



# Biodiversity Observations

<http://bo.adu.org.za>



**An electronic journal published by the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town**

The scope of Biodiversity Observations consists of papers describing observations about biodiversity in general, including animals, plants, algae and fungi. This includes observations of behaviour, breeding and flowering patterns, distributions and range extensions, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and colouration/plumage variations. Biotic interactions such as pollination, fruit dispersal, herbivory and predation fall within the scope, as well as the use of indigenous and exotic species by humans. Observations of naturalised plants and animals will also be considered. Biodiversity Observations will also publish a variety of other interesting or relevant biodiversity material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, book reviews and any other appropriate material. Further details and guidelines to authors are on this website.

Paper Editor: H. Dieter Oschadleus and Amour McCarthy

---

## **RETURN TO A ZAMBIAN JEWEL: A RESEARCH STAY AT MUTINONDO WILDERNESS LODGE**

**Ursula Franke-Bryson**

Recommended citation format:

**Franke-Bryson U 2017**. Return to a Zambian Jewel: A research stay at Mutinondo Wilderness Lodge. Biodiversity Observations, Vol 8.31: 1-14

URL: <http://bo.adu.org.za/content.php?id=326>

Published online: 28 June 2017

## AFRING NEWS

**RETURN TO A ZAMBIAN JEWEL:  
A RESEARCH STAY AT MUTINONDO WILDERNESS  
LODGE**

*Ursula Franke-Bryson*

\*Corresponding author - praxis@ursula-franke.de

In the beginning of March 2016, my husband (Thomas) and I spent six grace-filled days ringing birds at Mutinondo Wilderness Lodge in northern Zambia (12°27'S 31°17'E).

Shortly after we had left the car we looked at each other with the same thought: This is a place where we would like to spend some weeks for bird ringing.

Birdlife was like a miracle and this experience became richer and more profound by the extensive knowledge, experience and enthusiasm of lodge manager Frank Willems, and Michael Mills, our South African bird guide, specialising in Angolan birds and bird sounds in general.

The land is pristine miombo woodland with giant whale-back rocks and dambos that drain their waters through evergreen forest patches. The island mountains and vistas unfolded a sense of earth before humanity, of a timelessness before we had names. This purity and variety of habitats hosts a huge number of bird species, 356 have been recorded by now. For us, mainly ringing birds in the Namibian desert, it looked like paradise and it proved to be.



Figure 1 - View from the cabin.



Figure 2 – Corncrake *Crex crex*.



Figure 3 - Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*



Figure 4 – Rufous-bellied Tit *Parus rufiventris*

Our hosts welcomed us with wonderful food and gracious accommodations. Our spacious, organically-grown-out-of-the-rock, grass-roofed chalet, one of four, offered us peaceful stillness and rest and captivating views. Small streams invited us for a bath after the day's work, with no hippos, no crocs, no bilharzia, the Hamerkop nesting above, and Finfoot paddling silently. From the well cared for campsites we could see in the valley flocks of Eurasian Hobbies hunting dragonflies.

We returned 9 months later, in December 2016, for five weeks of daily bird ringing. Arriving, the lush paradise now was dry after a long time of drought and was black in many parts from the poachers' fires. The trees were bare, the rivers and marsh shrunken. Only two days before our arrival the first rain for months had fallen. The rains stayed with us almost daily in all forms from drizzle to thunderstorms, and slowly Earth turned green again, bringing new varieties of flowers and insects every day.





**Figure 5** - Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata*

Mutinondo is a birder's paradise - chest high grass giving us Black-rumped Buttonquail, Broad-tailed Warblers and Grey-rumped Swallows. Senegal Coucals skulking along small streams of crystal water meandering through the marshy so-called dambos in the openings between pristine miombo forest, home of the Bar-winged Weaver and Anchieta's Barbet.



