

EAST AFRICA: KENYA & TANZANIA
July 29th – August 13th 2013
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Intro:

This trip, my first in Africa, was designed as an introduction to the wildlife of the Eastern part of the continent. While I was keen to see the large predators and ungulates that this region is famous for, I was also interested in trying to observe some of the more elusive, little-known, and smaller species. In the end, I tried to choose as many locations as possible that allowed night drives as well as Ndotu, to get a sense of the Serengeti in a place known for sightings of the more unexpected species.

I did reasonably well in this regard, seeing most large mammals this part of the world is known for and also many smaller species. That said, if I could do this again, I'd have cut out some time in Serengeti NP or Ngorongoro in favor of a place like Manyara Ranch or Laikipia where you have more freedom to search for stuff on your own. One note I would like to make is that the superb *Field Guide to the Larger Mammals of Tanzania* was not published before my trip; I wish it were, as it is superb in every way and is an indispensable companion on every trip to this region!

Sites visited:

Laikipia Wilderness (OI Doinyo Lemboro)
Masai Mara (Kichwa Tembo)
Northern Serengeti NP (Mara River area)
Central Serengeti NP (Seronera area)
Ndotu Lodge
Ngorongoro Crater
Lake Manyara NP

Site details:

Laikipia Wilderness (OI Doinyo Lemboro)

I really liked this place, but I think it has even more potential for mammal watchers than they're currently utilizing right now. The area has a huge diversity of very interesting species and I think that despite its price, it would certainly attract many enthusiasts. It's on a private ranch and the guides do a lot of walking safaris, so trapping, looking for rodents, shrews, and bats, and spotlighting on long night drives should be no problem as long as you ask in advance (like a Kenya version of Manyara Ranch in that regard). It's also a comfortable, nice place that serves really excellent food. I desperately want to go back to look for some of the bats, small mammals, and other species I missed.

In terms of mammal watching, it should be possible to see most of the larger diurnal species without much sweat if you have 2-3 full days to look. If you want to look for smaller species and spend time on extended night drives, maybe 4 nights would be the optimal time for a visit. I wish I had asked them about the possibility of longer night drives (they were fine with it as they even organize camping under the stars on the ranch!) as I think I would have seen far more nocturnal mammals that way.

There are 3 main reasons for visit Laikipia Wilderness: Elephants, Wild dogs, and rare/unusual species. The area has probably the best **African bush elephant** viewing anywhere I've seen (the only better experience was the Forest elephants at Dzanga Bai). If you in the dry season, there is a large dam on the ranch where up to 80 elephants can be observed drinking at close ranch while you're eating (a really good) lunch; smaller groups will also be frequently seen on drives. Additionally, the ranch has a close relationship with the Laikipia Predator Project, so you are allowed to radio-track the resident pack of **African Wild Dogs**. While many lodges in other parts of Africa take tourists to den sites, here they find this intrusive so prefer to follow them by radio tracking: don't think it's easy however as it occasionally takes people 3-4 days to find them with the tracker (it's apparently impossible to seem them without it). I hear that now, it's also possible to radio-track **Lions** but it seems these are seen frequently enough on the ranch without them that you don't need to unless you prefer.

Ungulates are abundant on the ranch, with the most common species being **Plains** and **Grevy's Zebras**, **Common Warthog**, **Giraffe** (*reticulata*), **Gunther's Dik-dik** (literally hundreds of them every day), and **Impala**. Present in smaller numbers and more local, but also findable, are **Hippopotamus**, **Grant's Gazelle**, **Klipspringer**, **Steenbok**, **African Buffalo**, **Common Eland**, **Bushbuck**, **Greater Kudu**, **Bush Duiker**, and **Waterbuck**. Rare species on the ranch include **Bushpig**, **Hartebeest**, **Gerenuk**, **Beisa Oryx**, and **Mountain Reedbuck**, which you may or may not see at all despite searching.

As mentioned above, the area is very good for **African Wild Dog** and also excellent for **Leopard** (seen both day and night). **Lion** is becoming easier to see now as well. A combination of night drives and searching during the day in the mornings and evenings is the best way to see a good diversity of carnivores: other species regularly seen include **Caracal**, **Common Genet**, **Blotched Genet**, **Slender Mongoose**, **Common Dwarf Mongoose**, **White-tailed Mongoose**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Striped Hyena**, **Aardwolf**, **Black-backed Jackal**, **Bat-eared Fox**, and **Zorilla**. Rarer carnivores include **Wildcat**, **Serval**, **Side-striped Jackal**, and **Cape Clawless Otter** (common, but elusive in the Ewaso Narok River). Cheetah is NOT present.

