

Malawi

2018 Tour Report



Pel's Fishing Owl

*Text by tour leader Michael Mills
Photos by participant John Clark*

SUMMARY

Malawi is among Africa's best kept secrets; despite being safe and possessing a good tourism infrastructure and impressive diversity of birds, including numerous specials, it receives few visiting birders. Spectacular mountain scenery and healthy large mammal populations at Nyika and Liwonde add to the appeal. Our two week trip covered the key sites from Nyika in the north to Mt Mulanje in the south, with a focus on montane forest and miombo birding. Top birds as voted for were White-winged Apalis, White-winged Babbling Starling, Thyolo Alethe, Shelley's Sunbird, Souza's Shrike, Pel's Fishing Owl and Pennant-winged Nightjar.



White-winged Apalis

Luwawa, our first overnight stop, produced Ruwenzori Nightjar, African Broadbill, Chapin's Apalis, Southern Mountain (Black-browed) Greenbul and Red-chested Flufftail. Continuing to Nyika we paused at Vwaza Marsh where Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver and Racket-tailed Roller were seen well. Nyika's forests were home to Olive-flanked Robin-Chat, Sharpe's Akalat, Sharpe's Greenbul, Black-fronted Bushshrike and Fülleborn's Boubou, whereas grassland, scrubland and forest edge habitats produced Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird, (Kikuyu) Red-winged Francolin, Black-lored Cisticola, Whyte's Double-collared Sunbird, Churring Cisticola and Montane Marsh Widowbird. Returning south we found White-winged Babbling Starling and Thick-billed Cuckoo at Vwaza Marsh and East Coast Akalat at

Mukwadzi Forest. At the Zomba Plateau we found Olive-headed Greenbul, Thyolo Alethe, Yellow-throated Apalis and White-winged Apalis before detouring to the Shire River Valley for breeding Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Lemon-breasted Canary and Collared Palm Thrush. Mount Mulanje produced more Thyolo Alethes, plus Red-faced Crimsonwing and Green Twinspot. At Liwonde we were treated to Pel's Fishing Owl, Lilian's Lovebird, African Barred Owlet, Livingstone's Flycatcher, White-backed Night Heron, Speckle-throated Woodpecker and Meller's Mongoose. Returning to Lilongwe we found Vincent's Bunting in the Dedza area, before spending our final days at Dzalanyama, where highlights were Shelley's Sunbird, Anchieta's Sunbird, Souza's Shrike, Pennant-winged Nightjar, Stierling's Woodpecker and Böhm's Flycatcher.

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

DATES

18-31 October 2018

LEADER

Michael Mills

PARTICIPANTS

Julian Francis

Ken Sutton

John Clark

ITINERARY

18 Oct: Lilongwe to Luwawa.

19 Oct: Luwawa to Nyika via Vwaza Marsh.

20-21 Oct: Nyika National Park.

22 Oct: Nyika to Nkhotakhota via Vwaza Marsh and Mukwadzi Forest.

23 Oct: To Zomba.

24 Oct: Zomba to Mount Mulanje via Shire River.

25 Oct: Mount Mulanje (Ruo Gorge).

26 Oct: Mount Mulanje to Liwonde.

27 Oct: Liwonde National Park.

28 Oct: Liwonde to Lilongwe via Dedza.

29 Oct: Lilongwe to Dzalanyama.

30 Oct: Dzalanyama Forest Reserve.

31 Oct: Dzalanyama to Lilongwe airport.



Livingstone's Flycatcher

REPORT

With everyone landing shortly after midday at Lilongwe's international airport we immediately started our journey northwards to Nyika. We broke our journey to our first overnight stop, Luwawa Forest Lodge in the South Viphya Mountains, with a couple of stops, the first of which was at Kasungu Dam where very low water levels meant there was no habitat for Lesser Jacana. Good numbers of waterfowl were present, mostly **Red-billed Teal** and **Yellow-billed Duck**, and a few other more widespread waterbirds, but we didn't stay long. We also paused for a short stop in the beautiful miombo woodland of Chimaliro Forest Reserve, where **Miombo Double-collared (Western Miombo) Sunbird**, **Retz's Helmetshrike**, **Miombo Scrub Robin** and **Grey-headed Kingfisher** were seen, before rolling in to Luwawa just after sunset. Here we enjoyed a scrumptious dinner before a short night walk that produced **Ruwenzori Nightjar**, **African Wood Owl** and *Miombo Genet*, the latter almost catching the former!



Thick-billed Cuckoo

The next morning we were up just before sunrise, listening to the buzz of an African Broadbill. As the sky lightened we spotted a **Southern Mountain Greenbul/Black-browed Greenbul** nearby and enjoyed some good views. After some toing and froing we finally found **African Broadbill** displaying, and on the edge of a Eucalyptus plantation also found **Placid Greenbul**, **Southern Citril**, **Red-throated Twinspot**, **Forest Double-collared Sunbird** and **White-starred Robin**. Around the nearby wetland birds were in the full swing of breeding, with **Lesser Swamp Warbler**, **African Yellow Warbler** and **Broad-tailed Warbler/Fan-tailed Grassbird** showing well. **African Black Duck** swam on the dam and after a little bit of patience we enjoyed terrific views of a male **Red-chested Flufftail** and a brief sighting of **African Rail**, before returning to the lodge for a hearty breakfast. We were sorry that our time at Luwawa had already come to an end and it was time to continue to Nyika.



