

## Birds observed from Kigoma to Kalambo Falls on the eastern side of Lake Tanganyika

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From 20 September to 15 October 1993 a list of birds seen or heard between Kigoma and Kalambo Falls on the Tanzania–Zambia border was compiled during the course of retracing much of Dr David Livingstone's last journey of 1873. The expedition was conducted through the New Century Conservation Trust of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA, a non-profit, environmental and educational organization.

Much of the eastern side of Lake Tanganyika is zoologically little known apart from Gombe and Mahali National Parks, in both the emphasis has been on primate study although a bird list (Stanford 1992) exists for Gombe. Two species previously unrecorded were added to this list. From Kigoma to Kasanga all birds recorded were within 3 km of the lakeshore at a mean altitude of 750 m above sea level. Kalambo Falls lies some 10 km to the east of the lake. Much of the inland vegetation is *Brachystegia* woodland on steep hilly slopes, most of this had been recently burnt through, an annual occurrence.

The list is not comprehensive, and many species will have been missed due to time constraints imposed by having to cover set daily distances, either by boat or, later, on foot. The last few days of the journey coincided with the arrival of large numbers of migratory raptors, Eurasian Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* and Eurasian Swallows *Hirundo rustica* together with a few Sand Martins *Riparia riparia* and Palaearctic waders and warblers; a single Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* was also seen.

Table 1. *Gazetteer of place names in order of mention, with dates (all 1993) and codes used in the following annotated list*

Date	code	place	co-ordinates
19–20 Sep	A =	Kigoma	4°52S, 29°37E
21 Sep	B =	Luiche River delta	4°57S, 29°41E
22 Sep	C =	Kabogo	5°27S, 29°45E
22 Sep	D =	Bulimba	5°53S, 29°57E
22 Sep	E =	Mgambo	5°58S, 29°52E
23/26 Sep	F =	Mahali NP camp site	6°26S, 29°43E
26 Sep	G =	Kalya	6°28S, 30°00E
27 Sep	H =	Kangwena	6°37S, 30°18E
27 Sep	J =	Ikola	6°44S, 30°24E
27 Sep	K =	Karema	6°49S, 30°26E
28 Sep	L =	Kabwe (beach to NE)	6°59S, 30°34E
28 Sep	M =	Musalaba Point	—
28–29 Sep	N =	Kipili	7°34S, 30°56E
30 Sep	O =	Kipamba Bay	7°38S, 30°40E
1 Oct	P =	Ninde Bay	7°41S, 30°44E



Date	code	place	co-ordinates
2 Oct	Q =	Lupole Rocks	7°44S, 30°45E
3 Oct	R =	Msamba	—
3 Oct	S =	Kapindi	—
3 Oct	T =	Liapindi	—
4 Oct	U =	Kisumbi	—
5–6 Oct	V =	Izinga (Vumba Bay)	8°01S, 30°55E
7 Oct	W =	Itanga	—
7 Oct	X =	Kala	8°08S, 30°56E
7 Oct	Y =	Kilimbo (Kawumba Bay)	8°15S, 30°59E
9 Oct	Z =	Kibanga (Lwazi River)	—
9–10 Oct	AA =	Kalepo	8°20S, 31°03E
11 Oct	BB =	Kisala/Samanzi lagoon	—
11 Oct	CC =	Molwe	—
12 Oct	DD =	Muzi	8°26S, 31°09E
12 Oct	EE =	Kasanga	8°28S, 31°09E
13–15 Oct	KF =	Kalambo Falls	8°36S, 31°14E

### Birds observed between Kigoma to Kalambo Falls

h = heard, not seen; AK = A. Kiribai; DLW = D. L. Wilson  
the number preceding the name is from Britton (1980)

