

Angola

2017 Tour Report



Swierstra's Francolin

*Text by tour leader Michael Mills
Photos by tour participant John Hopkins*

The second ever all-hotel-accommodated bird tour of Angola was an overwhelming success, and like our first hotel-based trip run last year brought a level of comfort that we could not imagine a few years ago. For all 17 nights of the trip we enjoyed good accommodation and food. It was a pleasure returning to clean, comfortable hotel rooms each night, with running water and electricity (with the occasional exception); quite a change from our earlier trips where camping in dusty and windy conditions was the order of the day. And all this extra comfort came without compromising on the birds. Certainly, Angola can no longer be regarded as a 'hardcore' birding destination.



Monteiro's Bushshrike

Besides the logistics running very smoothly, we fared exceptionally well on the birds, enjoying good views of all of Angola's endemic species and a whole host of other goodies. The charts were topped by excellent views of a pair of Gabela Bushshrike that took 14 hours of searching to track down; whew! A fantastic male Swierstra's Francolin gave prolonged views right out in the open at Tundavala and was voted number two, alongside Angola's striking national bird, Red-crested Turaco. The attractive White-headed Robin-Chat was seen well near Kalandula and came in fourth, with a lovely male Bocage's Sunbird near Mount Moco rounding out the top five. The minor places in the top ten contest were taken by an entertaining trio of Rüppell's Korhaan in the coastal deserts of Namibe, incredible views of a male White-spotted

Flufftail near Kalandula, some good looks at Braun's Bushshrike along the northern escarpment and, tied for ninth, a pair of rare Brazza's Martin perched near their nest, a striking Ross's Turaco and a very showy Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher.

There were many other great birds seen too, and the impressive diversity of habitats on offer meant that we logged over 525 species in the 18 days of birding. While most of the endemics and specials are associated with the dry forests of the Angolan escarpment and montane habitats of the western highlands, a good diversity of miombo specials is on offer too, plus Congo Basin forest birds along the northern escarpment, mesic grassland birds in the highlands, and desert and Namibian escarpment species in the far south.

REPORT

We started with an introductory stroll around downtown Luanda with Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, Purple-banded Sunbird and the endemic Red-backed Mousebird, the latter seen regularly throughout the tour. We also took some time to study the large dark brown swifts that breed in the seafront buildings of the Marginal, which I now believe are dark Mottled Swifts based on, in addition to their size and shape, their calls heard for the first time which match those of Mottled Swift.



Red-crested Turaco

On the first full day of the trip we started birding in some dry forests near Caxito as we made our way north, where a fairly quiet walk ended with our first views of the endangered Gabela Helmetshrike and included Hartert's Camaroptera, Angola Batis, Pale-olive Greenbul and Swamp Boubou. In the afternoon we laid eyes on the striking Braun's Bushshrike near Quitexe for the first time, although some had to wait until the next morning to satisfy their bushshrike appetites. Other highlights along the northern escarpment included Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Bubbling Cisticola, Black-collared Bulbul and Orange-tufted Sunbird in mesic savannas and a good variety of forest species such as all four negrosfinches/nigritas, displaying African

Broadbill, Piping Hornbill, African Pied Hornbill, Naked-faced Barbet, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Guinea Turaco, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Forest Scrub Robin, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Blue-throated Roller, Banded Prinia, White-chinned Prinia, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Black-winged Oriole, Black Bee-eater, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Buff-spotted Woodpecker,

Bocage's Bushshrike, Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher, Cassin's Honeybird, Blue Malkoha, Yellow-throated Nicator, Mackinnon's Fiscal and Lowland Masked Apalis.

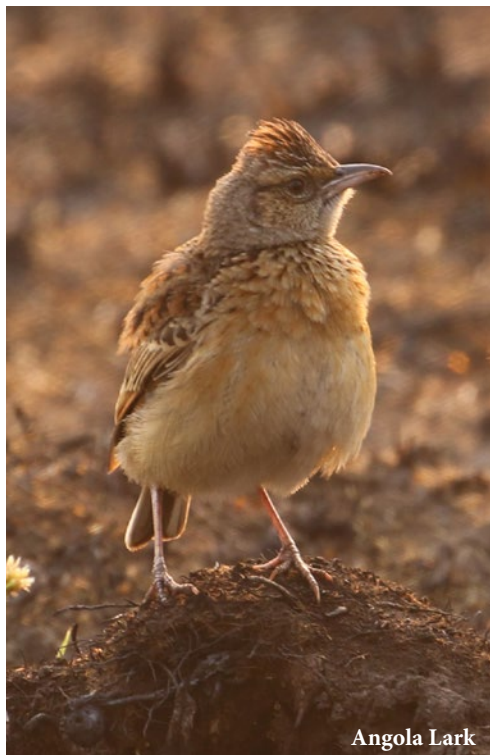
From the northernmost point of the trip, near Uíge, we turned south-eastwards to the Kalandula Falls area with its broad-leaved woodlands and gallery forests. En route we did well to find Anchieta's Barbet, Red-throated Cliff Swallow, Sooty Flycatcher, Gorgeous/Perrin's Bushshrike and our first Red-crested Turaco, before arriving at our luxurious accommodation overlooking Kalandula Falls. The main birding area here 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.

It was to the gallery forests that we first directed our attention, and this year it wasn't long before we all enjoyed good views of the striking **White-headed Robin-Chat**. The supporting cast included **Black-backed Barbet** (*minor*), a responsive male **White-spotted Flufftail**, **Black-throated Wattle-eye**, **Brown-headed Apalis**, **Grey-winged Robin-Chat/Akalat**, **Bannerman's Sunbird** alongside the very similar **Green-headed Sunbird**, **Cabanis's Greenbul**, **Bates's Sunbird**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, **Honeyguide Greenbul** and **Narina Trogon**. Tall grasslands fringing the gallery forests held a lovely male **Marsh Tchagra**, **Red-headed Quelea** and party of **Compact Weaver**, whereas the surrounding woodlands were home to **Pale-billed Hornbill**, **Red-necked Spurfowl** (*cranchii*) striking **Anchieta's Sunbird**, **Retz's Helmetshrike**, **Rufous-bellied Tit**, **Sharp-tailed Starling**, **Bennett's Woodpecker**, **African Cuckoo-Hawk** and **Miombo Wren-Warbler**.

