

ANGOLA

ENDEMICS AND

POORLY KNOWN BIRDS OF ANGOLA



Black-collared Bulbul
(Louis Braine)

Thursday August 23rd – Sunday September 9th 2012

Leaders: Neil MacLeod and Mark Finn

Group size: 8

Birds: 360-420

Angola is the world's twenty-third largest country and located in south-central Africa. It has two seasons: dry season (May to October) and hot rainy season (November to April). For birders, the country has a wealth of mouth-watering specialties and endemics. Our visit is timed at the end of the dry season, just before the hotter and wetter months begin. Angola has some of the least known and most interesting endemic birds in Africa. Our tour takes in all the major sites for birds and we have a chance of finding the twelve Angolan endemics: Grey-striped and Swierstra's Francolins, Red-backed Mousebird, Red-crested Turaco, Braun's and Gabela Bush-Shrikes, Gabela Helmet-Shrike, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Gabela Akalat, Angola Cave-Chat, Pulitzer's Longbill and Montane Double-collared Sunbird.

Days 1-2: Fly from London to Windhoek in Namibia where arrival is on the following morning. We then transfer to Tsumeb in northern Namibia where we spend the night.

Day 3: Ruacana is a town in the Omusati Region of northern Namibia, set on the border with Angola on the Kunene River. Birds likely to be seen en route include Martial Eagle, Kori Bustard, Blue Crane, Damara and Monteiro's Hornbills, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Benguela Long-billed and Eastern Clapper Larks, Cinderella Waxbill, Meeve's Starling, White-tailed Shrike and Carp's Tit.

Days 4-6: After crossing the border we head north towards Lubango where we stay in bungalows for the next three nights. In the afternoon we visit the spectacular Tundavala plateau. At Tundavala, we explore open ground for the handsome endemic Angola Cave-Chat. Other species present include the endemic Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Short-toed and Miombo Rock Thrushes, Wailing Cisticola, Oustalet's, Variable and Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbirds. On Day 5 we revisit Tundavala locality and catch up with any of the species we may have missed plus Freckled Nightjar, Alpine and Bradfield's Swifts, Rufous-naped Lark, Buffy and Striped Pipits, Perrin's Bush-shrike, Grey Apalis, Bocage's Akalat, Black-faced Canary and Yellow-bellied Waxbill.



Angola Lark (Louis Braine)

Days 7-9: After our stay at Lubango Bungalows we continue north to Mt Moco for some wild camping. This site is now famous for the little-known Swierstra's Francolin which was recently re-discovered here after not having been seen for 40 years. We visit patches of Afro-montane forest, miombo scrub and associated grasslands in order to have the best chance of locating Fernando Po Swift, Anchieta's Barbet, Black-collared Bulbul, Spotted Creeper, Margaret's Batis, Red-backed Mousebird, Ludwig's Double-collared and Bronzy Sunbirds. Several seedeaters occur including Dusky Twispot. In the grasslands we may find Finsch's Francolin and Angola Lark. Other birds likely to be seen at Mt Moco are Augur Buzzard, Ruwenzori Nightjar,

Schalow's Turaco, Western Tinkerbird, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Black-collared Barbet, Cabanis's Greenbul, Striped Pipit, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Rock-loving and Red-faced Cisticolas, Mountain Wheatear, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, African Hill Babbler, Red-headed Weaver, Thick-billed Seedeater, Yellow-crowned and Black-faced Canaries and Cabanis's Bunting.