The area also has a wide diversity of other medium and larger species as well. Those regularly seen include **Aardvark**, **Southern Tree Hyrax** (in riverine forest), **Bush Hyrax**, **Rock Hyrax**, **Vervet Monkey**, **Olive Baboon**, **Crested Porcupine**, **Striped Ground Squirrel**, **African Savanna Hare**, and **Four-toed Hedgehog**. There are doubtless lots of small mammals on the ranch and while I didn't look for them, species that are apparently common include **Rufous Elephant Shrew**, **East African Mole-rat**, **Mearns' Pouched Mouse**, **Gerbils**, **Nairobi Grass Rat**, and **Four-striped Grass Mouse**. I know less about the bats of this area but **Yellow-winged Bat** is supposed to be easy to see (I didn't really ask to search for them); there are also lots of **Shrews**.

One other thing I would recommend is to drive from the ranch to Nanyuki. There are good chances some species that are difficult on the ranch itself, such as **Unstriped Ground Squirrel**, **African Golden Wolf**, **Grant's Gazelle**, **Thomson's Gazelle**, **Gerenuk**, **Greater Kudu**, **Beisa Oryx**, **Waterbuck**, and possibly **Lesser Kudu** if you're very lucky.



Kichwa Tembo (Masai Mara Reserve)

This is probably the best area to see a wide diversity of mammals in the Masai Mara NR. The camp is located in riverine forest, close to an escarpment with rocky habitat and small patches of montane forest above. Below the lodge stretches the plains and marshes of the Masai Mara NR.

Within the camp itself, **Southern Tree Hyrax, Brown Greater Galago, Vervet Monkey, Red-tailed Monkey, Blue Monkey, Olive Baboon, Red-legged Sun Squirrel, Ochre Bush Squirrel, Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat, Common Warthog, and Impala** are easy to see. The camp is fenced to keep Elephants, Lions, and Buffalo out so walking at night on the trails is safe.

On the rocky escarpment incline, **Bush** and **Rock Hyraxes, Klipspringer, Steenbok, Bush Duiker, and Mountain Reedbuck** are common. On the top of the escarpment, there is a montane forest which I didn't visit, where **Giant Forest Hog** is supposedly seeable and an unidentified species of **Red Duiker** (either Weyns' or Harvey's) occurs. Nearby, **Bushpig** and **Bush Duiker** are also apparently easy to see.

The camp is set on a small private concession, so night drives are possible; that said, I think you'd have less freedom to look for things like rodents and bats however, but you could try. On the night drives, **Senegal Galago, Brown Greater Galago, Crested Porcupine, East African Springhare, Smith's Red Rock Hare** (rare on the escarpment wall), **African Savanna Hare, Four-toed Hedgehog** (rare), **Serval** (difficult), **African Civet, Common Genet, Blotched Genet, White-tailed Mongoose, Spotted Hyena, Bat-eared Fox** (rare), **Zorilla** (rare), **Kirk's Dik-dik, Steenbok, Bush Duiker, and Mountain Reedbuck**. Most of these species are regularly seen except those otherwise indicated.

On the Masai Mara Reserve itself, only daytime wildlife viewing is around. Despite this limitation however, a very large variety of species are regularly seen, including **African Bush Elephant, Vervet Monkey, Olive Baboon, Cheetah, Serval, Lion, Leopard, Slender, Common Dwarf, and Egyptian Mongooses, Spotted Hyena, Black-backed Jackal, Plains Zebra, Common Warthog, Hippopotamus, Giraffe (Masai), Hartebeest, Blue Wildebeest, Topi, Grant's Gazelle, Thomson's Gazelle, Kirk's Dik-dik, Oribi, African Buffalo, Common Eland, Impala, Waterbuck, and Bohor Reedbuck**. Less common species only seen from time to time (most more common in dry season) include **Crested Porcupine, Ground Pangolin** (very difficult), **Caracal, Wildcat, Serval, Egyptian Mongoose, Aardwolf, Side-striped Jackal, Bat-eared Fox, Black Rhinoceros, Bushpig, Steenbok, Bushbuck, and Bush Duiker**.



