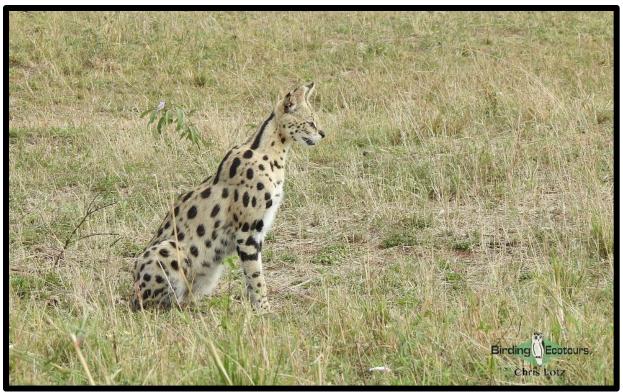


KENYA BIRDING AND WILDLIFE SAFARI

01 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

By Chris Lotz



This Serval caught breakfast later – see video further down in this report.

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Overview

This was another highly successful and fun Kenya birding and wildlife tour. My travel companions on this trip were an awesomely enthusiastic and fun family group who wanted to combine mammals and birds. Only one person in the group had been to sub-Saharan Africa on a quick trip once before, meaning almost all the birds and other wildlife were new to the tour participants. We did very well with our birding, accumulating a good total list, even though we spent a lot of time enjoying the big (and small) mammals. Immense luck on the animal front allowed us to see **Lions** successfully hunting a **Plains Zebra**, a **Serval** catching a rodent for breakfast right next to the road, **Cheetahs** showing really well, a **Leopard** nursing cubs, a mixed herd of **Plains Zebras** and **Blue Wildebeest** on migration crossing the river into Tanzania, **Black** and **White Rhinoceros** and so much more.

Bird highlights included many bustards including the world's heaviest flying bird, **Kori Bustard**, both ostrich species, **Secretarybird**, a long list of raptors including Africa's largest eagle, **Martial Eagle**, Africa's heaviest eagle, **Crowned Eagle**, many accipiters and a number of excellent owls, like **Northern White-faced Owl**.



Northern White-faced Owl was one of several nocturnal birds we found at daytime roosts.

Everyone arrived in Nairobi the evening before the tour officially started, and after some sleep and then breakfast we excitedly headed off into the heart of the <u>Great Rift Valley</u>. After a night at a comfortable lodge on the edge of Lake Naivasha, where we picked up lots of good birds and our first mammals, we headed to the Masai Mara. Here, we spent four days enjoying the absolutely vast, unending grasslands teaming with mega-herds of game (attended by predators in the form of



big cats) and a great many birds. This is truly one of the greatest national park systems on earth, contiguous with Tanzania's Serengeti just across the border.

We then headed back to the Rift Valley Lakes for the next few days, seeing stacks of new birds in this diverse and scenic part of the world. Some of these lakes are pink with flamingos.

Kakamega Rainforest was next on our agenda, just so different from the arid areas we'd been in until now. This is arguably Africa's best birding forest (!) and contains a lot of bird species typical of central and western Africa that reach the eastern limits of their ranges here, in additional to some far more localized species such as **Turner's Eremomela** and **Grey-chested Babbler**. We saw so many great and beautiful birds here at Kakamega, e.g. some delightful, diminutive wattle-eyes with **Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye** being the most dazzling of all; a brightly-colored, tiny and cute bird. Another of the many highlights here was **Great Blue Turaco**, one of several spectacular turaco species we enjoyed on the tour as a whole. During our three-night stay at Kakamega, we also did a day trip to Africa's biggest lake, Lake Victoria, where we saw the localized and beautiful **Papyrus Gonolek** and many other birds.

We then headed to Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain at 17,057 feet (5,199 meters). We enjoyed the cool, crisp mountain air here, along with a bunch of new trip birds, including some very localized species, as we ascended through the forests and eventually into the moorland above the tree line (the haunt of Kenya's endemic **Jackson's Spurfowl**, two species of long-tailed, beautiful malachite sunbirds and other target birds).

The trip came to a grand finale at Samburu National Park, where we added a great many new species of birds and some new mammals, such as **Grevy's Zebra** and **Reticulated Giraffe**. Some of the many bird highlights here were the most spectacular of all the starlings, **Golden-breasted Starling**, **Kori Bustard**, and plenty more.

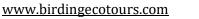
Sadly the tour had to eventually come to an end in Nairobi, but we had a great session at Nairobi National Park before heading to the airport. All in all, this was a spectacular tour, as any birding/wildlife tour of East Africa always is.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 1st September 2024. Nairobi to Lake Naivasha via Gatamaiyu Forest

Everyone arrived late the previous night, then we set off after breakfast, excited about our first day of Kenyan birding! It was difficult to leave our Nairobi hotel's parking lot, as numerous birds were flitting around. None of these were rare, but virtually all of them were new for our group of six American birders, only one of whom had briefly been to sub-Saharan Africa before. Birds we saw here included **Baglafecht Weaver**, **African Pied Wagtail** and some sunbird species.

We then headed out of Nairobi and our first stop was at <u>Manguo Swamp</u>. Here we found the strange-looking **White-backed Duck** and some other duck species, such as a lot of **White-faced Whistling Ducks** and a handful of **Fulvous Whistling Ducks**. We also saw a **Glossy Ibis** among many **Hadada Ibises** and a few **Sacred Ibises**, a **Yellow-billed Stork**, a few **Great Egrets**, a couple of **Black-headed Herons**, a **Grey Heron**, **African Swamphens**, an **African Jacana** with a chick, and various others.





We continued our journey further to an amazing viewpoint over the <u>Great Rift Valley</u>. Here, we enjoyed good views of a **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk**, our first **White-eyed Slaty Flycatchers** and at least five stunning **Golden-winged Sunbirds**. We also enjoyed superb views across the rift valley, including of the volcano, <u>Mount Longonot</u>.

We then reached <u>Gatamaiyu Forest</u> where we spent a couple of amazing hours birding. Species here included the stunningly beautiful **Hartlaub's Turaco** with its crimson wings in flight, a well-patterned **Mountain Buzzard**, a **Grey Cuckooshrike** that showed well, **Mountain Oriole, Black-throated Wattle-eye**, **Black-backed Puffback**, a close-up **White-browed Crombec**, good numbers of highly vocal **Chestnut-throated Apalises** and a **Grey Apalis**, **Black Saw-wing**, many **Abyssinian Thrushes** and **Kikuyu White-eyes**, three **Kenrick's Starlings** and dazzling **Northern Double-collared Sunbirds**. Weavers were great, with **Spectacled** and **Brown-capped Weavers** both showing a couple of times. We also saw all three of the **greenbuls** we were hoping for at this site, **Yellow-whiskered**, **Olive-breasted** and **Slender-billed Greenbuls**.

We continued our journey, making several stops en route to Lake Naivasha, where we would be overnighting. These stops were productive for adding new species to our list including**Cape Crow**, **Nyanza Swift**, **White-rumped Swift**, **Hamerkop**, **Augur Buzzard**, **Pied Kingfisher**, **Northern Fiscal**, **Brown-throated Martin**, **Stout Cisticola**, **Long-tailed Widowbird** and **Blacksmith Lapwing**.

Day 2, 2nd September 2024. Lake Naivasha to the Masai Mara

A pre-breakfast walk around our lodge and on the lakeside generated 46 bird species, many of them new for the trip and life-birds for the group. These included many **Pied Kingfishers**, some **Malachite Kingfishers** and a pair of impressive **Giant Kingfishers**, a stunningly beautiful **Lilac-breasted Roller** and a couple of **White-fronted Bee-eaters**. Also present were **Black Crakes**, less skulking than most rallids and really attractive birds, with their bright red legs and luminous yellow bills, **Long-toed Lapwing**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Gull-billed Tern**, various herons and egrets including **Squacco Heron**, **African Fish Eagles** with their beautiful calls (one of the most characteristic sounds of Africa) and various other waterbirds.

