

Tanzania Wildlife Discussion Paper No. 35

Rolf D. Baldus and Ludwig Siege (Eds.)

Checklist of the Birds of Selous Game Reserve.

by

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Little Bee-eater (*Merops pusillus*)

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Foreword

This checklist covers the birds of Selous Game Reserve and the wildlands immediately surrounding the reserve. It is a follow up of a first checklist which we produced in ten years ago and which was published as No. 15 of this series.

The new list, which may help you enjoy your visits to the reserve, is not in any way speculative and all records have been verified. The area (approximately 75,000 km²) is one of the ornithologically least known parts of Africa. As such, the list can be considered to be incomplete and it is hoped that it will encourage people with observations of species not previously recorded to make their records known. Future versions of the checklist will include these additional species. A more ambitious annotated checklist of the birds is being prepared for Selous Game Reserve and will include details of distribution, populations, habitat preferences, breeding and seasonal movements. Contributions for all species, which will be acknowledged individually in the checklist, will be welcome. Those interested in contributing records may do so to:

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The sequence of Orders and Families follows that in *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania* by D.A. Zimmerman, D.A. Turner and D.J. Pearson.

We thank Bodo Meier who has provided the painting on the cover.

Dr. Neil Stronach and Dr. Rolf D. Baldus

Order Podicipediformes

Grebes Family Podicipedidae

Aquatic birds with lobed toes that spend all their time on water. They feed by diving for fish, insects and other small animals. They also swallow feathers to protect their stomachs from sharp fish bones. The nests are of floating vegetation.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Cormorants Family Phalacrocoracidae

Large aquatic birds that dive for fish and other animals, catching these with a strong hooked bill. In order to reduce buoyancy during dives, their plumage is not entirely waterproof and their wings are held out to dry between dives.

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Greater Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Darters Family Anhingidae

Large aquatic birds, similar to cormorants, that spear fish with a long sharp bill. They often swim with the body submerged and only the head and neck above the water.

Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Order Pelecaniformes

Peleicans Family Pelecanidae

Very large aquatic fish-eating birds: among the very largest of flying birds. Their long bills have an extensible pouch for catching fish. They are often nomadic, moving large distances in search of fish.

White Pelecan *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Pink-backed Pelecan *Pelecanus rufescens*

Order Ciconiiformes

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns

Family Ardeidae

Large birds with long legs for wading in water and long necks and sharp dagger-like bills for spearing fish and other animals. Species vary in stature, some being tall and slender and others relatively small and short. They possess powder-down feathers that are used for cleaning fish mucus and other dirt from their feathers.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Madagascar Squacco Heron *Ardeola idae*

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus*

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Yellow-billed Egret *Egretta intermedia*

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus*

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Hamerkop

Family Scopidae

A crested stork-like wading bird with a heavy flattened bill. It builds an enormous domed nest, usually in trees. This family is exclusively African.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Storks

Family Ciconiidae

Large wading birds with long legs, necks and bills. They prey on small animals in both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Some species migrate to Africa from Eurasia during the northern winter.

Open-billed Stork *Anastomus lamelligerus*

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Marabou *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Ibises & Spoonbills **Family Threskiornithidae**

Large wading birds with long bills: curved in ibises and spatulate in spoonbills. Some species nest colonially.

Hadada *Bostrychia hagedash*

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

Order Anseriformes

Ducks & Geese **Family Anatidae**

A diverse group of stockily built waterbirds. Their bills are short and broad, with lamellae along each side that allow filter feeding in water and mud.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhynchus*

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Vultures, Eagles, Hawks, Kites, Buzzards & Osprey
Family Accipitridae

A diverse group of small to very large hunting and scavenging birds, with sharp hooked bills and strongly clawed gripping feet.

Palm Nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

African White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppellii*

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Hooded Vulture *Neophron monachus*

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

Harrier Hawk *Polyboroides radiatus*

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

Southern Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus fasciolatus*

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Great Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucos*

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus*

Ovampo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

Ayre's Hawk Eagle *Hieraaetus dubius*

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

African Hawk Eagle *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Gabar Goshawk *Melierax gabar*

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Cuckoo Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides*

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Order Falconiformes

Secretary Bird

Family Sagittariidae

A large bird of prey with very long legs. Hunts on foot for ground-living animals. This family is exclusively African.

