

Tanzania 2023

November 17th – December 4th

Mammal watching & birding trip report
Central, Southern & Zanzibar

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Introduction

My girlfriend and I decided to go on a Tanzania trip at the end of 2023 for our first nature trip together. To reduce costs and because of time limitations our initially planned itinerary changed to going a bit more off the beaten track and self-drive most of the trip. We will start by giving some background and logistical info and then give an overview of the day-to-day of our trip.

I had scribbled some notes on my phone during our trip, but never got to writing out the trip report until two years later. See the references at the end of this report for other trip reports we read and used to prepare this trip. Questions or suggestions regarding this report can be sent to timvdmeer0@gmail.com.

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Logistics

Tour organisation

Some more info about logistics is given in the day-by-day.

We mostly self-planned this trip, with a lot of help from Eric @ Tukuyu tours for the Rungwe part of the trip. Communication with Eric was easy through Whatsapp and he seems to be a very nice guy that we unfortunately didn't get to meet. Eric arranged for us to sleep in the abandoned Ranger Post at the forest edge of Mt. Rungwe. He also arranged local guide Donald to organize our trip on the ground. Donald was joined by cook Beatrice who helped a lot at the Ranger Post and joined us on a few outings including one long hike.

Donald proved to be good company. He was very sharp and keen on finding monkeys and birds. He was still honing his bird identification skills, so I suggested the Merlin app to him and he is now using it to learn more about the local birdlife. Donald recently texted me that they now receive some more visitors than before (from all over the world).

Tukuyu Tours (4 nights Mt. Rungwe) tukuyutours@gmail.com Eric (+255 656 317 211) and guide Donald (+255 714 919 048).

Cheers Tours (1 day birding, Uluguru Mountains), contact via Charles Masunzu (+255 787 467 321) with guide Hisasi.

Mikumi Safari (1 day, Mikumi) booked online in advance.

Bakari (1 day+evening, Jozani Forest, Zanzibar). I contacted Bakari through a phone-number that was posted on mammalwatching, as far as I understood Bakari was ill that day and sent a namesake guide which was also very good (+255 777 845 075).

Flights

17 nov: AMS - Istanbul - DAR, arrive 03:30AM, overnight wait on airport with few facilities, but a small café, open in the middle of the night. For domestic flights you have to transfer (walk) to the smaller terminal next door.

18 nov: 09:30 DAR - Mbeya airport <https://maps.app.goo.gl/GgCX6bdvruQnribL8>

Mbeya – DAR, DAR – Zanzibar, Zanzibar – DAR, DAR - Istanbul – AMS all went very smoothly.

Car rental

Both from Dar and on Zanzibar we rented a Toyota Rav4 from AutoUnion / Smiles cars. The car from Dar didn't have proper headlights which was a pain (and very dangerous) on our last 2 hours in the dark on the first day. The cars worked fine otherwise and we did not have to drive in the dark on any other stretch of our route. The Zanzibar Toyota was Hello Kitty-themed.

Traffic, road conditions & police

Mostly OK, roads were terrible at times, but mostly due to the recent rains. Traffic was worst in Dar and on parts of Zanzibar, but navigating the chaos was doable. Dar traffic can be extremely busy. For some (dirt)roads its definitely good to have 4WD, but we did not and managed to climb the road up the north side of the Uluguru mountains and (barely) crossed the wet parts to the lodge near Mikumi. The road from Mikumi to Ifakara has been recently upgraded and is almost finished so it will soon be a relatively comfortable drive from Mikumi to Ifakara.

The police can be a bit of a pain but we talked ourselves out of a couple of fines. Police officers were much kinder and easier going on the mainland than on Zanzibar. The guy who delivered our car at Zanzibar suggested we pretend not to know English which worked very well at least five times when they tried to fine us (mostly for not using the indicator when being pulled over, which we kept forgetting). We got one fine on the mainland for wrongly overtaking, which we did that time.

Accomodation

Mount Rungwe Ranger Post (4n) no running water or electricity, but made comfortable enough by our guides (mattresses on the ground, plenty of food and water bought from nearby town).

Uluguru Mountains (Morogoro) - Edelwyss Inn (2n) excellent place!

