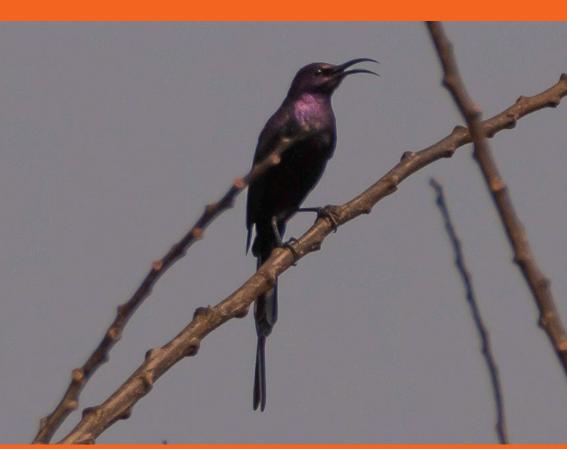


Angola

August 2022 Tour Report



Bocage's Sunbird © Michael Mills

Text by Michael Mills
Photos by Don MacGillivray, Aidan Kelly, Paul Ashly,
Mark Tasker and Michael Mills

SUMMARY

Angola made a much-awaited return to our birding calendar; most participants had waited an extra two years to set foot in this spectacular birding destination. We spent 18 days visiting the key birding sites, seeing all endemics (including BirdLife splits)—a feat only ever achieved once previously—and amassing a total of 561 species. Our top ten birds were White-headed Robin-Chat, Margaret's Batis, White-bellied Barbet, Eastern Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Bocage's Weaver, Bocage's Sunbird, Rockrunner, Rüppell's Korhaan, Swierstra's Francolin and Locust Finch.

Our journey took us first to the northern escarpment, with our very first stop producing Gabela Helmetshrike, White-fronted Wattleeve, Monteiro's Bushshrike and Golden-backed Bishop. Next on the cards was Braun's Bushshrike and Angolan White-throated Greenbul, alongside a host of Congo Basin forest species. In the Kalandula region we found White-headed Robin-Chat, Perrin's Bushshrike, Anchieta's Barbet, Anchieta's Sunbird and Thick-billed Cuckoo, before moving onto Muxima where Grey-striped Francolin and Egyptian Plover were seen. At Kumbira and surrounds the key targets fell in quick succession; Gabela Akalat, Pulitzer's Longbill, Angolan Naked-faced Barbet and Gabela Bushshrike, before we visited the

Moco region for the better part of four days. Here, miombo woodlands produced Blacknecked Eremomela, Sousa's Shrike and Miombo Pied Barbet, grasslands and dambos held Locust Finch, Black-and-rufous Swallow, Black-collared Bulbul, Bocage's Sunbird, Brazza's Martin, Bocage's Weaver and Finsch's Francolin, and montane forest turned up Margaret's Batis and Angola Slaty Flycatcher. In the Lubango region we found Swierstra's Francolin, Rockrunner and White-bellied Barbet at Tundavala, and Rüppell's Korhaan, White-tailed Shrike, Bare-cheeked Babbler and Benguela Long-billed Lark in Namibe. Finally we returned via the coast to Luanda, seeing Hartlaub's Spurfowl in the Benguela area and various waterbirds in the coastal wetlands.







Margaret's Batis © Aidan Kelly

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

DATES

9-27 August 2022

ITINERARY

9 Aug: Arrive Luanda.

10 Aug: Luanda to Uíge.

11 Aug: Northern escarpment forests.

12 Aug: Uíge to Kalandula.

13 Aug: Kalandula area.

14 Aug: Kalandula to Catete.

15 Aug: Muxima area.

16 Aug: Catete to Conda.

17 Aug: Kumbira forest.

18 Aug: Conda to Huambo.

19–21 Aug: Mount Moco and surrounds

22 Aug: Huambo to Lubango.

23 Aug: Namibe day trip.

24 Aug: Tundavala.

25 Aug: Huambo to Benguela.

26 Aug: Benguela area.

27 Aug: Benguela to Luanda.

PARTICIPANTS

Bob Walton

Mark Tasker

Steve Kornfeld

Peter Marsh

Paul Ashley

Aidan Kelly

Don MacGillivray

Alex Torborg

Judy Meredith

REPORT

We gathered in Luanda, Angola's colossal and chaotic capital city. Early the next morning we escaped the growing mass of traffic before it swallowed us, striking out on our 18-day loop across western Angola. Our first stop was in some unassuming dry forests near Caxito, surprisingly rich in endemics. A productive walk got proceedings off to a rapid start with good views of Monteiro's Bushshrike, followed by other specials such as Angola Batis, White-fronted Wattle-eye, Black-faced Canary, Bubbling Cisticola, Rufoustailed Palm Thrush, Hartert's Camaroptera, Golden-backed Bishop, Swamp Boubou, Grey Waxbill and, the cherry on top, Gabela Helmetshrike. After a few hours we continued our way to Uíge, pausing en route for an uneventful picnic lunch, a police check point with Cassin's Grey Flycatcher, and a birding stop near Quitexe. The latter site rewarded us with excellent views of the striking endemic Braun's Bushshrike, some Black-casqued Hornbills and various other Congo Basin species in little over an hour. It had been a great first day!

During the following day-and-a-half we visited various sites along the northern escarpment of Uíge province, amassing an impressive list of species. Highlights included tracking down Angolan White-throated Greenbul for good views, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, a surprise Western Black-headed Batis, Orange-tufted Sunbird and White-collared Oliveback. Ample backup was provided by Eastern Piping Hornbill, Congo Pied Hornbill, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Great Blue Turaco, Guinea Turaco, Forest Chestnut-winged Starling, Yellowmantled Weaver, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Buff-throated Apalis, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Banded Prinia, White-chinned Prinia, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Black-winged Oriole, Black Bee-eater, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Pink-footed Puffback, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, perched Afep Pigeon and Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Dark-backed Weaver, Red-headed Malimbe, Crested Malimbe, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Yellow-





Braun's Bushshrike © Aidan Kelly

crested Woodpecker, Elliot's Woodpecker, Redfronted Parrot, Narrow-tailed Starling, Bocage's Bushshrike, Simple Greenbul, Green-backed Woodpecker, Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet, Olivebellied Sunbird, Pale-fronted Nigrita, Rufousvented Paradise Flycatcher, Blue Yellowbill, Sooty Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Nicator, Rufous Flycatcher Thrush, Lowland Masked Apalis, Cassin's Honeybird, Least Honeyguide and Blackand-white Shrike-flycatcher.

From the northern-most 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 enjoyed excellent views of Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl and our first Anchieta's Barbet.

