

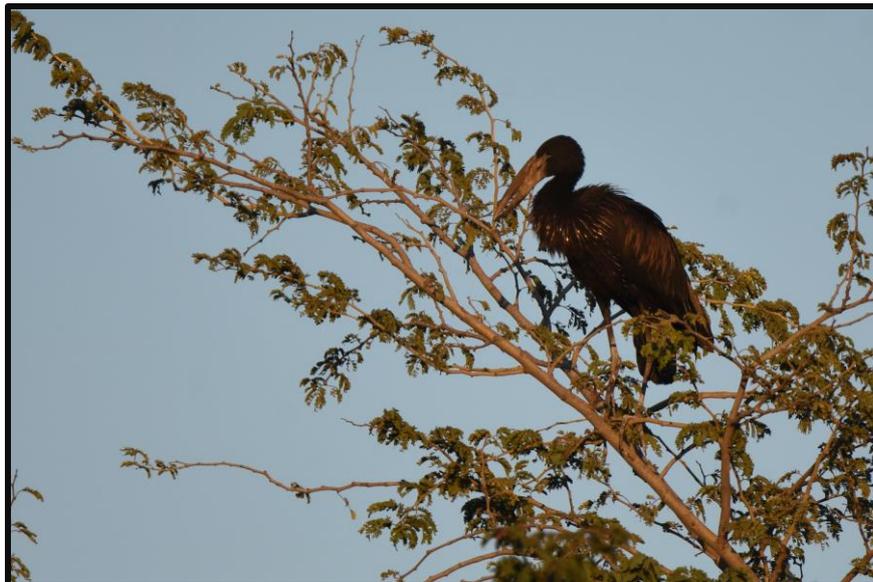
# Zambia

## Shoebill Tour

### DAY 1, June 8

Arrival day at Livingstone Airport. Depending on the time of arrival, we will head out in search of some of our target birds. We could find the likes of **Miombo Barbet**, **Miombo Rock-Thrush**, **Racket-tailed Roller**, **Southern Black Tit** and both **Retz's** and **White-crested Helmet-Shrikes** near our lodge. We'll keep an eye out for **Streaky-headed Seed-eater**, reaching the northern limit of its range here. Our lodge is perched on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, affording us a good chance of seeing **African Finfoot**, **African Skimmer**, **African Openbill** and many other species associated with Southern Africa's largest river.

**O/N Natural Mystic or similar (LD)**



*African Openbill*

### DAY 2, June 9

We will head out at the crack of dawn to the Machile area for the near endemic **Black-cheeked Lovebird**, at home here in its preferred habitat of tall gallery Mopani woodland. We will once again be on the lookout for the species mentioned above if we missed them the previous day, or to enjoy better looks. A small wetland in the Machile area regularly produces **Yellow-throated Sandgrouse**, **Black Coucal**, **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Meyer's Parrot** and even the odd **Saddle-billed Stork**. We will

# **A** **CHEEPERS!** **AFRICA**

also visit the Simungoma IBA in search of **Black-faced Waxbill** in the drier Acacia savannah, **Luapula Cisticola** and **Greater Swamp Warbler** and **Slaty Egret** around the wetland fringes and **Ovambo Sparrowhawk**. An unpredictable but realistic probability, **African Hobby**, is another possibility. A small pan in this area regularly holds **Lesser Jacana**, **Greater Painted Snipe** and **White-backed Duck**.  
**O/N Natural Mystic or similar (BLD)**