Northern Serengeti (Mara River)

An area that I shouldn't have visited in hindsight as it was too similar to Masai Mara; it was scheduled for my parents, who wanted to see the migration, and in the end they agreed it was a bit superfluous too. Wildlife is pretty much the same as the Masai Mara NR here but there is no night driving aloud. The main thing worth noting here though is that this region is much less crowded and there are some nice kopjes near Kogatende where **Oribi**, **Klipspringer**, **Bohor Reedbuck**, **Bush Hyrax**, and sometimes **Black Rhinoceros** can be seen.

Central Serengeti (Seronera)

The most touristy area of the Serengeti, but still worth visiting if it's your first or second trip to Africa due to the wide diversity of mammals present here. The better lodge guides are pretty good at finding most species in this area in my experience and in some nice places, can even take you to sites further afield where rarer species are possible.

Species easy to see in the main Seronera River area (the only area most tourists visit) include **African Bush Elephant**, **Vervet Monkey**, **Olive Baboon**, **Cheetah**, **Serval**, **Lion**, **Leopard**, **Slender Mongoose**, **Common Dwarf Mongoose**, **Egyptian Mongoose**, **Banded Mongoose**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Black-backed Jackal**, **Bat-eared Fox**, **Plains Zebra**, **Common Warthog**, **Hippopotamus** (Retima Hippo pool), **Giraffe** (Masai), **Hartebeest**, **Topi**, **Grant's Gazelle**, **Thomson's Gazelle**, **Kirk's Dik-dik**, **African Buffalo**, **Impala**, **Waterbuck**, and **Bohor Reedbuck**. Rarer species that are still reasonably seeable include **Rock Hyrax** (Moru Kopjes), **African Wildcat** (Sametu Kopjes), **Aardwolf** (Sametu Kopjes), **Side-striped Jackal** (Seronera River and Makoma Hill), **Honey Badger** (Sametu Kopjes), **Black Rhinoceros** (Moru Kopjes), **Klipspringer** (Moru Kopjes), **Common Eland**, and **Bushbuck**. Ask camp staff to see if **Crested Porcupine**, **Acacia Rat**, **Four-striped Grass Rat**, **African Grass Rat**, **White-tailed Mongoose**, **Blotched Genet**, and **Honey Badger** are seeable around the camp rubbish tip, as this is often the case in many places in Central Serengeti.



Ndutu

This is an excellent area that is home to many large species as well as many rarer species and small mammals. It's a great area for the mammal enthusiast despite the fact that you're not allowed to night drive here; limited walking safaris however are allowed and Ndutu Lodge itself even has so many mammals on the grounds at night so you don't need to go on night drives or walk that much.

Common species include **African Bush Elephant**, **Senegal Galago** (around Ndutu lodge at night), **Crested Porcupine** (Ndutu lodge), **African Grass Rat**, **Four-striped Grass Mouse**, **Acacia Rat** (around Ndutu lodge), **Cape Hare**, **African Savanna Hare**, **Yellow-winged Bat** (on door rafters of the lodge at night), **Cheetah**, **Caracal** (can be tricky to find, but often seen), **African Wildcat** (generally easy), **Serval**, **Lion**, **Common Genet** (on the rafters of the dining room in the evenings), **Banded Mongoose**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Striped Hyena** (regularly seen, but a bit tricky), **African Golden Wolf**, **Black-backed Jackal**, **Bat-eared Fox**, **Honey Badger** (frequently seen on the plains), **Plains Zebra**, **Hippopotamus** (Lake Masek), **Giraffe**, **Hartebeest**, **Grant's Gazelle**, **Thomson's Gazelle**, **Kirk's Dik-dik**, **Steenbok**, **African Buffalo**, **Common Eland**, **Impala**, and **Bohor Reedbuck**.

Rarer mammals present include **Four-toed Hedgehog**, **Ground Pangolin**, **Blotched Genet**, **Egyptian Mongoose**, **White-tailed Mongoose**, **African Wild Dog** (denning increasingly often in reasonably close proximity to the lodge), and **Side-striped Jackal**. The subset of these nocturnal species have been seen or camera-trapped around the lodge at night.