We broke our journey to Muxima with an overnight stay at N'dalatando, finding **Rock Pratincole** 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 **Yellow Longbill**, **Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher**, **Red-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Chestnut Wattle-eye**, **Superb Sunbird**, **Cassin's Honeybird**, **African Shrike-Flycatcher** and **Bates's Paradise Flycatcher** before moving on to Muxima on the Kwanza River. Here we wasted no time and headed out for some afternoon birding during which we managed to get good views of the secretive **Grey-striped Francolin** for everyone, close-up views of **Golden-backed Bishop** alongside **White-winged Widowbird**, and



Black-and-rufous Swallow



Angola Lark

our first sighting of **White-fronted Wattle-eye**. The next morning we found our second flock of lovely **Gabela Helmetshrike**, two different **Monteiro's Bushshrike** and another **White-fronted Wattle-eye**. Non-endemics seen included **Forest Scrub Robin**, **Pale-olive Greenbul**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Mottled Spinetail**, **Böhm's Spinetail**, **African Barred Owlet** (fantastic day-time views), **Scaly-throated Honeyguide**, **Swamp Boubou**, **Black Scimitarbill**, **Long-billed Crombec** (*ansorgei*), **Purple-banded Sunbird** and **Angola Batis**, among a diversity of other savanna and woodland species. Along the river a pair of **African Skimmer** was the most notable sighting.

Leaving Muxima for the Kumbira area we first made a detour to the Kwanza River mouth for **Mangrove/Brown Sunbird** and **Red-headed Finch**, and a tern roost at the river mouth included **Royal Tern**.

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 thanks to slash-and-burn cultivation. Having struggled to find **Gabela Bushshrike** last year I knew we would be challenged, but never did I think that visiting more than 12 known territories would turn up nothing but burnt fields, and it was only after 14 hours of searching that we managed to find a very cooperative pair of **Gabela Bushshrikes** at a backup site that I last visited in 2009. Hooray! **Pulitzer's Longbill** was much more cooperative and **Gabela Akalat** was not hard to see either. Other species of interest along the central escarpment included **Falkenstein's Greenbul**, more **Red-crested Turacos**, two lovely **Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye**, **Brown-eared Woodpecker**, the curious local form of **Southern Hyliota** (*slatini*), **Lemon Dove** (heard), **Dusky Tit**, **Green Twinspot**, **Black-faced Canary**, **Yellow-billed Barbet**, **Black-throated Apalis**, **Brown Illadopsis**, **Brown Twinspot**, **Landana Firefinch** and **Grey Waxbill**.



Dusky Twinspot

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. Starting 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 several birds returning to this patch after several years of absence, most notably **Thick-billed Seedeater** and **Evergreen Forest Warbler**. **Swierstra's Francolin** was also present lower down the mountain than usual, and we managed to persuade a male to cross a patch for everyone to see briefly. Also around this forest patch we enjoyed excellent views of a male **Black-chinned Weaver** and **Huambo Cisticola** (Angola's newest endemic, and previously erroneously treated as **Rock-loving Cisticola**), and other species of interest included **Schalow's Turaco**, **Grey Apalis**, **Bocage's Akalat**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, **Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird**, **Black-throated Wattle-eye** and **Spotted Creeper**. On our second day at the mountain a brave few made the big hike to the largest forest patch on the mountain. On the way up the mountain we paused to watch a large flock of swifts composed of six species, namely **Horus Swift**, **White-rumped Swift**, **Common Swift**, **Mottled Swift**, **Bradfield's Swift**, and some black swift types which are thought to be **Fernando Po Swift** (probably best treated as a subspecies of **African Black Swift**); it was great to be able to compare so many species side-by-side. On top of the mountain we flushed **Finsch's Francolin** and saw the local races of **Mountain Wheatear** (*nigricauda*) and **Long-billed Pipit** (*moco*). **Olive Woodpecker** also put in an appearance, as did **Wing-snapping Cisticola**, **Striped Pipit** and **Miombo Rock Thrush**. At our target destination we quickly heard **Margaret's Batis**, which responded aggressively to playback but only showed briefly before losing interest.

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 scrubland species included **Tinkling Cisticola**, **Oustalet's Sunbird**, **Rufous-checked Nightjar** (after dark) and **Angola Lark**. In damper areas of dambo grassland (dry at this time of the year) we found several **Fülleborn's Longclaw**, a pair of **Locust Finch** that showed very well in flight, **Quail-finch** on the ground (*muelleri*) and the sought-after **Black-and-rufous Swallow**. Areas of rank growth, mostly around rivers, held



Black-collared Eremomela

Dusky Twinspot, Angola Sweet Waxbill, Black-collared Bulbul, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Brown Firefinch, Chirping Cisticola, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Hartlaub's Babbler, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Marsh Widowbird, Stout Cisticola, Chirping Cisticola and Bocage's Weaver in full breeding plumage. The two best finds were a pair of **Brazza's Martin**, perched near their nest for excellent views, and, after a long search and some initial excitement at seeing **Bronzy Sunbird** in the 'wrong' habitat, a lovely male **Bocage's Sunbird**.

Finally, the miombo woodlands also turned up some good birds, including **Anchieta's Barbet**, **Salvadori's Eremomela**, curious *affinis* form of **Brubru**, **Red-capped Crombec**, **Miombo Scrub Robin**, **Wood Pipit**, the snazzy **Black-necked Eremomela**, **Miombo Pied Barbet**, a perched pair of **Ovambo Sparrowhawk**, **Ross's Turaco** and diminutive **Grey Penduline Tit** (of the green *ansorgei* race).

