

## ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF NYIKA BIRDS by Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire

Extracted, abbreviated and updated in 2012 from the publication by Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire – Annotated list and life history of the birds of Nyika National Park, Malawi–Zambia. Tauraco Research Report No. 8, 2006.

Accepted common names are given in **bold**, followed by the scientific name in *italics*. The status is shown, followed by brief notes on each species occurrence. Dubious or erroneous records have been removed.

**PM** = Palearctic migrant; **AM** = intra-African migrant; **R** = resident (not excluding some local movements); **V** = vagrant or irregular visitor. **R/M** indicates a species that is normally resident in Malawi but shows regular seasonal movements on the Nyika.

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**R.** Occurs in small numbers on the dams around Chelinda, apparently since the early 1960s

### **Reed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*

**V.** A rare visitor to dams

### **African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*

**V.** Exceptional vagrant

### **White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

**V.** Exceptional observation of an immature

### **Common Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

**V.** Only 3 records on the plateau, all at Chelinda Dam

### **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

**V.** Small numbers occasionally seen in vicinity of dams or Lake Kaulime

### **Green-backed Heron** *Butorides striata*

**V.** Exceptional record of vagrant to Dam 1

### **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**V.** Rare visitor to waterbodies

### **Yellow-billed Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

**V.** Scarce visitor to waterbodies

### **Great White Egret** *Egretta alba*

**V.** Occasionally reported from dams and Lake Kaulime

### **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**V.** Exceptional record of a vagrant at Chelinda Dam

### **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

**V.** Two records of single vagrants at Chelinda Dam

### **Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*

**V/R.** Grassland on edge of Dam

### **Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

**V/R?** Singles irregularly reported from Chelinda dams and Lake Kaulime

### **Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*

**V.** Seen on Zambian/Malawi border, Lake Kaulime and Chelinda dams

**Openbill Stork** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

**AM.** Groups flying over or roosting on the high Nyika

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

**R?** Very occasional on N slopes; may be nesting habitat in the northern rocky woodland

**Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*

**AM.** Birds seen passing through Dec-March; significant numbers fly over the Nyika in some years

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

**V.** Exceptional vagrant

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

**PM.** Small numbers noted on passage most years

**Saddlebill** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

**V.** Three old records of single vagrants

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

**V.** Occasionally seen at Dam 3, Chelinda and Lake Kaulime. Seems to be increasing in the region

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

**V.** Exceptional vagrant to the Nyika

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

**V.** Equally exceptional vagrant

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

**V.** Only a couple of records

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

**V.** Exceptional vagrant

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*

**V.** Vagrant

**Fulvous Tree Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*

**V.** Vagrant

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*

**V.** Vagrant to Lake Kaulime.

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

**AM.** Singles or small groups visit dams and Lake Kaulime on irregular occasions at any time of year. Has bred

**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa*

**R.** Few records on North Rukuru river below plateau and on other streams on high Nyika

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*

**R.** The only reasonably common duck on the high Nyika, with small numbers on the dams and Lake Kaulime at all seasons

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*

**V.** No more than a rare visitor

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*

V. Single record

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

PV. Single record

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

PV. Scarce vagrant to Malawi; single record from Chelinda Dam

**Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma*

V. Two records of wanderers

**Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa*

V. One bird seen, Nyika being the only Malawi record

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

PV. Scarce migrant

**Bat Hawk** *Macheiramphus alcinus*

V. No more than a scarce visitor

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

R. Small numbers resident on high plateau grasslands up to 2400 m. Much attracted to grass fires

**Eurasian Black Kite** *Milvus milvus migrans*

PM. Occasional records

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus migrans parasitus*

AM. In various habitats on the escarpments and high plateau. Occasionally seen over the high plateau to 2400 m, but probably not breeding that high

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*

V. Various records from the high plateau. Presumably still an occasional visitor in later years but unreported.

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*

V. An exceptional wanderer from Lake Malawi

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

R. Small numbers resident on the high plateau, hunting up to 2400 m. Normally seen as singles or pairs.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*

R. Most numerous vulture on the Nyika, seen up to 2500 m. Not proven to breed and presumably wanders to and from other game areas such as Vwaza Marsh and the Luangwa Valley

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus*

R. Seen year-round in small numbers

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

R. Widespread in small numbers

**Black-breasted Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*

R. Widespread over woodland and grassland; territorial pairs up to 2200 m, visits up to 2400 m. Attracted to bush fires

**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*

R. Miombo woodland on dry N slopes, and S slopes up to 1900 m

**Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*

V. Mostly in low-lying valleys up to around 1600 m

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

R. Widespread

**Gymnogene** *Polyboroides typus*

R. Uncommon on lower slopes and rare visitor to the high plateau

**Eurasian Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

PM. Used to be lumped with African Marsh Harrier so old records unreliable; may be scarcer. Uncommon migrant (Nov-Mar) over open grassland and dambos

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*

R? Probably a scarce resident in large dambos on central plateau up to 2400 m

**Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*

PM. Frequently seen over grasslands of the high Nyika; a regular migrant, wintering in small numbers from late Oct to Mar

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*

PM. Much scarcer than Pallid Harrier; also on the high plateau

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

R. Uncommon resident in light woodland on lower slopes of W & SW, unrecorded from north

**Black Goshawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

R. Discreet species of evergreen forest and plantations; widespread to 2400 m in forest patches and breeding up to 2200 m

**Red-breasted Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris*

R. Widespread resident on the high plateau, usually hunting in open country and along roads. Mainly above 2100 m to 2400 m

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*

R. Commonest forest raptor on the Nyika, throughout the forested area up to at least 2400 m

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

V. At most a scarce visitor to the high plateau

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

R/M. Wintering at Chelinda and in vicinity of Lake Kaulime

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

PM. A common passage and wintering migrant from Oct to Apr. Widespread on the high plateau in open country

**Forest Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus*

R. E escarpment at Kasaramba and also at Mwenembwe. Around extensive forests of E escarpment; total number of pairs estimated at c.6. Absent from SW escarpment

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*

R. Common resident in open country on the high plateau; some birds are melanistic

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Aquila wahlbergi*

AM. Widespread in miombo woodland on lower slopes to 1800 m. Seen passing over the high plateau up to 2400 m

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina*

**PM.** Uncommon as a wintering species, but more conspicuous on northward passage in Feb-Mar.

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

**PM.** Same status as Lesser Spotted Eagle but in smaller numbers

**Black Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*

**V.** Breeding habitat is largely lacking on Nyika; no more than a wanderer to the plateau, perhaps from the breeding site in Njakwa Gorge

