

# Malawi

## 2024 Trip Report



*White-winged Apalis © Michael Mills*

***Text and photographs by Michael Mills***



# SUMMARY

Malawi offers a fine selection of sought-after specials. Main birding sites visited during the two weeks were Dzalanyama, Luwawa, Nyika, Vwaza Marsh, Liwonde National Park and Zomba, with a strong focus on miombo and Afromontane forest habitats. Top birds seen included White-winged Babbling Starling, Yellow-throated Apalis, White-winged Apalis, Plateau Lark, Pel's Fishing Owl, Southern White-faced Owl, Stierling's Woodpecker, Whyte's Double-collared Sunbird, Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird, Thyolo Alethe, Lilian's Lovebird and Olive-flanked Robin-Chat.

Our circuit commenced at Dzalanyama where Anchieta's Sunbird, Sousa's Shrike, Boulder Chat and Böhm's Flycatcher were seen, plus Lesser Seedcracker for some. On our way to Nyika we paused at Luwawa, where highlights were Bertram's Weaver, Olive-headed Greenbul, Black-browed Mountain Greenbul, Malawi Batis, Chapin's Apalis, Red-faced Crimsonwing and African Broadbill. A full two days at Nyika added forest birds such as Sharpe's Greenbul, Sharpe's Akalat, Bar-tailed Trogon and Black-fronted Bushshrike, and more open habitats produced Red-winged Francolin, Denham's Bustard, Churring Cisticola, Black-lored

Cisticola, Yellow-browed Seedeater, Blue Swallow and Montane Marsh Widowbird. The journey south was broken with stops at Vwaza Marsh and along the shores of Lake Malawi with African Barred Owlet. Next we visited Liwonde where highlights included Racket-tailed Roller, Dickinson's Kestrel, Speckle-throated Woodpecker, Collared Palm Thrush, Böhm's Bee-eater and Southern Brown-throated Weaver. Next on our agenda were the forests of Zomba and Mulanje, before looping back to Lilongwe via Blantyre with Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Lemon-breasted Canary and Locust-finch among the last key birds seen.

Yellow-throated Apalis © Michael Mills



White-winged Babbling Starling © Michael Mills

# ITINERARY

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2 Oct: Lilongwe to Dzalanyama. | 9 Oct: Nyika to Lake Malawi via Vwaza. |
| 3 Oct: Dzalanyama.             | 10 Oct: Lake Malawi to Liwonde.        |
| 4 Oct: Dzalanyama.             | 11 Oct: Liwonde.                       |
| 5 Oct: Dzalanyama to Luwawa.   | 12 Oct: Liwonde to Zomba.              |
| 6 Oct: Luwawa to Nyika.        | 13 Oct: Zomba to Mount Mulanje.        |
| 7 Oct: Nyika.                  | 14 Oct: Mount Mulanje to Blantyre.     |
| 8 Oct: Nyika.                  | 15 Oct: Blantyre to Lilongwe.          |



# BIRDS RECORDED

## Numididae

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*—Seen at several times (*mitratus*)

## Phasianidae

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

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

**Hildebrandt’s Francolin** *Pternistis hildebrandti*—Nice views at Nyika (*johnstoni*)

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer*—Great views at Liwonde (*humboldtii*)

## Anatidae

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*—Seen

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*—Numerous at Liwonde (*gambensis*)

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis [m.] melanotos*—One seen

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*—Seen at Liwonde

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

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*—Seen at Kasungu Dam

## Caprimulgidae

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus [p.] pectoralis*—Great views at Liwonde and Dzalanyama (*fervidus*)

**Rwenzori Nightjar** *Caprimulgus [poliocephalus] ruwenzorii*—Good views at Nyika (*guttifer*)

**Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*—Heard at Dzalanyama

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii*—Good views at Liwonde (*welwitschii*)

**Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus vexillarius*—Heard only

## Apodidae

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

**Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*—Seen distantly at Mt Mulanje (*aequatorialis*)

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

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*—Seen

## Musophagidae

**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** *Gallirex porphyreolophus*—Heard at Liwonde (*chlorochlamys*)

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

## Otididae

**Denham’s Bustard** *Neotis denhami*—Good views at Nyika (*jacksoni*)

## Cuculidae

**Burchell’s Coucal** *Centropus [superciliosus] burchellii*—Seen a few times (*fasciipygialis*)

**Green Yellowbill** *Ceuthmochares [aereus] australis*—Seen at Liwonde

**Thick-billed Cuckoo** *Pachycoccyx audeberti*—Seen at Liwonde

**Klaas’s Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*—Heard

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

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*—Brief views only

## Columbidae

**Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*—Feral Pigeon was common

**African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*—Seen at Nyika

**Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata*—One seen at Nyika (*larvata*)

**Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens*—Seen at Nyika

**African Mourning Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*—Seen at Chikwawa (*ambigua*)

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

**Cape Turtle Dove | Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*—Common (*tropica*)

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*—Seen at Liwonde (*senegalensis*)

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

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

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*—Seen once

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*—Seen (*capensis*)

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron [c.] calvus*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*salvadorii*)

## Sarothruridae

**Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa*—Seen at Luwawa (*rufa*)

## Rallidae

**African Rail** *Rallus caerulescens*—Heard at Luwawa

**Black Crane** *Zapornia flavirostra*—Seen at Liwonde

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*—Seen at and Nyika and Kasungu Dam

## Podicipedidae

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus [r.] ruficollis*—Seen at Nyika (*capensis*)

## Burhinidae

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

## Recurvirostridae

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

## Charadriidae

**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris*—Seen at Liwonde (*leucopterus*)

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

**Senegal Lapwing** *Vanellus lugubris*—Seen at Liwonde

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

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*—Seen at Liwonde

**Kittlitz’s Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*—Seen at Chikwawa

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius [t.] tricoloris*—Seen at Chikwawa (*tricoloris*)

## Jacaniidae

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*—Seen

## Scelopacidae

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*—Seen by Chris at Chikwawa

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*—Seen

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*—Seen

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*—Seen

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*—Seen

## Glareolidae

**Temminck’s Courser** *Cursorius temminckii*—Seen briefly at Nyika

Laridae

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*—Seen by Jan-Joost at Liwonde

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon [n.] nilotica*—Seen at Liwonde (*nilotica*)

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*—Seen at Liwonde (*delalandii*)

Ciconiidae

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

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*—Seen (*lamelligerus*)

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*—Seen at Liwonde

Phalacrocoracidae

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

**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax [carbo] lucidus*—Seen at Liwonde

Anhingidae

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

Threskiornithidae

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*—Seen at Liwonde

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

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*—Seen at Liwonde

Ardeidae

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

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

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

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*—Seen at Liwonde

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus [i.] ibis*—Several sightings

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

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*—Seen

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*—Seen at Liwonde

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

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*—Seen at Liwonde

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

Scopidae

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

Pandionidae

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*—Seen at Liwonde (*haliaetus*)

Accipitridae

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

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

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*—Seen at Makuzi Beach and Zomba

**African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides*—Seen at Liwonde (*verreauxii*)

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*—Seen at Nyika

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos*—Seen at Nyika (*tracheliotos*)

**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*—One at Dzalanyama

**Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*—Seen at Liwonde

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*—Seen at Liwonde

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*—Seen at Liwonde

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*—Seen (*meridionalis*)

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter [t.] tachiro*—Seen at Luwawa (*sparsimfasciatus*)

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus*—Brief views at Liwonde (*minullus*)

**Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris*—Great views at Nyika where one was seen to take a Black-lored Cisticola (*rufiventris*)

**Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*—Seen (*melanoleucus*)

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus [migrans] aegyptius*—Seen a few times (*parasitus*)

**African Fish Eagle** *Ichthyophaga vocifer*—Seen at Liwonde

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo [a.] augur*—Seen at Nyika and Dedza

Strigidae

**African Scops Owl** *Otus [s.] senegalensis*—Good views at Liwonde (*senegalensis*)

**Southern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis granti*—Excellent views at Dzalanyama

**Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo [a.] africanus*—Seen at Nyika

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Ketupa lactea*—Great views at Liwonde

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

**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii*—Good views at Dzalanyama where actively hunting an African Green Pigeon that landed on our dinner table but seemed to make a successful escape (*woodfordii*)

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*—Seen near Vwaza Marsh (*licua*)

**African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium [c.] capense*—Excellent views at Makuzi Beach and seen at Liwonde (*ngamiense*)

Coliidae

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

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*—Brief views (*mossambicus*)