Heading back to the coast again, the Benguela area was our next major focus. The coastal wetlands here and at Lobito allowed us to do some list padding, with more interesting species including **Cape Teal** and **Black Heron**, and a skua (probably **Arctic Skua**) harassing some terns just offshore. However, most of our time was spent in an area of arid hills some 40 kilometres inland of Benguela, with several species characteristic of the Namibian escarpment found here. A male **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** was persuaded to leave the safety of its rocks to investigate us closely, whereas **Orange River Francolin** was scoped

calling from the top of one of the hills. **White-tailed Shrike** was quite conspicuous and we also enjoyed good views of **Rüppell's Parrot**, **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Pirit Batis**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Bare-cheeked Babbler**, **Rockrunner**, **Damara Red-billed Hornbill**, **Monteiro's Hornbill** and **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, before we made the uneventful drive to Lubango.

In the Lubango area we birded two rather different habitats, separated by the spectacular southern escarpment. At Tundavala at the top of the escarpment, 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 certainly the most spectacular find, and we all enjoyed incredible views of this, the least numerous Angolan endemic, as we have done on every one of our previous comprehensive Angola tours. Rocky areas were home to **Rockrunner**, and striking **Angola Cave Chat**, alongside **Miombo Rock Thrush** and **Short-toed Rock Thrush**, **Striped Pipit** and, after dark, **Freckled Nightjar**. Other goodies included **Angola Waxbill**, **Finsch's Francolin** (flushed), **Western Green Tinkerbird**, **Angola Slaty Flycatcher**, **Bradfield's Swift**, **African Black Duck**, a surprise **Ruddy Turnstone** on a dam, **Spotted Eagle-Owl**, **Fiery-necked Nightjar** and a day-time **Ruwenzori Nightjar**.



Black-faced Canary

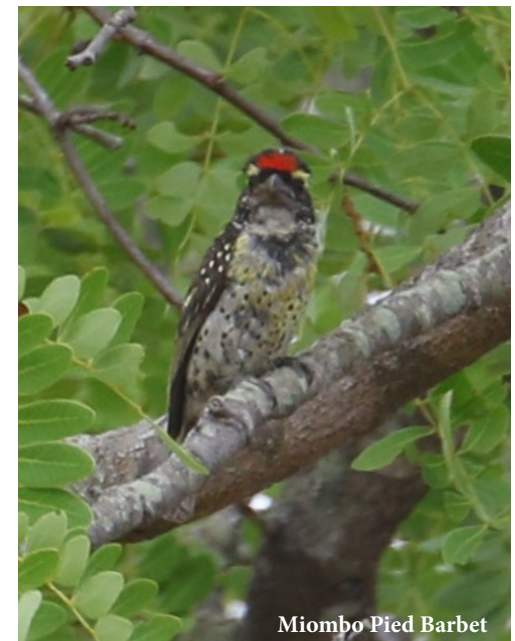
On our second full day around Lubango we descended the escarpment at Leba Pass, running a transect across the ever-drier landscape towards the coast. Our first stop is some dry woodlands fairly quickly produced our main target, the localised **Cinderella Waxbill** tracked down in a flowering tree and seen again later at point-blank range. In the same general area we found the *benguellensis* race of **Meves's Starling** (now split by BirdLife as Benguela Starling), some smart *after* **Red-necked Spurfowl** and **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**, **Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler** (**Warbler**), four **Double-banded Sandgrouse** and **Dusky Sunbird**. In the sparser areas still we found several confiding **Benguela Long-billed Lark** and a trio of **Rüppell's Korhaan**. Lunch at the seafront in Namibe was accompanied by **Cape Cormorant** before we retraced our steps back across the coastal plain and up the spectacular Leba Pass, for the end of the tour.



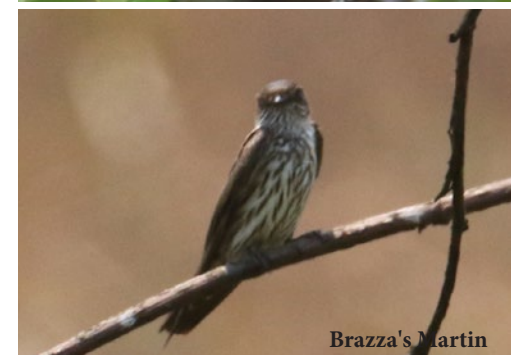
Huambo Cisticola



Cinderella Waxbill



Miombo Pied Barbet



Brazza's Martin



Hartert's Camaroptera

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

Ducks, Geese & Swans Family Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* – Seen along the Kwanza River

Cape Teal *Anas capensis* – Several seen at Lobito

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* – One on a dam near Tundavala

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* – Seen at Lobito

Guineafowl Family Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* – Seen by some of our group near Muxima (*marungensis*)

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Family Phasianidae

Finsch's Francolin *Scleroptila finschi* – Flushed at close range at Mt Moco and Tundavala

Orange River Francolin *Scleroptila gutturalis* – Distant but good scope views of calling birds in the Benguela area

Grey-striped Francolin *Pternistis griseostriatus* – A few good looks in the Muxima area, and seen very well on the central escarpment

Swierstra's Francolin *Pternistis swierstrai* – As on every of our previous comprehensive Angola tours, everyone enjoyed excellent and prolonged views of a male at Tundavala. Also seen briefly on the ground and in flight at Mt Moco

Hartlaub's Spurfowl *Pternistis hartlaubi* – Good views in the Benguela area

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* – Seen well at Muxima, Lubango and Leba (*afer*) and Kalandula (*cranchii*). Two species may be involved.

Grebes Family Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – Seen a few times

Flamingos Family Phoenicopteridae

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* – Two juveniles seen distantly at Lobito. They may have been Greater Flamingos.

