



Field Guides Tour Report

Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari 2018

Jul 14, 2018 to Jul 29, 2018

Terry Stevenson

For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).



This endearing Northern White-faced Owl is one of six owl species that we saw on the tour. Our local guide found this rather uncommon species at Lake Baringo. Photo by participant Joshua Horner.

Our July 2018 Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari, took place with lovely clear sunny days throughout. Visiting the Mt. Kenya area, the arid lands of Samburu, Rift Valley lakes at Baringo and Nakuru, and the open savanna of the incredible Masai Mara, we recorded over 380 birds and almost 50 large mammals. Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Elephant and Rhino were high on everyone's mammal list, while birds varied from the huge Somali Ostrich to tiny Mouse-colored Penduline-tits. Many many others filled the gaps between, with just a few favorites including Secretarybird, Kori Bustard, Gray Crowned-Crane, Three-banded Courser, Hartlaub's Turaco, all 6 species of owls, Lilac-breasted Roller, Gray-headed Bushshrike and Golden-breasted Starling.

Beginning in Nairobi, we drove north through the central highlands as we headed to Mountain Lodge on the south-west flank of Mt. Kenya. A stop near Thika gave us nice scope views of a totally unexpected Crowned Eagle, and then at some fish ponds we saw our first waterbirds, including Hamerkop, Black Crake and African Jacana. Several Silvery-cheeked Hornbills in the middle of Karatina town was another unexpected sighting, but we kept moving as we wanted to have time in the forest surrounding Mountain Lodge. Our one night here brought us our first mammals, including Mantled Guereza, Spotted Hyaena, Tree Hyrax, Bushbuck and Suni. Without doubt though, the highlight was a huge male Leopard which appeared in the salt lick clearing right below our roof top viewing platform. Birds included Scaly Francolin, Delegorgue's Pigeon, the secretive Lemon Dove, a gorgeous preening Hartlaub's Turaco, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Moustached Tinkerbird, Red-fronted Parrot, Tropical Boubou, Black-tailed Oriole, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, Black-throated Apalis, and Eastern Double-collared Sunbird.

We then continued further north, climbing to over 8000ft before dropping to the lowlands of Samburuland. Here, amongst the rocky outcrops, acacia bush, and doum palms along the Ewaso Nyiro River, we spent three days based at Samburu Intrepids Camp. The spacious tents, each with its own private bathroom and erected on individual wooden platforms, are all spread along the river bank, giving access to some great birding during our afternoon breaks. With such a different habitat to Mt. Kenya, almost every was new and we particularly enjoyed Vulturine Guineafowl, Palmnut Vulture, Bateleur, Somali Courser, Chestnut-bellied and Black-faced sandgrouse, White-bellied Go-away-bird, White-headed Mousebird, Eastern Yellow-billed and Von der Decken's hornbills, Somali Bee-eater, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Pygmy Falcon, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Somali Tit, Yellow-vented

Eremomela, Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird, White-headed Buffalo-Weaver, and Purple Grenadier. Mammals were also outstanding, with good looks at the 'four northern specials'-- Grevy's Zebra, Reticulated Giraffe, Beisa Oryx and Gerenuk,-- plus many elephants, a variety of antelopes, and a mother and four young Cheetah which had just killed an Impala.

We now made a return journey to near Mt. Kenya, and spent a night at Naro Moru. Highlights in this area were Black-breasted Snake-Eagle, Common Scimitarbill, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, White-bellied Tit, Gray-capped Warbler, and 9 species of sunbirds (with many right in our lodge garden).

Lake Nakuru was our next stop. Lying in the Great Rift Valley, this national park is most famous for the large numbers of flamingos that sometimes gather there. This year however, the lake was very high and had largely changed from alkaline to fresh, resulting in far fewer birds than when the lake is concentrated and shallow. However, we still enjoyed our stay here, with Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Teal, Saddle-billed Stork, African Darter, Great White and Pink-backed pelicans, a variety of heron, egrets, ibis and African Spoonbill, White-winged and Whiskered terns, African Skimmer, Green Woodhoopoe, Southern Ground-hornbill, Chinspot Batis, Little Rock-Thrush, Mocking Cliff-Chat, and spectacular Long-tailed Widowbirds in full breeding plumage. Mammals were good too, with our first Common Eland and the only Rothschild's Giraffes of the tour.

We then continued north within the Great Rift Valley to one of Kenya's top birding hot spots - Lake Baringo. Here, we based ourselves at Island Camp, a lovely quiet retreat on an island. It was great to see the very localized Hemprich's Hornbill as we approached the landing dock, and then things then continued just perfectly as we worked with our local guide, walked the nearby cliffs, and took a leisurely boat tour. We added a wonderful mix of both land and water birds, with 9 species of herons, including Goliath (the world's largest), a breeding colony of darters, cormorants and egrets, at least 15 African Fish-Eagles, Senegal Thick-knee, Three-banded Courser, Red-chested Cuckoo, 4 species of owls in a single morning - with Northern White-faced being the most uncommon, African Scops the most cryptic, Grayish Eagle-Owl, a great find by our local guide, and Verreaux's Eagle-Owl - just huge! Other 'special' birds during our stay here were Jackson's Hornbill, African Pygmy and Woodland kingfishers, Rufous-crowned Roller, Greater Honeyguide, Northern Crombec, Red-fronted Warbler, Gray Tit-Flycatcher, Bristle-crowned Starling, Beautiful Sunbird, and Little, Northern Masked and Golden-backed weavers. Mating hippos were an unusual sighting too!

The final part of our tour was to return to Nairobi for an overnight stay, and then fly to Kichwa Tembo Camp in Masai Mara. 'The Mara' as it is locally called, is actually the northern part of the Serengeti, with just a different name depending on which side of the Kenya-Tanzania border you are. Here, in this classic African savanna landscape, we spent 3 days making drives across the grassy plains, along the Mara River, and to the nearby Oololo Escarpment. For many visitors, the major highlight is the herds of buffalo, zebra, wildebeest, and of course the famed big cats. Lions were particularly great this tour with almost 30, including a pride of 14, and 2 big-maned males. African Elephants were also plentiful, as were Warthogs, Topi, and Thomson's Gazelle; Hippos were common in the river. Bird life was also very varied with Common Ostrich, Red-necked and Coqui francolins, Black-bellied Bustard, Temminck's Courser, Gray Kestrel, Rufous-naped Lark, Stout Cisticola, and Yellow-throated Longclaw in the open grasslands. Vultures gathered there too, with Lappet-faced, White-backed and Rueppell's Griffon all gathering at kills. Bare-faced Go-away-bird and Silverbird preferred the acacia bush, while in the wetlands we watched Gray Crowned Crane, Water Thick-knee and Long-toed Lapwing. In the more forested areas around our camp we found Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Ross's Turaco, the massive Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Rufous-necked Wryneck, Meyer's Parrot, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, African Blue Flycatcher, and Violet-backed Starling. African Wood-Owl showed itself well at night.

Thanks to all for coming along on this adventure!

Our next Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari with Terry Stevenson runs 13-28 July 2019.

