoni*
 Nyerere: 1 on 22nd.

MEYER'S PARROT *Poicephalus meyeri*
 Nyerere: pair on 21st. Northern Ruaha: flocks up to 12 fairly common. Usangu: 20+ on 3rd and 5 at Jongomero airstrip.
 Katavi: fairly common in small flocks.

BROWN-HEADED PARROT *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*
 Nyerere: frequent small flocks on three days.

YELLOW-COLLARED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis personatus*
 Northern Ruaha: 4 on 27th, 2 on 29th and 2 on route to Usangu on 2nd.

PALE BATIS *Batis soror*
 Nyerere: pair seen and heard, 23rd.

GREY-HEADED BUSHSHRIKE *Malaconotus blanchoti*
 Nyerere: heard on one day only, not seen.

ORANGE-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*
 Northern Ruaha: fairly common, occasionally glimpsed, often heard. Katavi: common, although heard more often than seen.

BROWN-CROWNED TCHAGRA *Tchagra australis*
 Northern Ruaha: at least 1 seen on 30th. Others possible, not seen well enough and none singing.

BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA *Tchagra senegalus*
 Nyerere: 1 on 26th. Northern Ruaha: 1 on 29th, 2 on 30th. Katavi: singles on 8th and 9th. Others not all seen well enough to properly identify and none singing.

BLACK-BACKED PUFFBACK *Dryoscopus cubla*
 Northern Ruaha: 2 singles on two days. Katavi: 1 in camp on 8th.

SLATE-COLORED BOUBOU *Laniarius funebris*
 Northern Ruaha: common, often around camp, frequently heard. Usangu: 1 on 3rd.
 Katavi: 1 on 7th, 2 on 8th.

TROPICAL BOUBOU *Laniarius majori*
 Nyerere: common, constantly heard, occasional sightings. Katavi: common, more often heard than seen.

BRUBRU *Nilaus afer*
 Northern Ruaha: heard only, on 1st Oct. Katavi: often heard, not seen.

WHITE-CRESTED HELMETSHRIKE *Prionops plumatus*
 Northern Ruaha: group of 4 on 29th. Katavi: small groups fairly common.

BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE *Oriolus larvatus*
 Katavi: 2 + 1 on 5th only.

FORK-TAILED DRONGO *Dicrurus adsimilis*
 Very common throughout in all suitable habitat.

AFRICAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone viridis*
 Nyerere: 1♂ Lake Manze camp on 27th. Katavi: occasional sightings of singles, 3 on 8th.

NORTHERN WHITE-CROWNED SHRIKE *Eurocephalus ruppelli*
 Northern Ruaha: occasional small groups. Katavi: occasional small groups.

MAGPIE SHRIKE *Lanius melanoleucus*
 Katavi: occasional sightings, usually pairs.

LONG-TAILED FISCAL *Lanius cabanisi*
 Nyerere: common, usually pairs, occasionally more.

GREY-BACKED FISCAL *Lanius excubitoroides*
 Usangu: common. Katavi: 5 on 7th.

NORTHERN FISCAL *Lanius humeralis*
 Northern Ruaha: occasional sightings of singles/2s each day.

HOUSE CROW *Corvus splendens*
 Dar es Salaam: abundant. Nyerere: single bird on 25th only.

PIED CROW *Corvus albus*
 Dar es Salaam: 3 on 20th. Northern Ruaha: 2 by park HQ. Iringa airstrip: 6.

WHITE-BELLIED TIT *Melaniparus albiventris*
 Katavi: 1 at water bowl in camp on 8th.

FISCHER'S SPARROW-LARK *Eremopterix leucopareia*
 Northern Ruaha: flocks 20+ on two days. Katavi: 12+ on 7th, c.8 on 8th. All non-breeding/juv plumage

RUFIOUS-NAPED LARK *Mirafra Africana*
 Nyerere: 1 seen well on 22nd but many other probables.

FLAPPET LARK *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Usangu: only identified around camp, other larks not seen well enough.

YELLOW-BELLIED GREENBUL *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Katavi: 2 around camp water bowl on 8th and single in woodland 9th.

DARK-CAPPED BULBUL *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Nyerere: common. Northern Ruaha: less frequent than at Nyerere. Usangu: 2 near Jongomero airstrip. Katavi: common.

BROWN-THROATED MARTIN *Riparia paludicola*

Northern Ruaha: flock of 10 on 29th.

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW *Hirundo smithii*

Nyerere: 2 resting on boat at Lake Nzerakela 21st, 2 seen on 27th. Katavi: occasional sightings, usually 2s, along river.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Nyerere: occasional sightings of small numbers 23rd and 25th probably this sp. Usangu: flocks 20-30 frequent. Katavi: small and large flocks frequent.

ANGOLA SWALLOW *Hirundo angolensis*

Katavi: 1 seen well at Kutuma river bridge.