**African Hawk Eagle** *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

**V.** Very marginal for area; one record of 3 birds at Thazima

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

**PM.** Uncommon passage and wintering migrant

**Ayres's Hawk Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii*

**R.** Discreet forest eagle without a noisy display and thus easily under-recorded

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

**R.** On N slopes and resident on SW scarp, but also seen near Chelinda, Lake Kaulime and Juniper Forest up to 2300 m

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

**R.** Widespread resident in forest on both the SW & E escarpments and seen hunting throughout

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

**R.** Resident, with huge territories

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

**PV.** Few records of single wanderers visiting Chelinda dams

**Secretary Bird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*

**V.** Irregular visitor to montane grassland in the dry season, usually seen as singles. Often around Lake Kaulime or in grassland near Chelinda

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*

**PM.** Seen in passage in very small numbers, usually early Dec-Mar.

**Rock Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

**V?** Rarely seen, the local race (*rupicolus*) is no more than a vagrant. Palaearctic race has been seen passing through

**Dickinson's Kestrel** *Falco dickinsoni*

**V.** A wanderer visiting grass fires near the Zambian rest house

**Western Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

**PV.** Very irregular appearance on the plateau

**Eastern Red-footed Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

**PM.** More regular than *F. vespertinus*, but far from common; both passages

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

**PM.** The only common falcon on the Nyika, wintering at all levels up to the high plateau

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

**R.** Uncommon or local resident; singles or pairs occasionally seen hunting over the high plateau and attracted to grass fires

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

**R/PV.** The African race *minor* is a rare and local resident

**Coqui Francolin** *Francolinus coqui*

**R.** Sparse francolin of miombo woodland; W & S escarpments up to 1900 m

**Shelley's Francolin** *Francolinus shelleyi*

**R.** Rocky miombo on the SW escarpment to 2000 m. Absence from the high plateau may be due to scarcity of rocky hills and competition with Red-winged Francolin

**Red-winged Francolin** *Francolinus levaillantii*

**R.** The endemic race *crawshayi* is a very common resident in montane grassland, mainly 2100-2600 m

**Hildebrandt's Francolin** *Francolinus hildebrandti*

**R.** Not uncommon resident in bracken-briar at forest edges and particularly on rocky hills up to 2300 m

**Red-necked Francolin** *Francolinus afer*

**R.** In small numbers in rank grass and scrub in valleys up to 2100 m. Occasionally wanders higher, as around Zambian rest house

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

**R.** Common resident in montane grassland throughout the plateau, 2000-2600 m

**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei*

**V.** An uncommon migrant

**Blue Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*

**V.** No more than a vagrant

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*

**R.** In woodland on S & N slopes up to 1850 m

**Kurrichane Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus*

**R.** In grassland, 2000-2150 m. Probably a scarce resident

**Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa*

**R.** Local in moist herbage along permanent streams up to 2000 m

**Red-tailed Flufftail** *Sarothrura affinis*

**R.** Common in montane grassland and bracken from 1900-2450 m; apparently moving into dambos in the dry season

**Corn Crane** *Crex crex*

**PM.** Winters in small numbers in rank grass and bracken, mostly in Dec; from 1900-2250 m

**African Crane** *Crexopsis egregia*

**V.** Only one record

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*

**R.** On dams near Chelinda and at Lake Kaulime

**Wattled Crane** *Grus carunculatus*

**R.** About 12 pairs used to be resident on the high plateau around 2000 m, visiting Zambian side but breeding only on Malawi side, particularly in dambos. Now much fewer, breeding success may improve with re-establishment of the early burning policy

**Southern Crowned Crane** *Balearica regulorum*

**V.** Only old records of wanderers

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis melanogaster*

**R.** Resident in small numbers on escarpments, often seen in montane grassland in SW from 2000-2200 m

**Denham's Bustard** *Neotis denhami*

**R.** Resident in montane grassland in small numbers. Attracted to recently burnt grassland to pick up insects and reptiles, readily moving from one burnt patch to another

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

**V.** A rare visitor, with a few records from Chelinda dams

**Spotted Dikkop** *Burhinus capensis*

**R.** A scarce breeding resident. Over the high plateau from 2000-2450 m

**Bronze-winged Courser** *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

**V.** Vagrant near Chelinda and a pair once near the Zambian border; otherwise at lower levels in miombo

**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii*

**R.** Small numbers breeding in montane grassland up to 2400 m

**Common Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

**V.** Unusual vagrant

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

**PV.** Few records of southward passage, especially near Lake Kaulime

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*

**V.** Exceptional visitor

**Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*

**PM.** Rare migrant on southward passage

**Senegal Wattled Plover** *Vanellus senegallus*

**V.** Few wanderers on the high plateau

**Ethiopian Snipe** *Gallinago nigripennis*

**R.** Uncommon resident of dambos on the high plateau, 2200-2300 m

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*

**PM.** Very few winter in high-altitude dambos

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

**PV.** Rare Palaearctic migrant at Lake Kaulime and dams

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

**PM.** Uncommon or irregular visitor to pools and dams

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

**PM.** Winters annually in small numbers around Chelinda

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

**PM.** Annual visitor on southward passage in small numbers at Lake Kaulime and Chelinda dams, Aug-Dec.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**PM.** Annual visitor in small numbers at dams and Lake Kaulime, mainly on southward passage, Aug-Dec.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

**PV.** Single record on southward passage

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

**PM.** Small numbers on southward passage at Lake Kaulime and Chelinda dams, Aug-Nov.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

**PV.** Much rarer than Little Stint; only irregular records on southward passage

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

**PV.** Exceptional vagrant; the only record for Malawi

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

**PV.** Only 3 records from dams and Lake Kaulime

**Grey-headed Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus*

**V.** Rare vagrant

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

**PV.** Rare visitor

**Rameron Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*

**AM.** Seasonally common in forests of both escarpments and on the high plateau; most numerous Aug-Nov. Large numbers of non-breeding birds during the breeding season

**Cinnamon Dove** *Aplopelia larvata*

**R.** Fairly common resident, breeding in forest patches with a permanent stream up to 2300 m

**Pink-breasted Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens*

**R.** Uncommon resident of forest-grassland ecotone, widespread from Zambian side to central plateau; at 1950-2400 m on main plateau, but lower on Nyamkhowa