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 (Ostriches)

COMMON OSTRICH (*Struthio camelus*) – Some of the group saw 1 distantly from the Ole Sereni Hotel, then we all saw 2 at Baringo, and about a dozen at Masai Mara.

SOMALI OSTRICH (*Struthio molybdophanes*) – Great looks at 7, which included several striking males at Samburu.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna viduata*) – Two at Lake Baringo, 1 at Limuru Pond, and 4 at Masai Mara.

WHITE-BACKED DUCK (*Thalassornis leuconotus*) – Two at Limuru Pond.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) – Most common at Nakuru (350+) but we also saw them at virtually all other wetlands throughout the tour.

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE (*Plectropterus gambensis*) – We saw a single adult male at Masai Mara.

AFRICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas sparsa*) – One of our group saw a pair on the Naro Moru River.

YELLOW-BILLED DUCK (*Anas undulata*) – One near Thomson's Falls, about 10 at Nakuru, and 8 at Limuru Pond.

CAPE TEAL (*Anas capensis*) – Twenty (a bit distantly) at Nakuru, and then very nice scope views of closer birds at Lake Elementaita.

RED-BILLED DUCK (*Anas erythrorhyncha*) – Two at Nakuru, and 8 at Limuru Pond.

Numididae (Guineafowl)

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL (*Numida meleagris*) – Thirty along the road at Solio, and then about 40 at Masai Mara.

VULTURINE GUINEAFOWL (*Acryllium vulturinum*) – Great looks at this strange looking guineafowl at Samburu; in all we saw about 80.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

SCALY FRANCOLIN (*Pternistis squamatus*) – Four on the Mountain Lodge road.

YELLOW-NECKED FRANCOLIN (*Pternistis leucoscepus*) – About 100 at Samburu.

RED-NECKED FRANCOLIN (*Pternistis afer*) – Ten at Masai Mara.

CRESTED FRANCOLIN (*Dendroperdix sephaena*) – Six at Samburu.
COQUI FRANCOLIN (*Peliperdix coqui*) – We saw a pair in Masai Mara.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) – Widespread in small numbers at a variety of wetlands; in all we saw about 20.

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

GREATER FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) – About 20 at Nakuru, and 100+ at Elementaita.

LESSER FLAMINGO (*Phoeniconaias minor*) – About 1000 at Nakuru stayed rather distant, but we then had a great walk along the shore at Lake Elementaita where about 3000 were approachable and inshore.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

WHITE STORK (*Ciconia ciconia*) – Four at Masai Mara were unusual for the time of year.

SADDLE-BILLED STORK (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) – Two at Nakuru, and 2 at Masai Mara.

MARABOU STORK (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*) – About 20 in the Nairobi area, 6 at Nakuru, 40 near Mogotio, and 6 at Masai Mara.

YELLOW-BILLED STORK (*Mycteria ibis*) – One at Sagana Fish Ponds, 8 at Nakuru, 1 at Elementaita, and about 40 at Masai Mara.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

LONG-TAILED CORMORANT (*Microcarbo africanus*) – Most common at Lake Baringo where we saw many breeding birds during our afternoon boat trip. Elsewhere they were present in small numbers at virtually all wetlands.

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Hundreds at lakes Nakuru and Baringo.

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

AFRICAN DARTER (*Anhinga rufa*) – Normally very uncommon in Kenya, but we saw about a dozen at Nakuru, and then many breeding pairs on the boat trip at Lake Baringo.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

GREAT WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) – About 10 (distantly) at Lake Nakuru.

PINK-BACKED PELICAN (*Pelecanus rufescens*) – Usually by far the least common pelican, but on this tour we saw about 60 at Nakuru and 50 at Baringo.

Scopidae (Hamerkop)

HAMERKOP (*Scopus umbretta*) – Widespread in small numbers; with a total of about 20.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GRAY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) – Widespread in wetlands throughout the tour; in all we saw about 35.

BLACK-HEADED HERON (*Ardea melanocephala*) – Common in grasslands and at breeding colonies at Sagana and Baringo; in total we saw about 160.

GOLIATH HERON (*Ardea goliath*) – Magnificent views of 1 by our camp at Lake Baringo; the world's largest heron.

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*) – About 15 at Baringo, and 1 at Limuru Pond.

GREAT EGRET (AFRICAN) (*Ardea alba melanorhynchos*) – Widespread in small numbers.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Ardea intermedia*) – Singles at Lake Baringo and at Masai Mara.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*) – Small numbers at Samburu, Nakuru and Baringo; with a total of about 18.

CATTLE EGRET (WESTERN) (*Bubulcus ibis ibis*) – Common and widespread.

SQUACCO HERON (*Ardeola ralloides*) – Four at Lake Baringo.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – About 8 at Lake Baringo.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – One on the way to Mt. Kenya, and 4 at Baringo.

SACRED IBIS (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) – Fairly common and widespread with a total of about 120.

HADADA IBIS (*Bostrychia hagedash*) – Common and widespread; in all we saw about 50.

AFRICAN SPOONBILL (*Platalea alba*) – About a dozen at Nakuru, and 15 at Elementaita.

Sagittariidae (Secretarybird)

SECRETARYBIRD (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) – Nice looks at 2 at Samburu, then 1 near Nakuru, and 3 at Masai Mara.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Singles in open country near Thika, Isiolo and Baringo.

AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK (*Polyboroides typus*) – We saw a single adult near Solio, and a sub-adult at Masai Mara.

PALM-NUT VULTURE (*Gypohierax angolensis*) – Great looks at a close adult at Samburu.

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE (*Torgos tracheliotos*) – Fabulous this tour, with at least 16 of these now endangered vultures at Masai Mara.

HOODED VULTURE (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) – One of our group saw 2 near Nanyuki.

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (*Gyps africanus*) – About 30 at Samburu, and 120+ at Masai Mara.

RUEPPELL'S GRIFFON (*Gyps rueppelli*) – Sadly, yet another endangered vulture; we saw about 30 at Masai Mara.

BATELEUR (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) – Six at Samburu, 1 at Nakuru, and 5 at Masai Mara.

BLACK-BREASTED SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus pectoralis*) – One near Solio, and 2 singles at Masai Mara.

BROWN SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus cinereus*) – Two at Samburu.

CROWNED EAGLE (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) – Nice scope looks at an immature bird at the Blue Posts, Thika - totally unexpected!

MARTIAL EAGLE (*Polemaetus bellicosus*) – We saw a single immature at Samburu, and 2 adults at Masai Mara.

LONG-CRESTED EAGLE (*Lophaetus occipitalis*) – A single near Mt. Kenya, 2 at Nakuru, and 3 at Masai Mara.

WAHLBERG'S EAGLE (*Hieraetus wahlbergi*) – Two singles at Masai Mara.
TAWNY EAGLE (*Aquila rapax*) – Widespread in a variety of game parks and open farm country; in all we saw about 20.
DARK CHANTING-GOSHAWK (*Melierax metabates*) – Two singles at Masai Mara.
EASTERN CHANTING-GOSHAWK (*Melierax poliopterus*) – Eight at Samburu.
GABAR GOSHAWK (*Micronisus gabar*) – One for some of the group at Masai Mara.
BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) – About 20 in the Nairobi area, and 4 at Masai Mara.
AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) – Small numbers at a variety of wetlands, but mostly at Baringo, where we saw about 15 along the southern shore.
AUGUR BUZZARD (*Buteo augur*) – Widespread in small numbers; in all we saw about 15.

