

BIRDING IN KENYA.

Kenya has an area size of 586 000km² lying on the East Coast of Africa. Compared to many African countries, it has an average surface area. As a result of varied habitats, over 1090 species have been recorded in her geographical boundaries. That's the second highest bird list in Africa after Congo which is 4x bigger in size. From seashore to 5199m above the sea level, the country is blend by the coastal lowland forest, savannah & open plateau, the northern most Eastern Arc mountains, central highlands with substantial areas of mist forests, the rift valley and it's alkaline lakes, volcanic mountains, escarpments, semi deserts, the western part of the country with it's lowland Kakamega Forest which is the eastern most remnant of the Congo-Guinea rainforest, Lake Victoria and it's papyrus fringed shores and the north eastern areas of arid, semi-arid and desert. These varied habitats have resulted into the rich avian diversity that the country offers, not forgetting over 120 large mammals, 900 species of butterflies, among many other seen and unseen creatures.

With its great birding hotspots that are fairly close to each other, Kenya is well known as a birding destination where it's possible to see over a 150 species in a day and over 600 species in three or four weeks if right habitats are visited.

Any time of the year will promise some good excitement with over 800 species being resident and breeding in the country. However, during the migration and the wintering season an extra bonus of over 180 Palearctic migrants from eastern parts of Europe and Asia are present, either wintering or "passing by" on their way south between late August, September, October till early May the following year. The resident birds includes the 10 Kenyan endemics; **Aberdare Cisticola, Sharpe's Longclaw, Hinde's Babbler, Taita White-eye, Taita Apalis, Taita Thrush, Kulal White-eye, William's Lark, Clarke's Weaver** and the most rare **Tana River Cisticola**.

June and July are the best months for the intra-African migrants from southern parts of Africa and Madagascar, while many breeding birds are in full breeding plumage.

Nairobi

Nairobi is a cosmopolitan city lying at altitude 1650 m. With varied habitats in and around the city; it holds one of the greatest species diversity with wildlife still roaming nearby the city (e.g. Nairobi National Park with over 100 mammal species).

Over 600 species of birds have been recorded in Nairobi (probably exceeding all the capitals cities and most countries in the world).

Remnant forest patches such as Ololua, Karura, Ngong' Road, Arboretum forests among other wilderness areas are particularly well worth a visit.

The city centre hosts a few birds while many buildings are nesting sites to Little Swift, Red-winged Starling, Feral Doves and occasionally the Lanner Falcon, among others.

Nairobi National Park

The park is located 7km south west of the city centre and is easily accessible via the main gate on the Langata Road. This is Kenya's first national park gazetted in 1946. The park has varied habitats that includes rolling grassland plain, riverine *acacia-ficus* woodlands, valley, thickets, bush, natural and man made dams and ponds, Rocky gorges and the upland dry forest to the west.

The park (only 117km²) has one of the richest avian diversity with a record of over 515 species. This is the place to find the newly described **Nairobi Pipit**. A whole day birding with nothing else better to do could fetch well over 150 species.

The park also hosts well over 100 species of mammals including four of the big five less elephant. Also Masai Giraffe, Eland, Impala, Grants and Thompson's Gazelles and Bushbuck, Bush duicker, Steinbok, Kirk's Dikdik, Bohor Reedbuck, Warthog, Olive Baboon, Leopard, Lion, Cheetah among others.

Species include: Common Ostrich, Great, Long-tailed Cormorant, Common, Madagascar Squacco, Black-headed, Grey Herons, African Spoonbill, Purple Swamphen, African Finfoot, White-faced Whistling, Knob-billed Ducks, Red-billed Teal, Secretary Bird, Black-shouldered Kite, Lappet-faced Vulture, Ayres's Hawk Eagle, African Crowned Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Shelly's & Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Hartlaub's Bustard, Emerald Spotted Wood, Namaqua, Dusky-turtle, Laughing Doves, Hartlaub's Turaco, White-bellied Go-away-bird, White-browed Coucal, African Palm, Mottled Swifts, Blue-naped Mousebird, Little & Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, Lesser, Greater Honeyguide, Eastern Honeybird, Nubian Woodpecker, White-tailed, Singing Bush, Short-tailed, Rufous-naped Lark, Wire-tailed, Lesser-Striped Swallow, Rock Martin, Yellow-throated, Pangani, Rosy-breasted Longclaw, Pale, African Grey, Southern Black Flycatcher, Lesser Swamp Warbler, 9 Cistocolas (Singing, Stout, Croaking, Siffing, Rattling, Winding, Desert, Zitting & Pectoral-patched), Grey-capped Warbler, Abyssinian, Montane White-eyes, Lesser Kestrel, White-bellied, Red-throated Tits, Jackson's Widowbird, African Darter, African Finfoot, Great