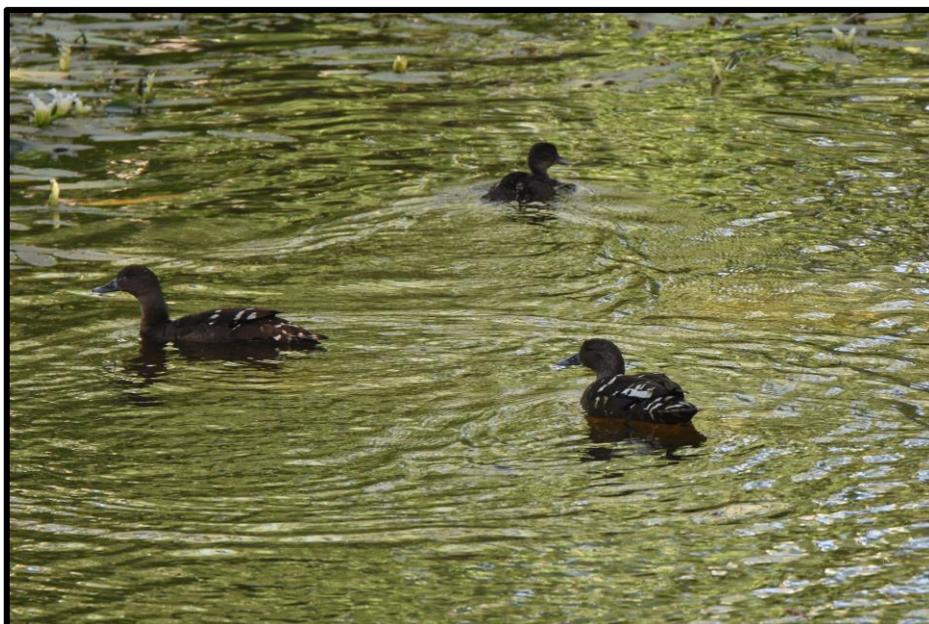
## DAY 3, June 10

We have the morning available if we need to mop up on missed birds before breakfast. Soon after packing we'll make our way to the town of Livingstone where we'll visit one of the natural wonders of the world, the impressive Victoria Falls. We'll spend some time here admiring the falls with the ever present possibility of adding new birds to our list. Possibilities include **Schalow's Turaco**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, **African Black Swift** and maybe even a raptor or two before we head to Choma, where we should arrive in time for a good afternoon session of birding. Targets here include **Miombo Barbet**, **Shelley's Francolin**, **Miombo Tit**, **Miombo Sunbird**, **Black-eared Seed-eater** as well as **Souza's Shrike**.

**O/N Masuku Lodge (BLD)**

## DAY 4, June 11

Our main targets today is **Chaplin's Barbet** and **Miombo Blue-eared Starling** as well as the mentioned species from the previous day and another chance at **Luapula Cisticola**. We should also encounter the likes of **Croaking Cisticola**, **Sooty Chat**, **Black-collared Barbet**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela** and **Senegal Coucal** in the main game paddock where we'll be searching for the Barbet. We hope to find



**Schalow's Turaco** and **African Black Duck** at the campsite and **Red-throated Twinspot** and **Crowned Eagle** back at the lodge. A late afternoon session back in the Miombo could again yield some of the species above in conjunction with **Spotted Creeper**, **Rufous-bellied Tit**, **White-breasted Cuckooshrike**, **Cabanis's Bunting** and **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**. A pair of **African Wood-Owls** is resident at the lodge and we should be able to follow up on their distinctive calls quite easily as they hunt

