Comprehensive Angola

2019 Tour Report

Text by tour leader Michael Mills
Photos by tour participant Bob Zook
SUMMARY

With camping on Angolan bird tours now ancient history, our fourth all-hotel-accommodated bird tour of Angola was an overwhelming success both for birds and comfort. Thanks to new hotels opening up and a second wave of road renovations almost complete, Angola now offers some of the most comfortable travel conditions on the African continent, although longer drives are needed to get to certain of the birding sites.

Besides the logistics running very smoothly we fared exceptionally well on the birds, with all participants again enjoying good views of all Angola’s endemics, plus most BirdLife splits, among the 559 species logged. Our top ten birds was rounded out by the smart Gabela Bushshrike that gave good views on the central escarpment. A secretive Finsch’s Francolin on Mt Moco came it at number nine, just behind the country’s bright and beautiful national bird, Red-crested Turaco. Incredible views of the usually-skulking Forest Scrub Robin at Muxima put it firmly in seventh place, following the snazzy little Black-necked Eremomela that impressed us in the diverse Mt Moco region. Good views of Swierstra’s Francolin at Tundavala again put this localised endemic in our top five, with the bright and beautiful Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye narrowly missing out on a podium finish. A dazzling Pennant-winged Nightjar that danced around us in the Kalandula area took bronze, and point-blank views of Egyptian Plover on the banks of the Kwanza River, silver. This year the gold medal went to the fantastic White-headed Robin-Chat, which gave exceptional views and impressed with its unusual colour combination in the Kalandula area.

There were many other great birds seen too, and the impressive diversity of habitats meant that we logged an impressive total of species in 18 days. We started off near Caxito with Monteiro’s Bushshrike, followed by Braun’s Bushshrike and Black-collared Bulbul along the northern escarpment. The Kalandula area was home to Anchieta’s Barbet, Black-backed Barbet, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Thick-billed Cuckoo and Anchieta’s Sunbird. Next, Muxima held Gabela Helmetshrike, Angola Batis, Grey-striped Francolin and White-fronted Wattle-eye. Kumbira and surrounds produced Gabela Akalat, Pale-throated Barbet, Gabon Coucal and Pulitzer’s Longbill, followed by Brazza’s Martin, Angola Lark, Huambo Cisticola, Miombo Pied Barbet, Souza’s Shrike Locust Finch, Bocage’s Sunbird, Ludwig’s Double-collared Sunbird, Dusky Twinspot, Bocage’s Akalat, Black-and-rufous Swallow and Margaret’s Batis in the Mt Moco area. Inland of Benguela we found Hartlaub’s Spurfowl, Monteiro’s Hornbill, Rüppell’s Parrot, Rockrunner and White-tailed Shrike. On the Namibe Day trip we were treated to Rüppell’s Korhaan, Ludwig’s Bustard, Benguela Long-billed Lark, and Bare-cheeked Babbler and, finally, Tundavala was home to Angola Cave Chat.

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

DATES
12-29 August 2019

LEADER
Michael Mills

PARTICIPANTS
Andrew Cockburn
Mike Coverdale
Daragh Croxson
Stephen Eccles
Ola Sundberg
Bob Zook

ITINERARY
12 Aug : Luanda to Uíge.
13 Aug : Northern escarpment forest near Uíge.
14 Aug : Uíge to Kalandula.
15 Aug : Woodlands and gallery forests north of Kalandula.
16 Aug : Kalandula to N’dalatando.
17 Aug : N’dalatando to Maxima via northern escarpment forests of Tombinga Pass.
18 Aug : Dry forests in Maxima area.
19 Aug : Maxima to Kwanza River mouth.
20 Aug : Kwanza River to Conda.
21 Aug : Central escarpment forest at Kumbira.
22 Aug : Conda to Mount Moco region.
23 Aug : Grasslands and montane forest at Mount Moco.
24 Aug : Dambos and miombo woodlands in the Mount Moco region.
25 Aug : Margaret’s Batis hike at Mount Moco.
26 Aug : Mount Moco to Benguela area via wetlands of Lobito.
27 Aug : Benguela to Lubango via rocky hillsides and arid savannas.
28 Aug : Day trip to Namibe via arid savannas and coastal deserts.
29 Aug : Montane forests and grasslands at Tundavala. Fly to Luanda.
We started off in Luanda, Angola’s colossal and chaotic capital city, with our first stop to have a look at the large, dark Mottled Swifts that breed in buildings along the ‘marginal’ (they have been called Fernando Po Swift in the past). However, we didn’t pause for long as we wanted to escape the growing mass of traffic before it swallowed us. Our first real stop was in some dry thickets near Caxito on our way north to Uige, where a productive walk turned up good views of Monteiro’s Bushshrike, along with Hartert’s Camaroptera, African Goshawk, Little Sparrowhawk and Angola Batik. Lunch, further north, produced Red-rumped Tinkerbird and our first Naked-faced Barbet, a roadside stop at a police check for Angola. Not bad for a first day of birding in Angola!

The following day-and-a-half in the northern scarp forests of Uíge province produced an impressive list of species. We managed to track down Angola White-throated Greenbul for the second time on a bird tour, but unlike last year it wouldn’t sit still for long enough for anyone to see properly. Other highlights included Brown-backed Scrub Robin, African Yellow Warbler, Brown Twinspot, Blue-headed Coucal, Bubbling Cisticola, Black-collared Bulbul and good views of Orange-tufted Sunbird in mesc savannas bordering forest, and a good variety of forest species such as White-collared Oliveback, Piping Hornbill. African Pied Hornbill, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Great Blue Turaco, Guinea Turaco, Forest Chestnut-winged Starling, Swamp Palm Bulbul, Yellow mantled Weaver, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous crowned Eremomela, Buff-throated Apalis, Black-throated Apalis, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Banded Prinia, White-chinned Prinia, Velvet mantled Drongo, Green Hylia, Black-winged Oriole, Black Bee-eater, Purple-throated Cuckoo shrike, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Pink-footed Puffback, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Scaly-breasted Illadopsis (glimpsed), perched Afep Pigeon, Dark-backed Weaver, Red-headed Malimbe, Crested Malimbe, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Yellow-crested Woodpecker, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Red-fronted Parrot, Narrow-tailed Starling, Blue-throated Roller, Bocage’s Bushshrike, Green-backed Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Barbet, Olive-bellied Sunbird, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Narina Trogon, Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher, Blue Malkoha, Sooty Flycatcher, Carmelite Sunbird, Yellow-throated Nicator, Black Sparrowhawk, White-bellied Kingfisher (glimpsed), Fraser’s Rufous Thrush and Lowland Masked Apalis.

From the northern-most point of the trip, near Uíge, we turned south-eastwards to the Kalandula Falls area with its broad-leaved woodlands and gallery forests. En route we did well to find Anchieta’s Sunbird, Retz’s Helmetshrike, Ross’s Turaco, Pale-billed Hornbill, Brown-headed Apalis, Square-tailed Dronto, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Gorgeous/Perrin’s Bushshrike and our first Red-crested Turaco. The main birding area at Kalandula is 40 km to the north of the falls themselves, near Kinjila Village, and we spent the better part of a day and half here. The gallery forests held the star attraction, and this year White-headed Robin-Chat showed itself especially well, treating us to superb, prolonged views. The supporting cast included Black-backed Barbet (a mixed pair of minor Brown-faced Barbet and macclounii White-faced Barbet), Black-throated Wattle-eye, Grey-winged Robin-Chat/Akalat, Cabanis’s Greenbul, Bates’s Sunbird, Landana Firefinch and African Broadbill. Bannerman’s Sunbird was very tricky this year, and was greatly outnumbered by the very similar Green-headed Sunbird, we only spotted one that didn’t sit still for long. Surrounding woodlands were home to Sharp-tailed Starling, Miombo Wren-Warbler, Orange-winged Pytilia, Meyer’s Parrot, Red-capped Crombec, White-breasted Cuckoo shrike, Red-throated Wryneck, Yellow-bellied Hyliotla, Bennett’s Woodpecker, Cabanis’s Bunting, African Barred Owlet, African Cuckoo, Thick-billed Cuckoo, breeding-plumaged Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah and Whistling Cisticola. After dark a male Pennant-winged Nightjar dazzled us and we also found Fiery-necked Nightjar.
We broke our journey to Muxima with an overnight stay at N’dalatando, finding Rock Pratincole and Compact Weaver en route. The next morning we birded the northern escarpment forests near N’dalatando at Tombinga pass. The open forest was quite birdy and we notched up Brown-eared Woodpecker, Narina Trogon, Superb Sunbird, Yellow-billed Barbet, Cassin’s Honeybird and Yellow Longbill.