Storks Family Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* – Seen at Lobito

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* – Seen on the Kwanza River (*lamelligerus*)

Ibises, Spoonbills Family Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* – Most conspicuous at Lobito

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* – Good numbers at Lobito and also seen along the Kwanza River

Hérons, Bitterns Family Ardeidae

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* – A few seen

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* – Seen a few times

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* – Seen often

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* – Seen quite often (*cinerea*)

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* – Seen a few times

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* – Seen along the Kwanza River

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* – Seen a few times (*purpurea*)

Great Egret *Ardea alba* – Several seen in coastal wetlands (*melanorhynchos*)

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* – Seen a few times (*brachyrhyncha*)

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* – Seen in good numbers at Lobito

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* – Seen several times (*garzetta*)

Hamerkop Family Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* – Two at the bottom of Leba Pass

Pelicans Family Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* – Good numbers at Lobito

Cormorants, shags Family Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* – Seen several times, including along the coast (*africanus*)

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* – Seen at Lobito

Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis* – Seen at Namibe

Anhingas, darters Family Anhingidae

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* – Seen at Lobito (*rufa*)

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* – Seen often in coastal areas

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* – A pair at Kalandula (*verreauxii*)

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* – Seen a few times

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* – Seen twice

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* – One seen in the Mt Moco region

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* – One of the more commonly-seen raptors

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* – Seen distantly, east of Lobito

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* – A few sightings

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* – Seen a few times

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* – One pale morph bird at Tundavala

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* – Two young birds seen

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* – Seen a few times (*meridionalis*)

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* – Good views of a melanistic morph bird when leaving the Mt Moco area (*gabar*)

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

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus* – Several seen on the Namibe day trip

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* – A couple of sightings (*sparsimfasciatus*)

Shikra *Accipiter badius* – A couple of sightings (*polyzonoides*)

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* – Seen twice in the Kalandula area

Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis* – Two on the drive from Conda to Huambo, seen perched and in flight

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* – Seen briefly at Kalandula (*temminckii*)

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* – Seen in small numbers (*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 at Mt Moco and Tundavala

Bustards Family Otididae

Rüppell's Korhaan *Eupodotis rueppellii* – Excellent views of a trio in the coastal deserts (*rueppellii*)

Red-crested Korhaan *Lophotis ruficrista* – One in Mopane woodland at the bottom of Leba pass

Flufftails Family Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* – Incredible views of a male at Kalandula (*centralis*)

Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* – Seen by Peter at Lobito (*meridionalis*)

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* – Seen at Lobito

Buttonquail Family Turnicidae

Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* – One flushed at Mt Moco

Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Family Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* – Seen at Lobito (*vermiculatus*)

Stilts, Avocets Family Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* – Seen a few times

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* – Seen at Lobito

Plovers Family Charadriidae

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* – Seen at Lobito

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*lateralis*)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – Seen along the coast (*squatarola*)

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* – Seen along the coast (*tundrae*)

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* – Seen along the coast

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* – Seen at Lobito and Tundavala

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* – Seen along the coast (*mechowi*)

Jacanas Family Jacanidae

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* – Several sightings

Sandpipers, Snipes Family Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* – Seen along the coast (*phaeopus*)

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* – Seen along the coast

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* – Seen along the coast

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* – Seen a couple of times

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – Seen a few times

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* – Seen at Mussulo, and a surprise sighting on the dam at Tundavala (*interpres*)

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* – Seen along the coast

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* – Seen along the coast

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* – Seen along the coast

Courasers, Pratincoles Family Glareolidae

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* – Seen at the Kwanza River mouth (*riparia*)

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* – Seen along the Lucala River

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* – Seen at Benguela (*poiocephalus*)

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* – Seen along the coast (*vetula*)

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* – Two seen at Muxima

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* – Seen along the coast

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* – Seen along the coast in good numbers (*albidorsalis*)

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* – Seen along the coast

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* – Seen along the coast

Skuas Family Stercorariidae

Arctic Skua/Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* – Two distant skuas seen near Benguela appeared to be of this species

Sandgrouse Family Pteroclididae

Double-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles bicinctus* – Four seen on the Namibe day trip (*ansorgei*)

Pigeons, Doves Family Columbidae

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* – Feral Pigeons were common in the towns and villages

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iridorques* – Heard and seen by some near Quitexe

Lemon Dove *Columba larvata* – Heard at Kumbira

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* – Seen on the Namibe day trip

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* – Common

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* – Common; *damarensis* in the south-west and *tropica* elsewhere

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* – Seen regularly (*senegalensis*)

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

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* – Common in the moister areas

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* – Seen in the northern forests

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* – Seen twice (*capensis*)

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* – Seen on several dates (*calvus*)

Turacos Family Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata* – Seen by some 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

Red-crested Turaco *Tauraco erythrolophus* – A few good sightings at Kumbira, Kalandula and south of Benguela

Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region

Grey Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor* – Seen along the coastal plain (*pallidiceps*)

Cuckoos Family Cuculidae

Gabon Coucal *Centropus anelli* – Heard only

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* – Seen near Quitexe

Coppery-tailed Coucal *Centropus cupreicaudus* – Seen in good numbers in the Mt Moco region (*cupreicaudus*)

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* – Several were seen

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* – Seen by Peter

Blue Malkoha *Ceuthmochares aereus* – Seen in the northern forests (*aereus*)

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* – Seen and heard on several dates

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* – Heard only

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* – Heard only

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* – Seen in the Mt Moco area

Barn Owls Family Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* – Seen near Mt Moco (*affinis*)

Owls Family Strigidae

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* – Heard at Muxima

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* – Fantastic day-time views at Tundavala

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

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* – Fantastic day-time views at Muxima (*ngamiense*)

Nightjars Family Caprimulgidae

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufigena* – Seen very well near Huambo (*rufigena*)

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* – Very good views near Lubango (*fervidus*)

Ruwenzori Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii* – Repeated flushed views of one in the day near Tundavala (*koesteri*)

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma* – Good views at Tundavala (*lentiginosus*)

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* – Heard near Huambo (*welwitschii*)

Swifts Family Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* – Some good views along the coastal plain, especially at Muxima (*benguellensis*)

Böhm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* – Some good views along the coastal plain, especially at Muxima (*boehmi*)

