

Kenya – June 2009

A backpacking birding-trip.

After a trip to Kenya in November 2007, covering some of the lakes in the Rift Valley, Kakamega Forest and Isiolo, I still wanted to visit some sites down towards the coast, like the Taita Hills and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. I planned this trip in late June hoping to get there at the end of the rains, before the main holiday season in Europe and with a chance of seeing Madagascar Pratincole near Malindi. As it turned out, large parts of the country were suffering from drought, and only on the coast had there been some rain.

Like my trip in 2007 I hadn't made any arrangements in advance other than my plane ticket, and I had no problems during my time there, with finding accommodation or transport. Travelling on my own with just a backpack meant that it was easy to catch a *matatu*. For travelling around Kenya it's best to use either the Lonely Planet or Rough Guide travel guides, to sort out transportation and accommodation.

As on my last visit, I relied on the excellent report by Samuel Hansson Oct/Nov 2004 and also the report by Jon Hornbuckle Aug/Sep 2001 for Gongoni. For information about Taita Hills I used the report by Eduard Sangster Sep/Nov 2004 and also the Hornbuckle report, all the reports can be found on travellingbirder.com.

Miscellaneous.

As I had problems with the ATM's in Jomo Kenyatta Airport in Nairobi last time, I decided to bring a few hundred Euros in cash this time, and it went smoothly. I used an ATM in Malindi later in the trip, and had no problems with my VISA card. The exchange rate in June 2009 was 1 EUR ~ 108 Kenyan Shillings (KES) and 1 USD ~ 77 KES. The weather during my trip was mostly sunny and warm, except half a day of rain in Taita Hills, and in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest on the coast it became very humid in the middle of the day, and bird-activity was very low. There were surprisingly few annoying insects about, and as all accommodation had mozzie-nets the only thing disturbing my sleep was the heat in Watamu the first few nights. For food during the day I packed some biscuits, but also had lunch a few times in small hotelis (restaurants) if possible, usually ordering chapattis and omelette, or beef-stew with rice. The bananas were also good. I didn't bring a scope, and the only place it would have been of any use were at the coastal sites, but the shorebirds and gulls/terns were not very shy, so I didn't miss out on much.

Sites visited.

Taita Hills – the forest at Ngangao is easily reached from Wundanyi, as it is only an 8km walk uphill, taking less than two hours, as the birding is quite slow. To get there early it is probably possible to make arrangements with a *bodaboda*-driver (motorcycle) the day before. There are several hotels in town, and I stayed in Taita Rock, slightly uphill to the right, just before reaching the turn off to Wundanyi town. It cost 500 KES/night and good food could be ordered in the restaurant. *Matatus* go to Wundanyi all day from Voi (150 KES) on the main Nairobi-Mombasa road. I wasn't sure where to look for the birds precisely, but was fortunate enough to meet the local guide Jonam (tlph 0711767252) at the research station, and I hired him for half a day to show me the Thrush and Apalis. Beginning in July 2009 a fee of 600 KES will be mandatory to visit the forest. The birds are found in the forest on the northern side of the mountain, and with a guide all the endemics should be found in a few hours. If the weather is clear there are great, but distant, views of Kilimanjaro across the border in Tanzania.

Sagala Lodge – from Wundanyi it's possible to catch a Mombasa-bound *matatu* that will drop you in front of the entrance gate, on the main road approx. 15km southwest of Voi (200 KES), or you could change *matatus* in Voi. From the main gate it's another 2km walk to the lodge. I stayed 2 nights with full board and paid 2500 KES/day, inclusive a 10 % discount.



Ngangao Forest, Taita Hills and the entrance road to Sagala Lodge.

The main reason to visit Sagala Lodge is the fact, that it's possible to bird on foot in the scrub, but during my visit elephants were present in the area, so the staff advised me to avoid certain areas. One of the staff – Wilson – is also a good bird-guide, and I went with him one afternoon to the reservoir in the large enclosure.

Arabuko Sokoke Forest – staying in the resort town of Watamu, the Forest HQ south of Gedi can be reached in 30-45 minutes by taking a *matatu* to Gedi (30 KES) and then walking the last 1.5km to the entrance, where you have to pay the entrance-fee (20 USD/1600 KES). The office opens at 6 am, but tickets can be purchased on prior days, if you're going to other sections of the forest and want an early start. From the Forest HQ a track (Elephant-trail) leads to Arabuko swamp approx. 5kms away, passing through plantations, mixed forest and a few patches of *Brachystegia* forest before emerging into the open at the swamp. Another good area is the trail at Kararacha ranger station, 20 km and a 70 KSH *matatu*-ride to the south, where *Brachystegia* forest is reached after a few km.

I hired a guide for two days in Arabuko-Sokoke, the very competent Willy Nganda (willynganda@yahoo.co.uk , tlp 0723314416/0733971604) who also arranged for a car on one of the days to take us to the western side of the forest around Jilore, for which the driver, Kazungu, charged 4500 KES for a full day. The forest near the Jilore Forest Station is red soil or *Cynometra*, where the Sokoke Scops Owl is found, and is approx. an hours drive away from Gedi.



Brachystegia forest in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and the bird hide at Mida Creek.

Mida Creek – is just 5km south of Gedi, and the turnoff is clearly signposted on the main road, and all *matatu* drivers know this place. A 15 minutes walk down a dirt track takes you to the edge of the mangrove and a small visitor centre, from where a suspended walkway through the mangroves leads to the bird-hide facing the mudflats. If the walkway is broken (as it was in June 2009) it's possible to walk across the mudflats to the hide. To optimize your visit it's best to arrive a couple of hours before high-tide, when the birds begin to gather in front of the hide.

