

Kenya

Wildlife at Leisure

October 2017

A Greentours Trip Report

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Daily Report by Ian Green and Systematic Lists by Phil Benstead

Day 1 October 18th to Nairobi

All arrived pretty much on time in Nairobi. We drove quickly to the Lazizi Hotel, a very nice place, and just ten minutes from the airport and checked in.

Day 2 October 19th Hunters Lodge and to Tsavo East

We rose early and convened at breakfast in the Lazizi where all seemed capable of eating a good breakfast. Before Nairobi's traffic had a chance to build up we were on the road and out past the airport and on the Mombasa road.

Leaving town we espied common birds such as Superb Starlings, White-browed Sparrow-Weavers and Black Kites. We had not left the city really before the first Zebra appeared and then we regularly saw Coke's Hartbeest, Thompson's Gazelle and Zebra as we drove east. Soon we were on the wide open Athi Plains. Patches of dwarfed Whistling Acacia interrupted the short grasses of Lapiti.

We stopped at Hunters Lodge for an extended break and a very pleasant lunch. African Golden Weavers were busy building their nests by the river/lake. There was also a huge colony of Black-necked Herons in the tall Yellowbark Acacias. Striated Herons were noted and Moorhens and African Black-headed Orioles fluted from the trees. A *Grevillea robusta* (Australian) tree attracted a large group of Collared Sunbirds and there were Abyssinian White-eyes in with them too. Phil found this spot rather productive for Odonata. Cherry-eyed Sprites perched on waterside vegetation and there were Common Threadtails and Common Citrils too. Both Black Sprite and Maasai Sprite were noted and the large Common Tigertail. Perhaps the two most Odonata though were the violently-hued Violet Dropwings and the strikingly-patterned Black-splashed Elf. We also saw our first butterflies – the Citrus Swallowtail and the rather beautiful Natal Pansy.

Then it was on along the Mombasa road soon dropping a little into lands characterised by scattered Baobabs of great age and beauty. These are the most stunning trees.

Then it was into Tsavo East. The gate we entered meant an hour's drive across Tsavo East's dry savannah to Voi Safari Lodge. Even as we visited the bathrooms at the entrance there were animals about us. Giraffe, Impala and Zebra wandered into a waterhole where Buffalo were already in residence. Nearby a Banded Mongoose played hard to get and we spotted our first Ochre-bellied Ground Squirrels. It didn't take us long to find our first Elephants. Tsavo's Elephants are famous for their redness and this is a very striking feature

– the soil hereabouts soon removes white or grey from the agenda – even the Zebras tend to be orange and black striped! One small group of Elephants was stripping an acacia of both leaves and bark and as they did so Spotted Morning Thrush, Fork-tailed Drongo and Slate-coloured Boubou sallied for insects at their feet. We soon started seeing lovely Lilac-breasted Rollers and those Superb Starlings were everywhere. Black-faced Sandgrouse sauntered off the tracks whilst several individual Buff-crested Bustards hardly bothered to even do that. We spotted Eastern Chanting Goshawks in a treetop, whilst flying past were male Pallid Harrier and a Tawny Eagle. We continued towards the lodge passing many Peter's (Grant's) Gazelles, Zebra, a few Gerenuk, Giraffes, Did-diks, Waterbuck and the like. Towards the end of the drive a Kori Bustard walked around just metres from the landrovers. Not just any Kori though for this one was in full display – an amazing sight. Then it was into the lodge itself with the sun already down but still enough light to understand what a magnificent savannah-scape panorama was viewable from the front of the lodge – and all the rooms.

Day 3 October 20th Tsavo East: Kanderi Swamp & Cat Alley

We convened at 05.45 for tea, coffee and biscuits and then set off at six. This was our first proper venture into Tsavo East and a measure of how rich the park is may be deduced by the few kilometres we covered in three and a half hours! Driving across the dry bush country we were impressed by the fine scenery with sharp steep-sided hills protruding from the red-earth flat lands. Cacti-like euphorbias were dominant on the steep slopes whereas in the dry country commiphora and acacia were common, the latter also reaching tree size with some impressive flat-topped specimens that always seemed to hold many weaver nests, indeed each seemed to hold many birds. Dik-diks melted away as we drove, our first impressions of the bird life was of hornbills – they were everywhere. Von der Decken's, Red-billed and Grey Hornbills were all seen but Red-billed by far the commonest. Red-billed Buffalo Weavers and those lovely Superb Starlings were common too. We soon started seeing animals. The local form of Grants Gazelle – Peter's Gazelle – were common and we saw many up close. Then there were the Coke's Hartebeest, and Impala, as always abundant. Phil's van spotted a Black-backed Jackal sauntering across the grassland, with a Cape Hare in its mouth! Yellow-necked Spurfowl were much enjoyed and we saw Helmeted Guineafowl and several pairs of Crested Francolins. A fabulous Green-winged Pytilia was difficult to get a good look at though not the stunning Rosy-patched Shrike which sat atop a bush that was practically on top of our vehicle! In the same bush was a Three-striped Tchagra.

A pale termite mound suddenly morphed into a fine Cheetah. Wow. This animal did everything it could to make our morning. It was close – very close – it was on the right side of the vehicle so was perfectly lit, and it seemed completely unperturbed by the presence of our two vehicles. It rolled in the red mud adding an interesting tinge to its very pale pelage. It coiled its tail up and playfully invited us over to tickle its tummy! After a few minutes of this it got up and walked towards us, getting with fifteen metres or so of the van before sauntering along parallel to us for a while. Golden-breasted Starlings, one of the most beautiful birds in Africa, flew past us. Raptors were starting up now and we watched Pale Chanting Goshawks and Tawny Eagles.

A little further and we headed into the Kanderi Swamp. At this season it is dry with grass. Some Buffalo were by a water source and Allison spotted something pale tawny lying down beyond it. A Lion! And then Mark noticed the one by the Buffalo carcass. These two lions were near the end of their feed, one was still worrying the carcass a little but soon wandered off, moving very slowly with her full stomach, the other one was literally covered in blood! She had blood dripping from her face which was well-coated, and both her forelegs were bloodied from foot to shoulder. She was a gruesome sight! This one actually showed a smidgen of interest as a group of Coke's Hartebeest made to go her way but either the smell of blood or

the smell or sight of Lion made them uneasy and they changed tack. Elephants wandered across the savannah here, and two fine Black-backed Jackals too. The latter were a most unusual colour. The backs silver-black – the rest of the body a strong orange colour – the soil hereabouts colours all! Five superb Abyssinian Ground Hornbills walked across the track right in front of us – we marvelled at the heavily scarlet wattled alpha male! A Gerenuk was photographed doing its standing up on hind legs thing. Then a little further on a lovely male Lesser Kudu was right by the track and unlike most of the kudu here which tend to melt into the bush as soon as spotted this one posed as if it knew it was the most beautiful kudu in the park. It was certainly a fine animal. Next was a superbly brilliant Red and Yellow Barbet and then it was back to the lodge arriving spot-on for 09.30.

Breakfast was much needed! We watched Buffalo and Elephants from the table and admired the comings and goings of the nesting colony of Black-headed Weavers. After breakfast several of us descended to the hide by the waterhole where we had a fabulous time watching the morning ablutions and interactions of various Buffalo and Elephants at really close range. In this hide you are just three or four metres from the closest animals and you can see them looking at you – fabulous! Grey-headed Kingfishers came and perched oh so close, whilst Palm Doves came even closer. Yellow-billed Oxpeckers were carried to our cameras by the buffalo. A band of Banded Mongooses fossicked above the hide and there were Bateleur Eagles much in evidence. During the break various of us fossicked around the lodge producing such goodies as a shimmering male Diederik Cuckoo, Crimson Tip and Golden Arab butterflies, Gabar Sparrowhawk with prey, Yellow-rumped Seedeaters, and White-rumped and Little Swifts all the time in the air. Speaking of the air five White-headed Vultures cruised over and a Tawny Eagle. Dwarf Mongooses and Bush Hyraxes were photographed from the lunch table.

We took another trip out into the park at four o'clock. This time we took the pipeline road coming back along small cat alley. No small cats to report along the latter but we did see a good range of game during the afternoon with some fine Desert Warthogs notable. There were a couple of 'Grant's' Gazelles that looked like real Grant's Gazelles, rather than the Peter's that we were already used to here, these having much darker brighter pelage with a strong black dorsal stripe. We saw a number of Ostriches, these Maasai with the pink legs. We soon saw our first Taita Fiscals and there were a few Isabelline Wheatears on the dry turf, and then a group of perhaps ten Somali Coursers were much appreciated. Just a little further and Allison started finding Bustards. Firstly a couple of Kori Bustards and then a Hartlaub's Bustard. Soon we found another albeit distant Kori that was displaying vigorously. Heading past a rocky ridge we watched three African Hawk Eagles that were doing some precision flying. Twice we watched as two of them grappled talons and cartwheeled downwards! At the furthest point of our journey we stopped by a waterhole. Cattle Egrets and Green Sandpiper were by the water and some Zebra came in to drink. A superb adult Bateleur sat atop a Baobab which had a single flower on it. Nearby trees had flocks of starlings and Red-billed Buffalo Weavers coming in to settle down for the night. Phil's van watched two Black-backed Jackals here then a Secretary Bird atop a nest.

Day 4 October 21st Tsavo East: Galana River & Night Drive

This morning we had breakfast a little after six and then at seven we headed out on the long trek to the Galana River. Our route took us initially along the pipeline road where a bunch of Lions sitting in the grass by the track delayed us. Four adult females and three half-grown cubs comprised what we could see of this pride. We contemplated each other for a while then we were off. A fantastic pair of Somali Ostriches bought us to a halt. They had tiny (i.e. the size of francolins) chicks with them – around eighteen of them. They all wandered over to the road where the male did some extraordinary dust-bathing manoeuvres. So strange in fact the chicks and the female left heading in the opposite direction.