		Egret, Saddle Billed Stork, Yellow-billed Oxpecker.
Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary, Nairobi	This is one of the dry country forests now a remnant of what once stretched to the Nairobi National Park. With a small man-made dam in the forest, it has water, forest and garden birds.	Species include: Hartlaub's Turaco, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, African Crowned Eagle (nesting), Brown-backed Scrub-Robin , Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, African Wood Owl, Brown-backed Woodpecker, African Black Duck, Little Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron.
The Arboretum, Nairobi	This small park is about 15 minutes walk from the city centre, taking the State House Road. It has both indigenous and exotic forest and still holds lots of forest species. This is the easiest place in Nairobi to go searching for African Black Duck, Mountain Wagtail, Ayres's Hawk Eagle and Grey-Olive Greenbul .	Species include: African Goshawk, Lesser Honeyguide, Eastern Honeybird, brown-backed Woodpecker, Malachite Kingfisher, Hartlaub's Turaco, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Cabanis's, Yellow-whiskered, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Black-backed Puffback, Collared, Amethyst, Northern-Double Collared Sunbird, Dark-caped Yellow Warbler, Red-billed Firefinch.
Blue Post Hotel-Thika	The hotel situated along the River Chania passing through Thika Town is a popular birding stop over in-search of a few but localized birds such the Grey-Olive Greenbul, Purple-crested Turaco and Green-capped Eremomela .	Species include: Giant kingfisher, White-headed Barbet, among no less than 7 sunbirds (Amethyst, Bronze, Collared, Northern Double-collared, Variable, Green-headed, Scarlet-chested), Silvery-cheeked Hornbill.
Kianyaga Valley	The area is 15km before Embu town from Nairobi. It is the home to one of the Kenya's endemics Hinde's Babbler . The bird is usually in the <i>Lantana camara</i> bushes/ coffee farms around this fairly heavily populated and cultivated area. Also on the south-western part of Mt. Kenya around Mukurue-ini Valley. Try at Wajee Camp.	
Meru/Kaaga/Imenti Forests	These forests are part of the Mt Kenya forests on the	Species include: Fine-banded Woodpecker, Green-backed

eastern slopes. Reached via Meru town and starts immediately or a couple of km from the town on your way to Timau and are very close to each other only cut by the main road (Meru-Tamau).

The forests host the **Black & White Flycatcher, Kenrick's Starling and White-eared Barbet.**

Heron, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Little Sparrowhawk, Waller's Starling, White-headed Wood-hoopoe, Grey Apalis, Bar-tailed Trogon, White-bellied Tit, African Crowned, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Mottled Spinetail, Yellow-whiskered, Slender-billed, Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul, Northern Brownbul

Mount Kenya National Park and Forest Reserve

Mount Kenya has a large track of country above 2500m characterized by montane plant community of highland and bamboo forests. 3500m and above comes the Afro-alpine moorland of short shrubs dominated by alpine grass. The mountain is the second highest in Africa at 5199m.

The bird community too varies much as the altitude changes.

The forest holds specialties such as **Abyssinian Ground Thrush & Alpine Chat, Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird, Moorland Francolin, Slender-billed Starling, Abbot's Starling.**

On the way to the park, through the Naro Moru gate, would be the right area to see the East African endemic **Jackson's Widowbird** and the Kenyan endemic **Sharpe's Longclaw.**

Species include: Montane Buzzard, African Crowned Eagle, Little Sparrowhawk, Hartlaub's Turaco, Narina, Bar-tailed Trogon, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Waller's, Kenrick's, Sharpe's Starling, White-starred Forest Robin, Olive, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Collared, Northern Double-collared, Eastern Double-collared, Variable, Bronze, Tacazze, Green-headed Sunbird, Mustached Green, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, White-browed Crombec, Brown Woodland, Montane Yellow Warbler, Montane, Cabanis's, Greenbul, Fine-banded Woodpecker, Grey-headed Negrofinch, Abyssinian Crimson-wing, Long-tailed Widowbird,

Samburu National Reserve

An arid bush country with riverine forest along the Uaso Nyiro River. The reserve harbors over 400 species of indigenous and migratory birds. It's part of the northern semi-arid and desert country with many of the Somali biome

Species include: Somali Ostrich, Vulturine Guineafowl, African White-backed, White-headed, Lappet-faced Vulture, Martial, Bateleur Eagle, Gabar Goshawk, Pygmy, Lanner Falcon, Steppe, Augur Buzzard, Secretary Bird, White-headed

species.

