

KENYA BIRDS & WILDLIFE SAFARI

October 28 - November 15, 2011

&

MASAI MARA EXTENSION

November 14-19, 2011



LEADERS: David E. Wolf

(WITH THE ABLE HELP OF BERNARD KOINANGE AND SAMMY)

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TOUR REPORT

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By David E. Wolf

Almost every November for the last thirty years has found me in Kenya, but it still amazes me how different each safari has been. Upon arrival this year we found that the “short rains” had begun almost a month earlier than expected, and that the land had quickly started to rejuvenate from the drought earlier in the year, turning emerald-green and bountiful. The birds had responded too, many of them changing into brilliant plumage and beginning a new breeding season with bursts of song and display. With water and forage widely available, the mammals had dispersed far and wide, many of them with babies. To see the land so fecund is a rare treat—and the mantra of this group soon became, “You don’t know how lucky you are.”

No group of birds typifies Africa more than the weavers and their relatives, and on this safari we saw almost every one possible. Most of the 113 species in this family are African and they are conspicuous in almost every environment on the continent. All are characterized by building covered nests, some in great colonies and others in solitary pairs or small groups. Their nests vary tremendously in form and placement, but there is one common thread: they are classic “rains” breeders, waiting to nest until seeds and insects are abundant. For us this meant that we got to see and watch them often, in their finest plumages, because of the lushness of the season. We were introduced to the family by the colonial Speke’s Weavers at the hotel in Nairobi, their sloppy nests crammed together amidst the thorny acacia branches. These males are compulsive builders, each starting another nest as soon as one is completed. The catch is that it’s “ladies choice.” When a female sneaks into the colony to inspect potential nests, the males burst into a ridiculous cacophony of scratchy calls and wing-fluttering, as if to say, “come look at mine, look at mine,” but only if the female finds a nest to her liking does the male get to mate with her. Then he’s back to work on another one, in hopes of attracting another female.

It wasn’t long into the trip before we got to watch other species with different breeding systems. Along streams in the highlands we found a solitary male Holub’s Golden-Weaver placing his nests in a well-protected bush overhanging the water, while the African Golden-Weavers had their nests scattered through the reeds, initially starting the building process with a simple ring of tightly-woven strips of marsh grass. In Samburu weavers seemed to be everywhere, the picturesque acacias dripping with the neat pouches of the Black-capped Social-Weavers at the tips of the branches and the untidy round balls of the sparrow-weavers protected within the thorny twigs. A brilliant male Red-headed Weaver high up in a riverbank tree worked on a nest with a long tubular spout, the entrance on the bottom for safety, while a lone male Vitelline Masked-Weaver had several tidy onion-shaped nests suspended in the dense brush.

At Baringo a noisy colony of big White-billed Buffalo-Weavers seemed to spend the entire day working on their huge communal nests of large sticks, a single one several feet in length and with up to 10 chambers. On our boat trip here we thrilled to male Orange and Yellow-crowned bishops in glorious plumage turning into colorful fluffballs as they gave their buzzy display flights, a rare treat. Most of the year these birds simply look like tiny brown sparrows and disappear unidentified amidst the hordes of other “non-breeding ploceids” that are nearly impossible to identify. In the Kakamega rainforest the weavers were more solitary and less conspicuous, but

here we watched a stunning Red-headed Malimbe preening in the high canopy, a pair of Forest Weavers quietly building in the midstory, and a sneaky Black-billed Weaver carrying material into a dense thicket. Indeed we were very lucky.

Another outstanding group this year was the raptors, likely for the same reason: an abundance of food. As predators they are at the top of the food chain, and when prey is scarce we simply don't see as many of them. This year brought an abundance of quality sightings. Our run of luck began with a huge Crowned Eagle sitting in an emergent tree at the Mountain Lodge waterhole shortly after dawn, as we admired Mount Kenya's silhouette looming above us. This forest bird is considered the most powerful raptor in Africa, and the baboons roosting nearby were clearly terrified, while a juvenile Black Goshawk nearby was dwarfed by the giant eagle. In Samburu we saw and photographed a seemingly endless parade of large eagles, from a perched pair of uncommon African Hawk-Eagles to the distinctive Bateleurs to great comparisons of the resident Tawny versus migrant Steppe Eagles. And then there was the Martial Eagle adult that just sat and sat for us, a fearsome bird with a huge beak and talons, capable of taking prey the size of a small antelope. Nearby we found the other extreme, a tiny Pygmy Falcon competing with the shrikes for insects and small lizards. Even as we left the reserve on our final morning we found yet another specialized raptor, a calm Brown Snake-Eagle sitting right beside the road.

Working our way across the short-grass plains at Naro Moru produced close looks at the scarce Greater Kestrel, while a pair of uniquely African Secretary-birds dashed across the track in front of us. Then, at our scenic stop at Thomson's Falls, a rare resident Peregrine landed in a niche in the cliff, while a Mountain Buzzard circled in front of us at eye level. Around the Rift Valley lakes the joyous yelping of the African Fish-Eagle was a typical sound, while the comical Long-crested Eagles always brought a smile to our faces. A magnificent Verreaux's Eagle slowly working the cliffs at Lake Baringo was clearly upsetting the local Lanner Falcon and Shikras as it searched for hyrax, its main prey item.

On our drive across the Kerio Valley the clouds were hanging low, but as we searched for songbird specialties, a flight of migrant raptors slowly began circling up, giving us great looks at 15+ normally rare European Honey-Buzzards amidst the more numerous Common Buzzards. Very puzzling were the 6 accipiters slowly kettling with them, but careful study revealed them to be Levant Sparrowhawks, a highly-migratory species that enters northeastern Africa in large numbers and then seems to disappear. They have very rarely been found as far south as Kenya, and this may be the first report of multiple individuals!

And then there were all those raptors in the Mara, like the colorful White-headed Vulture that appeared from nowhere to steal a prey item from a pair of ground-hornbills, the nesting Wahlberg's Eagles seen daily near camp, the pair of elegant Gray Kestrels at sunset, and the dashing Ovampo Sparrowhawk that almost nailed a longclaw right in front of us. All of these were seen amidst the backdrop of a fantastic variety of other sights, from birds and mammals to scenery and interesting cultures.

Every region visited on this varied itinerary yielded many more highlights, too numerous to list here, but all contributed to a very successful safari. It was a pleasure sharing it with you. Much of our success was due to the incredible skills and patience of our driver-guides, Bernard Koinange for the main safari, and Sammy in the Masai Mara, and to them we extend a special "thank you."

Kenya Bird & Wildlife Safari Itinerary:

October 29: at the Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi after the group arrived from various directions.

October 30: all day excursion to Nairobi National Park.

October 31: a travel day to Mountain Lodge on the slopes of Mt. Kenya at 7300 ft, with a stop at the Blue Posts Hotel in Thika, picnic lunch at Thego Fishing Camp and late afternoon birding at the lodge.

November 1: early morning birding at Mountain Lodge before traveling around Mt. Kenya to a picnic lunch stop on the north side of the mountain and then descending to the semi-arid Samburu lowlands.

November 2: morning and afternoon game drives in Samburu/Buffalo Springs National Reserves.

November 3: morning and afternoon game drives in Samburu National Reserve.

November 4: from Samburu back to the western side of Mt. Kenya, birding the short-grass plains near Naro Moru and then the beautifully landscaped Naro Moru River Lodge.

