

Gabon

2025 Trip Report



Eastern Wattled Cuckooshrike © Rob Hutchinson

*Text by Michael Mills
Photographs by Rob Hutchinson and Michael Mills*

SUMMARY

For those willing to endure some significant hardships, Gabon offers unparalleled lowland forest birding on the African continent. Our usual circuit took in Lekoni, Ipassa, Lope and Loango, with top ten birds African River Martin nesting in the hundreds; prolonged views of Eastern Wattled Cuckooshrike; point-blank views of Plumed Guineafowl; roosting Nkulengu Rail; perched Lyre-tailed Honeyguide; Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike; close-up Pel's Fishing Owl; eye-level Yellow-throated Cuckoo; perched Black-collared Lovebird; and breeding Rosy Bee-eater.

We started off with a flight to Franceville. A detour to the Lastoursville area was rewarded with Black-headed Waxbill and Bates's Swift, before we paused at Bongoville for Black-headed Bee-eater. Lekoni rewarded us with excellent views of Finsch's Francolin, Short-tailed Pipit on the ground, and Black-chinned Weaver. Back at Bongoville we enjoyed an outrageous three hours of birding, seeing perched Congo Serpent Eagle, Long-tailed Hawk, Lyre-tailed Honeyguide and Thick-billed Cuckoo, plus Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike and Yellow-throated Cuckoo. Fiery-breasted Bushshrike followed in the Franceville area. The long drive from Franceville to Makokou didn't give us too much time to stop, but we scored an incredible Eastern Wattled Cuckooshrike next to the road, for prolonged views. At Ipassa we immersed ourselves in lowland forest birding, with top birds including Plumed Guineafowl, Black Guineafowl,

Nkulengu Rail, Vermiculated Fishing Owl, Sjostedt's Owlet, Western Black Dwarf Hornbill, African Dwarf Kingfisher, Gabon Batis, Woodhouse's Antpecker, Blue-headed Bee-eater, Bates's Nightjar and Spot-breasted Ibis. From here we journeyed onto Lope, where Dja River Warbler, Latham's Forest Francolin, Spotted Honeyguide and Grey-headed Broadbill were among the most popular finds. Finally we made our way to Loango, with an overnight stay in Port Gentil bringing Loango Weaver, the drive to Omboue entertaining with breeding Rosy Bee-eater, the Mpivie River giving brilliant Pel's Fishing Owl, and Loango itself bringing Congo Serpent Eagle, White-backed Night Heron, Red-thighed Sparrowhawk and Violet-tailed Sunbird and Vermiculated Fishing Owl. Spectacular mammals included Forest Elephant, Red River Hog, Tree Pangolin and a good variety of primates.

African River Martin © Rob Hutchinson



Plumed Guineafowl © Rob Hutchinson

ITINERARY

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 17 Sep: Arrive Libreville. | 29–30 Sep: Lope. |
| 18 Sep: To Lastoursville via Franceville. | 1 Oct: To Libreville. |
| 19 Sep: To Lekoni via Bongoville. | 2 Oct: To Port Gentil. |
| 20–21 Sep: Lekoni. | 3 Oct: To Omboue, with Mpivie River. |
| 22 Sep: To Franceville via Bongoville. | 4 Oct: To Loango. |
| 23 Sep: To Makokou. | 5 Oct: Loango. |
| 24–27 Sep: Ipassa. | 6 Oct: To Libreville via Port Gentil. |
| 28 Sep: To Lope via Booue. | |

BIRDS RECORDED

Numididae

Black Guinea fowl *Agelastes niger*—Seen twice at Ipassa and once at Loango

Plumed Guinea fowl *Guttera plumifera*—Excellent views of a flock of c 20 at Ipassa (*plumifera*)

Phasianidae

Latham's Forest Francolin *Peliperdix lathamii*—Excellent views at Loape (*lathamii*)

Coqui Francolin *Campocolinus coqui*—Heard at Lekoni (*coqui*)

Finsch's Francolin *Scleroptila finschi*—Good views at Lekoni

Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus*—Brief views

Red-necked Spur fowl *Pternistis afer*—Recorded at Lekoni (*cranchii*)

Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*—Many at Loango

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*—One at Loango

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*—Several good views

Caprimulgidae

Brown Nightjar *Veles binotatus*—Seen briefly at Ipassa

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus [p.] pectoralis*—Hard at Lekoni (*fervidus*)

Swamp Nightjar *Caprimulgus natalensis*—Excellent views at Lekoni and Loape (*natalensis*)

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma*—Seen at Loape

Bates's Nightjar *Caprimulgus batesi*—Good views at Ipassa and Loango

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*—Good views at Lekoni where in full song (*sclateri*)