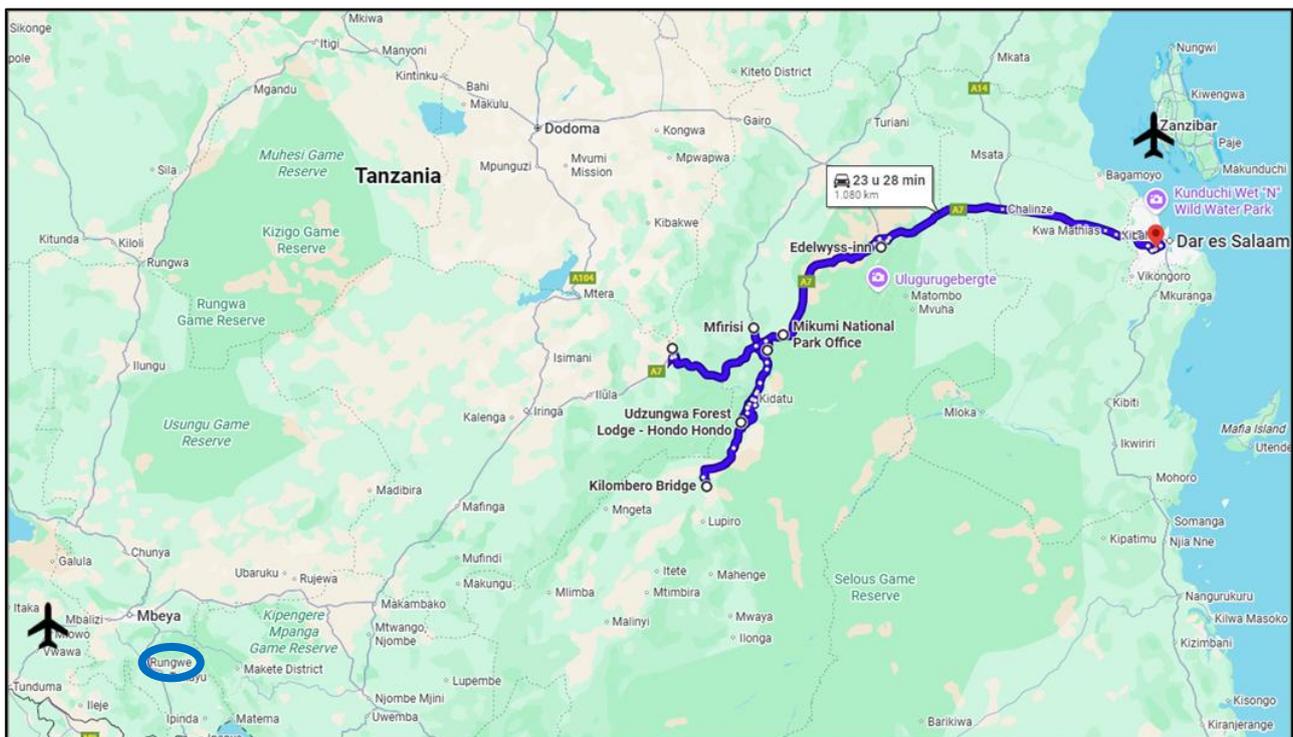
Mikumi Safari Lodge (2n) (-7.430584, 37.035108) nice lodge with spacious tents outside of the main park although wildlife can roam quite freely outside of the park limits.

Hondo Hondo camp (3n) beautiful place with great food and comfortable tents, although you need to book these in advance.

Cate Hotel (1n) conveniently situated along the Morogoro – Dar es Salaam road.

Menai Bay Beach Bungalow, Zanzibar (4n) medium budget option, quite comfortable, besides some huge ants that kept returning but did not bite willingly. Zanzibar dwarf galago and Mangrove kingfisher in the garden.

Hotel near DAR airport (1n) with taxi to airport included.



Approximate route by car from Dar to the furthest inland locations of our journey Kilombero Swamp and Mbuyuni, and back to Dar. With extra flights to Mbeya and Zanzibar.

Costs

Some costs in \$ or € are given at the visited site in the day-by-day part of the report. At the time of writing 1€ is approximately 2900 TZS.

I had naively assumed that visiting some well-known sites in Tanzania could be affordable for us. I had never expected the main parks like Serengeti and Ngorogoro to be so expensive, and had difficulty finding cheap alternatives for staying in these parks. Before visiting Tanzania again, I would enquire about more affordable options to visit the legendary parks first, or save up like crazy. Perhaps I also didn't search thoroughly enough as we had limited preparation time.

We gave tips at the hotels to luggage carriers, with the food bill etc. Usually small between 2k and 10k Tanzanian shillings.

