

RANK	COUNTRY	PAGE
1	Madagascar	72
2	South Africa (+ Swaziland & Lesotho)	105
3	Tanzania	112
4	Ethiopia	53
5	Kenya	65
6	Cameroon	35
7	Angola	25
8	Uganda	118
9	Namibia	86
10a	Ghana	59
10b	DR Congo	46
13a	Gabon	56
15	Malawi	76
16	Morocco	83
17	Zambia	122
19a	Somaliland	103
22	Rwanda	93
25	Sierra Leone	100
26	Nigeria	89
29	Mozambique	85
30	Eritrea	52
31	Zimbabwe	124
34a	Senegal	97
34b	Equatorial Guinea (+ Bioko & Annobón)	50

RANK	COUNTRY	PAGE
37	Somalia	102
39	Gambia	58
40	Liberia	69
41	Sudan	110
42a	Djibouti	48
42b	Chad	42
44a	Congo	45
44b	Botswana	31
47a	Western Sahara	121
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47c	Algeria	24
53a	South Sudan	108
53b	Mauritania	79
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56a	Egypt	49
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58	Ivory Coast	64
59a	Tunisia	117
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59c	Niger	88
59d	Libya	70
59e	Guinea-Bissau	63
59f	Guinea	62
59g	Burundi	34
59h	Burkina Faso	33

*Ranks are the ranks of the Bird Importance Score for each territory; see p 9 for details. This map includes only mainland states and Madagascar; see the inside back cover for other island territories.

The Birder's Guide to Africa

Michael Mills

Photographs by Tasso Leventis



GO-AWAY-BIRDING

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Intro- duction



With 68 territories, 142 bird families and 2,792 bird species, making sense of birding in the African region can be a challenge. In this guide, to my knowledge the first of its kind globally, relevant information on territories, families and species is brought together to provide a coherent birders' summary of the region, with a global perspective. Its contents draws on a wide range of sources and is based on 25 years of experience in the region. The book is meant for everyone who travels to see birds, or has an armchair interest therein. Through it I hope to inspire and encourage travelling and bird watching in Africa, particularly to new or little-known areas. I hope also to arm readers with a wide range of information so that they can make informed decisions on where and when to go birding, and get the most out of their trips.

To maximise your benefit from this guide, it may help understanding some of the thinking behind it.

Geographical coverage. This book covers the continent of Africa and its islands, referred to as 'the region' or 'the African region'. All islands closer to Africa than any other continent, regardless of political affiliation, are included. Thus, the region incorporates Madeira (Portugal), the Canary Islands (Spain) and Socotra (Yemen), just some of the islands that are politically not African. For the sake of completeness, the Azores (Portugal) and Sinai are included too. The Azores are slightly closer to Europe than Africa, but form part of the region called Macaronesia (or the Atlantic Islands), which is mainly African and includes Cape Verde, Madeira and the Canary Islands. Finally, although Sinai is located in the Middle East it is politically part of Egypt.

Country Accounts. This chapter is essentially a traveller's summary of each territory, but written from a birder's perspective. It covers aspects of birds and birding, travel and literature. For world birders, I hope that the lists of key birds, arranged in categories, will be especially useful, as they provide comprehensive lists of all important birds to looked for when visiting that territory.

Family Accounts. A growing number of world birders are realising that they don't have the time and resources to go everywhere and chase everything. Rather than trying to see as many species as possible, a more meaningful and achievable goal is to strive to see all the bird families in the world. Making this the primary goal ensures that as wide range of bird diversity as possible is sampled. Besides celebrating the bird diversity of the region through photographs, the Family Accounts provide a brief description of each family in the region, with tips on how to see them.

Species Accounts. A complete annotated list of all bird species recorded from the region, excluding introduced species, is provided under the Species Accounts. A general statement on the status, habitats and distribution of each species, and in most cases each subspecies, is given, plus a list of best sites to see each bird. Greater emphasis is placed on endemic birds.

Names and taxonomy. One of the most difficult decisions that I had to make during the preparation of this guide was which taxonomy and English bird names to use. There are several competing world bird lists, each with their own advantages and shortcomings, and it was tempting to follow

one of these lists to the letter, as this required the least amount of effort. However, the use of a well known taxonomy promotes complacency and misses the opportunity to point out bird taxa of interest that may otherwise be ignored as uninteresting, especially on a rushed birding trip. Also, the use of English names on world bird lists quite often contradicts names in common use in leading field guides, which creates confusion.

As a result of conversations with various birders and my own personal experiences with using different world lists, I have come to prefer the IOC World Bird List. Consequently, I have based this book on the latest version of the IOC World Bird List (7.1; hereafter 'IOC List'). However, other world lists make important contributions to our thinking about bird diversity and species limits. For this reason I have consulted as many sources as possible in my deliberations over taxonomy. In particular, the HBW & BirdLife Checklist (BirdLife International 2016) has provided a fresh look at bird diversity and challenges many established conventions on species limits. All these world lists have been blended with my own experiences and thinking on what makes a bird species, to produce an adaptation of the IOC List that I

hope will be both easy and interesting to use. Details of the adaptations made can be found in the introduction to the Species Accounts, but here I wish to point out that the English names of splits not accepted by the IOC List are given in green instead of black text. I do not lump any birds, simply because lumping tends to make birds invisible. However, I do note where there are proposals to lump birds and, through a specific formatting of scientific names (see Species Accounts), I share my opinion as to which should be lumped.

Regarding the use of English names, I spent many hours investigating their use by world bird lists, to understand why names in common use are often not followed. Together with experienced birding colleagues we have devised a philosophy for establishing a standardised world bird list of English names based on common use, which has been submitted for publication in the Bulletin of the African Bird Club (Mills *et al*, submitted). Readers should refer to this for a full explanation on the selection of English names used in this guide. Where English names used differ from those of the IOC List, the IOC List name is given under notes in the individual Species Accounts.

However, there are exceptions to this; based on the birds they hold, some territories are clearly under-birded while others attract more visitors than could be expected. Take for example Gambia, a country which based on its birding potential is clearly over-birded; it has no endemics and very few specials, yet it has become a popular destination. Comoros, on the other hand, holds a large number of endemics, yet is hardly ever visited by birders. There are many possible reasons for this, but I

believe the main one is that most of us follow what others before us have done. Going to little-known destinations provides a whole new set of challenges, including dealing with uncertainty. It is often this lack of information that prevents people from visiting certain areas. Few visitors, in turn, means that there will be little investment in travel infrastructure. And so many places remain at the point of being little visited.

Which places break out of this and which not, is hard to predict. Political stability, past and present, is certainly a major factor. Destinations that are dangerous to visit or politically unstable will receive few birders. However, some places, for some or other reason, have not made it onto the birder's radar. Malawi, for example, has reasonably comfortable travel conditions, excellent birding and good other wildlife viewing on offer, yet is hardly ever visited by birders.

Here I present an analysis which I hope will provide a fresh look at birding in the region. Most well-birded territories will, for good reason, come out high on the list of priorities. However, by drawing attention to territories with great potential for exploration, I hope to encourage you to forgo visiting a well known destination for a little-known one, where the birding is as good or even better and many exciting discoveries are to be made.

NUMBER CRUNCHING

What makes a destination good for birding depends both on its birds and travel conditions, and the relative importance of different criteria to you as the traveller. What follows is an analysis of birding in the region, by territory. The details of how the analyses were made (the methods) will be of limited interest to most, but those with an analytical mind might find what follows fun to think about. Those interested only in the results, please skip to the next section entitled 'Your next destination'.

While each of us places a different emphasis on the various criteria used when selecting a travel destination, for the purposes of this analysis I have identified five types of travellers, to act as reference points. As an individual you are likely to sit somewhere between these, but hopefully they will prove useful for thinking about different destinations.

1. **World Listers.** It is all about seeing new birds, which means a strong focus on areas with endemic birds. Safety is also a consideration, with very dangerous destinations avoided. There is also some consideration for cost. Otherwise any conditions will be endured for new birds.
2. **Balanced.** It is about many things; birds and safety are the major factors in choosing a destination, but you expect a reasonable level of comfort and are interested in destinations that offer other activities too, such as visits to historical and cultural sites, mammal watching, snorkelling and diving. You're not too worried about cost, as long as you have a great and interesting holiday.
3. **Leisure.** It is about comfortable hotels and lodges, good food and great natural environments; birds are just a part of the package.
4. **Budget.** Budget Birders are essentially World Listers on a restricted budget. Opportunity for travel is limited by funds, so the aim is to maximise the overall list in a few trips. This means that there is greater emphasis on all birds, not just endemics.
5. **Explorer.** No conditions are too tough and a little bit of danger just adds to the excitement. Everywhere has interesting birds, so the challenge is to go somewhere others have not.

For each of the five types of traveller, each criterion considered is given a weighting of 0–10, 1 for the least important criteria, 10 for very important criteria (see Table 1, p 8).

BIRDING IN THE REGION

With almost 2,800 bird species spread across 68 territories, the African region could keep one busy for a lifetime. However, as is usually the case, certain things (here, territories for birding) have become popular, whereas others remain little visited. Birders are generally pretty adventurous and willing to go to extremes for their hobby, at least in the eyes of normal people. Thus, the most popular destinations for birding are generally those that have the best birds.

Criteria considered are as follows:

1. **Bird Endemism.** An objective measure of birding importance, based on the three objective Special Categories assigned to species (see the Species Accounts for further details, p 277). Each category is given a weighting; 10 for Endemics (EN), 1 for Near-Endemics (NE) and 1/10 for One-of-Two (1/2). Thus, the Bird Endemism score is calculated as 10xEN + NE + 0.1x1/2. Scores range from 0–1,163 for Madagascar. The score is converted to a category from 1 to 10, based on the binary number system of 10 is ≥1024, 9 ≥512, 8 is ≥256, 7 is ≥128, 6 is ≥64, 5 is ≥32, 4 is ≥16, 3 is ≥8, 2 is ≥4 and 1 is <4.

2. **Birds – Other.** A measure of the importance of non-endemic birds, based on the two subjective Special Categories of Best-Territory (BT) and Best-Two (B2), weighted 5 and 1, respectively. These categories are subjective because they include factors such as accessibility and knowledge of a territory, and not just species distributions. Thus, the score is calculated as BTx5 + B2 and ranges from 0, to 320 for South Africa. The
- score is then converted to a rating of 1 to 10 using a binary numbering system of 10 is ≥256, 9 is ≥128, 8 is ≥64, 7 is ≥32, 6 is ≥16, 5 is ≥8, 4 is ≥4, 3 is ≥2, 2 is =1 and 1 is =0.

3. **Bird Diversity.** A measure of the number of bird species (sp) recorded from the territory (see individual Country Accounts for approximate numbers). The following ranking system is used: >999 sp = 10, 900–999 sp = 9, 800–899 sp = 8, 700–799 sp = 7, 600–699 sp = 6, 500–599 sp = 5, 400–499 sp = 4, 300–399 sp = 3, 200–299 sp = 2, <200 sp = 1.

4. **Safety.** Each territory is assigned a safety rating, as objectively as possible, from 1–10, with the safest territories ranked 10. Territories that are at civil war or where the risk of kidnap is extremely high are rated 1. Those that have a near-perfect safety record, good policing and excellent medical facilities are rated 10.

5. **Cost.** Each territory is assigned a cost rating with as much objectivity as possible, from 1–10, with the cheapest destinations ranked 10. This is based on the normal mode of travel for birders

– private vehicle hire, international standard accommodation and use of reserves. In many African destinations it is necessary to hire an expensive 4x4 to get to the best birding sites. Often this is the main cost of a trip. Territories with a good road infrastructure that can be birded in a normal vehicle are often a lot cheaper to visit as a birder.

6. **Ease.** Each territory is assigned a rating of 1 to 10 to reflect how easy and comfortable it is to travel in, with as much objectivity as possible. The easiest and most comfortable destinations for travel are rated 10. This takes into account entrance formalities, freedom to travel around within the territory, the standard of roads and the availability of tourist-standard accommodation.
7. **Other.** Each territory is assigned a rating based on the other outdoor interests it holds, including visits to historical and cultural sites, wildlife viewing, diving and snorkelling. Territories with the top attractions are rated 10.
8. **Opportunity for Exploration (Explore).** Each territory is assigned a rating of 2 to 10 of how much opportunity it presents for exploration. Two factors are considered; firstly the number of birders that visit it and secondly its habitats, size and degree of infrastructure development. The number of birders that visit a territory was measured by the number of trip reports available on *Cloud Birders* for each territory. This is given a score of 1–5, as follows: >100 trip reports = 1, 26–100 = 2, 11–25 = 3, 1–10 = 4, 0 = 5. Habitats, territory size and development are ranked 1–5 too. Small, well developed territories with open, arid habitats were scored 1, whereas larger, underdeveloped territories with a lot of forest were ranked 5. The rest were ranked between these two extremes. These two scores were then added together to give the total Opportunity for Exploration score (2–10).

YOUR NEXT DESTINATION

The results of the analyses are summarised in Table 2 (p 10) and maps on pp 11–14.

Two countries feature in the Top 10 for all five types of birders, namely Madagascar and Tanzania. Both are rich in endemic birds, are major general wildlife destinations, have reasonably well developed infrastructures and boast good safety records. Both are tourist friendly.

Three additional countries feature on the Top 10 of four types of birders, namely Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa. All three fail to make the Explorer-Birder Top 10.

Together, these five countries comprise the region's top destinations and should be of interest to every birder. They are also the top five territories based on the **Bird Importance Score** (BIS; see maps inside of the book front and back covers). The BIS is calculated as the sum of the number of Endemics multiplied by 5, Near-Endemics by 4, Best-Territory species by 3, One-of-Two species by 2 and Best-Two species by 1.

A further three countries feature on three of the Top 10 lists, namely Angola, Namibia and Uganda. All are well known birding destinations, although Angola is just beginning to grow in popularity. Namibia has the least to offer serious birders; as Angola gains in popularity it will become less important because many of the special birds of Namibia can also be seen in Angola.

A further five territories make it onto two Top 10 lists; Cameroon, a brilliant birding destination that loses out on travel conditions and, currently, safety; Canary Islands and Madeira, both very easy travel destinations with several endemics; Gabon, another great birding destination that loses out on ease and expense; and Zambia, one of Africa's most under-birded countries.

Looking further down the lists among the Top 20 territories, other territories that feature highly but fail to make an impact on the Top

Table 1. The weights given to each of the eight criteria for rating a territory, for each of the five kinds of birders.

Criterion	World Listers	Balanced	Leisure	Budget	Explorer
Bird Endemism	10	8	7	8	3
Birds - Other	2	5	7	7	1
Bird Diversity	1	2	4	8	1
Safety	3	7	10	7	2
Cost	1	5	1	10	0
Ease	0	5	10	4	0
Other	0	6	9	2	0
Explore	0	3	0	2	10

10 lists include: Ghana, the most accessible country in West Africa for forest birding; all four Indian Ocean Islands territories of Seychelles, Comoros, Réunion and Mauritius & Rodrigues, which hold many endemics and can be combined to form a single, longer and more productive trip; Malawi, probably the most under-birded country in the region; Morocco, North Africa's top destination and perhaps the most-birded country in Africa; Rwanda, an excellent addition to a Uganda trip; DR Congo, the African birder's Holy Grail; the endemic-rich islands of São Tomé and Príncipe; and Zimbabwe, a pleasant country with plenty on offer.

So what is missing? Among the endemic-rich territories, Socotra and Somaliland deserve a special mention for World Listers and Budget Birders, although both are currently unsafe to visit. Once security improves and political stability returns, birding there could become reasonably popular. For Balanced and Leisure Birders, Botswana is a wonderful country to visit and just misses out on a Top 20 spot. The Azores also make a good

destination for Leisure Birders. Gambia is a popular destination with Budget Birders, but only makes sense to visit if doing a very limited number of trips to the region. And for the Explorer, Liberia is ranked third, Congo fifth, Guinea sixth, Equatorial Guinea ninth and Sudan thirteenth; all great birding destinations that are very poorly known.

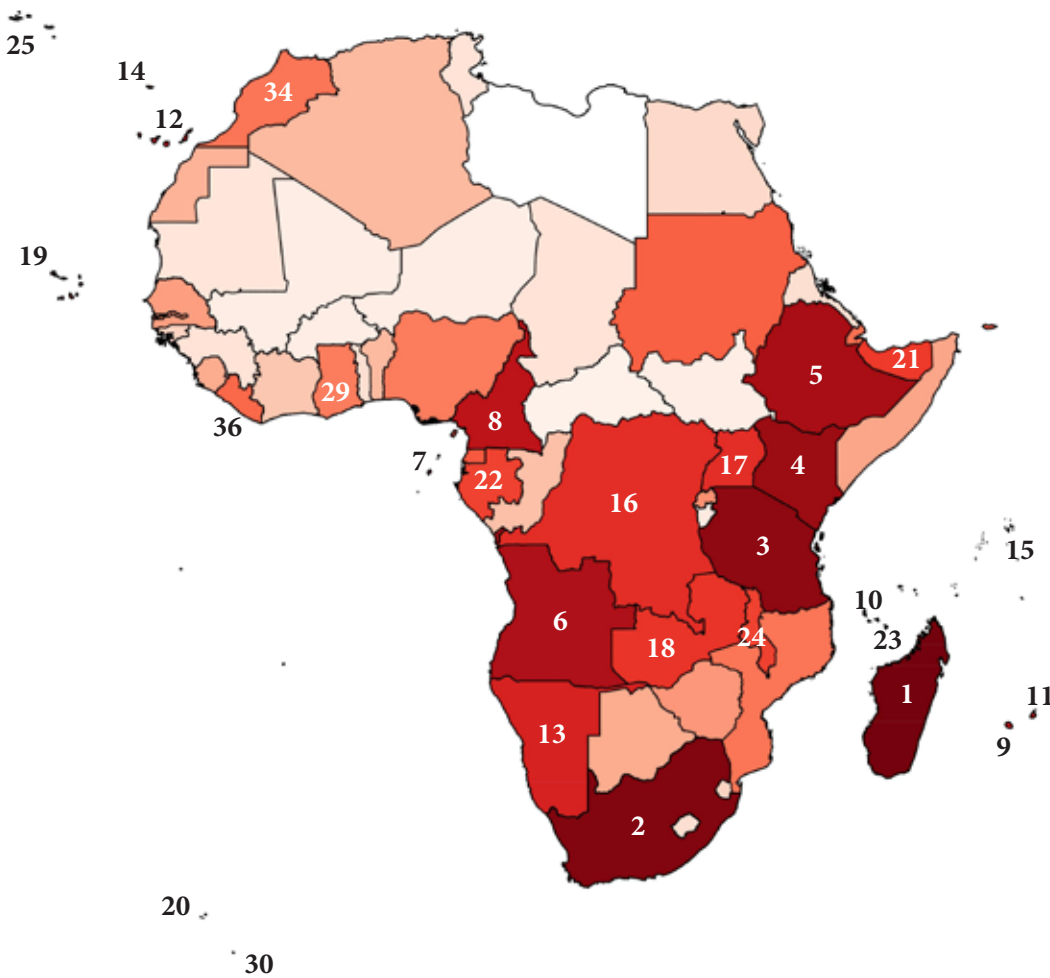
In summary, Africa's five must-see destinations are Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Madagascar. Angola is up and coming, and alongside Cameroon, Gabon, Uganda and Zambia round out the Top 10 for serious birders, excluding small islands. However, as political and security conditions change across the region, other desirable destinations will move up the list, especially DR Congo, but also Socotra and Somaliland. The numerous islands around the region, especially the more accessible ones that are closer to the mainland, are also worth visiting, including Seychelles, Mauritius, Réunion, Comoros and Mayotte, Cape Verde, Canary Islands and Madeira.

Table 2. The Top 10 territories, listed from first to tenth, for each of the five kinds of birders.

World Listers	Balanced	Leisure	Budget	Explorer
Madagascar	South Africa	South Africa	South Africa	DR Congo
South Africa	Tanzania	Kenya	Uganda	Angola
Tanzania	Kenya	Tanzania	Tanzania	Liberia
Kenya	Madagascar	Uganda	Kenya	Tanzania
Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Namibia	Ethiopia	Congo
Angola	Uganda	Ethiopia	Namibia	Guinea
São Tomé & Príncipe	Namibia	Canary Islands	Cameroon	Madagascar
Cameroon	Madeira	Madagascar	Zambia	Equatorial Guinea
Réunion	Zambia	Madeira	Angola	Gabon
Comoros	Canary Islands	Gabon	Madagascar	Nigeria

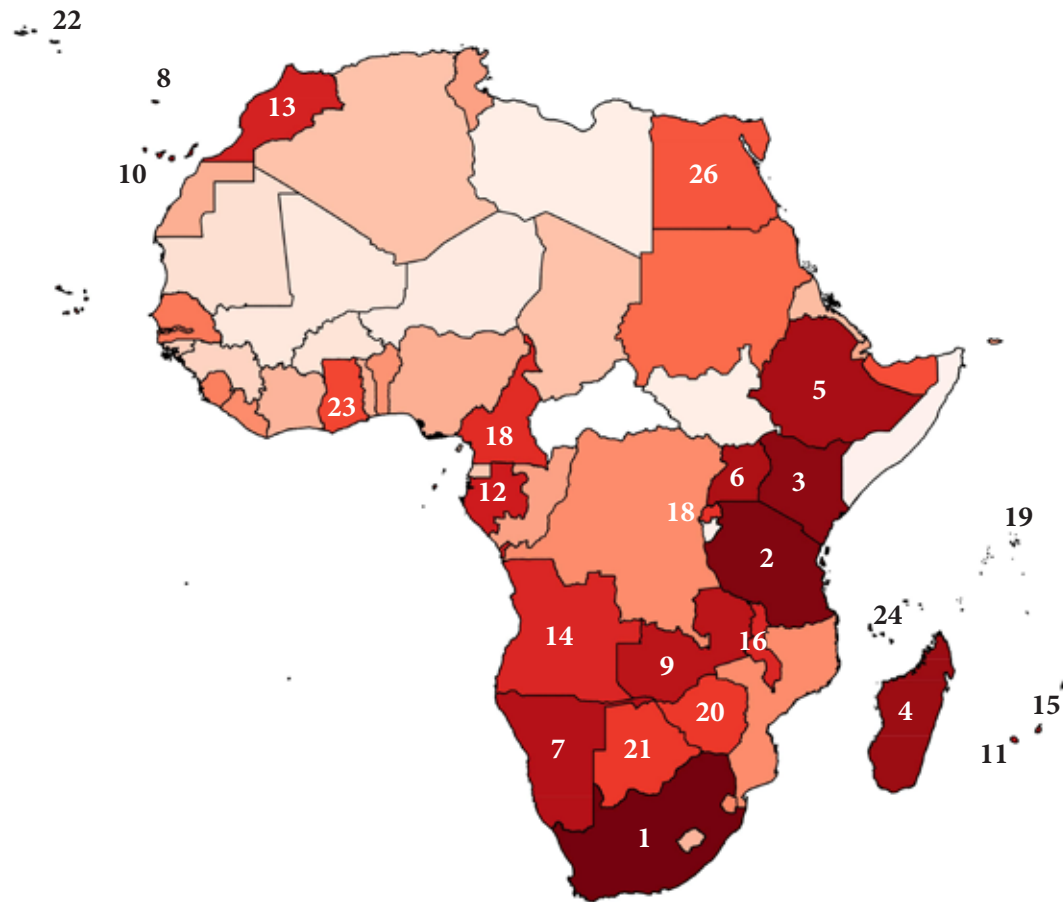
A Heat Map of the African Region for World Listers

Increasing darkness indicates greater attractiveness to World Listers, with endemism as the main criterion. The Top 10 territories are (1) Madagascar, (2) South Africa, (3) Tanzania, (4) Kenya, (5) Ethiopia, (6) Angola, (7) São Tomé and Príncipe, (8) Cameroon (9) Réunion and (10) Comoros. Overall, small islands rank very highly and in addition include (11) Mauritius & Rodrigues, (12) Canary Islands, (14) Madeira, (15) Seychelles, (19) Cape Verde, (20) Tristan da Cunha, (23) Mayotte, (25) Azores and (30) Gough; consider combining two or more on trips, for example Seychelles, Mauritius and Réunion, or Canary Islands and Madeira. Other top territories include (13) Namibia, (16) DR Congo, (17) Uganda, (18) Zambia, (21) Somaliland, (22) Gabon and (24) Malawi, not all of which are safe to visit. The two sub-regions without Top 25 territories are West Africa, for which (29) Liberia and (36) Ghana rank most highly, and North-West Africa where (34) Morocco is the top destination. Gabon, Zambia and Malawi are among the most under-birded countries in the region, of those that are safe to visit.



