

# **Angola**

# **2017 Tour Report**



Text by tour leader Michael Mills
Photos by tour participant John Hopkins

# **SUMMARY**

The second ever all-hotel-accommodated bird tour of Angola was an overwhelming success, and like our first hotel-based trip run last year brought a level of comfort that we could not imagine a few years ago. For all 17 nights of the trip we enjoyed good accommodation and food. It was a pleasure returning to clean, comfortable hotel rooms each night, with running water and electricity (with the occasional exception); quite a change from our earlier trips where camping in dusty and windy conditions was the order of the day. And all this extra comfort came without compromising on the birds. Certainly, Angola can no longer be regarded as a 'hardcore' birding destination.



Besides the logistics running very smoothly, we fared exceptionally well on the birds, enjoying good views of all of Angola's endemic species and a whole host of other goodies. The charts were topped by excellent views of a pair of Gabela Bushshrike that took 14 hours of searching to track down; whew! A fantastic male Swierstra's Francolin gave prolonged views right out in the open at Tundavala and was voted number two, alongside Angola's striking national bird, Red-crested Turaco. The attractive White-headed Robin-Chat was seen well near Kalandula and came in fourth, with a lovely male Bocage's Sunbird near Mount Moco rounding out the top five. The minor places in the top ten contest were taken by an entertaining trio of Rüppell's Korhaan in the coastal deserts of Namibe, incredible views of a male White-spotted

Flufftail near Kalandula, some good looks at Braun's Bushshrike along the northern escarpment and, tied for ninth, a pair of rare Brazza's Martin perched near their nest, a striking Ross's Turaco and a very showy Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher.

There were many other great birds seen too, and the impressive diversity of habitats on offer meant that we logged over 525 species in the 18 days of birding. While most of the endemics and specials are associated with the dry forests of the Angolan escarpment and montane habitats of the western highlands, a good diversity of miombo specials is on offer too, plus Congo Basin forest birds along the northern escarpment, mesic grassland birds in the highlands, and desert and Namibian escarpment species in the far south.

# **ESSENTIAL DETAILS**

#### **DATES**

9-26 September 2017

#### **LEADER**

Michael Mills

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

Elaine Cook

John Hopkins

Jane Hopkins

Peter Cranston

Dennis Randell

Yik Shih Yong

Chay Tuan Ng

Peter Kaestner

Gus Mills

#### **ITINERARY**

9 Sep: Luanda to Uíge.

**10 Sep:** Northern escarpment forest in vicinity of Uíge.

11 Sep: Uíge to Kalandula.

**12 Sep:** Woodlands and gallery forests north of Kalandula Falls at Kinjila Village.

13 Sep: Kalandula to N'dalatando.

**14 Sep:** N'dalatando to Muxima via northern escarpment forests of Tombinga Pass.

15 Sep: Dry forests in Muxima area.

**16 Sep:** Muxima to Conda via mangrove forests at the Kwanza River mouth.

17 Sep: Kumbira Forest.

18 Sep: Conda to Mount Moco region.

**19 Sep:** Miombo woodlands, grasslands and montane forest at Mount Moco.

**20 Sep:** Dambos and miombo woodlands in the Mount Moco region.

**21 Sep:** Montane forests and grasslands at Mount Moco.

**22 Sep:** Mount Moco to Benguela area via wetlands of Lobito.

**23 Sep**: Benguela to Lubango via rocky hillsides with Namibian escarpment birds.

**24 Sep:** Montane forests and grasslands at Tundavala near Lubango.

**25 Sep:** Day trip to Namibe via escarpment thickets, arid savannas and coastal deserts.

**26 Sep**: Tour ends with flights out of Lubango.



We started with an introductory stroll around downtown Luanda with **Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush**, **Purple-banded Sunbird** and the endemic **Red-backed Mousebird**, the latter seen regularly throughout the tour. We also took some time to study the large dark brown swifts that breed in the seafront buildings of the Marginal, which I now believe are dark **Mottled Swifts** based on, in addition to their size and shape, their calls heard for the first time which match those of Mottled Swift.

the northern escarpment included Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Bubbling Cisticola, Black-collared Bulbul and Orange-tufted Sunbird in mesic savannas and a good variety of forest species such as all four negrofinches/nigritas, displaying African Broadbill, Piping Hornbill, African Pied Hornbill, Naked-faced Barbet, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Guinea Turaco, Yellowmantled Weaver, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Forest Scrub Robin, Rufous-crowned Eremomela,



On the first full day of the trip we started birding in some dry forests near Caxito as we made our way north, where a fairly quiet walk ended with our first views of the endangered Gabela Helmetshrike and included Hartert's Camaroptera, Angola Batis, Pale-olive Greenbul and Swamp Boubou. In the afternoon we laid eyes on the striking Braun's Bushshrike near Quitexe for the first time, although some had to wait until the next morning to satisfy their bushshrike appetites. Other highlights along

Blue-throated Roller, Banded Prinia, Whitechinned Prinia, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Black-winged Oriole, Black Bee-eater, Purplethroated Cuckooshrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Bocage's Bushshrike, Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher, Cassin's Honeybird, Blue Malkoha, Yellow-throated Nicator, Mackinnon's Fiscal and Lowland Masked Apalis. From the northernmost point of the trip, near Uíge, we turned south-eastwards to the Kalandula Falls area with its broad-leafed woodlands and gallery forests. En route we did well to find Anchieta's Barbet, Red-throated Cliff Swallow, Sooty Flycatcher, Gorgeous/Perrin's Bushshrike and our first Red-crested Turaco, before arriving at our luxurious accommodation overlooking Kalandula Falls. The main birding area here is 40 km to the north of the falls themselves, near Kinjila Village, and we spent the better part of a day and half here. It was to the gallery forests that we first directed our attention, and this year it wasn't long before we all enjoyed good views of the striking Whiteheaded Robin-Chat. The supporting cast included Black-backed Barbet (minor), a responsive male White-spotted Flufftail, Black-throated Wattleeye, Brown-headed Apalis, Grey-winged Robin-Chat/Akalat, Bannerman's Sunbird alongside the very similar Green-headed Sunbird, Cabanis's Greenbul, Bates's Sunbird, Square-tailed Drongo, Honeyguide Greenbul and Narina Trogon. Tall grasslands fringing the gallery forests held a lovely male Marsh Tchagra, Red-headed Quelea and party of Compact Weaver, whereas the surrounding woodlands were home to Pale-billed Hornbill, Red-necked Spurfowl (cranchii) striking Anchieta's Sunbird, Retz's Helmetshrike, Rufousbellied Tit, Sharp-tailed Starling, Bennett's Woodpecker, African Cuckoo-Hawk and Miombo Wren-Warbler.





