

# TROPICAL BIRDING

## Kenya: The Coolest Trip in Africa

10<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

TOUR LEADER: Charley Hesse.

*Report & photos by Charley Hesse. All photos were taken on this tour.*



Kenya offers a wide variety of landscapes and habitats with a corresponding long list of bird and mammal species. We started this tour in Kenya's capital Nairobi, and the Nairobi National Park where we saw dancing Grey Crowned Cranes and an amazing 9 species of cisticola in a day, with the bizarre backdrop of the city's skyline. We dipped down the Magadi road into very dry scrub with a totally different set of species like Fischer's Sparrow-Larks & Cut-throats. From Nairobi we drove to the foothills of Mt Kenya and in the lush montane forest saw the huge Crowned Eagle and verdant Hartlaub's Turaco. Next, we visited the Aberdares NP and explored the alpine moorland where we saw the huge Jackson's Francolin and endemic Aberdare Cisticola. At the bizarre Ark Lodge, we saw Giant Forest Hog, plus genets and galago at night. We dropped down from the highlands into the great rift valley and explored Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha with their myriad of water birds. The boat ride at Lake Naivasha was particularly good for photography. On to Lake Baringo with its amazing local guides who have many great birds staked out including owls, nightjars and coursers. Another boat ride produced White-backed Night-Heron and Northern Carmine Bee-eater. At Kakamega we explored the lush forest and found specialties like turacos, robin-chats, batises and the African Broadbill. At Lake Victoria we had a third boat ride on the way to Maasai Mara where we finished the tour in style with amazing Leopard, Lion and Cheetah sightings. The natural wonders of this country shown to us by our wonderful local driver/guides produced a truly memorable trip.

**11<sup>th</sup> November – Nairobi NP**

On our first full day of the tour, we were exploring the Nairobi National Park. After breakfast we met our driver, Sammy, and set off for the park entrance just a 20-minute drive away. After the short entry procedures, we entered the park and from that point we were restricted to the vehicle due to the presence of dangerous animals like Lion and Buffalo. We drove through some nice lush forest where we saw our first birds, including **Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove**, a juvenile **African Goshawk**, the beautiful **Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** and a **White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher**. We also had our first mammals with **Bushbuck** and **Syke's Monkey**. The road descended into an open grassland with dotted bushes where we added a breeding-plumaged **Red-collared Widowbird**, **Winding Cisticola**, **Northern Pied-Babbler**, **Whinchat** and **Rufous-naped Lark**. We drove towards a small lake and flushed **Black & Yellow-billed Storks** from the road into a tree where they posed for photographs. A magnificent **African Fish-Eagle** also flew by. At the pond we added many species, including **African Darter**, **Yellow-billed & Red-billed Ducks**, **Spur-winged Lapwing**, **Pied Kingfisher** and many shorebirds. The highlight though was when a beautiful pair of **Gray Crowned-Cranes** flew in. We continued our exploration of the grasslands, adding our first **White-backed & Rüppell's Griffons**, **Yellow-throated, Pangani** and **Rosy-throated Longclaws**, **Long-tailed Fiscal**, **Brimstone Canary** and the unusual **Parasitic Weaver**.



A pair of Grey Crowned Cranes dancing.

We reached a second reservoir where we had a group of **Helmeted Guineafowl** on the road, a skulking pair of **Black Cranes** on the water's edge, our first **Wire-tailed Swallow** flying over and numerous **Reichenow's Seedeaters**. In the nearby grasslands, we also saw **Giraffe**, **Thomson's & Grant's Gazelles**. Two participants of the tour had arrived late and we were meeting them at a picnic site. Just before getting there, we saw **Yellow-necked Francolin**, a flock of **Speckled Mousebirds**, **European Bee-eater**, **Moustached Grass-Warbler** and **Red-tailed Shrike**. We ate our lunchboxes in a picnic area surrounded by nice habitat where we added many new birds, including **White-browed Coucal**, **Dideric Cuckoo**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Brubru**, **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Singing Cisticola**, **Holub's Golden-Weaver** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. Our new arrivals had also had a nice drive on the way in and added a couple of species we had missed including **White-bellied Go-away-bird**. We now had 2 vehicles in convoy, and after lunch we continued our exploration of the park. We soon came across a muddy pond by the roadside where we saw our first **Three-banded Plover**. We also had a windfall of cisticolas and in quick succession, we added **Stout**, **Croaking**, **Siffling** and **Desert Cisticolas** along with our first **Long-billed Pipit**, the subspecies of which is sometimes known as Nairobi Pipit.



In the afternoon, we added some nice raptors, including **Black-winged Kite**, the enormous **Lappet-faced Vulture**, **Tawny & Steppe Eagles** and the unique **Secretarybird**. We also had our first **Hamerkop** which was a welcome sight to one member of the group who is trying to photograph all the world's bird families. Next, we had one of the highlights of the day. In some open grassland, I heard some distant **Shelley's Francolins** which I managed to call in just next to the vehicle and they posed beautifully for photos. We continued under the imposing railway bridge into the southern part of the park. Here we saw our first **Superb Starling** plus **Red-backed Scrub-Robin**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis** and **Pale White-eye**. Our time was running out and we looped around back towards the park entrance. On the way out, we came across hundreds of **Cape Buffalo**, attended by both **Red-billed & Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**. Here we also added the diminutive **Pectoral-patch Cisticola** high up in the sky, doing its flight display. Amazingly this was our 9<sup>th</sup> cisticola species of the day! We left the park by a different gate where we had a few last-minute additions of **Streaky Seedeater**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** and **Red-billed Firefinch** taking our daily total to an incredible 125 bird species!



Shelley's Francolin & the urban backdrop of Nairobi National Park.



**12<sup>th</sup> November – Magadi Rd**

Today we were driving down from Nairobi into the Great Rift Valley towards Lake Magadi. There were a lot of birding stops along the way, and some groups see so many birds that they don't even make it to the lake. After making it through Nairobi's traffic, we got up to the high town of Corner Baridi. Bairidi means cold and it was pretty cold and misty up there. We started the descent and stopped very soon where the mist had cleared. We had a very productive stop here. By the side of the road we saw the drab **Brown Parisoma**, **African, Long-billed & Tree Pits**, **Little Rock-Thrush**, several **Yellow Bishops**, **Red-billed Firefinch** and **Red-fronted Barbet**. From here we walked up to an open area where we added **Abyssinian Wheatear** and a dark swift that I identified as **Nyanza Swift**. Our driver chatted with a local land-owner who gave us access to his land. We climbed over his fence, guilt-free, and accessed a nice patch of woodland where we saw the gorgeous **Red-and-yellow Barbet**, plus **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Cape Robin-Chat** and **African Citril**. The Swiss owner joined us and gave us a little talk about the area. We returned to the vehicles and continued down the steep road to the town of Olepolos.



This Spotted Thick-knee chick was attended by its doting parents.

Here we had a couple of stops, picking up more nice birds, including **Slate-colored Boubou**, **Foxy Lark**, **Hildebrandt's Starling**, **Greater Blue-eared Starling**, **Spotted Morning-Thrush**, **Southern Grosbeak-Canary** and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**. We reached the bottom of a dry wooded valley where we had a quick birding stop, with a pair of soaring **African Harrier-Hawks**, a pair of **Little Bee-eaters**, 2 **Banded Parisomas** that wouldn't quit chasing each other around, a non-breeding plumaged **Northern Wheatear**, nesting-building **Black-necked Weavers** and scope views of **Sombre Greenbul**, unexpected here and our first write-in on the checklist. The pace didn't slow down and every stop we made we picked up new birds. At the next, we saw **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **African Gray & Northern Red-billed Hornbills**, a pair of **Taita Fiscals** on the wire and the locally common **White-bellied Canary**. We turned off the road towards the prehistoric site of Olorgesailie. This was the driest habitat we had seen so far, and in these desert conditions, we found many **Fischer's Sparrow-Larks**, **Gray-headed Social-Weavers**, **Cut-throats** and a pair of **Spotted Thick-knees** with a half-grown chick.

We reached the parking lot of the museum and we ate our lunch under the shelter of a roof. Despite the full heat of midday, there were a surprising number of birds around us and almost every bite of our sandwiches was interrupted by another species. Here we saw **Gray Wren-Warbler**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, **Red-billed Quelea**, **African Silverbill** and **Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow**. After lunch we took a short walk and saw **Red-and-yellow & Black-throated Barbets**. We had a chance to visit the small museum with some fascinating information of the prehuman discoveries of the area. Indeed, we had so many birding stops in the morning and didn't have time to visit Lake Magadi, but not to worry, we would be visiting several similar rift lakes later in the trip. We had a few more birding stops on the way back to Nairobi adding **Eastern Chanting-Goshawk**, **Von der Decken's Hornbill** (spotted by Nyjal), both **Lilac-breasted & Rufous-crowned Rollers**, **Buff-bellied Warbler**, **Red-fronted Prinia** and **Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird**. Our last stop on the climb back up produced **Augur Buzzard**, **Blue-capped Cordonbleu** and our best views so far of **Purple Grenadier**. We arrived back at our hotel at a reasonable hour and some of us took advantage of a free upgrade to the adjoining 5-star hotel.



Two of Kenya's prettiest birds: Scarlet-chested Sunbird & Purple Grenadier.



**13<sup>th</sup> November – Nairobi to Mt Kenya**

After breakfast, we made our way through the thick Nairobi traffic which took a while. We passed through one area where all the trees were covered in **Marabou Storks**. We finally made our way out of the city and started to make our way towards our destination of Mount Kenya. We drove over one bridge in particular that had a huge colony of nesting **Little Swifts**. Our main birding stop on the way was at some rice fields near the town of Mwea. We found a quiet place to stop and set up the scope by the roadside. Perching on top of the rice were several **White-winged Widowbirds** and **Yellow-crowned Bishops**. We also had **Zitting & Winding Cisticolas** plus **Barn** and **Bank Swallows** perched on a fence. There was an overhead wire that had a number of birds on it, including **Village Indigobird**, **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, **Superb Starling** and **African Pied Wagtail**. We had a fly-bys of **Spur-winged & Blacksmith Lapwings** before we set off again. Passing Mwea, we also had a close **Hamerkop** in a ricefield and we managed to stop and take photos. One last stop before arriving was at a bridge over a river with another **Little Swift** nesting colony. Here we found our first **Lesser Striped Swallows**, plus more **Northern Fiscals**, **Yellow Bishops**, **Baglaffeht Weaver** and **Red-billed Firefinch**. We arrived at the gate of Castle Lodge and along the entrance road had a magnificent **Crowned Eagle** which flushed off the road and perched very close.



Crowned Eagle is Africa's largest and often feeds on monkeys.

On arrival, we were shown to our rustic but charming rooms before taking a short walk around the grounds on which we saw **Bronze**, **Tacazze**, **Northern & Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds**, **Streaky Seedeater**, **Kandt's Waxbill** & **Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters**. We went down to the main building and enjoyed a birding lunch on the balcony with **Hunter's Cisticolas**, **Black-and-white Mannikins** and **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, plus the impressive **Jackson's Three-horned Chameleon**. We took a rest after lunch and then took another bird walk, this time along a trail leading from behind the cabins. Luckily the rain held off and we saw more great birds, including a big target, **Hartlaub's Turaco**, which was the first member of this charismatic family for most people. Other birds seen were **Tambourine Dove**, **Scarce Swift**, **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Chestnut-throated & Grey Apalises**, **Eastern Mountain & Yellow-whiskered Greenbuls**, **African Hill-Babbler**, **Black-tailed Oriole** and **Brown-capped Weaver**. We ended the walk back at the main clearing with our best view of the **Hartlaub's Turaco**, **Waller's Starling**, a fantastic **White-browed Crombec** and our first **Red-fronted Parrot** flying to roost. On our walk to dinner we heard **Red-chested & Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo** plus **Abyssinian Nightjar**.