Montane Marsh Widowbird

The drive north was uneventful and by lunch time we were on the southern edge of Vwaza Marsh National Park, and ready to strike out into the surrounding miombo woodlands. It was cloudy and windy, which meant that things were cooler than usual but hearing the soft calls of our main target was certainly made harder by conditions. We scoured the woodlands for several hours, enjoying good views of **Racquet-tailed Roller**, **Miombo Blue-eared Starling**, **Stierling's Wren-Warbler**, **Rufous-bellied Tit**, **(Northern) Red-headed Weaver**, **White-breasted Cuckooshrike**, **Grey Penduline Tit**, **Arnott's Chat** and **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver**, but there was no sign of **White-winged Babbling Starling**, so we moved on with plans to return later. As we climbed up to the Nyika Plateau the wind force picked up and by the time we arrived at our homely lodgings at Chelinda Camp it was blowing properly.

The impressive and diverse montane grasslands, scrublands and forests of Nyika form Malawi's premier birding destination. We had two full days to explore this wonderful area, although unfortunately it remained very windy throughout our visit, making some of the birding rather challenging. Our main focus was the forests on the western escarpment,

and our first port of call was Chowo Forest. Here **Olive-flanked Robin-Chat** was very vocal and it didn't take long before we enjoyed repeated views of one bird circling around us. **White-chested Alethe** called nearby but remained stubbornly out of view, but **Sharpe's Greenbul**, **Black-fronted Bushshrike**, **Cape/Malawi Batis**, **Moustached Green Tinkerbird**, **White-tailed Crested Flycatcher**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Chapin's Apalis** and **Bar-tailed Trogon** were more obliging and showed well for all. Our second morning involved visiting the Zambian side of the trans-frontier park to successfully search for **Sharpe's Akalat** at Manyanjere Forest. Here we also saw **Waller's Starling**, **Olive Woodpecker** and **Brown-headed Apalis**. **Crowned Eagle** was spotted flying between some of the forest patches, and **Dusky Turtle Dove** seen in some of the drier forests.

Forest edge was birded around the Zambian Rest House and along the road back to the main park entrance. Highlights here included several **Whyte's Double-collared Sunbirds**, **Hildebrandt's Francolin**, **Yellow-bellied Waxbill**, **White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher**, **Black-lored Cisticola**, **Fülleborn's Boubou**, **Mountain Yellow Warbler**, **Bertram's Weaver** and **Brown Parisoma**, the latter

in some tall, flat-topped Acacia trees. We also spent an afternoon in miombo woodlands looking for Shelley's Francolin, instead finding **Red-capped Crombec**, **Brubru**, **Yellow-bellied Hyliota** and **Trilling Cisticola**.

The rest of our time was spent traversing the extensive grasslands, where a couple of lovely male **Montane Marsh Widowbirds** in full breeding dress were the highlight. We also enjoyed point-blank views of (**Kikuyu**) **Red-winged Francolin**, and other goodies included a male **Pallid Harrier**, **Blue Swallow**, **Ayres's Cisticola/Wing-snapping Cisticola**, very dark **African Pipit** and **Temminck's Courser**, but generally these exposed habitats were much quieter than normal and we didn't even hear a Rufous-naped Lark. In scrubby areas with Proteas and bracken we found a lovely male **Scarlet-tufted Sunbird**, **Malachite Sunbird**, **Baglafaecht Weaver**, **Churring Cisticola** and **Wailing Cisticola**, and in more rocky area, **Long-billed Pipit**. Large mammals seen included **Eland**, **Roan**, **Southern Reedbuck** and **Common Zebra**, adorned with **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**.



Yellow-throated Apalis

Our time at Nyika passed quickly and it wasn't long before we were descending to the surrounding lowlands again to return to Vwaza Marsh. To our disappointment the wind had still not dropped, but despite this we fairly quickly located a pair of **White-winged Babbling Starlings** and enjoyed some reasonably good views of these unusual Sturnids. We also found **Pale-billed Hornbill**, **Jameson's Firefinch**, **Thick-billed Cuckoo**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike** and **Brown-backed Honeybird** in our allotted time, but **African Barred Owlet** frustrated with brief glimpses, always landing out of sight.

Continuing south we paused for lunch surrounded by some rocky hillsides with **Mocking Cliff Chat**, with the final stop of the day at Mukwadzi Forest, where we were treated to some superb views of **East Coast Akalat** and managed to lure **Green Malkoha/Green Yellowbill** from its tangles. **Black Sparrowhawk** was seen here too. From there it was a longish drive to our overnight accommodation on Lake Malawi, where the wind was now blowing a gale and even moving between our rooms and the restaurant was unpleasant due to beach sand being blown into our eyes.



White-backed Night Heron

The next morning we awoke frustrated to see that the wind was still unchanged, although fortunately as we moved south the wind dropped, bringing to an end the four windiest days I have ever experienced on the African continent! We paused at Chia Lagoon where large numbers of waterbirds were present, including **White-faced Whistling Duck**, **Hottentot Teal**, **African Openbill**, **Gull-billed Tern**, **Grey-headed Gull**, **Knob-billed Duck** and an assortment of waders.

Arriving at Zomba we turned our attention first to the upper part of town to search for the striking little **White-winged Apalis**. **White-eared Barbet**, **Dark-backed Weaver** and **Blue-spotted Wood Dove** were spotted as we searched the few remaining tall trees in the area for the apalis, but it was only when we moved on to a third site that we quickly struck gold and managed to lure one of these attractive little warblers down to eye level for exceptional views. Moving up to the plateau we had some time to explore some of the remaining forest patches, and quickly found **Yellow-throated Apalis**, **Olive-headed Greenbul**, **Olive Bushshrike** and a surprise **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk**, before rolling into our homely guest house for the night. The next morning a pre-breakfast outing to another

part of the plateau revealed good views of **Black-headed Apalis**, **Livingstone's Turaco**, **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Evergreen Forest Warbler** and a terrific time with a pair of **Thyolo Alethe**, one of Malawi's most special birds, now rather rare on the Zomba plateau.