We broke our journey to Muxima with an overnight stay at N'dalatando, finding Rock Pratincole en route. The next morning we birded the northern escarpment forests near N'dalatando, at Tombinga pass. The open forest was quite birdy and we notched up Yellow Longbill, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Superb Sunbird, Cassin's Honeybird, African Shrike-Flycatcher and Bates's Paradise Flycatcher before moving on to Muxima on the Kwanza River. Here we wasted no time and headed out for some afternoon birding during which we managed to get good views of the secretive Grey-striped Francolin for everyone, close-up views of Golden-backed Bishop alongside White-winged Widowbird, and our first sighting of White-fronted Wattle-eye. The next morning we found our second flock of lovely Gabela Helmetshrike, two different Monteiro's

Bushshrike and another White-fronted Wattle-

Turacos, two lovely Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Brown-eared Woodpecker, the curious local form of Southern Hyliota (slatini), Lemon Dove (heard), Dusky Tit, Green Twinspot, Black-faced Canary, Yellow-billed Barbet, Black-throated Apalis, Brown Illadopsis, Brown Twinspot, Landana Firefinch and Grev Waxbill.

Moving on to the highlands of Huambo province,

we were now headed for the Mount Moco region.

The greater Mount Moco area holds a diverse array

Evergreen Forest Warbler. Swierstra's Francolin

was also present lower down the mountain than

usual, and we managed to persuade a male to cross

a patch for everyone to see briefly. Also around

this forest patch we enjoyed excellent views of

a male Black-chinned Weaver and Huambo

Cisticola (Angola's newest endemic, and previously

erroneously treated as Rock-loving Cisticola), and other species of interest included Schalow's Turaco,

Grey Apalis, Bocage's Akalat, Red-throated

Wryneck, Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird,

Black-throated Wattle-eve and Spotted Creeper.

On our second day at the mountain a brave few

made the big hike to the largest forest patch on

the mountain. On the way up the mountain we

paused to watch a large flock of swifts composed of

six species, namely Horus Swift, White-rumped

Swift, Common Swift, Mottled Swift, Bradfield's

Swift, and some black swift types which are thought

to be Fernando Po Swift (probably best treated as a

subspecies of African Black Swift); it was great to be

able to compare so many species side-by-side. On

top of the mountain we flushed Finsch's Francolin

of interest along the central escarpment included

Falkenstein's Greenbul, more Red-crested

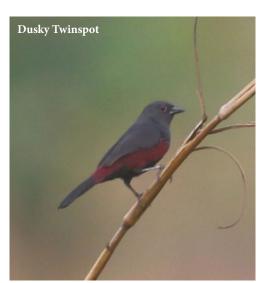
Leaving Muxima for the Kumbira area we first made a detour to the Kwanza River mouth for Mangrove/ Brown Sunbird and Red-headed Finch, and a term roost at the river mouth included Royal Tern.

of habitats; most of the area is blanketed in miombo woodland, unfortunately quite degraded now by clearing for agriculture and charcoal production,

but significant areas of montane grassland can also be found, numerous rivers and associated dambo grasslands criss-cross the area, and very small patches of montane forest exist on Mount Moco itself. Starting in these forests we first turned our attention to the small patch of forest and scrubby habitat above the village of Kanjonde, which is the main focus of a forest rehabilitation project that I run at the mountain. It was pleasing to see several birds returning to this patch after several years of absence, most notably Thick-billed Seedeater and

The Kumbira area and surrounding central escarpment near Conda village is arguably the highest priority for conservation in Angola, but is also one of the most rapidly disappearing areas thanks to slash-and-burn cultivation. Having struggled to find Gabela Bushshrike last year I knew we would be challenged, but never did I think that visiting more than 12 known territories would turn up nothing but burnt fields, and it was only after 14 hours of searching that we managed to find a very cooperative pair of Gabela Bushshrikes at a backup site that I last visited in 2009. Hooray! Pulitzer's Longbill was much more cooperative and Gabela Akalat was not hard to see either. Other species

Longclaw, a pair of Locust Finch that showed very in full breeding plumage. The two best finds were a 'wrong' habitat, a lovely male Bocage's Sunbird.



**Black-collared Eremomela** 

and saw the local races of Mountain Wheatear (nigricauda) and Long-billed Pipit (moco). Olive Woodpecker also put in an appearance, as did Wing-snapping Cisticola, Striped Pipit and Miombo Rock Thrush. At our target destination we quickly heard Margaret's Batis, which responded aggressively to playback but only showed briefly before losing interest.

Finally, the miombo woodlands also turned up some good birds, including Anchieta's Barbet, Salvadori's Eremomela, curious affinis form of Brubru, Red-capped Crombec, Miombo Scrub Robin, Wood Pipit, the snazzy Black-necked Eremomela, Miombo Pied Barbet, a perched pair of Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Ross's Turaco and diminutive Grey Penduline Tit (of the green ansorgei race).

Heading back to the coast again, the Benguela area

The rest of our time was spent in the habitats around the base of the mountain, and further afield across the greater region. Grassland and scrubland species included Tinkling Cisticola, Oustalet's Sunbird, Rufous-cheeked Nightjar (after dark) and Angola Lark. In damper areas of dambo grassland (dry at this time of the year) we found several Fülleborn's well in flight, Quail-finch on the ground (muelleri) and the sought-after Black-and-rufous Swallow. Areas of rank growth, mostly around rivers, held Dusky Twinspot, Angola Swee Waxbill, Blackcollared Bulbul, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Brown Firefinch, Chirping Cisticola, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Hartlaub's Babbler, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Marsh Widowbird, Stout Cisticola, Chirping Cisticola and Bocage's Weaver pair of Brazza's Martin, perched near their nest for excellent views, and, after a long search and some initial excitement at seeing Bronzy Sunbird in the

was our next major focus. The coastal wetlands here and at Lobito allowed us to do some list padding, with more interesting species including Cape Teal and Black Heron, and a skua (probably Arctic Skua) harassing some terns just offshore. However, most of our time was spent in an area of arid hills some 40 kilometres inland of Benguela, with several species characteristic of the Namibian escarpment found here. A male Hartlaub's Spurfowl was persuaded to leave the safety of its rocks to investigate us closely, whereas Orange River Francolin was scoped calling from the top of one of the hills. White-tailed Shrike was quite conspicuous and we also enjoyed good views of Rüppell's Parrot, Cape Penduline Tit, Pririt Batis, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Barecheeked Babbler, Rockrunner, Damara Redbilled Hornbill, Monteiro's Hornbill and Kalahari Scrub Robin, before we made the uneventful drive to Lubango.



In the Lubango area we birded two rather different habitats, separated by the spectacular southern escarpment. At Tundavala at the top of the escarpment, montane grasslands and shrublands, and remnant patches of Afromontane forest produced some of the best birding of the trip in impressive surrounds. Swierstra's Francolin was certainly the most spectacular find, and we all enjoyed incredible views of this, the least numerous Angolan endemic, as we have done on every one of our previous comprehensive Angola tours. Rocky areas were home to Rockrunner, and striking Angola Cave Chat, alongside Miombo Rock Thrush and Short-toed Rock Thrush, Striped Pipit and, after dark, Freckled Nightjar. Other goodies included Angola Waxbill, Finsch's Francolin (flushed), Western Green Tinkerbird, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Bradfield's Swift, African Black Duck, a surprise Ruddy Turnstone on a dam, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Fiery-necked Nightjar and a day-time Ruwenzori Nightjar.