MOSQUE SWALLOW *Cecropis senegalensis*

Katavi: 3 over Kutuma river.

LESSER STRIPED SWALLOW *Cecropis abyssinica*

Dar es Salaam: 1 over beach area. Nyerere: flocks of 6 on 22nd, 5 on 26th.

MOUSTACHED GRASS WARBLER *Melocichla mentalis*

Katavi: 1 seen well on 9th.

WINDING CISTICOLA *Cisticola marginatus*

Northern Ruaha: 1 identified and photographed, others suspected.

CROAKING CISTICOLA *Cisticola natalensis*

Katavi: 1 seen well and heard, other possibles.

ZITTING CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidis*

Katavi: a few seen well, many possible.

TAWNY-FLANKED PRINIA *Prinia subflava*

Nyerere: singles on two days. Northern Ruaha: 2 together on 29th. Katavi: 1 on 6th.

GREEN/GREY-BACKED CAMAROPTERA *Camaroptera brachyura / brevicaudata*

Northern Ruaha: pair plus single on 29th

ARROW-MARKED BABBLER *Turdoides jardineii*

Fairly common throughout.

WATTLED STARLING *Creatophora cinerea*

Nyerere: many restless, large flocks (100-200) each day.

GREATER BLUE-EARED STARLING *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Nyerere: occasional flocks 6-8 most days. Northern Ruaha: only seen around Msembe airstrip. Usangu: flocks and pairs fairly common. Katavi: fairly common in small groups.

MIOMBO BLUE-EARED STARLING *Lamprotornis Elisabeth*

Nyerere: occasional flocks 6+ most days.

SUPERB STARLING *Lamprotornis superbus*

Nyerere: two small groups. Northern Ruaha: fairly common in small numbers. Usangu: fairly common in small numbers.

ASHY STARLING *Lamprotornis unicolor*

Northern Ruaha: fairly common in small groups 4-8.

VIOLET-BACKED STARLING *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Northern Ruaha: 2 on 28th.

RED-WINGED STARLING *Onychognathus morio*

Northern Ruaha: 2 on 28th, 4 on 29th. Katavi: pair nest-building at ranger station, occasional sightings elsewhere.

YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER *Buphagus africanus*

Common in Usangu and Katavi, perhaps overlooked in Nyerere and Northern Ruaha.

RED-BILLED OXPECKER *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Northern Ruaha: very common throughout.

WHITE-BROWED SCRUB ROBIN *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Nyerere: occasional sightings on three days, more often heard. Northern Ruaha: fairly common.

PALE FLYCATCHER *Agricola pallidus*

Katavi: 1 on 9th.

ASHY FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa caerulescens*

Northern Ruaha: 3 on 30th.

AFRICAN GREY FLYCATCHER *Melaeornis minckleyi*

Northern Ruaha: 1 on 30th.

WHITE-BROWED ROBIN-CHAT *Cossypha heuglini*

Katavi: at least 2 in camp each day, occasionally heard elsewhere.

COLLARED PALM THRUSH *Cichladusa arquata*

Nyerere: common. Katavi: common, including 3 juvs.

SPOTTED PALM THRUSH *Cichladusa guttata*

Nyerere: 1 on 22nd.

ARNOT'S CHAT *Myrmecocichla arnotti*

Katavi: male near Chada plain.

COLLARED SUNBIRD *Hedydipna collaris*

Katavi: 2 at camp water bowl.

SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Nyerere: 2 singles on 24th. Northern Ruaha: singles on two days.

VARIABLE SUNBIRD *Cinnyris venustus*

Northern Ruaha: 1♂ on 30th.

NORTHERN GREY-HEADED SPARROW *Passer griseus*

Katavi: 6 on 7th only.

SOUTHERN GREY-HEADED SPARROW *Passer diffuses*

Nyerere: 6+ on 25th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Dar es Salaam: small numbers.

RED-BILLED BUFFALO WEAVER *Bubalornis niger*

Northern Ruaha: occasional sightings and much activity around nests. Usangu: two flocks, 12 + 10.

WHITE-HEADED BUFFALO WEAVER *Dinemellia dinemelli*

Northern Ruaha: common in small groups.

WHITE-BROWED SPARROW-WEAVER *Plocepasser mahali*

Nyerere: very common and numerous, lots of activity around nests.

GREY-CAPPED SOCIAL WEAVER *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

Northern Ruaha: common with many new nests being built.

GOLDEN PALM WEAVER *Ploceus bojeri* ?

Katavi: small groups of 'golden weavers' occasionally around camp were very bright yellow with all-dark bill and deep orange wash over front of head and onto crown, the eyes seemed red. Tentatively identified as *P.bojer* rather than *P.holoxanthus*.