**14<sup>th</sup> November – Castle Forest, Mount Kenya**

We started with an hour of pre-breakfast birding at dawn. Our main target was the rare Olive Ibis which is usually only seen in flight. We positioned ourselves with a view of the forested valley below. There was a flowering tree nearby where we saw **Tacazze & Amethyst Sunbirds** and hopping around in the grass a pair of **Kandt's Waxbills**. **Rameron & Delegorgue's Pigeons** landed in a distant tree and we had scope views, a **Brown-capped Weaver** made a brief appearance, several **Red-fronted Parrots** flew by noisily and we also had our first **Gray Wagtail** which scurried around the edge of the pool below. There was no sign of Olive Ibis, though. We went down for breakfast where from the balcony we saw **Hunter's Cisticola**, **Spectacled Weaver**, **Waller's Starling** and **Thick-billed Seed-eater**. An ibis flew by and over the forest valley below. It seemed to fly differently from a Hadada Ibis but we couldn't say for sure. We moved down to the parking lot where before setting off, we had several close **White-bellied Tits** and our first **Willow Warbler**. **Abbott's Starling** and **Gray-headed Nigrita** also were perched nearby and we had good looks in the scope.



**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill was a conspicuous resident at Mt Kenya.**

We set off walking along the entrance road where we would concentrate our efforts this morning. We started picking up new species at a steady rate and along the first stretch saw **Yellow-bellied Waxbill**, **Black-collared, Black-throated & Gray Apalises**, **Green-backed Camaroptera**, **Olive Sunbird & Chinspot Batis**. The vehicles followed behind but the threatening grey skies never produced any rain, so we just kept on walking. At a point we had a noisy **Scaly Francolin** calling just inside the forest and finally it shot across the road giving us all quite shock. We continued picking up good birds like **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill**, **Mountain Wagtail**, **Moustached & Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds**, **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** and **African Paradise-Flycatcher**. One of the highlights of the morning was a **Bar-tailed Trogon** which I heard, tried to call in, was spotted by Nyjal and we finally all had scope views of this beautiful bird. After a decent walk we jumped into the vehicles and took a drive to the entrance to the reserve where we walked to a stake out for **African Black Duck**, and sure enough a pair was sat on a rock in the middle of the river. We also added a **Crowned Eagle** soaring and scope views of a **African Emerald Cuckoo**.



We went back for lunch and a short rest before going back out again in the afternoon. The drivers took us up the same track as yesterday afternoon, but we planned to go further up to access to different habitat. It had been pretty wet recently and the grassy road was a little slippery and seemed to get narrower and narrower. We decided that we had gone far enough, and we got out and started birding back down the track while the drivers went to look for a place to turn around. We saw many of the same birds again, including **Scaly Francolin, Scarce Swift, Hartlaub's Turaco, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Kikuyu White-eye, Slender-billed, Eastern Mountain & Yellow-whiskered Greenbuls, Black-tailed Oriole** and **Northern Double-collared Sunbird**, but added one or two new ones like **Long-crested Eagle**, a family of 8 **White-headed Woodhoopoes, Brown Woodland-Warbler** and a big flock of **Slender-billed Starlings**. We also saw a **Colobus Monkey** doing a huge jump between the trees. The clouds had been getting darker and inevitably it finally started to rain so we got back in the vehicles and drove back to the lodge after a good day of birding.



White-eyes have undergone a major taxonomic revision. This is the new endemic Kikuyu White-eye. Mt Kenya.



**15<sup>th</sup> November – Castle Forest to Aberdare NP**

We repeated our morning vigil for the near-mythical Olive Ibis, this time at a different viewpoint but with the same results. We had another good selection of birds on our pre-breakfast birding, including **Rameron & Delegorgue's Pigeons**, **Red-fronted Parrot**, **Hunter's Cisticola**, **Amethyst**, **Tacazze** plus both **Northern & Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds** next to each other to allow comparison, a nice family of **Kandt's Waxbills**, **Black-and-white Mannikins** and **Thick-billed Seedeater**. After breakfast, we checked out and were just about to leave when another birder staying there took us over to where he had just had a nice flock. Some of the birds had already moved on but we did see **Tropical Boubou**, **Black-throated & Gray Apalises** and **Kikuyu White-eye**. We also had a brief **Mountain Buzzard** and a couple of **Scarce Swifts** fly over. We said goodbye to this wonderful place and set off along the bumpy entrance road where we flushed another **Mountain Wagtail**.



The attractive Kandt's Waxbill was recently split from Black-headed.

We were now on our way to Aberdare National Park but had a quick stop at a reservoir along the way. We didn't see our hoped-for Grey-capped Warbler but did pick up **Chinspot Batis**, **Singing Cisticola**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Holub's Golden-Weaver**, **Common Waxbills** and our first **African Reed Warbler** of the trip. We arrived at the Aberdare National Park HQ where our drivers organised our permits while we birded the grounds to find **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Northern Fiscal**, **Brown Parisoma**, plenty of **White-browed Sparrow-Weavers** and a distant soaring **Long-crested Eagle**. We drove on to the park entrance and made our way to The Ark Lodge which is really one of a kind. Shaped like a ship and overlooking a great clearing and waterhole that we enjoyed some time watching while they got our lunch ready. Here we saw **Yellow-billed Duck**, **Yellow-billed & Black Storks**, our first **Red-knobbed Coot**, 2 pairs of **Gray Crowned-Cranes**, **Wood & Green Sandpipers** and brief appearances of **Cape & Rüppell's Robin-Chats**. Under the roof there were also nesting **Little Swift** and **Red-rumped Swallows**. In the clearing was a herd of **Cape Buffalo**, several **Warthogs**, **Bushbuck** and **Defassa Waterbuck**. We checked into our rooms and enjoyed a large lunch before setting off on our afternoon birding up to the moorland at the higher reaches of the national park. It took a while to get there but it was well worth it.

As soon as we got above the last patches of forest and out into the open moorland, our driver spotted a **Moorland Chat**. This was soon followed by our first **Aberdare Cisticola**, a very range-restricted endemic species. Two of our three targets down and our third was to follow quickly. The driver spotted the large **Jackson's Francolin** just along the road. It came closer and walked right past our vehicles allowing wonderful photo opportunities. In addition to these targets we had several **Plain Martins**, a female **Montagu's Harrier**, several **Yellow-crowned Canaries** drinking at a puddle in the road and finally a beautiful **Malachite Sunbird**. We had a long drive back down so didn't daudle. We picked up a few birds on the way down, including **African Stonechat**, **African Harrier-Hawk**, some close **African Black Duck** and a **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** perched on top of a tall tree. We would have made good time back to the lodge if a huge bull **Elephant** hadn't blocked the road. After 15 minutes of waiting, it became apparent that it wasn't going to move so we had to take a big detour. It was dusk by the time we got back and there were many **Spotted Hyaenas** in the road. The waterhole was quiet at night and we didn't receive any alerts at our room for rhinos or leopards. Before going to bed, we did have a few **Common Genets** and a **Greater Galago** on the fire escape picking off moths and a family of **Giant Forest Hogs** grazing down below.



Jackson's Francolin. Moorland at the higher reaches of Aberdares NP.



**16<sup>th</sup> November – Aberdare NP to Lake Nakuru NP**

We spent half an hour on the deck birding over the waterhole before breakfast and picked up **Common, Green & Wood Sandpipers, Yellow-billed Stork**, a **Tropical Boubou** picking off moths that had been attracted to the light, several vocal **Hunter's Cisticola**, **Cape & Rüppell's Robin-Chats**, **Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** plus our first **Cape Wagtail & African Swift**. After breakfast, some of us took a short walk along the boardwalk while our drivers packed the bags into the vehicles and we added our first **Golden-winged Sunbird** and **Doherty's Bushshrike**, which were both very attractive birds. We left The Ark, with everybody agreeing they would have liked to spend more time here. Driving down towards the gate, we had **Long-crested Eagle** and **Augur Buzzard** and just one vehicle the uncommon **Blue-headed Coucal**. We left the park and were on our way to Lake Nakuru where we would spend the night. We saw our first **Cape Crows** going through a town and had another stop where we had a mystery raptor that turned out to be a dark morph **Augur Buzzard**.



One of the world's best sunbirds: Golden-winged Sunbird.

We had one scheduled birding stop along the way, to see the MacKinder's form of **Cape Eagle-Owl**. There was a local guide that took people to see them and he was a kind of caretaker. Owls are considered a bad omen in Kenya and many people kill them. We parked, and the guide, Paul, took us down to the base of a cliff. We scanned from a particular point and he pointed out the owl which we had nice scope views of. Here we also saw **African Swift** and good views of **Gray-capped Warbler**. Although it managed to evade photos. We stopped in the town of Nyahururu for lunch and saw **Speckled Pigeon, Red-winged Starling** and **Bronze Sunbird** in the garden. We continued on to Lake Nakuru National Park in the afternoon which was about an hour and a half away. We birded a little at the gate while the drivers sorted out the entry permits. Here we saw our first **Eurasian Hoopoe, White-fronted Bee-eater & Northern Anteater-Chat**. Entry formalities completed, we pushed up the pop-top and entered the park. Driving down the hill, we passed a patch of orange *Leonotis* flowers with **Scarlet-chested Sunbird** on them, then saw a nice **Yellow-throated Longclaw** and our first **Plain-backed Pipit**. We had a female **Pallid Harrier** and **Augur Buzzard** flying over the grassland, a tree full of **European Bee-eaters**, a pair of **Fischer's x Yellow-collared Lovebird** hybrids, a few **Whinchats** and some **Pectoral-patch Cisticolas** doing their aerial display overhead.

We passed into mature fever tree forest and turned south towards our camp. It was pretty productive and we saw a family of **Green Woodhoopoes**, plus **Green-backed Camaroptera**, **Greater Blue-eared Starling**, **African Black-headed Oriole**, **White-bellied Tit**, **Lilac-breasted Roller** and **Nubian Woodpecker**. We passed a large cliff face where one of our drivers spotted a distant **Mocking Cliff-Chat**. The road finally drew next to the lake and we started picking up our first water birds, with **Ruff**, **Intermediate Egret**, **Glossy & African Sacred Ibises** and a **Great White Pelican** flying by. Here we also added our first **Rüppell's Starling** and **Mountain Gray Woodpecker**. Further on we saw our first **Little Grebe** plus many **African Darters** and **Long-tailed Cormorants**. It was late afternoon by now and we didn't have long, but we couldn't resist our first peek at the ponds on the southern end of the lake that were full of waterbirds. We had a good haul of ducks with **White-faced Whistling-Duck**, **Hottentot Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Yellow-billed & Red-billed Ducks**; of shore birds with **Little Stint**, **Common Greenshank**, **Green, Marsh & Wood Sandpipers**; plus **Gray Crowned-Crane**, **Gull-billed & Whiskered Terns**, **African Spoonbill** and **Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** flying around. We also were lucky to find 5 **White Rhino** which were a pleasure to see. It was time to drive onto our lodge a short distance away where we were greeted by **White-browed Robin-Chat**. Before dinner we were lent the conference room to tally our long list of birds of the day.