On our second full day around Lubango we descended the escarpment at Leba Pass, running a transect across the ever-drier landscape towards the coast. Our first stop is some dry woodlands fairly quickly produced our main target, the localised Cinderella Waxbill tracked down in a flowering tree and seen again later at point-blank range. In the same general area we found the benguellensis race of Meves's Starling (now split by BirdLife as Benguela Starling), some smart afer Red-necked Spurfowl and Bennett's Woodpecker. Further towards the coast the habitat became drier and we found Crimson-breasted Shrike, Karoo Chat, Chat Flycatcher, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Palewinged Starling, Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler (Warbler), four Double-banded Sandgrouse and Dusky Sunbird. In the sparser areas still we found several confiding Benguela Long-billed Lark and a trio of Rüppell's Korhaan. Lunch at the seafront in Namibe was accompanied by Cape Cormorant before we retraced our steps back across the coastal plain and up the spectacular Leba Pass, for the end of the tour.











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# **ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST**

#### Ducks, Geese & Swans Family Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata – Seen along the Kwanza River

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis* – Several seen at Lobito

**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa* – One on a dam near Tundavala

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha* – Seen at Lobito

# **Guineafowl Family Numididae**

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**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* – Seen by some of our group near Muxima (*marungensis*)

### Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Family Phasianidae

**Finsch's Francolin** *Scleroptila finschi* – Flushed at close range at Mt Moco and Tundavala

**Orange River Francolin** *Scleroptila gutturalis* – Distant but good scope views of calling birds in the Benguela area

**Grey-striped Francolin** *Pternistis griseostriatus* – A few good looks in the Muxima area, and seen very well on the central escarpment

Swierstra's Francolin *Pternistis swierstrai* – As on every of our previous comprehensive Angola tours, everyone enjoyed excellent and prolonged views of a male at Tundavala. Also seen briefly on the ground and in flight at Mt Moco

**Hartlaub's Spurfowl** *Pternistis hartlaubi* – Good views in the Benguela area

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer* – Seen well at Muxima, Lubango and Leba (*afer*) and Kalandula (*cranchii*). Two species may be involved.

#### **Grebes Family Podicipedidae**

 $\textbf{Little Grebe} \ \textit{Tachybaptus ruficollis} - Seen \ a \ \text{few} \\ \text{times}$ 

# Flamingos Family Phoenicopteridae

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* – Two juveniles seen distantly at Lobito. They may have been Greater Flamingos.

#### **Storks Family Ciconiidae**

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* – Seen at Lobito

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus* – Seen on the Kwanza River (*lamelligerus*)

# Ibises, Spoonbills Family Threskiornithidae

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* – Most conspicuous at Lobito

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* – Good numbers at Lobito and also seen along the Kwanza River

#### Herons, Bitterns Family Ardeidae

Striated Heron Butorides striata - A few seen

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* – Seen a few times

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis - Seen often

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* – Seen quite often (*cinerea*)

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* – Seen a few times

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath* – Seen along the Kwanza River

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* – Seen a few times (*purpurea*)

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* – Several seen in coastal wetlands (*melanorhynchos*)

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia* – Seen a few times (*brachyrhyncha*)

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* – Seen in good numbers at Lobito

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* – Seen several times (*garzetta*)

# **Hamerkop Family Scopidae**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* – Two at the bottom of Leba Pass

# **Pelicans Family Pelecanidae**

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* – Good numbers at Lobito

#### Cormorants, shags Family Phalacrocoracidae

**Reed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus* – Seen several times, including along the coast (*africanus*)

White-breasted Cormorant Phalacrocorax lucidus – Seen at Lobito

**Cape Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax capensis* – Seen at Namibe

#### Anhingas, darters Family Anhingidae

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa* – Seen at Lobito (*rufa*)

#### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Family Accipitridae

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* – Seen regularly (*caeruleus*)

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* – Seen quite often (*typus*)

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* – Seen often in coastal areas

**African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides* – A pair at Kalandula (*verreauxii*)

**Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* – Seen a few times

Brown Snake Eagle Circaetus cinereus - Seen twice

Western Banded Snake Eagle Circaetus cinerascens – One seen in the Mt Moco region

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* – One of the more commonly-seen raptors

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus* – Seen distantly, east of Lobito

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* – A few sightings

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* – Seen a few times

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* – One pale morph bird at Tundavala

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster* – Two young birds seen

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* – Seen a few times (*meridionalis*)

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* – Good views of a melanistic morph bird when leaving the Mt Moco area (*gabar*)

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* – A couple were seen in the Mt Moco area (*mechowi*)

Pale Chanting Goshawk Melierax canorus – Several seen on the Namibe day trip

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* – A couple of sightings (*sparsimfasciatus*)

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius* – A couple of sightings (*polyzonoides*)

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* – Seen twice in the Kalandula area

**Ovambo Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter ovampensis* – Two on the drive from Conda to Huambo, seen perched and in flight

**Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus* – Seen briefly at Kalandula (*temminckii*)

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* – Seen in small numbers (*parasitus*)

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* – Seen along the Kwanza River

**Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis* – A few good sightings

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala

#### **Bustards Family Otididae**

**Rüppell's Korhaan** *Eupodotis rueppelii* – Excellent views of a trio in the coastal deserts (*rueppelii*)

**Red-crested Korhaan** *Lophotis ruficrista* – One in Mopane woodland at the bottom of Leba pass

#### Flufftails Family Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail Sarothrura pulchra – Incredible views of a male at Kalandula (*centralis*)

#### Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* – Seen by Peter at Lobito (*meridionalis*)

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Red-knobbed Coot Fulica cristata – Seen at Lobito

#### **Buttonquail Family Turnicidae**

**Common Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus* – One flushed at Mt Moco

#### Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Family Burhinidae

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* – Seen at Lobito (*vermiculatus*)

#### Stilts, Avocets Family Recurvirostridae

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* – Seen a few times

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* – Seen at Lobito

#### **Plovers Family Charadriidae**

**Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* – Seen at Lobito

**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (lateralis)

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* – Seen along the coast (*squatarola*)

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* – Seen along the coast (*tundrae*)

Kittlitz's Plover Charadrius pecuarius – Seen along the coast

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* – Seen at Lobito and Tundavala

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus* – Seen along the coast (*mechowi*)

#### **Jacanas Family Jacanidae**

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* – Several sightings

#### Sandpipers, Snipes Family Scolopacidae

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* – Seen along the coast (*phaeopus*)

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis – Seen along the coast

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* – Seen along the coast

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* – Seen a couple of times

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* – Seen a few times

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* – Seen at Mussulo, and a surprise sighting on the dam at Tundavala (*interpres*)

