

## Kenya: Birding in Africa's Top Safari Destination

May 13<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (16 Days)



*Yellow-crowned Bishop by Luis Gonzalez*

Kenya is well known and established as one of the best places left on earth to see many of the iconic megafauna of Africa, not just the Big-5, but also many other iconic species that we've seen in zoos and nature documentaries since we were old enough to remember. While I can say with confidence that this is definitely the case, I think this title has heavily damages the perception of how amazing this place is not just as an entry point to the amazing birdlife of Africa but also as one of the top 5 destinations in the continent to see it's many feathered inhabitants. The country list includes over 1,100 species of which 11 are country endemic and many more are regional endemics, add to that a policy of no active hunting any of the birds and you have a place where even in the "low season" you can see hundreds of species in point-blank views and get amazing shots!

The itinerary made sure we went through some of the most iconic parts of the country, including Mt. Kenya, Samburu, Kakamega Forest and the Maasai Mara; but that doesn't mean the whole country was covered and it certainly makes the need to do another visit in the future for the areas missed. This trip was also my first experience as a proper guide on a multi-day trip and thankfully the adventurous nature lovers that joined me enjoyed the whole experience, from the amazing mammal sightings to having the opportunity of connecting with over 500 species of birds in the span of 2 weeks! Many thanks to Alex Mwangi from Cisticola Birding, who was our guide, our drive and our friend while visiting the country.

## Detailed Itinerary:

- May 11-12 (Flights and arrival in Nairobi)

The trip began with an overnight flight to London, followed by a quick layover and arriving in Nairobi in the middle of the night. The flights didn't have much of note, but once in Kenya we were quickly greeted by the driver that would take us to our lodging for the following 2 nights, Wildebeest Eco Camp. After some quick check-in, everyone went to their tents for a good night's rest and at 1AM we were woken up by the mechanical and human scream-like noises of a Southern Tree Hyrax. The only mammal in our trip that remained heard-only, but deserved a special note because of the trauma it caused many in the group multiple nights of the trip.



*Crowned Eagle by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 13 (Wildebeest Eco Camp and Ngong Forest Sanctuary)

Since this was the original arrival day of the trip, some of the participants made plans for the morning, leaving me and two fellow birders to go try and see as many species until the afternoon trip to the Ngong Forest Sanctuary. The lodge grounds provided us a good introduction to the birds of the region with some of the clear highlights being **Dusky Turtle-Dove**, **Brown Parus** and **Holub's Golden-Weaver**, among some more widespread species like **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **African Black-headed Oriole**, **White-bellied Tit** and **Abyssinian Thrush**. The morning birding provided us with good views of 45 different species.



After meeting with Alex in the early afternoon, we drove to the Ngong Forest Sanctuary, in hopes to connect some widespread but deeply sought-after species, including the local variety of **White-headed (Brown-and-white) Barbet**, a fledged **Crowned Eagle**, a calling male **Narina Trogon**, and a mixed flock that included **Kikuyu White-eye**, **Amethyst Sunbird** and a very surprising visitor in the form of **Black-fronted Bushshrike**. This last one was a big headache as the species has not been reported in Nairobi since the 1980's and unfortunately in the battle to identify the species, we missed on our chance to photograph this interesting, local rarity. Last highlight of the day was on the walk out of the forest as we came across a female Jackson's Chameleon crossing the road, with a naturalist in the group, the lizard was swiftly picked up and inspected much to the chagrin of the locals who saw the mzungu (Swahili for wanderer/white person) playing around with an animal usually linked with witchcraft and bad luck. This is something we couldn't understand as these are really cool reptiles, but each culture has their beliefs.

We arrived back at the hotel as the sun set and after a filling dinner and checklist, we went back to our tents in preparation for our first big day starting tomorrow in "The World's only Wildlife Capital" in Nairobi National Park.



*Hildebrandt's Starling by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 14 (Nairobi National Park)

Early departure from the camp brought us to the entrance of Nairobi National Park little before 8AM, with the pleasant temperature and overcast weather, we did not have any fears that bird

activity would die down through the morning. Soon after entering the park, we would see our first vulture in the form of **White-backed Vulture**, this would remain to be the most common vulture seen on the trip, but most of the individuals were seen within Nairobi National Park, other highlights in the entrance included our first traffic jam courtesy of a troop of over 100 Olive Baboons, along with **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** and **Black Cuckooshrike**, two normally widespread species that turned out to be scarce for most of the trip.

Once the habitat opened, the bird and mammal variety sky-rocketed, with a quick stop at a rookery providing us views of **African Spoonbill**, **African Sacred**, **Hadada** and **Glossy Ibis**, plus a surprise **Cape Wagtail**. On the mammal front, we soon found our first mega in the form of two White Rhinoceros having a laid back rest next to the watering hole. The grassland areas were also filled with the calls and mating displays of various species of widowbirds and by the end of the day we would connect and see displaying males of **White-winged**, **Red-cowled** and **Jackson's Widowbird**. Other members of this family that were well represented throughout the park included **Cardinal Quelea** and what was surprisingly voted as the bird of the trip due to its eye-catching mating display, the **Yellow-crowned Bishop**.

Driving through the savanna areas, one of the sharp-eyed participants spotted a female African Lion over a mile away, this took us away from the main route in hope of connecting with her up close, sadly this wouldn't be the case as she kept walking through the area, but by changing the route, the surprising targets kept on coming instead, these included **Hartlaub's Bustard**, **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Secretarybird**, **Northern Pied Babbler**, **Pangani** and **Rosy-throated Longclaw**; some widespread species that we still welcomed with open arms included **Yellow-necked Spurfowl**, **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, **Blacksmith Lapwing**, **Martial Eagle** and a variety of Cisticolas which included **Singing**, **Winding**, **Rattling**, **Stout**, **Croaking** and **Siffling Cisticola**. The mammal front was equally interesting with Maasai Giraffe, Impala and Grant's Gazelle dotting the landscape and Thompson's Gazelle, Common Warthog and Hartebeest providing some variety.

As we began the drive towards the picnic site, we stopped by some watering holes that would provide us with some interesting species including the first of many **Little Bee-eater** and **Hamerkop**, but the standout sightings belonged to an **African Yellow-Warbler** and cooperative **Moustached Grass-Warbler**. Once we reached the picnic site, we couldn't really drop the binoculars as **Brown-crowned Tchagra** and family of **Hildebrandt's Starling** kept our attention away from the food. From there, a short walk to a spot within the Hippo Pool trail, courtesy of eBird, we were greeted by a pair of one of the hardest to find heron species in the African continent, **White-backed Night-Heron**, our short time in the trail also gave us our first Hornbill in the shape of **African Gray Hornbill** and we enjoyed seeing the nesting site for the White-backed Vulture in the region.

A steady drive out of the park helped us connect with new mammals species such as Vervet Monkey, Black Rhinoceros and Plains Zebra, along with many birds including **Shelley's Francolin**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Eurasian (African) Hoopoe**, **African Gray Flycatcher** and **Cape Robin-Chat**. Once out of the park, we began moving towards our lodging for the night around the shores of Lake Naivasha. The drive was uneventful, with the group arriving just as the sun set; checklist and dinner, ensured everyone was back to their rooms before 9, although next

morning I was informed that some of the group members joined hotel staff to see the Common Hippopotamus that feed on the lawns at night.



*Jackson's Widowbird by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 15 (Lake Naivasha, Kinangop Plateau and Aberdare National Park)

Early risers today were greeted to the calls from a variety of water birds around Lake Naivasha, with **African Fish-Eagle** being the most common sight in the area. On the way to breakfast, the lawns provided some of the group with our only views of **Hildebrandt's Spurfowl**, along with **White-browed Robin-Chat**, **Arrow-marked** and **Black-lored Babbler**, and the only seen **Tropical Boubou** of the trip.

After a quick ATM stop in town, we drove up to Murungaru in the Kinangop Plateau in search of some of the most sought-after bird species on the trip and with the help of a local guide that's been working with farmers to ensure these birds are protected, we soon found all of our targets. The first bird in question was a roosting **Montane Nightjar**, a bird with a patchy distribution in the highlands of East Africa, Angola and Saudi Arabia. After seeing this beauty, we moved to the open grasses, where we had back to back our feathered big 3, in the forms of **Levillant's Cisticola**, **Long-tailed Widowbird** and amazing views of the sadly endangered endemic known as **Sharpe's Longclaw**.

The drive up to the entrance of Aberdare National Park was uneventful but beautiful, while waiting for Alex to do the park entrance procedure, we were able to connect with some of the



targets found only within the park such as **Tacaze** and **Eastern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Moorland Chat** and **Jackson's Spurfowl**, these two would prove to be extremely common within the park. On the mammal front, we connected with Mantled (Mt. Kenya) Guereza (Eastern black-and-white Colobus), Kolb's (Blue) Monkey, Western (Harnessed) Bushbuck and Harvey's Duiker. The overcast sky and rainy weather made it difficult to locate properly our last target, **Aberdare Cisticola**. This species is only found within this mountain range and it is outnumbered 10 to 1 but the more widespread **Hunter's Cisticola**. Eventually, in a cruel game of find the tiny bird in the open field, I was able to briefly connect with a pair, but nobody else in the group got to see it in time due to the drizzle. The lunch break also provided the opportunity to hear a **Blue-headed Coucal** that never appeared and soon we were on our way down the mountain. The habitat change also provided a change in species, with **Mountain Buzzard** and **Waller's Starling** being the standouts.



*Sharpe's Longclaw by Luis Gonzalez*

The final drive of the day had us on the road for 3 hours, before we reached Castle Forest Lodge in the foothills of Mt. Kenya National Park. This would be our base for the next two nights, but even as the sun was setting, we were provided some good birds along the grounds; these included **Red-fronted Parrot**, **White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher** and the only **Sharpe's Starling** of the trip! This last one was an amazing surprise, as there are multiple birders that visit the region time and time again only to miss this small, localized starling. This marked the end to a very long day that was less about the quantity and more of the quality, as over 50% of the targets seen

today would not be seen for the rest of the trip. Dinner in the lodge's restaurant had an amazing homely feel and the meals eaten there were a highlight of the trip.

- May 16 (Mt. Kenya Castle Forest Lodge)

Today marked one of the few days that we weren't greeted by the raucous calls of the Hadada Ibis as the morning chorus, instead it was the rare forest-dwelling **Olive Ibis** that did the honors. This species is a species that has a patchy distribution throughout Central African rainforest belt, and it is here in Kenya's Castle Forest Lodge that one has the best chance to connect with this species as they roost near the waterfall in the property. In the first glimpses of light, I barely managed to see them as I opened the cabin door, but everyone in the group heard them as their calls were unmistakable and loud. Sadly this would also be our only connection with the species, as during the afternoon, the birds decided to roost elsewhere in the forest and we weren't able to connect with them at their usual spot.

The pre-breakfast walk was pretty productive as we moved through the mist, it began with more well-represented species like **Red-fronted Parrot**, **Hunter's Cisticola** and **Hartlaub's Turaco**, followed by harder to find locals like **Gray Cuckooshrike** and **Rameron Pigeon**. After a delicious breakfast, we walked down the main lodge road, by this time the fog had dissipated and bird activity was vocal and cooperative, with **Spectacled Weaver**, **Brown-woodland Warbler** and **White-starred Robin** making early appearances. As we continued down the road, a trio of Abbot's Starling foraged through the canopy and mixed flocks contained **Black-throated**, **Chestnut-throated** and **Gray Apalis**, plus proper Greenbul representation with Slender-billed, **Eastern Mountain**, **Yellow-whiskered** and **Cabanis's Greenbul** making appearances. Other species in these flocks included **Brown-capped Weaver**, **African Hill Babbler** and **Black-tailed Oriole**, plus hearing the calls of an **Evergreen-forest Warbler** that we knew would never come out. As we reached towards the river crossing, one of the largest birds in the forest made their presence known and everyone in the group wanted to see them, with what originally sounded like a huge flock, we were surprised to only see a pair of the spectacular **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill**. These giants kept us company for around 5 minutes before moving on and it was a clear highlight for all who got to see them.