Gongoni – is easily reached by *matatu* from Watamu (100 KES), by first taking one from Watamu to Malindi, and then change *matatu* at the big roundabout in Malindi, to one going towards Lamu. Gongoni is approx. 20km north of Malindi, and is the village next to the first salt works.

The report by Jon Hornbuckle mentioned a site for Malindi Pipit near a football field north of Gongoni, and I tried finding this place by walking north along the main road. I didn't find the football field, but 3km north of Gongoni a large area had been cleared of brush on the eastern side of the road, just south of another salt works, and on the edge of this area I found several Malindi Pipits.



Malindi Pipit habitat near Gongoni and Sabaki River Mouth.

Sabaki River Mouth – on the way to Gongoni, the Sabaki River is crossed 5km north of Malindi, and from the village on the northern side of the bridge, a dirt track leads down towards the coast. The first part is through bush and farmland, before dropping down to the river in front of the outermost, vegetated dunes. Next is an area of extensive salt-marsh with scattered bushes to the north and a band of mangroves towards the river, before reaching the sandy beach at the river mouth, where waders and terns roost on the spit at high-tide.



Habitat east of Athi River.

Athi River – is a suburb 20km east of Nairobi, close to the Nairobi-Mombasa highway. By following the rail tracks eastwards out of town, it's possible to bird on foot in nice grasslands and acacia-savanna. There are a few hotels in town, but I stayed in Nairobi this time, and took a *matatu* (#110) from the *matatu* terminal near the KBS Bus Station in the morning. The site is close to the highway, and to get back I simply walked up to the road and flagged down a bus going towards Nairobi.

Itinerary.

- 15.06** arrived in Nairobi from Amsterdam early morning, took taxi into town (1500 KES) and from there a bus down to Voi (800 KES/6 hours). From Voi a short *matatu*-ride to Wundanyi (150 KES). Birded around town late afternoon.
- 16.06** walked up to Ngangao Forest early morning, where I ran into the local guide Jonam, who showed me around for 5 hours. Walked back downhill to Wundanyi in the afternoon in pouring rain, but happy to have seen the 3 endemics.
- 17.06** thick fog in the morning, so only left the hotel at 8 am., and caught a Mombasa-bound *matatu* in front of the the hotel, which dropped me at the entrance to Sagala Lodge an hour later (200 KES). Walked in to the lodge and booked 2 days with full board. Rest of the day spent birding around the lodge.
- 18.06** all day spent birding in the bush around Sagala Lodge.
- 19.06** morning around Sagala Lodge, then walked to the main road, a caught a *matatu* to Mombasa (250 KES/2.5 hours). Found a Malindi-bound *matatu*, that would drop me in Gedi (200 KES/ 3.5 hours). A short *matatu* ride brought me to Watamu (30 KES) where I got a room at Villa Veronika (600 KES).
- 20.06** at sunrise took a *matatu* to Gedi and walked to the Forest HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest where I met the guide Willy Nganda. Arranged for guiding the following two days, and then birded the elephant trail until late afternoon, seeing an excellent Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew.
- 21.06** was picked up by Willy Nganda and the driver at 5.30 am, and first headed to a Spotted Ground Thrush site near the Forest HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, but no luck. Then drove around to the western side near Jilore Forest Station, to look for Sokoke Scops Owl in *Cynometra* forest for two hours, again no luck. Drove back through the forest along the Mida road with several birding stops, and was fortunate to see two Caracals crossing the road. After a siesta in Watamu, took a walk around the plantations near Forest HQ for Honeyguides, and then drove back to the site for the Scops Owl to wait for them to start calling at sunset – and they did!
- 22.06** took *matatu* to Gedi early and walked to Forest HQ where I met up with Willy Nganda. After birding around the plantations, we took a *matatu* down to Kararache Forest Station (60 KES), and walked the trail into *Brachystegia* forest for some hours, without seeing the hoped for Green-headed Oriole. A short *matatu* ride brought us back to the Mida Creek entrance, and we spent a few hours in the bird hide here on the rising tide. Late afternoon we tried to find East Coast Akalat in the forest near the Forest HQ.
- 23.06** from Watamu took a *matatu* to Malindi at sunrise (50 KES), and from there another to Gongoni (50 KES). Walked north along the road for a few kms to a recently cleared area on the eastern side, near a large saltworks. Birded around the pools and at the edge of the cleared area until midday, when I went back to Malindi, for a siesta and lunch. Early afternoon I took a *matatu* to Sabaki River bridge, and birded from here and out to the coast until late afternoon.
- 24.06** went back to Sabaki River in the early morning, and birded the area towards the coast until late morning. Back in Watamu I checked out, and found a *matatu* to Mombasa, from the Gedi junction (200 KES). In Mombasa I stayed at New Daba City Guest House (600 KES) close to the offices of the major bus companies.
- 25.06** took an 8 am bus to Nairobi (1200 KES), and arrived at 7.30 pm in Nairobi, seriously delayed by road blocks, road works, a rain shower that stalled trucks in front of us on a muddy part, and then finally the usual traffic congestion entering Nairobi. I checked in to Africana Hotel (900 KES).
- 26.06** after breakfast at the hotel I took a *matatu* to Athi River (60 KES), where I got off at the railroads crossing after passing the train station, and walked along the tracks to the western side of town past the slaughter house. Birded the grassland and savanna until mid afternoon, when I took a bus back to Nairobi from the main Nairobi-Mombasa road (100 KES).

It is easy to see a good range of birds in Kenya without going on an expensive safari, and if travelling without too tight a schedule, using matatus and local buses will get you everywhere, just allow for a few delays and enjoy the ride. Kenyans are friendly, and away from downtown Nairobi, and to a lesser extent Mombasa, Watamu and Malindi, where touts could be quite persistent I had no problems walking on my own. A smile, a wave and a greeting will get you a long way.