Little Stint Calidris minuta - Seen along the coast

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* – Seen along the coast

Ruff Philomachus pugnax - Seen along the coast

# Coursers, Pratincoles Family Glareolidae

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* – Seen at the Kwanza River mouth (*riparia*)

**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis* – Seen along the Lucala River

#### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae

**Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* – Seen at Benguela (*poiocephalus*)

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* – Seen along the coast (*vetula*)

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris* – Two seen at Muxima

Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia – Seen along the coast

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* – Seen along the coast in good numbers (*albididorsalis*)

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* – Seen along the coast

Common Tern Sterna hirundo – Seen along the coast

#### **Skuas Family Stercorariidae**

Arctic Skua/Parasitic Jaeger Stercorarius parasiticus – Two distant skuas seen near Benguela appeared to be of this species

# **Sandgrouse Family Pteroclidae**

**Double-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles bicinctus* – Four seen on the Namibe day trip (*ansorgei*)

#### Pigeons, Doves Family Columbidae

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* – Feral Pigeons were common in the towns and villages

**Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques* – Heard and seen by some near Ouitexe

Lemon Dove Columba larvata - Heard at Kumbira

**African Mourning Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* – Seen on the Namibe day trip

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* – Common

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* – Common; *damarensis* in the south-west and *tropica* elsewhere

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* – Seen regularly (*senegalensis*)

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* – Common in the drier areas

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer* – Common in the moister areas

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* – Seen in the northern forests

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* – Seen twice (*capensis*)

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* – Seen on several dates (*calvus*)

#### **Turacos Family Musophagidae**

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata* – Seen by some in the northern scarp forests

**Guinea Turaco** *Tauraco persa* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*zenkeri*)

**Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi* – Good views in the Mt Moco region

**Red-crested Turaco** *Tauraco erythrolophus* – A few good sightings at Kumbira, Kalandula and south of Benguela

**Ross's Turaco** *Musophaga rossae* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region

**Grey Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor* – Seen along the coastal plain (*pallidiceps*)

#### **Cuckoos Family Cuculidae**

**Gabon Coucal** *Centropus anselli* – Heard only

**Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus* – Seen near Quitexe

Coppery-tailed Coucal Centropus cupreicaudus – Seen in good numbers in the Mt Moco region (cupreicaudus)

White-browed Coucal Centropus superciliosus – Several were seen

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* – Seen by Peter

**Blue Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares aereus* – Seen in the northern forests (*aereus*)

Klaas's Cuckoo Chrysococcyx klaas – Seen and heard on several dates

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus* – Heard only

**Red-chested Cuckoo** Cuculus solitarius – Heard only

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* – Seen in the Mt Moco area

#### **Barn Owls Family Tytonidae**

**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* – Seen near Mt Moco (*affinis*)

#### **Owls Family Strigidae**

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis* – Heard at Muxima

**Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus* – Fantastic daytime views at Tundayala

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* – A few good sightings during the day (*licua*)

**African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium capense* – Fantastic day-time views at Muxima (*ngamiense*)

# Nightjars Family Caprimulgidae

**Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufigena* – Seen very well near Huambo (*rufigena*)

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis* – Very good views near Lubango (*fervidus*)

Ruwenzori Nightjar Caprimulgus ruwenzorii – Repeated flushed views of one in the day near Tundavala (koesteri)

**Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma* – Good views at Tundavala (*lentiginosus*)

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii* – Heard near Huambo (*welwitschii*)

### **Swifts Family Apodidae**

**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* – Some good views along the coastal plain, especially at Muxima (*benguellensis*)

**Böhm's Spinetail** *Neafrapus boehmi* – Some good views along the coastal plain, especially at Muxima (*boehmi*)

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* – Common (*hyphaenes*)

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* – Seen at Tundavala (*africanus*)

**Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* – Seen well in the highlands (*aequatorialis*)

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

**Fernando Po Swift** *Apus sladeniae* – African Black Swift-types were seen well at Mt Moco

**Bradfield's Swift** *Apus bradfieldi* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*bradfieldi*)

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* – Seen a few times (*theresae*)

Horus Swift Apus horus – A couple of darkrumped birds (toulsoni) were seen among the normal white-rumped birds at Mt Moco (horus)

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* – Seen at Mt Moco

#### **Mousebirds Family Coliidae**

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus* – Seen near Quitexe (*nigricollis*)

Red-backed Mousebird Colius castanotus – Seen often

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus* – Seen along the southern coastal plain (*lacteifrons*)

#### **Trogons Family Trogonidae**

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* – Seen well at Kalandula (*narina*)

#### **Rollers Family Coraciidae**

**Purple Roller** *Coracias naevius* – Seen a couple of times (*mosambicus*)

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* – Seen several times (*caudatus*)

**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis* – Seen well in the northern scarp forests (*neglectus*)

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* – Seen at Kalandula (*suahelicus*)

#### **Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae**

**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* – Seen a few times (*pallidiventris*)

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* – Seen a few times (*prentissgrayi*)

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* – Seen a few times (*chelicuti*)

**Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica* – Heard only (*malimbica*)

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* – Seen a few times (probably *fuscopileus* and *cyanoleuca*)

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta* – Seen a few times

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* – Seen a few times (probably *cristatus* and *galeritus*)

**Half-collared Kingfisher** *Alcedo semitorquata* – Seen briefly near Mt Moco

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* – Heard near Mt Moco

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* – Several sightings (*rudis*)

# **Bee-eaters Family Meropidae**

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*australis*)

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus* – Seen inland from Benguela (*hirundineus*)

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* – Seen regularly (*meridionalis*)

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* – Seen near Uíge and Tundavala

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* – Good views in the Muxima area and again at Benguela (*alternans*)

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* – Recorded on two dates

#### **Hoopoes Family Upupidae**

**African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* – Seen a few times

## **Wood Hoopoes Family Phoeniculidae**

**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* – Seen a few times (*angolensis*)

**Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* – Seen at Muxima (*anchietae*)

Common Scimitarbill Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

- Seen a couple of times in the south (cyanomelas)

#### Hornbills Family Bucerotidae

**Damara Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus damarensis* – Seen well in the south-west

**Monteiro's Hornbill** *Tockus monteiri* – Seen well near Benguela

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas* – Seen several times along the coastal plain (*elegans*)

**Crowned Hornbill** *Lophoceros alboterminatus* – Seen several times (*alboterminatus*)

**African Pied Hornbill** *Lophoceros fasciatus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*fasciatus*)

Pale-billed Hornbill Lophoceros pallidirostris – Excellent views at Kalandula (pallidirostris) and brief views near Mt Moco

**Piping Hornbill** *Bycanistes fistulator* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*sharpii*)

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator* – Seen at Kumbira

#### African barbets Family Lybiidae

**Bristle-nosed Barbet** *Gymnobucco peli* – Seen well in the northern scarp forests

**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus* – Seen in the northern escarpment forests (*congicus*)

Anchieta's Barbet Stactolaema anchietae – Seen en route to Kalandula (rex) and in the Mt Moco region