Ngorongoro Crater

I didn't much like this site. It was infested with people and wildlife viewing wasn't that much better than in other places as guidebooks say (in many respects it was

worse). Any interesting sightings were surrounded by droves of vehicles jockeying for position. Rare species seemed hard to come by due to the large numbers of people. No night driving or walking is aloud (not even any off-roading) and you have almost no freedom to look for smaller or more elusive species on your own.

Within the crater, look for **African Bush Elephant** in Lerai Forest, **Cheetah**, **Serval** (marshlands), **Caracal** (the patch of the bushes at the base of the descent road), **Lion**, **Leopard** (uncommon in Lerai Forest), **Slender Mongoose** (melanistic here), **Marsh Mongoose** (around swamps), **Banded Mongoose**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Side-striped Jackal** (around the marshes and in Lerai Forest), **African Golden Wolf**, **Black-backed Jackal**, **Bat-eared Fox**, **Plains Zebra**, **Black Rhinoceros**, **Common Warthog**, **Hippopotamus** (the pool around the picnic area), **Hartebeest**, **Blue Wildebeest**, **Grant's Gazelle**, **Thomson's Gazelle**, **African Buffalo**, **Waterbuck**, and **Bohor Reedbuck** (around the marshes).

On the crater rim, look for **African Bush Elephant**, **Marsh Mongoose**, **African Buffalo**, **Waterbuck**, and **Bohor Reedbuck** in clearings in the montane forest and **Olive Baboon**, **Blue Monkey**, **Leopard**, **Side-striped Jackal**, and **Bushbuck** in the montane forest itself. The staff camp is good for **Bushpig**, and according to my guide, sometimes (1 in 10 visits) **Crested Porcupine**. The Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge grounds are a good place to see **Suni**, **Blue Monkey**, **Southern Tree Hyrax**, and **Bushbuck**. There is apparently a place to see **Giraffe** on the rim in Acacia woodlands, but I didn't go. There should be lots of rodents and bats in the area, but it would be very tough to look for them due to the restrictions. A place like Simba Farm would have most rodents and bats of this highland habitat I would think and perhaps one of the concession around Mt. Gelai, if you can get access.



Lake Manyara NP

Another park I didn't really like as it's small and full of people during the day. That said, it's a better place than Ngorongoro in many ways as it has many diverse habitats and does good night drives.

There are three key habitats within the park to visit during the day: the groundwater forest on the Northern and Southern ends of the park, the lakeside plains, and the acacia woodlands in between. In the groundwater forest, look for **Vervet** and **Blue** (Syke's) **Monkeys**, large troops of **Olive Baboon**, **Ochre Bush Squirrel**, **Bushbuck**, and **Waterbuck** (Common x Defassa hybrids). The acacia woodlands and plains share most of the same diurnal species: look for **African Bush Elephant**, **Vervet Monkey**, **Olive Baboon**, **Serval**, **Lion**, **Slender Mongoose**, **Common Dwarf Mongoose**, **Banded Mongoose**, **Black-backed Jackal**, **Plains Zebra**, **Common Warthog**, **Hippopotamus**, **Giraffe** (Masai), **Blue Wildebeest** (Eastern White-bearded), **Kirk's Dik-dik**, **Klipspringer** (near Maji Moto), **African Buffalo**, **Impala**, and **Waterbuck**. In the denser miombo-like woodlands at the southern tip of the park near the ranger station, **Bushbuck**, **Bush Duiker**, and interestingly, **Harvey's Duiker** are common in thickets (I saw 3 Harvey's Duikers, which are considered rare in the park, in 2 days here!).

Unfortunately, due to the presence of Elephants, it is difficult to look for rodents and bats on foot in this park. However, the night drives are very productive and may deliver rodent/bat sightings as well as a large array of medium and large mammals. The best night drives are longer drives that cover acacia woodland, groundwater forest, and riverside plains, as they have potential to deliver the widest array of species. Mammals regularly seen on these drives include **Senegal Galago**, **Northern Greater Galago**, **Crested Porcupine**, **African Savanna Hare**, **Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat**, **Banana Pipistrelle**, **Free-tailed Bat sp.**, **Lion**, **Leopard**, **African Civet**, **Blotched Genet**, **Bushy-tailed Mongoose**, **Marsh Mongoose**, **White-tailed Mongoose**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Black-backed Jackal**, **Klipspringer**, **African Buffalo**, **Bushbuck**, **Impala**, and **Waterbuck**. Less common species include **Gambian Pouched Rat**, **Four-toed Hedgehog**, **Serval**, **Wildcat**, **Zorilla**, **Bushpig**, **Bushbuck**, **Harvey's Duiker**, and **Bush Duiker**. Around my visit, a pack of **Wild Dogs** visited the park for the first time in decades, but I didn't see them... There are lots of rodents and bat packed into this park, but I didn't see very many as I wasn't looking; a more focused group might be able to find some good stuff however. Unfortunately, the lack of freedom as it is a national park is a serious issue.

