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## **MEGAFARI 2: Kenya: *Big 5 mammals and a overwhelming mosaic of African birds* #**

7 – 25 August 2010 (19 days), Leader: Keith Barnes, Set departure

Photos by Keith Barnes. All photos taken on this tour.



*A Golden-winged Sunbird alights on a Leonotis leonuris shrub. East Africa is endowed with an incredible array of stunning sunbirds and on this tour we saw 20 species of them, including this one, my favorite.*

## Introduction

This was the second leg of our second Megafari of 2010 – a true trip of a lifetime for most of the participants. The main aims of the Kenya leg was to see a mosaic of African birds from the drier woodlands of the Amboseli area through to the many specialties of the montane rainforests of Mt Kenya and the lowland forests of Kakamega. In addition, mammals were on the mind and we saw a staggering 50 species. But it was the nature of our encounters that were amazing! Several prides of lions with kills were probably the stand-out feature for mammal enthusiasts, but we also had classic Cheetah, Leopard and Serval encounters, making the trip a boon for cats. Amongst the more regular fare, great views of both species of Rhinoceros, and Giant Forest Hog were exciting. We netted 534 bird species and 50 mammals on this 19-day leg of the trip, as well as accumulating an incredible 652 bird species and 60 mammals in just over four-weeks of the Megafari. The Megafari was a boon for spectacular birds and we saw 32 species of bird of prey, 8 species of turaco, 7 species of kingfisher, 8 species of bee-eater, 9 species of hornbill, and 28 species of sunbird. We also saw the famous Big-5 mammals and had incredible encounters with Mountain Gorillas and Chimpanzees amongst 12 species of primates. For the extremely successful Uganda and Rwanda portion of the tour, see our trip report for that tour.



*The endless landscapes of the Maasai Mara, during the dry season the Wildebeest are at their greatest concentrations in the Mara portion of the ecosystem.*



*Flamingos are another icon of East Africa, and we were not disappointed in our encounters with these stunning birds. Lake Nakuru reserved a real treat for us, with many thousands of flamingos in photographic postures with mammals.*

- 7 August:** ARRIVAL Nairobi.
- 8 August:** Lake Magadi.
- 9 August:** Nairobi NP.
- 10 August:** Nairobi – Mt. Kenya.
- 11 August:** Mt Kenya
- 12 August:** Aberdare NP
- 13 August:** Naro Moru – Hell’s Gate – Naivasha
- 14 August:** Naivasha – Nakuru
- 15 August:** Nakuru – Baringo
- 16 August:** Baringo – Kakamega
- 17-18 August:** Kakamega
- 19 August:** Lake Victoria – Masaai Mara
- 20-21 August:** Masaai Mara
- 22 August:** Masaai Mari – Nairobi
- 23 August:** Nairobi – Amboseli NP
- 24 August:** Amboseli NP
- 25 August:** Amboseli NP – Nairobi
- 26 August:** DEPARTURE.

**7 August: ARRIVAL Nairobi.**

We all arrived in Nairobi quite late. Some of the participants were already in bed, so I joined a couple from Australia that turned out to be a real hoot and a vast amount of fun on this trip. Suffice it to say they giggled themselves to bed that night, and followed suit for 19 nights to come.



*The airplane touched down in Nairobi in the midst of a classic African storm, thunderhead, black clouds and glorious sunshine all juxtaposed in an unforgettable interplay.*

### **8 August: Lake Magadi.**

Setting off on our first day, we were all thrilled to be starting this safari, and the excitement in the car was palpable. Pulling into the traffic, our first encounter was with a "flock" of Marabou Storks, sitting atop trees adjacent to congested roads. Not your typical highway bird, they are a great feature of the traffic in Nairobi! Soon enough we were heading out of the city and we saw our first Olive Baboons scoffing roadside garbage! Heading over the Ngong Hills the habitat slowly changes, and we were soon oogling our first Schalow's Wheatears. En-route we stopped half-way through the descent into the Great Rift Valley and explored the surrounding acacia scrub. Within moments of leaving the vehicle we began picking up species such as White-bellied Canary, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Slate-coloured Boubou and White-browed Scrub-Robin. With all the flowering plants around we soon entered sunbird heaven. From the aptly named Beautiful Sunbird to the striking red of the Scarlet-chested and muted majesty of the Mariqua Sunbirds, we hardly knew where to aim our bins! We stumbled upon a marvelous Gerenuk, the long-necked Giraffe-antelope that stands on it's hind legs when foraging, the only one of our trip.



*Sparse thorny savannas are surprisingly full of birds in the Magadi region.*

The vegetation surrounding Magadi is exceptionally dry. The lake itself a site for a mining operation, means access is somewhat limited. Amongst the hundreds of Lesser Flamingo, we picked out a small number of Greater Flamingo mixed in. Scanning through the small waders we discovered good numbers of Black-winged Stilt, and Little Stint. Our key species, however, was the smart looking Chestnut-banded Plover. Due to the lake's low water level, all the plovers seemed to be concentrated in the one small area in front of us and we were able to see good numbers of this localized species. We started our return journey. In stark contrast to the area surrounding Nairobi, Lake Magadi's dry heat was a shock to the system. But despite the temperatures, the birding was good, and forays revealed some great birds like Red-fronted Warbler, Somali Bunting, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Yellow-bellied Eremomela and Blue-capped Cordon-Blue. Our stomachs were starting to query our sanity though, and we made for a wonderful stand of shade trees that harboured more cool birds. Eating a packed lunch in Africa is always an opportunity to add to your list, and this time the Grey-capped Social Weavers came for scraps and the Yellow-throated Petronia's drank sap from a nearby tree. Unstriped Ground Squirrels poked their noses into our business and as soon as we were done here we took 10 minutes to see what was about. On our way back to Nairobi, we made a stop at Olorgesailie. This is a wonderful museum, and site with the remains of many hominid tools and fossils of animals that co-existed with hominids. It's well-appointed, and the explanation of the geology that makes exploration and the discovery of early humans possible here, is fascinating. The birding is pretty good too, and we added Chestnut Weaver and Sparrow, Gray Wren

Warbler, and a few others good species. After that we returned to Nairobi, tuckered out from our first full day in the field. It was a great day and we'd already seen so many cool things, and there were still 19 days to go!



*A Somali Bunting, a colorful jewel, bedazzles the browns and reds of this landscape.*



*The 'tok-tok' call of the Gray Wren-Warbler is a common sound in the thorny savannas, but getting a good look at one of these little devils is another thing all together.*

**9 August: Nairobi National Park.**

This park is right inside the city. It's a pretty insane scenario that a serious safari can start right in the city, but soon after breakfast we were ready and poised to be watching our first big mammals. Over 600 bird species have been recorded in Nairobi N.P. and this makes the city the world's "birdiest" capitol. We soon began to understand just how amazing the birding here can be. While waiting to check in at the gate we were already beginning to pick up new species, including the stunning Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu. With well over 100 species seen during the day, highlights included highly localized Nairobi Pipit, a few spectacular Red-throated Tits, White-bellied Tits, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Moustached Warbler, and many more.



