

Kenya, June 2016

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Wednesday, 8th

We have breakfast at leisure and meet in the lobby at 09:30 for our excursion to the Daphney Sheldrick foundation. We arrive somewhat earlier than expected and do some birding in the car park and see: African harrier hawk, Black kite, Pied crow, Spot-flanked barbet, Purple grenadier, Chestnut sparrow, Pied wagtail, House sparrow, Pin-tailed wydah, Sacred ibis, Black headed heron, Cattle egret. We also see Warthog, Slender mongoose, Olive baboon and a ground squirrel.

We have lunch in town at a mall and do some banking and shopping before we return to our lodge. We meet again at 18:30 to do our checklist and for dinner. We still await the arrival of Steve and Ann.

Thursday, 9th

We have breakfast and depart the lodge at 08:00. We do two birding stops along the route to Mount Kenya and arrive at the Serena Mountain Lodge just after 13:30. We have a brief check-in and proceed to lunch. Birds seen along the route: Augur Buzzard, Sacred ibis, Hadedda ibis, Grey heron, Black headed heron, Great egret, Cattle egret, Common moorhen, African olive pigeon, Red eyed dove, Emerald spotted dove, White browed coucal, African palm swift, Speckled mousebird, Lilac breasted roller, Striped kingfisher, Cinnamon chested bee-eater, Spot flanked barbet, White headed barbet, D'arnaud's barbet, Cardinal woodpecker, Slate coloured bou-bou, Long tailed fiscal, Common fiscal, Black saw wing, Plain martin, Rock martin, Singing cisticola, Northern pied babbler, Ruppel's glossy starling, Superb starling, Red billed oxpecker.

We take a short siesta after lunch and meet again at 16:00 to do a short walk/drive. We add: Black and white colobus, warthog, bushbuck, buffalo, Common waterbuck, Eastern bronze naped pigeon, Hunter's cisticola, Cinnamon bracken warbler, Hartlaub's turaco, Golden -winged sunbird, Red fronted parrot, Mountain greenbul, Mountain white-eye, White-eared barbet, Mountain wagtail.

We return to the lodge at 18:30 and meet to do the checklist at 19:30. A great meal and the floodlit waterhole keeps some people busy and awake.



Usambiro Barbet

Friday, 10th

Pre breakfast and in front of our rooms at the waterhole, we see: Common bulbul, Verreaux's eagle owl, Baglafaecht weaver, Olive thrush, Rock martin, White-eyed slaty flycatcher, Pied and Mountain wagtails, Streaky seedeater, Ruppells robin-chat. Breakfast and we are all ready to depart on a walk into the Mount Kenya National Park at 08:00. A walk in the park indeed! We see and have great views of: African olive pigeon, Eastern bronze-naped pigeon, African emerald cuckoo, Speckled mousebird, Cinnamon chested bee-eater, Yellow-rumped tinkerbird, Bearded woodpecker, Chinspot batis, Black backed puffback, Tropical boubou, Grey cuckoo-shrike, Mountain oriole, African paradise-flycatcher, White bellied black-tit, Black saw-wing, Rock martin, Hunter's cisticola, Grey apalis, Common bulbul, Slender billed greenbul, Cabanis's greenbul, Brown woodland warbler, Mountain white-eye, White starred robin, White-eyed slaty flycatcher, African dusky flycatcher, Eastern double collared sunbird, Beautiful sunbird, Baglafaecht weaver, Brown-capped weaver, Mountain wagtail, Thick-billed seedeater.

We have a lovely surprise at around 10:30 as we suddenly walk into a "tea-room". We return to the lodge and arrive back around 11:30 and meet for lunch at 12:30.

The waterhole is alive with activity and we have buffalo, elephant, bushbuck and warthog that entertain us during the siesta hours. We meet at 16:00 to do a nature drive into the park. We see Black and white colobus, Olive baboons, Tree squirrel, Tullberg's woodpecker, Golden winged sunbird, Hunters cisticola, White-eyed slaty flycatcher, Common bulbul, Black sawing, Cape robin chat, Grey cuckooshrike, Collared sunbird, Variable sunbird, Stonechat, Black and white mannikin, Olive thrush, Crimson rumped waxbill, Common waxbill, Grossbill seed-eater, Crowned crane, Yellow-billed duck, Dabchick, Olive pigeon, Red eyed dove, Golden breasted bunting, Cape wagtail, Yellow wagtail, Ashy flycatcher, Hartlaub's turaco.

We return to the lodge at 18:15 and meet to do the checklist at 19:30, followed by dinner.