- 17 *Phalacrocorax africanus* Long-tailed Cormorant B, G c. 10, H, N, S, V, Y.
- 18 *P. carbo* Greater Cormorant A: 1, H: 8, M: 6.
- 19 *Anhinga rufa* Darter D.
- 25 *Ardea cinerea* Grey Heron F to G: 1, G: 5 on rocks.
- 26 *A. goliath* Goliath Heron B, Y.
- 28 *A. purpurea* Purple Heron Y, Z.
- 30 *Ardeola ralloides* Squacco Heron W, Y.
- 32 *Bubulcus ibis* Cattle Egret A, M.
- 33 *Butorides striatus* Green-backed Heron C, N, S.
- 36 *Egretta garzetta* Little Egret N.
- 42 *Scopus umbretta* Hamerkop G: 1, V.
- 49 *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* Marabou J: 1, KF: 1.
- 79 *Plectropterus gambensis* Spur-winged Goose J: c. 50, Y.
- 84 *Gypohierax angolensis* Palm-nut Vulture B, D, F, J, N, U, X, Y, Z, CC, KF.
- 87 *Neophron monachus* Hooded Vulture E: 8 on lake shore.
- 95 *Circus ranivorus* African Marsh Harrier U.
- 96 *Polyboroides radiatus* Harrier Hawk F, X to Y, AA.
- 98 *Circaetus cinereus* Brown Snake Eagle Q to R.
- 101 *Terathopius ecaudatus* Bateleur O, Q to R, X to Y.
- 109 *Accipiter ovampensis* Ovampo Sparrowhawk W.
- 122 *Buteo buteo* Common Buzzard Migrating raptors were first observed flying south on 12 October when a flock of c. 30 flew high overhead. From 12–15 October (when I left Kalambo Falls) many hundreds were seen, twice in flocks of 250–300. The majority were *B. b. vulpinus*, however, at least two other species



occurred but being high-flying, were not identified. The eastern side of Lake Tanganyika is evidently a well used southern migratory route for not only raptors but Eurasian Bee-eaters, Eurasian Swallows, Sand Martins and some warblers (see Stanford 1994).

- 129 *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* **Lizard Buzzard** DD: 1 in *Brachystegia* woodland.
- 137 *Haliaeetus vocifer* **Fish Eagle** C, F to G: 2 including one on nest, K: pair, N, O, S, AA.
- 138 *Milvus migrans* **Black Kite** The yellow-billed race *M. m. parasitus* was seen almost daily and was present at most villages. A flock of c. 40 seen between F and G, one with a grey-black bill, could have been of the migrant nominate race.
- 142 *Elanus caeruleus* **Black-shouldered Kite** X to Y, Y, DD, EE.
- 144 *Pandion haliaetus* **Osprey** G: single on offshore rock.
- 153 *Falco dickinsoni* **Dickinson's Kestrel** Q to R.
- 158 *F. peregrinus* **Peregrine Falcon** DD: 3 flying over cliffs, KF: 1.
- 171 *Francolinus hildebrandti* **Hildebrandt's Francolin** Q.
- 188 *Guttera edouardi* **Crested Guineafowl** F.
- 190 *Numida meleagris* **Helmeted Guineafowl** Q, Z: c. 30.
- 201 *Limnocorax flavirostra* **Black Crake** S: h, Y: h.
- 202 *Porphyrio alleni* **Allen's Gallinule** C, F. Both sightings of single birds seen in poor light in flight at dawn and dusk respectively, the former landing in a hillside thicket above the lake shore.
- 225 *Actophilornis africanus* **Jacana** Y, BB.
- 252 *Actitis hypoleucos* **Common Sandpiper** D, CC.
- 257 *Tringa nebularia* **Greenshank** G: 1.
- 290 *Burhinus vermiculatus* **Water Thicknee** F, G: 1.
- 298 *Glareola nuchalis* **White-collared Pratincole** A: 2 on offshore rock north end of Kigoma Bay and a second sighting of a single bird on a rock 100 m offshore at 6°25'S, 29°51'E. These are believed to be the first records from Lake Tanganyika (Britton 1980).
- 306 *Larus cirrocephalus* **Grey-headed Gull** S, U: c. 10, X, X to Y, Y.
- 346 *Streptopelia capicola* **Ring-necked Dove** N, O, Q, X.
- 350 *S. semitorquata* **Red-eyed Dove** A, G, N, O, X, BB.
- 356 *Turtur chalcospilos* **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** Q.
- 357 *T. tympanistria* **Tambourine Dove** C, KF.
- 358 *Treron australis* **Green Pigeon** P, Y.
- 363 *Agapornis pullaria* **Red-headed Lovebird** F: pair seen and described by DLW.
- 367 *Poicephalus meyeri* **Brown Parrot** KF: pair.
- 382 *Tauraco livingstonii* **Livingstone's Turaco** KF: pair seen by DLW and AK.
- 389 *Chrysococcyx cupreus* **Emerald Cuckoo** KF.
- 391 *C. klaas* **Klaas' Cuckoo** F.
- 396 *Cuculus clamosus* **Black Cuckoo** W: not previously recorded in Tanzania west of 35°E (Britton 1980).
- 399 *C. solitarius* **Red-chested Cuckoo** W: h, KF.
- 406 *Centropus superciliosus* **White-browed Coucal** L, O, Y: h, BB.
- 441 *Macrodipteryx vexillarius* **Pennant-winged Nightjar** F.
- 442 *Apus aequatorialis* **Mottled Swift** KF: a flock of c. 100 circled above the Kalambo Falls gorge together with several unidentified *Apus* sp. with white rumps.