Just further along a Verreaux's Eagle Owl was sat in a tree right by the road giving us stellar views. The jury's out on the pink eyelids. We also stopped for a group of Black-capped Social-Weavers and Phil's van found Fischer's Sparrowlarks here. We saw few animals on the way, a few Elephants, one very elegant group of Giraffes, lots of Dik-diks, and some Gerenuk, that was all. Nearing our destination we stopped by a dry river crossing where Blue-naped Mousebirds, Vitelline Masked Weavers, Slate-coloured Boubous and a mystery eagle were here. Two fine Yellow-billed Hornbills sat high in a dead tree and we also saw Von der Decken's, Grey and abundant Red-billed Hornbills. A superb Golden Pipit – a male – was sadly only seen by a few. A highlight was a Somali Bunting by the track.

Then it was down the Doum Palm-lined river. We got out and had a potter about the rocky river bed as the sun shone strongly. A Hippo eyed us from upstream. There were several Yellow-billed Storks as well as Great White Egrets, Grey Heron, Spur-winged Plovers, Three-banded Plovers and a Common Sandpiper or two. The river cascades down through a narrow rocky defile here, a muddy brown torrent. A White-headed Vulture flew in and landed as a Crocodile submerged.... An African Fish Eagle sat on another tree and male and female adult Bateleurs gave a great flight display overhead. A single Green Vervet Monkey sat on a rock in the middle of the river. By the shore Phil was enjoying the Odonata with quite a number of Common Hooktails frequenting the riverside bushes. There was also a single Flapper Hooktail and the unusual Elegant Dropwing too. Butterflies were good too with Plain Tigers, African Babul Blue and several Yellow Pansies all photographed.

We moved a little downstream where we were able to walk again. This time to an overlook where a number of Nile Crocodiles were visible as well as around twenty Hippos. A Baby Hippo, unaccountably, was seen walking around on the shore. Some Nile Monitors were spotted whilst nearer at hand were Pink-breasted Lark. African Black-headed Orioles and an Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird.

Then we were off for the return journey. We saw a number of Lesser Kudu during the drive as well as encountering numerous Elephants and a few Giraffe. Warthogs occasionally appeared and there were many Dik-diks. Golden Orioles were seen in one area where we saw Blue-naped Mousebirds too. A superb herd of Vulturine Guineafowl were much enjoyed and there were some other good birds too in the shape of Pygmy Batis, Nubian Woodpecker, Pygmy Falcon, Eastern Changing Goshawk, and a whole bunch of Eastern Violet-backed Sunbirds.

During lunch a Slender-tailed Mongoose wandered through below the verandah. From my room window I noted adult Steppe Eagle, Gabar Goshawk and Northern Crombec as well as plenty of Elephants, Buffalo, Impala etc. After a short break in the afternoon some of us met at five for a short wander round the grounds. We didn't get very far as there so many raptors seen from the reception entrance! Seven species in about ten minutes! There was a Tawny Eagle, a Steppe Eagle and a Verreaux's Eagle. A Harrier flew past, we were unable to be sure which species it was, the Augur Buzzard was much easier to pinpoint. A falcon sped past, and later I had good views of what was probably the same bird – a Peregrine. Lastly, and in the actual tree by the reception, was an immature Ovambo Sparrowhawk. This quietly shuffled through a tree trying to get into position to launch itself at the dozen or so bright yellow weavers sat in the next tree, but the weavers spotted it first! Later Allison, Alex and Mark showed us a superb Pearl-spotted Owlet which was unbelievably confiding we were all taking pictures within three metres of it in the end!

We met again at six-thirty for the night drive. Both vehicles had great success early on in the trip. Phil's landrover seeing a White-tailed Mongoose and then a Striped Hyena which they squeaked in until it was quite close to the vehicle. Ian's vehicle finding first an Aardwolf which wasn't too close, but close enough to see the dark tail and striped body, then a superb Side-striped Jackal. The Jackal trotted back and forth a bit, Jackals are not keen on having torches shone at them and are clever at trying to evade them. This one though didn't notice the Grant's Gazelles running past it until the last minute and had to jump out of their

way! Thereafter we were fed a diet of Dik-diks and Scrub Hares at a ratio of about twenty to one! Phil's vehicle managed to find a Verreaux's Eagle Owl and a Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar during this period but mine failed to locate anything else of interest in the next hour and then we got stuck! John was following the local ranger's suggestion when a big wet sandy hole trapped his back wheel and that was that until Peter's van came and dragged us out. We did have some Elephants for company though. Phil's vehicle saw Black-backed Jackals on the return but as we were late we had to drive rather fast and certainly will have missed stuff through this good area. Aardwolf, Side-striped and Black-backed Jackals, Striped Hyena, White-tailed Mongoose and Donaldson-Smith's Nightjars sounds like a successful night out but one feels it could have been so much better!

Day 5 October 22nd Tsavo East: Cat Alley & Pipeline Road

Tea and coffee on the verandah this morning prior to our six o'clock game drive. It had been cooler overnight and was very clear this morning, the light incredible for photography. Which was lucky, as we found some wonderful subjects. Lilac-breasted Rollers were the subjects early on, we found two different birds that didn't seem to care how close we got to them and these lit by the low morning sun. The second had a bunch of friends with it – Red-billed Buffalo Weavers, Superb Starlings and a White-crowned Shrike, some of which posed with the roller. Some particularly close and well-lit Cape Buffalo provided more camera fodder, especially one animal which had half a dozen Yellow-billed Oxpeckers on one flank and a single Red-billed Oxpecker on the other!

We continued to some waterholes where we were admiring the flowering Baobabs, the shiny Hunter's Sunbird, some Black-faced Sandgrouse and some fine-looking Zebra (aren't they all?) when the latter suddenly ran some metres from the waterhole and as one they looked westwards we knew something must be coming. Sure enough a male Cheetah sauntered over, hardly giving us more than a glance and then settled down to drink, not before carefully checking the surrounds. We didn't count as a threat clearly. The Cheetah spent five minutes gently lapping the water with us no more than ten metres away. Then he stood up and slowly paced off. At this point he started calling. A sharp loud mew was the main call but every so often he would emit a kind of growling purr. He wandered off parallel to us on the road for some while and we followed watching and photographing and listening. It seemed he was looking for something? At one point he even climbed a little way up a tree and surveyed the scene, posing almost theatrically. In the background gazelle fled! After half an hour of this magical encounter I wonder just how many fabulous images we have between us?

Round the corner we came across some birds – A Redwing Bushlark, then a Rattling Cisticola, then some Long-billed Pipits and Edna spotted a Pangani Longclaw. We discussed Fiscal identification. Moving along now we found some very red Tsavo Elephants that begged to be photographed. Two Kori Bustards sauntered past. Heading back along the pipeline road we stopped for some Elephants one of which had the tiniest baby, so small that you could still see daylight above it when it stood under its mother's belly! Then we came across a couple of Verreaux's Eagles soaring, and at the same time a superb Augur Buzzard actually drinking at a roadside waterhole. There was still time to find a Pygmy Falcon whilst Phil's bus had a couple of falcon encounters too. As we entered the lodge grounds a couple of stately Eland were making their alongside the fence.

Breakfast was of course consumed with gusto. It was busy down at the waterhole too this morning with lots of Impala, Waterbuck, Buffalo and of course Elephants. After breakfast people wandered the grounds. Some went down to the hide and spent a very productive hour with a stream of mammals and birds. Others wandered out back seeing Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Cardinal Woodpecker, Spot-flanked Barbet and

the usual mousebirds and weavers. Butterflies were good this morning with many pierids including Coast Purple-tip, African Albatross, *Colotis evenina*, Banded Gold-tip, Desert Orange-tip, Zebra White, Striped Policeman (a skipper), Yellow Pansies and the Citrus Swallowtail all came to nectar at one bush. Phil also photographed the Fig Tree Blue, a rather beautiful tailed species, and the One-pip Policeman, not usually found this far south. Phil continued in the quest for Odonata with Horned Rockdwellers noted as well as a single Epaulett Skimmer. Rainbow Skinks and Orange-headed Agamas were everywhere as of course were the Bush Hyraxes. Impala wandered around inside the grounds and soon a herd of Baboons came to check if anyone had left their windows open! Tawny Eagles, Bateleurs, Marabou Storks and both White-backed and Rüppell's Griffon Vultures were in the air above the lodge.

The afternoon trip took us back along Cat Alley returning along the pipeline road. As ever in Tsavo there seemed no end of reasons to stop. Highlights included two Black-backed Jackals heading off across the grasslands, a Secretary Bird on a nest, and a Lion with a buffalo kill. In many ways though it may be the buffalo bellyful of birds that may stick in the mind! A slight exaggeration. The Buffalo had been dead for some time. The skin covered skeleton had of course been already harvested, however a bunch of Wattled Starlings found it to be to their liking. Some of them were actually entering the belly of the carcass and pecking away at whatever they wanted! A very odd sight indeed! More salubrious sights included a group of Desert Warthogs, Lilac-breasted Rollers and Little Bee-eater, and some finely placed Elephants. Near the end of the trip one spraying water over itself from a water pipe leek was a favourite. Amongst wheatears and buffalo-weavers we found an immature Little Rock Thrush. We found Golden-breasted Starlings every so often as well as and three Verreaux's Eagle Owls, a female Pygmy Falcon, and an Eastern Chanting Goshawk. A Spotted Hyena ran across the track in front of Phil's landrover.

There was a White-tailed Mongoose at the waterhole late on...

Day 6 October 23rd Tsavo East: Aruba & the Pipeline Road

Our early morning safari today took us fifty minutes direct drive northeast to Aruba. Of course we didn't manage to do a complete non-stop drive, some choice species stopping us en route! It had been raining in the night and there was still occasional precipitation as we drove. It was cool and there were amazing smells on the wind, wet Tsavo Earth has a strong pleasant odour and the scents of various trees came our way.