At Kalandula the main birding area is 40 km to the north of the falls and town, around Kinjila Village. The gallery forests hold the star attraction, and this year White-headed Robin-Chat showed itself especially well, treating us to repeated views. The supporting cast included Western Blackbacked Barbet, Eastern Black-backed Barbet,

Brown-headed Apalis, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Shining-blue Kingfisher, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Redcrested Turaco, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo Redheaded Lovebird, Grey-chinned Green Sunbird, Gorgeous Bushshrike, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Cabanis's Greenbul, Bates's Sunbird, Landana Firefinch and African Broadbill. Bannerman's Sunbird was very tricky this year and was greatly outnumbered by the very similar Green-headed Sunbird, but we tracked a male down in the end at a backup site. Rank areas on the edge of forest were home to Brown Twinspot, Moustached Grass Warbler and Peter's Marsh Tchagra. We also spent a significant amount of time scouring the surrounding woodlands, which held a complimentary set of species. More memorable sightings included Sharp-tailed Starling, Miombo Wren-Warbler, Meyer's Parrot, Red-capped Crombec, Brubru, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Bennett's Woodpecker, Retz's Helmetshrike, Anchieta's Sunbird, Cabanis's Bunting and Thick-billed Cuckoo. Red-throated Cliff Swallow milled around the bridge over the Lucala River.



White-headed Robin-Chat © Aidan Kelly

Moving on, some vehicle battery problems caused a bit of a delay, but some clever thinking got us back on the road and we arrived at our comfortable accommodation near Muxima in time for dinner. Our successful stop near Caxito, several days previously, had taken the pressure off our day in the dry forests of the area and left just one major target. Fortunately, it didn't take long to find a pair of Grey-striped Francolin feeding in the track, which allowed prolonged observation before melting into the dense undergrowth. Many of the key birds were the same as around Caxito —Golden-backed Bishop, Gabela Helmetshrike, Pale-olive Greenbul, Purple-banded Sunbird, Angola Batis and Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush but we also saw Red-backed Mousebird, Forest Scrub Robin, Olive Bee-eater, Mottled Spinetail, Böhm's Spinetail and Scaly-throated Honeyguide.

At our lodge we found Long-billed Crombec, and at a nearby wetland, African Mourning Dove and Long-legged Pipit. Along the mighty Kwanza River we enjoyed point-blank views of the distinctive Egyptian Plover, here right at the southern edge of its range.

Leaving Muxima we made our way to the coast through Quiçama National Park, pausing along the way in some dry knob-thorn forest (where we saw our first Rüppell's Parrot and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill) and for a pair of roadside Senegal Lapwing. On reaching the coast we turned southwards, passing various coastal wetlands where a juvenile Allen's Gallinule was found and our first African Royal Terns seen. But it wasn't long before we were headed inland again, this time climbing the endemic-rich central escarpment.

The central escarpment (focussed on Kumbira) is arguably the highest priority for conservation in Angola, but is also one of the most rapidly disappearing areas of habitat due to slash-and-burn cultivation. Some of the rarer endemics cling to the last uncleared patches of suitable habitat. We wasted no time in commencing our birding near Seles, where Gabela Akalat showed well and we also found Southern Hyliota and Black-throated Apalis. Our day at Kumbira started well with pointblank views of Pulitzer's Longbill, and we kept our momentum going with choice stops to find Angolan Naked-faced Barbet and the tricky Gabela Bushshrike (thanks to Tertius and Bruno!) almost immediately. The early successes gave us plenty of time to explore some of the more intact forest at Kumbira, and a couple of long walks either side of lunch brought Falkenstein's Greenbul, Eastern Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Dusky Tit, Buff-throated Apalis, Yellow-throated Nicator, Brown-chested Alethe, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Many-coloured Bushshrike (now rare here), Red-tailed Bristlebill,

Brown Illadopsis, Orange-cheeked Waxbill and, to much elation, good views of Gabon Coucal. In the evening we watched African Wood Owl around our lodgings.

Aside from the escarpment, the unique biodiversity of Angola can be found in the adjacent highlands, and it was to this region that we next turned our efforts. They highland reach their pinnacle at Mount Moco, the core of a region that holds a diverse array of habitats. Most of the area is blanketed in miombo woodland, now unfortunately mostly quite degraded due to clearing for agriculture and charcoal production. 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 in the gullies on Mount Moco itself. We divided our time fairly evenly between these habitats, each with its own specials.





Bocage's Weaver © Paul Ashley

In the forests we first turned our attention to the small patch above the village of Kanjonde, which is the focus of my forest rehabilitation project at the mountain. It was pleasing to see that the firebreaks installed earlier in the year had successfully stopped fires from entering the forest patch, and that the trees in it continued to grow well. We spent the better part of a day here, with birds seen including Huambo Cisticola, Whitetailed Blue Flycatcher, Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Western Green Tinkerbird, Grey Apalis, Black-chinned Weaver, Olive Woodpecker, Bronzy Sunbird, Red-throated Wryneck, Thick-billed Seedeater, Dusky Twinspot, Bocage's Akalat and Evergreen Forest Warbler. Swierstra's Francolin crowed from the dense undergrowth but remained well hidden. Horus

Swift and Ross's Turaco were seen nearby. On our second day at the mountain, as has become custom, we slogged to the top of the massif. On arrival at the forest edge we flushed a group of Swierstra's Francolin, the male pausing just long enough in a clearing after landing for tickable views. Fortunately, Margaret's Batis played along nicely and not long after arriving we were enjoying point-blank views of this localised specialty. Other birds around the forest edge included Dusky Twinspot, Angolan Swee Waxbill, Western Blackbacked Barbet and African Hill Babbler. In the surrounding grasslands and rocky slopes we found the local race of Mountain Wheatear (nigricauda), Striped Pipit, Yellow-crowned Canary, Nicholson's Pipit (moco) and, best of all, Finsch's Francolin.

The rest of our time was spent in the mosaic of habitats across the greater region. Grassland and shrubland species included Oustalet's Sunbird, Capped Wheatear and Angola Lark. In damper areas of dambo grassland (dry at this time of the year) we found several Fülleborn's Longclaw, good numbers of Locust Finch that were seen well on the ground, and the sought-after Black-and-rufous Swallow. Areas of rank growth, mostly around rivers, held Black-collared Bulbul, Broad-tailed Warbler, Brown Firefinch, Chirping Cisticola, Stout Cisticola, Marsh Owl, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Hartlaub's Babbler, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird, Greater Swamp Warbler, Blue-breasted Bee-eater and Bocage's Weaver in full breeding plumage. A pair of Brazza's Martin gave excellent views near their nest, perching nearby, and this year Bocage's Sunbird played along nicely and we saw two lovely males very well.