Increased water levels at Lake Nakuru caused most of the flamingos to move elsewhere.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> November – Lake Nakuru NP to Lake Naivasha

After breakfast we drove back down to the floodplain of the lake and continued where we had left off yesterday. On the first pond, we saw many of the same birds again, like **Hottentot Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Ruff**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Stint**, **White-winged & Whiskered Terns** and **Winding Cisticola**, but added the stately **Saddle-billed Stork**. We drove on to the main body of the lake and on the way spotted a **Steppe Eagle** perched up in the trees. By the edge of the lake, we were allowed to get out and set up the scope to properly work through the numerous water birds. Here we saw **African Fish-Eagle**, **Cape Teal**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Pied Avocet**, **Kittlitz's & Common Ringed Plovers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Gull-billed Tern**, **Marabou Stork**, **Great Cormorant**, **Great White Pelican** and **Western Yellow Wagtail**. **Greater & Lesser Flamingo** numbers were a shadow of their former glory but we did see a few hundred. We drove back around the lake and through the tall **Acacia** forest where we saw our first **Striped Kingfisher**, **Red-fronted Tinkerbird** and **White-headed Barbet**. We also heard **Hildebrandt's Francolin**, but they would not come in. In the roadside grass, we had a close foraging **Gray Crowned-Crane** and by the edge of the water our first **Long-toed Lapwing**.



In the trees we had some flocking species, including **White-bellied Tit**, **Red-faced Crombec**, **Red-headed Weaver** and **Mountain Gray Woodpecker**, plus a noisy family of **Arrow-marked Babblers**. Further round, we had perched **Long-crested Eagle** and **Augur Buzzard**, and coming back out on the grassland, **Rufous-naped Lark**, **Northern Anteater-Chat** and our first **Gray-backed Fiscals**. After a required pit stop at a little compound with **African Black-headed Oriole**, we drove on to the 'Baboon Cliffs' on the other side of the lake. We didn't see any baboons here but did have numerous **Nyanza Swifts** and **Rock Martins**, and scanning the lake shore below, a female **Eurasian Marsh-Harrier**, several **African Spoonbills**, **Gray-hooded Gulls** and **Pink-backed Pelican**. Finishing our drive back to the lodge for lunch we saw another group of 5 **White Rhinos** including 2 young ones, which was nice to see given the recent plight of the species. We had a nice buffet lunch back at the lodge, after which we saw **Meyer's Parrots** and **White-browed Robin-Chat**. Leaving the park, our final bird was a soaring **White Stork**. We set off on our way to Lake Naivasha, and arrived at Lake Naivasha Sopa Lodge where we had a one night stop. It was a magnificent lodge with huge rooms and set in large gardens at the lake's edge.



White-eye Slaty-Flycatcher says, "Beware of Beffaloess!"

After check in and orientation, we met outside the rooms for an afternoon walk but had to be escorted, due to the presence of wild animals. We had a productive walk, and on the way to the lake had saw **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher**, **Yellow-billed Storks** and **Nubian Woodpecker**. We reached the edge of the lake where we saw **Long-tailed & Great Cormorants**, a very close **Long-toed Lapwing**, **Ruff**, **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh & Wood Sandpipers**, **Gray-hooded Gull**, **African Fish-Eagle** and **Giant & Pied Kingfishers**. Our security guard, took us further around the edge of the huge garden full of **Rothchild's Giraffes** and **Defassa Waterbucks**. We were now in the range of **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, and playing the tape brought in an inordinate number of birds, including **Red-faced Crombec**, **Buff-bellied Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Brown Parisoma**, **Black-lored Babbler**, **African Thrush**, **African Gray Flycatcher**, **Spectacled & Lesser Masked-Weavers** and **African Citril**. We carried on our stroll back towards the lodge and added **White-browed Coucal**, **White-browed Robin-Chat**, **Mountain Gray Woodpecker**, **Speckled Mousebird** and several **Fischer's x Yellow-collared Lovebird** hybrids. Some were very close to good **Yellow-collared** and others to **Fisher's**. Back near our rooms we saw **Superb Starlings** and **Arrow-marked Babblers** before we called it a day and went to freshen up before dinner.

**18<sup>th</sup> November – Lake Naivasha to Lake Baringo**

Before leaving Lake Naivasha, we had a boat ride planned on it. After an amazing breakfast buffet at our plush hotel, we packed up and drove the short distance to the edge of the lake where the boats were waiting. Before boarding, we had a pair of **Gray Crowned-Cranes** foraging through the long grass. We set off and along the edge of the water we had a lot of close birds providing wonderful photographic opportunities of **Yellow-billed Stork**, **Goliath Heron**, **Giant & Pied Kingfishers** and **African Fish-Eagles**. As we moved out onto the open water we saw numerous **Gray-hooded Gull**, **Gull-billed**, **White-winged & Whiskered Terns**, **Long-tailed & Great Cormorants** and beautifully-plumaged **Great White Pelicans** which pattered the water as they took off and waterskied when they landed. We made our way to Crescent Island, which is a game reserve and we saw many **Defassa Waterbuck** and our first **Blue Wildebeest**. There was a huge selection of waterbirds with **Hottentot Teal**, **Long-toed Lapwing**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Ruff**, **Little Stint** and **African Spoonbill**, many of which were flushed up when a male **Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** passed by. The highlight was a rare vagrant **Red-necked Phalarope**. We set off back and as we pulled up to the edge of the lake saw a very close **Hamerkop**.



Waterbirds galore on our Lake Naivasha boat ride.

It was a three and a half hour drive to Lake Baringo and we arrived in time for a late lunch. Some people rested out the heat in their rooms while others did a bit of birding in the garden, picking up **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **Fan-tailed Raven**, **Spotted Morning-Thrush**, **Golden-backed Weavers**, **Parrot-billed Sparrow** and even a **Malachite Kingfisher**. We set out again at 3pm and met up with our local guide called Wilson. He wasted no time and immediately took us to see a nearby pair of **Hemprich's Hornbills**. As we came back to the vehicle, we also found our first **Jackson's Hornbill**. We drove the short distance to Roberts camp where Wilson showed us a day-roosting **African Scops-Owl**. The campground was alive with birds and we saw **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Nubian Woodpecker**, a white morph **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, **White-rumped Shrike**, **Bristle-crowned & Rüppell's Starlings**, **Beautiful Sunbird**, **Crimson-rumped Waxbill** and a very close **Parrot-billed Sparrow**. We wandered down to the water and saw **Purple**, **Striated & Black-crowned Night-Herons**. We could tell our guide had lots of birds to show us and next he took us to a stakeout for **Three-banded Courser**.





Jackson's Hornbill and Three-banded Coursers at Lake Baringo.



We set off down a path into the dry thorny scrub and soon came upon some activity with **Golden-backed & Little Weavers**, **Red-faced Crombec**, **Gray Wren-Warbler** and **Buff-bellied Warbler**. He motioned us around to the edge of a clearing and pointed out a day-roosting **Slender-tailed Nightjar**, quickly followed by an amazing day-roosting pair of **Three-banded Coursers**, especially welcome for Ted who is trying to photograph all the families. Back at the road, there was more action with a pair of **White-bellied Go-away-birds**, **Northern Masked-Weavers** and a baby **Red-chested Cuckoo**, probably being raised by some foraging **Rufous Chatterers**. The cherry on top was our first **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** flying overhead. We drove on to the next stakeout which was a short drive away. We quickly birded some dry scrub where we picked up **Pygmy Batis**, **Somali Tit** and **Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit** before we took a short walk to a local's garden that had a day-roosting pair of **Grayish Eagle-Owls**. This guy was good! We even added **Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird** and **Abyssinian Scimitarbill** nearby. Was there time for one more spot? Yes there was! We drove to the nearby Baringo cliffs and we walked around the base of them in search of the restricted Brown-tailed Chat. We had a huge **Verreaux's Eagle** fly over and the **Rock Hyraxes** scuttled to safety. As we walked along, we picked up a group of **Green Woodhoopoes**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Red-backed Scrub-Robin** and the incredibly rare **Gambaga Flycatcher**. It was starting to get dark, but our guide didn't want to give up. He finally found the chat but it disappeared before the rest of us got on it and we persuaded him to call it a day and we drove back to the lodge.



Greyish Eagle-Owl was one of the many staked out birds at Lake Baringo.



**19<sup>th</sup> November – Lake Baringo to Kakamega Forest**

This morning we had a boat ride out onto Lake Baringo. I didn't expect to get many new species, but I was pleasantly surprised. We started off working our way around the edge photographing many species in the early morning light. We had nice close **Goliath, Black, Squacco & Striated Herons**; **Malachite, Giant & Pied Kingfishers** and numerous **Hamerkops** with their strangely large nests. A flock of **Bristle-crowned Starlings** flew over and the sky was filled with numerous **Barn swallows**, several dozen **Bank**, plus a few **Wire-tailed & Red-rumped Swallows**. Along the edge, we also had close **Nubian Woodpecker, Red-tailed Shrike** and several breeding plumaged **Northern Masked-Weavers**. A couple of fishermen came out on their flimsy little boats made by lashing together reeds. They were hardly crocodile-proof. These guys produced a fish to feed to the local **African Fish-Eagle** and once we were all in place it was flung out and the huge raptor swooped down and picked it up while we all snapped away optimistically. Our local guide directed our boatmen to a large tree on the edge of the lake and after a bit of manoeuvring, pointed out a huge **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** to us. What a scoop!



**Good friends. A local fisherman with a Hamerkop.**

We made our way back along the lake edge and our guide stopped at an abandoned flooded building in which he spotted a **White-backed Night-Heron**, which is a very rare bird here. He hopped between a couple of crocodiles and clambered up the derelict building while we chugged around the other side to see the night-heron through the window. We didn't managed to photograph that species but a Black-crowned Night-Heron was much more cooperative. Next, we went to a few flooded dead trees where there were several close **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**. Our time was almost up, but our guide wanted to try for **Northern Carmine Bee-eater** much further down the lake. His persistence paid off and we had very close views of this beautiful bird. We went back to the hotel, thanked our boatmen, packed up the vehicles and set off on a last bit of terrestrial birding before we hit the road. We went back to the Baringo cliff area to look for the **Brown-tailed Chat** we had missed yesterday. We found it very quickly at another spot, begging the question, why had the guide taken us on a death march yesterday. We also saw **Spotted Flycatcher, Eastern Violet-backed & Beautiful Sunbirds** and **White-bellied Go-away-bird** here before we moved on to our last site. Our main targets here were the Hunter's Sunbird and Magpie Starling.



Bee-eaters of Lake Baringo: Blue-cheeked & Northern Carmine.

We walked around the thorny scrub trying unsuccessfully not to get too scratched up. We picked up quite a bit of stuff, including **Namaqua Dove**, a soaring **Lesser Spotted Eagle**, **Dark Chanting-Goshawk**, **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **Northern Red-billed Hornbill** and some more **Green Woodhoopoes**. We also had a displaying pair of **D'Arnaud's Barbets** with their polkadot plumage and distinctive 'cocked-tail' posture. We continued our search for **Hunter's Sunbird** eventually finding just a drab female feeding on a cactus flower. Only our guide and youngest member of the group, Nyjal, saw a fly over **Magpie Starling** flock which was a bit frustrating. On the way back to the vehicles we did find a pair of **Black-throated Barbets** which posed nicely for photos. After leaving we saw **Fan-tailed Raven** flying and a lone **Pygmy Falcon** perched on a roadside wire. The rest of the day was spent driving to Kakamega Forest which was several hours away. We did have a brief stop for the stunning **White-crested Turaco**, then a lunch stop after which we located a distant **Boran Cisticola** in the scope. On arrival at our destination and we were greeted by a huge pair of **Black-and-white Casqued Hornbills** and a **Grey-throated Barbet** in the garden. After several one-night stops, it was nice to finally have 3 nights in the same place.