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

**V.** Almost absent from the Nyika, even from dry woodlands

**Cape Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*

**R/V.** Confined to lower woodland slopes up to 1650 m; common below 1400 m in north

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

**R.** Confined to lower slopes in woodland and riparian vegetation up to 1700 m; never recorded on the high plateau

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*

**R.** Miombo on lower SW slopes and N escarpment up to 1650 m

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*

**R.** Uncommon on the Nyika up to 1980 m; mainly recorded from the N foothills

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

**R.** Locally common in forest on SW slopes to 2200 m, but more common at lower levels



**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

V. One vagrant. Absent from wooded slopes

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*

R/M. Widespread on lower wooded slopes including riparian; small flocks visit montane forest

**Brown-necked (Cape) Parrot** *Poicephalus robustus*

R/M. Local in miombo woodland but more regularly seen in montane forest in the rains, up to 2150 m

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri*

R. Marginal on the Nyika; only on N foothills

**Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi*

R. Common resident in miombo woodland and riparian forest lower down, and in montane forest on plateau up to 2300 m

**Purple-crested Turaco** *Tauraco porphyreolophus*

R. Local in lower-altitude woodland and riparian forest on W escarpment and N foothills up to 1500 m

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*

V. Only one record (N woodland)

**Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*

AM. Migrant passing through in very small numbers up to 2300 m

**Striped Crested Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*

V. Rare migrant on the plateau

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*

AM. Not uncommon at the edge of forest patches and bracken-briar to 2250 m during summer rains

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

AM. Completely absent from the high plateau; only known from miombo on lower slopes

**Eurasian Grey Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

PM. Recorded mainly on northward passage (Feb-Mar)

**African Grey Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*

AM. Only confirmed from miombo woodland (Thazima). Should occur in N dry woodlands

**Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

AM. Only recorded from miombo woodland and riparian in the N foothills, 1500-1600 m

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

R/M. Widespread on lower slopes and at forest edges and riparian scrub on the plateau, up to 2200 m

**Didric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

V/AM. Attracted to weaver colonies, thus a bird of lower altitude. Otherwise known only from N foothills (Uledi)

**African Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*

V. An exceptional vagrant

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

R? Few records from bracken-briar; possibly a scarce resident

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus*

**R.** Widespread and locally common in riparian herbage and scrub or forest edges; on lower slopes and the high plateau to 2250 m

**Grass Owl** *Tyto capensis*

**R.** Scarce resident of rank growth (bracken-briar) on the high plateau

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*

**R.** Rarely heard (Thazima). Should be expected to occur in dry woodlands on N escarpments

**White-faced Owl** *Otus leucotis*

**V.** Very marginal, one record (Thazima)

**Spotted Eagle Owl** *Bubo africanus*

**R.** Commonest owl on the Nyika, in light woodland, open country, near rocks and on roads to 2400 m

**Giant Eagle Owl** *Bubo lacteus*

**R.** Recorded at Thazima and one observation from the N slopes

**Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii*

**R.** Widespread and fairly common in miombo with riparian and in evergreen forest up to 2400 m

**Marsh Owl** *Asio capensis*

**R.** Local inhabitant of high-altitude dambos

**Eurasian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

**PM.** Rarely seen; probably annual on passage

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis*

**R.** Recorded from N & SW escarpments up to 1600 m in miombo and riparian

**Mountain Nightjar** *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

**R.** Common resident on the high Nyika above 1900 m

**Freckled Rock Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*

**R.** Recorded occasionally (mainly Chowo Rocks)

**Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

**AM.** Wooded N & SW escarpments where it likely breeds, on passage on high plateau

**Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

**AM.** Seasonally common over montane forest, particularly on Zambian side, and over the extensive forests of E escarpment. Starts arriving in Sept.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

**R/V.** Recorded from N foothills and occasionally over the high Nyika

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

**AM.** Uncommon migrant over the high Nyika with some on both passages, mostly in late dry season

**Mottled Swift** *Apus aequatorialis*

**R?** Uncommon species, often around Manyenjere

**Eurasian Swift** *Apus apus*

**PM.** Widespread and seasonally numerous; thousands attracted to storms. Arrive in large numbers when rains break in Nov and remain until March

**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*

**R?** May be confused with European Swift unless calling; only a few records (SW)

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

**V/R?** Very uncommon with a few records of wanderers over the high plateau

**African White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*

**AM.** Regularly seen over the high plateau from Sept-Apr.

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*

**R.** Common gregarious resident in bracken-briar and at forest edges on escarpments and lower plateau up to 2200 m

**Narina's Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

**R.** Appears very local; recorded only from riparian forest on North Rukuru river and Chire stream

**Bar-tailed Trogon** *Apaloderma vittatum*

**R.** Common resident in tall-canopy forest in SW up to 2220 m; rarer on E escarpment to 2200 m.

**Half-collared Kingfisher** *Alcedo semitorquata*

**R.** Recorded from North Rukuru in N foothills and other streams, up to 1600 m

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

**R/V.** Very marginal on the Nyika, only known from N foothills (North Rukuru near Uledi) and as a vagrant to Chelinda

**Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ceyx pictus*

**AM.** N foothills and SW slopes up to 2000 m

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris*

**R.** Resident in riparian vegetation on N & SW escarpments

**Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*

**AM/V.** Seasonal in woodland on N & SW escarpments; a scarce migrant at high altitude

**Senegal (Woodland) Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

**AM/V.** Low-altitude dry woodland in the N foothills near Uledi; normally Oct-Mar.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

**R/V.** N Rukuru and other streams on N & W slopes and Thazima, occasional wanderers to Chelinda dams

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

**R/V.** Recorded marginally from N foothills and an exceptional wanderer to Chelinda Dam

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*

**R.** Widespread in grassy clearings in woodland and riparian edge on escarpments, up to plateau below 2000 m

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*

**AM.** Dry woodland in N foothills and Thazima

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides*

**V/R.** Generally low-altitude sandy rivers. Found breeding S slopes

**Madagascar Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*

**AM.** Migrant with a double passage (Sept, Apr-May), flying over the high plateau to 2400 m in small flocks

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*

**PM.** Difficult to separate from Madagascar Bee-eater. Scarcer migrant than its sibling

**Eurasian Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

**PM.** Commonest bee-eater over the Nyika, most numerous on passage (Sept-Oct, Mar-Apr), with smaller numbers Nov-Feb.

**Southern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicoides*

**V.** A single record over the Nyika

**Eurasian Roller** *Coracias garrulus*

**PM.** Irregular migrant recorded mainly on northward passage (late Feb-Apr)

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus*

**R/V.** Recorded from N foothills in Uledi area, otherwise a rare off-season vagrant to the high plateau

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

**AM.** N foothills (Uledi), where it could be breeding, and Thazima area. An uncommon migrant on the high plateau, seen mainly on southward passage

