

# **LIFEBIRD TOURS, LLC**

## **KENYA TRIP REPORT**

### **OCTOBER 17-NOV.1, 2019**

10/18: Our 2 week Kenyan tour included 12 participants, our excellent bird guide (Steven Easley), myself (Sherry Lane) and our 2 wonderful local drivers. We began our adventure with an excursion into Maasai country down the Magadi Road into the Ngong Escarpment. Here, we had our first views of the spectacular Great Rift Valley. The scenery was beautiful but the birding was even better! We made several roadside stops at great birding sites as we descended into the valley. The habitat changed from lush green to dry acacia scrub as we dropped in elevation and birdlife also changed considerably. After a satisfying first full day of African birding, we returned to the highlands and our comfortable hotel.

**SOME OF THE BIRDS SEEN ALONG THE MAGADI ROAD & ADJACENT HIGHLANDS** – GABAR GOSHAWK, BLACK KITE, RED-EYED DOVE, SPECKLED PIGEON, LITTLE SWIFT, WHITE-BROWED COUCAL, CROWNED LAPWING, BLACK-CHESTED SNAKE-EAGLE, BOOTED EAGLE, SPECKLED & BLUE-NAPED MOUSEBIRDS, VON DER DECKENS'S HORNBILL, LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER, BLACK-THROATED, RED-AND-YELLOW, D'ARNAUD'S AND RED-FRONTED BARBETS, RED-FRONTED TINKERBIRD, CARDINAL AND NUBIAN WOODPECKERS, EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE, AFRICAN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE, FOXY AND RED-CAPPED LARKS, COMMON BULBUL, PIED CROW, CHINSPOT BATIS, PRINGLE'S PUFFBACK (RARE), NORTHERN & TAITA FISCALS, LITTLE ROCK THRUSH, SULPHUR-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE, SINGING, RATTLING & TINY CISTICOLAS, TAWNY-FLANKED AND RED-FRONTED PRINIA, BEAUTIFUL, VARIABLE, SCARLET-CHESTED AND EASTERN VIOLET SUNBIRDS, KENYA RUFOUS SPARROW, WHITE-BROWED SPARROW-WEAVER, BAGLAFECHE WEAVER, BLACK-FACED WAXBILL (RARE), RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU, BRONZE MANNIKIN



THE KENYA CREW

10/19: We headed to the Wilson Airport and departed on a one-hour flight to the famous Maasai Mara Game Reserve in southwestern Kenya. Upon arrival at the “bush” airstrip, we were met by our permanent drivers and began exploration of the spectacular Maasai Mara. We quickly started finding new birds. We got settled into our very comfortable tented camp lodge which is like camping in luxury. At night we could hear the sounds of the savanna with zebra running through camp and lions roaring nearby.

Mara West Camp is located along the ridge of the Oloololo Escarpment and the views of the Maasai Mara from the lodge are breathtaking. Raptors were seen gently floating by at eye-level and herds of Giraffe, Zebra, Buffalo and African Elephants were seen in the distance. Sunrise and Sunsets were impressive from this awesome vantage point.

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN AROUND THE MARA WEST CAMP – TAWNY AND WAHLBERG’S EAGLES, COMMON & AUGUR BUZZARDS, AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK, SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL, RING-NECKED DOVE, AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON, SCHALOW’S TURACO, KLAAS’S CUCKOO, WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT, WHITE-HEADED BARBET, AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL, RUFOUS-NAPED LARK, RED-RUMPED & MOSQUE SWALLOWS, BLACK SAWWING, VIOLET-BACKED STARLING, BLACK-BACKED PUFFBACK, NORTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER, AFRICAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE, GREEN-BACKED CAMAROPTERA, BRONZE & SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRDS,**

YELLOW BISHOP, HOLUB'S GOLDEN-WEAVER, COMMON WAXBILL, PURPLE  
GRENADIER, YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY, AFRICAN CITRIL







LOADING UP OUR PLANE





SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL





INSIDE A TENTED CAMP



YELLOW-THROATED LONGCLAW

10/20: We began in the Sabaringo Valley which is located in the outer reserve. Many of the species found in this valley are more commonly associated with western Kenyan forests and several are limited only to this particular area in Kenya. We began with the lower sections of the picturesque valley and slowly worked our way towards the upper reaches.

Later, we entered the Mara Triangle Reserve which is a professionally run wildlife sanctuary in the northwestern section of the Maasai Mara. Wildlife observation is limited to vehicles only as large dangerous mammals are present, not to mention an impressive variety of powerful hungry big cats. Here the riverine woodlands, grasslands and swampy areas are home to an outstanding variety of life.

**BIRDS SEEN IN THE NORTHWESTERN MAASAI MARA GAME RESERVE –**  
BLACK, YELLOW-BILLED & SADDLE-BILLED STORKS, GRAY CROWNED-CRANE, SACRED IBIS, HAMERKOP, BLACK-HEADED HERON, EGYPTIAN GOOSE, RED-BILLED DUCK, BLACKSMITH, SPUR-WINGED & CROWNED LAPWINGS, COMMON & GREEN SANDPIPERS, RED-NECKED FRANCOLIN, HELMETED GUINEAFOWL, COMMON OSTRICH, HOODED, LAPPET-FACED & WHITE-BACKED VULTURES, ROSS'S TURACO, NARINA TROGON, D'ARNAUD'S, GRAY-THROATED AND SPOT-FLANKED & BARBETS, RUFOUS-NECKED WRYNECK, GOLDEN-TAILED WOODPECKER (RARE), LESSER HONEYGUIDE, LONG-BILLED PIPIT, FLAPPET LARK, ROCK MARTIN, LESSER STRIPED SWALLOW, BROWN-CROWNED & BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA, BROWN-THROATED WATTLE-EYE, ASHY FLYCATCHER, AFRICAN BLUE FLYCATCHER, FAMILIAR CHAT, RED-BACKED SCRUB-ROBIN, MOUSTACHED GRASS-WARBLER, RED-FACED CISTICOLA, BLACK-BACKED CISTICOLA (RARE), BRIMSTONE CANARY