The trees in the lodge grounds were highly productive, with great birds like African Hoopoe, Green Wood Hoopoe, African Grey Woodpecker, Nubian Woodpecker, Black-headed Oriole, Fork-tailed Drongo, Grey-backed Fiscal, Rattling Cisticola, Wattled Starling, Ruppell's Starling, Superb Starling, Greater Blue-eared Starling and others.

After breakfast, we packed the vehicles, seeing some star birds in the parking lot. These included two **Black Sparrowhawks** that flew over us a couple of times, a **Red-chested Cuckoo**, a pair of **Ruppell's Robin-Chats** and an **African Dusky Flycatcher**.

We then embarked on our long drive to the vast plains of the Masai Mara, one of the planet's greatest wildlife havens. At a restroom stop we saw a huge flock of **Red-billed Queleas**. At our lunch stop en route, we saw our first **Hildebrandt's Starlings**, some beautiful **Purple Grenadiers**, a **Red-fronted Barbet** and a **Cardinal Woodpecker**.

At the entrance to the Masai Mara National Reserve, while entrance paperwork was being done, we found yet more trip birds. These came in the form of African Grey Flycatcher, Northern White-crowned Shrike, our first of many Crowned Lapwings and White-browed Sparrow-Weavers with their messy nests.



We were filled with excitement as we entered the reserve proper, one of Africa's greatest game parks and contiguous with the <u>Serengeti</u> in adjacent <u>Tanzania</u>. We did a game drive for the rest of the afternoon, during which we saw **Black Rhino**, **Cheetah**, **Warthog**, **Masai Giraffe**, **Burchell's Zebra**, **Cape Buffalo**, etc. A mixed herd of zebra and buffalo allowed us to get good views of **Red-billed Oxpecker**, **Yellow-billed Oxpecker** and **Wattled Starlings** sitting on the backs of the animals and following them around to eat insects disturbed by the beasts as they walked through the grass. Other birds also abounded (as they always do in Kenya) and we enjoyed sightings of **Common Ostrich**, **Senegal Lapwing**, **African Wattled Lapwing**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **White-backed Vulture**, **Martial Eagle** (Africa's largest eagle), colorful **Little Bee-eaters**, long-tailed **Magpie Shrikes**, **Sooty Chats**, **Anteater Chats**, large **Red-breasted Swallows** and **Wire-tailed Swallow**.

Day 3, 3rd September 2024. Our first of three full days in the Mara

What an incredible day!

Birds were, as usual, prolific today. On a pre-breakfast walk around the camp, we got acquainted with a **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, an **African Paradise Flycatcher**, an **African Goshawk** doing it's typical early morning display, our first **Emerald-spotted Wood Doves** with their shining wing spots, many **Speckled Mousebirds**, a group of **White-browed Robin-chats** singing beautifully, two **Brown-throated Wattle-eyes** (one of them an immature), **Grey-backed Camaroptera**, **Collared Sunbird**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Spectacled Weaver** and more. A massive **Nile Crocodile** was right in front of the restaurant.

After breakfast, we spent the whole day doing an extended game/birding drive. Some of the most spectacular highlights were seeing a **Leopard** with her two cubs, a pride of **Lions** getting ready to hunt, and a migrating herd of **Blue Wildebeest** and **Burchell's Zebras** crossing the river on their incredible migration journey from Kenya into Tanzania.

Bird-wise during this magnificent game drive around the park, we saw over 70 species. Highlights were White-bellied Bustard, Hartlaub's Bustard, Common Ostrich, Secretarybird strutting confidently over the vast plains, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Coqui Francolin, Red-necked Spurfowl, White-browed Coucal, Grey Kestrel, Bateleur and several other eagle species, White-headed Vulture, Lappet-faced Vulture, Hooded Vulture and White-backed Vulture, Usambiro Barbet (a localized East African endemic), Rufous-tailed Weaver (almost endemic to Tanzania but marginally occurring here in Kenya as well, right along the border where we were), Speckle-fronted Weaver, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Black-crowned Tchagra, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Rufous-naped Lark, Silverbird, Golden-breasted Bunting and many others.

What a day for mammals and birds!

Day 4, 4th September 2024. Our second of three full days in the Mara

Like yesterday, we started today with a pre-breakfast walk around our lodgings. A couple of folks saw a cute **Northern Lesser Galago** (bushbaby) between their luxury en suite safari tents and the meeting place for our morning walk. We added a few new birds to our growing list. These were **African Woolly-necked Stork**, **Spot-flanked Barbet**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, **Yellow-breasted**



Apalis and **Tropical Boubou**. A large troop of extremely cute, and personality-filled **Banded Mongooses** distracted us while we were eating breakfast.

We spent most of our day driving through the endless rolling grasslands of the Mara. This was another incredible day in paradise! Being surrounded by endless herds of zebras, wildebeest and gazelles, with elephants, giraffes, warthogs and predators all over the place as well, was like being in the midst of a wonderful dream. The real highlight of the day, however, was seeing a **Serval** hunting right next to the road and eventually catching a rodent right in front of us.

Other great sightings of our morning session included more close-up Lions, Southern Ground Hornbills, White-bellied Bustard, Black-bellied Bustard, characterful Bare-faced Go-awaybird, Goliath Heron, much closer vultures than on previous days, including the new trip bird Rüppell's Vulture, a pair of Chinspot Batises, Banded Martins, Bronze Mannikin, Redcheeked Cordon-bleu, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow and various others.

The afternoon was equally productive. We spent quite a bit of time driving along the Tanzania border, with the Serengeti on our left and the Masai Mara in Kenya to the right. We observed many good birds (as well as the usual herds of game as far as the eye could see) in this area. The birds included, among others, Red-winged Francolin, Quailfinch, Temminck's Courser, Red-capped Lark, Rufous-naped Lark, White-headed Buffalo Weaver, White-browed Coucal, Rufous-tailed Weaver, Black-chested Snake Eagle and Dark Chanting Goshawk.

As we approached our lodge, we got entertained by a close-up **Black-backed Jackal**.



Elephants with youngsters on the Tanzania border, where the Masai Mara meets the Serengeti.



Day 5, 5th September 2024. Our third of three full days in the Mara

This was another magnificent day (like all days in the Masai Mara). After breakfast, we spent some time birding in the parking area. There was a mixed flock of four swift species, one of them new for the trip, **Horus Swift**. There were also several sunbirds around, and one of these was also a new trip bird, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. We also laid eyes on our first **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**; until now this had been a heard only bird.

We then embarked on relaxed birding and game drives before lunch and in the late afternoon (with a delicious lunch back at the lodge). The pressure was off, as we had already seen most of our main targets a little quicker than expected, thanks to great luck and the skill of our ground team. At one of the many stops we made, while enjoying watching a herd of **Elephants**, a **Wahlberg's Eagle** swooped down in an attempt to catch something. This turned out to be a **Harlequin Quail**, which escaped and flew off, giving some of us a view. Unfortunately, an **African Crake** that was initially on the side of the road and which then walked into the long grass, was also only seen by a couple of us.

Later in the day, we found two more **Grey Kestrels** and a **Gabar Goshawk**. We also added a few other bird species to our growing bird list, e.g. **Croaking Cisticola**, **Village Weaver**, **Common Waxbill**, etc.

As always, mammals were good. We found yet another **Lion**, this one busy eating.

Day 6, 6th September 2024. The Mara back to Lake Naivasha

This was not a bad day for a travel day! It started with our last drive through the park, and we enjoyed seeing all the usual mammals and birds, as well as quite a number of **Spotted Hyenas**, and five **Cheetahs**! We also got a flat tire, but it turned out to be a blessing in disguise as we saw (and heard the nice liquid calls of) a small flock of **European Bee-eaters** migrating south just as we stepped out of the vehicle!