**20<sup>th</sup> November – Kakamega Forest**

We started the day with a bit of pre-breakfast birding with our local guide. The beautiful grounds of Rondo Retreat were full of bird song in the early morning although the light wasn't great to begin with. Our first bird was a calling **Yellow-billed Barbet** which our local guide found and I put in the scope. We also had many other scope views of perched birds including our first **African Green Pigeon**, **White-throated Bee-eater**, **Petit's Cuckooshrike**, **Stuhlmann's Starling**, **Olive-bellied Sunbird**, **Red-headed Malimbe**, **Black-necked**, **Veillot's & Brown-capped Weavers** and **Grey-headed Nigrita**. A close pair of **Chubb's Cisticolas** were perched low down and our first **Snowy-crowned Robinchat** also came in close. Another important new family to get was the **Southern Hyliota** which we saw but were too active in the canopy to get photos of. Our half an hour of birding turned into an hour and we finally pulled ourselves away for breakfast. Afterwards we drove to the headquarters. While the drivers organised the entry permits, the local guide walked us around some nearby habitat where we picked up **Tree Pipit**, **Joyful Greenbul** and **Pink-footed Puffback**. We continued down a narrow forest trail which was pretty quiet and not easy birding, but we did see **White-headed Woodhoopoe**, **Dusky Tit** and **Black-collared Apalis**.



**Black-billed Weaver is a very unusual-looking forest weaver.**

Along a wider forest track, activity picked up and we started seeing more species. Here our driver spotted us a pair of **Blue-headed Bee-eaters** perched high in the canopy. We also saw the recently split **Sharpe's Drongo**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Brown-throated & Jameson's Wattle-eyes**, **Forest Weaver** plus very close **Black-faced Rufous-Warbler**, **Red-tailed Bristlebill** and **Cabinis's Greenbul**. After a quick rest back at the vehicles we took one last walk to a grassy clearing inside the forest where we saw **Stout Cisticola** and **Yellow-mantled Widowbird**. On the way back we heard **African Broadbill** but couldn't get any closer to it through the thick understorey. After lunch and a rest, we started birding again in the garden and had good views of **MacKinnon's Shrike**, **Grey-green Bush-Shrike**, **Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill**, **Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** and the popular **Ross's Turaco**. We started walking along a trail where we saw **Black-billed Weaver**, **Green-headed Sunbird** and **White-chinned Prinia** but the clouds that had been getting darker, finally broke and we walked quickly back to the lodge for shelter. After a short while it stopped, and we did a bit more birding nearby in the garden adding **African Blue-Flycatcher** and **Yellow-spotted Barbet** before the rain started again so we were forced to finish a little early.

**21<sup>st</sup> November – Kakamega Forest**

We started before breakfast by scoping **African Green Pigeon**, **Petit's Cuckooshrike** and **Black-necked Weavers** and taking a walk along a trail. We didn't see much but what we did see was good, with a **Yellow-billed Barbet** carrying food into a nest hole, a singing **Scaly-breasted Illadopsis**, **Snowy-crowned Robinchat** and a **Tambourine Dove** drinking from the fish pond. After breakfast, we took a walk along the road. Activity was much better and we saw a noisy pair of **Chubb's Cisticolas**, a pair of **Luhder's Bush-Shrikes**, **Shelley's Greenbul**, **Olive-bellied & Green-throated Sunbirds**, **Black-billed Weaver** carrying nesting material, plus our first **Black-crowned Waxbill** and **Red-headed Bluebill**. We turned down a side track that was also pretty good. We had best views so far of **Brown-throated Wattle-eyes**, **MacKinnon's Shrike** plus first **Green & Green-headed Sunbirds**, **Ugandan Woodland-Warbler** and **Chestnut Wattle-eye** of the trip. Using **Red-chested Owlet** calls brought in our first **White-tailed Ant-Thrush**, **Equatorial Akalat** and the owlet also replied but wouldn't show itself. To top it off we found an ant swarm with several **Brown-chested Alethes** in attendance. Some people were either tired or were having technical problems with their camera and decided to head back to the lodge.



It's usually difficult to even see a Scaly-breasted Illadopsis. This one performed beautifully.

The rest of us drove to the start of the River Trail where we found a few good birds like **Brown-eared Woodpecker**, **Green-headed Sunbird**, **Joyful Greenbul** and **Dusky Tit**. We also heard **Turner's Eremomela** and **Honeyguide Greenbul** calling but they also wouldn't show. We came out on an open area where we also saw **Northern Black Flycatcher**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **African Paradise-Flycatcher** and **Southern Citril** before turning around. On the way back we also added **White-chinned Prinia** and **Buff-throated Apalis**. It had been a full morning and we went back for lunch and a rest. We started again at 3pm and drove back to the trail network behind the park offices. It was strangely quiet and the grey skies and tall trees made for pretty challenging birding. We did manage to pull out **Forest Weaver**, **Dusky Tit**, **Sharpe's Drongo** plus the **Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill**. The skies were so dark, rain seemed inevitable, so we started back. We heard a few birds chattering in the undergrowth as the first drops of rain started to fall. Then came sharp bites to our legs. We were standing on ants! Then an **African Broadbill** started calling right above our heads. Unbelievable. Some of us did a sort of leg-slapping dance as we tried to locate the broadbill in the rain, while others retreated to safety. Once we got a photo, we rushed back to the vehicles and the rain really started to come down hard. We were forced to knock off a bit earlier again today but it had certainly been an eventful afternoon.





Brown-throated Alethe at an ant swarm & Forest Weaver starting its nest.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November – Kakamega to Masai Mara**

We had a long drive to the Masai Mara so only had a short time to bird the garden. We made an effort to find a couple of species we had only heard thus far, namely **Great Blue Turaco** and **Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat** but both remained elusive. After a heavy downpour during the night, the skies were now blue and the early morning light fresh on the huge **Black-and-white Casqued Hornbills**, allowing a few last photos before breakfast. We hit the road, and after about an hour and a half's drive, we had reached the town of Kisumu on the edge of Lake Victoria. We eagerly accepted the option of another boat ride as it was the best way to search the papyrus beds. We started straight off with some common species which were now very familiar to us like **White-winged & Whiskered Terns**, **Long-tailed Cormorant**, **Pied Kingfisher** and **Hamerkop** but also saw our first **African Jacana** and **Purple Heron**. We were not really looking for water birds, but rather the rare passerines of the papyrus beds. We picked up our target **Carruthers's Cisticola** quickly, followed by **Greater Swamp Warbler** and **Swamp Flycatcher**, but only heard the **White-winged Swamp Warbler**. We added an impressive 3 new species of weavers with **Slender-billed**, **Northern Brown-throated & Black-headed Weavers** which were all busy nest building. One of our main targets was **Papyrus Gonolek** and we heard it, but it wouldn't come in.



Red-chested Sunbird is often found by the water's edge.

We travelled down an inlet which was quite productive and here we saw the similar-looking **Black-headed Gonolek** along with **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Nubian Woodpecker** and **Red-chested Sunbird**. Finally, we had to give up on the gonolek, but on the way back saw **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** plus our first **Broad-billed Roller** and **Fan-tailed Widowbird**. We thanked our local guide and hit the road again. Not far along though, I spotted a **Black Bishop** and got our driver to stop. These were one of the biggest targets for the youngest member of the group. There were a few water birds present in these flooded rice fields like **Gray Crowned-Crane** and **African Jacana**, plus a few birds on the wire, including **Gray-headed Kingfisher**, **Superb Starling** and **Northern Gray-headed Sparrow**. There were more **Black-headed Weavers** nesting and several **Fan-tailed Widowbirds** flying over the vegetation but it took us a while to get everyone on the beautiful male **Black Bishop**. We were back on the road now, and there were no more birding stops. We were behind schedule and were held up further by funeral processions, some other roadside celebrations, gridlock in towns and bad roads. It looked like the whole area had just received a lot of rain and the last stretch was particularly muddy and we needed to engage the 4x4. We made it safely and were welcomed by the friendly staff of West Mara Lodge. After a short briefing, we dropped bags in our room and went to dinner after a very long driving day.



**23<sup>rd</sup> November – Maasai Mara**

After breakfast, we spent a short time birding in the camp while the drivers loaded our bags. We found a nice female **Purple Grenadier**, a long-tailed **African Paradise-Flycatcher** and a **Brown-crowned Tchagra**. On the walk to the parking lot, we also had an **African Green Pigeon** in the scope. We drove down to gate of Mara Triangle Conservancy which borders the Maasai Mara and on the way saw **White-headed Barbet** and **Yellow-fronted Canaries**. At the gate we had hundreds of **Little Swifts** flying around and scuttling across the road, our first **Red-necked Francolins**. After the drivers had finished the entrance procedures, we drove in and soon had a **Black Stork** flying by. There were many vultures & eagles in the nearby trees and working through them found **Lappet-faced & White-rumped Vultures** plus **Ruppell's Griffon** and **Tawny, Steppe** and a surprise **Imperial Eagle**. Other good birds in this area were **Yellow-throated Longclaw**, **Plain-backed Pipit**, **Fan-tailed Widowbird**, **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers** on some **Cape Buffalo** and our first **Flappet Lark** which did its flight display for us. Of course, there was no shortage of mammals either and we saw **Topi**, **Coke's Hartebeest** and **Bohor Reedbuck**. We turned down onto the floodplain of the Mara River and here saw **Ross's Turaco** flashing its bright red feathers in flight, plus our first **Banded Snake-Eagle**, **Black-bellied Bustard** and **Coqui Francolin**.



The gorgeous Rosy-throated Longclaw.

There had been heavy rain here yesterday, and in the flooded fields we had **Spur-winged Goose**, **Woolly-necked Stork** and **African Jacana**. At a viewpoint over the river we also saw a pod of **Hippos**, some of which were grazing out of the water. We passed out of the floodplain onto drier grassy hillsides where we saw **Red-capped Lark**, **Crowned Lapwing** and a stunning male **Rosy-throated Longclaw** which walked very close to the vehicles. Continuing along we had our first **Sooty Chat**, **Silverbird** and **Buffy Pipits**. We also continued adding raptors, with our best views so far of **Secretarybird**, **Black-chested Snake-Eagle** and **Bateleur**. We reached the gate of the Maasai Mara for lunch and as we ate our packed lunches, we watched **White-browed Robin-Chat**, **Lesser Masked Weaver** and **Grey-headed Social-Weaver**. We still had a long drive to the Sentrim Lodge on the eastern side of the Maasai Mara so we picked up the pace a bit. On the way we had several good **Lion** sightings, including 2 up in a tree! Of course, there was no shortage of birds and some of the highlights were **Bare-faced Go-away-bird**, **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Goliath Heron** and a **Temminck's Courser** with 2 large chicks. It had been a full day and we enjoyed an early dinner in our new lodge where we would spend the next 2 nights.





The unique secretarybird and a Lion up in a tree.