Apodidae

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*—Several seen

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini*—Several seen

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

Common Swift *Apus apus*—Numerous at Lekoni (*apus*)

Little Swift *Apus affinis*—Common and widespread (*aerobates*)

Horus Swift *Apus horus*—Seen at Lekoni

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*—Seen by some at Lekoni

Bates's Swift *Apus batesi*—Excellent views at Lastoursville and Loape

Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*—Seen

Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa*—Seen (*zenkeri*)

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus*—Seen (*verreauxii*)

Otididae

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*—Good views at Lekoni (*mackenziei*)

Cuculidae

Gabon Coucal *Centropus anelli*—Seen at Ipassa

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*—Seen (*senegalensis*)

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*—Seen several times (*occidentalis*)

Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*—Seen at Loango

Blue Yellowbill *Ceuthmochares [a.] aereus*—Several sightings in forest (*aereus*)

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*—Seen at Lastoursville

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti*—Seen well at Bongoville (*brazzae*)

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*—Seen

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*—Widespread, but mostly heard

Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*—Superb views at Bongoville

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*—Seen well a few times

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx [m.] mechowi*—Seen well at Lekoni

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*—Seen at Lekoni

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*—Seen at Ipassa (*gabonensis*)

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*—Seen

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*—Seen at Lekoni

Columbidae

Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*—Seen

Afep Pigeon *Columba uncinata*—Good numbers near Franceville

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*—Two seen in flight between Franceville and Makokou

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*—Common

Cape Turtle Dove | Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*—Seen at Lekoni (*tropica*)

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*—Seen at Port Gentil

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*—Common

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*—Seen

Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri*—Seen at Ipassa and Loango (*brehmeri*)

African Green Pigeon *Treron [c.] calvus*—Quite common and widespread (*calvus*)

Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*—Heard only (*zenkeri*)

Heliornithidae

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*—Excellent views at Loango (*senegalensis*)

Rallidae

Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus*—Excellent views at Ipassa

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*—Seen

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—Seen

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus [r.] ruficollis*—Seen

Turnicidae

Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*—Seen (*buettikoferi*)

Charadriidae

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*—Seen from Loape coastwards

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris*—Seen at Loango

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*—One heard distantly at Lekoni was not followed up on due to other priority birds and would have been a country first

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*—Seen at Loango

Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi*—Seen at Loape and Loango

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*—Seen at Loango

Jacaniidae

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*—Good numbers at Loango

Scolopacidae

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

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*—Seen along the coast

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*—Seen along the coast

Sanderling *Calidris alba*—Seen along the coast

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—Widespread sightings

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*—One at Loango

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—Seen along the coast

Glareolidae

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*—Two sightings at Lekoni

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*—Excellent views at Lastoursville

Laridae

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*—Seen

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*—Seen along the coast

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

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*—Common along the coast (*hirundo*)

Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*—Several at Loango

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*—One at Loango for some of the group

African Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis*—Seen several times

Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant | Long-tailed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*—Seen (*africanus*)

Anhingidae

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*—Seen (*rufa*)

Threskiornithidae

Olive Ibis *Bostrychia olivacea*—Three were seen perched at Ipassa by some of the group

Spot-breasted Ibis *Bostrychia rara*—Superb flight views at Ipassa

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*—Seen (*brevirostris*)

Ardeidae

White-crested Tiger Heron *Tigriornis leucolopha*—Heard and seen briefly at Mpivie River

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus [m.] minutus*—Two sightings at Loango

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus*—Excellent views at Loango

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—Seen (*nycticorax*)

Striated Heron *Butorides [s.] striata*—Seen (*atricapilla*)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*—Seen at Loango

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus [i.] ibis*—Common

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

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*—Seen at Loango

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—Seen at Loango (*purpurea*)

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—Seen

Little Egret *Egretta [g.] garzetta*—Seen

Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*—Quite a few at Loango (*umbretta*)

Pelecanidae

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*—Seen in the coastal wetlands

Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—A couple at Loango

Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*—Seen on the coast

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*—Several seen (*pectoralis*)

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*—Very common along the coast

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*—Seen

Congo Serpent Eagle *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*—Good views at Loango and Lastoursville (*batesi*)

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*—One seen

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*—Seen

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*—One at Lekoni (*monogrammicus*)

Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus*—Superb views at Bongoville and between Franceville and Makokou

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter [tachiro] toussenelii*—Seen at Lope (*toussenelii*)

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*—Two sightings at Lope and one at Loango

African Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga vocifer*—Several at Loango

Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl *Tyto [a.] alba*—Seen at Lekoni (*affinis*)

Strigidae

Southern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis granti*—Heard at Lekoni

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo [a.] africanus*—Heard at Lekoni