**Figure 6** - Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*





Figure 7 - African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*



Figure 8 - African Wood-owl *Strix woodfordii*

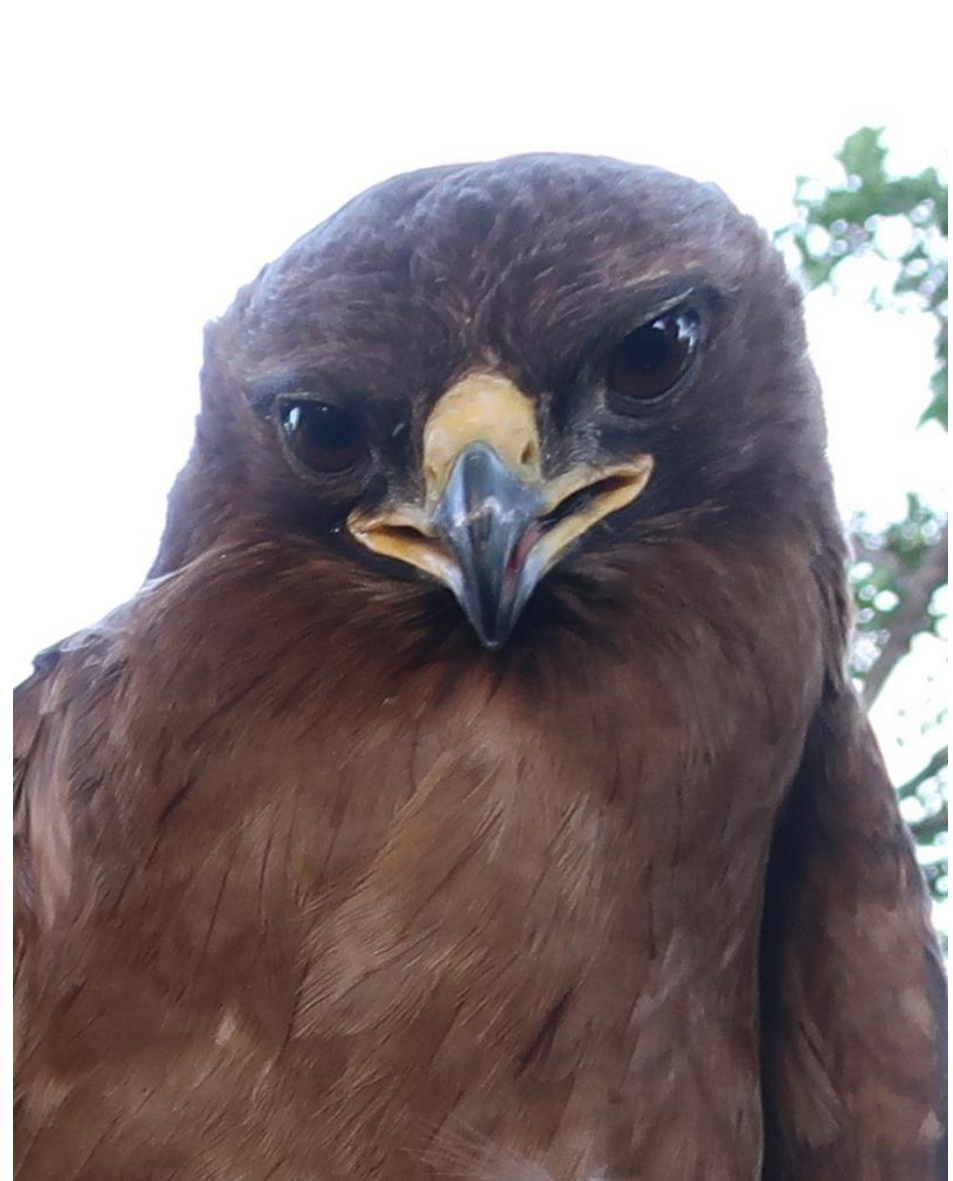


Figure 9 - Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*





Figure 10 - White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*



Figure 12 - Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops*



Figure 11 - Red-capped Crombec *Sylvietta ruficapilla*



Figure 13 - Black-rumped Buttonquail *Turnix nanus*





Figure 14 - Bocage's Akalat *Sheppardia bocagei*



Figure 15 - Bar-winged Weaver *Ploceus angolensis*

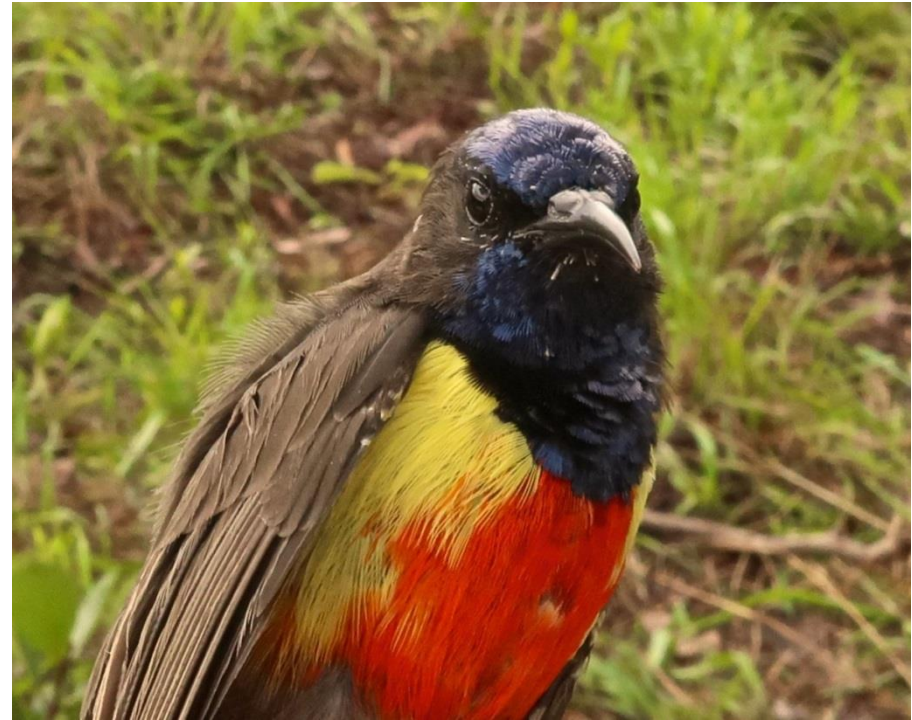


Figure 16 - Anchieta's Sunbird *Anthreptes anchietae*

Dense thickets in steep gorges were home to the reclusive, brilliant Bocage's Akalat and Cabanis's, Little and Grey-olive Greenbuls.

We were surprised by a Spotted Creeper alone in a 15 m mist net; Black-throated Wattle-eye, Böhm's, Ashy, Collared and Blue-mantled Crested Flycatchers; Meyer's Parrot, Green-headed, Olive, Variable, Anchieta's and Amethyst Sunbirds. Black-backed Barbets, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds, Stierling's Wren-warbler, Pale-crowned, Stout, Trilling, Zitting, Red-faced and Short-winged Cisticolas.





**Figure 17** - Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi*

The other-worldly call of the Ground Hornbill echoing by day was matched by the Spotted Hyaena song at night. Ross's Turaco flashing through the trees on a quiet afternoon, while Schalow's Touracos were heard croaking; - we felt redeemed, reset to our initial conditions.

A special treat were the Palearctic migrants: Tree Pipits, Collared Flycatchers, Whitethroats, Garden, Marsh, Sedge and Great Reed Warblers, Thrush Nightingales and as a highlight, a River Warbler.



**Figure 18** - Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*



**Figure 19** - Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*





Figure 20 - River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

We saw more than 170 species and ringed 700 birds of over 100 species.

#### Mutinondo Wilderness Birdlist, updated 1 January 2017

This list was compiled by Frank Willems, the manager, based on the observations of the owner over the last 10 or so years. The species names in **bold mean birds seen**, the ones *in italic are species ringed*, by the authors in two ringing visits (March and December 2016).

