

Kenya May 15-16 2023, Lake Naivasha, Aberdare National Park, and Mount Kenya

Leaving Nairobi National Park late in the day on the 14th we arrived at Lake Naivasha well after dark. On our way back to our room after dinner we saw a grazing **Common Hippopotamus** outside the fence that keeps them from the hotel grounds (a staff member is assigned to walk guests to their rooms for safety).

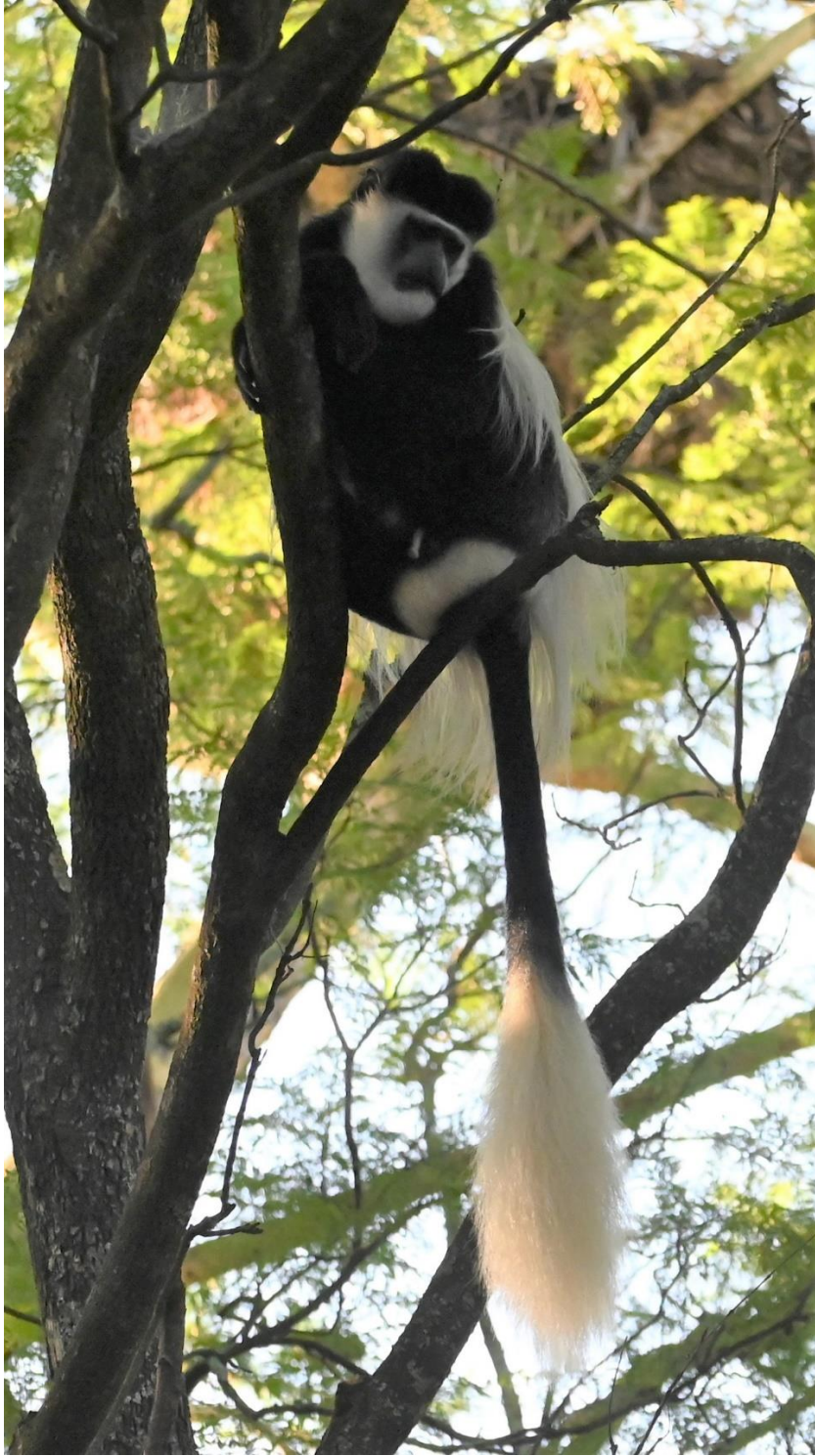
The next morning the conditions for an exploration of the lake were not optimal, so we had a short look around the grounds and were able to get an earlier start to a long day. We saw both **Hilgert's Vervet Monkey**



and **Mau Forest Guereza**, which included a mother and youngster tussling.







On our way out to the main road we saw a **Maasai Giraffe**.

We were going up to higher altitudes. Though our first stop at Kinangop didn't net any mammals, we met a local guide who led us to several local birds, including a resting Montane Nightjar (as anyone who has searched for nightjars knows, you mostly get a glimpse of a startled one flying away). We

had several local guides who joined us at various points of the trip, and they were invaluable to expanding our lists.

From here it was up to Aberdare National Park. As the road wound higher several **Mount Kenya Guereza** crossed in front of us.



As we were checking in at the gate at Aberdare a **Bush Duiker** moved out onto the grassy edge.



As our altitude increased the vegetation changed from forest to forest mixed with heath, and at one of our highest points we saw both a **Southern Bushbuck**



and a **Defassa Waterbuck**.



Further along were a small troop of **Kolb's Monkeys**.



Later in the trip we heard from a group that had done the drive over Aberdare that they had a Leopard cross in front of them. From Aberdare we drove on to Mount Kenya, arriving in the evening.

In the morning we drove down the road from our lodgings, stopping at places Alex knew were good for birds. In the whole daytime we only saw **Mount Kenya Guerezas**,



Ochre Bush Squirrels,



And a subspecies of **Red-legged Sun Squirrel**,



though we added many birds to that checklist.

At night the haunting screams of **Southern Tree Hyraxes** sounded from the forest, and though I hiked around with a flashlight trying to get a look at one, they were too evasive.

Mammal List for May 15 at Lake Naivasha

Common Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)

Hilgert's Vervet Monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus hilgerti*)

Mau Forest Guereza (*Colubus guereza matschiei*)

Maasai Giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi tippelskirchi*)

Mammal List for May 15 at Aberdare National Park

Mount Kenya Guereza (*Colubus guereza kikuyrnsis*)

Bush Duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*)

Southern Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus sylvaticus*)

Defassa Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*)

Kolb's Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis kolbi*)

Mammal List for May 16 at Mount Kenya

Mount Kenya Guereza (*Colubus guereza kikuyrnsis*)

Ochre Bush Squirrel (*Paraxerus ochraceus*)

Red-legged Sun Squirrel (*Heliosciurus rufobrachium keniae*)

Southern Tree Hyrax (*Dendrohyrax arboreus*)