Trogonidae

**Bar-tailed Trogon** *Apaloderma vittatum*—Seen at Nyika

Upupidae

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

Phoeniculidae

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

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

Bucorvidae

**Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri*—Seen at Liwonde

Bucerotidae

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus [erythrorhynchus] rufirostris*—Seen at Liwonde

**Crowned Hornbill** *Lophoceros alboterminatus*—Seen

**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

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



Coraciidae

**Racket-tailed Roller** *Coracias spatulatus*—Good views at Liwonde

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

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

Alcedinidae

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

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

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

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*—Seen (*natalensis*)

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

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*—Seen

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*—Seen (*rudis*)

Meropidae

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

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

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides*—Seen at Chikwawa

**Böhm's Bee-eater** *Merops boehmi*—Seen at Liwonde

**Olive Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*superciliosus*)

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

**Southern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicoides*—Seen at Chikwawa

Lybiidae

**White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema [l.] leucotis*—Seen at Zomba (*leucotis*)

**Moustached Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus leucomystax*—Great views at Nyika

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

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

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*—Seen (*zombae*)

**Brown-breasted Barbet** *Lybius melanopterus*—Seen at Liwonde

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii*—Seen at Liwonde (*suahelicus*)

Indicatoridae

**Green-backed Honeybird** *Prodotiscus zambesiae*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*zambesiae*)

**Brown-backed Honeybird** *Prodotiscus regulus*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*regulus*)

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator [m.] minor*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*teitensis*)

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus*—Seen at Dzalanyama and Zomba

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*—Seen

Picidae

**Bennett's Woodpecker** *Campethera [b.] bennettii*—Seen at Vwaza Marsh (*bennettii*)

**Speckle-throated Woodpecker** *Campethera [bennettii] scriptoricauda*—Great views at Liwonde

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*—Seen (*suahelica*)

**Little Spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera [c.] cailliautii*—Seen at Dzalanyama and Vwaza Marsh (*loveridgei*)

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Chloropicus namaquus*—Seen at Liwonde

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

**Stierling's Woodpecker** *Dendropicos stierlingi*—Good views at Dzalanyama

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

Falconidae

**Dickinson's Kestrel** *Falco dickinsoni*—Great views at Liwonde

Psittacidae

**Brown-necked Parrot** *Poicephalus [robustus] fuscicollis*—Great views at Dzalanyama and Liwonde (*suahelicus*)

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri*—Heard at Vwaza Marsh (*matschiei*)

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

Psittaculidae

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

Calyptomenidae

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

Platysteiridae

**Malawi Batis** *Batis [capensis] dimorpha*—Seen at Luwawa and Nyika (*sola*)

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*—Seen regularly (*palliditergum*)

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

Malaconotidae

**Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*—Seen (*hypopyrrhus*)

**Black-fronted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons*—Seen at Nyika (*nigrifrons*)

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike | Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*—Seen (*similis*)

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

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

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

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

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius [aethiopicus] major*—Seen well (*mossambicus*)

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*—Seen (*nigritemporalis*)

Vangidae

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

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

Campephagidae

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Ceblepyris pectoralis*—Seen a few times

**Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava*—Seen briefly

Laniidae

**Sousa's Shrike** *Lanius souzae*—Good views at Dzalanyama (*tacitus*)

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

Oriolidae

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

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus*—Seen (*notatus*)

Dicruridae

**Common Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus [l.] ludwigii*—Seen at Mt Mulanje (*tephrogaster*)

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

Monarchidae

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone [v.] viridis*—Seen a few times (*plumbeiceps*)

Corvidae

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*—Common

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

Stenostiridae

**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda*—Seen well

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

Paridae

**White-winged Black Tit** *Melaniparus leucomelas*—Seen by Michael at Nyika (*insignis*)

**Southern Black Tit** *Melaniparus niger*—Seen at Liwonde (*ravidus*)

**Rufous-bellied Tit** *Melaniparus [r.] rufiventris*—Seen well at Dzalanyama (*masukuensis*)

**Miombo Tit** *Melaniparus griseiventris*—Seen at Dzalanyama

Remizidae

**Grey Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus [c.] caroli*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*robertsi*)

Nicatoridae

**Eastern Nicator** *Nicator gularis*—Heard at Mukwadzi

Alaudidae

**Fischer’s Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia*—Seen near Lake Malawi

**Plateau Lark** *Mirafra [a.] nigrescens* —Great views at Nyika (*nyikae*)

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*—Seen a few times (*saturation*)