*It's drab, but very local, the Nairobi Pipit is a key bird within the hills surrounding the capitol city as it has a very small range.*

Of course, Nairobi N.P. is known for more than just its birds. Today was also our first exposure to the wildlife that has made Kenya so famous. And what an introduction it was! Not only did we pick up the regular host of zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, hartebeest, and a variety of antelopes, but we were soon thrilled to find a family of White Rhino laying down in long grass. However, our luck didn't stop there. While the park has a plethora of large mammals, cats are usually extremely difficult here. However, in the late afternoon after getting our fill of close-up Ostrich photos, we rounded the corner only to come to an immediate screeching halt. A lioness had just layed down and Peter, our incredible safari driver, had somehow picked it up. We waited for some time, and eventually she stood up. In one direction we could see Africa's apex predator, and in the other the skyline of one of it's biggest cities, bringing home the idea that Kenya (and much of Africa) is still well and truly wild!



Our final surprise came in the form of a few highly photogenic Kori Bustards right by the exit gate. They stayed and strutted while we photographed them to death. With another day under the belts, we were getting into the safari groove!



*The stunning Long-tailed Fiscal is a spectacular species, and a sentinel and hunter pinned to the tops of many bushes within the Nairobi NP.*

#### **10 August: Nairobi – Mt Kenya.**

We snaked out of Nairobi before the traffic got underway, which was smart because we avoided a colossal roadjam (I just know these things). Anyway, first real stop was at some ponds north of the city, as we started climbing into the highlands. There were lots of birds about, and we picked up Little Grebe, Gray Heron amongst other egrets and herons and a host of waterfowl. Trip exclusive Black-crowned Night-Heron, African Openbill, Fulvous Whistling-Duck and Maccoa Duck made the stops well worthwhile.

Soon we moved onto the Kinangop Plateau where our prime target was one of Kenya's eight endemic species. This high elevation grassland is home to the striking Sharpe's Longclaw. As we drove up, we thought ourselves in for a long drawn out trek in the hopes of flushing our target. However, after a short walk we quickly located our bird, and spent a bit of time observing this beast that is having its habitat around it reduced dramatically. With our quarry under wraps, we continued on to find such beauties as African Snipe, and Capped Wheatear.



*The local and declining Sharpe's Longclaw was today's highlight bird. Intricately marked and subtly beautiful.*

As the day began to heat up, we made our way to the Kieni Forest. Located on the lower slopes of Mt. Kenya, we decided a brief stop here would prepare us nicely for our journey to higher elevations the following day. Our stop was very brief, but we did locate our first elegant and flowing Guereza Colobus Monkeys which caused much fuss from the group, and then an Ayres' Hawk-Eagle cruised over, much to Keith's delight. While this is a difficult species, the highlight for most people was still to come. As we sat watching a dull colored group of Black-headed Mountain Greenbuls, a Montane Oriole flew over, and then all of a sudden there was a flash of crimson, a streak of scarlet shot across and quickly drew our joint attention. Hopping around a tree directly in front of us was a Hartlaub's Turaco. One of the most gorgeous birds of the forest, this was quickly, and unsurprisingly, voted the best bird of the trip thus far!

To round out the day list, and prove that quantity still has its value, we continued on to the Thika Sewage Works. We quickly began to pick off waders such as Marsh and Wood Sandpipers. We then began to scan for ducks and soon found species such as Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Duck, and African Pygmy Goose. We then made our way to Mt. Kenya with a brief stop at the Mwea rice paddies where we found species

such as Golden-crowned Bishop, White-winged Widowbird, and a host of kingfishers, egrets and herons. With this fantastic cap to our day, we made for the slopes of Mt Kenya, where the rains provided us with our most exciting drive to date. The slippery road gave all the participants a taste of the most wished for African experience, slipping and sliding up a mud track! Our accommodation was the superbly located rustic and cozy Castle Forest Lodge.

### **11 August: Mt Kenya.**

We awoke to the calls of Montane Nightjar and had an early breakfast at this stunning lodge. It was drizzling, and that soon turned to rain. In fact, it would rain all day long, and although that hampered birding a little, we persisted and managed to accumulate a decent rack of montane forest birds today. Early on, during breakfast we saw distant pigeons sitting high on snags, and we managed to score Rameron Pigeon, the scarce Delegorgue's Pigeon, and African Green Pigeon. As the light filtered through, the gardens came alive with Mountain Thrush, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Streaky Seed-eater, and a pair of vociferous Hunter's Cisticolas. The flowering portions of the garden also held Olive and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds. We spend the day working the forest tracks and trails around the lodge, slowly accumulating loads of good montane forest birds such as the restless White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, edgy Mountain Yellow Warbler, omnipresent Brown Woodland Warbler, spectacled Broad-ringed White-eye, noisy Doherty's Bush Shrike, striking Montane Oriole, and Waller's Starling. We also nailed a quartet of swizzling weaver birds, some in the flocks and some on the forest edge, in the form of Baglafaecht, Spectacled, Grosbeak and Brown-capped Weavers. The canopy also held a healthy mix of gleaning warblers, including the repeated staccato "plips" of Black-headed, Gray and Black-throated Apalis's. In the undergrowth, we heard Evergreen Forest and Cinnamon Bracken Warblers calling incessantly, and occasionally were blessed with a glimpse of an orange-breasted skulker, a White-starred Robin, or Cape or Rueppell's Robin-chat.



*Rueppell's Robin-chat, a stunning understory songster.*

Some of the species we scored today however were rarer, and we were blessed with decent looks at Oriole Finch, Gray-headed Negrofinch, and spectacular Abyssinian Crimsonwing. In the afternoon we added the tree-climbing Abyssinian Hill-Babbler, as well as Cape Wagtail, Cabanis' Greenbul, the stunning Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, while Moustached Tinkerbird pooped in the distance. The area was also quite good for mammals, and we added Carruther's Mountain Squirrel and Large-footed Rat to our mammal list! But it was time to take off, and we were headed to the plush and exciting Mountain Lodge that was quite close by. No sooner had we arrived and we were being attacked by the local troop of Syke's Blue Monkey. We spent the late afternoon on the rooftop scanning the surrounding forest as well as the mammal filled waterhole. A plush dinner followed, and then the highlight when a Giant Forest Hog visited the floodlit waterhole. What a pig!

### **12 August: Aberdares to Naro Moru**

We were up early to get views of Mt Kenya from the stunning setting of Mountain lodge.



