

Kenya Birding and Wildlife Safari Species List | September 6-18, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



**Guided by Kalama Kitsao with driver/guide Peter Kihara and
Naturalist Journeys guide Kip Miller.**

Our group included Kathleen, Neil, Paul and Sheila

Our 2026 Kenya Birding and Wildlife Safari began in the capital city of Nairobi with a day of informal birding on the grounds of our hotel, followed by a full day exploring the nearby 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 and mammals were abundant and extraordinary!



BIRDS: **Over 330 species of birds** were observed 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.)*

[2026 Kenya Birding and Wildlife Safari | eBird Trip Report](#)

Naturalist Journeys, LLC PO Box 16545 Portal, AZ 85632 PH: 866.900.1146

naturalistjourneys.com | travel@naturalistjourneys.com



MAMMALS: As expected, the birds on this tour were spectacular – and the mammals, as we hoped, were equally so! Together as a group we observed 37 species, many of which were seen quite close and/or in impressive numbers. A listing of all the mammals we observed during the tour is below:

HYRAXES

- **Rock Hyrax** – Nice views of two on a rock ledge below us in the Baringo Cliffs area.
- **Tree Hyrax** – A staff member at the Pridelnn Mara Camp pointed out a couple of well-camouflaged individuals on a tree next to a walkway. We then found them there almost every time we checked for the rest of our stay.

ELEPHANTS

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

COLOBUS MONKEYS

- **Black-and-white Colobus** – A striking monkey species we observed in the Kakamega Forest and at Lake Nakuru National Park.

CHEEK-POUCHED MONKEYS

- **Olive Baboon** – Several groups seen along roadsides and in National Parks. One even made off with one of our box lunches at Lake Nakuru!
- **Vervet Monkey** – Present at many locations, including Nairobi National Park, Lake Baringo and the Kakamega Forest.
- **Stuhlman's Blue Monkey** – Several seen during our time in the Kakamega Forest.

NUTRIAS

- **Nutria** – We saw one on Cresent Island during our Lake Naivasha boat trip. This species is a native of South America, but has been widely introduced around the world.

SQUIRRELS • Red-legged Sun Squirrel – Kakamega Forest HARES

- **Cape Hare** – We had nice views of one as we were returning to the lodge at Lake Baringo.



RATS AND MICE

- **Cane Rat** – Kalama identified the rodent we saw eaten by a Secretary Bird on the way to Lake Naivasha as one of the Cane Rat species

BATS

We frequently saw bats flying around at dusk, but Kenya is host to many species and identity was difficult.

DOGS AND ALLIES

- **Black-backed Jackal** – Our only sighting this year was of a single individual at Nairobi National Park.

CATS AND ALLIES

- **Cheetah** – We had excellent views of two individual Cheetahs during our time in the Masai Mara that were taking rest breaks.
- **Lion** – We found and enjoyed views of lions at Lake Nakuru National Park and during our time in the Masai Mara. One of the lion highlights in the Masai Mara was watching a female assist her two cubs with feeding on a dead Wildebeest.
- **Serval** – Sadly, our only Serval sighting was a carcass of one that a Leopard had apparently killed and then cached in a tree.

HYENAS

- **Spotted Hyena** – We encountered these canine-like carnivores several times in the Masai Mara.

MONGOOSES

- **Dwarf Mongoose** – We encountered a group of these small mongooses on our last afternoon in the Masai Mara.
- **Slender Mongoose** – One crossed the road in front of us as we were leaving 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 “Plains” 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. A highlight at Nairobi National Park was watching a young one with two adults and a highlight at Lake Nakuru was watching two White Rhinoceroses sparring with a Black Rhinoceros.
- **Black Rhinoceros** – We found an individual of this species at Lake Nakuru National Park. On one day it was all alone and the next day we found it sparring with a couple of White Rhinoceroses.

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.

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.

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** – Our final “new” mammal of the trip. We found two below the pedestrian bridge at the Pridelnn Mara Camp as we were heading to our vehicles for the ride to the airstrip
- **Common Eland** – Large grazers with spiral horns we found at Lake Nakuru and in the Masai Mara.

