Field Guides Tour Report

East Africa Highlights: Kenya & Tanzania 2014

Jan 18, 2014 to Feb 7, 2014
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For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE.

Our 2014 East Africa Highlights tour followed our well-tried route visiting many of the best areas of Kenya and Tanzania in just 21 days. In total contrast to our other departure just two months previously, Tanzania was now lush and green, Kenya dry, but with the Rift Valley lakes still at record highs.

So, just how did this work out for the birds and mammals? In two short words -- just great -- with a fraction shy of 500 bird species and more than 50 mammals. Birding highlights varied from ostrich, francolins, and bustards on the plains, to a wealth of waterbirds at the lakes, eagles, vultures, and bateleurs across the open skies, to turacos, barbets, wattle-eyes, and weavers performing for us in the forests, and a huge variety of bushshrikes, greenbuls, apalis, cisticolas, chats, and gorgeous starlings and sunbirds providing showy spectacles in almost every habitat imaginable.

Our mammal list was truly spectacular too, with the cats not only including Lion, Leopard, and Cheetah, but also the rarely seen Serval and Caracal. Nocturnal 'specials' included a huge black morph Bush-Pig and the strange Ratel (both in daylight). African Elephant, Black Rhino, and Spotted Hyaena were also enjoyed, while the hundreds of thousands of gazelles, wildebeest, and zebra provided an ever shifting backdrop to the numerous wonderful wildlife experiences we all enjoyed.

Beginning in Nairobi, the nearby open country of the national park give us our very first Ostrich, Secretary-bird, and Gray Crowned-Cranes, while in the acacia bush we added Little Bee-eater, Long-tailed Fiscal, Northern Pied-Babbler, and Superb Starling. We saw more than a dozen species of mammals during our first afternoon, but without doubt two male Black Rhino disputing a territorial boundary was the highlight of the day.

Heading to Tanzania we made stops along the way for Eastern Chanting-Goshawk and Lilac-breasted Roller, but 30 minutes in the bush near Kajiado was the most productive, as we added Spot-flanked Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Chinspot Batis, the endemic Red-throated Tit, African Bare-eyed Thrush, Golden-breasted Bunting, and Southern Grosbeak-Canary. After a night at the most comfortable Gibb's Farm, we all enjoyed a total change of pace and habitat, with our morning walk in the forest behind the lodge providing Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, African Emerald Cuckoo, Narina's Trogon, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Moustached Tinkerbird, Black-fronted Bushshrike, African Paradise-Flycatcher, Brown-headed Apalis, Gray-capped Warbler, and Variable Sunbird.

A short drive to the rim of Ngorongoro Crater gave us one of the world's most spectacular views, and we all retired early with great expectations for the day to follow. Taking our 4X4 Landcruiser to the crater floor itself, we were not disappointed, with Abdim's Stork and Kori Bustards feeding on the grassy plains, our first Long-crested Eagle, Blacksmith, Crowned, and Black-winged lapwings, Greater Painted-snipe at the hippo-pool, Northern Anteater-Chat, Hildebrandt's Starling, both Red-billed and Yellow-billed oxpeckers, Rosy-throated Longclaw, and the endemic Rufous-tailed Weaver. Mammals included our first close-up Black-backed Jackal, the nocturnal Ratel, Lion, African Elephant, African Buffalo, Warthog, Hippo, and a variety of gazelles and antelopes.

From Ngorongoro we then continued west to Oldupai (formerly Olduvai) Gorge, where the Leakeys made many of their famous archaeological discoveries. We enjoyed a brief lecture here and then continued on to Seronera Lodge built on an ancient kopje in the middle of the vast Serengeti plains. Being based here for three nights gave us time to slowly drive the grassland tracks and through the more wooded areas, finding such varied birds as Helmeted Guineafowl, the endemic Gray-breasted Francolin, both Greater and Lesser flamingos (at a seasonal alkaline lake), Hamerkop, 26 species of raptors, super tame Black Crakes, Temminck's and Double-banded coursers, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Tanzania Red-billed Hornbill, Southern Ground-hornbill, Fischer's Lovebird (another endemic), Croaking Cisticola, Black-lobed Babbler, Pangani Longclaw, Gray-headed Social-Weaver, and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu. The mammals, were of course, incomparable, with great looks at Lion, Leopard, Cheetah
The final leg of the Tanzania portion of our tour was to Tarangire, a gorgeous area of dry-bushed grassland, marsh, a river, and wonderful huge baobab trees. It's also the best place to see the endemic Yellow-collared Lovebird and Ashy Starling (we saw many of both), plus Red-necked and Yellow-necked francolins, Saddle-billed Stork, Water Thick-knee, African Jacana, Black-faced Sandgrouse, African Cuckoo, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Red-billed Parrot, Magpie Shrike, Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver, Yellow-crowned Bishop, and Eastern Paradise-Whydah. Mammals included another Leopard, and our closest encounters of the tour with African Elephant.

We then spent the final week of our tour in Kenya, starting in the Great Rift Valley at Lake Nakuru. As the lake was at record high levels, its alkalinity had changed and accordingly so had the birds. Flamingo numbers were great, with about 300 Greaters and 1500 Lessers, however, the number of species of other waterbirds was exceptional, with great looks along the southern shore at a variety of ducks, storks, cormorants, both Great White and Pink-backed pelicans, herons, egrets, African Spoonbill, gulls and terns, and a good selection of both resident and migrant shorebirds. Highlights in the wooded grasslands were White-fronted Bee-eater, a stunning Northern Carmine Bee-eater (very unusual here), the rare Gray-crested Helmetshrike, and some close Rothschild's Giraffes.

We then left the Rift Valley behind, stopping briefly at Lake Victoria, before continuing on for a three-night stay at the Rondo Retreat in Kakamiga Forest. As always the slower pace and good trails facilitated some excellent birding, with just a few of the species we added here including Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Great Blue Turaco, Blue-headed Bee-eater, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Yellow-billed and Yellow-spotted barbets, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Luehder's Bushshrike, Western Black-headed Oriole, 11 species of greenbulbs, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, Turner's Eremomela, the rare Chapin's Flycatcher, Stuhlmann's Starling, Forest Weaver, and Red-headed Bluebill.

To complete the tour we began our drive back to Nairobi, but first spent a night on the slopes of Mt. Kenya at Mountain Lodge. Here, from the flat roof top overlooking a floodlit salt-lick and waterhole, we were surprised to see a Black Stork, while the flocks of Delegorgue's Pigeon (a local specialty) appeared right on cue. Scarce Swifts flew overhead, noisy Hartlaub's Turacos showed themselves in the canopy, Gray Apalis, Broad-ringed White-eye, and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds moved through the middle-levels, while Tropical Boubous and endemic Hunter's Cisticolas preferred the lower levels. Perhaps most interesting, though, was a confrontation between a group of elephants and hyaenas, the to-and-fro movements, the trumpeting of the elephants, mock runs and charges, while all the time the hyaenas made testing forward movements -- perhaps watching for a weak or injured baby? Strange behavior indeed, and just one reason why so many visitors return for second and third tours to Africa's best wildlife destination -- a stay in the African bush always provides the unexpected!

--Terry

KEYS FOR THIS LIST
One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Struthionidae (Ostrich)

OSTRICH (COMMON) (Struthio camelus massaicus) – First seen in Nairobi NP, and then mainly in other similar grassland areas like Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti, we also saw a few at Baringo; with a total for the tour of about 120.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK (Dendrocygna viduata) – Two at Tarangire, and 2 at Limuru Pond.
FULLVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK (Dendrocygna bicolor) – One at Tarangire, and about a dozen at Limuru Pond.
WHITE-BACKED DUCK (Thalassornis leuconotus) – One at Tarangire, and about 100 at Limuru Pond.
COMB DUCK (OLD WORLD) (Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos) – We saw a single female at a pool in the Serengeti.
EGYPTIAN GOOSE (Alopochen aegyptiacus) – Very common and widespread at wetlands throughout the tour.
SPUR-WINGED GOOSE (Plectropterus gambensis) – Two at Ngorongoro, and 1 at Tarangire.
NORTHERN SHOVELER (Anas clypeata) – About 30 at Ngorongoro, 12 at Limuru Pond, and 20 at Nakuru.
RED-BILLED DUCK (Anas erythrorhyncha) – Small numbers were widespread at wetlands throughout the tour.
HOTTENTOT TEAL (Anas hottentota) – Ten at Nakuru was the highest number, but we also had a few at a variety of other wetlands.
GARGANEY (Anas querquedula) – Five at Nakuru.
CAPE TEAL (Anas capensis) – About 60 at 'Magadi' in the Serengeti.
SOUTHERN POCHARD (Netta erythrophthalma) – We saw a single male at Limuru Pond.
MACCOA DUCK (Oxyura maccoa) – Five males at Limuru Pond.