- 452 *Cypsiurus parvus* Palm Swift P, R, U, BB.  
 459 *Colius striatus* Speckled Mousebird G.  
 462 *Apaloderma narina* Narina's Trogon F.  
 464 *Ceryle maxima* Giant Kingfisher A, C, F to G: seen every few kilometres on rocky shore, G: 1, H, J.  
 465 *C. rudis* Pied Kingfisher A, D, D to G: several, G, M, O, V.  
 466 *Alcedo cristata* Malachite Kingfisher G: 1.  
 469 *A. semitorquata* Half-collared Kingfisher KF.  
 470 *Halcyon albiventris* Brown-hooded Kingfisher KF.  
 473 *H. leucocephala* Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher Q.  
 478 *Ispidina picta* Pygmy Kingfisher F.  
 479 *Merops albicollis* White-throated Bee-eater F, G.  
 40 *M. apiaster* Eurasian Bee-eater O to KF: first seen 29 September, thereafter large numbers flying south daily.  
 491 *M. pusillus* Little Bee-eater S, X, KF.  
 496 *Coracias caudata* Lilac-breasted Roller O.  
 500 *Eurystomus glaucurus* Broad-billed Roller P, V.  
 508 *Phoeniculus purpureus* Green Wood Hoopoe N: pair, Q to R.  
 510 *Bycanistes bucinator* Trumpeter Hornbill F: c. 15 feeding in forest on *Ficus* sp fruit; S.  
 515 *Tockus alboterminatus* Crowned Hornbill C: h, H: pair, T: h, V, X to Y, BB, KF.  
 543 *Lybius minor* Black-backed Barbet K, L: 1.  
 546 *L. torquatus* Black-collared Barbet O, X, KF.  
 579 *Campethera bennettii* Bennett's Woodpecker KF.  
 624 *Hirundo abyssinica* Striped Swallow P, Q, R, U.  
 632 *H. fuligula* African Rock Martin Q, CC, KF.  
 634 *H. rustica* Eurasian Swallow First seen at Kipili on 28 September—small numbers flying south. These increased daily with many hundreds being observed flying parallel to the lake shore heading south. Migration continued for two weeks up to Kasanga and others were noted inland at Kalambo Falls on 14–15 October.  
 637 *H. smithii* Wire-tailed Swallow W, X to Y.  
 639 *Psalidoprocne albiceps* White-headed Rough-wing KF.  
 643 *Riparia riparia* Sand Martin X to Y: several flying south; BB: 1.  
 644 *Dicrurus adsimilis* Drongo O, Q to R.  
 649 *Oriolus larvatus* Black-headed Oriole Q, R, T: h, V.  
 653 *Corvus albicollis* White-necked Raven E: 10 in Mgambo village, Q to R, EE: on beach with *C. albus*, KF.  
 654 *C. albus* Pied Crow B, L, N, P, U, V, X to Y, EE.  
 681 *Turdoides jardineii* Arrow-marked Babbler N: small flock, S.  
 705 *Andropadus virens* Little Greenbul F.  
 710 *Chlorocichla flaviventris* Yellow-bellied Greenbul Q, V, W, BB, CC, KF.  
 716 *Nicator chloris* Nicator F.  
 730 *Phyllastrephus terrestris* Brownbul (yellow/white eye not noted) KF.  
 732 *Pycnonotus barbatus* Common Bulbul F, H, N, P, W, X, BB, CC, KF.  
 738 *Cercomela familiaris* Red-tailed Chat CC.  
 748 *Cichladusa guttata* Spotted Morning Thrush A.