The miombo woodlands also turned up some good birds, with well-chosen stops producing African Cuckoo-Hawk, Salvadori's Eremomela, Sousa's Shrike, Western Miombo Sunbird, Miombo Scrub Robin, Wood Pipit, Black-necked Eremomela, Miombo Pied Barbet, Pale-billed Hornbill, African Spotted Creeper, Böhm's Flycatcher, Miombo Rock Thrush, Orange-winged Pytilia, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, African Hobby, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Rufous-bellied Tit, Miombo Tit, Western Violetbacked Sunbird, African Golden Oriole, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Green-capped Eremomela, Grey Penduline Tit and Miombo Wren-Warbler. After dark Square-tailed Nightjar showed at close range.

Next, we moved on to the Lubango area, breaking up the long drive with a few stops that brought a couple of surprises in the shape of Blue Quail and Rosy-throated Longclaw.

Brazza's Martin © Aidan Kelly



From Lubango we birded two rather different habitats, separated by the spectacular southern escarpment. On the first day we descended the escarpment at Leba Pass, running a transect across the ever-drier landscape towards the coast. Our first stop failed to turn up the hoped-for Cinderella Waxbill, but in the same general area we found Benguela Long-tailed Starling, Monteiro's Hornbill, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Bare-cheeked Babbler, White-tailed Shrike, Rosy-faced Lovebird and Bennett's Woodpecker. Further towards the coast the habitat became sparser and drier, and we encountered Karoo Chat, Chat Flycatcher, Ashy Tit, Cape Penduline Tit, Black-chested Prinia, Grey-backed Cisticola, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Benguela Long-billed Lark and Dusky Sunbird. And out on the barren plains we located a pair of Rüppell's Korhaan, Stark's Lark, a single Tractrac Chat and Desert Cisticola, before returning to Lubango.

Our second day was spent at Tundavala, above the escarpment, where montane grasslands and remnant patches of Afromontane forest produced some of the best birding of the trip in impressive surrounds. Swierstra's Francolin was seen well, after some effort, with a smart male sitting out on a rock. Rocky areas were home to Rockrunner, striking Angola Cave Chat, and Short-toed Rock Thrush, and other goodies included Jameson's Firefinch (ansorgei), Buffy Pipit, Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, Angolan Swee Waxbill, Bradfield's Swift, Verreaux's Eagle, the very rare White-bellied

Barbet, African Black Duck, Freckled Nightjar, White-fronted Bee-eater, Violet-eared Waxbill, Rufous-naped Lark, Wing-snapping Cisticola and Tinkling Cisticola.

Heading back to the coast again, the Lobito-Benguela area was our final major focus of the trip before we returned to Luanda. Most of our time was spent in an area of arid habitats 30-40 km inland of Benguela. Here Hartlaub's Spurfowl was persuaded to sit up on a rock for superb views, White-tailed Shrike was quite conspicuous and we enjoyed good views of Rüppell's Parrot, Pririt Batis, Grey Go-away-bird, Acacia Pied Barbet, Carp's Tit, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Barred Wren- Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela and White-throated Canary. More open areas held Sabota Lark, Double-banded Courser, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Great Sparrow, Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler, Red-crested Korhaan, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Lappet-faced Vulture and Pale-winged Starling.

The coastal wetlands allowed us to do some list padding, with more interesting species including: Chestnut-banded Plover at the salt works at Benguela; Cape Teal, Blue-billed Teal, Lesser Flamingo, Greater Flamingo, Yellow-billed Stork, African Swamphen, Gull-billed Tern, Great White Pelican and Black Heron at Lobito; a surprise Blacksmith Lapwing at the Keve River; Western Osprey and Mangrove Brown Sunbird at the Kwanza River mouth; and White-fronted Plover and Eurasian Curlew at Mussulo Bay.

White-bellied Barbet and Rüppell's Korhaan © Aidan Kelly





ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

Numididae

Birding Africa Tour Report

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* — Seen a few times (*marungensis*)

Phasianidae

Finsch's Francolin *Scleroptila finschi* — Seen on the ground at close range at Moco, but fairly briefly. Three also flushed at Tundavala

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

Swierstra's Francolin Pternistis swierstrai — Excellent views at Tundavala, and also seen at Moco

Grey-striped Francolin *Pternistis griseostriatus* — Seen quite well at Muxima

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* — Our best views were at Quiçama NP (*afer*), but *cranchii* was also seen, near Huambo

Blue Quail *Excalfactoria adansonii* — About six were found by Mark, and flushed for everyone to see

Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata — Heard only

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* — Heard only

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* — Seen near the Kwanza River

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota* — A few at Lobito

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* — Three on a dam near Tundayala

Cape Teal Anas capensis — Several seen at Lobito

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* — Seen at Lobito and Tundavala

Caprimulgidae

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufigena* — Seen quite well at Tundavala (*rufigena*)

Fiery-necked Nightjar Caprimulgus [p.] pectoralis — Day-time views in the Kalandula region and Moco, and nocturnal views at Tundavala (fervidus)

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

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* — Seen well near Huambo (*welwitschii*)

Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* — Some good views along the coastal plain (*benguellensis*)

Böhm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* — Some good views along the coastal plain (*boehmi*)

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus* [p.] parvus — Common (hyphaenes)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* — Seen at and near Tundavala (*africanus*)

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* — Seen at Muxima and a few times thereafter (*aequatorialis*)

Bradfield's Swift *Apus bradfieldi* — Seen at and near Tundavala (*bradfieldi*)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* — Seen regularly (*theresae*)

Horus Swift *Apus horus* — One dark-rumped bird ('toulsoni') was seen among the normal white-rumped birds at Moco (*horus*)

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* — Seen a few times

Musophagidae

 $\label{eq:Great Blue Turaco} \textit{Corythaeola cristata} - \text{Seen on the northern scarp, heard at Kumbira}$

Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa* — Seen on the northern scarp (*zenkeri*)

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

Red-crested Turaco *Tauraco erythrolophus* — Seen in the Kalandula region and Kumbira

Ross's Turaco Musophaga rossae — Seen at Moco

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

Otididae

Rüppell's Korhaan *Eupodotis rueppelii* — Excellent views of two in the coastal deserts (*rueppelii*)

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \bf Red-crested\ Korhaan\ Lophotis\ ruficrista -- Four \\ \bf good\ sightings\ near\ Benguela \\ \end{tabular}$

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* — One for Bob in Quiçama NP

Cuculidae

Gabon Coucal *Centropus anselli* — Good views for all at Kumbira

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* — One seen by the lead vehicle in Quiçama NP

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* — Seen at the Kwanza River, heard on the northern scarp

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

White-browed Coucal Centropus [s.] superciliosus
— Several were seen

Blue Yellowbill [Yellowbill] *Ceuthmochares* [a.] *aereus* — Seen a few times in forest (*aereus*)

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti* — Excellent views in the Kalandula region

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

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx* [m.] mechowi — Good flight views en route to Kalandula

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* — Heard only (*clamosus*)