Numididae (Guineafowl)

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL (Numida meleagris) – Very common and widespread in grassland and bush country.
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

COQUI FRANCOLIN (Francolinus coqui) – Eight in the Serengeti, and 4 at Tarangire.
CRESTED FRANCOLIN (Francolinus sephaena) – About 10 at Tarangire.
SCALY FRANCOLIN (Francolinus squamatus) – Heard at Mountain Lodge.
HILDEBRANDT’S FRANCOLIN (Francolinus hildebrandti) – Eight at Ngorongoro.
YELLOW-NECKED FRANCOLIN (Francolinus leucoscepus) – About 100 at Tarangire.
GRAY-BREASTED FRANCOLIN (Francolinus rufopictus) – Good looks at about 10 of this Tanzania endemic in the Serengeti.
RED-NECKED FRANCOLIN (Francolinus afer) – About 80 at Tarangire.
HARLEQUIN QUAIL (Coturnix delegorguei) – Two were flushed by our vehicle in the Serengeti.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LITTLE GREBE (Tachybaptus ruficollis) – Common and widespread at a variety of wetlands throughout the tour.

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

GREATER FLAMINGO (Phoenicopterus roseus) – About 60 at Ngorongoro, 5 in the Serengeti, and 300+ at Nakuru.
LESSER FLAMINGO (Phoenicopterus minor) – About 2000 (distantly) at Ngorongoro, good looks at 80 in the Serengeti, and about 1500 at Nakuru.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

AFRICAN OPENBILL (Anastomus lamelligerus) – About 120 at Tarangire, a dozen over Limuru, and 1 at Kisumu.
BLACK STORK (Ciconia nigra) – One at the waterhole at Mountain Lodge.
ABDIM’S STORK (Ciconia abdimii) – Well over a thousand in Ngorongoro Crater, and about 350 in the Serengeti.
WHITE STORK (Ciconia ciconia) – Surprisingly few this year, with only about a dozen in the Serengeti, 3 at Nairobi, and then about 35 near Nakuru.
SADDLE-BILLED STORK (Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis) – An adult and an immature on a nest at Tarangire, and then 2 adults along the shore at Nakuru.
MARABOU STORK (Leptoptilos crumenifer) – Common and widespread; in all we saw about 200.
YELLOW-BILLED STORK (Mycteria ibis) – Four hundred at a distant colony at Lake Manyara were by far the most together, but we also saw about another 100 at a variety of scattered wetlands.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

GREAT CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo) – About 80 at Nakuru.
LONG-TAILED CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax africanus) – Five at Limuru Pond, and 1 at Lake Baringo.

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

AFRICAN DARTER (Anhinga rufa rufa) – Singles at Nairobi NP, Ngorongoro Crater, and at Baringo.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

GREAT WHITE PELICAN (Pelecanus onocrotalus) – About 150 at Nakuru, and 2 at Ngorongoro.
PINK-BACKED PELICAN (Pelecanus rufescens) – Good close looks at about 20 at Nakuru.

Scopidae (Hamerkop)

HAMERKOP (Scopus umbretta) – Widespread in small numbers; and some interesting interactions with the local fisher-women on the shores of Lake Victoria.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

LITTLE BITTERN (Ixobrychus minutus) – One at the hippo-pool in Ngorongoro Crater.
GRAY HERON (Ardea cinerea) – Widespread in small numbers.
BLACK-HEADED HERON (Ardea melanocephala) – Similar looking to the previous species, but far more common; in all we saw about 140.
PURPLE HERON (Ardea purpurea) – We had good looks at a single immature in Ngorongoro Crater.
GREAT EGRET (Ardea alba) – Singles at Tarangire, Lake Victoria and Lake Baringo, and also 10 at Nakuru.
INTERMEDIATE EGRET (Mesophoyx intermedia) – Widespread in small numbers with a total of about 12.
LITTLE EGRET (Egretta garzetta) – Ten at Nakuru, about 20 at Lake Victoria, and 1 at Baringo.
CATTLE EGRET (Bubulcus ibis) – Common and widespread.
SQUACCO HERON (Ardeola ralloides) – Good scope views of 1 at Limuru Pond, and 1 at Lake Baringo.
STRIATED HERON (Butorides striata) – Three at Lake Baringo.
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (Nycticorax nycticorax) – One at Nairobi NP.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GLOSSY IBIS (Plegadis falcinellus) – One at the hippo-pool in Ngorongoro Crater.
SACRED IBIS (Threskiornis aethiopicus) – Common and widespread.
HADADA IBIS (Bostrychia hagedash) – Widespread in small numbers.
AFRICAN SPONDBILL (Platelia alba) – Four in Nairobi NP, and about 25 at Nakuru.

Sagittariidae (Secretary-bird)