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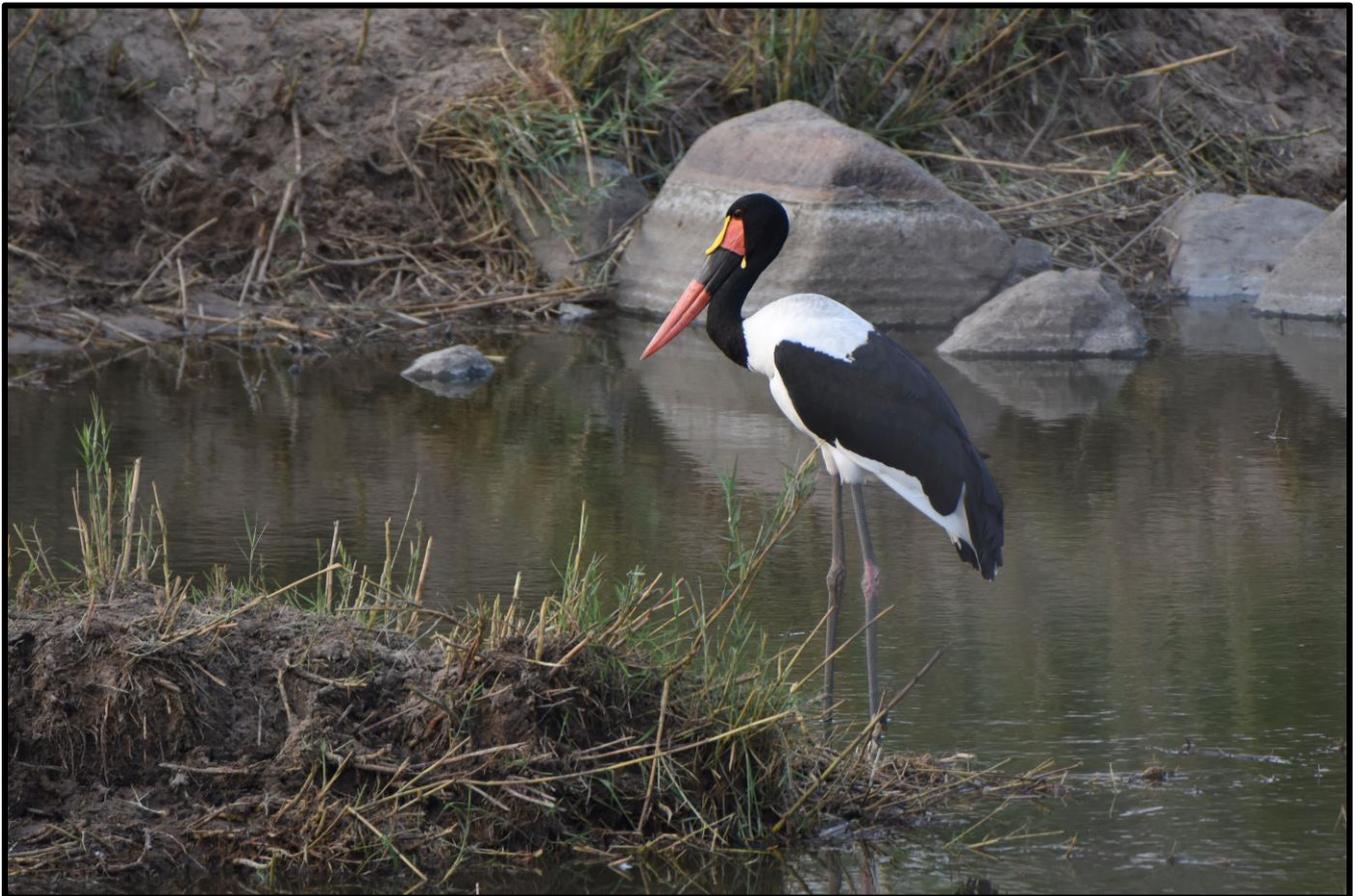
around the lights. We might also drive around in the hope of finding **Bronze-winged** and **Three-banded Courser** (difficult at this time of year).

**O/N Masuku Lodge (BLD)**

## DAY 5, June 12

We have the morning as a contingency in case we need to mop up on any crucial species such as **Chaplin's Barbet**; otherwise we'll opt for a quick drive into Lochinvar NP for some excellent wetland birding. Even though it is sadly the wrong time of year for most of the rallid species, this site is often still worth a visit for species such as **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Wattled** and **Grey-crowned Cranes**, and much more.