1. Little Grebe
2. Little Bittern

3. Dwarf Bittern
4. White-backed Night Heron
5. **Rufous-bellied Heron**
6. **Cattle Egret**
7. **Green-backed Heron**
8. Great White Egret
9. **Hamerkop**
10. **Openbill Stork**
11. Black Stork
12. Abdim's Stork
13. Woolly-necked Stork
14. White Stork
15. Marabou Stork
16. Hadada
17. White-faced Whistling Duck
18. Spur-winged Goose
19. Comb (Knob-billed) Duck
20. **African Black Duck**
21. **Yellow-billed Duck**
22. Southern Pochard
23. African Cuckoo Hawk
24. Honey Buzzard
25. Bat Hawk
26. Black-shouldered Kite
27. **Black (Yellowbilled) Kite**
28. African Fish-Eagle
29. Palm-nut Vulture
30. Hooded Vulture
31. African White-backed Vulture
32. **Lappet-faced Vulture**
33. White-headed Vulture
34. **Black-chested Snake-Eagle**
35. Brown Snake-Eagle
36. Western Banded Snake-Eagle

- 
- |     |   |      |  |
|-----|---|------|--|
| 37. | <b>Bateleur</b>                         | 72.  | <b>Red-necked Spurrow (Francolin)</b>    |
| 38. | African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)        | 73.  | Blue Quail                               |
| 39. | <b>Western (European) Marsh-Harrier</b> | 74.  | <b>Helmeted Guineafowl</b>               |
| 40. | African Marsh Harrier                   | 75.  | Kurrichane Buttonquail                   |
| 41. | Pallid Harrier                          | 76.  | <b>Black-rumped Buttonquail</b>          |
| 42. | Montagu's Harrier                       | 77.  | Red-chested Flufftail                    |
| 43. | Dark Chanting Goshawk                   | 78.  | <b>Long-toed Flufftail</b>               |
| 44. | Gabar Goshawk                           | 79.  | <b>Corn Crane</b>                        |
| 45. | Black Goshawk                           | 80.  | African Crane                            |
| 46. | <b>Ovambo Sparrowhawk</b>               | 81.  | Lesser Moorhen                           |
| 47. | Little Sparrowhawk                      | 82.  | <b>African Finfoot</b>                   |
| 48. | African Goshawk                         | 83.  | <b>Black-bellied Bustard</b>             |
| 49. | Shikra                                  | 84.  | African Jacana                           |
| 50. | <b>Lizard Buzzard</b>                   | 85.  | Lesser Jacana                            |
| 51. | <b>Common Buzzard</b>                   | 86.  | Painted Snipe                            |
| 52. | Augur Buzzard                           | 87.  | Water Thick-knee                         |
| 53. | <b>Wahlberg's Eagle</b>                 | 88.  | Bronze-winged Courser                    |
| 54. | <b>Lesser Spotted Eagle</b>             | 89.  | Temminck's Courser                       |
| 55. | Steppe Eagle                            | 90.  | <b>Senegal Wattled Plover</b>            |
| 56. | Verreaux's (Black) Eagle                | 91.  | Greenshank                               |
| 57. | <b>African Hawk-Eagle</b>               | 92.  | Green Sandpiper                          |
| 58. | Booted Eagle                            | 93.  | Wood Sandpiper                           |
| 59. | Long-crested Eagle                      | 94.  | Common Sandpiper                         |
| 60. | African Crowned Eagle                   | 95.  | Double-banded Sandgrouse                 |
| 61. | Martial Eagle                           | 96.  | <b>Laughing Dove</b>                     |
| 62. | Lesser Kestrel                          | 97.  | Cape Turtle Dove                         |
| 63. | Eastern Red-footed Kestrel              | 98.  | <b>Red-eyed Dove</b>                     |
| 64. | Dickinson's Kestrel                     | 99.  | <b>Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove</b>         |
| 65. | <b>Eurasian (European) Hobby</b>        | 100. | <b>African Green Pigeon</b>              |
| 66. | African Hobby                           | 101. | <b>Grey-headed (Brown-necked) Parrot</b> |
| 67. | Lanner Falcon                           | 102. | <b>Meyer's Parrot</b>                    |
| 68. | Peregrine Falcon                        | 103. | <b>Schalow's Turaco</b>                  |
| 69. | Coqui Francolin                         | 104. | <b>(Lady) Ross's Turaco</b>              |
| 70. | <b>Shelley's Francolin</b>              | 105. | Grey Go-away-bird                        |
| 71. | Hildebrandt's Francolin                 | 106. | Great Spotted Cuckoo                     |