Otididae (Bustards)

KORI BUSTARD (*Ardeotis kori*) – Super close looks at 1 at Samburu.
BUFF-CRESTED BUSTARD (*Eupodotis gindiana*) – Two single males at Samburu.
BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARD (*Lissotis melanogaster*) – One at Masai Mara.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

BLACK CRAKE (*Zapornia flavirostra*) – One at Sagana Fish Ponds, and about 10 at Masai Mara.
AFRICAN SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio madagascariensis*) – One at Limuru Ponds.
EURASIAN MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Two near Thomson's Falls, and 6 at Limuru Pond.
RED-KNOBBED COOT (*Fulica cristata*) – Small numbers near Thomson's Falls and Nakuru, and about 50 at Limuru Pond.

Gruidae (Cranes)

GRAY CROWNED-CRANE (*Balearica regulorum*) – Four on the way to Mountain Lodge, 4 at Nakuru, and about 20 at Masai Mara.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

WATER THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus vermiculatus*) – Two along the banks of the Mara River.
SENEGAL THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus senegalensis*) – Great looks at 1 from the boat at Lake Baringo.
SPOTTED THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus capensis*) – We had very nice looks at a pair at Baringo.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-WINGED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*) – Five at Mountain Lodge, and about a dozen at Nakuru.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

LONG-TOED LAPWING (*Vanellus crassirostris*) – Four at Masai Mara.
BLACKSMITH LAPWING (*Vanellus armatus*) – Widespread along the edges of wetlands throughout the tour; in total we saw about 50.
SPUR-WINGED LAPWING (*Vanellus spinosus*) – About 16 at Samburu, 4 at Baringo, 2 at Elementaita, and 20 at Masai Mara.
BLACK-WINGED LAPWING (*Vanellus melanopterus*) – One at Masai Mara.
CROWNED LAPWING (*Vanellus coronatus*) – The most common lapwing in grasslands, with a total of about 60.
WATTLED LAPWING (*Vanellus senegallus*) – Three at Masai Mara.
KITTLITZ'S PLOVER (*Charadrius pecuarius*) – About 50 along the shores of Lake Nakuru.
THREE-BANDED PLOVER (*Charadrius tricollaris*) – Six at Nakuru, and 2 at Masai Mara.

Jacaniidae (Jacanas)

AFRICAN JACANA (*Actophilornis africanus*) – One at Sagana Fish Ponds, 6 at Baringo (including 1 with young), and 10 at Masai Mara.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Two at Samburu, and 2 at Nakuru.
COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) – Two at Nakuru.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

SOMALI COURSER (*Cursorius somalensis*) – Three at Samburu.
TEMMINCK'S COURSER (*Cursorius temminckii*) – One at Masai Mara.
THREE-BANDED COURSER (*Rhinoptilus cinctus*) – We saw 3 of these gorgeous birds near the cliffs at Baringo.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

GRAY-HOODED GULL (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*) – About 80 at Nakuru, and 6 at Elementaita.
GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Seven at Nakuru.
WHITE-WINGED TERN (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) – Sixty at Nakuru.
WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – About 20 at Nakuru, and 25 at Limuru Pond.
AFRICAN SKIMMER (*Rynchops flavirostris*) – Fabulous to see 1 along the shore at Lake Nakuru.

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

CHESTNUT-BELLIED SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles exustus*) – Eight at Samburu.
YELLOW-THROATED SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles gutturalis*) – We saw a pair at Masai Mara.
BLACK-FACED SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles decoratus*) – About 40 at Samburu.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Small numbers in villages between Nairobi and Mt. Kenya.
SPECKLED PIGEON (*Columba guinea*) – Common and widespread.
DELEGORGUE'S PIGEON (*Columba delegorguei*) – About 20 (virtually all males) at Mountain Lodge.

LEMON DOVE (*Columba larvata*) – Great looks at this normally extremely secretive dove at Mountain Lodge.
DUSKY TURTLE-DOVE (*Streptopelia lugens*) – Two at Ole Sereni.
MOURNING COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia decipiens*) – Common in the dry acacia bush country at Samburu and Baringo.
RED-EYED DOVE (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) – Widespread in wetter areas; in all we saw about 60.
RING-NECKED DOVE (*Streptopelia capicola*) – Very common and widespread.
LAUGHING DOVE (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) – Very common and widespread.
EMERALD-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE (*Turtur chalcospilos*) – Small numbers at Samburu, Nakuru, Baringo, and Masai Mara.
BLUE-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE (*Turtur afer*) – One at Masai Mara.
TAMBOURINE DOVE (*Turtur tympanistria*) – One at Masai Mara.
NAMAQUA DOVE (*Oena capensis*) – About 40 at Samburu, 6 at Baringo, and 3 at Masai Mara.
AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron calvus*) – We had a single quick fly-by at Masai Mara.

Musophagidae (Turacos)

SCHALOW'S TURACO (*Tauraco schalowi*) – Heard at Masai Mara. [*]
HARTLAUB'S TURACO (*Tauraco hartlaubi*) – Everyone had great looks at Mountain Lodge, and then some of the group saw 1 at Naro Moru.
ROSS'S TURACO (*Musophaga rossae*) – Three at Masai Mara.
BARE-FACED GO-AWAY-BIRD (*Corythaixoides personatus*) – Three in the acacia bush country north of our camp at Masai Mara.
WHITE-BELLIED GO-AWAY-BIRD (*Corythaixoides leucogaster*) – Small numbers at Samburu and Baringo; in all we saw about 24.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

WHITE-BROWED COUCAL (*Centropus superciliosus*) – One near Baringo, and 4 at Masai Mara.
DIDERIC CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx caprius*) – Two at Nakuru, and 1 at Baringo.
RED-CHESTED CUCKOO (*Cuculus solitarius*) – Nice scope views of 1 at Baringo.

Strigidae (Owls)

AFRICAN SCOPS-OWL (*Otus senegalensis*) – Just one of five species of owls we saw at Lake Baringo.
NORTHERN WHITE-FACED OWL (*Ptilopsis leucotis*) – Thanks to our local guide, we had good looks at this cryptic species at Baringo.
GRAYISH EAGLE-OWL (*Bubo cinerascens*) – Another great find by our local guide at Baringo.
VERREAUX'S EAGLE-OWL (*Bubo lacteus*) – Super looks at a pair at Baringo. This was the 5th species of owl we saw there - and all in daylight.
PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET (*Glaucidium perlatum*) – Two at Baringo.
AFRICAN WOOD-OWL (*Strix woodfordii*) – Nice looks at a pair at Masai Mara.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

ABYSSINIAN NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus poliocephalus*) – Heard at Mountain Lodge. [*]
SLENDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus clarus*) – Heard along the river at Samburu. [*]

Apodidae (Swifts)

NYANZA SWIFT (*Apus niansae*) – About a dozen at Nakuru.
AFRICAN SWIFT (*Apus barbatus*) – Ten at our Equator stop near Mogotio.
LITTLE SWIFT (*Apus affinis*) – Very common and widespread.
HORUS SWIFT (*Apus horus*) – Four at Masai Mara.
WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT (*Apus caffer*) – Two at Samburu, and 1 at Mogotio.
AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT (*Cypsiurus parvus*) – About 10 at Samburu.

