Malawi Trip Report 2011



Stanley Bustard (Denham's) in Nyika National Park

Malawi Trip Report, 30 October - 12 November 2011

A birdwatching tour perfectly arranged by Birding Africa (http://www.birdingafrica.com).

Participants: Joakim, Elisabeth, Adrian (15) and Nova (10) Djerf from Östhammar, Sweden.

Areas visited: Dzalanyama, Viphya Plateau, Nyika NP, Lake Malawi, Zomba and Liwonde NP.

Total number of bird species recorded: 317

Total number of mammal species recorded: 23

Top 10 birds (our experience):

- 1. Pennant-winged Nightjar
- 2. Stanley Bustard (Denham's)
- 3. Cholo Alethe
- 4. Bar-tailed Trogon
- 5. White-winged Apalis
- 6. Anchieta's Sunbird
- 7. Livingstone's Flycatcher
- 8. Thick-billed Cuckoo
- 9. Boehm's Bee-eater
- 10. White-starred Robin

Important literature and sound recordings:

- ✓ Southern African Birdfinder (Callan Cohen, Claire Spottiswoode, Jonathan Rossouw)
- ✓ The Birds of Malawi (Francoise Dowsett-Lemaire, Robert J. Dowsett)
- ✓ Birds of Africa south of the Sahara (Ian Sinclair, Peter Ryan)
- ✓ Bradt Guide: Malawi (Philip Briggs)
- ✓ The Kingdon pocket guide to African Mammals (Jonathan Kingdon)
- ✓ Sounds of Zambian Wildlife (Robert Stjernstedt)

General about the trip:

This was, with two exceptions (Zomba and Liwonde), a self catering trip. Self catering in Malawi means you bring your own food to the accommodation but get it prepared by the always present local cook and (often) his one or two assistants. This worked perfectly well in every place we stayed. All meals were thoroughly prepared and tasted very good. None of us had any stomach problems at all in the whole trip and we ate everything we was served. We do recommend this arrangement when travelling in Malawi.

The weather was very good, sunny and warm, all days except the only day we had allocated for leisure and relaxing at the beach of Lake Malawi. Well, life is like that.

2011-10-29 -- 30 Travel

This trip started Saturday October 29 when we departed Arlanda airport, Stockholm at 21:00. After intermediate landings in Rome and Addis Ababa we arrived Lilongwe International airport at 12:20 October 30.

Birds noted at Addis Ababa airport 08:30 - 09:30: Yellow-billed Kite, Pied Crow, Rock Martin, Speckled Dove, White-collared Pigeon and Dusky Turtle Dove.

2011-10-30 12:20 - 17:30 Lilongwe and drive to Dzalanyama

We were met at the airport by Land and Lake Safaris representative and our driver/guide for the whole stay **Ben Mwapeyah**. Ben had already stocked up provisions for the first three days so we could immediately start the drive to Dzalanyama Forest Reserve. Unfortunately the wheel nuts were not drawn enough on one wheel on our vehicle so we had to stop and tighten. This maneuver resulted in not less than three broken wheel studs... We could not risk go out for a 14-days trip with the wheels not properly attached so Ben had to call his company and ask them to bring a temporary vehicle for us while they fixed ours. Fortunately this could be arranged decently fast (being a Sunday) and in the late afternoon we were on our way to Dzalanyama (about 2 h drive). We reached the Dzalanyama Forest Lodge just before sunset, allowing about half an hour birding around the lodge before sunset.

Birds in Lilongwe and en route to Dzalanyama: Blackheaded Heron, Black-shouldered Kite, Pied Crow, Yellow-billed Kite, Barn Swallow, Common House Martin, Steppe Buzzard, Crowned Lapwing, African Black/Common Swift, Fischer's Sparrowlark (Ben found us a small flock of 5-6 birds quite close to Lilongwe), Green-winged Pytilia, Blue Waxbill and Yellow-fronted Canary.

2011-10-31 07:30 -- 2011-11-02 07:00 Dzalanyama Forest Reserve

We spent two full days in the Dzalanyama Forest Reserve. We did morning and afternoon bird walks. In between we relaxed in the lodge area and the kids could play in the refreshingly cold stream (with a pair of **Mountain Wagtails**) just below. We were very well taken care of by Ben and the Lodge's local staff of three people (we were the only guests). No electricity, but we did well with propane lights, stove and refrigerator. **Fiery-necked Nightjar** displayed outside the lodge just after sunset.



Very important when birding in Dzalanyama is to find bird parties. These foraging flocks often includes many of the special species of the miombo woodland (like Barbets, Honeybirds, Tits, Flycatchers etc.). We didn't find many bird parties, maybe we were just unlucky or we were too late in the season?

A very important bird of Dzalanyama is the Boulder Chat. We put in quite a lot of effort trying for this species but we didn't succeed. A lot of "agricultural burning" was going on, especially on and around the small hills where the Boulder Chats are supposed to be. I think this must have been one reason the birds were not there. The newly burnt areas were almost bird free.

However we found many of the Dzalanyama specials and other nice species (about 90) anyway: Dark Chanting-Goshawk, Ovampo Sparrowhawk, Brownnecked Parrot (Grey-headed), Schalow's Turaco, Thick-billed Cuckoo, African Cuckoo, African Pygmy-Kingfisher, Pale-billed Hornbill, Stierling's Woodpecker, African Broadbill, Striped Pipit, Miombo Tit, Rufous-bellied Tit, Spotted Creeper, Miombo Rock-Thrush, Red-winged Prinia, Yellowbellied Hyliota, White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher,

Western Violet-backed Sunbird, Anchieta's Sunbird, Miombo Sunbird (Miombo Double-collared), Olive-headed Weaver and Cabanis's Bunting.



Miombo Rock-Thrush

Mammals: **Grey Duiker** (1).

2011-11-02 07:00 - 17:30 Drive Dzalanyama to Viphya Plateau

A longish drive with short breaks for eating and a little birding at a small lake just south of Kasungu



Lesser Jacana

village and also at a nice miombo forest near Kahingina Forest Reserve. We also did some birdwatching when closing in to Luwawa Forest Lodge, the place to stay in south Viphya.

Best birds were **Lesser Jacana** (4) in "Kasungu lake" (which also held a lot of other water birds) and **Miombo Scrub-Robin** and **Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling** (Miombo Blue-eared) in the miombo forest.

Entering the Viphya area we stopped and watched a flock of about 50 Gray-rumped Swallows. Many of the swallows were immature with no elongated outer tail

feathers - a bit confusing at first. We also noted **Yellow-bellied Waxbill**, **Trilling Cisticola** and **Southern Citril** before sunset.

2011-11-03 05:45 - 09:00 Luwawa Forest Lodge

The garden and immediate surroundings of Luwawa Forest Lodge is a birders paradise! Unfortunately we had to move on all to quickly and we also got part of our short stay spoilt by some short but irritating rain showers. Nevertheless we managed to see or hear a little more than 50 nice species



this morning: African Marsh Harrier, Red-chested Flufftail, Olive Woodpecker, White-headed Sawwing, Red-rumped Swallow, Eastern Mountain-Greenbul (Southern Mountain), Evergreen-forest Warbler, Fan-tailed Grassbird, African Yellow Warbler, Singing Cisticola, Wailing Cisticola, Bronze Sunbird, Variable Sunbird, Eastern Double-collared Sunbird (Forest Double-collared), Holub's Golden-Weaver, Bertram's Weaver and both African and Jameson's Firefinch.

Mammals: Yellow Baboon and Vervet Monkey.

2011-11-03 09:00 - 15:30 Drive Viphya Plateau to Nyika NP

Bird wise a rather uneventful drive past the capital of the northern region Mzuze (the third largest town in Malawi and the fastest growing) and the small town of Rumphi ("always very hot in Rumphi" according to Ben).

2011-11-03 15:30 - - 2011-11-06 07:20 Nyika NP

The famous Nyika is Malawi's largest national park. We entered at Thazima Gate and drove the remaining 110 km to Chelinda in about 2,5 hours (which actually is quite fast). In certain stretches the road is crossing into Zambia and we could work on our Zambia bird list (**Barn Swallow** and **Common Waxbill**)! We noted about 80 bird species in our 2,5 days stay in Nyika NP.