The final stop of the morning was going through a slippery trail to a waterfall, in hopes of connecting with species we've missed so far, the trail itself was pretty empty, but seeing a relaxed **African Black Duck** was a great bonus as we had considered this a missed at this point of the trip. Drive back to the lodge, we encountered flocks of **Black-and-white (Red-backed) Manikin** with some **Common Waxbill** in the mix and joined at times by **Mountain** and **African Pied Wagtail**.





*Silvery-cheeked Hornbill & Von der Decken's Hornbill by Luis Gonzalez*



After a lunch break, we decided to do a different trail in hopes of connecting with species missed in the morning. The first hour proved to be slow, but soon activity picked up once we passed the nesting tree for a family of **Waller's Starling**, from there we encountered a surprisingly popular bush that provided us with great views of **Black-collared Apalis**, **Thick-billed Seedeater** and flyover **Crowned Hornbill**. Driving back to the lodge, we played the most frustrating game possible of hide-and-seek with **Kandt's Waxbill**, the game ended with only two people seeing these colorful little birds, even after doing seat changes so everyone could have a chance to connect with them. Back at the lodge, the Olive Ibis were no-shows as previously mentioned and instead we consoled ourselves with an amazing dinner and knowing that tomorrow we would drive to our number one destination of the trip, Samburu National Reserve.

- May 16 (Transfer to Samburu and afternoon drive)

Today started with a long drive to Samburu National Reserve, probably Kenya's best kept secret as far as the big game reserves are concerned. The reserve is well-known for the desert-like landscape dotted by doum palms and crossed by the Ewaso Ng'iro river, the main appeal of the region belongs to the large numbers of elephants found within and around the reserve, plus their own unique 'Big' 5 and how concentrated the wildlife is. We were already with high expectations as Alex informed us that this was his favorite place in all of Kenya, but also braced ourselves since he warned us that during the rainy season, the elephants tend to leave the reserve in pursuit of food in the public lands.

Our arrival in the reserve was around 1PM and even in the blistering heat, activity was non-stop with an active colony of **Little Swift** right at the park arches distracting us from our lunch. After lunch, we had the simple goal of arriving to our lodge at the other end of the reserve with as few stops as possible, but this was easier said than done due to the amazing spectacle of birds and mammals we were experiencing. On the mammal front we soon saw Generuk, Grevy's Zebra, Reticulated Giraffe, Beisa Oryx and Kirk's Dik-dik, these all proved to be amazing showstoppers but the true winner were the family groups of African Bush Elephant; turns out that Alex's worries were over nothing as Samburu lived up to its name as elephant haven and we ended up seeing over 150 individuals during our time here, including every herd having multiple babies. The elephants also provided the only "dangerous" experience of the trip due to how surprisingly quiet and well hidden they were in the bush, nothing gives you a bigger reality check than an elephant walking straight towards you to protect its patch while giving you eye-to-eye contact, thankfully no actual problems occurred.

It wasn't just the mammals that kept us from reaching the lodge at a normal time though, the birds were just as amazing, with **Three-banded Courser**, **Red-bellied Parrot**, **Northern Red-billed**, **Von der Decken's** and **Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill** all giving us a show back to back. **Vulturine Guinea fowl** were often seen scurrying through the grasses and each acacia was dotted **White-bellied Go-away-bird**, **White-throated Bee-eater** or **White-headed Buffalo-Weaver**.

Eventually we reached the lodge and soon it was time for an afternoon drive that put the morning drive in to shame, with the cooled temperatures, many of the smaller birds gave an appearance and we were able to enjoy amazing close-up views of **D'Arnaud's Barbet**, **Brubru**, **Slate-colored Boubou**, **Fischer's Sparrow-Lark**, **Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver** and **Blue-capped Cordonbleu**. While looking up at the kettles we were able to identify **Fan-tailed Raven** alongside **Rüppell's Griffon** and **Black-chested Snake-Eagle**, but it was in the acacias that we had photo-ops for **African Hawk-Eagle** and **Pygmy Falcon**. When we arrived back to the lodge, the sun had already set and thanks to the naturalist in the group, we were able to add a new mammal in the form of Yellow-winged Bat while waiting for our dinner to be served.



*African Bush Elephant by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 18 (Samburu National Reserve)

A full day of birding in Samburu involves 3 things: 2 safari drives, lots of target bird species and trying to find all of the special "Big 5" of the reserve (we had already seen Gerenuk, Reticulated Giraffe, Grevy's Zebra and Beisa Oryx). This morning we were on a mission to get some of our targets while driving to an abandoned air strip, plus trying to find the last of the special "Big 5", the Somali Ostrich.

One of the first new animals to greet us for the day was Günther's Dik-dik, a longer nosed version of Kirk's Dik-dik, that is found only in the arid regions of East Africa and Samburu is one of the few places where both species are readily found. On the bird front, we found the



first **Bateleur** of the trip flying low above us while the calls of **Pink-breasted** and **Fawn-colored (Foxy) Lark** filled the air. Soon we were avoiding the herds of grazing mammals and we began driving a side road in hopes of connecting with some interesting birds, this soon turned into a reality as an acacia forest by a dry river bed supported a variety of birds including **White-headed** and **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **Abyssinian Scimitarbill**, **Banded Parisoma**, **Pied Cuckoo** and a flock of **Vulturine Guineafowl**.

From there, we made a brief stop to enjoy a herd of Gerenuk and some low-flying **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** before arriving to some weaver colonies, the main colony contained the ever present **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** and **Black-capped Social-Weaver**, but the appearance of **Lesser** and **Vitelline Masked-Weaver** and a flyover flock of **Chestnut Weaver** made clear that this bird family was well represented in the region. Other birds of note in the surrounding trees included a pair of **Rufous-crowned Roller**, **Taita Fiscal** and **Mottled Swift**. On the final stretch to the airstrip, we went up a rocky road that just threw our way the sought-after dry country specialties with the clear highlights being **Somali Bunting**, the gorgeous **Golden-breasted Starling** and a male **Somali Ostrich**! The airstrip was barren of our main targets, sandgrouses, but the appearance of **Eastern Chanting-Goshawk**, **Black-throated Barbet**, **Cardinal Woodpecker** and **White-rumped Shrike** were a decent consolation prize. Driving back to the lodge saw us driving by the Samburu Sopa Lodge and seeing the remodeling being done, we were just glad to not stay there for the night. Birds on the drive back included **Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow**, **Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird** and, a sadly seen only two participants, male **Steel-blue Whydah**.

After lunch and a nap break, we were out again, this time we had a lot of birds still missing and soon we were out, unfortunately, it seems like the mammals didn't receive the memo as we were greeted with some of the most amazing views of the iconic megafauna of Samburu, with the river on either side filled with elephant and giraffe herds, this led to an inevitable distraction since when was the next time you would be able around 100 African Bush Elephants and over 30 Reticulated Giraffes just relaxing by the riverside? Well, bird activity wasn't completely missing as we had a very vocal **Spur-winged Lapwing** upset at the elephants and the trees had plenty of **Namaqua Dove** to keep us company.

Once we moved on from this amazing sight, the birds made sure to be extremely cooperative, with **Crested Francolin** walking right up to the car and **Red-and-yellow Barbet** finally showing off its beautiful colors. However, our main targets were still the Somalian/dry country specialties; soon we connected with some of these including **Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver**, **Rosy-patched Bushshrike**, **Pale Prinia** and **Gray Wren-Warbler**. However, our big name targets were on average bigger, yet much more uncooperative, eventually we connected with the first one being **Black-faced Sandgrouse**, from there **Somali Bee-eater** finally made an appearance and the cherry on top was a female **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse** (these two birds were especially nice as they were considered the hardest targets of the area by Alex and I was the one to find them). With the sun setting, we drove back to the lodge, with the highlights being a mixed flock of **Cut-throat**, **Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** and **Chestnut Sparrow**, plus a pair of **Norther Brownbul** and a family of **Rufous Chatterer**. We were given an educational presentation about the Samburu people in the lodge and dinner gave us a sense of accomplishment after the amazing day we had.



*Golden-breasted Starling & Gerenuk by Luis Gonzalez*



- May 19 (Samburu to Lake Nakuru)

Today marked probably the longest driving day of the trip, it began with us leaving the lodge in Samburu in the early morning and it didn't finish until our arrival in Lake Nakuru National Park after sunset. Before leaving the reserve, we still had a couple of species we hoped we could connect with them on the drive out, one in particular, the Buff-crested Bustard was high on everyone's list courtesy of the unique look it had for a bustard and it's limited range. Normally this bird is one of the easiest birds to see in Samburu, but likely due to the overgrown vegetation, they remained well hidden in the grasses and sadly, this remained as the bustard that got away and probably the only true nemesis bird of the trip. Outside of the failed bustard search, we didn't encounter anything new on the way out with a Rock Monitor (White-throated Savana Monitor) and a pair of **Secretarybird** being the highlight. From there the drive to our next stop was pretty normal, with the addition of **Bristle-crowned Starling** while passing through the town of Isiolo.



*Secretarybird by Luis Gonzalez*

The next stop was in a backroad near the Le Pristine Hotel in Central Kenya, this road was filled with flowering plants that were a favorite of **Golden-winged Sunbird**, but the real reason to visit this spot was for the endemic **Hinde's Pied-Babbler**. This bird is an extreme skulker that seemed to go against everything the rest of the babbler family was about in Kenya, thankfully they are very responsive and the road was home to multiple family groups. Eventually while on our way to the lunch site we connected with two of these families and guilt-free picnic suited us well before getting back on the road. Roughly an hour later, we made our final stop of the day before

reaching Lake Nakuru and this one was for a very special bird in the form of **Cape (Northern) Eagle-Owl**, this species is sadly persecuted for a number of bad reasons, from their eggs being used in witchcraft to locals accusing them for taking the livestock, but they still manage to survive and with the help of a passionate local guide, we managed to see a roosting bird and learn of the work he is doing in the community to deter people from harming this beautiful owl.

The final leg of the trip was a long drive 3 hour to our lodge within Lake Nakuru, needless to say, we entered the park as the sun was setting, we were so late that park rangers told us to pay on the way out because the booking system was closed for the day! Thankfully Alex drove with no issues through the roads winding the lake and outside of the jump scare of seeing our first Spotted Hyena of the trip in the middle of the road, we made it fine to the hotel for a well-deserved rest.

- May 20 (Lake Nakuru and Lake Baringo)

Lake Nakuru National Park is one of Kenya's two luxury national parks (the other one being Amboseli National Park) and best known for the iconic flocks of Lesser Flamingos and a healthy population of White Rhinoceros within the park. Overall, the park is the definition of a tourist destination for any safari group in Kenya, thankfully the animals were still given plenty of space to thrive and move on their own without much confrontation with people.



*White Rhinoceros by Luis Gonzalez*



The day began early with a busy breakfast that involved the company of **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**, **African Firefinch** and **Yellow-throated Longclaw**. Once breakfast was over, we spent a good bit of time waiting for the truck to pull up as the number of different safari vehicles made it feel more like we were in Disney's Animal Kingdom, thankfully we were happily distracted by a family of Rock Hyrax on the rooftop of some of the cabins. Once out, Alex turned on the radio to see if there were reports of any "good animals" while we made a steady drive to find the last and most endangered giraffe of the trip, Rothschild's Giraffe. In the drive there we drove through woodlands that showcased a beautiful number of species we've missed so far like **Klaas's Cuckoo**, **Striped Kingfisher**, **Green Woodhoopoe** and **Greater Blue-eared Starling**.