November 5: morning birding at Naro Moru River Lodge, before driving across the plains to Thomson's Falls for a picnic lunch, and then down into the Great Rift Valley to Lake Nakuru National Park.

November 6: around Lake Nakuru NP until mid-afternoon and then north up the Rift Valley to the Lake Baringo Club.

November 7: a morning boat trip on Lake Baringo and then afternoon birding in the nearby bush country with the "Baringo bird boys".

November 8: morning birding along the cliffs and lodge grounds at Lake Baringo and then an afternoon excursion to Lake Bogoria National Reserve.

November 9: a travel day from Lake Baringo to Rondo Retreat Center in Kakamega Forest, a spectacular and diverse route via the Tugen Hills, Kerio Valley and Eldoret.

November 10: Kakamega Forest, especially Rondo Retreat Center and the nearby Yala River area.

November 11: Kakamega Forest, especially Isecheno Forest Station and near Rondo Retreat.

November 12: a long travel day from Kakamega to Naivasha, with major birding stops at Kisumu on Lake Victoria and the rice fields at Ahero.

November 13: a big day of birding in the Lake Naivasha area, including a morning boat trip and an afternoon excursion to Hell's Gate National Park.

November 14: an early departure for Nairobi and then goodbye to those not on the extension, who departed for home this evening. Participants on the Masai Mara Extension took a morning flight to Kichwa Tembo in the northwestern Mara and then our first game drive here in the afternoon.

November 15: morning and afternoon game drives in the western Masai Mara Reserve.

November 16: an all-day excursion in the western Mara, south to the Tanzania border.

November 17: morning birding up the Ololoolo Escarpment and then an afternoon game drive along the Mara River near Kichwa Tembo.

November 18: a final birding walk around Kichwa Tembo Camp before flying back to Nairobi, with lunch at "The Carnivore" and day rooms at the Ole Sereni Hotel before evening departures for home.

November 19: flight arrivals in Europe with connections onward to the U.S.

Key:

CH = Central Highlands region (Nairobi area, Mountain Lodge, Naro Moru and points in-between).

S = Samburu region in the Samburu/Buffalo Springs National Reserves.

RV = Rift Valley region (Lakes Nakuru, Baringo & Bogoria and nearby areas).

KV = Kerio Valley on our Nov 9 travel day; this distinctive deep valley lies at the base of the western escarpment of the Great Rift.

WK = Western Kenya region (Kakamega, Kisumu and Kericho areas).

LN = Lake Naivasha/Hell's Gate region of the Great Rift Valley.

MM = Masai Mara Extension, on the western side of this vast region, based at Kichwa Tembo.

* = recorded **only** on the Masai Mara Extension

hd = heard (if the species was **heard only** it is noted as such).

Bird List: This list order follows the taxonomy and sequence in Clements' *Birds of the World: A Check-list (Sixth Edition; 2007)* with current updates, as does our field checklist. Where the names or taxonomy are at variance from the field guides I have included an explanatory note. Some of our special sightings, favorites and rarities are **bolded**.

Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) - CH, S, RV, MM (the largest bird in the world. In Samburu we saw the “Somali” Ostrich (*S. “molybdophanes”*), sometimes split as a separate species).

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) - RV

White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) – CH, RV, WK

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) – RV, LN (close studies at several sites).

* **Spur-winged Goose** (*Plectropterus gambensis*) – MM (a huge, colorful and “primitive” goose).

African Black Duck (*Anas sparsa*) - CH (close look at birds on a small river on Mt. Kenya).

Cape Teal (*Anas capensis*) - RV

Yellow-billed Duck (*Anas undulata*) – RV, WK, LN, MM

Red-billed Duck (*Anas erythrorhyncha*) - CH, RV, LN

Hottentot Teal (*Anas hottentota*) - RV, LN

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) - RV

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) - RV

Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

Crested Guineafowl (*Guttera pucherani*) – WK (a rare sighting of a calm pair out in the road; this species had almost disappeared from Kakamega Forest, but with protection is slowly coming back).

Vulturine Guineafowl (*Acryllium vulturinum*) - S (spectacular – and odd-looking - specialty of the dry Somali sub-region).

Crested Francolin (*Francolinus sephaena*) - S, RV (hd)

Hildebrandt's Francolin (*Francolinus hildebrandti*) - RV, LN (hd) (a very calm pair at Nakuru).

Yellow-necked Francolin (Spurfowl) (*Francolinus leucoscepus*) - CH, S

* Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl) (*Francolinus afer*) - MM

Little Grebe (Dabchick) (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) - CH, RV, LN

Eared (Black-necked) Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) - RV (Lake Bogoria).

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) - RV (good numbers at both Lakes Nakuru and Bogoria).

Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*) - RV (with the high water level at Lake Nakuru almost none were present there – and then we found a concentration of 100,000 or so at scenic Lake Bogoria, truly one of the world's great bird sights).

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) - CH, RV, MM (including one around the waterhole at Mountain Lodge all afternoon; a scarce and solitary migrant).

* Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) - MM

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) – S (a single migrant seen by some).

Saddle-billed Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) – RV, MM (spectacular at close range!).

Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) - CH, S, RV, MM

Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*) – CH, RV, WK, LN, MM

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus*) - RV, LN, WK (the resident African “White-breasted” *lucidus* race, nesting in large numbers at Lakes Nakuru and Naivasha).

Long-tailed Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*) - RV, WK, LN

African Darter (*Anhinga rufa*) - RV (declining in Kenya and not seen every trip, but in numbers at Lake Baringo again this year. *Rufa* is not always split from Asian *melanogaster*).

Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) - RV, LN (immense numbers around Lake Nakuru stole the show from the few flamingos present).

Pink-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) – CH, RV, LN

Hammerkop (*Scopus umbretta*) - CH, RV, WK, LN, MM (a uniquely African bird placed in its own family, seen often and well, including the unusual – and immense – nest).

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) – RV (a long look at a male sitting up in the Baringo marshes).

Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) - CH, RV, WK, LN, MM

Black-headed Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

Goliath Heron (*Ardea goliath*) - RV (this immense bird is the largest of its family; we found a pair at their nest on an island in Lake Baringo).

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) - RV

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - CH, RV, LN

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) - RV, WK, LN (many more of this species than usual).

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) - RV, LN

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - all regions

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) - RV, LN, MM

* **Rufous-bellied Heron** (*Ardeola rufiventris*) - MM (this secretive species is very rare and local in Kenya; we found 6 roosting in a clump of bushes in a small marsh).

Striated (Green-backed) Heron (*Butorides striatus*) - CH, RV, MM

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – CH

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) - RV

Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) – CH, RV, WK, LN

Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*) - all regions (a noisy and conspicuous safari favorite, recorded almost every day of the trip).

African Spoonbill (*Platalea alba*) - CH, RV, LN

African Cuckoo-Hawk (*Aviceda cuculoides*) – CH

European Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) – RV, KV (including at least 13 close and identifiable birds in the raptor flight along the side of the Kerio Valley, a very high count for Kenya).

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) - CH, RV, MM

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) - CH, S, WK, LN, MM

African Fish-Eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) – CH, RV, WK, LN, MM (a favorite at the lakes; conspicuous and with wild yelping calls).

Palm-nut Vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*) – S

* Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) - MM

White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*) - CH, S, MM

Rueppell's Griffon (*Gyps rueppellii*) - LN

* **Lappet-faced (Nubian) Vulture** (*Torgos tracheliotus*) - MM (huge birds with fearsome bills).