Coliidae (Mousebirds)

SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD (*Colius striatus*) – Common and widespread away from the most arid areas.
WHITE-HEADED MOUSEBIRD (*Colius leucocephalus*) – About 20 at Samburu.
BLUE-NAPED MOUSEBIRD (*Urocolius macrourus*) – Thirty at Samburu, and 20 at Baringo.

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

EURASIAN HOOPOE (AFRICAN) (*Upupa epops africana*) – Small numbers at Samburu, Nakuru, Baringo, and Masai Mara.

Phoeniculidae (Woodhoopoes and Scimitarbills)

GREEN WOODHOOPOE (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) – Four at Nakuru, and 6 at Baringo.
VIOLET WOODHOOPOE (*Phoeniculus damarensis*) – Seven at Samburu.
COMMON SCIMITARBILL (*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*) – One at Naro Moru.
ABYSSINIAN SCIMITARBILL (*Rhinopomastus minor*) – We had brief looks at a pair and a single before we finally all saw 1 well at Samburu.

Bucorvidae (Ground-Hornbills)

SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) – Two at Nakuru, and 3 at Masai Mara.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

CROWNED HORNBILL (*Lophoceros alboterminatus*) – Heard at the Blue Posts Hotel, Thika. [*]
HEMPRICH'S HORNBILL (*Lophoceros hemprichii*) – We saw an adult and a young bird at Island Camp.
AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL (*Lophoceros nasutus*) – Four at Baringo.
EASTERN YELLOW-BILLED HORNBILL (*Tockus flavirostris*) – About 10 at Samburu.
JACKSON'S HORNBILL (*Tockus jacksoni*) – About a dozen at Baringo.
VON DER DECKEN'S HORNBILL (*Tockus deckeni*) – Sixteen at Samburu.
NORTHERN RED-BILLED HORNBILL (*Tockus erythrorhynchus*) – About 100 at Samburu, and 2 along the cliffs at Baringo.

SILVERY-CHEEKED HORNBILL (*Bycanistes brevis*) – Three (or 4) in Karatina town.

BLACK-AND-WHITE-CASQUED HORNBILL (*Bycanistes subcylindricus*) – Four at Kichwa Tembo Camp, Masai Mara.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

MALACHITE KINGFISHER (*Corythornis cristatus*) – Small numbers at Nakuru, Baringo, and Masai Mara.

AFRICAN PYGMY-KINGFISHER (*Ispidina picta*) – One at Baringo, and 2 singles at Masai Mara.

GRAY-HEADED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon leucocephala*) – Three at Sagana, 10 at Samburu, and 2 at Masai Mara.

WOODLAND KINGFISHER (*Halcyon senegalensis*) – Two at Baringo, and 1 at Masai Mara.

STRIPED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon chelicuti*) – Three at Nakuru.

PIED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle rudis*) – Fairly common at wetlands throughout the tour; in total we saw about 50.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

WHITE-FRONTED BEE-EATER (*Merops bullockoides*) – Four near the view point at Elementaita.

LITTLE BEE-EATER (*Merops pusillus*) – About 12 at Samburu, and 10 at Masai Mara.

CINNAMON-CHESTED BEE-EATER (*Merops oreobates*) – Twenty in the Mt. Kenya area, 10 at Naro Moru, and 4 at Masai Mara.

SOMALI BEE-EATER (*Merops revoilii*) – We saw 2 of these rather localized bee-eaters at Samburu.

WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER (*Merops albicollis*) – About 60 at Samburu, and 40 at Baringo.

MADAGASCAR BEE-EATER (*Merops superciliosus*) – Ten in the dead trees along the lake shore at Baringo.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER (*Coracias caudatus*) – Widespread in dry bush country and grasslands; in all we saw about 30.

RUFIOUS-CROWNED ROLLER (*Coracias naevius*) – Two along the cliffs at Baringo.

Lybiidae (African Barbets)

RED-AND-YELLOW BARBET (*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*) – We saw 2 of the gorgeous colorful barbets at Samburu.

D'ARNAUD'S BARBET (*Trachyphonus darnaudii*) – About 30 at Samburu, and 2 at Baringo.

D'ARNAUD'S BARBET (USAMBIRO) (*Trachyphonus darnaudii usambiro*) – Many authorities now split this form as Usambiro Barbet; we saw about half a dozen at Masai Mara.

MOUSTACHED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus leucomystax*) – One at Mountain Lodge.

YELLOW-RUMPED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*) – One was seen by some of the group at the Blue Posts Hotel, and several were heard at Mountain Lodge.

RED-FRONTED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus pusillus*) – Singles at the Blue Posts, Samburu, and Baringo.

RED-FRONTED BARBET (*Tricholaema diademata*) – Four at Baringo.

SPOT-FLANKED BARBET (*Tricholaema lacrymosa*) – One at the Blue Posts, 2 at Baringo, and 4 at Masai Mara.

BLACK-THROATED BARBET (*Tricholaema melanocephala*) – Singles at Samburu and Baringo.

WHITE-HEADED BARBET (*Lybius leucocephalus*) – Three at our lodge at Lake Nakuru.

Indicatoridae (Honeyguides)

LESSER HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator minor*) – Two singles at Samburu.

GREATER HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator indicator*) – We saw a single immature at Baringo.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

RUFIOUS-NECKED WRYNECK (*Jynx ruficollis*) – One near our camp at Masai Mara.

NUBIAN WOODPECKER (*Campethera nubica*) – Two at Samburu, and 1 at Baringo.

GOLDEN-TAILED WOODPECKER (*Campethera abingoni*) – Some of the group saw 1 at Masai Mara.

CARDINAL WOODPECKER (*Dendropicos fuscescens*) – Four at Samburu, 3 at Baringo, and 1 at Masai Mara.

BEARDED WOODPECKER (*Dendropicos namaquus*) – Two at Samburu.

MOUNTAIN GRAY WOODPECKER (*Dendropicos spodocephalus rhodeogaster*) – Singles at Samburu and Masai Mara.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

PYGMY FALCON (*Polihierax semitorquatus*) – Nice looks at 4 at Samburu.

GRAY KESTREL (*Falco ardosiaceus*) – One at Masai Mara.

LANNER FALCON (*Falco biarmicus*) – One along the cliffs at Baringo, and 1 at Elementaita.

Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)

FISCHER'S LOVEBIRD (*Agapornis fischeri*) – About 10 at the Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi, and 6 at Elementaita. [1]

Psittacidae (New World and African Parrots)

RED-FRONTED PARROT (*Poicephalus gulielmi*) – Four flew over Mountain Lodge.

MEYER'S PARROT (*Poicephalus meyeri*) – Good looks at 5 at Masai Mara.

RED-BELLIED PARROT (*Poicephalus rufiventris*) – Also known as African Orange-bellied Parrot, we saw 8 at Samburu.