In Chelinda we stayed in a very nice chalet managed by Dominique, a very nice elderly man who had worked here for many years. Dominique got the fire burning when we arrived, it felt a bit strange at first being in the middle of Africa, but it actually gets quite chilly in the evenings and nighttime at this altitude (2 300 m).



Tanganyikan Mountain Squirrel

The following days we had very nice meals prepared by Dominique and very nice game and bird

drives managed by



Roan Antelopes and Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Ben. Ben had very good knowledge about Nyika, he had worked here for several years, he told us.







Dark (although young) African Pipit in Nyika

One of Nyika's most famous birding localities is Chowo Forest (in Zambia). We visited twice. Another almost as good forest is Zovo-Chipolo which we visited once. We also drove "Chelinda Valley circular route" and birded around the Chelinda dams.

About 20 km from Thazima gate is a

small Acacia forest where we stopped

both when we entered and exited the NP. This site is supposed to be particularly good for Brown Parisoma, a species we didn't see but saw others like **Fuelleborn's Boubou** and **Mountain Yellow Warbler**.

The most memorable moment in Nyika NP was probably the bold displaying male **Stanley Bustard** (Denham's) accompanied by his female. We will also remember the large herds of **Roan Antelopes**,

the **Montane Nightjars** displaying every night, the **Bar-tailed Trogons** in Chowo Forest and the fast flying **Blue Swallows** near Chelinda.

More nice Nyika bird species were: Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Red-winged Francolin, Temminck's Courser, Dusky Turtle-Dove, Scarce Swift, Moustached Tinkerbird, African Hill Babbler, Olive-flanked Robin-Chat, White-starred Robin, Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler, Black-lored Cisticola, Churring Cisticola, Wingsnapping Cisticola, Bar-throated Apalis (youngi race), Chapin's Apalis, Brown-headed Apalis, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher (White-tailed Elminia), Cape Batis (Malawi), Slender-billed Starling, Waller's Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Montane Double-collared Sunbird (Ludwig's Double-collared), Baglafecht Weaver and Buff-shouldered Widowbird (Montane).



Bar-tailed Trogon in Chowo Forest

Mammals: Yellow Baboon, Vervet Monkey,

Scrub Hare, Tanganyikan Mountain Squirrel, Side-striped Jackal, Crawshay's Zebra, Common Warthog, Bushbuck, Eland, Grey Duiker, Red Duiker, Southern Reedbuck and Roan Antelope.



Angola Swallow

2011-11-06 07:20 - 15:30 Drive Nyika to Lake Malawi

On the way out from the NP we stopped at the Zambian Rest House (in Nyika) for watching the **Angola Swallows** - we saw four of them!

2011-11-06 15:30 - 16:30 Nkhata Bay

We stopped at a special place close to the enormous rubber plantation just south of Nkhata Bay. The **East Coast Akalat** was our target species here. We could hear two birds singing at the site and finally got a brief visual of one of

them, but the views could have been better. After about one hour following the singing birds in the rough terrain,

we gave up and headed back to our vehicle and continued to Chinteche and Makuzi Beach Lodge, our final destination for the day.

2011-11-07 06:00 -- 2011-11-08 09:00 Makuzi Beach Lodge

We spent one whole day plus a few morning hours at the extremely nice Makuzi Beach Lodge situated on the shore of Lake Malawi. The "basic 4-bedroom bungalow" was actually an enormous "owner's house" in two stories with a magnificent view over the lake! The house had terraces on both floors with comfortable hammocks and lots of other facilities. We could easily have spent much more time here doing all kinds of water activities like kayaking, doing boat trips, snorkeling and



fishing. The Makuzi Beach Lodge is just 200 m away and have a fantastic restaurant.

Unfortunately
the weather
was not
perfect for
beach
activities, it
was dark skies,
windy and
some quite
heavy

showers. The kids enjoyed the Malawi Lake anyway and I think they spent more time in the water than on land this day.



Gray-olive Greenbul

In the evening we drove to a football pitch nearby and had splendid views of "the top-bird of the trip", the Pennant-winged Nightjar! Having seen this remarkable species only on pictures and finally have the opportunity to see (and hear) it in real life was really special. One bird was displaying extremely nicely in the spotlight from our car! The Square-tailed Nightjar was also present, but was outmatched

by its more charismatic cousin.

Other birds of interest in the vicinity were: **Gray-olive Greenbul**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Black-throated Wattle-eye** and **Purple-banded Sunbird**.

2011-11-08 09:00 - 18:30 Drive Lake Malawi to Zomba

A very long drive this day. We followed the lake shore, passed the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, continued southwards and finally crossed the Rift over to the eastern side and when we finally reached Zomba Forest Lodge it was pitch-black.

We saw quite a lot of birds en route this distance, mentionable species are: African Fish-Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Little Swift, Bronze Mannikin and Cabanis's Greenbul (Placid).

We were served a delicious dinner and were very well taken care of by the owner Ronald and his excellent staff at Zomba Forest Lodge!

2011-11-09 05:30 -- 2011-11-10 09:30 Zomba area

Birdwatching started in the early morning around the lodge (accompanied by Ronald's Great Dane/Lab mix Patch). We could have spent the whole day following the nice paths winding up and down the plateau, but we had some important species to go for in several other sites. We dropped off wife and kids at "Maggie's stable" for a nice mountain ride while Ben and I went in search of some Zomba specials. We did quite well, I think, in just a few hours we had nice views of several sought after species like **Orange Ground-Thrush, Cholo Alethe, Bar-throated Apalis**



Bar-throated Apalis (Yellow-throated)

(Yellow-throated) and Black-headed Apalis.

We then picked up the horse people and continued to Zomba town for lunch and **White-winged Apalis**. The most beautiful African warbler actually breeds in a birdwatcher's garden (Mr. John Wilson). He was very generous and showed us not only the Apalis's nest (with chicks) but also took us for a bird walk in the surroundings where he showed us **Crowned Hornbill**, **White-eared Barbet**, **Eastern Nicator**, **Green-backed Twinspot** and many more nice species.



Ben

The story of the White-winged Apalis in John's garden unfortunately didn't end well, we later were informed. The parent birds abandoned the nest. One reason for this could have been the Lesser Bushbaby that had taken up residence in an owl-box very close to the Apalis's nest.

The next morning we enjoyed breakfast in the garden while watching the morning behavior of the local **Black-and-white Mannikins, African Yellow White-eyes** and many more species washing up and drinking from the many birdbaths.

More Zomba species: Blue-spotted Wood-Dove,



Black-and-white Mannikin

Livingstones's Turaco,
African Pygmy-Kingfisher,
Square-tailed Drongo,
Little Greenbul, Stripecheeked Greenbul (Oliveheaded), White-starred
Robin, Evergreen-forest
Warbler, Yellow-breasted
Apalis, Cape Batis

(Malawi), Eastern Olive
Sunbird, Collared Sunbird,

Forest Weaver and Peters's Twinspot.

2011-11-10 09:30 - 12:00 Drive Zomba to Liwonde NP

A comparatively short drive. We approached Liwonde from the western side of the Shire river. We parked our car, brought all our stuff and were soon picked up by a boat which shuttled us to the Mvuu Camp on the other side of the river.

2011-11-10 12:00 -- 2011-11-12 08:00 Liwonde NP

We noted some 144 bird species in Liwonde NP. The park was very well managed and comfortable. Bird walks, bird drives, boat rides and night drives - all included with drivers and local guides! We also had Ben who, as always, was very helpful and sharp-sighted. Add to this a very nice accommodation and some really good meals in the restaurant, we summarized the whole stay as a very pleasant one!

In the Mvuu Camp area both **Collared Palm-Thrush** and **Boehm's Bee-eater** were very common - you can't miss!



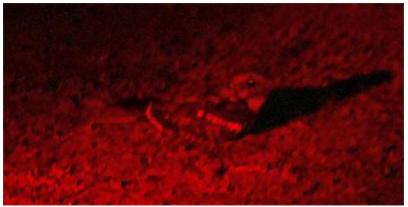
Boehm's Bee-eater

The swimming pool was very much appreciated by the kids for obvious reasons but also by the parents who could watch a party of **Livingstone's Flycatchers** (among others) in the surrounding trees!