Once we enjoyed the giraffes, we moved towards the lake, where there were reports of a mother and calf White Rhinoceros along with herds of dozens of Plains Zebra, Cape Buffalo, Impala, Grant's Gazelle and small family units of Common Warthog and Common Eland. However, Lake Nakuru is renowned for being a "birdwatcher's paradise" and while it might be exaggerated compared other stops we've had in the trip, the birds definitely put on a show. The plains and wetland area around the lake provided us with 50 new species for the day, many of which were only seen here for the trip. Some of the highlights include **Lesser** and **Greater Flamingo**, **Great White** and **Pink-backed Pelican**, **Blue-billed** and **Cape Teal**, **Yellow-billed** and **Red-billed Duck**, **Common Greenshank**, **Whiskered** and **Gull-billed Tern**, **Gray-crowned Crane**, **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Red-capped Lark**, **Northern Anteater-Chat** and **Plain-backed Pipit**. Once we left the lake area, the woodlands provided us with brief looks of **Greater Honeyguide**, **Gray-capped Warbler** and **Crimson-rumped Waxbill**. Little past 10, we arrived at the other exit of the park and while Alex arranged for the payments we skipped the night before, we enjoyed some of the birds around by foot, these included two pairs of **Fischer's x Yellow-collared Lovebird** hybrid (sadly there were no true wild lovebirds in our itinerary outside of these hybrids), **Rock Martin**, an incredibly cooperative **Long-crested Eagle** that posed for photos, but the standout bird of the morning was a **Mountain Gray Woodpecker**, that ended up being the milestone 4,000 life bird for one of the group's participants.

Once out of Lake Nakuru, we took a drive towards Lake Baringo, our base of operations for the next two nights, along the way, we stopped at a gas station in the town of Marigat that contained the only readily accessible colony of **White-billed Buffalo-Weaver** in Kenya (other options do exist, but usually involve going out of route from most itineraries). From there, it was a short drive to Baringo, where we were greeted by the beautiful cliffs on the left and our first new bird of the area, **Jackson's Hornbill**, on the right. We greeted the hotel staff, were shown to our rooms overlooking the lake and took a short break before meeting Willie, our local guide for the next two days and soon we were on our way to a dry riverbed to pad out our Owl List for the trip.

Lake Baringo is a unique area in our trip and one that goes opposite of what we've seen in Kenya, walking here is fine and even encouraged to find the birds, this is mainly due to the human pressures displacing all of the large animals around the lake are, adding to this pressure, the water level has risen drastically in the last decade and we were made aware of this by the fact that many houses and manmade structures were underwater with only the highest points/rooftops sticking out of the water. The area is similar to most areas of Kenya in that industries that work with the land (in this case fishing and beekeeping) are the go-to ways of

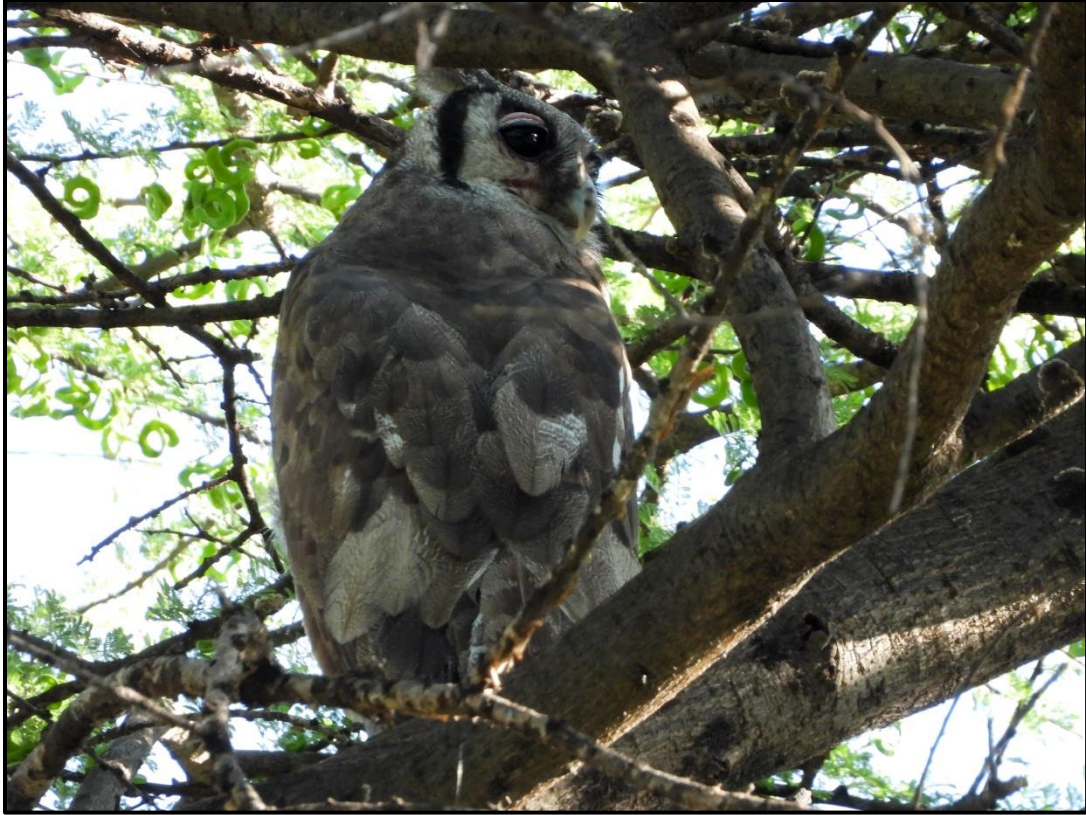
making a living and it takes a lot of effort from Willie and similar individuals to convince the locals in protecting and maintaining what little native habitat is left intact (many parts of the region were overgrown with non-native cacti and cassia trees that were used for food and fire).



*Long-crested Eagle by Luis Gonzalez*

When we arrived on the riverbed, we began a slow walk that surprised everyone as within a mile we had 3 different owl species, ranging from the giant **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** all the way down to the small **African Scops-Owl** and **Pearl-spotted Owlet**. This alone would have made for a good afternoon, but the birds kept on coming, with **Lesser** and **Scaly-throated Honeyguide** making an appearance, as did **Spot-flanked Barbet**, **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Brown Babbler**, **African Gray Woodpecker** and a flyover **Shikra**. Once done with this site, we moved to a new location to find a pair of **Spotted Eagle-Owl**, but in the more open habitat, other dry-country specialties like **Pygmy Batis**, **Red-fronted Prinia** and **Hunter's Sunbird** made for great camera subjects in the fading light. We arrived back at the lodge just as the sun set and were told to be ready early tomorrow morning for another day of dry country birding.





*Verreaux's Eagle-Owl & Three-banded Courser by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 21 (Lake Baringo)

This morning was our full day in Baringo and it began by searching for the last of the night birds we would see on this trip, the birds in question were **Slender-tailed Nightjar**, **Northern White-faced Owl** and **Grayish Eagle-Owl**. Adding to that a pair of **Three-banded Courser** and a pair **Senegal Thick-knee** later in the day and you quickly learn that the local guides in Baringo know the appeal of these nocturnal species and before greeting us each morning, they locate where the birds might be roosting for an easy and time-saving experience.

After locating the roosting birds, we moved on to the mixed flocks and these provided a couple of species seen in Samburu, but just as many new species for the trip; these included **Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit**, **Northern Crombec**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Red-backed Scrub-Robin** and **Little Weaver**. Once the heat began catching up to us, we moved to a rocky outcrop in hopes of finding the aforementioned Grayish Eagle-Owl, plus the sought-after Hemprich's Hornbill. The former was easy if you were willing to go down a small ravine, but the hornbill would not cooperate, once back on top of the outcrop, Willie began flipping rocks which gave us views of some interesting arachnids and soon we connected with **Somali Tit**. Driving by a flowering bush gave us the challenge of finding a **Shining Sunbird** among the larger and more aggressive **Beautiful Sunbird**; very similar to their convergent equivalent in the Neotropics (hummingbirds), the sunbirds take care of their preferred flower patch and will actively attack anything that gets close to their flowers. Eventually we got fleeting glimpses of the Shining Sunbird before moving back to the hotel but since birds come first, a pair of **Dark Chanting-Goshawk** in the power poles and a **Pygmy Falcon** on the wires took our attention for a couple of minutes each.

Due to the dry, hot climate, we had an extended lunch and nap break, but by 3, those in the group with energy to spare were ready for the afternoon drive that first took us to the waterfront, in this area we found the typical water birds of the region such as **Black Crake**, **Three-banded Plover** and **Striated Heron**, the highlights however came in the form of a **Gabar Goshawk** foraging to feed its young and a very cooperative male **Purple Grenadier** (which is probably one of the most underappreciated waxbill species for reasons I can't understand). From there we moved to the cliffs that make parts of the unique landscape around Baringo in search of some amazing targets. Sadly Verreaux's Eagle and Lanner Falcon are no-shows outside of the nesting season, but **Mocking Cliff-Chat** and **Brown-tailed Chat** are nice consolation prizes. Other birds of note in the area included **Red-headed Weaver** and **Red-winged Starling**.

The final stop of the day was mostly made in a failed attempt to locate Hemprich's Hornbill, a species that's at the southern limit of their range in Baringo and sadly seems to be on its way out of the area. Willie normally knows where to find a pair or two of this species, but since they are in full breeding mode, taking care of their chicks takes priority over entertaining the visiting mzungus. The area wasn't devoid of bird activity though, as **Buff-bellied Warbler** gave us the runaround before posing for photos as did an **African Black-headed Oriole**, and a trio of Cuckoos: **Pied**, **Red-chested** and **Great Spotted Cuckoo**. Soon we were back at the hotel for the checklist and dinner, as well as preparing for a boat ride and a long drive tomorrow.





*Madagascar Bee-eater & Hamerkop with fisherman by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 22 (Lake Baringo and transfer to Kakamega Forest)

An early morning boat ride is a must to enjoy all of the potential bird life around Lake Baringo, and this trip did not disappoint. The group was split between two boats and soon we were going around the lakeshore in search of a weaver colony. On the way to the colony we noticed a pair of **Bristle-crowed Starling** making a nest on top of the AC of one of the hotel's room, the first of many **Madagascar Bee-eater** for the morning and a **Purple Heron**, which was personal milestone species as 1,500 in my life list. Once in the colony, we began looking at how different species made their nest and how the structures changed based on the species, there were 5 different species represented here, but the clear highlights were **Northern Masked-Weaver** and **Golden-backed Weaver**, two species only readily seen in Kenya in Lake Baringo. From the weavers, we moved to the water birds, **Black Crake**, **Long-tailed** and **Great (White-breasted) Cormorant** and **African Darter** all gave a show but the clear spotlight needs to be given to a Hamerkop that decided to join a fisherman on his small boat in hopes of scraps.

Willie bought some fish from the fisherman and soon took us to a small island in the middle of the lake for one last attempt at the hornbill, along the way, we encountered a flock of **Northern Red Bishop**, plus a nice selection of kingfishers with **Woodland**, **Malachite** and **Giant Kingfisher** all being present, but by far the most numerous was **Pied Kingfisher**, which were moving around in groups and probably the only time any of us had seen a kingfisher flock! Once around the island we were unable to connect with the hornbill, but seeing a sunbathing Nile Monitor along with good views of Red-fronted Barbet was a nice reward. However, the best part of the show was yet to come as the local guides have trained the eagles of the lake to come in for fish, so once the recently bought fish were thrown into the water and a notification whistle was given, almost as if on cue, an adult **African Fish-Eagle** came between our boats and picked up the fish before going back to its preferred snag.