The reserve also holds many of the northern species of mammals such as the Reticulated Giraffe, Grevy's Zebra, Gerenuk, Gunther's & Kirk's Dikdik, Beisa Oryx.

Mousebird, Donaldson-Smith Nightjar, Pink-breasted Lark, Somali Bee-eater, Pigmy Batis, Liechtenstein's Sandgrouse, Yellow, Von der Decken's, Red-billed Hornbill, Hildebrandt's, Golden-winged, Fischer's, Magpie Starling, Brown-tailed Rock Chat, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird, Yellow-spotted Petronia, Green-backed Heron, Barred Warbler, Mouse-collared Penduline Tit, Cut Throat, Golden Pipit, Slate-coloured Boubou, Rosy-patched Bush-Shrike, Brubru, Pale Prinia, Yellow-vented Eremomela, African Palm Swift, Fan-tailed Raven, Cinnamon-breasted Rock , Somali Golden-breasted Bunting.

Shaba National Reserve

Located on the edge of the dry zone of northern Kenya neighboring Samburu National Reserve to the east is extensive tracts of semi-arid of thorn-bushland of *acacia-commiphora*, riverine woodland dominated by Doum Palm with open grass and short shrub on the rocky-lava along scattered swampy and springs. This range of habitats attracts a large number of dry country species including the **William's Lark** (a Kenya endemic) found on the lava desert in and outside the reserve.

Species include: Somali Ostrich, Secretary Bird, Vulturine Guineafowl, Kori, Crested, White-bellied Bustard, Golden Palm Weaver, the 'Parrot-billed' form of the Grey-headed Sparrow.

Raptors include: Black-shouldered Kite, Egyptian, Hooded, African White-backed, Rüppell's Griffon and Lappet-faced Vultures, Verreaux's, Tawny and Martial Eagles, African Hawk Eagle, Brown Snake Eagle, the seemingly tailless Bateleur, African Harrier-Hawk, Eastern Pale Chanting and Gabar Goshawks, the delightful Pygmy Falcon.

Also Black-headed and Striated (or Green-backed) Heron, Marabou, Yellow-billed Stork, Palm-nut Vulture, Crested Francolin, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Helmeted Guineafowl, Grey Crowned Crane, Spotted, Water Thick-knee, Somali Courser, Crowned, Spur-

winged, Three-banded Plover, Chestnut-bellied, Black-faced Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Namaqua, Laughing, Ring-necked Dove, African Orange-bellied Parrot, Great Spotted, Black-and-white, Diederik Cuckoo, White-browed Coucal, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Slender-tailed Nightjar, African Palm, Mottled Swift, White-headed & Blue-naped Mousebird, Grey-headed, Striped Kingfisher, White-throated, Somali, Little Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted, Rufous-crowned Rollers, Hoopoe, Violet Wood Hoopoe, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Eastern Yellow-billed, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Black-throated, D'Arnaud's, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Greater Honeyguide, Nubian, Cardinal, Grey, Bearded Woodpecker, Singing Bush Lark, Red-winged, Pink-breasted, Fawn-coloured Lark, Fischer's, Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark, Wire-tailed Swallow, Rock Martin, Northern Brownbul, Rufous Chatterer, Spotted Morning Thrush, White-browed Scrub Robin, Bare-eyed Thrush, Southern Black, African Grey Flycatcher, Ashy, Desert Cisticola, Pale Prinia, Grey Wren-Warbler, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Red-fronted Warbler, Banded Parisoma, Northern Crombec, Yellow-bellied, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Northern Grey Tit, Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Pygmy Batis, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Taita Fiscal, Three-streaked Tchagra, Brubru, Rosy-patched Bush Shrike, Slate-coloured Boubou, Northern Puffback, Common Drongo, African Black-headed Oriole, Fan-tailed Raven,

Fischer's, Magpie and Wattled Starlings, Eastern Violet-backed, Hunter's, Marico, Black-bellied and Shining Sunbirds, Chestnut Sparrow, Yellow-spotted Petronia, Black-capped Social Weaver, Speckle-fronted, Vitelline Masked, Lesser Masked and Chestnut Weavers, Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver Red-billed Quelea, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Purple Grenadier, Crimson-rumped and Black-cheeked Waxbills, African Silverbill, Cut-throat Finch, Yellow-rumped Seed-eater, White-bellied Canary, Somali Golden-breasted Bunting.

