DAY 1: SATURDAY ,20TH NOV 2021

After an overnight stay in Summerdale in on 19th Nov, we rose up and had breakfast and were ready to depart for Kenya’s oldest national park but not after picking up Rock pigeon, Dark capped bulbul, Speckled pigeon, Nairobi N. P. was established in 1946 and covers an area of 117KM² and lies adjacent to the city. The recent development of Nairobi city has seen some sections encroached on by roads and rail network, however the new railway line has employ pillars all the way through the park to allow for uninterrupted free movement of wildlife. Nairobi national park is renowned for the Ivory and Rhino horns burning done by two presidents amounting to huge tonnage in protest of trade on wildlife.

Our arrival into the park saw us begin an easy walk around the offices and car park which is well maintained with trees lining the edges and provided great sightings of birds including five sunbirds: Bronzy, Scarlet chested, Amethyst, Collared, Northern an Eastern double collared. Other birds were Black backed puffback, Green backed honeybird, Kikuyu white eye, White headed barbet (Senex), Willow warbler, wood warbler, White eyed slaty flycatcher, White bellied tit, Grey backed canmoroptera. We then drove into the park picking up Yellow breasted apalis, White backed vulture, yellow billed kite, Pied crow,Scaly framcoln on the tarmacked section along with a Common duiker. Down into the Ivory burning site where we bumped on a young Irania, a pair of Little bee eaters, Purple grenadier, Rufous tailed rock thrush, Sombre greenbul, Red eyed and Ring necked dove, wattle starlings in flight to mention some.
Descending further down into the grasslands elicited Rufous winged cisticola, Juveniles and females of Red collared widowbirds, White browed scrub robin, African pipit, long tailed fiscal, Rufous naped lark, Diderik cuckoo. The two three water pools gave us Common snipe, Long toed lapwing, Blacksmith lapwing, African darter, Reed cormorant, Three banded plover, Green, Common and Wood sandpipers, Lesser Swamp warbler and a sound of Water rail which never appeared. We had our lunch at Kingfisher’s picnic site picking up Holub’s golden weaver, Black cuckoo shrike, Brubru, Eastern grey woodpecker, Brown parisoma, Buff belliied warbler, Pale flycatcher, Yellow spotted bush sparrow, Spotted morning thrush, Kenya Sparrow and few others. After lunch we proceeded and it is at this time that the weather turned rainy and we had to close the pop up and drive in the hope that it will stop and birds will spring up and it did stop and we enjoyed views of Shelley’s francolin, Helmeted guinefowls and Yellow necked spurfowl before exit through the east gate for the hotel.

DAY 2: SUNDAY, 21 NOV 2021 (NAIROBI TO MT KENYA)

As usual we took off after an early breakfast and being a Sunday there wasn’t much hustle beating traffic to drive through the city as we head northwards, but we had to drive carefully along the Thika superhighway with speeding vehicles, some of which are recklessly driven, especially those transporting Ghat (miraa). We eventually made our first stop at Mwea paddy fields after few stops in shopping centers trying to collect a memory card for one of the guests but all in vain being a Sunday.

The paddy fields proved beneficial with Allen’s gallinule which was the major target here, along with it came Knobbed billed duck, Fulvous and White faced whistling ducks, Red billed duck, Yellow billed duck, long toed lapwing, a bunch of Garganey’s African jacana, Malachite and Grey headed kingfishers, African open billed stork, Glossy ibis, Yellow crowned bishop, White winged widowbird and huge flocks of Red billed queleas and Chestnut weavers.
DAY 3: MONDAY, 22ND NOV 2021 (CASTLE FOREST, MT KENYA)

We then proceeded passing by one of the Hinde’s babbler site but without luck, we got to the lodge at lunch time and after check in we sat for our meal and were done in few minutes and we took a short rest and then walked towards the Mountain pocketing the elusive Cinnamon bracken warbler, Yellow bellied waxbill, Abyssinian crimson-wing, African hill babbler, Yellow whiskered greenbul, Mountain buzzard, Grey apalis, Black throated apalis and a call by Black collared apalis which eluded our sight. Further upwards and we encountered the rare Abbott’s starling, Sharpe’s and Waller’s starlings, Red fronted parrot, Rameron pigeon, Eastern bronze naped pigeon Montane oriole, Brown capped weaver, Silvery cheeked hornbill before we retired to the lodge for dinner. We had little luck in our brief night walk hoping for the African wood owl and Abyssinian nightjar before we retired to bed.