The first afternoon we started off with a very nice bird drive in a 4WD safari vehicle. We saw lots of Impalas with fawns and Common Warthogs with piglets. Among the many bird species the **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Brown-headed Parrot** and **Lilian's Lovebird** were new to us. After a sundowner overlooking the



Hippo- and Crocodile-filled Shire River,



Square-tailed Nightjar

After a quick breakfast it was time for our first boat ride for the day on Shire River. Then lunch followed by a short break and then boat ride number 2. We finished the long day with yet a night drive. Puh!

Long lasting impressions from the boat rides were the plethora of water birds like **Black Crake** (>200) and **African Jacana** (>500). Also thousands of **Long-tailed** (Reed) and **Great** (White-breasted) **Cormorants**. More very common species along the river were **Squacco Heron, Water Thick-knee** and **Sacred Ibis**.

we had a night drive back to base with at least five **Squaretailed Nightjars** but not much else nocturnal.

The next day started with an early bird walk including a pair of African Wood-Owl and much more.



African Wood-Owl

Of course the many hundreds of Hippos and Crocodiles were also admired. One male Hippo was obviously not happy with our presence; he charged towards our boat with his jaws wide open and



the boat driver had to shout loudly and hit the engine making noise to assure the agitated animal to abort the attack (just half a meter from our boat). When we thought we were safe, we could see a large creature moving very fast in the water in our direction. It was the Hippo again, now running on the bottom of the river. So fast he was! We very quickly moved our boat in another direction and got away safe also this time. This event was a pretty good reminder that nature is wild and that the Hippopotamus can be a very dangerous animal!



African Skimmers



Other special species of the boat rides were White-backed Night-Heron, Palm-nut Vulture, African Skimmer and many, many more. We also saw about 20 African Elephants and 10 Nile Monitors.

The last morning we had a bird walk in another part of the park. This day the guides showed us the compulsory star bird of the establishment, the **Pel's Fishing-Owl**. We saw two adult birds, most probably a pair. Also an

African Barred Owlet and an obliging Eastern Nicator were nice finds.

We thanked our local guides (Henry and Danger) and took farewell of this amazing park.

More Liwonde bird species: African Darter, Goliath-, Purple-, Gray-, Black-, Squacco-, Striated-, Black-crowned Night- and Black-headed Heron, Intermediate-, Great-, Little- and Cattle Egret, African Spoonbill, Glossy- and Hadada Ibis, Saddle-billed- and Yellow-billed Stork, African Openbill,

White-faced Whistling- and Comb Duck, Osprey, African Fish-Eagle, Brown Snake-Eagle, African Harrier-Hawk, Red-necked Falcon, Dickinson's Kestrel, Long-toed lapwing, Spur-winged Plover, Brown-necked Parrot (Grey-headed), Giant-, Pied-, Malachite-, Brown-hooded- and Striped Kingfisher, Broad-billed Roller, Southern Red-billed-, African Gray- and Trumpeter Hornbill,



Sleepy Pel's Fishing-Owl

Cardinal- and Bearded
Woodpecker, Southern BlackTit, Sombre- and Yellowbellied Greenbul, Little RushWarbler, Greencap
Eremomela, Brubru, Sulphurbreasted (Orange-breasted)and Gray-headed Bushshrike,
Meves's Glossy-Starling,
Amethyst-, Scarlet-chested-,
Variable- and White-breasted
Sunbird, Southern Grayheaded Sparrow, Whitebrowed Sparrow-Weaver and
Orange-winged Pytilia.

Mammals: Yellow Baboon, Greater Bushbaby (Thick-tailed Galago), Smith's Bush Squirrel (Mopane Squirrel), Bushbuck, Greater Kudu and Waterbuck.

2011-11-12 08:00 -13:15 Drive Liwonde NP to Lilongwe airport

The road to Lilongwe crosses into Mozambique territory in a few places (the same thing as with Zambia in Nyika) so we could now add **Barn Swallow**, **Common Bulbul** (Dark-capped) and **Rattling Cisticola** to our Mozambique list!

At the Lilongwe airport we said goodbye to Ben who had done a terrific job moving us around in Malawi, cooking food, spotting birds and helping us in every possible way! **Thank you very much, Ben!**

The journey home was not completely trouble free, but I won't bore you with all details about the shortcomings of Ethiopian Airlines at (mainly) Lilongwe airport. We were very lucky getting on the plane at all. Two intermediate landings later we touched down Stockholm, Arlanda - back on Swedish soil again after a fantastic trip!

Afterword

During the whole trip it was extensive fuel shortage in the country (fuel crisis better describes the situation). Tobacco production in Malawi is one of the nation's largest sources of income. The harvest last season apparently failed bad which meant that not enough foreign currency flowed into the country. Without foreign currency Malawi simply can't buy petrol and diesel from other countries. The not official market had limited supplies of diesel and petrol for sale for more than double the normal price, but the choice to buy this is actually very simple when the alternative is to wait in an endless queue along with disgruntled citizens for several days.

This of course had some impact on our trip. Firstly there were less traffic than normal, which was
kind of a good thing. But we also had to spend time chasing diesel whenever we got the chance,
which was a bit disturbing and also quite worrying. What will happen if we don't find the vital fluid?
However we always did and with good margins.

More pictures will soon be available in our website: http://www.djerf.st

Joakim Djerf 2012-04-05

Species list (birds):

Site abbreviations:

AAA Addis Ababa Airport (Ethiopia)

Lil Lilongwe

Lil-Dz Lilongwe to Dzalanyama

Dz Dzalanyama Forest Reserve

Dz-VP Dzalanyama to Viphya Plateau

KL "Kasungu Lake" - a lake just south of Kasungu

KFR Kahingina Forest Reserve

VP Viphya Plateau

LFL Luwawa Forest Lodge Ny Nyika National Park

CF Chowo Forest (Nyika, Zambian side)

ZRH Zambian Rest House (Nyika, Zambian side)

Ny-LM Nyika National park to Lake Malawi

Nk Nkhata Bay

MBL Makuzi Beach Lodge (Chintheche, Lake Malawi)

LM-Zo Lake Malawi to Zomba

Zo Zomba area

Zo-Li Zomba to Liwonde National park

Liw Liwonde National park

Liw-Lil Liwonde National park to Lilongwe

Species name in **bold** = new to us.

Bird order according to "Birds of Africa south of the Sahara", 2:nd edition 2010, Sinclair & Ryan. Names of species and races according to **Clements Checklist 6.6**.

The taxonomic information supplied is my simple attempt to summarize the available information in different literature and it shall not be taking too seriously - I'm not a scientist, nor did I note all the subtle differences (maybe) separating many of the (proposed) races/subspecies. But in some species, like the Bar-throated Apalis for example, the differences are very obvious (especially between the races *whitei*, *youngi* and *flavigularis*). Most taxonomic information is from "The Birds of Malawi" (BoM) by Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett who seem to be meticulous!

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	1 KL 2/11, 2 Ny 4-6/11	Race capensis. Ny: Chelinda Dam 1 and 3 - one in each.
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	~50 MBL 7/11, common Liw 10-12/11	Race <i>lucidus</i> . This race is sometimes treated as a separate
			species White-breasted Cormorant.
African Darter	Anhinga rufa	singles Liw 11/11	Race rufa
Long-tailed Cormorant	Phalacrocorax africanus	2 KL 2/11, common Liw 11/11	Race africanus. A.k.a. Reed Cormorant.
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta	5 Liw 10/11, several Liw 11/11	Race umbretta
Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath	1 Liw 10/11, several Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	1 Liw 11/11	Race purpurea
Gray Heron	Ardea cinerea	3 KL 2/11, noted Liw 10-12/11	Race cinerea
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala	1 Lil-Dz 30/10, 2 KL 2/11, noted LFL	Monotypic
		3/11, ~10 LM-Zo 8/11, noted Zo-Li	
		10/11, noted Liw 10-12/11	
Intermediate Egret	Mesophoyx intermedia	several Liw 11/11	Race brachyrhyncha. A.k.a. Yellow-billed Egret.
Great Egret	Ardea alba	1 KL 2/11, noted LFL 3/11, noted Liw	Race melanorhyncha. A.k.a. Great White Egret.
		10/11, noted Liw 11/11	
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	1 KL 2/11, 1 MBL 8/11, noted Liw	Race garzetta
		10/11, noted Liw 11/11	
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	~20 MBL 7/11, ~20 LM-Zo 8/11, noted	Race ibis
		Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	
Black Heron	Egretta ardesiaca	12 MBL 7/11, several Liw 11/11	Monotypic. Liw: nice to see the umbrella-feeding!
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	noted Liw 10/11, ~75 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	2 MBL 7/11, ~10 Liw 11/11	Race atricapilla. A.k.a. Green-backed Heron.
White-backed Night-Heron	Gorsachius leuconotus	3 Liw 11/11	Monotypic. Liw: 2 ad. + 1 imm. seen very well!
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	1 Liw 11/11	Race nycticorax
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba	1 Liw 10/11	Monotypic
Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	~100 Liw 11/11	Race aethiopicus
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	1 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash	~10 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Race brevirostris
Saddle-billed Stork	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis	2 Liw 11/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. Saddlebill.
African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	~30 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Race lamelligerus
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis	~10 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Monotypic

