



**Trumpeter hornbill**

Size: around 60cm

Commonly seen in Blantyre. Its distinctive call, like that of a crying baby, cannot be mistaken. Frequents riverine woodlands, feeding on fruit trees.



**Yellow-bellied sunbird**

Size: 11cm

Larger and longer-billed than the collared sunbird, with broad purple breast band. Females have white breast and throat.



**Yellow-eyed canary**

Size: 12 cm

The bold facial markings with grey crown are distinctive. This canary also has a yellow rump. Immature birds are duller in colour. Occurs in small flocks in all habitats, feeding both in grass and in trees.



**White-eared barbet**

Size: 17 cm

Like most barbets, noisy and conspicuous and often seen in groups. They have a loud treeet, treeet, treeet chirrup.



**Red-throated twinspot**

Size: 12 cm

Notice the difference in male (deep crimson) and female with greyer head. Seen more frequently foraging on the ground, in thick cover.



**Common waxbill**

Size: 13 cm

Red bill, eye stripe and reddish tinge to the belly are identifiers. They are very active, often seen in flocks, sometimes mixed flocks. Feed on seeding grasses.



**Brown-hooded kingfisher**

Size: 23 cm

Look out for the bright blue back and rump, and the bill red with black tip. It has a loud kik kik kik kik cry and, like many kingfishers, hunts insects from a low branch.



**Dark-backed forest weaver**

Size: 13—15 cm

A quiet weaver, the dark brown backs contrast with the vivid yellow belly. Usually the dark black/brown markings stretch over the head.



### African pied wagtail

Size: 20 cm  
Likes open country, often near habitation and water. Often seen in groups.  
Wagtails eat mostly insects, though they eat other things like small snails or even tiny fish. The most conspicuous habit of this species is a near-constant tail wagging.



### African yellow white-eye

Size: 10.5 cm  
Flocks of white-eye flit from tree to tree, eating insects and taking nectar from flowers. The most commonly heard call is a continual sad-sounding 'phe'.



### Black eyed bulbul

Size: 21 cm  
A common and conspicuous bird, the shape of the head and its yellow rump make it easy to identify.



### Blue Waxbill

Size: 12 cm  
Lives in woodland and grasslands with shrubs, eating insects and seeds. Smaller than a sparrow. The bill is short, conical, and pinkish-grey. In the male the under parts, except the belly centre and under tail coverts, are bright sky blue. In the female, the blue extends only onto the breast and flanks, and the belly is off-white.



### Bronze manikin

Size: 9–10 cm with a long black tail.  
Lives in open country and cultivation, especially near water, feeds mainly on seeds.  
The nest is a large domed grass structure in a tree, into which 4-8 white eggs are laid. This species also builds communal roosting nests, used overnight and dismantled and rebuilt daily. They form flocks of up to 30 birds.



### Collared sunbird

Size: 9 -10 cm  
Though sunbirds are known for nectar, the collared sunbird is mainly insectivorous. They have short thin down-curved bills and brush-tipped tubular tongues. The adult male has glossy green upper parts and head with a yellow belly and narrow purple breast band. The female is a duller green above and entirely yellow below.



### Emerald cuckoo

Size: 20 cm  
Usually identified by its ringing call—'pretty georgie' or 'teeu-tu-tui' - as, like most cuckoos, it is very difficult to see! It parasitizes forest robins, warblers and flycatchers.



### Fork-tailed drongo

Size: 25 cm  
Its tail, clearly forked, is the identifying feature. It is a noisy flycatcher and perches visibly. It can be aggressive to other birds. It has a variety of calls, including a guttural rasp.



### Hamerkop

Size: 55cm  
An unmistakable mid-sized bird, most often seen near water foraging for food. Its name comes from its anvil-shaped head. They are known for their huge nest, sometimes more than 1.5 m across.



### Heuglin's robin

Size: 20 cm  
This robin has a beautiful call in a variety of tunes, often heard at dawn and dusk. They are most often seen on the ground or in the base of shrubs, hunting for food, mostly insects.



### Golden weaver

Size: 15—17 cm  
Its pale jm eyes are an identifying feature and it has a heavy black bill. Often nests above water. It has the usual weaver 'chuck, chuck, chuck' call.



### Spectacled weaver

Size: 15 cm  
Identified by the black stripe through its eyes to ear coverts, males having the black bib. Immatures have horn-coloured bills. Call is a descending 'tee-tee-tee-tee-tee-tee'. It's fun watching them make their nests!



### Grey headed sparrow

Size: 15—16 cm  
Identified by the grey head, this sparrow is also frequently seen on the ground. Similar habitat and habits to house sparrow.



### House sparrow

Size: 14—15 cm  
Forages for food on the ground, eating seeds and, in urban areas, crumbs. Widely distributed. Males have white cheeks and a black bib. Males are slightly larger than females. Nests are built from dried vegetation, feathers, strings and paper. Both males and females feed the young through regurgitation.



### Livingstone's Turaco (Iourie)

Size: 47 cm  
Usually seen in higher mountain areas, such as Limbe and Zomba. Will not be seen in the same areas as the purple-crested. Difficult to see in trees but its crimson wings are spectacular when flying. Has a very deep repetitive call—kawk, kawk, kawk.



### Purple-crested Turaco

Size: 47 cm  
Frequent visitor to gardens and common in Blantyre, usually in pairs. Like Livingstone's, its crimson wings are spectacular in flight. Its call is a deep very repetitive call, with the notes getting faster.



### **Palm swift**

Size: 17 cm  
Slender and long-tailed, flocks fly very high in the sky, especially near palms! It is completely grey-brown. Has a cheerful high-pitched chirruping tweeting call.



### **Pied Crow**

Size: around 50cm  
Unmistakable and very common, the pied crow is also a very intelligent bird and has a wide variety of calls.



### **Red-billed firefinch**

Size: 10 cm  
Both sexes have red rumps, males more red on the head and underparts. The reddish brown bill is also an identifying feature (most other firefinches have black bills). Seen in pairs or small groups.



**Red-chested cuckoo** more often heard than seen with a semi-tone downward, three note call, that becomes really annoying!



### **Red-eyed dove**

Size: 35 cm  
The red eye is indicative! Plus the slightly thicker ring on its neck. It says 'I am a red-eyed dove'.



### **Southern puffback**

Size: 18 cm  
The crimson eye is a good identifying feature. The female has a white forehead and eyebrow. When excited, the male puffs out its back feathers. Usually spotted in trees, it has a distinctive 'Chick-weeeu' call.



### **Striped kingfisher**

Size: 18 cm  
To identify look for the bill, blackish on top, red underneath, brown streaked head, dark eye stripe and white collar encircling the neck. The blue upper tail covert feathers are only seen in flight. Pairs/groups usually heard at dawn and dusk a chirrupy downward 'trrr, trr, trr,' often with wing flapping. Eats insects and lizards.



### **Tropical Boubou**

Size: 21 cm  
Seen skulking in the lower undergrowth or on shady ground, foraging for food. Its call is three bell-like notes answered by a guttural 'hueee'.