

BIRD LIST UPDATE 10-31 JANUARY 2006

DAVID AND ROSIE HENSHILLWOOD – ENGLAND

our acknowledgement and gratitude to David and Rosie for this comprehensive update.

Species seen within a ten-minute walk of the hotel, either along the road or along beach to the south. The garden, the adjoining forest to the north, the scrub along the access track to Aqualand and the scattered trees behind the beach to the south were all good spots of birds. At high water there was a mixed roost of several hundred gulls, terns and waders on the beach to the south, which also produced storks, ibises and egrets at low water. Birding usually confined to an hour or two in the morning, and an hour in the late afternoon.

CORMORANTS

<i>Lesser Cormorant</i>	2 south offshore on 17 th
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HERONS AND EGRETS

<i>Grey Heron</i>	2 seen almost daily, roosting in the forest and flying out to feed on the inter-tidal areas at low water
<i>Great White Egret</i>	singles on 13 th and 29 th -30 th on inter-tidal flats at low tide
<i>Dimorphic Egret</i>	1 on 28 th on inter-tidal flats to south at low tide

STORKS

<i>Woolly necked Stork</i>	Family party of 2 adults with three young on inter tidal flats at low water on several dates
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IBISES

<i>Sacred Ibis</i>	up to 5 on inter-tidal flats to south on several dates
<i>Hadada Ibis</i>	up to three seen almost daily in forest to north of hotel, and feeding on the hotel lawn on 28th

BIRDS OF PREY

<i>Palm Nut Vulture</i>	Pair seen almost daily to south of hotel, scavenging on the beach at low tide or perched in the boarbabs along the back of the beach. Seen flying past Pinewoods on several dates.
<i>African Fish Eagle</i>	h 1 drifting over just to the south of Pinewoods on 30t
<i>Black-shouldered Kite</i>	1 immature seen on three dates in boarbabs in scrub to west, and hunting over the scrub
<i>Black Kite</i>	singles on several dates, over scrub to west and over the hotel garden and beach on 3 days
<i>Montague's Harrier</i>	1 circling high over Aqualand on 13th
<i>Tawny Eagle</i>	1 perched in trees behind beach to south of Pinewoods on the 19th
<i>Southern Banded Snake Eagle</i>	1 perched in distant boarbab to west of hotel on 21st
<i>Lizard Buzzard</i>	1 perched in trees close to hotel entrance on 15 th and 18 th . Heard calling on several other dates
<i>Gabar Goshawk</i>	1 hunting across scrub to west of hotel on 29th
<i>Little Sparrowhawk</i>	1 flew across the track to Aqualand on 22nd
<i>Lesser Kestrel</i>	1 in large tree in garden adjacent to forest edge on 15th

PLOVERS

<i>Ringed Plover</i>	up to 50 daily, feeding along tideline and at wader roost
<i>Lesser Sandplover</i>	c40 in the mixed wader flock
<i>Greater Sandplover</i>	c20 maximum count
<i>Caspian Plover</i>	1 on 20 th in mixed wader roost
<i>Grey Plover</i>	up to 50 daily

SANDPIPERS

<i>Common Sandpiper</i>	up to 3 along the beach on many dates from the 15th
<i>Terek Sandpiper</i>	27 was the largest number counted together; present daily among the wader flock
<i>Greenshank</i>	1 on the 20 th seen on several dates subsequently
<i>Sanderling</i>	c80 along the tideline daily and at wader roost. Together with Ringed Plover and Grey Plover the waders most likely to be seen from Pinewoods
<i>Curlew Sandpiper</i>	a large flock of c300 seen daily at the wader roost, or feeding on the flats at low tide

GULLS AND TERNS

<i>Sooty Gull</i>	present daily, max 110 at wader roost on south beach 29th
<i>Greater Crested Tern</i>	1 in the mixed tern roost on the 19 th January
<i>Lesser Crested</i>	Tern between 40-50 daily at wader roost on south beach
<i>Caspian Tern</i>	1 flew south on 10th
<i>Common Tern</i>	up to 10 with tern flock to south between 27 th and 30th
<i>Saunders' Tern</i>	small numbers at high water roost on beach to south, max 10; then big increase in last days of the month, with over 400 at low water on reefs to south on 29th