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*flavisquamatus*)

Western Tinkerbird Pogoniulus coryphaea – An excellent sighting of the endemic subspecies at Tundavala (angolensis)

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atroflavus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* – Heard in the northern scarp forests

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus* – Seen in the northern forests (*leucolaimus*)

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* – Seen a few times (*extoni*)

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta* – The distinctive *angolensis* subspecies was seen at Kumbira and in the northern scarp forests

**Miombo Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema frontata* – Good views in the Mt Moco region

**Acacia Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema leucomelas* – Several sightings along the coastal plain (*centralis*)

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus* – Seen a few times in the south

**Black-backed Barbet** *Lybius minor* – The nominate subspecies was seen well at Kalandula

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus* – Seen well at Kumbira (*purpuratus*)

# Honeyguides Family Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* – Displaying birds were seen briefly in the northern scarp forests (*insignis*)

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Lesser Honeyguide Indicator minor – Seen briefly

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus* – Good views at Muxima

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator* – Seen a few times

#### **Woodpeckers Family Picidae**

**Red-throated Wryneck** *Jynx ruficollis* – Nice looks at Mt Moco (*ruficollis*)

Bennett's Woodpecker Campethera bennettii – Seen well below Leba Pass (capricorni) and at Kalandula

Golden-tailed Woodpecker Campethera abingoni – See at Muxima and Kalandula (abingoni)

**Green-backed Woodpecker** *Campethera cailliautii* – Seen at Kalandula (*permista*)

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera nivosa* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*nivosa*)

**Brown-eared Woodpecker** *Campethera caroli* – Seen at Kumbira (*caroli*)

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Chloropicus namaquus* – Seen at Muxima and Kalandula

**Yellow-crested Woodpecker** *Chloropicus xantholophus* – Seen well in the northern scarp forests

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* – Seen regularly

**Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicos griseocephalus* – Seen at Mt Moco (*ruwenzori*)

#### **Falcons Family Falconidae**

**Rock Kestrel** *Falco rupicolus* – Seen a few times

African Hobby Falco cuvierii - One at Kalandula

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* – Seen several times (*biarmicus*)

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* – A couple of sightings (*minor*)

#### African & New World Parrots Family Psittacidae

**Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*gulielmi*)

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri* – Seen at Kalandula (*reichenowi*)

**Rüppell's Parrot** *Poicephalus rueppellii* – Good views in the Benguela area and again on the Namibe day trip

# **Broadbills Family Eurylaimidae**

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis* – Great views hear Uíge (*albigularis*)

#### Wattle-eyes, Batises Family Platysteiridae

**African Shrike-flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*aequatorialis*)

**Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher** *Bias musicus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

Margaret's Batis Batis margaritae – Brief views of a male at Mt Moco (margaritae)

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor* – Seen a few times (*pintoi*)

**Pririt Batis** *Batis pririt* – Good views along the arid southern coastal plain (*affinis*)

**Angolan Batis** *Batis minulla* – Good views at Muxima and Kumbira

White-tailed Shrike *Lanioturdus torquatus* – Good looks in the Benguela area and at Leba areas

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Platysteira castanea* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

**Black-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira peltata* – Seen at Mt Moco and Kalandula (*mentalis*)

**White-fronted Wattle-eye** *Platysteira albifrons* – Good views at Muxima

**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye** *Platysteira concreta* – Fantastic views at Kumbira (*ansorgei*)

# Helmetshrikes Family Prionopidae

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* – Seen twice (*poliocephalus*)

**Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii* – Seen at Kalandula (*nigricans*)

**Gabela Helmetshrike** *Prionops gabela* – Good views of this rare endemic in the Muxima and Caxito areas

#### **Bushshrikes Family Malaconotidae**

**Monteiro's Bushshrike** *Malaconotus monteiri* – Superb views in the Muxima area

**Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* – Heard (*interpositus*)

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor* – Heard in the northern scarp forests (*batesi*)

**Bocage's Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus bocagei* – Excellent views in the northern scarp forests (*bocagei*)

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* – Seen a few times (*similis*)

**Gorgeous Bushshrike** *Telophorus viridis* – Nice looks en route to Kalandula (*viridis*)

Marsh Tchagra Bocagia minuta – Nice views at Kalandula (anchietae)

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* – Seen a few times (*ansorgei*)

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* – Seen a few times

**Pink-footed Puffback** *Dryoscopus angolensis* – Seen a few times in the scarp forests (*angolensis*)

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* – Seen regularly

**Braun's Bushshrike** *Laniarius brauni* – Good looks in the Uíge and Quitexe areas

**Gabela Bushshrike** *Laniarius amboimensis* – Just one pair seen well along the central escarpment after 14 hours of searching

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* – Seen on the plateau (*major*)

**Swamp Boubou** *Laniarius bicolor* – Seen along the coastal plain, often in rather dry habitat (*guttatus*)

Crimson-breasted Shrike Laniarius atrococcineus

– A pair seen well on the Namibe day trip

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer* – Good views of the unusual *affinis* subspecies in the Mt Moco area

# **Cuckooshrikes Family Campephagidae**

White-breasted Cuckooshrike Coracina pectoralis

– A couple of sightings in Miombo woodland

**Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava* – Seen at Kalandula

**Petit's Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga petiti* – Seen very briefly at Kumbira

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike Campephaga quiscalina – Seen in the northern scarp forests (quiscalina)

#### **Shrikes Family Laniidae**

**Southern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus anguitimens* – Seen a couple of times along the coastal plain (*anguitimens*)

**Mackinnon's Shrike** *Lanius mackinnoni* – Seen along the northern escarpment

**Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis* – Seen regularly on the plateau (*capelli*)

**Southern Fiscal** *Lanius collaris* – Seen in the south-west (*aridicolus*)

# **Orioles Family Oriolidae**

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*notatus*)

**Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus* – Seen several times (*angolensis*)

**Black-winged Oriole** *Oriolus nigripennis* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

# **Drongos Family Dicruridae**

**Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii* – Seen at Kalandula and, surprisingly, south of Benguela (*saturnus*)

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* – Seen regularly (*apivorus*)

**Velvet-mantled Drongo** *Dicrurus modestus* – Seen along the northern escarpment (*coracinus*)

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#### **Monarchs Family Monarchidae**

**Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus nitens* – Incredible views along the central escarpment (*nitens*)

**Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone rufocinerea* – Seen near Quitexe

**Bates's Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone batesi* – Seen at Demilongo Forest (*bannermani*)

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* – Seen regularly (*plumbeiceps*)

#### **Crows Family Corvidae**

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Pied Crow Corvus albus - Common

#### Fairy Flycatchers Family Stenostiridae

**African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda* – Seen along the central and northern scarp (*teresita*)

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher Elminia albicauda – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala

#### **Tits Family Paridae**

White-winged Black Tit Melaniparus leucomelas – Seen by some of the group (insignis)