* **White-headed Vulture** (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*) – MM (a colorful adult appeared out of nowhere to steal a prey item from a pair of ground-hornbills; welcome to the Mara!).

* Black-breasted Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus pectoralis*) - MM

Brown Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus cinereus*) - S, MM

Banded Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus cinerascens*) – MM (close study of an adult of this scarce raptor, perched right beside the track).

Bataleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) - S, MM (a very distinctive and beautiful eagle).

Eurasian (Western) Marsh-Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) – RV

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*) - CH, RV, MM

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*) - CH

African Harrier-Hawk (*Polyboroides typus*) - RV, MM

Dark Chanting-Goshawk (*Melierax metabates*) - RV

Eastern Chanting-Goshawk (*Melierax poliopterus*) - S

Gabar Goshawk (*Micronisus gabar*) – CH, LN

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) – RV, KV, WK

Levant Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*) – KV (this highly migratory species largely vanishes after the flocks enter Africa and our sighting of at least 6 in the raptor flight in the Kerio Valley may be the first sighting of multiple individuals in Kenya; certainly it was very significant).

* **Ovampo Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter ovampensis*) – MM (almost overlooked as just another dove sitting up, we had a long study of this rarely-seen species).

Black Goshawk (*Accipiter melanoleucus*) - CH

Common (Eurasian) Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) – CH, RV, KV, MM (the highly migratory "Steppe" Buzzard (*Buteo b. vulpinus*) was the race that we saw in good numbers this year).

Mountain Buzzard (*Buteo oreophilus*) – CH

* **Long-legged Buzzard** (*Buteo rufinus*) – MM (yet another very rare migrant in Kenya, hovering over the Ololoolo Escarpment).

Augur Buzzard (*Buteo augur*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

* Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) - MM

Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*) – CH, S, MM

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) - CH, S, RV, MM

Verreaux's Eagle (*Aquila verreauxii*) – S, RV (a spectacular close adult was seen working back and forth along the cliff at Baringo).

African Hawk-Eagle (*Aquila spilogaster*) - S, KV (a pair with very full crops perched in a dead tree in Samburu and then a close adult wheeling around in front of us at the Kerio Valley overlook).

Wahlberg's Eagle (*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*) - S, MM (a nesting pair in the Mara was seen daily).

Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*) - S, RV (a magnificent adult of this huge and powerful savanna eagle was seen perched close at hand in Samburu).

Long-crested Eagle (*Lophaetus occipitalis*) - CH, S, RV, MM

Crowned Hawk-Eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) - CH, MM (this forest bird is considered the most powerful eagle in Africa; we were very lucky to have scope views of an adult at Mountain Lodge, while in the Mara we were able to watch a chick in the nest as a well-hidden adult perched nearby).

Secretary-bird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) - CH, MM (a uniquely African specialty of the grasslands, seen best at the airstrip in the Mara just before we left).

Pygmy Falcon (*Polihierax semitorquatus*) - S

Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) - S

Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) - S, RV, MM

Greater Kestrel (*Falco rupicoloides*) - CH (a close study on the dry plains near Naro Moru).

* Gray Kestrel (*Falco ardosiaceus*) - MM

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) – CH, MM

Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*) - RV, LN

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – CH

Kori Bustard (*Ardeotis kori*) - S, LN, MM (huge birds seen a number of times).

Buff-crested Bustard (*Eupodotis gindiana*) - S

* Black-bellied Bustard (*Lissotis melanogaster*) - MM

Hartlaub's Bustard (*Lissotis hartlaubii*) - CH (one of the less common members of its family).

White-spotted Flufftail (*Sarothrura pulchra*) - WK (heard only).

Black Crake (*Amaurornis flavirostra*) - RV

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) - CH, WK

Red-knobbed Coot (*Fulica cristata*) - LN

Gray Crowned-Crane (*Balearica regulorum*) - CH, S, RV, WK, MM (pairs of these delightful birds were seen often and well).

Water Thick-knee (*Burhinus vermiculatus*) - S, MM

Senegal Thick-knee (*Burhinus senegalensis*) - RV (close-up studies at Baringo).

Spotted Thick-knee (*Burhinus capensis*) – RV (sneaky pair shown to us by the “bird boys”).

- Long-toed Lapwing (*Vanellus crassirostris*) – WK
 Blacksmith Plover (*Vanellus armatus*) - CH, RV, LN
 Spur-winged Plover (*Vanellus spinosus*) – all regions
 Black-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus tectus*) - RV
 Black-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus melanopterus*) – CH (hundreds on the plains near Naro Moru).
 Crowned Lapwing (*Vanellus coronatus*) - CH, S, RV, MM
 Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus senegallus*) – WK, MM
 Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) - RV, WK, LN
 Kittlitz's Plover (*Charadrius pecuarius*) – CH, RV, LN
 Three-banded Plover (*Charadrius tricollaris*) - CH
 Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) - CH, RV, WK, LN
 Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) – RV, LN
 African Jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*) - RV, WK, LN, MM
 Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) - all regions
 Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) - CH, RV, MM
 Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – CH, RV, LN, MM
 Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) - RV, LN
 Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) - RV, WK, LN, MM
 Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*) - RV, LN
 Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – RV, WK, LN
 Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) - RV, WK, LN, MM
 Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) – LN
- * **Small Buttonquail** (*Turnix sylvaticus*) – MM (incredible study of one out-in-the-open in the early morning, right beside the vehicle).
- * Temminck's Courser (*Cursorius cursor*) - MM
Three-banded (Heuglin's) Courser (*Rhinoptilus cinctus*) - RV (a trio of these secretive nocturnal birds shown to us by "the Baringo bird boys").
- Gray-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*) - RV, WK, LN
 Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) - RV
 Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) - RV, LN
 Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) - RV, LN
 White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) - RV, WK, LN
 Black-faced Sandgrouse (*Pterocles decoratus*) - S
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (*Pterocles lichtensteinii*) – S (multiple close looks at these cryptic desert-adapted birds).
- Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*) - all regions
 Rameron (Olive) Pigeon (*Columba arquatrix*) – CH
Delegorgue's Pigeon (*Columba delegorguei*) – CH (flocks coming to the Mt. Lodge waterhole).
 Dusky Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia lugens*) - CH
 African Mourning Dove (*Streptopelia decipiens*) - S, RV
 Red-eyed Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) - CH, RV, KV, WK, LN, MM
 Ring-necked Dove (*Streptopelia capicola*) - CH, S, RV, KV, LN, MM
 Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) - S, RV, KV, LN
 Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove (*Turtur chalcophilos*) - S, RV, KV
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove (*Turtur afer*) – RV (nice look at one at Lake Nakuru).
 Tambourine Dove (*Turtur tympanistria*) – CH, WK (hd)
 Namaqua Dove (*Oena capensis*) - S, RV, LN
 African Green-Pigeon (*Treron calva*) - CH, WK, MM
 Fischer's Lovebird (*Agapornis fischeri*) - CH (introduced in Kenya; native only in Tanzania).