Was it my imagination or was that first Spotted Hyena we saw looking a little damp and cold? Straightaway we saw another two Spotted Hyenas – these surprisingly bashful. Soon after a wonderful black and white animated rug passed in front of us and undulated across the savannah – a Honey Badger! An adult and an immature Eastern Chanting Goshawk and a Hooded Vulture also drew us to a stop. Then we reached the Aruba area where on the wide open short grass plains we looked for the critically endangered Hirola. There are perhaps only a couple of hundred of these antelope left in the world and many of these are in hardly accessible parts of northeastern Kenya or Somalia. Twenty years ago a population was introduced into Tsavo in an attempt to safeguard these rare animals and though they almost died out there are still some here. However we couldn't find them today even though we searched the groups of Hartebeest, Grant's Gazelle and Somali Ostriches (!) carefully. We did manage a couple of distant Beisa Oryx.

Two Black-backed Jackals were fun as they inspected some dead wood. Large flocks of Caspian Plovers flew all around us calling and there were also smaller groups of Black-faced Sandgrouse. Kori Bustards displayed – at one point we had four of them around us. A group of Banded Mongooses wandered across the turf near a dead elephant that was being dealt with by the local vultures. It was good to see perhaps forty vultures in the area, fifteen or so at the carcass. Most were African White-backed Vultures and Rüppell's

Griffon Vultures but there was also a Hooded Vulture and a Lappet-faced Vulture. It was however disturbing to see that there were quite a number of dead Elephants in the area and the earlier fine scents were now replaced by something altogether less pleasant. We saw a number of dry country birds here as well as the abundant Caspian Plovers. There were Fischer's Sparrowlarks, at least two Chestnut-headed Sparrowlarks, some Redwing Bushlarks, and a few each of Kittlitz's Plover and Somali Courser. As we were leaving we noted a superb Golden Pipit and a pair of Green-winged Pytilia. We had to rush back for breakfast but still managed to stop for a fine Peregrine on the way.

Two Secretary Birds walked past during breakfast and there were fine views of White-browed Coucal as we munched. Just as breakfast was finished we realised that a vehicle we could see out on the Savannah was watching a Cheetah. It was far away, but still pretty good in the 'scope!

Wandering around the grounds during the pre-lunch period produced pair of Spot-flanked Barbets, a pair of Pygmy Falcons, a d'Arnaud's Barbet and a superb adult Gymnogene. Nigel found a wonderful beetle with a Volkswagen-yellow wing casing. Butterflies were quite good too with Banded Gold-Tip, Coastal Purple-Tip, Desert Orange-Tip and the gorgeous Golden Arab.

Before the afternoon trip got underway I took a quick glance out my window and noticed a Lion walking along on the edge of the light scrub across the grassland in front of the hotel. A quick check revealed four Lionesses making steady progress. There was a small bunch of Buffalo coming the other way and they hadn't noticed the Lions. But the Lions had noticed them! The lead Lioness crouched low, the other three just sat down as if not interested. A minute later and the Buffalo were within range – thirty metres or so – and the lead Lioness jumped up and hurtled towards the Buffalo. Quickly followed by the now interested others! Seconds later they were all on top of the Buffalo and though one fell off it was only thirty seconds later that they'd dragged the Buffalo to its knees and one had slid round under the neck to deliver the strangulation.

A few minutes later we convened for the afternoon trip, the rain now falling lightly again. We headed out towards the Kanderi Swamp driving slowly through what is usually a very productive area but in the rain this afternoon it seemed all the animals and most of the birds (except the Yellow-necked Spurfowl) had gone off to find sunnier climes. There was no-one at home! We stopped to watch some Elephants for quite some time then some more Elephants – there was nothing else to distract us from watching Elephants. We turned a corner and found seven or eight safari vehicles in tight formation (well, sort of). The most vehicles we'd seen even altogether on one game drive here! Of course they were watching something. Lions again. This time three handsome males. One of them even had a mane – almost black – usually Tsavo Lions are practically maneless. One was still consuming the Buffalo they had killed lifted the whole ribcage and pulling it this way and that. The other two lay like they were the victims of a gas attack or something – they were clearly very full judging by the bloated bellies! The other one eventually came over and joined them, posing beautifully as he did so.

Returning to the lodge just before dusk we could see the Lionesses and cubs – a total of a dozen Lions – eating the buffalo out front of the lodge!

Day 7 October 24th to Amboseli via Tsavo West & Kilaguni Lodge

We had breakfast this bright and sunny morning before departing Voi Safari Lodge at seven. We said goodbye to the 12 Lions by the Buffalo outside, the females laying down and full, the cubs playing with each other. Driving out we said we would only stop for something special. It didn't take long for that to appear – a fantastic male Lion reclining peacefully on a rock just above the road. As we watched and

photographed him he rose and stretched, posed a bit more, then sauntered down past the vehicles and off into the savannah. It might as well have been the sunset! Before we could move an elegant Lanner Falcon gave us a show of its flying prowess and we had brilliant views of this bird. Then it was out towards the Manyani Gate.

Once inside Tsavo West the scenery became increasingly varied inside this wonderful expanse of savannah that covers volcanic hills and plains including a large area of lava that erupted from a low cone here just a few hundred years ago. There were hornbills everywhere, they were truly abundant, mainly Von der Decken's and Grey, but also plenty of Red-billed and a few Yellow-billed too. Within a few hundred metres of the gate we stopped for a superb adult Martial Eagle looking truly imposing. Hardly further on a Mark spotted a mother and baby Hippo down in the river so we stopped and watched – great views. Alex showed us one hiding in the water too – just putting its nostrils up from time to time. There was a Kudu skull and horns in the riverbed, wedged in between some rocks. Then it was onwards stopping every now and again for the likes of Pringle's Puffback, Somali Golden-breasted Bunting, Broad-billed Roller, and superb Red-headed Weavers, one male of which was as bright as a Vermilion Flycatcher. We spotted some Lesser Kudu, lots of dik-diks and Giraffe were so common, we saw several hundred today.

Nearing the spot where the previous year we watched a pack of wild dogs and amid a superb landscape where steep rocky scarps interrupted the savannah which had become dotted with amazingly large and old-looking baobabs, we found a lot of birds. There were eagles everywhere, lots of Tawny Eagles and a Booted Eagle too. A large fig tree was full of African Green Pigeons, White-bellied Go-Away Birds, Red-winged Starlings and a bunch of smaller stuff too. Orange-bellied Parrots flew in. We also spotted a Greater Honeyguide nearby.

Moving on we stopped for African Firefinch, Black-necked Weaver, d'Arnaud's Barbet, Green-winged Pytilia and Eurasian Bee-eaters. Eastern Chanting Goshawks perched in the bushes. Warthogs sauntered across the road and we saw Slender Mongoose and two Bushbuck. There was a large group of roadside Beisa Oryx. A series of pools along a stream yielded some sightings. There were so many eagles again – all Tawny. A pair of Maasai Ostriches were very close to us, the male with white areas intensely dyed orange! Now we headed over to Kilaguni Lodge. Mark pulled one out of the bag when he spotted a roadside Leopard. This superb animal was so close to us. He stopped, watching us intently, before sauntering off into the bush – amazing!

Then it was to Kilaguni Lodge for lunch. It was difficult to stop wildlife watching, but we managed it! We were ushered into the expansive restaurant and partook of a most excellent and much needed lunch. The views out over Tsavo West National Park were exquisite – it is truly a beautiful park. The water hole below us was bereft of animals but birds were rather good. We watched Striped Swallows at the waterhole. In the gardens we wandered for forty minutes. A feeding station was attracting the usual weavers and starlings along with Grey Hornbills. Mother of Pearl butterfly flew through and there were lots of Citrus Swallowtails. Flowers outside the rooms attracted both Black-bellied Sunbird and Hunter's Sunbird. Northern Puffback and African Black-headed Oriole were in the trees.

We stopped at Mzima springs where we wandered down to the waters. There were two Hippos swimming under the water in the upper pool – but not close enough to the underwater viewing hide to be able to watch them from there. Alex spotted a large Nile Crocodile, basking on the waterside, and there were a few young Nile Monitors about along the edge of the water. Shimmering bright blue Dancing Jewels posing on waterside vegetation and other Odonata included the long-bodied Glistening Demoiselles. Red-veined, Orange-winged and Violet Dropwings formed a colourful triumvirate perching on rocks by the water's edge. The little damsel Common Riverjack was a frequent on overhanging vegetation and there were some Blue Cascaders over the river itself. Cardinal Woodpecker and Mountain Wagtail were seen and there were

Grey Hornbills, Violet Wood-Hoopoes, African Black-headed Oriole and both Black-bellied and Collared Sunbirds too. Taveta Golden Weavers were making their nests from turquoise sedges! In the lower Pool there were another seven Hippos.

We left Kilaguni and headed across Tsavo West, passing through some great country, but now we had to get our heads down and head east. We soon started passing through a remarkable young lava flow and so just had to stop and take a picture of the view. Here we noticed a young Martial Eagle surveying the scene. The scene included several of its favourite prey – Vervet Monkeys – and these were sitting looking pretty out in the open lava. Not really sure why Vervet Monkeys should like such a spot. We moved just a few hundred metres before coming to a halt for a more traditional inhabitant of lava flows – the Klipspringer. There were three of them, beautifully lit by the westering sun.

After leaving the park we passed through Maasai lands for forty minutes or so, an area of villages and overgrazing. There were occasional fields for crops but mostly it was goat and cattle grazed. Then we arrived at Amboseli, Kilimanjaro, almost clear, looming large to our south. We completed formalities and discussed the cat that was sitting nearby, was it a hybrid with African Wild Cat? The sun was setting as we entered the park so no time to stop. We passed huge numbers of Wildebeest, Grant's Gazelles, Thompson's Gazelles and Zebra in the gloaming. Then it was into Ol Tukai Lodge where we sank gratefully into their comfortable and welcoming arms. The rooms, the ambience and the dinner were all much appreciated – this is a great lodge.