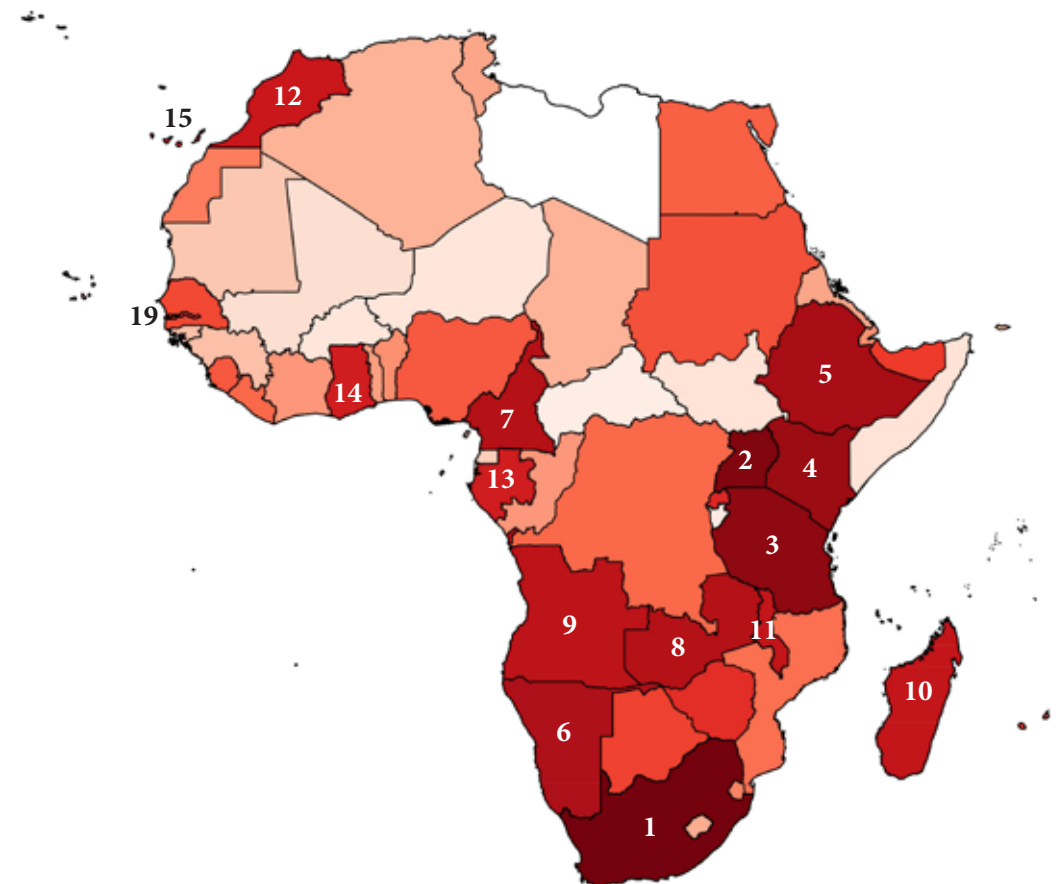
A Heat Map of the African Region for Balanced Birders

Increasing darkness indicates greater attractiveness to Balanced Birders. Safety and endemism are the dominant criteria, but all criteria have some bearing on the results. The top ten territories are (1) South Africa, (2) Tanzania, (3) Kenya, (4) Madagascar, (5) Ethiopia, (6) Uganda, (7) Namibia, (8) Madeira (9) Zambia and (10) Canary Islands. Small islands in the region rank highly and also include (11) Réunion, (15) Mauritius & Rodrigues, (19) Seychelles, (22) Azores and (24) Comoros; consider combining two or more into a single trip. Other top territories include (14) Angola, (16) Malawi, (18) Rwanda, (20) Zimbabwe and (21) Botswana. Sub-regions without Top 10 territories are Central Africa where (12) Gabon and (18) Cameroon rank most highly, North-West Africa where (13) Morocco is the top destination and West Africa where (23) Ghana comes out top. Egypt (26) stands out for its historical importance and offers reasonably good birding, ranking twenty-sixth.



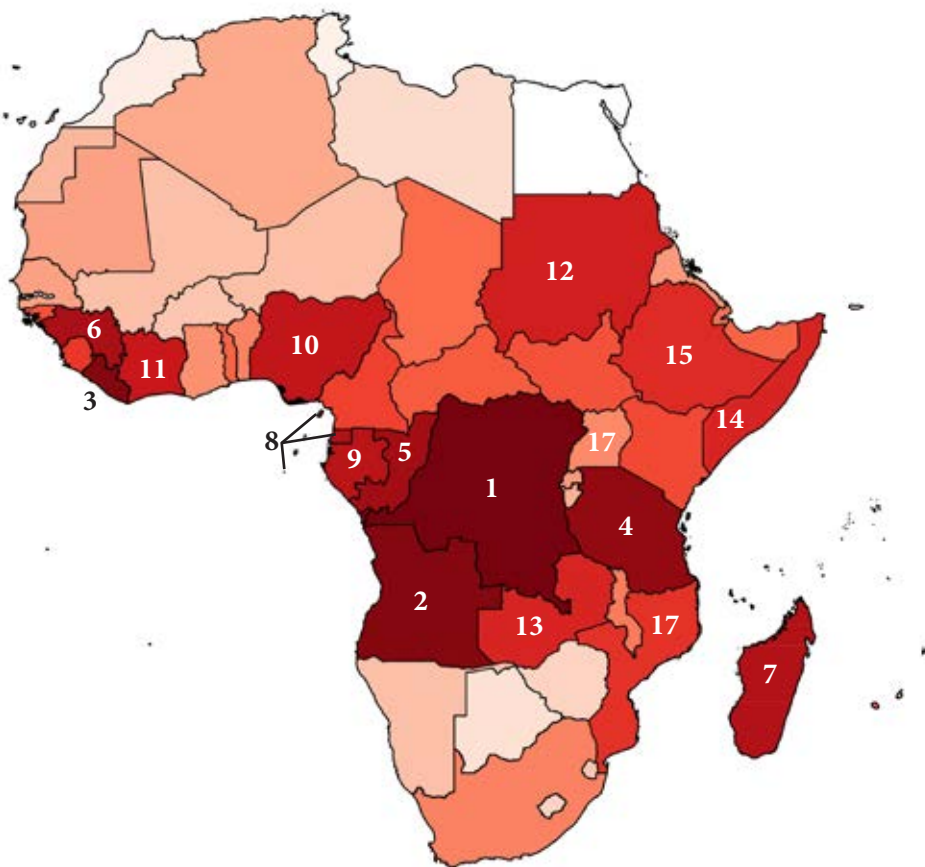
A Heat Map of the African Region for Budget Birders

Increasing darkness indicates greater attractiveness to Budget Birders, with a stronger emphasis on overall bird diversity and non-endemic specials than by World Listers. It is assumed that Budget Birders do not visit only less expensive destinations, but rather that they will do fewer trips than World Listers; this means that they will visit expensive destinations if the quality of birding justifies it. Top countries are (1) South Africa, (2) Uganda, (3) Tanzania, (4) Kenya, (5) Ethiopia, (6) Namibia, (7) Cameroon, (8) Zambia (9) Angola and (10) Madagascar. Small islands are generally expensive to visit and have low bird diversities, so don't rate highly in this analysis. Other territories ranking highly include (11) Malawi, (12) Morocco, (13) Gabon, (14) Ghana and (15) Canary Islands. Gambia (19), one of the most popular budget-trip countries, ranks only nineteenth.



The Heat Map of the African Region for Explorer-Birders

Increasing darkness indicates greater attractiveness to Explorer-Birders, with the opportunity for exploration being the main criterion by which countries are ranked. The Top 10 territories are (1) DR Congo, (2) Angola, (3) Liberia, (4) Tanzania, (5) Congo, (6) Guinea, (7) Madagascar, (8) Equatorial Guinea, especially Annobón and Bioko Islands, (9) Gabon and (10) Nigeria. Underdeveloped nations in the forest zones of Central Africa and West Africa hold the greatest potential, whereas arid countries and small islands tend to hide fewer secrets. Other top ranking countries include (11) Ivory Coast, (12) Sudan, (13) Zambia, (14) Somalia and (15) Ethiopia. Special mention should be made of (17) Mozambique, for the number of high, remote inselbergs in the north-east of the country. There are serious safety concerns with visiting some of these territories, so seek updated advice before travelling.



AFRICAN BIRDING CALENDAR

The best time to travel as a birder is when birds breed at your destination. At this time birds are often more vocal, responsive and visually conspicuous than at other times of the year, as they defend territories and display to attract mates.

In many parts of Africa, however, the lack of all-weather roads to birding sites means that, in moister regions, access can be problematic at the height of the rains. This should be considered when choosing when to travel. Another factor to consider, especially in very hot regions, is temperature; it may often be more pleasant to travel at the coolest time of the year. The final factor to consider when determining the timing of a trip is the presence of Palearctic migrants (mostly Nov–Feb in sub-Saharan Africa) and passage migrants (typically Sep–Oct and Mar–Apr).

Straddling the equator, most of the African region is warm and tropical, with seasons typically less pronounced, especially in temperature, than in more temperate regions. On the whole, rainfall is the main stimulant of bird breeding behaviour in arid areas. The opposite appears to be true in moist regions, where birds tend to breed during the dry season, especially at higher altitudes. Thus, a general rule of thumb is: if it is an arid area (<800 mm rainfall/year) then visit during the rainy season, but if it is a mesic area then visit during the dry season. This applies to the tropics, but in the far north and south of the region, where seasonal variation in temperature is more pronounced and plays a more significant role in stimulating bird breeding, this is not the case. Here, spring and early summer are the peak times to visit, generally Mar–Jul north of the Sahara and Sep–Jan in Southern Africa.

Given the importance of rain, it is worth understanding the movement of the main rain belt that runs across the African continent within the tropics, parallel to the equator, called the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). The location of the ITCZ is

determined largely by the position of the sun. Heat from the sun warms the earth directly beneath it, which causes hot air to rise and moisture-laden winds to be drawn in from surrounding regions, bringing rain. The sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer in the northern hemisphere at around 20 Jun, whereas it is over the Tropic of Capricorn in the south at around 20 Dec. The sun and ITCZ move up and down during the year, crossing the equator at the two equinoxes (approximately 20 Mar and 20 Sep). Other factors affect the exact strength, width and movement of the ITCZ, but this basically explains why areas near the equator typically experience two peaks in rainfall, one each time the ITCZ crosses the equator, but areas away from the equator typically experience a single rainy season.

Rainfall in areas well outside the tropics is not influenced by the ITCZ; in these areas rain typically falls in the winter months (Nov–Feb in the north, May–Aug in the far south), when it is coldest.

Here is a summary of where to go, when:

Jan–Feb

Southern Africa is at its warmest and wettest and North Africa at its driest and coldest. Birding is good anywhere in the tropics north of the equator, as it is drier and cooler, with popular destinations including Ghana, Uganda, Morocco and Ethiopia. Arid parts of Southern Africa are at their best, including eastern South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Mar–Apr

The wettest time of the year in southern Central Africa, the end of the rains in Southern Africa, the end of the dry season in north Central Africa and West Africa and spring in North Africa. This is probably the best time to bird Namibia, Morocco, Cameroon, north-western Tanzania and Ethiopia. Birding is still good anywhere in West Africa, but avoid southern Central Africa.

May–Jun

The rains have mostly moved north of the equator now. This is a good time to visit Somaliland and Kenya. But almost anywhere south of the equator is poor at this time, immediately post-breeding. And the mesic belt of northern Central Africa and West Africa is probably too wet to consider.

Jul–Aug

The rains north of the equator are in full swing, especially through West Africa. From the equator southwards, however, it is generally dry. This is a good time to visit Angola, Zambia and Gabon, and is the peak period for Uganda.

Sep–Oct

The rains have now turned and are starting to move south over the equator. The onset of the rains in southern Central Africa bring a

spate of bird breeding activity in the savannas of this region, making it a good time to visit Angola, southern Tanzania, Malawi, Madagascar, the Indian Ocean Islands and Gabon. Western South Africa is also excellent at this time. Arid areas north of the equator and south of the Sahara should be starting to cool down, making it a good time to visit.

Nov–Dec

The rains are arriving at the edge of the southern tropics. This is the peak period for South Africa as a whole. Madagascar is excellent too. West Africa and northern Central Africa are just starting to get good and there is the added benefit that many indigobirds and whydahs are in breeding plumage in this region. It is also cool in the desert areas south of the Sahara, so a good time to travel there.

Finally to my family, Catherine and Erin, for putting up with me staring at a computer screen for many hours over the past three years. Also to Catherine for her unwavering

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Viduidae, p 268: (3) Hugh Chittenden.

Thraupidae, p 275: (Gough Bunting) Peter Ryan.

Country Accounts



The African region, as defined here, is composed of 68 territories, of which 50 are mainland states and 18 are island territories. While each territory offers something different to the travelling birder, certain ones are a must-see whereas others are best avoided due to concerns over safety and security. A few territories receive hundreds of visiting birders every year, while others provide excellent opportunities for exploration and are virtually unknown, despite being safe. Certain destinations offer comfortable travel, whereas others will be enjoyed only by the most rugged of travellers. In the Country Accounts, a general overview of birding and travel in the region is provided, by territory, serving as a starting point for thinking about new places to visit.

Territories are listed in alphabetical order. Those comprised of multiple land masses, such as Equatorial Guinea (Río Muni, Bioko and Annobón) and Mauritius (Mauritius and Rodrigues), are treated as one except where different sections are likely to be visited on separate trips, as is the case for St Helena, Ascension, Gough and Tristan da Cunha, all part of the same British Overseas Territory.

The name of each territory is followed, in parentheses, by the approximate latitudinal range at which it lies and details such as alternative territory names, abbreviations used or political affiliations. An introductory paragraph then gives a brief birder's summary of the territory, before more detailed information is conveyed under Birds and Birding, Travel and Literature. This information is intended to be a brief summary and starting point for anyone who may be interested in a particular place. Sources of further relevant information include *Important Bird Areas in Africa and Associated Islands* 2001 by Evans & Fishpool, country pages of the *African Bird Club* website, the *BirdLife Data Zone*, *WikiTravel*, *Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program*, *Climate Data*, *Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Advice* and literature listed under each territory.

BIRDS AND BIRDING

This section summarises information regarding the birds of that territory, and when and where to see them.

First, each territory is assigned to one of ten sub-regions based on geographic position, namely Southern Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, Horn of Africa, West Africa, North-East Africa and North-West Africa (together forming North Africa), Oceanic Islands, Macaronesia (also called Atlantic Islands) or Indian Ocean Islands (including Madagascar and also called the Malagasy region). Note that North-East Africa refers to a region excluding the Horn of Africa, whereas ne Africa is the north-eastern part of Africa and can include North East Africa, East Africa and the Horn of Africa. Some territories may span multiple sub-regions, in which case the dominant region by area is used, for example parts of both Southern Africa and Central Africa fall within the borders of Mozambique.

Then keys **SPECIES** information is listed: first, in parentheses, the **Bird Importance Score (BIS)** is given, calculated based on the Special Category birds that occur there (see p 9 for details; e.g. 27 for Aldabra), followed by the BIS **rank** out of the 66 territories assessed (Swaziland and Lesotho are assessed together with South Africa), e.g. 33/66 for Aldabra.

Thereafter a detailed list of key birds to be found is given, following the taxonomy used in this guide (see p 278 for details). English bird names in red font denote **species recently extinct**. Categories used are

—**EN**, Endemic species excluding vagrancy.

—**NE**, Near-Endemic species, i.e. with >75% of range or population in that territory.

—**BT**, Best-Territory, for birds best found in that territory but occurring more widely.

—**1/2**, One-of-Two, for birds occurring in only two territories but not EN, NE or BT.

—**B2**, Best-Two, for birds best found in two territories but occurring in more.

—**other**, for other taxa of interest. These include **splits** in addition to those adopted in the Species Accounts and **lumps** for species lumped on the IOC List but split in this guide (see details on p 278). After the word 'also', a list is given of subspecies endemic to that territory (ESS), regionally endemic subspecies (subspecies listed with ESS) and other sought-after birds to be found (without subspecies).

This is followed by information on the diversity and composition of the avifauna (—**diversity**), including the approximate number of species recorded and, in parentheses, its rank for the ten territories with the longest bird lists. A statement on the general composition of the avifauna is made and, in some cases, how many birds are typically recorded by focussed and competent birders during a trip of typical duration that covers the key birding areas in that territory.

Further information includes:

HABITATS: a list of the most important birding habitats, sometimes with key birds mentioned.

AREAS: information on key areas for birding, divided into

—**EBAs**: all Endemic Bird Areas and Secondary Areas (SAs), as defined by BirdLife International, found in each territory.

—**sites**: top birding sites, sometimes with key birds and habitats mentioned. For abbreviations used, see p 539.

TIMING: the three best months to visit are given in bold text in parentheses, followed by an explanation. In certain cases different parts of the territory are best to visit at different times; this is noted where appropriate. Periods to avoid may be mentioned too.

EXPLORE: a rating of how much opportunity there is for exploration, given as very low, low, moderate, high or very high, followed by an explanation. In general more arid, open habitats harbour fewer secrets than dense forest, so this is taken into consideration. See p 9 for further discussion.

TRAVEL

General travel information is summarised under:

SAFETY: safety information is based on that issued at the time of writing (May 2017) by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office of the government of the United Kingdom. There is a risk of encountering crime or terrorism in any part of the globe, and situations can often change very rapidly. Before travelling you should make your own personal assessment of whether a country or region is safe or not. In general, election periods are often heated affairs, with protests and an increase in police roadblocks, so check ahead and make sure that you are not travelling immediately before or during elections. A certain degree of alertness and sensibility is required wherever you travel. When on a trip, always keep cash, travel documents and other valuable items on your person; do not leave them on your trip vehicle or in a locked hotel room.

For medical advice, please see your local medical travel experts. Prophylaxis and inoculations for Malaria, Yellow Fever and a host of other tropical diseases should be considered before travelling, but only taken with proper consultation.

CITIES: key cities for travellers are listed, including capitals and international airports.

EASE: general information is provided regarding the ease of

—**entry**: entry documentation requirements and air, water and land access. Exact entry requirements should be checked with your nearest diplomatic office, as these can change at short notice and vary according to nationality. Yellow Fever vaccinations are a requirement for entry into many African countries and are not listed individually. Note that virtually all land border crossings, even if safe, are generally chaotic and can be quite stressful to use, but officials are usually courteous and friendly if you are. For virtually all territories with a coastline it is possible to arrive by boat, but in most cases this is a time consuming and unpopular means of travel, so arrival by water is only mentioned in certain cases where it is a convenient option. Note that some countries require foreigners to officially register on arrival; this is not always mentioned, so obtain advice locally.

—**within**: details of travelling within the territory, including main languages and use of English, road and internal transport infrastructure and availability and range of accommodation. Availability of local and national bird watching guides may be mentioned, as may the availability of set departure birding trips offered by international tour companies.

Communication networks are not discussed, as almost all African countries now have good cellular phone networks; these often work better on local SIM cards than on international roaming. Almost all territories have a network of public transport, but this is mostly chaotic, fairly unsafe and uncomfortable and does not allow access to wildlife reserves, so in most cases public transport is not mentioned. The majority of countries have road and driving conditions well below standards in Europe and North America, which means that self-drive is not

usually recommended. Four wheel drive vehicles are often needed to reach key birding sites.

ATTRACTIONS: a brief list of other top outdoor attractions or sites of interest, where appropriate.

MONEY: a rating of the expense of travel as a bird watcher to and in the territory is given as inexpensive, fairly inexpensive, moderate, expensive or very expensive, compared with global travel prices. This takes into account the most likely way of travelling as an independent birder. While it is possible to travel fairly cheaply in Africa by using public transport, camping or sleeping in basic accommodation and eating local food, many of the best birding sites require a private 4x4 to reach them and public transport makes it slow to get around. Most birders utilise tourist-standard facilities and services, which are generally expensive across Africa, especially considering their quality. Add to this the high entry fees to some conservation areas, especially in East Africa, and most birding trips to Africa become quite an expensive exercise, especially when compared with Asia and South America.

Information on the expense of travel is followed by the name of the currency/ies of legal tender and its exchange rate/s if fixed to any major currency. Availability of electronic banking facilities (ATMs and credit cards) is briefly discussed and the need to bring cash mentioned. Travellers on fully inclusive, pre-paid trips will obviously need very little local currency. In general, cash is still the main means of payment in Africa, except in areas that receive a lot of visitors. Regarding foreign exchange, note that most banks and money changers throughout Africa will only accept USD notes of recent mint (post 2006) and in excellent condition. Smaller denomination bills will also often attract lower rates of exchange. Exchange rates of free-trading currencies are not given; please consult *XE Currency*. See p 539 for abbreviations used.

GEOGRAPHY: a summary is given of the main geographical features of the territory, including its location and neighbouring territories, topography, major mountain ranges and significant freshwater bodies.

SIZE: the size of the territory is given in square kilometres to three significant figures, usually together with a comparison of its size to that of the United Kingdom (UK) and/or South Africa (SA), the latter the ninth largest country in the region. Where appropriate, a number in parentheses gives the rank by size of the top 10 largest territories in the region. If a territory is fragmented, sizes of separate areas may be given.