**O/N Fringila Lodge or similar (BLD)**



*Saddle-billed Stork*

# **A** *CHEEPERS!* **FRIC** **A**



*Pel's Fishing Owl*

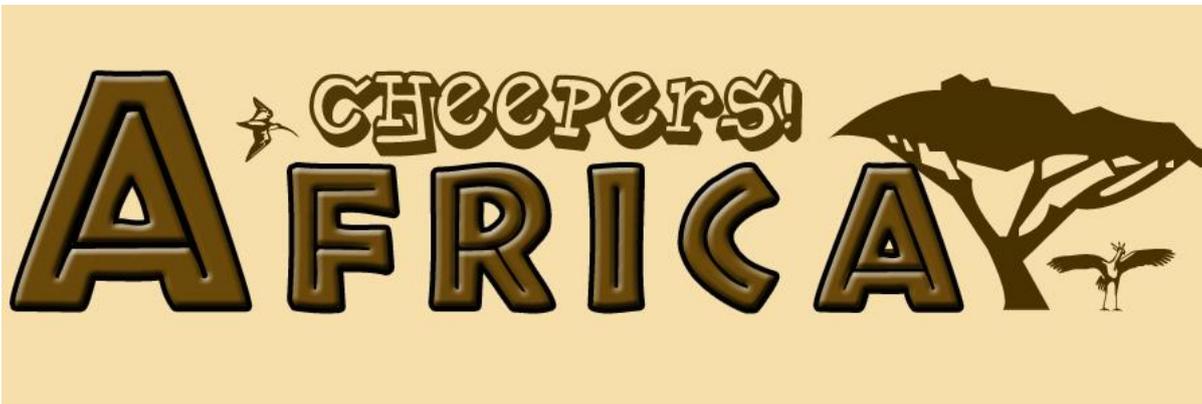
## DAY 6, June 13

We'll do some early morning birding in the gardens where we often find **Collared Palm-Thrush** and **African Green Pigeon** and then after a hearty breakfast we'll head to Forest Inn near the town of Mkushi. If we arrive in time we'll bird the grounds where **Miombo Scrub-Robin** is common and we often also find **Bohm's Flycatcher**, **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**, **Green-capped Eremomela**, **Black-eared Seed-eater**, **Black-backed Barbet**, **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** and occasionally **Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver** here.

**O/N Forest Inn (BLD)**

## DAY 7, June 14

Early morning departure to a very productive and pristine patch of Miombo Woodland where we might find our first **Bohm's Bee-eaters** along a stream before entering the woodland, alongside the likes of **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow** and **Red-throated Twinspot**. Once in the



Miombo proper we'll search for **Black-necked Eremomela, Bar-winged Weaver, Anchieta's Sunbird, Miombo Sunbird, Chirping Cisticola, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Reichard's Seed-eater, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** and **Souza's Shrike**. At dusk we'll stake out one of Zambia's highly peculiar and rarely seen mammals, Lord Derby's Flying Squirrel.

**O/N Forest Inn (BLD)**

#### DAY 8, June 15

We have a fairly long drive ahead of us and will leave shortly after breakfast for our next destination, the 420 km<sup>2</sup>, Kasanka National Park. The park contains a large number of different habitats, which makes for good birding. The predominant vegetation is dry miombo woodland through mushitu forests to papyrus swamp. We will stay at Luwombwa camp which overlooks the river of the same name. After unpacking we might just have enough time to take a boat trip down the river where **Pel's Fishing Owl** has its favorite haunt in a big tree, and we might be lucky enough to see it. The handsome **Half-Collared Kingfisher** is common along the river and we will have ample opportunity for photography. Other special birds along the river include **African Finfoot, Böhm's Bee-eater, African Green Pigeon, Ross's Turaco, Olive Woodpecker** and **Western Banded Snake-Eagle**. After supper we will listen to the bush coming alive with night sounds; we might even be able to lure an **African Barred Owlet** into view.