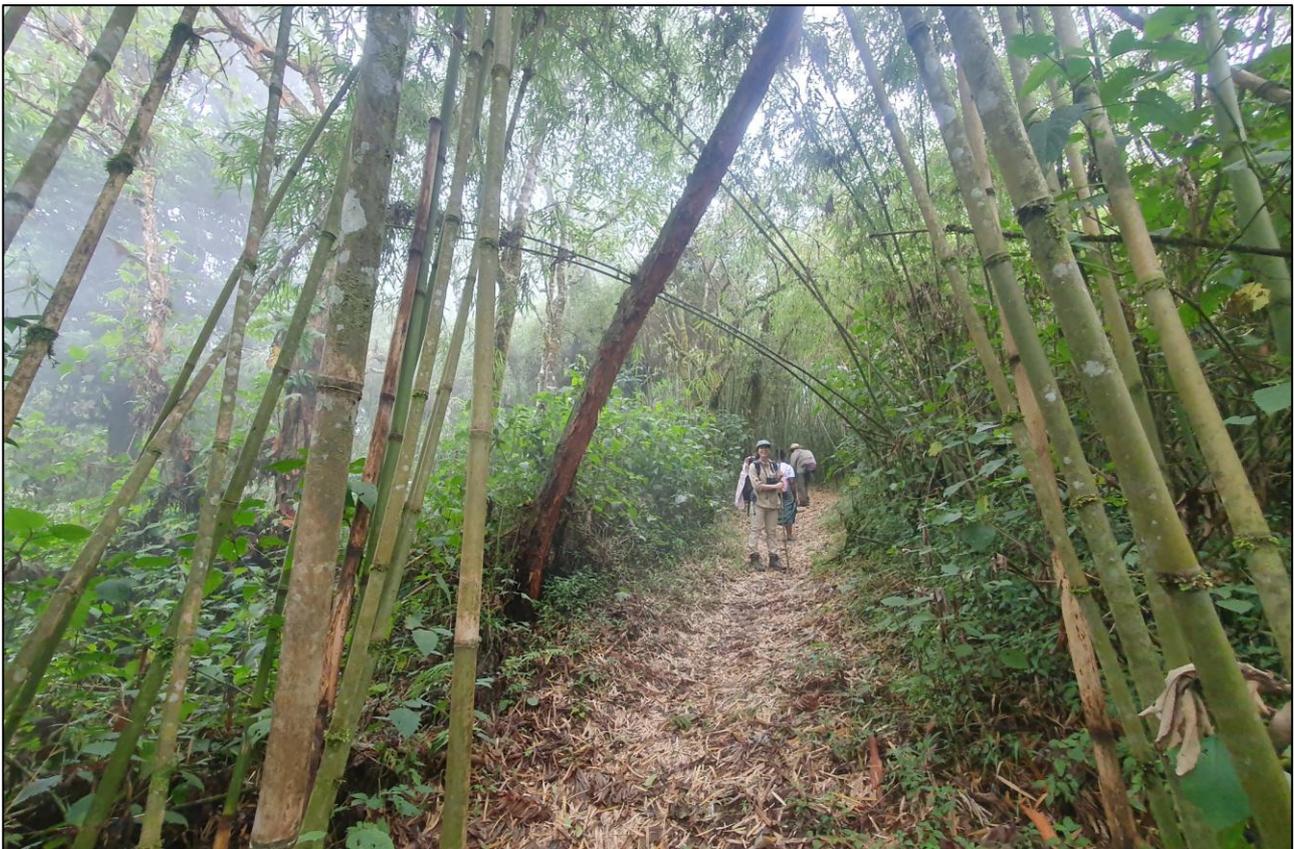
Field guides

Birds of East Africa (2020) Terry Stevenson & John Fanshawe

A Field Guide to the Larger Mammals of Tanzania (2014) Charles Foley et al.

Species

We focused mostly on primates, other larger mammals and birds. We entered observations of birds, mammals and other species groups in [observation.org](https://www.observation.org) and made [eBird](https://www.ebird.org) checklists as well. Observations of sensitive species (mostly mammals) are obscured on observation. Total species lists of [birds](https://www.observation.org) and [mammals](https://www.observation.org) can be found on observation.org as well.



Hiking in high elevation bamboo forest on Mount Rungwe.

Day-to-day summary

Day 1 – 17/11, flight from AMS to DAR

Day 2 – 18/11, Mbeya – Mount Rungwe

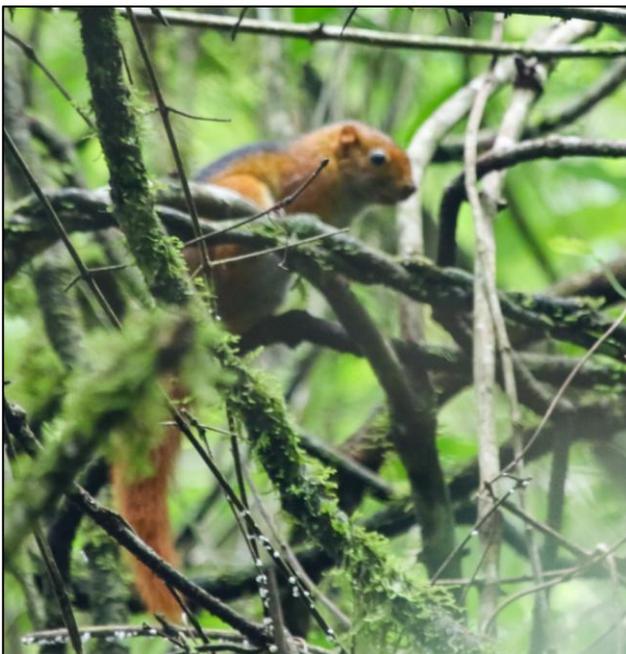
We waited overnight at DAR airport for our domestic flight to Mbeya. We arrived at Mbeya airport, west of the city, around noon and got picked up by guide Donald + driver. The city has around 300.000 inhabitants and it can be a pain to drive through. The drive from the airport to the ranger post on Mount Rungwe took nearly five hours for +- 70km. Also because of bad road conditions on the last stretch to the ranger post we got stuck 5 times. The way back was done in less than two hours. In the late afternoon we made a short walk for first impressions in the forest and briefly birded around the adjacent farmland.

Bird highlights: Sharpe's akalat and Western violet-backed sunbird.

Day 3 – 19/11, Mount Rungwe

We started birding farmland next to the ranger post where we eventually found a small flock of Montane blue swallows. Awesome big swallows with longer tail-streamers than I had imagined! After breakfast we went into the forest and got back before the afternoon rains. We had multiple sightings of squirrels, Blue monkeys and Black-and-white colobus (nice!). We stopped and approached multiple different foraging monkey-troops but didn't find or hear any indications of Kipunji. The Black-and-red bush squirrel is crazy beautiful, unfortunately (shame on me) I didn't study the potential smaller mammal species well enough before going on this trip. My camera malfunctioned in the wet forest (more on that later) and I only got one blurry record shot of this beautiful animal. We also regularly saw a sun squirrel which must in hindsight be Mutable sun squirrel (better pictures), I also didn't study them more since the guide suggested it was a "grey form" of the Black-and-red bush squirrel.