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* – Common (*hyphaenes*)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* – Seen at Tundavala (*africanus*)

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* – Seen well in the highlands (*aequatorialis*)

Common Swift *Apus apus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

Fernando Po Swift *Apus sladeniae* – African Black Swift-types were seen well at Mt Moco

Bradfield's Swift *Apus bradfieldi* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*bradfieldi*)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* – Seen a few times (*theresae*)

Horus Swift *Apus horus* – A couple of dark-rumped birds (*toulsoni*) were seen among the normal white-rumped birds at Mt Moco (*horus*)

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* – Seen at Mt Moco

Mousebirds Family Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* – Seen near Quitexe (*nigricollis*)

Red-backed Mousebird *Colius castanotus* – Seen often

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

Trogons Family Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* – Seen well at Kalandula (*narina*)

Rollers Family Coraciidae

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* – Seen a couple of times (*mosambicus*)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* – Seen several times (*caudatus*)

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* – Seen well in the northern scarp forests (*neglectus*)

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

Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae

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

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* – Seen a few times (*prentissgrayi*)

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* – Seen a few times (*chelicuti*)

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* – Heard only (*malimbica*)

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* – Seen a few times (probably *fuscopileus* and *cyanoleuca*)

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* – Seen a few times

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* – Seen a few times (probably *cristatus* and *galeritus*)

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* – Seen briefly near Mt Moco

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* – Heard near Mt Moco

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

Bee-eaters Family Meropidae

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

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* – Seen inland from Benguela (*hirundineus*)

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

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* – Seen near Uíge and Tundavala

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* – Good views in the Muxima area and again at Benguela (*alternans*)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* – Recorded on two dates

Hoopoes Family Upupidae

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* – Seen a few times

Wood Hoopoes Family Phoeniculidae

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* – Seen a few times (*angolensis*)

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* – Seen at Muxima (*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 near Benguela

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

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* – Seen several times (*alboterminatus*)

African Pied Hornbill *Lophoceros fasciatus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*fasciatus*)

Pale-billed Hornbill *Lophoceros pallidirostris* – Excellent views at Kalandula (*pallidirostris*) and brief views near Mt Moco

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

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* – Seen at Kumbira

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 escarpment forests (*congicus*)

Anchieta's Barbet *Stactolaema anchietae* – Seen en route to Kalandula (*rex*) and in the Mt Moco region

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*flavisquamatus*)

Western Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaea* – An excellent sighting of the endemic subspecies at Tundavala (*angolensis*)

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

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* – Heard in the northern scarp forests

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* – Seen in the northern forests (*leucoilaimus*)

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

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta* – The distinctive *angolensis* subspecies was seen at Kumbira and in the northern scarp forests

Miombo Pied Barbet *Tricholaema frontata* – Good views in the Mt Moco region

Acacia Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas* – Several sightings along the coastal plain (*centralis*)

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* – Seen a few times in the south

Black-backed Barbet *Lybius minor* – The nominate subspecies was seen well at Kalandula

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus* – Seen well at Kumbira (*purpuratus*)

Honeyguides Family Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* – Displaying birds were seen briefly in the northern scarp forests (*insignis*)

Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus* – Seen a few times, including at Kalandula and Tundavala

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* – Seen briefly

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

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* – Seen a few times

Woodpeckers Family Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis* – Nice looks at Mt Moco (*ruficollis*)

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii* – Seen well below Leba Pass (*capricorni*) and at Kalandula

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* – See at Muxima and Kalandula (*abingoni*)

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii* – Seen at Kalandula (*permista*)

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*nivosa*)

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli* – Seen at Kumbira (*caroli*)

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

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

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* – Seen regularly

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus* – Seen at Mt Moco (*ruwenzori*)

Falcons Family Falconidae

Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus* – Seen a few times

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii* – One at Kalandula

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* – Seen several times (*biarmicus*)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – A couple of sightings (*minor*)

African & New World Parrots Family Psittacidae

Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gulielmi* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*gulielmi*)

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* – Seen at Kalandula (*reichenowi*)

Rüppell's Parrot *Poicephalus rueppellii* – Good views in the Benguela area and again on the Namibe day trip

Broadbills Family Eurylaimidae

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* – Great views hear Uíge (*albigularis*)

Wattle-eyes, Batises Family Platysteiridae

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

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

Margaret's Batis *Batis margaritae* – Brief views of a male at Mt Moco (*margaritae*)

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* – Seen a few times (*pintoii*)

Pirit Batis *Batis pririt* – Good views along the arid southern coastal plain (*affinis*)

Angolan Batis *Batis minulla* – Good views at Muxima and Kumbira

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

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

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

White-fronted Wattle-eye *Platysteira albifrons* – Good views at Muxima

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

Helmetshrikes Family Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* – Seen twice (*poliocephalus*)

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* – Seen at Kalandula (*nigricans*)

Gabela Helmetshrike *Prionops gabela* – Good views of this rare endemic in the Muxima and Caxito areas

Bushshrikes Family Malaconotidae

Monteiro's Bushshrike *Malaconotus monteiri* – Superb views in the Muxima area

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* – Heard (*interpositus*)

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor* – Heard in the northern scarp forests (*batesi*)

Bocage's Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei* – Excellent views in the northern scarp forests (*bocagei*)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* – Seen a few times (*similis*)

Gorgeous Bushshrike *Telophorus viridis* – Nice looks en route to Kalandula (*viridis*)

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta* – Nice views at Kalandula (*anchietae*)

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* – Seen a few times (*ansorgei*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* – Seen a few times

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

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* – Seen regularly

Braun's Bushshrike *Laniarius brauni* – Good looks in the Uíge and Quitexe areas

Gabela Bushshrike *Laniarius amboimensis* – Just one pair seen well along the central escarpment after 14 hours of searching

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* – Seen on the plateau (*major*)

Swamp Boubou *Laniarius bicolor* – Seen along the coastal plain, often in rather dry habitat (*guttatus*)

Crimson-breasted Shrike *Laniarius atrococcineus* – A pair seen well on the Namibe day trip