Pycnonotidae

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

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

**Stripe-cheeked Greenbul** *Arizelocichla [m.] milanjensis*—Heard at Mt Mulanje

**Olive-headed Greenbul** *Arizelocichla [milanjensis] striifacies*—Good views at Luwawa and Zomba (*olivaceiceps*)

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

**Sombre Greenbul** *Andropadus importunus*—Heard at Liwonde (*hypoxanthus*)

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

**Terrestrial Brownbul** *Phyllastrephus terrestris*—Seen briefly (*intermedius*)

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

**Placid Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus [cabanisi] placidus*—Seen at Zomba

**Yellow-streaked Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus [f.] flavostriatus*—Seen at Mt Mulanje (*vincenti*)

**Sharpe’s Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus [flavostriatus] alfredi*—Good views at Nyika

Hirundinidae

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*—Seen regularly (*orientalis*)

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

**Banded Martin** *Neophedina cincta*—Seen at Nyika (*suahelica*)

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—Seen regularly

**Angola Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis*—Seen at Nyika

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

**Blue Swallow** *Hirundo atrocaerulea*—Great views at Nyika

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

**Red-throated Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne [fuligula] rufigula*—Seen at Nyika and Dedza (*rufigula*)

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

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

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*—Heard at Liwonde

Macrospenidae

**Long-billed Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens*—Seen at Liwonde (*pallida*)

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

Erythroceridae

**Livingstone’s Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus livingstonei*—Excellent sightings at Liwonde

Phylloscopidae

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*—Seen a few times

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

Acrocephalidae

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*—Seen at Luwawa (*leptorhynchus*)

**African Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis*—Seen at Luwawa (*natalensis*)

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

Locustellidae

**Broad-tailed Warbler | Fan-tailed Grassbird** *Catriscus brevirostris*—Seen at Dzalanyama

**Evergreen Forest Warbler** *Bradypterus lopezi*—Good views at Nyika (*usambarae*) and seen at Zomba (*granti*)

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*—Seen at Nyika (*nyassae*)

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus [b.] baboecala*—Seen at Luwawa (*tongensis*)

Cisticolidae

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*—Seen by Michael

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*—Seen at Nyika (*muenzneri*)

**Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami*—Heard at Nyika

**Black-lored Cisticola** *Cisticola [n.] nigriloris*—Great views at Nyika

**Lazy Cisticola** *Cisticola [a.] aberrans*—Seen at Dedza (*nyika*)

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*—Heard only

**Churring Cisticola** *Cisticola njombe*—Seen well at Nyika (*mariae*)

**Wailing Cisticola** *Cisticola [l.] lais*—Seen at Nyika (*semifasciatus*)

**Rufous-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola [g.] galactotes*—Heard only

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*—Seen near Lilongwe (*natalensis*)

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

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

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

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

**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis [t.] thoracica*—Seen at Luwawa (*youngi*)

**Yellow-throated Apalis** *Apalis [thoracica] flavigularis*—Seen well at Zomba

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis [f.] flavida*—Seen a few times

**White-winged Apalis** *Apalis chariessa*—Cracking views at Zomba (*macphersoni*)

**Black-headed Apalis** *Apalis melanocephala*—Seen at Zomba and Mt Mulanje (*fuliginosa*)



**Chapin’s Apalis** *Apalis chapini*—Seen at Luwawa (*strausae*)

**Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis [cinerea] alticola*—Seen at Nyika (*alticola*)

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera [b.] brachyura*—Seen at Liwonde (*bororensis*)

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata*—Heard only

**Stierling’s Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes stierlingi*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*irwini*)

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela [i.] icteropygialis*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*helenorae*)

**Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops*—Seen regularly (*scotops*)

**Burnt-necked Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis*—Seen at Liwonde (*rensi*)

**Leiothrichidae**

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*—Seen a few times (*kirkii*)

**Sylviidae**

**African Hill Babbler** *Sylvia [a.] abyssinica*—Brief views at Nyika (*stictigula*)

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*—Seen by some at Dzalanyama

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*—Heard at Nyika

**Brown Parisoma** *Curruca lugens*—Good views at Nyika (*jacksoni*)

**Zosteropidae**

**Southern Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops [senegalensis] anderssoni*—Seen regularly (*stierlingi*)