**24<sup>th</sup> November – Maasai Mara**

It was our last full day in the Maasai Mara and we had a few specific targets, top of the list being **Southern Ground Hornbill** and any cats. After breakfast we waited in front for the lodge for our packed lunches. While we waited, I called in our first **Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike**. We also saw **African Yellow White-eye** & **African Paradise Flycatcher**. It had rained over night and was still overcast. The birds were still quiet, although we did find a pocket of activity with **Bare-faced Go-away-bird**, **White-browed Coucal**, **Yellow-fronted Canary** and our first **Pale Flycatcher** of the trip. We meandered around the eastern area of the park looking for our targets and found **White-bellied Bustard**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Lappet-faced Vulture**, **Montague's Harrier** and **Grey Kestrel**. We had great views of 5 **Cheetahs**, several **Lion** and **Spotted Hyaena** sightings. The drivers had heard word over the radios that ground hornbills had been seen some distance away, and as we worked our way up through the park, we picked up **Black-winged Lapwing**, **Red-capped Lark** and some beautiful **Rosy-throated Longclaws**. We missed the ground-hornbills at one spot, but instead we found **Green-backed Woodpecker**. Drivers would often stop and exchange sightings with other vehicles, most only interested in Lions. In exchange, we would ask about ground-hornbills, and finally we met a vehicle that had just seen them. We went to the spot to check it out.



Cheetahs stalking through the Maasai Mara was one of the enduring images of the trip.

We entered a beautiful lush valley where we saw **Black-bellied Bustard**, **Grey-crowned Crane**, **Yellow Bishop**, **Yellow-mantled Widowbird** and **Sooty Chat**. The habitat looked perfect but there was no sign. We stopped under a tree in a huge clearing for lunch. It was a beautiful location and it was nice to be away from the car jams. Afterwards, we continued our search, coming across our own **Lion** which we enjoyed in peace. On the way back, we had just about given up on the **Southern Ground Hornbills** when we came upon a close group of 5 birds. They posed beautifully for photos and we could all breathe a sigh of relief. We had a bathroom break at the Keekorok Airstrip where we saw **Mottled Swift**, **Angola Swallow** and **Western Yellow Wagtails**. Some of us also bought blankets from the Maasai ladies there. We started driving back towards the lodge and on the way saw several **Cinnamon-breasted & Golden-breasted Buntings** and **Red-faced Crombec**. The drivers had heard something over the radio and seemed keen to get there ASAP. As we approached the group of vehicles, they told us to look up in the tree and we saw a mother and almost fully grown cub **Leopards** sleeping on the upper branches. At first, they were a bit obscured but the cub was restless and would get up and start moving around. It was a wonderful way to finish our stay here. Afterwards, we drove back to our lodge full satisfied with our time in the Maasai Mara.





Both so ugly they are beautiful: Spotted Hyaena & Southern Ground-Hornbill (Bird of the trip).





**The regal Saddle-billed Stork.**

**25<sup>th</sup> November – Maasai Mara to Nairobi**

We had a long drive back to Nairobi today so packed up the vehicles straight after breakfast and hit the road. We had a rest stop at a gas station after a couple of hours, and as people enjoyed coffees, some of us took a short walk around and were surprised how many birds there were. Here we saw **D'Arnot's Barbet**, **Speckled Mousebird** and **Purple Grenadier**. Our main birding site on the way back was a place called Murungaru and our main target was the endangered endemic **Sharpe's Longclaw**. This required a walk on a grassy hillside to try and flush it up. It didn't take long and we soon had extended flight views and even brief views of a bird on the ground running between clumps of grass. As it turned out, it was our 500<sup>th</sup> species for our trip list! Another big target was the impressive **Long-tailed Widowbird** and there was one male doing its slow-motion like flight display. Other good birds seen here were **Levaillant's & Wing-snapping Cisticolas**, **Angola Swallow**, **African Snipe**, **African Citril** and **Golden-winged Sunbird**. It had been drizzling but it got heavier and we were forced to retreat to the vehicles to eat our packed lunches. Before continuing towards Nairobi we stopped for a bit of souvenir shopping. Back in Nairobi we said goodbye to our wonderful drivers after an amazing journey around Kenya.



A displaying male Long-tailed Widowbird.

**BIRDS OF THE TRIP**

1. SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL
2. SECRETARYBIRD
3. JACKSON'S FRANCOLIN
4. CROWNED EAGLE
5. GREY CROWNED CRANE

**MAMMALS OF THE TRIP**

1. LEOPARD
2. CHEETAH
3. COMMON GENET



**BIRD LIST**

Taxonomy follows eBird/Clements online checklist v2019.

**Ostriches (Struthionidae)**

**Common Ostrich** *Struthio camelus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

**Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl (Anatidae)**

**White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Hottentot Teal** *Spatula hottentota*

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Lake Naivasha.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa*

Seen at Castle Forest & Aberdare NP.

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru & Lake Naivasha.

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Red-billed Duck** *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru & Lake Naivasha.

**Guineafowl (Numididae)**

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies (Phasianidae)**

**Scaly Francolin** *Pternistis squamatus*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Hildebrandt's Francolin** *Pternistis hildebrandti*

Heard at Lake Nakuru.

**Jackson's Francolin** *Pternistis jacksoni*

Seen at Aberdare NP.

**Yellow-necked Francolin** *Pternistis leucoscepus*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Red-necked Francolin** *Pternistis afer*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Crested Francolin** *Dendroperdix sephaena*

Heard at Lake Baringo.

**Coqui Francolin** *Peliperdix coqui*

Seen at Maasai Mara & heard at Lake Nakuru.

**Shelley's Francolin** *Scleroptila shelleyi*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopus roseus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Lesser Flamingo***Phoeniconaias minor*

Near-threatened. Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Grebes (Podicipedidae)****Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)****Rock Dove***Columba livia*

Seen in Nairobi.

**Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi road, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo, Maasai Mara &amp; Narok.

**Rameron Pigeon***Columba arquatrix*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Delegorgue's Pigeon***Columba delegorguei*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Mourning Collared Dove***Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen at Magadi road &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Red-eyed Dove***Streptopelia semitorquata*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi road, Castle Forest, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Ring-necked Dove***Streptopelia capicola*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi road, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Laughing Dove***Streptopelia senegalensis*

Seen at Nairobi, Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo &amp; Narok.

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove***Turtur chalcophilos*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi road, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Blue-spotted Wood-Dove***Turtur afer*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Tambourine Dove***Turtur tympanistria*

Seen at Castle Forest. Heard at Nairobi NP &amp; Kakamega.

**Namaqua Dove***Oena capensis*

Seen at Magadi road &amp; Lake Baringo.

**African Green-Pigeon***Treron calvus*

Seen at Kakamega &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Bustards (Otididae)****White-bellied Bustard***Eupodotis senegalensis*

Heard at Nairobi NP &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Black-bellied Bustard***Lissotis melanogaster*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Turacos (Musophagidae)****Great Blue Turaco***Corythaeola cristata*

Heard at Kakamega.

**Schalow's Turaco***Tauraco schalowi*

Heard at Maasai Mara.



**White-crested Turaco**

Seen at Kerio.

*Tauraco leucolophus*

**Hartlaub's Turaco**

Seen at Castle Forest & heard at Aberdare NP.

*Tauraco hartlaubi*

**Ross's Turaco**

Seen at Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

*Musophaga rossae*

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Corythaixoides personatus*

**White-bellied Go-away-bird**

Seen at Nairobi NP & Lake Baringo.

*Corythaixoides leucogaster*

**Cuckoos (Cuculidae)****Blue-headed Coucal**

Seen at Aberdare NP.

*Centropus monachus*

**White-browed Coucal**

Seen at Nairobi NP. Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Centropus superciliosus*

**Dideric Cuckoo**

Seen at Nairobi NP & Magadi road. Heard at Lake Nakuru.

*Chrysococcyx caprius*

**Klaas's Cuckoo**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Chrysococcyx klaas*

**African Emerald Cuckoo**

Seen at Castle Forest & heard at Kakamega.

*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

**Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo**

Heard at Castle Forest.

*Cercococcyx montanus*

**Red-chested Cuckoo**

Seen at Lake Baringo. Heard at Castle Forest & Lake Nakuru.

*Cuculus solitarius*

**Nightjars and Allies (Caprimulgidae)****Abyssinian Nightjar**

Seen at Castle Forest. Heard at Aberdare NP & Maasai Mara.

*Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

**Slender-tailed Nightjar**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Caprimulgus clarus*

**Swifts (Apodidae)****Scarce Swift**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

**Mottled Swift**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Apus aequatorialis*

**Nyanza Swift**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Nakuru.

*Apus niansae*

**African Swift**

Seen en route to Lake Nakuru.

*Apus barbatus*

**Little Swift**

Commonly seen throughout.

*Apus affinis*

**White-rumped Swift**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road & Maasai Mara.

*Apus caffer*

**African Palm-Swift**

Seen at Nairobi NP & Lake Nakuru.

*Cypsiurus parvus*

**Flufftails (Scolothruridae)****White-spotted Flufftail***Scolothrura pulchra*

Heard at Kakamega.

**Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)****Eurasian Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at Nairobi NP &amp; Lake Nakuru.

**Red-knobbed Coot***Fulica cristata*

Seen at Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Black Crake***Zapornia flavirostra*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Cranes (Gruidae)****Grey Crowned-Crane***Balearica regulorum*

Endangered. Seen at Nairobi NP. Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Thick-knees (Burhinidae)****Spotted Thick-knee***Burhinus capensis*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

Seen at Nairobi NP. Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)****Long-toed Lapwing***Vanellus crassirostris*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Blacksmith Lapwing***Vanellus armatus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea, Aberdare NP &amp; Lake Nakuru.

**Spur-winged Lapwing***Vanellus spinosus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Black-winged Lapwing***Vanellus melanopterus*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Crowned Lapwing***Vanellus coronatus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Kittlitz's Plover***Charadrius pecuarius*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Common Ringed Plover***Charadrius hiaticula*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Three-banded Plover***Charadrius tricollaris*

Seen at Nairobi NP. Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Jacanas (Jacanidae)****African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

Seen at Lake Victoria &amp; Maasai Mara.



**Sandpipers and Allies (Scolopacidae)****Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Near-threatened. Seen at Lake Naivasha.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Near-threatened. Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**African Snipe** *Gallinago nigripennis*

Seen at Murungaru.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Seen at Lake Naivasha.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen at Nairobi NP. en route to Lake Nakuru, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Seen at Nairobi NP. Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Seen at Nairobi NP. Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Pratincoles and Coursers (Glareolidae)****Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Three-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus cinctus*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)****Grey-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Lake Victoria.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Lake Victoria.

**Storks (Ciconiidae)****Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Saddle-billed Stork***Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Marabou Stork***Leptoptilos crumenifer*

Seen at Nairobi, Lake Nakuru, Maasai Mara &amp; Narok.

**Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Anhingas (Anhingidae)****African Darter***Anhinga rufa*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Cormorants and Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)****Long-tailed Cormorant***Microcarbo africanus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo, Lake Victoria &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Great Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Victoria, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Pelicans (Pelecanidae)****Great White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Naivasha.

**Pink-backed Pelican***Pelecanus rufescens*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Hamerkop (Scopidae)****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns (Ardeidae)****Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Black-headed Heron***Ardea melanocephala*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea, Lake Nakuru &amp; Murungaru.

**Goliath Heron***Ardea goliath*

Seen at Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Great Egret***Ardea alba*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Intermediate Egret***Ardea intermedia*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Black Heron***Egretta ardesiaca*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea, Castle Forest, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Squacco Heron***Ardeola ralloides*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

Seen at Lake Baringo.