*The shape of Mt Kenya is not quite as forbidding as Kilimanjaro, but it is still a stunning and tall mountain.*

After a bacon and sausage filled breakfast amongst innumerable other treats, we were heading out towards the Aberdares. We were a little frustrated at the gates when park authorities seemed to waste an inordinate amount of time sorting out a fairly trivial issue. But, eventually, we were in the park and climbing up into the alpine zones of this incredible montane area. The best part about the Aberdares is that one can access the alpine vegetation in a car, and also, this part of the park is not well frequented by other visitors, and you feel as if you have it and the birds to

yourself. Shortly after entering the park, we encountered one of first great birds of the day, perched in a tree were two large overgrown Silvery-cheeked Hornbills. As we climbed through the *Usnia* covered forests we encountered Mountain Wagtail, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, and Kenrick's Starling. The edge habitats revealed Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Black-headed Waxbill and Thick-billed Seed-eater, while overhead we found a displaying African Goshawk, and encountered a melanistic Mountain Buzzard amongst the more numerous Augar Buzzards. Soon enough we were working our ways through Giant Lobelias and groundsels, the characteristic flora of East Africa's high mountains, and we started finding coveys of the ubiquitous Jackson's Francolin.



*Jackson's Francolins were breeding and we saw many coveys of this high altitude specialist as we worked our way up the mountains.*

Eventually we located the more sombre, but highly localized Alpine Chat and Aberdare Cisticola. We also flushed up a Scrub Hare at these dizzying altitudes. A bank of flowering *Leontotis* and other flowers netted us a bevy of alpine sunbirds including Northern Double-collared Sunbirds, Bronze and Tacazee Sunbirds, Malachite and the scarce Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbirds. A little lower down, we found the coolest mammal of our time here, a well behaved Giant Forest Hog that stood out in the open for some time. Towards the end of the day, mammals stole the show and all our attention was soon at a waterhole as a family of elephant, our first thus far, came to drink directly below us. They chased some buffalos and waterbuck. The buffalo, which had dominated the area, obviously felt a bit put out and quickly a brawl between elephant and buffalo arose. As the elephant chased the buffalo around the pond, it was soon clear who the winner would be. Soon we had left the park and were headed towards Naro Moru, but we found a very co-operative Banded Snake Eagle en-route. Once we made it to Naro Moru we checked into our lodge and

explored the beautiful and well-wooded grounds soon adding Rufous Chatterer, Black-lored Babbler, Speke's Weaver and Black-backed Puffback.



*The localized *Abedares Cisticola* is easily located in the higher portions of the park (top left), the scenery of the Abedares (top right), Giant Forest Hog was a great surprise as we departed in the mid afternoon (bottom left) and the Tacaze Sunbird was a stunner that we located in the flowering *Leonotis* (bottom right).*

### **13 August: Naro Moru – Hell's Gate - Naivasha**

After a brief walk around the gardens at Naro Moru, scoring a few sunbirds, and most excitingly encountering an Eastern Tree Hyrax and a few Brimstone Canaries, we decided to move on. The open plains that you pass through soon after leaving Naro Moru are good for Red-capped Larks, Fisher's Sparrowlarks and Capped Wheatears, which we saw in abundance. We also located a great party of White-bellied Bustards, our first of the trip, as well as a few groups of Northern Anteater Chat. Then alongside the road we surprisingly encountered an African Wild Cat. A little farther down the road we encountered a flash of bronze and gold streaking across the road. Knowing instantly what it was, we bailed out of the car and started looking in earnest for the incredible Golden-winged Sunbird. There was a decent bank of *Leonotis* flowers, and soon we had found the stunning beast in question. In my opinion the coolest sunbird on earth, but the area also supported Tacaze, Malachite and Bronze Sunbirds. It made the area hard to leave, but we had to push

on as there was still much to see. A little later on we bailed out of the car again when Peter found some Jackson's and Long-tailed Widowbirds still in breeding plumage. This area of moist upland swamp brought us Tinkling Cisticola, Yellow-crowned Canary, Southern Citril, and Long-tailed, Red-collared and Jackson's Widowbirds.



*Flocks of Jackson's Widowbird and Long-tailed Widowbird were in eclipse but still showing most of their plumage features.*

Soon we were at Hell's Gate NP. This rocky and open park offers some different landscapes and birding. We also started seeing big number of plains game. Hell's Gate is aptly named for its hot springs and is famous as one of the few parks in Kenya where you are allowed to exit the vehicle and walk amongst the animals. Taking full advantage of this, we were able to obtain excellent views of raptors in particular, and we found our first Rueppell's Griffon, Verreaux's Eagle, as well as both Lanner and Peregrine Falcons. A small walk down into a riverine chasm revealed Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, Schalow's Wheatear, White-fronted Bee-eater, and Red-rumped Swallow. As the afternoon wore on, swifts started to gather in good numbers and we located both special swifts for the region, Mottled and Nyanza Swift. Right at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, we also located the specialty cisticola for the area, the local Lyne's (Wailing) Cisticola. We then finished the day off at the rather pleasant Lake Naivasha Country Club.



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*The scenery at Hell's Gate NP is unlike anywhere else on this Kenya tour (above) and a stunning campsite resident near the river gorge is the Schalow's Wheatear (bottom).*



#### **14 August: Naivasha - Nakuru**

As we hadn't had much time around Lake Naivasha on the previous evening, we decided to begin the day by exploring the area around the lodge. A brief walk around the grounds proved extremely fruitful with species such as Black-lored Babbler, Red-headed Weaver, and Amethyst Sunbird. We then moved on to explore the lake itself. Walking by the jetty we netted an incredible variety of waders, terns, herons, storks, and ducks. The sheer number of African White Pelican was astounding. African Fish Eagle's patrolled the skies, and huge numbers of ungulates patrolled the lake's edges. We decided to take a walk amongst the game, as this is one of the few places in Kenya where you can walk within 20 metres of a Zebra or 30 of a Giraffe and not be concerned about dangerous animals.



*Walking with the Zebras (above) and Pied Kingfishers (below) were amongst the many waterbirds that were at Naivasha.*

By the afternoon we had made it to the sizable dusty settlement of Nakuru. For a town of this size and demenour, it is hard to believe what lies just a few miles away. No sooner had we entered the park and we were feasting on it's most spectacular feature, the million odd flamingos that call it home. I think we all exhausted our memory cards in quick succession, and at least one participant got to live the dream. Flamingos where the main reason for coming on the tour. So we got to see not just flamingos, but a great selection of mammals too.



*Flamingos and Zebras.*



*Flamingos in the distance (above) and flamingos up close (below), simply spectacular either way!*

The excitement for the day, however, was not yet over, and as we approached our lodge I could tell that the demeanour of our safari guide, Peter, had changed. He was stopping regularly, scanning intently, and looking a little more serious than his normal jovial self. He knew that

something was about in this area. One of the major advantages of having folks who do this circuit every two weeks is that they get to know individual animals really well. Then Peter said, "there he is, look to the right, a Leopard". A sizable and dark male Leopard was striding through long grass, and we were practically the only car that saw him. Such is the nature of these, the most elusive of all big African cats. We were exhilarated, as we had now notched up the Big 5.