Manguo Pond

Manguo Pond makes an excellent birding stop en-route to Gatamaiyu Forest, Naivasha or Lake Nakuru. It hosts a wide variety of waterfowl and could be the easiest site to look for the **Maccoa Duck**.

Species include: Little grebe, Great White Pelican, Cattle & Great Egrets, Grey & Black-headed Heron, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, Yellow-billed Duck, Red-billed & Hottentot Teals, Northern Shoveler, Red-knobbed Coot, African Jacana, Ringed & Three-banded Plovers, Little Stint, Ruff, Marsh & Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank.

Gatamaiyu Forest

Gatamaiyu Forest is part of the Kikuyu Escarpment Forest and part of the Kieni Forest. Situated 60km from Nairobi on your way to Naivasha. Once in a while the **Abbott's** and **Sharpe's Starlings** are recorded.

Species include: African Goshawk, Mountain Buzzard, Lemon, Tambourine, Red-eyed Doves, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Yellow-rumped, Mustached-green Tinkerbird, Eastern Honeybird, Lesser Honeyguide, Fine-banded, Grey Woodpecker, Scarce Swift, Slender-billed, Mountain, Yellow-whiskered, Cabanis's Greenbul, African Hill Babbler, White-stared Robin, Cape, Rüppell's Robin Chat, African Dusky, White-tailed Crested, African Paradise Flycatcher, Cinnamon-bracken, Evergreen

Forest, Brown Woodland Warbler, Hunter Cisticola, Black-throated, Black-collared, Chestnut-throated Apalis, White-browed Crombec, Black-backed Puffback, Tropical Boubou, Black-fronted Bush-Shrike, Montane Oriole, Northern, Eastern Double-collared, Green-headed Sunbird, Spectacled, Brown-caped Weaver, Grey-headed Negrofinch, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Black & White Mannikin, Thick-billed Canary.

Kinangop Plateau	<p>The plateau is much covered by grassland on the highlands west of the Aberdare Ranges and has 2 Kenyan endemics Sharpe's Longclaw & Aberdare Cisticola plus one East African endemic Jackson's Widowbird.</p>	<p>Species include: Cattle Egret, Hamerkop, Augur Buzzard, Black-winged Plover, Red-capped Lark, Grassland Pipit, Levallant's (or Tinkling), Hunter's Cisticola, Long-tailed Widowbird.</p>
Lake Naivasha/ Hell's Gate National Park/ Crater Lake	<p>80km N.W. of Nairobi is a shallow fresh water lake with <i>Acacia</i> woodland fringing most parts of the lake despite the heavily mushroomed flower farms. The lake is sandwiched by dormant volcanoes (Eburru, Ol Karia and Longonot) making the birdlife awesome from waterfowl to bushbirds while it's a stronghold for the Grey-crested Helmet-shrike an east African endemic despite mostly occurring in private ranches. You can also try at Lake Nakuru National Park for the helmet-shrike</p>	<p>Species include: Common Ostrich, Little Grebe, Great White Pelican, Great, Long-tailed Cormorant, Great Egret, Purple, Goliath Heron, Hamerkop, Sacred, Hadada Ibis, Greater, Lesser Flamingo, Cape, Red-billed Teal, Southern Pochard, Secretary Bird, Egyptian, African White-backed, Rüppell's Griffon Vulture, African harrier Hawk, Augur Buzzard, African Fish, Verreaux's, Long-crested Eagle, African Jacana, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Three-banded, Long-toed Plover, Little Stint, Marsh, Wood, Green Sandpiper, Speckled Pigeon, Red-eyed, Laughing Dove, Pearl-spotted Owllet, Spotted Eagle Owl, Mackinder's Eagle Owl, Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Montane, Slender-tailed Nightjar, Nyanza, Mottled, African Palm Swift, Malachite, Pied Kingfisher, White-fronted</p>

Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted Roller, Hoopoe, African Grey Hornbill, Grey, Nubian, Bearded Woodpecker, Red-capped, Fischer's Sparrow Lark, Plain, Sand, Rock Martin, Shallo'w Wheatear, Common Stonechat, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Red-faced Crombec.