Akun Eagle-Owl *Ketupa leucosticta*—Rob saw one at Ipassa

Pel's Fishing Owl *Scotopelia peli*—Incredible views at Mpivie River

Vermiculated Fishing Owl *Scotopelia bouvieri*—Incredible views at Loango, but first seen at Ipassa

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*—Heard

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*—Heard at Lope

Sjöstedt's Barred Owlet *Glaucidium sjostedti*—Two good sightings at Ipassa

Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*—Seen around Franceville (*nigricollis*)

Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*—Heard at Lope (*brachyurum*)

Upupidae**Phoeniculidae**

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*—Brief views at Lekoni (*anchietae*)

Bucerotidae

Congo Pied Hornbill *Lophoceros [f.] fasciatus*—Common

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Lophoceros camurus*—Seen well a few times

Eastern Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes [fistulator] sharpii*—Common in forested areas (*sharpii*)

White-thighed Hornbill *Bycanistes albotibialis*—Seen at Ipassa

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*—Good numbers

Western Black Dwarf Hornbill *Horizocerus [h.] hartlaubi*—Good views at Ipassa

Eastern White-crested Hornbill *Horizocerus [albocristatus] cassini*—Good views at Ipassa

Coraciidae

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*—Good views at Bongoville (*neglectus*)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*—Seen by some at Lekoni

Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*—Great views at Ipassa

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*—Seen at Lope

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*—Seen at Lekoni (*prentissgrayi*)

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*—Heard at Lekoni (*chelicuti*)

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*—Seen a couple of times (*malimbica*)

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*—Common in open areas

African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei*—Excellent views at Ipassa

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

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis [c.] cristatus*—Seen (*cristatus*)

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*—Several at Loango (*guentheri*)

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*—Common at Loango

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*—Seen a few times (*rudis*)

Meropidae

Black-headed Bee-eater *Merops breweri*—Good views at Bongoville

Blue-headed Bee-eater *Merops muelleri*—Excellent views at Ipassa

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*—Seen (*australis*)

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

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops [v.] variegatus*—Many good sightings (*variegatus*)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*—Seen by some at Lekoni

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*—Seen at Franceville

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*—Seen at Lekoni

Rosy Bee-eater *Merops malimbicus*—Thousands seen well at Loango

Lybiidae

Western Grey-throated Barbet *Gymnobucco [b.] bonapartei*—Seen at Franceville

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli*—Seen near Franceville

(Common) Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco [c.] calvus*—Seen near Bongoville (*calvus*)

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*—Seen (*flavisquamatus*)

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus*—Seen at Ipassa

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*—Seen (*flavimentum*)

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

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*—Seen at Lekoni (*chrysoconus*)

Eastern Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon [d.] duchaillui*—Seen

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*—Seen (*flavipunctata*)

Eastern Black-backed Barbet *Lybius [minor] macclounii*—Seen at Lekoni

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*—Seen at Lekoni

Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus [p.] purpuratus*—Seen (*purpuratus*)

Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*—Seen at Ipassa (*insignis*)

Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii*—Good views at Ipassa (*willcocksii*)

Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis*—Seen at Bongoville

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator [m.] minor*—Seen

Spotted Honeyguide *Indicator maculatus*—Seen well at Lope

Lyre-tailed Honeyguide *Melichneutes robustus*—Superb perched views at Bongoville

Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis*—Seen at Lekoni

African Piculet *Verreauxia africana*—Seen well

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*—Seen at Lekoni

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera [cailliautii] permista*—Several sightings

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Pardipicus nivosus*—Heard

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Pardipicus caroli*—Seen at Ipassa (*caroli*)

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Chloropicus xantholophus*—Seen at Ipassa

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*—Seen (*sharpii*)

Gabon Woodpecker *Dendropicos [g.] gabonensis*—Seen at Franceville and Ipassa (*gabonensis*)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco [p.] peregrinus*—Seen at Lekoni

Psittacidae

Grey Parrot *Psittacus [e.] erithacus*—Many great sightings

Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*—Brief views in flight at Lastoursville

Black-collared Lovebird *Agapornis swindernianus*—Incredible perched views between Franceville and Lastoursville

Calyptomenidae

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*—Good views at Lekoni

Grey-headed Broadbill *Smithornis sharpei*—Super views at Lope

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis*—Seen well at Ipassa

Platysteiridae

Chin-spot Batis *Batis molitor*—Seen at Lekoni (*pintoi*)

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri*—Seen at Lekoni

Angola Batis *Batis minulla*—Seen at Lekoni

Gabon Batis *Batis minima*—Seen at Ipassa

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*—Several seen

White-spotted Wattle-eye *Platysteira tonsa*—Seen at Ipassa

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*—Seen (*cyanea*)