Brubru *Nilaus afer* – Good views of the unusual *affinis* subspecies in the Mt Moco area

Cuckooshrikes Family Campephagidae

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis* – A couple of sightings in Miombo woodland

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* – Seen at Kalandula

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti* – Seen very briefly at Kumbira

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*quiscalina*)

Shrikes Family Laniidae

Southern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus anguitemens* – Seen a couple of times along the coastal plain (*anguitemens*)

Mackinnon's Shrike *Lanius mackinnoni* – Seen along the northern escarpment

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* – Seen regularly on the plateau (*capelli*)

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

Orioles Family Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*notatus*)

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* – Seen several times (*angolensis*)

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

Drongos Family Dicruridae

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* – Seen at Kalandula and, surprisingly, south of Benguela (*saturnus*)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* – Seen regularly (*apivorus*)

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus* – Seen along the northern escarpment (*coracinus*)

Monarchs Family Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* – Incredible views along the central escarpment (*nitens*)

Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufocinerea* – Seen near Quitexe

Bates's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone batesi* – Seen at Demilongo Forest (*bannermani*)

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* – Seen regularly (*plumbeiceps*)

Crows Family Corvidae

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* – Common

Fairy Flycatchers Family Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* – Seen along the central and northern scarp (*teresita*)

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala

Tits Family Paridae

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas* – Seen by some of the group (*insignis*)

Carp's Tit *Melaniparus carpi* – Seen a few times along the coastal plain

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus* – The endemic *gabala* subspecies was seen at Kumbira

Rufous-bellied Tit *Melaniparus rufiventris* – Great views at Kalandula (*rufiventris*)

Penduline Tits Family Remizidae

Grey Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus caroli* – Seen superbly in the Mt Moco area (*ansorgei*)

Cape Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus minutus* – Good views inland of Benguela and below Leba Pass (*minutus*)

Nicators Family Nicatoridae

Yellow-throated Nicator *Nicator vireo* – Seen well along the northern escarpment

Larks Family Alaudidae

Benguela Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda benguelensis* – Several good sightings in the coastal deserts (*benguelensis*)

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana* – Seen at Tundavala (*occidentalis*)

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* – Seen in the Mt Moco area (*fischeri*)

Angolan Lark *Mirafra angolensis* – Great views at Mt Moco (*angolensis*)

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

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 gracilirostris* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*gracilirostris*)

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* – Seen in the north (*virens*)

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris* – Seen along the northern scarp (*curvirostris*)

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* – Seen in the scarp forests (*latirostris*)

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* – Seen well at Kalandula (*indicator*)

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* – Several widespread sightings (*occidentalis*)

Falkenstein's Greenbul *Chlorocichla falkensteini* – Seen at Kumbira and along the northern escarpment

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex* – Seen near Uíge

Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis* – Seen a few times (*flavigula*)

Pale-olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus fulviventris* – Seen well at Muxima and also near Caxito

Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* – Seen at Kalandula (*cabanisi*)

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* – Heard only

Black-collared Bulbul *Neolestes torquatus* – Several good views in the Mt Moco and Uíge areas

Swallows, martins Family Hirundinidae

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* – Several sightings (*reichenowi*)

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* – Several good views, especially in the Mt Moco area

Brazza's Martin *Phedina brazzae* – Excellent views in the Mt Moco area of two perched birds

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola* – Seen in the Mt Moco area (*paludicola*)

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* – Seen near Mt Moco and at the Kwanza River mouth (*xerica*)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – Just a couple of sightings

Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* – Common

White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis* – Seen in the highlands

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* – Seen mostly along the coast (*smithii*)

Black-and-rufous Swallow *Hirundo nigrorufa* – Some good views in the Mt Moco region

Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata* – Seen in the Mt Moco area (*marwitzi*)

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala (*anderssoni*)

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* – Seen at Mt Moco

Greater Striped Swallow *Cecropis cucullata* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* – Common (*unitatis*)

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa* – Seen en route to Kalandula

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* – Seen a few times (*monteiri*)

Red-throated Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon rufigula* – Seen mostly in the Kalandula area

Crombecs, African warblers Family Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* – A few sightings (*mentalis*)

Rockrunner *Achaetops pycnopygius* – Good views near Benguela and at Tundavala (*spadix*)

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans* – Seen at Tombinga Pass (*flavicans*)

Pulitzer's Longbill *Macrosphenus pulitzeri* – An excellent sighting at Kumbira

Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens* – Seen near Muxima (*ansorgei*) and in the south-west (*flecki*)

Red-capped Crombec *Sylvietta ruficapilla* – Nice looks in the Mt Moco region (*ruficapilla*)

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* – Common along the escarpment (*tando*)

Uncertain relationships Insertae cedis

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* – Seen a few times (*prasina*)

Leaf warblers and allies Family Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* – Seen at Lubango

Reed warblers and allies Family Acrocephalidae

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* – Seen near Kalandula (*winterbottomi*)

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* – Seen along the northern escarpment (*major*)

Grassbirds and allies Family Locustellidae

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* – Seen near Lubango (*benguellensis*)

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* – Seen at Mt Moco (*boultoni*)

Fan-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola brevirostris* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*alexinae*)

Cisticolas and allies Family Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* – Seen en route to Kalandula and at Mt Moco (*lepe*)

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* – Seen at Kalandula (*modestus*)

Bubbling Cisticola *Cisticola bulliens* – Seen along the coastal plain and escarpment (*septentrionalis* and *bulliens*)

Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola emini* – Huambo Cisticola *Cisticola bailunduensis* was seen well at Mt Moco. It is currently erroneously lumped with Rock-loving Cisticola.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* – Seen below Leba Pass (*smithersi*)

Tinkling Cisticola *Cisticola rufilatus* – Seen well near Lubango and in the Mt Moco region (*ansorgei*)

Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* – Common at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*namba*)

Chirping Cisticola *Cisticola pipiens* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*pipiens*)

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region (*angolensis*)