Once we left the park, we stopped for a break and what a lucky stop that also turned out to be! We saw a few new trip species, namely **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, many **Speke's Weavers**, **Chestnut Sparrow** and **White-bellied Canary**, among some other good birds we'd seen before, like **Usambiro Barbet** and **Speckle-fronted Weaver**.

Another brief stop further along generated a number of **Great White Pelicans**, **Yellow-billed Duck** and a couple of other birds we'd already seen earlier in the trip.

We arrived at Lake Naivasha in time for afternoon tea at the idyllic <u>Elsamere</u> Lodge, where we would spend the next two nights. A relaxed walk in the late afternoon for a couple of hours allowed us to record 57 bird species, a great total for a short session virtually within the lodge grounds. Highlight species included a beautiful **Spotted Eagle-Owl** at its day-time roost, many low-flying **Mottled Swifts** and a few **Nyanza Swifts**, noisy **Green Wood Hoopoes**, a **Lesser Honeyguide**, male (black) and female (very different, largely a grey bird with yellow barring) **Black Cuckooshrikes**, very colorful **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, a couple of **White-bellied Tits**, **Grey-capped Warbler**, **Variable Sunbird** and some other sunbird species, **Red-headed Weaver** and more. We also saw small flocks of lovebirds, originally from Tanzania, that have now become feral in Kenya, hybrids of Fischer's and Yellow-collared Lovebirds.



Day 7, 7th September 2024. A full day around Lake Naivasha

We started the day with a pre-breakfast walk around the lodge, averaging a bird species every minute, with 35 bird species in about 35 minutes. The only new trip bird was **Hildebrandt's Spurfowl**, though.

After breakfast, we went to <u>Sanctuary Farm</u> about a half hour drive from the lodge, and took a boat trip to <u>Crescent Island</u>. One of the top birds was a nicely perched **African Hobby**, which we got decent scope views of. There's a spectacularly high density of **African Fish Eagles** here and they were simply all over the place. **African Spoonbill**, **ibises** in the form of **Glossy**, **Hadada** and **African Sacred**, **Yellow-billed Storks**, all the Kenyan egret species, **Great White Pelican**, **Little Grebe** and many other waterbirds, were much in evidence. We found our first **Buff-bellied Warblers**, **Red-faced Crombec**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Klaas's Cuckoos** (a bright iridescent green adult, and a duller immature) and **Brown-backed Honeybird** for the trip, all really solid, high quality birds to add to our list. There were plenty of **Pied Kingfishers**, three or four **Giant Kingfishers**, and good numbers of **Nubian** and **African Grey Woodpeckers** as well. We also saw a great many other birds we were already well familiar with from previous days of the trip. All in all, this session between breakfast and lunch generated 65 bird species and also a good number of mammals.

During our tasty lunch back at the lodge, we enjoyed seeing beautiful **Guereza** (Black-and-white Colobus Monkeys). We then enjoyed a two hour break in the heat of the day before visiting a site for Grey-crested Helmetshrike, a very localized bird only found in small parts of Kenya and Tanzania. Unfortunately, we didn't see this species on this occasion but did add **Bearded Woodpecker** to our growing bird list.

Day 8, 8th September 2024. Lake Naivasha to Lake Bogoria

Although this was partly a travel day, it was also very exciting, as a lot of new bird species awaited us around <u>Lake Bogoria</u> after we crossed the Equator (stopping to take photos of the sign as we did so). The first new species right at the Equator stop, was the personality-filled **White-bellied Go-away-bird**. As we moved further northwards, we saw our first **Blue-naped Mousebirds**, a stunningly beautiful **Northern Red Bishop**, **Beautiful Sunbird** and lovely **Spotted Palm Thrush**.

We eventually reached Lake Bogoria, where we saw thousands of Lesser Flamingos and a handful of Greater Flamingos. Here, we also added numerous other species to our growing bird list, like Black-winged Stilt, Mourning Collared Dove, Namaqua Dove, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Jackson's Hornbill, Slate-colored Boubou, Lesser Masked Weaver, Vitelline Masked Weaver, Northern Masked Weaver and Chestnut Weaver. In Kenya, one doesn't have to travel far to get into areas full of new birds; habitats and birdlife changes quickly here.

Between Lake Bogoria and our hotel, we saw some additional good birds, as well as a **Leopard Tortoise** that Alexa spotted along the side of the road. New birds were **Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Red-and-yellow Barbet** and **Pygmy Falcon**, all star species for sure.





Sometimes we looked at other things apart from birds.

Day 9, 9th September 2024. A full day around Lake Baringo

This was another super-amazing day with many new trip birds. We started with a pre-breakfast boat trip on <u>Lake Baringo</u>. The bird count for this two-hour boat trip was 59 species. Some of the many highlights were **Woodland Kingfisher**, a close-up **Giant Kingfisher**, a great many **Olive Bee-eaters**, a few **Gull-billed Terns**, good numbers of **African Darters**, several **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, quite a lot of **Purple Herons** and various other heron species, brightly-colored **Golden-backed Weavers** and quite a number of other weavers we'd already previously seen.

When we arrived back at the lodge after the boat trip, a **Northern Brownbul** (another new bird for the trip), greeted us. Stunning **Spotted Palm Thrushes** were also much in evidence around the lodge; this lovely bird is often tame around accommodations in East Africa.

After an awesome breakfast, we left the lodge for some terrestrial birding, seeing a **Pin-tailed Whydah** on the way out. We had an expert local birding guide with an incredibly sharp eye along and he knew the daytime roosting sites for a number of nocturnal species. **Three-banded Courser** was the first one on the birding menu, followed shortly by **Spotted Thick-knee**. The thick-knee roost site also generated some other new trip birds like **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **Hemprich's Hornbill** (one of our main targets for today and found a bit earlier than expected), **Pygmy Batis**, tiny **Mouse-colored Penduline Tits**, a **Yellow-bellied Eremomela** and vocal **Grey Wren-Warblers**.

We then went to another site where there was a roosting **Slender-tailed Nightjar**. This time, the supporting cast of new trip birds came in the form of the tiny, metallic green **Diederik Cuckoo**, **Brubru** with its phone-like "song", **Little Weaver** and a superbly colorful **Green-winged Pytilia**.



A cute pair of orange-eyed **Northern White-faced Owls** were next on the agenda. As usual, other new trip birds made appearances as well. These were **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Northern Crombec** and **Rufous Chatterer**.

Our final stop before lunch was to admire a gorgeous pair of **Greyish Eagle-Owls**, accompanied by **Purple Roller** and **Magpie Starling**.



One of the pair of Greyish Eagle-Owls.

After lunch, we spent a couple of hours resting and regrouping during the heat of the day. We ended the day with a late afternoon session at the base of an impressive cliff face. This session turned into a grand finale (for Baringo), boasting many new and spectacular birds. The new birds were **Crested Francolin**, **Village Indigobird**, **African Green Pigeon**, **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, (and heard only **Jacobin Cuckoo**), **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **African Grey Hornbill**, **Acacia Tit**, **Red-fronted Prinia**, **Bristle-crowned Starling**, **Red-winged Starling**, **Mocking Cliff Chat**, the localized **Brown-tailed Rock Chat** (one of our main targets, albeit a very dull bird) and last but not least, **Shining Sunbird**.

Day 10, 10th September 2024. Lake Baringo to Kakamega

Although this was a travel day, it was superbly exciting, with absolutely new habitats and therefore birds.

Our first stop was at Chebloch Gorge/<u>Kerio Valley</u>, which was spectacular! The star of the show here was a beautiful **White-crested Turaco** showing off its crimson wings in flight. **Meyer's Parrots** showed closely, although briefly. **Crowned Hornbill** and a couple of other hornbill species we'd already seen, put in appearances. Displaying pairs of **Red-and-yellow Barbets** and

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new for the trip **D'Arnaud's Barbets** were, as always, very showy. A vocal **Black-headed Gonolek** showed briefly. **White-headed Saw-wings** flitted their way around us. **Amethyst Sunbirds** and a number of other species we'd seen before, were also around.