CLIMATE: a generalised statement of the climate, detailing seasonality and geographic variation in rainfall and temperature. This is followed by more detailed rainfall and temperature data for one or more places in each territory. Figures given include annual average rainfall in millimetres (annual), the range of average monthly rainfall of the driest and wettest months in millimetres (monthly), and the three months with highest (wettest) and lowest (driest) rainfall. Temperature information in degrees Celsius includes the annual average daily minimum and maximum temperature (annual), the range of average daily maximum temperatures for the coolest and hottest months (monthly), and the three months with the highest (hottest) and lowest (coldest) daily average temperatures.

LITERATURE

This section lists recommended books, ebooks, CDs, DVDs and Apps for travelling birders. In cases where appropriate literature is in regional rather than country-specific guides, only the most recommended source is listed and the reader is directed to Morocco for North African and European literature, Azores for Macaronesian literature, Madagascar for Indian Ocean Islands sources and South Africa for Southern African

references. Refer to the References section (p 521) full details of each source. Titles of books, websites and other publications are given in italics. The *Natural History Book Store* can be consulted for new books and other sources, including books on plants and unfeathered and hairless animals. See also the country pages of the *African Bird Club* or *Important Bird Areas in Africa* 2001 by Evans & Fishpool, for more detailed reference lists. Sources are divided into

ID: bird identification guides, with the most highly recommended guide listed first.

SOUND: CDs and DVDs with bird sounds, excluding apps. *Xeno Canto* also provides free bird sounds.

APPS: birding applications for smartphones and other mobile devices. Details of given in the references (p 536).

SITE: sources with details on bird watching locations or sites. Almost all territories are covered by *Where to Watch Birds in Africa* 1995 by Wheatley, so it is not listed individually. Various trip reports on the internet are good sources too; see *Cloud Birders*.

TRAVEL: general travel guide books.

OTHER: other useful bird books, including journal publications where little other information is available, the best mammal identification guide and summaries of natural history. Note that the seven volume *The Birds of Africa* series, the six volume *Mammals of Africa*, *The Kingdon Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa* 2015 by Kingdon and the two *Handbooks of the Birds/Mammals of the World* series are applicable to virtually all territories, so also not listed individually.

WEB: websites, blogs and email groups. For the region as a whole, join the *African Birding Discussion Group* and visit the website of the *African Bird Club*. Full web addresses are listed in the references (see p 533). BirdLife partners are listed together on p 535 for territories with partners.

Aldabra Group (9–10°S, Seychelles)

This outlying group of Seychellois islands is famous for the remote and pristine Aldabra Atoll, touted as one of the world's most remarkable natural history sites. It holds thousands of giant tortoises and spectacular seabird colonies. However, reachable only by boat it is a very expensive and specialist destination with only a small number of bird specials. There are three endemics; a drongo and fody endemic to Aldabra Atoll (A) and Abbott's Sunbird on Assumption (Ass), Astove (Ast) and Cosmoledo Islands (C).

BIRDS AND BIRDING

Indian Ocean Islands. **SPECIES** (27, 33/66) —**EN** (3): Aldabra Drongo (A), **Aldabra Brush Warbler**, Abbott's Sunbird (Ass *abbotti*, Ast & C *buchenorum*), Aldabra Fody (A). —**1/2** (6): Madagascar Sacred Ibis (ESS A *abbotti*), White-throated Rail (ESS A *aldabranus*), Madagascar Coucal (ESS A *insularis*), Madagascar Nightjar (ESS *aldabrensis*), Madagascar Kestrel (ESS A *aldabranus*), Souimanga Sunbird (ESS A *aldabrensis*). —**other:** **Aldabra White-throated Rail** (EN A), **Aldabra Turtle Dove** (EN A & C), **Aldabra White-eye** (EN A *aldabrensis*, Ast & C *menaiensis*). Also Tropical Shearwater (ESS A *colstoni*), Striated Heron (ESS *crawfordi*), Madagascar Pond Heron, Great Frigatebird (A & C), Lesser Frigatebird, Red-footed Booby (C), Brown Booby (C), Black-naped Tern, Comoro Blue Pigeon (ESS *minor*), Madagascar Bulbul (ESS A *rostratus*). —**diversity:** 120. Malagasy with many vagrants and seabirds. Expect 20–30 sp in 2–3 days. **HABITATS:** coastal scrub, estuaries. **AREAS** —**EBAs:** Aldabra. —**sites:** Aldabra Atoll. Assumption Is. **TIMING** (**Sep–Nov**): best at the start of the rains when most birds breed. Avoid cyclone season (Dec–Mar). **EXPLORE:** low. Aldabra is small and well known.

TRAVEL

SAFETY: there is virtually no risk of crime, although there have been instances of piracy in the region in the past. There are no medical facilities. **CITIES:** Assumption (landing strip). **EASE** —**entry:** no visa is required for Seychelles, but entry is conditional (see Seychelles). Entry to Aldabra must be requested via the Seychelles Islands Foundation. Getting to the Aldabra Group is challenging; there are occasional scheduled flights to Assumption Is by the Island Development Company and a supply vessel from Mahé belonging to the Island Development Company, but most visitors arrive by private charter flight to Assumption, or by private boat. —**within:** English. Travel between islands is by boat only; Aldabra Atoll is 50 km from Assumption. There is a research centre at La Gigi on Picard Island, but only visitors conducting research can stay; tourists are to sleep aboard vessels. Several cruise ships visit Aldabra. **ATTRACTIONS:** giant tortoises. Sea turtles. Remote wilderness. **MONEY:** very expensive; the cost of getting to Aldabra is prohibitive for most people. Seychellois Rupee. There is little to spend money on. **GEOGRAPHY:** politically part of Seychelles, the Aldabra Group of islands form part of the Outer Islands and consist of Aldabra Atoll (with four main islands), Assumption Island, Cosmoledo Atoll and Astove Is. Aldabra Atoll is the world's second largest coral atoll. Due to their remoteness they are treated separately from the rest of the Seychelles. Aldabra is located 420 km north-west of Madagascar, 1,100 km south-west of Mahé and 640 km east of the African continent. The four main islands are spread over 200 km of ocean. They reach a maximum altitude of 8 m. **SIZE:** 176 km², with Aldabra (155 km²) by far the largest of the four islands. **CLIMATE:** tropical, with a single rainy season (Nov–Apr) and minor variations in monthly temperature. Aldabra rainfall = annual 960 mm, monthly 78–358

mm; wettest Dec–Feb, driest Jun–Aug. Aldabra temperatures = hottest Mar–May, coolest Jul–Sep.

Algeria (19–37°N)

Located close to Europe and possessing a well-developed infrastructure, Algeria could be a popular birding destination if it was not for concerns over safety. Although species diversity is not particularly high, a good selection of North-West African specialties can be seen and the endemic Algerian Nuthatch is potentially a major attraction. Unfortunately the entire range of the nuthatch is considered unsafe to visit at present. With all other North-West African specialties easily seen in neighbouring, tourist-friendly Morocco, Algeria will remain little visited until the safety situation improves.

BIRDS AND BIRDING

North-West Africa. **SPECIES** (7, 47/66) —**EN** (1): Algerian Nuthatch. —1/2 (1): African Crimson-winged Finch. —**other**: Barbary Partridge, Houbara Bustard, Balearic Shearwater, Yelkouan Shearwater, European Turtle Dove (*hoggara*), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*ESS ledouci*), Great Spotted Woodpecker (*numidus*), Levillant's Green Woodpecker, Eurasian Jay (*minor* + *cervicalis*), Western Jackdaw (*ESS cirtensis*), Coal Tit (*ledouci*), Maghreb Lark, Dupont's Lark, Tristram's Warbler, Short-toed Treecreeper (*mauritanica*), Common Blackbird | Eurasian Blackbird (*mauritanicus*), European Robin (*witherbyi*), Atlas Flycatcher, Moussier's Redstart, **Seeböhm's Wheatear**, Black Wheatear (*riggenbachi*), **Maghreb Wheatear**, White-throated Dipper (*minor*), House Sparrow

LITERATURE

See also Seychelles. **OTHER**: (1) *A systematic list of the birds of Aldabra* 2002 by Betts. (2) *Birds of Aldabra* 1999 by Skerrett. **WEB**: *Aldabra Marine Programme*.

(*tingitanus*), Hawfinch (*buvryi*), European Greenfinch (*voousi*). —**diversity**: 360. Palaearctic in the north, more Afrotropical in the south. Expect 150–250 sp in 2–3 weeks. **HABITATS**: montane forest for Algerian Nuthatch and other regional specials. Desert. **AREAS** —**EBAs**: North Algerian Mountains SA. —**sites**: Mt Babor & Taza NP for Algerian Nuthatch and montane sp. Belezma NP for montane sp. Tassili N'Ajjer NP & Ahaggar NP for desert sp. **TIMING** (**Feb–Apr**): the north is best in spring, after the rains (Mar–May), and the south is best when cooler (Nov–Mar), so Feb–Apr is a good compromise. Passage migrants are numerous Sep–Oct and Feb–Apr. Palaearctic migrants are most numerous Nov–Feb. Avoid Jul–Sep if possible. **EXPLORE**: moderate. The north is quite well known whereas the little visited south is arid with lower bird diversity; however, large areas are unexplored.

TRAVEL

SAFETY: although some of the main cities are considered safe in terms of crime and terrorism, there are security issues in large parts of the south and east, including the entire range of Algerian Nuthatch. **CITIES**: Algiers (capital). **EASE** —**entry**: citizens of most nationalities require a pre-arrival visa, which can be difficult and time consuming (up to four weeks) to obtain. Israeli visa stamps in your passport may be a problem. Algiers is very well connected to Europe by flights. There are regular ferries to Spain,

France and Italy. It is not advisable to use any land borders. Until recently it was the fifth most-visited African country by international visitors. —**within**: Arabic (official), French (widely spoken); little English. Roads, internal flights and accommodation are generally of a reasonable standard in the north, less so in the south. A handful of tour operators have recently started to offer bird watching tours to Algeria. **ATTRACTIONS**: Timgad, Hippo Regius & Djemila Roman Ruins. Desert exploration. **MONEY**: fairly inexpensive. Algerian Dinar, which may not be exported. Fairly limited electronic banking; bring some Euro or USD. **GEOGRAPHY**: situated on the north coast of Africa, east of Morocco and west of Tunisia, Algeria has almost 1,000 km of coast line. It is generally mountainous in the north, reaching up to 2,321 m at Djebel Mahmel, with numerous wetlands. South of the Atlas Mts the country is mostly covered by flat desert below 500 m altitude, although in the far south several mountain ranges rise to over 2,000 m, including the highest peak in the country, Mt Tahat in the Hoggar Mts, at 2,908 m. **SIZE** (1): 2.38 million km². 2xSA, 10xUK. The tenth largest country in the world. **CLIMATE**: generally a warm, dry

Angola (6–18°S)

Angola covers an impressive diversity of habitats, from Congo Basin forests to the Namib Desert, and has an equally remarkable bird list including a host of rarely-seen endemics and specials. Over the last 15 years, great strides have been made to improve its infrastructure, to the point where it is now a destination suitable for most birders. Difficulties with obtaining visitor visas are the greatest obstacle to overcome. There is ample opportunity for serious exploration, although the threat of landmines still exists in many areas. If it remains stable and peaceful and opens up to visitors, the country stands to become a major birding destination in Africa.

climate, although much moister and cooler in the north than the south. Winter rainfall (Oct–Apr), which varies from almost 0 mm in the south up to around 800 mm in the north. Winters are significantly colder than summers. Algiers (north, coastal) rainfall = annual 690 mm, monthly 2–117 mm; wettest Nov–Jan, driest Jun–Aug. Algiers temperature = annual min/max 15–22°C, monthly max 15–30°C; hottest Jul–Sep, coldest Dec–Feb. Adrar (central) rainfall = annual 15 mm, monthly 0–4 mm. Adrar temperature = annual min/max 16–33°C, monthly max 21–45°C; hottest Jun–Aug, coolest Dec–Feb.

LITERATURE

See also Morocco. **SITE**: (1) *The Good Bird Guide* 2005 by Marsh, basic. **TRAVEL**: (1) *Algeria* 2008 by Oakes/Bradt, outdated. (2) *Algeria* 2007 by Ham *et al*/Lonely Planet, outdated. (3) chapter in *Africa* 2013 by Richmond *et al*/Lonely Planet, basic. **OTHER**: (1) *Birds of Algeria* 2000 by Isenmann & Moali. (2) *Mammals of Algeria* 1991 by Kowalski & Rzebik-Kowalska. **WEB**: *Algerian Birds Yahoo Group*, in French.

BIRDS AND BIRDING

Central Africa. **SPECIES** (216, 7/66) —**EN** (17): Grey-striped Francolin, Swierstra's Francolin, Red-crested Turaco, Red-backed Mousebird, White-fronted Wattle-eye, Gabela Helmetshrike, Monteiro's Bushshrike, Braun's Bushshrike, Gabela Bushshrike, Pulitzer's Longbill, **Huambo Cisticola**, Hartert's Camaroptera, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Gabela Akalat, **Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird**, Golden-backed Bishop, Angola Sweet Waxbill. —**NE** (9): Pale-olive Greenbul, Bubbling Cisticola, Angola Cave Chat, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, Bocage's Sunbird, Landana

Firefinch, **Ansorge's Firefinch**, Cinderella Waxbill, Grimwood's Longclaw. —**BT (18)**: Gabon Coucal, Anchieta's Barbet, Angola Batis, Yellow-throated Nicator, Yellow-necked Greenbul, Brazza's Martin, Black-and-rufous Swallow, Black-tailed Cisticola, Salvadori's Eremomela, **Forest Hyliota**, Sharp-tailed Starling, Forest Scrub Robin, White-headed Robin-Chat, **Bocage's Akalat** (ESS *bocagei*), Oustalet's Sunbird (ESS *oustaleti*), Dusky Twinspot (ESS *cinereovinacea*), Grey Waxbill, Black-faced Canary. —**1/2 (12)**: Hartlaub's Francolin, Rüppell's Korhaan, Violet Wood Hoopoe, Monteiro's Hornbill, Rüppell's Parrot, White-tailed Shrike, Carp's Tit, Gray's Lark, Benguela Long-billed Lark, Rockrunner, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Herero Chat. —**B2 (17)**: Finsch's Francolin, Bradfield's Swift, Damara Hornbill, **Western Black-backed Barbet**, **West African Pitta**, Margaret's Batis (ESS *margaritae*), Angola Lark, Black-collared Bulbul, Red-throated Cliff Swallow, Black-necked Eremomela, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Bannerman's Sunbird, Black-chinned Weaver, Bocage's Weaver, Red-headed Bluebill, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Fülleborn's Longclaw. —**other**: **Cunene River Francolin** (1/2), **Angola Mountain Nightjar** (EN), **Loanda Swift** (EN), **Angola Naked-faced Barbet** (EN), **Angola White-headed Barbet** (EN), **Perrin's Bushshrike** (BT), **Angola White-throated Greenbul** (EN), **Lepe Cisticola** (EN), **Benguela Long-tailed Starling** (EN), **Cunene Long-tailed Starling** (NE), **Benguela Seedeater** (NE). **Bocage's Akalat** (BT). Also White-throated Francolin (*dewittei*), Red-necked Spurfowl (*afer*), Ludwig's Bustard, Royal Tern, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Fernando Po Swift (status uncertain), Olive Bee-eater (*alternans*), Black Scimitarbill (*anchietae*), Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (ESS *elegans*), Pale-billed Hornbill, **Eastern Piping Hornbill**, Western Green Tinkerbird (ESS *angolensis*), Pallid Honeyguide, Elliot's Woodpecker (ESS *gabela*), Rosy-faced Lovebird, African Broadbill, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye (ESS *ansorgei*), Pink-footed Puffback, Swamp Boubou, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Purple-

throated Cuckooshrike, Dusky Tit (*gabela*), Angola Lark, Cabanis's Greenbul, White-headed Saw-wing (ESS *suffusa*, controversial), Yellow Longbill, Long-billed Crombec (*ansorgei*), Red-capped Crombec, Laura's Woodland Warbler (ESS *laurae*), Evergreen Forest Warbler (*boultoni*), Tinkling Cisticola, Wailing Cisticola (ESS *namba*), Chirping Cisticola, Banded Prinia (ESS *heinrichi*), Masked Apalis, Grey Apalis (ESS *grandis*), Miombo Wren-Warbler | Pale Wren-Warbler (ESS *huilae*), Scaly-breasted Illadopsis (ESS *trensei*), Brown Illadopsis (ESS *dilutior*), Hartlaub's Babbler, White-winged Babbling Starling (ESS *gutturialis*), Forest Scrub Robin (ESS *reichenowi*), Miombo Scrub Robin, Brown-chested Alethe (ESS *hallae*), Miombo Rock Thrush, Mountain Wheatear (ESS *albipileata* + *nigricauda*), Arnott's Chat (ESS *harterti*), Carmelite Sunbird (*fuliginosa*), Bronzy Sunbird (ESS *gadawi*), Red-headed Malimbe (ESS *praedi*), Loango Weaver, White-winged Widowbird (*asymmetrurus*), Woodhouse's Antpecker (ESS *ansorgei*), Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Wood Pipit, Yellow-crowned Canary (ESS *huillensis*), Cape Bunting (ESS *nebularum*). —**diversity**: 940 (5th). Strongly Afrotropical. Expect 500–550 sp in 2–3 weeks. **HABITATS**: escarpment forest, Afromontane forest and gallery forest for endemics. Miombo woodland, desert. **AREAS** —**EBAs**: Western Angola. Gabon-Cabinda coast SA. Namibian escarpment SA. West Zaïre and North Angola forests SA. —**sites**: Mt Moco & Tundavala for montane and miombo sp. Kumbira Forest, Kissama NP (central) and Quibaxe (northern) for escarpment endemics. Kalandula Falls for White-headed Robin-Chat and miombo sp. Namibe for desert sp. **TIMING (Aug–Oct)**: best at the start of the rains (Aug–Oct) when most birds breed. Some places, including Kumbira, may be inaccessible during the rains (Nov–Mar). Feb–May is good for breeding plumaged Golden-backed Bishop and various *Vidua* sp. Jun–Jul is unproductive in the highlands. **EXPLORE**: high. Large areas remain unexplored, especially in the eastern half of the country, but beware of land mines.

TRAVEL

SAFETY: on the whole there is little threat from crime or banditry, except in Cabinda and parts of the north-east. However, some areas still have unmarked landmine fields. Medical facilities are basic. **CITIES**: Luanda (capital), Lubango. **EASE** —**entry**: almost all nationalities require a visa. Requirements are strict and include a letter of invitation from Angola. Visas can take up to six weeks to obtain. Luanda is fairly well serviced by international and regional flights and it is possible to fly from Windhoek in Namibia to Lubango. Land border entry from Namibia is fairly straightforward, but from Zambia and DR Congo it is more challenging to cross and should only be attempted by experienced and well-equipped travellers. —**within**: Portuguese; little English. Road conditions have improved vastly in the past ten years and are now reasonable, but there are many police roadblocks and lots of pot holes. There is a reasonable network of flights between Luanda and other cities, although there are often delays. Reasonable quality hotels are generally limited to the main towns and cities. Car hire is difficult and expensive to organise. A few bird tour operators offer camping-only tours, but Birding Africa offers fully accommodated bird tours. **ATTRACTIONS**: spectacles such as Kalandula Falls and Leba Pass. **MONEY**: very expensive, especially car hire. Kwanza. Fairly limited electronic banking, which often does not work; bring USD or Euro. **GEOGRAPHY**: located within the tropics on the west coast of Central Africa, north of Namibia, south and west of DR Congo and west of Zambia; the enclave of Cabinda is surrounded by the DR Congo and Congo. There is a narrow coastal plain at 0–300 m altitude, an escarpment rising, steeply in parts and more gradually in others, to a mostly flat inland plateau covering most of the country and generally lying above 1,000 m. A series of mountain ranges run east of the escarpment in the south of the country and include the highest peak, Mt Moco, at 2,620 m. Major rivers include the Congo (forming the northern border), Kwanza (flowing

into the ocean just south of Luanda) and Cunene (forming the southern border with Namibia). Most of the Okavango drainage lies in south-eastern Angola and large parts of the upper reaches of the Zambezi lie in far eastern Angola. **SIZE (7)**: 1.27 million km², including Cabinda at 7,270 km². 5xUK, =SA. **CLIMATE**: generally warm and tropical, although cool in the highlands and far south in winter. Rain falls during the summer months (Oct–Apr) and winters are very dry. Rainfall varies from around 60 mm in the south-west to over 1,600 mm in the north-east and montane areas; generally rainfall increases away from the coast, towards the equator and with altitude. Annual variation in temperature is minor in the north, but much more pronounced in the south and mountains. Luanda (central coast) rainfall = annual 370 mm, monthly 0–124 mm; wettest Feb–Apr, driest Jun–Aug. Luanda temperature = annual min/max 22–28°C, monthly max 24–31°C; hottest Feb–Apr, coolest Jul–Sep. Huambo (western highlands) rainfall = annual 1,400 mm, monthly 1–239 mm; wettest Nov–Dec and Mar, driest Jun–Aug. Huambo temperature = annual min/max 12–26°C, monthly max 25–29°C; hottest Aug–Oct, coolest May–Jul.

LITERATURE

See also South Africa. **ID**: *Birds of Africa South of the Sahara* 2010 by Sinclair & Ryan. **SOUND**: (1) *Vocalisations of Angolan Birds* 2007 by Mills, most specials. (2) *African Bird Sounds* 2001 by Chappuis, most sp excluding specials. (3) *Southern African Bird Sounds* 1995 by Gibbon, most sp excluding specials. **SITE**: *Southern African Birdfinder* 2006 by Cohen *et al*, basic. **TRAVEL**: *Angola* 2013 by Stead *et al*/Bradt. **OTHER**: (1) *The Special Bird of Angola* 2017 by Mills. (2) *The Birds of Angola* 2000 by Dean. (3) *Ornitologia de Angola* 1983 by Rosa Pinto, Portuguese. (4) *The Checklist of the Birds of Angola* 2013 by Mills & Melo. **WEB**: *Angola Birders Email Group*. *Birds Angola*. *Mount Moco*.

Ascension Island (8°S, United Kingdom)

This remote volcanic island is rarely visited by birders. All indigenous landbirds are extinct, leaving the breeding-endemic Ascension Frigatebird as the only major avian attraction. While there are good populations of breeding seabirds, the expense and difficulty of getting there means few people have bothered.

BIRDS AND BIRDING

Oceanic Islands. **SPECIES** (5, 51/66) —**EN** (1): Ascension Frigatebird (br). —**other**: Band-rumped Storm Petrel | Madeiran Storm Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, White-tailed Tropicbird, Masked Booby, Red-footed Booby, Brown Booby, Black Noddy, White Tern, Sooty Tern. —**diversity**: 60. Composed entirely of seabirds, vagrants and introduced sp. Expect 10–20 sp in 1–2 days. **HABITATS**: sea cliffs for breeding seabirds. **AREAS** —**sites**: Boatswainbird Is for Ascension Frigatebird and other breeding seabirds. Mars Bay area for breeding Sooty Tern. Green Mountain for breeding White Tern. **TIMING** (**Oct–Dec**): best at the peak breeding season of Ascension Frigatebird is Oct–Dec. Any time of the year is fine. **EXPLORE**: low. The island is small and well known.