Bird highlights: Montane blue swallow, Sharpe's akalat, White chested alethe, Olive-headed greenbul, Shelley's greenbul, Olive-flanked robin-chat, Forest double-collared sunbird, Churring cisticola.



Black-and-red bush squirrel and Mutable sun squirrel.

Day 4 – 20/11, Mount Rungwe

We did a hike to the peak of Mount Rungwe (2947m), approximately 11km both ways. Donald thought we would have good chances of seeing Kipunji on the lower parts of the slope, going further up the trail we had walked multiple times now. Along the way there were lots of Black-and-white colobus, Blue monkeys and some squirrels. We also found a latrine of a bigger carnivore quite high up a ridge trail. The hike goes through the different eco-zones on the mountain slope and at some point we found ourselves in a strange misty bamboo forest that was eerily beautiful. I unfortunately have no idea which critters could occur here, but if it is little studied, who knows what one might find when spending some more time on the higher parts of the mountain. From the peak we had a great view of the surrounding slopes and down into the valleys. I kept scanning an interesting looking alpine meadow that lay to the north of the peak, with the hope of finding an Abbott's duiker, but was snapped out of my dream by an approaching rainstorm.

All in all it was a stunning hike that we would definitely recommend for *after* finding the main target, because we still didn't see any sign of Kipunji's and didn't hear them neither. We were starting to get a bit nervous about missing the star of the show (i.e. Tim was definitely getting extremely nervous).

Bird highlights: Bar-tailed trogon, Silvery-cheeked hornbill, Black-lored cisticola (near the summit), White-tailed crested flycatcher, Black-browed mountain greenbul, Red-tufted sunbird and Sharp-billed starling. A pretty and localized orchid was blooming on the wet meadows approaching the summit: *Satyrium monadenum*.



Incomplete eBird-track with ranger post and peak of Mt. Rungwe indicated. As far as we know the easiest track up the mountain. The hiking distance from ranger post to peak is approximately 11 km. The campsite is located about 1km in from the ranger post.

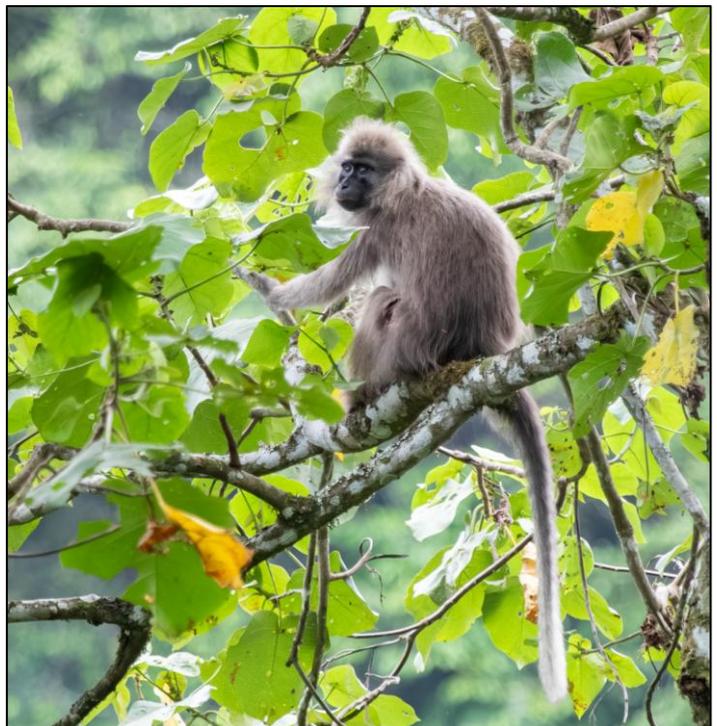
Day 5 – 21/11, Mount Rungwe

On our last full day we of course had the full focus on finding Kipunji. Donald organized help from local tracker Mazao who lives closeby in the small village and had assisted during the research program for the species. Mazao was looking at signs along the trail and in the trees all the time. After four hours and 4km hiking along the trail he suddenly made a perpendicular turn straight into the forest. We had to climb and glide down a steep slippery slope for what seemed at least a few hundred meters straight down through thick foliage. I fell on my camera with my full weight twice on the slope, almost destroying it and adding even more wrecked nerves. Mazao led the way with his machete, not saying a word and when I resorted to Donald for advice he also kept quite quiet, not sharing why we were seemingly randomly bushwacking this difficult route. Of course it turned out that Mazao had located a group of Kipunji down below!