Higher up on the top of the rift escarpment is a site called Marang Forest, occasionally visited by birders. It has a somewhat similar species composition to forests of the Ngorongoro Highlands apparently (perhaps also similar to Nou or Babati Forests further south). I didn't go and don't know what species are there, but it might be an interesting place for a mammal watcher. There has been almost no mammal research done there that I know of.

Species List: (76 TOTAL)

Southern Tree Hyrax: 1 in Kichwa Tembo and 2 of what was probably this species in riverine thicket on Ol Doinyo Lemboro (I didn't get very good views).

Bush Hyrax: small numbers on kopjes in Laikipia Wilderness and near the Mara River in Northern Serengeti NP on . Great views of animals in a rockpile at the Ewaso Narok bridge on the road between Nanyuki and Ol Doinyo Lemboro.

Rock Hyrax: good numbers on kopjes in Laikipia Wilderness and near the Mara River in Northern Serengeti NP.

African Bush Elephant: large numbers (70-80) at the dam in Ol Doinyo Lemboro each day. Smaller numbers observed at all other sites.



Senegal Galago: one seen poorly on a night drive near Kichwa Tembo Camp. Surprisingly, not seen in Lake Manyara NP.

Brown Greater Galago: one heard calling in Kichwa Tembo, but not quite seen. One greater galago seen in acacia woodland in Lake Manyara NP looked a bit different and may have been this species, as opposed to *O. garnettii*.

Northern Greater Galago: 5-6 on the night drive in Lake Manyara NP, mostly in or near the groundwater forest. One different animal in different habitat in Lake Manyara NP may have been *O. crassicaudatus*.

Vervet Monkey: commonly seen on Ol Doinyo Lemboro, Masai Mara NR, Central Serengeti, and Lake Manyara NP.

Red-tailed Monkey: two groups seen in riverine forest at Kichwa Tembo camp.

Blue Monkey: three groups of the beautiful *stuhlmanni* subspecies seen in riverine forest at Kichwa Tembo camp. 1 animal of the *albogularis* subspecies seen on Ngorongoro Crater rim and several large troops of the same subspecies in Lake Manyara NP groundwater forest.

Olive Baboon: seen everywhere except Ndotu.

Crested Porcupine: 2 seen on the Lake Manyara NP night drive, one well and the other poorly.

East African Springhare: 2 observed on the Kichwa Tembo night drive in a large, open savanna.

Striped Ground Squirrel: 2-3 observed each day at OI Doinyo Lemboro.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel: only 1 seen in degraded bush close to Nanyuki on the drive back from OI Doinyo Lemboro.

Ochre Bush Squirrel: 3 observed in groundwater forest in Lake Manyara NP.

East African Mole-rat: 1 observed briefly digging not far from Laikipia Wilderness Camp on OI Doinyo Lemboro.

African Grass Rat: several seen dashing off while off-roading in Ndotu. 1 observed eaten by a Serval along the Seronera river.

African Marsh Rat: 1 seen on the night drive near Kichwa Tembo at the edge of marshy creek line.

Four-striped Grass Mouse: 1 seen while off-roading in the acacia woodland in Ndotu.

Smith's Red Rock Hare: 1 of these very attractive animals seen on the night drive on the rocky incline of the Oloololo escarpment; not seen very often according to my guide.

Cape Hare: only seen with certainty on the Ndotu plains in small numbers.

African Savanna Hare: small numbers seen, generally at night in OI Doinyo Lemboro, Kichwa Tembo area, and Lake Manyara NP. 1 seen in the acacia woodland in Ndotu and 1 in Seronera area.

Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat: 1 seen at night in the riverine forest in Kichwa Tembo.