Day 8 October 25th Amboseli

We started the morning at a quarter to six in the bar with tea and cakes. From the lodge we were confronted with the spectacular sight of Kilimanjaro in all its glory. Heading out across the low grass plains we could see the magnificent mountain, with snow streaking down from the summit, with Wildebeest and gazelle in the foreground. It wasn't long before we spotted a Bat-eared Fox, then shortly after there were Black-backed Jackals, the first of many today. Fisher's Sparrow Larks and Red-capped Larks were everywhere. Soon we stopped for a lone Elephant framed against the great mountain. Here we watched Red-rumped Swallows perched on the roadside just metres from us and behind a gorgeous Two-banded Courser. We soon realised that it was going to be a busy day for vultures with carcasses spread across the landscape – it sounds gory but it is all part of what happens to herbivore populations in the cycles of dry and wet seasons. At the end of a long dry season there's easy pickings for predators as the herbivores are getting weak. And in Amboseli the scavengers – vultures and hyenas have quite a job. The vultures comprised a mix of Rüppell's Griffon and African White-backed Vultures with just the occasional visit from Lappet-faced. Marabou Storks joined the clearer-uppers – they seemed quite dominant in this hierarchy. There were Sacred Ibises which also seemed to be helping out with this job! We reached the swamps and the bird species register went ballistic. In fact during the day we saw 125 species of bird (135 the next day!) and much of those numbers are down to the rich variety of waterbirds present in the swamps. Of course the big birds are the most noticeable and chief amongst these must be the Pink-backed Pelicans which were numerous and often sat right by the edge. They were all in fine breeding get-up too. African Fish Eagles were also usually in sight and one was perched roadside in an acacia only fifteen feet tall. Grey Herons, Purple Herons, Great White Egrets, Intermediate Egrets and Little Egrets were all scattered about and there was a distant Goliath Heron. Flocks of Glossy Ibis flew past us, or wandered around by the shores, their dark plumage flashing green and bronze in the fabulous light – for the light was unbelievable this morning. Also close to the shores were two fine lapwings; Blacksmith Plover and Long-toed Lapwing. There were many other waders too with Ruff and Wood Sandpiper very common and also a few each of Marsh Sandpiper, Greenshank, Three-banded Plover and Black-winged Stilts. The flocks of White-faced

Whistling Ducks were fabulous. There were a couple of wonderful Painted Snipe here too. Then it was time to head back for breakfast, some not wanting to come in at all!

After a slap-up breakfast (my, we filled up those plates!) we went out for an hour and a half's wander round the lodge grounds. We saw male and female Paradise Flycatcher and were soon enjoying Beautiful Sunbirds. A superb Mother-of-Pearl Butterfly flew past and later we saw the False Diadem and Round-winged Orange-tips. The grounds are great for birds and we were soon watching Speckled Mousebirds, African Cuckoos and African Black-headed Orioles at close range. One tree had Striped Swallows and Black Saw-wings in it! Later we flushed a couple of Slender-tailed Nightjars. A group of African Firefinches were joined by Crimson-rumped Waxbills. Other birds seen included African Hoopoe, with four outside my room, Grey Woodpecker, Grey-headed Kingfisher and a superb Blue-breasted Bee-eater.

The afternoon started with us returning to the same bit of swamp where we'd finished in the morning – it was just a five minute drive from the lodge. Many of the same birds were present as in the morning including a Spur-winged Goose. A Water Dikkop potted across the track and sat under an acacia. A Painted Snipe, this time the dark-burgundy female, was seen. Nigel spotted a Malachite Kingfisher and we reversed up to it and it stayed! Just two metres from us in brilliant light. What a photograph! The only thing needed was steady hands...

Then we headed off west towards the airfield passing large herds of Wildebeest and Zebra and Thompson's Gazelle scattered across the landscape in their characteristic 'even spread'. Here was another area of swamp where if anything bird numbers were higher (indeed the next day they were astronomical). Ducks were a feature here with very large numbers of White-faced Whistling Ducks and we also saw a few gloriously lit Fulvous Whistling Ducks. There were also Red-faced Teal, just one group of Cape Teal, and some Garganey too. Black-winged Stilts were numerous. We stopped to photograph a Yellow-billed Stork which stayed one metre from the roadside even when we stopped by it. A Marabou kept trying to get in the picture too. We also stopped by some African Spoonbills. Pied Kingfishers fished just metres away and we spotted Goliath Heron, Purple Heron, an immature Night Heron and a Black Egret too. Tawny Eagles cruised overhead. Then it was off across more dry lands before reaching a second swamp where we again filled our boots with birds. This one also featured a lot of Hippopotamus and quite a few Elephants too. There were also plenty of Bohor Reedbuck. We drove across a causeway here stopping to take photographs of Black Crakes which were busy turning over the water fern looking for ...? Heading down the far side of the marsh we saw a Warthog. But not any old Warthog, this one was an ancient creature with huge long tusks – very impressive indeed.

We stopped at the foot of Observation Hill. Tiny compared to the great volcanos around it this little volcanic hill nonetheless offers a truly wonderful view over most of Amboseli. It is a short walk, just a couple of hundred metres up the slope yet the 30m or so elevation gain is enough to see everywhere! On the way up Fischer's Sparrowlarks were just everywhere. From the top we had perfect weather to look all around. Most obvious was the lake in front of us. This is the place where Kilimanjaro's water releases through a giant spring that waters the whole of Amboseli. On the shores of the lake was a large group of Pink-backed Pelicans. And on the water there were three or four groups of pelicans fishing in unison. Groups of Red-knobbed Coots were on the water whilst over them and the nearer marshy shores were lots and lots of White-winged Black Terns and Whiskered Terns. Nearer at hand European Bee-eaters, Palm Swifts and White-rumped Swifts flew over very close to us. We looked out over the short-grass plains and could see animals as far as the eye could see. There must have been tens of thousands of Wildebeest and Zebras in view and of course a selection of other mammals too. We looked for Lions but couldn't see any, but could see one Spotted Hyena. Heading back towards the lodge we passed a Hyena den and there were so many hyenas around it. They were of all ages. There were some very spotty and almost white teenagers and some babies, these almost black. There were around a dozen animals around the den. Phil's landrover

hadn't made it to the hill because they'd spent half an hour watching the hyenas fascinated by all the behaviour they were seeing. As they turned round they saw two Spotted Dikkops.

Day 9 October 26th Amboseli

We started again at six. This morning Kilimanjaro was not visible early on with thick dark clouds around and it felt quite cool. However by eight the clouds had largely dispersed and Kilimanjaro's snows were shining brightly to our south. We even had the chance to stop and photograph Zebra and Wildebeest with that classic Kilimanjaro background. The Elephants never quite lined up... Phil's landrover had a memorable encounter with a Bat-eared Fox otherwise the mammalian fare was pretty standard, though impressive for the numbers. Huge numbers of Wildebeest, Zebra and Thomson's Gazelles were everywhere. We watched some of the latter practising for sports day including some small youngster that were clearly going to enter the 50m pronk. It was surprising the number of dead Wildebeest and in particular Zebra as most of the live Zebra looked very much in the pink. The vultures could have had a carcass for every few vultures but of course they preferred to all arrive at the same ones, so dotted across the savanna were large groups of vultures milling around carcasses of various ages. The same species make-up as the day before, again one fine Lappet-faced Vulture, this one sat on a dead Zebra and dismantling it.

Cape Buffalo were here and there in numbers, especially in the swamps where they lay half submerged with the similarly inundated Elephants. These swamps again held abundant birdlife. By the edge of one we watched lots of Yellow Wagtails and some fine Kittlitz's Plovers. Over the marsh flew lots of Plain Martins and Whiskered Terns. Black-necked Stilts were common and we noted a Little Stint. Drier areas yielded sightings of Two-banded Coursers and we found a Spur-winged Plover's nest with three eggs in it. There were Red-capped Larks and we found two Singing Bushlarks. An Eastern Chanting Goshawk was a fine sight perched right by the road edge and a ghostly Pallid Harrier quartered the steppe. Phil's landrover was lucky to see a fine Martial Eagle whilst mine enjoying a choice encounter with a Greater Kestrel.

Wandering the grounds after a truly hearty breakfast some spent time with the dragonflies by the restaurants whilst others searched for butterflies. These included an *Acraea*, some orange-tip species, and good numbers of Blue Pansies and Yellow Pansies. Nigel saw a Guineafowl butterfly. The gang of Crimson-rumped Waxbills was encountered at various times. A female Black Cuckoo-Shrike, a pair of Cardinal Woodpeckers and a superb Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike were in one yellowbark acacia. A real prize was an African Pygmy Kingfisher living deep in a thick bush. There were also Grey-backed Camaroptera, Red-billed Firefinch, Golden Oriole, Black Saw-wing, whilst overhead large flocks of Pink-backed Pelicans soared.

The afternoon trip took us out through the dry plains passing the usual Wildebeest and Zebra and round to the swamp below Observation Hill. We spent the next hour and a half travelling slowly along this and the one back by the lodge. There was an amazing range of waterbirds as usual. It was clear that even in one day lots of new waders had arrived. There were large flocks flying around all over the place – a raptor must have gone over – we didn't know whether to look for the raptor or at the flocks of waders some of which hurtled right past our vehicles. There were the usual Marabous and Yellow-necked Storks, and herons and egrets again featured pretty much the full suite of species that one might see here, including a couple of Goliath Herons and one Black Heron which bravely attempted to do the umbrella-thing as a squall descended from Kilimanjaro. Red-knobbed Coots were on the lake, Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns sat on the near shore with a bunch of waders that included our first Curlew Sandpipers. Noteworthy were Ringed Plover, a bunch of Avocets, and also large numbers of Marsh Sandpipers. There were some interesting ducks as well as the usual species. Today we found several pairs of Hottentot Teal and also a group of White-backed Ducks. Fulvous Whistling Ducks were again much appreciated. A distant Montagu's

Harrier flew past and Eurasian Marsh Harrier was seen at rather closer quarters. We watched Elephants in the marshes, one had a baby one side of the causeway that we were driving across, she, the mother, on the other. We stopped next to the baby who was busy pulling up marsh vegetation. The baby started to reverse up the bank slowly until its bottom was almost touching the landrover. Of course Fiona could not resist such temptation and reached out and gently patted the baby on the rump. The baby didn't seem to notice at all, and luckily neither did the mother! Driving back we once again met the Spotted Hyena family whose young were exploring the outside world. Nearing the lodge we found ourselves amongst the Elephants again this time a mother and the tiniest of babies on the road. The baby was so small you could have picked it up and cuddled it! We edged past but for some reason the baby took offence at Phil's landrover and mock-charged it! They moved on quickly before the mother decided to get involved.