Eastern Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira [concreta] ansorgei*—Good views at Ipassa

Malaconotidae

Fiery-breasted Bushshrike *Malaconotus cruentus*—Seen quite well near Franceville

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor*—Seen well near Franceville

Bocage's Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei*—Seen by some at Lekoni (*bocagei*)

Gorgeous Bushshrike *Telophorus viridis*—
Good views at Lekoni (*viridis*)

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*—
Heard (*emini*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*—A
few at Lekoni (*armenus*)

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabini*—Seem en
route to Makokou

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*—
Seen near Franceville

Red-eyed Puffback *Dryoscopus senegalensis*—
Seen well

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*—
Seen at Lekoni (*congicus*)

Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius
leucorhynchus*—Seen well between
Lastoursville and Franceville

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius [l.] luehderi*—
Seen at Lekoni

Swamp Boubou *Laniarius bicolor*—Seen well
at Loango

Vangidae

Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike *Prionops
[caniceps] rufiventris*—Good views near
Franceville, and also seen at Pongara
(*rufiventris*)

(African) Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas
flammulatus*—Seen near Ombooue

Black-and-white Flycatcher *Bias musicus*—
Seen well at Bongoville and Lekoni (*musicus*)

Campephagidae

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*—Seen
at Lekoni

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga
quiscalina*—Seen en route to Makokou

Eastern Wattled Cuckooshrike *Lobotos
oriolinus*—Incredible and prolonged views on
the drive to Makokou

Blue Cuckooshrike *Cyanograucalus azureus*—
One en route to Ombooue

Laniidae

Mackinnon's Shrike *Lanius mackinnoni*—Seen
by some at Ipassa

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*—A couple
around Lekoni (*capelli*)

Oriolidae

Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus
brachyrhynchus*—Seen (*laetior*)

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*—
Seen

Dicruridae

Sharpe's Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus
[ludwigii] sharpei*—Seen at Lekoni (*sharpei*)

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*—Seen

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*—Seen
by Michael at Lekoni (*apivorus*)

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*—
Seen (*coracinus*)

Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus
nitens*—Seen at Ipassa

Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher
Terpsiphone [viridis] rufocinerea—Good views
at Lastoursville

Bates's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone
batesi*—Several at Ipassa

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone [v.]
viridis*—Several seen, including white males
(*speciosa*)

Corvidae

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*—Quite common

Paridae

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus
leucomelas*—Seen at Lekoni (*insignis*)

Nicatoridae

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*—Seen

Yellow-throated Nicator *Nicator vireo*—Heard
at Bongoville

Alaudidae

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra [a.] africana*—
Good views at Lekoni (*malbranti*)

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*—
Common at Lekoni (*schoutedeni*)

Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus [b.] barbatus*—
Seen (*gabonensis*)

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

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas
gracilirostris*—Seen (*gracilirostris*)

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens*—Seen (*virens*)

Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis*—Seen
(*gracilis*)

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*—Seen at
Ipassa

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris*—A few
seen (*curvirostris*)

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

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*—
Seen (*indicator*)

Sjöstedt's Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon
clamans*—Seen at Ipassa

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*—
Common

Falkenstein's Greenbul *Chlorocichla
falkensteini*—Heard at Lekoni

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*—Seen

Pale-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas [flavicollis]
flavigula*—Seen (*soror*)

Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla
leucopleura*—Common

Red-tailed Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens*—
Seen at Loango (*orientalis*)

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*—
Seen a few times

Xavier's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus xavieri*—
Seen at Ipassa

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*—Seen
(*syndactylus*)

Yellow-lored Bristlebill *Bleda [n.] notatus*—
Seen

Eastern Bearded Greenbul *Criniger
chloronotus*—Seen

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*—Seen
(*calurus*)

White-bearded Greenbul *Criniger
ndussumensis*—Seen at Ipassa

Black-collared Bulbul *Neolestes torquatus*—
Several good sightings at Lekoni

Hirundinidae

African River Martin *Pseudochelidon
eurystomina*—Incredible!!! Hundreds seen at
their nesting colonies and point-blank range

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psaldiprocne nitens*—
Seen (*nitens*)

Black Saw-wing *Psaldiprocne pristopectera*—
Seen several times (*petiti*)

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo
griseopyga*—Numerous at Loango (*melbina*)

Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta*—Seen at
Loango and Lekoni

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—Seen in small
numbers (*rustica*)

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*—
Common around Franceville

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*—Seen
at Ombooue and Port Gentil (*aethiopica*)

White-throated Blue Swallow *Hirundo
nigrita*—Many great sightings

Common House Martin *Delichon [urbicum]
urbicum*—Seen

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

Rufous-chested Swallow | Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*—Seen a few times (*gordoni*)