- Gray Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) – WK (seen by Carmen; “you don’t know how lucky you are”).
- Red-fronted Parrot (*Poicephalus gulielmi*) - CH
- * Meyer's (Brown) Parrot (*Poicephalus meyeri*) – MM (heard only).
- Red-bellied (Orange-bellied) Parrot (*Poicephalus rufiventris*) - S
- Great Blue Turaco** (*Corythaeola cristata*) - WK (the largest member of this uniquely African family; spectacular show from a very upset flock of 11 near Rondo Retreat in the late afternoon).
- * Schalow's Turaco (*Tauraco schalowi*) - MM (split from Livingstone's Turaco (*Tauraco livingstonii*)).
- White-crested Turaco** (*Tauraco leucolophus*) - KV (an especially beautiful turaco).
- Hartlaub's Turaco (*Tauraco hartlaubi*) - CH
- * **Ross's Turaco** (*Musophaga rossae*) - MM (another fabulous species in this great African family!).
- * Bare-faced Go-away-bird (*Corythaixoides personatus*) - MM
- White-bellied Go-away-bird (*Corythaixoides leucogaster*) – CH, S, RV
- Pied (Black-and-white) Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) - S
- Red-chested Cuckoo** (*Cuculus solitarius*) – S, CH, RV, WK, LN, MM (hd) (it’s “it will rain” song was heard often, but the birds themselves remained well-concealed).
- African Cuckoo** (*Cuculus gularis*) – S (nice study of a singing bird; like all of the cuckoos it is not often found unless calling).
- Klaas' Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx klaas*) – RV (hd), WK, LN, MM
- African Emerald Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx cupreus*) – CH (hd), WK
- Dideric Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx caprius*) – S, RV (hd), LN, MM (hd)
- Blue-headed Coucal (*Centropus monarchus*) – CH (heard only).
- White-browed Coucal (*Centropus superciliosus*) - CH, RV (hd), LN (hd), MM
- African Scops-Owl** (*Otus senegalensis*) - RV (sleepy adult and juvenile at their day roost).
- Cape Eagle-Owl (*Buteo capensis*) - CH
- Spotted Eagle-Owl** (*Bubo africanus*) – LN (a nice surprise on the hotel grounds).
- Grayish Eagle-Owl (*Bubo cinerascens*) - RV (shown to us by the Baringo “bird boys”; a recent split from the Spotted Eagle-Owl (*Bubo africanus*)).
- Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl (*Bubo lacteus*) - S
- Pearl-spotted Owlet (*Glaucidium perlatum*) - S, RV
- Slender-tailed Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus clarus*) - RV (day-time study at close range).
- African Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*) - CH, S, WK
- Mottled Swift (*Apus aequatorialis*) - LN
- Common Swift (*Apus apus*) - S
- Nyanza Swift (*Apus niansae*) – S, KV, LN
- African Swift (*Apus barbatus*) – CH, KV
- Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) - all regions
- White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*) – CH, MM
- Speckled Mousebird** (*Colius striatus*) - CH, RV, WK, LN, MM (an entertaining favorite that was seen almost daily).
- White-headed Mousebird** (*Colius leucocephalus*) - S (a Somali sub-region specialty).
- Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urocolius macrourus*) - S, RV
- * **Narina Trogon** (*Apaloderma narina*) – MM (a beautiful male in the shade of an emergent tree).
- Malachite Kingfisher (*Alcedo cristata*) - CH, RV, LN, MM
- African Pygmy-Kingfisher** (*Ispidina picta*) – RV, WK, MM (great looks at this tiny gem).
- Gray-headed Kingfisher (*Halcyon leucocephala*) - S, MM
- Woodland Kingfisher (*Halcyon senegalensis*) - RV
- Striped Kingfisher (*Halcyon chelicuti*) - CH
- Giant Kingfisher** (*Megaceryle maxima*) - LN (the largest kingfisher in Africa and generally scarce).
- Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) - RV, WK, LN, MM

Blue-headed Bee-eater (*Merops muelleri*) - WK
White-fronted Bee-eater (*Merops bullockoides*) – LN (a spectacular 11th hour find at Hell’s Gate).
Little Bee-eater (*Merops pusillus*) - CH, S, MM
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater (*Merops oreobates*) - CH, WK, MM
White-throated Bee-eater (*Merops albicollis*) - WK
European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) – RV, MM
Northern Carmine Bee-eater (*Merops nubicus*) – RV (a gorgeous duo at close range at Baringo).
European Roller (*Coracias garrulus*) – S, CH, MM
Lilac-breasted Roller (*Coracias caudatus*) - S, RV, WK, LN, MM (a colorful safari favorite).
Rufous-crowned Roller (*Coracias naevius*) - S, RV
Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus glaucurus*) - RV
Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) - S, RV, LN
Green Wood-Hoopoe (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) - S, CH, RV, LN (hd), MM (noisy and sociable birds, the most widespread of this uniquely African family).
White-headed Wood-Hoopoe (*Phoeniculus bollei*) – WK (a flock of 7 followed us up the trail).
* Common Scimitar-bill (*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*) - MM
Abyssinian Scimitar-bill (*Rhinopomastus minor*) – CH, S, MM
Red-billed Hornbill (*Tockus erythrorhynchus*) - S, RV
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill (*Tockus flavirostris*) - S
Jackson's Hornbill (*Tockus jacksoni*) - RV
Von der Decken’s Hornbill (*Tockus deckeni*) - S
Crowned Hornbill (*Tockus alboterminatus*) - CH
Hemprich’s Hornbill (*Tockus hemprichii*) - RV (the scarcest of the small hornbills and an arid-zone specialty that nests in cliff crevices rather than trees).
African Gray Hornbill (*Tockus nasutus*) - CH, RV, KV
Trumpeter Hornbill (*Ceratogymna bucinator*) – CH (a super-close male at the Blue Posts in Thika).
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill (*Ceratogymna brevis*) - CH
Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill (*Ceratogymna subcylindricus*) - WK, MM (big and noisy).
* **Southern Ground-Hornbill** (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) - MM (strange birds of the wooded grasslands).
Yellow-billed Barbet (*Trachyphonus purpuratus*) - WK
Red-and-yellow Barbet (*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*) – S (a colorful savannah-dweller that often nests in termite mounds).
D’Arnaud’s Barbet (*Trachyphonus darnaudii*) - S, RV, MM (in the Mara we saw and heard the *usambiro* race, sometimes treated as a separate species, the “Usambiro” Barbet).
Gray-throated Barbet (*Gymnobucco bonapartei*) - WK
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*) - CH, WK, MM (hd)
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*) – WK (a scarce bird seen very well).
Red-fronted Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus pusillus*) - CH, RV (hd), LN
Yellow-spotted Barbet (*Buccanodon duchaillui*) - WK
Hairy-breasted Barbet (*Tricholaema hirsuta*) - WK (a forest canopy rarity and real neck-breaker).
Red-fronted Barbet (*Tricholaema diademata*) – CH, RV
Spot-flanked Barbet (*Tricholaema lacrymosa*) – KV (one distant bird), MM (many seen closely).
Black-throated Barbet (*Tricholaema melanocephala*) - RV
White-headed Barbet (*Lybius leucocephalus*) - CH, LN, MM
Double-toothed Barbet (*Lybius bidentatus*) - WK (a fig specialist, brilliant in color).
Lesser Honeyguide (*Indicator minor*) – CH, RV, MM
Least Honeyguide (*Indicator exilis*) – WK
* **Pallid Honeyguide** (*Indicator meliphilus*) – MM (it took your leader a lengthy close-up study to realize that we were looking at this rare species).

