

# Kenya Birding and Wildlife Safari Species List | November 1-13, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**Guided by Washington Wachira with driver/guides Charles Mutua and Norman Muya and Naturalist Journeys guide Kip Miller.**



Our 2025 Kenya Birding and Wildlife Safari began in the capital city of Nairobi with an informal birding day on the grounds of our hotel, followed by a full day exploring Nairobi National Park. We then set out on a route that included Lakes Baringo, Bogoria, Naivasha and Nakuru in Kenya's Great Rift Valley, the Kakamega Forest (Kenya's only tropical rainforest) and the Masai Mara National Reserve, where the birds, mammals *and* accommodations were extraordinary.

**BIRDS:** **365 species of birds** were seen by one or more participants on our tour and the eBird link below provides a Trip Report with a listing of all of these species. *(If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each species was seen.)*

[2025 Kenya Birding and Wildlife Safari | eBird Trip Report](#)

**MAMMALS:** The birds on this tour were spectacular – and the mammals, as we hoped, were equally so! (Several tour participants noted “Going to a zoo will never be the same....”) Together as a group we observed **41 species**, many of which were seen quite close and/or in impressive numbers. A listing of all the mammals we observed and identified during the tour is below:

### **ELEPHANTS**

- **African Bush Elephant** – Several herds and individual bulls were encountered during our days in the Masai Mara National Reserve.

### **OLD WORLD MONKEYS**

- **Black-and-white Colobus** – A striking monkey species we observed in the Kakamega Forest.
- **Olive Baboon** – Several groups seen along roadsides and then daily in the Masai Mara.
- **Vervet Monkey** – Conspicuous (particularly for some!) around our lodge in the Masai Mara.
- **Stuhlman’s Blue Monkey** – Seen at Nairobi National Park and the Kakamega Forest.
- **Red-tailed Monkey** – Seen by some in the Kakamega Forest.

### **SQUIRRELS**

- **Red-legged Sun Squirrel** – Kakamega Forest
- **African Giant Squirrel** – Kakamega Forest
- **Ochre Bush Squirrel** – Nairobi National Park
- **Unstriped Ground Squirrel** – Lake Bogoria

### **RATS AND MICE**

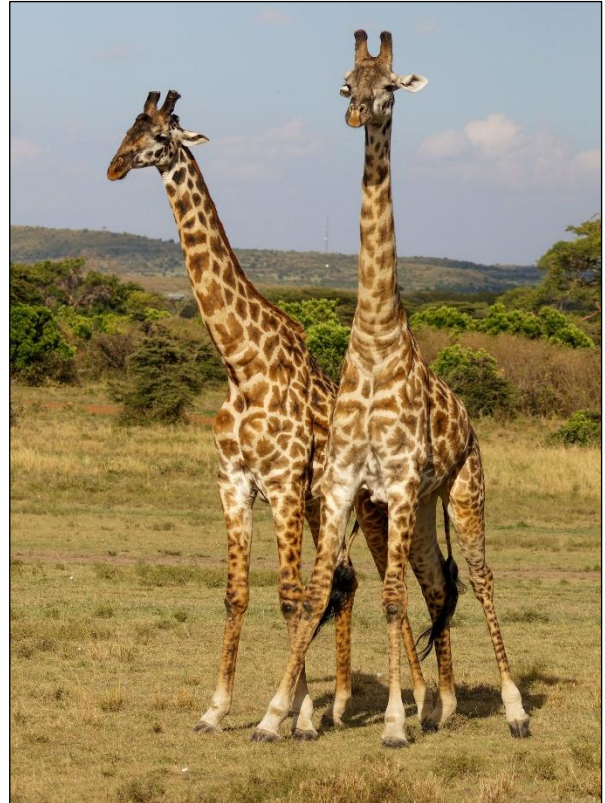
- **Zebra Mouse** – At least one seen at our picnic site in Nairobi National Park.

### **BATS**

We frequently saw bats flying around at dusk, but Kenya is host to many species and identity was difficult to ascertain. (Washington did identify some of the bats flying in and out of the main lodge at the Soi Safari Lodge as one of the **Slit-Faced Bat** species.)

### **DOGS AND ALLIES**

- **Black-backed Jackal** – We had nice views of this handsome canine daily in the Masai Mara, including one that scored a meal from a buffalo carcass, despite the many vultures present.
- **Bat-eared Fox** – Brief views for those in one vehicle, before it quickly disappeared into culvert under the road.