If there are questions or need for further information feel free to contact me –

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Species list: this list follows the *Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa*, by Terry Stevenson and John Fanshawe, which is probably the one most used by visiting birders. The more recently published *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*, by Ian Sinclair and Peter Ryan contains quite a few taxonomic changes, and these are also mentioned in the species list.

Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) Athi River 4 male and 3 female.

Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) Gongoni 5 and Sabaki River Mouth.

White-breasted Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax (carbo) lucidus*) 1 at Gongoni.

Long-tailed Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*) 15 at the northern saltworks at Gongoni.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) Gongoni 10, Sabaki River Mouth 25, Athi River 4 often seen from bus or *matatu*.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) Mida Creek 15, Gongoni 5, Sabaki River Mouth 10.

Dimorphic Egret (*Egretta dimorpha*) 2 dark morph birds were feeding in front of the hide at Mida Creek.

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 3 at Arabuko Swamp, Gongoni 1.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2, Mida Creek 5, Gongoni 10, Sabaki River Mouth 1.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) Mida Creek 1, Gongoni 2, Sabaki River Mouth 3, Athi River 1.

Black-headed Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2, Gongoni 6, Sabaki River Mouth 5, and also a few pairs breeding in tall trees near the beach in Watamu village.

Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*) Mida Creek 25, Gongoni 1, Sabaki River Mouth 30.

Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) 5 birds were at Arabuko Swamp in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and 6 were seen at Gongoni.

African Open-billed Stork (*Anastomus lamelligerus*) 2 seen at Gongoni.

Marabu Stork (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) a common bird in Nairobi.

Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) Mida Creek 30, Gongoni 20, Sabaki River Mouth 45, Athi River 1.

Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 1 and also seen/heard in Nairobi.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) 5 birds were feeding in the marsh at Sabaki River Mouth.

African Spoonbill (*Platalea alba*) Mida Creek 15, Gongoni 5, Sabaki River Mouth 25.

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) 10+ birds were across the creek at Mida Creek and up to 9 birds at Sabaki River Mouth.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*) Gongoni 2, Athi River 3.

Knob-billed Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) a single male seen in flight at Gongoni.

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 4 overflying, Sabaki River Mouth 12.

Yellow-billed Kite (*Milvus (migrans) parasiticus*) Gedi 1, Athi River 3 and very common in Nairobi, with hundreds gathering above downtown before dusk.

African Fish Eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2, Mida Creek 1, Gongoni 1, Sabaki River Mouth 1.

African White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*) Athi River 6+, with two active nests.

Black-chested Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus pectoralis*) one overflying bird at Athi River.

Eastern Chanting-Goshawk (*Melierax poliopterus*) Sagala Lodge 2.

Gabar Goshawk (*Micronisus gabar*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 1 along the Elephant trail.

Lizard Buzzard (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*) 1-2 birds seen daily around Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, usually perched in the open along roads.

Little Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter minullus*) a single juvenile bird was seen a few km outside of Wundanyi.

Augur Buzzard (*Buteo augur*) a single bird was soaring above Uhuru Park in Nairobi, and another seen near Ngangao Forest in the Taita Hills.

Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) one adult female seen at Sagala Lodge.

African Crowned Eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) a single, and very vocal, adult in display-flight above the Nature Trail in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Pygmy Falcon (*Polihierax semitorquatus*) a male perched atop an *Akacia* tree near Sagala Lodge for half an hour.

Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*) a juvenile bird hunting above the road between Wundanyi and Ngangao Forest.

Vulturine Guineafowl (*Acryllium vulturinum*) at Sagala Lodge a group of 25-30 birds came in to feed around the lodge several times daily, usually being served scraps from the kitchen.



Vulturine Guineafowl at Sagala Lodge.

Crested Guineafowl (*Guttera pucherani*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest two birds were seen along the Kararacha trail.

Crested Francolin (*Francolinus sephaena*) commonly heard around Sagala Lodge and Sabaki River Mouth.

African Jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*) 2 birds were seen at Arabuko Swamp in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

White-bellied Bustard (*Eupodotis senegalensis*) Athi River 2 (pair) in the grassland.

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) 4 birds seen at Gongoni.

Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*) one of the trip highlights, after missing the species a few times in UAE. At Mida Creek 51 were at the hightide roost, and at Sabaki River Mouth there was a roost of 85 on the spit, with 127 counted feeding on the mudflats there the following day.



Crab Plovers at Sabaki River Mouth.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) 2 birds were at the hightide roost on the spit at Sabaki River Mouth.

Water Thick-knee (*Burhinus vermiculatus*) a single bird was found at Sabaki River Mouth.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) at Gongoni around 45 birds were seen at the northern saltworks, and at Sabaki River Mouth 35+ were found amongst the following species.

Madagascar Pratincole (*Glareola ocularis*) at Sabaki River Mouth a large flock of 500+ birds were roosting in the saltmarsh 1.5km north of the river. In late afternoon they began to take off and feed overhead. The following morning not a single bird could be found here (!), so maybe the birds are feeding further away, and only use the place for roosting during the day?

Blacksmith Lapwing (*Vanellus armatus*) at Athi River a pair with 2 large pull. were feeding in small field.

Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*) Gongoni 10, Sabaki River Mouth 25 - very noisy as usual.

Kittlitz's Plover (*Charadrius pecuarius*) a single bird seen twice in the saltmarsh at Sabaki River Mouth behaved like it had a nest closeby.