DAY 4: TUESDAY, 23RD NOV 2021 (CASTLE FOREST, Aberdare and Lake Naivasha)

Today we rose early and had our breakfast but just before we finished a Purple throated cuckoo shrike turned up, after two days of searching, we had good views before it dived into the thickets. We tried checking for African black duck by the river but in vain. We spent brief time in Hinde’s babbler habitats but still no luck. We eventually got to the Treetops gate into Aberdare National park, our birding around the gate yielded Singing cisticola, Rupell’s robin chat, Chin spot batis, Red headed weaver and more others. Our drive into the park immediately presented African crowned eagle in flight, Steppe buzzard, Augur buzzard, African goshawk. Further in and into the moorland we had the Alpine chat, Jackson’s spurfowl, Malachite sunbird, Slender billed starling, Brown woodland warbler and Aberdare cisticola before we stopped for our picnic lunch. Soon after we drove away and exited through Mutubio gate and got to a pool that awarded us Lesser Jacana and few Red knobbed coots, Little grebe and Yellow billed ducks. We then proceeded stopping in one of the private grass fields and found a local who allowed us in and combed the grassland and in no time we saw the Sharpe’s longclaw and a bonus African snipe and a Levaillant’s cisticola. Afterwards we proceeded to Crater Lake Resort where we spent our night.

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOV 2021 (CRATER LAKE, NAIVASHA)
We rose and had breakfast at 6:30 am, the restaurant is just by the edge of the Lake which provided views of Little grebes, Osprey, Marsh sandpiper, Green sandpiper and Common sandpiper. After breakfast we walked up the Crater saw Red fronted tinker, Black cuckoo shrike, Little swifts, barn swallows and more. We took a drive and headed to the sanctuary where we managed to get Hilderbrand’s starling, Black lored babbler, Arrow marked babbler, Pale flycatcher, African grey flycatcher, Eastern grey woodpecker, African Golden breasted hooting, Pearl spotted owlet, White bellied tit, Scaly throated, Lesser and Greater honeyguides, Long crested eagle, lanner falcon, Lesser spotted eagle, Abt eater chat along with Common warthog, Eland, Zebra, Buffalo. We then proceeded for lunch and some rest before we drove back to the sanctuary picking up Grey crested helmet shrike, African hobby, Grey capped warbler, White breast cormorant, Pale white eye, Striated heron, Squacco heron, Gull billed tern, White winged tern, Grey headed gull before we retired to the lodge.

DAY 6: THURSDAY 25TH NOV 2021 (CRATER LAKE TO LAKE NAKURU AND LAKE BARINGO)

Today we set out early in the morning and headed to Lake Nakuru which is one of saline lakes in rift valley, we were able to watch Ruff, Southern pochard, Northern shoveler, Blue billed teal, Yellow billed duck, Common ringed plover, Marsh sand piper, Common greenshank, Whiskered tern, Greater and Lesser flamingos, African fish eagle along with White rhino, Buffalos and other game, We drove off towards Lake baringo stopping along the road for Black throated barbet, Rufous chatterer, Mourning collared dove,