Moving on, in the Muxima area we had a day-and-a-half to bird the endemic-rich dry forests of the area. Several Grey-striped Francolin were found and some seen on the deck, non-breeding Golden-backed Bishop was studied in detail, a party of Gabela Helmetshrike was admired at length, Monteiro’s Bushshrike was seen again, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush put in several appearances, Red-backed Mousebird was numerous, a female White-fronted Wattle-eye was coaxed from the thickets and Forest Scrub Robin and Pale olive Greenbul showed exceptionally well. More widespread highlights included Olive Bee-eater, African Barred Owlet, Mottled Spinetail, Böhm’s Spinetail, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Swamp Boubou, Red-necked Spurfowl (cranchii), Long-billed Crombec (of the distinctive ansorgii race), African Mourning Dove (nearby), Western Banded Snake Eagle, Purple-banded Sunbird and Angola Batis, among a diversity of other savanna and woodland species. Along the river Egyptian Plover was enjoyed at point-blank range, here right at the southern edge of its distribution, and other wetland birds included Goliath Heron, African Openbill and Knob-billed Duck. After dark an African Scops Owl gave great views.

Leaving Muxima for the Kwanza River mouth, we made several roadside stops on our drive through Kissama National Park for Gabar Goshawk, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Desert Cisticola, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill and Swallow-tailed Bee-eater. At the river mouth we found Mangrove/Brown Sunbird, Long-legged Pipit, Ayres’s Hawk-Eagle, Western Osprey, Collared Pratincole and a tern roost at the river mouth that included Royal Tern and a single Damara Tern. An afternoon visit to the nearby Mussulo Bay turned up a good selection of Palaearctic waders, plus Greater Flamingo, Lesser Flamingo, Kittlitz’s Plover and White-fronted Plover.

From the Kwanza River mouth we made our way down the coast (seeing Black-bellied Bustard and Temminck’s Courser en route) and then inland to the central escarpment. The Kumbira area and surrounding central escarpment near Conda village is arguably the highest priority for conservation in Angola, but is also one of the most rapidly disappearing areas of habitat thanks to slash-and-burn cultivation. We started off at our site for Gabela Bushshrike used for the last two years, and even before finishing lunch could hear them calling nearby. Within 15 minutes we were watching a pair of highly threatened Gabela Bushshrike calling from some dry tangles, which gave repeated views. Pulitzer’s Longbill was also found nearby, and was seen again the next day, and Gabela Akalat was persuaded to leave its thickets after a couple of attempts. Other species of interest along the central escarpment included Falkenstein’s Greenbul, two lovely Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, the distinctive endemic form of Naked-faced Barbet (split by BirdLife as Pale-throated Barbet), Crowned Eagle, a female Petit’s Cuckoo-shrike, the curious local form of Southern Hyliota (slatini), Dusky Tit, Buff-throated Apalis, Black-faced Canary, Green Twisspot, Yellow-throated Nicatior, Brown-chested Alethe, African Wood Owl, Black-collared Bulbul, Brown Twisspot and Gabon Coucal.

Moving on to the highlands of Huambo province, we were now headed for the Mount Moco region. The greater Mount Moco area holds a diverse array of habitats. Most of the area is blanketed in miombo woodland, unfortunately quite degraded now by clearing for agriculture and charcoal production, but significant areas of montane grassland can also be found, numerous rivers and associated dambo grasslands criss cross the area, and very small patches of montane forest exist on Mount Moco itself.
In these forests we first turned our attention to the small patch of forest and scrubby habitat above the village of Kanjonde, which is the main focus of a forest rehabilitation project that I run at the mountain. It was pleasing to see that the firebreaks installed earlier in the year had successfully stopped a fire from entering the forest patch, and that the trees in it were growing well. Forest and forest-edge birds here included Huambo Cisticola (not related to Rock-loving Cisticola, with which previously lumped), White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird, Angola Swee Waxbill, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, African Hill Babbler, Grey Apalis, Olive Woodpecker, Bronzy Sunbird, Dusky Twinspot and Evergreen Forest Warbler. Swierstra's Francolin was also present, and although I saw one well it remained hidden for the group. Also around this forest patch we enjoyed good views of Black-chinned Weaver. The rest of our time was spent in the habitats around the base of the mountain and further afield across the greater region. Grassland and shrubland species included Tinkling Cisticola, Oustalet's Sunbird, Capped Wheatear and Angola Lark. In damper areas of dambo grassland (dry at this time of the year) we found several Fülleborn's Longclaw, good numbers of Locust Finch that showed well in low flight, Quail-finch on the ground (if split, African Quail-Finch) and the sought-after Black-and-rufous Swallow. Areas of rank growth, mostly around rivers, held Fan-tailed Grassbird, Half-collared Kingfisher (glimpsed), Brown Firefinch, Chirping Cisticola, Harlequin Quail, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Hartlaub's Babbler, Schalow's Turaco, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Marsh Widowbird, Greater Swamp Warbler, Blue-breasted Bee-eater and Bocage's Weaver in full breeding plumage. A pair of Brazza's Martin gave excellent views near their nest, including one that perched, and this year Bocage's Sunbird played along nicely and we saw two lovely males very well. We also enjoyed good views of two African Black Swift-types, which are assumed to be Fernando Po Swift based on the only specimen from the region.

The miombo woodlands also turned up some good birds, including Ancheta's Barbet, three African Cuckoo-Hawk, Salvadori's Eremomela, Souza's Shrike, Western Miombo Sunbird, Miombo Scrub Robin, Wood Pipit, the snazzy Black-necked Eremomela, Miombo Pied Barbet, Pearl-breasted Swallow, affinis race of Brubru, Red-throated Cliff Swallow, Rufous-bellied Tit, Western Violet-backed Sunbird, Black Cuckoo, African Golden Oriole, Green-backed Honeybird, Dark Chanting Goshawk, White-fronted Bee-eater, Green-capped Eremomela, Grey Penduline Tit (of the green ansorgei race) and Miombo Wren-Warbler. After dark Square-tailed Nightjar showed at point-blank range. A special mention should be made of the fourteen species of swallows seen in the area.