We'd now done well enough on finding our target species to squeeze in a detour to the Shire Valley, with the aim of finding breeding Southern Carmine Bee-eater. As we stepped out of the vehicle at our destination the first bee-eater flew low overhead with a morsel of food in its bill, and we followed it down to the cliffs on the bank of the river which were adorned with brightly coloured **Southern Carmine Bee-eaters**, joined also by **White-fronted Bee-eater** and **Little Bee-eater**. We spent some time soaking it all in before turning our attention to some nearby **Burnt-necked Eremomelas**. Lunch was had nearby and it was here that we added our fourth bee-eater for the site to the list, the localised **Böhm's Bee-eater**, alongside **Bearded Scrub Robin**. After lunch some exploration of the cultivated fields on the banks of the Shire River turned up several **Lemon-breasted Canaries** and the hoped-for **Rufous-winged Cisticola**.



Shelley's Sunbird

From here we made our way to Mount Mulanje, ready for the ascent up Ruo Gorge early the next morning. The surrounds were spectacular with a gushing mountain stream flanked by mature forest, set in a steep gorge surrounded by high cliffs. **Green Twinspot** fed in the track as we climbed, and later we found a couple of **Red-faced Crimsonwing** too. **Yellow-streaked Greenbul** was conspicuous and other forest birds included **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, **Cape/Malawi Batis**, **Silvery-checked Hornbill**, **Yellow-throated Apalis**, **Mountain Wagtail**, **Square-tailed Drongo** and **Red-capped Robin-Chat**. More **Thyolo Alethes** showed well and just before turning around we found **Orange Ground Thrush**, although there was no sign of the targeted local subspecies of **Olive-flanked Robin-Chat** which probably prefers the drier forest on top of the mountain.

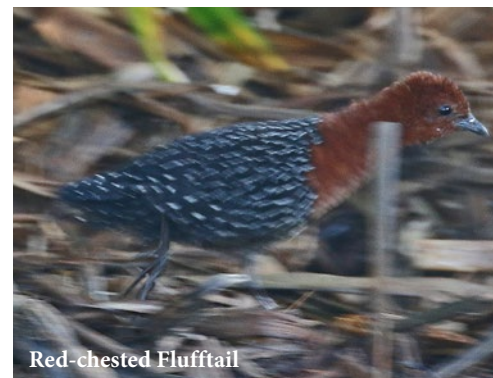
The next day we made our way to Liwonde National Park, pausing in some mature miombo woodland where we found **Pale Batis** and **Red-winged Warbler**. We arrived at Liwonde just in

time for lunch, which we interrupted to watch some **Livingstone's Flycatchers** adjacent to the restaurant, and a **Green Malkoha/Yellowbill**. The next day and a half we enjoyed the mopane woodlands, gallery forests and floodplain of the Shire River at Liwonde. The river itself was a magnet for waterbirds, with large numbers of **African Darter**, **White-breasted Cormorant**, **Glossy Ibis** and **Spur-winged Goose**, joined by smaller numbers of **African Skimmer**, **Giant Kingfisher**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Knob-billed Duck**, **Yellow-billed Stork**, **African Openbill**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Squacco Heron**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Black Heron**, **Western Osprey** and **Spur-winged Lapwing**. The mopane woodlands were home to shrieking flocks of **Lilian's Lovebird** and **Brown-headed Parrot**, and here too we found **Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Meves's Starling**, **Red-billed Oxpecker**, **Arnott's Chat**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **White-bellied Sunbird**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** and **Speckle-throated Woodpecker**. However, the best diurnal birding

was to be had on and immediately adjacent to the river, with the undoubted highlight a relaxed **Pel's Fishing Owl** which we admired at length, perched in a large fig tree. Here too we found **Black-throated Wattle-eye**, **Water Thick-knee**, superb **White-backed Night Heron**, **Palm-nut Vulture**, **African Cuckoo-Hawk**, **Böhm's Bee-eater**, **Collared Palm Thrush**, **Southern Brown-throated Weaver**, **African Barred Owlet**, **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Purple-crested Turaco**, **Dickinson's Kestrel** and **Brown-breasted Barbet**. After dark **European Nightjar**, **Square-tailed Nightjar** and **Fiery-necked Nightjar** entertained, although there was no sight or sound of the desperately-desired **Bronze-winged Courser**. Mammals were conspicuous at Liwonde, with good numbers of *Savanna Elephant*, *Africa Buffalo*, *Sable*, *Greater Kudu*, *Bushbuck* and *Impala*. After dark we found *Water/Marsh Mongoose*, *White-tailed Mongoose* and, my personal favourite, the scarce *Meller's Mongoose*.



Arnott's Chat



Red-chested Flufftail

It was now time to complete our loop back to Lilongwe, seeing **Red-necked Falcon** en route and spending half a day in the Dedza area where we eventually tracked down a pair of **Vincent's Bunting** feeding on a rocky slope. Also seen in the Dedza area were **Augur Buzzard**, **Miombo Double-collared (Eastern Double-collared) Sunbird**, **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **Mottled Swift**, **Lazy Cisticola**, **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Miombo Tit** and **Striped Pipit**, before we moved onto Lilongwe for the night.