White-fronted Plover (*Charadrius marginatus*) 6 birds were found at the hightide roost at Mida Creek, and at Sabaki River Mouth there were up to 15 birds.

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) 3 birds at Sabaki River Mouth.

Lesser Sandplover (*Charadrius mongolus*) only a few birds were safely identified at Sabaki River Mouth amongst the numerous Greater Sandplovers.

Greater Sandplover (*Charadrius leschenaultia*) at least 25+ amongst the 270 Sandplovers at the hightide roost at Mida Creek, and the majority of birds identified from the 60 Sandplovers at Sabaki River Mouth were Greater.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) at Mida Creek 35 and at Sabaki River Mouth 40.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) approx. 15 birds at both Mida Creek and Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) 10 birds at Mida Creek, 2 at Gongoni and 6 at Sabaki River Mouth.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) a single bird seen on the beach at Sabaki River Mouth.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) up to 7 birds at Sabaki River Mouth.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) 2 birds at Mida Creek, and a single bird at Sabaki River Mouth

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) 40 birds at Mida Creek, and 15 at Sabaki River Mouth.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) at Sabaki River Mouth there were up to 6 birds.

Heuglin's Gull (*Larus heuglini*) up to 4 birds present at Sabaki River Mouth.

Sooty Gull (*Larus hemprichii*) 20+ birds roosting on the spit at Sabaki River Mouth.

Lesser Crested Tern (*Sterna bengalensis*) 2 birds at Mida Creek, and approx. 200 birds roosting on the spit at Sabaki River Mouth.



Crab Plovers, Greater Crested and Lesser Crested Tern, Sabaki River Mouth.

Greater Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*) amongst the 75-100 birds seen at Sabaki River Mouth nearly all were of the dark-backed *S. b. velox* race, but at least one was of the pale-backed race *S. b. thalassina*, looking more like a large Lesser Crested Tern.

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*) a single bird at Mida Creek, and up to 10 at Sabaki River Mouth.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) 2 birds at Sabaki River Mouth.

Black-faced Sandgrouse (*Pterocles decoratus*) at Sagala Lodge birds would come in to drink around 7-7.30 am., and up 30 birds were seen in flight.

African Green-Pigeon (*Treron calva*) a single bird seen in flight at Sabaki River Mouth.

Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*) in Athi River a few birds could be seen around large factory buildings.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove (*Turtur chalcospilos*) Sagala Lodge 4, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 5, Mida Creek 1, Gongoni 5, Sabaki River Mouth 3, Athi River 4, generally wherever there was a little bush or woodland.

Tambourine Dove (*Turtur tympanistra*) at least 3 birds seen in Ngangao Forest.

Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) Gongoni 1, Sabaki River Mouth 3.

Ring-necked Dove (*Streptopelia capicola*) Sagala Lodge 1, Mida Creek 2, Sabaki River Mouth 2, Athi River 3.

Red-eyed Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) Sagala Lodge 3, Gedi 1, Gongoni 1, Sabaki River Mouth 4, Athi River 2.

African Mourning Dove (*Streptopelia decipiens*) only one bird heard at Sabaki River Mouth.

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) Sagala Lodge 1, Gongoni 2, Athi River 5.

African Orange-bellied Parrot (*Poicephalus rufiventris*) at Sagala Lodge 2-5 birds were seen daily.

Fischer's Lovebird (*Agapornis fischeri*) 2 birds seen well at Athi River. Several birds and small groups of unidentified Lovebirds were seen at Watamu and Malindi, and could be either this species or Yellow-collared Lovebird, or even hybrids!

Hartlaub's Turaco (*Tauraco hartlaubi*) 3 birds seen and more heard in Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills.

Fischer's Turaco (*Tauraco fischeri*) single bird seen twice in the plantation at the start of the Nature Trail in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

White-bellied Go-away-bird (*Corythaixoides leucogaster*) Sagala Lodge 10+ and Athi River 4.



White-bellied Go-away-bird at Sagala Lodge.

Levaillant's Cuckoo (*Oxylophus levaillantii*) a single, dark morph bird was seen at Sabaki River Mouth.

Klaas's Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx klaas*) single birds were heard at two sites in Arabuko-Sokoke and one bird at Sabaki River Mouth.

Yellowbill (*Ceuthmochares aereus*) at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest birds were commonly heard, and also regularly seen, especially at the forest edge, where they would creep about in the dense vines.

This race is split in *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara* as **Green Malkoha (Yellowbill)** *Ceuthmochares australis*.

White-browed Coucal (*Centropus superciliosus*) Ngangao Forest 1, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2, Gongoni 3, Sabaki River Mouth 2.

Sokoke Scops-owl (*Otus ireneae*) to avoid disturbing the birds when they are feeding and calling at night, the guides at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest have staked out several daytime roosts. After trying out 3-4 roosts in the morning without luck, my guide Willy Nganda decided to wait for the birds to start calling around sunset, at a known territory. With half an hour of birding light left, a bird called nearby, and after a 10 minutes search two birds could be watched from a distance of 5 meters, and at eye-level.

This site was near the Jilore Forest Station, in red soil forest.

Pearl-spotted Owlet (*Glaucidium perlatum*) at Sagala Lodge one bird was found first thing in the morning just outside my cabin.

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) Wundanyi 50+, Sagala Lodge 20, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 20, Sabaki River Mouth 15, Athi River 10 and also common in Nairobi and Mombasa.

Mottled Swift (*Apus aequatorialis*) Sagala Lodge 2 on an afternoon with low clouds in the nearby hills.

African Palm Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*) Sagala Lodge 5, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 20, Sabaki River Mouth 10, Athi River 2.

Speckled Mousebird (*Colius striatus*) Wundanyi 2, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 3, Sabaki River Mouth 10, Athi River 1.

Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urocolius macrourus*) Sagala Lodge 7, Athi River 2.

Narina Trogon (*Apaloderma narina*) one male seen near Jilore Forest Station in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) 2-3 birds seen at both Gongoni and Sabaki River Mouth.

Grey-headed Kingfisher (*Halcyon leucocephala*) two birds were perching on telephone wires along the road north of Gongoni.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher (*Halcyon albiventris*) single birds were seen around Wundanyi in the Taita Hills.

Mangrove Kingfisher (*Halcyon senegaloides*) one bird was found in the plantation behind the Forest HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Little Bee-eater (*Merops pusillus*) Sagala Lodge 8, Athi River 6.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater (*Merops nubicus*) at the northern saltworks near Gongoni 3 adults and 3 juveniles were found, and could perhaps be local breeders, as the young were still being fed by the adults (?). A single bird was also seen on telephone wires between Gongoni and Sabaki.

Lilac-breasted Roller (*Coracias caudate*) often seen perched along the roadside in dry bush country.

Green Wood-hoopoe (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 3 in feeding flock.

African Hoopoe (*Upupa Africana*) 1-2 birds seen daily around camp at Sagala Lodge.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill (*Rhinopomastus minor*) Sagala Lodge 10+.

Common Scimitarbill (*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2 in feeding flock.

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill (*Tockus flavirostris*) Sagala Lodge 1.

(Northern) Red-billed Hornbill (*Tockus erythrorhynchus*) Sagala Lodge 2-3 birds.



Abyssinian Scimitarbill and Red-billed Hornbill, Sagala Lodge

Von der Decken's Hornbill (*Tockus deckeni*) Sagala Lodge 10+, Athi River 1.

African Grey Hornbill (*Tockus nasutus*) up to 4 birds seen at Sagala Lodge.

Trumpeter Hornbill (*Bycanistes bucinator*) common around Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, with up to 12 birds seen flying in to roost near Forest HQ in the late afternoon, from the surrounding area.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill (*Bycanistes brevis*) 1-2 pairs seen around Wundanyi in the Taita Hills.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*) one bird was heard in mixed forest near Forest HQ at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Eastern Green Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus simplex*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest two birds were heard near the Kararacha Forest Station.

Green Barbet (*Stactolaema olivacea*) often heard in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, and also regularly seen in pairs in feeding flocks.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus pusillus*) Sagala Lodge 5+.

Spot-flanked Barbet (*Tricholaema lacrymosa*) Wundanyi 1 and Athi River 1.

Black-throated Barbet (*Tricholaema melanocephala*) Sagala Lodge 8-10 daily.

d'Arnaud's Barbet (*Trachyphonus darnaudii*) up to 4 birds seen around Sagala Lodge.

Red-and-yellow Barbet (*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*) 2 birds seen close to the camp at Sagala Lodge.

Greater Honeyguide (*Indicator indicator*) one bird heard near Forests HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide (*Indicator variegates*) 2 birds heard and seen in the plantation at the Forest HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Lesser Honeyguide (*Indicator minor*) one bird was seen in the trees outside my cabin at Sagala Lodge, and another was heard in the plantation at the Forest HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Pallid Honeyguide (*Indicator meliphilus*) one bird was excellently 'whistled out' by my guide Willy Nganda, in the plantation behind the Forest HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Nubian Woodpecker (*Campethera nubica*) Sagala Lodge 6.

Mombasa Woodpecker (*Campethera mombassica*) 1-2 seen daily around Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, often in connection with feeding flocks.

Green-backed Woodpecker (*Campethera cailliautii*) 2-3 were seen in *Brachystegia* forest near Arabuko swamp in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in a large feeding flock.

Cardinal Woodpecker (*Dendropicos fuscescens*) Sagala Lodge 2.

Rufous-naped Lark (*Mirafra africana*) 3 birds seen in grasslands at Athi River.

Fawn-coloured Lark (*Mirafra africanoides*) one bird was found perched in top of a bush at Athi River. The birds in East Africa are treated as a separate species **Foxy Lark** (*Calandulauda alopex*) in *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark (*Eremopterix leucopareia*) common at Athi River with 15+ birds.

Rock Martin (*Hirundo fuligula*) up to 8 birds seen around Wundanyi and at Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills, and also 2 at large factory buildings in Athi River.

Plain Martin (*Hirundo paludicola*) 2 at Athi River.

Banded Martin (*Riparia cincta*) 2 birds were feeding over the grasslands at Athi River.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) 3 birds seen at Athi River.

Mosque Swallow (*Hirundo senegalensis*) Wundanyi 3.

Lesser Striped Swallow (*Hirundo abyssinica*) Sagala Lodge 8, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Gongoni 2, Sabaki River Mouth 2, Athi River 10.

Ethiopian Swallow (*Hirundo aethiopica*) seen at a few coastal sites, with up to 10 at both Gongoni and Sabaki River Mouth. 2 birds seen briefly in flight at Athi River looked very much like this species, but disappeared fast.

African Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla aguimp*) Wundanyi 4, Athi River 2.

Grassland Pipit (*Anthus cinnamomeus*) Mida Creek 2, Sabaki River Mouth 7.

Malindi Pipit (*Anthus melindae*) at the northern saltworks near Gongoni 5-6 birds were found along the southern edge of the pans, where recently cleared brush bordered grassy meadows. One bird was seen gathering nets-material, and 2-3 males were displaying overhead or singing from a perch.



Malindi Pipit at saltworks north of Gongoni.

Sokoke Pipit (*Anthus sokokensis*) only one bird was found, a bird in song-flight above the Sokoke Scops Owl site, near Jilore Forest Station in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Attempts to find other birds in *Brachystigea* forest failed.