<p>Lake Nakuru National Park</p>	<p>Sometimes holding a population exceeding 1.5 million individual flamingoes, Lake Nakuru has been referred as the "the greatest ornithological spectacle in the world". The alkaline lake, fresh waters from the inlet rivers, <i>Acacia</i> woodland, rocky cliffs, World's largest <i>Euphorbia</i> forest, grassland, marshy shores, scrub bushes supports thousands of resident and migratory birds. Over 450 species have already been recorded. An East African endemic Grey-crested Helmet-shrike occurs in <i>Acacia</i> woodlands near the <i>Leleshwa</i> bushland.</p> <p>In addition, the park is rich in big games that include the Giraffe, Buffalo, Waterbuck, Eland, Hippo, both Black and White Rhino, Lion, Leopard, Spotted Hyena.</p>	<p>Species include: Little Grebe, Great White Pelican, Black-winged Stilt, Common, Wood, Marsh, Green Sandpipers, Pied Avocet, Common Greenshank, Ruff, Gull-billed, Whiskered Tern, Grey-headed Gull, Cape and Red-billed Teal, Southern Pochard, Great & Long-tailed Cormorant, Hadada, Sacred and Glossy Ibis, Coqui Francolin, Long-crested, African Crowned Eagle, Augur Buzzard, White-fronted, Little Bee-eater, Arrow-Marked Babbler, Little Rock Thrush, Lyne's, Rattling Cisticola, Superb, Greater Blue-eared, Rüppell's Long-tailed Starling, Lilac-breasted Roller, Cliff Chat, Rüppell's Robin Chat, Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Grey-backed, Long-tailed Fiscal, Mosque, Red-rumped, Lesser-striped Swallow, Plain Martin, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Tropical Boubou, African Grey Flycatcher, Chin Spot Batis, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Black-headed Oriole, Bronze, Variable, Amethyst Sunbird, Red-headed, Spectacled, Baglafaecht Weaver, Yellow Bishop, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Red-billed Firefinch, African Citril, Brimstone Canary, Streaky Seedeater.</p>
<p>Lake Bogoria National Reserve</p>	<p>An alkaline lake (150km north of Nakuru) with numerous hot springs and geysers. It's</p>	<p>Species include: Common Ostrich, Great White & Pink-backed Pelican, African Darter,</p>

characterized by thorny bushland of *Acacia-Commiphora* Woodland, riverine *Ficus* woodland. The lake is an important feeding site for the Lesser Flamingoes whose numbers sometimes exceed 2 million. Specialties include the **Black-necked Grebe, Cape Teal, Northern Red Bishop.**

While this is an important site for the rare mammal **Greater Kudu.**

Little & Dwarf Bittern, Lesser & Greater Flamingo, Cape Teal, Garganey, Maccoa Duck, African White-backed, Rüppell's Griffon, Egyptian Vulture, African Marsh Harrier, Brown Snake Eagle, Tawny, Verreaux's, Wahlberg's, Steppe Eagle, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Brown Parrot, White-bellied Go-away Bird, Great Spotted, Black and White, Levallant's Cuckoo, Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, White-faced Scops Owl, Slender-tailed Nightjar, Mottled, Little, Black, Alpine Swift, Striped, Grey-headed, Woodland, Pygmy Kingfisher, White-throated, Blue-cheeked, Madagascar Bee-eater, Abyssinian, Lilac-breasted, Rufous-crowned Roller, African Crowned, Red-billed, Yellow-billed, Jackson's, African Grey, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Black-throated, Red-fronted, D'Arnaud's, Red and Yellow Barbet, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Bearded, Nubian, Cardinal Woodpecker, Pink-breasted Lark, Ethiopian Swallow, African Rock Martin, White-necked, Fan-tailed Raven, Northern Grey, Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Spotted Morning Thrush, Capped Wheatear, Cliff Chat, Great Reed Warbler, Grey Wren Warbler, Brown Parisoma, Buff-bellied, Red-fronted Warbler, Northern, Red-faced Crombec, Silverbird, Pygmy Batis, Grey-headed, Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike, Brubru, Three-streaked Tchagra, Hunter's, Marico, Beautiful Sunbird, Jackson's Golden-backed, Little Weaver, White-billed, White-headed Buffalo-Weaver, Straw-tailed, Steel Blue Whydah, Crimson-rumped,