TRAVEL

CITIES: Georgetown (capital). **EASE** —**entry**: an entry permit must be requested in advance in writing from the Administrator's Office. Currently the only regular means of arrival are on a British military aircraft from the United Kingdom, twice a week, which accepts civilian bookings, or on the *Royal Mail Ship* from Cape Town via St Helena. —**within**: English. The island is small enough to walk around, although car hire is available. There is accommodation in Georgetown. It is possible to charter a boat to sail around Boatswainbird Island, but landing is by permit only. Some cruise ships stop at Ascension.

ATTRACTIONS: hiking. Sea turtles. **MONEY**: expensive. St Helena Pound and GBP, which trade at 1:1; USD also accepted. Limited electronic banking; bring GBP. **GEOGRAPHY**: forms part of the British Overseas Territory of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. It is located 1,550 km west of Liberia in West Africa, 2,250 km east of the coast of South America and 1,250 km north-west of St Helena. The island is a fairly recent volcano, which rises to 859 m at Green Mountain. **SAFETY**: although there is very little risk of crime, medical facilities are basic. Air evacuation insurance is a prerequisite for being granted permission to visit. **SIZE**: 96 km², with the main island 88 km². **CLIMATE**: generally warm and dry with rain mostly Mar–Jul and relatively small fluctuations in temperature. Rainfall is much higher in the highlands (up to 680 mm) than at the coast. Georgetown (coastal) rainfall = annual 140 mm, monthly 4–33 mm; wettest Mar–May, driest Nov–Jan. Georgetown temperature = annual min/max 23–30°C, monthly max 28–31°C; hottest Feb–Apr, coolest Aug–Oct.

LITERATURE

ID: *A Guide to the Birds of St Helena and Ascension Island* 2004 by McCulloch. **SITE**: section in ID guide. **TRAVEL**: (1) *St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha* 2015 by Britt-Gallagher & Hayne/Bradt. (2) *Ascension Island* 2004 by McFall. **OTHER**: (1) *The Birds of St Helena* 1998 by Rowlands. (2) *St Helena and Ascension Island* 2000 by Ashmole & Ashmole. (3) *Britain's Treasure Islands* 2016 by McPherson. **WEB**: *Ascension Island Government*.

Azores (37–40°N, Portugal)

Well connected by flights and possessing a good tourism infrastructure, the Azores make for an interesting, short birding trip. Only two islands are essential to visit: São Miguel in the east for Azores Bullfinch, the only endemic landbird, and seas surrounding Graciosa in the north for Monteiro's Storm Petrel, the one endemic seabird. Overall the avifauna consists largely of vagrants, including numerous species from the Americas, and hence is popular with birders wishing to enlarge their Western Palearctic lists, but there are also several endemic subspecies to watch out for.

BIRDS AND BIRDING

Macaronesia. **SPECIES** (10, 44/66) —**EN** (2): Monteiro's Storm Petrel (br), Azores Bullfinch. —**other**: Common Quail (ESS *conturbans*), Cory's Shearwater, Barolo Shearwater, Common Buzzard (*insularum*), Yellow-legged Gull (*atlantis*), Sooty Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Wood Pigeon (ESS *azorica*), Goldcrest (ESS *azoricus* + *sanctaemariae* + *inermis*), Common Starling (ESS *granti*), Common Blackbird | Eurasian Blackbird (ESS *azorensis*), Eurasian Blackcap (*gularis*), Grey Wagtail (ESS *patriciae*), Common Chaffinch (ESS *moreletti*), Atlantic Canary. —**diversity**: 300. Palearctic, with many vagrants. Expect 40–60 sp in 2–3 days. **HABITATS**: montane laurel forest on São Miguel for Azores Bullfinch. Offshore islets near Graciosa for Monteiro's Storm Petrel and other seabirds. **AREAS** —**EBAs**: Azores SA. —**sites**: Pico de Vera on São Miguel for Azores Bullfinch. Graciosa for Monteiro's Storm Petrel. Between Terceira and Faial for seabirds. **TIMING** (**May–Jun, Oct**): best in spring, after the rains and once the weather warms and most birds breed (Apr–Jul). Sep–Nov is best time for Nearctic vagrants. Avoid winter (Dec–Mar). **EXPLORE**: very low. The Azores are well known and unlikely to harbour any unknown resident birds.

TRAVEL

SAFETY: considered very low risk for crime. **CITIES**: Ponta Delgada on São Miguel (main airport), Angra do Heroísmo on Terceira and Horta on Faial are the main administrative centres. **EASE** —**entry**: visa requirements are as for Portugal; most westerners do not require a visa. Ponta Delgada Airport on São Miguel is quite well connected by flight to Europe and North America. —**within**: Portuguese; some English. There is a good road infrastructure and a good network of buses operates on most islands. Self-drive is popular and car hire is possible on most islands. All the main islands have airfields and daily internal flights to them; most towns can also be reached by boat or ferry. There is a good range of accommodation available. A few companies offer birding tours, usually combined with Madeira and the Canary Islands. **ATTRACTIONS**: Setes Cidades caldera. Architecture at Angra do Heroísmo. Hiking, including Mt Pico. Whale watching. **MONEY**: moderate. Euro. Fairly widespread electronic banking; bring some Euro. **GEOGRAPHY**: these isolated Portuguese islands lie some 1,500 km west of Portugal and Africa and 3,900 km east of North America. There are nine main islands spread over a distance of 600 km. Situated on the junction of three large tectonic plates, the Azores are volcanic in origin and the landscapes are quite mountainous, with the highest peak, Mt Pico, at 2,351 m. **SIZE**: 2,330 km², with nine islands >10 km². 0.01xUK. **CLIMATE**: the Azores have a moist, temperate climate. Rain can be expected throughout the year, but falls mostly Sep–Apr. Precipitation increasing from east to west (700–1,600 mm). Winters (Nov–Apr) are much cooler than summers. Ponta Delgada (São Miguel) rainfall = annual 1,030 mm, monthly 30–133 mm; wettest Nov–Jan, driest Jun–Aug. Ponta Delgada temperature = annual min/max 14–20°C, monthly max of 17–26°C; Jul–Sep warmest, Jan–Mar coolest.

Family Accounts



Listing by families is appealing because families are highest taxonomic level for which it is possible to see all members. In simple terms, the goal of seeing all bird families is achievable, which is not the case when it comes to species. The manageable number of bird families, about 240 worldwide, is also a convenient way to think about bird diversity, whereas species number more than 10,000. The African region holds well over half of all families (142), and is the richest region globally as measured by the number of families and orders (Lotz *et al* 2013). What better way is there to celebrate the riches of African birding than with photographs from each family?

The Family Accounts are listed in taxonomic order following the IOC List. Exceptions to this sequence are made in some cases where the aesthetics of the layout dictate otherwise. Each family account begins with the scientific and English family names. The names of endemic and near-endemic (>90% of species endemic) families are preceded by an asterisk. Names of families that are not reliably seen in the region, i.e. that are represented only by vagrants, are given in grey font and these families are not always depicted by photographs. After this, the number of species recorded in the region is given in square parentheses, first according to the IOC List and then according to the list presented in this book, out of the total number of species worldwide according to the IOC List. For example (p 284) lists Numididae as "[6/8 of 6]", which means that there are six species of guineafowl in the region according to the IOC List, eight according to the list in this guide, and six species worldwide on the IOC List. This is followed by a summary of endemism for the region, for families with endemics.

A brief description of the family is given in a text box, focussing on the diversity and distribution of species, and their habitats. The text refers to species depicted in the photographs (see p 17 for Photographic Credits), for which the English names are given in bold font, and the relevant number or location of the photograph is reported in parentheses.

WHAT ARE BIRD FAMILIES?

Even more so than with species, defining bird families is inherently subjective. The only prerequisite is that families are clusters of most closely related species. Despite the inherent subjectivity, in the vast majority of cases there is agreement on family limits. Practically, for birders, this means that different world lists agree to a large degree on the delimitation of bird families. Everyone, for example, agrees that turacos, go-away-birds and plantain-eaters form a single family, and that Shoebill belongs in its own family.

However, in a relatively small number of cases there is unlikely ever to be agreement. For example, broadbills, asities and their allies are here treated as a single family, but they have also been divided into as many as five families. This assessment follows the treatment of the IOC List, but makes note of where families may be split so that family listers are aware of this.

Besides there being different opinions as to where family limits lie, recent advances in molecular techniques have resulted in the broad scale overhaul of the arrangement of families. Many new families have been recognised and some species have been moved from one family to another. Although analyses of diversity based purely on genes and degree of genetic difference between taxa have very limited use for setting species limits, such studies have been very powerful

in showing how birds are related to one another, and so have had a strong bearing on how birds are arranged into families. The reason for this is that genes are the best characters to demonstrate evolutionary relationships; changes in genetic sequences are the simplest and most direct evidence of evolution, and thus underpin how we understand evolutionary history.

Through these studies we have learnt many fascinating facts about how birds have evolved, both because birds that look similar may do so because they have evolved similar lifestyles rather than because they are close relatives, and because birds that look vastly different may be close relatives despite appearances. So we have learned, for example, that Long-billed Tetraka, in the past called Long-billed Greenbul, is not as previously thought closely related to greenbuls (Pycnonotidae), but instead to various other small insectivorous birds on Madagascar. As a result, a new family has been named for the Malagasy warblers (Bernieridae). In the case of Sao Tome Shorttail, previously thought to be some sort of warbler, we now know it to have evolved from wagtails (Motacillidae). The vangas of Madagascar are perhaps the most extreme example of a group of closely related birds looking very different, and include birds previously thought to be flycatchers (Ward's Vanga), babblers (Crossley's Vanga) and nuthatches (Nuthatch Vanga).

In a few cases unusual taxa have not been sufficiently-well sampled to confidently place them in the tree of life, which means that their placement in families is, at best, a guess. This affects three species in the region, namely Tit-Hylia, Green Hylia and Grauer's Warbler, which here have not been assigned to any particular family, but are instead treated together as an unplaced cluster, awaiting further study (see p 241).

ENDEMIC FAMILIES

The African region is home to 30 endemic bird families plus one near-endemic family (Ploceidae | Weavers). There are also a few more may be recognised in the future, or that are recognised by other authorities. Five of these 30 families are endemic to the Indian Ocean Islands region. Endemic families are listed in Table 3 (p 129); note that families not recognised by the IOC List are reported in square parentheses. See p 539 for abbreviations used.

LISTING BY FAMILY

Of the 238 families listed by the IOC List, 142 families (60%) have been recorded from the African region. To the family lister, however, it is the 31 endemic and near-endemic families that would be the focus of any visit to the region.

Three families are restricted to Madagascar, namely Mesitornithidae | Mesites, Brachypteraciidae | Ground Rollers, and Bernieridae | Malagasy Warblers, and a further two are found only on Madagascar and the Comoros Islands, namely Leptosomidae | Cuckoo Roller and Vangidae | Vangas. This makes Madagascar a priority destination for family listers, especially with another endemic family, Philepittidae | Asities, also recognised by some authorities. Although ground rollers and mesites can be difficult species to see, even a one week trip to Madagascar should be long enough to find all these endemic families. In Madagascar, there is the added chance of seeing Scopidae | Hamerkop, Sarothruridae | Flufftails (more easily seen here than anywhere else) and Ploceidae | Weavers. The only locality where all five families endemic to the Indian Ocean Islands are seen regularly is Ranomafana NP, so if you're a family lister and want to get all the Malagasy families on a short trip, going there is your best option, although Brown Mesite is very hard to see, so you may need to also visit Ifaty to see Subdesert Mesite.

Table 3. Endemic families of the region, listed by increasing species diversity (column 2) with a summary of ranges.

Scopidae Hamerkop	1	African mainland and Madagascar
Balaenicipitidae Shoebill	1	The eastern half of SSA
Sagittariidae Secretarybird	1	SSA
Pluvianidae Egyptian Plover	1	SSA, mostly north of the equator
Leptosomidae Cuckoo Roller	1	Madagascar, Comoros and Mayotte
Struthionidae Ostriches	2	African mainland
Bucorvidae Ground Hornbills	2	SSA
Picathartidae Rockfowl	2	West and western Central Africa
Chaetopidae Rockjumpers	2	South Africa and Lesotho
Promeropidae Sugarbirds	2	Southern Africa
Buphagidae Oxpeckers	2	SSA
Mesitornithidae Mesites	3	Madagascar
[Smithornithidae African Broadbills]	3	SSA
Nicatoridae Nicators	3	African mainland
Erythrocercidae Fan-tailed Flycatchers	3	SSA
[Grauer's Warbler, Green Hylia, Tit Hylia]	3	SSA
Arcanatoridae Modulatrixes	3	Highlands of tropical SSA
[Philepittidae Asities]	4	Madagascar
Hyliotidae Hyliotas	4	SSA
Brachypteraciidae Ground Rollers	5	Madagascar
Numididae Guineafowl	6	African mainland
Coliidae Mousebirds	6	SSA
Prionopidae Helmetshrikes	8	SSA
Sarothruridae Flufftails	9	SSA and Madagascar
Phoeniculidae Wood Hoopoes	9	SSA
Bernieridae Malagasy Warblers	11	Madagascar
Macrosphenidae Crombecs and allies	18	SSA
Viduidae Indigobirds & Whydahs	20	SSA
Vangidae Vangas	21	Madagascar and Comoros
Musophagidae Turacos	23	SSA
Platysteiridae Batises & Wattle-eyes	33	SSA and nearby islands
Lybiidae African Barbets	42	SSA
Malaconotidae Bushshrikes	50	African mainland
Ploceidae Weavers and allies	104	Africa and Madagascar

Of the remaining 26 families endemic to the region, about half are easy to see. Numididae | Guineafowl, Scopidae | Hamerkop, Musophagidae | Turacos, Coliidae | Mousebirds, Phoeniculidae | Wood Hoopoes, Lybiidae | African Barbets, Platysteiridae | Batises & Wattle-eyes, Prionopidae | Helmetshrikes, Malaconotidae | Bushshrikes, Nicatoridae | Nicators, Macrosphenidae | Crombecs and allies, Buphagidae | Oxpickers, Ploceidae | Weavers, and Viduidae | Indigobirds & Whydahs can all be found in most countries of sub-Saharan Africa, and so should be seen with relative ease while targeting the remaining 13 families that are harder to track down. Here some careful planning will be required.

Besides Madagascar, only South Africa (including Lesotho) holds a family endemic to a single country, namely Chaetopidae | Rockjumpers, making it the only other essential destination for family listers. Promeropidae | Sugarbirds are near-endemic to South Africa too. The Cape Town area offers the most convenient option for seeing these two families, with Cape Rockjumper and Cape Sugarbird both seen in the Rooi-Els area. Sani Pass, best accessed from Durban, provides a good backup location, with Gurney's Sugarbird occurring near the bottom of the pass and Drakensberg Rockjumper towards the top. Other rarer or more range-restricted families that a South African trip could yield include Struthionidae | Ostriches, Nicatoridae | Nicators, Sagittariidae | Secretarybird, Sarothruridae | Flufftails and Bucorvidae | Ground Hornbills.

That leaves seven families to focus on, the most restricted of which is Balaenicipitidae | Shoebill, most easily seen in Uganda, with Zambia the second best option for seeing it. Uganda also offers excellent general birding, and one could also see Erythroceridae | Fan-tailed Flycatchers with Chestnut-capped Flycatcher at Budongo, Hyliotidae | Hyliotas with Yellow-bellied Hyliota in the Murchison Falls area, and Arcanatoridae | Modulatrixes with Grey-chested Illadopsis at Bwindi.

Uganda also provides an extra chance for Sarothruridae | Flufftails (White-spotted Flufftail is the easiest member of the family to see on mainland Africa), Bucorvidae | Ground Hornbills with Northern Ground Hornbill at Murchison and Nicatoridae | Nicators with Western Nicator at Kibale or Budongo, all easier here than in South Africa. If split, Smithornithidae | African Broadbills can also be seen, with African Broadbill at Bwindi, in not seen previously at Bonamanzi in South Africa.

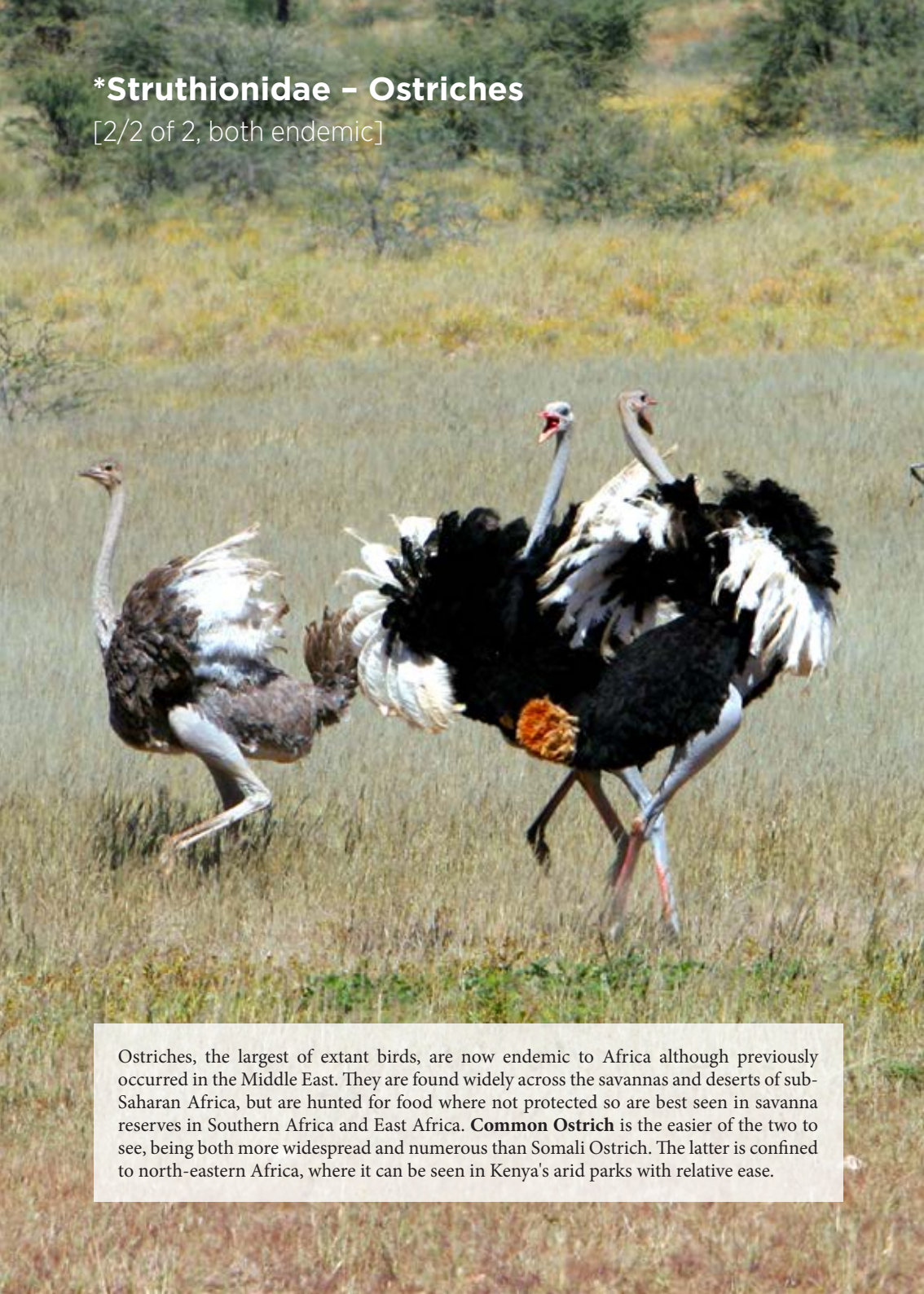
The remaining families are best tackled either in Ghana or Cameroon. Both countries offer Picathartidae | Rockfowl, with Yellow-headed Picathartes and Red-headed Picathartes, respectively, and Pluvianidae | Egyptian Plover, plus extra chances of trickier families such as Erythroceridae | Fan-tailed Flycatchers with Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Arcanatoridae | Modulatrixes (Cameroon only, Grey-chested Illadopsis) and Hyliotidae | Hyliotas (both Violet-backed Hyliota and Yellow-bellied Hyliota).

It is also worth considering the three species from the region not yet assigned to a family, namely Grauer's Warbler, Green Hylia and Tit Hylia, as these may end up belonging to endemic families. All three can be seen in Uganda, although Tit Hylia is rare there, and the latter two can be seen in both Ghana and Cameroon.

In summary, to see all the endemic bird families of the African region requires trips to Madagascar, South Africa, Uganda, and Cameroon or Ghana. Visiting these countries would give you a good chance of seeing at least one species in each family, plus all three species not yet assigned to a family. Perhaps the most likely family to miss by visiting these four countries would be Secretarybird, although including a visit to the Kgalagadi on your South African trip would more or less guarantee this declining species. The two most difficult families to actually see due to their skulking natures are flufftails and modulatrixes, with hyliotas, nicators and fan-tailed flycatchers also challenging at times.

*Struthionidae – Ostriches

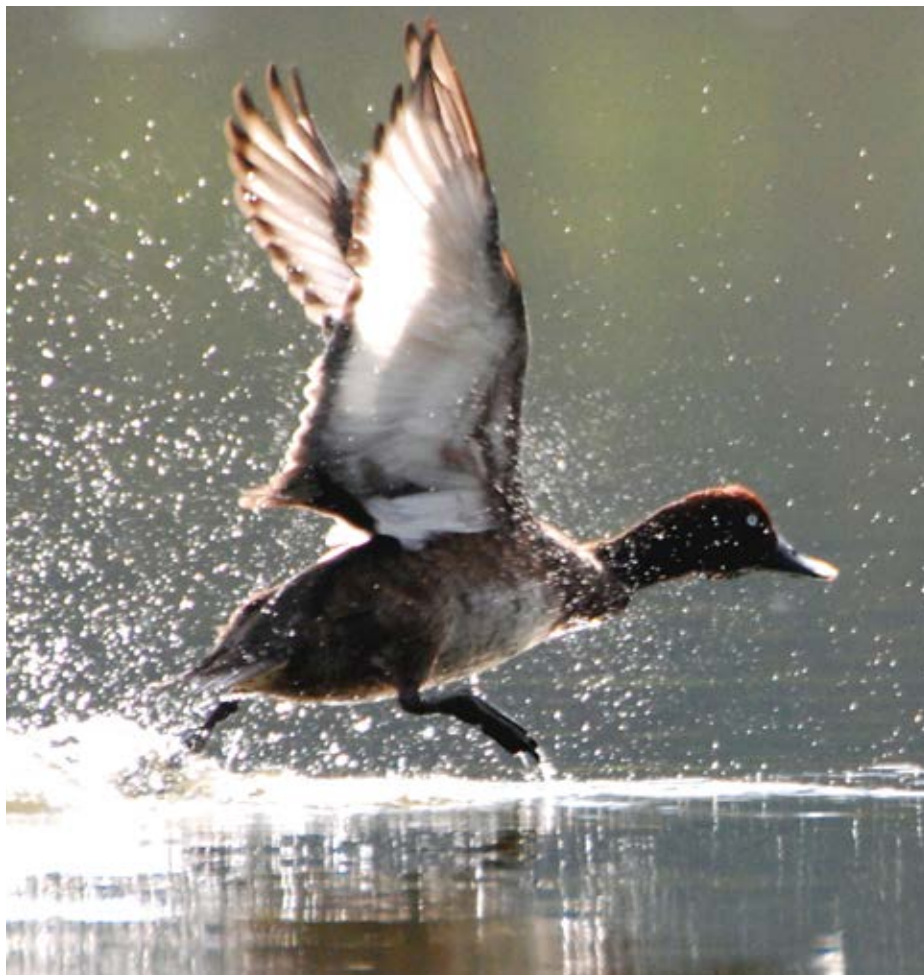
[2/2 of 2, both endemic]



Ostriches, the largest of extant birds, are now endemic to Africa although previously occurred in the Middle East. They are found widely across the savannas and deserts of sub-Saharan Africa, but are hunted for food where not protected so are best seen in savanna reserves in Southern Africa and East Africa. **Common Ostrich** is the easier of the two to see, being both more widespread and numerous than Somali Ostrich. The latter is confined to north-eastern Africa, where it can be seen in Kenya's arid parks with relative ease.