Red-throated Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon rufigula*—Good numbers seen

Macrosphenidae

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*—Heard (*flavicans*)

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*—Seen

Red-capped Crombec *Sylvietta ruficapilla*—Brief views at Lekoni (*rufigenis*)

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*—Seen well (*virens*)

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*—Seen at Lope (*denti*)

Erythroceridae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii*—Seen

Hyliidae

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*—Seen (*prasina*)

Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*—Seen (*trochilus*)

Locustellidae

Dja River Warbler *Bradypterus grandis*—Superb views at Lope

Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*—Heard

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*—Seen briefly at Lekoni (*modestus*)

Chattering Cisticola *Cisticola anonymus*—Several good looks

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*—Heard at Lekoni

Tinkling Cisticola *Cisticola rufilatus*—Seen at Lekoni (*ansorgei*)

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola [galactotes] marginatus*—Seen at Loango and Port Gentil (*amphilectus*)

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*—Seen at Lekoni (*strangei*)

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*—Heard at Lekoni (*brachypterus*)

Bateke Plateau Cisticola *Cisticola sp. nov.*—Seen well at Lekoni

Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla*—Seen at Lekoni (*dispar*)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*—Seen (*terrestris*)

Dambo Cisticola *Cisticola dambo*—Seen at Lekoni

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens*—Seen (*gabun*)

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*—A few seen (*melanorhyncha*)

Banded Prinia *Prinia [b.] bairdii*—Seen (*bairdii*)

White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon*—Seen (*leucopogon*)

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis [r.] rufogularis*—Seen (*rufogularis*)

Gosling's Apalis *Apalis goslingi*—Seen well at Ipassa

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata*—Widespread (*tincta*)

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*—Seen

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera [c.] chloronota*—Seen (*chloronota*)

Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*—Seen

Salvadori's Eremomela *Eremomela [icteropygialis] salvadorii*—Seen at Lekoni

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops*—Seen at Lekoni (*congensis*)

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*—Seen

Pellorneidae

Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri*—Seen at Ipassa

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis [r.] rufipennis*—Seen at Ipassa (*rufipennis*)

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*—Seen briefly (*fulvescens*)

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*—Seen at Lekoni

Zosteropidae

Forest White-eye *Zosterops [senegalensis] stenocricotus*—Heard

Hyliotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*—Good looks at Lekoni (*barbozae*)

Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea*—Seen by Michael at Ipassa

Sturnidae

Purple-headed Starling *Hylopsar purpureiceps*—Several sightings

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*—Seen (*splendidus*)

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*—Seen at Lekoni (*verreauxi*)

Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*—Seen (*langi*)

Turdidae

Red-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*—Heard

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*—Seen (*poensis*)

Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush *Stizorhina fraseri*—Seen (*rubicunda*)

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*—Common (*saturatus*)

Muscicapidae

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe castanea*—Seen (*castanea*)

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*—Seen (*munda*)

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*—Good views at Ipassa

White-browed Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens*—Seen at Loango (*ruthae*)

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Fraseria griseigularis*—Seen

Lead-coloured Flycatcher | Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Fraseria plumbea*—Seen (*plumbeus*)

Pale Flycatcher *Agricola pallidus*—Seen at Lekoni (*murinus*)

Ashy Flycatcher *Fraseria caerulescens*—Seen

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*—Seen

Yellow-footed Flycatcher *Muscicapa sethsmithi*—Seen well at Ipassa

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Bradornis comitatus*—Seen

Sooty Flycatcher *Bradornis fuliginosus*—Seen (*infuscata*)

Brown-chested Alethe *Chamaetylas poliocephala*—Heard

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*—Seen at Lekoni

Olive-backed Forest Robin *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] pyrrholaemus*—Heard at Loango

African Stonechat *Saxicola [t.] torquatus*—Seen (*salax*)