- 
- |             |                                 |             |   |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 107.        | Levaillant's Cuckoo             | 141.        | <b>Brown-hooded Kingfisher</b>            |
| 108.        | Thick-billed Cuckoo             | 142.        | Grey-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher |
| <b>109.</b> | <b>Red-chested Cuckoo</b>       | 143.        | Woodland Kingfisher                       |
| <b>110.</b> | <b>Black Cuckoo</b>             | 144.        | Striped Kingfisher                        |
| 111.        | Common Cuckoo                   | 145.        | Giant Kingfisher                          |
| 112.        | African Cuckoo                  | 146.        | Pied Kingfisher                           |
| 113.        | African Emerald Cuckoo          | 147.        | Little Bee-eater                          |
| 114.        | Klaas's Cuckoo                  | 148.        | White-cheeked Bee-eater                   |
| 115.        | Diederick Cuckoo                | 149.        | Swallow-tailed Bee-eater                  |
| <b>116.</b> | <b>Black Coucal</b>             | 150.        | Madagascar (Olive) Bee-eater              |
| <b>117.</b> | <b>Coppery-tailed Coucal</b>    | <b>151.</b> | <b>European Bee-eater</b>                 |
| <b>118.</b> | <b>Senegal Coucal</b>           | 152.        | Southern Carmine Bee-eater                |
| <b>119.</b> | <b>Barn Owl</b>                 | 153.        | European Roller                           |
| <b>120.</b> | <b>African Grass-Owl</b>        | 154.        | Lilac-breasted Roller                     |
| 121.        | African Scops-Owl               | 155.        | Racket-tailed Roller                      |
| 122.        | Southern White-faced Scops-Owl  | 156.        | Broad-billed Roller                       |
| <b>123.</b> | <b>Spotted Eagle-Owl</b>        | <b>157.</b> | <b>Green Wood Hoopoe</b>                  |
| <b>124.</b> | <b>Giant Eagle-Owl</b>          | 158.        | Common Scimitarbill                       |
| <b>125.</b> | <b>African Barred Owlet</b>     | 159.        | African Hoopoe                            |
| <b>126.</b> | <b>African Wood Owl</b>         | <b>160.</b> | <b>Crowned Hornbill</b>                   |
| <b>127.</b> | <b>Marsh Owl</b>                | <b>161.</b> | <b>Pale-billed Hornbill</b>               |
| <b>128.</b> | <b>Fiery-necked Nightjar</b>    | 162.        | Trumpeter Hornbill                        |
| <b>129.</b> | <b>Swamp (Natal) Nightjar</b>   | <b>163.</b> | <b>Southern Ground Hornbill</b>           |
| <b>130.</b> | <b>Freckled (Rock) Nightjar</b> | <b>164.</b> | <b>Anchieta's Barbet</b>                  |
| 131.        | Square-tailed (Gaboon) Nightjar | 165.        | Whyte's Barbet                            |
| <b>132.</b> | <b>Pennant-winged Nightjar</b>  | <b>166.</b> | <b>Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird</b>          |
| <b>133.</b> | <b>African Palm Swift</b>       | <b>167.</b> | <b>Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird</b>           |
| <b>134.</b> | <b>European Swift</b>           | 168.        | Miombo Pied Barbet                        |
| <b>135.</b> | <b>Little Swift</b>             | <b>169.</b> | <b>Black-collared Barbet</b>              |
| 136.        | White-rumped Swift              | <b>170.</b> | <b>Black-backed Barbet</b>                |
| 137.        | Narina Trogon                   | <b>171.</b> | <b>Green-backed Honeyguide</b>            |
| <b>138.</b> | <b>Half-collared Kingfisher</b> | <b>172.</b> | <b>Scaly-throated Honeyguide</b>          |
| <b>139.</b> | <b>Malachite Kingfisher</b>     | <b>173.</b> | <b>Greater Honeyguide</b>                 |
| <b>140.</b> | <b>African Pygmy-Kingfisher</b> | <b>174.</b> | <b>Lesser Honeyguide</b>                  |