Saturday, 11'th

Breakfast at 07:00 and we depart this stunning lodge at 08:00 and travel North towards Samburu. We do several birding stops along the road and eventually cross the equator. We have a wonderful picnic lunch and arrive at the entrance to Samburu at around 15:00. We do a slow game-drive through the park and arrive at our lodge at 17:30. We meet again at 19:00 to do the checklist and to have dinner. Birds and mammals seen include: Elephant, Buffalo, Bushbuck, Generuk, Grant's gazelle, Reticulated giraffe, Plains zebra, Grevy's zebra, Oryx, Defassa waterbuck, Somali ostrich, Helmeted guineafowl, Vulturine guineafowl, Yellow-necked francolin, Egyptian goose, Red billed duck, African spoonbill, Haded ibis, Sacred ibis, Cattle egret, Grey heron, Black headed heron, Secretary bird, Pygmy falcon, Black winged kite, Brown snake Eagle, Bateleur, Eastern chanting goshawk, Augur buzzard, White bellied bustard, Black crane, Common moorhen, red knobbed coot, Grey crowned crane, Blacksmith plover, Crowned plover, Three banded plover, Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse, Black faced sandgrouse, Ring necked dove, Speckled Pigeon, Namaqua dove, Emerald spotted dove, Hartlaub's turaco, White-bellied go-away bird, Speckled mousebird, Blue naped mousebird, Lilac breasted roller, Grey headed kingfisher, White-throated bee-eater, Abyssinian scimitarbill, Yellow-rumped tinker bird, Spot-flanked barbet, Red and yellow barbet, Slate coloured boubou, Tropical boubou, Long tailed fiscal. Taita fiscal, Fiscal shrike, Fork tailed drongo, Red rumped swallow, Rufous-naped and Pink-breasted larks, Superb starling, Red winged starling, Whinchat, Ruppels robin chat, Bronzy sunbird, Donald smith sparrow-weaver, White headed buffalo weaver.

Sunday, 12'th

Early breakfast at 06:30 and we depart camp just after 07:00 on our morning game-drive. We return after six hours of game-drive just in time for lunch at 13:00. We see: Elephant, Reticulated giraffe, Defassa and Common waterbuck, Gerenuk, Grant's gazelle, Kirk's dik-dik, Grevy's zebra, Impala, un-striped ground squirrels and many new bird species. We have a short siesta and am back on another game-drive at 16:00. A great day with a lot of new animals, stunning landscapes, trees, etc. We finish the day with a G&T sun-downer on a hill overlooking the river and lodge. Birds seen: Somali ostrich, Helmeted and Vulturine guineafowl, Yellow-necked francolin, Goliath heron, Purple heron, Secretary bird, African harrier hawk, Eastern chanting goshawk, Augur buzzard, Tawny eagle, Steppe eagle, Martial eagle, Grey crowned crane, Spur-winged plover, Chestnut-bellied and Black-faced sandgrouse, Orange bellied parrot, White bellied go-away bird, Blue-naped mousebird, Green wood-hoopoe, Von der decken's hornbill, red billed and yellow billed hornbills, Nubian woodpecker, Rosy patched shrike, Brubru, Pink breasted bushlark, Fischer's sparrowlark, Grey wren warbler, Rufous chatterer to name a few!

A great day with lots and lots of new species and wonderful photographic opportunities.

Monday, 13th

A very early start and we have breakfast and bags ready at 06:00, departing the lodge just after 06:30. We drive through the park for the first half hour and see quite a lot of birds and some mammals. Once we exit the park we lower the pop-up roofs and head North along the main road. We have a picnic lunch on the equator before we head further to Lake Baringo, arriving at our jetty at 17:00. We transfer over to the Island Camp by boat and have enough time to explore the camp before we meet to do the checklist and have dinner. Birds seen: White-faced whistling duck, Open-billed stork, Black-crowned night-heron, Reed cormorant, Great cormorant, Darter, African fish eagle, African jacana, Cape-eagle owl, Malachite kingfisher, Crowned hornbill.