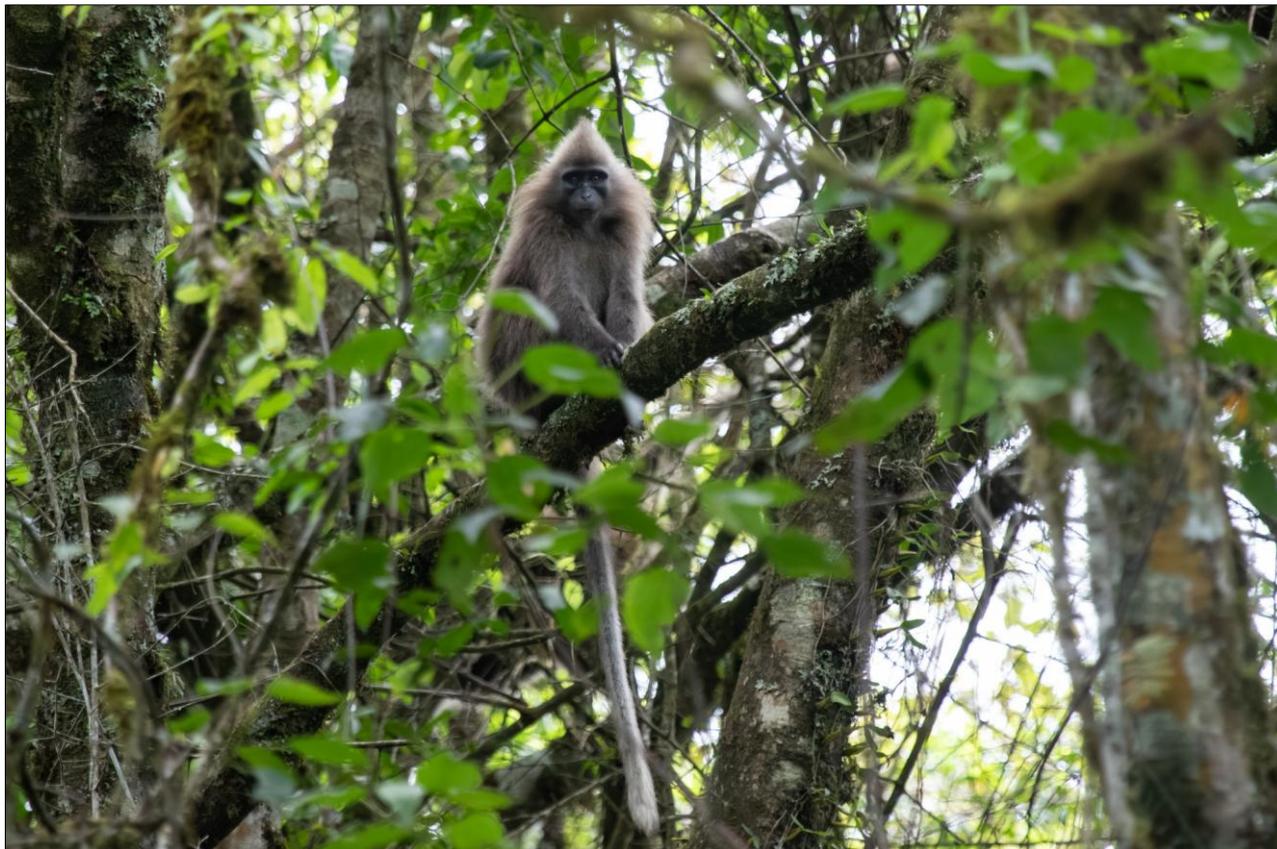
I have no idea how he knew that the Kipunji were down there since I did not hear anything up till then and we covered quite some distance to get to the group. But all this scrambling added fuel to the opposite emotions of immense elation when we finally laid eyes on this amazing species! We first saw some fleeing through the trees including some large individuals and youngsters and then had prolonged views of a young male that was standing guard for the troop and alarm calling. The rest of the troop was shy and mostly stayed hidden quite well. We saw several individuals briefly and estimated the group size on at least 20 individuals. Luckily I only broke the lens cap of the camera at first, and managed to get a few decent photos. The lens itself stopped working a few days later.

In hindsight we should have prioritized finding the Kipunji more, since I got a bit too worried about the idea of not seeing them at all. Having a guide and tracker is very helpful, although it seems like you can also find them exploring the trail from the ranger post, up to the campsite (approximately 1km) and 1 km further up slope (our tactic of the first two days). It is entirely possible to get lucky and quickly bump into them, but they are quite shy and the canopy can be very dense making good sightings difficult.

On our celebratory way back to the ranger post we encountered another troop of Kipunji close to the forest entrance where we had passed before multiple times every morning and afternoon. Here we had very good views again (binoculars), also of a mother with a baby. The alpha male kept honk-barking in the distance until this slightly bigger troop slowly escaped from sight in about 20 minutes. Great bonus sighting!



In the evening we walked the trail to the campsite and back spotlighting along the way. We easily found at least four different “Rungwe dwarf galago’s”, a tree hyrax, Spotted eagle owl, some sleeping birds and some unidentified rodents.





Heleen, Donald and Mazao after seeing Kipunji.



View from the peak of Mt. Rungwe, Abbott's duiker habitat?



Latrine of unknown carnivore high up on the mountain.

Day 6 – 22/11, Mbeya – DAR – Morogoro

Early drive to Mbeya airport to fly back to Dar. At Dar we picked up our rental car and drove to Morogoro (Edelwyss Inn). Because of the lack of proper headlights, the last stretch was done by trailing other cars and tuktuks. After the Kipunji adventure my lens was done for it and I could only use it briefly each time. We therefore made few pictures the rest of the trip.