Lake Baringo	<p>One of the two fresh water lakes along the rift valley, it's located 150km north of Lake Nakuru and about 20km north of Lake Bogoria. A shallow lake with magnificent islands surrounded by woodlands of <i>Acacia tortilis</i>, <i>mellifera</i> etc and bush-rocky hills and cliffs. Rich wetland of open water, marshes, and reeds makes good habitat for the waterbirds. Being a well-known birding hotspot it's recorded well over 500 species. The cliffs nearby host Hemprich's, Jackson's Hornbill, Bristle-crowned Starling, White-faced Scops Owl, Brown-tailed Rock Chat</p>	<p>Black-cheeked Waxbill, Grey-headed Silverbill.</p> <p>Species include: Common Ostrich, Great, Long-tailed Cormorant, Common Squacco, Green-backed, Purple, Goliath Heron, Yellow-billed Stork, African Darter, Knob-billed Duck, Gabar Goshawk, Egyptian Vulture, Shikra, African Hawk Eagle, Lanner, Common Kestrel, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Bat Hawk, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Heuglin's Courser, Black-headed Plover, Slender-tailed Nightjar, Blue-naped Mousebird, Rufous-crowned Roller, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-throated Bee-eater, Magpie Starling, Northern Grey Tit, Mouse Coloured Penduline Tit, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Northern Red Bishop, Northern Masked, Little Weaver.</p>
Kakamega Forest	<p>Kakamega Forest, the only true rainforest remaining in Kenya, was once a continuation of the Guinea-Congolian rainforest but now a remnant. It has a very rich avian diversity and has many species found nowhere else in Kenya. With an area of 240km² it's divided into Northern and Southern Circuits.</p> <p>Spending a few days here will offer good chances of spotting a large number of forest species. Specialties include Turner's Eremomela, Chapin's Flycatcher.</p>	<p>Species include: Blue-headed Bee-eater, Turner's Eremomela, Great Blue Turaco, Ross' Turaco, White-chinned Prinia, Banded Prinia, Buff-throated Apalis, Equatorial Akalat, Dusky Tit, Chubb's Cisticola, Pink-footed Puffback, Olive-green Camaroptera, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Red-headed Bluebill, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Red-headed Malimbe, Green Sunbird, Grey-throated, Yellow Spotted, Yellow-bellied Barbet, African Blue Flycatcher, African Shrike-Flycatcher, Grey-winged, Snowy-headed Robin, Common, Jameson's, Chestnut Wattle-eye and with much luck the Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Black & White Casqued Hornbill, Mackinnon's Shrike, Lühder's Bush-Shrike, Grey Green Bush-Shrike Black-billed, Dark-</p>

backed, Black-necked Weaver, African Broadbill, Cameroon Sombre, Shelley's, Joyful, Ansorge's, Little-Grey, Toro-Olive, Little Greenbul, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Yellow White-eye, Square-tailed Drongo, Petit's Cuckoo-Shrike, Western Black-headed Oriole.

**Kongelai
Escarpment**

On the west of Makutano (Kitale - Turkana Road) running down to the Suam River is the escarpment. Another excellent birding area with local specialties such as the **Yellow-billed Shrike**, **Lesser Blue-eared Starling**, **White-crested Turaco**, **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver**, **Fox Cisticola**, **Heuglin's Masked Weaver**, rare records of **Spotted Creeper**.

Species include: Dark Chanting Goshawk, Somali Golden-breasted Bunting, Double-toothed Barbet, Northern Brownbul, Brown Snake, Martial Eagle, Eastern Grey Plantain-Eater, Brown Parrot, Black-winged Red Bishop, Stripe-breasted Seedeater, and White-crested Helmet Shrike. Also the Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird on the wetland near Makutano.

Lake Victoria

This large lake has extensive papyrus-fringed shores and offers a range of habitats for a large number of bird species.

Species include: Yellow-billed Egret, African Open-billed Stork, Blue-headed Coucal, Eastern Grey Plantain-eater, Woodland Kingfisher, Black-lored Babbler, Swamp Flycatcher, Greater Swamp and White-winged Warblers, Carruther's Cisticola, Black-headed, Papyrus Gonolek, Red-chested Sunbird, Slender-billed, Northern Brown-throated, Yellow-backed Weaver, Southern Red Bishop, Papyrus Canary.