- * **Rufous-necked Wryneck** (*Jynx ruficollis*) – MM (patterned to look just like the acacia bark).
 Nubian Woodpecker (*Campethera nubica*) - CH, S, RV, LN
 Buff-spotted Woodpecker (*Campethera nivosa*) - WK
 Cardinal Woodpecker (*Dendropicos fuscescens*) – S, RV, WK, MM
 Bearded Woodpecker (*Dendropicos namaquus*) - RV
 Golden-crowned (Yellow-crested) Woodpecker (*Dendropicos xantholophus*) – WK
 Gray Woodpecker (*Dendropicos goertae*) – RV (nesting pair at Lake Baringo).
 Gray-headed Woodpecker (*Dendropicos spodocephalus*) - CH, RV, LN (split from the Gray Woodpecker (*D. goertae*) by Clements, but not by most authorities or the field guides).
 African Shrike-Flycatcher (*Megabyas flammulatus*) - WK
 Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye (*Platysteira cyanea*) - WK, MM
 Chestnut Wattle-eye (*Platysteira castanea*) - WK
 Jameson's Wattle-eye (*Platysteira jamesoni*) - WK
Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye (*Platysteira concreta*) - WK (stunning little bird of the understory).
 Chinspot Batis (*Batis molitor*) - CH, RV, KV, MM
 Pygmy Batis (*Batis perkeo*) – RV
White Helmet-Shrike (*Prionops plumatus*) – RV, KV (strange-looking birds of the acacia groves).
 Brubru (*Nilaus afer*) - S, RV, MM (hd)
 Northern Puffback (*Dryoscopus gambensis*) – KV
 Black-backed Puffback (*Dryoscopus cubla*) - CH, RV, LN, MM
- * **Black-crowned Tchagra** (*Tchagra senegala*) – MM (great looks at this skulker, located by its especially musical song).
- * Brown-crowned Tchagra (*Tchagra australis*) – MM
 Three-streaked Tchagra (*Tchagra jamesi*) - S
 Luehder's Bush-Shrike (*Laniarius luehderi*) - WK
Tropical Boubou (*Laniarius aethiopicus*) - CH, RV, LN, MM (their clear bell-like duets were a favorite sound of the trip).
Black-headed Gonolek (*Laniarius erythrogaster*) - KV, WK (stunning in color!).
 Slate-colored Boubou (*Laniarius funebris*) - CH, S, KV (hd), MM
Rosy-patched Bushshrike (*Rhodophoneus cruentus*) - S (a dry-country specialty, subtle in color until the rosy splotches on the underparts are seen).
 Gray-green (Bocage's) Bushshrike (*Telophorus bocagei*) - WK
 Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*) - CH, KV
- * **Gray-headed Bush-Shrike** (*Malaconotus blanchoti*) - MM (a fearsome predator for a songbird).
Gray Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina caesia*) – CH (long looks at one in the podocarpus at Naro Moru; not often seen on this trip and rarely this well).
 Petit's Cuckoo-Shrike (*Campephaga petiti*) - WK
 Black Cuckoo-Shrike (*Campephaga flava*) - CH, KV, LN, MM
 Purple-throated Cuckoo-Shrike (*Campephaga quisqualina*) - CH
 Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) – S (glimpsed).
 Rufous-tailed Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*) - S
 Gray-backed Fiscal (*Lanius excubitoroides*) - LN, MM
 Long-tailed Fiscal (*Lanius cabanisi*) - CH (common in Nairobi NP).
 Taita Fiscal (*Lanius dorsalis*) - S
 MacKinnon's Shrike (*Lanius mackinnoni*) - WK
 Common Fiscal (*Lanius collaris*) - CH, RV, WK, LN, MM
 White-rumped Shrike (*Eurocephalus rueppellii*) - S, RV, KV
- * Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*) – MM (glimpsed).
 Western Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*) - WK

African Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus larvatus*) - CH, RV, KV, LN (hd), MM
 Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole (*Oriolus percivali*) - CH
 Square-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus ludwigii*) - WK
 Fork-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*) – all regions
 African Paradise-Flycatcher (*Tersiphone viridis*) -CH, RV, KV, WK, LN
 Cape Crow (*Corvus capensis*) - CH, WK
 Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*) - CH, S, WK, LN, MM
 Fan-tailed Raven (*Corvus rhipidurus*) – S
 White-tailed Lark (*Mirafra albicauda*) – CH (close study of one in Nairobi NP our first day).
 Rufous-naped Lark (*Mirafra africana*) - CH, LN, MM
 * Flappet Lark (*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*) - MM
 Foxy Lark (*Calendulauda alopex*) - S (now split from the Fawn-colored Lark (*C. africanoides*) of southern Africa).
 Pink-breasted Lark (*Calendulauda (Calendulauda) poecilosterna*) - S
 Fischer's Sparrow-Lark (*Eremopterix leucopareia*) – CH, S
 Red-capped Lark (*Calandrella cinerea*) – CH, MM
 Bank Swallow (Sand Martin) (*Riparia riparia*) - RV, LN
 Plain (African Sand) Martin (*Riparia paludicola*) - CH, RV, LN, MM
 Banded Martin (*Riparia cincta*) - CH, MM
 Rock Martin (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*) - CH, RV, KV, LN, MM
 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - all regions (an abundant migrant from Eurasia seen almost daily).
 Angola Swallow (*Hirundo angolensis*) - CH
 Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) - CH, LN, MM
 Lesser Striped-Swallow (*Cecropis abyssinica*) – RV, WK, MM
 * Rufous-chested Swallow (*Cecropis semirufa*) - MM
 * Mosque Swallow (*Cecropis senegalensis*) - MM
 Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*) - CH, LN, MM
 Common House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) - CH, RV, MM
 White-headed Sawwing (*Psalidoprocne albiceps*) – WK, MM
 Black Sawwing (*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*) - CH, LN, MM
 Gray-rumped Swallow (*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*) – LN (seen by some).
 African Blue-Flycatcher (*Elminia longicauda*) - WK, MM
 White-bellied Tit (*Melaniparus albiventris*) - CH, RV, KV, LN
 Dusky Tit (*Melaniparus funereus*) - WK
Red-throated Tit (*Melaniparus fringillinus*) - CH (endemic to a small area of n. Tanzania and s. Kenya; we saw a pair at the Hippo Pools in Nairobi NP).
 Somali Tit (*Melaniparus thruppi*) - RV (split from Grey Tit (*Melaniparus afer*)).
 Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit (*Anthoscopus musculus*) - RV
Common Bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*) - all regions (a friendly and abundant bird – and the only species seen every day of the trip).
 Shelley's Greenbul (*Andropadus masukuensis*) - WK
 Little Greenbul (*Andropadus virens*) - WK (heard much more often than seen).
 Gray Greenbul (*Andropadus gracilis*) - WK
 Ansorge's Greenbul (*Andropadus ansorgei*) - WK
 Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul (*Andropadus curvirostris*) - WK
 Slender-billed Greenbul (*Andropadus gracilirostris*) - CH, WK
 Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (*Andropadus latirostris*) - CH, WK
 Eastern Mountain-Greenbul (*Andropadus nigriceps*) - CH

Joyful Greenbul (*Chlorocichla laetissima*) - WK (colorful, conspicuous and readily identified, unlike its many relatives also present in the Kakamega forest).

Cabanis's Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*) - WK

Northern Brownbul (*Phyllastrephus strepitans*) – S, RV

Common Bristlebill (*Bleda syndactylus*) - WK

Uganda Wood-Warbler (*Phylloscopus budongoensis*) - WK

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) - CH, RV, KV, LN, MM

African Yellow Warbler (*Chloropeta natalensis*) - CH

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Hippolais pallida*) – S

* Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*) - MM

Greater Swamp-Warbler (*Acrocephalus rufescens*) – WK

Lesser Swamp-Warbler (*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*) - RV

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler (*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*) - CH

Black-collared Apalis (*Apalis pulchra*) - WK

Black-throated Apalis (*Apalis jacksoni*) - CH (a colorful warbler of the canopy of montane forest).