AFRICAN BLUE FLYCATCHER



OUR OPEN AIR SAFARI VEHICLE





SADDLE-BILLED STORK





GRAY CROWNED-CRANE







NARINA TROGON

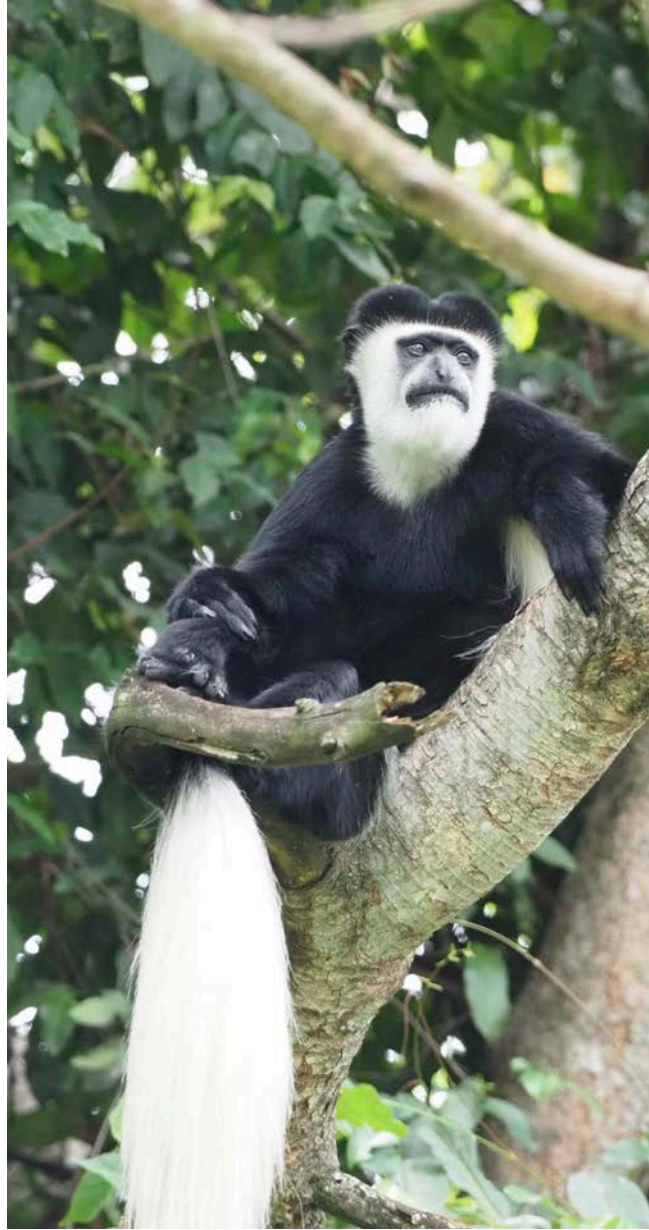
10/21: After some final birding in the northwestern Maasai Mara we crossed the mighty Mara River and made our way to the nearby Musiara Reserve. Once inside, we explored the Musiara Swamp and also various wetland and riverine woodland patches near the Mara River.

Later, we drove to our next destination, the Mara Leisure camp near the Talek River. The area around Talek is mainly grassland with scattered bushes and lots of small creeks and drifts. This is a great place to search for the famous big cats of Africa. We were very fortunate to have close encounters with three young male Cheetahs. Birding also was excellent and we found many new species for our trip list.





**BIRDS SEEN IN MUSIARA RESERVE AND IN ROUTE TO MARA LEISURE CAMP** - WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK, SPUR-WINGED GOOSE, WATER THICK-KNEE, BLACK CRAKE, COQUI FRANCOLIN, WHITE-BELLIED & BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARDS, SECRETARY BIRD, BLACK-CHESTED SNAKE-EAGLE, DARK CHANTING-GOSHAWK, GRAY KESTREL, AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON, EUROPEAN & LITTLE BEE-EATERS, EURASIAN HOOPOE, EUROPEAN ROLLER, AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL, YELLOW-THROATED & ROSY -THROATED LONGCLAWS, WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL, GRASSLAND, AFRICAN, BUFFY & RED-THROATED PIPITS, PLAIN & BANDED MARTINS, RUFOUS-CHESTED, WIRE-TAILED & BARN SWALLOWS, GREATER BLUE-EARED STARLING, RED-BILLED & YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKERS, GRAY-BACKED FISCAL, SOOTY CHAT, WHINCHAT, NORTHERN WHEATEAR, STOUT AND CROAKING CISTICOLAS, SWAHILI SPARROW, PIN-TAILED WHYDAH, VILLAGE WEAVER, QUAILFINCH



GUEREZA COLOBUS





SECRETARY BIRDS



AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON

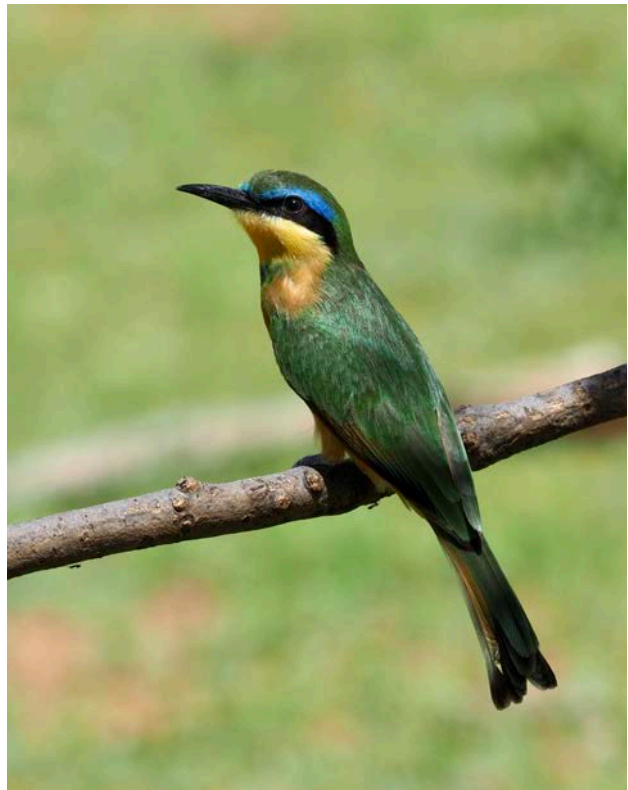




COMMON WARTHOG



RED-AND-YELLOW BARBET



LITTLE BEE-EATER





BABY AFRICAN BUSH ELEPHANT



BLACK-CHESTED SNAKE-EAGLE

10/22: Following a spectacular morning of birding in the Southeastern Maasai Mara Game Reserve we exited through the Sekanani Gate and drove to the nearby Siana Springs Tented Camp in the outer reserve. The afternoon was spent birding in dry acacia woodland near the Kenya/Tanzania border. We had a nice surprise to find 2 rare Gray-crested Helmitshrikes.