**Red-billed Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

**R.** Miombo woodland on N escarpment, on Zambian side of Kaperekezi, and at Thazima near its upper altitudinal limit

**Scimitarbill** *Phoeniculus cyanomelas*

**R.** N woodlands and near Thazima; an exceptional observation of a wanderer near Zovochipolo

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

**R.** N woodlands and near Kaperekezi and Thazima. Rarely turns up on the high plateau

**Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus*

**R.** Dense miombo and forest, small numbers resident on the escarpments and plateau to 2200 m

**Pale-billed Hornbill** *Tockus pallidirostris*

**R.** Low-altitude dry miombo woodland, only on the N foothills

**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*

**R.** Only from the N foothills at Uledi and Chipome

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator*

**R/M.** Riparian on North Rukuru near Uledi and Thazima; small numbers seasonally in larger forests of SW escarpment, mostly from Sept-March

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** *Bycanistes brevis*

**V.** Only a vagrant to the Nyika, possibly from the large population in the Misukus

**Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri* (synonym *B. cafer*)

**R.** Resident in small numbers in montane grassland regularly up to 2250 m. Known from the escarpments, near Thazima and in the NE

**Whyte's Barbet** *Stactolaema whytii*

**R.** Scarce resident of riparian forest and adjacent miombo woodland at Thazima

**Moustached Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus leucomystax*

**R.** Common resident in montane rain forest on all escarpments up to 2300 m and in Juniper Forest. A specialized consumer of mistletoe berries so absent from the high plateau above 2250 m

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

**R.** Common in miombo woodland on escarpments up to the upper limit of tall woodland at 2050 m

**Golden-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

**R.** Nyamkhowa and in Mwenembwe forest below 2000 m

**Miombo Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema frontata*

**R.** Very marginal in Nyika woodlands, but not yet reported from N escarpment

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*

**R.** N foothills including the N Rukuru and Thazima, ascending marginally higher to riparian vegetation at 1800 m

**Black-backed Barbet** *Lybius minor*

**R.** Uncommon and discreet resident of riparian forest and adjacent miombo

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii*.

**R.** Dry woodland at low altitudes (Thazima), not yet reported from N escarpments, where it should occur

**Green-backed Honeyguide** *Prodotiscus zambesiae*

**R.** Few records from miombo woodland just above Thazima at 1700 m and in miombo above Kaperekezi

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus*

**R.** Uncommon and discreet resident of montane forest in SW and on the central plateau up to 2300 m; also on N escarpment

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

**R/V.** Woodland on N & SW escarpments (Thazima), rarely wanders to the high plateau

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*

**R?** Recorded rarely from the N escarpment, Thazima and high plateau (irregular)

**Eastern Least Honeyguide** *Indicator meliphilus*

**R.** Discreet species of montane forest (below 2100 m), flycatching in canopy or at edges

**Bennett's Woodpecker** *Campethera bennettii*

**R.** Marginal for the Nyika, recorded from Thazima and lower down in extreme NE, but could be more widespread on N escarpment

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*

**R.** Common on escarpments; occasionally higher up in forest patches in SW up to 2200 m

**Little Spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera cailliautii*

**R.** Uncommon species of riparian forest and adjacent miombo; reported from N foothills along the North Rukuru

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

**R.** Commonest woodpecker in miombo woodland below 1800 m (N & SW escarpments), locally up to 2100 m

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Thripias namaquus*

**R.** Widespread in miombo on escarpments up to 1800 m

**Olive Woodpecker** *Mesopicos griseocephalus*

**R.** Common in montane forest including small patches on the high plateau at 2450 m. Especially common in patches with many soft-barked trees

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis*

**R.** Few observations in moist forest in SW (Manyenjere and Chowo) up to 2150 m but very rare in Chowo where probably a wanderer. Also in riparian forest on W escarpment at Thazima and on the North Rukuru

**African Pitta** *Pitta angolensis*

**V.** Only a rare migrant through the area

**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana*

**R.** Common resident of montane grassland, this race (*nyikae*) being confined to the Nyika and some of the S highlands of Tanzania. Occasionally forming small flocks on burnt grassland

**Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

**R.** Wooded grassland on N escarpments up to 1400 m

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*

**AM.** Uncommon visitor in small numbers in the dry season, usually as small flocks in burnt grassland

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

**AM/R.** Not uncommon at forest and woodland edges on escarpments up to 1900 m, with a few to 2050 m; essentially a seasonal migrant over montane grassland at higher altitudes, appearing Apr-May and Aug-Sept.

**White-headed Saw-wing** *Pristoptera albiceps*

**AM.** Replaces Black Saw-wing at higher altitudes, although much overlap. Seasonally common on edge of forest and scrub on the plateau around 1800-2200 m. Normally arrives late Sept and departs in Apr.

**Eurasian Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

**PM.** Uncommon passage migrant, but probably annual Oct-Nov, then Mar-Apr.

**African Sand Martin** *Riparia paludicola*

**V.** One record of a vagrant at Dam 2

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*

**AM.** Small numbers seasonally over montane grassland, mainly from late Oct-Mar (breeds)

**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

**AM.** Seasonally common over montane grassland, especially May to Nov (breeds)

**Mosque Swallow** *Hirundo senegalensis*

**R.** Small numbers seen year-round on S escarpments and high plateau up to 2200 m

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Hirundo abyssinica*

**R.** Uncommon but seen in all months, often in ones and twos with mixed flocks over the high plateau to 2400 m and over escarpments

**Greater Striped Swallow** *Hirundo cucullata*

**V.** Exceptional migrant

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*

**R.** Occurs year-round in small numbers over the high plateau and upper slopes, especially near rocky hills. Has adapted to breeding on buildings (Zambian rest house and Chelinda)

**African Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula*

**R.** Few pairs found around larger rocky hills of plateau up to 2350 m; also on N escarpments

**Blue Swallow** *Hirundo atrocaerulea*

**AM.** Seasonally common over montane grassland on high plateau, mainly above 2100 m, Sept-Apr. Given amount of suitable habitat above 2100 m, estimated that at least 300 pairs are present on the Nyika

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

**R.** Very marginal for the Nyika, recorded mostly along the North Rukuru

**White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis*

**V.** Exceptional migrant

**Eurasian (Barn) Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

**PM.** Common wintering species over the plateau and escarpments, often in their hundreds, Sept-Apr.

**Angola Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis*

**AM.** Restricted to the high plateau at 2000-2300 m where small numbers occur from May-Jan. Seems to leave the area for a few months upon completing breeding

**Eurasian House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

**PM.** Winters in smaller numbers than Eurasian Swallow, but occasional influxes of hundreds in late Oct-Jan and Mar-Apr. Uncommon before late Sept.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

**PM.** Scarce migrant stopping briefly on both passages, usually near water, in short grass or on roads, Nov-Dec and Mar-Apr.