Yellow-breasted Apalis (*Apalis flavida*) - CH, RV, LN, MM

Buff-throated Apalis (*Apalis rufogularis*) - WK

Chestnut-throated Apalis (*Apalis prophyrolaema*) – CH (heard only)

Gray Apalis (*Apalis cinerea*) - CH

Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera (*Camaroptera brachyura*) – all regions

Olive-green Camaroptera (*Camaroptera chloronota*) - WK

Red-fronted Warbler (Red-faced Apalis) (*Urorhipis rufifrons*) - RV

* Miombo Wren-Warbler (*Calamonastes undosus*) - MM

Gray Wren-Warbler (*Calamonastes simplex*) - S, RV

White-chinned Prinia (*Schistolais leucopogon*) - WK

Red-faced Cisticola (*Cisticola erythrops*) – CH (hd), WK, MM

Singing Cisticola (*Cisticola cantans*) - CH

* Trilling Cisticola (*Cisticola woosnami*) - MM

Chubb's Cisticola (*Cisticola chubbi*) - WK

Hunter's Cisticola (*Cisticola hunteri*) - CH, LN

Boran Cisticola (*Cisticola bodessa*) – CH (one of the really obscure cisticolas).

Rattling Cisticola (*Cisticola chiniana*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

Ashy Cisticola (*Cisticola cinereolus*) - S

Wailing Cisticola (*Cisticola lais*) - LN

Winding Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*) - CH, WK, LN, MM

Stout Cisticola (*Cisticola robustus*) - CH, MM

* Croaking Cisticola (*Cisticola natalensis*) – MM

Siffling Cisticola (*Cisticola brachypterus*) – CH (a close singing bird in Nairobi NP).

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) – WK (glimpsed).

Pectoral-patch Cisticola (*Cisticola brunnescens*) - CH, MM

Gray-capped Warbler (*Eminia lepida*) - CH, LN, MM

Black-faced Rufous-Warbler (*Bathmocercus rufus*) - WK

Buff-bellied Warbler (*Phyllolais pulchella*) - CH, RV, LN, MM

Tawny-flanked Prinia (*Prinia subflava*) - CH, KV, LN, MM

Pale Prinia (*Prinia somalica*) - S

Banded Prinia (*Prinia bairdii*) - WK

Yellow-vented Eremomela (*Eremomela flavicrissalis*) - S

Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*) – LN

Green-backed Eremomela (*Eremomela canescens*) - KV (a brightly-colored warbler for a change).

- Turner's Eremomela (*Eremomela turneri*) - WK
 Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) - CH, WK, LN
 Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) - CH
 Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) – S
 Brown Warbler (*Parisoma lugens*) – CH (Nairobi NP gate).
 Banded Warbler (*Parisoma boehmi*) – S
 * Moustached Grass-Warbler (*Melocichla mentalis*) – MM
 White-browed Crombec (*Sylvietta leucophrys*) – CH (heard only).
 Northern Crombec (*Sylvietta brachyura*) - RV
 Red-faced Crombec (*Sylvietta whytii*) - CH, RV (hd), KV, LN, MM
 Green Hylia (*Hylia prasina*) - WK
Silverbird (*Empidonis semipartitus*) - KV (a beautiful flycatcher seen only once).
 Pale Flycatcher (*Bradornis pallidus*) – RV, MM
 African Gray Flycatcher (*Bradornis microrhynchus*) - S, RV, MM
White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis fischeri*) - CH, WK, LN (friendly and confiding).
 Northern Black-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis edolioides*) - WK, MM
 Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) - CH, WK, LN
 Swamp Flycatcher (*Muscicapa aquatica*) – WK
 Chapin's Flycatcher (*Muscicapa lendu*) – WK
 African Dusky Flycatcher (*Muscicapa adusta*) - CH, WK
 * Ashy Flycatcher (*Muscicapa caerulescens*) - MM
 Equatorial Akalat (*Sheppardia aequatorialis*) - WK
 Cape Robin-Chat (*Cossypha caffra*) - CH, LN
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat (*Cossypha cyanocampter*) – WK (a very secretive inhabitant of the rainforest understory, seen better than ever before on this trip).
 Gray-winged Robin-Chat (*Cossypha polioptera*) - WK
 Rueppell's Robin-Chat (*Cossypha semirufa*) - CH
White-browed Robin-Chat (*Cossypha heuglini*) - CH, RV, LN, MM (their loud and spirited duets in the early mornings made this a favorite voice – unless you wanted to sleep in)
 Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat (*Cossypha niveicapilla*) - WK
 Spotted Morning-Thrush (*Cichladusa guttata*) - CH, S, RV, KV
 Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas leucophrys*) – CH, S (hd), RV, MM
 Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) - CH, RV, MM
 Mourning Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugens*) - LN (we saw the distinctive and isolated “Schalow's” race at Hell's Gate, often split as a separate species, Schalow's Wheatear (*Oenanthe lugubris*)).
 Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) - S, LN
 Capped Wheatear (*Oenanthe pileata*) - CH
 Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*) - S, CH
 * Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) - MM
 Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) - CH, LN
 Brown-tailed Chat (*Cercomela scotocerca*) - RV
 Northern Anteater-Chat (*Myrmecocichla aethiops*) - CH, RV, LN
 * Sooty Chat (*Myrmecocichla nigra*) - MM
Mocking Cliff-Chat (*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*) – RV (a talented songster inhabiting a very specialized environment).
 White-tailed Ant-Thrush (*Neocossyphus poensis*) – WK (at the ant swarm in Kakamega).
 Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) - S
Little Rock Thrush (*Monticola rufocinereus*) - RV (an uncommon and local bird seen multiple times on our drive around Lake Nakuru).

Olive Thrush (*Turdus olivaceus*) - CH

African Thrush (*Turdus pelios*) - RV, WK

Brown-chested Alethe (*Alethe poliocephala*) – WK (seen remarkably often and well, especially around the ant swarm inside the Kakamega Forest).

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis (*Illadopsis albipectus*) – WK

African Hill Babbler (*Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*) - CH

Rufous Chatterer (*Turdoides rubiginosus*) - S, CH, RV

Black-lored Babbler (*Turdoides sharpei*) – LN, MM

Northern Pied-Babbler (*Turdoides hypoleuca*) – CH

Brown Babbler (*Turdoides plebejus*) - RV

Arrow-marked Babbler (*Turdoides jardineii*) – RV, MM

African Yellow White-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*) - KV, WK, MM

Broad-ringed (Montane) White-eye (*Zosterops poliogaster*) - CH

White-breasted (Abyssinian) White-eye (*Zosterops abyssinicus*) - CH, LN

Wattled Starling (*Creatophora cinerea*) - S

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*) - CH, RV, KV, WK, LN, MM

Rueppell's Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis purpuropterus*) – CH, RV, KV, MM

Golden-breasted Starling (*Lamprotornis regius*) - S (shy specialty of the semi-arid bush country).

Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*) - all regions (truly "superb-oh").

Hildebrandt's Starling (*Lamprotornis hildebrandti*) - CH, MM

Violet-backed Starling (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*) – CH (one female), MM (a real “wow” bird when it lights up).