Our accommodations were again amazing in the lovely Siana Springs Tented Camp. This well-established camp is an oasis of lush habitat in the midst of dry scrub country.

**BIRDS SEEN IN SOUTHEASTERN MAASAI MARA GAME RESERVE & NEAR SIANA SPRINGS –** TEMMINCK'S COURSER, BLACK-WINGED & WATTLED LAPWINGS, CASPIAN PLOVER, SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL, WHITE-HEADED VULTURE, TAWNY EAGLE, EURASIAN HOBBY, MEYER'S PARROT, YELLOW-THROATED SANDGROUSE, BARE-FACED GO-AWAY-BIRD, STRIPED KINGFISHER, VON DER DECKEN'S HORNBILL, PIN-TAILED WHYDAH, RED-FRONTED BARBET, FISCHER'S SPARROW-LARK, SOMALI SHORT-TOED LARK (RARE), WHITE-HEADED SAWWING, RÜPPELL'S, HILDEBRANDT'S & WATTLED STARLINGS, BLACK CUCKOO-SHRIKE, FORK-TAILED DRONGO, GRAY-CRESTED HELMETSHRIKE (RARE), MAGPIE SHRIKE, WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE, SILVERBIRD, BLACK-LORED BABBLER, TABORA CISTICOLA, MIOMBO WREN-WARBLER, MARIQUA SUNBIRD, GRAY-HEADED SOCIAL-WEAVER, SPECTACLED & RED-HEADED WEAVERS





GRAY-CRESTED HELMETSHRIKE



RED-HEADED WEAVER



PIN-TAILED WHYDAH



PLAINS ZEBRA





LION FAMILY



SULPHUR-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE





WHITE RHINOCEROS

10/23: After the usual morning birding before breakfast, we packed up and began the drive across the Great Rift Valley in route to Lake Naivasha. The Lake Naivasha Sopa Lodge is an amazing hotel tucked away in a patch of massive Yellow-barked Acacias near the lakeshore.



LAKE NAIVASHA SOPA LODGE





HADADA IBIS ON THE LODGE GROUNDS

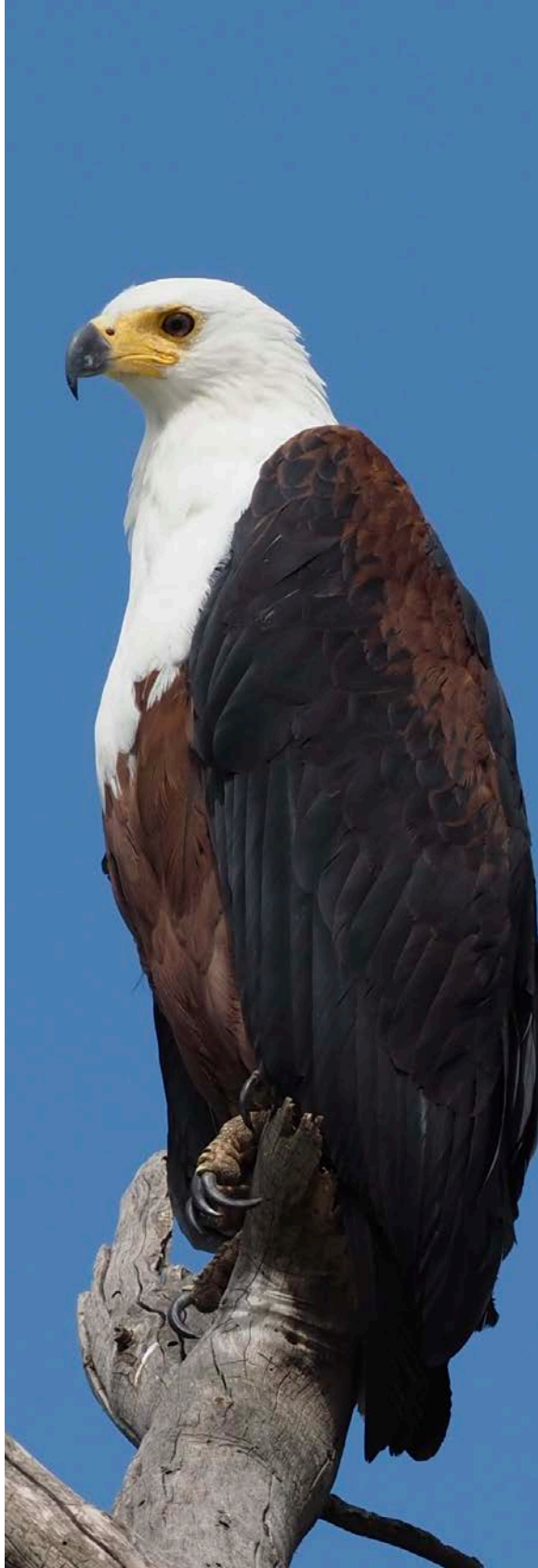
10/24: This morning we headed out quite early with a packed breakfast & lunch to visit a remnant patch of highland forest called Gatamaiyu.