From there we moved to a new part of the lake, this area was sadly reclaimed land due to flooding and while the birds and Nile Crocodiles enjoyed it, it was a bit disheartening seeing so many homes underwater. Around this area, the bird activity was very varied, with **Spur-winged Goose**, **African Swamphen**, **Little Egret**, **Squacco** and **Goliath Heron** all making good use of the shallows to forage for food. Once back on land, we said goodbye to Willie, thanked the boatmen and had a quick breakfast before hitting the road.

Our destination was the Rondo Retreat Centre within Kakamega Forest, this is probably the best available lodging within the area and it has a couple of really sought after species within the lodge grounds that made it a must stop for the trip. On the drive there, we made a stop at a river crossing near Patkawanin in hopes to connect with **White-crested Turaco**. The bird was very responsive, but not exactly cooperative, in true turaco fashion, it would call just before flying out of the tree it was perched on and once it landed in the new tree, it became a squirrel by climbing from branch to branch until reaching the top and flying out again. Eventually everyone had good view of this beautiful bird and we were on our way, with the other species of note in the area being our only **Mariqua Sunbird** of the trip.





*Great Blue Turaco by Luis Gonzalez*

On the way to the Centre, we were informed that alcohol could not be sold as it is a Christian retreat, but if you bring your own, the hotel staff will keep it for you, needless to say, a stop was made along the way on a supermarket, as some of the participants were not keen to spend three nights without a little bit of wine. Eventually we arrived to the forest and almost as if to remind us that this is a rainforest, the rain kept us company the whole drive in. Due to the long day and rainy weather, most of the group decided to just unpack prior to dinner, but the hardy birders that stayed outside were greeted with the first views of Kakamega's specialties, these included **Mackinnon's Shrike**, **African Blue Flycatcher** and the gigantic **Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill**. During dinner we were greeted by the hospitality of the region, that's a lot bolder than in the rest of Kenya and for a bunch of American birders, it felt much closer to home! After the checklist we turned in for the night and were told to be up before sunrise to be in the forest when first light hit the trees.





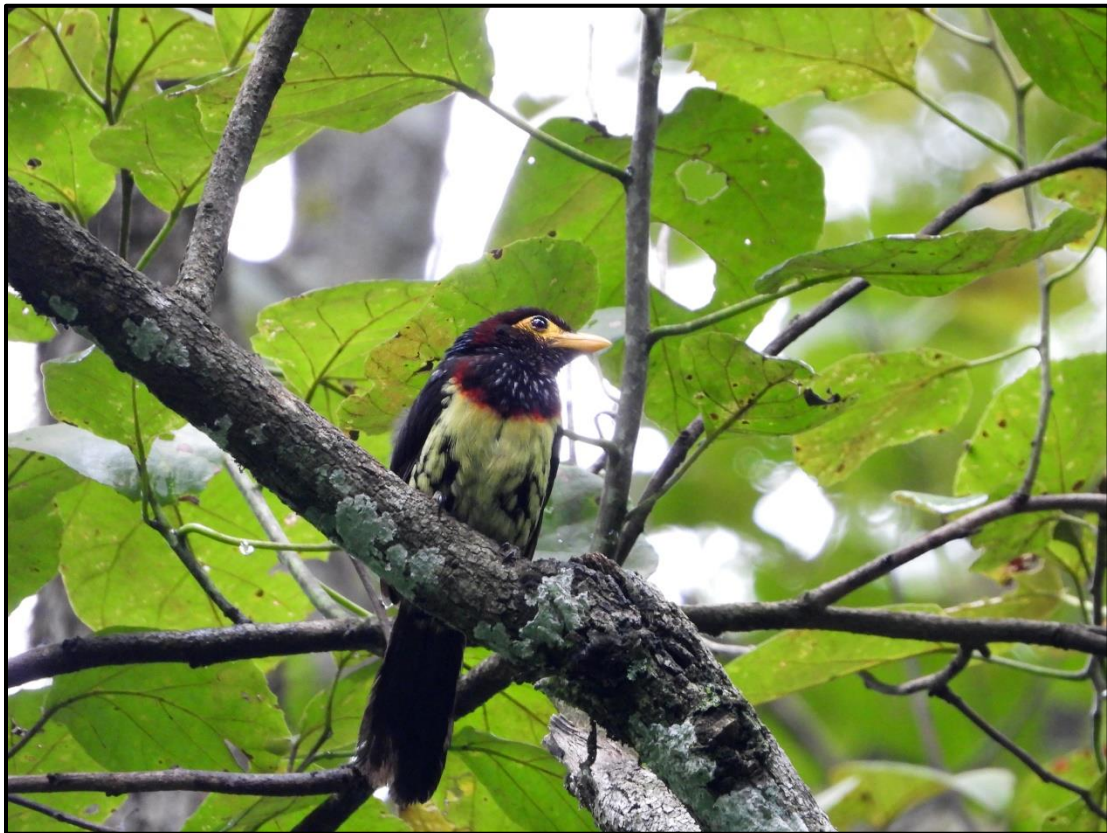
*Red-headed Malimbe by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 23 (Kakamega Forest)

At 7, we arrived at the entrance of the Ikuywa River trail with Winston, our local guide for Kakamega, this is an old trail that leads to a small village and throughout our time in the area we were reminded that the communities around here expect the women to be the ones to maintain the home, even if it means going to the forest to collect firewood that was sometimes bigger than them! On the bird front, activity started fast and many species were only seen as flashes of color crossing the road like **African Pygmy Kingfisher** and **Red-headed Bluebill**. High up in the canopy we encountered most of the species on the roadside, beginning with easier species like **Joyful Greenbul**, **Sharpe's Drongo**, **Gray-headed Nigrita** and **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike**. After going down the trail, we were eventually greeted by an understory species in the form of **Brown-chested Alethe**, this soon turned into a favorite as it was out in the open and we didn't have to risk "warbler neck" for it; other understory species included **Black-faced Rufous-Warbler** and **Black-billed Weaver** (seen only by 2 birders). Eventually, we connected with a calling **African Emerald Cuckoo**, the bird remained on an open snag for everyone to see, but the activity in the trees around it was the big catch as a mixed flock brought in many species we hoping to connect with. Some of the birds seen in this flock included **Turner's Eremomela**, **White-chinned** and **Banded Prinia**, **Gray-green Bushshrike**, **Southern Hyliota**, **Pink-footed Puffback**, **Buff-throated Apalis** and **White-breasted Nigrita**. Further down the trail we encountered another flock, this one being mostly represented by weavers and sunbirds, with **Forest** and **Black-necked Weaver** feeding alongside **Green**, **Green-headed**, **Green-**

**throated** and **Olive-bellied Sunbird**. On the mammal front, Red-legged Sun Squirrel, Mantled (Mau Forest) Guereza (Eastern black-and-white Colobus) and Stuhlmann's (Blue) Monkey were the only sightings.

Back in the van, we drove down to the Pumphouse Trail in hopes to find a few more species for the morning, in a small clearing we had **Brown-eared Woodpecker**, **Petit's Cuckooshrike** and **Least Honeyguide**. As we walk through the trails, we are greeted by **White-headed** and **Black Sawwing** overhead, and given a crash course in African forest birding by the spike of greenbul variety, **Slender-billed**, **Joyful**, **Ansorge's**, **Yellow-whiskered** and **Little Greenbul** all make an appearance. Alex said you can tell the quality of a forest by how many species of greenbuls you encounter within an hour, if the number is 5 or higher, you are in good forest habitat, and thankfully that seemed to be the case, even in the midday heat.



*Yellow-billed Barbet by Luis Gonzalez*

However, we soon were told that we weren't just doing a generic walk to pick up any species like in the river trail, instead we were targeting a member of one of the most sought-after bird groups in Kakamega, the **Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye**. Kakamega Forest is home to 4 species of Wattle-eye, small colorful passerines found only in the forests of Africa, we had seen **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** on the walk, but Yellow-bellied is trickier as it is usually found when they set up a new territory and for that, Winston's expertise was greatly appreciated as a lot of bushwhacking was needed before we reached the area where the bird called. Eventually, everyone got good views of it and some even managed to get some record shots, but to call these birds hyperactive would be an understatement and a foreboding challenge for what we



had tomorrow. On the walk back to the truck we encountered our last oriole for the trip, **Western Black-headed Oriole**, and it signaled a great ending for the morning birding.

After lunch and a nap, only half of the group had the will to do afternoon birding around the lodge due to the rain, but the rewards for those that toughed it out were amazing, with a clear highlight being close-up views of **Great Blue Turaco**, these ended up being the most common birds we would encounter this afternoon. While waiting out the rain, we scoped out **Stuhlmann's Starling** and **Yellow-spotted Barbet** in the canopy, but when the rains eventually gave us a chance and walking through the Centre trails we connected with **Gray-winged Robin-Chat**, **Black Cuckoo** and a territorial pair of **Yellow-billed Barbet**. As light was becoming a desired necessity, we left the trail and went out to the main road, not much was seen except some flyover **African Green Pigeon** and a pair of **Yellow-fronted Canary**.

When doing the checklist that night, I realized that I accidentally saw and photographed an uncommon mammal of Kakamega, the Forest Giant Squirrel, needless to say, I felt bad for not pointing it out at the time, but didn't want to risk flushing the bird we were targeting. The last new mammal of the day however, came in courtesy of some spotlighting around the lodge grounds after dark. We found a confusing mammal that left everyone wondering what it could be due to bad lighting conditions and odd angle/behavior of the animal. The options ranged from a species of Greater Galago to a Potto; but the final verdict was that the mammal in question was likely a Two-spotted Palm Civet, a small feliform usually found in the trees around the Centre but didn't stop us from hoping for a rarer mammal!



*Bar-tailed Trogon by Luis Gonzalez*



- May 24 (Kakamega Forest)

First stop of the morning involved roadside birding to target **Black-billed Turaco**, eventually two pairs cooperated, other species in the area included a calling **Delegorgue's Pigeon**, a trio of **Golden-crowned Woodpecker** and a cooperative **Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill** in the canopy and at the lower levels of the forest, we found **Mountain Illadopsis**, **Red-tailed Bristlebill**, **White-tailed Ant-Thrush** and **Equatorial Akalat**. Things seemed to be going fine for us to move to the next spot until we heard a series of “teew” notes from deep in the trail, there was only one candidate for this call and since we had dipped on it in Mt. Kenya, this was our last chance to connect with it. From there began a game of back-and-forth until we located the bird within the forest, but soon after, it kept moving towards the main road and perched out in the open where we first heard it. At that point the crimson belly, blueish throat and yellow bill were in clear view and everyone cheered for we had just seen an adult male **Bar-tailed Trogon**!

Once in the van, we moved to a trail that was pretty muddy courtesy of the cattle being moved through the area but Winston had luck with all of the wattle-eye species here in the past, so into the mud we went. Unfortunately the wattle-eyes were no shows and all we had got from the short but muddy walk was a heard-only **Lühder's Bushshrike** (normally one of the easiest birds in Kakamega but we would not see it during our stay) and a family unit of **White-headed Woodhoopoe** that were extremely raucous and territorial.



*Jameson's Wattle-eye by Luis Gonzalez*

We moved to the Forest Station trail and here, the birds seemed to want to make up to us for the last stop, as within 2 minutes into the trail we encountered a pair of **Chestnut Wattle-eye**, and soon after a trio drab, skulky species decided to pose for photo ops, the birds in question were **Brown Illadopsis**, **Toro Olive-Greenbul** and **Green Hylia**. Other wildlife decided to distract us as we found and keenly observed a Montane Side-striped Chameleon as it climbed through my arm before stopping at my fingers for photos. Eventually, we returned to the birds, and we were rewarded with probably the best views we can ever hope of a male **Red-headed Malimbe**, easily the most gorgeous weaver in the trip, and it was soon followed by a pair of the equally beautiful **Blue-headed Bee-eater**. After getting our fill of these birds, we moved to an area that seemed good for **Jameson's Wattle-eye**, the last one we were missing and probably the number one target for any birder visiting Kakamega Forest. A couple of tries were and finally we got a response, in the end, the bird seemed to have fun mocking us as it showed up just barely above eye level, gave a quick call and then flew to the next spot. This frustrating experience continued and it ended with only some of us getting good views at this beautiful and sought-after specialty, after 40 minutes of trying, the group got tired of a bird teasing us and we began the walk back to the truck. Along the way we heard two more Jameson's Wattle-eye much to chagrin of everyone that didn't get good views, but a skulky **Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat** was a nice consolation prize before going to lunch.