Heading back to the coast again, the Lobito-Benguela area was our next major focus. The coastal wetlands at Lobito allowed us to do some list padding, with more interesting species including Cape Teal, Lesser Flamingo, Greater Flamingo, Yellow-billed Stork, Great White Pelican and Black Heron. However, most of our time was spent in an area of arid hills and scrubland some 40 kilometres inland of Benguela, with several species characteristic of the Namibian escarpment found here. A male Hartlaub's Spur-fowl was persuaded to sit up on a rock for superb views, White-tailed Shrike was quite conspicuous and we also enjoyed good views of Rockrunner, Rüppell's Parrot, Cape Penduline Tit, Pritz Batis, Grey Go-away-bird, Acacia Pied Barbet, Carp's Tit, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Violet-eared Waxbill, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Monteiro's Hornbill, Barred Wen-Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, White-throated Canary, Black-chested Prinia, Rosy-faced Lovebird and Kalahari Scrub Robin. More open areas held Sabota Lark, Double-banded Coursier, Stark's Lark, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Great Sparrow, Ashy Tit, Lark-like Bunting, Common Scimitarbill, Scaly-feathered Finch and Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler.
Finally we moved on to the Lubango area, where we birded two rather different habitats, separated by the spectacular southern escarpment. On our first full day around Lubango we descended the escarpment at Leba Pass, running a transect across the ever-drier landscape towards the coast. Our first stop failed to turn up the hoped-for Cinderella Waxbill, but in the same general area we found the benguellensis race of Meves’s Starling (now split by BirdLife as Benguela Starling), Bare-cheeked Babbler, Little Sparrowhawk, distinctive nominate race of Red-necked Spurfowl and distinctive capricorni subspecies of Bennett’s Woodpecker. Further towards the coast the habitat became drier and we found Crimson-breasted Shrike, Karoo Chat, Chat Flycatcher, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Pale-winged Starling, Benguela Long-billed Lark, Monteiro’s Hornbill and Dusky Sunbird. In the sparser areas still we found two groups of Rüppell’s Korhaan, a relaxed Ludwig’s Bustard, a single Tractrac Chat and Spike-heeled Lark.

Our first afternoon and second morning at Lubango was spent at Tundavala at the top of the escarpment, where montane grasslands and shrublands and remnant patches of Afromontane forest produced some of the best birding of the trip in impressive surrounds. Swierstra’s Francolin was seen well for the seventh time on one of our tours, with a smart male sitting out on a rock. Rocky areas were home to Rockrunner, striking Angola Cave Chat, Miombo Rock Thrush and Short-toed Rock Thrush, and other goodies included Jameson’s Firefinch (ansorgei Ansorge’s Firefinch), Buffy Pipit, Angolan Slaty Flycatcher, Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, Angola Swee Waxbill, Bradfield’s Swift, Schalow’s Turaco and Verreaux’s Eagle.
Lobito, Benguela and Mussulo

Phoeniconaias minor  - Seen at Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus  - Flamingos Family Phoenicopteridae

Good number

Tachybaptus ruficollis  - Grebes Family Podicipedidae

Moco region (and female were flushed and seen well in the Mt Moco region and en route to Lubango)

Hartlaub's Spurfowl

Pternistis afer  - Super (endemic)

views of a male inland of Benguela (probably payesi)

Squacco Heron Ardea ralloides  - Seen a few times

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis  - Seen often
grey Heron Ardea cinerea  - Seen quite often (cinerea)

Black-headed Heron Ardea melanochlapa  - Seen several times

Goliath Heron Ardea goliath  - Seen near Muxima

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea  - Seen along the Kwanza River (purpurea)

Great Egret Ardea alba  - Fairly common in coastal wetlands (melanorhynchos)

Black Heron Egretta ardesiaca  - Seen at Lobito

Little Egret Egretta garzetta  - Seen in coastal wetlands (garzetta)

Hamerkop Family Scopidae

Hamerkop Scopus umbretta  - Two sightings (umbretta)

Pelicans Family Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican Pelecanus onocrotalus  - Good numbers at Lobito and Mussulo

Cormorants, shags Family Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant Microcarbo africanus  - Seen mainly along the coast (africanus)

Cape Cormorant Phalacrocorax capensis  - Seen in Luanda Bay before the official start of the tour

White-breasted Cormorant Phalacrocorax lucidus  - Seen at Lobito and Mussulo

Anhingas, darters Family Anhingidae

African Darter Anhinga rufa  - Seen at Lobito (rufa)

Ospreys Family Pandionidae

Western Osprey Pandion haliaetus  - One at the Kwanza River mouth (haliaetus)

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Family Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite Elanus caeruleus  - Seen regularly (caeruleus)

African Harrier-Hawk Polyboroides typus  - Seen quite often (typus)

Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis  - The most commonly-seen raptor

African Cuckoo-Hawk Aviceda cuculoides - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (verreauxii)

Black-chested Snake Eagle Circaetetus pectoralis - Seen twice

Brown Snake Eagle Circaetus cinereus  - Seen twice

Western Banded Snake Eagle Circaetus cinerascens  - Fantastic views of a pair near Muxima

Bateleur Terathopius ecaudatus  - Seen a few times in the Kalandula area

Crowned Eagle Stephanoaetus coronatus  - One on the northern escarpment and one at Kumbira

Martial Eagle Polemaetus bellicosus  - One seen on the drive from Benguela to Lubango

Long-crested Eagle Lophaetus occipitalis  - A few sightings

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle Hieraaetus ayresii  - A pale-morph bird seen at the Kwanza River mouth

Wahlberg's Eagle Hieraetus wahlbergi  - Seen in the Mt Moco region and en route to Lubango

Verreaux's Eagle Aquila verreauxii  - Great views of two at Tundavala

Gabar Goshawk Micronisus gabar  - Good views of a pair in Kissama (probably aeguatorius)

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

Dark Chanting Goshawk Melierax metabates - A couple were seen in the Mt Moco area (mechowi)

Pale Chanting Goshawk Melierax canorus  - Seen on the Namibe Day Trip

African Goshawk Accipiter tchaci  - A couple of sightings (sparvernifasciatus)

Shikra Accipiter badius  - A couple of sightings (polyzonoides)

Little Sparrowhawk Accipiter minullus  - Seen near Caixito and below Leba Pass (minullus)

Black Sparrowhawk Accipiter melanoleucus  - Seen a few times in the north (temminckii)

African Marsh Harrier Circus ranivorus  - Seen at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region

Yellow-billed Kite Milvus aegyptius  - Seen at Kalandula and between Benguela and Lubango (parasitus)

African Fish Eagle Haliaeetus vocifer  - Seen along the Kwanza River

Red-necked Buzzard Buteo auguralis  - A few good sightings

Augur Buzzard Buteo augur  - Seen several times from Mt Moco southwards

Bustards Family Otididae

Ludwig's Bustard Neotis ludwigi  - One watched at length while foraging in the coastal deserts

Rüppell's Korhaan Eupodotis rueppelli  - Four seen well in the coastal deserts (rueppelli)

Black-bellied Bustard Lissotis melanogaster  - Seen five times (melanogaster)
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Flufftails Family Sarothruridae
White-spotted Flufftail Sarothrus pulchra - Heard at Kalandula (centralis)
Red-chested Flufftail Sarothrus rufa - Heard at Kalandula (rufa)

Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae
African Rail Rallus caerulescens - Heard distantly in the Mt Moco region
Black Crake Amaurornis flavinotra - Very brief views a couple of times
Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus - Seen at Lobito (meridionalis)
Red-knobbed Coot Fulica cristata - Seen at Lobito and Tundavala

Buttonquails Family Turnicidae
Common Buttonquail Turnix sylvaticus - One flushed in the Quixete area

Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Family Burhinidae
Water Thick-knee Burhinus vermiculatus - Seen at Musuca and Lobito (vermiculatus)

Stilts, Avocets Family Recurvirostridae
Pied Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta - Seen at Mussulo, Kwanza River mouth and Lobito
Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus - Seen a few times

Plovers Family Charadriidae
African Wattled Lapwing Vanellus senegallus - Heard in the Mt Moco region (lateralis)
Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola - Seen along the coast (squatarola)
White-fronted Plover Charadrius marginatus - Seen at Mussulo (probably mechnowi)
Kittlitz’s Plover Charadrius pecuarius - Seen along the coast
Three-banded Plover Charadrius tricoloris - Seen a few times (tricoloris African Three-banded Plover)

Egyptian Plover Family Pluvianidae
Egyptian Plover Pluvianus aegyptius - Fantastic views along the Kwanza River