Black Cuckoo-shrike (*Campephaga flava*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 8+, Mida Creek 1, Athi River 1.

Eastern Nicator (*Nicator gularis*) not uncommon in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, once the call is learned, but only seen on 3 occasions.

Common Bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*) Wundanyi 3, Sagala Lodge 10, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 6, Gongoni 6, Sabaki River Mouth 10, Athi River 4.

In *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*, the eastern birds are split off as **Dodson's Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus dodsoni*) which involved all the birds seen, except the ones at Athi River, that were of the nominate race **Common Bulbul**.

Stripe-cheeked Greenbul (*Andropadus milanjensis*) 3 birds found in Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills.

The birds in Southern Kenya and Tanzania are split as **Stripe-faced Greenbul** (*Andropadus striifacies*) in *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*.

Fischer's Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus fischerii*) not uncommon in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, but skulky, and groups are heard much more often than seen.

Northern Brownbul (*Phyllastrephus strepitans*) Sagala Lodge 3, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 1.

Terrestrial Brownbul (*Phyllastrephus terrestris*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2 along the trail at Kararache Forest Station.

Tiny Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus debilis*) like Fischer's Greenbul only seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, where singles and pairs were seen on a few occasions.

Zansibar Sombre Greenbul (*Andropadus importunes*) Sagala Lodge 2, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2, Sabaki River Mouth 3.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul (*Chlorocichla flaviventris*) small flocks were not uncommon in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Cabani's Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*) common in Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills, with 10+ birds seen. Treated as a different species **Placid Greenbul** (*Phyllastrephus placidus*) in *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*.

East Coast Akalat (*Sheppardia gunningi*) frustratingly 3 different birds were only heard, but never seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, despite one singing bird being very close. A species where a guide is very useful, to track down the bird.

Cape Robin-Chat (*Cossypha caffra*) 4 birds seen around Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills.

White-browed Robin-Chat (*Cossypha heuglini*) Sabaki River Mouth 3.

Red-capped Robin-Chat (*Cossypha natalensis*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest up to 6 birds seen daily.

Taita Thrush (*Turdus helleri*) with the help of my guide Jonam, I obtained good views of 3+ birds in Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills. The birds are rather noisy when feeding in dry leaf-litter, but also shy, so it took a little while to see one well.

African Bare-eyed Thrush (*Turdus tephronotus*) common around Sagala Lodge, with 5-7 birds seen daily, and a single, singing bird was also seen at Sabaki River Mouth.

Red-tailed Ant-Thrush (*Neocossyphus rufus*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2 birds were eventually seen well in *Brachystigea* forest at Kararache Forest Station.

Common (African) Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) a few birds were seen between Wundanyi and Ngangao Forest.

White-browed Scrub-Robin (*Cerotrachus leucophrys*) Sagala Lodge 5+, Athi River 3.

Eastern Bearded Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*) not uncommon in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, and also seen a few times in more degraded habitat outside the forest. Not shy, but a little reclusive.

African Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus baeticatus*) in the mangroves at the Sabaki River Mouth up to two birds were heard singing on both visits, but they didn't look as buffy on the breast and flanks as the the bird of the *suahelicus*-race depicted in Birds of East Africa. The birds occurring in Somalia of the *avicennia*-race are supposedly more pale underneath(?).



African Reed Warbler at Sabaki River Mouth.

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler (*Phylloscopus ruficapillus*) 2 birds seen in Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills.

Red-faced Crombec (*Sylvietta whytii*) Sagala Lodge 5+.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*) 2 birds seen at Athi River.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola (*Cisticola brunnescens*) 2-3 birds at Athi River. One was very nervous and probably had an active nest nearby.

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) 1-2 birds at Athi River.

Stout Cisticola (*Cisticola robustus*) a single, singing bird at Athi River.

Rattling Cisticola (*Cisticola chiniana*) common at Athi River with 10+ birds.

Winding Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*) common at coastal sites, with 3+ in farmland near Mida Creek, 4 at Gongoni and 10+ at Sabaki River Mouth. At Athi River 2 birds were seen in a ditch along the railway. In *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*, this species is split with the coastal birds being **Coastal Cisticola** (*Cisticola haematocephala*) and the birds inland at Athi River being **Winding Cisticola** (*Cisticola marginatus*).

Singing Cisticola (*Cisticola cantans*) a group of 6 birds seen in farmland between Wundanyi and Ngangao Forest.

Red-fronted Warbler (*Spiloptila rufifrons*) 2-3 birds seen daily at Sagala Lodge.

Tawny-flanked Prinia (*Prinia subflava*) one bird near Wundanyi, 3 birds in farmland near Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, 1 at Gongoni and 4 bird at Athi River.

Grey-backed Camaroptera (*Camaroptera brachyura*) fairly common at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, with 4-5 seen in the forest most days, but more commonly heard.

Grey Wren-Warbler (*Calamonastes simplex*) common at Sagala Lodge with 4-6 birds daily.

Yellow-breasted Apalis (*Apalis flavida*) up to 4 birds at Sagala Lodge and 3 birds at Athi River.

Black-headed Apalis (*Apalis melanocephala*) seen daily inside the forest at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, with up to 4 birds.

Bar-throated Apalis (*Apalis thoracica*) one pair seen very well, and two more birds heard in Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills.

These birds of the distinctive race *fuscigularis* are treated as a full species in *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara* **Taita Apalis** (*Apalis fuscigularis*).

African Grey Flycatcher (*Bradornis microrhynchus*) 4 birds seen at Athi River.

