

Kenya May 17-19 2023 Samburu National Reserve

It was a long ride down from Mount Kenya and around almost half the wide footprint of the extinct volcano, passing to the north of the equator into more arid country. Besides the abundant domestic cattle, goats, and sheep that were constant roadside companions or obstacles, small herds of Dromedary Camels appeared, being driven to either pasture or market.

Alex told us as we neared Samburu that because of the recent short rainy season, we might not see elephants, as they may have moved out of the park. As we neared the gateway town of Archer's Post, I saw an **Savanna Elephant** in the distance. "Hopefully not the only one we see." someone said.

Once past the gate it wasn't long before we started seeing mammals. First was a **Common Beisa** followed by one that was very common and bold for all their diminutive size, and would become a favorite of the trip, **Kirk's Dik-Dik**.



More antelope were forthcoming, a **Southern Gerenuk**



and **Bright's Gazelle**,



and the first non-antelopes, the **Somali Warthog**



and **Grévy's Zebra**.



Finally, the wait was over. The first sight is absolutely awe-inspiring, nor did we ever get tired of seeing **Savanna Elephants** in all their majesty.



From a big family to a small one of **Kirk's Dik-Diks**.





Grévy's Zebra



Olive Baboon



Reticulated Giraffe



Savanna Elephant calf



Savanna Elephant bull

That evening at dinner a **Yellow-winged Bat** flew over our table several times catching the insects attracted to the lights. Back at our tent I photographed many of the swarming insects, then walked around some of the unoccupied tents with a flashlight and found a **Heart-nosed Bat**.



Early the next morning we were out in Samburu, before lunch seeing **Kirk's Dik-Diks**,