Anatidae – Ducks, Geese, Swans and allies

[75/75 of 165, 17 endemic]



This large family of waterbirds with a near-global distribution is well represented in the region, and includes a significant number of vagrants and Palearctic migrants. They can be seen on almost any wetland, although are often hunted for food so may be rare around human habitation. The largest genus *Anas*, the typical ducks, includes **Yellow-billed Duck** (1). More distinctive species include **African Pygmy Goose** (2), **Blue-winged Goose** (3), endemic to the Ethiopian highlands and allied to a clade of South American geese, and **Knob-billed Duck** (4). The rarest duck in the region, and perhaps the world, is **Madagascar Pochard** (this page) which was thought to be extinct until being rediscovered in a remote area of north-eastern Madagascar in 2006.



*Numididae – Guineafowl

[6/8 of 6, all endemic]



This small family of unusual, fowl-like birds is endemic to the region and, almost without exception, confined to the Afrotropics. Just one subspecies of Helmeted Guineafowl breaks the rule, and is found north of the Sahara in Morocco, although it is now thought to be extinct. Most are shy forest birds that can be hard to see, including the sought-after **Black Guineafowl** (this page) and **Western Crested Guineafowl** (3). Two species occur in savannas and are considerably easier to see; **Helmeted Guineafowl** (2) is a familiar bird across much of the continent, and **Vulturine Guineafowl** (1) is a key target for birders visiting Kenya and Ethiopia.



Phasianidae – Francolins, Quails and allies

[45/50 of 181, 46 endemic and 1 near-endemic]



This large family of terrestrial, fowl-like birds occurs almost globally and is well-represented in the region. Francolins compose the bulk of the family and are particularly diverse in grasslands and savannas, examples of which include **Shelley's Francolin** (1) and **Double-spurred Francolin** (2). **Latham's Forest Francolin** (3) is one of the few forest species; unlike most savanna taxa, such as **Yellow-necked Francolin** (right), it is difficult to see, although smaller savanna francolins, including **Coqui Francolin** (4), can prove challenging to see too. The combination of their intricate plumages and shy nature makes them a popular group. The most unique members are the rare Congo Peafowl and two *Xenoperdix* forest partridges, more closely related to species from Asia than any from Africa.



Falconidae – Falcons & Kestrels

[26/26 of 65, 12 endemic and 1 near-endemic]



This family of fast and manoeuvrable hunters is well represented in the region. Most belong to the genus *Falco*, divided into kestrels, such as **Fox Kestrel** (this page), falcons like **Lanner Falcon** (1) and **Red-necked Falcon** (4), and hobbies, including **African Hobby** (3). The most distinctive member in the region is the diminutive **Pygmy Falcon** (2).



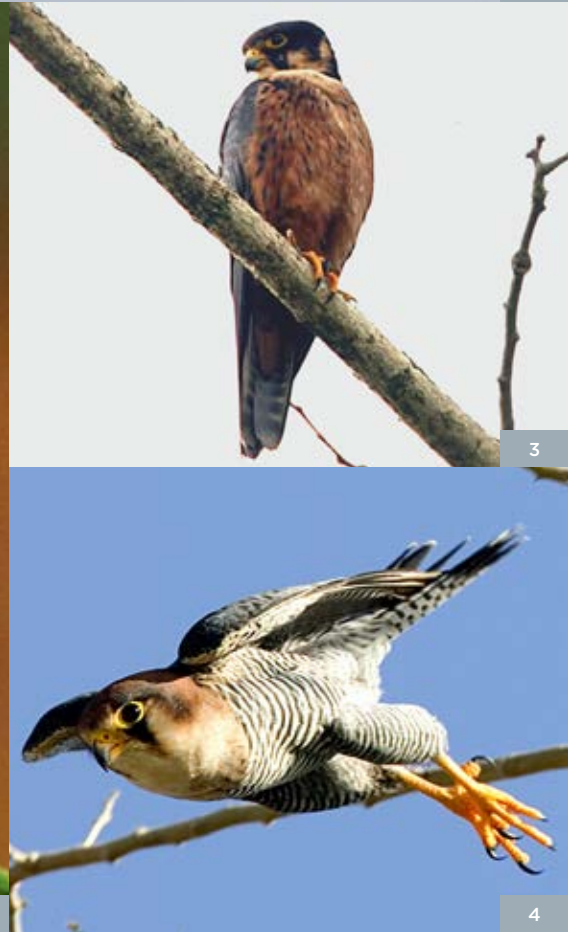
1



3



2



4

*Malaconotidae – Bushshrikes

[49/53 of 49, all endemic but for 1 near-endemic]



1



2



3



4



5

Bushshrikes are the most speciose endemic family of the region, although Black-crowned Tchagra occurs marginally into the Middle East. They are a prominent avian feature of almost all habitats of sub-Saharan Africa. The family holds a variety of striking shrike-like birds, including tchagras like **Marsh Tchagra** (this page), gonoleks such as **Black-headed Gonolek** (3), boubous like **Yellow-breasted Boubou** (2), **Brubru** (5), puffbacks like **Black-backed Puffback** (4) and bushshrikes such as **Monteiro's Bushshrike** (1).

***Picathartidae – Rockfowl**

[2/2 of 2, both endemic]



The Picathartes comprise the most desirable and enigmatic bird family of the African region. They inhabit lowland forests, **Red-headed Picathartes** (this spread) in western Central Africa and **Yellow-headed Picathartes** (next spread) in West Africa, where they plaster cup-shaped nests of mud to the undersides of large boulders scattered through the forest. Although both are rare, some breeding colonies in Cameroon and Ghana are now well known, making them relatively straightforward to see.

Species Accounts



Species are the currency of ornithology and bird watching, and the primary taxonomic level at which bird diversity is described and recorded. Eleven zoogeographic regions can be identified worldwide, based on the distributions of vertebrate species (Procheş & Ramdhani 2012). Four of these are represented in the region, namely the entire Afrotropical and Madagascan regions, all of the Sahero-Arabian sub-region of the Palaearctic and a sliver of the Palaearctic proper (Madeira and Azores), as well as the edge of the Antarctic Region (Prince Edward Islands). The resultant bird list, 2,733 out of a global total of 10,672 species, includes 25.6% of all birds. In this guide, the IOC List is adapted by adding a further 59 splits, bringing the total to 2,792 extant species covered.

The Species Accounts are divided into families, with family names preceded by an asterisk for endemic families and endemism reported as in the Family Accounts (p 127). The sequence and composition of families follows that of the IOC List. General notes on the family may (rarely) follow in orange text.

Within each family, all extant birds recorded from the region are listed, plus a few species that are **recently extinct**. Unconfirmed and introduced species are excluded (see Species Appendices pp 536–539). Vagrants and species seen more easily outside the region are dealt with more superficially than birds endemic to the region. Information for each species is presented in the following order:

- **Endemism.** Indicated by an asterisk before the English name; red (*) for species endemic to the region, including seabirds for which the breeding range falls entirely within the region, black (*) for near-endemics, and green (*) for extralimittally breeding species for which the entire, or almost entire, non-breeding range falls in the region. The latter group can be thought of as endemic migrants.
- **English name.** Given in bold font. Where the taxonomy follows the IOC List, English names are given in **black**

text for regularly occurring species, in **grey text** for those seen more easily outside the region and in **red text** for recently-extinct species. Splits not recognised by the IOC List are named in **green text** (see p 278 for further details).

- **Scientific name.** In *italics*. Details on the next page, p 278.
- **Easiness rating.** A rating, reported in square parentheses [0–10], assigned as objectively as possible, which indicates how easy each species is to see. It takes into account abundance, distribution, ease of accessing sites where it occurs, ease of identification, habits that affect its visibility, and habitat. A rating of 10 is given to common, widespread, open country species that cannot be mistaken for anything else. Vagrants and species confined to areas too dangerous to visit are rated 0, as there is no safe or reliable way to see them. All other species are ranked between these two extremes.
- **Special species categories:** species that meet any special categories are identified, before the closing of the square parentheses. This information corresponds to the lists of key taxa presented in the Country Accounts. Special categories used are **Endemic**

- **(EN)** for species confined to a single country or territory, excluding cases of vagrancy, **Near-Endemic (NE)** for species for which more than 75% of the range or population is confined to a single territory, **Best-Territory (BT)** for species that are more easily seen, due to abundance, knowledge or access, in one territory than any other, that occur in more than one territory, **One-of-Two (1/2)** for species that occur in only two territories, but do not meet the criteria for EN, NE or BT, and **Best-Two (B2)** for species that are more easily seen in two territories than any others that occur in more than two territories.
- **Status, abundance, habitats and range.** Following the square parentheses, a single sentence reports on the general status, abundance, preferred habitats and distribution of each species, or for species with five or fewer subspecies, for each subspecies. Information on vagrants is abbreviated and does not include a full list of territories from which they are recorded. For non-endemic species that have endemic subspecies, the name of the subspecies is preceded by an asterisk, used in the same way as for species. Note that continuous ranges are described with 'to', whereas disjunct/separate ranges with 'and'. Thus South Africa to Angola to Malawi and c Kenya means that the range includes the area within lines joining South Africa, Angola and Malawi, and that there is a disjunct population in c Kenya. Ranges may also be given by sub-regions (see p 19), such as e (eastern) Southern Africa.
- **Where to see.** A second sentence gives recommendations on where to see each species, usually listed by subspecies. The list favours well known sites over little visited ones, and is biased by my own travel experiences although draws on a wide range of sources. Site names are given in the shortest possible form that avoids name confusion with other sites.

- **Notes (N=).** Any relevant notes are made on alternative names, including splits and lumps, and other literature sources of interest (see p 530 for full details).

This list follows the species sequence, English names, scientific names and subspecies of the IOC List, but take note of the following:

- **Additional species (splits) to the IOC List.** These are given their own accounts. The English name is reported in **bold green text** and the scientific name as a trinomial with the parent species specific name in square parentheses. Example from p 286: **Whyte's Francolin** *Scleroptila [shelleyi] whytei*. This means that the limits of the parent species have changed; to signify this, the English name is also given in **bold green font** but the scientific remains as the normal binomial name on the IOC List. Example corresponding to that above: **Shelley's Francolin** *Scleroptila shelleyi*. Where the English name, easiness rating or special categories of the IOC List lump of the taxa changes from those of the parent species, the new details are given under the species notes, with the English name in **bold black text** (see p 287, *Scleroptila gutturalis* as an example); note that it is these English names that are reported in **bold blue text** in the Country Accounts.
- **Other proposed splits, not accepted.** These are listed under the species notes, with the English name in **bold green text** and the scientific name, easiness rating and special categories given. If the English name, easiness rating and special categories of the parent species do not change when split, then only the details of the split are given. If any of these details do change, the full details are provided also for the parent species. Example from p 364: ***African Pied Hornbill** *Lophoceros fasciatus* [7] may be split into ***West African Pied Hornbill** *Lophoceros semifasciatus* [7, BT = Ghana] and ***Congo Pied Hornbill** *Lophoceros fasciatus* [7].

- **IOC List species that I believe should be lumped.** These are given their own accounts with the English name in the normal bold black text, but with the scientific name given as a trinomial without square parentheses around the parent species specific name. Example from p 444: **Salvadori's Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis salvadorii*, which I would lump with **Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*.
- **Other proposed lumps of IOC List species.** These are also treated under their own accounts, but with the scientific name given as a trinomial with the proposed parent species specific name in square parentheses. Example from p 372: **Speckle-throated Woodpecker** *Campethera [bennettii] scriptoricauda*, which could be lumped with **Bennett's Woodpecker** *Campethera bennettii*. Where the English name of the lump differs from that of the parent species, it is reported in **bold blue text** under the species notes of both taxa.
- **Species sequence.** The sequence within families may be changed from that of the IOC List so that parent species of proposed lumps or splits are listed immediately before the lumps and splits.
- **English names that differ from the IOC List.** I use English names that are in common use, as judged according to the names in the majority of the leading field guide books. These are the names that most birders for birds. See Mills *et al* submitted, for full details on the names used. Where two English names are in widespread common use, both names are given, separated by a vertical bar. Example: **Reed Cormorant | Long-tailed Cormorant**. Where English names differ from those on the IOC List or some leading field guide books, the alternative names are reported under the species notes, with non-IOC List names

reported in inverted commas. Example from p 460: "Also Babbling Starling by IOC or 'White-winged Starling'."

- **Multiple specific names.** In cases where there are proposals that birds be lumped with more than one species, both parent specific names may be given, separated by a back slash. Example from p 303: **Dimorphic Egret** *Egretta [garzetta/gularis]* *dimorpha* denotes that it may be lumped with either **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* or **Western Reef Egret** *Egretta gularis*.

WHAT IS A SPECIES?

The age-old debate of what a species is will never be settled. The evolution of birds plays out over long time periods and across vast areas, making the process of speciation difficult to study, even in the simplest of cases.

However, fundamentally species are composed of groups of individual birds that are each other's closest relatives, excepting hybrids. Beyond this, the drawing of species limits becomes subjective.

All competing species concepts probably agree that a species must be discernible from any other species, but the features used to differentiate them and how striking the differences between them need to be, is not agreed on. This means that the competing species concepts, each with their own merits and shortfalls, each produce a different list of bird species. So too, each world bird list recognises a different list of species. These differences in opinion are a healthy part of the species debate, and serve to highlight birds that may otherwise be overlooked. As such, I have expressed my opinion here as to which birds in the region I think should be recognised as species, and which not. The main aim with this is to take the opportunity to highlight certain birds that are worth looking for in greater detail that may otherwise be ignored on a rushed birding trip.

*Struthionidae – Ostriches

[2/2 of 2, both endemic]

***Common Ostrich** *Struthio camelus* [8]: a common sp of savannas and deserts of Southern Africa (*australis*), c Tanzania to s Kenya (*massaicus*) and nw Kenya to Mauritania (*camelus*). Good sites include Kgalagadi & West Coast NP in South Africa and Etosha in Namibia (*australis*), Serengeti in Tanzania and Tsavo West & Maasai Mara in Kenya (*massaicus*) and Kidepo in Uganda and Waza in Cameroon (*camelus*). **N= Ostrich** if lumped. Extinct in the Middle East (*syriacus*).

***Somali Ostrich** *Struthio [camelus] molybdophanes* [6, BT = Kenya, B2 = Ethiopia]: an uncommon resident of arid savannas and deserts of se Kenya to Somaliland. It is most easily seen at Tsavo East & Shaba in Kenya and can also be found at Ali Dege & Soda Plain in Ethiopia. **N= Ostrich** if lumped.

Anatidae – Ducks, Geese, Swans and allies

[75/75 of 165, 17 endemic]

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* [9]: a common sp of wetlands of SSA and Madagascar; also in South America. It is easy to see at many tropical sites.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [0]: a vagrant from the Americas, or an escapee. Recorded from Gambia.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* [6]: a fairly common but localised sp of wetlands of SSA & Madagascar; also in the Americas & Asia. Better sites include Ziway & Cheleleke in Ethiopia and Djoudj in Senegal.

***White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus* [6]: an uncommon resident of well-vegetated lakes and wetlands of SSA (*leuconotus*) and w Madagascar (*insularis*, rare). It is best seen at Wakkerstroom in South Africa and Awasa in Ethiopia, with other options including Limuru Ponds in Kenya, Harare area in Zimbabwe and Nkanga in Zambia (*leuconotus*); in Madagascar it is occasionally seen at Mahajanga Airport Pools (*insularis*).

Brant Goose *Branta bernicla* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*bernicla*) and North America (*hrota*). Most records are from Algeria,

Tunisia & Libya (*bernicla*), but it is also recorded from Azores & Canary Islands (*hrota*). **N=** may be split into **Pale-bellied Brant** *Branta hrota* [0] and **Dark-bellied Brant** *Branta bernicla* [0].

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from Egypt & Algeria.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* [0]: a vagrant from North America (*interior*). Recorded from Azores.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from Egypt, Morocco, Azores & Canary Islands.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Canary Islands.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* [0]: a vagrant from North America (*caerulescens*). Recorded from Azores & Morocco.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* [3]: an uncommon PM to North Africa (*anser* + *rubrirostris*), and a vagrant to Macaronesia. It is most regularly seen in n Morocco.

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*fabalis*). Recorded from North Africa & Macaronesia. **N= Bean Goose** if lumped.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser [fabalis] serrirostris* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*rossicus*). Recorded from North Africa & Macaronesia. **N= Bean Goose** if lumped.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* [0]: a vagrant from Europe. Recorded from Macaronesia.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*albifrons*). Recorded from Egypt, Macaronesia & Socotra Is. **N= White-fronted Goose** if lumped.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser [albifrons] erythropus* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from Egypt. **N= White-fronted Goose** if lumped.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* [1]: a rare PM to Egypt, and a vagrant to Azores & Canary Islands. It is better seen outside the region.

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* [0]: a vagrant from n Eurasia (*bewickii*). Recorded from Algeria & Libya. **N=** includes **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus bewickii* [0]; if split Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* is extralimital.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from North Africa.

***Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* [8]: a common resident, nomad and IAM of wetlands of Southern Africa (*niger*) and the rest of SSA (*gambensis*). It is easy to see.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* [7]: a common resident and IAM of wetlands of SSA & Madagascar, and a vagrant Seychelles; also in the Orient. It is easy to see. **N=** Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis sylvicola* from South America may be lumped with it, then called **Knob-billed Duck** | **Comb Duck** [7].

***Blue-winged Goose** *Cyanochen cyanoptera* [8, EN = Ethiopia]: a common sp of highland lakes and rivers of Ethiopia. It is easy to see at Gersafa Reservoir, Sululta & Bale.

***Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* [10]: a common resident of wetlands and parks of Africa, and a vagrant to the Middle East. It is easy to see.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [3]: a rare resident of wetlands of Morocco to Egypt, an uncommon PM to North Africa, and a vagrant to Madeira & Canary Islands. It is best seen in n Morocco and at Lake Sedjoumi in Tunisia.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* [7]: a common breeding resident of North Africa, the Ethiopian highlands and Fuerteventura Is of Canary Islands, a PM to North Africa, and a vagrant to Seychelles. It can be seen at Bale in Ethiopia and Merzouga, Massa River & Lake Aoua in Morocco.

***South African Shelduck** *Tadorna cana* [7, BT = South Africa, B2 = Namibia]: a common resident of wetlands, especially saline pans, of South Africa, Namibia and s Botswana. It is best seen at Strandfontein, West Coast NP & Wakkerstroom in South Africa and Etosha in Namibia.

***Hartlaub's Duck** *Pteronetta hartlaubii* [5]: an uncommon sp of forested rivers, lakes and ponds of Central & West Africa. It is most reliably seen at The Duck Pond west of Douala in Cameroon (now quite disturbed), Ankasa in Ghana and various rivers in Gabon, and there are recent records from Ngaoundaba in Cameroon.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Azores & Canary Islands.

***African Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus auritus* [6]: an uncommon sp of well-vegetated lakes of SSA and w Madagascar. Better sites include Okavango in Botswana, Ziway & Awasa in Ethiopia and Pemba off Tanzania.

Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* [0]: a vagrant from Asia (*coromandelianus*). Recorded from Socotra Is.

***Cape Teal** *Anas capensis* [7, BT = South Africa]: a sp of wetlands of much of SSA, common in Southern & East Africa and rare elsewhere; a vagrant to Israel. It is best seen at Strandfontein and various other wetlands in sw South Africa, but can also be found at Ndutu in Tanzania and Nakuru in Kenya.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* [5]: an uncommon resident of wetlands of North-West Africa, and a rare PM to North Africa. It is best seen at Lake Aoua in Morocco.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* [2]: an uncommon PM to coastal North Africa, and a vagrant to Macaronesia & Seychelles. It is best seen at Lake Sedjoumi in Tunisia.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* [0]: a vagrant from the Americas. Recorded from Macaronesia.

***African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa* [5]: an uncommon resident of forested streams and lakes of Nigeria to Ethiopia to Angola to Zimbabwe (*leucostigma*) and e + s South Africa (*sparsa*). It is best seen at various highland sites in e South Africa (*sparsa*) and Kenya (*leucostigma*), and at Bale in Ethiopia and The Neck in Uganda (*leucostigma*).

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Azores & Canary Islands.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* [7]: a common resident of wetlands of Morocco to Tunisia, an uncommon PM to Macaronesia & North Africa (*platyrhynchos*), and a vagrant to Seychelles. It is best seen in Morocco.

***Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata* [8]: a common sp of lakes and other wetlands of Ethiopia to e Sudan to n Kenya (*ruppelli*) and c Kenya to South Africa (*undulata*). It is easy to see in South Africa, Kenya & Uganda (*undulata*) and Ethiopia (*ruppelli*).

***Meller's Duck** *Anas melleri* [5, EN = Madagascar]: a rare sp of lakes and forest ponds of e Madagascar. It is most often seen at Mantadia and, less often, at Ranomafana,

but is most common at Bemanevika and can also be found at Anjozorobe.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* [0]: a vagrant from the Americas. Recorded from Morocco, Egypt, Macaronesia & Senegal.

***Cape Shoveler** *Anas smithii* [7, BT = South Africa]: a fairly common sp of wetlands of South Africa to s Angola to Zimbabwe. It most easily seen at Strandfontein & Wakkerstroom in South Africa.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* [7]: an uncommon resident of wetlands of North Africa, a fairly common PM north of the equator and a vagrant to Seychelles. It is best seen along the Ethiopian Rift Valley, or at Lake Aoua & Sidi Bourhaba in Morocco and Djoudj in Senegal.

***Madagascar Teal** *Anas bernieri* [5, EN = Madagascar]: a rare resident of wetlands and mangrove flats of coastal w Madagascar. It is seen regularly only at Betsiboka Delta. **N=** also Bernier's Teal by IOC.

***Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhynchos* [8]: a common sp of wetlands of Madagascar and Southern, Central & East Africa; a vagrant to Israel. It is easy to see.

Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris* [0]: a vagrant from South America (*flavirostris*). Recorded from Tristan da Cunha Is.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* [7]: a fairly common PM to wetlands north of equator, and a vagrant to Seychelles. Better sites include Djoudj in Senegal and various wetlands in Ethiopia.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* [7]: a common PM to wetlands north of equator, and a vagrant to the Indian Ocean Islands. Good sites include Djoudj in Senegal and Bishoftu in Ethiopia.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* [4]: an uncommon PM to wetlands of Macaronesia and north of equator (*crecca*). It can be seen at Djoudj in Senegal and Lake Sedjoumi in Tunisia. **N= Common Teal** if lumped.

Green-winged Teal *Anas [crecca] carolinensis* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Macaronesia. **N= Common Teal** if lumped.

***Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota* [6]: a fairly common resident of wetlands of Madagascar and Southern & East Africa. It is easy to see at various Rift Valley lakes in Ethiopia, Alarobia in Madagascar, Nakuru in Kenya and Wakkerstroom in South Africa.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* [6]: a fairly common resident of wetlands of Morocco to Egypt, and a PM to North Africa. It is most easily seen at Massa River, Merzouga & Sidi Bourhaba in Morocco. **N=** also 'Marbled Teal'.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* [6]: a fairly common resident of wetlands of Morocco to Egypt, and a PM to North Africa. It is best seen at Sidi Bourhaba in Morocco.

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma* [7]: a fairly common resident of wetlands of Southern Africa and a migrant to wetlands of East Africa (**brunnea*); also in South America (*erythrophthalma*). It is most easily seen at various wetlands in South Africa, Ethiopia & Kenya (**brunnea*).

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* [6]: an uncommon resident of wetlands of North Africa, and a PM to the same region. It is best seen at Sidi Bourhaba & Lake Aoua in Morocco.

***Madagascar Pochard** *Aythya innotata* [4, EN = Madagascar]: a very rare duck of pristine wetlands of ne Madagascar, previously thought to be extinct but rediscovered at Bemanevika. Bemanevika is difficult to reach, but the bird is easy to see once you get there. **N=** see Mills & Rogerson 2013.

Ferruginous Duck | Ferruginous Pochard *Aythya nyroca* [5]: an uncommon resident of wetlands of North Africa, a PM north of the equator and a vagrant to Seychelles. It is best seen at Sidi Bourhaba & Lake Aoua in Morocco.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Macaronesia.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* [4]: an uncommon PM to wetlands north of the equator and a vagrant to Seychelles. It is best seen in Ethiopia.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*marila*) and North America (*nearctica*). Recorded from Azores (*nearctica*) and North Africa & Macaronesia (*marila*).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Morocco & Macaronesia.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* [0]: a vagrant from the Arctic. Recorded from Azores.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* [0]: a vagrant from the far northern hemisphere. Recorded from Azores.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* [0]: a vagrant from the Americas. Recorded from Azores & Madeira.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from Morocco to Tunisia.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from Macaronesia and Morocco to Tunisia.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* [0]: a vagrant from Europe. Recorded from Macaronesia.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* [0]: a vagrant from the Americas. Recorded from Azores & Canary Islands.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from North-West Africa, Azores & Madeira (*clangula*; possibly *americana* on Azores).

Smew *Mergellus albellus* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from Algeria, Egypt & Canary Islands.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Azores & Canary Islands.

Common Merganser | **Goosander** *Mergus merganser* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*merganser*). Recorded from Azores and Morocco to Egypt. **N=** also 'Goosander'.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* [1]: a rare PM and vagrant from Eurasia. Recorded from North Africa & Macaronesia.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* [0]: a vagrant from North America (probably *rubida*). Recorded from Azores.

*Numididae – Guineafowl

[6/8 of 6, all endemic]

***White-breasted Guineafowl** *Agelastes meleagrides* [3, BT = Sierra Leone, B2 = Ghana]: a rare sp of lowland forests of Ghana to Sierra Leone. It is best seen at Tai in Ivory Coast and Tiwai & Gola in Sierra Leone; sometimes also seen at Ankasa in Ghana.

***Black Guineafowl** *Agelastes niger* [4, BT = Gabon, B2 = Cameroon]: a fairly common sp of lowland forests of e Nigeria to sw DR Congo, and n DR Congo. It is best seen at Ipasa in Gabon and Dja & Korup in Cameroon.

***Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* [9]: a common sp of savannas of e Chad to Ethiopia to n Kenya (*meleagris*), Senegal to w Chad to n Angola (*galeatus*), ne Ethiopia to Somalia (*somaliensis*), Kenya to c Tanzania (*reichenowi*), s Angola to e Tanzania (*mitratus*), c DR Congo to w Angola to Zambia (*marungensis*), Namibia to w Botswana (*papillosus*) and South Africa to Zimbabwe (*coronatus*). It is easy to see. **N=** probably extinct in nw Morocco (*sabyi*).

***Plumed Guineafowl** *Guttera plumifera* [4, BT = Gabon, B2 = Cameroon]: an uncommon resident of forests of n DR Congo (*schubotzi*) and Cameroon to sw DR Congo (*plumifera*).

***Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa* [6, BT = South Africa]: an uncommon sp of wetlands of East & Southern Africa. It is most easily seen at Strandfontein & Wakkerstroom in South Africa, Arusha NP in Tanzania and Limuru Ponds in Kenya.

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* [6, BT = Morocco]: an uncommon resident of wetlands of n North Africa, and a PM to the same area; occurs as far east as China. It is easy to see at Sidi Bourhaba in Morocco, and can also be seen at Lake Libna in Tunisia.

It is best seen at Makokou in Gabon, but can also be found at Dja in Cameroon (*plumifera*).

***Kenya Crested Guineafowl** *Guttera pucherani* [5, BT = Kenya, B2 = Tanzania]: a fairly common resident of thickets and forests of Zanzibar, and s Somalia to e Tanzania. It is best seen at Arabuko-Sokoke & Tana River Primate Reserve in Kenya. **N= Crested Guineafowl** [7] if lumped.

***Southern Crested Guineafowl** *Guttera [pucherani] edouardi* [7, BT = South Africa]: a fairly common resident of thickets and forests of se Tanzania to coastal Mozambique to Malawi (*barbata*), and e Zambia to ne South Africa (*edouardi*). Better sites include St Lucia & Mkhuzi in South Africa (*edouardi*). **N= Crested Guineafowl** [7] if lumped.

***Western Crested Guineafowl** *Guttera [pucherani] verreauxi* [5, BT = Uganda]: a fairly common resident of thickets and forests of Guinea-Bissau to Angola to w Kenya (*verreauxi*), and wc Cameroon (*sclateri*). Kibale & Budongo in Uganda are among the better sites for it (*verreauxi*). **N= Crested Guineafowl** [7] if lumped.

***Vulturine Guineafowl** *Acryllium vulturinum* [6, B2 = Ethiopia, Kenya]: a fairly common resident of arid thornveld of ne Tanzania to s

Ethiopia to Somalia. It is most easily seen at Tsavo East & Shaba in Kenya, and between Yavello and the Dawa River in Ethiopia.

Odontophoridae - New World Quail

[2/2 of 34, both endemic]

***Stone Partridge** *Ptilopachus petrosus* [6]: a fairly common resident of woodlands and savannas, especially in rocky areas, of Senegal to Cameroon (*petrosus*), s Chad to c Sudan (*brehmi*), s Sudan to c Kenya (*florentiae*) and nw Ethiopia (*major*). It is best seen at Bénoué in Cameroon, various sites in Gambia and Shai Hills in Ghana (*petrosus*), and Kidepo in Uganda (*florentiae*).

***Nahan's Francolin** *Ptilopachus nahani* [4, BT = Uganda, 1/2 = DR Congo]: an uncommon resident of lowland forests of ne DR Congo to Uganda. It is best seen at Budongo & Mabira in Uganda, and in DR Congo can be seen at Ituri Forest. **N=** also Nahan's Partridge by IOC.

Phasianidae – Francolins, Quails and allies

[45/50 of 181, 46 endemic and 1 near-endemic]

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* [3]: an uncommon resident of rocky hills in semi-desert of Sinai in Egypt (*sinaica*); occurs mainly in the Middle East & Asia. It is best seen at Mt Sinai.

***Barbary Partridge** *Alectoris barbara* [6, BT = Morocco]: a fairly common resident, although rare where persecuted, of arid habitats and rocky hillsides of nw Morocco and Canary Islands (*koenigi*), ne Morocco to n Tunisia (*barbara*), s Morocco to s Tunisia south of the Atlas Mts (*spatzi*), and nw Egypt to ne Libya (*barbata*); birds on Canary Islands may be introduced. It is best seen in Morocco at Zaër & Oukaïmeden (*koenigi*) or Todgha Gorge (*spatzi*), but can also be seen at Bou Hedma NP in Tunisia.

Sand Partridge *Ammoperdix heyi* [4]: an uncommon resident of rocky areas and wadis in the deserts of n Egypt east of the Nile River (*nicolli*), Sinai (*heyi*), and n Sudan to adjacent se Egypt (*cholmleyi*); mostly a bird of the Middle East (*heyi* + *intermedius*). It is

best seen at St Catherine in Egypt (*heyi*), and along the ne Egyptian coast (*nicolli*).

***Latham's Forest Francolin** *Peliperdix lathamii* [4]: an uncommon resident of lowland forests of Sierra Leone to Angola (*lathamii*) and w DR Congo to w Uganda to nw Tanzania (*schubotzi*). It can be seen at Ipasa in Gabon, Korup in Cameroon, and various forests in Ghana (*lathamii*). **N=** also Latham's Francolin by IOC or 'Forest Francolin'.

***Coqui Francolin** *Peliperdix coqui* [6]: a fairly common resident of savannas and grasslands of e South Africa to s Uganda to se Gabon (*coqui*), s Ethiopia to ne Tanzania (*maharao*), and w Kenya to nw Tanzania (*hubbardi*), and rare from n Nigeria to s Mauritania (*spinetorum*). It can be unobtrusive, but better sites include Polokwane & Kruger in South Africa (*coqui*), Soda Plain in Ethiopia (*maharao*), and Nakuru & Maasai Mara in Kenya and Serengeti in Tanzania (*hubbardi*).

***White-throated Francolin** *Peliperdix albogularis* [5, B2 = Cameroon, Ghana]: an uncommon resident of grasslands and grassy woodlands of Senegal to Ivory Coast (*albogularis*), Ivory Coast to n Cameroon (*buckleyi*) and w Zambia to e Angola to se DR Congo (*dewittei*). It is best seen at Bénoué in Cameroon and Mole in Ghana (*buckleyi*), but can also be found at Western Zambezi in Zambia (*dewittei*).

***Schlegel's Francolin** *Peliperdix schlegelii* [3, B2 = Cameroon, CAR]: a rare resident of moist, well-grassed woodlands of c Cameroon to w South Sudan. It was occasionally seen at Ngaoundaba in Cameroon until about 2006, but there are no recent records, so searches in areas surrounding Ngaoundaba, at Manda in Chad and at Bamingui-Bangoran NP in CAR now offer the best chances.

***Ring-necked Francolin** *Scleroptila streptophora* [4, BT = Uganda]: a rare resident of grassy savannas and woodlands of n Uganda to Burundi to nw Tanzania to w Kenya, with an outlying population in c Cameroon. It is locally common at Kidepo in Uganda, and occasionally seen at Murchison in Uganda and Akagera in Rwanda.

***Grey-winged Francolin** *Scleroptila afra* [7, EN = South Africa]: a fairly common resident of scrublands and grasslands of s + e South Africa. Good sites include West Coast NP, De Hoop & Wakkerstroom.

***Southern Red-winged Francolin** *Scleroptila levaillantii* [6, EN = South Africa]: a fairly common resident of moist grasslands of e South Africa. It is most reliably seen at Wakkerstroom & Hela Hela. **N= Red-winged Francolin** [6, BT = South Africa] if lumped.

***Kikuyu Red-winged Francolin** *Scleroptila levaillantii kikuyuensis* [5, BT = Malawi]: an uncommon resident of moist grasslands of n Malawi (*crawshayi*) and Angola to Kenya (*kikuyuensis*). It can be found most reliably at Nyika in Malawi (*crawshayi*), with Maasai Mara in Kenya and Kihikihi in Uganda (*kikuyuensis*) also possible sites. **N=** quite different from Southern Red-winged

Francolin, and genetic evidence suggests that it might not be its sister taxon. **Red-winged Francolin** [6, BT = South Africa] if lumped.

***Finsch's Francolin** *Scleroptila finschi* [4, B2 = Angola, Gabon]: an uncommon resident of grasslands and grassy woodlands of se Gabon to sw Congo to sw DR Congo to w Angola. It can be seen at Lékoni in Gabon and Mt Moco & Tundavala in Angola.

***Shelley's Francolin** *Scleroptila shelleyi* [5]: an uncommon resident of mesic savannas, often in rocky areas, of c Kenya to n Tanzania (*uluensis*), the Chyulu Hills of s Kenya (*macarthurii*), s Uganda to ne South Africa (*shelleyi*), and se Zimbabwe to wc Mozambique (*canidorsalis*). It is perhaps most numerous at Mutinondo in Zambia (*shelleyi*), but can also best seen at Kruger & Polokwane in South Africa and Nkanga in Zambia (*shelleyi*), and Tsavo West & Nairobi NP in Kenya (*uluensis*).

***Whyte's Francolin** *Scleroptila shelleyi whytei* [3, BT = Malawi]: an uncommon resident of mesic savannas, often in rocky areas, of n Malawi to se DR Congo. It is poorly known, but can sometimes be found at Nyika in Malawi and could be looked for in suitable habitat in far ne Zambia. **N=** genetic evidence suggests that it is not most closely related to Shelley's Francolin.

***Moorland Francolin** *Scleroptila psilolaema* [5, EN = Ethiopia]: an uncommon resident of montane grasslands and shrublands of Ethiopia. It is best seen on the Sanetti Plateau at Bale in Ethiopia. **N= Moorland Francolin** [5, BT = Ethiopia, B2 = Kenya] if lumped.

***Elgon Francolin** *Scleroptila psilolaema elgonensis* [3, NE = Kenya, 1/2 = Uganda]: an uncommon resident of montane moorlands and shrublands, especially in rocky areas, of c Kenya, and Mt Elgon in Kenya & Uganda. It is best searched for above 3,000 m at Mt Kenya & Mt Elgon in Kenya, but seems to be rare at Aberdares. **N= Moorland Francolin** [5, BT = Ethiopia, B2 = Kenya] if lumped. Vocalisations and plumage differentiates it from **Moorland Francolin**, and preliminary

genetic evidence suggests that it is not the sister taxon.

***Archer's Francolin** *Scleroptila gutturalis* [4, B2 = Ethiopia, Uganda]: an uncommon resident of arid grasslands of Eritrea to n Ethiopia (*gutturalis*), n Uganda to s Ethiopia (*archeri*) and Somaliland (*lorti*). It is best seen at Nechisar in Ethiopia and Kidepo in Uganda (*archeri*), and Daalo in Somaliland (*lorti*). **N= Orange River Francolin** [5, BT = South Africa] if lumped. Molecular data suggests that it is not sister to Orange River Francolin. May further be split into ***Archer's Francolin** *Scleroptila gutturalis lorti* [4, B2 = Ethiopia, Uganda] and **Rüppell's Francolin** *Scleroptila gutturalis gutturalis* [3, BT = Ethiopia, 1/2 = Eritrea].

***Orange River Francolin** *Scleroptila gutturalis levalliantoides* [5, BT = South Africa]: an uncommon resident of arid grasslands of c South Africa to s Botswana (*levalliantoides*), c Botswana to c Namibia (*pallidior*), and nw Namibia to sw Angola (*jugularis*). It is best seen at Gauteng & Benfontein in South Africa (*levalliantoides*), with other sites including Ruacana (*jugularis*) and Avis Dam in Namibia (*pallidior*). **N= Orange River Francolin** [5, BT = South Africa] if lumped. Includes ***Cunene River Francolin** *Scleroptila gutturalis levalliantoides jugularis* [4, BT = Namibia, 1/2 = Angola], possibly another cryptic sp, as molecular data suggests that it is not sister to *levalliantoides*.

***Crested Francolin** *Dendroperdix sephaena* [8]: a common resident of savannas and bushveld of e South Africa to s Zimbabwe (*sephaena*), s Angola to wc Mozambique (*zambesiae*), Ethiopia to nc Tanzania (*grantii*), Somaliland to ne Kenya (*spilogaster*) and e Kenya to c Mozambique (*rovuma*). It can be seen at Kruger in South Africa (*sephaena*), Murchison in Uganda and various inland parks in Kenya and Tanzania (*grantii*), and Manda Is in Kenya (*rovuma*). **N=** includes ***Kirk's Francolin** *Dendroperdix rovuma* [6, BT = Kenya].

***Scaly Francolin** *Pternistis squamatus* [5]: a fairly common resident of thickets and forest edge of se Nigeria to sw DR Congo (*squamatus*), ne DR Congo to Ethiopia to c Kenya (*schuetti*), s Kenya to nc Tanzania (*maranensis*), ne Tanzania (*usambarae*), sc Tanzania (*uzungwensis*) and Viphya in Malawi (*doni*). Better sites include Ngaoundaba & Mt Cameroon in Cameroon (*squamatus*), Wondo Genet & Bishangari in Ethiopia and Mt Kenya in Kenya (*schuetti*), and various sites in Gabon (*squamatus*).

***Ahanta Francolin** *Pternistis achantensis* [4]: a fairly common resident of forest edge, gallery forests and thickets of w Nigeria to Guinea (*ahantensis*) and Guinea-Bissau to Senegal (*hopkinsoni*). Abuko in Gambia is one of the best sites for it (*hopkinsoni*), but it can also be seen at various places in s Ghana & Sierra Leone (*ahantensis*).

***Grey-striped Francolin** *Pternistis griseostriatus* [4, EN = Angola]: a fairly common resident of forests, gallery forests and dense thickets of the Angolan escarpment. It is best seen at Kissama, but can be found anywhere along the escarpment from Leba to Uíge, including at Kumbira.

***Hildebrandt's Francolin** *Pternistis hildebrandti* [7]: a fairly common resident of thickets and forest edge of w Kenya (*altumi*), c Kenya to se DR Congo to ne Zambia (*hildebrandti*) and se Tanzania to Malawi (*johnstoni*). Better sites include Ngorongoro in Tanzania (*hildebrandti*), Nyika & Lilongwe Nature Sanctuary in Malawi (*johnstoni*), and Nakuru in Kenya (*altumi*).

***Double-spurred Francolin** *Pternistis bicalcaratus* [7]: a fairly common resident of moist savannas and woodlands of c Cameroon to Senegal (*bicalcaratus*), s Nigeria to s Cameroon (*ogilviegranti*), Sierra Leone to Ivory Coast (*thornei*), and n Morocco (*ayasha*). It is easy to see at Ngaoundaba & Bénoué in Cameroon, and at various sites in Ghana, Senegal and Gambia (*bicalcaratus*); in Morocco it is best seen at Zaër (*ayasha*).

***Heuglin's Francolin** *Pternistis icterorhynchus* [5, BT = Uganda]: a fairly common resident of well-grassed savannas and woodlands of se Cameroon to nw Uganda. At present the only accessible areas within its range are Murchison & Budongo in Uganda.

***Clapperton's Francolin** *Pternistis clappertoni* [5, B2 = Ethiopia, Uganda]: an uncommon resident of savannas and wadis in desert of Mali to w Sudan (*clappertoni*), e Sudan (*koenigseggii*), South Sudan (*heuglini*), c Ethiopia to Eritrea (*sharpii*), e Sudan to w Ethiopia (*nigrosquamatus*) and se Sudan to ne Uganda (*gedgii*). It is best seen at Langano & Gibe in Ethiopia (*nigrosquamatus*), Kidepo in Uganda (*gedgii*) and Ennedi in Chad (*clappertoni*), although it is also common at Waza in Cameroon (*clappertoni*).

***Harwood's Francolin** *Pternistis [clappertoni] harwoodi* [6, EN = Ethiopia]: a fairly common resident of river valleys and gorges of c Ethiopia. It is best found at Jemma, the only accessible site known for it. **N=** molecular data suggests that it should be lumped with Clapperton's Francolin.

***Swierstra's Francolin** *Pternistis swierstrai* [4, EN = Angola]: an uncommon resident of montane forests and thickets, confined to the highlands of w Angola. It is difficult to observe but can be seen at Mt Moco & Tundavala.

***Mount Cameroon Francolin** *Pternistis camerunensis* [2, EN = Cameroon]: an uncommon montane forest resident of Mt Cameroon in Cameroon. It is rarely seen on the more accessible eastern side of the mountain, and to stand a reasonable chance of seeing it one needs to undertake a 3–4 day expedition to the north-west side of Mt Cameroon.

***Handsome Francolin** *Pternistis nobilis* [5, B2 = Rwanda, Uganda]: a fairly common resident of montane forests and bamboo thickets of the Albertine Rift. It is best seen at Ruhiza in Uganda and Nyungwe in Rwanda.

***Jackson's Francolin** *Pternistis jacksoni* [6, EN = Kenya]: a fairly common resident of montane thickets of c Kenya; once recorded from Mt Elgon in Uganda. It is best seen above 2,500 m at Aberdares & Mt Kenya.

***Chestnut-naped Francolin** *Pternistis castaneicollis* [7, NE = Ethiopia, 1/2 = Somaliland]: a fairly common resident of montane forest edge, thickets and dense heath of w Somaliland (*ogoensis*), sw Ethiopia (*kaffanus*) and c + e Ethiopia (*castaneicollis*). The best place to see it is at Bale in Ethiopia (*castaneicollis*).

***Black-fronted Francolin** *Pternistis [castaneicollis] atrifrons* [3, EN = Ethiopia]: an uncommon resident of dry montane thickets of far s Ethiopia; also recorded once in n Kenya. It is best seen in remote hills around Mega in s Ethiopia.

***Djibouti Francolin** *Pternistis ochropectus* [5, EN = Djibouti]: a scarce resident of open juniper forests in the highlands of Djibouti. It is best seen at Day Forest, which holds the majority of the population, with the remote Mabla Mts holding the only other population.

***Erckel's Francolin** *Pternistis erckelii* [6, NE = Ethiopia]: a fairly common resident of rocky escarpments of nw Ethiopia to Eritrea to ne Sudan. It is best seen at Debre Libanos, Gemessa Gedel & Jemma in Ethiopia.

***Hartlaub's Francolin** *Pternistis hartlaubi* [7, BT = Namibia, 1/2 = Angola]: a fairly common resident of rocky hillsides is arid savannas of c + n Namibia (*bradfieldi*), nw Namibia (*crypticus*) and sw Angola (*hartlaubi*). The most reliable site is Erongo in Namibia (*bradfieldi*), especially around Erongo Wilderness Lodge, but other good sites include Waterberg in Namibia (*bradfieldi*), Ruacana in Namibia (*crypticus*) and 40 km inland of Benguela in Angola (*hartlaubi*). **N=** also Hartlaub's Spurfowl by IOC.