SECRETARY-BIRD (Sagittarius serpentarius) – Widespread in national parks with open grassland; we saw a total of 18.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (Elanus caeruleus) – Small numbers were widespread in open country; with a total of about 25.
AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK (Polyboroides typus) – Two single adults at Tarangire.
WHITE-HEADED VULTURE (Trigononoeps occipitalis) – Nice looks at 1 in flight over the Serengeti.
LAPPET-FACED VULTURE (Torgos tracheliotus) – Most common in the Serengeti (25), but we also saw them at Ngorongoro (8), and Tarangire (5).
HOODED VULTURE (Necrosyrtes monachus) – One over the Serengeti.
WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (Gyps africanus) – The most common and widespread vulture; in all we saw about 220.
RUEPELL’S GRIFFON (Gyps rueppellii) – About 30 in the Serengeti, including some right next to our vehicle feeding on a dead wildebeest.
BATELEUR (Terathopius ecaudatus) – A gorgeous eagle of the open skies; in all we saw about 25.
BLACK-BREASTED SNAKE-EAGLE (Circaetus pectoralis) – Two in the Serengeti, and 1 at Tarangire.
BROWN SNAKE-EAGLE (Circaetus cinereus) – Two singles in the Serengeti.
BANDED SNAKE-EAGLE (Circaetus cineraescens) – Good looks at one in the Kerio Valley (first perched and then flying away carrying a snake).
BAT HAWK (Macheiramphus alcinus) – Great day time scope views of 1 at Kakamega Forest.
CROWNEO HAWK-EAGLE (Stephanoaetus coronarius) – A pair were seen displaying over Rondo Retreat, Kakamega.
MARTIAL EAGLE (Polemaetus bellicosus) – We saw an adult in the Serengeti, and an immature at Tarangire.
LONG-CRESTED EAGLE (Lophaetus occipitalis) – Widespread in small numbers.
LESSEER SPOTTED EAGLE (Clanga pomarina) – Two singles in Ngorongoro Crater.
WAHLBERG’S EAGLE (Hieraaetus wahlbergi) – Singles at Nairobi NP, and in the Serengeti.
AYRES’S HAWK-EAGLE (Hieraaetus ayresii) – One in flight over the forest above Gibb's Farm.
TAWNY EAGLE (Aquila rapax) – Most common in the Serengeti where we saw 30, but we also saw them in several other open areas.
STEPPE EAGLE (Aquila nipalensis) – About a dozen in the Serengeti.
VERREAUX’S EAGLE (Aquila verreauxii) – Great looks at a pair along the cliffs at Baringo.
DARK CHANTING-GOSHAWK (Melierax metabates) – One near Seronera Lodge, Serengeti, and 2 at Baringo.
EASTERN CHANTING-GOSHAWK (Melierax poliopterus) – About 8 along the road between Kajiado and Namanga.
GABAR GOSHAWK (Micronisus gaban) – Small numbers near Gibb's Farm, in the Serengeti, and at Tarangire.
EURASIAN MARSH-HARRIER (Circus aeruginosus) – Fairly widespread over grasslands and marshes; in all we saw about 15.
PALLID HARRIER (Circus macrourus) – Fairly common in the Serengeti (20), and then 1 at Ngorongoro, and 1 at Nairobi NP.
MONTAGU’S HARRIER (Circus pygargus) – Small numbers at Karatu, in the Serengeti, and at Tarangire.
AFRICAN GOSHAWK (Accipiter tachiro) – Two at Tarangire.
LITTLE SPARROWHAWK (Accipiter minullus) – One (for some of the group) at Serengeti.
BLACK KITE (Milvus migrans) – Most common around Nairobi and at Ngorongoro Crater, but also seen at many other widespread scattered sites.
AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE (Haliaeetus vocifer) – Small numbers at a variety of wetlands; in all we saw a total of 9.
COMMON BUZZARD (STEPPE) (Buteo buteo vulpinus) – Singles at Ngorongoro and Serengeti, and then at least 30 over Kakamega Forest.
AUGUR BUZZARD (Buteo augur) – Small numbers throughout the highlands.
Otidae (Bustards)
KORI BUSTARD (Ardeotis kori) – About 20 at Ngorongoro, and 40 in the Serengeti.
WHITE-BELLIED BUSTARD (Eupodotis senegalensis) – Sixteen in the Serengeti, and 2 at Tarangire.
BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARD (Lissotis melanogaster) – One at Ngorongoro, about 20 in the Serengeti, and 3 at Nakuru.
Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)
BLACK CRake (Amaurornis flavirostra) – Common (and rather tame) in the Serengeti, and then 3 at Ngorongoro, and 2 at Lake Baringo.
PURPLE SWAMPHEN (Porphyrio porphyrio) – About a dozen at Limuru Pond.
EURASIAN MOORHEN (Gallinula chloropus) – One in Nairobi NP.
RED-KNOBBED COOT (Fulica cristata) – About 250 at Limuru Pond, and 3 at Tarangire.
Sarothuridae (Flufftails)
WHITE-SPOTTED FLUFFTAIL (Sarothrura pulchra) – Heard at Kakamega.
Gruidae (Cranes)
GRAY CROWNED-CRANE (Balearica regulorum) – Common and widespread, but 100+ in Ngorongoro Crater was by far the largest number together.
Burhinidae (Thick-knees)
WATER THICK-KNEE (Burhinus vermiculatus) – Two along a shallow rocky river at Tarangire.
Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)
BLACK-WINGED STILT (Himantopus himantopus) – Widespread in small numbers.
PIED AVOCET (Recurvirostra avosetta) – Three at Lake Nakuru.
Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)
LONG-TOED LAPWING (Vanellus crassirostris) – About 40 along the shores of the extensive marsh at Tarangire.
BLACKSMITH PLOVER (Vanellus armatus) – Very common and widespread.
SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (Vanellus spinosus) – Small numbers at Serengeti, Nakuru, Lake Victoria, and Baringo.
BLACK-WINGED LAPWING (Vanellus melanopterus) – About 20 at Ngorongoro, and a dozen in the Serengeti.
CROWNEO LAPWING (Vanellus coronatus) – Widespread in open grasslands; with a total of about 70.
KITTILTZ’S PLOVER (Charadrius pecuarius) – Two in the Serengeti.
COMMON RINGED PLOVER (Charadrius hiaticula) – Six at Lake Nakuru.
THREE-BANDED PLOVER (Charadrius tricollaris) – One in Nairobi NP, and 4 in the Serengeti.

Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)
GREATER PAINTED-SNPE (Rostratula benghalensis) – Great looks at 1 in the hippo-pool at Ngorongoro Crater.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)
AFRICAN JACANA (Actophilornis africanus) – About 50 at Tarangire, and then small numbers at Limuru, Lake Victoria, and Baringo.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)
COMMON SANDPIPER (Actitis hypoleucos) – Singles in the Serengeti, at Lake Victoria, and at Baringo.
GREEN SANDPIPER (Tringa ochropus) – Widespread in small numbers.
SPOTTED REDSHANK (Tringa erythropus) – Two at Lake Nakuru.
COMMON GREENSHANK (Tringa nebularia) – Singles at Ngorongoro and the Serengeti, and then about 10 at Nakuru.
MARSH SANDPIPER (Tringa stagnatilis) – Two in the Serengeti, and 8 at Nakuru.
WOOD SANDPIPER (Tringa glareola) – Widespread at a variety of marshes and pools throughout the tour.
BUFF (Calidris pugnax) – Twenty at Ngorongoro Crater, about 80 in the Serengeti, and 40 at Lake Nakuru.
LITTLE STINT (Calidris minuta) – Common and widespread.
COMMON SNPE (Gallinago gallinago) – One along a small stream in the Serengeti.

Glaucolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)
TEMMINCK’S COURSER (Cursorius temminckii) – Four in the Serengeti.
DOUBLE-BANDED COURSER (Smutsornis africanaus) – Small numbers near Karatu, in the Serengeti, and at Tarangire.
THREE-BANDED COURSER (Rhinoptilus cinctus) – Great looks at a pair of these rather uncommon beautiful coursers at Baringo.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)
GRAY-HOODED GULL (Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus) – About 150 at Nakuru.
GULL-BILLED TERN (Gelochelidon nilotica) – Three over the Serengeti grasslands.
WHITE-WINGED TERN (Chlidonias leucopterus) – Five in the Serengeti, about 60 at Nakuru, and 40 at Lake Victoria.

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)
CHESTNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE (Pterocles exustus) – Nice looks at about 30 in the Serengeti short grasslands.
YELLOW-THROATED SANDGROUSE (Pterocles gutturalis) – Eleven along the main road as we left the Serengeti.
BLACK-FACED SANDGROUSE (Pterocles decoratus) – About 60 at Tarangire.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)
ROCK PIGEON (Columba livia) – Widespread in small numbers.
SPECKLED PIGEON (Columba guinea) – Common and widespread.
RAMERON PIGEON (Columba arquatrix) – About 10 were seen in flight along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.
DELEGORGUE’S PIGEON (Columba delegorguei) – Good looks at about a dozen from the roof of Mountain Lodge.
DUSKY TURTLE-DOVE (Streptopelia lugens) – Two at Nairobi NP.
MOURNING COLLARED-DOVE (Streptopelia decipiens) – About 10 at Naabi Hill in the Serengeti.
RED-EYED DOVE (Streptopelia capicola) – Very common and widespread.
RING-NECKED DOVE (Streptopelia senegalensis) – Common and widespread.
EMERALD-SPOUTED WOOD-DOVE (Turtur chalcospilos) – Singles at Nairobi and Tarangire, and then 3 at Baringo.
BLUE-SPOUTED WOOD-DOVE (Turtur afer) – Two at Kakamega.
TAMBOURINE DOVE (Turtur tymanistria) – One at Gibb’s Farm.
AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON (Teron calvus) – Six in the grounds of Rondo Retreat, Kakamega.