**O/N Kasanka NP (BLD)**

#### DAY 9, June 16

We'll be up at the crack of dawn to search for the likes of **Little, Grey Olive** and **Cabanis's Greenbul** along the river and **African Broadbill** within the camp confines. After breakfast we'll head for the Sitatunga hide where, as the name suggest, we should find the very elusive Sitatunga antelope - Kasanka has the highest density of these shy antelope in Africa. This is also a good area for **Brown Firefinch, Moustached Grass Warbler, Hartlaub's Babbler, Short-winged Cisticola, Red-Throated Twinspot, Black-Backed Barbet** and **Black-throated Wattle-eye**. After some time in the blind, we will head for Wasa Lake. On the way there we should see **Pale-Billed Hornbill** and **Cabanis Bunting**, and once at the lake we will hopefully find **African Pygmy Goose** and a selection of other waterbirds. We will spend the rest of the day birding various other habitats, concentrating a lot of our attention on finding "bird parties" (mixed flocks) in the miombo woodland. Miombo specialties include **Racket-Tailed Roller, Rufous-Bellied Tit, Redcapped Crombec, Miombo Pied Barbet, Thick-Billed Cuckoo, Böhm's Flycatcher, Spotted Creeper, Anchieta's and Whyte's Barbets**. Back at the camp we will go for a walk along the river in the hope of finding the spectacular **Narina Trogon**. After dinner we will reflect on the day's birding around the fire.

**O/N Kasanka NP (BLD)**

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## DAY 10, June 17

After breakfast we'll head for the airstrip near Wasa camp where the group will take a chartered flight to [Shoebill Island camp](#). The Bengweulu swamp is an absolute waterbird mecca, with over 400 species on record, and covers over a million hectares. Fantastic birding can be had in the immediate vicinity of the camp, and depending on the time of year we might even see the **Shoebill Stork** from the camp. In the afternoon we will go for a drive and will see herds of Black Lechwe numbering several thousand - this



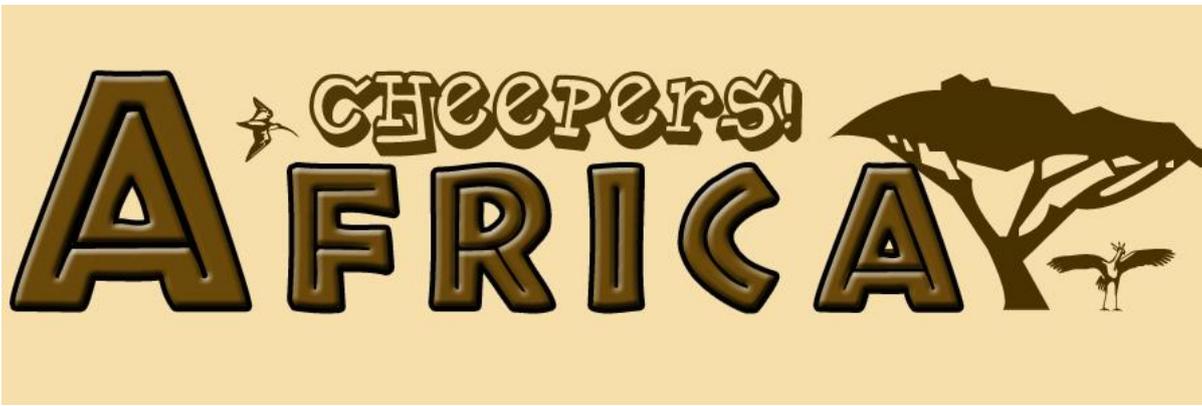
*Narina Trogon*

particular sub-species is endemic to the Bengweulu swamp and is found only here. Tsessebe and Buffalo are also common. From a birding perspective we will see large flocks of the endangered **Wattled Crane** as well as **Saddlebilled Stork**. After dinner we will enjoy a wonderful night's rest at one of Africa's most spectacular wetlands. **O/N Shoebill Camp (BLD)**

## DAY 11, June 18

Our focus today will be on finding **Shoebill**. This huge bird is one of Africa's most sought-after birds and we will do our utmost to get everybody as close as possible while keeping disturbance to a minimum. At the same time we will also be on the lookout for other specialties that might include **Eurasian Bittern, Great Snipe, Pallid Harrier, Spur-winged Lapwing, Pink-Backed Pelican, Great White Pelican**, and many more. The surrounding floodplains support **Denham's Bustard, Collared Pratincoles, Grey Crowned Cranes, Swamp Flycatcher, Rosy-throated Longclaw** and **Sooty Chat**, to name but a few. The floodplain's periphery advances and retreats by as much as 45 km between the peaks of the dry season and the wet season and therefore no tour to this water wonderland is ever the same as any other. Once back at the camp, there is a nice dining area overlooking the edge of the floodplain where we will enjoy some refreshments and some snacks while enjoying some of the best wetland birding on offer in Zambia. Around the camp **Copper Sunbird** and **Blue-Breasted Bee-Eater** are common and often seen.