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN AT THE GATAMAIYU FOREST – TULLBERG'S WOODPECKER, EASTERN MOUNTAIN-GREENBUL, YELLOW-WHISKERED, SLENDER-BILLED & CABANIS'S GREENBULS, ABBOTT'S STARLING (RARE), BLACK-FRONTED BUSHSHRIKE, DUSKY FLYCATCHER, WHITE-EYED SLATY-FLYCATCHER, AFRICAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER, WHITE-TAILED CRESTED-FLYCATCHER, AFRICAN HILL BABBLER, EURASIAN BLACKCAP, ABYSSINIAN THRUSH, CAPE ROBIN-CHAT, WHITE-STARRED ROBIN, EVERGREEN FOREST-WARBLE, BLACK-COLLARED & CHESTNUT-THROATED APALIS, WHITE-BELLIED TIT, NORTHERN DOUBLE-COLLARED, GREEN-HEADED & GOLDEN-WINGED SUNBIRDS, BROWN-CAPPED WEAVER, YELLOW-BELLIED WAXBILL, BLACK-AND-WHITE MANNIKIN**





GOLDEN-WINGED SUNBIRD





AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE



MARIQUA SUNBIRD



## SPEKE'S WEAVER

10/25: We explored the lake on a three-hour boat ride on the beautiful Lake Naivasha. This freshwater lake is located in the Great Rift Valley and is home to an outstanding array of water birds.

After checking out from the lodge, we drove north for several hours to Lake Baringo. We made several birding stops which were quite productive in the dry ravine near Lake Naivasha.

Upon getting closer to Lake Baringo the habitat changed dramatically becoming a semi-desert acacia scrub. New birds were added quickly to our growing list in this new habitat zone.

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN ON THE LAKE NAIVASHA BOAT RIDE & ADJACENT WOODLANDS** – WHITE-WINGED & WHISKERED TERNS, GRAY-HOODED & LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS, HADADA IBIS, AFRICAN SPOONBILL, GREATER FLAMINGO, PURPLE, GRAY, SQUACCO & BLACK HERONS, LITTLE EGRET, GREAT WHITE & PINK-BACKED PELICANS, LONG-TAILED & GREAT CORMORANTS, LITTLE GREBE, HOTTENTOT TEAL, LONG-TOED LAPWING, COMMON RINGED PLOVER, LITTLE STINT, CURLEW, MARSH & WOOD SANDPIPERS, COMMON GREENSHANK, BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, BLACK-WINGED STILT, PIED AVOCET, COMMON SNIPE, AFRICAN JACANA, COMMON MOORHEN, AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE, EURASIAN MARSH-HARRIER, FISCHER'S LOVEBIRDS, RED-CHESTED CUCKOO, PIED & GIANT KINGFISHERS, PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET, BANK SWALLOW, GRAY-HEADED BUSHSHRIKE, LESSER SWAMP WARBLER, WINDING CISTICOLA, BUFF-BELLIED WARBLER, GRAY-CAPPED WARBLER





GIANT KINGFISHER



WHITE-HEADED BARBET



### GREAT WHITE PELICAN

10/26: Waking up in the Lake Baringo area was very exciting, with Goliath Herons, Gray-crowned Cranes and Nile Crocodiles outside the balcony. We had a great pre-breakfast outing to the Baringo Cliffs followed by another fantastic boat ride on Lake Baringo. In the afternoon, we were joined by a team of local bird guides who had several stake-out species found for us on their daytime roost sites including Grayish and Verreaux's Eagle Owls, African Scops-owl, Northern white-faced Owl and Slender-tailed Nightjar

**BIRDS SEEN AT LAKE BARINGO WOODLAND –** [THREE-BANDED COURSER](#), [BLACK-HEADED LAPWING](#), [VERREAUX'S EAGLE](#), [MOURNING COLLARED-DOVE](#), [DIDERIC CUCKOO](#), [SLENDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR](#), [VERREAUX'S & GRAYISH EAGLE-OWLS](#), [AFRICAN SCOPS-OWL](#), [NORTHERN WHITE-FACED OWL](#), [WOODLAND KINGFISHER](#), [JACKSON'S & HEMPRICH'S HORNBILLS](#), [RED-AND-YELLOW BARBET](#), [RED-FRONTED TINKERBIRD](#), [CARDINAL WOODPECKER](#), [MAGPIE STARLING](#), [RED-WINGED & BRISTLE-CROWNED STARLINGS](#), [PYGMY BATIS](#), [RUFIOUS CHATTERER](#), [BROWN BABBLER](#), [BROWN-TAILED CHAT](#), [NORTHERN CROMBEC](#), [MOUSE-COLORED PENDULINE-TIT](#), [SOMALI TIT](#), [BEAUTIFUL SUNBIRD](#), [WHITE-BILLED](#)



BUFFALO-WEAVER, RED-BILLED QUELEA, LESSER MASKED & LITTLE  
WEAVERS, GREEN-WINGED PYILIA, SOMALI BUNTING



JACKSON'S HORNBILL



HIPPOPOTAMUSES



VERREAUX'S EAGLE-OWL

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN ON THE LAKE BARINGO BOAT RIDE –** GOLIATH HERON, AFRICAN DARTER, HAMERKOP, MALACHITE KINGFISHER, BLUE-CHEEKED, EUROPEAN & NORTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATER, NORTHERN MASKED & GOLDEN-BACKED WEAVERS



NORTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATER





HAMERKOP



MALACHITE KINGFISHER

10/27: After an early start we went from the semi-desert habitat of Baringo into the Kerio Valley. Once we reached the bottom of the valley we hiked a trail in tall acacia woodland that parallels the Kerio River. After a packed lunch, we made our way to Lake Nakuru National Park.

After entering the main entrance gate into the park, we visited several areas near the lakeshore finding an abundance of wetland species. Lake Nakuru is an alkaline lake within the Great Rift Valley and is a very important site for migratory birds. This park is also home to a wonderful mammal population. Our hotel was the Lion Hill Sarova and one of few hotels located within the park. The hotel is set on a gentle slope within acacia woodland that overlooks the beautiful Lake Nakuru in the distance. Lake Nakuru National Park was once declared as one of the greatest birding spectacles in the world by Roger Tory Peterson!