Day 7 – 23/11, Uluguru Mountains

Birding the north side of the Uluguru mountains with guide Hisasi from Cheers tours. He arrived early to pick us up, and had arranged to visit a less visited area of the mountains, where they regularly see the main target bird Uluguru bushshrike. This was not what I expected, since the most well-known site for this species is east of the mountain range near Tegetero (Gordijn & Rijkes, 2022; eBird), but they guaranteed us that the chances were the same. Despite this, we unfortunately dipped the bushshrike and would now of course recommend to visit the other site. We had to hike quite a bit up hill through farmland below the forest edge to get to a small trail into the forest. The landscape and views of the peaks were impressive.

No mammals seen. Birding highlights in the forest: Uluguru greenbul, Chapin's apalis, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Mrs. Moreau's Warbler & Loveridge's sunbird. Costs of the excursion 70 USD per person for the whole morning until the rain started early afternoon.

Day 8 – 24/11, Morogoro - Mikumi safari lodge

We spent the first hours birding the botanical gardens of the Sokoine University of Agriculture. Hereafter we proceeded to birding the miombo forest along the Kilosa road (Gordijn & Rijkes, 2022). On the way there the highway crosses straight through Mikumi NP and we saw our first Common warthogs, Impala, African savanna elephant, African buffalo, Plains zebra's, Brindled gnus and Giraffes.

We saw many Yellow baboons along the Kilosa road. We drove to our lodge south of the NP for the night.

Birding highlights botanical gardens: Brown-breasted barbet, the localised Ruvu weaver, Orange-winged pytilia & Stierling's wren-warbler.

Birding highlights Kilosa road: African barred owlet, Lesser blue-eared starling (*ssp. elisabeth*), Shelley's sunbird (*ssp. hoffmanni*), Pale-billed hornbill, Arnot's chat & Ruaha chat.

Day 9 – 25/11, Mikumi NP

Mikumi safari starting with a walk in the morning and gamedrive in the late morning to afternoon, both with two guides. Mikumi is more beautiful than I had expected, and quite extensive being one of the bigger parks in Tanzania in terms of surface. Unfortunately we only had one full day and there are probably a lot of corners to explore. It is a pity that you can not go into the park earlier in the morning, and staying in one of the camps here is seemingly also very expensive. It's a pity that you cannot self-drive in the park, but even the land cruiser got stuck in the mud four times after the heavy rains from two days prior.

Cat populations are healthy from what we heard. Within the park we saw Lion (3 times), Elephant, Buffalo, Hippo, Masai giraffe, Plains zebra, Brindled wildebeast, Bohor reedbuck, Bushbuck, Vervet monkey and Slender mongoose.

Birding highlights: Angola swallow, Lappet-faced and White-headed vultures, Martial eagle, Saddle-billed stork, and a spectacle of thousands of Openbill storks swooping in from the thermals, arriving for the first part of the wet season.

The heavy land cruiser also got stuck on the dirt road on the way back to the hotel. The driver had to call in assistance from Morogoro and we waited for about an hour before the car was dug out. Fortunately our lighter Toyota made it through the next day with a speedy run-up and slipping and sliding through the sludge.





Day 10 – 26/11, Kilosa Road and drive to Hondo Hondo camp

We departed after a great breakfast at the lodge and drove up to the Kilosa Road again to try for some birds that we hadn't seen. Shortly after leaving the camp we saw a nice male Sharpe's grysbok. On the first stretch of the Kilosa Road we braked just in time for a Black-necked spitting cobra that was basking on the road and quickly slithered away.

The drive to Hondo Hondo was straightforward and we birded the agricultural fields around the lodge briefly in the late afternoon. I found a Garnett's greater galago around the tent and Eastern tree hyraxes were serenading each other during dusk.

Birding highlights (Kilosa road): Speckle-throated woodpecker, Miombo wren-warbler & Ruaha chat.

Day 11 – 27/11, Udzungwa Mountains

We planned this day for looking for the Sanje river mangabey. We went up to the entrance of the mountain park at 8AM after unsuccessfully enquiring if we could not go (much) earlier at the camp the night before. 8AM is the regular opening time, perhaps something can be arranged if you contact the office beforehand. You have to pay an entry fee at the main office and take a guide on the trail. We were maybe lucky with guide Chacha who knew the birds and mammals well.

A small group of Udzungwa red colobuses were in between the buildings after we exited a small exposition that includes a mounted Grey-faced sengi.

The day started getting hotter and hotter as we ascended to find the mangabeys. The slope is very steep and I needed the help from liana's to get up some of the parts. Even though it is not that far to go, it felt like going straight up hill and was quite tough in the heat. On the way up Angola colobuses and Blue monkeys are common. We met up with two other rangers who monitor and protect the mangabey troop every day. The monkeys are therefore easy to see as the rangers keep in touch with the guides, the strenuous hike being the only hurdle. A bit more uphill we saw the troop, who were quietly going about their business around us, a very nice experience! The troop may be up to 70 individuals strong and we saw one female with a very small infant. Their faces are beautiful but a bit disturbing at the same time. They seemed to be super friendly creatures, but could also easily be cast for starring in a horror-movie. Costs \$30 entrance fee p.p., guide fee \$20 for both of us

Birding highlights: Eastern crested guineafowl, Crowned eagle (heard only), Fülleborn's boubou, & Grey tit-flycatcher.