Platysteiridae (Wattle-eyes and Batises)

BROWN-THROATED WATTLE-EYE (*Platysteira cyanea*) – Nice looks at a pair at Kichwa Tembo.

CHINSPOT BATIS (*Batis molitor*) – One at Naro Moru, 2 at Nakuru, and heard at Masai Mara.

PYGMY BATIS (*Batis perkeo*) – We saw a pair at Samburu.

Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and Allies)

BRUBRU (*Nilaus afer*) – Three at Samburu.

NORTHERN PUFFBACK (*Dryoscopus gambensis*) – Two males and a female at Samburu.

BLACK-BACKED PUFFBACK (*Dryoscopus cubla*) – Singles and pairs at Mountain Lodge, Naro Moru, Nakuru, and Masai Mara.

BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA (*Tchagra senegalus*) – Three at Masai Mara.

BROWN-CROWNED TCHAGRA (*Tchagra australis*) – Four at Masai Mara.

THREE-STREAKED TCHAGRA (*Tchagra jamesi*) – We saw a single bird at Samburu.

TROPICAL BOUBOU (*Laniarius major*) – Two at Mountain Lodge, and about 6 at Masai Mara.

SLATE-COLORED BOUBOU (*Laniarius funebris*) – About 15 at Samburu, 2 at Baringo, and 1 at Masai Mara.

ROSY-PATCHED BUSHSHRIKE (*Rhodophoneus cruentus*) – Two at Samburu.

SULPHUR-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*) – Some of the group saw 1 along the river at Samburu.

BLACK-FRONTED BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus nigrifrons*) – One was heard by everyone and seen by some at Mountain Lodge.

GRAY-HEADED BUSHSHRIKE (*Malaconotus blanchoti*) – Nice looks at this large colorful bushshrike at Samburu.

Campephagidae (Cuckooshrikes)

GRAY CUCKOOSHRIKE (*Coracina caesia*) – Two singles at Mountain Lodge.

PURPLE-THROATED CUCKOOSHRIKE (*Campephaga quiscalina*) – We saw a single female at Naro Moru.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

GRAY-BACKED FISCAL (*Lanius excubitoroides*) – Two at the Equator near Mogotio, and 2 at Baringo.

TAITA FISCAL (*Lanius dorsalis*) – About half a dozen at Samburu.

NORTHERN FISCAL (*Lanius humeralis*) – Common and widespread away from the low dry country.

WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE (*Eurocephalus ruppelli*) – Also known as Northern White-crowned Shrike, we saw a total about a dozen at Samburu, Baringo, and Masai Mara.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

AFRICAN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE (*Oriolus larvatus*) – Small numbers throughout the tour.

BLACK-TAILED ORIOLE (*Oriolus percivali*) – Three at Mountain Lodge.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

FORK-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus adsimilis*) – Common and widespread.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

AFRICAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone viridis*) – Common and widespread with a total of about 30.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

CAPE CROW (*Corvus capensis*) – About 40 in the Mt. Kenya area, and 20 at Nakuru.

PIED CROW (*Corvus albus*) – Common and widespread in the highlands.

Alaudidae (Larks)

FISCHER'S SPARROW-LARK (*Eremopterix leucopareia*) – Four at Samburu.

PINK-BREASTED LARK (*Calendulauda poecilosterna*) – About 40 at Samburu.

FOXY LARK (*Calendulauda alopex intercedens*) – Ten at Samburu.

RUFOUS-NAPED LARK (*Mirafraga africana*) – One at Nakuru, and about 20 at Masai Mara.

RED-CAPPED LARK (*Calandrella cinerea*) – Nice looks at 1 next to our vehicle at Masai Mara.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

PLAIN MARTIN (AFRICAN) (*Riparia paludicola ducis*) – Widespread in wetland areas; in all we saw about 120.

ROCK MARTIN (ROCK) (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula fusciventris*) – About 10 in the Nairobi area.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – Not usually present in Kenya at this time of year; we saw 3 at Baringo.

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW (*Hirundo smithii*) – Common and widespread; with a total of about 40.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (RED-RUMPED) (*Cecropis daurica emini*) – Three at Ole Sereni, 2 at Naro Moru, and 10 at Nakuru.

LESSER STRIPED-SWALLOW (*Cecropis abyssinica*) – We saw 3 of these attractive swallows at the Ole Sereni Hotel, and a few others at Sagana and elsewhere.

WHITE-HEADED SAWWING (*Psalidoprocne albiceps*) – Four at Masai Mara.

BLACK SAWWING (*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*) – About 10 at Mountain Lodge, and 20 at Masai Mara.

Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)

AFRICAN BLUE FLYCATCHER (*Elminia longicauda*) – Now in a new family 'Stenostiridae', we saw 2 of these lovely birds at Masai Mara.

Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)

WHITE-BELLIED TIT (*Melaniparus albibentris*) – Two at Thomson's Falls, 4 at Nakuru, 1 at Elementaita, and 1 at Masai Mara.

SOMALI TIT (*Melaniparus thruppi*) – One at Samburu, and 2 at Baringo.

Remizidae (Penduline-Tits)

MOUSE-COLORED PENDULINE-TIT (*Anthoscopus musculus*) – Great looks at 2 along the cliffs at Baringo.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

SLENDER-BILLED GREENBUL (*Stelgidillas gracilirostris*) – One at Mountain Lodge.

EASTERN MOUNTAIN-GREENBUL (OLIVE-BREASTED) (*Arizelocichla nigriceps kikuyuensis*) – About half a dozen at Mountain Lodge.

YELLOW-WHISKERED GREENBUL (*Eurillas latirostris*) – Two at Mountain Lodge, and 4 at Naro Moru.

NORTHERN BROWNBUL (*Phyllastrephus strepitans*) – Two at Samburu, and 6 at Island Camp, Baringo.

CABANIS'S GREENBUL (PLACID) (*Phyllastrephus cabanisi placidus*) – Two at Naro Moru.

COMMON BULBUL (DODSON'S) (*Pycnonotus barbatus dodsoni*) – About a dozen at Samburu.

COMMON BULBUL (DARK-CAPPED) (*Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor*) – Common and widespread away from Samburu.

Macrosphenidae (African Warblers)

NORTHERN CROMBEC (*Sylvietta brachyura leucopsis*) – Two at Baringo.

RED-FACED CROMBEC (*Sylvietta whytii*) – One at Ole Sereni, and 2 at Naro Moru.

MOUSTACHED GRASS-WARBLER (*Melocichla mentalis*) – Nice looks at this often secretive bird at Masai Mara.

Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and Allies)

MOUNTAIN YELLOW-WARBLER (*Iduna similis*) – One in the undergrowth at Mountain Lodge.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

BLACK-THROATED APALIS (*Apalis jacksoni*) – We saw a pair from the viewing roof at Mountain Lodge.

YELLOW-BREASTED APALIS (*Apalis flavida*) – Two at Naro Moru, and 4 at Nakuru.

YELLOW-BREASTED APALIS (BROWN-TAILED) (*Apalis flavida flavocincta*) – Heard (and seen as a fly-by) at Baringo.