- 751 *Cossypha heuglini* White-browed Robin Chat Q, KF.  
 752 *C. natalensis* Red-capped Robin Chat F.  
 791 *Thamnolaea arnoti* White-headed Black Chat X to Y, KF.  
 792 *T. cinnamomeiventris* Cliff Chat a pair at Karembe Hill south of C; O: pair, Q: pair.  
 818 *Apalis flavida* Yellow-breasted Apalis BB.  
 837 *Camaroptera brachyura* Grey-backed Camaroptera V.  
 859 *Cisticola fulvicapilla* Tabora Cisticola X to Y, Y, CC.  
 883 *Heliolais erythroptera* Red-winged Warbler KF.  
 908 *Phylloscopus trochilus* Willow Warbler V: 4, BB, KF: c. 15.  
 945 *Muscicapa striata* Spotted Flycatcher F.  
 961 *Platysteira peltata* Black-throated Wattle-eye KF.  
 968 *Terpsiphone viridis* Paradise Flycatcher F, O, V, X to Y.  
 991 *Motacilla aguimp* African Pied Wagtail recorded at nearly every village and beach, normally very tame; KF.  
 996 *M. flava* Yellow Wagtail Y: 2.  
 999 *Dryoscopus cubla* Black-headed Puffback V, KF.  
 1004 *Laniarius ferrugineus* Tropical Boubou G, P, KF.  
 1019 *Malaconotus sulfureopectus* Sulphur-breasted Bush Shrike F, Y, KF.  
 1022 *Tchagra australis* Brown-headed Tchagra Q, Y.  
 1025 *T. senegala* Black-headed Tchagra O.  
 1029 *Lanius collaris* Fiscal P, S.  
 1045 *Prionops retzii* Retz's Helmet Shrike Q to R.  
 1048 *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Violet-backed Starling F: c. 20 feeding in *Ficus* sp. fruit; O, Q, W, X to Y, KF.  
 1064 *Onychognathus morio* Red-winged Starling F to G: pair on rocky hillside, G, Q to R, KF.  
 1080 *Anthreptes collaris* Collared Sunbird O, W, CC, KF.  
 1091 *Nectarinia amethystina* Amethyst Sunbird Q, W.  
 1094 *N. chloropygia* Olive-bellied Sunbird F.  
 1112 *N. olivacea* Olive Sunbird F.  
 1122 *N. senegalensis* Scarlet-chested Sunbird N, O, X to Y.  
 1128 *N. venusta* Variable Sunbird KF.  
 1141 *Euplectes capensis* Yellow Bishop X.  
 1146 *E. hordeaceus* Black-winged Red Bishop S: c. 40 non-breeding; KF.  
 1165 *Ploceus cucullatus* Black-headed Weaver P, Y, BB.  
 1175 *P. nigerrimus* Vieillot's Black Weaver F.  
 1177 *P. ocularis* Spectacled Weaver D, Y, KF.  
 1189 *P. xanthops* Holub's Golden Weaver Q to R.  
 1206 *Passer griseus* Grey-headed Sparrow A.  
 1219 *Amandava subflava* Zebra Waxbill T.  
 1233 *Estrilda rhodopyga* Crimson-rumped Waxbill T.  
 1235 *Hypargos niveoguttatus* Peters' Twinspot CC.  
 1239 *Lagonosticta rubricata* African Firefinch O, X, Y.  
 1241 *L. senegala* Red-billed Firefinch T, DD.  
 1242 *Mandingoa nitidula* Green-backed Twinspot F.  
 1256 *Pytilia melba* Green-winged Pytilia O.



1266 *Emberiza tahapisi* Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting KF.

1290 *Serinus mozambicus* Yellow-fronted Canary W, X.

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## Appendix 1

### Gombe National Park

Gombe National Park (4°53S, 29°37E) lies to the north of Kigoma and is only mentioned here as two previously unrecorded birds were observed in the park on 9 September 1993.

***Oriolus percivali* Montane Oriole** A single bird in forest canopy was seen well and the white tips to the wing coverts were clearly seen. Known from the Mahali Mountains further south (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1955).

***Ploceus superciliosus* Compact Weaver** Four or five of these weavers were members of a mixed bird party in forest. All were in eclipse plumage where the diagnostic broad pale yellow eyestripe and heavy pinkish-horn bill were seen.



Archer, A. L. 1994. "Birds observed from Kigoma to Kalambo Falls on the eastern side of Lake Tanganyika." *Scopus* 18, 6–11.

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