Secretary Bird *Sagittarius serpentarius*

Falcons

Family Falconidae

Birds similar to hawks and eagles except in their notched bills and relatively pointed wings. Some species are impressively swift in hunting flight.

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

Eastern Red-footed Falcon *Falco amurensis*

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

African Hobby *Falco cuvieri*

Dickinson's Kestrel *Falco dickinsoni*

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Order Galliformes

Quails & Francolins

Family Phasianidae

Partridge-like birds that usually live and forage on the ground. They use their clawed feet to scratch the ground in search of food. When disturbed they hide amongst herbage, aided by their cryptic plumage patterns and coloration.

Blue Quail *Coturnix adansonii*

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delgorguei*

Violet-tipped Courser *Rhinoptilus chalconotus*

White-collared Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*

Common Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Plovers

Family Charadriidae

Shore birds with, variously, short legs, compact bodies and rapid flight, or long legs and rounder wings that beat to a jerky rhythm. Plovers inhabit grasslands or aquatic margins.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

White-fronted Sandplover *Charadrius marginatus*

Kittlitz's Sandplover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollis*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

White-headed Plover *Vanellus albiceps*

Blacksmith Plover *Vanellus armatus*

Crowned Plover *Vanellus coronatus*

Senegal Plover *Vanellus lugubris*

Spur-winged plover *Vanellus spinosus*

Sandpipers, Phalaropes & Snipes

Family Scolopacidae

A diverse group of wading birds that typically probe mud and damp soils for small animal prey with their sensitive bill. The majority of species occurring in Tanzania migrate here during the northern winter.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Gulls & Terns

Family Laridae

Mostly white-plumaged birds, associated largely with wetlands, or occasionally grasslands, where they fish or hawk for small prey. Some species migrate long distances seasonally.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonius leucopterus*

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonius hybridus*

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Skimmers

Family Rhynchopidae

Striking tern-like waterbirds whose lower jaw is longer than the upper and used for catching fish while slicing the water surface during flight. In Selous they are found on the main rivers.

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*

Order Columbiformes

Pigeons & Doves

Family Columbidae

Fruit or grain eating birds of forest, woodland or grassland. Most utter soft calls. Unusually among birds, they drink by sucking water directly into their mouths without tilting the head back.

Lemon Dove *Aplopelia larvata*

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Blue-Spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

Green Pigeon *Treron calva*

Order Psittaciformes

Parrots & Lovebirds Family Psittacidae

Noisy, brightly coloured birds with short hooked bills and rapid flight. They are mostly arboreal seed and fruit eaters but some also forage for grass seed.

Brown-headed Parrot *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*

Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus robustus*

Order Musophagiformes

Turacos Family Musophagidae

Long-tailed birds of woodland and forest that eat fruit. While the turacos are brightly coloured, the go-away birds are more soberly coloured brown or grey and white. This family is exclusively African.

Go-away Bird *Corythaixoides concolor*

Livingstone's Turaco *Tauraco livingstonii*

Violet-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus*

Order Cuculiformes

Cuckoos & Coucals Family Cuculidae

Long-tailed birds with distinctive calls. Cuckoos are notable for being brood parasites and in feeding largely on caterpillars. Coucals care for their young and have a more varied diet of small animals. Some species of cuckoos migrate to Selous from Europe and Asia, while others are intra-African migrants.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx montanus*

Didric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Klaas' Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

Black and White Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti*

Yellowbill *Ceuthmochares aereus*

Burchell's Coucal *Centropus burchelli*

Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

Order Strigiformes

Barn Owls

Family Tytonidae

Specialised nocturnal predators. Unlike other owls, the facial disc is heart-shaped. They hunt for small animals and can do so in pitch darkness with their sensitive hearing.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Typical Owls

Family Strigidae

Small to large nocturnal predators with large eyes surrounded in most species by a facial disc. The pattern and colouring of the feathers is usually cryptic, rendering owls inconspicuous during the day.

Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus*

Verreaux's Eagle Owl *Bubo lacteus*

African Wood Owl *Ciccaba woodfordii*

Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense*

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

White-faced Scops Owl *Otus leucotis*

African Scops Owl *Otus scops*

Pel's Fishing Owl *Scotopelia peli*

Order Caprimulgiformes

Nightjars

Family Caprimulgidae

Nocturnal birds with tiny bills and large mouths that are used for catching large insects in flight. The plumage is wonderfully cryptic in order to hide the birds against the background of dead leaves, bark or soil. They lay their eggs on the bare ground.

Eurasian Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Gabon Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma*

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

Order Apodiformes

Swifts & Spinetails

Family Apodidae

These birds are almost entirely aerial in their habits, some species even sleeping during flight. They have long wings allowing rapid flight, a small bill and large mouth for catching insects in flight, and tiny legs that do not allow them to take off from the ground. Some species are difficult to identify in the field.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Eurasian Swift *Apus apus*

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Bohm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi*

Mottle-throated Spinetail *Telecanthura ussheri*

Order Coliiformes

Mousebirds Family Coliidae

Small birds with long pointed tails and short bills, with a diet of fruit, leaves, flowers and insects. Living in small groups, they are unusually acrobatic among the branches of trees and bushes. This family is exclusively African.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Order Trogoniformes

Trogon Family Trogonidae

Forest dwelling birds with brightly coloured soft plumage, long tails and short bills. With their green plumage and soft calls they are difficult to see.

Narina's Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

Order Coraciiformes

Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae

Often brightly coloured birds with large bills. They hunt by scanning the water or ground, depending the species, for small animal prey. Some species are intra-African migrants.

Giant Kingfisher *Ceryle maxima*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

Mangrove Kingfisher *Halcyon senegaloides*

Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

Bee-eaters Family Meropidae

Slender, brightly coloured birds with long pointed wings and long gently down-curved bills.

Levaillant's Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii*

Honeyguides

Family Indicatoridae

Small insectivorous birds of forest and woodland that also eat beeswax. One species leads people and honey badgers to bees' nests which, when raided, provide wax and bee grubs to the bird. Honeyguides are brood parasites, laying their eggs in the nests of other birds. The eggs are incubated and the young reared by the foster parents.

Black-throated Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*

Wrynecks & Woodpeckers

Family Picidae

Birds specialised for excavating wood for insect prey and nest sites, using their exceptionally strong bills. Their tongues are unusually long and extensible, and are barbed for catching and drawing out their insect prey.

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis*

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii*

Little Spotted Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii*

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus*

Stierling's Woodpecker *Dendropicos stierlingi*

Bearded Woodpecker *Thripas namaquus*

Order Passeriformes

Perching or Song Birds

Broadbills

Family Eurylaimidae

Small forest birds with broad flat bills. The species found in Selous has a strange that lends a particular atmosphere to the forests and thickets.

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*

Eurasian Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Pipits, Wagtails & Longclaws

Family Motacillidae

Small ground-dwelling birds of grasslands, bushland, woodland and wetlands. Pipits and longclaws spend furtive lives among the herbage, while wagtails live more conspicuously in the open.

Little Tawny Pipit *Anthus caffer*

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Woodland Pipit *Anthus nyassa*

Buffy Pipit *Anthus vaaalensis*

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Golden Pipit *Tmetothylacus tenellus*

Cuckoo-shrikes

Family Campephagidae

Quiet unobtrusive birds of woodland or forest, feeding mostly on insects, notably caterpillars.

Black Cuckoo Shrike *Campephaga flava*

White-breasted Cuckoo Shrike *Coracina pectoralis*

Bulbuls

Family Pycnonotidae

Shy birds with nondescript undistinguished greenish or grey plumage, offering a challenge to identification. Most species live furtively in dense vegetation but many have loud calls.

Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus*

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Nicator *Nicator chloris*

Grey-olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*

Tiny Greenbul *Phyllastrephus debilis*

Fischer's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus fischeri*

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris*

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Thrushes & Chats **Family Turdidae**

A varied group of small to medium sized birds. Some with strikingly coloured and patterned plumage. Depending on species, the choice of habitat varies from dense forest to open grassland. Some species are Palearctic winter migrants.

