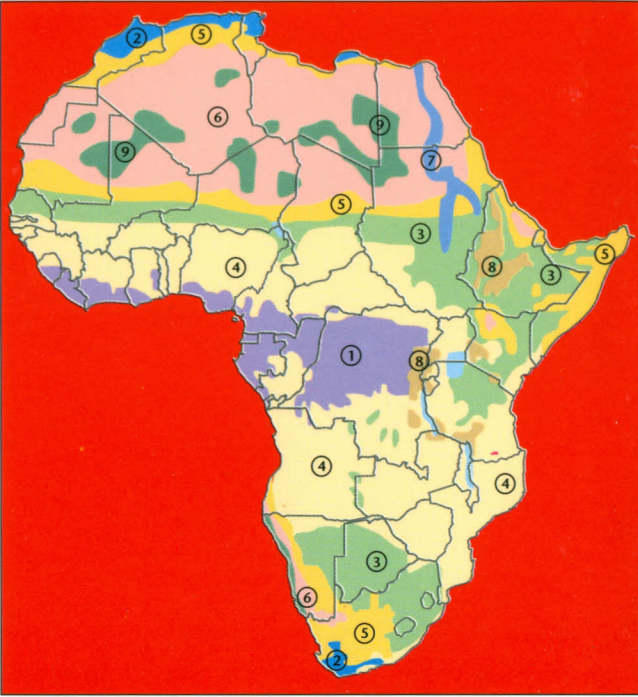


NATURAL VEGETATION ZONES



- ① Broadleaf Forest
- ② Mediterranean
- ③ Grassland
- ④ Savannah and/or Scrub Woodland
- ⑤ Semi-desert Grasses and Shrubs
- ⑥ Desert Grasses and Shrubs
- ⑦ Undifferentiated River Valley Vegetation
- ⑧ Undifferentiated Mountain Vegetation
- ⑨ No Vegetation



There are about 2900 species of birds found in Africa. This guide provides a simplified introduction to species that are familiar, widespread and/or unique to Africa. Most illustrations show the adult male in breeding coloration. Colors and markings may be duller or absent during different seasons. Measurements refer to the length from bill to tail tip and are approximate. Illustrations are not to scale.

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AFRICAN BIRDS — AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILIAR SPECIES

POCKET TRAVELLER™

AFRICAN BIRDS

AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILIAR SPECIES



African Jacana

Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu

Gray-crowned Crane

Red-billed Firefinch

Little Bee-eater



WATERFORD PRESS

WATERBIRDS AND NEARSHORE BIRDS



Jackass Penguin
Spheniscus demersus
To 70 cm (28 in.)
Breeds on islands off south and west coast.

Great Crested Grebe
Podiceps cristatus
To 50 cm (20 in.)

Dabchick
Tachybaptus ruficollis
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Also called little grebe.

Spur-winged Goose
Plectropterus gambensis
To 1 m (40 in.)
Note pinkish knob on forehead.

Red-billed Teal
Anas erythrorhynchos
To 50 cm (20 in.)
The similar cape teal has a gray head.

White-faced Duck
Dendrocygna viduata
To 50 cm (20 in.)

African Pygmy Goose
Nettapus auritus
To 33 cm (13 in.)

Yellow-billed Duck
Anas undulata
To 58 cm (23 in.)
Note dark saddle on yellow bill.

Egyptian Goose
Alopochen aegyptiaca
To 75 cm (30 in.)
Note reddish patch around orange eye.

Reed Cormorant
Phalacrocorax africanus
To 50 cm (20 in.)
Note long tail and red eye.

Great Cormorant
Phalacrocorax carbo
To 1 m (40 in.)
Common in northern Africa.

White-breasted Cormorant
Phalacrocorax carbo
To 1 m (40 in.)

Ruddy Turnstone
Arenaria interpres
To 25 cm (10 in.)

Sanderling
Calidris alba
To 20 cm (8 in.)
Runs in and out with waves along shorelines.

Common Snipe
Gallinago gallinago
To 30 cm (12 in.)

WATERBIRDS AND NEARSHORE BIRDS



Cattle Egret
Bubulcus ibis
To 60 cm (24 in.)



Little Egret
Egretta garzetta
To 65 cm (26 in.)
Note black bill and yellow feet.



Great Egret
Ardea alba
To 95 cm (38 in.)
Bill is black during breeding season.



Gray Heron
Ardea cinerea
To 95 cm (38 in.)



Squacco Heron
Ardeola ralloides
To 40 cm (16 in.)
White wings are conspicuous in flight.



Goliath Heron
Ardea goliath
To 1.3 m (52 in.)



Black-crowned Night-Heron
Nycticorax nycticorax
To 70 cm (28 in.)



Hammerkop
Scopus umbretta
To 55 cm (22 in.)
Head is hammer-shaped.