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
White-faced Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna viduata	~20 KL 2/11, ~100 Liw 10/11, noted Liw	Monotypic
		11/11	
White-backed Duck	Thalassornis leuconotus	~5 KL 2/11	Race leuconotos
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	~20 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	~10 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Race gambensis
Comb Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos	6 Liw 11/11	Race melanotos
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata	~30 KL 2/11, 2 Ny 4-6/11	Race undulata. Ny: Chelinda Dam 1.
Red-billed Duck	Anas erythrorhyncha	~10 KL 2/11, 2 Liw 11/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. Red-billed Teal.
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus caeruleus	2 Lil-Dz 30/10	Race caeruleus
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	5 AAA 30/10, 2 Lil 30/10, several Dz-VP,	Race parasitus. This race is sometimes treated as a separate
		several Ny 4-6/11, 3 LM-Zo 8/11	species Yellow-billed Kite. AAA: Ethiopia.
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	1 Liw 11/11	Race haliaetus
African Fish-Eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer	2 MBL 7/11, 5 LM-Zo 8/11, ~10 Liw	Monotypic
		10/11, ~12 Liw 11/11, ~5 Liw 12/11	
Palm-nut Vulture	Gypohierax angolensis	1 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Brown Snake-Eagle	Circaetus cinereus	1 Liw 10/11	Monotypic
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	1 Ny 5/11	Race aeruginosus. Adult male.
African Marsh-Harrier	Circus ranivorus	6 LFL 3/11	Monotypic
Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus	1 Ny 4/11	Monotypic. Adult male.
African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus	1 Liw 11/11	Race typus. A.k.a. Gymnogene.
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	Melierax metabates	1 Dz 1/11	Race mechowi. Subadult male.
Black Goshawk	Accipiter melanoleucus	1 Zo 9/11	Race melanoleucus. A.k.a. Great Sparrowhawk.
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	Accipiter rufiventris	1 Ny 4/11	Race rufiventris. A.k.a. Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk.
Ovampo Sparrowhawk	Accipiter ovampensis	1 Dz 31/10	Monotypic
Shikra	Accipiter badius	1 MBL 7/11	Race polyzonoides
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	1 Lil-Dz 30/10, ~6 Dz 1/11, several Ny	Race vulpinus. This race is sometimes treated as a separate
		4-6/11, ~4 Liw-Lil 12/11	species Western Steppe Buzzard.
Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur	1 Dz 1/11, several Ny 4-6/11	Monotypic
Wahlberg's Eagle	Hieraaetus wahlbergi	2 Dz 31/10	Monotypic
African Hawk-Eagle	Aquila spilogaster	1 Dz 1/11	Monotypic
Crowned Hawk-Eagle	Stephanoaetus coronatus	1 Ny 4/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. African Crowned Eagle. Ny: Zovo-Chipolo

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
			Forest.
Red-necked Falcon	Falco chicquera	4 Liw 10/11, 1 Liw 11/11	Race ruficollis
Dickinson's Kestrel	Falco dickinsoni	2 Liw 11/11	Monotypic. One pair breeding in a palm tree.
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus	3 Ny 5/11	Race biarmicus
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	1 LM-Zo 8/11	Race minor
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris	2 Liw 10/11, 4 Liw 12/11	Race mitratus
Red-winged Francolin	Francolinus levaillantii	~20 Ny 4/11, ~10 Ny 5/11	Race levaillantii
Hildebrandt's Francolin	Francolinus hildebrandti	1 Dz 31/10	Monotypic
Red-necked Francolin	Francolinus afer	1 MBL 8/11	Race probably cranchii. A.k.a Red-necked Spurfowl.
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix	1 Ny 4/11, 3 Ny 5/11	Monotypic
Red-chested Flufftail	Sarothrura rufa	1 LFL 3/11	Race <i>rufa</i> . LFL: heard calling from the marshy area.
Black Crake	Amaurornis flavirostra	2 Liw 10/11, ~200 Liw 11/11, noted Liw 12/11	Monotypic
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata	~200 KL 2/11, 2 Ny 4/11, 3 Ny 5/11	Monotypic
Stanley Bustard	Neotis denhami	7 Ny 4/11	Race jacksoni. A.k.a. Denham's Bustard. Displaying male!
African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	1 KL 2/11, ~500 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Lesser Jacana	Microparra capensis	4 KL 2/11	Monotypic
Water Thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus	~20 Liw 10/11, ~20 Liw 11/11, noted Liw 12/11	Race vermiculatus. A.k.a. Water Dikkop.
Temminck's Courser	Cursorius temminckii	1 Ny 5/11	Monotypic
Long-toed Lapwing	Vanellus crassirostris	~10 Liw 11/11	Race leucopterus
Blacksmith Plover	Vanellus armatus	~5 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Spur-winged Plover	Vanellus spinosus	~5 Liw 10/11, ~50 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus	~20 Liw 11/11	Race <i>lateralis</i> . A.k.a. Senegal Wattled Plover. We also saw pullus.
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus	2 Lil-Dz 30/10	Race coronatus
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	1 KL 2/11, 2 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	1 KL 2/11, noted Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1 MBL 7/11, ~5 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Gray-hooded Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus	~5 MBL 7/11, hundreds Liw 10-12/11	Race poiocephalus. A massive movement of terns and gulls

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
			took place downriver in the afternoons and in the opposite
			direction in the mornings. Homogeneous flocks (typical 20-
			50) of G-h Gulls, G-b Terns and W-w Terns. I also identified
			Whiskered Tern but I'm not sure of the proportions.
African Skimmer	Rynchops flavirostris	18 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	hundreds Liw 10-12/11	Race nilotica. See G-h Gull above.
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	noted Liw 11/11	Race delalandii. See G-h Gull above.
White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus	hundreds Liw 10-12/11	Monotypic. See G-h Gull above.
Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	noted around villages and towns	(Feral Pigeon)
Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea	5 AAA 30/10	Race guinea. AAA: Ethiopia.
White-collared Pigeon	Columba albitorques	2 AAA 30/10	Monotypic. AAA: Ethiopia.
Rameron Pigeon	Columba arquatrix	common Ny 4-6/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. African Olive pigeon.
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	common Dz, noted MBL 7/11, common Liw 10-12/11	Monotypic
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola	common Dz, common Liw 10-12/11	Race tropica. A.k.a. Cape Turtle-Dove.
Dusky Turtle-Dove	Streptopelia lugens	1 AAA 30/10, 4 Ny 3/11, 5 Ny 5/11, 1 Ny 6/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. Pink-breasted Turtle Dove. AAA: Ethiopia.
African Green-Pigeon	Treron calvus	1 Dz 1/11, 1 VP 2/11, 3 Ny 3/11, 1 Ny 6/11, 2 MBL 7/11, 1 Zo 9/11	Races <i>salvadorii</i> (north like Ny) and <i>orientalis</i> (central and south like Dz and Zo)
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	Turtur chalcospilos	several Dz, noted Zo 9/11, several Liw 11/11	Monotypic. "common in dry woodland and thickets".
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	Turtur afer	noted Dz, 1 Ny-LM 6/11, noted Zo 9/11, 5 Zo 10/11	Monotypic. "widespread in moister woodland and riparian growth".
Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria	1 LFL 3/11, noted Zo 9/11, 3 Zo 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis	1 Dz-VP 2/11	Race capensis
Brown-necked Parrot	Poicephalus robustus	7 Dz 2/11, 7 Liw 11/11	Race <i>suahelicus</i> . This race is sometimes treated as a separate species Grey-headed Parrot .
Brown-headed Parrot	Poicephalus cryptoxanthus	4 Liw 10/11	Race tanganyikae
Lilian's Lovebird	Agapornis lilianae	~50 Liw 10/11, ~50 Liw 11/11, ~50 Liw 12/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. Nyasa Lovebird.