White-chested Alethe *Alethe fulleborni*

Red-tailed Chat *Cercomela familiaris*

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Eastern Bearded Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*

Miombo Bearded Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas barbata*

Morning Thrush *Cichladusa arquata*

Spotted Morning Thrush *Cichladusa guttata*

White-browed Robin Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Red-capped Robin Chat *Cossypha natalensis*

Miombo Rock Thrush *Monticola angolensis*

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

Red-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

White-starred Forest Robin *Pogonocichla stellata*

White-headed Black Chat *Thamnolaea arnoti*

Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Orange Ground Thrush *Turdus gurneyi*

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyanus*

Warblers

Family Sylviidae

A varied group of small insectivorous birds occupying a variety of habitats from grasslands to forest. Some species are Palearctic migrants, and some are of skulking habit that makes observing them difficult. Several species offer a significant challenge to identification in the field.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticus*

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala*

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*

Barred Wren warbler *Camaroptera steirlingi*

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridula*

Siffling Cisticola *Cisticola brachyptera*

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Tabora Cisticola *Cisticola fulvicapilla*

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola galactotes*

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

Yellow-bellied *Eremomela icteropygialis*

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops*

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythroptera*

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*

Kretschmer's Longbill *Macrosphenus kretschmeri*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Moustached Warbler *Sphenoeacus mentalis*

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Flycatchers

Family Muscicapidae

Small birds of woodland and forest with, in most species, undistinguished plumage. The bills are rather broad and flat and used for catching insects in flight or on the ground. Some species are Palearctic migrants.

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Lead-coloured Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*

Batises & Wattle-eyes

Family Platysteiridae

Small strikingly marked flycatcher-like birds of woodland and forest. They are notable for making whirring or clicking sounds with their wings in flight.

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

Forest Batis *Batis mixta*

East Coast *Batis soror*

Black and White Flycatcher *Bias musicus*

Black-throated Wattleeye *Platysteira peltata*

Monarch Flycatchers

Family Monarchidae

Flycatcher-like birds of forest and woodland. They glean insects from foliage and also catch them in flight and are conspicuous wherever they occur.

Livingstone's Flycatcher *Erythrocercus livingstonei*

Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus cyanomelas*

Babblers & Chatterers

Family Timaliidae

Brown plumaged birds living in noisy social groups in woodland and thickets.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosus*

Tits

Family Paridae

Small compact acrobatic birds of woodlands with short bills used for gleaning insects from vegetation. Their plumage is strikingly patterned and they nest in tree cavities.

Black Tit *Parus leucomelas*

Rufous-bellied Tit *Parus rufiventris*

Penduline Tits

Family Remizidae

Tiny insectivorous birds of woodland. Notable for constructing bag-like nests of felt from plant down. The nest has a false entrance that confuses potential predators.

African Penduline Tit *Remiz caroli*

Creepers

Family Certhiidae

Small arboreal birds with slender downcurved bills that habitually cling to the bark of trees. The single species in Selous is uncommon and inconspicuous.

Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonota*

Sunbirds**Family Nectariniidae**

Small birds with fine bills typically adapted to feeding on the nectar of flowers, or on small insects. The plumage of most species is beautifully iridescent in the males. They occupy all wooded and forested habitats.

Collared Sunbird *Anthreptes collaris*

Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*

Uluguru Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes neglectus*

Amethyst Sunbird *Nectarinia amethystina*

Little Purple-banded Sunbird *Nectarinia bifasciata*

Mariqua Sunbird *Nectarinia mariquensis*

Olive Sunbird *Nectarinia olivacea*

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Nectarinia senegalensis*

Shelley's Double-collared Sunbird *Nectarinia shelleyi*

Variable Sunbird *Nectarinia venusta*

White-eyes**Family Zosteropidae**

Small gregarious birds of woodlands, with distinctive white eyerings. Their brush-like tongues allow them to drink nectar from flowers but they also eat insects and fruits. Their taxonomy is still under discussion.