We stopped for cooldrinks and a leg stretch around mid-morning and enjoyed seeing **Fan-tailed Ravens** interacting with more common **Pied Crows**. A couple of **Reichenow's Seedeaters** were also around. After lunch, we stopped briefly to look at a pair of **Grey Crowned Cranes** and a **Crowned Eagle**, both such spectacular species!

After checking into <u>Rondo Retreat</u> in the <u>Kakamega Forest</u> (an <u>Important Bird and Biodiversity</u> <u>Area in Danger</u>), we waited out a bit of rain before doing a brief but spectacular birding session. A major highlight was seeing a couple of **Great Blue Turacos**, Planet Earth's largest turaco species. Other star birds were an immature **Crowned Eagle** showing well, huge, noisy **Black-andwhite-casqued Hornbills**, **African Blue Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Leaflove** and **Vieillot's Black Weaver**.

Day 11, 11th September 2024. A full day of birding around Kakamega

We started the day with an hour-long pre-breakfast walk around our lodge and marginally into the adjacent forest. A Mackinnon's Fiscal was one of the first birds we encountered. We enjoyed great views of the immature Crowned Eagle again and heard the resounding call of Great Blue Turaco, reminding us of the views we got yesterday. Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills also gave their incredibly loud calls and showed well as they winged noisily overhead. We added two new barbets, Grey-throated and Hairy-breasted. Luhder's Bushshrike showed quite well. Joyful Greenbuls provided a splash of yellow and cheerful singing for us. Cabanis's Greenbul also showed. Green-headed Sunbird and Bronzy Sunbird fed at flowers in the garden.



Bronzy Sunbird was one of several long-tailed sunbird species we encountered on this tour.

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After breakfast, we enjoyed spectacular birding that Kakamega is famous for. Early during the session, we located some <u>Turner's Eremomelas</u> and saw them well. This is a major special here as this and the nearby South and North Nandi Forests are the only realistic places for birders to see this species, although there are some isolated sites for this species in the DRC. We also saw **Redheaded Bluebill** and **Dark-backed Weaver** early in the session. We added a couple more spectacular barbets in the form of **Yellow-billed Barbet** and **Yellow-spotted Barbet**. A **Yellow-crested Woodpecker** showed well, as did a pair of **Purple-throated Cuckooshrikes**. **Chapin's Flycatcher**, **Olive Sunbird**, **Olive-bellied Sunbird**, **Ashy Flycatcher**, **Brown-chested Alethe**, **Ansorge's Greenbul** and, briefly, a vocal <u>Grey-chested Babbler</u> (another Kakamega Forest special, with *Kakamega* as its genus and sometimes common name) were a few more highlights. Jameson's Wattle-eye was awesome to see, and one amazing stop generated a few **Sooty Tits**, a **Sharpe's Drongo** and the most popular bird of the day, **Red-headed Malimbe**. There were a few **Southern Hyliotas** around, and also **White-chinned Prinias**. White-breasted Nigrita was also a very popular bird as per comments from our birding group. Near the end of our session, just before lunch, we enjoyed some **Chubb's Cisticolas** duetting as they love to do.

As we arrived back at our lodge, we admired some beautiful sunbirds in flowering trees. These included **Grey-chinned** and **Green-throated Sunbirds**.

After a couple of hours of resting, we went to the Kakamega park headquarters, adding two new bee-eaters to our growing list, **White-throated** and **Blue-headed Bee-eaters**, both of which we scoped high up in trees.

Our last birding stop of the day was (as usual) highly productive, with co-operative **Tambourine Doves**, a pair of **Blue-shouldered Robin-Chats** singing nicely and, unusually, actually showing a few times as they crossed the road, good views of **Black-faced Rufous Warblers** (which we had, however, heard a lot all day long), beautiful **Black-collared Apalis**, **Grey-headed Nigrita**, **Black Cuckoo** and others.

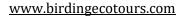
Mammal-wise we, enjoyed seeing **Red-tailed Monkey**, **Blue Monkey** and **Guereza** (Black-and-white Colobus Monkey).

Day 12, 12th September 2024. In search of Papyrus endemics around Africa's largest lake, Lake Victoria

After breakfast, we headed for <u>Yala Swamp</u> near <u>Lake Victoria</u>. En route, we stopped at a site for **Rock Pratincoles**, also seeing a few bonus birds like **African Harrier-Hawk**, **Long-crested Eagle**, **Black-lored Babbler**, **Broad-billed Roller** and **Brown-backed Scrub Robin** in the vicinity. Continuing towards Yala Swamp with its extensive Papyrus beds, we stopped briefly to enjoy a close-up **Lizard Buzzard**.

The best bird at Yala Swamp was the stunningly beautiful **Papyrus Gonolek** which eventually showed very well after testing our patience for a while. We also got good views of **Swamp Flycatcher**. Various other new trip birds were also around, e.g. **Blue-spotted Wood Dove** and **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**.

We then visited Port Bunyala to view Lake Victoria, the largest of Africa's great lakes.







Lake Victoria is shared by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Day 13, 13th September 2024. Kakamega to Lake Nakuru

After breakfast, we did some final Kakamega Forest birding before heading for <u>Nakuru National</u> <u>Park</u>. This last session of Kakamega birding was spectacular. We managed to find a co-operative pair of beautiful, dainty **Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes** within a mixed flock also including some other great new trip birds in the form of **Pale-breasted Illadopsis**, **Red-tailed Bristlebill** and **Kakamega Greenbul**.

A stop at the river slightly further along the road, still within Kakamega Forest, generated several **Greenbuls** such as **Ansorge's** and **Cabanis's**, a very co-operative **African Pygmy Kingfisher** and many other birds.

As we drove out of the forest, a very lucky stop gave us two new trip birds all in the same bush without us having to get out of the car. These were **Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** and **African Firefinch**, both so colorful. We drove the couple of hours to our lodge inside Lake Nakuru National Park, then enjoyed wonderful views over the lake and grasslands from the outside seating area of the restaurant while we ate a scrumptious lunch.

After an hour of resting, we then enjoyed a spectacular afternoon game and birding drive in which we had an amazing surprise (see below). We saw 63 species of birds on this three-hour drive, including ten new species for the trip. We enjoyed watching flocks of **Great White Pelicans** fishing communally. There were also quite a number of **Pink-backed Pelicans** around. There were many flamingoes, primarily **Lesser Flamingoes** but with a couple of **Greater Flamingoes** as well. We were pleased to see a lot of shorebirds had already arrived from their breeding grounds (they winter in Africa), including a few species that were new for the trip, namely **Ruff, Common Greenshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper** and **Common Ringed Plover**. **African Spoonbills** foraged right next to us, providing awesome views. Several **Little Grebes** floated around on the water. **Grey**-



headed Gulls and Whiskered Terns were in evidence. A couple of pairs of Grey Crowned Cranes were around, one of them providing nicely close views. Raptors were amazing, with our first Ospreys, quite a number of Augur Buzzards, a Black-chested Snake Eagle, African Harrier-Hawk and last but certainly not least, an African Cuckoo-Hawk.

The real highlights had fur, not feathers, though. We saw new mammals in the form of **White Rhinos** and **Rothschild's Giraffes**. The most unexpected part of the day happened when we started watching a **Lioness** and two male **Lions** that at first were resting, but which started to become increasingly alert. They proceeded to climb a tree, and then they started hunting **Plains Zebras**. We were in disbelief as the lioness stalked carefully up to a zebra and managed to get extremely close without the zebra noticing. Next thing it ran the last few yards and brought the zebra down, soon being helped by the two males. These lions didn't go hungry tonight!



Friendly-looking Lions.