Black-headed Heron
Ardea melanocephala
To 1 m (40 in.)



Crowned Plover
Vanellus coronatus
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Black cap is encircled by a white ring.



Three-banded Plover
Charadrius tricollaris
To 20 cm (8 in.)
Note red eye ring.



Blacksmith Plover
Vanellus armatus
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Named for its call - *klink, klink* - which sounds like a hammer hitting an anvil.



Crocodilebird
Pluvianus aegyptius
To 20 cm (8 in.)
Rumored to clean the teeth of crocodiles.



Oystercatcher
Haematopus interpres
To 50 cm (20 in.)

WATERBIRDS AND NEARSHORE BIRDS



Greater Flamingo
Phoenicopterus ruber
To 1.5 m (5 ft.)
Note pink bill. The smaller lesser flamingo has a dark red bill.



Great White Pelican
Pelecanus onocrotalus
To 1.7 m (5.5 ft.)
The similar pink-backed pelican is smaller and has a pinkish bill.



Shoebill
Balaeniceps rex
To 1.2 m (4 ft.)
Inhabits swamps of east and central Africa.



Sacred Ibis
Threskiornis aethiopia
To 90 cm (3 ft.)



African Spoonbill
Platalea alba
To 90 cm (3 ft.)
Bill has a spoon-shaped tip.



Hadeda Ibis
Bostrychia hagedash
To 90 cm (3 ft.)
Note red mark on bill and white facial crescent. Call is a loud - *ha-de-dah*.



Gray-crowned Crane
Balearica regulorum
To 1.1 m (42 in.)

Blue Crane
Anthropoides paradisea
To 1.1 m (42 in.)
National bird of South Africa.



Marabou Stork
Leptoptilos crumeniferus
To 1.5 m (5 ft.)
Scavenging bird competes with vultures for carrion.



White Stork
Ciconia ciconia
To 1.2 m (4 ft.)



African Darter
Anhinga rufa
To 90 cm (3 ft.)
Found on inland lakes and waterways.



Black-capped Avocet
Recurvirostra avosetta
To 45 cm (18 in.)



Red-knobbed Coot
Fulica cristata
To 45 cm (18 in.)
Two red forehead knobs are prominent during breeding season.

Saddle-billed Stork
Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
To 1.5 m (5 ft.)
Bill has a yellow saddle.



Black-winged Stilt
Himantopus himantopus
To 38 cm (15 in.)

WATERBIRDS AND NEARSHORE BIRDS



African Black Crake
Amaurornis flavirostris
To 20 cm (8 in.)
Note red legs and yellow bill.



Caspian Tern
Sterna caspia
To 60 cm (24 in.)
Note stout bill and large size.



African Jacana
Actophilornis africana
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Long-toed swamp bird walks on the floating leaves of waterplants.



Common Moorhen
Gallinula chloropus
To 35 cm (14 in.)
Note white stripe on flank.



Cape Gannet
Morus capensis
To 1 m (40 in.)
The similar northern gannet occurs along northern coasts.



Common Tern
Sterna hirundo
To 38 cm (15 in.)
Note black cap and forked tail. Orange bill is black-tipped.



Gray-headed Gull
Larus cirrocephalus
To 45 cm (18 in.)

African Skimmer
Rynchops flavirostris
To 38 cm (15 in.)
Feeds by flying with its lower bill cutting the water's surface.



QUAIL, OSTRICH, ETC.



Helmeted Guineafowl
Numida meleagris
To 55 cm (22 in.)



Red-necked Francolin
Francolinus afer
To 35 cm (14 in.)
Note red on throat and face.



Ostrich
Struthio camelus
To 2.7 m (9 ft.) in height
Is the largest and heaviest bird on earth.

Kori Bustard
Choriotis kori
To 1.3 m (52 in.)
One of the world's heaviest flying birds. The smaller black bustard has a black head, neck and undersides and a white ear patch.



Common Quail
Coturnix coturnix
To 18 cm (7 in.)
Note streaked pattern on face.



BIRDS OF PREY & VULTURES



Bataleur
Terathopus ecaudatus
To 60 cm (24 in.)
Note short tail.
Underwings are white with a black trailing edge.



Martial Eagle
Polemaetus bellicosus
To 80 cm (32 in.)



Tawny Eagle
Aquila rapax
To 75 cm (30 in.)
Plumage on legs and underparts is shaggy.



Black Eagle
Aquila verreauxii
To 85 cm (34 in.)



African Fish-Eagle
Haliaeetus vocifer
To 80 cm (32 in.)



Crowned Eagle
Spizaetus coronatus
To 1.5 m (5 ft.)
Note head crest.



Black Kite
Milvus migrans
To 55 cm (22 in.)
Several variants exist.
Notched tail is key field mark.