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN IN THE KERIO VALLEY –** GABAR GOSHAWK, MARTIAL AND LONG-CRESTED EAGLES, WHITE-CRESTED TURACO, GREEN WOOD-HOOPOE, BLACK-AND-WHITE-CASQUED HORNBILL, MEYER'S PARROT, WOODLAND KINGFISHER, COMMON SCIMITARBILL, NORTHERN PUFFBACK, BLACK-HEADED GONOLEK, WHITE HELMET-SHRIKE, BLACK-THROATED WATTLE-EYE (RARE), BLACK-HEADED BATIS (RARE), GRAY TIT-FLYCATCHER, BORAN CISTICOLA, OLIVE SUNBIRD, NORTHERN GRAY-HEADED SPARROW, SOUTHERN RED BISHOP, RED-BILLED FIREFINCH,





ROSY-THROATED LONGCLAW



GRAY-HEADED KNIGFISHER

**BIRDS SEEN IN THE LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK WETLANDS –** WOOD SANDPIPER, WHITE-WINGED TERN, MARABOU AND YELLOW-BILLED STORKS, SPOTTED THICK-KNEE, COMMON OSTRICH, HELMETED GUINEAFOWL, COQUI FRANCOLIN, GREATER AND LESSER FLAMINGOS, CAPE TEAL, KITTLITZ'S PLOVER, CURLEW SANDPIPER, MARSH SANDPIPER, RUFF, BRONZE, OLIVE, VARIABLE & BEAUTIFUL SUNBIRDS, SULFAR-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE, GRAY-HEAED KINGFISHER, PECTORAL-PATCH CISTICOLA



LESSER FLAMINGO PHOTO BY STEVEN EASLEY





MARABOU STORK



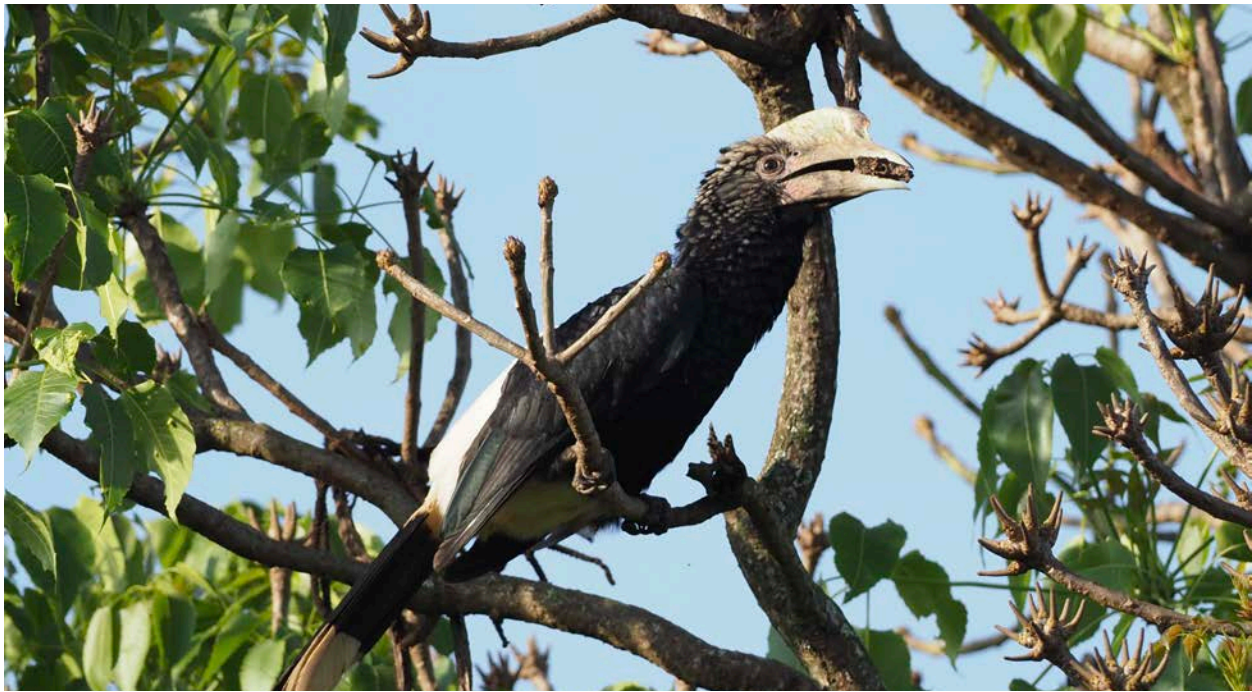
### VARIABLE SUNBIRD

10/28: Birding within Lake Nakuru National Park produced many target bird species as well as mammals including White Rhinoceros.

Late morning, we exited the park and left the Great Rift Valley behind as we climbed the eastern escarpment and ascended into the central Kenya highlands. Along the drive, we stopped at Thomson Falls and were rewarded with great looks at the Slender-billed Starlings.

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN IN THE LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK  
WOODLANDS AND ENROUTE TO THE OUTSPAN HOTEL–** HILDEBRANDT'S  
FRANCOLIN, EMERALD-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE, TAMBOURINE DOVE,  
NYANZA SWIFT, WHITE-FRONTED BEE-EATER, MOUNTAIN GRAY  
WOODPECKER, GREATER & SCALY-THROATED HONEYGUIDES, GRAY  
WAGTAIL, SLENDER-BILLED STARLING, AFRICAN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE,  
TROPICAL BOUBOU, ARROW-MARKED BABBLER, LITTLE ROCK-THRUSH,  
AFRICAN THRUSH, MOCKING CLIFF-CHAT, SPEKE'S WEAVER, AFRICAN  
BLACK DUCK, BLACK GOSHAWK, CAPE EAGLE-OWL, SILVERY-CHEEKED  
HORNBILL, COLLARED & AMETHYST SUNBIRDS





SILVERY-CHEEKED HORNBILL

10/29: Our next destination was the Aberdare National Park where we climbed to an elevation of around 12,000 feet. After a full morning of exploration and visiting the high elevation grasslands, we drove to another highland forest area called Mountain Lodge Serena. Located on the southwestern side of Mount Kenya, this is a stunning location that produced many of our target montane species. The actual hotel is a large, multi-leveled building with a large waterhole and mudflat on the opposite side from the entrance. This area is visible from the hotel room balconies and also from various strategic viewpoints. Floodlights illuminate the mudflat during the night and many mammals and birds can be seen around the edges.