**Dunga Beach
(Kisumu)**

This is a fishing village located on the shores of the Lake Victoria 10km from the Kisumu Town. The specialties around this Papyrus fringed shore are the **Papyrus Gonolek**, **Papyrus Yellow Warbler**, **Papyrus Canary**, **Carruther's Cisticola**, **Swamp**

Species include: Hamerkop, Little Egret, Yellow-billed Stork, Pied Kingfisher, White-winged, Whiskered Tern, African Skimmer, Red-chested, Copper Sunbird, Shikra, African Thrush, Southern Red Bishop, Black-headed Gonolek, Slender-billed, Northern Brown-throated,

Flycatcher, Blue-headed Coucal, Open-billed Stork, White-winged Warbler, Greater Swamp Warbler.

Yellow-backed Weaver.

Yala Swamp is another good area for the birds named above including the **Marsh Tchagra, Fan-tailed Widowbird, Bar-breasted Firefinch, Angolan Swallow, Black-rumped Waxbill, Grey Kestrel, and White-tailed Nightjar.**

Masai Mara Game Reserve

Masai Mara is part of the Mara-Serengeti Eco-system and though basically known for its "extra-large" wildlife concentration especially during the wildebeest migration, it also offer great birding holidays with many of the Northern Tanzanian avian. Habitats ranging from forest, rolling grasslands, bushes, wetlands of marshy, swamp and rivers, rocky outcrops and escarpments host a great variety of birds.

Specialties include: **Rufous-bellied Heron, Pel's Fishing Owl, Shalow's Turaco, Long-tailed, Rock, Trilling Cisticola, Red-necked Spurfowl, Magpie Shrike, Sooty, Red-tailed Chat, Usambiro Barbet, Bare-faced Go-Away-bird, Pale Wren Warbler.**

Species include: Rosy-breasted Longclaw, African Wattled Plover, Ashy Flycatcher, Grey-rumped, Red-rumped, Denham's Bustard, Rufous-chested Swallow, White-headed, Lappet-faced, White-headed Vulture, White-naped Raven, Ross Turaco, Black-backed Puffback, Croaking Cisticola, Fan-tailed Widowbird, Hildebrandt's Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Black & White Casqued Hornbill, Narina Trogon, Lilac-breasted Roller, Common Wattle-eye, Silverbird, Plain and Long-billed Pipit, Saddle-billed, Woolly-necked Stork, Yellow-fronted Canary, Yellow-bellied Hyliota.

Amboseli National Park

The park borders Tanzania and lies on the leeward side of the Africa's highest mountain "Kilimanjaro". Though relatively a dry country, it has numerous springs of swamps and marsh habitats of papyrus that attracts huge

Species include: Common Ostrich, Great White Pelican, Common Squacco, Goliath and Grey Heron, Hadada, Sacred and Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbill, Lesser Flamingo, Red-billed Teal, Secretary Bird, White-headed, Lappet-faced

concentration of wild animals especially the gigantic elephants, buffalo, Zebra, wildebeest with a variety of waterfowls. Also open *acacia* woodland and bushland along side the grassy plains. Over 400 species have been recorded including a high number of birds of prey.

Vulture, Bateleur, Black-chested Snake, Brown Snake, Tawny, African Fish Eagle, African Hawk Eagle, Pigmy Falcon, African Harrier Hawk, Gabar, Eastern Pale Chanting Goshawk, Crested Francolin, Crested, Hartlaub's, Kori Bustard, African Jacana, Collared Pratincole, Long-toed, Kittlitz's Plover, Black-winged Stilt, Curlew, Marsh Sandpiper, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Namaqua, Ring-necked, Laughing, African Mourning Dove, Donaldson-Smith Nightjar, Speckled, Blue-naped and White-headed Mousebird, Green Wood-hoopoe, Southern Ground, Von der Decken's, Yellow-billed, African Grey, Red-billed Hornbill, Fawn-collared, Rufous-naped, Singing, Friedmann's Lark, Rufous Chatterer, Little Rush Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Banded Parisoma, Tiny, Desert Cisticola, Grey-backed, Taita Fiscal, Fischer's, Wattled Starlings, Grey-capped Social-Weaver.

Arabuko Sokoke Forest

Covering 420km² it's the largest remnant of coastal forest that once covered most of the East African coast. It has three sub-forest habitats. The mixed forest with a diversity of tree species, the *Brachystegia* Woodland and the *Cynometra* forest.