African Hawk Eagle
Hieraaetus spilogaster
To 65 cm (26 in.)
White breast is heavily streaked.



Lanner Falcon
Falco biarmicus
To 45 cm (18 in.)
Note reddish crown.



Common Kestrel
Falco tinnunculus
To 35 cm (14 in.)



Black-shouldered Kite
Elanus caeruleus
To 35 cm (14 in.)
Note all-white tail.



Giant Eagle-Owl
Bubo lacteus
To 65 cm (26 in.)
Call is a pig-like grunt.



Barn Owl
Tyto alba
To 45 cm (18 in.)
Face is heart-shaped.



African Scops Owl
Otus senegalensis
To 20 cm (8 in.)

BIRDS OF PREY & VULTURES



Hooded Vulture
Necrosyrtes monachus
To 75 cm (30 in.)



Egyptian Vulture
Neophron percnopterus
To 65 cm (26 in.)
Tool-using bird breaks open ostrich eggs with rocks.



White-headed Vulture
Aegyptius occipitalis
To 80 cm (32 in.)
Note red and blue bill.



Secretarybird
Sagittarius serpentarius
To 1.3 m (52 in.)
Hunts along the ground and often kills prey by stamping it with its feet.



Lappet-faced Vulture
Torgos tracheliotus
To 1 m (40 in.)
Heavy-billed vulture dominates other birds at animal carcasses.



White-backed Vulture
Gyps africanus
To 95 cm (38 in.)
The similar cape vulture inhabits mountainous regions of southern Africa.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, ETC.



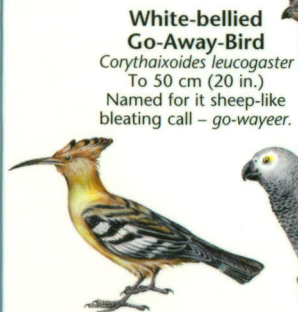
Great Blue Turaco
Corythaëla cristata
To 75 cm (30 in.)
Inhabits tropical forests in west and central Africa.



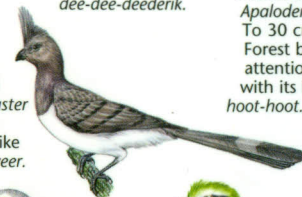
Diederik Cuckoo
Chrysococcyx caprinus
To 18 cm (7 in.)
Call is a clear - dee-dee-deederik.



Narina Trogon
Apaloderma narina
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Forest bird draws attention to itself with its loud call - hoot-hoot....hoot-hoot.



Crested Hoopoe
Upupa epops
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Head crest is erect when alarmed. Call is a soft repeated - hoop-hoop.



Gray Parrot
Psittacus erithacus
To 33 cm (13 in.)
Tropical species common in west and central Africa.



Lilac-breasted Roller
Coracias caudata
To 38 cm (15 in.)

DOVES, CUCKOOS, ETC.



Malachite Kingfisher
Alcedo cristata
To 15 cm (6 in.)



Pied Kingfisher
Ceryle rudis
To 25 cm (10 in.)
The similar giant kingfisher is much larger and has a rufous breast.



Striped Kingfisher
Halcyon cheilicuti
To 18 cm (7 in.)



Namaqua Dove
Oena capensis
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Note long tail



Rock Dove
Columba livia
To 35 cm (14 in.)
The common urban 'pigeon'.



Gray Lourie
Corythaixoides concolor
To 50 cm (20 in.)



Ring-necked Dove
Streptopelia capicola
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Call is a continuous - work-HARD-er.



Laughing Dove
Streptopelia senegalensis
To 25 cm (10 in.)
Note spots on neck.



Rock Pigeon
Columba guinea
To 30 cm (12 in.)
Also called speckled pigeon.



Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird
Pogonius chrysoconus
To 13 cm (5 in.)
The similar red-fronted tinkerbird has a red forehead patch. Call is a clinking - poop-poop.



Alpine Swift
Tachymarptis melba
To 23 cm (9 in.)



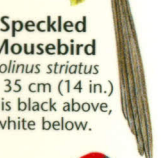
Speckled Mousebird
Colinus striatus
To 35 cm (14 in.)
Bill is black above, white below.



Red-billed Wood-Hoopoe
Phoeniculus purpureus
To 38 cm (15 in.)
Travels in small flocks through savanna woodlands.



Crested Barbet
Trachyphonus vaillantii
To 25 cm (10 in.)



Bearded Woodpecker
Thripias namaquus
To 25 cm (10 in.)
Call is a loud - wicka-wicka-wicka.

HORNBILLS, BEE-EATERS, ETC.



Carmine Bee-eater
Merops nubicus
To 38 cm (15 in.)



Little Bee-eater
Merops pusillus
To 15 cm (6 in.)



Red-billed Hornbill
Tockus erythrorhynchus
To 45 cm (18 in.)
The similar yellow-billed hornbill has a yellow bill.