**Long-tailed Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

**R.** Few pairs on N Rukuru river on W escarpment, also recorded on some other streams

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

**R.** Local on high plateau, often at Chelinda. Also at Thazima and N escarpments

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

**R.** Very common in montane grassland

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*

**R.** Discreet species of miombo woodland and large boulders on the high plateau; most frequent on Chowo Rocks

**Buffy Pipit** *Anthus vaalensis*

**AM.** Dry-season visitor to short montane grassland, non-breeding. Attracted to recently burnt grassland

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

**PM.** Not uncommon wintering in miombo woodland and higher up in open montane grassland, forest edges and pine plantations, scrub among rocks; Nov-Apr.

**Black Cuckoo-shrike** *Campephaga flava*

**AM.** Widespread on escarpments and lower montane forests, also on the high plateau. Influx in dry season and some may stay to breed in the rains

**White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina pectoralis*

**R.** N & SW escarpments in miombo woodland up to 1700 m

**Eastern Mountain Greenbul** *Andropadus nigriceps*

**R.** Very common in montane forest on plateau to 2450 m; also montane shrubland 2-4 m high. Resident but some birds wander

**Stripe-cheeked Greenbul** *Andropadus milanjensis*

**R.** Confined to humid forests of E escarpment to 2250 m. Less common than Mountain Greenbul, with which it coexists

**Little Greenbul** *Andropadus virens*

**R.** Very local in SW (Manyenjere and N Rukuru). Not found on colder wetter E escarpment

**Yellow-bellied Bulbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

**R.** Low-altitude thicket or forest, very marginal for the Nyika as only at North Rukuru (Uledi)

**Terrestrial Bulbul** *Phyllastrephus terrestris*

**R.** A species of low or medium altitudes, in riparian forest on North Rukuru and near Thazima

**Grey-olive Bulbul** *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*

**R.** Riparian forest at lower altitudes, North Rukuru, below Chisanga Falls and Thazima

**Yellow-streaked Bulbul** *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

**R.** Common in montane rain forest on both escarpments from 1720 to 2300 m. Particularly attracted to epiphytic vegetation

**Black-eyed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus*

**R.** Common at edges of woodland, forest and in bracken-briar, up to 2350 m

**Eurasian Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*

**PM.** One record near the Zambian rest house, Dec.

**Miombo Rock Thrush** *Monticola angolensis*

**R.** Miombo woodland on all escarpments up to upper limit of tall woodland at 2050 m

**Olive Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus*

**R.** In all forest types from 1800 to 2450 m east to Nyamkhowa, but in small numbers

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana*

**R.** Miombo woodland on all escarpments, up to upper limit of tall woodland at 2050 m

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*

**R.** One pair seen in low canopy of *Uapaca*-dominated miombo, c.10 km into park

**Orange Thrush** *Zoothera gurneyi*

**R.** Uncommon or discreet species of montane forest on escarpments; locally more common than Olive Thrush but absent from high plateau

**White-chested Alethe** *Alethe fuelleborni*

**R.** Widespread in forest on escarpments, more local on central plateau up to 2400 m; distribution restricted by presence of active ant swarms. Mainly resident, but likely that some females move out in the dry winter months

**Starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*

**R/M.** The commonest forest robin up to upper limit of montane forest at 2450 m. Females are migratory

**Sharpe's Akalat** *Sheppardia sharpei*

**R.** Local to more humid forest types, almost confined to Manyenjere on SW and E escarpments, 1720-2300 m

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*

**PM.** One heard singing in riparian bush near Thazima, at upper altitudinal limit for this species in Malawi

**Olive-flanked Robin** *Cossypha anomala*

**R.** Common and widespread in understorey of montane forest on escarpments and in low-canopy forest on the high plateau, up to 2450 m



**Cape Robin** *Cossypha caffra*

**R.** Common species of secondary growth, bracken-briar and forest edges up to 2500 m, the larger the forest the more it confines itself to edges

**Heuglin's Robin** *Cossypha heuglini*

**R.** Species of riparian thicket and forest on all escarpments up to 2000 m on W escarpment

**Red-capped Robin** *Cossypha natalensis*

**R/AM?** Marginal for the Nyika; observed in riparian forest on North Rukuru

**Central Bearded Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia barbata*

**R.** Miombo woodland on lower escarpments in N, W & SW, probably not much above 1650 m

**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia leucophrys*

**R.** In understorey of open miombo woodland with fairly rank ground cover; quite common on escarpments up to upper limit of woodland at 2050 m

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

**R.** Common resident in montane grassland with some scrub, in bracken-briar, often at roadsides, to 2450 m

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

**PM.** Scarce Palearctic migrant on the high plateau; mainly Nov-Feb.

**Northern (Eurasian) Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**PM.** Regular migrant on southward passage in montane areas, mainly Oct-Dec.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*

**AM.** Migrant of irregular appearance in short montane grassland; Jun-Dec, Mar.

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

**R.** In open rocky miombo woodland on escarpments, up to 2000 m

**Arnot's Chat** *Myrmecocichla arnotti*

**R.** Local in miombo woodland on SW escarpment near Thazima and Kaperekezi

**Mocking Chat** *Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris*

**R.** Associated with large boulders, especially on Chowo Rocks and in similar habitat on N & SW escarpments; up to 2350 m

**Broad-tailed Warbler** *Schoenicola platyurus*

**R.** Skulking but not uncommon in rank lush grassland from 1900-2150 m on SW escarpment. Rarer above to 2300 m. Conspicuous in the rains when calling

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

**V.** Exceptional on the Nyika, with two records

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

**R.** Common at forest edges and in bracken-briar from 1900-2500 m, descending lower on Nyamkhowa Mt. Penetrates small forest patches above 2150 m, mostly in herbaceous undergrowth not occupied by *B. lopezi*

**Evergreen Forest Warbler** *Bradypterus lopezi*

**R.** Common in dense shrubby understorey of montane forest on escarpments and high plateau to 2450 m

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

**PM.** Uncommon wintering species on the high plateau, mostly Dec-Jan.

**African Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis*

**R.** Common in bracken-briar and secondary growth along streams, including lower edges of forest patches, up to 2300 m; overlapping with Yellow Mountain Warbler

**Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis*

**R.** Forest from 1920-2450 m on main plateau, locally common. Not found inside tall montane forest where it occupies edges and rank clearings

**Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments, up to 2000 m near upper limit of tall woodland

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*

**R.** More local than *E. scotops*, mostly on the lower escarpments in north

**Red-capped Crombec** *Sylvietta ruficapilla*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on escarpments in N & SW to upper limit of tall woodland at 2050 m.