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN IN THE ABERDARE NATIONAL PARK AND ALONG THE MOUNTAIN LODGE SERENA ENTRANCE ROAD**

JACKSON'S FRANCOLIN, RAMERON PIGEON, HARTLAUB'S TURACO, LITTLE & CINNAMON-CHESTED BEE-EATERS, MOUSTACHED & YELLOW-RUMPED TINKERBIRDS, GRAY & PURPLE-THROATED CUCKOOSHRIKE, MOORLAND CHAT, CINNAMON BRACKEN-WARBLER, BROWN WOODLAND-WARBLER, ABERDARE CISTICOLA, EASTERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD, KANDT'S WAXBILL (RARE), ABYSSINIAN CRIMSONWING, WHITE-EARED BARBET, TULLBERG'S WOODPECKER, RED-FRONTED PARROT, AFRICAN STONECHAT, RUPPELL'S ROBIN-CHAT, SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD, BLUE-HEADED COUCAL, CROWNED EAGLE, RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU, DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD



RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU



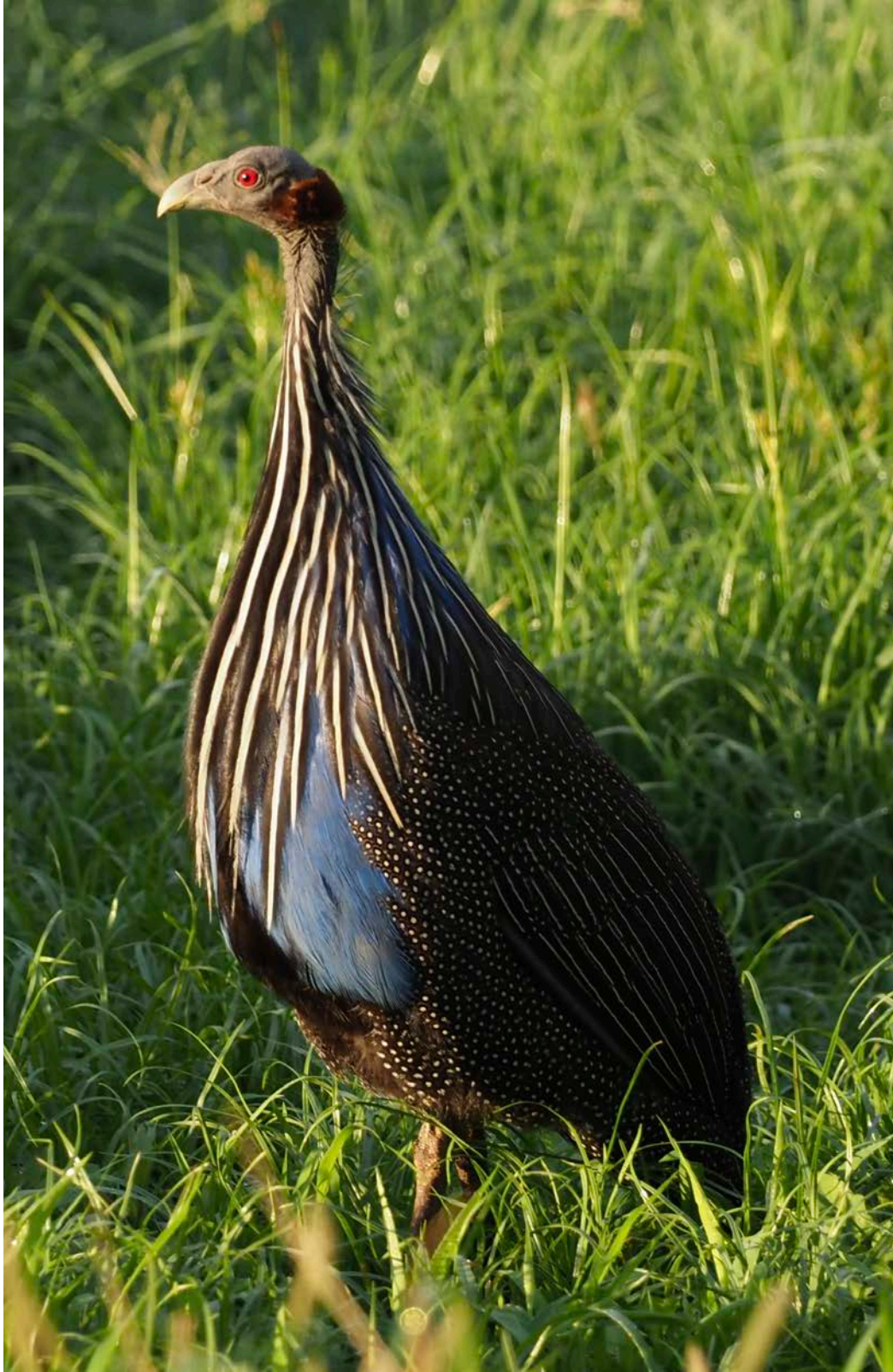


CROWNED LAPWING



MAGPIE STARLING





VULTURINE GUINEAFOWL

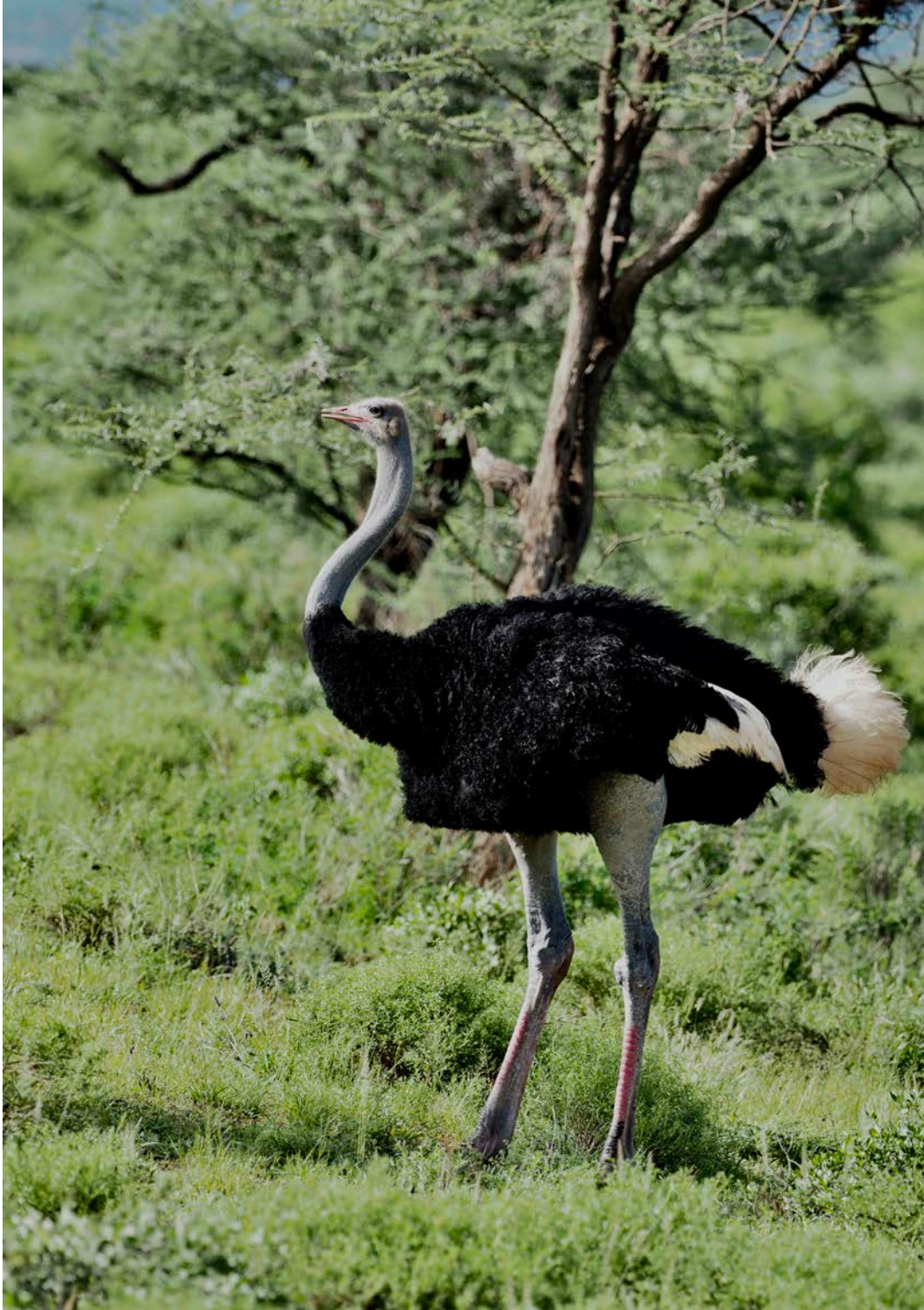
10/30: After breakfast, we loaded up and began the drive around the north edge of Mount Kenya, the second tallest mountain in Africa with a whopping elevation of 17,057 feet. From here we descended into the semi-desert acacia scrub of the Samburu Game Reserve. Along the way we birded small tracks in route to Samburu Lodge, which is located on the beautiful Ewaso Nyiro River. The Samburu Game Reserve is a wild and dramatic area in the north of Kenya with a backdrop of stark picturesque mountains. This area is home to a wealth of biodiversity, with stunning birds, strange mammals and colorful reptiles lurking around nearly every curve!

**BIRDS SEEN IN THE SAMBURU GAME RESERVE** – CRESTED FRANCOLIN, YELLOW-NECKED FRANCOLIN, VULTURINE GUINEAFOWL, PALM-NUT VULTURE, LANNER FALCON, PYGMY FALCON, BLACK-FACED SANDGROUSE, NAMAQUA DOVE, PIED CUCKOO, AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT, MOTTLED SWIFT, WHITE-HEADED MOUSEBIRD, FOXY & PINK-BREASTED LARKS, MAGPIE, SUPERB & GOLDEN-BREASTED STARLINGS, ROSY-PATCHED BUSHSHRIKE, TAITA FISCAL, RED-BACKED SHRIKE, SPOTTED FLYCATCHER, ISABELLINE & PIED WHEATEAR, ASHY CISTICOLA, CHESTNUT & PARROT-BILLED SPARROW, BLACK-CAPPED SOCIAL-WEAVER, RED-BILLED & WHITE-HEADED BUFFALO-WEAVERS, WHITE-BELLIED CANARY



LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER





SOMALI OSTRICH





YELLOW-NECKED FRANCOLIN