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*—Seen at Lekoni

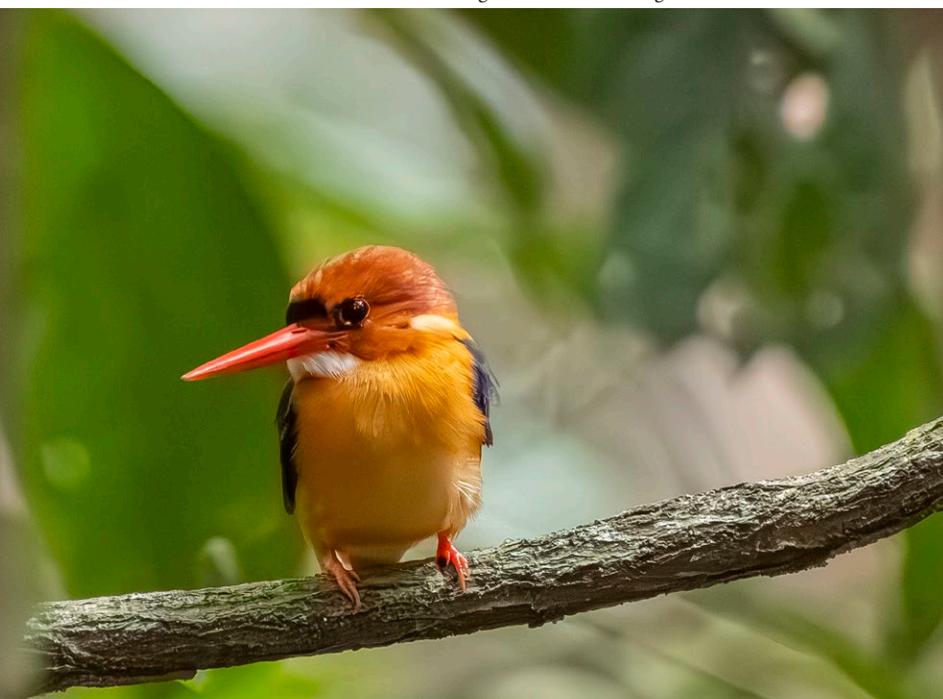
Congo Moor Chat *Myrmecocichla tholloni*—Good looks at Lekoni

Nectariniidae**Fraser's Sunbird** *Deleornis [f.] fraseri*—Seen**Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*—Seen at Lekoni (*angolensis*)**Violet-tailed Sunbird** *Anthreptes aurantius*—Good views at Loango, where quite common**Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*—Seen (*minor*)**Grey-chinned Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes [rectirostris] tephrolaemus*—Seen**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*—Seen (*somereni*)**Reichenbach's Sunbird** *Anabathmis reichenbachii*—Seen well**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*—Seen (*cynocephala*)**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*—Seen (*octaviae*)**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*—Seen (*cephaelis*)**Carmelite Sunbird** *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*—Many good sightings along the coast (*aurea*)**Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*—Seen (*rubescens*)**Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*—Seen a few times (*chloropygius*)**Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus*—Seen well**Johanna's Sunbird** *Cinnyris johannae*—Seen (*johannae*)**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*—Seen (*superbus*)**Bates's Sunbird** *Cinnyris batesi*—Seen at Ipassa**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*—Seen (*cupreus*)**Passeridae****House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*—Widespread in towns**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer [g.] griseus*—Widespread (*ugandae*)**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnoris supercilialis*—Seen at Lekoni**Ploceidae****Black-chinned Weaver** *Ploceus nigrimentus*—Good views at Lekoni**Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*—Common at Port Gentil (*monacha*)**Loango Weaver** *Ploceus subpersonatus*—Good views at Port Gentil**Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus [n.] nigricollis*—Seen a few times (*nigricollis*)**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*—Quite common with *collaris* at Loango and *bohndorffi* elsewhere**Vieillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus [n.] nigerrimus*—Seen several times**Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*—Seen en route to Makokou**Compact Weaver** *Pachyphantes superciliosus*—Seen at Loape**Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*—Heard**Cassin's Malimbe** *Malimbus cassini*—Seen a few times**Rachel's Malimbe** *Malimbus racheliae*—Three sightings at Ipassa**Blue-billed Malimbe** *Malimbus nitens*—Seen**Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*—Seen**Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*—Seen at Loango**Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*—Seen by Michael at Lekoni**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura*—Seen at Lekoni and Loango (*macroura*)**Estrildidae****Woodhouse's Antpecker** *Parmoptila woodhousei*—Seen at Ipassa**White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus*—A few sightings (*fusconotus*)**Pale-fronted Nigrita** *Nigrita luteifrons*—Seen at Ipassa**Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus*—Several sightings (*canicapillus*)**Black-bellied Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes ostrinus*—Excellent views at Loape and Port Gentil**Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*—Seen a few times**Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola*—Seen at Lekoni**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*—Seen**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda [a.] astrild*—Seen at Loango (*rubriventris*)**Black-headed Waxbill** *Estrilda [a.] atricapilla*—Good views at Lastoursville**Black-chinned Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza [atricollis] gabonensis*—Seen in flight (*gabonensis*)**Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullata*—Seen often (*cucullata*)**Black-and-white Mannikin or Red-backed Mannikin** *Spermestes bicolor*—Seen several times (*poensis*)**Magpie Mannikin** *Spermestes fringilloides*—Good views**Viduidae****Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*—Seen a few times**Motacillidae****African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*—Seen (*vidua*)**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*—Seen at Lekoni and Loango**Wood Pipit** *Anthus nyassae*—Seen at Lekoni (*schoutedeni*)**Long-legged Pipit** *Anthus pallidiventris*—Common in open areas (*pallidiventris*)**Short-tailed Pipit** *Anthus brachyurus*—Seen in impressive numbers at Lekoni (*leggei*)**Fringillidae****Black-faced Canary** *Crithagra capistrata*—Excellent views at Lastoursville (*capistrata*)**Black-throated Canary** *Crithagra atrogularis*—Seen at Lekoni (*lwenarum*)**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*—Seen at Lekoni (*tando*)**Emberizidae****Cabanis's Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi*—Good looks at Lekoni (*cognominata*)