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* – Seen at Mt Moco (*huambo*)

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* – Common on the plateau (*loanda*)

Neddicky Cisticola *Cisticola fulvicapilla* – Seen on the plateau (*dispar*)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* – Seen near Mt Moco (*terrestris*)

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* – Seen along the coastal plain (*lobito*)

Wing-snapping Cisticola *Cisticola ayresii* – Seen at Tundavala and on top of Mt Moco (*ayresii*)

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* – Widespread

Black-chested Prinia *Prinia flavicans* – Seen in the south-west (*ansorgei*)

Banded Prinia *Prinia bairdii* – Good looks in the northern scarp forests (*heinrichi*)

White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon* – Seen along the northern scarp (*leucopogon*)

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* – Seen a couple of times along the coastal plain (*flavida*)

Lowland Masked Apalis *Apalis binotata* – Seen along the northern escarpment

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni* – Seen very well along the central escarpment (*jacksoni*)

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis* – Seen along the central (*brauni*) and northern escarpment (*angolensis*)

Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*grandis*)

Brown-headed Apalis *Apalis alticola* – Seen at Kalandula (*alticola*)

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* – Seen in the south

Hartert's Camaroptera *Camaroptera harterti* – Seen several times

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera supercilialis* – Seen well in the northern scarp forests

Miombo Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes undosus* – Seen at Kalandula and in the Mt Moco region (*huilae*)

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* – Heard near Lubango (*puellula*)

Salvadori's Eremomela *Eremomela salvadorii* – Seen in the Mt Moco region

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* – Seen several times in miombo (*pulchra*)

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* – Seen in the northern scarp forests

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

Ground-Babblers Family Pellorneidae

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* – Seen at Kumbira (*dilutior*)

Typical Babblers Family Leiothrichidae

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* – Heard at Kalandula (*hyposticta*)

Hartlaub's Babbler *Turdoides hartlaubii* – Seen in the Mt Moco region and at Lubango (*hartlaubii*)

Bare-cheeked Babbler *Turdoides gymnogynys* – Great views near Leba Pass and Benguela (*gymnogynys*)

Sylviid Babblers Family Sylviidae

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* – Seen well at Mt Moco (*abyssinica*)

Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler *Sylvia subcoerulea* – Seen well on the day trip to Namibe (*ansorgei*)

White-eyes Family Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* – Many seen (subspecies not identified)

Hyliotas Family Hylotiidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* – Two sightings in miombo woodland (*barbozae*)

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis* – Seen at Kumbira (*slatini*). The forest forms may represent a distinct species

Treecreepers Family Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori* – Seen at Mt Moco (*salvadori*)

Starlings Family Sturnidae

Cape Starling *Lamprotornis nitens* – Common along the coastal plain (*nitens*)

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus* – Seen in the north (*splendidus*)

Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii* – Seen below Leba Pass (*benguensis*)

Sharp-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis acuticaudus* – Good sightings in the Kalandula and Mt Moco areas (*acuticaudus*)

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* – Many seen (*verreauxi*)

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus* – Seen along the northern escarpment (*intermedius*)

Pale-winged Starling *Onychognathus nabouroup* – Seen in the south-west

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 the northern scarp forests (*praepectoralis*)

Fraser's Rufous Thrush *Stizorhina fraseri* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*rubicunda*)

Groundscraper Thrush *Turdus litsitsirupa* – Seen in the south (*paucigu*)

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* – Seen a few times (*bocagei*)

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana* – Seen near Mt Moco

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae

Forest Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucosticta* – Good views at Muxima and along the northern escarpment

Miombo Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas barbata* – Nice views in the Mt Moco region and at Kalandula

Kalahari Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas paena* – Seen near Benguela (*benguellensis*)

Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi* – Seen along the northern escarpment

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* – Seen a few times

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis* – Good views at Tombinga Forest

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* – Seen at Muxima and Kalandula

Angolan Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis brunneus* – Good looks at Tundavala and seen briefly also at Mt Moco (*bailunduensis*)

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

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* – Seen a few times (*murinus*)

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

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* – Seen at Muxima (*impavida*)

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*subadusta*)

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata* – Seen in the Quitexe area (*comitata*)

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata* – Seen en route to Kalandula (*infuscata*)

Angolan Cave Chat *Cossypha ansorgei* – Superb views at Tundavala

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera* – Seen well at Kalandula (*polioptera*)

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* – Heard often and seen occasionally (*subrufescens*)

White-headed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heinrichi* – Good views of this smart bird at Kalandula

Bocage's Akalat *Sheppardia bocagei* – Good views at Mt Moco (*bocagei*)

Gabela Akalat *Sheppardia gabela* – Good views at Kumbira

Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush *Cichladusa ruficauda* – A few good sightings along the coastal plain, the first in Luanda

Short-toed Rock Thrush *Monticola brevipes* – Seen well 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 schlegelii* – Seen in the south-west (*benguellensis*)

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* – Several seen in the highlands

Mountain Wheatear *Myrmecocichla monticola* – Seen along the coastal plain (*albipileata*) and at Mt Moco (*nigricauda*)

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* – Seen at Mt Moco (*neseri*)

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* – Seen at Mt Moco and Tundavala (*angolensis*)

Sunbirds Family Nectariniidae

Anchieta's Sunbird *Anthreptes anchietae* – Seen well at Kalandula

Mangrove Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus* – Good views at the Kwanza River

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei* – Seen a few times in miombo (*angolensis*)

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* – Seen at Kumbira and in the northern escarpment (*minor*)

Grey-chinned Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*tephrolaemus*)

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* – Seen along the escarpment (*somereni*)

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* – Seen along the escarpment and at Kalandula (*cianocephala*)

Bannerman's Sunbird *Cyanomitra bannermani* – A pair was seen well at Kalandula, alongside the previous species

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*octaviae*)

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* – Common in forest (*cephaelis*)

Carmelite Sunbird *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* – Seen near Uíge and 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 (*saturnator*)