Red-chested Cuckoo Cuculus solitarius — Heard only

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* — Seen well in the Kalandula region

Pteroclidae

Namaqua Sandgrouse Pterocles namaqua — A good sighting of three near Benguela

Columbidae

Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* — Feral Pigeons were common in the towns and villages

Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta* — Good views on the northern scarp

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques* — Good views on the northern scarp

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* — Seen on the Kwanza River floodplain

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* — Common

Ring-necked Dove / Cape Turtle Dove Streptopelia capicola — Common; damarensis in the south-west and tropica elsewhere

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* — Seen several times (*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 a few times, especially near Benguela (*capensis*)

African Green Pigeon *Treron* [c.] calvus — Seen on several dates (calvus)

Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail Sarothrura pulchra — Heard in the Kalandula region (centralis)

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa* — Heard in the Kalandula region (rufa)

Rallidae

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* — Seen a couple of times

African Swamphen [Swamphen] *Porphyrio* [porphyrio] madagascariensis — Seen at Lobito

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* — A juvenile bird was seen on the Keve River floodplain

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* — Seen at Lobito (*meridionalis*)

Podicipedidae

Birding Africa Tour Report

Little Grebe Tachybaptus [r.] ruficollis — Seen at Tundavala

Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* — Seen along the coast several times

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* — Seen at Benguela, Lobito and Mussulo

Turnicidae

Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* — Two flushed sightings

Burhinidae

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

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* — Seen near Benguela

Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus* [h.] himantopus — Seen a few times

Pied Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta — Seen at Mussulo

Charadriidae

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* — Seen on the Keve River floodplain

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris* — A breeding pair was seen well in Quiçama NP

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

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

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* — Seen along the coast

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius* [t.] tricollaris — Seen at Tundavala and Lobito

White-fronted Plover Charadrius marginatus — Seen at Mussulo (mechowi)

Chestnut-banded Plover Charadrius pallidus — Good views of two at Benguela (pallidus)

Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* — Superb views of two at Muxima

Jacanidae

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* — Several sightings

Scolopacidae

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius* [p.] phaeopus — Seen along the coast (phaeopus)

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* — Seen at Mussulo (*orientalis*)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* — Seen at Mussulo (*lapponica*)

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — Seen at Mussulo and Lobito (*interpres*)

Ruff Calidris pugnax — Seen along the coast

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* — Seen along the coast

Sanderling Calidris alba — Seen at Mussulo

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* — Seen along the coast

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis* — Seen in the Moco region ()

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — Seen a few times

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* — Seen along the coast

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

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — Seen along the coast

Glareolidae

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus* — Excellent views near Benguela

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* — Seen on the Keve and Kwanza floodplains

Laridae

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

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon* [n.] nilotica — One seen at Lobito

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* — Seen along the coast

African Royal Tern [Royal Tern] Thalasseus [maximus] albididorsalis — Seen along the coast (albididorsalis)

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* — Seen along the coast

Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork Mycteria ibis — One at Lobito

African Openbill Anastomus lamelligerus — Seen on the Keve and Kwanza River floodplains (lamelligerus)

Sulidae

Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* — Seen offshore from Benguela

Phalacrocoracidae

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

White-breasted Cormorant [Great Cormorant] Phalacrocorax [carbo] lucidus — Seen along the coast

Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis* — Seen at Benguela

Anhingidae

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* — A couple of sightings along the coast (*rufa*)

Threskiornithidae

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

Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus — Two near Lobito

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* — Several seen along the coast

Ardeidae

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus* [*m.*] *minutus* — One seen by some on the Longa River floodplain

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* — Seen a few times

Western Cattle Egret [Cattle Egret] Bubulcus [i.] ibis — Seen often

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

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

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* — One near Muxima

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

African Great Egret [Great Egret] Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos — Seen in coastal wetlands (melanorhynchos)

Yellow-billed Egret [Intermediate Egret] *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* — Seen in coastal wetlands

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* — Seen at Lobito

Little Egret *Egretta* [*g.*] *garzetta* — Seen in coastal wetlands (*garzetta*)

Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* — Two sightings in the south (*umbretta*)

Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* — Good numbers at Lobito and Mussulo

Pandionidae

Western Osprey [Osprey] *Pandion* [h.] haliaetus

— Two at the Kwanza River

Accipitridae

Birding Africa Tour Report

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

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

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* — The most commonly-seen raptor

African Cuckoo-Hawk Aviceda cuculoides — Good views in the Moco region (verreauxii)

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* — Two seen well near Benguela

Black-chested Snake Eagle Circaetus pectoralis — Seen once

Western Banded Snake Eagle Circaetus cinerascens — Two good sightings

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

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* — Seen en route to Benguela

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

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* — Seen iust once

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* — Seen near Kalandula and in the Moco region

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* — Seen at Tundavala and near Benguela

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* — Michael saw two near Muxima

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

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* — Seen a few times (*gabar*)

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* — A couple were seen in miombo (*mechowi*)

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus* — Seen near Benguela

African Goshawk *Accipiter* [t.] tachiro — A couple of sightings (sparsimfasciatus)

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

Little Sparrowhawk Accipiter minullus — Good views at Muxima

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus* — Seen a few times

Yellow-billed Kite [Black Kite] Milvus [migrans] aegyptius — Seen in the Kalandula area (parasitus)

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* — Seen a few times

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

Augur Buzzard *Buteo* [a.] *augur* — Seen from Moco southwards

Strigidae

African Scops Owl *Otus* [s.] senegalensis — Heard in the Kalandula region

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo* [a.] *africanus* — Heard at Tundavala, and seen by Paul near Huambo

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* — Two excellent day-time sightings

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* — Seen well at Conda

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

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium* [c.] capense — Heard in the Kalandula region and Muxima (ngamiense)

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis* — Good day-time views in the Moco region

Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* — Seen on the northern scarp (*nigricollis*)

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Red-backed Mousebird $Colius$ $castanotus-$} &- Seen \\ \textbf{quite often} & \end{tabular}$

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

Upupidae

African Hoopoe [Hoopoe] *Upupa [epops] africana*— Seen a few times

Phoeniculidae

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* — Seen at Muxima (*angolensis*)

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* — Seen in the north (*anchietae*)

Common Scimitarbill Rhinopomastus cyanomelas
— Seen a couple of times in the south (cyanomelas)

Bucerotidae

Damara Red-billed Hornbill [Red-billed Hornbill] Tockus [erythrorhynchus] damarensis — Seen well in the south

Monteiro's Hornbill *Tockus monteiri* — Seen well in the south

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas* — The endemic subspecies was seen several times along the coastal plain (*elegans*)

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

Congo Pied Hornbill [African Pied Hornbill] *Lophoceros [f.] fasciatus* — Seen on the northern scarp (fasciatus)