*A little distant, but this big leopard was clear and easy to see, much to the delight of our group.*

### **15 August: Nakuru - Baringo**

Having resolved to take no more flamingo pictures this morning, after straining our hard drives last night, with the obscene amount of gigabytes we had to download, we quickly folded when we saw more flamingos and stunningly, both Black and White Rhinoceros posing with them! A handful of Gray-rumped Swallows flitted over the rhinos, and were probably the single most interesting addition to our lists. However, we also relocated a small family of Greater Painted-Snipes that we had seen in a swampy area the night before. We saw a lot of birds we had seen in the previous few days but added little new, and once we had become pinked-out by the flamingos, we moved on.

The terrain quickly became more arid, and the bush thornier and thicker, until we had reached Baringo, where we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch in the shade of some Fig trees until Peter got stung by a bee and we made a rapid exit. We picked up one of the famous Baringo boys as a local guide.



*Sleeping beauty? A Black Rhinoceros (above) and a small family of White Rhinoceros (below). Note the flamingos in the distance!*

This worthwhile initiative has several highly trained young men who add massive value to your time in their area. They are particularly good at helping you locate nocturnal species. But by no means are they slouches with respect to the other more regular species. Although it was still hot, we quickly added the spectacular roosting Slender-tailed Nightjar, Three-banded Courser, Grayish Eagle-Owl, and Southern White-faced Scops Owl. Other species encountered along the way included Red-fronted Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, White-billed Buffalo-Weaver, Northern Red Bishop, and White-bellied Canary.



*Nocturnal specialties found by the Baringo Bird Boys included Slender-tailed Nightjar (above) and Three-banded Courser (below)*

As the heat started to dissipate we made for the Baringo cliffs, in an attempt to start making headway with some of the specialties of the rocky escarpment. We quickly racked up Jackson's and Hemprich's Hornbills, Brown-tailed Rock-chat, Pale Prinia, Three-streaked Tchagra, Gray-backed Fiscal, Fan-tailed Raven, Mouse-colored Penduline Tit, Somali Tit, Bristle-crowned Starling, and Dark-chanting Goshawk. Baringo is an amazing and diverse area and the group was startled by how many new species we'd added in what appeared to be hot and oppressive conditions.

### **16 August: Baringo – Kakamega**

The morning started with a wonderful boat cruise across Baringo. We enjoyed many, many highlights, including superb arm's-length views at kingfishers and magical views of Madagascar Bee-eaters. Crocodiles floated placidly in the waters while queleas and Yellow-crowned Bishop buzzed along the water's edges.



*We had superb looks at Madagascar Bee-eater on our boat trip.*

A reedbed revealed a bevy of interesting weavers including Golden-backed Weaver, Northern Masked Weaver and Northern Brown-throated Weaver. We then made for a fabulous heronry that had many breeding species of herons and egrets. We finished off with an African Fish-Eagle being fed fish near our boat, which was wonderful, and then had a short stroll around the Baringo club gardens, adding Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike, Northern Puffback and Spot-flanked Barbet before making the long drive to Kakamega. As we passed through the Kerio Valley we added Yellow-rumped Seed-eater, White-necked Raven and White-crested Turaco before arriving at the splendid Rondo Retreat late in the afternoon. As the sun dipped below the horizon we were surrounded by mid-montane rainforest, and a habitat so different from that at Baringo, where we started the day. We added a few new forest birds before it became too dark to see, including Northern Black Flycatcher, Double-toothed and

Gray-throated Barbet, and the incredibly noisy Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills.



*Fish Eagle swoops in for the fish (top left), Purple Heron flies over the heronry (top right), Great White Egret in stunning plumage (middle left), Anhinga adult and juvenile (middle right), and sinister Nile Crocodile eyes keeping watch (bottom).*



### **17 & 18 August: Kakamega**

The next couple of days were spent absorbing this incredible forest. Increasingly isolated and under much pressure from adjacent communities, Kakamega is still the major jewel in the Kenyan birding itinerary. The forest here is different to any other in Kenya, and is the only block of forest that is influenced by Congo Basin affinities, and so many of the bird species on this tour are seen here only! Over our two days we had many such species. Waking up before dawn, and without a single light around for miles, we were all taken aback by the number of stars filling the skies. This sight alone would have been enough to make the early rise worthwhile but as the sun rose and the dawn chorus began we were immediately in awe of all the new species around us as well. Our first species of the first day was the magnificent Grey Parrot. While common over much of its range, this species is almost completely extirpated from Kenya. We also nailed the striking and strange Great Blue Turaco, which was nesting within the hotel grounds! It turned out to be a real stunner that everyone enjoyed immensely. Throughout our time here we did very well with barbets, and nailed Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Yellow-billed and Double-toothed Barbets.



*The Yellow-billed Barbet is a hard-to-photograph stunner*

Leaving the hotel grounds we soon began picking up specialty species including the rare but stunning Turner's Eremomela, Bocage's and Luehder's Bushshrikes, White-browed Crombec, Mackinnon's Fiscal, and eye-level views of Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye.



*The demenour of these Guereza Colobus monkeys suggests that they were quite relaxed in our presence*

One of the major highlights of the morning though was walking into a Red-chested Owlet, and shortly afterwards a Least Honeyguide, both highly sought-after species in these parts. With over forty new trip species seen on our morning walk, we made our way back to the hotel for a bit of relaxation. Over the next two days we started knocking off the less common species including Buff-spotted, Brown-eared and Yellow-crested Woodpeckers, Petit's Cuckooshrike, and a slew of sunbirds and greenbuls, including the uncommon Toro Olive and Honeyguide Greenbuls, White-tailed Ant-thrush, and the stunning and secretive Blue-shouldered, Gray-winged and Snowy-headed Robin-chats. While we had planned on heading out again for one afternoon, the tranquility of Rondo Retreat was so enticing that many of us decided to stay in and enjoy the grounds at a slower pace. For those of us that did venture out, afternoon highlights included Square-tailed Drongo, Dusky Tit, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, and Pink-footed Puffback and Red-headed Malimbe. We also spent some time looking for forest floor skulkers and were rewarded with good views of Red-headed Bluebill, Equatorial Akalat, Brown-chested Alethe, Scaly-breasted and Brown Illadopsis and Black-faced Rufous Warbler. Attention to the canopy revealed Uganda Woodland Warbler, garrulous White-headed Woodhoopoe, African Blue Flycatcher, White-chinned and Banded Prinia, and fast-moving Black-collared and Buff-throated Apalis'. We had to work very hard for the two main specialties of this forest, but eventually we came up trumps with looks at Blue-headed Bee-eater and Chapin's Flycatcher. Good mammals in this forest included Red-tailed Monkey, Red-legged Sun Squirrel, African Giant Squirrel and White-tailed Mongoose which streaked across the lawns of our gardens early one morning.