Fischer's Starling (*Spreo fishcheri*) - S

Red-winged Starling (*Onychognathus morio*) - RV, LN

Slender-billed Starling (*Onychognathus tenuirostris*) - CH

Bristle-crowned Starling (*Onychognathus salvadorii*) - RV

Stuhlmann's Starling (*Poeoptera stuhlmanni*) – WK

Kenrick's Starling (*Poeoptera kenricki*) – CH

Sharpe's Starling (*Pholia sharpii*) - CH

Red-billed Oxpecker (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM (on a variety of large mammals).

* **Yellow-billed Oxpecker** (*Buphagus africanus*) - MM (lots of them on the larger game in the Mara).

Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird (*Anthreptes orientalis*) - S, RV

Green Sunbird (*Anthreptes rectirostris*) – WK (female-plumaged only).

Collared Sunbird (*Hedydipna collaris*) - CH, WK, MM

Green-headed Sunbird (*Cyanomitra verticalis*) - CH, WK, MM

Western Olive-Sunbird (*Cyanomitra obscura*) - WK (split from Eastern Olive-Sunbird (*C. olivacea*)).

Green-throated Sunbird (*Chalcomitra rubescens*) – WK (abundant this year and many males seen).

Amethyst Sunbird (*Chalcomitra amethystina*) - CH, LN

Scarlet-chested Sunbird (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*) - CH, RV, WK, LN

Hunter's Sunbird (*Chalcomitra hunteri*) - S

Tacazze Sunbird (*Nectarinia tacazze*) - CH (a flashy big sunbird of high elevations).

Bronze Sunbird (*Nectarinia kilimensis*) - CH, WK, LN, MM

Golden-winged Sunbird (*Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*) - CH (another specialty of the highlands).

Northern Double-collared Sunbird (*Cinnyris preussi*) - CH, WK

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird (*Cinnyris mediocris*) - CH

Beautiful Sunbird (*Cinnyris pulchellus*) – RV, KV

Mariqua Sunbird (*Cinnyris mariquensis*) - KV, WK, MM

Red-chested Sunbird (*Cinnyris erythrocerus*) - WK

- Black-bellied Sunbird (*Cinnyris nectarinoides*) - S
 Orange-tufted Sunbird (*Cinnyris bouvieri*) - WK
 Variable Sunbird (*Cinnyris venustus*) - CH, WK, LN
 African Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla aguimp*) – CH, RV, WK, MM
 Cape Wagtail (*Motacilla capensis*) - CH
 Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) – all regions
Mountain Wagtail (*Motacilla clara*) – CH, MM (an elegant bird of the mountain streams).
 Plain-backed Pipit (*Anthus leucophrys*) - MM
 African (Grassland) Pipit (*Anthus cinnamomeus*) - CH, S, RV, MM
 Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus. similis*) – CH, MM
 Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) - KV, MM
 * Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) - MM
 Golden Pipit (*Tmetothylacus tenellus*) – S (one female seen).
Yellow-throated Longclaw (*Macronyx croceus*) - CH, MM (remarkably convergent in appearance with our meadowlarks, but they are not closely related).
Rosy-throated Longclaw (*Macronyx ameliae*) - CH, MM (beautiful skulker in the damp grasslands).
 Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza tahapisi*) – CH, MM
 Golden-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza flaviventris*) - CH, MM
 Somali Bunting (*Emberiza poliopleura*) - S
 Yellow-crowned Canary (*Serinus flavivertex*) - CH (not always split from the Cape Canary (*Serinus canicollis*) of southern Africa).
 African Citril (*Serinus citrinelloides*) - CH, LN (the *kikuyuensis* race; seen around Nairobi and elsewhere in the central highlands).
 * Southern Citril (*Serinus hypostictus*) - MM
Papyrus Canary (*Serinus koliensis*) – WK (super looks at this obscure bird at Lake Victoria).
 Reichenow's (Yellow-rumped) Seedeater (*Serinus reichenowi*) - CH, WK, LN (not always split from the Black-throated Canary (*Serinus atrogularis*)).
 * Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*) - MM
 White-bellied Canary (*Serinus dorsostriatus*) – S, RV
 Brimstone Canary (*Serinus sulphuratus*) - CH, LN
 Streaky Seedeater (*Serinus striolatus*) - CH, WK, LN
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - KV, MM (introduced).
 Kenya Rufous Sparrow (*Passer rufocinctus*) - CH, RV, LN, MM (now split from *Passer motitensis*).
 Gray-headed Sparrow (*Passer griseus*) – RV, KV, WK
 Parrot-billed Sparrow (*Passer gongonensis*) - S, RV (split from Gray-headed Sparrow (*Passer griseus*) by Clements, but not by all authors).
 * Swaheli Sparrow (*Passer suahelicus*) – MM (split from Gray-headed Sparrow (*Passer griseus*) by Clements, but not by all authors).
 Chestnut Sparrow (*Passer emibey*) – S, LN
 Yellow-spotted Petronia (*Petronia pyrgita*) – CH, S, RV
White-billed Buffalo-Weaver (*Bubalornis albirostris*) – RV (a noisy colony of these communal nesters in the big kapok at Baringo).
 Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver (*Bubalornis niger*) - S
White-headed Buffalo-Weaver (*Dinemellia dinemelli*) - S, RV (a conspicuous dry region favorite).
 Speckle-fronted Weaver (*Sporopipes frontalis*) - S, KV, MM
 White-browed Sparrow-Weaver (*Plocepasser mahali*) - CH, S, RV, KV, LN
 Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver (*Plocepasser donaldsoni*) - S
Black-capped Social-Weaver (*Pseudonigrita cabanisi*) - S (an abundant Samburuland specialty, their nests in the acacias a conspicuous feature of the landscape).

- Red-headed Malimbe** (*Malimbus rubricollis*) – WK (a great look at this scarce canopy bird).
- Red-headed Weaver (*Anaplectes rubriceps*) - CH, S, KV, LN
- Baglafaecht Weaver (*Ploceus baglafaecht*) - CH, RV, WK, LN, MM
- Slender-billed Weaver** (*Ploceus pelzelni*) – WK (great looks in the Lake Victoria papyrus swamps).
- Little Weaver (*Ploceus luteolus*) - RV, KV
- Lesser Masked-Weaver (*Ploceus intermedius*) - S, RV, LN
- Spectacled Weaver (*Ploceus ocularis*) - CH, LN, MM
- Black-necked Weaver (*Ploceus nigricollis*) - WK
- Black-billed Weaver (*Ploceus melanogaster*) - WK
- African Golden-Weaver** (*Ploceus subaureus*) – CH (nesting along a small stream).
- Holub's Golden-Weaver (*Ploceus xanthops*) - CH, MM
- Northern Masked-Weaver (*Ploceus taeniopterus*) - RV
- Vitelline Masked-Weaver** (*Ploceus vitellinus*) – S (a male at his well-woven onion-shaped nests).
- Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) – CH, S, RV, WK, MM
- Speke's Weaver** (*Ploceus spekei*) - CH, RV, LN, MM (nesting in large noisy colonies).
- Vieillot's Weaver (*Ploceus nigerrimus*) - WK
- Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*) - WK
- Golden-backed Weaver (*Ploceus jacksoni*) - RV
- Chestnut Weaver (*Ploceus rubiginosus*) - S
- Forest (Dark-backed) Weaver (*Ploceus bicolor*) - WK
- Brown-capped Weaver (*Ploceus insignis*) – CH
- Red-billed Quelea (*Quelea quelea*) – S, RV
- Yellow-crowned Bishop** (*Euplectes afer*) – RV (a beautiful male in breeding plumage).
- Orange Bishop** (*Euplectes franciscanus*) – RV (males in breeding plumage in the Baringo marshes).
- Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*) - WK
- Yellow Bishop (*Euplectes capensis*) – CH, MM
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** (*Euplectes axillaris*) – WK, MM (many males in full plumage this year).
- * Yellow-shouldered Widowbird (*Euplectes macroura*) - MM
- White-winged Widowbird (*Euplectes albonotatus*) - CH
- Red-collared Widowbird (*Euplectes ardens*) - CH
- Long-tailed Widowbird (*Euplectes progne*) – CH
- Jackson's Widowbird (*Euplectes jacksoni*) – CH, MM
- Grosbeak Weaver (*Amblyospiza albifrons*) - WK
- White-breasted Negrofinch** (*Nigrita fusconota*) - WK (singing from the edge of the rainforest canopy; not often detected in Kenya).
- Gray-headed Negrofinch (*Nigrita canicapilla*) – CH, WK
- * **Green-backed Twinspot** (*Mandingoa nitidula*) – MM (a rarely-seen forest skulker).
- Crimson-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda rhodopyga*) - RV
- Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) – RV (one glimpsed), MM (common).
- Black-crowned Waxbill (*Estrilda nonnula*) - WK
- Red-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda chamosyna*) - S, RV
- Red-headed Bluebill (*Spermophaga ruficapilla*) - WK
- Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** (*Uraeginthus bengalus*) - CH, RV, KV, WK (a colorful favorite of unusual color).
- Blue-capped Cordonbleu (*Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*) - S
- Purple Grenadier** (*Granatina ianthinogaster*) - CH, S, RV, MM (not too shabby either!).
- Green-winged Pytilia (*Pytilia melba*) - RV
- Red-billed Firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegala*) – all regions
- * African Quailfinch (*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*) – MM