With clear skies that could turn into rain at any minute, only half of the group was willing to do the afternoon walk, but this turned out to be a case where quality was the highest priority as we didn't see 20 species in the two hours we hiked, but when you get great views of **Vieillot's Black Weaver**, **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat**, **Ross's Turaco** and **White-spotted Flufftail**, you are not really allowed to complain. A pair of photogenic Red-tailed Monkey and some loud **Great Blue Turaco** provided a nice distraction at times. As the weather was turning, we tried to bird a different trail of the Forest Station, but this soon turned into a fool's errand as the gusts of wind made us worry that a branch could fall on us at any moment. While waiting for Alex to bring the truck, one of us did manage to see a **Chubb's Cisticola** but the wind prevented the bird from coming out for the rest; similar to the bushshrike, this is normally a gimme bird in Kakamega, but it seems like elsewhere in the trip, we were meant to have good views of the rarities and not the commoner species. We said goodbye to Winston and as soon as we arrived back at the Centre, the skies opened and they did not let up through the night, needless to say, we were all happy with the day we had and arriving safely to the lodging without the worries of wet camera equipment.





*Lilac-breasted Roller & Kori Bustard by Luis Gonzalez*



- May 25 (Lake Victoria and transfer to Maasai Mara)

Early morning departure from the Centre, has us head southwest to the Kisumu waterfront in Lake Victoria for a boat ride that should give us a number of species we've yet to see for the trip. Traffic sadly doesn't cooperate due to it being a school day and having to drive through big urban areas, but along the way we add some species to the trip, including **Northern Black-Flycatcher** and **Eastern Plantain-eater**. Once we arrive in the Kisumu area, we get on the boat and slow but steady ride through the lake allows us to connect with a few water birds we've yet to see like **Little Bittern**, **African Openbill** and **Water Thick-knee**.

The habitat overall feels very degraded at times and outside of Nairobi, Kisumu was probably the most urbanized area we visited in Kenya. Add to that a problem with invasive fish and illegal fishing, and it seems like the outside of the birds, almost every native species within the lake has been misplaced, much to the dismay of the locals as the papyrus floating islands were choking the shoreline without the presence of the hippos to eat them. These papyrus islands however, were the home of some of our main targets and eventually we were able to connect with **Swamp Flycatcher**, **Carruthers's Cisticola**, **Slender-billed Weaver**, **Red-chested Sunbird**, and **Black-headed Gonolek**. Sadly, due to the rising temperatures, the **White-winged Swamp Warbler** and **Papyrus Gonolek** remained solely as heard only for the boat ride; but we were able to connect with our one sighting/flock of **Red-billed Quelea** for the whole trip! Normally considered a locust with feathers, we were confused as to how it was possible to miss such an abundant bird in the trip so far, but at least we can say we didn't leave Africa without seeing them.

Once on the mainland we spotted a pair of **Fischer's Lovebird**, which have a dubious origin in Kenya as the only truly wild species are found in Northern Tanzania and elsewhere they are simply considered escapees of the pet trade. The drive from there took us through rice fields, eventually these turned into cattle fields and as we began climbing the Rift Valley, the fields turned into tea plantations. After a quick lunch break, we continued southeast adding **Black Goshawk** flying over and eventually reached the road to Narok. At this point we were in the last stretch of the drive and almost as if to say you're reaching the Mara, the wildlife began to change, Plains Zebras and Impala were seen on the sides of the road in the conservancy areas, **Brown Snake-Eagle** decorated the acacia tops while **Crowned Lapwing** were seen in every roadside puddle; the biggest surprise however was seeing a **Kori Bustard** fly in front of our truck and we had to hit the brakes fast to avoid collision!

At the entrance of the Mara we were actually given the hardest challenge as we had to wait inside of the car as Alex did the payment with the windows up to avoid accidentally damaging one of the knick-knacks the Maasai ladies were trying to sell and having to pay for it. Eventually they gave up and went for another vehicle that had the windows rolled down, but the biggest scare of the trip actually came from Alex's cruel joke that we had to drive back to Nairobi as we were denied entry to the Mara due to how late it was! Needless to say we all had a laugh of relief when we realized he was joking and drove to our lodge for the night, Sarova Mara Game Camp, for some rest in the place that the group voted as the nicest stay of the trip. Almost as if to be reminded we are in the Mara, the short drive in had us be greeted by **Bare-faced Go-away-bird** and Topi, two species that can only be found in Kenya within the Maasai Mara and

nowhere else. Lots of rest was needed, because tomorrow we would begin the last leg of our trip in one of the most iconic national reserves in the world!



*Gray-crowned Crane by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 26 (Maasai Mara)

Departure from the lodge was a bit later than usual, but thankfully this didn't impede animal activity as the windy morning forced most of the birds to hunker down until the winds relaxed. Soon after leaving the lodge, we encountered a small flock of **Violet-backed Starling**, but the attention soon turned to the seemingly savanna of the Maasai Mara and how many ungulates we were seeing, mixed herds contained Thompson's and Grant's Gazelle, the ever present Impala and the new default herbivore, Topi. While driving through the roads of the Southern section, we were pleasantly surprised by cooperative pairs of **Gray-crowned Crane** and a flock of over 30 **Black-winged Lapwing**; other new birds in the area included **Wattled Lapwing**, **White-tailed** and **Lakattoo Lark**. However, you can't be in Mara and not see big cats, and soon enough we found a pair of Cheetah that were popular as they were previously part of a brotherhood that once had five individuals and were able to take down large antelope in their coordinated hunts, sadly these days only these two remain; the other cat seen was a lazy pair of bachelor African Lion that you probably couldn't tell much difference between them and the dirt from how relaxing they with only their backs and belly in full view.

Once we decided to let sleeping lions lie, I noticed a pair of chunky birds landing nearby, and sure enough, these would turn out to be our only **Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** for the trip!



From there, we decided to go to a nearby airstrip for a needed bathroom break, but on the way there, a stop by a river crossing provided us with views of **Fan-tailed** and **Yellow-mantled Widowbird**, the last two widowbirds we needed for the trip, alongside **Mosque** and **Angola Swallow**. Once done with the bathroom break, we decided to search for **Yellow-billed Oxpecker** among the Cape Buffalo herds and soon enough we had 3 individuals giving their best on one of the buffalos and a pair of **Red-necked Spurfowl** also gave an appearance in the same road we had a **Quailfinch** foraging without any concern for us.



*Gray Kestrel by Luis Gonzalez*

As it approached midday, we arrived at the Mara River crossing, one of the most filmed locations in all of Africa courtesy of the wildebeest migration, but also the entry gate to the Mara Triangle, a more pristine and well-preserved region of the Maasai Mara that's been left as close to its natural state as humanly possible in order to see how most East Africa truly was just a few hundred years ago. In crossing itself, we added a new bird in the form of **Gray-capped Social-Weaver**, but it was the amazingly colorful Mwanza flat-headed Rock Agama the one that stole the show with its amazing colors. Once on the other side of the gate, we soon located a second pair of Cheetah and a new mammal in the form of a family troupe of Banded Mongoose. However, it was seeing a number of vehicles just waiting in a spot that gave us the hint that something interesting was there and after nearly 20 minutes trying to reach the location, the surprise waiting for us can only be described as amazing. A fully grown male African Leopard was slowly striding towards us; it was the only moment in the trip that I felt like I missed a shot due to being captivated by an animal. The feline was moving at a calm yet swaggering pace, he

knew that he was in control of his domain and one view into his eyes was all it took for us to freeze for a couple of seconds before he disappeared into a bush for a nap.

After that unforgettable encounter that singlehandedly nominated the Leopard as the mammal of the trip, we went to the Kenya/Tanzania border for lunch. We did the whole tourist experience of taking pictures and moving between both countries; but soon we began to move to our lodging for the night as one of our members was feeling a bit under the weather. Unfortunately the birds did not seem to get the memo, as we got some of the best views possible for some species like **Black-bellied Bustard** and **Coqui Francolin**, and the most surprising rarity in the form of **Abdim's Stork**. This African migrant that normally winters in Kenya, but at this time of year it's expected to be further north along the countries that border the Sahara desert, unfortunately the bird was flushed by a fast moving safari truck, following close to the image of a safari, that it's not a big mammal, they stop for nothing.



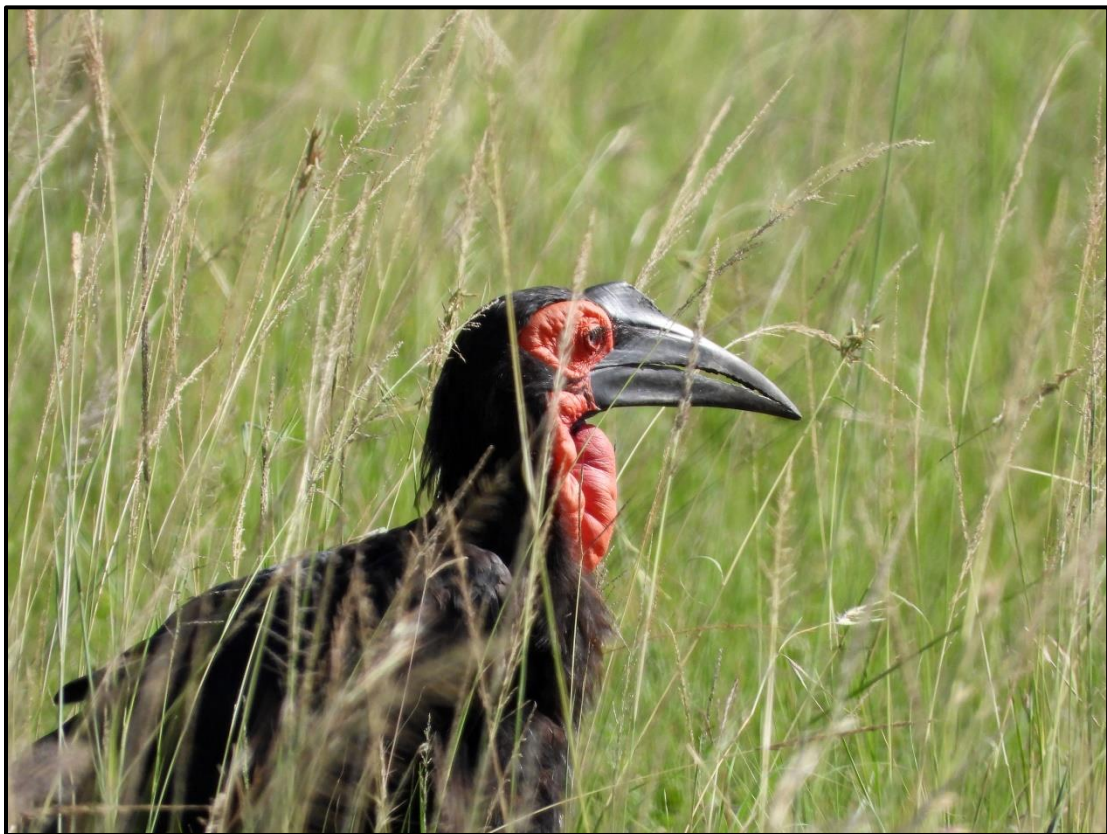
*Temminck's Courser by Luis Gonzalez*

Once unpacked in the lodge, the few that had the interest to go back out were soon back in the vehicle and drove back the same road to find the ponds we left behind earlier. On the drive there, the sharp-eyed naturalist in our group spotted a **Gray Kestrel** in the fork of an acacia and the obligatory stop for a posing **Lilac-breasted Roller** was made. The ponds themselves didn't provide much in terms of new activity, but a semi-hidden Rufous-bellied Heron was a good sighting. From there we drove over the rolling hills while avoiding the herds of Cape Buffalo, the largest herd numbered over 100 individuals and in their back there was a flock of over 200 **Wattled Starling**. Bird activity was slow, so our focus quickly shifted to a wandering Spotted



Hyena and our first Black-backed Jackal of the trip. The jackal unfortunately was not very cooperative, so we moved closer to where we saw it move and once there, we were greeted with a picturesque image of the African savanna in the golden hour. Open grasslands dotted with acacias and woodland near the river; mixed herds of different antelopes that were joined by Common Warthog, Plains Zebra and **Common Ostrich**. A pair of **Senegal Lapwing** foraged near a family heard of African Bush Elephant and in the wooded area we could see a herd Maasai Giraffe foraging as a **Flappet Lark** did its mating display over our heads. If this was not the quintessential African savanna, what was?