We had an hour's break and then reconvened at dusk for the night trip. By the minibuses we watched three or four Slender-tailed Nightjars sally back and forth above the entrance. On the road we soon came across Bushbaby which left its tree and hopped bipedally across the roadside to the next tree. This was a Senegal Bushbaby. Then it was out past the dozing Wildebeest and still lively Zebra to the airstrip where we picked up our armed rangers. Then it was off on a circuit that took us first through dry open plains then alongside a swamp before enjoying some lightly scrubbed sandy country. It didn't take us long to find the first significant animal – this an African Wild Cat. We spent a while with this lovely creature before heading on, next stop a White-tailed Mongoose. We stopped for Hippos in the marsh, one having the tiniest of babies in tow, surfing along behind mother's bottom. Night Herons were seen from time to time and another Slender-tailed Nightjar and Phil's landrover saw a Common Buttonquail and Plain Nightjar. Next was a goody – a Serval. This one slunk between grassy areas eventually disappearing into one. Luckily after some time we found another which was very much more amenable, though it did rather look like its long legs had sunk into the ground! It looked back at us unconcerned as we admired it. Phil showing us Bat-eared Fox and Black-backed Jackal in the spotlight. We were fast running out of time so we headed purposefully towards the airstrip, passing the large numbers of Spotted Hyenas around their den with barely a glance and dropped off our rangers. Then it was back to the lodge. Just by the entrance gate we again saw Senegal Galagos and those of us in the back vehicle watched a Blotched Genet walk across the road behind the others! It had been an amazingly productive night trip with no less than 18 mammal species seen, including seven carnivores (and not one of those a big cat), and two nightjar species to boot. We were of course hungry and made it back into dinner at just gone nine with an appetite needing to be satisfied.

After so much fun and a great dinner I popped out round the grounds again! The four Blue-breasted Bee-eaters were lined up cutely roosting again. Half a dozen little Bushbabies scampered away. Best though was a fabulous and very irritated Crested Porcupine. It was the biggest I have ever seen and was spiked-up to the size of a wild boar! Or at least so it seemed. It rattled its quills grumpily as it trotted away from me

Day 10 October 27th Amboseli & Nairobi National Park

Our morning drive again started at six. Kilimanjaro was this morning shrouded in thick cloud and it had clearly rained in the night. We headed out passing ever greater numbers of Wildebeest, their white beards tinged orange as the sun rose in a blaze of vermilion-orange to the east. We trundled past some Elephant groups, these with tiny babies – there seemed a lot of tiny babies in Amboseli this year. Heading back up the far side of the marsh we watched a Spotted Hyena bob across the landscape an animal leg in its mouth. Then we spotted a dead gazelle with another fully stuffed Hyena sitting next to it. Soon after the writhing tawny-backed bodies ahead revealed around a dozen Spotted Hyenas feeding voraciously on something. Around the same time Phil's Landrover spotted some Lions in the taller grass between us and the swamp.

They moved in and out of cover – two lionesses and two well-grown cubs. They seemed to be playing at one point, maybe they were, but in any case one lion suddenly appeared with a hare in its mouth! Now we moved along the edge of the swamp spending lots of time stopping and checking out the animal and birdlife at various spots along it. There were of course lots of Elephants and Hippopotamuses in the swamp, the latter lying with their backs covered in various swamp plants. There were also a number of Cape Buffalo enjoying the early morning water/mud bath. Spoonbills fed just a couple of metres from the vehicle and there were various herons and egrets about. White-faced Whistling Ducks and Red-billed Teal fed by the water's edge and of course there were many Long-toed Plovers and Blacksmith Plovers, the latter with tiny babies. We found ourselves now with a great view of Kilimanjaro as the snowier-than-yesterday summit showed beautifully above a thin line of cloud. The light was stunning. Conveniently at the same time there were animals standing in front of this sublime view. So we photographed Wildebeest and Zebra in front of the great mountain. As we were doing this several hundred Pink-backed Pelicans flew in low, barely above the grasses, and sailed slowly through the vista – magical. Warthogs and Bohor Reedbuck were opposite sides of the track. African Fish Eagles quarrelled, the younger bird mantling something on the ground. Three-banded Plovers and Kittlitz's Plovers scurried hither and thither right by us. Then it was back to breakfast at eight-fifteen, our camera cards considerably fuller than they had previously been!

We had an hour and a half to enjoy Ol Tukai's fine breakfast and then get ourselves packed and ready for departure.

We left at ten, heading out over one of the swamps (not stopping!) and then across the dry flats. The last section of these yielded a single African Golden Wolf. This was formerly known as Golden, or Common, Jackal but taxonomists have realised that the African animals are quite different from the Eurasian ones and genetic testing has revealed that they are a *Lupus*, so in fact a type of Wolf! At the entrance gate we watched Grey-capped Social Weavers and Baglaffeche Weavers. Then it was on to a long section of dirt track that took us to the main road. We didn't have time for stops but did note Gerenuk, Giraffe and a lot of Grant's Gazelles in the (over-)grazed Maasai lands. There were plenty of birds too, but no time...

We stopped for lunch and a little shopping once we reached the main Mombasa – Nairobi road and then it was the last two hours to Nairobi where we headed straight to the national park entering the East Gate at around 3.30pm.

Once inside we gazed across open expanses of grassland and Whistling Acacia savannah, these odd little trees hardly a metre or so high in many areas. Helmeted Guineafowl and Yellow-necked Spurfowl were immediately obvious and we soon found that European Bee-eaters were here in numbers. A little farther along the first mammals started to appear – mixed groups of Thomson's Gazelles and Grant's Gazelles gave us chance to test whether we had learnt the differences which here are harder to see than elsewhere in the region as Nairobi's Grants have a strong black flank stripe! There were also plenty of Coke's Hartebeest and Common Zebras. Here we saw just the one lonely looking Wildebeest. We watched Ostriches and soon found some Rhinoceros. These were White Rhinos, four of them, and we went on to see perhaps twenty of these impressive animals, some at very close range. However they are not the native Rhino here, having been translocated to the safety of Nairobi National Park from elsewhere. We couldn't find the native Black Rhinos which are now quite scarce in the reserve. There were some amazingly tall Giraffes, seeming to dwarf the skyscrapers visible on the skyline (not so very away) behind them. This may have been accentuated by just how close they were – they could have leant over and put their heads in the top. We saw Cape Buffalo, Warthogs, Impala, some very fine Bushbuck and also several Bohor Reedbuck.

Alex spotted a lovely blue-headed Tree Agama. There were many birds and we were soon stopping for Little Bee-eater and Long-tailed Fiscals. African Fish Eagle sat in a tree and a Black-chested Harrier Eagle

soared overhead. Athi's short grass plains favour small brown birds so we had a hard task with these – identifying Rufous-naped Larks, Flappet Lark, Fawn-coloured Lark, White-tailed Lark, Grassland Pipit and Winding Cisticola. Other larks, pipits and cisticolas escaped identification. One relative had intense yellow on the throat and chest – the Yellow-throated Longclaw. Nearby were small birds that were almost entirely bright yellow. There was a large group of Brimstone Canaries and nearby Lesser Masked Weavers were seen in the nesting colony overhanging a small pond. Black Crakes sped for cover. Willow Warbler was a reminder that the winter migrants are now arriving. Banded Martins and Palm Swifts moved over the grasslands. We spotted both Secretary Bird and Rüppell's Griffon Vultures on the nest and Black-winged Kites and Pallid Harriers sailed daintily over the landscapes. Before we knew it we had to leave – exiting the gate before 6pm – it had been an action-packed last afternoon in the field.

It was just fifteen minutes to the Lazizi Hotel from the gate so we were soon there and getting ourselves organised for the flight or checking-in to rooms for those not flying back tonight. We then had an excellent dinner after saying goodbye to Peter and John, our ever-willing and very helpful drivers. They had done an excellent job. There was time for a little relaxation and coffee or beer before we drove the five minutes to the airport and then checked-in. The process was quick and efficient, even with the double security checks at the gate. The flight took off early and by midnight we were already north of Mount Kenya.

Day 11 October 28th Arrive UK

We arrived into Heathrow a tad early and sailed through the things one has to do at an airport before heading off on our separate ways. I think it will take a while to sort out those photographs – it was a tour of so many highlights and so many of them were eminently photographable.

Systematic List Number 1

Mammals

The taxonomy follows Kingdon's *Field Guide to African Mammals* (2015). The number out of 9 indicates the number of days a species was seen – eg 7/9 indicates that a species was noted on 7 days during the holiday.

Small-eared galago	<i>Galago garnettii</i>	One for Nigel and Phil this year at Amboseli. 1/9.
Senegal galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>	Abundant after dark in the grounds of the lodge at Amboseli. 3/9.
an epauletted fruit-bat	<i>Epomophorus</i> sp.	One hanging around reception at Voi Lodge (Tsavo East). 1/9.
Yellow-winged bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>	Noted at night and found roosting in the lodge environs at Amboseli. 3/9.
Vervet monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West). Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 7/9.
Syke's blue monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	Single troupe encountered on the last day in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Yellow baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Noted daily. 9/9/.
African golden wolf	<i>Canis anthus</i>	One on the drive out of Amboseli was an exciting find. 1/9.
Side-striped jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>	One on the spotlighting session at Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Black-backed jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Small numbers almost daily at all sites. 7/9.
Bat-eared fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	Three encounters at Amboseli. 2/9.
Ratel	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	One during the day on the drive into Aruba (Tsavo – East) was a good find. 1/9.
East african civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	One for Ian in the garden at Amboseli. 1/9.
Blotched genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>	Three recorded at night in the lodge grounds at Amboseli and one on the night drive in Amboseli. 2/9.
Dwarf mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>	Daily at Tsavo (East) and (West). 5/9.
Slender mongoose	<i>Helogale sanguineus</i>	Singles on three days in Tsavo (East) and (West). 3/9.
White-tailed mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	Singles almost nightly at Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 6/9.
Banded mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	Hunting parties noted at Tsavo (East) and (West). 5/9.
Spotted hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	A total of four on two days at Tsavo (East). Commonly encountered at Amboseli. 5/9.
Striped hyaena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>	Single whilst spotlighting at Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristatus</i>	Single whilst spotlighting at Tsavo (East). 1/9.

Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Superb encounter with a female on the first morning drive at Tsavo (East). Another, a male gave us another memorable encounter, drinking, scent-marking and calling mournfully for a mate. A long-range encounter through the telescope at breakfast on day 5 from Voi Lodge was different again. 3/9 – a great result and one of the highlights of this tour.
Serval	<i>Felis serval</i>	Two on the spotlighting session at Amboseli were seen well and were marvelous.
Wild cat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>	Mark had one in the lodge garden at Amboseli. One on the spotlighting session at Amboseli.
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Two lionesses on the first morning drive at Tsavo (East) had been feeding on a freshly-killed Cape buffalo. A small group of eight the next day and possibly the same group at range the following day. Some of us watched four lionesses take down a buffalo from the hotel on day 5, they were then joined by a huge gang of cubs. That same day we encountered three huge males on our evening game drive. Another male was encountered as we left Tsavo (East) the next day. Amboseli produced a further two encounters. 7/9.
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	A male on the drive through Tsavo (West) was a superb find by Mark and seen by both vehicles. 1/9.
African elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Recorded daily. The red elephants of Tsavo (East) will live long in our memories. Likewise the marsh elephants of Amboseli. 9/9.
Plain's zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
[White rhinoceros]	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Eleven individuals of this translocated species in our short session in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Yellow-spotted hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>	Abundant in the lodge grounds at Tsavo (East). Probably this species at the Galana River there too. 5/9.
Black-necked hyrax	<i>Procavia johnstoni</i>	A few in the black lava fields of Tsavo (West). 1/9.

Common warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Small numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Desert warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	Small numbers daily at Tsavo (East). 5/9.
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Recorded at the Galana River, Tsavo (East), springs in Tsavo (West) and abundantly at Amboseli. 5/9.
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Tsavo (East) and (West) and Nairobi NP. 7/9.
Coke's hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus busephalus</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Two along the main road on the first day. Recorded in Tsavo (West) and abundant at Amboseli. 5/9.
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Grant's gazelle	<i>Gazella grantii</i>	Amboseli. 3/9.
Peter's gazelle	<i>Gazella petersi</i>	Tsavo (East). 5/9.
Thomson's gazelle	<i>Gazella thomsonii</i>	En route to Voi on the first day. Also in Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 5/9.
Gerenuk	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>	Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 8/9.
African buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Recorded daily but decreasing in abundance from Tsavo (East), through Tsavo (West) to Amboseli. 9/9.
Common eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Infrequently encountered in Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West) and Nairobi NP. 4/9.
Lesser kudu	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>	Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 5/9.
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	A few in Tsavo (West) and Nairobi NP. 2/9.
Beisa oryx	<i>Oryx beisa</i>	Two at Aruba, Tsavo (East). A large herd whilst driving through Tsavo (West). Also recorded at Nairobi NP. 3/9.
Kirk's dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>	Abundant at Tsavo (East). 5/9.
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Another denizen of the black lava fields of Tsavo (West). Three encountered. 1/9.
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Bohor reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	Encountered daily at Amboseli and also in Nairobi NP. 3/9.
Unstriped ground squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>	Tsavo (East) and (West). 4/9.
Crested porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	One for Ian in the grounds of the lodge at Amboseli. 1/9.
Scrub hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Common at night in Tsavo (East). Probably this species dead in a jackal's jaws at Tsavo (East) on first day. A few on the night drive at Amboseli were probably this species. 3/9.

Systematic List Number 2

Birds

The nomenclature follows Stevenson & Fanshawe *et al.* (2013). To give an idea of frequency of sightings we give a figure at the end of the comments section which indicates the number of days out of 9 on which a species was seen – 6/9 means that a species was noted on 6 days out of 9.

Common ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	Recorded nearly every day. 7/9.
Somali ostrich	<i>Struthio molybdophanes</i>	Scattered records. 3/9.
Pink-backed pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	Amboseli. 3/9.
Little grebe	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>	Small numbers at Amboseli and Nairobi National Park. 2/9.
Long-tailed cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	A few at Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West), Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 3/9.
African darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	Single at Amboseli. 1/9.
Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	One immature during the day at Amboseli. A few at night there too. 2/9.
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	In transit on the first day. Also a few at Tsavo (East). Common at Amboseli. 5/9.
Squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Large numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Striated heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	One masquerading as a terrapin at Hunter's Lodge on Day 1. 1/9.
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Small numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Black egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	Singles on both full days at Amboseli. 2/9.
Intermediate egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	in transit on first day, daily at Amboseli. 4/9.
Great egret	<i>Casmerodius alba</i>	Small numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Goliath heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	Small numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Scattered records. 5/9.
Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Small numbers at Amboseli. 2/9.
Black-headed heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	Hunter's Lodge, Amboseli.
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	One outside Nairobi, two on the Galana River (Tsavo). Tsavo (West). Amboseli.
Woolly-necked stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Daily at the waterholes at Tsavo (East). 5/9.
White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Two in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Saddle-billed stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	One or two pairs daily at Amboseli. 3/9. Also one at Nairobi National Park. Small numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Marabou stork	<i>Leptoptilus crumeniferus</i>	Widespread. 6/9.
Yellow-billed stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	Small numbers at Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 5/9.
Sacred ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopica</i>	A few in transit on first day, common at Amboseli. 4/9.
Hadada ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	Nairobi, Hunter's Lodge, Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 5/9.
Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Recorded daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
African spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	Recorded daily at Amboseli. 3/9.

Lesser flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	c.20 at Amboseli. 1/9.
Egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Spur-winged goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	Just two on the first day at Amboseli. 1/9.
Knob-billed duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotus</i>	Single at Amboseli. 1/9.
White-faced whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	Daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Fulvous whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	Perhaps up to four birds on both full days at Amboseli. 2/9.
Red-billed teal	<i>Anas erythrorhynchos</i>	Recorded at Amboseli. 2/9.
Hottentot teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	Recorded on one day at Amboseli. 1/9.
Cape teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	Three at Amboseli on the first day there. 1/9.
White-backed duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>	Three at Amboseli on the second day there. 1/9.
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Just three birds at Amboseli. 1/9.
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Seen well at Hunter's Lodge and encountered along the Mombasa Road on transit days. 2/9.
Black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Seen in transit on the first and last day. Another whilst driving through Tsavo (West). 3/9.
Secretary bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	One or two almost daily at Tsavo (East). One in Nairobi NP. 5/9.
African fish-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	One on the Galana River, Tsavo (East). Daily in small numbers at Amboseli. 4/9.
Rueppell's vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>	A few in Tsavo (East) and common at Amboseli. 5/9.
African white-backed vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	Recorded almost daily. 7/9.
Lappet-faced vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	Scarce. Singles recorded on three days in Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 3/9.
White-headed vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	Three flew past the lodge at Tsavo (East) one day. 1/9.
Hooded vulture	<i>Neophron monachus</i>	Two on the drive into Aruba, Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Black-chested snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	Single whilst driving on first day. Another in Nairobi NP. 2/9.
African marsh harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	One immature at Amboseli. 1/9.
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Singles at Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 2/9.
Pallid harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Scattered records. Seen well at Amboseli. 6/9.
Eastern chanting-goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>	Scattered records. 6/9.
Gabar goshawk	<i>Melierax gabar</i>	Single in transit first day and another in the lodge garden at Tsavo (East). 2/9.
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Single in transit on the first day. 1/9.
Ovambo sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	Single immature at Tsavo (East). 1/9.
African harrier-hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>	One from the lodge at Tsavo (East). 1/9.

Augur buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	One or two on three dates in Tsavo (East). 3/9.
Tawny eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Recorded daily in a startling variety of plumages. 9/9.
Steppe eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Recorded in 1-2's in Tsavo (East) on three dates. 3/9.
African hawk-eagle	<i>Hieraaetus spilogaster</i>	Pair on three dates at Tsavo (East). 3/9.
Booted eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	One whilst driving through Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Bataleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	Widespread. 7/9.
Verreaux's eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxi</i>	1-2 on three dates at Tsavo (East). 3/9.
Martial eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	Immatures at both Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). An adult at Amboseli. 3/9.
Sooty/Eleonora's falcon	<i>Falco concolor/eleonorae</i>	A dark morph falcon was one of this species pair at Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Lanner falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Occasional birds at Tsavo (East), (West) and Amboseli. 5/9.
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Singles on three days at Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 3/9.
Greater kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	One at Amboseli. 1/9.
Pygmy falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	One to two on three days at Tsavo (East). 3/9.
Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Widespread. 9/9.
Vulturine guineafowl	<i>Acryllium vulturinum</i>	Seen whilst driving on the first day. Also in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 3/9.
Crested francolin	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>	Recorded in Tsavo (East and West). 3/9.
Yellow-necked spurfowl	<i>Francolinus leucoscepus</i>	Recorded almost daily. 8/9.
Common button-quail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	One flushed at night at Amboseli. 1/9.
Black crane	<i>Limnecorax flavirostra</i>	Small numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Red-knobbed coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Small flock on one of the lakes at Amboseli. 2/9.
Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Two at Hunter's Lodge on the first day. 1/9.
Grey crowned crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	Daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Kori bustard	<i>Otis kori</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
White-bellied bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>	A few in Tsavo (East). Two daily in the lodge grounds at Amboseli. 5/9.
Buff-crested bustard	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>	Small numbers almost daily at Tsavo (East) and (West). 5/9.
Hartlaub's bustard	<i>Eupodotis hartlaubii</i>	The same male on two dates at Tsavo (East). 2/9.
African jacana	<i>Actiphilornis africanus</i>	Daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Pied avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	An influx at Amboseli on our second day. 1/9.
Greater painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula bengalensis</i>	Three individuals at Amboseli. 2/9.
Spotted thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	One pair at Amboseli. 1/9.