Pale Flycatcher (*Bradornis pallidus*) 4 birds seen near Wundanyi, 2 birds at Sagala Lodge and 2 birds at Mida Creek.

Chin-spot Batis (*Batis molitor*) up to 4 birds at Sagala Lodge and 2 birds at Athi River.

Pale Batis (*Batis soror*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest a male and a female were seen along the Kararache trail.

Black-headed Batis (*Batis minor*) a female was found in dense shrub at Sabaki River Mouth.

Forest Batis (*Batis mixta*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest a male was found along the Mida Road, and a female was seen along the Kararache trail.

African Paradise-flycatcher (*Terpsiphone viridis*) two males seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, both white phase.

Blue-mantled Crested-flycatcher (*Trochocercus cyanomelas*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest one bird was seen along the Elephant trail, and two were seen along the Kararache trail.

Little Yellow Flycatcher (*Erythrocerus holochlorus*) seen in small groups, often as part of feeding flocks in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, with 3-7 birds daily.

Scaly Chatterer (*Turdoides aylmeri*) two groups were seen around Sagala Lodge, with 4 and 6 birds.

Scaly Babbler (*Turdoides squamulatus*) common in groups along the forest edge in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, and also in shrub at Gongoni and Sabaki River Mouth.

Northern Pied Babbler (*Turdoides hypoleucus*) at Athi River two birds (pair) were found.

Red-throated Tit (*Parus fringillinus*) two birds in the taller tree along the river at Athi River.

Mouse-coloured Penduline-Tit (*Anthoscopus musculus*) two birds at Sagala Lodge.

Montane White-eye (*Zosterops poliogaster*) fairly common in Taita Hills, both inside Ngangao Forest, and in secondary forest between Wundanyi and the forest reserve.

The birds here are treated as a separate species **Taita White-eye** (*Zosterops Silvanus*) in *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*.

Abyssinian White-eye (*Zosterops abyssinicus*) 2 birds were found in the mangroves at Sabaki River Mouth and another 4 were seen at Athi River.

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird (*Cinnyris mediocris*) 2 birds seen at Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills.

Amethyst Sunbird (*Chalcomitra amethystina*) 2 birds seen at Wundanyi in Taita Hills.

Olive Sunbird (*Cyanomitra olivacea*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2-4 birds seen daily.

Marico Sunbird (*Cinnyris mariquensis*) 2 male and 1 female were seen at Athi River.

Purple-banded Sunbird (*Cinnyris bifasciata*) 2-3 birds seen daily at Sagala Lodge, and a single male was singing at Sabaki River Mouth.

In *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*, the birds occurring around Sagala Lodge are split as **Tsavo Sunbirds** (*Cinnyris tsavoensis*).

Hunter's Sunbird (*Chalcomitra hunteri*) up to two birds seen daily around Sagala Lodge.



Hunter's Sunbird at Sagala Lodge.

Variable Sunbird (*Cinnyris venusta*) 2 bird seen around Wundanyi and 2-3 birds at Athi River.

Collared Sunbird (*Hedydipna collaris*) common in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, with 8-10 daily, and also one bird at Sabaki River Mouth.

Amani Sunbird (*Hedydipna pallidigaster*) in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest pairs were seen on a few occasions in *Brachystegia* forest.

Plain-backed Sunbird (*Anthreptes reichenowi*) pairs were seen twice in *Brachystegia* forest in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, often foraging low in bushes and trees.

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird (*Anthreptes orientalis*) 2-6 birds seen daily around Sagala Lodge.

Common Fiscal (*Lanius collaris*) a pair with 1-2 young were near Wundanyi, and one was seen in Athi River.

Taita Fiscal (*Lanius dorsalis*) two birds were at Sabaki River Mouth.

Long-tailed Fiscal (*Lanius cabanisi*) common around Gongoni with 15+ birds, and also seen with 2-3 birds at Sabaki River Mouth and Athi River.

Tropical Boubou (*Laniarius aethiopicus*) heard commonly at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, usually along the forest edge, with 2-4 seen most days. Also two birds at Sabaki River Mouth.

According to the guide Willy Nganda, the coastal subspecies is going to be split off as **East Coast Boubou** (*Laniarius sublacteus*) (?).

Slate-coloured Boubou (*Laniarius funebris*) common in the scrub around Sagala Lodge with 5+ birds daily, and also 3 seen at Athi River.

Brubru (*Nilaus afer*) two birds seen at Sagala Lodge.

Black-backed Puffback (*Dryocopus cubla*) 2 birds (race *hamatus*) were seen near Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills, and in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest a female of the plain backed race *affinis* was seen along the road between Mida and Jilore..

Pringle's Puffback (*Dryoscopus pringlii*) 1-2 pairs seen around Sagala Lodge.



Pringle's Puffback male and female at Sagala Lodge.

Black-crowned Tchagra (*Tchagra senegala*) single birds were seen in the plantation behind Forest HQ in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and at Sabaki River Mouth.

Three-streaked Tchagra (*Tchagra jamesi*) two birds seen at Sagala Lodge.

Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike (*Malaconotus sulfureopectus*) two birds seen at Athi River.

Grey-headed Bush-shrike (*Malaconotus blanchoti*) a single bird was calling from trees behind Sagala Lodge.

Northern White-crowned Shrike (*Eurocephalus rueppelli*) small groups were common around Sagala Lodge.

White-crested Helmet-shrike (*Prionops plumatus*) 3-4 birds seen daily around Sagala Lodge.

Chestnut-fronted Helmet-shrike (*Prionops scopifrons*) the major component of feeding flocks in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, usually in *Brachystegia* forest. 30+ along the Elephant Trail, 10+ at Kararache trail, and 40+ in the forest near Forest HQ.