Feeling good with the afternoon drive, we drove back to the lodge, only to stop for a pair of **Temminck's Courser** that was doing their odd running behavior. The sun set just as we drove into the lodge, and after a noisy checklist and dinner, courtesy of the many other guests in the lodge, we went to sleep for the night and hoped that tomorrow was as memorable as today.



*Southern Ground-Hornbill by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 27 (Maasai Mara)

Today we had a full day in the Mara Triangle, this region of the Maasai Mara is overall seen as a better area for birding purposes due to the smaller number of visitors and it is particular well represented in the raptor and wading bird groups. Before heading out, we noticed a new mammal in the trees right above our rooms in the shape of Bush Hyrax and the early morning drive had us going towards the Mara River in hopes to find some special birds in the woodlands surrounding the river. On the drive there, a pair of **Temminck's Courser** were seen by everyone

in the group, but the first new bird of the trip was the **Fan-tailed Grassbird**, a weird grassland specialty with a patchy range throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Once we reached the woodland, a small group of **Meyer's Parrot** made their presence known from the top of the tree canopy, a **Schalow's Turaco** was also heard but sadly never seen, thus leaving the last potential turaco of the trip in the heard-only category. Driving back close to the river we noticed the bloats of Common Hippopotamus and on the drive towards the Western corner of the triangle we saw a distant pair of Black Rhinoceros.

As the day heated up, raptor activity began to rise as well, with 11 species seen this morning! Some of the highlight birds include **Lappet-faced Vulture**, **Brown** and **Black-chested Snake-Eagle** and an out-of-season **Eurasian Marsh-Harrier**. Looking at the swallow flocks eventually got us views of Rufous-chested Swallow and in one of the pools we eventually found a much-more cooperative **Rufous-bellied Heron** than the one seen the previous day. A quick bathroom break in the Western gate of the Mara also had us take the commemorative trip photo and driving back to the lodge had us find some species we had missed so far for the day, but new birds were few and far in-between, with some relatively expected and large species like African Woolly-necked and Saddle-billed Stork being oddly missing. However, we were able to connect with one of the best birds in the region when I erroneously pointed out a "Striated Heron" on top of a bush, Alex quickly backtracked when I said that and sure enough, the bird was something much better as it was a **Dwarf Bittern**! Leaving with that happy note back to the lodge, we had lunch and a nap break before hitting the road in the afternoon.



*Cheetah by Luis Gonzalez*



Since it was the last day, some members of the group decided to stay back and properly pack up, but some of us wanted more of the Mara and sure enough this afternoon drive was going to give us that. Soon after leaving the lodge, we spotted a faraway kill that contained the typical scavengers in these savannas as Black-backed Jackal, Spotted Hyena, **White-backed** and **Hooded Vulture** were all taking scraps from the kill. Moving from there we encountered a three birds that represent one of the highlights of the Mara, **Southern Ground-Hornbill**, we enjoyed the bird forage for a couple of minutes and admire their long eyelashes before being distracted yet again, but this time it was by a pair of Cheetah that walked right next to the truck and posed for photos.

The afternoon was already looking good, but we decided to make it back to the site where we saw the Leopard yesterday. On the way there, Alex was explaining why there were absolutely no Blue Wildebeest in the Mara, even though there is a resident population in Kenya. The answer to that was quite simple, most of the wildebeest leave the Mara towards the conservancy lands outside of the reserve as the carnivores tend to not follow after them in fear of confrontation with the Maasai tribes. Simply put, the resident wildebeest are smart enough to not stay in the reserve unless the migratory herds are around acting as easy meals for the predators; and wouldn't you know it, in that exact moment I noticed a single Blue Wildebeest in the middle of the savanna, far away from any herd or even some cover! We joked that was probably the dumbest wildebeest in the Maasai Mara and kept driving towards the Leopard spot and sure enough the big cat was there. Earlier in the day some people got to see it with a kill up the acacia tree, but by the time we got there he was just being a lazy cat in the shade, falling asleep, licking his paws and just being a happy cat. It was a rare moment you don't enjoy when seeing a nature documentary, but here you had an animal, a predator, just content with his life, even if the blind eye he had was proof that he was rejected in the worst possible way by a potential mate in the last couple of days.

Once we were satisfied with the Leopard, we began the drive back, at this point, the golden hour had hit the region and we enjoyed as the flocks of **Yellow-fronted Canary** flushed off the road, listened to the **Rosy-throated Longclaw** in the bushes and enjoyed seeing herd after herd of elephants, each with multiple babies. We were driving towards a spot that in the past there had been reports of Marsh Owl, sadly the owl was not to be seen, but I'd say that connecting with **Banded Martin** flying at eye level and a group of **White-bellied Bustard** is as good a closer to this day as we could hope. Tomorrow we had a long drive to Nairobi for an evening departure back home and everyone was wondering how many more new birds we would connect with on the way back.



*Rosy-throated Longclaw by Luis Gonzalez*

- May 28 (Maasai Mara and Departure)

Last morning in Kenya and we had a long drive through the Mara to get to Nairobi before sunset. However, no morning drive through the savanna would be possible without a few stops, the birds we noticed along the way included **Black-bellied Bustard**, **Pectoral-patch Cisticola** and **Sooty Chat**. Once at the Mara River crossing, we noticed the river was filled with hippos and this turned to be a good sign of the mammal activity in the Southern section of the Mara as the mammal sightings would be outstanding. The first thing we noticed was a caravan of vehicles actively waiting for something to appear from the bushes and sure enough, a female Leopard walked out much to our excitement followed by a quick dismay as we saw the many safari trucks full of tourists actively harassing the animal, all in the name of getting a "better view". The Leopard ran into the grasses, which normally would be enough to let her move freely as you are not allowed to drive off the roads unless there's an extreme emergency, but nobody seemed to care as they corralled the animal and at that point we told Alex to leave. Sadly this seemed to be a regular occurrence, and as Alex put it, this is the daily views you get here during the months of the wildebeest migration, safari trucks full of tourists and drivers that care more for a little extra tip at the end rather than the well-being of the animals.

Leaving that bittersweet experience behind, we located a small pride of Lions, complete with a watchful female, a resting father and three active cubs. We spent around 15 minutes with them before going on our way, only to see the two remaining Cheetah brothers in the shade of a bush, simply put, in the span of an hour; we had seen all three big cats of East Africa back-to-



back! Alex had never experienced this before and he said it was very unlikely that he would again in the near future as normally the luck goes that you get one or two of the cats one day and you target the missing one in the second day in the Mara. This would have been enough to leave us happy as we were less than a couple of miles from the gate, but sure enough, we would get an unforgettable send off as a lioness came within 3 meters of the vehicle, plopped down and allowed us to enjoy her in full majesty for about 5 minutes before more safari trucks came by and she decided that was enough posing.

We reached entrance with little over an hour before midday, the final time we had to leave the reserve and since this was a birding trip and we've had 0 new birds so far, Alex took us through a back road in hope of adding some species. The road was one that led to the Maasai tribes in the area and the more budget friendly lodges, but it was still good dry acacia habitat and the potential for new birds was there. The heat of the day made it difficult to connect with some of the more sought-after targets like Gray-crested Helmetshrike, but we reconnected with some species we've seen previously in the trip like **Von der Decken's Hornbill**, **Black-backed Puffback** and **Bare-faced Go-away-bird**. New species included the potential future split **D'Arnaud's (Usambiro) Barbet**, plus **Red-faced Crombec**, **Swahili Sparrow** and **Silverbird**. This stop also provided us the last new mammal of the trip in the diminutive Common Dwarf Mongoose.

Once out of the Mara, we stopped for a quick lunch break before continuing on our way North, the drive was uneventful but at the time we thought we had only encountered 498 species for the trip (at this point we were actually past 500), but in hopes of finding just 2 more birds, we made drove through Highway B3 in the Rift Valley hoping to connect with the **Abyssinian Wheatear**, and we had a beautiful male show off for us. After a slow and tense filled drive up the Rift Valley mountains to enter Nairobi, we made it to Manguo Swamp, an wetland area near Limuru just Northeast of Nairobi. The area was our last intended stop of the trip and we went there in hopes of connecting with Maccoa Duck, a difficult to find species that's been seen here in the past; sadly the duck was a no-show and our last new bird for the trip was none other than the **Red-knobbed Coot**, which was the most numerous bird in the wetland.

With everyone feeling accomplished, we were invited to a surprised farewell dinner and as we said our goodbyes to Alex in the airport. The immigration process was pretty straightforward with the incredible number of security checks being the biggest surprise. Everyone made it home safe and with no issues of missing/delayed flights. Thus ending this successful trip through Africa's premier wildlife destinations and easily one of the best trips many of us have taken in our lives.



*African Leopard & African Lion by Luis Gonzalez*



**Bird List:**

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	Multiple locations
2	Somali Ostrich	<i>Struthio molybdophanes</i>	Samburu NR
3	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	Multiple locations
4	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Multiple locations
5	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	Lake Baringo
6	Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
7	African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
8	Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	Multiple Locations
9	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
10	Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	Multiple locations
11	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Multiple locations
12	Vulturine Guineafowl	<i>Acryllium vulturinum</i>	Samburu NR
13	Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>	Multiple locations
14	Coqui Francolin	<i>Campocolinus coqui</i>	Maasai Mara NR
15	Shelley's Francolin	<i>Scleroptila shelleyi</i>	Nairobi NP
16	Jackson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis jacksoni</i>	Aberdare NP
17	Hildebrandt's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis hildebrandti</i>	Lake Naivasha
18	Yellow-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i>	Multiple locations
19	Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>	Maasai Mara NR
20	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
21	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
22	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
23	Rock Pigeon (Feral)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Multiple locations
24	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	Multiple locations
25	Rameron Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
26	Delegorgue's Pigeon	<i>Columba delegorguei</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
27	Dusky Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>	Wildebeest Eco Camp
28	Mourning Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	Multiple locations
29	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	Multiple locations
30	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	Multiple locations
31	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	Multiple locations
32	Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	Multiple locations
33	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
34	Tambourine Dove [HO]	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
35	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	Samburu NR
36	African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
37	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	Samburu NR
38	Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>	Maasai Mara NR
39	Black-faced Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>	Samburu NR