- 
- |      |                                   |      |   |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|---|
| 175. | Eastern Least Honeyguide          | 210. | <b>White-breasted Cuckooshrike</b>        |
| 176. | Bennett's Woodpecker              | 211. | <b><i>Little Greenbul</i></b>             |
| 177. | <b>Golden-tailed Woodpecker</b>   | 212. | <b><i>Yellow-throated Leaflove</i></b>    |
| 178. | <b>Green-backed Woodpecker</b>    | 213. | <b><i>Grey-olive Bulbul</i></b>           |
| 179. | <b>Cardinal Woodpecker</b>        | 214. | <b><i>Cabanis's Greenbul</i></b>          |
| 180. | Bearded Woodpecker                | 215. | <b><i>Dark-capped Bulbul</i></b>          |
| 181. | Olive Woodpecker                  | 216. | Miombo Rock-Thrush                        |
| 182. | <b><i>African Broadbill</i></b>   | 217. | <b><i>Kurrichane Thrush</i></b>           |
| 183. | Flappet Lark                      | 218. | (West) African Thrush                     |
| 184. | Dusky Lark                        | 219. | Groundscraper Thrush                      |
| 185. | Red-capped Lark                   | 220. | <b>Bocage's Akalat</b>                    |
| 186. | <b><i>Black Saw-wing</i></b>      | 221. | <b><i>Thrush Nightingale</i></b>          |
| 187. | White-headed Saw-wing             | 222. | <b><i>White-browed Robin-chat</i></b>     |
| 188. | Sand Martin                       | 223. | <b><i>Central Bearded Scrub Robin</i></b> |
| 189. | <b>Banded Martin</b>              | 224. | <b><i>White-browed Scrub Robin</i></b>    |
| 190. | <b><i>Grey-rumped Swallow</i></b> | 225. | <b><i>Stonechat</i></b>                   |
| 191. | Mosque Swallow                    | 226. | Capped Wheatear                           |
| 192. | <b>Lesser Striped Swallow</b>     | 227. | <b><i>Familiar Chat</i></b>               |
| 193. | Rock Martin                       | 228. | Sooty Chat                                |
| 194. | Blue Swallow                      | 229. | Arnot's Chat                              |
| 195. | <b><i>Barn Swallow</i></b>        | 230. | Mocking Chat                              |
| 196. | <b>Common House-Martin</b>        | 231. | <b><i>Broad-tailed Warbler</i></b>        |
| 197. | Yellow Wagtail                    | 232. | Little Rush Warbler                       |
| 198. | Grey Wagtail                      | 233. | <b>Evergreen Forest Warbler</b>           |
| 199. | Mountain Wagtail                  | 234. | <b><i>African Moustached Warbler</i></b>  |
| 200. | African Pied Wagtail              | 235. | <b><i>River Warbler</i></b>               |
| 201. | Long-billed Pipit                 | 236. | <b><i>Sedge Warbler</i></b>               |
| 202. | Plain-backed Pipit                | 237. | Eurasian Reed Warbler                     |
| 203. | Buffy Pipit                       | 238. | <b><i>Marsh Warbler</i></b>               |
| 204. | Bushveld Pipit                    | 239. | <b><i>Great Reed Warbler</i></b>          |
| 205. | <b><i>Tree Pipit</i></b>          | 240. | <b><i>African Yellow Warbler</i></b>      |
| 206. | <b>Striped Pipit</b>              | 241. | <b><i>Green-capped Eremomela</i></b>      |
| 207. | <b>Fulleborn's Longclaw</b>       | 242. | Black-collared Eremomela                  |
| 208. | <b><i>Black Cuckooshrike</i></b>  | 243. | Yellow-bellied Eremomela                  |
| 209. | Purple-throated Cuckooshrike      | 244. | <b><i>Red-capped Crombec</i></b>          |