Tuesday, 14th

Early morning coffee and tea is served at our tents/rooms at 06:30 and we meet to have breakfast at 07:00 and depart the Island at 08:00. We do a short boat transfer to the mainland where we meet our two guides, Peter and George. A short drive to Lake Bogoria where we see: Cape teal, Little grebe, Greater flamingo, Lesser flamingo, Marabou stork, Sacred ibis, Hadeda ibis, Black crowned night heron, Squacco heron, Hammerkop, Great white pelican, Reed cormorant, Great cormorant, Darter, Black winged kite, African fish eagle, Black crane, Black winged stilt, Spur-winged plover, Kittlitz's plover, Three-banded plover, Heuglin's courser, White-bellied go-away bird, Diederick cuckoo, White-browed coucal, Slender-tailed nightjar, Mottled swift, Nyanza swift, Blue-naped mousebird, African pygmy kingfisher, Madagascar bee-eater, Abyssinian scimitarbill, Jackson's hornbill, Hemprich's hornbill, Red fronted barbet, D'Arnaud's barbet, Sulphur-breasted shrike, Grey-backed fiscal, Long-tailed fiscal, Fiscal shrike, Northern grey tit, Red-rumped swallow, Rattling cisticola, Northern crombec, Ruppels glossy starling, Superb starling, Hildebrandt's starling, Bronzy sunbird, Beautiful sunbird, White-billed buffalo weaver, White-headed buffalo weaver, Grosbeak weaver, Baglefecht weaver, Little masked weaver, Lesser masked weaver, Village weaver, Northern red bishop, Yellow-crowned bishop, Red-collared widowbird, Red-billed firefinch, African firefinch, Steel-blue wydah, Yellow-fronted canary. We return to our lodge for lunch and have enough time for a swim, siesta, coffee and cake and even some birding before we meet again at 17:00 for a boat ride on the lake. We return just after sunset and freshen up before dinner and the checklist at 19:30. The owner and manager of the Island Lodge joins us for a very interesting dinner session. We also have a great magic show from our own, "Dr Magic".

Wednesday, 15th

Early morning coffee and tea before breakfast that starts at 07:00. We leave the island around 08:00 and head over to the mainland by boat. We reach our vehicles and depart the jetty area before 08:30. The road is good and we continue our journey, heading West. We have a picnic lunch en-route and stop in the town of Kitale to do some shopping before we continue to our final destination. We arrive at Rondo Retreat at 16:30 and it is raining quite heavily. We check into our rooms and some people have time to wonder in the gardens before we meet to do the checklist and have dinner at 18:30.

We see many birds which include: Jackson's widowbird, Red collared widowbird, Fan-tailed widowbird, Long-billed pipit, Bristle-crowned starling, Waller's starling, Parrot-billed sparrow, Black and white casqued hornbill, White crested turaco, Great blue turaco, Grey-throated barbet.

Thursday, 16th

We meet in the garden at 06:30 for a pre-breakfast walk in the gardens. Breakfast at 07:00 and we depart with the vehicles at 08:00 to Kakamega forests. The drive is short and it takes about 5 minutes before we arrive at the entrance to Kakamega. What a stunning forest! We see: Black-cheeked white-nosed monkeys, Blue monkeys and White and black colobus. Birds seen: Mountain wagtail, Brown-capped weaver, Dark backed weaver, Vieillot's weaver, Grossbeak weaver, Tacazze sunbird, Bronzy sunbird, African dusky flycatcher, White-eyed slaty flycatcher, Blue-shouldered robin chat, African thrush, Turner's eremomela, African yellow white-eye, Black-faced rufous warbler, Red-tailed bristlebill, Cabanin's greenbul, Toro olive greenbul, Joyful greenbul, Shelley's greenbul, Little greenbul, Olive green cameroptera, Bleating warbler, black-collared apalis, White-headed saw-wing, Purple throated cuckoo-shrike, Western black-headed oriole, Pink-footed puffback, Chestnut wattle-eye, Grey-throated barbet.

We return to the lodge just before 13:00 for lunch. Some people in the group opt to take the afternoon at leisure and some opt for another easy walk from the lodge to the adjacent forest at 15:00. We see: Black-billed weaver, Olive-bellied sunbird, Blue flycatcher, Yellow-billed barbet, Yellow whiskered greenbul, White spotted flufftail, Ansorge's greenbul, Chubb's cisticola, Buff-spotted woodpecker, Snowy headed robin-chat, Grey-headed negrofinch, Northern black flycatcher, Mackinnon's fiscal, Blue spotted dove. We return to the lodge at 16:30 for coffee/tea and glorious chocolate cake. We all meet at 18:30 to do the checklist and to have dinner.

Friday, 17th

We meet at 06:30 for an early morning walk in the garden and have breakfast at 07:00. We depart the lodge around 07:35. We drive to the town of Kisumu which borders the banks of Lake Victoria. We do a short birding stop and see: Black billed barbet, Double-toothed barbet, Black-headed gonolek, Thick-billed roller, Purple banded sunbird, Eastern plantain eater, Pied crow. Along the road we see: Collared pratincole, Open-billed stork, Black-headed heron, Black bishop, Yellow-crowned bishop, Hammerkop, Sacred ibis, Hadedda ibis, African Jacana

We do a lunch stop en-route and just stop at a roadside birding area. We continue the long drive South and finally arrive at our lodge at 17:45. We check in and meet at 19:00 to do the checklist and have dinner.