Bronze Mannikin (*Spermestes (Lonchura) cucullata*) - CH
Black-and-white Mannikin (*Spermestes (Lonchura) bicolor*) - CH (the "Rufous-backed" race, sometimes split as a separate species (*S. nigriceps*), WK (the "Black-and-white" race).
Village Indigobird (*Vidua chalybeate*) – CH (in non-breeding plumage).
Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*) – CH, MM (many in breeding plumage in the Mara).

Mammal List: List and taxonomy follows "The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals"

Guereza Colobus (*Colobus guereza*) - CH, RV, WK
Olive Baboon (*Papio anubis*) – all regions
Vervet Monkey (*Cercopithecus (aethiops) pygerythrus*) – all regions
Gentle Monkey (*Cercopithecus (nictitans) mitis*) - "Blue" monkey west of the Rift at WK, MM; "Syke's" monkey east of the Rift in the CH).
Red-tailed Monkey (*Cercopithecus (cephus) ascanius*) - WK, MM
fruit bat sp? – S (inside the dining room).
Yellow-winged Bat (*Lavia frons*) – RV (seen by some).
insectivorous bats – all regions
Cape/Scrub Hare (*Lepus capensis/saxatilis*) - CH, S, MM (external appearance is almost identical in these two species and we may have seen both. Cape is found in open grassland, as was the one that we saw on the shortgrass plains near Naro Moru, while Scrub requires some bushes or grassy openings amidst forest and woodland, and is likely the species seen in S, RV).
Unstriped Ground-Squirrel (*Xerus rutilus*) – CH, S
Ochre Bush Squirrel (*Paraxerus ochraceus*) - CH
Red-legged Sun Squirrel (*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*) - WK
African Giant Squirrel (*Protoxerus stangeri*) – WK
Zebra Mouse (*Lemniscomys sp?*) – RV (under the bird feeders at Lion Hill Lodge), WK
Unstriped Grass Rat (*Arvicanthis sp?*) - RV
Black-backed (Silver-backed) Jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) - S, RV, MM
Slender (Black-tipped) Mongoose (*Herpestes sanguinea*) – CH, MM
Dwarf Mongoose (*Helogale parvula*) - S
* Banded Mongoose (*Mungos mungo*) - MM
Marsh Mongoose (*Atilax paludinosus*) – CH
Spotted Hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) – MM (not an attractive animal, but very important in the Mara ecosystem).
Common (Small-spotted) Genet (*Genetta genetta*) -S
Blotched (Large-spotted) Genet (*Genetta tigrina*) - CH
Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) – S (gazing down at us with its icy stare).
Lion (*Panthera leo*) – CH, S, MM
Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) – S (a distant one standing on a termite mound).
Black-necked Rock Hyrax (*Procavia johnstoni*) – RV
Yellow-spotted Hyrax (*Heterohyrax brucei*) - CH
Southern Tree Hyrax (*Dendrohyrax arboreus*) – CH (heard; impressive choruses of their ferocious nocturnal calls), MM (seen inside the dining hall).
African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) – CH, S, MM (including some very friendly animals in Samburu and numerous herds throughout the Mara, far more than usual).
Common (Burchell's) Zebra (*Equus quagga*) - CH, RV, LN, MM
Grevy's Zebra (*Equus grevyi*) – S (one handsome stallion seen regularly; apparently the females and foals had moved out of the area with the widespread rains).
Browse (Black) Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) – CH, RV, MM (we were lucky enough to see this seriously endangered animal at both Nairobi NP and Lake Nakuru).

Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) - RV, LN, MM

Bush Pig (*Potamochoerus larvatus*) – CH (a rare diurnal sighting at Mountain Lodge).

Common Warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) - CH, LN, MM ("Masai"), S ("Reticulated")

African Buffalo (*Synceros caffer*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) - CH, MM

Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepticrosus*) – S, RV (these magnificent large antelope are shy inhabitants of the dense thornbush and neither common or conspicuous in Kenya).

Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) - CH, RV, LN, MM

Steinbok (*Raphicerus campestris*) – CH

* **Oribi** (*Ourebia ourebi*) – MM (great looks at this cute antelope on several occasions).

Klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*) - LN

Kirk's Dikdik (*Madoqua kirki*) - S, MM

Mountain Reedbuck (*Redunca fulvorufula*) – LN (on the steep hillside at Hell's Gate).

* Bohor Reedbuck (*Redunca redunca*) - MM

Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*) - CH, RV, LN, MM (both "Common" and "Defassa" types).

Red-fronted (Thomson's) Gazelle (*Gazella rufifrons*) - CH, RV, LN, MM

Grant's Gazelle (*Gazella granti*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

Gerenuk (*Litocranius walleri*) – S (the strange "giraffe-antelope" was a common sight in Samburu, but is quite a unique specialty of the Horn of Africa region).

Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) - CH, S, RV, LN, MM

* Topi (*Damaliscus lunatus*) - MM

Kongoni (Hartebeest) (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*) - CH

Brindled Gnu (Wildebeest) (*Connochaetes taurinus*) - CH, MM

Beisa Oryx (*Oryx beisa*) - S

and a bit of other neat stuff:

Nile crocodile (*Crocodilus niloticus*) - S, MM

Leopard Tortoise (*Testudo pardalis*) - S

"big river turtles" - CH, MM (some were "side-necked").

Nile (Water) Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) - RV

Agama (rock) lizards - CH, S, MM (several color forms of these brightly-colored large lizards).

Common chameleon (*Chamaeleo*) - S

"skinks"

House Gecko - RV

"sand snake" sp? (*Psammophis sp?*) – both of the small very slender snakes seen in Samburu were likely of this genus. These were the only snakes seen on the trip.

and a lifetime of memories of the biological and cultural richness of East Africa