Black-chinned Weaver © Rob Hutchinson, African Dwarf Kingfisher and Village Weaver © Michael Mills





African Piculet and Black-collared Lovebird © Michael Mills



Bates's Swift and Black-faced Canary © Michael Mills





Black-faced Rufous Warbler and *Blue-breasted Bee-eater* © Michael Mills



Black-headed Waxbill and *Blue-headed Bee-eater* © Michael Mills





Congo Moor Chat and Dja River Warbler © Michael Mills



Congo Serpent Eagle and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye © Michael Mills

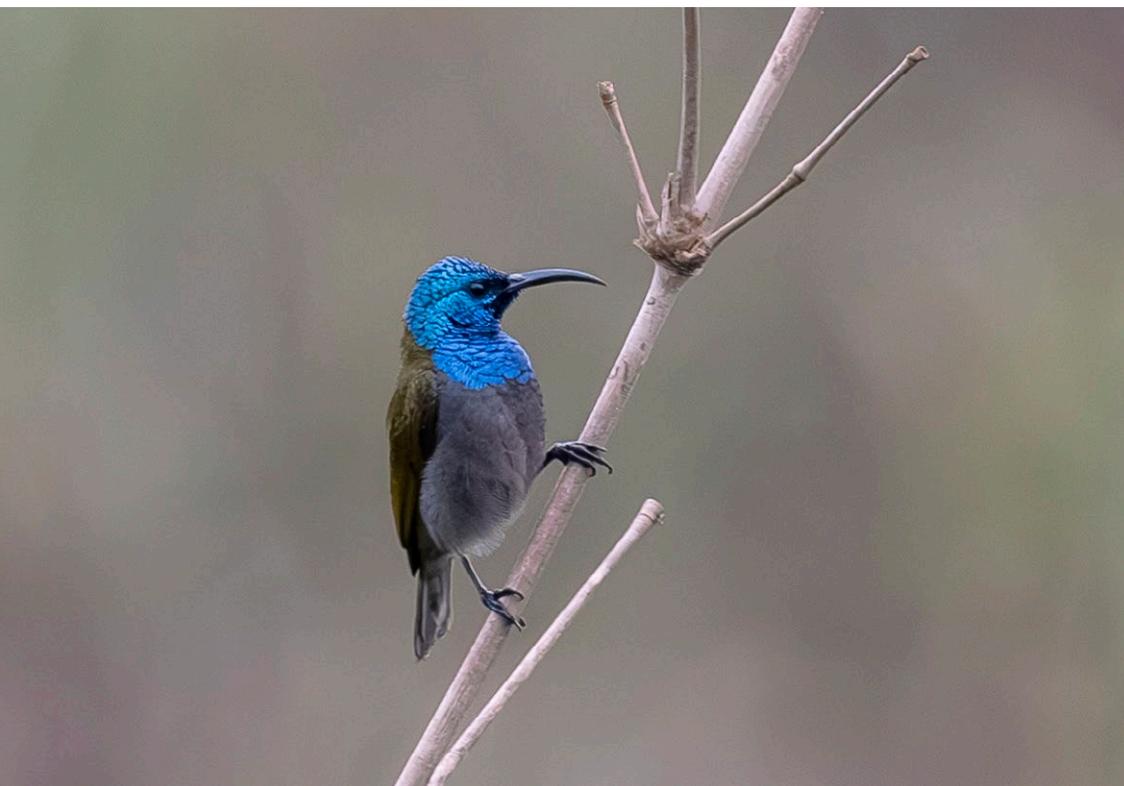




Forbes's Plover and Green-headed Sunbird © Michael Mills



Fraser's Forest Flycatcher and Grey-headed Broadbill © Michael Mills





Lemon-bellied Crombec and Long-tailed Hawk © Michael Mills.