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Purple-crested Turaco	Tauraco porphyreolophus	~10 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11	Race chlorochlamys
Schalow's Turaco	Tauraco schalowi	several Dz, several Ny 3-6/11, 10 CF 4/11	Monotypic. CF: Zambia.
Livingstone's Turaco	Tauraco livingstonii	~10 Zo 9/11, ~5 Zo 10/11	Race livingstonii
Gray Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides concolor	~5 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11	Race molybdophanes
Dideric Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius	2 Liw 12/11	Monotypic
Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas	1 Dz 1/11	Monotypic
African Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx cupreus	2 Zo 9/11, 1 Zo 10/11	Race cupreus
Thick-billed Cuckoo	Pachycoccyx audeberti	2 Dz 1/11	Race validus. Dz: A pair seen very well!
Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius	several Dz, noted LFL 3/11, noted Zo 9/11, 1 Zo 10/11, noted Liw 10/11	Monotypic
African Cuckoo	Cuculus gularis	1 Dz 1/11	Monotypic. Dz: One calling bird also seen very well!
White-browed Coucal	Centropus superciliosus	1 Ny 6/11, 1 MBL 8/11, noted Zo 9/11, 1 Zo 10/11, ~5 Liw 10/11, ~5 Liw 11/11, 2 Liw 12/11	Races <i>loandae</i> (north like Ny) and <i>burchellii</i> (central and south like Zo and Liw). The <i>burchellii</i> race sometimes treated as a separate species Burchell's Coucal.
African Wood-Owl	Strix woodfordii	2 Liw 11/11	Race woodfordii. Liw: One pair on day roost!
Pel's Fishing-Owl	Scotopelia peli	2 Liw 12/11	Monotypic. Liw: One pair on day roost!
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo africanus	2 Ny 4/11	Race africanus. Ny: Chelinda.
African Barred Owlet	Glaucidium capense	1 Liw 12/11	Race capense. Ny: One bird on day roost!
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus pectoralis	1 Dz 31/10	Race fervidus. Dz: Displaying outside lodge just after sunset.
Montane Nightjar	Caprimulgus ruwenzorii	3 Ny 3/11, 2 Ny 4/11	Race guttifer. A.k.a. Ruwenzori Nightjar or Mountain Nightjar. Ny: Seen and heard very well!
Square-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus fossii	3 MBL 7/11, ~5 Liw 10/11, 3 Liw 11/11	Race welwitschii. A.k.a. Mozambique Nightjar or Gaboon Nightjar.
Pennant-winged Nightjar	Macrodipteryx vexillarius	2 MBL 7/11	Monotypic. MBL: Very nice views in the spotlights from our car on a football pitch nearby - one of the highlights of the trip!
Scarce Swift	Schoutedenapus myoptilus	1 Ny 4/11	Race myoptilus
African Palm-Swift	Cypsiurus parvus	1 Dz-VP 2/11, ~30 MBL 7/11, ~5 Zo 10/11, ~20 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Race myochrous

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Little Swift	Apus affinis	~30 LM-Zo 8/11, 2 Liw 11/11	Race aerobates. LM-Zo: Small groups seen near high bridges.
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer	~30 MBL 7/11, ~10 LM-Zo 8/11	Monotypic
Common Swift	Apus apus	noted Lil-Dz 30/10, noted Dz-VP 2/11,	Race apus. Obviously Common and African Black Swifts are
		~10 MBL 7/11, ~500 LM-Zo 8/11	easily confused if not studied in detail.
African Swift	Apus barbatus	noted Liw 11/11	Race roehli. A.k.a. African Black Swift.
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus	~5 Dz 31/10, ~20 LFL 3/11, ~30 Ny	Races berlepschi (north like Ny) and affinis (central and south
		4/11, 1 Ny 6/11, 3 Zo 9/11, ~5 Liw-Lil	like Dz, Zo, Liw). Also race <i>simulans</i> occurs in the extreme
		12/11	south of the country.
Bar-tailed Trogon	Apaloderma vittatum	2 CF 4/11	Race vittatum. CF: Zambia.
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1 Liw 10/11	Race africana. This race is sometimes treated as a separate
			species African Hoopoe.
Green Woodhoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus	~5 KFR 2/11, 3 Liw 12/11	Race marwitzi
Common Scimitar-bill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas	1 LM-Zo 8/11, 1 Liw 10/11, 2 Liw 11/11	Race schalowi
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maximus	2 Liw 11/11	Race maximus
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	1 KL 2/11, 4 MBL 7/11, ~3 Liw 10/11,	Race rudis
		~10 Liw 11/11	
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus	1 Liw 10/11, ~5 Liw 11/11	Race cristatus
African Pygmy-Kingfisher	Ispidina picta	2 Dz 31/10, 2 Dz 1/11, 1 Zo 9/11	Race natalensis. Dz: Two near the lodge. Zo: One seen on a
			short walk "down" from Zomba Forest Lodge.
Gray-headed Kingfisher	Halcyon leucocephala	1 Dz 31/10	Race pallidiventris
Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis	2 Liw 10/11	Race cyanoleuca
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris	2 Liw 10/11, ~5 Liw 11/11, 2 Liw 12/11	Race orientalis
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti	1 Liw 10/11	Race chelicuti
Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus	1 Dz 1/11, 3 Liw 10/11, 1 Liw 11/11	Race suahelicus
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus	2 Dz-VP 2/11, ~10 LM-Zo 8/11, ~10 Liw	Race caudatus
		10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11, noted Liw 12/11,	
		~5 Liw-Lil 12/11	
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus	2 Dz 31/10, 2 Dz 1/11, ~5 Liw 10/11	Race meridionalis
Boehm's Bee-eater	Merops boehmi	~20 Liw 10/11, ~50 Liw 11/11, ~20 Liw	Monotypic
		12/11	
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	~30 Dz 1/11, ~20 Ny 3/11, ~5 Liw 11/11	Monotypic

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus rufirostris	3 Liw 10/11	Monotypic
Crowned Hornbill	Tockus alboterminatus	1 Zo 9/11	Monotypic. Zo: In John Wilson's garden.
African Gray Hornbill	Tockus nasutus	1 Liw 10/11	Race epirhinus
Pale-billed Hornbill	Tockus pallidirostris	7 Dz 1/11	Race neumanni. Dz: 2+5 birds.
Trumpeter Hornbill	Ceratogymna bucinator	~4 Dz 1/11, 2 Liw 10/11, 1 Liw 11/11, 3	Monotypic
		Liw 12/11	
White-eared Barbet	Stactolaema leucotis	4 Zo 9/11	Race leucotis. Zo: In John Wilson's garden.
Moustached Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus leucomystax	3 CF 4/11, 1 CF 6/11	Monotypic. CF: Zambia
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus	noted Zo 9/11	Race extoni. Also noted this common species elsewhere.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus	1 Zo 9/11, 1 Zo 10/11	Race bilineatus. A.k.a. Golden-rumped Tinkerbird. Zo: In John
			Wilson's garden.
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	Indicator variegatus	1 Dz 31/10, 2 Dz 1/11, 1 Zo 9/11, 1 Zo	Monotypic
		10/11	
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor	1 LFL 3/11	Race teitensis
Olive Woodpecker	Dendropicos griseocephalus	1 LFL 3/11	Race ruwenzori
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens	1 Zo 9/11, 2 Zo 10/11, ~5 Liw 10/11, ~5	Race hartlaubi
-		Liw 11/11	
Stierling's Woodpecker	Dendropicos stierlingi	2 Dz 1/11	Monotypic
Bearded Woodpecker	Dendropicos namaquus	1 Liw 11/11	Race namaquus
African Broadbill	Smithornis capensis	1 Dz 31/10	Race albigularis
Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra africana	2 Ny 4/11, ~20 Ny 5/11	Race nyikae
Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix leucopareia	5 Lil-Dz 30/10	Monotypic. A group of 5-6 birds quite close to Lilongwe.
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia	~5 MBL 7/11	Race probably <i>riparia</i> . A.k.a. Sand Martin.
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula	3 AAA 30/10	Race pusilla. AAA: Ethiopia.
White-headed Sawwing	Psalidoprocne albiceps	1 LFL 3/11, ~6 Ny 4/11	Race albiceps
Black Sawwing	Psalidoprocne	several Dz, ~5 LFL 3/11, 1 Zo 9/11	Race <i>orientalis</i> . This race is sometimes treated as a separate
	pristoptera		species Eastern Sawwing.
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Lil 30/10, Dz-VP 2/11, ~250 LFL 3/11,	Race probably <i>rustica</i> . Very common almost everywhere.
		common Ny 3-6/11, ~1000 MBL 7/11,	Also seen in Zambia (3/11) and Mozambique (12/11).
		common Liw-Lil 12/11	
Angola Swallow	Hirundo angolensis	4 ZRH 6/11	Monotypic. ZRH: Zambia.