GRAY APALIS (*Apalis cinerea*) – Four at Mountain Lodge, and 1 at Naro Moru.

GREEN-BACKED CAMAROPTERA (GRAY-BACKED) (*Cameroptera brachyura brevicaudata*) – Seen most days with a total of about 40.

RED-FRONTED WARBLER (*Urorhipis rufifrons*) – One at Baringo.

MIOMBO WREN-WARBLER (MIOMBO) (*Calamonastes undosus undosus*) – One of our group saw 1 at Kichwa Tembo.

GRAY WREN-WARBLER (*Calamonastes simplex*) – Heard at Samburu, and 1 seen at Island Camp.

RED-FACED CISTICOLA (*Cisticola erythrops*) – One at Masai Mara.

HUNTER'S CISTICOLA (*Cisticola hunteri*) – Good views around Mountain Lodge.

RATTLING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola chiniana*) – Common at Nakuru and Masai Mara, and a few others elsewhere.

ASHY CISTICOLA (*Cisticola cinereolus*) – Two in the low salt bushes at Samburu.

WINDING CISTICOLA (WINDING) (*Cisticola galactotes amphilectus*) – Two at Ole Sereni, and 1 at Nakuru.

STOUT CISTICOLA (*Cisticola robustus*) – Very common in the grasslands of Masai Mara.

PECTORAL-PATCH CISTICOLA (*Cisticola brunnescens*) – Two at Nakuru, and about 20 at Masai Mara.

GRAY-CAPPED WARBLER (*Eminia lepida*) – Good looks at 2 at Naro Moru.

BUFF-BELLIED WARBLER (*Phyllolais pulchella*) – Two at Nakuru, and 1 at Baringo.

TAWNY-FLANKED PRINIA (*Prinia subflava*) – Small numbers at Nairobi, Naro Moru, and Masai Mara.

PALE PRINIA (*Prinia somalica*) – One at Samburu.

YELLOW-VENTED EREMOMELA (*Eremomela flavicrissalis*) – Great looks at 2 at Samburu.

Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)

BROWN WARBLER (*Sylvia lugens*) – One at Naro Moru.

Zosteropidae (White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies)

AFRICAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops senegalensis*) – One at Thomson's Falls, and 3 at Masai Mara.

BROAD-RINGED WHITE-EYE (KIKUYU) (*Zosterops poliogastrus kikuyuensis*) – Two at Mountain Lodge, and 4 at Thomson's Falls.

WHITE-BREASTED WHITE-EYE (KENYA) (*Zosterops abyssinicus flavilateralis*) – Two at Samburu.

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes and Allies)

RUFOUS CHATTERER (*Turdoides rubiginosa*) – About a dozen at both Samburu and Baringo.

BROWN BABBLER (*Turdoides plebejus*) – Some of the group saw 1 at Baringo.

ARROW-MARKED BABBLER (*Turdoides jardineii*) – We saw a single flock of 7 at Masai Mara.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

DUSKY-BROWN FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa adusta*) – About 20 in the Mt. Kenya and Naro Moru areas.

GRAYISH FLYCATCHER (*Bradornis microrhynchus*) – Four at Samburu, and 6 at Baringo.

GRAY TIT-FLYCATCHER (*Fraseria plumbea*) – Also known as Lead-colored Flycatcher; we had nice looks at 1 along the cliffs at Baringo.

SILVERBIRD (*Melaenornis semipartitus*) – We saw this attractive flycatcher at Masai Mara.

NORTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER (*Melaenornis edolioides*) – Four at Masai Mara.

SOUTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER (*Melaenornis pammelaina*) – Two in the Mt. Kenya area, and 2 at Samburu.

WHITE-EYED SLATY-FLYCATCHER (*Melaenornis fischeri*) – About 20 in the Mt. Kenya area, and 3 at Nakuru.

RED-BACKED SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas leucophrys*) – Two at Baringo, a 1 at Masai Mara.

CAPE ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha caffra*) – Two at Mountain Lodge, 2 at Kisima, and 1 at Thomson's Falls.

RUEPPELL'S ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha semirufa*) – One at Mountain Lodge.

WHITE-BROWED ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha heuglini*) – Widespread in small numbers with a total of about 12.

SPOTTED MORNING-THRUSH (*Cichladusa guttata*) – About a dozen at Samburu, and 15 at Baringo.

WHITE-STARRED ROBIN (*Pogonocichla stellata*) – Two at Mountain Lodge.

LITTLE ROCK-THRUSH (*Monticola rufocinereus*) – One at Lake Nakuru Lodge.

AFRICAN STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquatus*) – Three in the Mt. Kenya area.

NORTHERN ANTEATER-CHAT (*Myrmecocichla aethiops*) – Some of the group saw 1 near Nairobi, and then we all saw about 50 in the open grasslands at Solio and Nakuru, and a further single at Masai Mara.

SOOTY CHAT (*Myrmecocichla nigra*) – About 30 at Masai Mara.

MOCKING CLIFF-CHAT (*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*) – Nice looks at 2 males at Nakuru, and then a pair at Baringo.

FAMILIAR CHAT (*Cercomela familiaris*) – One on the Oloololo Escarpment, Masai Mara.

BROWN-TAILED CHAT (*Cercomela scotocerca*) – Two along the cliffs at Baringo.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

ABYSSINIAN THRUSH (*Turdus abyssinicus*) – Singles at Mountain Lodge, and Kisima.

AFRICAN THRUSH (*Turdus pelios*) – Two at Nakuru.

AFRICAN BARE-EYED THRUSH (*Turdus tephronotus*) – One for two of our group at Samburu.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

WATTLED STARLING (*Creatophora cinerea*) – One at Masai Mara.

VIOLET-BACKED STARLING (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*) – We saw about 8 of these gorgeous starlings along the Ooloolo Escarpment.

RED-WINGED STARLING (*Onychognathus morio*) – Widespread in small numbers, with a total of about 20.

BRISTLE-CROWNED STARLING (*Onychognathus salvadorii*) – About 10 at Baringo.

RUEPPELL'S STARLING (*Lamprotornis purpuroptera*) – Most common at Nakuru (20) and Baringo (12) but we also saw a few others elsewhere.

GOLDEN-BREASTED STARLING (*Lamprotornis regius*) – Another gorgeous starling; we saw 5 at Samburu.

SUPERB STARLING (*Lamprotornis superbus*) – Very common and widespread.

FISCHER'S STARLING (*Lamprotornis fischeri*) – Six at Samburu.

GREATER BLUE-EARED STARLING (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*) – Widespread, with a total of about 70.

Buphagidae (Oxpeckers)

RED-BILLED OXPECKER (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*) – Widespread in areas with big game; in all we saw about 120.

YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER (*Buphagus africanus*) – About 20 at Masai Mara, where they favor feeding on buffalo and giraffe.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

KENYA VIOLET-BACKED SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes orientalis*) – A total of about 20 at Samburu and Baringo.

COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Hedydipna collaris*) – Small numbers at Blue Posts Hotel, Mt. Kenya, and Masai Mara.

GREEN-HEADED SUNBIRD (*Cyanomitra verticalis*) – Four at Naro Moru, and 2 at Thomson's Falls.