Loango Weaver and Lyre-tailed Honeyguide © Michael Mills





Malbrant's Rufous-naped Lark and Reichenbach's Sunbird © Michael Mills



Many-coloured Bushshrike and Rock Pratincole © Michael Mills





Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike © Rob Hutchinson. *Rufous-sided Broadbill* © Michael Mills



Rosy Bee-eater © Rob Hutchinson. *Shining-blue Kingfisher* © Michael Mills





Sjoestedt's Owlet and Swamp Nightjar © Michael Mills



Spotted Honeyguide and Violet-tailed Sunbird © Michael Mills





Western Black-headed Oriole and Yellow-footed Flycatcher © Michael Mills



Willcocks's Honeyguide and Yellow-throated Cuckoo © Michael Mills





Yellow-throated Tinkerbird © Michael Mills. *Angola Batis* © Rob Hutchinson



African Cuckoo and *Bateke Plateau Cisticola* © Rob Hutchinson





Bates's Nightjar and Black-collared Bulbul © Rob Hutchinson



Black Cuckoo and Black-faced Rufous Warbler © Rob Hutchinson





Blue Cuckooshrike and Dambo Cisticola © Rob Hutchinson



Congo Serpent Eagle displaced by Palmnut Vulture, and Fiery-breasted Bushshrike © Rob Hutchinson

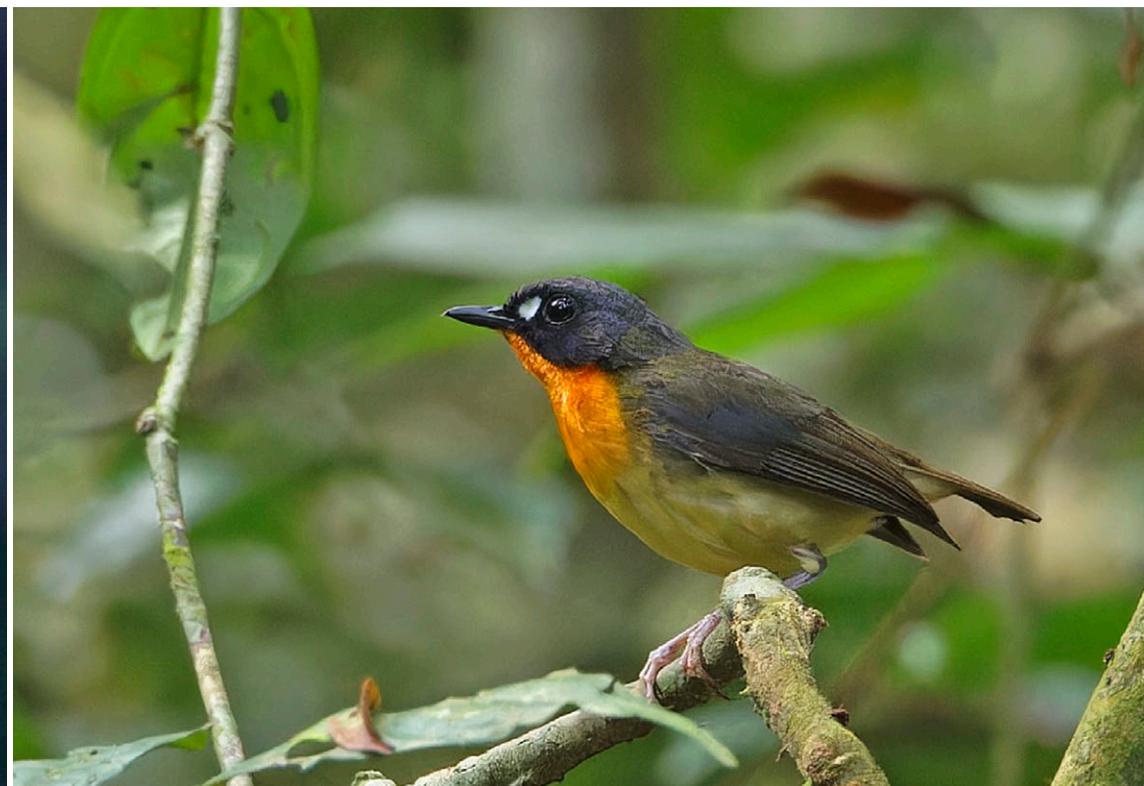




Finsch's Francolin and Forbes's Plover © Rob Hutchinson



Black Guinea fowl and Forest Robin © Rob Hutchinson





Gabon Batis and Hartlaub's Duck © Rob Hutchinson



Gosling's Apalis and Latham's Forest Francolin © Rob Hutchinson





Nkulengu Rail and Dja River Warbler © Rob Hutchinson



Red-thighed Sparrowhawk and Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike © Rob Hutchinson





Spot-breasted Ibis and Thick-billed Duckoo © Rob Hutchinson



Swamp Boubou and Yellow-throated Cuckoo © Rob Hutchinson





Lyre-tailed Honeyguide, Magpie Mannikin and Verminulated Fishing Owl © Rob Hutchinson