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii	~5 Liw 10/11, ~20 Liw 11/11	Race smithii
Blue Swallow	Hirundo atrocaerulea	1 Ny 4/11, ~25 Ny 5/11	Monotypic
Lesser Striped-Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica	2 LFL 3/11, ~5 MBL 7/11	Race unitatis
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	2 LFL 3/11, ~5 Ny 4/11, singles MBL 7/11	Race emini
Gray-rumped Swallow	Pseudhirundo griseopyga	several Dz, ~50 VP 2/11, ~5 LFL 3/11	Race griseopyga
Common House-Martin	Delichon urbicum	A few Lil 30/10	Race probably <i>urbicum</i>
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp	1 LFL 3/11, 1 Ny 3/11, 2 Ny 5/11, 2 MBL 7/11, ~15 Zo 9/11, ~10 Liw 10/11, ~20 Liw 11/11	Race vidua
Mountain Wagtail	Motacilla clara	2 Dz, 4 Zo 9/11	Race torrentium. Dz: One pair in stream just below the lodge.
Yellow-throated Longclaw	Macronyx croceus	2 LFL 3/11	Monotypic
Striped Pipit	Anthus lineiventris	1 Dz 1/11	Race stygium. Dz: One seen very well on the top of a "Boulder Chat Kopje" (but unfortunately no Chats).
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus	~30 Ny 4/11, ~100 Ny 5/11	Race <i>lichenya</i> . Ny: We checked a lot of "normal" African Pipits (white belly, white outer tail feathers etc.) before we finally found two very dark birds (see pics above). Judging from the shape and color of the gape, the bird on the pic is a very young one. Are the young <i>lichenya</i> birds normally this dark? N.B. the dark Nyika Pipits are under taxonomic debate - compare Jackson's Pipit (<i>Anthus latistriatus</i>).
White-breasted Cuckoo- Shrike	Coracina pectoralis	1 Dz 1/11	Monotypic
Square-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus ludwigii	4 Zo 9/11, 2 Zo 10/11	Race tephrogaster
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	Dz, KFR, VP, Liw	Race fugax. Very common almost everywhere.
African Golden Oriole	Oriolus auratus	several Dz, 2 KFR 2/11	Race notatus
African Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus	common Dz, noted KFR 2/11, noted Liw 10/11	Race angolensis
Pied Crow	Corvus albus	10 AAA 30/10, noted Lil 30/10, 10 Ny 5/11, noted Liw 11/11	Monotypic. AAA: Ethiopia.
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis	common Ny 3-6/11	Monotypic. Also seen elsewhere but have no notes.

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Miombo Tit	Melaniparus griseiventris	2 Dz 1/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. Miombo Grey Tit.
Rufous-bellied Tit	Melaniparus rufiventris	1 Dz 31/10	Race masukuensis
Southern Black-Tit	Melaniparus niger	4 Liw 10/11, 2 Liw 12/11	Race ravidus
Spotted Creeper	Salpornis spilonotus	1 Dz 1/11	Race salvadori
Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides jardineii	5 Dz 31/10	Race kirkii
African Hill Babbler	Pseudoalcippe abyssinica	2 CF 4/11	Race stictigula. CF: Zambia
Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus	Dz, KFR, VP, Ny, MBL, Zo, Liw	Race <i>layardi</i> . Central African birds are often treated as a separate species Dark-capped Bulbul. Very common almost everywhere. Also seen in Mozambique (12/11).
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	Phyllastrephus flavostriatus	2 CF 4/11, noted Ny 4/11	Race <i>alfredi</i> . This race is sometimes treated as a separate species Sharpe's Greenbul or Malawi Greenbul. CF: Zambia, Ny: Zovo-Chipolo Forest.
Cabanis's Greenbul	Phyllastrephus cabanisi	1 LM-Zo 8/11	Race <i>placidus</i> . This race is sometimes treated as a separate species Placid Greenbul .
Gray-olive Greenbul	Phyllastrephus cerviniventris	7 MBL 7/11	Monotypic
Little Greenbul	Eurillas virens	2 Zo 9/11	Race zombensis
Sombre Greenbul	Andropadus importunus	1 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Race hypoxanthus
Stripe-cheeked Greenbul	Arizelocichla milanjensis	2 Zo 9/11	Race <i>olivaceiceps</i> . This race is sometimes treated as a separate species Olive-headed Greenbul .
Eastern Mountain-Greenbul	Arizelocichla nigriceps	1 LFL 3/11, noted Ny 3-6/11	Race fusciceps. This race is sometimes treated as a separate species Southern Mountain Greenbul (a.k.a. Northern Mountain Greenbul!).
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Chlorocichla flaviventris	2 Liw 12/11	Race occidentalis
Eastern Nicator	Nicator gularis	1 Zo 9/11, 1 Liw 12/11	Monotypic. Zo: In John Wilson's garden.
Miombo Rock-Thrush	Monticola angolensis	common Dz, 1 KFR 2/11	Race hylophila
Orange Ground-Thrush	Zoothera gurneyi	1 Zo 9/11	Race disruptans. Zo: Trout farm.
Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus libonyanus	common Dz, 1 LFL 3/11, 1 Ny 3/11, 2 Zo 9/11, 2 Zo 10/11	Race tropicalis
Cholo Alethe	Pseudalethe choloensis	1 Zo 9/11	Race choloensis. A.k.a. Thyolo Alethe. Zo: Trout farm.
East Coast Akalat	Sheppardia gunningi	2 Nk 6/11	Race bensoni. Nk: Rubber plantation.