***Red-billed Francolin** *Pternistis adspersus* [7, BT = Namibia]: a common resident of arid savannas of c Namibia to s Angola

to w Zimbabwe (*adspersus* in the north-west, *mesicus* elsewhere). It is easy to see in Namibia & Botswana, and is quite common around Windhoek in Namibia (*mesicus*). **N=** also Red-billed Spurfowl by IOC.

***Cape Francolin** *Pternistis capensis* [7, NE = South Africa, 1/2 = Namibia]: a common resident of fynbos, shrublands and gardens of sw South Africa to far sw Namibia. It is easily seen in South Africa at Kirstenbosch & West Coast NP. **N=** also Cape Spurfowl by IOC.

***Natal Francolin** *Pternistis natalensis* [7, BT = South Africa, B2 = Zimbabwe]: a common resident of savannas and bushveld of e South Africa to far s Zambia to wc Mozambique (*neavei* in the far north, *natalensis* elsewhere). It is easy to see in South Africa, especially at Kruger (*natalensis*). **N=** also Natal Spurfowl by IOC.

***Yellow-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis leucoscepus* [8]: a common resident of savannas of n Tanzania to Somaliland. It is easy to see in many game parks in n Tanzania, Kenya & Ethiopia.

***Grey-breasted Spurfowl** *Pternistis rufopictus* [6, EN = Tanzania]: a fairly common resident of arid savannas of the Serengeti system of nw Tanzania. It is best seen at Ndutu & Seronera in Serengeti.

***Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer* [8]: a common resident of moist savannas and thickets, with two distinctive groups; the vermiculated group of nw Angola to w Congo to w Kenya to c Zambia (*cranchii*), and w Tanzania to Burundi (*harterti*); and the black-and-white group of coastal Kenya to ne Tanzania (*leucoparaeus*), e Tanzania to n Mozambique (*melanogaster*), w Angola to nw Namibia (*afer*), c Mozambique to se Zimbabwe (*swynnertoni*), and s + e South Africa (*castaneiventer*). It is best seen at Queen Elizabeth in Uganda (*cranchii*) and Mikumi & Tarangire in Tanzania (*melanogaster*), and can be found at various sites in Malawi and Zambia (*melanogaster*) and w Angola (*afer*). **N=** includes ***Cranch's Spurfowl** *Pternistis cranchii* [7, BT = Uganda]

which contains *harterti*. Molecular data suggests that the two sub-groups are not sister taxa. Also 'Red-necked Francolin'.

***Swainson's Francolin** *Pternistis swainsonii* [8, BT = South Africa]: a common resident of grassy savannas of e South Africa to ne Namibia (*swainsonii*), and Zimbabwe to wc Mozambique (*lundazi*). It is best seen at Kruger in South Africa, and can also be found at Waterberg in Namibia (*swainsonii*). **N=** also Swainson's Spurfowl by IOC.

***Madagascar Partridge** *Margaroperdix madagarensis* [4, EN = Madagascar]: a fairly common resident of open habitats throughout Madagascar. It can be hard to find since it does not make any advertisement calls, but is best seen at Anjozorobe & Isalo, and is fairly often seen along the national road going north of Antananarivo.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* [7]: a fairly common resident of grasslands of Cape Verde (**inopinata*) and Azores (**conturbans*), an IAM of SSA, Madagascar & Comoros (**africana*) and ne Africa (**erlangeri*), and a PM to Africa (*coturnix*); also a vagrant to Seychelles. It can be seen at many sites.

***Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei* [6]: a nomad and IAM of grasslands and open savannas of w Madagascar & SSA (**delegorguei*), São Tomé Is (**histrionica*) and Socotra Is (*arabica*); also occurs on the Arabian Peninsula. Its movements, which generally follow the rains, can make it hard to track down, although it is resident on São Tomé Is (*histrionica*) and can be seen at a variety of sites in East Africa (**delegorguei*).

***Blue Quail** *Excalfactoria [chinensis] adansonii* [4]: an uncommon IAM of moist grasslands of tropical SSA. It is most frequently seen at Mwinilunga & Mutinondo in Zambia and Savane River in Mozambique. **N=** may be lumped with extralimital King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*; then called **Blue Quail** [4].

***Udzungwa Forest Partridge** *Xenoperdix udzungwensis* [2, EN = Tanzania]: an uncommon resident of montane forests of the Udzungwa Mts of Tanzania. Its entire range is difficult to access, but it can be seen at West Kilombero forest, accessed from Udekwa.

***Rubeho Forest Partridge** *Xenoperdix udzungwensis obscuratus* [1, EN = Tanzania]: a little-known resident of montane forest of the Rubeho Mts of Tanzania. It is known only

from Mafwemiro Forest, especially Chugu Hill, best accessed from Mbuga Mission.

***Congo Peacock** *Afropavo congensis* [1, EN = DR Congo]: an uncommon resident of dense lowland forests of c + ec DR Congo. It is best seen at Salonga & Lomako-Yokokala, the latter locality with tourism facilities but beyond the budget of most birders. **N=** also Congo Peafowl by IOC.

Gaviidae – Loons

[3/3 of 5]

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* [1]: a rare visitor to North Africa & Macaronesia. It is seen most often off the coast of Morocco.

Black-throated Loon *Gavia arctica* [1]: a rare visitor to North-West Africa & Macaronesia (*arctica*). It is seen mostly off Morocco.

Common Loon *Gavia immer* [0]: a rare PM to the coasts of w Algeria & Morocco, and a vagrant to Macaronesia. It is best seen off the coast of Morocco. **N=** also 'Great Northern Diver'.

Spheniscidae – Penguins

[10/10 of 18, 1 endemic and 1 near-endemic]

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus* [2]: a common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant to Tristan da Cunha Is & South Africa. It is seen more easily on trips to Antarctic from South America.

Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua* [2]: an uncommon breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant to South Africa & Tristan da Cunha Is (*papua*). It is seen more easily on trips to Antarctic from South America.

Adelie Penguin *Pygoscelis adeliae* [0]: a vagrant from Antarctic. Recorded at sea in the south of the region.

Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarcticus* [0]: a vagrant from Antarctica, with the nearest breeding colony on Bouvet Is. Recorded around Marion Is.

Southern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* [2]: a common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is (*filholi*), and a vagrant to the west (*chrysocome*) and east (*filholi*) coasts of South Africa. It is seen more easily on trips to the Falklands leaving from South America. **N= Rockhopper Penguin** [3] if lumped.

***Northern Rockhopper Penguin** *Eudyptes [chrysocome] moseleyi* [3, 1/2 = Gough, Tristan]: a common, near-endemic breeder (>90% of the world population) on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, and a vagrant to continental waters; breeds extraliminally on Amsterdam & St Paul's Is. It is easy to see on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, if you can get there. **N= Rockhopper Penguin** [3] if lumped.

Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus* [2]: an abundant breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant to South Africa & Tristan da Cunha Is. It is seen more easily on trips to the Falklands from South America.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor* [0]: a vagrant from Australasia. The single record from Namibia was probably of a ship-assisted bird.

***African Penguin** *Spheniscus demersus* [8, BT = South Africa, B2 = Namibia]: a fairly common endemic breeder on islands and

coastal areas of South Africa & Namibia, and a vagrant to Angola, Mozambique & Gabon. It is best seen at its two mainland colonies in South Africa, namely Boulders Beach at Simon's Town & Stony Point at Betty's Bay. **N=** also 'Jackass Penguin'.

Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus* [0]: a vagrant from s South America. Recorded from South Africa & Tristan da Cunha Is.

Oceanitidae – Austral Storm Petrels

[5/5 of 9]

Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* [7]: a common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a common visitor to waters south of the equator from the southern oceans (*oceanicus* + *exasperatus*). It is easily seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Grey-backed Storm Petrel *Garrodia nereis* [4]: a common breeder on Gough, Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant off South Africa & St Helena Is. It is best seen around Gough & Marion Is.

White-faced Storm Petrel *Pelagodroma marina* [5]: a generally common breeder on the Canary Islands (rare) and Savage Is off Madeira (**hypoleuca*), Cape Verde (**eadesorum*) and St Helena, Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is (**marina*), and a rare visitor off the Indian Ocean Islands, West

Africa & Azores. It is best seen around the Savage Is off Madeira (**hypoleuca*) or near Cima Is & Laje Branca Islet in Cape Verde (**eadesorum*).

White-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta grallaria* [4]: a common breeder on Tristan & Gough Is (*leucogaster*), and a rare visitor off the Indian Ocean Islands, Cape Verde & Southern African. It is best seen around Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is.

Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta tropica* [4]: a breeder on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is (*melanoleuca*) and Prince Edward & Marion Is (*tropica*), and an uncommon visitor off the Indian Ocean Islands & Southern Africa. It is occasionally seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town, but best seen around Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is (*melanoleuca*).

Diomedidae – Albatrosses

[16/16 of 21, 2 endemic and 1 near-endemic breeders]

Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis* [0]: a vagrant from the n Pacific Ocean. Recorded off South Africa.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* [4]: a common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, an uncommon visitor off Southern Africa, and a vagrant to Mauritius. It is seen occasionally on pelagic trips off Cape Town, although might be impossible to distinguish from Tristan Albatross at sea.

Amsterdam Albatross *Diomedea [exulans] amsterdamensis* [0]: an extralimital breeder on Amsterdam Is, which is slightly closer to Australia than Africa, that rarely visits oceanic waters in the south-east of the region. There have been no sightings, but satellite tracking data shows that it does visit the region.

***Tristan Albatross** *Diomedea [exulans] dabbenena* [3, NE = Gough (br), 1/2 = Tristan (br)]: an uncommon and declining endemic breeder on Gough Is (2500 pairs) and Inaccessible Is of Tristan da Cunha Is (2 pairs), and a rare visitor to Southern African waters. It is best seen around Gough Is; could be overlooked elsewhere due to its similarity to Wandering Albatross.

Southern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* [3]: a rare but regular visitor from New Zealand to oceanic waters in the south of the region, recorded mostly off South Africa. It is seen occasionally on pelagic trips off Cape Town. **N= Royal Albatross** if lumped.

Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea [epomophora] sanfordi* [3]: a rare but regular visitor from New Zealand to oceanic waters in the south of the region, recorded mostly off South Africa. It is seen occasionally on pelagic trips off Cape Town. **N= Royal Albatross** if lumped.

***Sooty Albatross** *Phoebastria fusca* [3, BT = Tristan]: a fairly common near-endemic breeder on Tristan da Cunha, Gough, Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant off s Madagascar & South Africa; extraliminally breeds on Amsterdam & Crozet Is. It is best seen around Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is.

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata* [3]: an uncommon breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant off s Madagascar, South Africa & Mozambique. It is best seen around Prince Edward & Marion Is, although is seen more easily on trips to Antarctica leaving from South America. **N=** also Light-mantled Albatross by IOC.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophrys* [7]: a common visitor to oceanic waters in the south of the region, from its extralimital southern ocean breeding grounds. It is easily seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* [7]: a common visitor to oceanic waters in the south of the region, from its Australasian breeding grounds (mostly *steadi*, some *cauta*). It is easily seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town. **N=** may be split into **White-capped Albatross** *Thalassarche steadi* [7] and **Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta* [3].

Chatham Albatross *Thalassarche [cauta] eremita* [0]: a vagrant from New Zealand. Recorded off South Africa.

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche [cauta] salvini* [0]: a vagrant from New Zealand & Crozet Is. Recorded off South Africa.

Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma* [3]: a common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a rare visitor off Southern African. It is occasionally seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

***Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* [6, BT = South Africa]: a common endemic breeder on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, and a fairly common visitor off w South Africa & Namibia. It is easy to see around Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, and is regularly seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town. **N= Yellow-nosed Albatross** if lumped.

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche [chlororhynchos] carteri* [6, BT = South Africa]: a common breeder on Prince Edward

& Marion Is, and a fairly common visitor off e South Africa and s Madagascar; also breeds on Amsterdam, Crozet, Kerguelen & St Paul Is. It is most often seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town. **N= Yellow-nosed Albatross** if lumped.

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri* [0]: a vagrant from New Zealand. Recorded off South Africa.

Hydrobatidae – Northern Storm Petrels

[7/7 of 17, 2 endemic breeders]

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* [6]: an uncommon breeder on Canary Islands (*melitensis*, Jul–Sep) and a fairly common PM off the west coast of Africa (*pelagicus* + *melitensis*). It can be seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town (*pelagicus* + *melitensis*).

Band-rumped Storm Petrel | Madeiran Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma castro* [4]: an uncommon breeder of Macaronesia and St Helena & Ascension Is. It is best seen at Madeira, Egg Is off St Helena Is and Boatswainbird Is off Ascension Is. **N=** two sympatric populations with distinct breeding seasons suggest that two sp could be involved, with the second taxon named *granti*.

***Monteiro's Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma [castro] monteiroi* [3, EN = Azores (br)]: a rare endemic breeder (c. 1500 birds, May–Oct) and resident of Azores. It breeds on two islets off Graciosa Is and should be looked for in waters surrounding it.

***Cape Verde Storm Petrel** *Oceanodroma [castro] jabejabe* [6, EN = Cape Verde (br)]: a fairly common endemic breeder of Cape Verde. It is best seen around its breeding colonies, such as on Raso Is.

Swinhoe's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis* [0]: a vagrant from e Asia. Recorded off the Indian Ocean Islands, the Horn of Africa & Madeira (where it might also breed).

Leach's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* [3]: a rare austral summer breeder on Dyer Is off South Africa, and an uncommon summer visitor off Southern Africa from the northern hemisphere (*leucorhoa*). It can be seen along the entire west coast of Africa.

Matsudaira's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma matsudairae* [0]: a vagrant from Japan. Recorded off the Indian Ocean Islands & South Africa.

Procellariidae – Petrels & Shearwaters

[55/55 of 96, 11 endemics and 2 near-endemics breeders]

Many of the rarer species of petrel and shearwater are best seen during the breeding season; at this time of the year birds are active in the vicinity of their nests, whereas at other times they may disperse over hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of ocean, making them almost impossible to track down. It is worth taking this into consideration when deciding on the timing of your birding trips to many island regions.

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* [4]: an uncommon breeder on Gough & Marion Is, and an uncommon visitor to the south of the region. It is most easily seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* [4]: a breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and an uncommon visitor off s Madagascar & Southern Africa. It is most easily seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* [0]: a vagrant from the n Atlantic (probably *glacialis*). Recorded off Morocco, Madeira, Azores & Canary Islands.

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialisoides* [2]: a rare visitor off Southern African from the Antarctic. It is occasionally seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica* [0]: a vagrant from Antarctica. Recorded from Marion Is & South Africa.

Cape Petrel | **Pintado Petrel** *Daption capense* [7]: a common pelagic visitor off s Madagascar & Southern Africa from the southern ocean, mostly during the austral winter (*capense*). It is easily seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea* [0]: a vagrant from Antarctica. Recorded off Marion Is.

Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea* [3]: a fairly common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant off South Africa. It is more easily seen outside the region.

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata* [3]: a common breeder on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, and a vagrant off South Africa & Mozambique. It can be seen around Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, although is more easily seen outside the region.

Salvin's Prion *Pachyptila [vittata] salvini* [3]: an abundant breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a vagrant off South Africa & Mozambique (*salvini*). It is best seen around Prince Edward & Marion Is.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila [vittata] desolata* [3]: an oceanic visitor from Antarctica, fairly common off Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is and rare off South Africa & Madagascar. It is sometimes seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri* [0]: a vagrant from the southern oceans. Recorded off Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, s Madagascar, South Africa & Namibia.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur* [1]: a rare breeder on Marion Is, and a vagrant off s Madagascar, South Africa & Namibia. It is seen more easily outside the region.

Kerguelen Petrel *Aphrodroma brevirostris* [3]: a common breeder on Gough, Prince Edward & Marion Is, a rare breeder on Inaccessible Is of Tristan da Cunha Is, and a vagrant off South Africa & Réunion. It is best seen around Gough Is.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* [3]: a breeder on Gough (common) and Tristan (rare), and an uncommon visitor off Southern Africa & Madagascar. It is occasionally seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Grey-faced Petrel *Pterodroma [macroptera] gouldi* [0]: a rare vagrant from New Zealand. Recorded off s Madagascar.

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii* [0]: a breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is and a visitor to the oceans in the south of the region. It is best seen around Prince Edward & Marion Is.

***Atlantic Petrel** *Pterodroma incerta* [3, NE = Gough (br), 1/2 = Tristan (br)]: an endemic breeder on Gough Is (common) and Tristan da Cunha Is (rare), and a vagrant off South Africa. It is best seen around Gough Is.

Murphy's Petrel *Pterodroma ultima* [0]: a vagrant from the Pacific Ocean. Recorded off St Helena Is.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* [3]: a common breeder on Tristan da Cunha, Gough, Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a rare visitor off s Madagascar & Southern Africa. It is occasionally seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

***Zino's Petrel** *Pterodroma madeira* [3, EN = Madeira (br)]: a rare breeder on cliffs in the highlands of Madeira (130–160 birds, Apr–Oct); it leaves Madeira when not breeding. It is rarely seen at sea, so best seen at full moon at its breeding colony at Mt Arieiro.

***Fea's Petrel** *Pterodroma [madeira] feae* [5, EN = Cape Verde (br)]: an uncommon endemic breeder on Cape Verde (Dec–Apr), and visitor off Azores, Guinea-Bissau & Western Sahara. It is best seen when crossing between the different islands of Cape Verde, especially near colonies on Fogo & Santo Antão Is (80 + 200 pairs, respectively) or on boat trips to Raso Is.

***Desertas Petrel** *Pterodroma [madeira/feae] deserta* [3, EN = Madeira (br)]: a rare endemic breeder on Bugio Is, part of the Desertas Is, 30 km south-east of Madeira (150–180 pairs, Jul–Dec), and non-breeding birds disperse widely through the Atlantic. It is best seen in waters surrounding Bugio Is (Jul–Dec), visited on a day-long pelagic trip from Madeira. **N=** also 'Bugio Petrel'.

Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow* [0]: known from a single nest on Azores; breeds on Bermuda. Better seen outside the region.

Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* [0]: a vagrant from Haiti & Dominican Republic. Recorded off Azores.

Herald Petrel *Pterodroma [hasitata] heraldica* [1]: a rare breeder on Round Is off Mauritius (10–15 pairs, Aug–Dec) and a vagrant off Ascension Is from the s Pacific Ocean. It is better seen outside the region.

Kermadec Petrel *Pterodroma neglecta* [0]: a rare breeder on Round Is off Mauritius (10–15 pairs), although the identity of these birds is still controversial, and vagrant off the other Indian Ocean Islands (*neglecta*). It can sometimes be seen around Round Is.

Trindade Petrel *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [3, BT = Mauritius]: a rare year-round breeder on Round Is off Mauritius (120–170 pairs, peak Aug–Oct) and a vagrant off Macaronesia; also breeds on Trindade & Martin Vaz Is off Brazil. It can be seen at Round Is. **N=** may be split into ***Round Island Petrel** *Pterodroma sp* [3, EN = Mauritius] and **Trindade Petrel** *Pterodroma arminjoniana* [0].

***Barau's Petrel** *Pterodroma barau* [4, EN = Réunion (br)]: a fairly common breeder in the highlands of Réunion and occasionally on Rodrigues (Sep–Mar), and a vagrant off South Africa & Mozambique. It can be seen at its breeding colony at Neiges Peak on Réunion, or offshore from the Etienne River mouth.

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis* [1]: a vagrant breeder on Round Is off Mauritius, from the w Pacific Ocean. It cannot be seen reliably in the region.

***Mascarene Petrel** *Pseudobulweria aterrima* [2, EN = Réunion (br)]: a rare austral summer endemic breeder in the highlands of Réunion (100–200 birds). It is best seen at sea off Réunion, especially 25 nautical miles off St Pierre on the south-west of the island; the colonies are hard to reach, but are located on the southern slopes of Neiges Peak. **N=** see Shirihai *et al* 2014.

Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* [3]: a common breeder on Gough, Prince Edward & Marion Is, a rare breeder on Tristan da Cunha Is, and a vagrant off South Africa & Réunion. It is best seen around Gough & Marion Is.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* [7]: a common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is, and a common visitor off s Madagascar & Southern Africa. It is easy to see on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

***Spectacled Petrel** *Procellaria [aequinoctialis] conspicillata* [3, EN = Tristan (br), BT = South Africa]: an endemic breeder on Inaccessible Is of Tristan da Cunha Is, a rare visitor off South Africa, and a vagrant off Réunion. It is rarely seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* [0]: a vagrant from the Pacific Ocean. Recorded off s Madagascar, Socotra Is & South Africa.

Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* [4]: a fairly common breeder in the Mediterranean, including islands off Algeria & Tunisia, and a PM off the west coast of Africa. It is best seen off s Europe, but can be seen from Cap Bon in Tunisia. **N= Cory's Shearwater** [6] if lumped.

***Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris [diomedea] borealis* [6]: a common boreal summer breeder (May–Oct) off Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands & Algeria, and an uncommon visitor off the west coast of Africa. It can be seen around Madeira & Canary Islands, and from Cape Rhir in Morocco. **N= Cory's Shearwater** [6] if lumped.

***Cape Verde Shearwater** *Calonectris [diomedea] edwardsii* [6, EN = Cape Verde (br)]: a common breeding endemic of Cape Verde (Jun–Oct), and a vagrant off Canary Islands. It can be seen when crossing between islands of Cape Verde, especially on boat trips to Raso Is; the largest colonies are on Branco & Raso Is.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica* [5]: a common breeder on Seychelles and Round Is off Mauritius (>10 000 pairs), an

uncommon breeder throughout the Indian Ocean Islands, and a vagrant off South Africa; occurs widely through the Indian & Pacific Oceans. It is best seen at Cousin & Aride Is of Seychelles, and Round Is off Mauritius.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* [7]: a rare breeder on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, and a common oceanic visitor off the west coast of Africa, particularly off Southern Africa. It is easy to see on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris* [0]: a vagrant from Australia. Recorded off Rodrigues.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes* [3]: an uncommon oceanic visitor from Australia off the east coast of Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands. It is best seen on pelagic trips off Durban in South Africa.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* [6]: a common, near-endemic breeder of Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is, a fairly common visitor off Southern Africa, and a passage migrant off West Africa. It is quite easily seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* [6]: a common breeder of Madeira (Apr–Aug), rare breeder of Canary Islands & Azores, a visitor off West Africa & Cape Verde, and a PM off Southern African from the n Atlantic Ocean. It can be seen on pelagic trips off Cape Town.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* [3]: a rare breeder off Algeria; quite common throughout the Mediterranean region. It is best seen offshore between e Morocco & Egypt, such as at Cap Bon in Tunisia.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus [yelkouan] mauretanicus* [3]: an uncommon visitor off e Morocco to w Egypt, from the Balearic Is off Spain, and a vagrant to Macaronesia & South Africa. It can be seen in coastal waters between e Morocco & Egypt.