**O/N Shoebill Camp (BLD)**



#### DAY 12, June 19

After a short flight back to Kasanka NP we'll board our vehicles and head to Kapishya Hotsprings. We will pass the famous Africa House (Shiwa N'gandu) on the way and an optional tour of the old mansion can be arranged by request. We'll visit the bird rich Miombo surrounding the dam, where we'll again have time to clean up on some of the birds we might have missed. The short grass on the dam shore is good for **Fulleborn's Longclaw** and the patches of Miombo should hold **Whyte's Barbet**, **Miombo Tit** and **Black-eared Seed-eater**. **Palmnut Vulture** is also regularly seen. No visit to Kapishya would be complete without a dip in the hot spring. In a spectacular setting in natural forest with birds all around, one could hardly ask for a more beautiful ending to the day.

**O/N Kapishya Hotsprings (BLD)**

#### DAY 13, June 20

Kapishya is a delightful birding spot and the gardens attract an array of Sunbirds. We'll hope for the rather elusive **Shelley's Sunbird**, but **Miombo Sunbird** should be much easier. **Green-headed Sunbird** is also present in smaller numbers. This is also a top spot for **Laura's Woodland Warbler**, **Grey Waxbill** and probably the best spot in Zambia for **Bocage's Akalat**. After lunch we'll tackle the drive to Mutinondo Wilderness where we'll spend two nights.

**O/N Mutinondo Wilderness (BLD)**

#### DAY 14, June 21

We have a full day to explore Mutinondo, a vast area of Granite Inselbergs and pristine miombo woodland as far as the eye can see. The occasional [dambo](#) here holds **Fulleborn's Longclaw**, **Locust Finch** and importantly **Pale-crowned Cisticola**. Miombo birding is good with a good chance of finding **Anchieta's Sunbird**, **Whyte's Barbet**, **Bar-winged Weaver** and **African Golden Oriole**. **Grey-Olive Greenbul** is present in the mushitus (swamp forests) along the river and we also have another chance for **Bocage's Akalat** as well as **Mountain Wagtail** and **African Black Duck** on the river. We'll enjoy sundowners on Charlie's Rock, a large granite [inselberg](#) where we might even be lucky enough to connect with **Hildebrandt's Francolin**.

**O/N Mutinondo Wilderness (BLD)**

#### DAY 15, June 22

Today we will drive back to Lusaka where we will stay at Pioneer Camp for our last night in Zambia. Another stop at Forest Inn might also be possible and then onwards to Lusaka where we will do some relaxed birding around the lodge. A small dam nearby often produces **White-backed Duck** as well as a few other species that might be new for our Zambia list.

**O/N Pioneer Lodge (BLD)**

#### DAY 16, June 23

Our last breakfast together in Zambia before dropping everyone at the airport for their International flights out. Participants who are continuing on to the Uganda tour will have a few days on their own before that tour begins on June 25. We will assist with reservations upon request.

**(B)**



**Tour Price: \$5850, Single supplement \$705**

\$600 deposit with registration form, balance due on February 8, 2018.

**Price includes:**

All lodging

All meals from lunch on day 1 through breakfast on day 16

Bottled water

All ground transportation, including airport transfers

All park entry fees

Expert local birding guide(s) at a ratio of no more than 6 birders per guide

Two Cheepers! tour leaders (Jim and Cindy Beckman)

Pre-trip gift package including customized checklist

Post-trip photo collection and electronic version of final checklist

**Price does not include:**

Visa

International roundtrip airfare, US - Livingstone

Airport transfers if you arrive on a day other than the scheduled start date or the day before

Items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, extra snacks and/or beverages, etc.

Gratuities