**Carp's Tit** *Melaniparus carpi* – Seen a few times along the coastal plain

**Dusky Tit** *Melaniparus funereus* – The endemic *gabela* subspecies was seen at Kumbira

**Rufous-bellied Tit** *Melaniparus rufiventris* – Great views at Kalandula (*rufiventris*)

# Penduline Tits Family Remizidae

**Grey Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli* – Seen superbly in the Mt Moco area (*ansorgei*)

Cape Penduline Tit Anthoscopus minutus – Good views inland of Benguela and below Leba Pass (minutus)

#### **Nicators Family Nicatoridae**

**Yellow-throated Nicator** *Nicator vireo* – Seen well along the northern escarpment

#### Larks Family Alaudidae

Benguela Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda* benguelensis – Several good sightings in the coastal deserts (benguelensis)

**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana* – Seen at Tundavala (*occidentalis*)

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* – Seen in the Mt Moco area (fischeri)

**Angolan Lark** *Mirafra angolensis* – Great views at Mt Moco (angolensis)

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

#### **Bulbuls Family Pycnonotidae**

**African Red-eyed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans* – Seen in the south-west (*nigricans*)

**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor* – Common (*tricolor*)

**Slender-billed Greenbul** *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*gracilirostris*)

**Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens* – Seen in the north (*virens*)

**Plain Greenbul** *Eurillas curvirostris* – Seen along the northern scarp (*curvirostris*)

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Eurillas latirostris* – Seen in the scarp forests (*latirostris*)

**Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator* – Seen well at Kalandula (*indicator*)

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* – Several widespread sightings (*occidentalis*)

Falkenstein's Greenbul Chlorocichla falkensteini – Seen at Kumbira and along the northern escarpment

**Simple Greenbul** *Chlorocichla simplex* – Seen near Uíge

**Yellow-throated Leaflove** *Atimastillas flavicollis* – Seen a few times (*flavigula*)

**Pale-olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus fulviventris* – Seen well at Muxima and also near Caxito

**Cabanis's Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* – Seen at Kalandula (*cabanisi*)

**Red-tailed Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus* – Heard only

**Black-collared Bulbul** *Neolestes torquatus* – Several good views in the Mt Moco and Uíge areas

#### Swallows, martins Family Hirundinidae

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* – Several sightings (*reichenowi*)

**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* – Several good views, especially in the Mt Moco area

**Brazza's Martin** *Phedina brazzae* – Excellent views in the Mt Moco area of two perched birds

**Brown-throated Martin** *Riparia paludicola* – Seen in the Mt Moco area (*paludicola*)

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* – Seen near Mt Moco and at the Kwanza River mouth (xerica)

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* – Just a couple of sightings

Angolan Swallow Hirundo angolensis - Common

White-throated Swallow Hirundo albigularis – Seen in the highlands

Wire-tailed Swallow Hirundo smithii – Seen mostly along the coast (smithii)

**Black-and-rufous Swallow** *Hirundo nigrorufa* – Some good views in the Mt Moco region

**Pearl-breasted Swallow** *Hirundo dimidiata* – Seen in the Mt Moco area (*marwitzi*)

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala (*anderssoni*)

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* – Seen at Mt Moco

**Greater Striped Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* – Common (*unitatis*)

**Red-breasted Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa* – Seen en route to Kalandula

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* – Seen a few times (*monteiri*)

**Red-throated Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon rufigula* – Seen mostly in the Kalandula area

# Crombecs, African warblers Family Macrosphenidae

**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* – A few sightings (*mentalis*)

**Rockrunner** *Achaetops pycnopygius* – Good views near Benguela and at Tundavala (*spadix*)

**Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans* – Seen at Tombinga Pass (*flavicans*)

**Pulitzer's Longbill** *Macrosphenus pulitzeri* – An excellent sighting at Kumbira

**Long-billed Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens* – Seen near Muxima (*ansorgei*) and in the south-west (*flecki*)

**Red-capped Crombec** *Sylvietta ruficapilla* – Nice looks in the Mt Moco region (*ruficapilla*)

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens* – Common along the escarpment (*tando*)

#### Uncertain relationships Insertae cedis -

**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina* – Seen a few times (*prasina*)

#### Leaf warblers and allies Family Phylloscopidae

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* – Seen at Lubango

#### Reed warblers and allies Family Acrocephalidae

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* – Seen near Kalandula (*winterbottomi*)

**African Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* – Seen along the northern escarpment (*major*)

# Grassbirds and allies Family Locustellidae

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala* – Seen near Lubango (*benguellensis*)

**Evergreen Forest Warbler** *Bradypterus lopezi* – Seen at Mt Moco (*boultoni*)

**Fan-tailed Grassbird** *Schoenicola brevirostris* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*alexinae*)

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#### Cisticolas and allies Family Cisticolidae

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**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops* – Seen en route to Kalandula and at Mt Moco (*lepe*)

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis* – Seen at Kalandula (*modestus*)

**Bubbling Cisticola** *Cisticola bulliens* – Seen along the coastal plain and escarpment (*septentrionalis* and *bulliens*)

**Rock-loving Cisticola** *Cisticola emini* – Huambo Cisticola *Cisticola bailunduensis* was seen well at Mt Moco. It is currently erroneously lumped with Rock-loving Cisticola.

Rattling Cisticola Cisticola chiniana – Seen below Leba Pass (*smithersi*)

**Tinkling Cisticola** *Cisticola rufilatus* – Seen well near Lubango and in the Mt Moco region (*ansorgei*)

Wailing Cisticola Cisticola lais – Common at Tundavala and Mt Moco (namba)

**Chirping Cisticola** *Cisticola pipiens* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*pipiens*)

**Stout Cisticola** *Cisticola robustus* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region (*angolensis*)

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* – Seen at Mt Moco (*huambo*)

**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus* – Common on the plateau (*loanda*)

**Neddicky** *Cisticola fulvicapilla* – Seen on the plateau (*dispar*)

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* – Seen near Mt Moco (*terrestris*)

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus* – Seen along the coastal plain (*lobito*)

Wing-snapping Cisticola Cisticola ayresii – Seen at Tundavala and on top of Mt Moco (ayresii)

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* – Widespread

**Black-chested Prinia** *Prinia flavicans* – Seen in the south-west (*ansorgei*)

**Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii* – Good looks in the northern scarp forests (*heinrichi*)

White-chinned Prinia Schistolais leucopogon – Seen along the northern scarp (leucopogon)

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* – Seen a couple of times along the coastal plain (*flavida*)

**Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata* – Seen along the northern escarpment

**Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni* – Seen very well along the central escarpment (*jacksoni*)

**Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis* – Seen along the central (*brauni*) and northern escarpment (*angolensis*)

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*grandis*)

**Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola* – Seen at Kalandula (*alticola*)

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* – Seen in the south

**Hartert's Camaroptera** *Camaroptera harterti* – Seen several times

**Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris* – Seen well in the northern scarp forests

Miombo Wren-Warbler Calamonastes undosus

– Seen at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region
(huilae)