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} African Grey Hornbill $Lophoceros \ nasutus - One \\ seen en route to Benguela \\ \end{tabular}$

Pale-billed Hornbill Lophoceros pallidirostris

— Excellent views in the Moco region after they frustrated us in the Kalandula region (pallidirostris)

Eastern Piping Hornbill [Piping Hornbill] *Bycanistes* [fistulator] sharpii — Seen on the northern scarp (sharpii)

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* — Seen at Kumbira

Black-casqued Hornbill Ceratogymna atrata — Seen at Quitexe

Coraciidae

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* — Seen a couple of times along the coast (*mosambicus*)

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

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* — Seen at Quitexe

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* — Heard in the Kalandula region (suahelicus)

Alcedinidae

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

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* — A couple of sightings (*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* [*c.*] *cristatus* — Seen a few times (probably cristatus and galeritus)

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys* — Good views in the Kalandula region

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* — Two good sightings

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

Meropidae

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* — Seen on the northern scarp (australis)

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

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops* [v.] variegatus — Seen in the Moco region (variegatus)

White-fronted Bee-eater Merops bullockoides — Seen at Tundavala

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* — Good views at Muxima (*alternans*)

European Bee-eater Merops apiaster — Seen on the northern escarpment

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli* — Seen briefly on the northern scarp

(Common) Naked-faced Barbet Gymnobucco [c.] calvus — Seen in the northern escarpment forests (congicus)

Angolan Naked-faced Barbet [Naked-faced Barbet | Gymnobucco [calvus] vernayi — Good scope views at Kumbira

Anchieta's Barbet *Stactolaema anchietae* — Several good sightings in the Kalandula region (rex)

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* — Seen on the northern scarp (flavisquamatus)

Western Green Tinkerbird Pogoniulus coryphaea — An excellent sighting of the endemic subspecies at Moco (angolensis)

Red-rumped Tinkerbird Pogoniulus atroflavus — Heard only

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus* [b.] bilineatus — Seen in the northern forests (leucolaimus)

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

Hairy-breasted Barbet Tricholaema hirsuta — Seen at Kumbira and on the northern scarp (angolensis)

Miombo Pied Barbet Tricholaema frontata — Seen well in the Moco region

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

White-bellied Barbet [White-headed Barbet] Lybius [leucocephalus] leucogaster — Excellent views at Tundavala, the second bird tour to ever see this taxon!

Black-collared Barbet Lybius torquatus — Seen a few times

Western Black-backed Barbet Lybius [m.] minor — Seen well at Moco and fairly briefly in the Kalandula region

Eastern Black-backed Barbet [Black-backed **Barbet**] *Lybius* [minor] macclounii — Good views

in the Kalandula region

Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet [Yellow-billed **Barbet**] *Trachyphonus* [p.] purpuratus — Good views on the northern scarp

Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird Prodotiscus insignis — Seen on the northern scarp (insignis)

Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus* — Seen briefly in the Kalandula region

Least Honeyguide Indicator exilis — Seen once on the northern scarp

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator* [m.] minor — Seen a few times

Scaly-throated Honeyguide Indicator variegatus — Seen at Muxima and Kumbira

Greater Honeyguide Indicator indicator — Heard only

Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck Jynx ruficollis — Nice looks at Moco (ruficollis)

Bennett's Woodpecker Campethera [b.] bennettii — Seen at Leba (*capricorni*) and Kalandula (bennetti)

Golden-tailed Woodpecker Campethera abingoni - Seen a few times

Green-backed Woodpecker Campethera [cailliautii] permista — Seen on the northern scarp (permista)

Buff-spotted Woodpecker Campethera nivosa — Seen at Kumbira (nivosa)

Brown-eared Woodpecker Campethera caroli — Seen at Kumbira (caroli)

Bearded Woodpecker Chloropicus namaquus — Seen at Muxima and Leba

Yellow-crested Woodpecker Chloropicus *xantholophus* — Seen near Uíge

Cardinal Woodpecker Dendropicos fuscescens — Seen regularly

Elliot's Woodpecker Dendropicos [e.] elliotii — Seen at Quitexe (gabela)

Olive Woodpecker Dendropicos griseocephalus — Seen at Moco and Tundavala (ruwenzori)

Falconidae

Rock Kestrel [Common Kestrel] Falco [tinnunculus] rupicolus — Good views at Tundavala

Grev Kestrel Falco ardosiaceus — Seen by the lead vehicle near Conda

African Hobby Falco cuvierii — Excellent views en route to Moco

Lanner Falcon Falco biarmicus — Seen several times (biarmicus)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco* [p.] peregrinus — Seen at Tundavala (minor)

Psittacidae

Red-fronted Parrot Poicephalus gulielmi — Flight views on the northern scarp (gulielmi)

Meyer's Parrot Poicephalus meyeri — Seen in the Kalandula region and between Lubango and Huambo (reichenowi)

Rüppell's Parrot Poicephalus rueppellii — Good views in the Benguela area after being seen in Quicama NP

Psittaculidae

Red-headed Lovebird Agapornis pullarius — Good views in the Kalandula region

Rosy-faced Lovebird Agapornis roseicollis — Some great looks at Leba (catumbella)

Calyptomenidae

African Broadbill Smithornis capensis — Great looks in the Kalandula region (albigularis)

Platysteiridae

Margaret's Batis *Batis margaritae* — Absolutely fantastic views at Moco (margaritae)

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

Pririt Batis *Batis pririt* — Good views in the arid south (affinis)

Western Black-headed Batis Batis erlangeri — One on the northern scarp

Angola Batis *Batis minulla* — Good views at Caxito, Muxima and Kumbira

White-tailed Shrike Lanioturdus torquatus — Good looks in the Benguela and Leba areas

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira* [c.] castanea — Seen well at Kumbira

Black-throated Wattle-eye Platysteira peltata — Seen a few times (mentalis)

White-fronted Wattle-eye Platysteira albifrons — Great looks at Caxito and Muxima

Eastern Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye [Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye | Platysteira [concreta] ansorgei — Fantastic views at Kumbira (ansorgei)

Malaconotidae

Monteiro's Bushshrike Malaconotus monteiri — Good views at Caxito

Grey-headed Bushshrike Malaconotus blanchoti — Seen a couple of times in miombo (*interpositus*)

Many-coloured Bushshrike Chlorophoneus multicolor — Seen at Kumbira (batesi)

Bocage's Bushshrike Chlorophoneus bocagei — Seen on the northern scarp (bocagei)

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

Gorgeous Bushshrike Telophorus viridis — Nice looks in the Kalandula region (viridis)

Marsh Tchagra Bocagia minuta — Nice views in the Kalandula region (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 [Lühder's Bushshrike]

Laniarius [luehderi] brauni — Good looks near

Ouitexe

Gabela Bushshrike [Lühder's Bushshrike]