DAY 7: FRIDAY 26TH NOV LAKE BARING

The day begun early with a refreshing cup of coffee and tea and we set out for 2 hours boat ride, the lake was calm and we enjoyed beautiful views of Blue cheeked and Northern Carmine bee eaters, Purple heron, Greater painted and Common snipe, Dimorphic egret, Amur falcon, Common krestel , this was majorly along the shores where we spent quite some time. We eventually set out to the island where we saw Hemprich’s hornbill, Senegal thicknee, Shikra, Barn owl, African fish eagle. We
turned back and enjoyed fish eagle feeding before we landed and headed for breakfast which was shortly followed by a drive to see Standard winged and Slender tailed nightjars, Three banded courser, Northern white faced scops owl, Greyish eagle owl then a drive back for rest and lunch before we embarked on drive to Westbay area where we saw Gambaga flycatcher, Lesser honeyguide, Northern white crowned shrike and headed to the cliffs for Brown tailed rock chat, Lanner falcon, flyby of Bristle crowned starlings before driving back to Tamarinf garden for dinner and bed.

**DAY 8: SATURDAY 27TH NOV LAKE BARINGO TO KAKAMEGA FOREST**

We begun with a 6 oclock breakfast and with luggage packed we drove to the Basalt cliff for bristle crowned starling, also saw a pair of lanners feeding a chick, we did not manage to see the the Verreaux eagle, we did not manage to see the verreaux eagle which resides in the cliff though we got a distant view the previous day.
We heard Grey tit flycatcher which never showed up despite the effort, on our way up the Tugen hills we saw Magpie starling, White crested turaco, Meyer’s parrot, Brown babblers, a pair of Southern black flycatcher but we tried so hard to get the Boran cisticola in two sites but in vain. We stopped for lunch at the Kerio River lodge where we saw the Pale white eyes, Black headed gonolek and great views of male and female of Northern puffback then up the Keiyo hills where Kerio View lodge provided views of Wahlberg’s eagle, African Marsh harrier and Fan tailed raven and a distant call of Ross’s turaco. After lunch here we drove to Kakamega where upon arrival we pick Red headed bluebill, Brown throated wattle eye, Cabanis greenbul, Yellow whiskered greenbul, White chinned prinia, Buff throated apalis, Mountain wagtail, Cinnamon chested bee eater Black and White casqued hornbill, Grey throated barbet, African blue flycatcher before we checked in to Rondo retreat.

**DAY 9: SUNDAY 28TH NOV 2021 (KAKAMEGA FOREST)**

Olive-bellied sunbird
The morning was cloudy and a bit rainy, even as we took breakfast we were not sure if we could bird well. However we geared up and walked into the muddy trails and even with the drizzling we got various birds including Red headed malimbe, Yellow crested woodpecker, Turner’s eremomela, Jameson wattle eye, Equatorial akalat, luhders bush shrike, Pink footed puffback,, White breasted negritta, Toro olive greenbul, Cabanis greenbul,Kakamega greenbul, Joyful greenbul, Green hylia, Uganda woodland warbler, dusky tit, Red tailed bristlebill. The rain eventually subsided and we managed to see the White spotted flufftail before we came for lunch which was soon followed by a walk where banded prinia, Black billed weaver, Blue headed bee eater, Red bellied paradise flycatcher,honeguide greenbul, Ross’s turaco, honeyguide greenbul before we retired to the resort.

DAY 10: 29TH NOV 2021 (KAKAMEGA FOREST)

The morning was calm with no drizzles though with light cloud, we drove down to the river where we immediately saw African shrike flycatcher in the nest, the mountain wagtail, Grey throated barbets, Yellow billed barbet, Cabanis greenbul, Plain greenbul, Buff spotted woodpecker, Red headed malimbe,Red headed bluebill, Black and White casqued hornbills, Brown chested alethe, Sharpe’s starling, red chested cuckoo before we drove back and proceeded to the forest station where we enjoyed better views of Jameson wattle eye, buff throated apalis. We then drove back for lunch and later went to chase the Yellow bellied and Chestnut wattle eye which was interrupted by afternoon rains that saw us retreat to the resort for rest and a bit of compound birding which never yielded much.
DAY 11: 30TH NOV 2021, KAKAMEGA TO LAKE VICTORIA