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis* – Heard near Lubango (*puellula*)

**Salvadori's Eremomela** *Eremomela salvadorii* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

**Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops* – Seen several times in miombo (*pulchra*)

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

**Black-necked Eremomela** *Eremomela atricollis* – Good views of this smart species in the Mt Moco region

#### **Ground-Babblers Family Pellorneidae**

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens* – Seen at Kumbira (*dilutior*)

#### **Typical Babblers Family Leiothrichidae**

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* – Heard at Kalandula (*hyposticta*)

**Hartlaub's Babbler** *Turdoides hartlaubii* – Seen in the Mt Moco region and at Lubango (*hartlaubii*)

**Bare-cheeked Babbler** *Turdoides gymnogenys* – Great views near Leba Pass and Benguela (*gymnogenys*)

#### Sylviid Babblers Family Sylviidae

**African Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* – Seen well at Mt Moco (*abyssinica*)

**Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler** *Sylvia subcoerulea* – Seen well on the day trip to Namibe (*ansorgei*)

#### White-eyes Family Zosteropidae

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* – Many seen (subspecies not identified)

#### **Hyliotas Family Hyliotidae**

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster* – Two sightings in miombo woodland (*barbozae*)

**Southern Hyliota** *Hyliota australis* – Seen at Kumbira (slatini). The forest forms may represent a distinct species

#### **Treecreepers Family Certhiidae**

**African Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis salvadori* – Seen at Mt Moco (*salvadori*)

# **Starlings Family Sturnidae**

**Cape Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens* – Common along the coastal plain (*nitens*)

**Splendid Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus* – Seen in the north (*splendidus*)

**Meves's Starling** *Lamprotornis mevesii* – Seen below Leba Pass (*benguelensis*)

Sharp-tailed Starling Lamprotornis acuticaudus

– Good sightings in the Kalandula and Mt Moco
areas (acuticaudus)

Violet-backed Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
– Many seen (verreauxi)

**Chestnut-winged Starling** *Onychognathus fulgidus* – Seen along the northern escarpment (*intermedius*)

**Pale-winged Starling** *Onychognathus nabouroup* – Seen in the south-west

# Oxpeckers Family Buphagidae

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* – A few seen in the south-west (*langi*)

#### **Thrushes Family Turdidae**

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis* – Heard in the northern scarp forests (*praepectoralis*)

**Fraser's Rufous Thrush** *Stizorhina fraseri* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*rubicunda*)

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Turdus litsitsirupa* – Seen in the south (*paucigu*)

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios* – Seen a few times (*bocagei*)

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana* – Seen near Mt Moco

# Chats, Old World Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae

**Forest Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucosticta* – Good views at Muxima and along the northern escarpment

**Miombo Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas barbata* – Nice views in the Mt Moco region and at Kalandula

**Kalahari Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas paena* – Seen near Benguela (*benguellensis*)

**Brown-backed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas hartlaubi* – Seen along the northern escarpment

White-browed Scrub Robin Cercotrichas leucophrys – Seen a few times

**Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis* – Good views at Tombinga Forest

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus* – Seen at Muxima and Kalandula

Angolan Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis brunneus* – Good looks at Tundavala and seen briefly also at Mt Moco (*bailunduensis*)

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis* pammelaina – Seen a few times (pammelaina)

**Pale Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pallidus* – Seen a few times (*murinus*)

**Chat Flycatcher** *Melaenornis infuscatus* – Common in the south-west (*benguellensis*)

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens* – Seen at Muxima (*impavida*)

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*subadusta*)

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata* – Seen in the Quitexe area (*comitata*)

**Sooty Flycatcher** *Muscicapa infuscata* – Seen en route to Kalandula (*infuscata*)

**Angolan Cave Chat** *Cossypha ansorgei* – Superb views at Tundavala

**Grey-winged Robin-Chat** *Cossypha polioptera* – Seen well at Kalandula (*polioptera*)

White-browed Robin-Chat Cossypha heuglini – Heard often and seen occasionally (subrufescens)

**White-headed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heinrichi* – Good views of this smart bird at Kalandula

**Bocage's Akalat** *Sheppardia bocagei* – Good views at Mt Moco (*bocagei*)

**Gabela Akalat** *Sheppardia gabela* – Good views at Kumbira

**Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa ruficauda* – A few good sightings along the coastal plain, the first in Luanda

**Short-toed Rock Thrush** *Monticola brevipes* – Seen well at Tundavala (*brevipes*)

Miombo Rock Thrush Monticola angolensis – Nice views at Tundavala and Mt Moco (angolensis)

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* – Regular in the highlands (*stonei*)

**Karoo Chat** *Emarginata schlegelii* – Seen in the south-west (*benguellensis*)

**Sooty Chat** *Myrmecocichla nigra* – Several seen in the highlands

Mountain Wheatear Myrmecocichla monticola – Seen along the coastal plain (albipileata) and at Mt Moco (nigricauda)

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* – Seen at Mt Moco (*neseri*)

**Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala (*angolensis*)

#### Sunbirds Family Nectariniidae

**Anchieta's Sunbird** *Anthreptes anchietae* – Seen well at Kalandula

Mangrove Sunbird Anthreptes gabonicus – Good views at the Kwanza River

Western Violet-backed Sunbird Anthreptes longuemarei – Seen a few times in miombo (angolensis)

**Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi* – Seen at Kumbira and in the northern escarpment (*minor*)

**Grey-chinned Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*tephrolaemus*)

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* – Seen along the escarpment (*somereni*)

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*– Seen along the escarpment and at Kalandula (*cyanocephala*)

**Bannerman's Sunbird** *Cyanomitra bannermani* – A pair was seen well at Kalandula, alongside the previous species

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*octaviae*)

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* – Common in forest (*cephaelis*)

**Carmelite Sunbird** *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* – Seen near Uíge and at Kumbira (*fuliginosa*)

**Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*rubescens*)

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* – Seen in miombo (*deminuta*)

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* – Several seen (*saturatior*)

**Bocage's Sunbird** *Nectarinia bocagii* – Good views in the Mt Moco area after a long search

**Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* – Good looks at the endemic *gadowi* subspecies at Mt Moco

Olive-bellied Sunbird Cinnyris chloropygius – Seen along the escarpment (orphogaster)

**Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris ludovicensis* – Seen well at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*ludovicensis*)

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus* – Seen along the coastal plain (*bifasciatus*)

**Orange-tufted Sunbird** *Cinnyris bouvieri* – Seen along the northern escarpment

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus* – Several seen along the escarpment (*superbus*)

**Oustalet's Sunbird** *Cinnyris oustaleti* – Nice looks in the highlands, especially at Mt Moco (*oustaleti*)

White-bellied Sunbird Cinnyris talatala – Seen in the southern lowlands (talatala)

Variable Sunbird Cinnyris venustus – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (falkensteini)

**Dusky Sunbird** *Cinnyris fuscus* – Seen on the Namibe day trip (*inclusus*)

**Bates's Sunbird** *Cinnyris batesi* – Seen at Kalandula

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus* – A few seen (*chalceus*)