Water thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	Two sightings at Amboseli. 2/9.
Somali courser	<i>Cursorius somalicus</i>	Five or six at Tsavo (East) on first day. Seven on the Aruba morning at the same site. 2/9.
Two-banded courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>	Small numbers daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Collared pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	A few daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Blacksmith lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 4/9.
Spur-winged lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Scattered records. 7/9.
Long-toed lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>	Daily at Amboseli and recorded at Nairobi NP too. 3/9.
Crowned lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Black-headed lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>	A few in Tsavo (East) and (West). 3/9.
Kittlitz's sandplover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	Common on the Aruba Plains, Tsavo (East) and at Amboseli. 3/9.
Three-banded plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	Seen on the Galana River, Tsavo (East) and daily at Amboseli. 4/9.
Common ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Small numbers at Amboseli. 2/9.
Caspian plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	Hundreds littered the plains at Aruba, Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Tsavo (East), Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 4/9.
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Small numbers in Tsavo. Abundant at Amboseli. 7/9.
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Small numbers throughout. 7/9.
Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Small numbers throughout. 8/9.
Marsh sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	A few at Amboseli. 3/9.
Little stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Aruba, Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 4/9.
Curlew sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Five at Amboseli. 1/9.
Gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Small numbers at Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 4/9.
White-winged tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Whiskered tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Daily at Amboseli. 3/9.
Black-faced sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>	Small numbers daily at Tsavo (East) and (West). 6/9.
Speckled pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	Small numbers daily in Nairobi and Tsavo (East). 7/9.
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Nairobi and along the Mombasa Road. 2/9.
African green pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>	Several in a fruiting fig in Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Emerald-spotted wood-dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	Widespread. 7/9.
Namaqua dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 3/9.
Ring-necked dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
African mourning dove	<i>Streptopelia decipians</i>	Scattered records. 4/9.

Laughing dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	A few daily at Tsavo (East) and (West). 5/9.
African orange-bellied parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>	Two encounters in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 2/9.
White-bellied go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>	Scattered records. 6/9.
African cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	Recorded in small numbers in the lodge garden at Amboseli. 3/9.
Diederik cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	Single seen in Tsavo (East). 1/9.
White-browed coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	1-2 noted occasionally at Tsavo (East), Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 6/9.
Pearl-spotted owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	One at Voi Lodge on two dates (Tsavo – East). 2/9.
Verreaux's eagle owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	1-2 noted occasionally in Tsavo (East) and (West). 5/9.
Slender-tailed nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>	Common at dusk in the lodge grounds at Amboseli and occasionally flushed during the day there too. 3/9.
Plain nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>	One female whilst spotlighting at Amboseli. 1/9.
Donaldson-Smith's nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus donaldsoni</i>	Single on the night drive at Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Little swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Widespread. 9/9.
White-rumped swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	Scattered records. 5/9.
African palm swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Scattered records. 5/9.
Speckled mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	Widespread. 7/9.
Blue-naped mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	Only seen on the Galana River drive in Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Single in transit on first day, small numbers daily at Amboseli.
Grey-headed kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	Widespread. 9/9.
Brown-hooded kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	One in the lodge garden at Amboseli for Ian. 1/9.
Malachite kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>	Heard at Hunter's Lodge. Small numbers at Amboseli. 2/9.
African pygmy kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	One for Ian at Amboseli. 1/9.
Little bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	Scattered records. 5/9.
Blue-breasted bee-eater	<i>Merops variegatus</i>	Single on one date in Amboseli. 1/9.
European bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Recorded at Tsavo (West), Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 4/9.
Lilac-breasted roller	<i>Coracias cordata</i>	Widespread. 9/9.
European roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Small numbers in transit on first day and at Tsavo (East and West). 4/9.
Broad-billed roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	Two together on the drive through Tsavo (West). 1/9
Violet wood-hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus granti</i>	Two encounters at Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 2/9.

African hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	A few in Tsavo (East). Common in the lodge grounds in Amboseli. 4/9.
Eastern yellow-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>	A few almost daily at Tsavo (East). 4/9.
Red-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	Common in Tsavo (East) and (West). 6/9.
von der Decken's hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>	A few in Tsavo (East). Common in Tsavo (West). 5/9.
African grey hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 6/9.
Southern ground-hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>	Almost daily in Tsavo (East). 4/9.
Red-fronted tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniullus pusillus</i>	Occasional birds in the lodge grounds at Tsavo (East). 2/9.
Spot-flanked barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>	Singles in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 3/9.
d'Arnaud's barbet	<i>Trachylaemus darnaudii</i>	Recorded on four dates in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 4/9.
Red-and-yellow barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>	Recorded on two dates in Tsavo (East). 2/9.
Greater honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	One seen on the drive through Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Nubian woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>	Occasional in the lodge grounds at Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 3/9.
Cardinal woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	Small numbers in Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West) and in the lodge grounds at Amboseli. 3/9.
Grey woodpecker	<i>Mesopicos goertae</i>	Present in the garden at Amboseli. 2/9.
Rufous-naped lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>	Small numbers in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Red-winged lark	<i>Mirafra hypermetra</i>	Seen on two days in Tsavo (East).
Singing bush lark	<i>Mirafra cantillans</i>	Two on the Aruba Plain, Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Flappet lark	<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>	Recorded at Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Pink-breasted lark	<i>Mirafra poeasilocerna</i>	Abundant in Tsavo (East) and (West). Also seen outside Amboseli and in Nairobi NP. 7/9.
Red-capped lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	Recorded at Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 3/9.
Short-tailed lark	<i>Galerida freemantlii</i>	Recorded in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Fischer's sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopteryx leucopareia</i>	Recorded at Tsavo (East), Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 5/9.
Chestnut-headed sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopteryx signata</i>	A few seen in Tsavo (East) and (West). 2/9.
Rock martin	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>	Nairobi, Tsavo (East) and (West). 7/9.
Plain martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	Small numbers at Amboseli. 2/9.
Banded martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>	Small numbers in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Red-rumped swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Breeding at Tsavo (East) and present at Amboseli. 6/9.

Lesser striped swallow	<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>	Small numbers at Tsavo (East) and (West) and Amboseli. 4/9.
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Recorded almost daily. 8/9.
Angola swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>	One for Phil at Amboseli. 1/9.
Wire-tailed swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Small numbers in transit on first day, Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 4/9.
Black saw-wing	<i>Psolidoprocne pristoptera</i>	Small numbers daily in the garden at Amboseli. 3/9.
African pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	Seen whilst driving on the first day. Also at the Galana River (Tsavo East) and Amboseli. 4/9.
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Recorded at Tsavo (East) and (West). Daily at Amboseli. 5/9.
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	One at Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Mountain wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	One at Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Golden pipit	<i>Timetothylacus tenellus</i>	A total of four birds in Tsavo (East). 2/9.
Yellow-throated longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>	A pair in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Pangani longclaw	<i>Macronyx aurantiigula</i>	One in Tsavo (East). Present in the lodge grounds at Amboseli. 2/9.
Grassland pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	Daily at Amboseli and also at Nairobi NP. 3/9.
Long-billed pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	Single in Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	One or two in the lodge garden at Amboseli on one day. 1/9.
Black cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>	Recorded at Hunters Lodge and Amboseli. 2/9.
Common bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Widespread, recorded daily. 9/9.
Northern brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus strepitans</i>	Edna had one at Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Little rock thrush	<i>Monticola rufocinereus</i>	Singles in Tsavo East and West. 2/9.
Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Recorded on five dates.
Isabelline wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Pied wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Singles in Tsavo (East) and Nairobi NP. 2/9.
White-browed scrub-robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>	Recorded in Tsavo (East) and (West). 2/9.
Spotted morning-thrush	<i>Cichladusa guttata</i>	Recorded on at least six dates, but probably under-recorded.
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	One in Nairobi NP. 1/9.
[Zitting cisticola]	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Heard singing in Amboseli. 1/9.
Rattling cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	A few seen in Tsavo (East) and (West). 2/9.
Winding cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>	Small numbers at Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 2/9.
Northern crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	Ian had one in the garden at Tsavo (East). 1/9.

Grey-backed camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	Singles at Tsavo (East), Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West), Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 4/9.
Red-fronted warbler	<i>Spiloptila rufifrons</i>	Ian had this on the Tsavo (West) day. 1/9.
Buff-bellied warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>	Occasional in the lodge garden at Amboseli. 2/9.
Grey wren-warbler	<i>Calamonastes simplex</i>	Singles seen well in Tsavo (East) and (West). 2/9.
African grey flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa microrhynchus</i>	Recorded at Tsavo (East) and Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West). 3/9.
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Small numbers at Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 3/9.
Pygmy batis	<i>Batis perkeo</i>	Three or four birds seen in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 2/9.
African paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	Present in the garden at Amboseli. 3/9.
Rufous chatterer	<i>Turdoides rubiginosus</i>	Small flock located in the lodge grounds at Amboseli. 1/9.
Amethyst sunbird	<i>Nectarinia amethystina</i>	One in Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Hunter's sunbird	<i>Nectarinia hunteri</i>	Small numbers seen at Hunter's Lodge and Tsavo (East). 2/9.
Beautiful sunbird	<i>Nectarinia pulchella</i>	One in sisal plantation in transit on first day, daily in the garden at Amboseli. 4/9.
Black-bellied sunbird	<i>Nectarinia nectarinioides</i>	Seen in the garden at Kilaguni Lodge, Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Collared sunbird	<i>Anthreptes collaris</i>	Recorded at Hunter's Lodge and Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West). 2/9.
Eastern violet-backed sunbird	<i>Anthreptes orientalis</i>	Lots on the Galana River road, Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Abyssinian white-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinica</i>	A few at Hunter's Lodge on the first day. 1/9.
Taita fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>	Widespread. 8/9.
Long-tailed fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>	Widespread. 9/9.
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	Singles at Amboseli on two days. 2/9.
Rosy-patched shrike	<i>Rhodophoneus cruentus</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered. 8/9.
Tropical boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	Recorded on the first day in transit. 1/9.
Slate-coloured boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>	Tsavo (East), (West) and Amboseli. 7/9.
Sulphur-breasted bush-shrike	<i>Malaconotus sulfureopectus</i>	One for Ian in the lodge grounds at Amboseli.
Northern white-crowned shrike	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>	Recorded daily in Tsavo (East). 5/9.
Fork-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Pied crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Seen on transit days along the main road. 3/9.
African black-headed oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	A few seen at Hunter's Lodge, Tsavo (East), Mzima Springs (Tsavo (West) and