*Kakamega holds many skulkers including Equatorial Akalat (left) and Luehder's Bushshrike (right)*

### **19 August: Kisumu - Mara**

Because we had a very long day today, we loaded into the car early and headed for Kisumu before the sun had had a chance to rise. Driving west towards the Ugandan border the showers seemed to shadow our every move. Soon we saw the looming shadow of Lake Victoria in the distance and after making our way through the small and dilapidated town of Kisumu (including a quick stop at the Pop-con store, yes pop-con), we were on our way and soon were wading through swathes of tall papyrus. We quickly had Red-chested and Coppery Sunbirds, as well as such spectacular species as Black-headed Gonolek, Northern Brown-throated and Black-headed Weavers. We then made for Dunge Swamp. Located on the edge of Lake Victoria, the dense papyrus swamps are home to a number of highly range restricted species. However, our main focus was on one species in particular: Papyrus Gonolek. Within moments of entering the swamps we began to hear this spectacular species calling. However, this would prove to be as much as we could manage. Despite our best efforts the gonolek was heard tantalizingly close but always just out of view. Luckily we consoled ourselves with a host of other highly sought after birds. These included Papyrus Canary, Slender-billed Weaver, and Carruther's Cisticola. With a long drive ahead of us we pulled ourselves away from the swamp and began our journey to the Masai Mara.



*The papyrus swamps near Kisumu hold gonoleks (left) and Red-chested Sunbird (right)*

## 20 August: Masai Mara

The Masai Mara, part of the world famous Serengeti ecosystem, is justly world renowned for its amazing mammal viewing opportunities. We began our day full of anticipation for the wonders we would find here. Of course, mammals had to share equal precedence with the amazing birdlife here. Even before entering the park we were picking up species including the stunning Violet-backed Starling, and the range restricted Usambiro Barbet. Birding was great, with us adding to our tally with Temminck's Courser and several large raptors. However, today was to be a day of Lions and Wildebeest. The antelopes were in the Mara system in abundance, and we had numerous exciting encounters with Lions, including several with kills.



*Young lion walks through the grass (top), columns of Wildebeest on the move (bottom left), vultures gather at a kill (bottom right)*

We were thrilled to find ourselves in the midst of huge herds of Topi, and Grant's and Thompson's Gazelle. In the heat of birthing season, we had the unique chance to see

a plethora of young animals including a baby gazelle just rising to take its first steps and a baby elephant, probably less than a month old, which was still small enough to be blown around by the strong winds. Of course, the cats are always a highlight and we found several large prides of lion as well as a family of four brother cheetahs walking on the open plains.



*One of four brother Cheetahs walks past some gazelle (top), a lioness brings a very fresh zebra baby kill to her cubs (bottom)*

However, the Masai Mara is the type of place where mammals are constantly around. While watching a Long-billed Pipit, the nearby trumpeting of elephant grabbed our attention. We were thrilled to see a tiny baby as the adults stood watch nearby.



*The baby elephants were incredible to watch.*

Returning to our birding, we continued to pick up new species as we ventured farther into the Mara. The most interesting thing to happen though was a huge fire that was spreading through the system. It came close to the ridgeline we were staying on. We watched the strange antics of the animals as they seemed non-chalant as the fire surrounded them. While thrilled with all we had seen, we were all excited to have another full day to explore the Mara coming up.



*The fire that raged close to the herbivores, we were to see the effect of that the following day (above). Wattled Lapwings calling in distress as the fire approaches (below).*

### **21 August: Masai Mara**

Located on the Mara escarpment, we awoke at Mara West Camp to a stunning sunrise over the plains below. One of our party had decided at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to go on a balloon safari, and we had managed to line this up. Our attention was soon torn from this fantastic view as a pair of equally stunning Ross's Turaco flew into the trees just behind our luxury tents. These large purple-blue birds with a shock of a red crest and yellow eye skin immediately had our blood pumping before entering the Mara proper. As we had satiated our thirst for mammals on the previous day, we focused primarily on birding. We returned to the area where the fire had been the previous day and found some incredible things.



*A Crowned Lapwing patrolled the grass looking for crispy grasshoppers (above). Vultures and Marabou Storks pick bugs off the charred remains of carcasses that suffered in the fire (below).*



We drove through the park to the eastern margin, picking up more birds and mammals en route. We located another leopard, and then towards the end of the day found the most magnificent male Lion sitting appropriately on top of a rock.



**22 August: Masai Mara - Nairobi**

We only had a few hours remaining in this magical park before we had to make our long return trip to Nairobi. But we made the most of it, finding more lions, with more kills! Does it ever end.



Before long though, we were making our long return trip to Nairobi, and the end of a very successful tour. Two participants had decided on an Amboseli add-on, and Keith joined them for that, while the Aussie contingent returned home. All they could say, was "Crickey!, that was beeeuuuuuuutiful"

### **23 & 24 August: Amboseli NP**

For a couple of extra days we headed down to Amboseli, where one of the big aims, was to get a view of Kilimanjaro. However, Amboseli is a pretty amazing place and we racked up more wildlife and birds. The arid corridor woodlands added species like Pink-breasted Lark, Ashy and Tiny Cisticolas, we also found Black-faced Sandgrouse and Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher. The wetlands teemed with waterbirds including many shorebirds and the amazing Saddle-billed Stork. However, mammals were again a feature of this wild ecosystem. In particular, Elephants were abundant, and we also saw many Hyaenas and even a Serval Cat. On the one evening we got brief but hazy views of Kili, we could see the glaciers and the sheer massif, but the couple wanted more, so they took a balloon ride on their last morning, but unfortunately the mountain would not show! Oh, well, something to come back for!



*The Collared (or Red-winged) Pratincoles were common and many had chicks. I set myself the target of scoring a photo of one in flight and finally succeeded with this shot!*



*Amboseli is famous for its bull Elephants. Here two males indulge in some hargy-bargy (above) before deciding who the real dominant male was. The Gray Crowned-Cranes had a large chick (below).*



*We found a Hyaena den, and watched these two young-uns cavorting around for some time (above), and the Long-toed Lapwing (below) in stunning light at the swamp.*



*The Saddle-billed Storks were very cooperative. We found both male and female adults with two well grown chicks. They seemed very unconcerned by any close approach, and we took advantage of that for some fun photography.*



*Wattled Starlings catch the ultimate ride aboard a Jumbo.*

**25 August: Amboseli NP - Nairobi**

After a lazy morning and a good bit of photography we trundled back to Nairobi where we had a last dinner and the tour drew to a close.

## BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow: **Clements, James F. 2000. *Birds of the World: A Checklist. Fifth Edition.* Vista, CA: Ibis Publishing Co.** Includes recent updates.

All the birds on this list were seen by at least one person in the group other than the leader, except those marked with an 'LO' = leader only or 'HO' = heard only. 534 bird species were recorded on the tour.



### Bird List:

(Common) Ostrich  
Little Grebe (Dabchick)  
Great White Pelican  
Pink-backed Pelican  
Great (White-breasted) Cormorant  
Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant  
Darter  
Gray Heron  
Black-headed Heron  
Goliath Heron  
Purple Heron  
Great Egret (Egret)

*Struthio camelus*  
*Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
*Pelecanus onocrotalus*  
*Pelecanus rufescens*  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*  
*Phalacrocorax africanus*  
*Anhinga melanogaster*  
*Ardea cinerea*  
*Ardea melanocephala*  
*Ardea goliath*  
*Ardea purpurea*  
*Ardea alba*

Black Egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
(Common) Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>
Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
African Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Red-billed (Teal) Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
(African) White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Rueppell's Griffon (Vulture)	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Black-breasted Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Eastern Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>



Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus spilogaster</i>
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila ayresii</i>
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
(African) Crowned Hawk-Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
Secretary-bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Eurasian (Rock) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Crested Francolin	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>
Scaly Francolin	<i>Francolinus squamatus</i> HO
Yellow-necked Francolin (Spurfowl)	<i>Francolinus leucoscepus</i>
Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl)	<i>Francolinus afer</i>
Jackson's Francolin	<i>Francolinus jacksoni</i>
Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Gray (Southern) Crowned-Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i> HO
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
Buff-crested Bustard	<i>Eupodotis gindiana</i>
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
Hartlaub's Bustard	<i>Lissotis hartlaubi</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee (Dikkop)	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
Double-banded Courser	<i>Smutornis africanus</i>
Three-banded (Heuglin's) Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
Blacksmith Plover	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>

Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Greater Sandplover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Gray-headed Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
White-winged (Black) Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>
Black-faced Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>
Rock (Feral) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled (Rock) Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Rameron Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Delegorgue's (Eastern Bronze-naped) Pigeon	<i>Columba delegorguei</i>
Lemon (Cinnamon) Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Dusky Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>
African Mourning Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>
Fischer's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>
Gray Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>
Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>
Meyer's (Brown) Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>
Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>
Hartlaub's Turaco	<i>Tauraco hartlaubi</i>
White-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco leucocephalus</i>
Ross's Turaco	<i>Musophaga rossae</i>
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>

White-bellied Go-away-bird  
Red-chested Cuckoo  
Black Cuckoo  
Klaas's Cuckoo  
African Emerald Cuckoo  
Dideric Cuckoo  
Yellowbill  
Blue-headed Coucal  
White-browed Coucal  
African Scops-Owl  
Southern White-faced (Scops) Owl  
Grayish Eagle-Owl  
Pearl-spotted Owlet  
Red-chested Owlet  
Sombre Nightjar  
Abyssinian (Montane) Nightjar  
Slender-tailed Nightjar  
African Palm-Swift  
Alpine Swift  
Mottled Swift  
Nyanza Swift  
Common (Eurasian) Swift  
Little Swift  
White-rumped Swift  
Speckled Mousebird  
Blue-naped Mousebird  
Malachite Kingfisher  
African Pygmy-Kingfisher  
Gray-headed (Gray-hooded) Kingfisher  
Woodland Kingfisher  
Striped Kingfisher  
Giant Kingfisher  
Pied Kingfisher  
White-fronted Bee-eater  
Blue-headed Bee-eater  
Little Bee-eater  
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater  
White-throated Bee-eater  
Madagascar Bee-eater  
Lilac-breasted Roller  
Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller  
Hoopoe  
Green (Red-billed) Woodhoopoe  
White-headed Woodhoopoe  
Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill  
Abyssinian Scimitarbill

*Corythaixoides leucogaster*  
*Cuculus solitarius*  
*Cuculus clamosus*  
*Chrysococcyx klaas*  
*Chrysococcyx cupreus*  
*Chrysococcyx caprius*  
*Ceuthmochares aereus*  
*Centropus monachus* HO  
*Centropus superciliosus*  
*Otus senegalensis*  
*Ptilopsis granti*  
*Bubo cinerascens*  
*Glaucidium perlatum* HO  
*Glaucidium tephronotum*  
*Caprimulgus frenatus*  
*Caprimulgus poliocephalus*  
*Caprimulgus clarus*  
*Cypsiurus parvus*  
*Tachymarptis melba*  
*Tachymarptis aequatorialis*  
*Apus niansae*  
*Apus apus*  
*Apus affinis*  
*Apus caffer*  
*Colius striatus*  
*Urocolius macrourus*  
*Alcedo cristata*  
*Ispidina picta*  
*Halcyon leucocephala*  
*Halcyon senegalensis*  
*Halcyon chelicuti*  
*Megaceryle maximus*  
*Ceryle rudis*  
*Merops bullockoides*  
*Merops muelleri*  
*Merops pusillus*  
*Merops oreobates*  
*Merops albicollis*  
*Merops persicus*  
*Coracias caudata*  
*Coracias naevia*  
*Upupa epops*  
*Phoeniculus purpureus*  
*Phoeniculus bollei*  
*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*  
*Rhinopomastus minor*

Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
Jackson's Hornbill	<i>Tockus jacksoni</i>
Von der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>
Hemprich's Hornbill	<i>Tockus hemprichii</i>
African Gray Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna brevis</i>
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna subcylindricus</i>
Gray-throated Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco bonapartei</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchailloi</i>
Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>
Red-fronted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema diademata</i>
Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lachrymosa</i>
Black-throated Barbet	<i>Tricholaema melanocephala</i>
White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>
Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>
Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>
Red-and-yellow Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>
D'Arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii</i>
Usambiro Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus usambiro</i>
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i> HO
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Least Honeyguide	<i>Indicator exilis</i>
Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>
Brown-eared Woodpecker	<i>Campethera caroli</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>
Golden-crowned (Yellow-crested) Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos xantholophus</i>
Gray Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>
Gray-headed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos spodocephalus</i>
Singing Bushlark	<i>Mirafra cantillans</i>
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Foxy (Fawn-colored, Abyssinian) Lark	<i>Calendulauda alopex</i>
Pink-breasted Lark	<i>Mirafra poicilosterna</i>
Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Plain (Brown-throated Sand) Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Gray-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Barn (European) Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>