**Hylotidae**

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*barbozae*)

**Southern Hyliota** *Hyliota [a.] australis*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*inornata*)

**Certhiidae**

**African Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis salvadori*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*salvadori*)

**Sturnidae**

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*—Seen a few times (*sycobius*)

**Miombo Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis [chloropterus] elisabeth*—Seen at Vwaza Marsh

**Meves’s Long-tailed Starling** *Lamprotornis [m.] mevesii*—Seen at Liwonde

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

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*—Seen at Zomba and Dedza (*morio*)

**Waller’s Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*—Heard at Nyika

**Babbling Starling** *Neocichla gutturalis*—Great views at Vwaza Marsh (*angusta*)

**Buphagidae**

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorynchus*—Seen at Liwonde

**Turdidae**

**Orange Ground Thrush** *Geokichla gurneyi*—Heard at Nyika (*otomitra*)

**Common Groundscraper Thrush** *Turdus [l.] litsitsirupa*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*stierlingi*)

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana*—Seen often (*tropicalis*)

**Muscicapidae**

**Bearded Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*—Good views at Liwonde

**Miombo Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas barbata*—Seen well at Dzalanyama

**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*—Seen at Mulanje (*zambesiana*)

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

**White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Melaenornis fischeri*—Seen at Nyika (*nyikensis*)

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

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa [s.] striata*—Seen at Vwaza Marsh

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Fraseria caerulescens*—Seen (*vulturina*)

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*—Seen a few times (*subadusta*)

**Böhm’s Flycatcher** *Bradornis boehmi*—Great views at Dzalanyama

**White-chested Alethe** *Chamaetylas fuelleborni*—Heard at Nyika

**Thyolo Alethe** *Chamaetylas choloensis*—Good views at Zomba and Mt Mulanje (*choloensis*)

**Olive-flanked Robin-Chat** *Dessonornis [a.] anomalus*—Seen well at Nyika (*macclounii*)

**Cape Robin-Chat** *Dessonornis caffer*—Seen at Nyika and Dedza (*iolaemus*)

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*—Seen a few times (*intermedia*)

**Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis*—Heard at Mt Mulanje

**White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*—Seen at Luwawa and Zomba (*orientalis*)

**Sharpe’s Akalat** *Sheppardia sharpei*—Seen at Nyika (*sharpei*)

**East Coast Akalat** *Sheppardia gunningi*—Glimpsed at Mukwadzi (*bensoni*)

**Collared Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata*—Excellent views at Liwonde

**Miombo Rock Thrush** *Monticola angolensis*—Seen well at Dzalanyama (*hylophilus*)

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola [t.] torquatus*—Seen at Nyika and Zomba (*promiscuus*)

**Mocking Cliff Chat** *Thamnolaea [c.] cinnamomeiventris*—Heard near Dedza

**Arnot’s Chat** *Myrmecocichla [a.] arnotti*—Seen at Liwonde (*arnotti*)

**Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*falkensteini*)

**Boulder Chat** *Pinarornis plumosus*—Seen well at Dzalanyama

**Nectariniidae**

**Anchieta’s Sunbird** *Anthreptes anchietae*—Good views at Dzalanyama

**Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemareii*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*angolensis*)

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*—Seen in the south (*zambesiana*)

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*—Seen well at Luwawa (*viridisplendens*)

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*—Seen at Nyika (*lowei*) and Zomba (*alfredi*)

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*—Seen a few times (*kirkii*)

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*—Seen a few times (*gutturalis*)

**Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*—Seen at Luwawa (*arturi*)

**Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*—One nice male at Nyika (*cupreonitens*)

**Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia johnstoni*—Good views at Nyika (*nyikensis*)

**Eastern Miombo Sunbird** *Cinnyris manoensis*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*manoensis*)

**Western Miombo Sunbird** *Cinnyris gertrudis*—Seen near Nyika

**Whyte’s Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris [ludovicensis] whytei*—Seen well at Nyika

**Forest Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris fuelleborni*—Seen at Luwawa (*fuelleborni*) and Zomba (*bensoni*)

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*—Seen at Lake Malawi (*microrhynchus*)

**White-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala*—Seen at Liwonde (*talatala*)

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*—Seen a few times (*falkensteini*)