Musophagidae (Turacos)
GREAT BLUE TURACO (Corythaeca cristata) – Great looks at this gorgeous bird at Kakamega.
SCHALOW’S TURACO (Tauraco schalowii) – Heard in the forest above Gibb’s Farm, and along the rim at Ngorongoro Crater.
WHITE-CRESTED TURACO (Tauraco leucolophus) – Fabulous looks at this gorgeous bird as we ate our picnic in the Kerio Valley.
HARTLAB’S TURACO (Tauraco hartlaubi) – Two from the roof of Mountain Lodge. [E]
BARE-FACED GO-AWAY-BIRD (Corythaixoides personatus) – One on the way to Oldupai, 2 in the Serengeti, and about 15 at Tarangire.
WHITE-BELLIED GO-AWAY-BIRD (Corythaixoides leucogaster) – Two south of Arusha, 2 at Tarangire, and about 20 in the Baringo-Bogoria area.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)
PIED CUCKOO (Clamator jacobinus) – After some effort we all got good looks at 1 at Tarangire.
GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO (Clamator glandarius) – Two singles in the Serengeti, and 1 at Tarangire.
RED-CHESTED CUCKOO (Cuculus solitarius) – Several heard, and singles seen well at Gibb’s Farm and Tarangire.
AFRICAN CUCKOO (Cuculus gularis) – One at Tarangire.
KLAAS’S CUCKOO (Chrysococcyx klaas) – Good scope views of 2 in the forest above Gibb’s Farm.
AFRICAN EMERALD CUCKOO (Chrysococcyx cupreus) – Two males in the forest around Gibb’s Farm, 1 at Kakamega, and a female at Mountain
Lodge.

**DIDERIC CUCKOO** (*Chrysococcyx caprius*) – One at Tarangire.

**YELLOWBILL** (*Ceu thromocharis aereus*) – One in the high canopy at Kakamega.

**BLACK COUCAL** (*Centropus grillii*) – Two in the Serengeti, and 1 at Tarangire.

**BLUE-HEADED COUCAL** (*Centropus monachus*) – One in a swamp near Eldoret.

**WHITE-BROWED COUCAL** (*Centropus superciliosus*) – Small numbers at Ngorongoro, the Serengeti, and Tarangire.

**Strigidae (Owls)**

**AFRICAN SCOPS-OWL** (*Otus senegalensis*) – Two in the acacias by the old lodge at Lake Baringo.

**NORTHERN WHITE-FACED OWL** (*Ptilopsis leucotis*) – Great close scope looks at a pair at Baringo.

**CAPE EAGLE-OWL** (*Bubo capensis mackinderi*) – Sometimes split as Mackinder's Eagle-Owl, we saw 1 at the quarry near Kiawara.

**GRAYISH EAGLE-OWL** (*Bubo cinerascens*) – One at Baringo.

**VERREAUX'S EAGLE-OWL** (*Bubo lacteus*) – Some of the group saw 1 at Mountain Lodge.

**PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET** (*Glaucidium perlatum*) – Good looks at 1 along a dry river bed on the way to Oldupai Gorge.

**Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)**

**SLENDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus clarus*) – Day time looks at 2 roosting birds at Baringo.

**Apodidae (Swifts)**

**SCARCE SWIFT** (*Schoutedenapus myoptilus*) – Four over the car park at Mountain Lodge.

**NYANZA SWIFT** (*Apus niansae*) – About a dozen at Limuru.

**LITTLE SWIFT** (*Apus affinis*) – Very common and widespread.

**WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT** (*Apus caffer*) – Four over Nairobi NP.

**AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT** (*Cypsiurus parvus*) – Fairly common and widespread in open country with palm trees.

**Coliidae (Mousebirds)**

**SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD** (*Colius striatus*) – Common and widespread.

**BLUE-NAPED MOUSEBIRD** (*Urocolius macrourus*) – About 15 along the cliffs at Lake Baringo.

**Trogonidae (Trogons)**

**NARINA TROGON** (*Apaloderma narina*) – Good looks at a male in the forest above Gibb's Farm.

**Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)**

**MALACHITE KINGFISHER** (*Corythornis cristatus*) – One at Nairobi NP.

**AFRICAN PYGMY-KINGFISHER** (*Ispidina picta*) – One at the campsite at Lake Baringo.

**GRAY-HEADED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon leucocephala*) – Three at Tarangire, and 2 at Lake Baringo.

**WOODLAND KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon senegalensis*) – Singles at Ngorongoro and Tarangire.

**STRIPED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon chelicuti*) – One in the Serengeti, and 1 at Nakuru.

**PIED KINGFISHER** (*Ceryle rudis*) – One at Nairobi NP, 6 at Lake Victoria, and 6 at Lake Baringo.

**Meropidae (Bee-eaters)**

**BLUE-HEADED BEE-EATER** (*Merops muelleri*) – Great scope views of this very local and uncommon bee-eater at Kakamega.

**WHITE-FRONTED BEE-EATER** (*Merops bullockoides*) – Five near the gate as we left Nakuru NP.

**LITTLE BEE-EATER** (*Merops pusillus*) – Widespread in small numbers.

**CINNAMON-CHESTED BEE-EATER** (*Merops oreobates*) – About 10 near Gibb's Farm, 6 at Kakamega, and 8 at Mountain Lodge.

**WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER** (*Merops albicollis*) – Six along the shore of Lake Victoria near Kisumu.

**EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** (*Merops apiaster*) – About 20 at Tarangire, 4 near Nairobi, 10 at Kakamega, and 20 at Baringo.

**NORTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATER** (*Merops nubicus*) – We saw a fabulous brightly colored adult at the south end of Lake Nakuru - very unusual in this park.

**Coraciidae (Rollers)**

**EUROPEAN ROLLER** (*Coracias garrulus*) – Small numbers at Ngorongoro and the Serengeti, and then 120+ at Tarangire.

**LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER** (*Coracias caudatus*) – Common and widespread in open acacia country; in all we saw about 140.

**RUFOUS-CROWNED ROLLER** (*Coracias naevius*) – One along the wires to the north of Namanga, and 1 at Baringo.

**Upupidae (Hoopoes)**

**EURASIAN HOOPOE (AFRICAN)** (*Upupa epops africana*) – Singles at Serengeti and Nakuru.

**Phoeniculidae (Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills)**

**GREEN WOODHOOPOE** (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) – Three near Seronera Lodge, 3 at Nakuru, and 5 at Baringo.

**COMMON SCIMITAR-BILL** (*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*) – Two in the Ngorongoro Conservation area.

**ABYSSINIAN SCIMITAR-BILL** (*Rhinopomastus minor*) – Pairs near Oldupai, and in the Serengeti.

**Bucerotidae (Hornbills)**

**NORTHERN RED-BILLED HORNBILL** (*Tockus erythrorhynchus*) – About 40 at Tarangire, and 2 at Baringo.
TANZANIAN RED-BILLED HORNBILL (Tockus ruahae) – Great looks at this newly recognised species near Seronera Lodge. [E]

JACKSON’S HORNBILL (Tockus jacksoni) – We saw a total of 14 at Lake Baringo.

VON DER DECKEN’S HORNBILL (Tockus deckeni) – Three near Oldupai Gorge, and about a dozen at Tarangire.

AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL (Tockus nasutus) – About a dozen in the Serengeti, 10 at Tarangire, and 1 along the cliffs at Baringo.

BLACK-AND-WHITE-CASQUED HORNBILL (Ceratogymna subcylindrica) – Great looks at about 40 at Kakamega.

**Bucorvidae (Ground-Hornbills)**

SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL (Bucorvus leadbeateri) – Three in the Serengeti.

**Lybiidae (African Barbets)**

YELLOW-BILLED BARBET (Trachyphonus purpuratus) – Great looks at 2 at Kakamega (and several heard).

RED-AND-YELLOW BARBET (Trachyphonus erythrocephalus) – Pairs at Oldupai Gorge, Tarangire, and Baringo.

D’ARNAUD’S BARBET (Trachyphonus darnaudii) – Four in the Kerio Valley.

D’ARNAUD’S BARBET (USAMBIRO) (Trachyphonus darnaudii usambo) – One at Ngorongoro, and 6 in the Serengeti. [E]

GRAY-THROATED BARBET (Gymnobucco bonapartei) – Common at Kakamega.

Moustached Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus leucomystax) – Nice looks at 1 in the forest above Gibb’s Farm.

YELLOW-RUMPED TINKERBIRD (Pogoniulus bilineatus bilineatus) – Many heard and 3 seen at Kakamega.

RED-FRONTED TINKERBIRD (Pogoniulus pusillus) – One at Kajiado, and 1 near Oldupai.

YELLOW-SPOTTED BARBET (Buccanodon duchaillui) – Good looks at 1 at Kakamega.

HAIRY-BREASTED BARBET (Tricholaema hirsuta) – Two were heard in Kakamega Forest.