Banana Pipistrelle: a couple observed hawking around the lights at the camp I was staying at in Lake Manyara NP (apparently common here).

Free-tailed Bat sp.: several observed hawking over the Endabash River on the night drive in Lake Manyara NP. Probably Egyptian Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida*

aegyptica), but possibly the rarer *Tadarida ventralis*, which has also been recorded here apparently.

Mauritian Tomb Bat: 1 seen at the camp in Northern Serengeti.

Yellow-winged Bat: 2 observed on the eaves of rooms at Ndutu lodge. They are really beautiful bats.

Cheetah: 3 observed in Central Serengeti, with a further 4 seen in Ndutu.



[African Wildcat: 1 probable observed in Ndutu, but the view was just too fleeting to be absolutely sure.]

Serval: 1 seen very well by day along the Seronera successfully hunting an African Grass Rat (I think?). 1 more seen distantly on a night drive in Lake Manyara NP.



Lion: 7 observed in Masai Mara NR, 2 in the Wogakuria Kopjes (Northern Serengeti), 19 in Ndutu, 3 in Lake Manyara NP (distant), and around 20 in the Central Serengeti (most along the Seronera River, with 1 small pride at Masai kopjes).



Leopard: 2 observed in Ol Doinyo Lemboro, 2 in Masai Mara NR, and 5 in Seronera. A very nice showing for this beautiful cat.

African Civet: 2 observed very well on the Lake Manyara NP night drive.

Common Genet: 3 on night drives on Ol Doinyo Lemboro and several in the rafters at the dining room in Ndutu Lodge.

Blotched Genet: 1 on night drives on Ol Doinyo Lemboro identified definitively and several on the Lake Manyara NP night drive.

Bushy-tailed Mongoose: 1 seen very early in the morning while driving out of Lake Manyara NP dashing into an area of thicket in the Acacia woodland.

Slender Mongoose: 1 rufous animal seen near Retima Pool in Central Serengeti NP and 1 melanistic animal along a creek in Northern Serengeti.

Common Dwarf Mongoose: a poor showing for this species, with only the same family seen twice in Northern Serengeti NP. I wish I had seen more of these cute little guys.

Egyptian Mongoose: a great showing for this species, with 1 near the Mara River in Masai Mara NR and a mother and baby in Ndutu successfully evading a Martial Eagle attack!

White-tailed Mongoose: 2 on night drives in Ol Doinyo Lemboro, 1 animal on the Kichwa Tembo night drive, and another animal on the Lake Manyara NP night drive.

Marsh Mongoose: 1 animal seen briefly at the edge of one of the swamps in Ngorongoro Crater. My guide, who saw it better than I did, was adamant it was not a melanistic Slender Mongoose, which is apparently more common here.

Banded Mongoose: good numbers seen only in Northern and Central Serengeti NP and in Lake Manyara NP around the hot springs.

Spotted Hyena: small to medium numbers seen at all sites. The clear standout was Masai Mara, where our guide took us to an area where many individuals were denning and we observed about 30 animals with several adorable, tiny cubs.

Side-striped Jackal: 2 seen in montane forest on the Ngorongoro Crater rim and 2 more in acacia woodland on Makoma Hill in Central Serengeti NP.

African Golden Wolf: small numbers seen in Ngorongoro Crater on the plains surrounding Ndutu (mostly on the Makao Plain).

Black-backed Jackal: small numbers seen everywhere.

Bat-eared Fox: 4 seen on the night drive in Ol Doinyo Lemboro, but very flighty. 2 more again very flight animals seen at dusk in Seronera, on the edge of the plains. 6 tame animals watched at close range in Ndutu.



African Wild Dog: 19 animals seen after a day of radio tracking hunting for a few hours on OI Doi Inyo Lemboro.

Plains Zebra: small to large numbers seen at every site visited.

Grevy's Zebra: around a dozen of these beautiful animals seen each day on OI Doi Inyo Lemboro. One of the trip highlights.

Black Rhinoceros: only 1 seen at close range in Ngorongoro Crater. The viewing experience was diminished however due to the large numbers of vehicles present at the sighting.

Common Warthog: small numbers seen at all sites. Ridiculously tame at Kichwa Tembo.

Bushpig: 1 at the staff camp on the Ngorongoro Crater rim and 1 more in groundwater forest in Lake Manyara NP (a rare sighting).