The last two and a half hours was spent "game-viewing" and we saw a lot of Burchell's zebra, Masai giraffe, Western white bearded wildebeest, Topi, Thompson's gazelle, Warthog, Eland. We also see: Yellow-throated sandgrouse, Purple grenadier, Usambiro barbet, White-browed robin-chat, Pale flycatcher, Grey-capped social-weaver, Speckle-fronted weaver, Chestnut sparrow.

Saturday, 18th

Breakfast at 06:30 and we depart on our game-drive just after 07:15. We spot several new bird species as we enter the park but it is not long before we meet up with two cheetahs and spend some time photographing them. Before we know it and only a couple of minutes away from the cheetahs, we see our first leopard, then another in a tree. Game is plentiful and we see Giraffe, Buffalo, Topi, Warthog, Elephant, Coke's hartebeest, Impala, Thompson's gazelle, Wildebeest, Zebra, Banded mongoose, Lion, Bat-eared fox. We add several birds to

our checklist and they include: Common quail, Harlequin quail, African blue quail, White-backed vulture, Ruppell's griffon, White-headed vulture, Lappet-faced vulture, Black-bellied bustard, Common buttonquail, Water thick-knee, Wattled lapwing, Yellow throated sandgrouse, Klaas's cuckoo, Southern ground hornbill, Grey woodpecker.

We all enjoy a wonderful G&T moment at sunset and return to the camp at 18:30. We meet at 19:30 to do the checklist and for dinner.

Sunday, 19th

We receive early morning/tea at the tents and breakfast is served as from 06:30. We depart on our game-drive at 07:30 and take picnic lunch with us as we travel North to see the Mara River. An all day game-drive and we return to our lodge at 15:00. Some free time to catch up on the garden birds. We meet on the wooden deck/viewing platform for a sundowner at 18:00, followed by our checklist and dinner. A stunning day out and we see thousands of animals on the Mara plains.

Monday, 20th

Early morning coffee/tea is brought to the rooms and we have breakfast at 07:00. We depart the lodge at 08:00 and do a slow drive, looking at birds and mammals as we leave the "Mara" and head East towards Lake Naivasha. We stop and have our picnic lunch en-route at a curio shop. We arrive at our lodge at 17:30, book into our rooms and meet to do the checklist and have dinner at 19:00. A travelling day but we managed to add several bird species to our list and some include: Wahlberg's eagle, Black-chested snake eagle, Grey kestrel, Lesser kestrel, Great spotted cuckoo.

Tuesday, 21st

Early morning coffee/tea at 06:30 and we start a bird walk on the property at 06:45 and we see: African jacana, Black crane, Giant kingfisher, Grey heron, Black-headed heron, Cattle egret, Purple heron, Red chested cuckoo, Nubian Woodpecker, Pied wagtail, Ruppells long-tailed starling, Hildebrandt's starling, Superb starling, Wattled starling, Yellow bellied eremomela, Red-winged starling. We have breakfast at 07:30 and depart the lodge at 09:00 to look for Sharpe's longclaw. The drive takes about 40 minutes. We all have great views of several birds. We also see: Streaky seed-eater, Yellow-crowned canary, Jackson's widowbird, Long-tailed widowbird, red-collared widowbird, Sharpe's longclaw, Purple grenadier, Lesser masked weaver, Baglafaecht weaver, Speke's weaver.

We return to the lodge at 13:00 and have lunch. We meet at 15:30 for our boat ride on the lake and have to abandon our cruise after 5 minutes as there is a huge storm brewing. We return to the lodge and have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. It starts to rain more heavily as we walk to dinner.

Wednesday, 22nd

Three of us have an early departure and have breakfast, ready for departure at 08:00. The whole group gathers at the front of the lodge at 08:00 to say our good byes!

415 bird species

50 mammal species

Bird of the trip as follows:	Points scored
1. Great blue turaco	12
2. Vulturine Guineafowl	8
3. Golden breasted starling	6
4. Grey crowned crane	5
5. Usambiro barbet	3
6. Secretary bird	3
7. Martial eagle	3
8. Black-headed gonolek	3
9. Woodland kingfisher	2
10. Black and white casqued hornbill	2
11. Malachite kingfisher	2
12. Silverbird	2
13. Verreaux's eagle-owl	2
14. Kori bustard	1
15. African pygmy kingfisher	1
16. Superb starling	1
17. Purple grenadier	1
18. Crowned eagle	1



Sharpe's Longclaw