Yellow Whiteeye *Zosterops senegalensis*

Oriolidae**Family Oriolidae**

Birds of woodland and forest where they inhabit the canopy. Curiously, their striking plumage helps to camouflage them from view and it is often only their conspicuous calls that indicate their presence.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

Green-headed Oriole *Oriolus chlorocephalus*

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Shrikes**Family Laniidae**

Large-headed predatory birds of open habitats, with short hooked bills somewhat like those of hawks. Several species are Palaearctic migrants.

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi*

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus*

Bush-shrikes **Family Malaconotidae**

Insectivorous and predatory birds occupying dense vegetation, often in woodland or forest. Plumage and calls are often striking. Furtive habits in dense vegetation make some species difficult to observe. The family is endemic to Africa.

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus*

Grey-headed Bush Shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

Black-fronted Bush Shrike *Malaconotus multicolor*

Four-coloured Bush Shrike *Malaconotus quadricolor*

Sulphur-breasted Bush Shrike *Malaconotus sulphureopectus*

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Brown-headed Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

Marsh Tchagra *Tchagra minuta*

Black-headed Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

Helmet-shrikes **Family Prionopidae**

Gregarious forest and woodland birds living in tight-knit noisy and active groups. The head typically bears a bunch of fine plumes.

Helmet Shrike *Prionops plumata*

Retz's Helmet Shrike *Prionops retzii*

Chestnut-fronted Helmet Shrike *Prionops scopifrons*

Drongos **Family Dicuridae**

Noisy birds of woodland and forest, with iridescent black plumage. They are noted for habitually mobbing and chasing large predatory birds that pass through their territories.

Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*

Crows & Ravens **Family Corvidae**

The largest of the Passerines. Mostly black, or black and white, plumage and with predatory habits. Many species are very adaptable and exceptionally intelligent and are able to live close to human habitation where they subsist on waste.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Indian House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Starlings & Oxpeckers

Family Sturnidae

A large group with varied (often iridescent) plumage and occupying all types of habitat from open grassland to dense forest. Most have a varied diet including both insects and fruits. The oxpeckers are unusual in being dependant on large herbivorous mammals from which they glean ticks.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Blue-eared Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis chalybeus*

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

Black-breasted Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis corruscus*

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Sparrows & Petronias

Family Passeridae

Small birds with unobtrusive plumage, living in open habitats, and with conical bills adapted to feeding on grass seeds.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*

Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Yellow-throated Petronia *Petronia superciliaris*

Weavers **Family Ploceidae**

A large group of species inhabiting diverse habitats from grassland to forest. Like the sparrows, many species are adapted to feeding on grass seeds. They weave beautiful spherical nests of grass and many species are colonial.

Grosbeak Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

Parasitic Weaver *Anomalospiza imberbis*

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

Red-naped Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Zanzibar Red Bishop *Euplectes nigroventris*

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Olive-headed Golden Weaver *Ploceus olivaceiceps*

Golden Weaver *Ploceus subaureus*

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythropis*

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

White-browed Sparrow Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

Waxbills & Mannikins Family Estrildidae

Very small birds, adapted to feeding on seeds, and found in most habitats from grassland to forest. The species of whydahs and indigo birds are brood parasites of other species in this family.

Zebra waxbill *Amandava subflava*

Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda perreini*

Peter's Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus*

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Lesser Seed-cracker *Pyrenestes minor*

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afra*

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

Cordon Bleu *Uraeginthus angolensis*

Black and White Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor*

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides*

Quail Finch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

Whydahs , Indigobirds Family Viduidae

Red-billed Firefinch Indigobird *Hypochera chalybeata*

African Firefinch Indigobird *Hypochera funerea*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua obtusa*

Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea*

Seedeaters & Canaries

Family Fringillidae

Small birds whose bills are specially adapted to feeding on seeds. They occupy a variety of habitats from open grassland to forest edge.

Yellow-rumped Seedeater *Serinus atrogularis*

Yellow-fronted Seedeater *Serinus mozambicus*

Stripe-breasted Seedeater *Serinus reichardi*

Old-World Buntings

Family Emberizidae

Small birds of bushland and woodland, similar to finches in that their bills are adapted for seed-eating.

Cabani's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi*

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*

Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*