**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**White-backed Night-Heron** *Gorsachius leuconotus*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)****Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

Commonly seen throughout.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)****Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*

Vulnerable. Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (Accipitridae)****Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, near Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*

Seen at Magadi Road & Aberdare NP.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos*

Endangered. Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Critically endangered. Seen at Maasai Mara.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*

Critically endangered. Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**Rüppell's Griffon** *Gyps rueppelli*

Critically endangered. Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

Near-threatened. Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Black-chested Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Banded Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

Near-threatened. Seen at Castle Forest.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Seen at Castle Forest, Lake Nakuru & Lake Naivasha.

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Clanga pomarina*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

Vulnerable. Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

Endangered. Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Melierax metabates*

**Eastern Chanting-Goshawk**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Melierax poliopterus*

**Gabar Goshawk**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Micronisus gabar*

**Eurasian Marsh Harrier**

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Lake Naivasha.

*Circus aeruginosus*

**Pallid Harrier**

Near-threatened. Seen at Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Circus macrourus*

**Montagu's Harrier**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Circus pygargus*

**African Goshawk**

Seen at Nairobi NP.

*Accipiter tachiro*

**Black Goshawk**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Accipiter melanoleucus*

**Black Kite**

Commonly seen throughout.

*Milvus migrans*

**African Fish-Eagle**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

*Haliaeetus vocifer*

**Common Buzzard**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Buteo buteo*

**Mountain Buzzard**

Near-threatened. Seen at Castle Forest.

*Buteo oreophilus*

**Augur Buzzard**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Nakuru.

*Buteo augur*

**Owls (Strigidae)****African Scops Owl**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Otus senegalensis*

**Cape (MacKinder's) Eagle-Owl**

Seen en route to Nakuru.

*Bubo capensis mackinderi*

**Greyish Eagle Owl**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Bubo cinerascens*

**Verreaux's Eagle Owl**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Bubo lacteus*

**Pearl-spotted Owlet**

Seen at Naivasha & heard at Lake Baringo.

*Glaucidium perlatum*

**Red-chested Owlet**

Heard at Kakamega.

*Glaucidium tephronotum*

**Mousebirds (Coliidae)****Speckled Mousebird**

Commonly seen throughout.

*Colius striatus*

**Blue-naped Mousebird**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

*Urocolius macrourus*

**Trogons (Trogonidae)****Bar-tailed Trogon**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Apaloderma vittatum*



**Hoopoes (Upupidae)****Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Woodhoopoes and Scimitarbills (Phoeniculidae)****Green Woodhoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Baringo.

**White-headed Woodhoopoe***Phoeniculus bollei*

Seen at Castle Forest &amp; Kakamega.

**Abyssinian Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus minor*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Ground-Hornbills (Bucorvidae)****Southern Ground-Hornbill***Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Vulnerable. Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Hornbills (Bucerotidae)****Hemprich's Hornbill***Lophoceros hemprichii*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**African Grey Hornbill***Lophoceros nasutus*

Seen at Magadi Road &amp; Maasai Mara. Heard at Lake Baringo.

**Jackson's Hornbill***Tockus jacksoni*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Von der Decken's Hornbill***Tockus deckeni*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Northern Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Seen at Magadi Road &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill***Bycanistes brevis*

Seen at Castle Forest &amp; Aberdare NP.

**Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill***Bycanistes subcylindricus*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)****Malachite Kingfisher***Corythornis cristatus*

Seen at Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Grey-headed Kingfisher***Halcyon leucocephala*

Seen at Mwea &amp; Ahero.

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

Seen at Lake Victoria &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

Seen at Lake Naivasha &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

Seen at Nairobi NP. Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Bee-eaters (Meropidae)****Blue-headed Bee-eater***Merops muelleri*

Seen at Kakamega.

**White-fronted Bee-eater**

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

*Merops bullockoides*

**Little Bee-eater**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road & Maasai Mara.

*Merops pusillus*

**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Castle Forest, Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

*Merops oreobates*

**White-throated Bee-eater**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Merops albicollis*

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**

Seen at Lake Baringo & Lake Victoria.

*Merops persicus*

**European Bee-eater**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

*Merops apiaster*

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Merops nubicus*

**Rollers (Coraciidae)****Lilac-breasted Roller**

Seen at Magadi Road, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Coracias caudatus*

**Rufous-crowned Roller**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

*Coracias naevius*

**Broad-billed Roller**

Seen at Lake Victoria.

*Eurystomus glaucurus*

**African Barbets (Lybiidae)****Yellow-billed Barbet**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

**Red-and-yellow Barbet**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

**D'Arnaud's Barbet**

Seen at Lake Baringo & Narok. Heard at Maasai Mara.

*Trachyphonus darnaudii*

**Grey-throated Barbet**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Gymnobucco bonapartei*

**Moustached Tinkerbird**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Pogoniulus leucomystax*

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**

Seen at Castle Forest & Kakamega.

*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird**

Seen at Lake Nakuru & heard at Lake Baringo.

*Pogoniulus pusillus*

**Yellow-spotted Barbet**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Buccanodon duchaillui*

**Red-fronted Barbet**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Tricholaema diademata*

**Black-throated Barbet**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

*Tricholaema melanocephala*

**White-headed Barbet**

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Lybius leucocephalus*

**Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)****Thick-billed Honeyguide**

Seen by TL at Kakamega.

*Indicator conirostris*



**Lesser Honeyguide**

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Lake Baringo.

*Indicator minor*

**Greater Honeyguide**

Seen flying over at Castle Forest.

*Indicator indicator*

**Woodpeckers (Picidae)****Cardinal Woodpecker**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo & Kakamega. Heard at Magadi Road.

*Chloropicus fuscescens*

**Mountain Grey Woodpecker**

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Chloropicus spodocephalus*

**Brown-eared Woodpecker**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Campethera caroli*

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker**

Seen by TL at Kakamega.

*Campethera nivosa*

**Tullberg's Woodpecker**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Campethera tullbergi*

**Green-backed Woodpecker**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Campethera cailliautii*

**Nubian Woodpecker**

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo & Lake Victoria. Heard at Nairobi NP.

*Campethera nubica*

**Falcons and Caracaras (Falconidae)****Pygmy Falcon**

Seen at Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

*Polihierax semitorquatus*

**Grey Kestrel**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Falco ardosiaceus*

**Lanner Falcon**

Seen near Lake Naivasha.

*Falco biarmicus*

**Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)****Fischer's Lovebird**

Seen at Lake Naivasha. Although mainly hybrids occur here, we saw some which looked like pure Fischer's.

*Agapornis fischeri*

**Yellow-collared Lovebird**

Seen at Lake Naivasha. Although mainly hybrids occur here, we saw some which looked like pure Yellow-collared.

*Agapornis personatus*

**New World and African Parrots (Psittacidae)****Red-fronted Parrot**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Poicephalus gulielmi*

**Meyer's Parrot**

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Poicephalus meyeri*

**African and Green Broadbills (Calyptomenidae)****African Broadbill**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Smithornis capensis*

**Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)****Grey Cuckooshrike**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Coracina caesia*

**Petit's Cuckooshrike**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Campephaga petiti*

**Purple-throated Cuckooshrike**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Campephaga quiscalina*

**Old World Orioles (Oriolidae)****Western Black-headed Oriole**

Heard at Kakamega.

*Oriolus brachyrynchus*

**African Black-headed Oriole**

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

*Oriolus larvatus*

**Black-tailed Oriole**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Oriolus percivali*

**Wattle-eyes and Batises (Platysteiridae)****Brown-throated Wattle-eye**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Platysteira cyanea*

**Chestnut Wattle-eye**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Platysteira castanea*

**Jameson's Wattle-eye**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Platysteira jamesoni*

**Chinspot Batis**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Castle Forest & en route to Aberdare.

*Batis molitor*

**Pygmy Batis**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Batis perkeo*

**Bushshrikes and Allies (Malaconotidae)****Brubru**

Seen at Nairobi NP. Heard at Magadi Road, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

*Nilaus afer*

**Black-backed Puffback**

Heard at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

*Dryoscopus cubla*

**Pink-footed Puffback**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Dryoscopus angolensis*

**Brown-crowned Tchagra**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Nakuru. Heard at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

*Tchagra australis*

**Lühder's Bushshrike**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Laniarius luehderi*

**Tropical Boubou**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Castle Forest & Lake Nakuru. Heard at Kakamega.

*Laniarius major*

**Black-headed Gonolek**

Seen at Lake Victoria.

*Laniarius erythrogaster*

**Papyrus Gonolek**

Near-threatened. Heard at at Lake Victoria.

*Laniarius mufumbiri*

**Slate-coloured Boubou**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

*Laniarius funebris*

**Grey-green Bushshrike**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Telophorus bocagei*

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Telophorus sulfureopectus*

**Black-fronted Bushshrike**

Seen by one participant at Castle Forest.

*Telophorus nigrifrons*

**Doherty's Bushshrike**

Seen at Aberdare NP.

*Telophorus dohertyi*



**Drongos (Dicruridae)****Sharpe's Drongo***Dicrurus sharpei*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

Seen at Mwea, Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Monarch Flycatchers (Monarchidae)****African Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Baringo, Kakamega &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Shrikes (Laniidae)****Red-backed Shrike***Lanius collurio*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Red-tailed Shrike***Lanius phoenicuroides*

Seen at Nairobi NP &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Grey-backed Fiscal***Lanius excubitoroides*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Long-tailed Fiscal***Lanius cabanisi*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Taita Fiscal***Lanius dorsalis*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Mackinnon's Shrike***Lanius mackinnoni*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Northern Fiscal***Lanius humeralis*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**White-rumped Shrike***Eurocephalus ruppelli*

Seen at Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies (Corvidae)****Cape Crow***Corvus capensis*

Seen near Aberdare NP &amp; Murungaru.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

Commonly seen throughout.

**Fan-tailed Raven***Corvus rhipidurus*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Hyliotas (Hylotiidae)****Southern Hyliota***Hyliota australis*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)****African Blue Flycatcher***Elminia longicauda*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Dusky Crested-Flycatcher***Elminia nigromitrata*

Seen by TL at Kakamega.

**Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice (Paridae)****White-bellied Tit***Melaniparus albiventris*

Seen at Castle Forest, Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Dusky Tit**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Melaniparus funereus***Somali Tit**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Melaniparus thruppi***Penduline-Tits (Remizidae)****Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Anthoscopus musculus***Larks (Alaudidae)****Fischer's Sparrow-Lark**

Seen at Magadi Road &amp; Maasai Mara.

*Eremopterix leucopareia***Foxy Lark**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Calendulauda alopex***Rufous-naped Lark**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Maasai Mara &amp; Murungaru.

*Mirafra africana***Flappet Lark**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Mirafra rufocinnamomea***White-tailed Lark**

Seen at Nairobi NP.

*Mirafra albicauda***Singing Bushlark**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Mirafra cantillans***Red-capped Lark**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Calandrella cinerea***African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)****White-browed Crombec**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Sylvietta leucophrys***Red-faced Crombec**

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

*Sylvietta whytii***Moustached Grass-Warbler**

Seen at Nairobi NP.

*Melocichla mentalis***Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)****Yellow-bellied Eremomela**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Eremomela icteropygialis***Turner's Eremomela**

Seen briefly at Kakamega.

*Eremomela turneri***White-chinned Prinia**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Schistolais leucopogon***Black-collared Apalis**

Seen at Castle Forest &amp; Kakamega.

*Oreolais pulcher***Grey Wren-Warbler**

Seen at Magadi Road &amp; Lake Baringo.