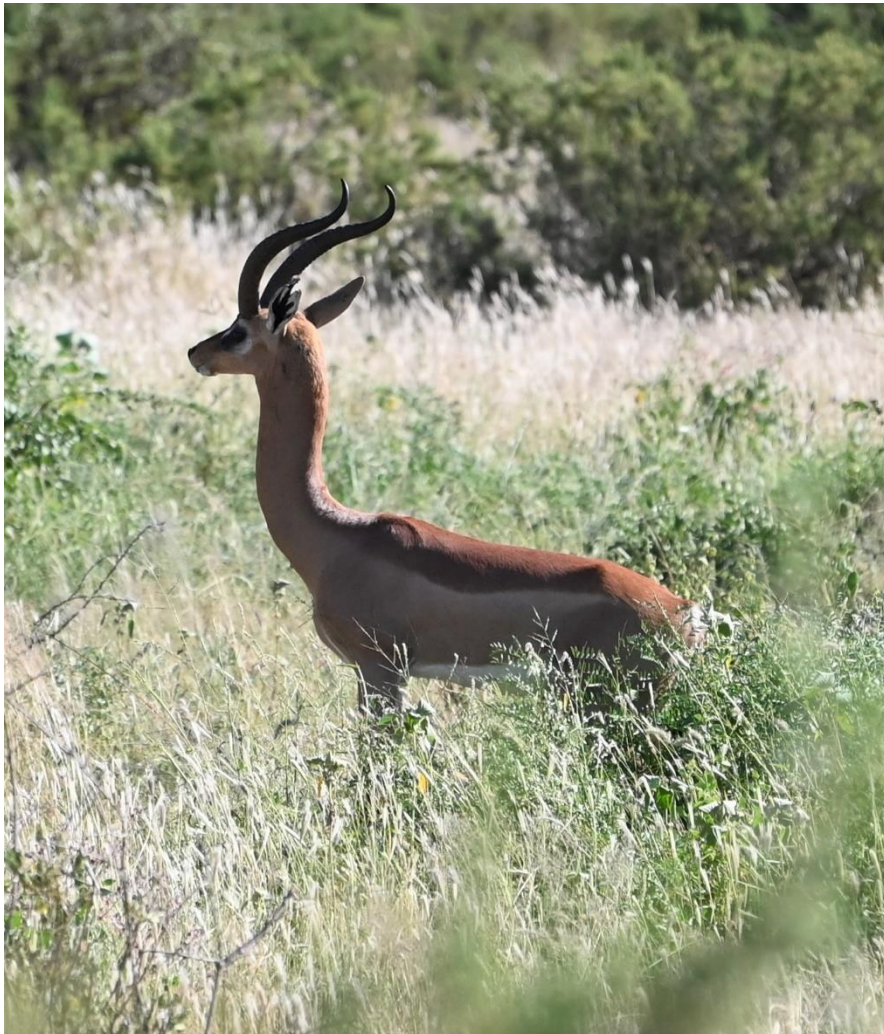


Reticulated Giraffes,





Southern Gerenuks,





Bright's Gazelle,



Somali Warthog,



Common Beisa,



and **Reticulated Giraffes**.



By 3 PM we were back out, seeing **Savanna Elephants**.



Down near the river there was much activity, with both **Reticulated Giraffes** browsing in the trees



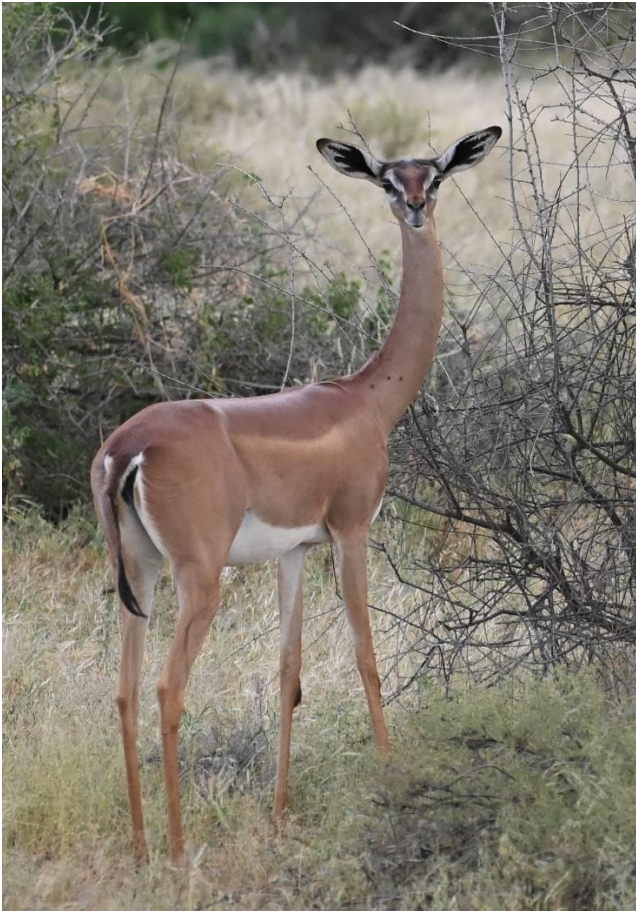
and several herds of **Savanna Elephants**.



As the afternoon wore on we saw another **Somali Warthog**,



Southern Gerenuk,



Bright's Gazelle,



Southern Gerenuk,



Savanna Elephant,



and Kirk's Dik-Dik.



Not surprisingly, we also saw a pair on the way out of Samburu the next day. They had the pose of nervously watching for a predator we couldn't see, though we waited until they resumed relaxed activity.



Mammal list for Samburu National Reserve May 17-19 2023

Savanna Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)

Common Beisa (*Oryx beisa beisa*)

Kirk's Dik-Dik (*Madoqua kirkii*)

Southern Gerenuk (*Litocranius walleri walleri*)

Bright's Gazelle (*Nanger granti granti*)

Somali Warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus delamerei*)

Grévy's Zebra (*Equus grevyi*)

Olive Baboon (*Papio anubus*)

Reticulated Giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*)

Yellow-winged Bat (*Lavia frons*)

Heart-nosed Bat (*Cardioderma cor*)