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PIGEONS AND DOVES

<i>African Green Pigeon</i>	3 in forest adjoining garden on 14th
<i>Emerald-spotted Wood-dove</i>	1 or 2 on several dates in and around the forest to the north
<i>Ring-necked Dove</i>	seen almost in forest adjoining garden, and in trees behind the beach to the south
<i>Red-eyed Dove</i>	seen in forest adjoining garden on several dates from 14th

TURACOS

<i>Fischer's Turaco</i>	1 feeding in fig tree beside swimming pool on 23 rd was the only sighting
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COUCALS

<i>White browed Coucal</i>	singles seen regularly in the scrub around the hotel
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SWIFTS

<i>African Palm Swift</i>	present daily over the garden scrub and behind beach
<i>White-rumped Swift</i>	up to 5 on several dates with Palm Swifts over the garden
<i>Little Swift</i>	c10 overhead on the 14 th and small numbers on several subsequent dates

MOUSEBIRDS

<i>Speckled Mousebird</i>	up to 8 in the scrub near the front gate or along the track to Aqualand
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KINGFISHERS

<i>Grey headed Kingfisher</i>	seen from the balcony of room 82, perched in the hedge on three dates from 10 th , and in the forest to the north on 27th
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BEE-EATERS

<i>Little Bee eater</i>	up to 5 on many dates, either along roadside or in tops of big trees behind the beach
<i>White throated Bee eater</i>	commonest bee eater, up to 20 seen daily
<i>Blue cheeked Bee eater</i>	1 in the large boarbab in the garden on the 19th
<i>European Bee eater</i>	2 in forest to north on
<i>Northern Carmine Bee eater</i>	1 over the garden on 24 th ; 2 on wired near Pinewood main gate On 24th

ROLLERS

<i>Lilac breasted Roller</i>	1 or 2 on many dates from 16 th in the casuarinas or boarbabs along the beach to the south of Pinewoods
<i>Broad billed Roller</i>	2 being chased away from the casuarinas to the south of the hotel by lilac breasted roller on 22 nd . 1 in the boarbab in the garden on the 29 th .

WOOD HOOPOES

<i>Green Wood hoopoe</i>	a group of 5 in an isolated roadside tree to the north of Pinewoods on 14th
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HORNBILL

<i>Silvery-cheeked hornbill</i>	flock feeding daily on figs above the Jahazi restaurant, and in the forest to the north. Max 19 together.
<i>Crowned Hornbill</i>	3 in the forest to the north on the 23 rd ; 1 along the track to Aqualand on 28th

TINKERBIRDS AND BARBETS

<i>Yellow rumped Tinkerbird</i>	
<i>Brown breasted Barbet</i>	1 or 2 seen almost daily in forest to north, or in boarbabs along beach to south

HONEYGUIDES

<i>Pallid Honeyguide</i>	1 in scrub along road on 21st
<i>Lesser Honeyguide</i>	1 in fig tree adjoining the garden to the north on 23rd

MARTINS AND SWALLOWS

<i>Sand Martin</i>	2 on the 17 nd , 20 th and 22 nd with Barn Swallows over the beach or on the wires outside Pinewood
<i>Barn Swallow</i>	seen daily, groups of up to 40 on the wires along the road
<i>Lesser Striped Swallow</i>	up to 20 daily over the garden

WAGTAILS

<i>African Pied Wagtail</i>	seen almost daily in garden or along beach to south max 3 together
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BULBULS

<i>Common Bulbul</i>	most frequently seen species daily in the garden
<i>Northern Brownbul</i>	heard almost daily in scrub by main gate but no more than 3 seen together
<i>Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul</i>	seen in small numbers daily on fruiting shrubs in the garden and around the hotel in the scrub
<i>Yellow-bellied Greenbul</i>	1 or 2 on several dates in hedge alongside the entrance drive

