

Contents

About this book	9
The geography of Kenya's Rift Valley	13
Lakes and marsh	14
Up in the air	16
Birds of prey	17
Grassland and open areas	18
Woodland, scrub & garden	20
Nightbirds	22
Maps of the Rift Valley	23
BIRDS OF LAKE AND MARSH	
Pelicans – Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans	26
Darter and cormorants – African Darter and Reed and Great Cormorants	28
Egrets – Yellow-billed, Little and Great White Egrets	30
Small herons – Cattle Egret and Squacco and Striated Herons	32
Grey herons – Black-crowned Night-heron and Grey and Black-headed Herons	34
Dark herons and Hamerkop – Goliath and Purple Herons and Hamerkop	36
Dark storks – Abdim's, Black and African Open-billed Storks	38
White storks – Saddle-billed, White and Yellow-billed Storks	40
Spoonbill and Marabou – African Spoonbill and Marabou Stork	42
Flamingos – Greater and Lesser Flamingos	44
Ibises – Sacred, Glossy and Hadada Ibises	46
Crane and whistling ducks – Grey Crowned Crane and Fulvous and White-faced Whistling Ducks	48
Geese – Spur-winged and Egyptian Goose and Knob-billed Duck	50
Ducks: 1 – Cape, Hottentot and Red-billed Teal	52
Ducks: 2 – Southern Pochard, Northern Shoveler and Yellow-billed Duck	54
Grebe, coot and moorhen – Little Grebe, Red-knobbed Coot and Common Moorhen	56
Gallinule, crake and jacana – Purple Swampphen, Black Crake and African Jacana	58
Ruff, painted-snipe and snipe – Ruff, Greater Painted-snipe and Common Snipe	60
Avocet, stilt and godwit – Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and Black-tailed Godwit	62
Thick-knees – Spotted, Water and Senegal Thick-knees	64
Small plovers – Chestnut-banded, Three-banded, Kittlitz's and Common Ringed Plovers	66
Sandpipers – Wood, Common and Green Sandpipers	68
Waders – Little Stint, Common Greenshank and Marsh Sandpiper	70
Plovers – Blacksmith, Crowned and Spur-winged Plovers	72
Plover and gull – African Wattled Plover and Grey-headed Gull	74
Terns – White-winged Black, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns	76
Kingfishers – Malachite, Giant and Pied Kingfishers	78
Wagtails – Yellow, Mountain and African Pied Wagtails	80

UP IN THE AIR

Dark-rumped swifts – Mottled, African Palm, Alpine, Common and Nyanza Swifts	82
White-rumped swifts – Little, Horus and White-rumped Swifts	84
Resident swallows – Mosque, Red-rumped, Lesser Striped and Wire-tailed Swallows	86
Swallows and martins – Barn Swallow and Plain, Banded and Rock Martins	88

BIRD OF PREY

Vultures – Rüppell's, White-backed, Hooded and Lappet-faced Vultures	90
Vultures in flight – all species for comparison plus Verreaux's Eagle	92
Large pied eagles and buzzard – Martial and African Fish Eagles and Augur Buzzard	94
Large dark eagles – Verreaux's, Steppe and Tawny Eagles	96
Medium-sized brown raptors – Black Kite, Common Buzzard and Long-crested Eagle	98
Raptors in flight – all large species for comparison	100
Harriers – Pallid, Montagu's and Western Marsh Harriers	102
Goshawk, Bateleur and Harrier Hawk – Dark Chanting Goshawk, Bateleur and African Harrier Hawk	104
Small pale raptors – Gabar Goshawk, – African Black-shouldered Kite and Pygmy Falcon	106
Falcons – Eurasian Hobby, Lanner Falcon and Common Kestrel	108

BIRDS OF GRASSLAND AND OPEN AREAS

Ostrich and Southern Ground Hornbill – Ostrich and Southern Ground Hornbill	110
Bustard and gamebirds – Black-bellied Bustard, Yellow-necked Spurfowl and Helmeted Guineafowl	112
Coursers and plover – Heuglin's and Temminck's Coursers and Black-headed Plover	114
Larks – Rufous-naped, Red-capped and Pink-breasted Larks	116
Lark, pipit and longclaw – Fischer's Sparrow Lark, Grassland Pipit and Yellow-throated Longclaw	118
Resident chats – Northern Anteater Chat and Capped and Abyssinian Wheatears	120
Migrant chats – Northern and Pied Wheatears and Whinchat	122
Crows – Cape Rook, Pied Crow and Fan-tailed Raven	124
Widowbirds – Long-tailed and Red-collared Widowbirds	126
Widowbird and bishops – Jackson's Widowbird and Northern Red and Yellow Bishops	128
Cisticolas and Quailfinch – Winding, Stout and Desert Cisticolas and African Quailfinch	130

BIRDS OF WOODS, SCRUB AND GARDEN

Francolins – Scaly, Crested and Hildebrandt's Francolins	132
Pigeons and doves – Laughing Dove and Speckled and African Olive Pigeons	134
'Collared' doves – African Mourning, Red-eyed and Ring-necked Doves	136
Namaqua and wood doves – Namaqua and Blue-spotted and Emerald-spotted Wood Doves	138
Green pigeon and parrots – African Green Pigeon, Meyer's Parrot and hybrid lovebird	140
Large cuckoos and relatives – Red-chested Cuckoo, White-browed Coucal and White-bellied Go-away-bird	142