OLIVE SUNBIRD (*Cyanomitra olivacea*) – Two singles at Mountain Lodge.

AMETHYST SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra amethystina*) – About 30 at a variety of sites in the central highlands.

SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*) – Six in the Nairobi to Mt. Kenya area.

HUNTER'S SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra hunteri*) – Two males at Samburu.

TACAZZE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia tacazze*) – Nice looks at Naro Moru.

BRONZE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia kilimensis*) – Widespread in the central highlands, with a total of about 30.

GOLDEN-WINGED SUNBIRD (*Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*) – We saw a pair to the north of Nanyuki, and then 2 more at Kiawara.

NORTHERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris reichenowi*) – One at Mountain Lodge, and about a dozen at Naro Moru.

EASTERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris mediocris*) – Fourteen at Mountain Lodge, and 1 at Naro Moru.

BEAUTIFUL SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris pulchellus*) – These really beautiful sunbirds were common at Baringo.

BLACK-BELLIED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris nectarinioides*) – About 8 in non-breeding plumage at Samburu.

PURPLE-BANDED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris bifasciatus*) – Some of the group saw 1 at Masai Mara.

VARIABLE SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris venustus*) – About 15 between Nairobi and Mt. Kenya.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

CAPE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla capensis*) – Four at Mountain Lodge.

MOUNTAIN WAGTAIL (*Motacilla clara*) – Some of our group saw 1 along the Naro Moru River.

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla aguimp*) – Common and widespread, with a total of about 55.

LONG-BILLED PIPIT (*Anthus similis*) – Two singles along the Ooloolo Escarpment, Masai Mara.

PLAIN-BACKED PIPIT (*Anthus leucophrys*) – Most common at Masai Mara, but also in the grasslands at Nakuru and Solio.

YELLOW-THROATED LONGCLAW (*Macronyx croceus*) – About 20 at Masai Mara.

ROSY-THROATED LONGCLAW (*Macronyx ameliae*) – Two at Masai Mara.

Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)

CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza tahapisi*) – One at Kiawara.

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY (*Crithagra mozambica*) – About 40 at Masai Mara.

REICHENOW'S SEEDEATER (*Crithagra reichenowi*) – A dozen at the Ole Sereni Hotel, and about 10 near Naro Moru.

WHITE-BELLIED CANARY (*Crithagra dorsostriata*) – One at Samburu, and about 15 at Baringo.

BRIMSTONE CANARY (*Crithagra sulphurata*) – Two along the road at Solio.

STREAKY SEEDEATER (*Crithagra striolata*) – About 40 in the Nairobi to Mt. Kenya area.

YELLOW-CROWNED CANARY (*Serinus flavivertex*) – Three at Mountain Lodge, and about 15 at Kisima.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – About 20 in various towns from Nairobi to Mt. Kenya.

KENYA RUFOUS SPARROW (*Passer rufocinctus*) – Small numbers (mostly in acacia bush) from Nairobi to Mt. Kenya.

NORTHERN GRAY-HEADED SPARROW (*Passer griseus*) – Singles near Nairobi and Mogotio.

PARROT-BILLED SPARROW (*Passer gongonensis*) – About 30 at Samburu, and 6 at Baringo.

SWAHILI SPARROW (*Passer suahelicus*) – Two at Masai Mara.

CHESTNUT SPARROW (*Passer eminebey*) – About 50 at Samburu included some nice males in breeding plumage.

YELLOW-SPOTTED PETRONIA (*Petronia pyrgita*) – Four at Baringo, and 2 at Masai Mara.

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

RED-BILLED BUFFALO-WEAVER (*Bubalornis niger*) – Fifteen at a breeding colony at Samburu.

WHITE-HEADED BUFFALO-WEAVER (*Dinemellia dinemelli*) – Very common at Samburu, and about 10 at Baringo.

SPECKLE-FRONTED WEAVER (*Sporopipes frontalis*) – Six at Samburu.

WHITE-BROWED SPARROW-WEAVER (*Plocepasser mahali*) – Common at many places throughout the tour with a total of about 600.

DONALDSON-SMITH'S SPARROW-WEAVER (*Plocepasser donaldsoni*) – About 50 at Samburu.

BLACK-CAPPED SOCIAL-WEAVER (*Pseudonigrita cabanisi*) – Common at Samburu.

RED-HEADED WEAVER (*Anaplectes rubriceps*) – Four at Samburu.

BAGLAFECHE WEAVER (*Ploceus baglafaecht*) – Common and widespread with a total of about 100.

LITTLE WEAVER (*Ploceus luteolus*) – Four at Baringo, and 2 at Masai Mara.

BLACK-NECKED WEAVER (*Ploceus nigricollis*) – Four at Samburu.

SPECTACLED WEAVER (*Ploceus ocularis*) – Two at Naro Moru.

AFRICAN GOLDEN-WEAVER (*Ploceus subaureus*) – Four near the Sagana Fish Ponds.

HOLUB'S GOLDEN-WEAVER (*Ploceus xanthops*) – We saw a pair at Naro Moru.

NORTHERN MASKED-WEAVER (*Ploceus taeniopterus*) – In Kenya, only known from Lake Baringo where we saw about 20.

VITELLINE MASKED-WEAVER (*Ploceus vitellinus*) – Four at Baringo.

SPEKE'S WEAVER (*Ploceus spekei*) – Common in the highlands, with a total of about 400.

VILLAGE WEAVER (*Ploceus cucullatus*) – Twenty at Baringo.

GOLDEN-BACKED WEAVER (*Ploceus jacksoni*) – We saw about 8 of these attractive weavers at Baringo.

CHESTNUT WEAVER (*Ploceus rubiginosus*) – Several thousand (all in non-breeding plumage) at Samburu.

RED-BILLED QUELEA (*Quelea quelea*) – One at Samburu.

YELLOW BISHOP (*Euplectes capensis*) – Two at Masai Mara.

WHITE-WINGED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes albonotatus*) – We saw a single male in breeding plumage at the Ole Sereni Hotel.

YELLOW-MANTLED WIDOWBIRD (YELLOW-MANTLED) (*Euplectes macroura macroura*) – Ten at Masai Mara.

RED-COLLARED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes ardens*) – Two males in the wheat fields at Kisima.

LONG-TAILED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes progne*) – We saw about 8 spectacular males in full breeding plumage at Nakuru.

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

FAWN-BREASTED WAXBILL (*Estrilda paludicola*) – Five at Masai Mara were totally unexpected.

COMMON WAXBILL (*Estrilda astrild*) – About a dozen at Limuru Pond, and 20 at Masai Mara.

RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU (*Uraeginthus bengalus*) – Widespread in small numbers with a total of about 40.

PURPLE GRENADIER (*Granatina ianthinogaster*) – Small numbers at Samburu, Naro Moru, Nakuru, and Baringo; in all we saw about 14.

RED-BILLED FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta senegala*) – Widespread in small numbers.

AFRICAN QUAILFINCH (*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*) – Great looks at a pair drinking at Nakuru, and then a couple of flocks in flight at Masai Mara.