Persian Shearwater** *Puffinus [lherminieri] persicus* [3, BT = Comoros, B2 = Socotra]: a near-endemic summer breeder, uncommon on Mohéli Is of Comoros (temptator**, 500

pairs, probably Sep–Jan) and common off Socotra Is (*persicus*, May–Sep), and a fairly common visitor off n Madagascar and the Mozambique Channel. It can be seen at sea around Socotra Is (*persicus*) and Mohéli Is (***temptator**), especially when breeding. **N=** may be subsumed into extralimital **Audubon's Shearwater**. ***Moheli Shearwater** *Puffinus temptator* [3, EN = Comoros] may be split.

Tropical Shearwater *Puffinus [lherminieri] bailloni* [5]: a common breeder of c Seychelles (*nicolae*), Aldabra Is (***coltoni**) and Réunion (***bailloni**), and a vagrant off South Africa; occurs widely through the Indian & Pacific Oceans. It is best seen at Aride Is of Seychelles (*nicolae*). **N=** may be subsumed into extralimital **Audubon's Shearwater**.

***Barolo Shearwater** *Puffinus [lherminieri] baroli* [5, BT = Madeira]: an endemic breeder (peak Feb–May) on Desertas & Savage Is off Madeira (common) and Azores & Canary Islands (rare). It is best seen around Desertas Is, visited on a pelagic day trip from Madeira; can also be seen when crossing between Tenerife & La Gomera Is and Tenerife & El Hierro Is of Canary Islands. **N=** may be subsumed into **Audubon's Shearwater**.

***Boyd's Shearwater** *Puffinus [baroli] lherminieri* *boydi* [6, EN = Cape Verde (br)]: a fairly common endemic breeder of Cape Verde (Jan–May). It is best seen on crossings between islands, including Raso to São Nicolau Is; it breeds on Raso & São Nicolau Is, and at Antónia Peak on Santiago Is. **N=**

Macaronesian Shearwater [6] if lumped with Barolo Shearwater. May also be subsumed into **Audubon's Shearwater**.

Subantarctic Shearwater *Puffinus [assimilis] elegans* [4]: a common breeder on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is (*elegans*), and a vagrant to continental waters. It is best seen around Tristan da Cunha Is. **N=** may be subsumed into extralimital **Little Shearwater**.

South Georgia Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides georgicus* [3]: a common breeder on Prince Edward & Marion Is. Although easily seen around these islands, it is more accessible on trips to Antarctica from South America.

Common Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix* [3]: a common breeder on Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is (***dacunhae**) and Prince Edward & Marion Is (*exsul*). It can be seen off Tristan da Cunha & Gough Is.

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* [6]: a rare breeder on Round Is off Mauritius, a fairly common breeder of Macaronesia (Jun–Sep), especially on the Desertas Is off Madeira, and a regular visitor off s Madagascar and the Mascarene Is. It is best seen off Madeira, especially on pelagic trips to the Desertas Is.

***Jouanin's Petrel** *Bulweria fallax* [3, EN = Socotra (br)]: an endemic breeder on Socotra Is (Jun–Nov) and resident in surrounding waters, a fairly common visitor off Somalia, and a rare visitor off n Seychelles & Mozambique. It is best seen around Socotra Is.

Podicipedidae – Grebes

[7/7 of 20, 1 endemic; also 1 extinct endemic]

***Alaotra Grebe** *Tachybaptus rufolavatus* [0, EN = Madagascar]: formerly known from Lake Alaotra but now presumed to be extinct. Searches of the more remote wetlands of ne Madagascar could prove successful. **N=** see Hawkins *et al* 2000.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* [9]: a common resident of wetlands of North-West Africa (*ruficollis*) and SSA, Madagascar & Comoros (***capensis**); also occurs through much of Eurasia. It is easy to see.

***Madagascar Grebe** *Tachybaptus pelzelni* [6, NE = Madagascar, 1/2 = Comoros]: a resident of undisturbed wetlands of Madagascar (uncommon) and Grande Comore Is of Comoros (rare). It is most often seen at Mantadia, although most common at Bemanevika and sometimes turns up at Alarobia, all in Madagascar.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* [0]: a vagrant from North America. Recorded from Azores & Canary Islands.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*grisegena*). Recorded from Azores, Algeria & Egypt.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* [7]: a fairly common resident of wetlands of Southern & East Africa (**infuscatus*)

and a resident of and PM to Morocco (*cristatus*); occurs through much of Eurasia & Australasia. It is best seen in South Africa (**infuscatus*) and Morocco (*cristatus*).

Horned Grebe | Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* [0]: a vagrant from Eurasia (*auritus*). Recorded from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Madeira & Azores.

Black-necked Grebe | Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* [6]: an uncommon sp of wetlands, especially saline lakes, of Southern, East and ne Africa (**gurneyi*) and North-West Africa (*nigricollis*), and a vagrant to Seychelles; occurs throughout the northern hemisphere. It can be seen at Lake Aoua in Morocco (*nigricollis*), and Strandfontein in South Africa and Ndutu in Tanzania (**gurneyi*).

Phoenicopteridae – Flamingos

[2/2 of 6]

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus [ruber] roseus* [8]: a common resident and nomad of wetlands of w Madagascar, w Southern Africa & East Africa, and a vagrant to the other Indian Ocean Islands; also in s Eurasia. It can be seen at Cape Town in South Africa and on many East African Rift Valley lakes. **N=** may be lumped with extralimital American Flamingo; then called **Greater Flamingo** [8].

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* [7]: a fairly common sp of saline wetlands of w Southern Africa, East Africa and coastal w Madagascar, and a vagrant to Mayotte Is; occurs eastwards to India. It can be seen at Velddrif & Kamfers Dam in South Africa, and at many East African Rift Valley lakes such as Nakuru in Kenya and Ngorongoro & Natron in Tanzania.

Phaethontidae – Tropicbirds

[3/3 of 3]

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* [5]: a breeder on islands off Somaliland & Socotra Is (*indicus*, common) and St Helena & Ascension Is, Cape Verde & Senegal (*aethereus*); occurs almost globally in tropical waters. It is easiest to see at various islands in Cape Verde, and at Boatswainbird Is off Ascension Is and St Helena Is (*aethereus*).

Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* [6]: an uncommon breeder of Seychelles, Madagascar and Rodrigues & Mauritius Is (**rubricauda*), a visitor throughout the Indian Ocean Islands, and a vagrant off Southern Africa; occurs widely through the tropics of the Indian & Atlantic Oceans. It is most readily seen at Nosy Ve Is off Madagascar and Round Is off Mauritius.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* [5]: a common breeder of the Indian Ocean Islands (*lepturus*), including Europa Is in the Mozambique Channel (**europae*), and Ascension Is, São Tomé & Príncipe (*ascensionis*); occurs almost globally in

Ciconiidae – Storks

[8/8 of 19, 4 endemic and 1 near-endemic]

***Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* [7]: a fairly common sp of wetlands in savanna of SSA, and a rare breeder on w Madagascar; also a vagrant to the Middle East. It is easy to see, especially along the East African Rift Valley.

***African Openbill | African Open-billed Stork** *Anastomus lamelligerus* [7]: a common sp of wetlands in savanna of SSA (*lamelligerus*), and a rare resident on w Madagascar (*madagascariensis*). It is easily seen in Africa (*lamelligerus*); on Madagascar is best found at Lake Kinkony (*madagascariensis*).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* [6]: an uncommon breeding resident of cliffs and rivers of Southern Africa, and a PM north of the equator. It can be seen at various sites in South Africa, Ethiopia & Morocco.

***Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii* [6]: a fairly common IAM, breeding in arid savannas of Senegal to Somalia (Mar–Sep) and visiting moist savannas south of the equator; also on the Arabian Peninsula. It is most easily seen on its breeding grounds in the Ethiopian Rift Valley, but can also be seen on migration in Cameroon and is seasonally common in Zimbabwe.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* [7]: a fairly common sp of wetlands in mesic areas of SSA (**microscelis*); also in s Asia (*episcopus*

tropical waters. It is most easily seen at Príncipe Is & Boatswainbird Is off Ascension Is (*ascensionis*) and Cousin & Aride Is of Seychelles and Round Is off Mauritius (*lepturus*).

+ *neglecta*). It is fairly easy to see in the Rift Valley of East Africa and along the northern coast of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. **N=** may be split into ***African Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia microscelis* [7] and extralimital Asian Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* [9]: a common breeder of North-West Africa (Apr–Sep), a rare resident of s South Africa, an uncommon PM to West Africa from the w Palaearctic, and a common PM from e Europe and w Asia to Southern Africa, where it occurs in grasslands and open savannas (all *ciconia*); c Asian birds winter from Iran to India and are recorded as a vagrant to Seychelles (*asiatica*). It is easy to see in Morocco during the boreal summer where it breeds in towns and villages, and on its non-breeding grounds in e South Africa (all *ciconia*).

***Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* [7]: an uncommon sp of wetlands in savanna of SSA. It can be seen at many sites, especially at game parks like Kruger in South Africa, Waza in Cameroon and Murchison in Uganda.

***Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* [9]: a fairly common sp of savannas and human habitation of SSA; also a vagrant to Israel. It is easy to see, including in cities such as Kampala in Uganda and Nairobi in Kenya.

Supple- ments



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- Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program* <<http://infrastructureafrica.opendataforafrica.org/>>
- African Bird Club* <<https://www.africanbirdclub.org/>>
- African Birding Discussion Group* <<https://www.africanbirdclub.org/club/yahoo-group>>
- African Parks* <http://www.african-parks.org/Park_6_43_Fauna+Flora.html>
- Aldabra Marine Programme* <<http://www.aldabra.org/>>

- Algerian Birds Yahoo Group* <<http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/oiseauxalgerie/>>
- Angola Birders Email Group* <<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/angolabirders>>
- Ascension Island Government* <<http://www.ascension-island.gov.ac/>>
- Association Nature Initiative* <<https://www.facebook.com/Association.Nature.Initiative>>
- Atlas of the Birds of Mauritania* <<http://atlasornmau.org/>>
- Azores Bird Club* <<http://www.birdingazores.com>>
- Bahr-el-Jebel Safaris* <<http://bahreljebelsafaris.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Birding Africa* <<http://www.birdingafrica.com>>
- Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program* <<http://www.bioko.org>>
- Bird Watching in Senegal* <<http://birdwatchingsenegal.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Birding Canarias* <<http://www.blog.birdingcanarias.com>>
- Birding in Rwanda* <<http://rwandabirdingguide.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Birding Madeira* <<http://madeira.seawatching.net>>
- Birding Sudan* <<http://birdingsudan.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Birding Tanzania* <<http://birdingtanzania.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Birding Tunisia* <<https://www.facebook.com/Birding-Tunisia-294386720666390/>>
- BirdLife Data Zone* <<http://www.datazone.birdlife.org/>>
- BirdLife South Africa Birding Routes* <<http://birdlife.org.za/gobirding/birding-routes>>
- Birds Angola* <<http://www.birdsangola.org>>
- Birdwatching in Eritrea* <http://ibis.atwebpages.com/birdwatching_in_eritrea/>

Cape Birding Route
<<http://www.capebirdingroute.org/>>

Cape Town Pelagics
<<http://www.capetownpelagics.com/>>

Climate Data <<http://en.climate-data.org/>>

Cloud Birders <<http://cloudbirders.com>>

The Diamond Birding Route
<<http://www.diamonroute.com/>>

Dzanga-Sangha NP
<<http://www.dzanga-sangha.org>>

Eastern Cape Birding
<<http://www.easterncapebirding.co.za/>>

Ethiobirdsnet Yahoo Group <<https://groups.yahoo.com/group/ethiobirdsnet>>

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel
<<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>>

Friends of Soqotra
<<http://www.friendsofsoqotra.org>>

Great Limpopo Birding Route
<<http://www.limpopobirding.com/>>

Island Development Company
<<http://www.idc.sc/>>

Kenya Birding Email Group <<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/kenyabirding>>

Madeira Birds
<<http://www.madeirabirds.com>>

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Namibian Bird Club
<<http://www.namibiabirdclub.org>>

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<<http://www.nhbs.com>>

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<<http://www.naturalistesmayotte.fr>>

Portuguese Rarities Committee
<<http://www.spea.pt/en/birdwatching/portuguese-rarities-committee/>>

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<<http://www.tristandc.com>>

XE Currency <<http://www.xe.com>>

Xeno Canto <<http://www.xeno-canto.org>>

West African Bird Database
<<http://www.wabdab.org/>>

Wiki Travel <<http://www.wikitravel.org>>

Zululand Birding Route
<<http://www.zululandbirdingroute.co.za/>>

BIRDLIFE PARTNERS

Aldabra: see Seychelles

Ascension Island: see St Helena

Botswana: *BirdLife Botswana*
<<http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw>>

Azores: *The Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds* <<http://www.spea.pt/en/>>

Burkina Faso: *Fondation des Amis de la Nature* <<http://www.naturama.bf>>

Burundi: *Association Burundaise pour la protection de la Nature*

Cameroon: *Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society*

Canary Islands: *SEO Birdlife*
<<http://www.seo.org>>

Djibouti: *Djibouti Nature*
<<http://www.djiboutinature.org>>

Egypt: *Nature Conservation Egypt*
<<http://sites.google.com/site/natconegy>>

Ethiopia: *Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society* <<http://www.ewnhs.org.et>>

Ghana: *Ghana Wildlife Society*
<<http://www.ghanawildlifesociety.org>>

Gough Island: see St Helena

Ivory Coast: *SOS-FORETS*
<<http://www.sosforets.ci/>>

Kenya: *Nature Kenya*
<<http://www.naturekenya.org>>

Liberia: *The Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia* <<http://www.scnlliberia.org/>>

Madagascar: *Asity Madagascar*
<<http://www.asity-madagascar.org/>>

Madeira Islands: *The Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds* <<http://www.spea.pt/en/>>

Malawi: *Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi* <<http://www.wildlifemalawi.org>>

Mayotte Island: *Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux* <<http://www.lpo.fr>>

Morocco: *Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc*
<<http://www.grepom.org>>

Mauritania: *Nature Mauritania*
<<http://www.natmau.mr>>

Nigeria: *Nigerian Conservation Foundation*
<<http://www.ncfnigeria.org>>

Réunion Island: *Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux* <<http://www.lpo.fr>>

Rwanda: *Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda*
<<http://www.acnrwanda.org>>

St Helena: *The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds* <<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>>

Seychelles: *Nature Seychelles*
<<http://www.natureseychelles.org>>

Sierra Leone: *The Conservation Society of Sierra Leone*
<<http://www.conservationsocietysl.org/>>

South Africa: *BirdLife South Africa*
<<http://birdlife.org.za>>

Mauritius: *Mauritius Wildlife Foundation*
<<http://www.mauritian-wildlife.org>>

Tunisia: *Association Les Amis des Oiseaux*
<<http://www.aao.org.tn>>

Uganda: *Nature Uganda*
<<http://www.natureuganda.org>>

Western Sahara: see Morocco.

Zambia: *BirdWatch Zambia*
<<http://www.birdwatchzambia.org>>

Zimbabwe: *BirdLife Zimbabwe*
<<http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org>>

APPS

Collins Bird Guide App. Available for Apple from App Store and Android from Google Play.

eGuide to Birds of East Africa. Available for Apple from App Store, Android from Google Play and Windows from Microsoft Store.

eGuide to Mammals of Southern Africa. Available for Apple from App Store, Android from Google Play and Windows from Microsoft Store.

Kingdon eMammals of Africa. Available for Apple from App Store and Windows from Microsoft Store.

Rare Bird Alert. Available for Apple from App Store and Android from Google Play.

Roberts VII Multimedia Birds of Southern Africa. Available for Apple from App Store and Android from Google Play.

Sasol eBirds of Southern Africa. Available for Apple from App Store, Android from Google Play and Windows from Microsoft Store.

Species Appendices

INTRODUCED & FERAL

This is a list of introduced birds with extant populations in the region. It does not include reintroductions or introductions of native birds to other parts of a territory, made usually for conservation purposes on islands.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*: native to Africa, India and the Americas. Introduced to Réunion.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*: native to Africa & South America. Introduced to Mauritius.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*: native to South America. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: native to the northern hemisphere, including North Africa. Introduced to South Africa & Mauritius.

Meller's Duck *Anas melleri*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to Mauritius.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*: native to Africa. Introduced to Cape Verde, Azores, Canary Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius & Comoros.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*: native to North America. Introduced to Azores.

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*: native to the Middle East & Asia. Introduced to Robben Is in South Africa & St Helena Is.

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*: native to North Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*: native to sw Europe. Introduced to Algeria, Azores, Madeira & Canary Islands.

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*: native to India. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion, Seychelles & St Helena Is.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*: native to Africa. Introduced to Ascension.

Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagascariensis*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to Réunion & Mauritius, but possibly extinct.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*: native to Africa, Madagascar & Eurasia. Introduced to Mauritius & Réunion.

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*: native to India, se Asia & Australia. Introduced to Réunion & Mauritius (likely extinct).

Jungle Bush Quail *Perdica asiatica*: native to India. Introduced to Réunion.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: native to India and se Asia. Introduced to Réunion.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*: native to Asia. Introduced to St Helena, Azores, Canary Islands, Morocco and Madeira.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*: native to India. Feral populations exist in South Africa.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*: native to Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: native to Africa & Eurasia. Introduced to St Helena.

Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis*: native to Madagascar. The population on Juan de Nova Is thought to be introduced.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*: native to North Africa & Eurasia. Introduced birds, called Feral Pigeon, can be found throughout sub-Saharan Africa and on many islands.

Madagascar Turtle Dove *Nesoenas picturatus picturatus*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion and the granitic Seychelles. It hybridises with the local subspecies (*rostrata*) in the Seychelles.

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*: native to Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*: native to s Asia. Introduced to Mauritius.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*: native to Africa, the Middle East & India. Introduced to Mauritius.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*: native to se Asia. Introduced to Seychelles, Réunion, Mauritius & St Helena Is.

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba*: native to Africa, Eurasia and the Americas. Introduced to Seychelles & St Helena.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*: native to Australia. There is a feral population at Santa Cruz on Tenerife, Canary Islands (extinct?).

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*: native to Africa north of the equator and India. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion, South Africa, Djibouti, Morocco & Macaronesia.

Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*: native to Africa. Introduced to São Tomé Is.

Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri*: endemic to Tanzania. Feral populations exist in Kenya.

Yellow-collared Lovebird *Agapornis personatus*: endemic to Tanzania. Feral populations exist in Kenya.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*: native to West Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*: native to South America. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Nanday Parakeet *Aratinga nenday*: native to South America. Introduced to Canary Islands.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: native to India. Introduced to the east coast of Africa, Mauritius and Madagascar.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: native to s Asia. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion, Canary Islands & Seychelles.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*: native to e Asia. Introduced to Réunion & Canary Islands.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: native to s Asia. Introduced to South Africa and many islands.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced to South Africa.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced to sub-Saharan Africa and many islands.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*: native to the w Palaearctic. Introduced to Madeira.

Spotted-backed Weaver *Ploceus collaris*: native to East & Southern Africa. Introduced to Mauritius & Réunion.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*: native to Africa. Introduced to Réunion.

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*: native to s Asia. Introduced to the Nile Delta in Egypt.

Madagascar Fody *Foudia madagascariensis*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to most other Indian Ocean Islands & St Helena.

Golden-backed Bishop *Euplectes aureus*: native to Angola. Introduced to São Tomé.

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis*: native to Southern Africa. Introduced to São Tomé Is.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*: native to Africa. Introduced to many islands.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*: native to Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*: native to se Asia & India. Introduced to Nile Delta in Egypt, Canary Islands & Réunion.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: native to s Asia. Introduced to Réunion & Mauritius.

Java Sparrow *Lonchura oryzivora*: native to Java Is of Indonesia. Introduced to St Helena and Pemba & Zanzibar Is off Tanzania.

Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica*: native to India. Introduced to the Middle East from where it spread into Egypt.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*: native to Africa. Introduced to Réunion.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced to sw South Africa (*gengleri*).

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*: native to Africa. Introduced to Mauritius & Réunion.

Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris*: native to Southern Africa. Introduced to St Helena & Ascension.

Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis*: native to Southern Africa. Introduced to Réunion.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced to Azores.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced Azores.

UNCONFIRMED

This incomplete list includes sp that have been reported for the region, but for which the identification or origin (captive versus wild) is in question.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*: recorded from Morocco, where thought to have escaped from a wildfowl collection.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*: one record from the Canary Islands is probably of a bird escaped from captivity.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*: records from North Africa are probably of vagrant feral birds from s Europe.

Fulmar Prion *Pachyptila crassirostris*: one specimen collected in 1841 labelled as from 'Cape of Good Hope' may have been incorrectly labelled.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*: one claimed sight record from Morocco.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*: one unconfirmed report from the Azores.

Balearic Warbler *Sylvia balearica*: breeds on the Balearic Is off Spain and may occasionally visit the adjacent North African coastline. There are not any records yet.

Italian Sparrow *Passer italiae*: may occasionally occur in North Africa.

Glossary and Abbreviations

* - symbol indicating endemism (see pp 127 and 277 for details of usage and colours)

1/2 - One-of-Two territories (see p 278)

ATM - Automated Teller Machine (banking)

B2 - Best-Two territories (see p 278)

br - breeding

BT - Best-Territory (see p 278)

c - central

CAR - Central African Republic

conspecific - the same species

DNA - Deoxyribonucleic acid; the molecule that carries genetic instructions/codes

DR Congo - Democratic Republic of Congo

e / ec - eastern / eastern-central

EBA - Endemic Bird Area

EN - Endemic (see p 278)

endemic - confined geographically to a specific area or region

ESS - Endemic Sub-Species

GR - Game Reserve

GBP - British Pound (Sterling)

IAM - Intra-African Migrant

ID - identification

IOC - International Ornithological Committee

Is - Island or Islands

Mt / Mts - Mountain / Mountains

molecular phylogeny - an evolutionary tree constructed from molecular data, such as DNA

monotypic - of only one type; usually used when a species has only one subspecies, or a genus has only one species

N= notes on species (in red text)

n / nc / ne / nw - northern / north-central / north-eastern / north-western

NE - Near-Endemic (see p 278)

NP - National Park

NR - Nature Reserve

paraphyletic - of multiple origins; members of a group are not each other's closest relatives

parent taxon/parent species - the species or subspecies described first. This means that its scientific name takes priority if other species are lumped with it. The specific name of parent species is reported in square parentheses for splits from the IOC List

PM - Palaearctic Migrant

Res - Reserve

sister taxon - the closest relative; generally a species or subspecies

s / sc / se / sw - southern / south-central / south-eastern / south-western

SA - depends on the context; either South Africa or Secondary Area (in reference to Endemic Bird Areas)

sp - species

specific name - scientific names are usually given as a binomial; the first part is the genus name, the second part the specific name

SSA - Sub-Saharan Africa

sympatric - occurring together

trinomial - the scientific name is given in three parts, the usual genus and specific name, followed by the subspecies name.

USD - United States Dollar

UK - United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

w / wc - western - western / western-central

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*Ranks are the ranks of the Bird Importance Score for each territory; see p 9 for details. This map includes only smaller island territories; see the inside front cover for mainland states and Madagascar.