- 
- |      |  |      |                                       |
|------|--|------|---------------------------------------|
| 245. | <i>Willow Warbler</i>                  | 279. | <i>Arrow-marked Babbler</i>           |
| 246. | <i>Laura's Warbler</i>                 | 280. | <i>Hautlaub's Babbler</i>             |
| 247. | Yellow-bellied Hyliota                 | 281. | Miombo Tit                            |
| 248. | Southern Hyliota                       | 282. | White-winged Black Tit                |
| 249. | <i>Garden Warbler</i>                  | 283. | <i>Rufous-bellied Tit</i>             |
| 250. | <i>Common Whitethroat</i>              | 284. | Grey Penduline-Tit                    |
| 251. | <i>Pale-crowned Cisticola</i>          | 285. | <i>Spotted Creeper</i>                |
| 252. | <i>Zitting Cisticola</i>               | 286. | <i>Red-and-blue Sunbird</i>           |
| 253. | <i>Croaking Cisticola</i>              | 287. | <i>Violet-backed Sunbird</i>          |
| 254. | <i>Stout Cisticola</i>                 | 288. | <i>Collared Sunbird</i>               |
| 255. | Rattling Cisticola                     | 289. | <i>Olive Sunbird</i>                  |
| 256. | <i>Short-winged Cisticola</i>          | 290. | <i>Green-headed Sunbird</i>           |
| 257. | Long-tailed Neddicky                   | 291. | <i>Amethyst Sunbird</i>               |
| 258. | <i>Rock-loving Cisticola</i>           | 292. | <i>Scarlet-chested Sunbird</i>        |
| 259. | <i>Trilling Cisticola</i>              | 293. | <i>Yellow-bellied Sunbird</i>         |
| 260. | <i>Red-faced Cisticola</i>             | 294. | <i>Miombo Double-collared Sunbird</i> |
| 261. | Chirping Cisticola                     | 295. | <i>Coppery Sunbird</i>                |
| 262. | <i>Tawny-flanked Prinia</i>            | 296. | <i>Yellow White-eye</i>               |
| 263. | <i>Bar-throated Apalis</i>             | 297. | <i>Eurasian Golden Oriole</i>         |
| 264. | <i>Brown-headed (Grey) Apalis</i>      | 298. | <i>African Golden Oriole</i>          |
| 265. | <i>Stierling's Wren-warbler</i>        | 299. | <i>Eastern Black-headed Oriole</i>    |
| 266. | <i>Pallid Flycatcher</i>               | 300. | Souza's Shrike                        |
| 267. | Southern Black Flycatcher              | 301. | <i>Red-backed Shrike</i>              |
| 268. | <i>Collared Flycatcher</i>             | 302. | Lesser Grey Shrike                    |
| 269. | <i>Spotted Flycatcher</i>              | 303. | <i>Common Fiscal</i>                  |
| 270. | <i>Dusky Flycatcher</i>                | 304. | Brubru                                |
| 271. | <i>Ashy Flycatcher</i>                 | 305. | <i>Black-backed Puffback</i>          |
| 272. | <i>Boehm's Flycatcher</i>              | 306. | Marsh Tchagra                         |
| 273. | Lead-coloured Flycatcher               | 307. | Brown-crowned Tchagra                 |
| 274. | <i>Chinspot Batis</i>                  | 308. | <i>Black-crowned Tchagra</i>          |
| 275. | <i>Black-throated Wattle-eye</i>       | 309. | <i>Tropical Boubou</i>                |
| 276. | <i>White-tailed Blue Flycatcher</i>    | 310. | <i>Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike</i>    |
| 277. | <i>White-tailed Crested Flycatcher</i> | 311. | <i>Grey-headed Bush-Shrike</i>        |
| 278. | <i>African Paradise Flycatcher</i>     | 312. | White-crested Helmet Shrike           |