The final section of the trip found us visiting the spectacular Dzalanyama Forest Reserve, one of the top miombo birding sites worldwide, with rocky hills and dambos offering additional elements to the birding. We started off in the early morning in a little-visited section of the reserve, our first stop producing some great views of several **Grey-headed/Brown-necked Parrots**. After this we visited an area recommended for **Shelley's Sunbird**, and were very pleased to have excellent views of an



Lilian's Lovebird



African Barred Owlet

excited male alongside **Anchieta's Sunbird** and **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**. En route to the main section of the reserve we paused to watch **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, and after lunch a hot walk produced good views of **Stierling's Woodpecker**, **Souza's Shrike** and **Black-eared Seedeater**. During the rest of our visit we split our time between birding in dambo/gallery forest and miombo, with the long list of birds seen including **Coqui Francolin**, **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **Red-capped Crombec**, **Southern Hylia**, **Spotted Creeper**, **Green-backed/Little Spotted Woodpecker**, more **Souza's Shrikes**, non-breeding-plumaged **Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah**, **Wood Pipit**, **Grey-olive Greenbul**, **Western Banded Snake Eagle**, **Reichard's Seedeater**, **Cabanis's Bunting**, **White-**

tailed Blue Flycatcher, a surprise **African Grass Owl**, **Miombo Rock Thrush**, **Schalow's Turaco**, spectacular displaying **Pennant-winged Nightjar**, **Miombo Scrub Robin**, **Red-throated Twinspot**, **Orange-winged Pytilia** and **Böhm's Flycatcher** feeding young. A considerable amount of effort was expended in the search for **Lesser Seedcracker** which I eventually found, but regrettably only John had brief views before it vanished. Our final drive back to the airport turned up a couple of female **Fischer's Sparrow-Larks** in the agricultural fields as the last new bird of the trip, bringing our tally for the trip comfortably over 400 species. Not bad for a country not recognised for the birding hotspot that it is!

Hildebrandt's Francolin



(Kikuyu) Red-winged Francolin



Bar-tailed Trogon



Böhm's Flycatcher





Bertram's Weaver



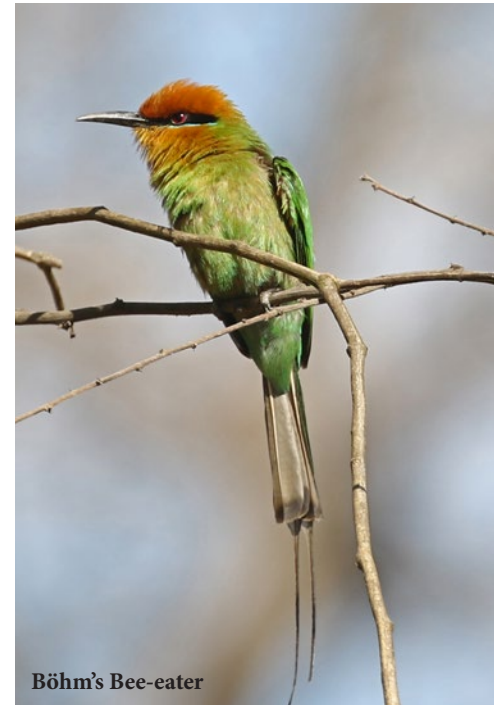
Thyolo Alethe



Black-lored Cisticola



Souza's Shrike



Böhm's Bee-eater



Black-throated Wattle-eye



Collared Palm Thrush

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

Anatidae Ducks, Geese & Swans

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* - Seen at Chia Lagoon

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* - Numerous at Liwonde; also at Chia Lagoon (*gambensis*)

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* - Several at Liwonde and Chia Lagoon

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* - Seen at Liwonde

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* - Seen at Luwawa and Nyika (*leucostigma*)

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* - Seen at Kasungu Dam (*undulata*)

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* - Seen at Kasungu Dam and Chia Lagoon

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* - Seen at Chia Lagoon

Numididae Guineafowl

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* - Seen several times (*mitratus*)

Phasianidae Pheasants, Fowl & Allies

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui* - Great views at Dzalanyama (*coqui*)

Red-winged Francolin *Scleroptila levaillantii* - Superb views at Nyika (*crawshayi*, **Kikuyu Red-winged Francolin**)

Hildebrandt's Francolin *Pternistis hildebrandti* - Nice views at Nyika (*johnstoni*)

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* - Great views at Dzalanyama (*melanogaster*)

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* - Seen by Julian at Nyika (*africana*)

Podicipedidae Grebes

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* - Seen at Kasungu Dam (*capensis*)

Ciconiidae Storks

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* - Seen at Liwonde

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* - Seen at Liwonde and Chia Lagoon (*lamelligerus*)

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* - Two at Liwonde

Threskiornithidae Ibises, Spoonbills

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* - Seen at Liwonde

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* - Seen at Liwonde (*brevirostris*)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* - Seen at Liwonde and Chia Lagoon

Ardeidae Herons, Bitterns

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus* - Incredible views at Liwonde

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* - Common at Liwonde (*nycticorax*)

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* - Seen at Liwonde (*atricapilla*)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* - Seen at Liwonde and Chia Lagoon

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* - Several sightings

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* - Seen several times (*cinerea*)

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* - Seen regularly

Great Egret *Ardea alba* - Several sightings (*melanorhynchos*)

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* - Seen at Liwonde and Chia Lagoon

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* - Seen at Liwonde (*garzetta*)

Scopidae Hamerkop

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* - Seen several times (*umbretta*)

Phalacrocoracidae Cormorants, shags

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* - Seen a few times (*africanus*)

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* - Numerous at Liwonde

Anhingidae Anhingas, darters

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* - Good numbers at Liwonde (*rufa*)

Pandionidae Ospreys

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* - Seen at Liwonde (*haliaetus*)

Accipitridae Kites, Hawks & Eagles

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* - Just one seen (*caeruleus*)

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* - Seen at Liwonde (*typus*)

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* - Seen at Liwonde

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* - Good views at Liwonde (*verreauxii*)