Wire-tailed Swallow  
Lesser Striped-Swallow  
Mosque Swallow  
Red-rumped Swallow  
White-headed Sawwing  
Blue (Black) Sawwing  
African Pied Wagtail  
Cape Wagtail  
Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail  
Yellow-throated Longclaw  
Rosy-throated Longclaw  
Pangani Longclaw  
Sharpe's Longclaw  
Plain-backed Pipit  
African (Grassveld) Pipit  
Long-billed Pipit  
Nairobi Pipit  
Gray Cuckoo-shrike  
Petit's Cuckoo-shrike  
Black Cuckoo-shrike  
Dodson's Bulbul  
Common (Black-eyed) Bulbul  
Little Greenbul  
Shelley's [Kakamega] Greenbul  
(Little) Gray Greenbul  
Slender-billed Greenbul  
Yellow-whiskered Bulbul  
Eastern (Black-headed) Mountain-Greenbul  
Honeyguide Greenbul  
Joyful Greenbul  
Cabanis's Greenbul  
Toro Olive Greenbul  
Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill  
Pale-breasted Illadopsis  
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis  
Brown Illadopsis  
Grey-chested Illadopsis  
Abyssinian Hill Babbler  
Rufous Chatterer  
Black-lored Babbler  
Northern Pied-Babbler  
Arrow-marked Babbler  
White-tailed Ant-Thrush  
Mountain (Olive) Thrush  
African Thrush  
Spotted Morning Thrush

*Hirundo smithii*  
*Cecropis abyssinica*  
*Cecropis senegalensis*  
*Cecropis daurica*  
*Psalidoprocne albiceps*  
*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*  
*Motacilla aguimp*  
*Motacilla capensis*  
*Motacilla clara*  
*Macronyx croceus*  
*Macronyx ameliae*  
*Macronyx aurantiigula*  
*Hemimacronyx sharpei*  
*Anthus leucophrys*  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*  
*Anthus similis*  
*Anthus chyuluensis*  
*Coracina caesia*  
*Campephaga petiti*  
*Campephaga flava*  
*Pycnonotus dodsoni*  
*Pycnonotus barbatus*  
*Andropadus virescens*  
*Andropadus masukuensis*  
*Andropadus gracilis*  
*Andropadus gracilirostris*  
*Andropadus latirostris*  
*Andropadus nigriceps*  
*Baepogon indicator*  
*Chlorocichla laetissima*  
*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*  
*Phyllastrephus hypochloris*  
*Bleda syndactyla*  
*Illadopsis rufipennis*  
*Illadopsis albipectus*  
*Illadopsis fulvescens*  
*Kakamega poliothorax* HO  
*Illadopsis abyssinica*  
*Turdoides rubriginosus*  
*Turdoides sharpei*  
*Turdoides hypoleucus*  
*Turdoides jardineii*  
*Neocossyphus poensis*  
*Turdus olivaceus*  
*Turdus pelios*  
*Cichladusa guttata*

Cape Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Rueppell's Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha semirufa</i>
Blue-shouldered Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>
Snowy-headed Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
Gray-winged Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha polioptera</i>
White-starred (Starred) Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>
Equatorial Akalat	<i>Sheppardia aequatorialis</i>
Brown-backed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas hartlaubi</i>
Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Familiar (Red-tailed) Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>
Brown-tailed (Rock) Chat	<i>Cercomela scotocerca</i>
Moorland (Alpine) Chat	<i>Cercomela sordida</i>
Common [African] Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Mourning (Schalow's) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Northern Anteater-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>
Sooty Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla nigra</i>
Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Brown-chested Alethe	<i>Alethe poliocephala</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Chapin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa lendu</i>
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>
African Gray Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>
White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>
Northern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
Southern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
African Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>
White-tailed Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus albonotata</i>
Dusky Crested-Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus nigromitratus</i>
African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>
Trilling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>
Chubb's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chubbi</i>
Ashy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cinereous</i>
Tinkling (Levaillant's) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Hunter's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola hunteri</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Wailing [Lynes's] Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais [distinctus]</i>
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>
Carruthers's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola carruthersi</i>
Stout Cisticola	<i>Cisticola robustus</i>
Aberdare Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberdare</i>
Tiny Cisticola	<i>Cisticola nana</i>
Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>

Pectoral-patch Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Pale Prinia	<i>Prinia somalica</i>
White-chinned Prinia	<i>Prinia leucopogon</i>
Banded Prinia	<i>Prinia bairdii</i>
Gray-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>
Red-fronted Warbler	<i>Urohipis rufifrons</i>
Black-collared Apalis	<i>Apalis pulchra</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Buff-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis rufogularis</i>
Chestnut-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis porphyrolaema</i>
Black-headed Apalis	<i>Apalis melanocephala</i>
Gray Apalis	<i>Apalis cinerea</i>
Black-collared Apalis	<i>Apalis jacksoni</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera b. [brevicaudata]</i>
Olive-green Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>
Gray Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes simplex</i>
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>
White-winged Warbler	<i>Bradypterus carpalis</i> HO
African Sedge Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus cinnamomeus</i>
Evergreen Forest Warbler	<i>Bradypterus lopezi</i>
(African) Moustached Grass-Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>
African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler	<i>Chloropeta natalensis</i>
Mountain Yellow Warbler	<i>Chloropeta similis</i>
Banded Warbler	<i>Parisoma boehmi</i>
Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Turner's Eremomela	<i>Eremomela turneri</i>
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>
White-browed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta leucophrys</i>
Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>
Yellow-bellied Hyliota	<i>Hyliota flavigaster</i> HO
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>
Black-faced Rufous Warbler	<i>Bathmocercus rufus</i>
Uganda Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus budongensis</i>
Brown Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>
Broad-tailed Warbler	<i>Schoenicola brevirostris</i> HO
African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Broad-ringed (Montane) White-eye	<i>Zosterops poliogastrus</i>
White-breasted (Abyssinian) White-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>
Black-and-white Shrike Flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
African Shrike-Flycatcher	<i>Megabias flammulatus</i>
Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
Jameson's Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira jamesoni</i>

Black-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira peltata</i>
Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira concreta</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Pygmy Batis	<i>Batis perkeo</i>
White-bellied Tit	<i>Melaniparus albiventris</i>
Dusky Tit	<i>Melaniparus funereus</i>
White-shouldered Tit	<i>Melaniparus guineensis</i>
Somali (Northern Gray) Tit	<i>Melaniparus thruppi</i>
Red-throated Tit	<i>Melaniparus fringillarum</i>
Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit	<i>Anthoscopus musculus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Pink-footed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus angolensis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>
Brown-crowned (Three-streaked) Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Three-streaked Tchagra	<i>Tchagra jamesi</i>
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>
Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>
Luehder's Bushshrike	<i>Laniarius luehderi</i>
Black-headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>
Papyrus Gonolek	<i>Laniarius mufumbiri</i>
Gray-green (Bocage's) Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus bocagei</i>
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
Black-fronted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus nigrifrons</i> HO
Doherty's Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus doherti</i> HO
Gray-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i> HO
Gray-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>
Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)	<i>Lanius mackinnoni</i>
Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>
Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>
Common Fiscal (Shrike)	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
White-rumped (Northern White-crowned) Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>
Western Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>
African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole	<i>Oriolus percivali</i>
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Fork-tailed (Common) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Cape (Black) Crow (Rook)	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>
White-necked (White-necked) Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Stuhlmann's Starling	<i>Poeoptera stuhlmanni</i>
Kenrick's Starling	<i>Poeoptera kenricki</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Waller's Starling	<i>Onychognathus walleri</i>