# Old World Sparrows Family Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* – Seen in the south-west (*ansorgei*)

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* – In many towns and villages

**Cape Sparrow** *Passer melanurus* – Seen in the south-west (*damarensis*)

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus – Seen from Muxima northwards (ugandae)

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus* – Seen in the south (*diffusus*)

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnoris superciliaris* – Seen in miombo (*rufitergum*)

# Weavers, Widowbirds Family Ploceidae

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger* – Seen briefly along the coastal plain (*niger*)

**Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons* – Seen briefly near Quitexe (*tandae*)

**Black-chinned Weaver** *Ploceus nigrimentus* – Great views of a male at Mt Moco

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* – Seen at Mt Moco (*crocatus*)

**Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis* – Most common at Kumbira (*nigricollis*)

**Bocage's Weaver** *Ploceus temporalis* – Great views of loyely males in the Mt Moco region

**Holub's Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops* – Quite common

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* – Breeding plumage birds seen near Namibe (*beattyi*)

**Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus* – Breeding plumage birds seen near Namibe (*velatus*)

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* – Fairly common (*collaris*)

**Vieillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus* – Seen in the northern areas (*nigerrimus*)

**Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*interscapularis*)

**Compact Weaver** *Ploceus superciliosus* – Good views at Kalandula

**Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor* – Seen in the scarp forests (*amaurocephalus*)

**Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis* – Seen well in the scarp forests (*praedi*)

**Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*malimbicus*)

**Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops* – Seen in the Kalandula area

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* – Seen at Muxima (*lathamii*)

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix* – One male in partial plumage seen near Tundavala

**Golden-backed Bishop** *Euplectes aureus* – Nonbreeding birds seen well at Muxima and near Benguela

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* – Quite common in the highlands (*angolensis*)

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* – A few seen in the highlands (*bocagei*)

Yellow-mantled Widowbird Euplectes macroura – Non-breeding males seen along the northern escarpment (macroura)

Marsh Widowbird Euplectes hartlaubi – Several non-breeding males seen well in the Mt Moco region (hartlaubi)

White-winged Widowbird Euplectes albonotatus

- Non-breeding males were seen near Muxima
(asymmetrurus)

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* – Seen in good numbers in the Mt Moco region

#### Waxbills, Munias & Allies Family Estrildidae

**White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus* – Common along the northern scarp (*fusconotus*)

**Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita bicolor* – Seen along the northern escarpment

**Pale-fronted Nigrita** *Nigrita luteifrons* – A female was scoped for some in the northern scarp forests (*luteifrons*)

**Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus* – Seen along the escarpment (*angolensis*)

**Orange-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia afra* – A couple of poor sightings in the Mt Moco and Kalandula areas

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* – Seen along the coastal plain (*melba*)

**Red-headed Finch** *Amadina erythrocephala* – Nice views near the Kwanza River mouth

**Green Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula* – Seen twice along the central escarpment, but you had to be quick (*schlegeli*)

**Red-headed Bluebill** *Spermophaga ruficapilla* – Seen briefly near Uíge (*ruficapilla*)

**Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri* – Seen at Quibaxe, Kalandula and near Conda, but you had to be quick

**Dusky Twinspot** *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea* – Good views at Mt Moco (*cinereovinacea*)

**Brown Firefinch** *Lagonosticta nitidula* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* – Seen at the bottom of Leba Pass (*rendalli*)

**Landana Firefinch** *Lagonosticta landanae* – Our best views were at Kumbira

Jameson's Firefinch Lagonosticta rhodopareia – The distinctive near-endemic subspecies was seen well at Tundavala (ansorgei)

**Blue Waxbill** *Uraeginthus angolensis* – Common along the coastal plain (*angolensis*)

**Angolan Waxbill** *Coccopygia bocagei* – Nice looks at Tundavala and seen also at Mt Moco

**Grey Waxbill** *Estrilda perreini* – Seen at Kumbira, Mt Moco and near Lobito (*perreini*)

Cinderella Waxbill Estrilda thomensis – Seen very well near Leba Pass

**Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region (*benguellensis*)

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda* – Seen a few times in the north (*melpoda*)

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* – Several sightings (subspecies not identified)

Orange-breasted Waxbill Amandava subflava

– A couple of sightings in the Mt Moco region
(niethammeri)

**Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis* – Seen well on the ground in the Mt Moco region (*muelleri*)

**Locust Finch** *Paludipasser locustella* – Good flight view of a pair in the Mt Moco region (*uelensis*)

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata* – Seen several times (*scutata*)

Black-and-white Mannikin Lonchura bicolor – Seen along the escarpment (woltersi)

# Indigobirds, Whydahs Family Viduidae

Village Indigobird Vidua chalybeata – Nonbreeding plumage birds seen at the bottom of Leba Pass were probably of this species, since Redbilled Firefinch was common here and no other indigobird host species seen

**Dusky Indigobird** *Vidua funerea* – Non-breeding plumage birds seen at Mt Moco where heard to mimic its host species Dusky Twinspot (*nigerrima*)

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* – Only non-breeding plumage birds seen

**Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah** *Vidua obtusa* – Seen in non-breeding plumage at Kalandula and Mt Moco

### Wagtails, Pipits Family Motacillidae

**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis* – Seen a couple of times (*simplicissima*)

**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara* – Seen briefly en route from Mt Moco to Lobito (*torrentium*)

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* – Seen near Kalandula (*vidua*)

**Fülleborn's Longclaw** *Macronyx fuelleborni* – Seen a few times in the Mt Moco area (*ascensi*)

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* – Seen a few times (subspecies not determined)

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis* – Seen on top of Mt Moco (*moco*)

**Wood Pipit** *Anthus nyassae* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*schoutedeni*)

**Buffy Pipit** *Anthus vaalensis* – Seen well at Tundavala (*neumanni*)

**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* – Several sightings, mostly of *bohndorffi* 

**Striped Pipit** *Anthus lineiventris* – Fantastic sightings at Mt Moco and Tundavala

## **Finches Family Fringillidae**

**Black-faced Canary** *Crithagra capistrata* – Good sightings on several occasions (mostly *hildegardae*), including at Kumbira and Tundavala

**Black-throated Canary** *Crithagra atrogularis* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (subspecies not identified)

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* – Several sightings (subspecies not identified)

Yellow Canary Crithagra flaviventris – Seen at Tundavala (damarensis)

**Brimstone Canary** *Crithagra sulphurata* – Seen a few times (*sharpii*)

**White-throated Canary** *Crithagra albogularis* – Seen in the south-west (*crocopygia*)

**Thick-billed Seedeater** *Crithagra burtoni* – Seen well at Mt Moco (*tanganjicae*), where uncommon

**Yellow-crowned Canary** *Serinus flavivertex* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*huillensis*)

#### **Buntings Family Emberizidae**

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*nivenorum*)

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris* – Seen a few times