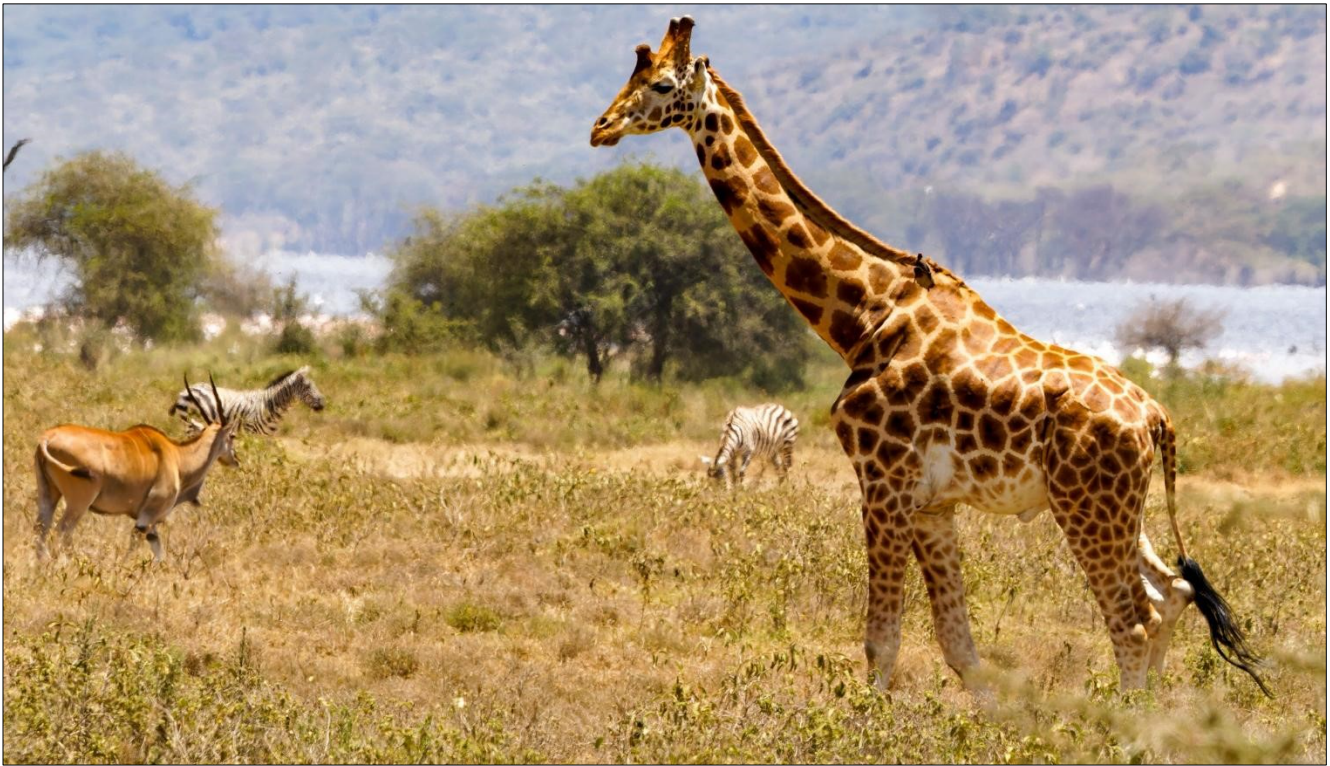
ANTELOPES

- **Kirk’s Dikdik** – A very small and crowd-pleasing antelope species. We had several quick views at Lake Nakuru and in the Masai Mara, before obtaining close views on our last afternoon of brushland birding 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.
- **Grant's Gazelle** – A bit larger and less abundant than the Thompson's Gazelles. We found them at Nairobi National Park, Lake Nakuru National Park and on several days in the Masai Mara National Reserve.
- **Bohor Reedbuck** – We encountered a single individual of this species at Nairobi National Park.
- **Waterbuck** – A large and very handsome antelope. We found the near threatened "Defassa Waterbuck" subspecies at Lake Nakuru National Park and in the Masai Mara.
- **Impala** – A handsome, 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.
- **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** – We found hundreds, maybe even thousands, of these migrating large antelope species in the Masai Mara National Reserve. To say it was an impressive sight is certainly an understatement!

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. We only saw two snakes during the tour – a **Puff Adder** at Lake Baringo and a **Battersby's Green Snake** in the Masai Mara



Photos: **Page 1** – Lilac-breasted Roller, Little Bee-eaters **Page 2** – Lion, Bush Elephants **Page 3** – Spotted Hyena, Hippopotamus **Page 4** – Cheetah, Zebra with Yellow-billed Oxpeckers **Page 5** – Rothschild's Giraffe