10/31: This day was devoted to exploring the incredible wild rugged Samburu Game Reserve. It is a myriad of small dirt tracks with various smaller ecosystems which produced a wide variety of birds, mammals and reptiles. Samburu is home to many species of large cats, not to mention a plethora of colorful birds. Working the small tracks that led to the river brought us a close-up encounter with 2 Leopards. Just before supper, the lodge staff feed several massive Nile Crocodiles at point-blank range near the restaurant, this is truly an amazing experience.

**NOTABLE BIRDS SEEN IN THE SAMBURU GAME RESERVE AND IN THE BUFFALO SPRINGS GAME RESERVE –** STRIATED HERON, SPOTTED THICK-KNEE, BUFF-CRESTED BUSTARD, BROWN SNAKE-EAGLE, AFRICAN HAWK-EAGLE, RED-BELLIED PARROT, GRAY-HEADED KINGFISHER, WHITE-THROATED & SOMALI BEE-EATERS, ABYSSINIAN SCIMITARBILL, EASTERN YELLOW-BILLED HORNBILL, BEARDED WOODPECKER, GOLDEN PIPIT, NORTHERN BROWNBUL, EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE, BRUBRU, SLATE-COLORED BOUBOU, SOUTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER, AFRICAN BARE-EYED THRUSH, COMMON NIGHTINGALE, RED-FRONTED PRINIA, GRAY WREN-WARBLER, PALE PRINIA, BLACK-BELLIED, EASTERN VIOLET-BACKED & HUNTER'S SUNBIRDS, DONALDSON-SMITH'S SPARROW-WEAVER, CHESTNUT & BLACK-NECKED WEAVERS, CUT-THROAT



SOMALI COURSER, SOMALI OSTRICH, MARTIAL EAGLE, RED-WINGED LARK, DESERT CISTICOLA, GOLDEN PALM WEAVER, CRIMSON-RUMPED WAXBILL



LEOPARD



TAWNY EAGLE





WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER



AFRICAN ELEPHANTS



11/1: On our last morning in Kenya, we visited the nearby Buffalo Springs Game Reserve. This reserve is located on the opposite side of the Ewaso Nyiro River from our lodge and several of our target species can regularly be found in this area. After covering as much ground as possible and birding till the last ring of the bell, we made our way to the “bush” airstrip for the short flight back to Nairobi. After arriving at Wilson Airport, we transferred to the nearby Lazizi Premiere Hotel within the JKA International Airport complex. Here, we had lunch, dinner and time to relax in day rooms at the hotel before heading home on our international flights back home. We had to say goodbye to Africa and new friends with hopes to see each other again on another exciting wildlife tour. Our total seen bird species number was 488!