- 313. **Retz's Helmet-Shrike**
- 314. **Fork-tailed Drongo**
- 315. Pied Crow
- 316. **White-necked Raven**
- 317. Red-winged Starling
- 318. ***Violet-backed Starling***
- 319. Wattled Starling
- 320. **Yellow-throated Petronia**
- 321. ***Spectacled Weaver***
- 322. ***Hollub's Golden Weaver***
- 323. Dark-backed Weaver
- 324. Village Weaver
- 325. ***Bar-winged Weaver***
- 326. **Red-headed Weaver**
- 327. Red-headed Quelea
- 328. ***Red-billed Quelea***
- 329. ***Yellow-mantled Widowbird***
- 330. White-winged Widowbird
- 331. ***Red-collared Widowbird***
- 332. ***Marsh Widowbird***
- 333. Thick-billed Weaver
- 334. ***Orange-winged Pytilia***
- 335. Black-bellied Seed-cracker
- 336. ***Green Twinspot***
- 337. ***Blue-billed Firefinch***
- 338. ***Black-tailed Grey Waxbill***
- 339. ***Swee Waxbill***
- 340. ***Fawn-breasted Waxbill***
- 341. ***Common Waxbill***
- 342. ***Blue Waxbill***
- 343. Locust Finch
- 344. Black-chinned Quailfinch
- 345. ***Bronze Mannikin***
- 346. ***Red-backed Mannikin***
- 347. Variable Indigobird

- 348. **Pin-tailed Whydah**
- 349. Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah
- 350. ***Yellow-fronted Canary***
- 351. Bully Canary
- 352. Black-eared Seed-eater
- 353. Stripe-breasted Seed-eater
- 354. Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting
- 355. ***Golden-breasted Bunting***
- 356. ***Cabanis's Bunting***

----- x -----

### Ringling notes

Beyond our retraps of birds ringed at our first visit nine months before this stay, there were two recaptures from former ringling activities:

A Bar-throated Apalis ringed by Lizanne Roxburgh in 2007 ([http://safring.adu.org.za/ring\\_info.php?ring=GA54807](http://safring.adu.org.za/ring_info.php?ring=GA54807)) was caught again in 2016. This tiny bird of 11.4 grams had reached an age of more than 8 years and 4 months, while the longevity record stands at 10 years and one month in this species in all southern Africa. Still, out of more than 750 documented retraps in Zambia, this would be the sixth oldest Bar-throated Apalis. See longevity record for this species at [http://safring.adu.org.za/ring\\_info.php?ring=AD65836](http://safring.adu.org.za/ring_info.php?ring=AD65836).

A Collared Sunbird of 8.8 grams (ring number W55076, see [http://safring.adu.org.za/ring\\_info.php?ring=W55076](http://safring.adu.org.za/ring_info.php?ring=W55076)) was retrapped in Mutinondo Wilderness Lodge after 8 years and one month. The age of the bird is not exactly known, as it was already ringed as an adult male. The oldest bird of this species in the SAFRING data base reached 10 years and 11 days on Nchalo Sugar Estate in Malawi. See longevity record at [http://safring.adu.org.za/ring\\_info.php?ring=AA55981](http://safring.adu.org.za/ring_info.php?ring=AA55981).



We hope to continue our work in the years to come.

### **Acknowledgements**

Our thanks go to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and BirdWatch Zambia for granting the ringing permit, to Dane Paijmans from SAFRING for providing the retrap data and to our hosts Frank Willems and Inge Akerboom who spoiled us in all imaginable ways.

This paper was first published in The Wattled Crane (BirdLife Zambia), Vol. 47/3, March/April 2017, p. 2 - 10, ISSN 03784533. It has been reprinted with permission, with minor editorial changes.