Day 14, 14th September 2024. Lake Nakuru to Mount Kenya

After breakfast, we did another spectacular game/birding drive in which we recorded 95 bird species in an hour and 25 minutes. New species we were pleased to see were **Red-billed Teal**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **White-headed Barbet**, **African Thrush** and **Little Rock Thrush**. We also enjoyed seeing some old friends really well, e.g. **Golden-winged Sunbirds** and close-up **Grey Crowned Cranes**.

Mammal-wise, we enjoyed seeing **White Rhinos** a bit closer up than the previous day, along with **Olive Baboons** with tiny babies riding on their backs or hanging onto their bellies, plus many others.



We then embarked on the couple-of-hour drive to our comfortable luxury en suite glamping accommodation with views over both <u>Mount Kenya</u> (an extinct volcano and Africa's second highest peak at around 17,000 feet/5,200 meters) and the <u>Aberdare Range</u>. Here we had a tasty lunch before embarking on a birding/game drive around the nearby <u>Solio Ranch</u>, a private rhino sanctuary important in the protection and breeding of **Black Rhinos** and we enjoyed seeing an adult and its baby. We also got great views of **White Rhinos** (at times with Mount Kenya as a backdrop), and a new giraffe species, the beautifully patterned **Reticulated Giraffe**.

Birds we hadn't seen before today that we enjoyed finding here were **Brimstone Canary**, **Yellow-necked Spurfowl** and hilariously noisy, personality-filled **Northern Pied Babblers**.

Day 15, 15th September 2024. A day around Mount Kenya

After breakfast, we headed into the spectacular Mount Kenya National Park. While paperwork was in progress, we found great birds around the main gate into the park. These included **Whiteheaded Wood Hoopoe**, **Sharpe's Starling**, a luminously colorful **African Emerald Cuckoo** and a couple of flyover species in the form of **Red-fronted Parrot** and **African Olive Pigeon**. A **Mountain Buzzard** showed very well as we entered the park, followed shortly by a **Thick-billed Seedeater**. **Yellow-crowned Canaries** were all over the place. As we ascended up through the park to higher altitudes, so we saw more great birds. **Hartlaub's Turacos** showing their crimson wings in flight are always wonderful to see. An immature and a couple of adult **Crowned Eagles** were seen at close quarters. A **Mountain Yellow Warbler** co-operated very well and higher up a couple of **Cinnamon Bracken Warblers** remained more hidden. Pairs of **Hunter's Cisticolas** duetted often. As we ascended through the bamboo zone and towards the end of the tree line, we saw **White-starred Robin** and **Abyssinian Ground Thrush**.

We eventually reached the moorland/heathland as we got to a high enough altitude. Here we found our targets without too much difficulty. These were **Moorland Chat**, **Malachite Sunbird**, **Scarlet-tufted Sunbird** and confiding **Jackson's Spurfowl** (endemic to Kenya).

Moustached Tinkerbird was the highlight as we descended the mountain at the end of the afternoon.

Mammal-wise, we enjoyed seeing really confiding **Defassa Waterbuck** and **Sykes's Monkeys** today during our exciting mountain trip.

Day 16, 16th September 2024. Mount Kenya to amazing Samburu

After breakfast, we embarked on the scenic drive (getting awesome views of Mount Kenya on the way) to <u>Samburu National Reserve</u> and the adjacent <u>Buffalo Springs National Reserve</u>. Being in a completely new habitat and region of Kenya, many new birds were added very quickly to our burgeoning list. At the entrance gate to the park, a feeding frenzy of species included several birds we hadn't yet seen. These were the absolutely spectacular **Golden-breasted Starling** (African starlings can be gorgeous, and this must be the most spectacular of all of them with its unbelievable colors and long tail), **Fischer's Starling**, many **Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weavers** and a couple of **Parrot-billed Sparrows**. As we drove through the park on our way to the comfortable lodge where we would stay the next two nights (and have lunch today), we added **Pink-breasted Lark** and **Taita Fiscal** to our list.



After checking in, we sat outside at the restaurant and added new birds to our list as we enjoyed our lunch buffet. These were **Tsavo Sunbird** and **Dodson's Bulbul**.

An afternoon game/birding drive was good for mammals, including **Beisa Oryx**, **Gerenuk** with its long neck and **Grevy's Zebras** with its beautiful patterns. We also continued to add new birds to our growing trip list, in the form of **White-headed Mousebird**, many **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** (a lot of them flying around but a small flock also ridiculously close-up on the roadside), six **Somali Ostriches**, **Abyssinian Scimitarbill**, **Lanner Falcon**, stunning **Rosy-patched Bushshrikes**, **Red-winged Lark** and **Pale Prinia**.

Day 17, 17th September 2024. A full day in Samburu National Reserve

A couple of hours before breakfast allowed us to record 64 bird species. The highlight was a **Kori Bustard** showing really well. But we also thoroughly enjoyed seeing three sandgrouse species, **Chestnut-bellied**, **Lichtenstein's** and **Black-faced**. A couple of **Foxy Larks** were also new for the trip, as was **Northern Wheatear**.

After breakfast, we went on another game drive and recorded 81 bird species in three hours. We also added a new mammal, **Common Waterbuck**, to our trip list. New bird species that we added to our list were dazzlingly bright **Golden Pipits** that become even more spectacular in flight with their blinding yellow wings, gorgeous **Golden Palm Weavers**, **Greater Honeyguide**, **Redbellied Parrot**, **Buff-crested Bustard**, **Von der Decken's Hornbill**, **Isabelline Wheatear** and **Banded Parisoma**.

We returned for another excellent lunch and then had a break during the heat of the day before embarking on a late afternoon birding/game drive. As always, this proved great. We found two more **Kori Bustards** which hunkered down when we approached and we saw only their heads and upper necks peering at us from the long grass. We found a staggering 15 **White-bellied Bustards**, some of them with very cute youngers, and we also found another **Buff-crested Bustard** for Lynn (as she had missed the later morning drive). We were amazed when a **Common Buttonquail** flushed off the road and gave us brief views where it landed in an opening in the grass. We briefly saw a couple of **Red-bellied Parrots**. One of the best bird species of the afternoon was **Cut-throat Finch**, several of which showed well on the road in front of us. The bird of the afternoon, a species we thought we'd miss, after looking for it all day and the previous afternoon, was the elegantly plumaged but vulture-headed **Vulturine Guineafowl** – what a bird to end the day with!

Day 18, 18th September 2024. Samburu to Nairobi, afternoon visit to Nairobi National Park

As we checked out of the hotel, some of the group saw a new trip bird, **Black-bellied Sunbird**. We then embarked on the drive back to Nairobi, arriving in time for an awesome birding drive in <u>Nairobi National Park</u>. Here we enjoyed seeing **White Rhinos** and several other good mammal species, as well as 74 bird species in three hours. These included some new trip birds: **Hartlaub's Bustard**, **Black-cheeked Waxbill**, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** and **Long-tailed Fiscal**. We also thoroughly enjoyed seeing species we'd already encountered, such as a really close-up **Secretarybird** and a noisy flock of **Northern Pied Babblers**, among many others. Nairobi National Park is an amazing place, covering a huge area and allowing one to forget one is near a city. All in all, a great ending to a superb trip with fun people, who we dropped at the airport this evening for their flights home.

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Bird List – Following IOC (December 2023 version)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following <u>BirdLife</u> <u>International</u>: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, DD = Data Deficient.