Bocage's Sunbird *Nectarinia bocagei* – Good views in the Mt Moco area after a long search

Bronzy Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* – Good looks at the endemic *gadowi* subspecies at Mt Moco

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* – Seen along the escarpment (*orphogaster*)

Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris ludovicensis* – Seen well at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*ludovicensis*)

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* – Seen along the coastal plain (*bifasciatus*)

Orange-tufted Sunbird *Cinnyris bouvieri* – Seen along the northern escarpment

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

Oustalet's Sunbird *Cinnyris oustaleti* – Nice looks in the highlands, especially at Mt Moco (*oustaleti*)

White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* – Seen in the southern lowlands (*talatala*)

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

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus* – Seen on the Namibe day trip (*inclusus*)

Bates's Sunbird *Cinnyris batesi* – Seen at Kalandula

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* – A few seen (*chalceus*)

Old World Sparrows Family Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* – Seen in the south-west (*ansorgei*)

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

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus* – Seen in the south-west (*damarensis*)

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

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

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

Weavers, Widowbirds Family Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* – Seen briefly along the coastal plain (*niger*)

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* – Seen briefly near Quitexe (*tandae*)

Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigrimentus* – Great views of a male at Mt Moco

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* – Seen at Mt Moco (*crocatu*)

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* – Most common at Kumbira (*nigricollis*)

Bocage's Weaver *Ploceus temporalis* – Great views of lovely males in the Mt Moco region

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* – Quite common

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* – Breeding plumage birds seen near Namibe (*beattyi*)

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* – Breeding plumage birds seen near Namibe (*velatus*)

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* – Fairly common (*collaris*)

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus* – Seen in the northern areas (*nigerrimus*)

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

Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus* – Good views at Kalandula

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

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* – Seen well in the scarp forests (*praedi*)

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* – Seen in the northern scarp forests (*malimbicus*)

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythropis* – Seen in the Kalandula area

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* – Seen at Muxima (*lathamii*)

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* – One male in partial plumage seen near Tundavala

Golden-backed Bishop *Euplectes aureus* – Non-breeding birds seen well at Muxima and near Benguela

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 hartlaubi* – Several non-breeding males seen well in the Mt Moco region (*hartlaubi*)

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* – Non-breeding males were seen near Muxima (*asymmetrurus*)

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* – Seen in good numbers in the Mt Moco region

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Family Estrilidae

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

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor* – Seen along the northern escarpment

Pale-fronted Nigrita *Nigrita luteifrons* – A female was scoped for some in the northern scarp forests (*luteifrons*)

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

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afra* – A couple of poor sightings in the Mt Moco and Kalandula areas

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

Red-headed Finch *Amadina erythrocephala* – Nice views near the Kwanza River mouth

Green Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula* – Seen twice along the central escarpment, but you had to be quick (*schlegeli*)

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* – Seen briefly near Uíge (*ruficapilla*)

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri* – Seen at Quibaxe, Kalandula and near Conda, but you had to be quick

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea* – Good views at Mt Moco (*cinereovinacea*)

Brown Firefinch *Lagonosticta nitidula* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* – Seen at the bottom of Leba Pass (*rendalli*)

Landana Firefinch *Lagonosticta landanae* – Our best views were at Kumbira

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* – The distinctive near-endemic subspecies was seen well at Tundavala (*ansorgei*)

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

Angolan Waxbill *Coccyzygia bocagei* – Nice looks at Tundavala and seen also at Mt Moco

Grey Waxbill *Estrilda perreini* – Seen at Kumbira, Mt Moco and near Lobito (*perreini*)

Cinderella Waxbill *Estrilda thomensis* – Seen very well near Leba Pass

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola* – Seen well in the Mt Moco region (*benguellensis*)

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* – Seen a few times in the north (*melpoda*)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* – Several sightings (subspecies not identified)

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

Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis* – Seen well on the ground in the Mt Moco region (*muelleri*)

Locust Finch *Paludipasser locustella* – Good flight view of a pair in the Mt Moco region (*uelensis*)

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

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor* – Seen along the escarpment (*woltersi*)

Indigobirds, Whydahs Family Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* – Non-breeding plumage birds seen at the bottom of Leba Pass were probably of this species, since Red-billed Firefinch was common here and no other indigobird host species seen

Dusky Indigobird *Vidua funerea* – Non-breeding plumage birds seen at Mt Moco where heard to mimic its host species Dusky Twinspot (*nigerrima*)

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* – Only non-breeding plumage birds seen

Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua obtusa* – Seen in non-breeding plumage at Kalandula and Mt Moco

Wagtails, Pipits Family Motacillidae

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* – Seen a couple of times (*simplicissima*)

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* – Seen briefly en route from Mt Moco to Lobito (*torrentium*)

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* – Seen near Kalandula (*vidua*)

Fülleborn's Longclaw *Macronyx fülleborni* – Seen a few times in the Mt Moco area (*ascensi*)

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* – Seen a few times (subspecies not determined)

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* – Seen on top of Mt Moco (*moco*)

Wood Pipit *Anthus nyassae* – Seen in the Mt Moco region (*schoutedeni*)



Benguella Long-tailed Starling

Buffy Pipit *Anthus vaalensis* – Seen well at Tundavala (*neumanni*)

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* – Several sightings, mostly of *bohndorffi*

Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris* – Fantastic sightings at Mt Moco and Tundavala

Finches Family Fringillidae

Black-faced Canary *Crithagra capistrata* – Good sightings on several occasions (mostly *hildegardae*), including at Kumbira and Tundavala

Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (subspecies not identified)

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* – Several sightings (subspecies not identified)

Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris* – Seen at Tundavala (*damarensis*)

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

White-throated Canary *Crithagra albugularis* – Seen in the south-west (*crocopygia*)

Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni* – Seen well at Mt Moco (*tanganjicae*), where uncommon

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*huillensis*)

Buntings Family Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* – Seen at Tundavala and Mt Moco (*nivenorum*)

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* – Seen a few times



Angolan Sweet Waxbill