Passeridae

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*—Common

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus*—Common at Liwonde (*stygiceps*)

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnoris superciliaris*—Seen regularly (*bororensis*)

Ploceidae

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*—Common at Liwonde (*pectoralis*)

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

**Bertram’s Weaver** *Ploceus bertrandi*—Great views at Luwawa

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*—Seen (*suahelicus*)

**Yellow Weaver | Eastern Golden Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus*—Good views at Makuzi Beach (*aureoflavus*)

**Holub’s Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*—Several sightings

**Southern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus xanthopterus*—Seen well at Liwonde (*xanthopterus*)

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*—Seen at Makuzi Beach (*cabanisii*)

**Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*—Seen near Dedza (*velatus*)

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*—Seen (*paroptus*)

**Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*—Seen at Mt Mulanje (*stictifrons*)

**Southern Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes [r.] rubriceps*—Seen a few times, some with traces of Northern Red-headed Weaver in their plumage

**Northern Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes [rubriceps] leuconotos*—Seen a few times

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*—Seen at Chikwawa (*lathamii*)

**Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*—Seen (*hordeaceus*)

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes [o.] orix*—Seen at Chikwawa (*nigrifrons*)

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*—Seen (*crassirostris*)

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*macroura*)

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

Estrildidae

**Orange-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia afra*—Good views at Dzalanyama

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*—Seen (*grotei*)

**Green Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula*—Heard at Luwawa (*nitidula*)

**Red-faced Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza reichenovii*—Great views at Luwawa (*australis*)

**Lesser Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes minor*—Seen at Dzalanyama by some

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

**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*—Seen (*haematocephala*)

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

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Coccygia quartinia*—Seen at Nyika and Zomba (*stuartirwini*)

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda [a.] astrild*—Seen a few times (*cavendishi*)

**Orange-breasted Waxbill | Zebra Waxbill** *Amandava subflava*—Brief views (*clarkei*)

**Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullata*—Seen (*scutata*)

**Red-backed Mannikin** *Spermestes bicolor*—Several good sightings

**Locust Finch** *Paludipasser locustella*—seen near Dedza, in flight.

Viduidae

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*—Seen

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

Motacillidae

**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 at Nyika and Zomba (*lichenya*)

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus [s.] similis*—Heard at Nyika (*winterbottomi*)

**Wood Pipit** *Anthus nyassae*—Seen at Dzalanyama and near Dedza (*nyassae*)

**Striped Pipit** *Anthus lineiventris*—Seen well at Dzalanyama

Fringillidae

**Southern Citril** *Crithagra hyposticta*—Seen well at Luwawa (*hyposticta*)

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

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

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

**Reichard’s Seedeater** *Crithagra [r.] reichardi*—Seen well at Dzalanyama (*reichardi*)

**Black-eared Seedeater** *Crithagra mennelli*—Good views at Dzalanyama

**Yellow-browed Seedeater** *Crithagra [striolata] whytii*—Seen at Nyika

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

Emberizidae

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza [t.] tahapisi*—Seen at Dzalanyama and Dedza (*tahapisi*)

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

**Cabanis’s Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi*—Seen at Dzalanyama (*orientalis*)

Olive-flanked Robin-Chat © Michael Mills







*Anchieta's Sunbird, Böhm's Flycatcher and African Wood Owl © Michael Mills*







*African Broadbill and Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk with Black-lored Cisticola © Michael Mills*



*Baglafecht Weaver and Bertram's Weaver © Michael Mills*







*Black-lored Cisticola and Churring Cisticola © Michael Mills*



*Denham's Bustard and Collared Palm Thrush © Michael Mills*







*Grey-olive Greenbul and Blue Swallow © Michael Mills*



*Dickinson's Kestrel and Fülleborn's Boubou © Michael Mills*







*Eastern Miombo Sunbird and Western Miombo Sunbird © Michael Mills*



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*Lilian's Lovebird and Mountain Marsh Widowbird © Michael Mills*



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*White-backed Night Heron and Southern White-faced Owl © Michael Mills*



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*Sousa's Shrike and Red-faced Crimsonwing* © Michael Mills







*Red-necked Spurfowl and Olive-headed Greenbul © Michael Mills*



*Scaly-throated Woodpecker and Little Spotted Woodpecker © Michael Mills*







*White-winged Apalis, White-starred Robin and Böhm's Bee-eater © Michael Mills*