Greater Honeyguide
Indicator indicator
To 20 cm (8 in.)
Guides humans and other mammals to bee nests.



Trumpeter Hornbill
Ceratogymna bacinator
To 25 cm (10 in.)
One of 23 hornbill species found in sub-saharan Africa.



Southern Ground Hornbill
Bucorvus cafer
To 1.1 m (42 in.)

PERCHING BIRDS



Lesser Striped Swallow
Hirundo abyssinica
To 15 cm (6 in.)
Underparts are heavily streaked.



European Swallow
Hirundo rustica
To 18 cm (7 in.)
Has a deeply forked tail.



Sand Martin
Riparia riparia
To 15 cm (6 in.)
Has a dark breast band.



African Pied Wagtail
Motacilla aguimp
To 20 cm (8 in.)



House Martin
Delichon urbica
To 15 cm (6 in.)
Told by blue back and white rump.



Yellow Wagtail
Motacilla flava
To 15 cm (6 in.)
Head may be black, gray or all-yellow. Wags tail when foraging on the ground.



Common Waxbill
Estrilda astrild
To 13 cm (5 in.)

PERCHING BIRDS



Black-crowned Tchagra
Tchagra senegala
To 23 cm (9 in.)



Black-eyed (Common) Bulbul
Pycnonotus barbatus
To 23 cm (9 in.)
Note yellow undertail feathers.



Rufous-naped Lark
Mirafrapa africana
To 18 cm (7 in.)
Call is a mournful – tseep-tseep.



African Paradise-Flycatcher
Terpsiphone viridis
To 23 cm (9 in.)



Gray-headed Bush Shrike
Malaconotus blanchoti
To 25 cm (10 in.)
Call is a mournful – hoooooosooooo.



Common Fiscal Shrike
Lanius collaris
To 23 cm (9 in.)
Wing bars form a white 'V' on its back when perching.



Chinspot Batis
Batis molitor
To 13 cm (5 in.)
Females have a chestnut breast band and chin patch.



Stonechat
Saxicola torquata
To 13 cm (5 in.)



White Helmetshrike
Prionops plumatus
To 20 cm (8 in.)
Yellow wattles encircle the eye.



Yellow-eyed Canary
Serinus mozambicus
To 13 cm (5 in.)
The similar yellow canary lacks dark facial markings.



Bokmakierie
Telophorus zeylonus
To 23 cm (9 in.)
Common in southern Africa.



Malachite Sunbird
Nectarinia famosa
To 25 cm (10 in.)



Collared Sunbird
Anthreptes collaris
To 10 cm (4 in.)
The most widely distributed of 81 species of African sunbirds.



Red-billed Firefinch
Lagonosticta senegala
To 10 cm (4 in.)
The only firefinch with a red bill.



African Yellow White-eye
Zosterops senegalensis
To 10 cm (4 in.)
The similar cape white-eye has a grayish breast.

PERCHING BIRDS



Pin-tailed Whydah
Vidua macroura
To 30 cm (12 in.)



Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu
Uraeginthus bengalus
To 13 cm (5 in.)



Red-headed Weaver
Anaplectes rubriceps
To 15 cm (6 in.)
Weavers create pendulous nests that dangle from tree branches.



Spot-backed Weaver
Ploceus cucullatus
To 15 cm (6 in.)
The similar masked weaver lacks spots on nape.



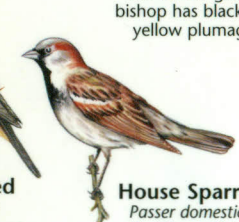
Red Bishop
Euplectes orix
To 13 cm (5 in.)
The similar golden bishop has black and yellow plumage.



Gray-headed Sparrow
Passer griseus
To 15 cm (6 in.)
Note white wing bar.



Yellow-billed Oxpecker
Buphagus africanus
To 23 cm (9 in.)
Feeds on the parasites of large grazing mammals.



House Sparrow
Passer domesticus
To 15 cm (6 in.)
The similar cape sparrow has a black and white head.



Superb Starling
Spreo superbus
To 18 cm (7 in.)
Undertail feathers and breast band are white.



Red-winged Starling
Onycognathus morio
To 28 cm (11 in.)
Chestnut primaries are conspicuous in flight.



Red-billed Quelea
Quelea quelea
To 13 cm (5 in.)
Note red bill and black mask.



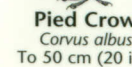
Wattled Starling
Creatophora cinerea
To 23 cm (9 in.)



White-necked Raven
Corvus albicollis
To 55 cm (22 in.)
Note massive white-tipped bill.



African Drongo
Dicrurus adsimilis
To 25 cm (10 in.)
Note forked tail.



Pied Crow
Corvus albus
To 50 cm (20 in.)