		the grounds of the lodge at Amboseli. 4/9.
Eurasian golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	A few encountered on the Galana River drive, Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Yellow-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	Abundant in Tsavo (East) and West. A few in Nairobi NP. 7/9.
Red-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	A few at Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 3/9.
Golden-breasted starling	<i>Cosmopsarus unicolor</i>	Occasional flocks encountered in Tsavo (East) and (West). 4/9.
Red-winged starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	Resident on the lodge roof at Tsavo (East). Also recorded in Tsavo (West). 6/9.
Greater blue-eared starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	Only seen en route to Tsavo (East) on the first day. 1/9.
Superb starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	Recorded daily. 9/9.
Hildebrandt's starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>	Two at Amboseli. 1/9.
Fischer's starling	<i>Spreo fischeri</i>	Tsavo (East), (West) and Nairobi NP. 6/9.
Wattled starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	Three or four at Tsavo (East) feeding inside a dead buffalo. 1/9.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Recorded on the drive days. 2/9.
Rufous sparrow	<i>Passer mottitensis</i>	Two in Nairobi NP for Phil. 1/9. Split by Clements as Kenya rufous sparrow <i>Passer rufocinctus</i> .
Chestnut sparrow	<i>Passer eminiibey</i>	A small flock by the gate as we exited Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Parrot-billed sparrow	<i>Passer gongonensis</i>	Tsavo (East), Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 3/9.
White-browed sparrow-weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	Widespread and recorded daily. 9/9.
Grey-capped social-weaver	<i>Pseudonigritta arnaudi</i>	Tsavo (West) and Nairobi NP. 2/9.
Black-capped social-weaver	<i>Pseudonigritta cabanisii</i>	Three encounters in Tsavo (East). 3/9.
White-headed buffalo-weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>	Very small numbers in Tsavo (East). Tsavo (West), Amboseli and Nairobi NP. 5/9.
Red-billed buffalo-weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	Tsavo (East) and Amboseli. 7/9.
Black-headed weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	Breeding colony outside the restaurant at Tsavo (East). 5/9.
Speke's weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>	Ian recorded this species in the Kilaguni lodge grounds, Tsavo (West). 1/9.
African golden weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>	A colony in the garden at Hunter's Lodge on the first day. 1/9.
Taveta golden weaver	<i>Ploceus castaneiceps</i>	First recorded at Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West). Frequently encountered in the lodge grounds at Amboseli. 4/9.
Lesser masked weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>	Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Vitelline masked weaver	<i>Ploceus vellatus</i>	Tsavo (East). 1/9.

Chestnut weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>	A small flock bathing driving through Tsavo (West). Also recorded at Amboseli. 2/9.
Black-necked weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	One whilst driving through Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Baglafecht weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafecht</i>	Amboseli exit gate. 1/9.
Red-headed weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	A few encountered on the day we drove through Tsavo (West). 1/9.
Red-billed quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Occasional encounters in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). The latter involving a large party of bathing birds. 3/9.
Fan-tailed widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	Large flocks encountered on two dates at Amboseli. 2/9.
Green-winged pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	Occasional encounters with 1-2 birds in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 3/9.
Red-cheeked cordon-bleu	<i>Uraegnithus bengalus</i>	Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 6/9.
Purple grenadier	<i>Uraegnithus ianthinogastor</i>	Only seen in flight in Tsavo (West) and maybe just by Phil. 1/9.
African firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	Recorded in Tsavo (West) and Amboseli. 2/9.
Crimson-rumped waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>	Recorded in the garden at Amboseli. 2/9.
Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	Bathing party watched on the Tsavo (West) day. 1/9.
Eastern paradise-whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	Single male on the way out of Tsavo (East). 1/9.
Yellow-rumped seedeater	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	Ian had this at Tsavo (East). Two in Tsavo (West). Large flock in Nairobi NP. 3/9.
Brimstone canary	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>	Nairobi NP. 1/9.
Somali bunting	<i>Emberiza poliopleura</i>	1-2 seen on two dates in Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West). 2/9.

Systematic List Number 3

Reptiles

The taxonomy follows Spawls *Reptiles of East Africa*.

[Leopard tortoise]	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>	Empty shells at Tsavo (East) and Tsavo (West).
[Helmeted terrapin]	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>	One dead on road in Tsavo (East). Probably this species on the pipes in the pipeline pools on one day there.
Yellow-bellied hinged terrapin	<i>Pelusios castanoides</i>	One at lunch time at Kilaguni, Tsavo (West).
Tropical house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>	Widespread.
Rainbow skink	<i>Mabuya margaritifera</i>	Tsavo (East).
Striped skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i>	Amboseli.
Red-headed rock agama	<i>Agama agama</i>	Widespread.
Blue-headed tree agama	<i>Agama atricollis</i>	One spotted by Alex close to the East Gate Nairobi NP.
White-throated savanna monitor	<i>Varanus albigularis</i>	Alex found us a huge individual as we drove through Tsavo (West). Another on the way out of Amboseli.
Nile monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Singles at the Galana River (Tsavo East) and Mzima Springs (Tsavo (West).
Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Galana River (Tsavo East).

Systematic List Number 4

Odonata

The taxonomy follows Dijkstra and Clausnitzer (2014).

Glistening demoiselle	<i>Phaon iridipennis</i>	Two seen at Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Dancing jewel	<i>Platycypha caligata</i>	A very attractive species. Common around the spring at Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Common threadtail	<i>Elatoneura glauca</i>	Recorded at Hunter's Lodge and Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Common riverjack	<i>Mesocnemis singularis</i>	Common at Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Common citril	<i>Ceriagrion glabrum</i>	Recorded at Hunter's Lodge, Mzima Springs (Tsavo West) and Amboseli.
Tropical bluetail	<i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>	One at Hunter's Lodge.
Black sprite	<i>Pseudagrion (B) commoniae</i>	Recorded at Hunter's Lodge and Mzima Springs, Tsavo (West).
Masai sprite	<i>Pseudagrion (B) massaicum</i>	A few at Hunter's Lodge.
Blue emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Common at Amboseli.
Black emperor	<i>Anax tristis</i>	Single at Kilaguni, Tsavo (West).
Common tigertail	<i>Ictinogomphus ferox</i>	A few at Hunter's Lodge.
Common hooktail	<i>Paragomphus genei</i>	A few in riverside bushes along the Galana River (Tsavo East).
Flapper hooktail	<i>Paragomphus sabicus</i>	One at Crocodile Point on the Galana River (Tsavo East).
Slender pintail	<i>Acisoma variegatum</i>	Numerous in the grounds at Amboseli.
Southern banded groundling	<i>Brachythemis leucosticta</i>	Numerous on the lawn at Amboseli.
Horned rockdweller	<i>Bradinopyga cornuta</i>	A few around the rock pool in the lodge grounds at Tsavo (East).
Black percher	<i>Diplacodes lefebvrii</i>	One female at Amboseli.
Eastern blacktail	<i>Nesciothemis farinosa</i>	A few at Hunter's Lodge.
Epaulet skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>	One at Tsavo (East) in lodge garden. Also at Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Long skimmer	<i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>	One in the lodge grounds at Amboseli.
Wandering glider	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Widespread, often away from water, sometimes seen 'testing' the shiny bonnets of the vehicles.
Black-splashed elf	<i>Tetrathemis polleni</i>	A few at Hunter's Lodge.
Keyhole glider	<i>Tramea basilaris</i>	A few in the lodge grounds at Amboseli.
Violet dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>	Recorded at Hunter's Lodge and Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Red-veined dropwing	<i>Trithemis arteriosa</i>	Recorded at Hunter's Lodge and Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Orange-winged dropwing	<i>Trithemis kirbyi</i>	Recorded at Hunter's Lodge, Tsavo (East) and Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).
Elegant dropwing	<i>Trithemis weneri</i>	A rather local large-river libellulid, a good find at the Galana River, Tsavo (East).
Red Basker	<i>Urothemis assignata</i>	Nigel Photographed one at Amboseli
Blue cascader	<i>Zygonyx natalensis</i>	A few over the spring at Mzima Springs (Tsavo West).

Systematic List Number 5 Butterflies

Citrus swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>	Widespread.
African emigrant	<i>Catopsilla florella</i>	Tsavo (East).
Vine leaf vagrant	<i>Eronia cleodora</i>	Tsavo (East).
African albatross	<i>Appias epapha</i>	Tsavo (East).
Coast purple tip	<i>Colotis hetaera</i>	Tsavo (East).
Scarlet tip	<i>Colotis danae</i>	Tsavo (East).
Tiny orange tip	<i>Colotis evagore</i>	Tsavo (East).
	<i>Colotis evennina</i>	Tsavo (East).
Banded gold tip	<i>Colotis eris</i>	Tsavo (East).
Zebra white	<i>Pinacopteryx eriphia</i>	Tsavo (East).
Caper white	<i>Belenois aurota</i>	Tsavo (East).
Fig tree blue	<i>Myrina silenus</i>	One at Tsavo (East).
Long-tailed blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Tsavo (East), Amboseli.
African babul blue	<i>Azanus jezous</i>	Tsavo (East).
Leaden ciliate-blue	<i>Anthene amarah</i>	Nigel had one at Amboseli.
Danaid eggfly	<i>Hypolimnys misippus</i>	Tsavo (East).
Dark blue pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>	Tsavo (East).
Yellow pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>	Tsavo (East).
Natal pansy	<i>Precis natalica</i>	Hunter's Lodge.
Marshall's Acraea Mimic	<i>Mimacraea marshallii</i>	Ol Tukai, Amboseli
One-pip policeman	<i>Coeliades anchisus</i>	Tsavo (East).
Striped policeman	<i>Coeliades forestan</i>	Tsavo (East).