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* - Seen at Dedza

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* - Seen at Dedza

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* - Seen at Dzalanyama

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* - Seen at Liwonde

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* - Seen at Nyika and Liwonde

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* - Seen at Zomba

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* - Seen three times

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* - Seen near Zomba (*rapax*)

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

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* - One at Liwonde

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* - Seen at Zomba (*sparsimfasciatus*)

Shikra *Accipiter badius* - Seen en route to Dzalanyama (*polyzonoides*)

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris* - One seen at Zomba was a surprise (*rufiventris*)

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* - Seen a few times (*melanoleucus*)

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus* - Seen at Nyika

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* - One lovely male at Nyika

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* - A juvenile seen near Vwaza Marsh

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* - Seen a few times (*parasitus*)

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* - Seen at Liwonde

[Steppe Buzzard] *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus* - Fairly common (*vulpinus*)

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* - Seen at Dedza

Sarothruridae Flufftails

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa* - Fantastic views at Luwawa of a male and female (*rufa*)

Rallidae Rails, Crakes & Coots

African Rail *Rallus caerulescens* - Seen at Luwawa

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* - Recorded at Luwawa

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* - Seen at Nyika

Burhinidae Stone-curlews, Thick-knees

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* - Seen at Liwonde (*vermiculatus*)

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* - Heard at Nyika (*capensis*)

Recurvirostridae Stilts, Avocets

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* - Seen at Chia Lagoon

Charadriidae Plovers

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* - Several at Liwonde

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* - Seen at Lilongwe (*coronatus*)

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* - Seen a few times (*lateralis*)

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* - Seen at Chia Lagoon

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* - Seen at Liwonde (*tricollaris*)

Jacaniidae Jacanas

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* - Seen at Liwonde

Scolopacidae Sandpipers, Snipes

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* - Seen at Liwonde

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* - Seen at Nyika and Liwonde

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* - Seen at Liwonde

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* - Seen a few times

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* - Seen at Chia Lagoon

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* - Seen at Chia Lagoon

Glareolidae Coursers, Pratincoles

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* - Seen at Nyika

Laridae Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* - Three seen distantly at Liwonde

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* - Seen at Chia Lagoon and Liwonde (*poioccephalus*)

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* - Seen at Chia Lagoon (*nilotica*)

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* - One seen at Liwonde (*delalandii*)

Columbidae Pigeons, Doves

Rock Dove *Columba livia* - Feral Pigeon was common

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* - Seen at Nyika

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* - Seen at Nyika

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* - Heard at Liwonde (*ambigua*)

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* - Common

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* - Common (*tropica*)

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* - Seen several times

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* - Seen at Zomba

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* - Good views at Zomba and Dedza

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

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* - Seen at Liwonde (*delalandii*) **Grey-breasted Green Pigeon** and Vwaza Marsh (*salvadorii*)

Musophagidae Turacos

Livingstone's Turaco *Tauraco livingstonii* - Seen at Zomba and Mt Mulanje (*livingstonii*)

Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi* - Seen at Dzalanyama; heard elsewhere

Purple-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus* - Seen at Liwonde (*chlorochlamys*)

Grey Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor* - Seen at Liwonde (*concolor*)

Cuculidae Cuckoos

Burchell's Coucal *Centropus burchellii* - Seen at Zomba (*fasciopygialis*)

Green Malkoha *Ceuthmochares australis* - Seen at Mukwadzi and Liwonde

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti* - Great views at Vwaza Marsh

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* - Heard several times

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* - Heard at Mt Mulanje

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* - Seen at Dzalanyama; heard elsewhere

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh

Tytonidae Barn Owls

African Grass Owl *Tyto capensis* - One seen hunting in the evening at Dzalanyama

Strigidae Owls

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* - Heard at Liwonde (*senegalensis*)

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* - Seen at Nyika and Liwonde (*africanus*)

Pel's Fishing Owl *Scotopelia peli* - Cracking views at Liwonde

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* - Good views at Luwawa and Dzalanyama (*woodfordii*)

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* - Seen near Liwonde (*licua*)

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* - Excellent views at Liwonde after a chase (*ngamiense*)

Caprimulgidae Nightjars

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* - Good views at Liwonde

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* - Great views at Liwonde and Dzalanyama (*fervidus*)

Ruwenzori Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii* - Good views at Luwawa and Nyika (*guttifer*) **Usambara Nightjar**

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma* - Heard at Dzalanyama

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* - Excellent views at Liwonde and Lilongwe (*welwitschii*)

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus vexillarius* - Brilliant views at Dzalanyama

Apodidae Swifts

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* - Common (*myochrous*)

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* - Seen at Dedza (*aequatorialis*)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* - Seen several times (*aerobates*)

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

Coliidae Mousebirds

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* - Seen often (*berlepschi* in the north, *integralis* in the south)

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus* - Seen along the Shire River (*mossambicus*)

Trogonidae Trogons

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* - Heard at Zomba

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum* - Fantastic views at Nyika and heard elsewhere

Coraciidae Rollers

Racket-tailed Roller *Coracias spatulatus* - Good views at Vwaza Marsh (*weigalli*)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* - Seen regularly (*caudatus*)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* - Seen a few times (*suaehelicus*)

Alcedinidae Kingfishers

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

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* - Seen at Liwonde (*orientalis*)

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* - Seen at Liwonde (*chelicuti*)

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* - Seen at Zomba (*natalensis*)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* - Seen at Liwonde (*cristatus*)

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* - Seen at Liwonde

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* - Seen several times (*rudis*)

Meropidae Bee-eaters

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* - Seen at Liwonde and Dzalanyama (*furcatus*)

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

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* - Seen along the Shire River