NILE CROCODILE





WHITE-BELLIED BUSTARDS



THE ENDANGERED GREVY'S ZEBRAS

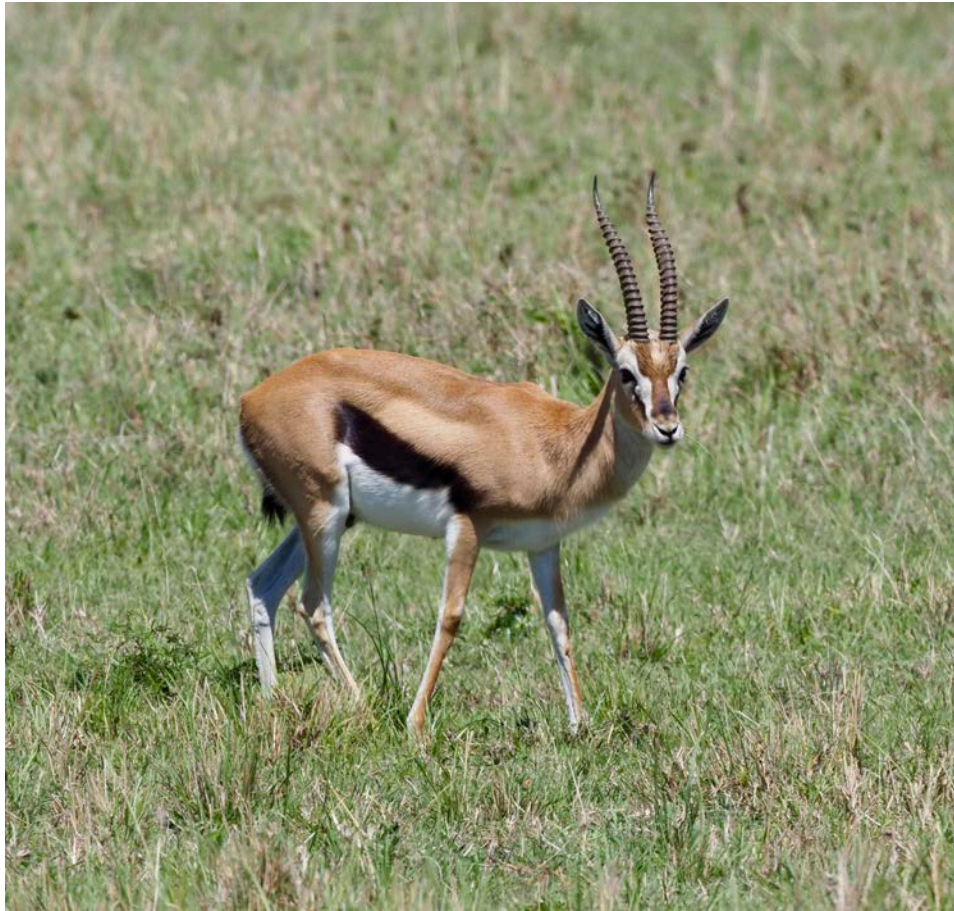




RAINBOW OVER SAMBURU GAME RESERVE

**NOTABLE MAMMALS AND REPTILES SEEN DURING OUR KENYA TOUR –**

AFRICAN BUSH ELEPHANT, OLIVE BABOON, CAPE HARE, SPOTTED AND STRIPED HYAENAS, COMMON WARTHOG, COMMON HIPPOPOTAMUS, GIRAFFE (MAASAI AND ROTHCHILDS SUBSPECIES), AFRICAN BUFFALO, BUSHBUCK, COMMON ELAND, THOMSON'S & GRANT'S GAZELLES, BOHOR REEDBUCK, WATERBUCK (DEFASSA SUBSPECIES), IMPALA, BONGO, TOPI, HARTEBEEST, BLUE WILDEBEEST, GUEREZA COLOBUS, VERVET MONKEY, BLUE MONKEY, FOUR-TOED HEDGEHOG, UNSTRIPED GROUND SQUIRREL, NORTHERN LESSER GALAGO, BLACK-BACKED JACKAL, LION, LEOPARD, CHEETAH, SOMALI DWARF MONGOOSE, COMMON DWARF MONGOOSE, BANDED MONGOOSE, BAT-EARED FOX, GREVY'S ZEBRA, PLAINS ZEBRA, DESERT WARTHOG, KIRK'S DIK-DIK, GUNTHER'S DIK-DIK, GERENUK, WATERBUCK COMMON, BEISA ORYX, COMMON AND BLACK-FRONTED DUIKERS, ROCK HYRAX, WHITE RHINOCEROS, SOUTHERN AND EASTERN TREE HYRAX, OCHRE BUSH SQUIRREL, BUSHY-TAILED MONGOOSE, FOREST HOG (RARE), BLACK-FRONTED DUIKER, YELLOW-WINGED BAT, WAHLBERG'S EPAULETTED FRUITBAT, NILE CROCODILE, LEOPARD TORTOISE, HELMETED TURTLE, BLUE-HEADED TREE AGAMA, ELEMENTEITA AGAMA, KENYAN ROCK AGAMA, MWANZA FLAT-HEADED AGAMA, GRACEFUL CHAMELEON, NILE MONITOR, BATTERBY'S GREEN SNAKE.



THOMSON'S GAZELLE  
(AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS TOMMY'S)