Laniarius [luehderi] amboimensis — Good views at Kumbira

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius* [aethiopicus] major — Seen on the plateau (major)

Swamp Boubou *Laniarius bicolor* — Seen a few times on the coastal plain (*guttatus*)

Brubru *Nilaus afer* — Good views in the Kalandula region and near Lubango (*affinis*)

Vangidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* — Seen several times (*poliocephalus*)

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* — Most numerous in the Kalandula region (*nigricans*)

Gabela Helmetshrike *Prionops gabela* — Great views at Caxito and Muxima

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher Bias musicus
— Seen on the northern scarp

Campephagidae

White-breasted Cuckooshrike Ceblepyris pectoralis — A couple of sightings in miombo woodland

Black Cuckooshrike Campephaga flava — Seen a few times

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti* — Seen well in the Kalandula region

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike Campephaga quiscalina — Seen on the northern scarp (quiscalina)

Laniidae

Southern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus anguitimens* — Seen near Benguela (*anguitimens*)

Sousa's Shrike *Lanius souzae* — Great views in the Moco region

Northern Fiscal [Common Fiscal] *Lanius* [collaris] humeralis — Seen regularly on the plateau (capelli)

Southern Fiscal [Common Fiscal] *Lanius* [c.] *collaris* — Seen in the south-west (*aridicolus*)

Oriolidae

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

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* — Seen on the northern scarp

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* — Some good looks in miombo woodland (*notatus*)

Dicruridae

Common Square-tailed Drongo [Square-tailed Drongo] Dicrurus [l.] ludwigii — Seen en route to Benguela

Sharpe's Drongo [Square-tailed Drongo] Dicrurus [ludwigii] sharpei — Seen in the Kalandula region (saturnus)

Southern Fork-tailed Drongo [Fork-tailed Drongo] *Dicrurus [a.] adsimilis* — Seen regularly (apivorus)

Velvet-mantled Drongo Dicrurus [m.] modestus
— Seen along the northern escarpment (coracinus)

Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* — Seen at Quitexe and Kumbira (*nitens*)

Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher [African Paradise Flycatcher] Terpsiphone [viridis] rufocinerea — Seen at Uíge

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone* [v.] *viridis* — Seen regularly (*plumbeiceps*)

Corvidae

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis* — Seen on the Namibe day trip

Pied Crow Corvus albus — Common

Stenostiridae

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

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* — Seen at Moco

Paridae

White-winged Black Tit Melaniparus leucomelas
— Seen a few times on the plateau (insignis)

Carp's Tit *Melaniparus carpi* — Seen near Benguela

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus* — Seen at Kumbira (*gabela*)

Rufous-bellied Tit *Melaniparus* [r.] rufiventris — Great views in the Moco region (rufiventris)

Miombo Tit *Melaniparus griseiventris* — Seen twice in the Moco region

Ashy Tit *Melaniparus cinerascens* — Seen on the Namibe day trip

Remizidae

Grey Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus* [c.] caroli — Seen well in the Moco region (ansorgei)

Cape Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus minutus* — Seen on the Namibe day trip

Nicatoridae

Yellow-throated Nicator *Nicator vireo* — Seen well on the northern scarp and at Kumbira

Alaudidae

Benguela Long-billed Lark [Karoo Long-billed Lark] Certhilauda [subcoronata] benguelensis — Good views on the Namibe day trip (benguelensis)

Sabota Lark *Calendulauda sabota* — Seen near Benguela (*ansorgei*)

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra* [a.] africana — Seen at Tundavala (occidentalis)

Flappet Lark Mirafra rufocinnamomea — Seen en route to Lubango (fischeri)

Angola Lark *Mirafra angolensis* — Seen well at Moco (*angolensis*)

Stark's Lark *Spizocorys starki* — Three seen well on the Namibe day trip

Southern Red-capped Lark [Red-capped Lark]
Calandrella [c.] cinerea — Seen in the Moco region

Pycnonotidae

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

Dark-capped Bulbul [Common Bulbul]Pycnonotus [barbatus] tricolor — Common (tricolor)

Slender-billed Greenbul Stelgidillas gracilirostris
— Seen on the northern scarp (gracilirostris)

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* — Seen in the Kalandula region (*virens*)

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris* — Seen on the northern scarp (*curvirostris*)

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* — Seen at Kumbira (*latirostris*)

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* — Seen along the northern scarp (*indicator*)

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*— Several good views (*occidentalis*)

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

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex* — Good views on the northern scarp

Pale-throated Leaflove [Yellow-throated Leaflove] Atimastillas [flavicollis] flavigula — Seen a few times (flavigula)

Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura* — Brief views for Michael on the northern scarp

Pale-olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus fulviventris* — Seen well a few times

Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus* [c.] cabanisi — Seen in the Kalandula region (cabanisi)

Angolan White-throated Greenbul [White-throated Greenbul] *Phyllastrephus [albigularis] viridiceps* — Good views on the northern scarp

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* — Good views at Kumbira

Black-collared Bulbul *Neolestes torquatus* — Seen well in the Moco region

Hirundinidae

Birding Africa Tour Report

Black Saw-wing Psalidoprocne pristoptera — Several sightings (reichenowi)

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*— Several good views, especially in the Moco region

Brazza's Martin *Phedina brazzae* — Excellent views in the Moco region

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia* [p.] paludicola — Seen by some in the Moco region (paludicola)

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* — Michael saw one on the Moco region (*xerica*)

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* — Seen regularly in small numbers

White-throated Swallow Hirundo albigularis — Seen on the plateau

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* — Seen along the coastal plain (*smithii*)

Black-and-rufous Swallow *Hirundo nigrorufa* — Some good looks in the Moco region

Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata* — Seen in the Moco region (*marwitzi*)

Large Rock Martin [Rock Martin] Ptyonoprogne [f.] fuligula — Seen at Tundavala (anderssoni)

Red-throated Rock Martin [Rock Martin]
Ptyonoprogne [fuligula] rufigula — Seen at Moco (rufigula)

Greater Striped Swallow *Cecropis cucullata* — Seen in the Moco region

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

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa* — Seen near Lubango (*semirufa*)

Red-throated Cliff Swallow Petrochelidon rufigula — Many seen on the plateau

Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* — Nice views in the Kalandula region (*mentalis*)

Rockrunner *Achaetops pycnopygius* — Good views at Tundavala (*spadix*)

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans* — Heard near Quitexe (*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 Kalandula region (*ruficapilla*)

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

Hyliidae

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* — Seen along the scarp (*prasina*)

Acrocephalidae

Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens* — Seen at the Keve river and in the Moco region

Lesser Swamp Warbler Acrocephalus gracilirostris
— Seen en route to Lubango (winterbottomi)

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* — Seen a few times (*major*)