RUVU WEAVER *Ploceus holoxanthus*

Nyerere: 10-15 always found around camp. Females with noticeably pale, pinkish lower bill, males with very dark brown eye.

LESSER MASKED WEAVER *Ploceus intermedius*

Nyerere: 6 bathing in elephant-dug water pool, other probables seen less well.

RED-HEADED WEAVER *Anaplectes rubriceps*

Nyerere: pair nest-building on 21st. Northern Ruaha: single ♂ only. Katavi: 2 ♂♂ 1 ♀ on 8th.

RED-BILLED QUELEA *Quelea quelea*

Nyerere: flocks on two days only. Northern Ruaha: small to medium flocks frequent. Usangu: two flocks.

CUT-THROAT FINCH *Amadina fasciata*

Northern Ruaha: 5 together on 29th.

BLUE WAXBILL *Uraeginthus angolensis*

Nyerere: several identified amongst the many 'Cordon-bleus'.

RED-CHEEKED CORDON-BLEU *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Nyerere: very common. Northern Ruaha: uncommon, only noted on one day. Usangu: one flock only.

Katavi: very common.

GREEN-WINGED PYTILIA *Pytilia melba*

Usangu: single female. Katavi: small flocks on 6th and 8th.

RED-BILLED FIREFINCH *Lagonosticta senegala*

Northern Ruaha: uncommon, a few on two days. Usangu: one small flock, c.6 birds. Katavi: frequent small flocks.

LONG-TAILED PARADISE WHYDAH *Vidua paradisaea*

Nyerere: flock of c.15 on 25th probably this sp. (non-breeding plumage).

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla aguimp*

Nyerere: singles/2s fairly frequent. Northern Ruaha: pair on 29th, 1 on 2nd Oct. Katavi: 1 on 8th.

AFRICAN PIPIT *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Usangu: common.

REICHENOW'S SEEDEATER *Crithagra reichenowi*

Nyerere: small flocks (8-12) on three days.

CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza tahapisi*

Nyerere: 6 on 25th.

MAMMALS 45sp (+1 signs only)

BUSH HYRAX *Heterohyrax brucei*

Northern Ruaha: small numbers around rocky outcrops.

AFRICAN SAVANNA ELEPHANT *Loxodonta africana*

Large numbers throughout - many youngsters.

THICK-TAILED GREATER GALAGO *Otolemur crassicaudatus*

Nyerere: up to 3 often present in camp each evening.

YELLOW BABOON *Papio cynocephalus*

Common Nyerere, less so elsewhere.

VERVET MONKEY *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*

Common throughout.

AFRICAN GRASS RAT *Arvicanthis niloticus*
1 in live trap at Usangu. Occasional sightings elsewhere possibly this species.

STRIPED BUSH SQUIRREL *Paraxerus flavovitts*
Nyerere: occasional sightings.

SMITH'S BUSH SQUIRREL *Paraxerus cepapi*
Northern Ruaha: occasional sightings. Katavi: frequent sightings.

YELLOW-WINGED BAT *Lavia frons*
3 accidentally disturbed from tree roost, Nyerere.

SLIT-FACED BAT sp. ?Hairy *Nycteris ?hispidia*
2 roosting in building at Katavi Wildlife Camp.

COMMON HIPPOPOTAMUS *Hippopotamus amphibius*
Large numbers Nyerere, Northern Ruaha and Katavi. One small pod at Usangu.

MAASAI GIRAFFE *Giraffa tippelskirchi (ssp. tippelskirchi)*
Large numbers Nyerere, Northern Ruaha and Katavi. Common at Usangu.

CAPE BUFFALO *Syncerus caffer*
Common throughout with particularly huge herds - thousands - at Usangu and Katavi.

COMMON DUIKER *Silvicapra grimmia*
Katavi: 1 only.

CAPE BUSHBUCK *Tragelaphus sylvaticus*
Common Nyerere and Northern Ruaha. 2 or 3 in Usangu.

CHOBÉ BUSHBUCK *Tragelaphus ornatus*
Very common in Katavi.

ZAMBEZI KUDU *Strepiceros zambesiensis*
Very common Nyerere, Northern Ruaha. Small groups occasional at Usangu.

SOUTHERN LESSER KUDU *Ammalpus australis*
2 single males Northern Ruaha.

COMMON ELAND *Taurotragus oryx*
Nyerere: herds of 10-40 on five days. Large herds in Usangu.

COMMON IMPALA *Aepyceros melampus*
Large numbers in Nyerere, Northern Ruaha and Katavi. Common Usangu.

SHARPE'S GRYSBOK *Raphicerus sharpei*
Just 1 seen well in Katavi.

THOMAS'S DIKDIK *Madoqua thomasi*
Very common Northern Ruaha. Frequent in scrubby wooded parts of Usangu.

BOHOR REEDBUCK *Redunca bohor*
Very common Usangu and Katavi.