ROBIN CHATS

<i>White browed Robin Chat</i>	1 seen from the balcony of room 82 on the first morning (11 th), then watched singing from the scrub on the Aqualand track on 17th
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SCRUB ROBINS

<i>White browed Scrub Robin</i>	1 watched for several minutes singing from low bush opposite Aqualand entrance on 17th
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MORNING THRUSHES

<i>Collared Palm Thrush</i>	singles scattered through the adjoining scrub including the Aqualand access track
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WARBLERS

<i>Olivaceous Warbler</i>	1 in acacia tree on Aqualand access track 15th
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CISTICOLAS

<i>Rattling Cisticola</i>	at least three in low scrub near Pinewood entrance, 29th
<i>Winding Cisticola</i>	1 in scrub along road towards Diani on 21st

FLYCATCHERS

<i>Pale Flycatcher</i>	singles in the big boarbab on the 17 th and 29th
<i>Spotted Flycatcher</i>	at least one almost daily in the scrub by Aqualand entrance
<i>Ashy Flycatcher</i>	1 in the big boarbab in the garden on the 17 th and 22nd

BATISES

<i>Black headed Batis</i>	1 in the garden on the 14 th ; 1 in the entrance drive hedge on 29 th , and two in the adjoining forest on the same date
<i>Black throated Wattle eye</i>	1 in the scrub along the Aqualand track on the 16th

SUNBIRDS

<i>Collared Sunbird</i>	1 or 2 seen in the garden most days but elusive
<i>Mouse-coloured Sunbird</i>	2 in the big boarbab in the garden. 19th
<i>Olive Sunbird</i> 3	including singing male in the big boarbab on the 17th

SHRIKES

<i>Isabelline Shrike</i>	1 in roadside scrub near the entrance gate on 15 th
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TCHAGRAS

<i>Black crowned Tchagra</i>	1 in roadside scrub on 15 th and 29th
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DRONGOS

<i>Fork tailed Drongo</i>	two pairs seen almost daily, 1 pair around Aqualand and another in forest north of the garden
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ORIOLES

<i>European Golden Oriole</i>	singles and small groups of up to 5 seen on many dates in tops of fig trees, Aqualand track and forest to north
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STARLINGS

<i>Black bellied Starling</i>	small groups seen in hotel garden on the 10 th and 19th
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SPARROWS

<i>House Sparrow</i>	small numbers present daily
<i>Parrot billed Sparrow</i>	Pair on several dates in and around the boarbab in the garden; also in trees to south of hotel along the beach

WEAVERS

<i>Black headed Weaver</i>	pairs or small parties on many dates in the crowns of the boarbabs and casuarinas
<i>Black necked Weaver</i>	Pairs in low scrub around Pinewoods entrance on several dates
<i>Grosbeak Weaver</i>	single on the 14 th in forest edge north of garden
<i>Golden Palm Weaver</i>	seen daily at breeding colony in hotel pond

QUELEAS

<i>Red billed Quelea</i>	23 around the rubbish tip opposite the hotel 29th
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RED BISHOPS

<i>Zanzibar Red Bishop</i>	1 in the boarbab in the garden on 29th
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FIRE FINCHES

<i>African Fire Finch</i>	Pair seen in entrance drive hedge on 14 th
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MANNIKINS

<i>Bronze Mannikin</i>	Small flocks of up to 15 in the casuarinas and on the edge of the forest to the north
<i>Black and White Mannikin</i>	Up to 10 seen on several days along the forest edge to the north

CANARIES AND SEEDEATERS

<i>Yellow fronted canary</i>	small numbers most days in the casuarinas and boarbabs to the south of the hotel. Also in the big boarbab in the garden
<i>Yellow rumped seedeater fronted canaries</i>	in small numbers with yellow