Days 10-12: This morning we continue north towards Gabela and the Kumbira Forest where we camp for three nights. On arrival at Kumbira, the loud, raucous calls betray the presence of the beautiful Red-crested Turaco, Angola's most beautiful endemic. The deep hoots from the understory belong to the beautiful

Gabon Coucal. Bird parties abound with Falkenstein's and Yellow-whiskered Greenbuls being common throughout the forest. Other highly sought after species here include Yellow-throated Nicator, Hartert's Camaroptera (an Angolan endemic sometimes split from Grey-backed Camaroptera), Bates' Paradise Flycatcher, Olive-bellied and Double-collared Sunbirds and Red-headed Bluebill. From our peaceful campsite, we will set out on foot to explore the surrounding forests and woodlands searching for the shy Grey-striped Spurfowl, Gabela Akalat and the beautiful Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher. Other species we are likely to encounter on our walks are Black Saw-wing, Blue Malkoha, Yellow-billed Barbet, Western Tinkerbird, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Buff-throated and Black-throated Apalis, Green Hylia, African Blue Flycatcher, Pink-footed Puffback, Green-headed, Collared, Olive-bellied and Superb Sunbirds, Dark-backed and Black-necked Weavers, Red-headed Malimbe, Grey-headed Negrofinch and Black-and-white Mannikin.

Days 13-16: This morning we depart early for the drive to Calandula via N'Dalatando. On our way we pass wetlands holding waterbirds that include African Openbill, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose, Black Crane, Collared Pratincole and, rarer species such as Lesser Moorhen, Allen's Gallinule and Greater Painted Snipe. Other species we will be on the lookout for in the open country include Hooded and White-backed Vultures and Wahlberg's Eagle. At the roadside we may



Red-crested Turaco (Louise Braine)

see Rufous-crowned Rollers and Angola Swallows flitting overhead, Southern White-crowned Shrike and White-winged Widowbird. Around N'Dalatando we will concentrate on searching for scarp forest species we have not yet seen. Thereafter we travel east to Calandula for a three-night stay. Around Calandula we search for the enigmatic Braun's Bush-shrike and White-headed Robin Chat. During our stay at Calandula we may find Blue-breasted, Shining-blue and Chocolate-backed Kingfishers, Narina Trogon, Olive Woodpecker, Double-toothed Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Plain and Honeyguide Greenbuls, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Cassin's Honeybird, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Brown-headed Apalis, White-chinned Prinia, Brown Illadopsis, and Dark-backed Weaver. In the Miombo woodlands we search for Finsch's Francolin, Thick-billed Cuckoo, Pale-billed Hornbill, Anchieta's and Black-backed Barbets, Miombo Scrub

Robin, Hartlaub's Babbler, the very seldom seen Slender-tailed Cisticola, Retz's Helmetshrike, Anchieta's Sunbird, Sharp-tailed Starling and Rufous-bellied Tit. Wetlands nearby may produce Chestnut-headed Flufftail, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Marsh Widowbird and Red-headed Quelea.

Day 17: This morning we depart early for the long drive to Luanda. En route, we stop off to look for Luanda's enigmatic dark swifts that seem to most closely match the little-known Fernando Po Swift. These huge, notched-winged swifts breed on buildings in downtown Luanda and are rather a mystery. Birds around Luanda include Blue Waxbill, Black-necked, Village and Spectacled Weavers and Purple banded Sunbird. Night in Luanda, the Angolan capital.

Day 18: After breakfast this morning we transfer to the airport for international flights back to Europe.

Ground Price: £4295

*Air Fare: £945

Total Tour Price: £5240

Tour Price Windhoek/Luanda: £4295

Single room: £450

Deposit: £500

*please refer to our terms and conditions relating to flights on pages 5 and 71

This holiday is fully inclusive of flights, accommodation and meals, transport, entrance and permit fees, guidance, tips and taxes.

Not included: drinks, insurance, items of a personal nature, a visa to enter Angola and any relevant fuel surcharges.

Good quality accommodation. Wild camping at Mt. Moco and Gabela as there is no other accommodation. Toilet and shower tents at camp. Angolan food is loosely based on Portuguese/African cuisine. When camping, we have our own team of cooks and assistants to erect tents and make camp.

Transport by custom built 4x4 throughout. Short to medium walks in savanna, forests and along the coast over undulating terrain.