Böhm's Bee-eater *Merops boehmi* - Seen along the Shire River

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* - Seen a few times

Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides* - Seen breeding along the Shire River

Upupidae Hoopoes

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* - Seen a few times

Phoeniculidae Wood Hoopoes

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* - Seen a few times (*marwitzi*)

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* - Seen at Liwonde (*schalowi*)

Bucerotidae Ground Hornbills

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* - Seen at Liwonde and near Zomba

Bucerotidae Hornbills

Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris* - Seen at Liwonde

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* - Seen regularly (*suahelicus*)

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* - Seen at Liwonde (*epirhinus*)

Pale-billed Hornbill *Lophoceros pallidirostris* - Good views at Vwaza Marsh and Dzalanyama (*neumanni*)

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* - Seen at Liwonde and Mt Mulanje

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* - Great views at Mt Mulanje

Lybiidae African barbets

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* - Seen at Zomba (*leucotis*)

Whyte's Barbet *Stactolaema whytii* - Michael heard one at Dzalanyama (*angoniensis*)

Moustached Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus leucomystax* - Great views at Nyika

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* - Recorded several times (*bilineatus*)

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

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* - Seen at Dedza (*zombae*)

Brown-breasted Barbet *Lybius melanopterus* - Great views at Liwonde

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* - Heard at Vwaza Marsh (*suahelicus*)

Indicatoridae Honeyguides

Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus* - Good views at Vwaza Marsh (*regulus*)

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* - Seen at Dzalanyama (*teitensis*)

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* - Heard at Dzalanyama and Mt Mulanje

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh

Picidae Woodpeckers

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii* - Heard at Vwaza Marsh (*bennettii*)

Speckle-throated Woodpecker *Campethera scriptoricauda* - Seen twice at Liwonde

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* - Heard at Liwonde (*suahelica*)

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii* - Seen at Dzalanyama (*loveridgei*) **Little Spotted Woodpecker**

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* - Seen regularly (*hartlaubii*)

Stierling's Woodpecker *Dendropicos stierlingi* - A good sighting at Dzalanyama

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus* - Seen at Nyika (*ruwenzori*)

Falconidae Falcons

Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus* - Seen near Dedza

Dickinson's Kestrel *Falco dickinsoni* - Seen at Liwonde

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* - Seen between Liwonde and Dedza (*ruficollis*)

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* - Seen a few times (*biarmicus*)

Psittacidae African & New World Parrots

Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus fuscicollis* - Great views at Dzalanyama (*suahelicus*) **Grey-headed Parrot**

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh (*matschiei*)

Brown-headed Parrot *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* - Seen at Liwonde (*tanganyikae*)

Psittaculidae Old World Parrots

Lilian's Lovebird *Agapornis lilianae* - Seen in good numbers at Liwonde

Eurylaimidae Broadbills

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* - Good views at Luwawa (*albigularis*)

Platysteiridae Wattle-eyes, Batises

Cape Batis *Batis capensis* - Seen at Nyika (*sola*) and Zomba (*dimorpha*) (**Malawi Batis**)

Chin-spot Batis *Batis molitor* - Seen regularly (*palliditergum*)

Pale Batis *Batis soror* - Seen near Liwonde

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata* - Seen at Liwonde (*peltata*)

Prionopidae Helmetshrikes

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* - Seen regularly (*poliocephalus*)

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* - Seen several times (*tricolor*)

Malaconotidae Bushshrikes

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh (*hypopyrrhus*)

Black-fronted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons* - Good views at Nyika (*nigrifrons*), one yellow and one olive) and Mt Mulanje (*sandgroundi*)

Olive Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus olivaceus* - Seen at Zomba (*bertrandi*)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* - Seen briefly at Liwonde (*similis*)

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* - Recorded several times (*minor*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* - Seen a few times (*senegalus*)

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* - Seen regularly (*hamatus*)

Fülleborn's Boubou *Laniarius fülleborni* - Good views at Nyika (*fuelleborni*)

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* - Seen a couple of times (*mossambicus*)

Brubru *Nilaus afer* - Seen at Nyika and Dzalanyama (*nigritemporalis*)

Campephagidae Cuckooshrikes

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis* - Seen a few times

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* - Seen a few times

Laniidae Shrikes

Souza's Shrike *Lanius souzae* - Three good sightings at Dzalanyama (*tacitus*)

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* - Seen regularly (*capelli*)

Oriolidae Orioles

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* - A few sightings (*notatus*)

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* - Seen a few times (*angolensis*)

Dicruridae Drongos

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* - Seen at Mt Mulanje and Zomba (*tephrogaster*)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* - Seen regularly

Monarchidae Monarchs

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* - Seen a few times (*plumbeiceps*)

Corvidae Crows

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* - Common

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* - Seen at Nyika

Stenostiridae Fairy Flycatchers

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* - Seen at Dzalanyama

White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata* - Seen at Nyika (*albonotata*)

Paridae Tits

Southern Black Tit *Melaniparus niger* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh and Liwonde (*ravidus*)

Rufous-bellied Tit *Melaniparus rufiventris* - Seen well at Vwaza Marsh (*masukuensis*)

Miombo Tit *Melaniparus griseiventris* - Seen near Dedza

Remizidae Penduline Tits

Grey Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus caroli* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh (*robertsi*)

Nicatoridae Nicators

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* - Heard at Mukwadzi

Alaudidae Larks

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia* - Two females seen after leaving Dzalanyama

Pycnonotidae Bulbuls

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

Black-browed Greenbul *Arizelocichla fusciceps* - Seen at Luwawa and Nyika

Olive-headed Greenbul *Arizelocichla olivaceiceps* - Good views at Zomba

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* - Seen a few times (*zombensis*)