40	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>	Samburu NR
41	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	Multiple locations
42	White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>	Maasai Mara NR
43	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>	Maasai Mara NR
44	Hartlaub's Bustard	<i>Lissotis hartlaubii</i>	Nairobi NP
45	Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
46	Schalow's Turaco <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>	Maasai Mara NR
47	Black-billed Turaco	<i>Tauraco schuettii</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
48	White-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco leucolophus</i>	Patkawanin
49	Hartlaub's Turaco	<i>Tauraco hartlaubi</i>	Ngong Forest Sanctuary
50	Ross's Turaco	<i>Musophaga rossae</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
51	Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
52	White-bellied Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>	Multiple locations
53	Eastern Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
54	Senegal Coucal <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
55	Blue-headed Coucal <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Centropus monachus</i>	Aberdare NP
56	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	Nairobi NP
57	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Multiple locations
58	Pied Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	Multiple locations
59	Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	Multiple locations
60	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	Multiple locations
61	African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
62	Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
63	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	Multiple locations
64	Montane Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus poliocephalus</i>	North Kinangop
65	Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>	Multiple locations
66	Mottled Swift	<i>Apus aequatorialis</i>	Samburu NR
67	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Multiple locations
68	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	Multiple locations
69	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Multiple locations
70	White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
71	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Nairobi NP
72	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Manguo Swamp
73	African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>	Lake Baringo
74	Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>	Multiple locations
75	Gray Crowned-Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	Multiple locations
76	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
77	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	Lake Baringo
78	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	Nairobi NP
79	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Lake Nakuru NP



80	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	Multiple locations
81	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Multiple locations
82	Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>	Maasai Mara NR
83	Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>	Multiple locations
84	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	Multiple locations
85	Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
86	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	Multiple locations
87	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	Multiple locations
88	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
89	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>	Maasai Mara NR
90	Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>	Multiple locations
91	Gray-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
92	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
93	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
94	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	Multiple locations
95	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	Maasai Mara NR
96	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	Multiple locations
97	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	Multiple locations
98	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	Multiple locations
99	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	Multiple locations
100	Great (White-breasted) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i>	Multiple locations
101	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Multiple locations
102	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
103	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	Multiple locations
104	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
105	Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>	Maasai Mara NR
106	Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Multiple locations
107	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	Multiple locations
108	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	Multiple locations
109	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Multiple locations
110	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Multiple locations
111	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Multiple locations
112	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Multiple locations
113	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Multiple locations
114	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Multiple locations
115	Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>	Maasai Mara NR
116	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Multiple locations
117	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Lake Baringo
118	White-backed Night-Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>	Nairobi NP
119	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Nairobi NP

120	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	Multiple locations
121	Olive Ibis	<i>Bostrychia olivacea</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
122	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	Multiple locations
123	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	Multiple locations
124	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	Multiple locations
125	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Multiple locations
126	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Multiple locations
127	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	Multiple locations
128	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	Maasai Mara NR
129	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
130	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	Multiple locations
131	Rüppell's Griffon	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>	Multiple locations
132	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	Multiple locations
133	Black-chested Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	Multiple locations
134	Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
135	Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	Multiple locations
136	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	Multiple locations
137	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	Multiple locations
138	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Multiple locations
139	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>	Samburu NR
140	Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	Multiple locations
141	Eastern Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>	Samburu NR
142	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	Lake Baringo
143	Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
144	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Multiple locations
145	Black Goshawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	Bomet Tussock Grassland
146	Black (Yellow-billed) Kite	<i>Milvus migrans aegyptius</i>	Multiple locations
147	African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	Multiple locations
148	Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	Aberdare NP
149	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	Multiple locations
150	African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	Lake Baringo
151	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>	Lake Baringo
152	Grayish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>	Lake Baringo
153	Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	Lake Baringo
154	Cape Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i>	Kiawara
155	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lacteus</i>	Lake Baringo
156	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glauclidium perlatum</i>	Lake Baringo
157	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	Multiple locations
158	White-headed Mousebird	<i>Colius leucocephalus</i>	Samburu NR
159	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	Multiple locations
160	Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>	Ngong Forest Sanctuary



161	Bar-tailed Trogon	<i>Apaloderma vittatum</i>	Multiple locations
162	Eurasian (African) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops africana</i>	Multiple locations
163	Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
164	White-headed Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus bollei</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
165	Abyssinian Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus minor</i>	Samburu NR
166	Southern Ground-Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>	Maasai Mara NR
167	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
168	African Gray Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	Multiple locations
169	Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>	Samburu NR
170	Jackson's Hornbill	<i>Tockus jacksoni</i>	Lake Baringo
171	Von der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>	Multiple locations
172	Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	Multiple locations
173	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes brevis</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
174	Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes subcylindricus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
175	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	Multiple locations
176	African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
177	Gray-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	Samburu NR
178	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	Multiple locations
179	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	Multiple locations
180	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	Lake Baringo
181	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Multiple locations
182	Blue-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops muelleri</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
183	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	Multiple locations
184	Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>	Multiple locations
185	Somali Bee-eater	<i>Merops revoilii</i>	Samburu NR
186	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	Samburu NR
187	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	Lake Baringo
188	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	Multiple locations
189	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>	Samburu NR
190	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
191	Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
192	Red-and-yellow Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>	Multiple locations
193	D'Arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii darnaudii</i>	Samburu NR
	<i>Usambiro Barbet</i>	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii usambiro</i>	Maasai Mara NR
194	Gray-throated Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco bonapartei</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
195	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>	Multiple locations
196	Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>	Lake Baringo
197	Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>	Kakamega Forest NR

198	Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
199	Red-fronted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema diademata</i>	Lake Baringo
200	Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>	Multiple locations
201	Black-throated Barbet	<i>Tricholaema melanocephala</i>	Multiple locations
202	White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>	Patkawanin
	<i>White-headed (Brown-and-white) Barbet</i>	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>	Ngong Forest Sanctuary
203	Green-backed Honeyguide	<i>Prodotiscus zambesiae</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
204	Least Honeyguide	<i>Indicator exilis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
205	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>	Multiple locations
206	Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>	Lake Baringo
207	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	Multiple locations
208	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus fuscescens</i>	Samburu NR
209	Golden-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus xantholophus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
210	Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus obsoletus</i>	Ngong Forest Sanctuary
211	African Gray Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus goertae</i>	Lake Baringo
212	Mountain Gray Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus spodocephalus</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
213	Brown-eared Woodpecker	<i>Campethera caroli</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
214	Buff-spotted Woodpecker <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
215	Tullberg's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera tullbergi</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
216	Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>	Multiple locations
217	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	Multiple locations
218	Gray Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
219	Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
220	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>	Multiple locations
221	Red-bellied Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>	Samburu NR
222	Gray Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina caesia</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
223	Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>	Nairobi NP
224	Petit's Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga petiti</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
225	Purple-throated Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga quiscalina</i>	Multiple locations
226	Western Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
227	African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	Multiple locations
228	Black-tailed Oriole	<i>Oriolus percivali</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
229	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
230	Chestnut Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira castanea</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
231	Jameson's Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira jamesoni</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
232	Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira concreta</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
233	Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>	Multiple locations
234	Pygmy Batis	<i>Batis perkeo</i>	Lake Baringo
235	African Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Megabyas flammulatus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR

236	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	Samburu NR
237	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	Multiple locations
238	Pink-footed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus angolensis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
239	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	Nairobi NP
240	Lühder's Bushshrike <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Laniarius luehderi</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
241	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>	Multiple locations
242	Black-headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
243	Papyrus Gonolek <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Laniarius mufumbiri</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
244	Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>	Multiple locations
245	Rosy-patched Bushshrike	<i>Rhodophoneus cruentus</i>	Samburu NR
246	Gray-green Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus bocagei</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
247	Black-fronted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus nigrifrons</i>	Multiple locations
248	Sharpe's Drongo	<i>Dicrurus sharpei</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
249	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Multiple locations
250	African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	Multiple locations
251	Gray-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>	Multiple locations
252	Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>	Multiple locations
253	Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>	Samburu NR
254	Mackinnon's Shrike	<i>Lanius mackinnoni</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
255	Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>	Multiple locations
256	White-rumped Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus ruppelli</i>	Multiple locations
257	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	Multiple locations
258	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Multiple locations
259	Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>	Samburu NR
260	Southern Hyliota	<i>Hyliota australis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
261	African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
262	White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher	<i>Elminia albonotata</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
263	White-bellied Tit	<i>Melaniparus albiventris</i>	Multiple locations
264	Dusky Tit	<i>Melaniparus funereus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
265	Somali Tit	<i>Melaniparus thruppi</i>	Lake Baringo
266	Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit	<i>Anthoscopus musculus</i>	Lake Baringo
267	Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>	Samburu NR
268	Pink-breasted Lark	<i>Calendulauda poecilosterna</i>	Samburu NR
269	Fawn-colored (Foxy) Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides alopex</i>	Samburu NR
270	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafrā africana</i>	Multiple locations
271	Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafrā rufocinnamomea</i>	Maasai Mara NR
272	White-tailed Lark	<i>Mirafrā albicauda</i>	Maasai Mara NR
273	Latakoo Lark	<i>Mirafrā cheniana</i>	Maasai Mara NR
274	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	Multiple locations
275	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	Lake Baringo



276	Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>	Maasai Mara NR
277	Somali Crombec	<i>Sylvietta isabellina</i>	Samburu NR
278	Moustached Grass-Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>	Nairobi NP
279	Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
280	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	Lake Baringo
281	Turner's Eremomela	<i>Eremomela turneri</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
282	White-chinned Prinia	<i>Schistolais leucopogon</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
283	Black-collared Apalis	<i>Oreolais pulcher</i>	Multiple locations
284	Gray Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes simplex</i>	Multiple locations
285	Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata</i>	Multiple locations
286	Olive-green Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
287	Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>	Lake Baringo
288	Black-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis jacksoni</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
289	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>	Multiple locations
290	Buff-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis rufogularis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
291	Chestnut-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis porphyrolaema</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
292	Gray Apalis	<i>Apalis cinerea</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
293	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	Multiple locations
294	Pale Prinia	<i>Prinia somalica</i>	Samburu NR
295	Banded Prinia	<i>Prinia bairdii</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
296	Red-fronted Prinia	<i>Prinia rufifrons</i>	Lake Baringo
297	Black-faced Rufous-Warbler	<i>Bathmocercus rufus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
298	Gray-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>	Multiple locations
299	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>	Nairobi NP
300	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>	Nairobi NP
301	Trilling Cisticola <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>	Maasai Mara NR
302	Chubb's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chubbi</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
303	Hunter's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola hunteri</i>	Multiple locations
304	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	Multiple locations
305	Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>	Multiple locations
306	Carruthers's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola carruthersi</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
307	Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	North Kinangop
308	Stout Cisticola	<i>Cisticola robustus</i>	Multiple locations
309	Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>	Multiple locations
310	Aberdare Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberdare</i>	Aberdare NP
311	Siffling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>	Nairobi NP
312	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Maasai Mara NR
313	Pectoral-patch Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>	Maasai Mara NR
314	Wing-snapping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola ayresii</i>	North Kinangop
315	African Yellow-Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>	Nairobi NP
316	Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>	Kisumu Waterfront

317	Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Catriscus brevirostris</i>	Maasai Mara NR
318	Evergreen-forest Warbler <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Bradypterus lopezi</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
319	White-winged Swamp Warbler <b>[HO]</b>	<i>Bradypterus carpalis</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
320	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	Aberdare NP
321	Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>	Maasai Mara NR
322	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	Multiple locations
323	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Multiple locations
324	Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>	Multiple locations
325	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Multiple locations
326	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Multiple locations p
327	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>	Multiple locations
328	Rufous-chested Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>	Maasai Mara NR
329	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>	Maasai Mara NR
330	White-headed Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne albiceps</i>	Multiple locations
331	Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristopectera</i>	Multiple locations
332	Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Stelgidillas gracilirostris</i>	Multiple locations
333	Red-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda syndactylus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
334	Eastern Mountain Greenbul	<i>Arizelocichla nigriceps</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
335	Joyful Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla laetissima</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
336	Yellow-throated Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
337	Ansorge's Greenbul	<i>Eurillas ansorgei</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
338	Plain Greenbul	<i>Eurillas curvirostris</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
339	Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>	Multiple locations
340	Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
341	Northern Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus strepitans</i>	Samburu NR
342	Toro Olive-Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus hypochloris</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
343	Cabanis's Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus cabanisi</i>	Multiple locations
344	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Multiple locations
	<i>Dodson's Bulbul</i>	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus dodsoni</i>	Samburu NR
345	Brown Woodland-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
346	Uganda Woodland-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus budongoensis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
347	African Hill Babbler	<i>Sylvia abyssinica</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
348	Banded Parisoma	<i>Curruca boehmi</i>	Samburu NR
349	Brown Parisoma	<i>Curruca lugens</i>	Wildebeest Eco Camp
350	Kikuyu White-eye	<i>Zosterops kikuyuensis</i>	Multiple locations
351	Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
352	Brown Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
353	Mountain Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis pyrrhoptera</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
354	Rufous Chatterer	<i>Argya rubiginosa</i>	Samburu NR
355	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>	Lake Baringo