RED-FRONTED BARBET (Tricholaema diadema) – One at Naabi Hill, Serengeti, and 1 at Baringo.

SPOT-FLANKED BARBET (Tricholaema lacrymosa) – One at Kajiado.

WHITE-HEADED BARBET (Lybius leucocephalus) – One in the fruiting fig trees in the Kerio Valley.

DOUBLE-TOOTHED BARBET (Lybius bidentatus) – Nice looks at this gorgeous bird in the grounds of Rondo Retreat, Kakamega.

**Indicatoridae (Honeyguides)**

WAHLBERG’S HONEYGUIDE (Prodotiscus regulus) – Two were seen chasing each other at Ngorongoro.

THICK-BILLED HONEYGUIDE (Indicator conirostris) – One for some of the group at Kakamega.

LESSER HONEYGUIDE (Indicator minor) – One at Lake Baringo.

**Picidae (Woodpeckers)**

NUBIAN WOODPECKER (Campethera nubica) – Two at Kajiado, 1 at Baringo, and heard at Tarangire.

BROWN-EARED WOODPECKER (Campethera caroli) – One in the interior middle-levels at Kakamega Forest.

CARDINAL WOODPECKER (Dendropicos fuscescens) – We saw a total of about 8 at Kajiado, Serengeti, and Kakamega.

BEARDED WOODPECKER (Dendropicos namaquus) – Singles at Gibb’s Farm and Baringo, and heard at Nakuru.

GRAY WOODPECKER (Dendropicos goertae) – Two in the Kerio Valley.

GRAY-HEADED WOODPECKER (Dendropicos spodocephalus rhodeogaster) – Four in the Serengeti, and 3 at Tarangire.

**Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)**

PYGMY FALCON (Polihierax semitorquatus) – Three in the Serengeti.

LESSER KESTREL (Falco naumanni) – About 50 were seen during a morning drive near Seronera Lodge.

EURASIAN KESTREL (Falco tinnunculus) – The nominate race was common in the Ngorongoro-Serengeti region.

LANNER FALCON (Falco biarmicus) – One along the cliffs at Baringo.

**Psittacidae (Parrots)**

FISCHER’S LOVEBIRD (Agapornis fischeri) – Good looks at several small flocks of this beautiful endemic lovebird. [E]

YELLOW-COLLARED LOVEBIRD (Agapornis personatus) – Another gorgeous endemic lovebird; we saw about 140 at Tarangire. [E]

RED-FRONTED PARROT (Poicephalus guliemini) – Heard at Mountain Lodge.

MEYER’S PARROT (Poicephalus meyeri) – Two at the campsite at Lake Baringo.

RED-BELLIED PARROT (Poicephalus rufiventris) – More commonly know as African Orange-bellied Parrot; we saw a male and 3 females at Tarangire.

**Calyptomenidae (African and Green Broadbills)**

AFRICAN BROADBILL (Smithornis capensis) – Two heard at Kakamega.

**Platysteiridae (Wattle-eyes and Batises)**

BROWN-THROATED WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira cyanaea) – Two seen and many heard at Kakamega.

BLACK-THROATED WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira peltata) – Some of the group saw 1 in the forest above Gibb’s Farm.

CHESTNUT WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira castanea) – Good looks at a pair at Kakamega.

CHINSPOT BATIS (Batis molitor) – Small numbers were widespread in a variety of woodland.

BLACK-HEADED BATIS (Batis minor) – We saw a single male in the Kerio Valley.

PYGMY BATIS (Batis perkeo) – A pair at Baringo.

**Yangidae (Tangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies)**

WHITE HELMETSHRIKE (Prionops plumatus) – We saw a flock of about 12 near Kajiado, and 5 along the cliffs at Baringo.

GRAY-CRESTED HELMETSHRIKE (Prionops poliolophus) – We saw three of this uncommon East African endemic at Nakuru. [E]
**Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and Allies)**

**BRUBRU** (Nilaus afer) – Small numbers in a variety of widely scattered mostly acacia country.

**NORTHERN PUFFBACK** (Dryoscopus gambensis) – We saw a single female in the Kerio Valley.

**BLACK-BACKED PUFFBACK** (Dryoscopus cubla) – About 6 in the Gibb's Farm area.

**PINK-FOOTED PUFFBACK** (Dryoscopus angolensis) – We saw a female in the canopy at Kakamega.

**BROWN-CROWNED TCHAGRA** (Tchagra australis) – Singles at Gibb's Farm, Ngorongoro, the Serengeti, and at Tarangire.

**THREE-STREAKED TCHAGRA** (Tchagra jamesi) – One at Baringo.

**LUEHDER'S BUSHSHRIKE** (Laniarius luehderi) – One seen in the tangled vines at Kakamega, and several others heard.

**TROPICAL BOUBOU** (Laniarius aethiopicus) – Common in the Crater Highlands of Tanzania, and about a dozen around Mountain Lodge.

**BLACK-HEADED GONOLEK** (Laniarius erythrogaster) – Heard at Lake Victoria, and then about 6 were seen in the Kerio Valley - absolutely striking!

**SLATE-COLORED BOUBOU** (Laniarius funebris) – Four at Seronera Lodge, 2 at Tarangire, and 4 at Baringo.

**GRAY-CROWNED TCHAGRA** (Tchagra australis) – Singles at Gibb's Farm, Ngorongoro, the Serengeti, and at Tarangire.

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**GRAY-CROW
**Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)**

AFRICAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (Elminia longicauda) – Two at the edge of Kakamega Forest.

WHITE-TAILED BLUE-FLYCATCHER (Elminia albicauda) – Nice looks at this beautiful bird around Gibb's Farm; now in the family Stenostiridae.

**Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)**

WHITE-BELLIED TIT (Melaniparus albiventris) – One at Kiawara.

DUSKY TIT (Melaniparus funereus) – About 10 at Kakamega.

RED-THOATED TIT (Melaniparus fringillinus) – We saw 3 of these East African endemic tits at Kajiado, and then 1 on the way to Oldupai Gorge.

SOMALI TIT (Melaniparus thruppi) – One along the cliffs at Baringo.

**Remizidae (Penduline-Tits)**

MOUSE-COLORED PENDULINE-TIT (Anthoscopus musculus) – Six in the acacias at Baringo.

**Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)**

SLENDER-BILLED GREENBUL (Stelgidillas gracilirostris) – One at Kakamega.

SHELLEY'S GREENBUL (KAKAMEGA) (Arizelochichla masukuensis kakamegae) – Most African authorities now split this as Kakamega Greenbul; we saw 2 creeping along branches nuthatch-like at Kakamega.

EASTERN MOUNTAIN-GREENBUL (MOUNTAIN) (Arizelochichla nigriceps nigriceps) – One in the forest above Gibb's Farm.

JOYFUL GREENBUL (Chlorocichla laetissima) – Several small flocks at Kakamega.

YELLOW-THROATED GREENBUL (Atimastillas flavicollis) – Two in the garden at Rondo Retreat.

ANSORGE'S GREENBUL (Eurillas ansorgei) – Great looks at this uncommon greenbul in the middle-levels at Kakamega.

PLAIN GREENBUL (Eurillas curvirostris) – Two feeding in a fruiting shrub at Kakamega.

YELLOW-THRASHER GREENBUL (Eurillas latirostris) – Many heard and a few seen at Kakamega.

LITTLE GREENBUL (Eurillas virens) – One at Kakamega.

NORTHERN BROWNBUL (Phyllastrephus cerviniventris) – One in the Kerio Valley.

GRAY-OLIVE GREENBUL (Phyllastrephus cuneiventris) – Four in the forest above Gibb's Farm.

TORO OLIVE-GREENBUL (Phyllastrephus hypochloris) – Good looks at one in the tangled vines at Kakamega.

CABANIS'S GREENBUL (Phyllastrephus cabanisi) – We saw about 10 at Kakamega.

COMMON BULBUL (DARK-CAPPED) (Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor) – Very common and widespread.