Locustellidae

Broad-tailed Warbler *Catriscus brevirostris* — Nice looks in the Moco region (*alexinae*)

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

Little Rush Warbler Bradypterus [b.] baboecala — Heard at the Keve River (benguellensis)

Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* — Seen a few times (*lepe*)

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* — Seen in the Kalandula region (*modestus*)

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

Huambo Cisticola [Rock-loving Cisticola] *Cisticola [aberrans] bailunduensis* — Seen in the Moco region

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* — Seen at Leba (*smithersi*)

Tinkling Cisticola *Cisticola rufilatus* — Seen well near Lubango (*ansorgei*)

Grey-backed Cisticola *Cisticola subruficapilla* — Seen on the Namibe day trip (*newtoni*)

Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola [l.] lais* — Common at Tundavala and Moco (*namba*)

Chirping Cisticola *Cisticola pipiens* — Seen several times in the Moco region (*pipiens*)

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus* — Good views in the Moco region (*angolensis*)

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* — Seen in the Moco region (*huambo*)

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* — Seen a few times (*loanda*)

Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla* — Seen a few times (*dispar*)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* — Seen in the Moco region (*terrestris*)

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* — Seen on the Namibe day trip and at Benguela (*lobito*)

Wing-snapping Cisticola *Cisticola ayresii* — Seen at Tundavala (*ayresii*)

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* — Widespread

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

Banded Prinia *Prinia* [b.] bairdii — Seen on the northern scarp (heinrichi)

White-chinned Prinia Schistolais leucopogon — Seen on the northern scarp (leucopogon)

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis* [f.] flavida — Seen a couple of times along the coastal plain (flavida)

Lowland Masked Apalis *Apalis binotata* — Seen at Quitexe

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni* — Seen on the central scarp (*jacksoni*)

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis* [r.] rufogularis — Seen along the central (*brauni*) and northern escarpment (*angolensis*)

Grey Apalis *Apalis* [c.] cinerea — Seen at Moco (grandis)

Brown-headed Apalis [Grey Apalis] *Apalis* [cinerea] alticola — Seen in the Kalandula region (alticola)

Grey-backed Camaroptera [Bleating Camaroptera] Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata — Seen several times in the south

Hartert's Camaroptera [Bleating Camaroptera] Camaroptera [brachyura] harterti — Seen on the northern and central scarp

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris* — Seen well on the northern scarp

Miombo Wren-Warbler [Pale Wren-Warbler] Calamonastes [u.] undosus — Several sightings in miombo woodland (huilae)

Barred Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes fasciolatus* — Seen near Benguela

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela* [i.] *icteropygialis* — Seen in the arid south-west (*puellula*)

Salvadori's Eremomela [Yellow-bellied Eremomela] Eremomela [icteropygialis] salvadorii — Seen in the Moco region

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

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* — Good looks on the northern scarp

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

Pellorneidae

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* — Seen at Kumbira and Kalandula (*dilutior*)

Leiothrichidae

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

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* — Seen twice (*hyposticta*)

Hartlaub's Babbler *Turdoides hartlaubii* — Seen in the Moco region (*hartlaubii*)

Sylviidae

African Hill Babbler Pseudoalcippe [a.] abyssinica
— Seen well at Moco (ansorgei)

Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler Sylvia subcoerulea
— Seen inland of Benguela

Zosteropidae

Southern Yellow White-eye [African Yellow White-eye] Zosterops [senegalensis] anderssoni — Many at Kumbira (kwanzae) and at Lubango (probably anderssoni)

Hyliotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* — Several sightings in Miombo (*barbozae*)

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota* [a.] australis — Seen at Kumbira

Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper Salpornis salvadori — A couple of good sightings in the Moco region (salvadori)

Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* — Seen at the Keve River

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

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

Benguela Long-tailed Starling [Meves's Long-tailed Starling] Lamprotornis [mevesii] benguelensis — Seen near Leba (benguelensis)

Sharp-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis acuticaudus* — Seen well in the Kalandula region (*acuticaudus*)

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

Forest Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus* — Some good views along the northern escarpment (*intermedius*)

Pale-winged Starling Onychognathus nabouroup
— Seen near Benguela

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris* — Seen on the northern scarp

Buphagidae

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

Turdidae

Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush Stizorhina [f.] fraseri
— Seen on the northern scarp and at Kumbira
(rubicunda)

Common Groundscraper Thrush [Groundscraper Thrush] *Turdus* [l.] litsitsirupa — Seen in the south (paucigu)

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* — Seen several times (*bocagei*)

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana* — Seen in the Moco region

Muscicapidae

Forest Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucosticta* — Good views at Muxima

Miombo Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas barbata* — Nice views in the Moco region

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

Brown-backed Scrub Robin Cercotrichas hartlaubi — Seen along the northern scarp

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* — Seen a few times

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis* — Seen along the northern scarp

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* — Seen a couple of times

Angola Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis brunneus* — Seen at Moco (*bailunduensis*)

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* — Several sightings (*pammelaina*)

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* — Seen in the Moco region (*murinus*)

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

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* — Seen along the escarpment (*impavida*)

Cassin's Grey Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini* — Seen en route to Uíge

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

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata* — Seen on the northern scarp (*infuscata*)

Böhm's Flycatcher *Muscicapa boehmi* — Good views in the Moco region

Brown-chested Alethe Chamaetylas poliocephala
— One seen well at Kumbira

Angola Cave Chat *Cossypha ansorgei* — Superb views at Tundavala

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera* — Seen well in the Kalandula region (*polioptera*)

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

Red-capped Robin-Chat Cossypha natalensis — Heard at Kumbira (larischi)

White-headed Robin-Chat Cossypha heinrichi — Good views of this smart bird in the Kalandula region

Bocage's Akalat *Sheppardia* [b.] bocagei — Seen at Moco (bocagei)

Gabela Akalat *Sheppardia gabela* — Good views at Bango and Kumbira

Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush *Cichladusa ruficauda*— Several good views

Short-toed Rock Thrush *Monticola brevipes* — Nice looks at Tundavala (*brevipes*)

Miombo Rock Thrush Monticola angolensis — Nice views at Tundavala and in the Moco region (angolensis)

African Stonechat [Common Stonechat] Saxicola [t.] torquatus — Regular in the highlands (stonei)

Karoo Chat *Emarginata schlegelii* — Quite common in the south-west

Tractrac Chat *Emarginata tractrac* — One seen in the south-west (*hoeschi*)

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* — Several seen on the plateau

Mountain Wheatear Myrmecocichla monticola — Seen in the south-west (albipileata) and at Moco (nigricauda)

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* — Seen at Moco (*neseri*)

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* — Seen a few times (*angolensis*)

Nectariniidae

Anchieta's Sunbird *Anthreptes anchietae* — Seen well in the Kalandula and Moco regions