Sanje river mangabey's reaction to the story of the baby baboon and the nipple.

Day 12 – 28/11, Kilombero Swamp

We drove from Hondo Hondo to the boat ramp along the road that goes through the Kilombero swamp. A birdguide from Hondo Hondo joined us in our car for the excursion (total costs for the half-day trip 50USD p.p.). The guide did not know the birds well, but he was helpful in arranging the “tree-kayak”. On the new road to Ifakara, that was still partly being constructed, we were pulled over by two officers that we had to show our passports and driving license to. They asked me the regular “do you know Van der Sar?” and I quickly wanted to drive on while small-talking to avoid being fined. As I drove on I heard loud screaming behind the car and I had almost left Heleen standing there on the road (she had been putting away our documents in the back of the car). She furiously hopped back in and I tried to apologize for dear life. Even the officers looked bewildered, but broke out laughing when I said “pole pole”. At least we didn’t get fined, but I still often have to hear the story of how I nearly abandoned my life partner somewhere in rural Tanzania.

We went up and down the same route in a small carved out treetrunk for a couple of hours. The large Kilombero swamp system is one of the strongholds for Puku, but they are difficult to find and may only remain in some of the corners of the swamp.

We did not see any mammals, but we did see two huge Nile crocodiles. The guide and boatmen said fishermen get attacked by crocs in the swamp quite regularly. The main attraction are the three endemic bird species (two cisticola's and a weaver).

Bird highlights: Kilombero cisticola, White-tailed cisticola, Kilombero weaver, Coppery-tailed coucal & Marsh tchagra.

Day 13 – 29/11 Hondo Hondo – Morogoro.

We departed early for Morogoro and made some birding stops on the way. We saw Green tinkerbird very well (using play-back) at a stake-out (Gordijn & Rijkes, 2022).

Afterwards we drove west in the direction of Iringa for some bird-targets. The road going north from Mbuyuni holds some species of the drier habitats. By now it was already the middle of the day and very hot, but there was still some activity and we still saw some nice species.

Birding highlights: Yellow-collared lovebird, Tanzanian red-billed hornbill, White-headed buffalo-weaver, Ashy starling & Swahili sparrow.

We overnighted and had dinner in a decent road hotel east of Morogoro.

Day 14 – 30/11, Morogoro - Zanzibar

Morogoro - Dar, our flight to Zanzibar departed from Dar at 13:30. We stayed in a decent road hotel near Morogoro and took the time to drive back to Dar es Salaam to catch our flight. On the way we were pulled over multiple times and then had to wait for more than an hour because the president was coming from Dar for a meeting in Morogoro. We arrived at the airport 30 minutes before our flight and made it. We picked up our car and drove to the hotel for the night.

Day 15 – 1/12, Jozani-Chwaka Bay National Park

Jozani forest, birding morning walk, nightwalk in the forest. Both excursions on both sides of the main road. The first thing I really saw that morning while waiting at the gate for guide Bakari was a Black-and-rufous Sengi that was a running on a small sidetrail. We later saw two individuals really well.

Since I was unforgivably badly prepared for the squirrels we were lucky that the first squirrel we saw was a Zanj sun squirrel. We also saw Red bush squirrel later on. We heard some weird loud barking noises that Bakari was unsure off and we went into the wet forest to try to discover its source, but could not quite reach the exact point where it came from as it was very swampy, and then the barking stopped. He said it was probably a genet (he had only seen Servalline genet once in more than 10 years) or a palm civet. To me it sounded like it was coming from some palm trees, but Bakari was searching more on ground level.

In the evening we again went into Jozani with him and saw Zanzibar small-eared greater galago (*Otolemur garnettii garnettii*), Zanzibar dwarf galago, Bushpig, a dormouse, several fruit bats including Wahlberg's epauletted fruit bat (*Epomophorus wahlbergi*) and some small unidentified bats.

As far as I could find only Kellen's dormouse occurs on Zanzibar, but the ranges of this species and the Woodland dormouse both reach the northeastern Tanzanian coast (iNaturalist). This relatively small dormouse was running up and down the trunk of a medium sized tree at the edge of the forest, running towards our flashlight and back again a couple of times. We did not get further clues on the ID than common dormouse characteristics: grey-brown fur above, pale-white below with a hint of a dark facial mask around the eyes and nose. Unfortunately it was moving too quick to get a picture. Comments on a possible ID are welcome!

Costs for morning and evening tour 150\$ total.

Birding highlights: East coast akalat, Pale-breasted (Tanzanian) Illadopsis, African pygmy kingfisher (roosting at night).



Day 16 – 2/12, northern Zanzibar & Kiwengwe-Pongwe Forest

We relaxed in the north part of the island visiting a sea turtle shelter. On the way back we visited Kiwengwa-Pongwe forest. We drove a small sideroad to the Kiwengwa Caves Office (I think this wasn't indicated on google maps before we visited). We met a guy here who called the ranger to meet with us and paid a small entry fee. The ranger took us for a small walk around the dense shrubs on the outer forest, which looked interesting, but produced next to nothing in the heat of day.