Jacanas Family Jacanidae
African Jacana Actophilornis africanus - Several
Sandpipers, Snipes Family Scolopacidae
Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus - Seen along the coast (phaeopus)
Eurasian Curlew Numenius arquata - Seen at Mussulo
Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica - Seen at Mussulo (limosa)
Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres - Seen at Mussulo
Ruff Calidris pugnax - One seen by Michael at Benguela
Sandering Calidris alba - Seen at Mussulo
Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis - Seen along the coast
Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia - Seen along the coast
Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola - Seen at Lobito
Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucus - Seen a few times
Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres - Seen at Lobito (interpres)
Little Stint Calidris minutia - Seen at Lobito
Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea - Seen at Lobito

Coursers, Pratincoles Family Glareolidae
Temminck’s Courser Cursorius temminckii - Two seen well in Kissama
Double-banded Courser Rhinoptilus australis - Fantastic views inland of Benguela (bispinaeus)
Collared Pratincole Glareola pratincola - Seen along the Kwanza River (riparia)
Rock Pratincole Glareola rupestris - Seen on the Lucala River (nuchalis)

Egyptian Plover Family Pluvianidae
Egyptian Plover Pluvianus aegyptius - Fantastic views along the Kwanza River

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae
Grey-headed Gull Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus - Seen at Lobito (poiocephalus)
Kelp Gull Larus dominicanus - Seen along the coast (vetula)
Sandwich Tern Thalasseus sandvicensis - Seen along the coast
Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia - Seen along the coast
Royal Tern Thalasseus maximus - Seen along the coast (albidorsalis African Royal Tern)
Damar Tern Sterna balaenarum - One at the Kwanza River mouth
Common Tern Sterna hirundo - Seen along the coast
White-winged Tern Chlidonias leucopterus - One at the Kwanza River mouth

Pigeons, Doves Family Columbidae
Rock Dove Columba livia - Feral Pigeons were common in the towns and villages
African Olive Pigeon Columba arquatrix - One seen at Mussulo
Grey Go-away-bird Corthylois cuneolus - Seen along the coastal plain (paludiceps)

Tambourine Dove Turtur tympanistria - Seen in the northern forests
Namaqua Dove Oena capensis - Seen a few times (capensis)

Turacos Family Musophagidae
Great Blue Turaco Corythaica cristata - Seen in the northern scarp forests
Guinea Turaco Tauraco persa - Seen in the northern scarp forests (zenkeri)
Schalow’s Turaco Tauraco schalowi - Good views in the Mt Moco region and at Tundavala

Ross’s Turaco Musophaga rossae - Seen well en route to Kalandula

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove Turtur chalcospilos - Common in the drier areas

Laughing Dove Spilopelia senegalensis - Seen regularly (senegalensis)
Red-crested Turaco Tauraco erythrolophus - Great views en route to and at Kalandula

Good flight views en route to Kalandula - Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo Cercococcyx meadi - Good flight views en route to Kalandula

Klaas’s Cuckoo Chrysococcyx klaas - Seen and heard on several dates

Blue Malkoha Cethmochares aereus - Seen in the northern forests (aereus)

Good and mechnowi

Good views of perched birds on the northern escarpment

Grey-headed go-away-bird Corthylois concolor - Seen along the coastal plain (paludiceps)

Cocky Family Cuculidae
Gabon Coucal Centropus anelli - Everyone enjoyed brief but good views at Kumbira
Blue-headed Coucal Centropus monachus - Seen along the northern escarpment (fischeri)
Coppery-tailed Coucal Centropus cupreicaudus - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (cupreicaudus)
White-browed Coucal Centropus superciliosus - Several were seen (loandiace)

Grey Go-away-bird Corthylois concolor - Seen along the coastal plain (paludiceps)

Cocky Family Cuculidae
Gabon Coucal Centropus anelli - Everyone enjoyed brief but good views at Kumbira
Blue-headed Coucal Centropus monachus - Seen along the northern escarpment (fischeri)
Coppery-tailed Coucal Centropus cupreicaudus - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (cupreicaudus)
White-browed Coucal Centropus superciliosus - Several were seen (loandiace)

Blue Malkoha Cethmochares aereus - Seen in the northern forests (aereus)

Thick-billed Cuckoo Pachycoctys audeberti - Good perched views at Kalandula

African Emerald Cuckoo Chrysococcyx cupreus - Heard in the northern scarp forests

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo Cercococcyx meadi - Good flight views en route to Kalandula

African Green Pigeon Tbron calvus - Seen on several dates (calvus and anasori)

Great Blue Turaco Corythaica cristata - Seen in the northern scarp forests

Guinea Turaco Tauraco persu - Seen in the northern scarp forests (zenkeri)

African Green Pigeon Tbron calvus - Seen on several dates (calvus and anasori)
Black Cuckoo *Caculus clamosus* - Seen briefly in the Mt Moco region (clamosus)

Red-chested Cuckoo *Caculus soritarius* - Heard at Kalandula

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* - Seen in the Mt Moco area and at Kalandula

**Barn Owls Family Tytonidae**

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* - Good views at our hotel near Huambo (affinis)

**Owls Family Strigidae**

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* - Superb views near Maxima (senegalensis)

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* - Excellent views near Conda (nuchalis)

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* - A few good sightings during the day (licua)

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* - Prolonged day-time views at Muxima and also seen at Kalandula (ngamiense)

**Nightjars Family Caprimulgidae**

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufus* - Seen near Tundavala as it was getting light (rufus)

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* - Good views at Kalandula (fervidus)

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus foerosi* - Point-blank views near Huambo (wehbitschii)

Pentann-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus vsillarius* - A displaying male danced around us at Kalandula

**Swifts Family Apodidae**

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis acuatorialis* - Seen regularly (acuatorialis), including in Luanda

Fernando Po Swift *Apus sladeniae* - Two "African Black Swift" types in the Mt Moco region were seen well, and presumably belong to this taxon

Bradfield’s Swift *Apus bradfieldi* - Seen at Tundavala (bradfieldi)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* - Seen a few times (tereasa)

Horus Swift *Apus horus* - Seen at Mt Moco (horus)

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

**Mousebirds Family Coliidae**

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* - Seen near Quitexe and at Kalandula (nigrobilis)

Red-backed Mousebird *Colius castanotus* - Seen mostly along the coastal plain

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus* - Seen along the coastal plain (lacteifrons)

**Trogons Family Trogonidae**

Narina Trogan *Apaloderma narina* - Seen in the northern scarp forests and at Kumbira (narina)

**Rollers Family Coraciidae**

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* - Seen a couple of times along the coast (mosambicus)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* - Seen en route to Kalandula, at Mt Moco and along the coast (caudatus)

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* - Perched views near Quitexe

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* - Seen at Kalandula (suahellicus)

**Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae**

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* - Heard on the northern escarpment

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

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* - Seen at the bottom of Leba Pass (prenitissas)

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* - Seen a few times (chelicuiti)

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbus* - Heard along the Kwanza River (malimbus)

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* - Seen on the Kwanza River (fuscopiceps)

White-bellied Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster* - Very brief views near Quitexe (leucogaster)

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* - Brief views of one near the Kwanza River (ferrugina)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* - Seen along the Kwanza River (galeritus)

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* - Seen briefly at Coqueta

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* - Seen at Coqueta

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* - Several sightings (rudis)

**Bee-eaters Family Meropidae**

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (aurealis)

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* - Seen near Cabo Ledo and in the Mt Moco region (hirundineus)

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

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus* - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (variegatus)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* - A couple of sightings in the Mt Moco region and at Tundavala

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* - Seen breeding along the Kwanza River (alternans)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* - Heard twice

**Wood Hoopoes Family Phoeniculidae**

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* - Seen near Maxima (angolensis)