356	Hinde's Pied-Babbler	<i>Turdoides hindei</i>	Le Pristine Hotel
357	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>	Lake Naivasha
358	Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>	Multiple locations
359	Northern Pied-Babbler	<i>Turdoides hypoleuca</i>	Nairobi NP
360	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	Multiple locations
361	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
362	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	Multiple locations
363	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	Multiple locations
364	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	Multiple locations
365	Waller's Starling	<i>Onychognathus walleri</i>	Aberdare NP
366	Bristle-crowned Starling	<i>Onychognathus salvadorii</i>	Multiple locations
367	Sharpe's Starling	<i>Pholia sharpii</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
368	Abbott's Starling	<i>Arizelopsar femoralis</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
369	Stuhlmann's Starling	<i>Poeoptera stuhlmanni</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
370	Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>	Nairobi NP
371	Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>	Multiple locations
372	Golden-breasted Starling	<i>Lamprotornis regius</i>	Samburu NR
373	Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	Multiple locations
374	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	Multiple locations
375	White-tailed Ant-Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
376	Abyssinian Thrush	<i>Turdus abyssinicus</i>	Multiple locations
377	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	Multiple locations
378	African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	Multiple locations
379	Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
380	African Gray Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>	Multiple locations
381	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>	Multiple locations
382	Silverbird	<i>Melaenornis semipartitus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
383	Northern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
384	White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>	Multiple locations
385	Brown-backed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas hartlaubi</i>	Le Pristine Hotel
386	Red-backed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>	Lake Baringo
387	Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	Multiple locations
388	Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
389	Rüppell's Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha semirufa</i>	Multiple locations
390	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>	Multiple locations
391	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
392	Spotted Morning-Thrush	<i>Cichladusa guttata</i>	Multiple locations
393	White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
394	Brown-chested Alethe	<i>Chamaetylas poliocephala</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
395	Gray-winged Robin-Chat	<i>Sheppardia polioptera</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
396	Equatorial Akalat	<i>Sheppardia aequatorialis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR



397	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Multiple locations
398	Moorland Chat	<i>Pinarochroa sordida</i>	Aberdare NP
399	Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>	Lake Baringo
400	Sooty Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla nigra</i>	Maasai Mara NR
401	Northern Anteater-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla aethiops</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
402	Brown-tailed Chat	<i>Oenanthe scotocerca</i>	Lake Baringo
403	Abyssinian Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugubris</i>	Hwy B3
404	Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes orientalis</i>	Multiple locations
405	Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
406	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	Multiple locations
407	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
408	Green-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra rubescens</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
409	Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>	Multiple locations
410	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	Multiple locations
411	Hunter's Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra hunteri</i>	Lake Baringo
412	Tacazze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>	Multiple locations
413	Bronze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>	Multiple locations
414	Golden-winged Sunbird	<i>Drepanorhynchus reichenowi</i>	Le Pristine Hotel
415	Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
416	Northern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris reichenowi</i>	Multiple locations
417	Eastern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mediocris</i>	Multiple locations
418	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	Lake Baringo
419	Mariqua Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	Patkawanin
420	Red-chested Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris erythrocerus</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
421	Shining Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris habessinicus</i>	Lake Baringo
422	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>	Multiple locations
423	Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
424	White-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>	Marigat
425	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	Samburu NR
426	White-headed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>	Multiple locations
427	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>	Multiple locations
428	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	Multiple locations
429	Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser donaldsoni</i>	Samburu NR
430	Gray-headed Social-Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaudi</i>	Maasai Mara NR
431	Black-capped Social-Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita cabanisi</i>	Samburu NR
432	Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
433	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	Multiple locations
434	Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>	Multiple locations
435	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	Multiple locations
436	Slender-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>	Kisumu Waterfront

437	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	Multiple locations
438	Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	Multiple locations
439	Black-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanogaster</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
440	Holub's Golden-Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>	Wildebeest Eco Camp
441	Northern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus castanops</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
442	Northern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus taeniopterus</i>	Lake Baringo
443	Lesser Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>	Multiple locations
444	Vitelline Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>	Multiple locations
445	Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>	Multiple locations
446	Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
447	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	Multiple locations
448	Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>	Lake Baringo
449	Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>	Multiple locations
450	Forest Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
451	Brown-capped Weaver	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>	Multiple locations
452	Cardinal Quelea	<i>Quelea cardinalis</i>	Multiple locations
453	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
454	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>	Lake Baringo
455	Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>	Nairobi NP
456	Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	Multiple locations
457	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>	Multiple locations
458	Yellow-mantled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macroura</i>	Maasai Mara NR
459	Red-cowled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes laticauda</i>	Multiple locations
460	Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	Multiple locations
461	Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>	Multiple locations
462	Jackson's Widowbird	<i>Euplectes jacksoni</i>	Multiple locations
463	Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	Wildebeest Eco Camp
464	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	Multiple locations
465	Black-and-white (Red-backed) Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor nigriceps</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
466	White-breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
467	Gray-headed Nigrita	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>	Multiple locations
468	Kandt's Waxbill	<i>Estrilda kandti</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
469	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	Multiple locations
470	Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
471	Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>	Multiple locations
472	Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	Samburu NR
473	Purple Grenadier	<i>Granatina ianthinogaster</i>	Multiple locations
474	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	Multiple locations
475	Blue-capped Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>	Samburu NR
476	Red-headed Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga ruficapilla</i>	Kakamega Forest NR

477	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	Multiple locations
478	African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
479	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	Multiple locations
480	Steel-blue Whydah	<i>Vidua hypocherina</i>	Samburu NR
481	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	Multiple locations
482	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Multiple locations
483	Kenya Rufous Sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>	Multiple locations
484	Northern Gray-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	Multiple locations)
485	Parrot-billed Sparrow	<i>Passer gongonensis</i>	Multiple locations
486	Swahili Sparrow	<i>Passer suahelicus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
487	Chestnut Sparrow	<i>Passer emini</i>	Multiple locations
488	Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris pyrgita</i>	Multiple locations
489	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	Nairobi NP
490	Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	Multiple locations
491	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	Multiple locations
492	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	Multiple locations
493	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>	Multiple locations
494	Sharpe's Longclaw	<i>Macronyx sharpei</i>	North Kinangop
495	Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>	Multiple locations
496	Pangani Longclaw	<i>Macronyx aurantiigula</i>	Nairobi NP
497	Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>	Multiple locations
498	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	Multiple locations
499	African Citril	<i>Crithagra citrinelloides</i>	Ngong Forest Sanctuary
500	Reichenow's Seedeater	<i>Crithagra reichenowi</i>	Nairobi NP
501	White-bellied Canary	<i>Crithagra dorsostriata</i>	Multiple locations
502	Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>	Nairobi NP
503	Streaky Seedeater	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>	Multiple locations
504	Thick-billed Seedeater	<i>Crithagra burtoni</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
505	Yellow-crowned Canary	<i>Serinus flavivertex</i>	Aberdare NP
506	Somali Bunting	<i>Emberiza poliopleura</i>	Samburu NR
	<b>Non-Countable Species</b>		
	<i>Fischer's Lovebird</i>	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>	Kisumu Waterfront
	<i>Fischer's x Yellow-collared Lovebird (hybrid)</i>	<i>Agapornis fischeri x personatus</i>	Lake Nakuru NP



## Mammal List:

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
1	Southern Tree Hyrax [HO]	<i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i>	Multiple locations
2	Bush Hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>	Maasai Mara NR
3	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Multiple locations
4	African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Multiple locations
5	Guereza Colobus		
	<i>Mau Forest Guereza</i>	<i>Colobus guereza matschiei</i>	Multiple locations
	<i>Mount Kenya Guereza</i>	<i>Colobus guereza kikuyuensis</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
6	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	Multiple locations
7	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	Multiple locations
8	Blue Monkey		
	<i>Stuhlmann's Blue Monkey</i>	<i>Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
	<i>Kolb's Monkey</i>	<i>Cercopithecus mitis kolbi</i>	Multiple locations
9	Red-tailed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
10	Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
11	Forest Giant Squirrel	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
12	Ochre Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus ochraceus</i>	Multiple locations
13	Unstriped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>	Samburu NR
14	Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>	Samburu NR
15	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>	Maasai Mara NR
16	Two-spotted Palm Civet	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
17	African Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Multiple locations
18	African Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
19	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Maasai Mara NR
20	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	Multiple locations
21	Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	Kiawara
22	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	Maasai Mara NR
23	Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>	Maasai Mara NR
24	Grévy's Zebra	<i>Equus grevyi</i>	Samburu NR
25	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	Multiple Locations
26	Southern White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Multiple Locations
27	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Multiple Locations
28	Desert Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	Samburu NR
29	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Multiple Locations
30	Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Multiple Locations
31	Northern (Rothschild's) Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Lake Nakuru NP
32	Reticulated Giraffe	<i>Giraffa reticulata</i>	Samburu NR
33	Maasai Giraffe	<i>Giraffa tippelskirchi</i>	Multiple Locations

34	Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Multiple Locations
35	Northern Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Multiple Locations
36	Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Multiple Locations
37	Harvey's Duiker	<i>Cephalophus harveyi</i>	Aberdare NP
38	Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>	Multiple Locations
39	Günther's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua guentheri</i>	Samburu NR
40	Thomson's Gazelle	<i>Eudorcas thomsonii</i>	Multiple Locations
41	Grant's Gazelle		
	<i>Southern Grant's Gazelle</i>	<i>Nanger granti granti</i>	Multiple Locations
	<i>Bright's Gazelle</i>	<i>Nanger granti notata</i>	Samburu NR
42	Gerenuk	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>	Samburu NR
43	Waterbuck		
	<i>Common Waterbuck</i>	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Multiple Locations
	<i>Defassa Waterbuck</i>	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>	Multiple Locations
44	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Multiple Locations
45	Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	Multiple Locations
46	Beisa Oryx	<i>Oryx beisa</i>	Samburu NR
47	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Maasai Mara NR

## Reptile List:

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
1	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Multiple locations
2	Arboreal Agama	<i>Agama rueppelli</i>	Lake Baringo
3	Mwanza Flat-headed Agama	<i>Agama mwanzae</i>	Maasai Mara NR
4	Kenyan Rock Agama	<i>Agama lionotus</i>	Multiple locations
5	Jackson's Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo jacksoni</i>	Ngong Forest Sanctuary
6	Montane Side-striped Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo ellioti</i>	Kakamega Forest NR
7	Kenya Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus keniensis</i>	Samburu NR
8	White-headed Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus picturatus</i>	Lake Baringo
9	Nyika Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus squamulatus</i>	Lake Baringo
10	Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>	Multiple locations
11	Alpine Meadow Lizard	<i>Adolfus alleni</i>	Mt. Kenya NP
12	African Striped Skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i>	Multiple locations
13	African Five-lined Skink	<i>Mabuya quinquetaeniata</i>	Lake Baringo
14	Rock Monitor	<i>Varanus albigularis</i>	Samburu NR
15	Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Lake Baringo
16	Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>	Nairobi NP
17	Helmeted Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>	Maasai Mara NR



*Happy Birders in the Maasai Mara*