**Macrosphenidae (African Warblers)**

RED-FACED CROMBEC (Sylvietta whytii) – One on the way to Oldupai, 2 at Nakuru, and 1 in the Kerio Valley.

**Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)**

UGANDA WOOD-WARBLER (Phylloscopus budongoensis) – Nice looks at Kakamega.

BROWN WOODLAND-WARBLER (Phylloscopus umbrovirens) – Heard in the forest above Gibb's Farm.

WILLOW WARBLER (Phylloscopus trochilus) – Small numbers between the Cranter Highlands and Serengeti.

**Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)**

EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER (Iduna pallida) – Singles south of Nairobi, and at Tarangire.

UPCHER'S WARBLER (Hippolais languida) – One along the cliffs at Baringo.

AFRICAN REED-WARBLER (Acrocephalus baeticatus) – One in a marsh near Eldoret.

LESSER SWAMP-WARBLER (Acrocephalus gracilirostris) – Nice looks at 2 in a marsh near Eldoret.

**Cisticolidae (Cisticola and Allies)**

BLACK-COLLARED APALIS (Apalis pulchra) – We saw 4 of these attractive birds in the Kakamega undergrowth.

BAR-THROATED APALIS (BAR-THROATED) (Apalis thoracica griseiceps) – One along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.

YELLOW-BREASTED APALIS (Apalis flavia) – One near Oldupai, and 2 at Nakuru.

YELLOW-BREASTED APALIS (Apalis flavida viridiceps) – Heard at Baringo.

BUFF-THROATED APALIS (Apalis rufogularis) – We saw a pair in the canopy at Kakamega.

CHESTNUT-THROATED APALIS (Apalis porphyroalaema) – Good looks at a responsive bird at Thomson's Falls.

GRAY APALIS (Apalis cinerea) – About 6 at Mountain Lodge.

BROWN-HEADED APALIS (Apalis alticola) – Four in the forest above Gibb's Farm.

GREEN-BACKED CAMAROPTERA (GRAY-BACKED) (Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata) – This gray-backed form was common and widespread.

OLIVE-GREEN CAMAROPTERA (Camaroptera chloronota) – One seen (and several heard) at Kakamega.

RED-FRONTED WARBLER (Urorhipis rufifrons) – Four in the low acacia bush at Baringo.

GRAY WREN-WARBLER (Calamonastes simplex) – Heard in the low acacia country to the east of Karatu, and then seen near the cliffs at Baringo.

WHITE-CHINNED PRINIA (Schistocichla leucopogon) – Six in the undergrowth along the road at Kakamega.

RED-FACED CISTICOLA (Cisticola erythropterus) – One at Gibb's Farm, and 1 to the east of Eldoret.
NORTHERN ANTEATER-CHAT  
AFRICAN STONECHAT  
WHINCHAT  
RUFOUS-TAILED ROCK-THRUSH  
LITTLE ROCK-THRUSH  
SPOTTED MORNING-THRUSH  
WHITE-BROWED ROBIN-CHAT  
GRAY-WINGED ROBIN-CHAT  
BLUE-SHOULDERED ROBIN-CHAT  
CAPE ROBIN-CHAT  
RED-BACKED SCRUB-ROBIN  
GRAY TIT-FLYCATCHER  
DUSKY-BROWN FLYCATCHER  
CHAPIN'S FLYCATCHER  
SWAMP FLYCATCHER  
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER  
NORTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER  
WHITE-EYED SLATY-FLYCATCHER  
GRAYISH FLYCATCHER  
SILVERBIRD  

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)  

ARROW-MARKED BABBLER  
– Two birds were seen displaying in the Serengeti.  

PRINIA (black-faced)  
– Four along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.  

GARDEN WARBLER  
BANDED WARBLER  
– One at Rondo Retreat, Kakamega.  

WHITE-BREASTED WHITE-EYE  
BROAD-RINGED WHITE-EYE  
AFRICAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE  

Zosteropidae (Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies)  

BANDED WARBLER  
– One in the undergrowth along the rim at Ngorongoro Crater, and 6 at Mountain Lodge.  

TAWNY-FLANKED PRINIA  
– One in the Serengeti.  

BROWN BABBLER  
– One at Nakuru.  

Northern PIED-BABBLER  
BLACK-LORED BABBLER  
– Four at Nakuru.  

White-capped cisticola  
– One in the undergrowth along the rim at Ngorongoro Crater, and 6 at Mountain Lodge.  

STOUT CISTICOLA  
– One in the undergrowth along the rim at Ngorongoro Crater, and 6 at Mountain Lodge.  

Buff-bellied cisticola  
– Two in Nairobi NP, and 2 in the Serengeti.  

Gray-capped cisticola  
– Two in the papyrus at Lake Victoria.  

CROAKING CISTICOLA  
– One in the undergrowth along the rim at Ngorongoro Crater, and 6 at Mountain Lodge.  

DEWSHOTER'S CISTICOLA  
– One at Nairobi NP.  

RATTLING CISTICOLA  
– Four in the Serengeti.  

Northern pied babbler  
– One at Nakuru.  

Black-faced cisticola  
– Two in Nairobi NP, and 2 in the Serengeti.  

Large grey cisticola  
– One in the undergrowth along the rim at Ngorongoro Crater, and 6 at Mountain Lodge.  

Black-crowned cisticola  
– One in the Serengeti.  

Turner's cisticola  
– About a dozen at Naabi Hill in the Serengeti.  

Red-backed scrub-robin  
– About a dozen at Nakuru.  

Red-backed scrub-robin  
– Four along the edge of Kakamega Forest.  

Amethystine cisticola  
– One along the top of Ngorongoro Crater, and 4 around Mountain Lodge.  

Grayish flycatcher  
– Difficult this tour, but we eventually all got good looks at a pair in the Kakamega undergrowth.  

Central grey flycatcher  
– One in the canopy at Kakamega.  

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes and Allies)  

GRAY-BACKED SCRUB-ROBIN  
– One in the Serengeti.  

TAWNY-EARED PRINIA  
– One near Karatu, and 4 at Ngorongoro.  

Buff-bellied warbler  
– One along the top of Ngorongoro Crater, and 4 around Mountain Lodge.  

BARE-CROWNED ROBIN-CHAT (Cossypha cyanocamptera)  
– One of the group saw 1 at Kakamega - a real skulker.  

HUNTER'S CISTICOLA  
– Four along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.  

SINGING CISTICOLA (Cisticola cantans)  
– Heard at Limuru.  

CHUBB'S CISTICOLA (Cisticola chubbii)  
– Four along the road through Kakamega Forest.  

RUFOUS-TAILED ROCK-THRUSH  
– One along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.  

HUNTER'S CISTICOLA  
– One in the undergrowth along the rim at Ngorongoro Crater, and 6 at Mountain Lodge.  

RATTLING CISTICOLA  
– Common and widespread.  

WINDELING CISTICOLA (Cisticola galactotes)  
– Two in Nairobi NP, and 2 in the Serengeti.  

TINKLING CISTICOLA (Cisticola tinniens)  
– More commonly known as Levaillant's Cisticola; we had nice views of this attractive species in the marsh near Eldoret.  

STOUT CISTICOLA (Cisticola robustus)  
– One in Nairobi NP.  

BUFF-BELLIED BABBLER  
– Two in Nairobi NP.  

LEATHER-BACKED ROBIN-CHAT (Cossypha cyanocamptera)  
– One of the group saw 1 at Kakamega - a real skulker.  

SAXICOLA TURQUOIS  
– One along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.  

WHITE-BREASTED WHITE-EYE  

African yellow white-eye  
– Six along the edge of Kakamega Forest.
PANGANI LONGCLAW  
YELLOW-THROATED LONGCLAW  
RED-THROATED PIPIT  
PLAIN-BACKED PIPIT  
AFRICAN PIPIT  
MOUNTAIN WAGTAIL  
CAPE WAGTAIL  
Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)  
VARIABLE SUNBIRD  
PURPLE-BANDED SUNBIRD  
RED-CHESTED SUNBIRD  
MARIQUA SUNBIRD  
BEAUTIFUL SUNBIRD  
EASTERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD  
NORTHERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD  
TACAZZE SUNBIRD  
HUNTER'S SUNBIRD  
SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD  
AMETHYST SUNBIRD  
GREEN-HEADED SUNBIRD  
COLLARED SUNBIRD  
GREEN SUNBIRD  
KENYA VIOLET-BACKED SUNBIRD  
Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)  
YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER  
Buphagidae (Oxpeckers)  
MACRONYX AURANTIIGULA  
– Farther east than what is normally expected; we had great views of 1 near Seronera Lodge.