Common name	Scientific name		
Ostriches (Struthionidae)			
Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus		
Somali Ostrich – VU	Struthio molybdophanes		
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)			
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata		
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna bicolor		
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca		
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata		
Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha		
Guineafowl (Numididae)	Guineafowl (Numididae)		
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris		
Vulturine Guineafowl	Acryllium vulturinum		
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)		
Crested Francolin	Ortygornis sephaena		
Coqui Francolin	Campocolinus coqui		
Red-winged Francolin	Scleroptila levaillantii		
Harlequin Quail	Coturnix delegorguei		
Jackson's Spurfowl	Pternistis jacksoni		
Hildebrandt's Spurfowl	Pternistis hildebrandti		
Yellow-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis leucoscepus		
Red-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis afer		
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)			



Common name	Scientific name	
Slender-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus clarus	
Swifts (Apodidae)		
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus	
Mottled Swift	Tachymarptis aequatorialis	
Common Swift	Apus apus	
Nyanza Swift	Apus niansae	
Little Swift	Apus affinis	
Horus Swift	Apus horus	
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer	
Turacos (Musophagidae)		
Great Blue Turaco	Corythaeola cristata	
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	Crinifer personatus	
White-bellied Go-away-bird	Crinifer leucogaster	
Purple-crested Turaco	Gallirex porphyreolophus	
White-crested Turaco	Tauraco leucolophus	
Hartlaub's Turaco	Tauraco hartlaubi	
Bustards (Otididae)		
Kori Bustard	Ardeotis kori	
White-bellied Bustard	Eupodotis senegalensis	
Buff-crested Bustard	Lophotis gindiana	
Black-bellied Bustard	Lissotis melanogaster	
Hartlaub's Bustard	Lissotis hartlaubii	
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)		
Blue-headed Coucal	Centropus monachus	
White-browed Coucal	Centropus superciliosus	
Great Spotted Cuckoo	Clamator glandarius	
Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus	
Diederik Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius	



Common name	Scientific name	
Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas	
African Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx cupreus	
Black Cuckoo	Cuculus clamosus	
Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius	
Sandgrouse (Pteroclidae)		
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	Pterocles exustus	
Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	Pterocles gutturalis	
Black-faced Sandgrouse	Pterocles decoratus	
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	Pterocles lichtensteinii	
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)		
Rock Dove	Columba livia	
Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea	
African Olive Pigeon	Columba arquatrix	
Mourning Collared Dove	Streptopelia decipiens	
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola	
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis	
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur chalcospilos	
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur afer	
Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria	
Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis	
African Green Pigeon	Treron calvus	
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)		
African Crake	Crecopsis egregia	
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata	
African Swamphen	Porphyrio madagascariensis	
Black Crake	Zapornia flavirostra	



Common name	Scientific name	
Cranes (Gruidae)		
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	Balearica regulorum	
Grebes (Podicipedidae)		
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)		
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus	
Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconaias minor	
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)		
Common Buttonquail	Turnix sylvaticus	
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)		
Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus capensis	
Water Thick-knee (H)	Burhinus vermiculatus	
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostrida	le)	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	
Plovers (Charadriidae)		
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	
Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris	
Long-toed Lapwing	Vanellus crassirostris	
Blacksmith Lapwing	Vanellus armatus	
Spur-winged Lapwing	Vanellus spinosus	
Senegal Lapwing	Vanellus lugubris	
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus	
African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus	
Kittlitz's Plover	Anarhynchus pecuarius	
Jacanas (Jacanidae)		



Common name	Scientific name	
African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae		
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	
Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis	
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	
Ruff	Calidris pugnax	
Little Stint	Calidris minuta	
Coursers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)		
Three-banded Courser	Rhinoptilus cinctus	
Temminck's Courser	Cursorius temminckii	
Rock Pratincole	Glareola nuchalis	
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	
Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	
Storks (Ciconiidae)		
African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer	
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis	
Saddle-billed Stork	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis	
African Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia microscelis	
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)		
African Darter	Anhinga rufa	
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)		



Common name	Scientific name	
Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus	
White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax lucidus	
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)		
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash	
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba	
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)		
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	
Black Heron	Egretta ardesiaca	
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	
Great Egret	Ardea alba	
Yellow-billed Egret	Ardea brachyrhyncha	
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala	
Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath	
Hamerkop (Scopidae)		
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta	
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)		
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	
Pink-backed Pelican	Pelecanus rufescens	
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)		
Secretarybird - EN	Sagittarius serpentarius	



Common name	Scientific name
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus
African Cuckoo-Hawk	Aviceda cuculoides
Hooded Vulture - CR	Necrosyrtes monachus
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Rüppell's Vulture - CR	Gyps rueppelli
White-headed Vulture - CR	Trigonoceps occipitalis
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	Torgos tracheliotos
Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus pectoralis
Brown Snake Eagle	Circaetus cinereus
Bateleur - EN	Terathopius ecaudatus
Crowned Eagle	Stephanoaetus coronatus
Martial Eagle - EN	Polemaetus bellicosus
Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus occipitalis
Wahlberg's Eagle	Hieraaetus wahlbergi
Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus
Tawny Eagle - VU	Aquila rapax
African Hawk-Eagle	Aquila spilogaster
Lizard Buzzard	Kaupifalco monogrammicus
Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus gabar
Dark Chanting Goshawk	Melierax metabates
Eastern Chanting Goshawk	Melierax poliopterus
African Goshawk	Accipiter tachiro
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	Accipiter rufiventris
Black Sparrowhawk	Accipiter melanoleucus
Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius
African Fish Eagle	Icthyophaga vocifer



Common name	Scientific name	
Mountain Buzzard	Buteo oreophilus	
Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur	
Owls (Strigidae)		
Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum	
Northern White-faced Owl	Ptilopsis leucotis	
Greyish Eagle-Owl	Bubo cinerascens	
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo africanus	
Mousebirds (Coliidae)		
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus	
White-headed Mousebird	Colius leucocephalus	
Blue-naped Mousebird	Urocolius macrourus	
Hoopoes (Upupidae)		
African Hoopoe	Upupa africana	
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)		
White-headed Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus bollei	
Green Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus	
Abyssinian Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus minor	
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)		
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	Bucorvus leadbeateri	
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)		
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus erythrorhynchus	
Von der Decken's Hornbill	Tockus deckeni	
Jackson's Hornbill	Tockus jacksoni	
Crowned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus	
Hemprich's Hornbill	Lophoceros hemprichii	
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus	
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill	Bycanistes subcylindricus	



Common name	Scientific name	
Rollers (Coraciidae)		
Purple Roller	Coracias naevius	
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus	
Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus	
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)		
Grey-headed Kingfisher	Halcyon leucocephala	
Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis	
African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina picta	
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus	
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima	
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)		
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus	
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	Merops oreobates	
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides	
White-throated Bee-eater	Merops albicollis	
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus	
Olive Bee-eater	Merops superciliosus	
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	
African Barbets (Lybiidae)		
Yellow-billed Barbet	Trachyphonus purpuratus	
Red-and-yellow Barbet	Trachyphonus erythrocephalus	
D'Arnaud's Barbet	Trachyphonus darnaudii	
Usambiro Barbet	Trachyphonus usambiro	
Grey-throated Barbet	Gymnobucco bonapartei	
Moustached Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus leucomystax	
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird - DD	Pogoniulus bilineatus	
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus pusillus	



Common name	Scientific name	
Yellow-spotted Barbet	Buccanodon duchaillui	
Hairy-breasted Barbet	Tricholaema hirsuta	
Red-fronted Barbet	Tricholaema diademata	
Spot-flanked Barbet	Tricholaema lacrymosa	
White-headed Barbet	Lybius leucocephalus	
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)		
Brown-backed Honeybird	Prodotiscus regulus	
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor	
Greater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator	
Woodpeckers (Picidae)		
Nubian Woodpecker	Campethera nubica	
Bearded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus	
Yellow-crested Woodpecker	Chloropicus xantholophus	
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens	
African Grey Woodpecker	Dendropicos goertae	
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)		
Pygmy Falcon	Polihierax semitorquatus	
Grey Kestrel	Falco ardosiaceus	
African Hobby	Falco cuvierii	
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus	
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)		
Red-fronted Parrot	Poicephalus gulielmi	
Meyer's Parrot	Poicephalus meyeri	
Red-bellied Parrot	Poicephalus rufiventris	
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)		
Chinspot Batis	Batis molitor	