Retz's Helmet-shrike (*Prionops retzii*) only 3 birds seen amongst 30+ Chestnut-fronted along the Elephant trail in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Fork-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*) Sagala Lodge 15, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2, Sabaki River Mouth 6, Athi River 3.

House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) common at most coastal sites, especially in towns.

Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*) Wundanyi 6, Sagala Lodge 1, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 1, Sabaki River Mouth 2, Athi River 2.

African Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus larvatus*) Sagala Lodge 3, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 1.

African Golden Oriole (*Oriolus auratus*) Sagala Lodge 1, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 8+.

Golden-breasted Starling (*Cosmopsarus regius*) only seen at Sagala Lodge with up to 15 birds.

Red-winged Starling (*Onychognathus morio*) Wundanyi 2 and also in Jomo Kenyatta Airport as well as downtown Nairobi.

Black-bellied Starling (*Lamprotornis corruscus*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 15+, Sabaki River Mouth 25.

Violet-backed Starling (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*) 3 birds seen in feeding flock along Kararache trail in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*) 6 birds seen at Athi River, and a few also seen around Jomo Kenyatta Airport, even perched above the cockpit on my plane, prior to boarding.

Hildebrandt's Starling (*Lamprotornis hildebrandti*) 2 birds at Athi River.

Fischer's Starling (*Spreo fischeri*) 25-30 birds seen daily around Sagala Lodge.

Wattled Starling (*Creatophora cinerea*) 4 birds were seen going to roost near Sagala Lodge.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) common in towns.

Chestnut Sparrow (*Passer eminiibey*) a single male was seen at Athi River.

Speckle-fronted Weaver (*Sporopipes frontalis*) two birds at Athi River.

Parrot-billed Sparrow (*Passer gongonensis*) Sagala Lodge 2.

Yellow-spotted Petronia (*Petronia pyrgita*) common at Sagala Lodge with up to 12 birds.

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver (*Plocepasser mahali*) Sagala Lodge 25+, Athi River 10.

White-headed Buffalo-Weaver (*Dinemellia dinemelli*) 2-5 birds seen at Sagala Lodge.

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver (*Bubalornis niger*) 3 birds at Sagala Lodge and 15 at Athi River.

Lesser Masked Weaver (*Ploceus intermedius*) Gongoni 3.

Vitelline Masked Weaver (*Ploceus velatus*) Sagala Lodge 5+, Athi River 1.

Black-necked Weaver (*Ploceus nigricollis*) Sagala Lodge 4.

Baglafaecht Weaver (*Ploceus baglafaecht*) 2-5 birds seen near Wundnanyi and at Ngangao Forest in Taita Hills.

Grosbeak Weaver (*Amblyospiza albifrons*) Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 2, Sabaki River Mouth 1.

Golden Palm Weaver (*Ploceus bojeri*) 2 male birds seen at Sabaki River Mouth.

Dark-backed Weaver (*Ploceus bicolor*) 2-6 birds seen daily in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, usually with feeding flocks.

Clarke's Weaver (*Ploceus golandi*) a single female bird was found in a large feeding flock in *Brachystegia* forest near Arabuko Swamp.

Red-billed Quelea (*Quelea quelea*) up to 60 birds at Sabaki River Mouth.

Red-headed Weaver (*Anaplectes rubriceps*) 2-10 birds seen around Sagala Lodge.

White-winged Widowbird (*Euplectes albonotatus*) a single male seen at Athi River.

Zansibar Red Bishop (*Euplectes nigroventris*) up to 6 birds seen at Sabaki River Mouth.

Green-winged Pytilia (*Pytilia melba*) Sagala Lodge 2.

Peter's Twinspot (*Hypargos niveoguttatus*) a pair was seen well near Jilore Forest Station in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu (*Uraeginthus bengalus*) Sagala Lodge 4, Mida Creek 2, Gongoni 5, Sabaki River Mouth 6, Athi River 10.

Blue-capped Cordon-bleu (*Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*) 2 birds seen near the entrance gate to Sagala Lodge.

Purple Grenadier (*Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*) Sagala Lodge 4, Athi River 1.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill (*Estrilda quartinia*) 6 birds seen above Wundanyi in Taita Hills.

Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) Mida Creek 2.

Black-faced Waxbill (*Estrilda erythronotos*) Athi River 1.

Black-cheeked Waxbill (*Estrilda chamosyna*) Sagala Lodge 3.

Grey-headed Silverbill (*Lonchura griseicapilla*) 9 birds came to drink at a pool at Sagala Lodge.

African Quail-Finch (*Ortygospiza atricollis*) 4 birds in grassland at Athi River.

Bronze Mannikin (*Lonchura cucullata*) Mida Creek 2, Athi River 8 birds.

Black-and-white Mannikin (*Lonchura bicolor*) 10+ birds of the rufous-backed race *nigriceps* were found feeding in a field above Wundanyi in Taita Hills.

In *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara* this race is split as **Red-backed Mannikin** (*Lonchura nigriceps*)

Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*) Wundanyi 1 and Sabaki River Mouth 2, all male.

Straw-tailed Whydah (*Vidua fischeri*) Sagala Lodge 1 male, Athi River 1 male and 2 female.

Village Indigobird (*Vidua chalybeate*) Sabaki River Mouth 4, Athi River 5.

Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*) Mida Creek 7, Sabaki River Mouth 1.

Yellow-rumped Seedeater (*Serinus reichenowi*) Athi River 15.

Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting (*Emberiza tahapisi*) Athi River 3.

Somali Golden-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza poliopleura*) Sagala Lodge 6.



Somali Golden Breasted Bunting, Sagala Lodge and Cinnamon Rock Bunting, Athi River.