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ROSY-THROATED LONGCLAW (Macronyx ameliae) – We saw this gorgeous bird in the damp grasslands of Serengeti.

Emberizidae (Buntings and New World Sparrows)

CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTING (Emberiza tahapisi) – One in the dry river bed on the way to Oldupai Gorge.

GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING (Emberiza flaviventris) – Singles at Kajiado and Ngorongoro.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

YELLOW-CROWNED CANARY (Serinus flavigrissima) – Four at Mountain Lodge.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY (Serinus mozambicus) – One near the edge of Kakamega Forest.

AFRICAN CITRIL (Serinus cinericeps) – Two in Nairobi, 6 at Ngorongoro.

SOUTHERN CITRIL (Serinus spicatus) – Eight in the dry river bed on the way to Oldupai Gorge, and 6 at Naabi Hill.

SOUTHERN GROSENECK CANARY (Serinus buchanani) – We saw this rather uncommon canary near Kajiado.

STREAKY SEEDEATER (Serinus striolatus) – Common and widespread in the highlands.

THICK-BILLED SEEDEATER (Serinus burtoni) – One at the A&K workshop above Ngorongoro Crater.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (Passer domesticus) – Small numbers were widespread in a variety of small towns and villages.

KENYA RUFOUS SPARROW (Passer rufocinereus) – Common around Nairobi, and in the Crater Highlands.

NORTHERN GRAY-HEADED SPARROW (Passer griseus) – Six near Gibb's Farm.

PARROT-BILLED SPARROW (Passer gongonensis) – Six at Baringo.

SWAHI SPARROW (Passer suahelicus) – Small numbers in dry country with acacia trees; in all we saw about 60.

CHESTNUT SPARROW (Passer eminibey) – Six to the east of Karatu, 30 in the Serengeti, and 2 near Bogoria.

YELLOW-SPODED PETRONIA (Petronia pyrgita) – Two at Kajiado, 4 at Ngorongoro, and 1 at Baringo.

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

WHITE-BILLED BUFFALO-WEAVER (Bubalornis albirostris) – Two at Bogoria.

RED-BILLED BUFFALO-WEAVER (Bubalornis rostratus) – About 30 in the Serengeti, and 60 at Tarangire.

WHITE-HEADED BUFFALO-WEAVER (Dinemelia dinemelli) – Small numbers in dry country with acacia trees; in all we saw about 60.

SPECKLE-FRONTED SPARROW-WEAVER (Sporopipes frontalis) – Six at Ngorongoro, and 20 in the Serengeti.

WHITE-BROWED SPARROW-WEAVER (Plocepasser mahali) – Twenty at Nairobi, 30 at Baringo, and about 10 at Thika.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED SPARROW-WEAVER (Plocepasser superciliosus) – We saw 2 of these localised sparrow-weavers in the Kerio Valley.

RUFIOUS-TAILED WEAVER (Histurgops ruficauda) – Common at Ngorongoro, the Serengeti, and Tarangire; in all we saw about 180.

GRAY-HEADED SOCIAL-WEAVER (Pseudonigrita armaudi) – About 40 in the Seronera area of the Serengeti.

RED-HEADED WEAVER (Anaplectes rubriceps) – Two near Gibb's Farm, and 3 in the Kerio Valley.

BAGLAFECHT WEAVER (Ploceus baglafecht) – Common and widespread throughout the highlands.

LITTLE WEAVER (Ploceus luteolus) – One in the Serengeti.

BLACK-NECKED WEAVER (Ploceus nigricollis) – Four near Gibb's Farm.

SPECTACLED WEAVER (Ploceus ocularis) – Two at Gibb's Farm.

NORTHERN BROWN-THROATED WEAVER (Ploceus castanops) – One along the shore at Lake Victoria.

NORTHERN MASKED-WEAVER (Ploceus taeniator) – We saw 3 males in full breeding plumage at Lake Baringo.

LESSER MASKED-WEAVER (Ploceus intermedius) – Small numbers at Kajiado, in the Serengeti, and at Baringo.

VITELLINE MASKED-WEAVER (Ploceus vitellinus) – Small numbers were widespread in dry acacia country.

SPEKE'S WEAVER (Ploceus spekei) – Fairly common at Nairobi, Ngorongoro, and Nakuru.

VIEILLOT'S WEAVER (Ploceus nigerimius) – About 10 at Rondo Retreat.

VILLAGE WEAVER (Ploceus cucullatus) – About 40 at the Kerio Valley and Baringo.

BLACK-HEADED WEAVER (Ploceus melanocephalus) – Six along the shore at Lake Victoria.

GOLDEN-BACKED WEAVER (Ploceus jacksoni) – About a dozen of these gorgeous weavers at the Kerio Valley and Baringo.

FOREST WEAVER (Ploceus bicolor) – Five in Kakamega Forest.

BROWN-CAPPED WEAVER (Ploceus insignis) – Six at Kakamega Forest - creeps along branches nuthatch-like.

RED-BILLED QUELEA (Quelea quelea) – One in the Kerio Valley.

WHITE-BILLED BUSH CHAFFINCH (Euplectes hordeaceus) – Four in the Kerio Valley.

YELLOW-CROWNED BISHOP (Euplectes albinucha) – Four (including 2 males in breeding plumage) along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.

YELLOW BISHOP (Euplectes capensis) – Nice males at Limuru, and Ngorongoro.

WHITE-WINGED BUSH CHAFFINCH (Euplectes albomaculatus) – Three in Nairobi NP.

RED-COLLARED WIDEBIRD (Euplectes ardens) – Several in breeding plumage along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.

FAUN TAIRED WIDEBIRD (Euplectes axillaris) – About 20 at the marsh in Ngorongoro Crater.

LONG-TAIRED WIDEBIRD (Euplectes progne) – Two near Gibb's Farm.

JACKSON'S WIDEBIRD (Euplectes jacksoni) – Four (including 2 males in breeding plumage) along the rim of Ngorongoro Crater.

GROSBEAK WEAVER (Amblyospiza albifrons) – Two males were nest building in the pond at Gibb's Farm.

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

– Fairly common at Nairobi, Ngorongoro, and Nakuru.

– Eight in the highlands.

– About 30 in the Serengeti, and 60 at Tarangire.

– About 40 in the Serengeti.

– Two males were nest building in the pond at Gibb's Farm.

– Two males were nest building in the pond at Gibb's Farm.

– We saw this rather uncommon canary near Kajiado.

– About 20 in the Serengeti, and 2 near Bogoria.

– We saw this rather uncommon canary near Kajiado.

– Fairly common at Nairobi, and in the Crater Highlands.
HIPPOPOTAMUS (Hippopotamus amphibius) – More commonly known as Gray-headed Negrofinch; we saw an adult and 2 juveniles at Ngorongoro, and another adult at Kakamega.

WHITE-BREASTED NIGRITA (Nigrta fusconotus) – More commonly known as White-breasted Negrofinch; we saw 2 in the canopy at Kakamega.

COMMON WAXBILL (Estrilda astrild) – One at Limuru.

RED-RUMPED WAXBILL (Estrilda charynsyna) – More commonly known as Black-cheeked Waxbill; we saw 3 at Baringo.

RED-HEADED BLUEBILL (Spermophaga ruficapilla) – We saw a pair of the very attractive waxbills on the road at Kakamega.

RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU (Uraeginthius bengalus) – Widespread in small numbers.

BLUE-CAPPED CORDONBLEU (Uraeginthius cyanopephalus) – We saw these gorgeous little waxbills at the bottom of the Ngorongoro highlands, and at Tarangire.