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White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini	1 Dz, 1 MBL 7/11, ~5 Zo 9/11, 3 Zo	Race intermedia. A.k.a. Heuglin's Robin. This species is a
		10/11	morning terrorist also in Malawi!
Cape Robin-Chat	Cossypha caffra	several Ny 3-6/11, 2 Zo 9/11, 1 Liw	Race iolaema
		10/11	
Olive-flanked Robin-Chat	Cossypha anomala	2 CF 4/11, 2 Ny 4/11	Race macclounii. CF: Zambia, Ny: Zovo-Chipolo Forest.
White-starred Robin	Pogonocichla stellata	1 CF 4/11, 1 Ny 4/11, 3 Zo 9/11	Race orientalis. CF: Zambia, Ny: Zovo-Chipolo Forest.
Collared Palm-Thrush	Cichladusa arquata	~10 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11, ~10 Liw 12/11	Monotypic
Miombo Scrub-Robin	Cercotrichas barbata	1 KFR 2/11	Monotypic
Bearded Scrub-Robin	Cercotrichas quadrivirgata	1 Liw 10/11	Race quadrivirgata
Red-backed Scrub-Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys	1 Dz 31/10	Race zambesiana. A.k.a. White-browed Scrub Robin.
Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus	4 LFL 3/11, common Ny 3-6/11, 5 Zo	Race stonei. This race belongs to the torquatus group which
		9/11	sometimes is treated as a separate species African Stonechat.
Familiar Chat	Cercomela familiaris	1 Dz 1/11	Race modesta
Evergreen-forest Warbler	Bradypterus lopezi	2 LFL 3/11, ~20 Zo 9-10/11	Race granti
Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler	Bradypterus cinnamomeus	2 Ny 4/11, 1 Ny 5/11	Race nyassae
Little Rush-Warbler	Bradypterus baboecala	1 Liw 11/11	Race tongensis
Fan-tailed Grassbird	Schoenicola brevirostris	1 LFL 3/11	Race alexinae
African Yellow Warbler	Chloropeta natalensis	1 LFL 3/11	Race natalensis. A.k.a. Dark-capped Yellow Warbler.
Mountain Yellow Warbler	Chloropeta similis	1 Ny 6/11	Monotypic
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	several Dz, noted Liw 10-12/11	Race probably yakutensis
Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	1 Zo 9/11	Race probably borin
Red-faced Cisticola	Cisticola erythrops	2 MBL 7/11, 2 MBL 8/11	Race nyasa
Singing Cisticola	Cisticola cantans	1 LFL 3/11	Race muenzneri
Trilling Cisticola	Cisticola woosnami	3 VP 2/11	Race <i>lufira</i>
Black-lored Cisticola	Cisticola nigriloris	several Ny 3-6/11	Monotypic . Very distinct song, like a broken bicycle!
Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana	noted LM-Zo 8/11, common Liw 10-	Race emendatus. Also seen in Mozambique (12/11).
		12/11, noted Liw-Lil 12/11	
Churring Cisticola	Cisticola njombe	common Ny 3-6/11	Race mariae
Wailing Cisticola	Cisticola lais	1 LFL 3/11	Race semifasciatus

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Wing-snapping Cisticola	Cisticola ayresii	~30 Ny 5/11	Race ayresii
Bar-throated Apalis	Apalis thoracica	1 Dz 31/10, 1 LFL 3/11, several Ny 3-	Races whitei (Dz), youngi (LFL, Ny) and flavigularis (Zo). The
		6/11, 1 Zo 9/11	last is often treated as a separate species Yellow-throated
			Apalis - endemic to S Malawi.
White-winged Apalis	Apalis chariessa	2 Zo 9/11, 1 Zo 10/11	Race macphersoni. Zo: In John Wilson's garden (nest with
			chicks) and one more site nearby.
Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida	2 Zo 9/11, 2 Zo 10/11	Race neglecta
Chapin's Apalis	Apalis chapini	2 CF 4/11	Race strausae. CF: Zambia.
Black-headed Apalis	Apalis melanocephala	2 Zo 9/11	Race adjacens
Brown-headed Apalis	Apalis alticola	2 Ny 6/11	Race alticola
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	common Dz, Zo, Liw	Race <i>mutatrix</i> . Very common almost everywhere.
Red-winged Prinia	Prinia erythroptera	1 Dz 31/10	Race rhodoptera
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis	1 Dz 1/11	Race polioxantha
Greencap Eremomela	Eremomela scotops	2 Liw 11/11	Race scotops
Green-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brachyura	1 Dz 1/11, 1 KFR 2/11, 1 Nk 6/11, 1 Zo	Race sharpei (grey-backed). Also fugglescouchmani and
		9/11, 1 Liw 10/11	bororensis (both green-backed) occur in Malawi and there is
			much intergradation between these three according to BoM.
Yellow-bellied Hyliota	Hyliota flavigaster	1 Dz 31/10	Race barbozae
Pale Flycatcher	Bradornis pallidus	1 Dz 31/10, 2 LFL 3/11, 5 Zo 9/11	Races griseus (north and central like Dz and LFL) and divisus
			(S Malawi like Zo). A.k.a. Pallid Flycatcher.
Southern Black-Flycatcher	Melaenornis pammelaina	noted Dz, Ny, KFR	Race ater
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	3 Zo 9/11, 2 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11	Race probably striata
Dusky-brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta	1 Dz 31/10, 1 Dz 1/11	Race subadusta. A.k.a. African Dusky Flycatcher.
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	common Dz, 1 MBL 7/11	Race plumbeiceps. A.k.a. Grey-headed Paradise Flycatcher.
White-tailed Crested-	Elminia albonotata	1 Ny 3/11, 1 CF 4/11	Race albonotata. A.k.a. White-tailed Elminia. CF: Zambia.
Flycatcher			
White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher	Elminia albicauda	~5 Dz 31/10, 2 Ny 6/11	Monotypic
Livingstone's Flycatcher	Erythrocercus livingstonei	~7 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11	Race francisi
Cape Batis	Batis capensis	1 LFL 3/11, 2 Ny 4/11, 2 Zo 9/11, 1 Zo	Races sola (north like LFL and Ny) and dimorpha (central and
		10/11	south like Zo). These races are sometimes treated as a

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
			separate species Malawi Batis.
Chinspot Batis	Batis molitor	~5 Dz Dz 1/11, noted Liw 11/11, 1 Liw 12/11	Race palliditergum
Black-throated Wattle-eye	Platysteira peltata	2 MBL 7/11, 1 Liw 11/11	Race peltata
Common Fiscal	Lanius collaris	6 Ny 4/11, 2 Ny 5/11	Race capelli
Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus cubla	common Dz, 1 LFL 3/11, 10 Zo 9/11, 4 Zo 10/11, noted Liw 11/11, 2 Liw 12/11	Race hamatus
Brubru	Nilaus afer	1 Liw 12/11	Race nigritemporalis
Tropical Boubou	Laniarius aethiopicus	common Dz, 2 Ny 6/11, 1 MBL 8/11, 10 Zo 9/11, 1 Liw 10/11, noted Liw 11/11	Race mossambicus
Fuelleborn's Boubou	Laniarius fuelleborni	1 Ny 6/11	Race fuelleborni
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	Telophorus sulfureopectus	2 Liw 11/11, 3 Liw 12/11	Race similis. A.k.a. Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike.
Gray-headed Bushshrike	Malaconotus blanchoti	2 Zo 9/11, 1 Liw 11/11, 2 Liw 12/11	Race hypopyrrhus
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus	common Dz, noted VP	Race armenus
Greater Blue-eared Glossy- Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus	~20 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11, ~10 Liw 12/11	Race scyobius
Lesser Blue-eared Glossy- Starling	Lamprotornis chloropterus	4 KFR 2/11	Race <i>elisabeth</i> . This race is sometimes treated as a separate species Miombo Blue-eared Starling .
Meves's Glossy-Starling	Lamprotornis mevesii	~50 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11, ~10 Liw 12/11	Race mevesii
Violet-backed Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster	~10 Dz 1/11, ~5 LFL 3/11, noted Ny 3/11, ~5 Ny 6/11, ~4 Liw 10/11, ~5 Liw 11/11	Race verreauxi
Slender-billed Starling	Onychognathus tenuirostris	2 Ny 4/11	Race theresae
Waller's Starling	Onychognathus walleri	2 CF 4/11	Race walleri. CF: Zambia.
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus africanus	2 Ny 4/11	Race <i>africanus</i> . Near Chelinda, on the back of Roan Antelopes.
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorhynchus	2 Liw 10/11, 3 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Bronze Sunbird	Nectarinia kilimensis	2 LFL 3/11, 1 Ny 4/11, ~15 Ny 6/11	Race arturi. Ny: 15 in one tree with red flowers.
Amethyst Sunbird	Chalcomitra amethystina	1 Dz 1/11, 2 KFR 2/11, 1 Liw 11/11	Race kirkii