ELLIPSEN (COMMON) WATERBUCK *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*
Common Nyerere.

DEFASSA WATERBUCK *Kobus defassa*
Very common Usangu and Katavi.

ROAN ANTELOPE *Hippotragus equinus*
At least 2 adult ♂♂ at Usangu.

ROOSEVELT'S SABLE *Hippotragus roosevelti*
Very common Usangu, at least 4 adult ♂♂ and two breeding herds (33 and 22)

LICHTENSTEIN'S HARTEBEEST *Alcephalus lichtensteinii*
Small herd of 10 on Chada Plain, Katavi.

RUAHA TOPI *Damaliscus eurus*
Usangu: "thousands" on the open floodplain on 3rd, smaller herds, hundreds, on 4th.

JOHNSTON'S WILDBEEST *Connochaetes johnstoni*
Small and larger groups (8-40) at Nyerere.

COMMON WARTHOG *Phacochoerus africanus*
Common throughout.

PLAINS ZEBRA *Equus quagga crawshaii*
Fairly common Nyerere and Northern Ruaha, more common Usangu and Katavi.

LEOPARD *Panthera pardus*
Nyerere: 2. Northern Ruaha: 1. Usangu: 1. Katavi: 2 sightings.

LION *Panthera leo*
Very common Nyerere, Northern Ruaha and Katavi.

SERVAL *Leptailurus serval*
2 singles in Usangu, one of the floodplain early morning, another when using thermal image camera at night.

RUSTY-SPOTTED GENET *Genetta maculate*
Nyerere: 2 regularly around Lake Manze Camp in the evening.

SMALL-SPOTTED GENET *Genetta genetta*
Usangu: 1 on dawn drive from camp to Jongomero airstrip.

AFRICAN CIVET *Civetictis civetta*
Nyerere: 1 on route to camp late afternoon and 1 in camp one night.

COMMON SLENDER MONGOOSE *Herpestes sanguineus*

Occasional singles in Northern Ruaha and 1 in Katavi.

BANDED MONGOOSE *Mungo mungo*

Frequent sightings throughout, although fewer at Usangu.

COMMON DWARF MONGOOSE *Helogale parvula*

Frequent in Nyerere, Northern Ruaha and Katavi. None in Usangu.

SPOTTED HYENA *Crocuta crocuta*

Common at Nyerere, often heard in Northern Ruaha.

BAT-EARED FOX *Otocyan megalotis*

Pair (lactating female) Northern Ruaha. 1 Usango.

SIDE-STRIPED JACKAL *Lupulella adustus*

Several sightings of singles/pairs in Northern Ruaha. 1 in Usangu.

BLACK-BACKED JACKAL *Lupulella mesomelas*

Occasional sightings of singles or pairs Northern Ruaha. i in Usangu.

HONEY BADGER *Mellivora capensis*

2 caught on the camera trap we set.

SIGNS ONLY

CAPE PORCUPINE *Hystrix africaeaustralis*

Quills, burrows and prints in Nyerere, Northern Ruaha and Katavi.

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS tentative identification only

SERRATED HINGED TERRAPIN *Pelusios sinuatus*

HELMETTED TERRAPIN *Pelomedusa subrufa*

TROPICAL HOUSE GECKO *Hemidactylus mabouia*

CAPE DWARF GECKO *Lygodactylus capensis*

BLUE-TAILED GLIDING LIZARD *Holaspis guentheri*

BLUE-HEADED TREE AGAMA *Acanthocercus atricollis*

RED-HEADED ROCK AGAMA *Agama agama*

WHITE-THROATED SAVANNA MONITOR *Varanus albigularis* Possibly this species in Northern Ruaha.

NILE MONITOR *Varanus niloticus*

NILE CROCODILE *Crocodylus niloticus*

EASTERN STRIPE-BELLIED SAND SNAKE *Psammodon orientalis*

INSECTS and other INVERTEBRATES tentative identification only

ARMoured BUSH CRICKET sp.

RED-WINGED LOCUST sp.

SOUTHERN BANDED GROUNDLING *Brachythemis leucosticta*

Unidentified large **CICADA** sp.

GIANT AFRICAN MILLIPEDE *Archispirostreptus gigas*

PLANTS tentative identification only

LONG-POD CASSIA *Cassia abbreviata*

TREE EUPHORBIA *Euphorbia candelabrum*

SYCAMORE FIG *Ficus sycamores*

WHISTLING THORN *Acacia drepanolobium*

SAUSAGE TREE *Kigelia africana*

AFRICAN BAOBAB *Adansonia digitata*

BORASSUS PALM *Borassus aethiopum*

DOUM PALM *Hyphaene compressa*

UMBRELLA (FLAT-TOPPED ACACIA) *Vachellia tortilis* (formerly *Acacia tortilis*)