*Calamonastes simplex***Green-backed Camaroptera**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Castle Forest, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo, Kakamega &amp; Maasai Mara.

*Camaroptera brachyura***Olive-green Camaroptera**

Heard at Kakamega.

*Camaroptera chloronota***Buff-bellied Warbler**

Seen at Magadi Road &amp; Lake Baringo.

*Phyllolais pulchella*



**Black-throated Apalis**

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis**

Seen at Nairobi NP & Lake Naivasha.

**Buff-throated Apalis**

Seen at Kakamega.

**Chestnut-throated Apalis**

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Grey Apalis**

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP & Maasai Mara.

**Red-fronted Prinia**

Seen at Magadi Road & heard at Lake Baringo.

**Black-faced Rufous-Warbler**

Seen at Kakamega.

**Grey-capped Warbler**

Seen en route to Lake Nakuru & heard at Kakamega.

**Singing Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP & en route to Aberdare NP.

**Chubb's Cisticola**

Seen at Kakamega.

**Hunter's Cisticola**

Seen at Castle Forest, Aberdare NP & Murungaru.

**Boran Cisticola**

Seen at Kerio viewpoint.

**Rattling Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Winding Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea & Lake Nakuru.

**Carruthers's Cisticola**

Seen at Lake Victoria.

**Levaillant's Cisticola**

Seen at Murungaru.

**Stout Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

**Croaking Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**Aberdare Cisticola**

Vulnerable. Seen at Aberdare NP.

**Siffling Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Zitting Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea & Maasai Mara.

**Desert Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Black-backed Cisticola**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Pectoral-patch Cisticola**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Apalis jacksoni*

*Apalis flava*

*Apalis rufogularis*

*Apalis porphyrolaema*

*Apalis cinerea*

*Prinia subflava*

*Prinia rufifrons*

*Bathmocercus rufus*

*Eminia lepida*

*Cisticola cantans*

*Cisticola chubbi*

*Cisticola hunteri*

*Cisticola bodessa*

*Cisticola chiniana*

*Cisticola marginatus*

*Cisticola carruthersi*

*Cisticola tinniens*

*Cisticola robustus*

*Cisticola natalensis*

*Cisticola aberdare*

*Cisticola brachypterus*

*Cisticola juncidis*

*Cisticola aridulus*

*Cisticola eximius*

*Cisticola brunnescens*

**Endemic**

**Wing-snapping Cisticola***Cisticola ayresii*

Seen at Murungaru.

**Reed Warblers and Allies (Acrocephalidae)****Mountain Yellow-Warbler***Iduna similis*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**African Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus baeticatus*

Seen at en route to Aberdare NP.

**Lesser Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Greater Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus rufescens*

Seen at Lake Victoria.

**Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)****Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler***Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

Heard at Castle Forest &amp; Aberdare NP.

**White-winged Swamp Warbler***Bradypterus carpalis*

Heard at Lake Victoria.

**Swallows (Hirundinidae)****Plain Martin***Riparia paludicola*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru &amp; Murungaru.

**Bank Swallow***Riparia riparia*

Seen at Mwea &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Rock Martin***Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Maasai Mara &amp; Murungaru.

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Commonly seen throughout.

**Angola Swallow***Hirundo angolensis*

Seen at Maasai Mara &amp; Murungaru.

**Wire-tailed Swallow***Hirundo smithii*

Seen at Nairobi NP, en route to Aberdare NP, Lake Baringo &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Red-rumped Swallow***Cecropis daurica*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo, Maasai Mara &amp; Murungaru.

**Lesser Striped Swallow***Cecropis abyssinica*

Seen near Castle Forest.

**Mosque Swallow***Cecropis senegalensis*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**White-headed Sawwing***Psalidoprocne albiceps*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Black Sawwing***Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Seen at Castle Forest, Aberdare NP, Kakamega &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)****Sombre Greenbul***Andropadus importunes*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Slender-billed Greenbul***Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

Seen at Castle Forest &amp; Kakamega.

**Red-tailed Bristlebill***Bleda syndactylus*

Seen at Kakamega.

<b>Shelley's Greenbul</b> Seen at Kakamega.	<i>Arizelocichla masukuensis</i>
<b>Eastern Mountain Greenbul</b> Seen at Castle Forest.	<i>Arizelocichla nigriceps</i>
<b>Joyful Greenbul</b> Seen at Kakamega.	<i>Chlorocichla laetissima</i>
<b>Honeyguide Greenbul</b> Heard at Kakamega.	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>
<b>Yellow-throated Greenbul</b> Seen at Kakamega.	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>
<b>Yellow-whiskered Greenbul</b> Seen at Castle Forest & Kakamega.	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>
<b>Little Greenbul</b> Seen at Kakamega.	<i>Eurillas virens</i>
<b>Toro Olive-Greenbul</b> Heard at Kakamega.	<i>Phyllastrephus hypochloris</i>
<b>Cabanis's Greenbul</b> Seen at Kakamega & heard at Castle Forest.	<i>Phyllastrephus cabanisi</i>
<b>Common Bulbul</b> Commonly seen throughout.	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>

**Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)**

<b>Willow Warbler</b> Seen at Castle Forest, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
<b>Brown Woodland-Warbler</b> Seen at Castle Forest.	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>
<b>Uganda Woodland-Warbler</b> Seen at Kakamega.	<i>Phylloscopus budongoensis</i>

**Sylviid Warblers, Parrotbills, and Allies (Sylviidae)**

<b>African Hill Babbler</b> Seen at Castle Forest.	<i>Sylvia abyssinica</i>
<b>Banded Parisoma</b> Seen at Magadi Road.	<i>Sylvia boehmi</i>
<b>Brown Parisoma</b> Seen at Magadi Road, Aberdare NP & Naivasha.	<i>Sylvia lugens</i>

**White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies (Zosteropidae)**

<b>Pale White-eye</b> Seen at Nairobi NP.	<i>Zosterops flavilateralis</i>
<b>Kikuyu White-eye</b> Seen at Castle Forest.	<i>Zosterops kikuyuensis</i>
<b>African Yellow White-eye</b> Seen at Kakamega & Maasai Mara.	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>

**Endemic****Ground Babblers and Allies (Pellorneidae)**

<b>Scaly-breasted Illadopsis</b> Seen at Kakamega.	<i>Illadopsis albipectus</i>
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**Laughingthrushes and Allies (Leiothrichidae)**

**Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei*

Seen at Lake Naivasha.

**Northern Pied-Babbler** *Turdoides hypoleuca*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)**

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru & Lake Naivasha.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**Starlings (Sturnidae)**

**Slender-billed Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*

Seen at Aberdare NP & Lake Nakuru.

**Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Bristle-crowned Starling** *Onychognathus salvadorii*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Magpie Starling** *Speculipastor bicolor*

Seen by one participant at Lake Baringo.

**Abbott's Starling** *Poeoptera femoralis*

Vulnerable. Seen at Castle Forest.

**Stuhlmann's Starling** *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Kenrick's Starling** *Poeoptera kenricki*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Hildebrandt's Starling** *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Rüppell's Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

**Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Seen at Magadi Road, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Thrushes and Allies (Turdidae)**

**White-tailed Ant-Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Abyssinian Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Castle Forest & Aberdare NP.

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

Seen at Lake Naivasha, Kakamega & Lake Victoria.

**Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)****African Dusky Flycatcher***Muscicapa adusta*

Seen at Nairobi NP &amp; Castle Forest.

**Spotted Flycatcher***Muscicapa striata*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Gambaga Flycatcher***Muscicapa gambagae*

Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Swamp Flycatcher***Muscicapa aquatica*

Seen at Lake Victoria.

**African Grey Flycatcher***Bradornis microrhynchus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Naivasha &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Pale Flycatcher***Agricola pallidus*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Silverbird***Melaenornis semipartitus*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Northern Black-Flycatcher***Melaenornis edolioides*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Southern Black-Flycatcher***Melaenornis pammelaina*

Seen en route to Castle Forest &amp; Lake Nakuru.

**White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher***Melaenornis fischeri*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Castle Forest, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha &amp; Kakamega.

**Red-backed Scrub-Robin***Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Baringo &amp; Kakamega.

**Cape Robin-Chat***Cossypha caffra*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road &amp; Aberdare NP.

**Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat***Cossypha cyanocampter*

Seen by TL at Kakamega &amp; heard by others.

**Rüppell's Robin-Chat***Cossypha semirufa*

Seen at Aberdare NP.

**White-browed Robin-Chat***Cossypha heuglini*

Seen at Lake Nakuru &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat***Cossypha niveicapilla*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Spotted Morning-Thrush***Cichladusa guttata*

Seen at Magadi Road &amp; Lake Baringo.

**Brown-chested Alethe***Chamaetylas poliocephala*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Equatorial Akalat***Sheppardia aequatorialis*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Little Rock-Thrush***Monticola rufocinereus*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Whinchat***Saxicola rubetra*

Seen at Nairobi NP &amp; Lake Nakuru.

**African Stonechat***Saxicola torquatus*

Seen at Aberdare NP &amp; Murungaru.

**Moorland Chat***Pinarochroa sordida*

Seen at Aberdare NP.

**Mocking Cliff-Chat***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Seen at Lake Nakuru.

**Sooty Chat**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Myrmecocichla nigra*

**Northern Anteater-Chat**

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Nakuru, Maasai Mara & Murungaru.

*Myrmecocichla aethiops*

**Northern Wheatear**

Seen at Magadi Road, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Brown-tailed Chat**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Oenanthe scotocerca*

**Abyssinian Wheatear**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Oenanthe lugubris*

**Sunbirds and Spiderhunters (Nectariniidae)****Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

*Anthreptes orientalis*

**Green Sunbird**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Anthreptes rectirostris*

**Green-headed Sunbird**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Cyanomitra verticalis*

**Olive Sunbird**

Seen at Castle Forest & heard at Kakamega.

*Cyanomitra olivacea*

**Green-throated Sunbird**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Chalcomitra rubescens*

**Amethyst Sunbird**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Chalcomitra amethystina*

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Nakuru & Kakamega.

*Chalcomitra senegalensis*

**Hunter's Sunbird**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Chalcomitra hunteri*

**Tacazze Sunbird**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Nectarinia tacazze*

**Bronze Sunbird**

Seen at Nairobi, Magadi Road, Castle Forest, Kakamega & Murungaru.

*Nectarinia kilimensis*

**Malachite Sunbird**

Seen at Aberdare NP.

*Nectarinia famosa*

**Golden-winged Sunbird**

Seen at Aberdare NP & Murungaru.

*Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*

**Olive-bellied Sunbird**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Cinnyris chloropygius*

**Northern Double-collared Sunbird**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Cinnyris reichenowi*

**Eastern Double-collared Sunbird**

Seen at Castle Forest & Aberdares NP.

*Cinnyris mediocris*

**Beautiful Sunbird**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

*Cinnyris pulchellus*

**Mariqua Sunbird**

Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Cinnyris mariquensis*

**Red-chested Sunbird**

Seen at Lake Victoria.

*Cinnyris erythrocercus*

**Variable Sunbird**

Seen at Nairobi NP & Lake Nakuru.