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* - Seen at Kalandula (anchietae)

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* - Seen a couple of times in the south (cyanomelas)

**Hornbills Family Bucerotidae**

Damara Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus damarensis* - Seen well in the south-west

Monteiro’s Hornbill *Tockus monteiri* - Seen well in the south-west

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomalae* - Seen several times along the coastal plain (elegans)

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros albiterminatus* - Seen several times (albiterminatus)

African Pied Hornbill *Lophoceros famus* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (famus Congo Pied Hornbill)

Pale-billed Hornbill *Lophoceros pallidirostris* - Good views en route to Kalandula (pallidirostris)

Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (sharpii Eastern Piping Hornbill)

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata* - Heard near Quitexe

**African barbets Family Lybiidae**

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli* - Seen well in the northern scarp forests

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (conicus) and at Kumbira (vernayi Angola Naked-faced Barbet / Pale-throated Barbet, endemic)

Anchieta’s Barbet *Stactolaema anchietae* - Several good sightings at Kalandula and two at Mt Moco (rex)

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopes* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (flavissquamatius)
Western Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaea* - Seen well at Mt Moco and again at Tundavala (angolensis, endemic)

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atrorufus* - Seen in the northern scarp forests

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* - Seen in the northern forests (all leucolaimus)

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

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (angolensis)

Miombo Pied Barbet *Tricholaema frontata* - Great views in the Mt Moco region

Acacia Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucogaster* - Several sightings along the coastal plain (centralis)

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* - Seen at Kalandula (conicus) and below Leba Pass (bocagei)

Black-backed Barbet *Lybius minor* - A mixed pair of minor (Western Black-backed Barbet/Brown-faced Barbet) and maculouni (Eastern Black-backed Barbet/White-faced Barbet) were seen side-by-side at Kalandula, and another of minor was seen at Mt Moco

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus parvus* - Seen well near Quitexe and at Tombinga (parvatus Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet)

Honeyguides Family Indicatoridae

Cassin’s Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* - Seen at Tombinga (insignis)

Green-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiensis* - Two good sightings in the Moco region (zambesiensis)

Willocks’s Honeyguide *Indicator willcoкси* - Seen quite well near Quitexe. A new country record

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* - Seen a couple of times

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* - Good views at Muxima

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* - Seen a couple of times

Woodpeckers Family Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis* - Nice looks at Kalandula and heard at Mt Moco (ruficollis)

Bennett’s Woodpecker *Campephaga bennettii* - Seen well at Kalandula (bennettii) and below Leba Pass (capricorni *Capricorn Woodpecker*)

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campephaga ailingoni* - See a few times (ailingoni), including below Leba Pass (andersonii)

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campephaga cailliautii* - Seen a few times in the north (permista)

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campephaga nivosa* - Seen along the northern escarpment (nivosa)

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campephaga caroli* - Brief views at Tombinga (caroli)

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus* - Seen at Muxima and Kalandula

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Chloropicus xantholophus* - Seen in the northern scarp forests

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* - Seen regularly

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus* - Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala (ruwenzori)

**Falcons Family Falconidae**

Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus* - Seen a few times

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii* - Good views of a perched sub-adult in the Mt Moco region

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiacus* - Seen well near Muxima

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* - Seen in the Mt Moco region (biarmicus)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* - A pair seen at Mt Moco (minor)

**African & New World Parrots Family Psittacidae**

Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* - Feral birds seen in Luanda before the official start of the tour

Red-fronted Parrot *Psophus gulielmi* - Good views in the northern scarp forests (gulielmi)

Meyer’s Parrot *Psophus meyeri* - Seen well at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region (reichenowi)

Rüppell’s Parrot *Psophus rupepselli* - Good views inland of Benguela and below Leba Pass

**Old World Parrots Family Psittaculidae**

Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* - Scope views inland of Benguela after seeing several at the Kwanza River mouth (catumbella)

**Broadbills Family Eurylaimidae**

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* - Great views at Kalandula and Kumbira (albugularis)

Wattle-eyes, Batises Family Platysteiridae

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* - Heard in the northern scarp forests (aequatorialis)

Margaret’s Batis *Batis margarita* - Fantastic views of two males at Mt Moco (margarita)

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* - Seen a few times (ponti)

Pritir Batis *Batis pririt* - Good views inland of Benguela and below Leba Pass (affinis)

Angolan Batis *Batis minulla* - Seen near Quitexe and at Muxima and Kumbira

White-tailed Shrike *Lanioturdus torquatus* - Good looks in the Benguela and Leba areas

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea* - Seen well in the scarp forests

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peldata* - Seen at Kalandula and Mt Moco (mentalis)

White-faced Wattle-eye *Platysteira albifrons* - A female was seen at Muxima (endemic)

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira concreta* - Fantastic views at Kumbira (ansorgei, endemic)

**Helmetshrikes Family Prionopidae**

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* - Seen several times (poliocephalus)

Retz’s Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* - Seen in the Kalandula area (souzae)

Gabela Helmetshrike *Prionops gabela* - Good views at Muxima (endemic)

**Bushshrikes Family Malaconotidae**

Monteiro’s Bushshrike *Malaconotus monteiri* - Seen well at Quitexe and Muxima (endemic)

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* - Seen at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region (interpositus)

Many-colored Bushshrike *Chlorophaeas multicolor* - Heard distinctly in the northern escarpment (batesi)

Bocage’s Bushshrike *Chlorophaeas bocagei* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (bocagei)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophaeas sulphuropectus* - Heard, and seen by Michael at Tundavala (similis)

Gorgeous Bushshrike *Telophorus viridis* - Nice views en route to Kalandula and at Kumbira (viridis Perrin’s Bushshrike)

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* - Seen a few times (ansorgei in the south and souzae in the north)

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

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis* - Seen a few times in the scarp forests (angolensis)

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

Braun’s Bushshrike *Laniarius brauni* - Fantastic views in the Quitexe area (endemic)

Gabela Bushshrike *Laniarius amboineus* - Good views of a pair along the central escarpment (endemic)

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* - Seen at Kalandula (major)

Swamp Boubou *Laniarius bicolor* - Seen a few times on the coastal plain (guttatus Gabon Boubou)

Crimson-breasted Shrike *Laniarius atrococcineus* - Seen on the Namibe Day Trip

Brubru *Nilaaus afer* - Good views of the unusual affinis subspecies in the Mt Moco area and at Kalandula, and brubru along the coastal plain
Cuckooshrikes Family Cuculidae

- White-breasted Cuckooshrike Coraciina pectoralis - Seen at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region
- Black Cuckooshrike Cuculus flavus - Seen a few times
- Petit’s Cuckooshrike Cuculus petitti - One female seen at Kumbira

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike Cuculus quiscalina - Seen in the northern scarps forests (quiscalina)

Mackinnon’s Shrike Lanius mackinnoni - Good views in the Quitezex area

Shrikes Family Laniidae

- Southern White-crowned Shrike Lanius anguillensis - Seen a couple of times along the coastal plain (anguillensis)
- Souza’s Shrike Lanius souzae - One seen well in the Mt Moco region (souzae)
- Northern Fiscal Lanius humeralis - Seen regularly on the plateau (capelli)

Southern Fiscal Lanius collaris - Seen in the south-west (aridicolus)

Oriolids Family Oriolidae

- African Golden Oriole Oriolus auratus - Some good looks in miombo woodlands (notatus)
- Black-headed Oriole Oriolus larvatus - Seen several times (angolensis)
- Black-winged Oriole Oriolus nigripennis - Seen in the northern scarps forests

Drogon Family Dicuridae

- Square-tailed Drogon Dicurus ludwigii - Seen at Kalandula (saturus Sharpe’s Drogo)
- Fork-tailed Drogo Dicurus adsimilis - Seen regularly (apivorus)
- Velvet-mantled Drogo Dicurus modestus - Seen along the northern escarpment and at Muchima (coracinus)