Today the weather was rather gloomy with light drizzles and since it was our last day in the forest we tried to call out the Red chested owllet but it never responded, we also looked out for Grey parrots which never showed up. We had to have breakfast and depart to Lake Victoria. On the way we enlisted Grey headed sparrow, Northern black flycatcher before we arrive at Acacia Premier hotel where we kept the luggage and rushed to the shores where upon arrival we saw Double toothed barbet, Red chested sunbird, Swamp flycatcher, Woodland kingfisher, Yellow fronted tinkerbird, Yellow backed weaver. We then took a boat ride and managed to get Papyrus gonolek, Slender billed weaver, Northern brown throated weaver, Carruther’s cisticola, Eastern grey plantain eater, Water thicknee. After lunch we rested and drove back late in the afternoon where we saw Papyrus canary, Yellow fronted canary, Angola swallow, Golden backed weaver and more before we retired

DAY 12: 1ST DEC 2021 (KISUMU TO MASAI MARA)
We left Kisumu around 8 am and stopped by Ahero paddy fields where we saw Southern Red bishop, African open billed stork, Spur winged lapwing, Sacred Ibis, yellow billed stork Fan tailed widowbird before we left and stopped for lunch in narok town and then proceeded to Mara’s Sekenani gate and in no time we saw Yellow throated sandgrouse, Rosy throated longclaw, African wattled lapwing, Quail finch, Montagu’s and Pallid harrier, white headed and Lappet faced vultures, secretary bird, Pectoral patched cisticola, Stout Cisticola and mammals including four Cheetahs in a kill before we settled in Mara Duma camp.

DAY 13: 2^NOV 2021(MASAI MARA)
We again took breakfast early and with our lunch boxes we headed for the reserve where we saw Dark dark chanting goshawk, Wahlberg’s eagle, Tawny eagle, Steppe eagle, Plain backed pipit, Yellow throated sandgrouse, Meyer’s parrots, Spotted thicknee, Common kestrel Rosy throated longclaw, Black winged lapwing, Lappet faced vulture, Black belied bustard before we sat and ate our lunch. As we headed towards the camp we sighted Saddle billed stork, Black belied sandgrouse, Red necked spur-fowl, Paliid and Montagu’s harrier. A leopard with a kill and four Cheetahs which we had seen the previous day on a kill was spectacular. We eventually got back for rest in the camp.

DAY 14: 3rd NOV 2021 (MARA TO NAIROBI)

We left the camp after breakfast with luggage in the car and ventured into the park where we saw Athi short toed lark, Red capped larks, Secretary bird, Black chested snake eagle, Yellow mantled widow bird, Martial eagle, Helmeted guineafowl, White backed vulture along with more others. At the exit of the park as we were waiting to be cleared, a Violet backed starling, Grey capped

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social weavers, Hildebrandt’s, Grey headed waxbill flocked to mob and snake that was struggling with a frog and we got photo opportunity. We hit the road and stopped for lunch near Narok town and then drove to Nairobi spending considerable amount of time in the traffic snarl-up especially up the Kikuyu escarpment. We also had to get to an hospital for PCR test whose result was delivered later in the night.

DAY 15: 4TH DEC 2021, NAIROBI ARBORETUM AND KAREN BLIXEN MUSEUM

After an early breakfast and packed luggage we headed to Nairobi arboretum and being a Sunday there were so many people all over the fields and trails but we managed to get some areas where bird cooperated well, for instance we enjoyed closer views of Lemon dove more than once and the very elusive Ruppell’s robinchat, Placid/Cabanis greenbul, yellow whiskered greenbul, though Lemon dove became a new addition to our list from this spot. We then headed for lunch and proceeded to the Karen Blixen where a big wedding was happening but after the museum we did birding along the trails through the thickets surrounding the museum where Black collared apalis, Yellow breasted apalis presented themselves well though we had seen them before, but the we also managed to add a species though not so well but good enough, this was the White starred robin. It is after this that we drove to the airport having seen roughly 510 species of birds.