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis	2 Liw 10/11, 2 Liw 11/11	Race gutturalis
Eastern Olive Sunbird	Cyanomitra olivacea	~10 Zo 9/11, 4 Zo 10/11	Race alfredi
Western Violet-backed	Anthreptes longuemarei	3 Dz 1/11	Race angolensis
Sunbird			
Anchieta's Sunbird	Anthreptes anchietae	2 Dz 31/10	Monotypic
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris	1 Zo 9/11	Race zambesiana. Probably overlooked elsewhere.
Variable Sunbird	Cinnyris venustus	3 Dz 31/10, 3 LFL 3/11, ~10 Zo 9/11,	Race falkensteini
		~10 Zo 10/11, noted Liw 11/11, 2 Liw	
		12/11	
White-breasted Sunbird	Cinnyris talatala	2 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Purple-banded Sunbird	Cinnyris bifasciatus	4 MBL 7/11	Race microrhynchus
Montane Double-collared	Cinnyris ludovicensis	2 Ny 4/11	Race whytei. A.k.a. Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird
Sunbird			
Miombo Sunbird	Cinnyris manoensis	several Dz	Race manoensis. A.k.a Miombo Double-collared Sunbird.
Eastern Double-collared	Cinnyris mediocris	4 LFL 3/11, 1 Ny 4/11, 2 Ny 5/11, ~10	Races fuelleborni (north like Viphya Plateau and Nyika) and
Sunbird		Zo 9/11, ~5 Zo 10/11	bensoni (south like Zomba). These races are sometimes
			treated as a separate species Forest Double-collared
			Sunbird.
African Yellow White-eye	Zosterops senegalensis	common Ny 4-6/11, ~20 Zo 9/11, ~10	Races stierlingi (green-backed at higher altitude like Nyika
		Zo 10/11, ~5 Liw 10/11	and Zomba) and anderssoni (yellow-backed at lower altitude
			like Liwonde NP).
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	noted Dz-VP 2/11, noted Ny-LM 6/11	Race indicus
Southern Gray-headed	Passer diffusus	~10 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11	Race stygiceps
Sparrow			
Yellow-throated Petronia	Petronia superciliaris	common Dz	Race flavigula
White-browed Sparrow-	Plocepasser mahali	~50 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11, noted	Race pectoralis
Weaver		Liw 12/11	
Holub's Golden-Weaver	Ploceus xanthops	~6 LFL 3/11	Monotypic
African Golden-Weaver	Ploceus subaureus	~20 MBL 7/11	Race aureoflavus. A.k.a. Yellow Weaver.
Southern Brown-throated	Ploceus xanthopterus	common Liw 10-12/11,	Race xanthopterus
Weaver			

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
Spectacled Weaver	Ploceus ocularis	noted Dz, 5 Zo 9/11, 4 Zo 10/11	Race suahelicus
Lesser Masked-Weaver	Ploceus intermedius	~20 MBL 7/11, ~10 Liw 10/11	Race cabanisii
Baglafecht Weaver	Ploceus baglafecht	4 Ny 5/11	Race <i>nyikae</i> . Ny: Chelinda.
Bertram's Weaver	Ploceus bertrandi	2 LFL 3/11	Monotypic
Forest Weaver	Ploceus bicolor	1 Zo 9/11	Race stictifrons. A.k.a. Dark-backed Weaver.
Olive-headed Weaver	Ploceus olivaceiceps	2 Dz 31/10, 1 Dz 1/11	Monotypic
Red-headed Weaver	Anaplectes rubriceps	2 Dz 1/11, ~10 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw 11/11	Race rubriceps
Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea	4 Liw 10/11, 3 Liw 11/11	Race lathami
Red-collared Widowbird	Euplectes ardens	noted Ny 3/11, ~10 Ny 6/11	Race ardens
Buff-shouldered Widowbird	Euplectes psammocromius	~50 Ny 4/11, ~100 Ny 5/11	Monotypic. A.k.a. Montane Widowbird.
Green-winged Pytilia	Pytilia melba	1 Lil-Dz 30/10, 1 Liw 10/11, 1 Liw 11/11	Race melba
Orange-winged Pytilia	Pytilia afra	2 Liw 11/11	Monotypic
Peters's Twinspot	Hypargos niveoguttatus	~10 Zo 9/11, ~5 Zo 10/11	Race <i>niveoguttatus</i> . A.k.a. Red-throated Twinspot.
Green-backed Twinspot	Mandingoa nitidula	1 Zo 9/11	Race <i>nitidula</i> . A.k.a. Green Twinspot. Zo: In John Wilson's garden.
African Firefinch	Lagonosticta rubricata	1 Dz 1/11, noted LFL 3/11, ~10 Zo 9/11, ~5 Zo 10/11	Race haematocephala
Jameson's Firefinch	Lagonosticta rhodopareia	2 LFL 3/11	Race jamesoni
Bronze Mannikin	Spermestes cucullatus	2 LM-Zo 8/11	Race scutatus
Black-and-white Mannikin	Spermestes bicolor	~10 LFL 3/11, ~50 Zo 9/11, ~20 Zo 10/11	Race <i>nigriceps</i> . A.k.a. Red-backed Mannikin or Brown-backed Mannikin.
Blue-breasted Cordonbleu	Uraeginthus angolensis	10 Lil 30/10, noted Lil-Dz 30/10, 4 LFL 3/11, ~10 LM-Zo 8/11, noted Zo 10/11, ~30 Liw 10/11, ~50 Liw 11/11, ~20 Liw 12/11	Race <i>niassensis</i> . A.k.a. Blue Waxbill.
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	Coccopygia quartinia	1 VP 2/11, ~10 LFL 3/11, 3 Ny 4/11, 2 Zo 10/11	Race kilimensis
Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild	noted Dz-VP 2/11, ~75 LFL 3/11, common Ny 4-6/11, noted LM-Zo 8/11, noted Zo 10/11, ~10 Liw 10/11, ~10 Liw	Race cavendishi. Also seen in Zambia (3/11).

Common name	Scientific name	Site(s)	Race, alternative common name & comments
		11/11, ~10 Liw 12/11	
Yellow-fronted Canary	Serinus mozambicus	Noted Lil-Dz 30/10, 1 Dz 31/10, 2 Dz	Race mozambicus
		1/11, 1 MBL 7/11, ~10 Liw 10/11, ~20	
		Liw 11/11, ~30 Liw 12/11	
Brimstone Canary	Serinus sulphuratus	3 Ny 4/11, 1 Ny 6/11	Race sharpii
Yellow-crowned Canary	Serinus flavivertex	2 LFL 3/11, ~20 Ny 5/11, 1 Liw 10/11	Race sassii
Southern Citril	Serinus hypostictus	1 VP 2/11, ~10 LFL 3/11, noted Ny	Race hypostictus
		3/11, ~5 Zo 9/11, ~5 Zo 10/11, ~10 Liw	
		10/11	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi	1 Liw 11/11	Race tahapisi
Cabanis's Bunting	Emberiza cabanisi	2 Dz 31/10, 3 Dz 1/11	Race orientalis
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris	3 VP 2/11, ~5 LFL 3/11	Race kalaharica

Species list (mammals and reptiles):

(Our notes on animals and reptiles are not complete. Some common species were seen in more sites but not always noted.)

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Yellow Baboon	noted LFL 3/11, several Ny 3-6/11, common Liw	
Vervet Monkey	noted LFL 3/11, noted Ny 3/11, 6/11	
Samango Monkey (Gentle Monkey)	~5 Zo 9/11	John Wilson's garden
Greater Bushbaby (Thick-tailed Galago)	1 Liw	Heard
Lesser Bushbaby (South African Galago)	1 Zo 9/11	John Wilson's garden
Scrub Hare	~10 Ny 3-6/11	
Tanganyikan Mountain Squirrel	~3 CF 4/11	CF: Zambia
Mutable Sun Squirrel	3 Zo 9/11	
Smith's Bush Squirrel (Mopane Squirrel)	common Liw 10-12/11	
Side-striped Jackal	1 Ny 3/11	
African Elephant	~20 Liw 10-12/11	
Crawshay's Zebra	small flocks Ny 3-6/11	
Hippopotamus	common Liw 10-12/11	
Common Warthog	several Ny 3-6/11, common Liw 10-12/11	many with piglets
Bushbuck	several Ny 3-6/11, noted Liw 10-12/11	
Greater Kudu	noted Liw 10/11	
Eland	noted Ny 3-6/11	
Grey Duiker (Bush/Common Duiker)	1 Dz 1/11, several Ny 3-6/11	
Red Duiker (Natal Duiker)	1 Ny 4/11	
Southern Reedbuck	common Ny 3-6/11	
Waterbuck	several Liw 10-12/11	
Impala	common Liw 10-12/11	many with fawns
Roan Antelope	common Ny 3-6/11	
Nile Crocodile	common Liw 10-12/11	
Nile Monitor	~10 Liw 10-12/11	
Other Lizzards sp.		