Bristle-crowned Starling	<i>Onychognathus salvadorii</i>
Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Rueppell's (Long-tailed) Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuropterus</i>
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendens</i>
Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>
Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>
Fisher's Starling	<i>Spreo fisheri</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Tacazze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>
Bronze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>
Golden-winged Sunbird	<i>Drepanorhynchus reichenowi</i>
Red-tufted (Scarlet-tufted Malachite) Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia johnstoni</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
Eastern Olive-Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Eastern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mediocris</i>
Northern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris preussi</i>
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cuprea</i>
Mariqua (Marico) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
Red-chested Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris erythrocerca</i>
Variable (Yellow-bellied) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
Amethyst (Black) Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Green-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra rubescens</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
Kenya (Eastern) Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes orientalis</i>
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Kenya [Rufous] Sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>
Gray-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Parrot-billed Sparrow	<i>Passer gongonensis</i>
Swaheli Sparrow	<i>Passer suahelicus</i>
Chestnut Sparrow	<i>Passer eminiibey</i>
Yellow-spotted Petronia	<i>Petronia pyrgita</i>
White-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>
White-headed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>
Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Gray-headed (Gray-capped) Social-Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaudi</i>
Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>
Lesser Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>

Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Northern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus castanops</i>
Taveta Golden-Weaver	<i>Ploceus castaniceps</i>
Orange Weaver	<i>Ploceus aurantius</i>
Northern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus taeniopterus</i>
Vitelline Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>
Village (Black-headed) Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>
Slender-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>
Yellow-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>
Forest (Dark-backed) Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>
Brown-capped Weaver	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>
Black-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanogaster</i>
Vieillot's (Black) Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbe rubricollis</i>
Jackson's Widowbird	<i>Euplectes jacksoni</i>
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
Yellow (Yellow-rumped) Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes fransiscanus</i>
Parasitic Weaver	<i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>
Gray-headed Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita canicapilla</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Abyssinian Crimsonwing	<i>Cryptospiza salvadorii</i>
Red-headed Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga ruficapilla</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Blue-capped Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>
Purple Grenadier	<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	<i>Estrilda quartinia</i>
Fawn-breasted Waxbill	<i>Estrilda paludicola</i>
Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Kandt's [Black-headed] Waxbill	<i>Estrilda kandti</i>
Black-cheeked (Black-faced) Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
African Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza fuscocrissa</i>

African Silverbill  
Bronze Mannikin  
Black-and-white Mannikin  
Cut-throat (Finch)  
Village Indigobird (Widowfinch)  
Pin-tailed Whydah  
Eastern Paradise Whydah  
(African) Golden-breasted Bunting  
Oriole Finch  
Yellow-crowned [Cape] Canary  
Western Citril  
Southern [East African] Citril  
Papyrus Canary  
Reichenow's (Yellow-rumped) Seedeater  
Yellow-fronted Canary  
White-bellied Canary  
Brimstone (Bully) Canary  
Streaky Seedeater  
Thick-billed Seedeater

*Lonchura cantans*  
*Spermestes cucullatus*  
*Spermestes bicolor*  
*Amadina fasciata*  
*Vidua chalybeata*  
*Vidua macroura*  
*Vidua paradisea*  
*Emberiza flaviventris*  
*Linurgus olivaceus*  
*Serinus flavivertex*  
*Serinus frontalis*  
*Serinus citrinelloides*  
*Serinus koliensis*  
*Serinus reichenowi*  
*Serinus mozambicus*  
*Serinus dorsostriatus*  
*Serinus sulphuratus*  
*Serinus striolatus*  
*Serinus burtoni*

**Mammal List:**

Black-and-white (Guereza) Colobus  
Olive Baboon  
Yellow Baboon  
Vervet Monkey  
Gentle (Sykes) Monkey  
Red-tailed Monkey  
Scrub Hare  
Cape Hare  
Unstriped Ground Squirrel  
Carruther's Mountain Squirrel  
Ochre Bush Squirrel  
Huet's Bush squirrel  
Red-legged Sun Squirrel  
Giant Forest Squirrel  
Black-backed Jackal  
Side-striped Jackal  
Banded Mongoose  
White-tailed Mongoose  
Spotted Hyaena  
Wild Cat  
Serval Cat  
Leopard  
Lion  
Cheetah  
Black-necked Rock Hyrax

*Colobus guereza*  
*Papio anubis*  
*Papio cyanocephalus*  
*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*  
*Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*  
*Cercopithecus ascanius*  
*Lepus saxatilis*  
*Lepus capensis*  
*Xerus rutilus*  
*Funisciurus carruthersi*  
*Paraxerus ochraceus*  
*Paraxerus kahari*  
*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*  
*Protoxerus stangeri*  
*Canis mesomelus*  
*Canis adustus*  
*Mungos mungo*  
*Ichneumia albicauda*  
*Crocuta crocuta*  
*Felis sylvestris*  
*Felis serval*  
*Panthera pardus*  
*Panthera leo*  
*Acinonyx jubatus*  
*Procapra johnstoni*

Southern Tree Hyrax  
African Elephant  
Common (Boehm's) Zebra  
Black Rhinoceros  
White Rhinoceros  
Hippopotamus  
Giant Forest Hog  
Common Warthog  
Masai Giraffe  
Rothschild's Giraffe  
African (Cape) Buffalo  
Bushbuck  
Eland  
Oribi  
Suni  
Kirk's Dikdik  
Bohor Reedbuck  
Waterbuck  
Thomson's (Red-fronted) Gazelle  
Grant's Gazelle  
Impala  
Topi  
Coke's Hartebeest  
White-bearded Gnu  
Striped Grass Mouse  
Large-footed Rat

*Dendrohyrax arboreus*  
*Loxodonta africana*  
*Equus quagga boehmi*  
*Diceros bicornis*  
*Ceratotherium simum*  
*Hippopotamus amphibius*  
*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*  
*Pharcochoerus africanus*  
*Giraffa tippelskirchi*  
*Giraffa rothschildi*  
*Syncerus caffer*  
*Tragelaphus scriptus*  
*Taurotragus oryx*  
*Ourebia ourebi*  
*Nesotragus moschatus*  
*Madoqua kirkii*  
*Redunca redunca*  
*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*  
*Gazella rufifrons*  
*Gazella granti*  
*Aepyceros melampus*  
*Damaliscus korrigum*  
*Alcelaphus buselaphus cokei*  
*Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus*  
*Lemnicomys striatus*