Mangrove Brown 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 on the northern scarp (*minor*)

Grey-chinned Green Sunbird *Anthreptes* [rectirostris] tephrolaemus — Seen well in the Kalandula region (tephrolaemus)

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

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* — Seen along the escarpment (*cyanocephala*)

Bannerman's Sunbird *Cyanomitra bannermani* — Seen well in the Kalandula region

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* — Heard on the northern scarp (octaviae)

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

Carmelite Sunbird *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* — Seen en route to Uíge (*fuliginosa*)

Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens* — Seen on the northern scarp (*rubescens*)

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

Scarlet-chested Sunbird Chalcomitra senegalensis
— Several seen (saturatior)

Bocage's Sunbird *Nectarinia bocagii* — Fantastic views in the Moco region

Birding Africa Tour Report

Bronzy Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* — Good looks at Moco (*gadowi*)

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

Western Miombo Sunbird [Miombo Double-collared Sunbird] Cinnyris [manoensis] gertrudis — Good views in the Moco region (pintoi)

Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris* [l.] *ludovicensis* — Seen well at Tundavala and Moco (*ludovicensis*)

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

Orange-tufted Sunbird *Cinnyris bouvieri* — Seen well on the northern scarp

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae* — Seen briefly on the northern scarp

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

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

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} White-bellied Sunbird \it Cinnyris talatala -- Seen in the south (\it talatala) \end{tabular}$

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* — Seen at Tundavala (*falkensteini*)

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus* — Seen in the coastal deserts (*inclusus*)

Bates's Sunbird *Cinnyris batesi* — Seen in the Kalandula region

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* — A few seen in the north (*chalceus*)

Passeridae

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

Great Sparrow *Passer motitensis* — Great views near Benguela (*benguellensis*)

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

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow Passer [g.] griseus — Seen from Muxima northwards (ugandae)

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

Yellow-throated Petronia *Gymnoris superciliaris* — Common in miombo (*rufitergum*)

Ploceidae

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

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

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

Black-chinned Weaver Ploceus nigrimentus — Good views at the nest at Moco

Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni* — Seen at the Keve River

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* — Seen at Lubango (*crocatus*)

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus* [n.] nigricollis — Several sightings (nigricollis)

Bocage's Weaver *Ploceus temporalis* — Great views of lovely males in the Moco region

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

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* — Nonbreeding birds seen in the south (*velatus*)

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

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus* [n.] *nigerrimus* — Seen in the northern areas (*nigerrimus*)

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* — Seen on the northern scarp (*interscapularis*)

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

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

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Crested Malimbe} & \textit{Malimbus malimbicus} - \texttt{Seen} \\ \textbf{on the northern scarp} & (\textit{malimbicus}) \end{tabular}$

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* — Seen a few times (*lathamii*)

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* — Seen near Uíge

Golden-backed Bishop *Euplectes aureus* — Nonbreeding birds seen well at Muxima and Caxito

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)

Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird Euplectes hartlaubi — Several non-breeding males seen well in the Moco region (hartlaubi)

White-winged Widowbird Euplectes albonotatus
— Seen by Michael (asymmetrurus)

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes* [a.] ardens — Seen several times

Estrildidae

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

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor* — Good views on the northern scarp

Pale-fronted Nigrita *Nigrita luteifrons* — Seen both on the northern scarp and at Kumbira, where a first

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

White-collared Oliveback *Nesocharis ansorgei* — Seen briefly on the northern scarp

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afra* — Excellent views in the Moco region

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

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* — Seen briefly at Kumbira and Uíge (*ruficapilla*)

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri* — Quite good views in the Kalandula region

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea* — Good looks at Moco (*cinereovinacea*)

Brown Firefinch *Lagonosticta nitidula* — Seen a few times in the Moco region

Landana Firefinch [African Firefinch]

Lagonosticta [rubricata] landanae — Seen a few times in the Kalandula region and Kumbira

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* — Seen well at Lubango and briefly in the Kalandula region (ansorgei)

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* — Common (angolensis)

Violet-eared Waxbill *Uraeginthus granatinus* — Seen at Tundavala (*siccatus*)

Angolan Swee Waxbill [Swee Waxbill] Coccopygia [melanotis] bocagei — Nice looks at Moco and brief views at Tundavala

Grey Waxbill *Estrilda perreini* — Several good sightings in the north (*perreini*)

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda* [p.] paludicola — Several sightings (benguellensis)

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* — Seen at Kumbira (*melpoda*)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda* [a.] astrild — Several sightings (subspecies not identified)

Orange-breasted Waxbill Amandava subflava
— A couple of sightings in the Moco region
(niethammeri)

Locust Finch *Paludipasser locustella* — Good views of males and females on the ground in the Moco region (*uelensis*)

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

Black-and-white Mannikin Lonchura [b.] bicolor
— Seen along the escarpment (woltersi)

Viduidae

Dusky Indigobird *Vidua funerea* — A nonbreeding bird seen in the Moco region

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura — Only nonbreeding birds seen

Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah Vidua obtusa — Fantastic males in full breeding plumage were seen in the Kalandula area

Motacillidae

Cape Wagtail Motacilla capensis — Seen at Lubango

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* — Seen by Michael on the Lucala River

Fülleborn's Longclaw Macronyx fuelleborni — Seen a few times in the Moco region (ascensi)

Rosy-throated Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae* — A surprise sighting between Huambo and Lubango

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

Nicholson's Pipit [Long-billed Pipit] Anthus [similis] nicholsoni — Seen on top of Moco (moco)

Wood Pipit *Anthus nyassae* — Quite common in miombo from Lubango to Moco (schoutedeni)

Buffy Pipit Anthus vaalensis — Seen at Tundavala and en route to Lubango (neumanni)

Plain-backed Pipit Anthus leucophrys — Seen in the Moco region (bohndorffi)

Long-legged Pipit Anthus pallidiventris — Seen along the Kwanza River

Striped Pipit Anthus lineiventris — Great views at Moco

Fringillidae

Black-faced Canary Crithagra capistrata — Good sightings on several occasions (hildegardae)

Black-throated Canary Crithagra atrogularis — Seen in the Moco region

Yellow-fronted Canary Crithagra mozambica — Several sightings

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 Moco

Yellow-crowned Canary Serinus flavivertex — Seen at Tundavala and Moco (huillensis)

Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting Emberiza [t.] tahapisi — Seen at Tundavala and Moco (nivenorum)

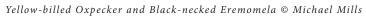
Golden-breasted Bunting Emberiza flaviventris — Seen a few times

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* — Seen in the Kalandula region (orientalis)









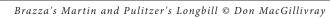






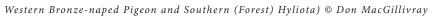




















Pale-billed Hornbill and Senegal Lapwing © Don MacGillivray