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* - Seen at Liwonde (*hypoxanthus*)

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* - Seen at Liwonde (*occidentalis*)

Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh (*intermedius*)

Grey-olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* - Seen at Dzalanyama

Placid Greenbul *Phyllastrephus placidus* - Seen at Luwawa and Zomba

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* - Seen at Mt Mulanje (*vincenti*)

Sharpe's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus alfredi* - Good views at Nyika

Hirundinidae Swallows, martins

White-headed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne albiceps* - Seen at Nyika

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* - Seen regularly (*orientalis* **Eastern Saw-wing**)

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* - Seen at Nyika (*griseopyga*)

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* - Seen at Liwonde

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* - Seen at Nyika (*suahelica*)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* - Seen regularly

Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* - Seen at Nyika

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* - Seen regularly (*smithii*)

Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea* - Great views at Nyika

Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata* - Seen at Dzalanyama (*marwitzi*)

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* - Seen at Dedza (*fusciventris*)

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* - Seen at Dedza

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* - Seen a few times (*unitatis*)

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* - Seen at Liwonde

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* - Seen at Luwawa and Dedza (*emini*)

Macrosphenidae Crombecs, African warblers

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* - Heard near Liwonde (*whytii*)

Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens* - Seen along the Shire River (*pallida*)

Red-capped Crombec *Sylvietta ruficapilla* - Seen at Nyika and Dzalanyama (*chubbi*)

Erythroceridae Yellow Flycatchers

Livingstone's Flycatcher *Erythrocerus livingstonei* - Excellent sightings at Liwonde

Phylloscopidae Leaf warblers and allies

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* - Seen at Mt Mulanje (*johnstoni*)

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* - Seen a few times

Acrocephalidae Reed warblers and allies

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* - Seen at Luwawa

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* - Seen at Luwawa

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Iduna similis* - Good views at Nyika

Locustellidae Grassbirds and allies

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* - Heard at Luwawa

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* - Heard at Nyika

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* - Good views at Zomba

Fan-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola brevirostris* - Good views at Luwawa

Cisticolidae Cisticolas and allies

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* - Heard only

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* - Seen at Nyika

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* - Seen at Nyika

Black-lored Cisticola *Cisticola nigriloris* - Seen well at Nyika

Lazy Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans* - Seen at Dedza

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chimiana* - Seen a few times

Churring Cisticola *Cisticola njombe* - Seen at Nyika

Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* - Seen at Nyika

Rufous-winged Cisticola *Cisticola galactotes* - Seen at the Shire River

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* - Michael saw one at Dzalanyama

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* - Michael saw one at Dzalanyama

Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla* - Seen a few times

Wing-snapping Cisticola *Cisticola ayresii* - Seen at Nyika

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* - Seen a few times

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus* - Seen well near Liwonde

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* - Seen at Nyika

Yellow-throated Apalis *Apalis flavigularis* - Seen at Zomba and Mt Mulanje

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* - Seen a few times

White-winged Apalis *Apalis chariessa* - Cracking views at Zomba

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala* - Seen at Zomba

Chapin's Apalis *Apalis chapini* - Seen at Luwawa

Brown-headed Apalis *Apalis alticola* - Seen at Nyika

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura* - Heard only

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* - Seen at the Shire River

Stierling's Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes stierlingi* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* - Seen at Dedza

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* - Seen regularly

Burnt-necked Eremomela *Eremomela usticollis* - Seen at the Shire River

Leiotherichidae Typical Babblers

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* - Seen a few times

Sylviidae Sylviid Babblers

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* - Heard at Nyika

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* - Heard at Nyika and Luwawa

Brown Parisoma *Sylvia lugens* - Good views at Nyika

Zosteropidae White-eyes

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* - Seen regularly (*anderssoni* and *stierlingi* **Southern Yellow White-eye**)

Hyliotidae Hyliotas

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* - Seen well at Nyika and Dzalanyama

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis* - Seen at Dzalanyama

Certhiidae Treecreepers

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori* - Seen at Dzalanyama

Sturnidae Starlings

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* - Seen at Liwonde

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* - Seen a few times

Miombo Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis elisabeth* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh and near Liwonde

Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii* - Seen at Liwonde

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* - Seen often

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* - Seen at Dedza

Babbling Starling *Neocichla gutturalis* - Reasonable views of a pair at Vwaza Marsh after a lengthy search

Buphagidae Oxpeckers

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* - Seen at Nyika

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* - Seen at Liwonde

Turdidae Thrushes

Orange Ground Thrush *Geokichla gurneyi* - Seen briefly at Mt Mulanje

Groundscraper Thrush *Turdus litsitsirupa* - Heard at Dzalanyama

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana* - Seen often

Abyssinian Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus* - Seen at Nyika

Muscicapidae Chats, Old World Flycatchers

Bearded Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* - Good views in the Shire Valley

Miombo Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas barbata* - Seen regularly

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* - Seen a couple of times

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* - Seen at Mt Mulanje and Dzalanyama

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri* - Seen at Nyika

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* - Seen a few times

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* - Seen at Liwonde

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* - Seen a few times

Böhm's Flycatcher *Muscicapa boehmi* - Great views of a pair feeding recently-fledged young at Dzalanyama

White-chested Alethe *Pseudaethe fueleborni* - Only glimpses at Nyika

Thyolo Alethe *Pseudaethe choloensis* - Incredible views at Zomba and Mt Mulanje

Olive-flanked Ground Robin *Cossypha anomala* - Seen well at Nyika

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* - Seen at Nyika and Dedza

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* - Seen a few times

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* - Seen at Mt Mulanje

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* - Seen at Luwawa and Mt Mulanje