## CATS AND ALLIES

- **Leopard** – Leopards are typically the most difficult of the three large African cats to see, due to their nocturnal habits and preference for denser brush, so we felt fortunate to enjoy three separate sightings in the Masai Mara, including one walking slowly across an open area providing a lengthy view.
- **Cheetah** – We had several excellent views of individual Cheetahs during our time in the Masai Mara, including one that rolled on its back for a bit of entertaining back scratching!
- **Lion** – A lioness eyeing a small Impala herd in Nairobi National Park provided our first lion experience. Later we enjoyed views of a female with a young cub at Lake Nakuru, along with several very satisfying views in the Masai Mara that included a male with warthog meal and a group of resting females and younger lions. There was no shortage of highlights on this tour, but being able to watch these magnificent predators in the wild is something all will remember for many years to come!
- **Serval** – We had wonderful views of this striking, long-legged, cheetah-like cat near the end of our day in Nairobi National Park and some later had brief views in the Masai Mara.

## HYENAS

- **Spotted Hyena** – We encountered these canine-like carnivores frequently in the Masai Mara, including one loose pack of over 20 individuals.

## MONGOOSES

- **Slender Mongoose** – Two individuals were seen independently by members of the group at our lodge in the Masai Mara.
- **Banded Mongoose** – We enjoyed views of several packs of these rather Meerkat-like mongooses during our time in the Masai Mara.

## HORSES

- **Common Zebra** – Common and conspicuous in all of the National Park/Reserve locations we visited – and sometimes seen along the highways as well!

## RHINOCEROSES

- **White Rhinoceros** – We were able to locate individuals in both Nairobi and Lake Nakuru National Parks.
- **Black Rhinoceros** – Like the White Rhinos, we found individuals of this species in both Nairobi and Lake Nakuru National Parks.

## PIGS

- **Common Warthog** – One of the most comical mammal species we encountered and we found them in all of the National Park/Reserve locations we visited, often with young ones.

## HIPPOPOTAMUSES

- **Common Hippopotamus** –We first encountered them at Nairobi National Park and later at Lakes Baringo and Naivasha, as well in the “Hippo Pools” of the Masai Mara, where we enjoyed watching them surface and submerge, sometimes seemingly in unison.



## GIRAFFES

- **Rothschild's Giraffe** – We found this giraffe in Lake Nakuru National Park, a stronghold for this species currently classified as “near threatened”.
- **Masai Giraffe** – The more common of the two species we found during the tour and we enjoyed watching them in Nairobi National Park and frequently in the Masai Mara, where the slow motion “dueling” of two males one afternoon was particularly entertaining!

## BOVINES

- **African (Cape) Buffalo** – Large grazers with intimidating horns that we encountered in herds in all of the National Park/Reserve locations we visited on the tour.

## SPIRAL-HORNED BOVINES

- **Bushbuck** – We had good views of one, a female, feeding in the brush along the river of our lodge in the Masai Mara.
- **Common Eland** – Large grazers with spiral horns we found in all of the National Park/Reserve locations we visited.

## ANTELOPES

- **Suni** – A very small antelope species we saw well at our Nairobi National Park picnic site.
- **Steenbok** – A bit larger than a Suni or Dikdik, but still a rather small antelope species and we saw individuals on two days in the Masai Mara.



- **Kirk's Dikdik** – Another very small antelope species that seemed to be a crowd favorite and we were able to see two quite well during our time in the Masai Mara.
- **Thompson's Gazelle** – A compact and very handsome gazelle that was quite abundant at Lake Nakuru National Park and in the Masai Mara National Reserve. The speed at which they could run was impressive, along with the speed and consistency of their tail wagging!
- **Grant's Gazelle** – A bit larger than the Thompson's Gazelles and we typically found them together, although the Grant's seemed less abundant. We found them at Lake Nakuru National Park and on several days in the Masai Mara National Reserve.
- **Waterbuck** – A large and very handsome antelope. We found the "Common Waterbuck" subspecies in Nairobi National Park and the Masai Mara National Reserve and the near threatened "Defassa Waterbuck" subspecies at Lake Nakuru National Park.
- **Impala** – A handsome and medium-sized antelope species that we saw frequently on this tour – in all of the National Park/Reserve sites and sometimes along the highways as well.
- **Topi** – Large, sleek and high-shouldered antelopes that were quite abundant in the Masai Mara National Reserve. The males' habit of standing on small mounds with their front legs gave them a rather stately appearance.
- **Hartebeest** – Handsome and high-shouldered like Topis and even a bit larger, but less abundant. We found Individuals and small groups at Nairobi National Park and on a few days in the Masai Mara National Reserve.
- **Common Wildebeest** – Large antelope species that we saw daily in small numbers in the Masai Mara National reserve.

**REPTILES:** Nile Crocodiles were the reptile species seen most frequently on our tour. Nile Monitor lizards were seen several times, along with a variety of smaller lizards and we saw turtles identified as **Serrated Hinged Terrapins** in a pond at Nairobi National Park.



*Photos: Little Bee-eater, Superb Starling, Masai Giraffes, Cheetah, Lion with cub, Hippo stare, Lake Nakuru mammals, Hammerkop*