Monarchs Family Monarchidae

- Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher Trochocerus nitens - Seen near Quitexe (nitens)
- Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone rufocinerea - Seen in the northern scarps
- African Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone viridis - Seen regularly (plumbeiceps)

Crows Family Corvinae

- Cape Crow Corvus capensis - Seen at Mt Moco
- Pied Crow Corvus albus - Common

Fairy Flycatchers Family Stenostiridae

- African Blue Flycatcher Elminia longicauda - Seen in the scarps forests (teresita)
- White-tailed Blue Flycatcher Elminia albicauda - Seen at Mt Moco

Tits Family Paridae

- White-winged Black Tit Melaniparus leucomelas - Seen at Kalandula (insignis)
- Carp’s Tit Melaniparus carpi - Seen inland of Benguela
- Dusky Tit Melaniparus funereus - Seen at Kumbira (gabella, endemic)
- Rufous-bellied Tit Melaniparus rufiventris - Seen at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region (rufiventris)
- Ashy Tit Melaniparus cinerascens - Seen well inland of Benguela (benguelliensis)

Penduline Tits Family Remizidae

- Grey Penduline Tit Anthoscopus caroli - Seen in the Mt Moco area (ansorgei African Penduline Tit)
- Cape Penduline Tit Anthoscopus minutus - Good views inland of Benguela (damaresensis)

Nicator Family Nicatoridae

- Yellow-throated Nicator Nicator vireo - Several good sightings along the escarpment

Larks Family Alaudidae

- Spike-heeled Lark Chersomanes albofasciata - Seen on the Namibe Day Trip (obscurata)
- Benguela Long-billed Lark Gerthilauda benguelensis - Several good sightings in the coastal deserts (benguelensis)
- Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark Eremonterix verticalis - Seen well in the flight inland of Benguela (damaresensis)
- Sabota Lark Callandula sabota - Seen in the coastal deserts (ansorgei)
- Rufous-naped Lark Mirafra africana - Seen at Tundavala (occidentalis)
- Angolan Lark Mirafra angolensis - Great views in the Mt Moco region (angolensis)
- Stark’s Lark Spizocorys starki - Excellent views inland of Benguela
- Red-capped Lark Calandrella cinerea - Seen in the Mt Moco region (spleniata)

Bulbuls Family Pycnonotidae

- African Red-eyed Bulbul Pycnonotus nigricans - Seen in the south-west (nigricans)
- Dark-capped Bulbul Pycnonotus tricolor - Common (tricolor)
- Slender-billed Greenbul Stelgidillas gracilorosus - Seen in the northern scarps forests (gracilorosus)
- Little Greenbul Euriros virens - Seen in the north (virens)
- Plain Greenbul Euriros curvirostris - Seen in the northern scarps and heard at Kumbira (curvirostris)
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul Euriros latirostris - Heard in the scarps forests (latirostris)
- Honeyguide Greenbul Baeopogon indicus - Brief views in the north (indicis)
- Yellow-bellied Greenbul Chlorocichla flaviventris - Several good views (occidentalis)
- Falkenstein’s Greenbul Chlorocichla falkensteini - Seen at Kumbira and along the northern escarpment
- Simple Greenbul Chlorocichla simplex - Heard on the northern escarpment

Yellow-throated Leaflov Elminia flavigula - Seen at Kalandula and Mt Moco (flavigula Pale-throated Leaflov)

- Swamp Palm Bulbul Theselocichla leucopleura - Seen well near Quitexe
- Pale-olive Greenbul Phyllostrephus fulviventris - Seen well in Kissama and again below Leba Pass
- Cabanis’s Greenbul Phyllostrephus cabanisi - Seen at Kalandula (cabanisi)
- White-throated Greenbul Phyllostrephus albigranis - Seen near Quitexe (viridiceps Angola)
- White-throated Greenbul/Angola Greenbul

Red-tailed Bristlebill Bleda syndactylus - Heard only (woosnami)

- Brown-throated Martin Riparia paludicola - Seen near Quitexe and Conda

Swallows, martins Family Hirundinidae

- Black Saw-wing Psalidophoene pristoptera - Several sightings (reichenowi)
- Grey-rumped Swallow Pseudhirundo griseopyga - Several good views, especially in the Mt Moco area (griseopyga)
- Braza’s Martin Phedina brazzae - Excellent views, including of a perched bird, in the Mt Moco area
- Black-collared Bulbul Neolestes torquatus - Seen near Quitexe and Conda

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- Black-collared Bulbul Neolestes torquatus - Seen near Quitexe and Conda
Greater Striped Swallow Cecropis cucullata - Seen in the Mt Moco region
Lesser Striped Swallow Cecropis abyssinica - Common (unitatis)
Mosque Swallow Cecropis senegalensis - Seen at Mt Moco (montei)
Red-throated Cliff Swallow Petrochelidon rufigula - Many seen on the plateau
Crombecs, African warblers Family Macropodidae
Moustached Grass Warbler Melocichla mentalis - A few good sightings (mentalis)
Rockkuner Acuetaops pyrocorus - Good views inland of Benguela and at Tundavala (spadix)
Yellow Longbill Macrosphenus flavicans - Seen well along the northern escarpment (flavicans)
Pulitzer’s Longbill Macrosphenus pulitzeri - Two good sightings along the central escarpment (endemic)
Long-billed Crombec Sylvietta rufescens - Seen near Murimba (ansorgei) and at Tundavala (flecki)
Red-capped Crombec Sylvietta ruficapilla - Nice looks at Kalandula (ruficapilla)
Green Crombec Sylvietta virens - Common along the escarpment (tando)

Hylias Family Hyliidae
Green Hylia Hylia prasina - Seen along the escarpment (prasina)

Reed warblers and allies Family Acrocephalidae
Greater Swamp Warbler Acrocephalus rufescens - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (ansorgei)
Lesser Swamp Warbler Acrocephalus gracilirostris - Heard along the Lucala River near Kalandula (winterbottomii)
African Yellow Warbler Iduna natalensis - Seen near Quitexe and at Mt Moco (major)

Grassbirds and allies Family Locustellidae
Little Rush Warbler Bradypterus baboei - Heard at the Lucala River near Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region (benguellensis)

Evergreen Forest Warbler Bradypterus lopezi - Good views at Mt Moco (boultoni)
Fan-tailed Grassbird Schoenonica brevirostris - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (alexiae)

Cisticolas and allies Family Cisticolidae
Red-faced Cisticola Cisticola erythropus - Seen a few times (lepe Lepe Cisticola)
Whistling Cisticola Cisticola lateralis - Seen at Kalandula (modestus)
Bubbling Cisticola Cisticola bulliens - Seen along the coastal plain and escarpment (septentrionalis and bulliens)

Greater Striped Swallow Cecropis cucullata - Seen at Mt Moco (ayresii)
Tawny-flanked Prinia Prinia subflava - Widespread (graueri and bechuanae)
Black-chested Prinia Prinia flavicans - Seen in the south-west (ansorgei)

Black-necked Eremomela Eremomela atricollis - Good views of this smart species in the Mt Moco region
Ground-Babblers Family Pelmophlebiidae
Scaly-breasted Hill Babbler Pseudotricerthla abyssinica - Seen well along the coastal plain (trensei, endemic)
Brown Hill Babbler Pseudotricerthla hypotricha - Seen near Quitexe and at Kalandula (ditlaur, endemic)

Typical Babblers Family Leiothrichidae
Arrow-marked Babbler Turdoides jardinei - Seen at Kalandula (hypoticta)
Hartlaub’s Babbler Turdoides hartlaubi - Seen in the Mt Moco region (hartlaubi)