**Long-billed Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens*

**R/V.** Very marginal for Nyika, recorded mainly from N border near Uledi; species of low-altitude thicket and riparian growth

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**PM.** Widespread species of woodland, wooded grassland, tree clumps or scrub in montane grassland and forest edges up to 2400 m. Most common from Oct to Mar.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

**R.** Confined to wetter forests of E escarpment from Nyamkhowa to Vitumbi, 1750-2350 m

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster*

**R.** Widespread but uncommon in miombo woodland on lower N & SW escarpments, almost to upper limit of tall woodland at 1980 m

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

**PM.** Seasonally common in forest patches and shrubland up to 2300 m. Mainly on southward passage from early Oct-Dec.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

**PM.** Few wintering annually on high plateau in forest patches and shrubland up to 2400 m

**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

**PM.** Uncommon migrant, possibly not annual; particularly scarce on southward passage

**Brown Parisoma** *Sylvia lugens*

**R.** Discreet species confined to small groves of *Acacia abyssinica* on S & SW escarpments

**Ayres's Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii*

**R.** Common in short montane grassland from 2000-2600 m

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

**R.** Local species of *Themeda* grassland on SW escarpment up to 2100 m

**Wailing Cisticola** *Cisticola lais*

**R.** Common species of montane grassland with some bracken, with a preference for rocky areas. Widespread to 2250 m, more local above that

**Churring Cisticola** *Cisticola njombe*

**R.** Common in rank grass with some bracken from 1950 to 2450 m. Overlaps with Wailing Cisticola near forest edges and in bracken patches but is more common on high plateau (2250-2450 m)

**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*

**R.** Localized in rank grass with scattered bushes or trees on S & SW escarpments, including the Fingira-Ulera region and border road up to 2050 m

**Neddicky Cisticola** *Cisticola fulvicapilla*

**R.** Common in miombo woodland on lower escarpments up to 1650 m

**Rock Cisticola** *Cisticola aberrans*

**R.** In miombo woodland in vicinity of rocks and regularly up to upper limit of tall woodland at 2050 m; not above the tree limit

**Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami*

**R.** Common in miombo woodland on all escarpments to upper limit of woodland (2050 m)

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

**R.** In long riparian grass on lower escarpments (e.g. North Rukuru) and to 1600 m in the SW. Very common at low altitudes; rather marginal for the Nyika

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*

**R.** Common in rank growth below 2200 m such as grass with bracken, shrubland, forest edges and rank vegetation along streams. More local above 2200 m, up to 2350 m on E escarpment

**Black-lored Cisticola** *Cisticola nigriloris*

**R.** Common gregarious species of bracken-briar throughout high plateau up to 2500 m; common down to 1720 m at Nyamkhowa

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

**R.** In rank grass with shrubs on escarpments and lower plateau lip up to 2150 m; very common at lower altitudes

**Red-winged Warbler** *Heliolais erythropterus*

**R.** Local species of rank grass in miombo woodland up to 1650 m

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

**R.** Riparian forest at lower altitudes in N foothills where it can be common (e.g. North Rukuru), and at Thazima close to its altitudinal limit (1650 m)

**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*

**R.** Very common in montane forest and tall shrubland up to 2450 m. Particularly numerous in fragmented forest with much edge. The only *Apalis* species in low-canopy montane forest on the high plateau

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

**R.** In canopy of tall montane forest in S & SW up to Chowo. More common at c.2000 m in the Manyenjere, Kasoma and Kasyaula areas

**Chestnut-headed Apalis** *Apalis chapini*

**R.** Common canopy species in montane forest, also coming down the edges where it is in competition with Bar-throated Apalis. Not in low-canopy forest on the high plateau or above 2250 m in the SW

**Bleating Bush Warbler** *Camaroptera brachyura*

**R.** Common in low rank growth in woodland, thicket and riparian vegetation at low and medium altitudes on N foothills (North Rukuru), Thazima and Ulera

**Miombo Barred Warbler** *Camaroptera undosa*

**R.** Not uncommon in miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments. Reaches about 1800 m on S slopes

**Pallid Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*

**R.** Local in miombo woodland on N, W & SW escarpments up to 1650 m

**Slaty Flycatcher** *Melaenornis chocolatinus*

**R.** Fairly common in montane grassland with scattered bushes or trees, dense bracken-briar and forest edges up to 2250 m. Occasionally penetrates into small forest patches to attend ant swarms

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*

**R.** Local in light woodland on N & W escarpments and Thazima up to 1600 m

**Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis*

**PM.** Not many records, but probably winters in small numbers in miombo woodland

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

**PM.** More often recorded than *Ficedula albicollis*, mainly from miombo woodland or the Lusero area; Oct-Mar.

**Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

**R/M.** In upland miombo woodland, edge of riparian forest and at edges and large clearings of tall montane forest up to 2200 m, including lower levels of E escarpment

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*

**R.** In canopy and edges of riparian forest and woodland at lower altitudes on N & SW escarpments up to 1600 m

**Böhm's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa boehmi*

**R.** Miombo endemic, very scarce on the Nyika, S & W escarpments up to 1800 m

**Lead-coloured Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*

**R.** Rather local, recorded only from N and W escarpment

**Cape Batis** *Batis capensis*

**R.** Common in understorey and at edges of montane forest throughout on escarpments and high plateau up to 2450 m

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*

**R.** Common in woodland or wooded grassland on escarpments and plateau lip, including *Protea-Faurea* wooded grassland in the Chire valley and near Chowo Rocks up to 2150 m

**Black-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira peltata*

**R.** Very marginal for Nyika; found on the Chire stream at 1520 m. Could be expected in riparian forest in the north

**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda*

**R.** Mainly on edge of riparian forest and in adjacent miombo woodland. Regularly seen up to 2000 m

**White-tailed Crested Flycatcher** *Elminia albonotata*

**R.** Common in understorey of montane forest on escarpments and high plateau up to 2450 m

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

**AM.** Widespread on escarpments up to 2000 m, especially in riparian; locally in montane forest in the SW

**Mountain Illadopsis** *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

**R.** Confined to wetter forests of E escarpment, including Nyamkhowa. Favours dense understorey with much shrubbery from 1720-2300 m