Sharpe's Akalat *Sheppardia sharpei* - Great views at Nyika

East Coast Akalat *Sheppardia gunningi* - Great views at Mukwadzi

Collared Palm Thrush *Cichladusa arquata* - Excellent views along the Shire River

Miombo Rock Thrush *Monticola angolensis* - Seen well at Dzalanyama

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* - Seen at Nyika

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* - Seen near Rumphi and Dedza

Arnott's Chat *Myrmecocichla arnotti* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh and Liwonde

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* - Seen at Vwaza Marsh

Nectariniidae Sunbirds

Anchieta's Sunbird *Anthreptes anchietae* - Two sightings at Dzalanyama

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei* - Seen at Dzalanyama

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* - Seen a few times

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* - Seen a few times

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* - Seen a few times

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* - Seen a few times

Bronzy Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* - Seen at Luwawa

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa* - One nice male at Nyika

Scarlet-tufted Sunbird *Nectarinia johnstoni* - Good views of a male at Nyika

Miombo Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris manoensis* - Seen at Chimaliro (*pinto* **Western Miombo Sunbird**), and Dedza and Dzalanyama (*manoensis* **Eastern Miombo Sunbird**)

Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris ludovicensis* - Seen well at Nyika (*whytei* **Whyte's Montane Double-collared Sunbird**)

Forest Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris fuelleborni* - Seen at Nyika and Luwawa

Shelley's Sunbird *Cinnyris shelleyi* - Great views of a male at Dzalanyama

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* - Heard in the Shire Valley

White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* - Seen at Liwonde

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* - Seen a few times

Passeridae Old World Sparrows

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* - Seen at Liwonde

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser rufoscapulatus* - Seen well at Vwaza Marsh

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - Common

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* - Seen near Vwaza Marsh

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* - Common at Liwonde

Yellow-throated Petronia *Gymnoris superciliaris* - Seen regularly

Ploceidae Weavers, Widowbirds

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* - Seen at Zomba (*unicolor*)

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* - Seen at Nyika (*nyikae*)

Bertram's Weaver *Ploceus bertrandi* - A pair seen at Nyika; heard at Zomba

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* - Seen regularly (*suahelicus*)

Eastern Golden Weaver *Ploceus subaureus* - Brief views at Chia Lagoon

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* - Several sightings

Southern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus xanthopterus* - Seen along the Shire River

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* - Seen at Liwonde (*cabanisii*)

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* - Seen along the Shire River (*velatus*)

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* - Seen a few times (*paroptus* **Spotted-backed Weaver**)

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor* - Seen at Zomba (*stictifrons*)

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* - Seen a few times (*leuconotos* **Northern Red-headed Weaver**)

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* - Seen a couple of times (*hordeaceus*)

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* - Seen along the Shire River (*nigrifrons* **Central Red Bishop**)

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* - Seen regularly (*crassirostris*)

Montane Widowbird *Euplectes psammacromius* - Great views at Nyika of males in full breeding plumage

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* - Seen at Dzalanyama (*ardens*)

Estrildidae Waxbills, Munias & Allies

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afra* - About 10 seen at Dzalanyama

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* - Seen a few times

Green Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula* - Good views at Mt Mulanje (*nitidula*)

Red-faced Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza reichenovii* - Seen quite well at Mt Mulanje (*australis*)

Lesser Seedcracker *Pyrenestes minor* - Michael and John had brief views of a female at Dzalanyama

Red-throated Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus* - Superb views at Dzalanyama and Luwawa (*macrospilotus*)

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* - Seen at Liwonde (*rendalli*)

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* - Seen several times (*haematocephala*)

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* - Seen several times (*jamesoni*)

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* - Seen regularly (*niassensis*)

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccyzygia quartinia* - Seen at Nyika (*stuartirwini*)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* - Seen a few times (*cavendishi*)

Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava* - Brief views at Luwawa (*clarkei*)

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* - Seen regularly (*scutata*)

Red-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps* - Several good sightings

Viduidae Indigobirds, Whydahs

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* - One along the Shire River (*amauropteryx*)

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* - Seen along the Shire River

Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua obtusa* - Non-breeding plumaged birds at Dzalanyama

Motacillidae Wagtails, Pipits

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* - Seen at Zomba and Mt Mulanje (*torrentium*)

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* - Seen regularly (*vidua*)

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* - Seen at Liwonde and Dzalanyama

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* - Seen a few times, including dark birds on Nyika (*lichenya*)

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* - Seen on Nyika (*winterbottomi*)

Wood Pipit *Anthus nyassae* - One seen at Dzalanyama (*nyassae*)

Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris* - Seen at Dedza

Fringillidae Finches

Southern Citril *Crithagra hyposticta* - Seen several times (*hyposticta*)

Lemon-breasted Canary *Crithagra citrinipectus* - Several seen along the Shire River

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* - Seen regularly (*mozambica*)

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

Reichard's Seedeater *Crithagra reichardi* - Seen at Dzalanyama (*reichardi*)

Black-eared Seedeater *Crithagra mennelli* - Good views at Vwaza Marsh and Dzalanyama

Yellow-browed Seedeater *Crithagra whytii* - Heard at Nyika

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* - Seen at Nyika (*sassii*)

Emberizidae Buntings

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* - Seen near Vwaza Marsh (*tahapisi*)

Vincent's Bunting *Emberiza vincenti* - Reasonably good views near Dedza

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* - Seen a couple of times (*kalaharica*)

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* - Seen at Nyika and Dzalanyama (*orientalis*)



Mountain Yellow Warbler



Cape (Malawi) Batis



Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver



Fülleborn's Boubou



Southern Carmine Bee-eater



Bearded Scrub Robin



East Coast Akalat