Hippopotamus: 2 in Ewaso Narok River in OI Doi Inyo Lemboro, with small numbers along rivers and in ponds/lakes at all other sites. The standout was Retima Pool in Central Serengeti, where around 60 animals were present in a stinking, heaving mass.

Giraffe: about a dozen seen each day in OI Doi Inyo Lemboro of the very attractive *reticulata* subspecies. Small numbers of the *tippelkirschi* subspecies seen in Masai Mara NR, N and C Serengeti, Ndutu, and Lake Manyara NP.

Hartebeest: 1 animal of subspecies *lelwele* seen on OI Doi Inyo Lemboro (apparently quite a rare sighting). Small numbers of subspecies *cokii* in Masai Mara NR, Central Serengeti, and Ndutu.

Blue Wildebeest: huge numbers of subspecies *mearnsi* in Masai Mara NR and N Serengeti NP, with 1 straggler in Central Serengeti. Small numbers of subspecies *albojubatus* in Lake Manyara NP on the first afternoon only.

Topi: large numbers in Masai Mara NR and along the Seronera River in Central Serengeti NP.

Grant's Gazelle: small groups of the subspecies *notatus* in and near OI Doi Inyo Lemboro. Larger groups observed in Central Serengeti NP, Ndutu, and Ngorongoro Crater with 1 small, distant herd in Masai Mara NR. Beautiful animals.



Thomson's Gazelle: 4 of subspecies *thomsonii* on OI Jogi Ranch on the road between Nanyuki and OI Doinyo Lemboro and a few more on a roadside ranch near Naro Moru. Large numbers of subspecies *nasalis* throughout Masai Mara NR, Serengeti NP, and Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Gerenuk: Small numbers on OI Jogi Ranch on the road between Nanyuki and OI Doinyo Lemboro with a lone animal on OI Doinyo Lemboro itself a very rare sighting.

Gunther's Dik-dik: hundreds seen each day on OI Doinyo Lemboro.

Kirk's Dik-dik: small numbers seen in Northern and Central Serengeti NP, Nduu, Lake Manyara NP, and Masai Mara NR. 1 observed in degraded bushland close to Nanyuki on a ranch called Naibor.

Klipspringer: 1 observed on OI Doinyo Lemboro, 1 near the hot springs in Lake Manyara NP, and 4 seen very well on Wogakuria Kopjes in Northern Serengeti NP.

Oribi: 2 in Masai Mara NR and 6 near Wogakuria Kopjes in Northern Serengeti NP (the best place to see this species in the region).

Steenbok: small numbers often at the edge of the woodland in Nduu.

African Buffalo: a small herd in OI Doinyo Lemboro and larger numbers in Masai Mara NR, N and C Serengeti NP, Nduu, Ngorongoro Crater, and Lake Manyara NP. The standout was at Nduu, when a herd of about 250 animals thundered into Big Marsh right at sunset.



Common Eland: small herds seen in OI Doinyo Lemboro, Masai Mara NR, and Nduu. Somehow we missed this species in Northern Serengeti NP.

Bushbuck: 1 seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim in a forest clearing and 4 on the Lake Manyara night drive with a further 2 seen by day in groundwater forest.

Harvey's Duiker: 3 seen in and near forest thickets just south of the Southern groundwater forest (near the Tree Lodge) in Lake Manyara NP. My guide knew the spot for this otherwise difficult species.

Bush Duiker: 1 seen dashing into the thicket on the top of the escarpment in OI Doinyo Lemboro. 1 more seen on a night drive by the guide, but missed by me.

Beisa Oryx: 4 observed distantly on Mpala Ranch on the drive from Nanyuki to OI Doinyo Lemboro. Difficult to see on OI Doinyo Lemboro.

Impala: large numbers observed at every site visited except Ngorongoro Crater, where they are not present.

Waterbuck: small numbers observed at every site except Nduu. Most interesting were the animals at Lake Manyara NP, which showed intermediate phenotype between subspecies *defassa* and *ellipsyprymnus*.

Mountain Reedbuck: 4 seen on the night drive on the edge of the Oloololo Escarpment in Masai Mara NR near Kichwa Tembo. 1 more possibly seen on the escarpment in OI Doinyo Lemboro, but the view was too brief to be sure.

Bohor Reedbuck: small numbers seen in N and C Serengeti and in Nduu.