**African (Abyssinian) Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

**R.** Not uncommon in montane forest on E & SW escarpments, favouring understorey with walls of lianes. Appears very local on the high plateau

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*

**R.** In patches of thickets and rank grass, especially riparian growth, on escarpments and lower plateau. Regularly found up to 2050 m on SW escarpment

**White-winged Black Tit** *Parus leucomelas*

**R.** Typically at ecotone of riparian forest and woodland, at higher altitudes in wooded grassland and scrub along streams. In SW to 2200 m

**Miombo Grey Tit** *Parus griseiventris*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments up to upper limit of tall woodland at 2050 m

**Rufous-bellied Tit** *Parus rufiventris*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments, up to 2000 m

**Grey Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli*

**R.** In miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments up to 1800 m on the S slopes

**Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis spilonotus*

**R.** In miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments, up to 1900 m (in *Acacia abyssinica*).

**Red-and-blue Sunbird** *Anthreptes anchietae*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland and riparian vegetation on N & SW escarpments, up to 2050 m above Chisanga Falls

**Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*

**R.** In miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments up to 1900 m on the S slopes

**Collared Sunbird** *Anthreptes collaris*

**R.** Riparian forest in N foothills and on SW slopes, penetrating into montane forest in the SW

**Olive Sunbird** *Nectarinia olivacea*

**R.** Riparian forest in N foothills, on the Chire river at 1500 m and marginally into lower-altitude montane forest to 2150 m (SW). Unlikely on the high eastern escarpment

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Nectarinia verticalis*

**R.** Forest within a rather limited altitudinal range, from the southern slopes to the SW escarpment up to 2200 m

**Black Sunbird** *Nectarinia amethystina*

**R.** Common in miombo woodland on all escarpments up to limit of tall woodland at Chisanga Falls (2050 m)

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Nectarinia senegalensis*

**R.** Species of open woodland and riparian vegetation at low altitude, only from the N foothills. Not above 1400 m

**Yellow-bellied Sunbird** *Nectarinia venusta*

**R.** Widespread on escarpments, edge of riparian forest and in bracken-briar on lower levels of the high plateau, mainly below 2150 m. Fairly common up to 2000 m

**White-bellied Sunbird** *Nectarinia talatala*

**R.** Low-altitude dry woodland, very marginal for the Nyika; known only from N foothills (Uledi)

**Greater Double-collared Sunbird** *Nectarinia afra*

**R.** The endemic race *whytei* is very common in montane shrubland and regenerating growth at forest edges, occasionally wandering into open grassland, from 1900-2500 m

**Miombo Double-collared Sunbird** *Nectarinia manoensis*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments up to upper limit of woodland around 2050 m

**Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Nectarinia mediocris*

**R.** Very common in montane forest on escarpments and the high plateau from 1900-2450 m. At all levels of forest but mostly in the canopy and at edges

**Yellow-tufted Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*

**R.** Widespread in small numbers in montane grassland (1900-2500 m) with scattered shrubs or small trees

**Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia johnstoni*

**R.** Not as widespread on the high plateau as *N. famosa*, but in many localities from 1950-2450 m down to 1800 m at Nyamkhowa. Common at Chowo Rocks

**Bronze Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*

**R.** Widespread in montane grassland, shrubland and at forest edges, mainly 1700-2350 m

**Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*

**R.** Miombo woodland on lower escarpments, very common in forest and secondary growth on the high plateau to 2450 m

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

**PM.** Uncommon passage migrant with few records on southward passage in Oct-Nov.

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus*

**R.** Miombo woodland and riparian forest on lower slopes, occasionally wandering into forest on the high plateau, Oct-Nov.

**Eastern Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*

**R/M.** Common in miombo woodland on escarpments below 1800 m. Some individuals move to forest patches on the high plateau from Apr-Oct.

**Sousa's Shrike** *Lanius souzae*

**R.** Scarce resident of miombo woodland; recent records from S slopes up to 1800 m

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

**PM.** Fairly common on northward passage (Mar-Apr) over the high plateau up to 2400 m, but scarce on southward passage

**Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

**PV.** Very rare vagrant

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*

**PM.** Noted over the high Nyika on northward passage (Mar-Apr) up to 2400 m

**Fiscal Shrike** *Lanius collaris*

**R.** Common resident in open grassland with scattered bushes or trees and in bracken-briar to 2400 m

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments to upper limit of tall woodland

**Southern Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla*

**R.** Very common in canopy of miombo woodland and riparian forest on escarpments; coming up into montane forest in SW to 2200 m

**Marsh Tchagra** *Tchagra minutus*

**R.** Skulking but not uncommon species in tall rank grass and bracken-briar, 1800-2150 m, on S & SW escarpments

**Brown-headed Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*

**R.** In rank riparian growth and dense grass or scrub on N & SW escarpments, coming marginally into montane shrubland; upper limit 2000 m

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*

**R.** Widespread on escarpments; more generally distributed than *T. australis* at higher altitudes to 2200 m

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

**R.** Common in any thicket or low scrub on lower escarpments; not uncommon at high altitudes to 2200 m

**Fülleborn's Black Boubou** *Laniarius fülleborni*

**R.** Common in dense understorey of montane forest on escarpments and at all levels of low-canopy montane forest on the high plateau, 1750-2500 m. Smallest forest patches occupied are 0.6-1 ha

**Orange-breasted Bush Shrike** *Malaconotus sulfureopectus*

**R.** Mostly in riparian forest or woodland on lower slopes of N escarpment

**Many-coloured Bush Shrike** *Malaconotus multicolor*

**R.** Canopy and mid-stratum of tall montane forest in SW (1900-2200 m). Absent from E escarpment and most other forested areas of N Malawi

**Grey-headed Bush Shrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*

**R.** An uncommon species of woodland and riparian vegetation, recorded from the N foothills and SW escarpment

**White Helmet Shrike** *Prionops plumatus*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on the lower escarpments mostly below 1600 m

**Red-billed Helmet Shrike** *Prionops retzii*

**R.** Widespread in woodland and riparian forest on N escarpment, more local in SW, up to 1600 m

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on the N & SW escarpments up to 1900 m. Some dry-season visitors to high plateau