The boardwalked caves are very easy to access, but should be done with the ranger. There is a big and a smaller cave and the big one hosts the most bats. We did not know about the caves before arriving here, but we saw six or seven different species of bats. Unfortunately the ranger didn't know

the species. There were Zanzibar red colobuses above the cave entrance and around the park office building.

Using iNaturalist we identified seven species: Decken's horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus deckenii*), Rüppell's horseshoe bat (*R. fumigatus*), Bushveld horseshoe bat (*R. simulator*), Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*), Angolan Soft-furred Fruit Bat (*Myonycteris angolensis*) and Large-eared slit-faced bat (*Nycteris macrotis*). Most numerous was a tiny dark bat that we ID-ed as (*Miniopterus minor*), of which a large colony was present. Hundreds of them poured out of two small holes and started to swim around the bigger cave when we approached and this unfortunately happened again when we had to return the same way. We used some information from a recent environmental impact study including bat surveys that gives a good insight into which species occur on Zanzibar (Kurrent Technologies Ltd., 2024; a very comprehensive report!).

In their report there are some interesting notes (and bold estimations) about *Miniopterus* colonies:

“The fourth family [in the Ngonga Cave] was represented by Miniopterus minor. The conservative low population estimate of this species was about 12,000 individuals. This species of bat forms tight clusters while roosting; for a sister species in South Africa (Miniopterus natalensis) a cluster of 1 m² contains about 2,800 individuals (Norton and van der Merwe 1978). Miniopterus minor are about half the size of Miniopterus natalensis, hence a cluster of 1 m² would contain about 5,600 individuals. The estimated cluster was between 2 – 2.5 m² in size (11,200 – 14,000 individuals). The lower estimate was rounded up to obtain the population number of 12,000 individuals.” (Kurrent Technologies Ltd., 2024)

In the evening we saw a Zanzibar dwarf galago and Zanzibar small-eared greater galago at our lodge.

Birding highlight: Fischer's turaco from the park office building near the caves.

Day 17 – 3/12

We birded the coastal mudflat in front of the lodge in the morning to take a better look at the Crab plovers that we had heard at night and seen in the distance. We found two Greater sand plovers. Mangrove kingfishers were displaying in the lodge garden.

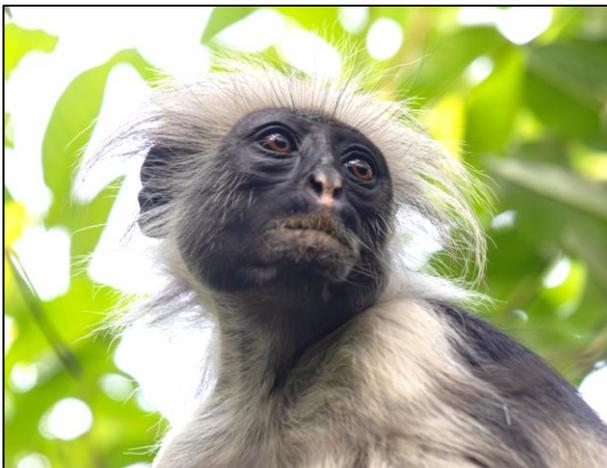
In the early afternoon we took our return flight to Dar where we overnighed at an airport hotel.

Bird highlights: Crab plover, Greater sand plover, Mangrove kingfisher and the Zanzibar *affinis* subspecies of Black-backed puffback.

Day 18 – 4/12, flight DAR – AMS



Portrait section



Left, top to bottom: three times Udzungwa red colobus & Zanzibar red colobus. Right: Yellow baboon, Sanje river mangabey, Udzungwa red colobus & baby Zanzibar red colobus.

Bats



Myonycteris angolensis



Nycteris macrotis



Myonycteris angolensis



Rhinolophus fumigatus



Rhinolophus deckenii



Rhinolophus simulator

Acknowledgments

We owe a big thanks to Alex & Jeanette for being so generous with sharing all the information we might need for this exciting trip and of course all the other people who wrote great trip reports from this region.

References

Kurrent Technologies Ltd., 2024. *Provision of Consultancy Service for Conducting Birds and Bats Study along the Proposed 132 kV Backbone Transmission Line Route in Unguja*. Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA), TZ-ZECO-253715-CS-QCBS. Kurrent Technologies Ltd., Nairobi, Kenya.

Used and recommended trip reports:

- Alex & Jeanette Schouten (2022) made a similar trip the year before. Their trip report was very useful and on top of they helped us a lot with preparations and during our trip through e-mail and messaging. I think their great report has helped and will help a whole lot of mammalwatchers and other naturalists to make the special trip to Mt. Rungwe. They would have loved to have stayed in the ranger post as well, but it was not an option during their visit. Eric from Tukuyu Tours arranged this for us and when you want to try and stay there he is the one to ask whether this is possible.
- Rob Gordijn & Helen Rijkens (2022) – a great and helpful birding-report with GPS-locations provided, which I downloaded into the free app OrganicMaps
- Bill Simpson (2022) Tanzania (birding trip report)
- Jon Hall: https://www.mammalwatching.com/gd_place/tanzania-zanzibar/
- Charles Foley (2025) Rare mammals and riots in southern Tanzania. Very nice to read about this recent successful mammalwatching trip!