Bare-cheeked Babbler Turdoides gymnonyes - Seen well below Leba pass (gymnonyes, endemic)

Sylvii Babblers Family Sylviidae
African Hill Babbler Pseudolalippe abyssinica - Seen well at Mt Moco (ansorgei)
Chestnut-vented Warbler Sylvia subcaerulescens - Seen well at Mt Moco (ansorgei, endemic)

White-eyes Family Zosteropidae
African Yellow White-eye Zosterops senegalensis - Many seen (heinrichi in Uige, quanzae at Kumbira and anderssoni at Lubango)

Hyliotas Family Hyliiidae
Yellow-bellied Hyliota Hyliota flavigaster - Three sightings in Miombo (barbazea)
Southern Hyliota Hyliota australis - Seen at Kumbira (satini, Forest Hyliota)

Trecceepers Family Certhiidae
African Spotted Creeper Salpornis salvadori - Seen at Mt Moco (salvadori)

Green-capped Eremomela Eremomela scotops - Seen several times in miombo (pulchra)
Rufous-crowned Eremomela Eremomela badiceps - Good looks in the northern scarp forests

Black-necked Eremomela Eremomela atricollis - Good views of this smart species in the Mt Moco region

Ground-Babblers Family Pelmophlebiidae
Scaly-breasted Hill Babbler Pseudotricerthla abyssinica - Seen well along the coastal plain (trensei, endemic)
Brown Hill Babbler Pseudotricerthla hypotricha - Seen near Quitexe and at Kalandula (ditlaur, endemic)

Typical Babblers Family Leiothrichidae
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Trecceepers Family Certhiidae
African Spotted Creeper Salpornis salvadori - Seen at Mt Moco (salvadori)
Starlings Family Sturnidae

Wattled Starling Creatophora cinerea - Seen twice along the coastal plain
Cape Starling Lamprotornis nitens - Common along the coastal plain (nitenis)
Splendid Starling Lamprotornis splendidus - Seen along the northern escarpment (splendidus)
Meves’s Starling Lamprotornis mevesii - Seen below Leba Pass (benguellensis Benguela Long-tailed Starling, endemic)

Sharp-tailed Starling Lamprotornis acuticaudus - Many good sightings in the miombo woodlands, at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region (acuticaudus)

Violet-backed Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster - Seen at Kalandula, the Mt Moco region and Tundavala (verreauxii)

Chestnut-winged Starling Onychognathus fulgidus - Some good views along the northern escarpment (intermedius)

Pale-winged Starling Onychognathus naboquyr - Seen on the Namibe Day Trip

Narrow-tailed Starling Poeoptera lugubris - Seen in the northern scarp forests

OXPECKERS Family Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker Buphagus africanus - A few seen in the south-west (langi)

THRUSHES Family Turdidae

White-tailed Ant Thrush Neocossyphus poensis - Heard in northern scarp forests (praecotralis)

Fraser’s Rufous Thrush Stizorhina fraseri - Seen a few times in the scarp forests (rubicanida)

Groundscraper Thrush Turdus litistirapa - Seen below Leba Pass (pauciguttatus)

African Thrush Turdus pelios - Seen several times, including at Mt Moco (bocagei)

Kurri Kurri Thrush Turdus libonyana - Seen at Kalandula and the Mt Moco region (verreauxii)

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae

Forest Scrub Robin Cercotrichas leucocticta - Superb views at Muxima (reichenowi, endemic)

Miombo Scrub Robin Cercotrichas barbuta - Nice views in the Mt Moco region, and seen briefly at Kalandula

Kalhari Scrub Robin Cercotrichas paena - Seen inland of Benguela (benguellensis)

Brown-backed Scrub Robin Cercotrichas hartlaubii - Seen near Quibaxe

White-browed Scrub Robin Cercotrichas leucophrys - Seen a few times, including near Quitexa (mundo) and inland of Benguela (ovamboensis)

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher Myioparus griseolarius - Seen in the northern scarp forests

Grey Tit-Flycatcher Myioparus plumbeus - Seen at Muxima and Kalandula (catoleucus)

Angolan Slaty Flycatcher Melaenornis brunneus - Good looks at Tundavala and Mt Moco (endemic)

Southern Black Flycatcher Melaenornis pammelaina - Seen a couple of times (pammelaina)

Pale Flycatcher Melaenornis pallidus - Seen a couple of times (morinus)

Chat Flycatcher Melaenornis infuscatus - Common in the south-west (benguellensis)

African Dusky Flycatcher Muscicapa adusta - Seen in the Mt Moco region

Ashy Flycatcher Muscicapa caerulescens - Seen along the escarpment (impavida)

Cassin’s Flycatcher Muscicapa cassini - Seen on the drive to Uige

Dusky-blue Flycatcher Muscicapa comitata - Seen in the Quitexa area (comitata)

Sooty Flycatcher Muscicapa infuscata - Seen in the northern scarp forests (infuscata)

Brown-chested Alethe Pseudalethe poliocephala - Seen at Kumbira (hallae, endemic)

Angolan Cave Chat Cossypha ansorgei - Superb views at Tundavala

Grey-winged Robin-Chat Cossypha polioptera - Seen well at Kalandula (poliopiera). Now called Grey-winged Akalat.

White-browed Robin-Chat Cossypha heuglini - Heard often and seen occasionally (subfuscens)

White-headed Robin-Chat Cossypha heinrichi - Excellent views at Kalandula

Bocage’s Akalat Sheppardia bocagei - Good views at Mt Moco (bocagei)

Gabela Akalat Sheppardia gabela - Good views along the central escarpment

Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush Chlidanus ruficauda - A few good sightings along the coastal plain

Short-toed Rock Thrush Monticola brevipes - Nice looks on the Namibe Day Trip and at Tundavala (brevipes)

Miombo Rock Thrush Monticola angolensis - Nice views at Tundavala and Mt Moco (angolensis)

African Stonechat Saxicola torquatus - Regular in the highlands (stonei)

Karoo Chat Emarginata schlegelli - Several seen in on the Namibe Day Trip (benguellensis). May prove to be a distinct species from the South African birds

Tractrac Chat Emarginata tractrac - One seen on the Namibe Day Trip (hoeschi)

Sooty Chat Myrmecocichla nigra - Seen in the Mt Moco region

Mountain Wheatear Myrmecocichla monticola - Seen on the Namibe Day Trip (benguellensis). Myrmevocichla monticola at Tundavala and Mt Moco (meseri)

Familiar Chat Oenanthe familiaris - Seen at Mt Moco (angolensis)

Sunbirds Family Nectariniidae

Anchieta’s Sunbird Anthreptes anchietae - Several excellent sightings en route to and at Kalandula, and seen again in the Mt Moco region

Mangrove Sunbird Anthreptes gabonicus - Seen at the Kwanza River mouth

Western Violet-backed Sunbird Anthrepetes longuemarei - Seen a few times (angolensis)

Little Green Sunbird Anthrepetes seimundi - Seen at Kumbira and in the northern escarpment (minor)

Grey-chinned Sunbird Anthrepetes rectirostris - Seen in the northern scarp forests and at Kalandula (tephraenausus)

Collared Sunbird Hedydipina collaris - Seen along the escarpment (somereni)

Green-headed Sunbird Cyanomitra verticalis - Seen along the escarpment and at Kalandula (cyanochilus)

Bannerman’s Sunbird Cyanomitra bannermani

- Just one seen fairly briefly at Kalandula, where it was well outnumbered by Green-headed Sunbird

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird Cyanomitra cyanolaema - Seen in the northern scarp forests and at Kalandula (ovamboensis)

Olive Sunbird Cyanomitra olivacea - Common in forest (cephalaeus)

Carmelite Sunbird Chalcomitra fuliginosa - Nice looks near Quitexa and females were also seen at Kumbira (fuliginosa)