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

**R.** A commensal species, recorded mostly at Chelinda and Zambian rest house. First reported at both sites in 1969

**White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*

**R.** More widely distributed than *C. albus* as associated with rocky hills or small boulders for breeding; foraging widely over the whole plateau

**Waller's Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*

**R.** Widespread in tall montane forest on both E & SW escarpments from 1750-2220 m

**African Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*

**R.** A few pairs at rocky hills on the escarpments and high plateau

**Slender-billed (Chestnut-winged) Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

**R.** More specialized than *O. morio*, breeding on rock faces next to waterfalls; confined to the high plateau from 2000-2400 m. Feeds in montane grassland and occasionally in forest trees

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

**R.** A local species of miombo woodland on the lower escarpments

**Amethyst Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

**AM.** Seasonally common (Sept-Jan) in miombo woodland and patches of montane forest on SW escarpment to 2250 m

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

**V.** An erratic species in Malawi, with two records

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

**R?** Never recorded in the 1970s and 1980s, first seen on the high plateau in 1993

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*

**R.** Known marginally from the Thazima area; mainly commensal

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Petronia superciliaris*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on N & SW escarpments to (mostly) 1800 m

**Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-weaver** *Plocepasser rufoscapulatus*

**V.** Vagrant seen in 1991 (Thazima)

**Baglaffeht Weaver** *Ploceus baglaffeht*

**R.** The endemic race *nyikae* is widespread in montane grassland with clumps of trees or shrubs, riparian growth and generally forest margins from 1900-2450 m

**Bertram's Weaver** *Ploceus bertrandi*

**R.** Mainly at forest margins, bracken-briar with scattered trees, riparian *Acacia abyssinica*, but not above 2200 m so absent from higher sections of plateau

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

**R.** Widespread in riparian growth on escarpments up to 2200 m on the plateau; not uncommon in bracken-briar and tree clumps, particularly along streams

**Large Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*

**R.** In very small numbers on S & SW slopes up to 2050 m, in bracken-briar and at forest edges, often in riparian situations

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes melanotis*

**R.** In dry miombo woodland on N slopes below 1550 m

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

**V.** Species of low-altitude dry savannas, only an exceptional wanderer to the Nyika

**Black-winged Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*

**R.** Localized species of rank grass on the N escarpment (Uledi)

**Yellow-rumped Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*

**R.** In rank grass in woodland clearings on N & SW escarpments, rarely above 1700 m

**White-winged Whydah** *Euplectes albonotatus*

**R.** Species of rank grass in dry, open woodland (W boundary)



**Red-collared Whydah** *Euplectes ardens*

**R.** In rank, moist grass on N & SW escarpments, coming up to plateau to 2200 m

**Mountain Marsh Whydah** *Euplectes psammocromius*

**R.** Common in moist herbage along streams and dambos on high plateau, mainly 2000-2400 m

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*

**R.** Local at low altitudes in thickets

**Orange-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia afra*

**R.** Local in rank grass and small thickets in miombo woodland

**Red-faced Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza reichenovii*

**R.** Discreet but widespread species in understorey of montane rain forest up to 2300 m

**Red-throated Twinspot** *Hypargos niveoguttatus*

**R.** Uncommon or discreet species of riparian thicket, recorded only from the N escarpment

**Green Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula*

**V/R.** Mainly reported from Zambian side up to 2150 m; so few records that presumably only a wanderer from lower altitude

**Blue-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*

**R.** Widespread in rank growth, bracken-briar and at forest edges over a wide altitudinal range up to 2500 m

**Black-tailed Grey Waxbill** *Estrilda perreini*

**R.** Discreet bird of dense riparian forest (SW including Thazima, to 1900 m)

**Swee Waxbill** *Estrilda melanotis*

**R.** Common in bracken-briar and dense herbaceous growth at forest edges and along streams, scrub on rocks, penetrating occasionally inside forest to drink, up to 2450-2500 m

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

**R.** Small parties or flocks commonly encountered in open montane grassland and dambos on plateau up to 2500 m

**Blue Waxbill** *Uraeginthus angolensis*

**R.** In small thickets or scrubby understorey of open woodland: recorded from N foothills and SW escarpment, rarely wandering to high plateau

**Zebra (Orange) Waxbill** *Amandava subflava*

**R/V?** One record from Chipome river at 1370 m

**Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullata*

**R.** In any grassland on lower slopes (N & SW), as in clearings in woodland. Only a vagrant on high plateau

**Red-backed Mannikin** *Spermestes bicolor*

**R.** Normally in rich woodland and edge of riparian, known from N & SW escarpments, irregular on plateau

**Variable Indigobird** *Vidua funerea*

**R.** Uncommon, confined to altitudes below 2000 m, in rank grass and bushes

**Pin-tailed Widow** *Vidua macroura*

**R?** Species of open, rank grassland, largely absent from wooded escarpments, and local on the high plateau, at upper altitudinal limit of its range

**Cape Canary** *Serinus canicollis*

**R.** Usually common on the high plateau, in grassland, bracken-briar, at forest edges, occasionally in forest canopy up to 2450 m

**African Citril** *Serinus citrinelloides*

**R.** Locally not uncommon at forest edges and secondary growth, often along streams, on escarpments and plateau to 2300 m

**Yellow-eyed Canary** *Serinus mozambicus*

**R.** Not a bird of high altitudes, recorded only from lower wooded slopes (N & W); completely absent from the high plateau

**Bully Canary** *Serinus sulphuratus*

**R.** Not uncommon in secondary growth, at forest edges and in wooded grassland on the high plateau up to 2400 m

**Black-eared Seedeater** *Serinus mennelli*

**R.** Miombo endemic; on lower SW escarpments in Thazima region, c.1600 m

**Stripe-breasted Seedeater** *Serinus reichardi*

**R.** More widespread than previous species, in miombo woodland, to 1800-1900 m

**Streaky Seedeater** *Serinus striolatus*

**R.** Discreet species of forest edges, montane shrubland and locally in dense understorey of riparian forest on plateau and higher escarpments (E & SW) from 1900-2400 m

**Oriole Finch** *Linurgus olivaceus*

**R.** Very uncommon species confined to forests of E escarpment and Nkhonjera, to 2200 m

**Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*

**AM.** Not known to breed anywhere on the high plateau; the few records are of birds on passage

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on lower slopes (N & SW), approaching upper limit of woodland near Chisanga Falls, also *Protea* grassland to 2000 m

**Cabanis's Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi*

**R.** Widespread in miombo woodland on lower slopes (N & SW) to upper limits of tall woodland, also *Protea* grassland to 2150 m