BIRDS OF WOODLAND, SCRUB AND GARDEN (continued)

Green cuckoos and wood-hoopoe – Klaas's and Diederik Cuckoos and Green Wood-hoopoe	144
Hoopoe and mousebirds – Hoopoe and Blue-naped and Speckled Mousebirds	146
Kingfishers – Striped, Woodland and Grey-headed Kingfishers	148
Bee-eaters: 1 – White-throated, Blue-cheeked and Eurasian Bee-eaters	150
Bee-eaters: 2 – White-fronted, Cinnamon-chested and Little Bee-eaters	152
Rollers – Rufous-crowned, Lilac-breasted and Eurasian Rollers	154
Hornbills: 1 – Von der Decken's, Jackson's and Red-billed Hornbills	156
Hornbills: 2 – Hemprich's, Eastern Yellow-billed and African Grey Hornbills	158
Barbets: 1 – Red-and-yellow, D'Arnaud's and Red-fronted Barbets	160
Barbets: 2 – White-headed and Spot-flanked Barbets and Red-fronted Tinkerbird	162
Honeyguides and woodpecker	
– Lesser and Greater Honeyguides and African Grey Woodpecker	164
Woodpeckers – Nubian, Cardinal and Bearded Woodpeckers	166
Babblers – Black-lored, Arrow-marked and Brown Babblers and Rufous Chatterer	168
Bulbul, thrush and scrub robin	
– Common Bulbul, Spotted Palm Thrush and White-browed Scrub Robin	170
Colourful chats – Common and Little Rock Thrushes and Mocking Cliff Chat	172
Thrush and robin chats – Olive Thrush and White-browed and Cape Robin Chats	174
Tchagras and Brubru – Brown-crowned and Three-streaked Tchagras and Brubru	176
White-headed 'shrikes'	
– Grey-crested and White Helmetshrikes and Northern White-crowned Shrike	178
Shrikes – Red-backed Shrike and Grey-backed and Common Fiscals	180
Oriole and bushshrikes	
– Black-headed Oriole and Grey-headed and Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	182
Cuckooshrike, boubou and puffback	
– Black Cuckooshrike, Tropical Boubou and Black-backed Puffback	184
Black birds of woodland edge	
– Common Drongo, Slate-coloured Boubou and Northern Black Flycatcher	186
Attractive flycatchers of woods and gardens	
– White-eyed Slaty and African Paradise Flycatchers	188
Nondescript flycatchers – Spotted, Pale and African Grey Flycatchers	190
Warblers and prinia – Rattling Cisticola, Grey Wren Warbler and Tawny-flanked Prinia	192
Green warblers – Grey-backed Camaroptera, Yellow-breasted Apalis and Grey-capped Warbler	194
Crombec and warblers – Northern Crombec and Red-fronted and Buff-bellied Warblers	196
Batis, tit and white-eye – Chin-spot Batis, White-bellied Tit and African Yellow White-eye	198
Starlings and oxpecker – Rüppell's and Wattled Starlings and Red-billed Oxpecker	200
Starlings – Greater Blue-eared, Red-winged and Bristle-crowned Starlings	202
Brightly coloured starlings – Superb, Hildebrandt's and Violet-backed Starlings	204
Sunbirds: 1 – Variable, Eastern Violet-backed, and Collared Sunbirds	206
Sunbirds: 2 – Marico, Scarlet-chested and Amethyst Sunbirds	208
Long-tailed sunbirds – Bronze, Tacazze and Beautiful Sunbirds	210
Sparrows – House, Kenya Rufous and Grey-headed Sparrows	212

Petronia and small brown weavers
– Yellow-spotted Petronia and Speckle-fronted and Grey-capped Social Weavers 214

Buffalo and sparrow weavers
– White-billed and White-headed Buffalo Weavers and White-browed Sparrow Weaver 216

Yellow weavers: 1 – Village , Speke’s and Lesser Masked Weavers 218

Yellow weavers: 2 – Northern Masked, Little and Golden-backed Weavers 220

Yellow weavers: 3 – Holub’s Golden, Spectacled and Black-necked Weavers 222

Grosbeak and yellow weavers: 4 – Grosbeak, Vitelline Masked and Baglafecht Weavers 224

Waxbills – Common, Crimson-rumped and Black-cheeked Waxbills 226

Whydah and cordon-bleus
– Pin-tailed Whydah and Red-cheeked and Blue-capped Cordon-bleus 228

Waxbills and whydah – Green-winged Pytilia, Bronze Mannikin and Eastern Paradise Whydah 230

Waxbills and indigobird – Purple Grenadier, Red-billed Firefinch and Village Indigobird 232

Canaries – African Citril and Brimstone and White-bellied Canaries 234

Buntings and seedeater
– Cinnamon-breasted and Golden-breasted Buntings and Streaky Seedeater 236

NIGHT BIRDS

Nightjar and owls – Slender-tailed Nightjar and Barn and African Wood Owls 238

Small owls – African Scops and Northern White-faced Scops Owls and Pearl-spotted Owlet 240

Eagle owls – Spotted, Verreaux’s and Greyish Eagle Owls 242

Further reading and useful resources 244

Acknowledgements 245

Photographic credits 246

Scientific names of the bird species included in this book 247

Index 252

Short Index inside back cover



African Fish Eagle



Squacco Heron