BRONZE MANNIKIN (*Spermestes cucullata*) – Six at the Blue Posts Hotel, 8 at Naro Moru, and 4 at Nakuru.

AFRICAN SILVERBILL (*Euodice cantans*) – Extremely unusual to see 6 at 2200 mtrs. near Thomson's Falls.

Viduidae (Indigobirds)

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH (*Vidua macroura*) – Widespread in small numbers with a total of about 20.

STRAW-TAILED WHYDAH (*Vidua fischeri*) – Great looks at a male in breeding plumage at Masai Mara.

VILLAGE INDIGOBIRD (*Vidua chalybeata*) – A male near Kiawara, and then 2 pairs at Nakuru.

MAMMALS

BROWN GREATER GALAGO (*Otolemur crassicaudatus*) – Two singles at Kichwa Tembo.

BLUE MONKEY (*Cercopithecus mitis*) – About a dozen at Kichwa Tembo.

SYKES MONKEY (*Cercopithecus albogularis*) – Five at Blue Posts Hotel, and about 15 at Mountain Lodge.

BLACK-CHEEKED WHITE-NOSED MONKEY (*Cercopithecus ascanius*) – Also known as Copper-tailed Monkey; we saw about a dozen at Kichwa Tembo.

BLACK-FACED VERVET MONKEY (*Cercopithecus aethiops*) – Common and widespread away from forested areas; in all we saw about 300.

OLIVE BABOON (*Papio anubis*) – Common and widespread.

MANTLED GUEREZA (*Colobus guereza*) – Twelve at Mountain Lodge, 20 at Naro Moru, and 6 at Nakuru.

CAPE HARE (*Lepus capensis*) – One at Naro Moru.

UNSTRIPED GROUND SQUIRREL (*Xerus rutilus*) – About 50 at Samburu.

STRIPED GROUND SQUIRREL (*Xerus erythropus*) – One in the Mt. Kenya area.

OCHRE BUSH SQUIRREL (*Paraxerus ochraceus*) – Four at Mountain Lodge.

BLACK-BACKED JACKAL (*Canis mesomelas*) – Three at Samburu.

LARGE-SPOTTED GENET (*Genetta tigrina*) – Some of the group saw 2 at Mountain Lodge.

SLENDER MONGOOSE (*Herpestes sanguineus*) – Singles at Baringo and Masai Mara.

BANDED MONGOOSE (*Mungos mungo*) – Two groups totaling about 35 at Masai Mara.

EASTERN DWARF MONGOOSE (*Helogale hirtula*) – About 20 at Samburu.

SPOTTED HYAENA (*Crocuta crocuta*) – Two at Mountain Lodge, and about a dozen at Masai Mara.

LEOPARD (*Panthera pardus*) – We saw a huge male at Mountain Lodge.

LION (*Panthera leo*) – Great looks at Masai Mara, included a pride of 14, about a dozen others in 3 different groups, and 2 big maned males.

CHEETAH (*Acinonyx jubatus*) – Fabulous close views of a mother and 4 large youngsters eating a freshly killed Impala at Samburu.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*) – Many great encounters with mothers, young ones and big bulls, at both Samburu and Masai Mara.

ROCK HYRAX (*Procavia capensis*) – Seven at Nakuru, and about 20 at Baringo.

BUSH (YELLOW-SPOTTED) HYRAX (*Heterohyrax brucei*) – Five in a gully near Lake Baringo.

TREE HYRAX (*Dendrohyrax arboreus*) – Sometimes difficult to see this solitary nocturnal hyrax, but we were lucky this tour and saw them at Mountain Lodge, Naro Moru, and at Kichwa Tembo.

GREVY'S ZEBRA (*Equus grevyi*) – Great looks at about 20 of these rare zebras at Samburu.

BURCHELL'S ZEBRA (*Equus burchelli*) – Common in national parks and reserves with grasslands throughout the tour.

BLACK RHINOCEROS (*Diceros bicornis*) – Great to see 1 near our camp at Masai Mara.

WHITE RHINOCEROS (*Ceratotherium simum*) – One at Solio, and about a dozen at Nakuru. [H]

WARTHOG (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) – Thirty at Samburu, 20 at Nakuru, and 50+ at Masai Mara.

HIPPOPOTAMUS (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) – Five at Baringo included a mating pair, and then we saw about 50 more at Masai Mara.

COMMON GIRAFFE (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) – About a dozen near the Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi, and then at least 60 at Masai Mara.

RETICULATED GIRAFFE (*Giraffa reticulata*) – We saw a total of about 50 at Samburu.

ROTHSCHILD'S GIRAFFE (*Giraffa rothschildi*) – Five at Lake Nakuru.

BUSHBUCK (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) – Forty at Mountain Lodge, and 3 at Kichwa Tembo.

COMMON ELAND (*Taurotragus oryx*) – Four at Nakuru, and 7 at Masai Mara.

AFRICAN BUFFALO (*Syncerus caffer*) – Fourteen at Mountain Lodge, and then a couple of hundred at Nakuru, and over 1000 at Masai Mara.

COMMON WATERBUCK (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*) – Nice looks at a single male at Samburu.

DEFASSA WATERBUCK (*Kobus defassa*) – Small numbers at Mt. Kenya, Nakuru, and Masai Mara; in total we saw about 60.

BOHOR REEDBUCK (*Redunca redunca*) – Four from the Ole Sereni Hotel.

BEISA ORYX (*Oryx beisa*) – We saw about 80 of these striking antelopes at Samburu.

TOPI (*Damaliscus lunatus*) – At least 250 were at Masai Mara.

HARTEBEEST (KONGONI) (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*) – Six from the Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi.

BLUE WILDEBEEST (*Connochaetes taurinus*) – After a long drive to the Tanzania border, we drove amongst several thousand - the beginning of the famous wildebeest migration.

SUNI (*Neotragus moschatus*) – Shy and rarely seen, but we had super looks at 5 at Mountain Lodge.

KIRK'S DIK-DIK (*Modoqua kirki*) – About 100 at Samburu, and 2 at Masai Mara.

IMPALA (*Aepyceros malampus*) – Common at Samburu, Nakuru and Masai Mara, with a total of about 700.

GERENUK (*Litocranius walleri*) – About 50 at Samburu.

THOMSON'S GAZELLE (*Gazella thomsoni*) – Very common at Masai Mara, and smaller numbers at Solio and Nakuru.

GRANT'S GAZELLE (*Gazella granti*) – We saw the most at Samburu (300+), and then about 40 at Masai Mara.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Reptiles seen on the tour included;

Savanna Monitor; 1 at Samburu.

Water Monitor; singles at Samburu and Nakuru, and 3 at Baringo.

Nile Crocodile; about 10 at Samburu, 3 at Baringo, and 6 at Masai Mara.

Boomslang; some of the group saw 1 at Baringo.

Tropical House Gecko; we saw a total of about 12 at Samburu, Baringo and Masai Mara.

Red-headed Rock Agama; about 6 at Samburu, and 2 at Baringo.

Mwanza Rock Agama; 2 at Masai Mara.

Leopard Tortoise; singles on the way to Baringo and at Masai Mara.

Totals for the tour: 382 bird taxa and 49 mammal taxa