Green-throated Sunbird Chalcomitra rubescens - Seen in the northern scarp forests (rubescens)

Amethyst Sunbird Chalcomitra amethystina - Seen in miombo (deminuta)

Scarlet-chested Sunbird Chalcomitra senegalensis - Several seen (saturator)

Bocage’s Sunbird Nectarinia bocagii - Good views in the Mt Moco region of three different males

Bronzy Sunbird Nectarinia kilimensis - Good views at Mt Moco (gadowi, endemic)

Olive-bellied Sunbird Cinnys chloropygia - Seen along the escarpment (orphogaster)

Western Miombo Sunbird Cinnys erithrus - Good views in the Mt Moco region (pintoi, Western Miombo Sunbird)

Ludwig’s Double-collared Sunbird Cinnys ludovicenss - Seen well at Tundavala and Mt Moco (endemic)
Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* - Seen along the length of the coastal plain (bifasciatus)

Orange-tufted Sunbird *Cinnyris bouvieri* - Good views near Quibaxe and en route to Kalandula

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* - Several seen along the escarpment (superbus)

Oustalet’s Sunbird *Cinnyris oustaleti* - Seen in the Mt Moco region (oustaleti)

White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talalata* - Seen inland of Benguela and on the Namibe Day Trip (talalata)

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* - Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala (falkensteini)

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus* - Seen inland of Benguela and on the Namibe Day Trip (inclusus)

Bate’s Sunbird *Cinnyris batesi* - Seen at Kalandula

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* - A few seen (cupreus)

Old World Sparrows Family Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* - Seen inland of Benguela and below Leba Pass (ansorgei)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - In many towns and villages

Great Sparrow *Passer monticolus* - A pair seen well inland of Benguela (benguellensis)

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus* - Seen on the Namibe Day Trip (damanensis)

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* - Seen from Musima northwards (ugandae)

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* - Seen in the south (diffusus)

Yellow-throated Petronia *Gymnoris supercilialis* - Seen in miombo (rufitergum)

Weavers, Widowbirds Family Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* - Seen by some inland of Benguela (niger)

Scaly-feathered Weaver *Sporopipes squamifrons* - Seen inland of Benguela (squamifrons)

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* - Seen near Quiteixe (tandae)

Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigrimentus* - Great views at Mt Moco

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus oculus* - Seen at Mt Moco (crocatus)

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricolis* - Seen along the escarpment (nigricolis)

Bocage’s Weaver *Ploceus temporalis* - Great of males and females around their nests in the Mt Moco region

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

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* - One non-breeding bird seen below Leba Pass (velatus)

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* - Fairly common and seen in breeding plumage in the north (collaris)

Vieillot’s Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus* - Seen in the northern areas (nigerrimus)

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* - Seen in the northern scarp forests (intercapularis)

Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus* - Seen near N’dalatando

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor* - Seen in the scarp forests (amaurocephalus)

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus malimbus* - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (praedi)

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* - Seen my most of the group along the northern escarpment (malimbicus)

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* - Seen along the coastal plain (lathamii)

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

Golden-backed Bishop *Euplectes aureus* - Non-breeding birds seen well at Musima

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* - Quite common in the highlands (angolensis)

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* - A few seen in the highlands (bocagei)

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* - Non-breeding males seen along the northern escarpment (macroura)

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes harlalbi* - Several non-breeding males seen well in the Mt Moco region (harlalbi)

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* - Non-breeding males seen at Musima (asymmetrurus)

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* - Seen at Mt Moco

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Family Estrildidae

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor* - Seen fairly briefly along the northern escarpment

Pale-fronted Nigrita *Nigrita luteifrons* - Heard along the northern escarpment

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus* - Common along the northern scarp (fusconotus)

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus* - Seen along the escarpment (angolensis)

Green Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula* - Seen fairly well along the central escarpment (schlegeli)

White-collared Oliveback *Nesocharis ansorgei* - A male was seen in the Quibaxe area

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afr*a - Seen well at Kalandula

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* - Seen along the coastal plain (melba)

Red-headed Finch *Amadina erythrocephala* - Seen at the Kwanza River mouth

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* - Seen fairly briefly at Kumbira and along the northern escarpment (ruficapilla)

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri* - Seen near Quiteixe, at Kalandula and at Conda

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea* - Several seen at Mt Moco (cinereovinacea, endemic)

Brown Firefinch *Lagonosticta nitidula* - Good views in the Mt Moco region

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senega* - Seen at Lubango (rendalli)

Landana Firefinch *Lagonosticta landanae* - Seen in the Mt Moco region and at Kalandula and Kumbira

Jameson’s Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* - Seen at Tundavala (ansorgei, Ansorge’s Firefinch)

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* - Common along the coastal plain (angolensis)

Violet-eared Waxbill *Uraeginthus granatius* - Seen inland of Benguela and at Tundavala (siccatus)

Angolan Waxbill *Coccocephalus bocae* - Nice looks at Mt Moco and Tundavala (endemic)

Grey Waxbill *Estrilda perreini* - Seen a few times in the north, but never for very long

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola* - Several sightings (benguellensis)

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* - Seen along the northern escarpment and at Kumbira (melpoda)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* - Several sightings (angolensis in the north, jagoensis in the south)

Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava* - A couple of sightings in the Mt Moco region (niethammeri)

Quailfinch *Orthopsa atricollis* - Seen well in the Mt Moco region (müelleri African Quailfinch)

Locust Finch *Paludipasser locustella* - Good views in low flight in the Mt Moco region (telenis)

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* - Seen several times (scutata)

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura biicolor* - Seen along the escarpment (woltersi)
Indigobirds, Whydahs Family Viduidae
Dusky Indigobird *Vidua funerea* - Seen at Kalandula and Mt Moco (*nigerrima*). Identification based on it being the only indigobird there
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* - Only non-breeding birds seen
Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua obtusa* - Good views of breeding-plumaged males en route to and at Kalandula

Wagtails, Pipits Family Motacillidae
Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* - Seen in the Mt Moco region
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* - Seen along the Lucala River (*vidua*)
Fülleborn’s Longclaw *Macronyx fuelleborni* - Seen a few times in the Mt Moco area and at Tundavala (*ascensi*)
African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* - Seen a few times (*bocagei*)
Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* - Seen on top of Mt Moco (*moco*)
Wood Pipit *Anthus nyassae* - Seen once in the Mt Moco region (*schoutedeni*)
Buffy Pipit *Anthus vaalensis* - Seen at Tundavala (*neumanni*)
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* - Several sightings, especially in the Mt Moco region (*bohndorffi*)
Long-legged Pipit *Anthus pallidiventris* - Seen at the Kwanza River mouth
Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris* - Seen very well at Mt Moco

Finches Family Fringillidae
Black-faced Canary *Crithagra capistrata* - Good sightings at Kumbira, Mt Moco and Tundavala (*hildegardae* at Moco, *capistratus* elsewhere)
Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis* - Seen in the Mt Moco region (*lwenarum*)
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* - Several sightings (*tando* in the north, *samaliye* in the south)
Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata* - Seen a few times (*sharpii*)
White-throated Canary *Crithagra albogularis* - Seen inland of Benguela and on the Namibe Day Trip (*crocopygia*)
Thick-billed Seedbeater *Crithagra burtoni* - Seen by some at Mt Moco (*tanganjicae*)
Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* - Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*huillensis*, endemic)

Buntings Family Emberizidae
Lark-like Bunting *Emberiza impetuani* - Seen inland of Benguela and at Tundavala (*eremica*)
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* - Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*nivenorum*)
Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* - Seen at Kalandula and Mt Moco (*princeps*)
Cabanis’s Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* - Seen at Kalandula (*orientalis*)
Rockrunner

White-tailed Shrike

White-headed Robin-Chat

Bare-cheeked Babbler