Common name	Scientific name	
Pygmy Batis	Batis perkeo	
Black-throated Wattle-eye	Platysteira peltata	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	Platysteira cyanea	
Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye	Platysteira concreta	
Jameson's Wattle-eye	Platysteira jamesoni	
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)		
Grey-headed Bushshrike	Malaconotus blanchoti	
Black-fronted Bushshrike	Chlorophoneus nigrifrons	
Bocage's Bushshrike (H)	Chlorophoneus bocagei	
Orange-breasted Bushshrike (H)	Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus	
Rosy-patched Bushshrike	Telophorus cruentus	
Brown-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra australis	
Three-streaked Tchagra	Tchagra jamesi	
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus	
Pink-footed Puffback	Dryoscopus angolensis	
Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus cubla	
Slate-colored Boubou	Laniarius funebris	
Lühder's Bushshrike	Laniarius luehderi	
Tropical Boubou	Laniarius major	
Papyrus Gonolek	Laniarius mufumbiri	
Black-headed Gonolek	Laniarius erythrogaster	
Brubru	Nilaus afer	
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)		
Grey Cuckooshrike	Ceblepyris caesius	
Black Cuckooshrike	Campephaga flava	
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike	Campephaga quiscalina	
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (Oriolidae)		
Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus	



Common name	Scientific name	
Mountain Oriole	Oriolus percivali	
Drongos (Dicruridae)		
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	
Sharpe's Drongo	Dicrurus sharpei	
Monarchs (Monarchidae)		
African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	
Shrikes (Laniidae)		
Northern White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus ruppelli	
Magpie Shrike	Lanius melanoleucus	
Long-tailed Fiscal	Lanius cabanisi	
Grey-backed Fiscal	Lanius excubitoroides	
Taita Fiscal	Lanius dorsalis	
Northern Fiscal	Lanius humeralis	
Mackinnon's Shrike	Lanius mackinnoni	
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)		
Cape Crow	Corvus capensis	
Pied Crow	Corvus albus	
Fan-tailed Raven	Corvus rhipidurus	
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)		
African Blue Flycatcher	Elminia longicauda	
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)		
,	MI	
White-bellied Tit	Melaniparus albiventris	
Dusky Tit	Melaniparus funereus	
Acacia Tit	Melaniparus thruppi	
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)		
Mouse-colored Penduline Tit	Anthoscopus musculus	



Common name	Scientific name	
Larks (Alaudidae)		
Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix leucopareia	
Pink-breasted Lark	Calendulauda poecilosterna	
Foxy Lark	Calendulauda alopex	
Red-winged Lark	Mirafra hypermetra	
Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra africana	
Flappet Lark	Mirafra rufocinnamomea	
Red-capped Lark	Calandrella cinerea	
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)		
Slender-billed Greenbul	Stelgidillas gracilirostris	
Red-tailed Bristlebill	Bleda syndactylus	
Yellow-throated Leaflove	Atimastillas flavicollis	
Joyful Greenbul	Chlorocichla laetissima	
Kakamega Greenbul	Arizelocichla kakamegae	
Olive-breasted Greenbul	Arizelocichla kikuyuensis	
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	Eurillas latirostris	
Ansorge's Greenbul	Eurillas ansorgei	
Northern Brownbul	Phyllastrephus strepitans	
Dodson's Bulbul	Pycnonotus dodsoni	
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor	
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)		
White-headed Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne albiceps	
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera	
Grey-rumped Swallow	Pseudhirundo griseopyga	
Banded Martin	Neophedina cincta	
Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola	
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula	
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	



Common name	Scientific name	
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii	
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	
Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica	
Red-breasted Swallow	Cecropis semirufa	
Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis	
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macros	sphenidae)	
Northern Crombec	Sylvietta brachyura	
Red-faced Crombec	Sylvietta whytii	
White-browed Crombec	Sylvietta leucophrys	
Hylias (Hyliidae)		
Green Hylia	Hylia prasina	
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)		
Brown Woodland Warbler (H)	Phylloscopus umbrovirens	
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephali	dae)	
Greater Swamp Warbler (H)	Acrocephalus rufescens	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus gracilirostris	
Mountain Yellow Warbler	Iduna similis	
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)		
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler	Bradypterus cinnamomeus	
Little Rush Warbler (H)	Bradypterus baboecala	
White-winged Swamp Warbler (H)	Bradypterus carpalis	
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)		
Singing Cisticola	Cisticola cantans	
Hunter's Cisticola	Cisticola hunteri	
Chubb's Cisticola	Cisticola chubbi	
Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana	
Winding Cisticola	Cisticola marginatus	



Common name	Scientific name	
Stout Cisticola	Cisticola robustus	
Croaking Cisticola	Cisticola natalensis	
Desert Cisticola	Cisticola aridulus	
Pectoral-patch Cisticola	Cisticola brunnescens	
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	
Pale Prinia	Prinia somalica	
Red-fronted Prinia	Prinia rufifrons	
White-chinned Prinia	Schistolais leucopogon	
Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida	
Black-throated Apalis	Apalis jacksoni	
Chestnut-throated Apalis	Apalis porphyrolaema	
Buff-throated Apalis (H)	Apalis rufogularis	
Grey-capped Warbler	Eminia lepida	
Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata	
Olive-green Camaroptera (H)	Camaroptera chloronota	
Grey Wren-Warbler	Calamonastes simplex	
Black-faced Rufous Warbler	Bathmocercus rufus	
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis	
Turner's Eremomela	Eremomela turneri	
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)		
African Hill Babbler (H)	Sylvia abyssinica	
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)		
Kikuyu White-eye (Endemic)	Zosterops kikuyuensis	
Northern Yellow White-eye	Zosterops senegalensis	
Ground Babblers (Pellorneidae)		
Pale-breasted Illadopsis	Illadopsis rufipennis	
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)		
Rufous Chatterer	Argya rubiginosa	



Common name	Scientific name
Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides jardineii
Black-lored Babbler	Turdoides sharpei
Northern Pied Babbler	Turdoides hypoleuca
Dapple-throat & Allies (Modulatric	idae)
Grey-chested Babbler	Kakamega poliothorax
Hyliotas (Hyliotidae)	
Southern Hyliota	Hyliota australis
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae))
Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea
Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus
Rüppell's Starling	Lamprotornis purpuroptera
Golden-breasted Starling	Lamprotornis regius
Superb Starling	Lamprotornis superbus
Hildebrandt's Starling	Lamprotornis hildebrandti
Fischer's Starling	Lamprotornis fischeri
Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio
Bristle-crowned Starling	Onychognathus salvadorii
Kenrick's Starling	Poeoptera kenricki
Sharpe's Starling	Pholia sharpii
Magpie Starling	Speculipastor bicolor
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus africanus
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Abyssinian Ground Thrush	Geokichla piaggiae
African Thrush	Turdus pelios
Abyssinian Thrush	Turdus abyssinicus



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Common name	Scientific name	
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Mus	scicapidae)	
Brown-backed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas hartlaubi	
White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys	
Chapin's Flycatcher - VU	Fraseria lendu	
Ashy Flycatcher	Fraseria caerulescens	
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher	Melaenornis fischeri	
Silverbird	Empidornis semipartitus	
African Grey Flycatcher	Bradornis microrhynchus	
African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta	
Swamp Flycatcher	Muscicapa aquatica	
White-starred Robin	Pogonocichla stellata	
Brown-chested Alethe	Chamaetylas poliocephala	
White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini	
Rüppell's Robin-Chat	Cossypha semirufa	
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	Cossypha cyanocampter	
Spotted Palm Thrush	Cichladusa guttata	
Cape Robin-Chat	Dessonornis caffer	
Little Rock Thrush	Monticola rufocinereus	
African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus	
Moorland Chat	Pinarochroa sordida	
Mocking Cliff Chat	Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris	
Anteater Chat	Myrmecocichla aethiops	
Sooty Chat	Myrmecocichla nigra	
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	
Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina	
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)		
Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird	Anthreptes orientalis	
Grey-chinned Sunbird	Anthreptes tephrolaemus	
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris	
Green-headed Sunbird	Cyanomitra verticalis	
Moorland Chat Mocking Cliff Chat Anteater Chat Sooty Chat Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sunbirds (Nectariniidae) Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird Grey-chinned Sunbird Collared Sunbird	Pinarochroa sordidaThamnolaea cinnamomeiventrisMyrmecocichla aethiopsMyrmecocichla nigraOenanthe oenantheOenanthe isabellinaAnthreptes orientalisAnthreptes tephrolaemusHedydipna collaris	