PURPLE GRENADEIR (Granatia ianthinogaster) – Another gorgeous waxbill; we saw these near Gibb’s Farm, and in the Serengeti.

GREEN-WINGED PYTILIA (Pytilia melba) – A beautiful male at the gate to Tarangire NP.

RED-BILLED FIREFINCH (Lagonosticta senegalae) – Small numbers at Nairobi, the Gibb’s Farm area, and at Baringo.

BRONE MANNIKIN (Spermestes cucullatus) – Six near Nairobi.

**Viduidae (Indigobirds)**

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH (Vidua macroura) – We saw a total of about a dozen at Nairobi, Ngorongoro, and in the Serengeti.

EASTERN PARADISE-WHYDAH (Vidua paradisaea) – We saw a single male at Tarangire.

**MAMMALS**

BROWN GREATER GALAGO (Otolemur crassicaudatus) – One at Gibb’s Farm.

BLUE MONKEY (Cercopithecus mitis) – About 80 at Kakamega.

SYKES MONKEY (Cercopithecus albogularis) – Sixty at Mountain Lodge, and about 20 at the Blue Posts Hotel, Thika.

BLACK-CHEERED WHITE-NOSED MONKEY (Cercopithecus ascanius) – More commonly known as Copper-tailed Monkey; we saw about 10 at Kakamega.

BLACK-FACED VERVET MONKEY (Cercopithecus aethiops) – Common and widespread; in all we saw about 250.

OLIVE BABOON (Papio anubis) – Common and widespread, with a total of about 700.

MANTLED GUEREZA (Colobus guereza) – These attractive monkeys were at Kakamega (50) and Mountain Lodge (20).

CAPE HARE (Lepus capensis) – Two singles at Baringo.

UNSTRIPED GROUND SQUIRREL (Xerus rutilus) – One at Tarangire, and 3 in the Baringo- Bogoria area.

OCHRE BUSH SQUIRREL (Paraxerus ochraceus) – Small numbers were widespread in a variety of open woodland and forest.

RED-LEGGED SUN SQUIRREL (Heliosciurus rufobrachium) – About 6 at Kakamega.

BLACK-BACKED JACKAL (Canis mesomelas) – About a dozen at Ngorongoro and the Serengeti, and 2 at Nakuru.

COMMON JACKAL (Canis aureus) – Eight in and around Ngorongoro Crater.

BAT-EARED FOX (Otocyon megalotis) – Two in the Ngorongoro highlands, and 1 in the Serengeti.

RATTEL (HONEY BADGER) (Mellivora capensis) – Fantastic looks at this rarely seen and usually nocturnal mammal right next to our vehicle in Ngorongoro Crater.

COMMON (SMALL-SPOTTED) GENET (Genetta genetta) – One at Lake Baringo.

LARGE-SPOTTED GENET (Genetta nigripes) – Two came to the feeding platform at Mountain Lodge.

EGYPTIAN MONGOOSE (Herpestes ichneumon) – Normally solitary, so we were surprised to see 5 together in the Serengeti.

SLENDER MONGOOSE (Herpestes sanguineus) – Small numbers in southern Kenya and the highlands of Tanzania.

BANDED MONGOOSE (Mungos mungo) – Twenty in the Serengeti, and 30 at Tarangire.

EASTERN DWARF MONGOOSE (Helogale hirtula) – Six in the Serengeti, and 20 at Tarangire.

SPOTTED HYAENA (Crocuta crocuta) – Many great and close encounters, with about 40 at Ngorongoro, 30 in the Serengeti, 2 at Nakuru, and 8 (interacting with elephants) at Mountain Lodge.

CARACAL (Felis caracal) – Great looks at this rarely seen cat in the Serengeti.

SERVAL (Felis serval) – Another shy and uncommon cat that we saw well; this one was near Naabi Hill, Serengeti.

LEOPARD (Panthera pardus) – A mother and large youngster were seen on two different occasions near Seronera in the Serengeti, and we then saw another 1 in Tarangire.

LION (Panthera leo) – Good looks at males, females, and young ones at Ngorongoro and the Serengeti.

CHEETAH (Acinonyx jubatus) – We watched 1 hunting a Grant’s Gazelle in the Serengeti.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT (Loxodonta africana) – Many fine experiences at Ngorongoro, the Serengeti, Tarangire, and at Mountain Lodge; in all we saw about 500.

ROCK HYRAX (Procavia capensis) – Six at Seronera, and about 20 along the cliffs at Baringo.

BUSH (YELLOW-SPOTTED) HYRAX (Heterohyrax brucei) – Very common at Seronera, Tarangire, and Baringo.

BURCHELL’S ZEBRA (Equus burchelli) – Widespread, but a couple of thousand in Ngorongoro Crater and ‘many thousands’ in the Serengeti were by far the most impressive.

BLACK RHINOCEROS (Diceros bicornis) – Great trip for this seriously endangered large mammal. First we saw 2 males having a ‘set to’ in Nairobi NP, then we saw a third one there, and finally a more distant one in Ngorongoro Crater.

WHITE RHINOCEROS (Ceratotherium simum) – We saw 4 of these introduced White Rhino at Nakuru.

BUSH-PIG (Potamochoerus larvatus) – We were all surprised by a huge black morph male at the A&K workshop above Ngorongoro Crater.

WARTHOG (Phacochoerus aethiopicus) – Common and widespread.

HIPPOPOTAMUS (Hippopotamus amphibius) – Widespread in a variety of pools and lakes throughout the tour; in all we saw a total of about 120.
COMMON GIRAFFE (Giraffa camelopardalis) – Great close looks at Nairobi NP, Ngorongoro, the Serengeti, and Tarangire; we saw a total of about 120.

ROTHSCHILD’S GIRAFFE (Giraffa rothschildi) – Eight at Nakuru.

BUSHBUCK (Tragelaphus scriptus) – About 50 at Mountain Lodge, and 1 at Nairobi NP.

COMMON ELAND (Taurotragus oryx) – We saw these attractive antelopes at Nairobi, Ngorongoro, the Serengeti, and Nakuru.

AFRICAN BUFFALO (Syncerus caffer) – Common and widespread, with a total of about 2200.

COMMON WATERBUCK (Kobus ellipsiprymnus) – Twenty at Tarangire.

DEFASSA WATERBUCK (Kobus defassa) – About 150 at Nakuru, and 1 at Mountain Lodge.

BOHOR REEBUCK (Redunca redunca) – We saw a single male at Tarangire.

TOPI (Damaliscus lunatus) – About 80 in the Serengeti.

HARTEBEEST (KONGONI) (Alcelaphus buselaphus) – Also known as Coke's Hartebeest; we saw 60 at Nairobi NP, 10 at Ngorongoro, and 50+ in the Serengeti.

BLUE WILDEBEEST (Connochaetes taurinus) – About 3000 in Ngorongoro Crater and then the magnificent sight of many hundreds of thousands scattered across the Serengeti plains.

KIRK’S DIK-DIK (Madoqua kirki) – One at Ngorongoro and about 15 at Tarangire.

IMPALA (Aepyceros malampus) – Common and widespread.

THOMSON’S GAZELLE (Gazella thomsoni) – Several thousand in the Serengeti, plus much smaller numbers at Nairobi NP, Ngorongoro, and Nakuru.

GRANT’S GAZELLE (Gazella granti) – Common and widespread in open dry country; in all we saw about 600.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Reptiles seen on the tour included the following:

Nile Crocodile -- singles at Nairobi NP, in the Serengeti, and at Lake Baringo.

Leopard Tortoise -- two in the low country below Gibb's Farm.

Flap-necked Chameleon -- one near Ngorongoro.

Black Mamba -- sadly, a small one was being 'disposed of' by the Masai people at Oldupai Gorge.

Tropical House Gecko -- the common gecko around buildings.

Red-headed Rock Agama -- these gorgeous orange and blue lizards were seen at Oldupai Gorge, Tarangire, and Baringo.

Mwanza Flat-headed Agama -- these pink and purple agamas were fairly common in rocky parts of the Serengeti.

Totals for the tour: 498 bird taxa and 51 mammal taxa