*Cinnyris venustus*



**Weavers and Allies (Ploceidae)**

<b>White-browed Sparrow-Weaver</b>	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Naivasha & Lake Baringo.	
<b>Grey-headed Social-Weaver</b>	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaudi</i>
Seen at Magadi Road & Maasai Mara.	
<b>Red-headed Malimbe</b>	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
Seen at Kakamega.	
<b>Red-headed Weaver</b>	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Seen at Lake Nakuru.	
<b>Baglafecht Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus baglafecht</i>
Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP & Murungaru.	
<b>Little Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Seen at Lake Baringo.	
<b>Slender-billed Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>
Seen at Lake Victoria.	
<b>Black-necked Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Seen at Magadi Road & Kakamega.	
<b>Spectacled Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Seen at Nairobi NP, Castle Forest & Lake Nakuru.	
<b>Black-billed Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus melanogaster</i>
Seen at Kakamega.	
<b>Holub's Golden-Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>
Seen at Nairobi NP & en route to Aberdare NP.	
<b>Northern Brown-throated Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus castanops</i>
Seen at Lake Victoria.	
<b>Northern Masked-Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus taeniopterus</i>
Seen at Lake Baringo.	
<b>Lesser Masked-Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Seen at Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.	
<b>Vitelline Masked-Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>
Seen at Magadi Road & Maasai Mara.	
<b>Speke's Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>
Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.	
<b>Vieillot's Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
Seen at Kakamega.	
<b>Village Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Seen at Nairobi NP, Mwea, en route to Aberdare NP & Lake Baringo.	
<b>Black-headed Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
Seen at Lake Victoria.	
<b>Golden-backed Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>
Seen at Lake Baringo.	
<b>Forest Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>
Seen at Kakamega.	
<b>Brown-capped Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>
Seen at Castle Forest & Kakamega.	
<b>Red-billed Quelea</b>	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Seen at Nairobi & Magadi Road.	
<b>Black Bishop</b>	<i>Euplectes gierowii</i>
Seen at Ahero.	

**Yellow-crowned Bishop**

Seen at Mwea.

*Euplectes afer*

**Yellow Bishop**

Seen at Magadi Road, en route to Castle Forest & Maasai Mara.

*Euplectes capensis*

**White-winged Widowbird**

Seen at Mwea & Maasai Mara.

*Euplectes albonotatus*

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird**

Seen at Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

*Euplectes macroura*

**Red-collared Widowbird**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Euplectes ardens*

**Fan-tailed Widowbird**

Seen at Lake Victoria & Ahero.

*Euplectes axillaris*

**Long-tailed Widowbird**

Seen at Murungaru.

*Euplectes progne*

**Waxbills and Allies (Estrildidae)****Grey-headed Nigrita**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Nigrita canicapillus*

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Coccothraustes quartinia*

**Crimson-rumped Waxbill**

Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Estrilda rhodopygia*

**Common Waxbill**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Seen at Castle Forest, Lake Victoria & Murungaru.

*Estrilda astrild*

**Black-crowned Waxbill**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Estrilda nonnula*

**Kandt's Waxbill**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Estrilda kandti*

**Black-faced Waxbill**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Estrilda erythroneura*

**Red-headed Bluebill**

Seen at Kakamega.

*Spermophaga ruficapilla*

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Uraeginthus bengalus*

**Blue-capped Cordonbleu**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

**Purple Grenadier**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Baringo & Narok.

*Granatina ianthinogaster*

**Green-winged Pytilia**

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

*Pytilia melba*

**Red-billed Firefinch**

Seen at Nairobi NP, en route to Castle Forest, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

*Lagonosticta senegala*

**Cut-throat**

Seen at Magadi Road.

*Amadina fasciata*

**Quailfinch**

Seen at Maasai Mara. Heard at Lake Nakuru.

*Ortygospiza atricollis*

**Bronze Mannikin**

Seen at Nairobi & Lake Nakuru.

*Spermestes cucullata*

**Black-and-white Mannikin**

Seen at Castle Forest.

*Spermestes bicolor*

**African Silverbill**  
Seen at Magadi Road.

*Euodice cantans*

**Indigobirds (Viduidae)**

**Pin-tailed Whydah**  
Seen at Nairobi NP, Maasai Mara & Murungaru.

*Vidua macroura*

**Village Indigobird**  
Seen at Nairobi & Mwea.

*Vidua chalybeata*

**Parasitic Weaver**  
Seen at Nairobi NP.

*Anomalospiza imberbis*

**Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)**

**House Sparrow**  
Seen at Nairobi & Narok.

*Passer domesticus*

**Kenya Rufous Sparrow**  
Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road & Lake Nakuru.

*Passer rufocinctus*

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow**  
Seen at Narok.

*Passer griseus*

**Parrot-billed Sparrow**  
Seen at Lake Baringo.

*Passer gongonensis*

**Swahili Sparrow**  
Seen at Magadi Road.

*Passer suahelicus*

**Chestnut Sparrow**  
Seen by TL at Magadi Road.

*Passer eminibey*

**Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow**  
Seen at Magadi Road & Maasai Mara.

*Gymnoris pyrgita*

**Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)**

**Cape Wagtail**  
Seen at Aberdare NP.

*Motacilla capensis*

**Mountain Wagtail**  
Seen at Castle Forest.

*Motacilla clara*

**Grey Wagtail**  
Seen at Castle Forest & Kakamega.

*Motacilla cinerea*

**Western Yellow Wagtail**  
Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Motacilla flava*

**African Pied Wagtail**  
Seen at Nairobi, Mwea, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo, Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

*Motacilla aguimp*

**African Pipit**  
Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Castle Forest, Maasai Mara & Murungaru.

*Anthus cinnamomeus*

**Long-billed Pipit**  
Seen at Nairobi NP & Magadi Road.

*Anthus similis*

**Plain-backed Pipit**  
Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Anthus leucophrys*

**Buffy Pipit**  
Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Anthus vaalensis*

**Tree Pipit**  
Seen at Magadi Road & Kakamega.

*Anthus trivialis*

**Sharpe's Longclaw**  
Endangered. Seen at Murungaru.

*Hemimacronyx sharpei*

**Endemic**



**Yellow-throated Longclaw***Macronyx croceus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Maasai Mara &amp; Murungaru.

**Pangani Longclaw***Macronyx aurantiigula*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Rosy-throated Longclaw***Macronyx ameliae*

Seen at Nairobi NP &amp; Maasai Mara.

**Finches, Euphonias, and Allies (Fringillidae)****Yellow-fronted Canary***Crithagra mozambica*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**African Citril***Crithagra citrinelloides*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Lake Naivasha &amp; Murungaru.

**Southern Citril***Crithagra hyposticta*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Reichenow's Seedeater***Crithagra reichenowi*

Seen at Nairobi NP &amp; Magadi Road.

**White-bellied Canary***Crithagra dorsostriata*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Southern Grosbeak-Canary***Crithagra buchanani*

Seen at Magadi Road.

**Brimstone Canary***Crithagra sulphurata*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road &amp; Murungaru.

**Streaky Seedeater***Crithagra striolata*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road, Castle Forest &amp; Murungaru.

**Thick-billed Seedeater***Crithagra burtoni*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Yellow-crowned Canary***Serinus flavivertex*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Old World Buntings (Emberizidae)****Golden-breasted Bunting***Emberiza flaviventris*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road &amp; Maasai Mara.

**MAMMAL LIST****Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)**

**East African Epauletted Fruit Bat**     *Epomophorus minimus*  
Seen at Lake Baringo.

**Galagos (Galagidae)**

**Greater Galago**     *Otolemur crassicaudatus*

Seen at Aberdare NP.

**Senegal Galago**     *Galago senegalensis*

Seen at Lake Naivasha.

**Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)**

**Guereza Pied Colobus**     *Colobus guereza*

Seen at Castle Forest, Aberdare NP & Kakamega.

**Olive Baboon**     *Papio anubis*

Seen at Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

**Vervet Monkey**     *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

**Syke's Monkey**     *Cercopithecus albogularis*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP & Kakamega.

**Rabbits (Leporidae)**

**African Savanna Hare**     *Lepus microtis*

Seen at Aberdare NP & Maasai Mara.

**Squirrels (Sciuridae)**

**Unstriped Ground Squirrel**     *Xerus rutilus*

Seen at Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

**Red-legged Sun Squirrel**     *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

Seen at Kakamega.

**Rats & Mice (Muridae)**

**Unstriped Grass Rat**     *Arvicanthis niloticus*

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Dogs (Canidae)**

**Black-backed Jackal**     *Canis mesomelas*

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Civets & Genets (Viverridae)**

**Common Genet**     *Genetta genetta*

Seen at Aberdare NP.

**Mongoose (Herpestidae)**

**Banded Mongoose**     *Mungos mungo*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Hyaenas (Hyaenidae)**

**Spotted Hyena**     *Crocuta crocuta*

Seen at Aberdare NP & Maasai Mara.

**Cats (Felidae)****Lion**

Vulnerable. Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Panthera leo*

**Leopard**

Vulnerable. Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Panthera pardus*

**Cheetah**

Vulnerable. Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Acinonyx jubatus*

**Elephants (Elephantidae)****African Elephant**

Vulnerable. Seen at Aberdare NP & Maasai Mara.

*Loxodonta africana*

**Hyraxes (Procaviidae)****Eastern Tree Hyrax**

Heard at Castle Forest.

*Dendrohyrax validus*

**Black-necked Rock Hyrax**

Seen at Lake Nakuru & Lake Baringo.

*Procavia capensis johnstoni*

**Horses (Equidae)****Grant's Zebra**

Near-threatened. Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

*Equus quagga boehmi*

**Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)****White Rhino**

Near-threatened. Seen at Lake Nakuru.

*Ceratotherium simum*

**Pigs (Suidae)****Common Warthog**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

*Phacochoerus africanus*

**Giant Forest Hog**

Seen at Aberdare NP.

*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

**Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)****Hippopotamus**

Vulnerable. Seen at Nairobi NP, near Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

*Hippopotamus amphibious*

**Giraffes (Giraffidae)****Maasai Giraffe**

Endangered. Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

*Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi*

**Rothschild's Giraffe**

Endangered. Seen at Lake Nakuru & Lake Naivasha.

*Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*

**Bovids (Bovidae)****Coke's Hartebeest (Kongoni)**

Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

*Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii*

**Blue Wildebeest**

Seen at Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

*Connochaetes taurinus*

**Topi**

Vulnerable. Seen at Maasai Mara.

*Damaliscus lunatus*



**Impala**

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**Grant's Gazelle***Aepyceros melampus**Gazella granti*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Thomson's Gazelle***Gazella thomsonii*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**Cape Buffalo***Syncerus caffer*

Near-threatened. Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Common Eland***Taurotragus oryx*

Seen at Lake Nakuru, Lake Nakuru & Maasai Mara.

**Common Duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

Seen at Aberdare NP.

**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Aberdare NP & Maasai Mara.

**Defassa Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

Seen at Aberdare NP, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha & Maasai Mara.

**Bohor Reedbuck***Redunca redunca*

Seen at Nairobi NP & Maasai Mara.

**REPTILE LIST****Nile Crocodile***Crocodylus niloticus*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Lake Baringo & Maasai Mara.

**Nile Monitor***Varanus niloticus*

Seen at Lake Baringo & Lake Victoria.

**Red-headed Rock Agama***Agama agama*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Magadi Road & Lake Baringo.

**Mwanza Flat-headed Agama***Agama mwanzae*

Seen at Maasai Mara.

**Striped Skink***Mabuya striata*

Seen at Nairobi NP, Kakamega & Maasai Mara.

**Tropical House Gecko***Hemidactylus mabouia*

Seen at several sites on the tour.

**Jackson's Three-horned Chameleon** *Trioceros jacksonii*

Seen at Castle Forest.

**Leopard Tortoise***Geochelone pardalis*

Seen at Nairobi NP.

**Helmeted Terrapin***Pelomedusa subrufa*

Seen at Maasai Mara.