Common name	Scientific name	
Olive Sunbird	Cyanomitra olivacea	
Green-throated Sunbird	Chalcomitra rubescens	
Amethyst Sunbird	Chalcomitra amethystina	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis	
Tacazze Sunbird	Nectarinia tacazze	
Bronzy Sunbird	Nectarinia kilimensis	
Malachite Sunbird	Nectarinia famosa	
Scarlet-tufted Sunbird	Nectarinia johnstoni	
Golden-winged Sunbird	Drepanorhynchus reichenowi	
Olive-bellied Sunbird	Cinnyris chloropygius	
Northern Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris reichenowi	
Beautiful Sunbird	Cinnyris pulchellus	
Marico Sunbird	Cinnyris mariquensis	
Red-chested Sunbird	Cinnyris erythrocercus	
Black-bellied Sunbird	Cinnyris nectarinioides	
Tsavo Sunbird	Cinnyris tsavoensis	
Shining Sunbird	Cinnyris habessinicus	
Variable Sunbird	Cinnyris venustus	
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)		
Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow	Gymnoris pyrgita	
Chestnut Sparrow	Passer eminibey	
Kenya Sparrow	Passer rufocinctus	
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer griseus	
Parrot-billed Sparrow	Passer gongonensis	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)		
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	Bubalornis niger	
White-headed Buffalo Weaver	Dinemellia dinemelli	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser mahali	



Common name	Scientific name	
Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser donaldsoni	
Rufous-tailed Weaver	Histurgops ruficauda	
Grey-capped Social Weaver	Pseudonigrita arnaudi	
Speckle-fronted Weaver	Sporopipes frontalis	
Baglafecht Weaver	Ploceus baglafecht	
Little Weaver	Ploceus luteolus	
Spectacled Weaver	Ploceus ocularis	
Golden Palm Weaver	Ploceus bojeri	
Northern Masked Weaver	Ploceus taeniopterus	
Lesser Masked Weaver	Ploceus intermedius	
Vitelline Masked Weaver	Ploceus vitellinus	
Speke's Weaver	Ploceus spekei	
Village Weaver	Ploceus cucullatus	
Vieillot's Black Weaver	Ploceus nigerrimus	
Golden-backed Weaver	Ploceus jacksoni	
Chestnut Weaver	Ploceus rubiginosus	
Dark-backed Weaver	Ploceus bicolor	
Brown-capped Weaver	Ploceus insignis	
Red-headed Malimbe	Malimbus rubricollis	
Red-headed Weaver	Anaplectes rubriceps	
Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea	
Northern Red Bishop	Euplectes franciscanus	
Yellow Bishop	Euplectes capensis	
Fan-tailed Widowbird	Euplectes axillaris	
Long-tailed Widowbird	Euplectes progne	
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)		
Bronze Mannikin	Spermestes cucullata	
White-breasted Nigrita	Nigrita fusconotus	
Grey-headed Nigrita	Nigrita canicapillus	
Black-cheeked Waxbill	Brunhilda charmosyna	



Common name	Scientific name	
Kandt's Waxbill	Estrilda kandti	
Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild	
Quailfinch	Ortygospiza atricollis	
Purple Grenadier	Granatina ianthinogaster	
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	Uraeginthus bengalus	
Red-headed Bluebill	Spermophaga ruficapilla	
Green-winged Pytilia	Pytilia melba	
Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala	
African Firefinch	Lagonosticta rubricata	
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)		
Village Indigobird	Vidua chalybeata	
Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura	
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)		
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp	
Golden Pipit	Tmetothylacus tenellus	
Yellow-throated Longclaw	Macronyx croceus	
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus	
Long-billed Pipit	Anthus similis	
Plain-backed Pipit	Anthus leucophrys	
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae	2)	
African Citril	Crithagra citrinelloides	
Reichenow's Seedeater	Crithagra reichenowi	
Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra mozambica	
White-bellied Canary	Crithagra dorsostriata	
Brimstone Canary	Crithagra sulphurata	
Thick-billed Seedeater	Crithagra burtoni	
Streaky Seedeater	Crithagra striolata	
Yellow-crowned Canary	Serinus flavivertex	



Common name	Scientific name
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris

Total seen	459
Total heard only	10
Total recorded	469

Mammal List – Following Mammal Watching (April 2024 version)

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the <u>IUCN List of Threatened Species</u>: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common name	Scientific name	
Elephants (Elephantidae)		
African Savanna Elephant - EN	Loxodonta africana	
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)		
Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis	
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)		
Red-tailed Monkey	Cercopithecus ascanius	
Blue Monkey	Cercopithecus mitis	
Vervet Monkey	Chlorocebus pygerythrus	
Olive Baboon	Papio anubis	
Guereza	Colobus guereza	
Galagos (Galagidae)		
Northern Lesser Galago	Galago senegalensis	
Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)		
African Savanna Hare	Lepus microtis	



Common name	Scientific name	
Squirrels (Sciuridae)		
Unstriped Ground Squirrel	Xerus rutilus	
Canids (Canidae)		
Black-backed Jackal	Lupulella mesomelas	
Felids (Felidae)		
Cheetah - VU	Acinonyx jubatus	
Serval	Leptailurus serval	
Lion - VU	Panthera leo	
Leopard - VU	Panthera pardus	
Mongooses (Herpestidae)		
Common Slender Mongoose	Herpestes sanguineus	
Common Dwarf Mongoose	Helogale parvula	
Banded Mongoose	Mungos mungo	
Hyaenas (Hyaenidae)		
Spotted Hyena	Crocuta crocuta	
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)		
White Rhinoceros	Ceratotherium simum	
Black Rhinoceros - CR	Diceros bicornis	
Equines (Equidae)		
Grevy's Zebra - EN	Equus grevyi	
Plains Zebra	Equus quagga	
Bovids (Bovidae)		
Impala	Aepyceros melampus	
Hartebeest	Alcelaphus buselaphus	
Blue Wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus	
Tsessebe	Damaliscus lunatus	



Common name	Scientific name
Thomson's Gazelle	Eudorcas thomsonii
Gerenuk	Litocranius walleri
Kirk's Dik-dik	Madoqua kirkii
Grant's Gazelle	Nanger granti
Bush Duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia
Beisa Oryx - EN	Oryx beisa
Waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus
Bohor Reedbuck	Redunca redunca
Cape Buffalo	Syncerus caffer
Common Eland	Tragelaphus oryx
Greater Kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Southern Bushbuck	Tragelaphus sylvaticus
Giraffes and Okapi (Giraffidae)	
Northern Giraffe - VU	Giraffa camelopardalis
Reticulated Giraffe	Giraffa reticulata
Maasai Giraffe	Giraffa tippelskirchi
Suids (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamida	ne)
Common Hippopotamus - VU	Hippopotamus amphibius

Total seen	44	



<u>Reptile List – Following Reptiles of World (October 2023 version)</u>

Common name	Scientific name
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	Crocodylus niloticus
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Kenyan Rock Agama	Agama lionotus
Typical Geckos (Gekkonidae))
Tropical House Gecko	Hemidactylus mabouia
Monitor Lizards (Varanidae)	
Nile Monitor	Varanus niloticus
Tortoises (Testudinidae)	
Leopard Tortoise	Stigmochelys pardalis

	Total seen	5
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