Specialties include **Sokoke Scops Owl, Sokoke Pipit, East Coast Akalat, Spotted Ground Thrush and Amani Sunbird** and a Kenyan endemic **Clarke's Weaver**

Like Kakamega forest the birdlife varies a great deal

Species include: Plain-backed, Olive and Mouse-collared Sunbird, Retz's and Chestnut-fronted Helmet-Shrike, Four-collared Bush-Shrike, Lizard Buzzard, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Pale Batis, Bluemantled, Ashy, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Fiery-necked Nightjar, Fisher's Turaco, Yellowbill, African Pigmy, Mangrove Kingfisher, Eastern Green Tinkerbird, Mombasa Woodpecker, Pallid Honeyguide, Böhm Spinetail, Scaly Babbler, Red-tailed Ant Thrush, Red-capped Robin Chat, Fischer's, Zanzibar

from other parts of the country. Sombre and Tiny Greenbul, Black-bellied Starling, Eastern Bearded Scrub Robin, Eastern Nicator, African Golden Oriole.

Mida Creek

The creek is protected as part of the Watamu Marine National Reserve. Fringed by mangrove forest, it has large area that fills with the saline water during high tides. It's a birding haven for birdwatchers with thousands of waders making it an important passage and wintering habitat for migrants.

Species include: Crab-Plover, Greater and Lesser Sandplover, Black-tailed Godwit, Sanderling, Grey Plover, Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, Oystercatcher, Dimorphic Egret, Yellow-billed and Woolly-necked Stork, Madagascar Squacco Heron, Mangrove Kingfisher.

The nearby Whale Island is a good breeding site for Roseate and Saunders' Tern. Please avoid climbing the rock to lessen the disturbance.

Sabaki River Mouth (Estuary)

The Sabaki River Mouth/Estuary, about 5km north of Malindi is unprotected area characterized by sandbanks, mudflats, mudbanks, sanddunes, fresh pools and marshes. To the north and south are the grassy sand dunes of permanent and temporary pools of fresh water.

The site holds over 1% of geographical population of waterfowl, especially, flocks of intra-African migrants and is an important roosting, resting and feeding ground for gulls and terns, while large numbers of Palearctic migrants occurs here during the wintering periods.

A good site for **Madagascar Pratincole** and **Malindi Pipit**

Species include: Dimorphic and Little Egrets, Great, Lesser Flamingo, Water Thick-knee, White-fronted Plover, Greater, Lesser Sandplover, Sanderling, Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, Ruddy Turnstone, Heuglin's, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, Gull-billed, Caspian, Greater-crested, Lesser-crested and Common Tern, also the Carmine Bee-eater, Ethiopian Swallow, Zanzibar Red Bishop.

Taita Hills

These are fragments of forested hills on the west of

Species include: Striped-cheeked Greenbul, Yellow-

Voi town and said to be the northern most part of the Eastern Arc Mountains. These hills, rising abruptly to 2200m are home to 3 Kenyan endemics, "The Taita Three", namely the **Taita Apalis**, **Taita Thrush** and **Taita White-eye**.

throated Woodland Warbler, Rock Cisticola, Striped Pipit, Green-backed Twinspot, African Hobby.

Tsavo National Park

These are two parks Tsavo East and West divided by the Nairobi-Mombasa Road. Once a single park with an area of 21000km².

The Tsavo East is mainly made of large track of open country with lava ridges and rocky outcrops, *Acacia-Commiphora* woodlands and Galana River with its bushed thickets dominated by the Doum Palm.

The Tsavo West has relatively denser thicket of savanna especially the *acacia-Commiphora* bushland with Baobab, grassy plains, riverine woodland, the Mzima Springs. The park is also famous for the autumn bird ringing at the Ngulia Safari Lodge with thousands of European and Asian Palearctic migrants on their way south.

Species include: Friedmann's, Singing Bush Lark, Bare-eyed Thrush, Scaly, Rufous Chatterers, Black-headed Plover, Quail-Plover, Somali Courser, Black-bellied, White-bellied Bustard, African Scops Owl, Striped Kingfisher, Pringle's Puffback, Red-naped Bush-Shrike, Olive-tree, Basra Reed Warbler, Violet Woodhoopoe, Southern Black, Gambaga Flycatcher, Spot-flanked, Red & Yellow, D'Arnaud's, Black-throated, White-headed Barbet, Greater, Scaly-throated, Lesser, Pallid Honeyguide, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Vulturine Guineafowl, Northern Brownbul, Desert, Zitting, Ashy, Rattling, Tiny Cisticola, Purple-banded, Hunter's, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird, African Orange-bellied Parrot, Jameson's Firefinch, Green-winged Pytilia, Fire-fronted Bishop, Red-headed, Vitelline Masked, Lesser Masked, Black-necked Weaver.
