

Safari Mammals in Kenya (and a few others)

During our time in Kenya in September 2022 six of us were on professional safaris at locations indicated by the six circles on the map. In the photos to follow numbers will be used to indicate up to several locations where I photographed each animal type. The location of these good photos will be underlined. Note: I was mainly photographing about two hundred species of birds and only sometimes took photos of the other animals. Other people on our team eagerly took such photos. (NP = National Park)

1. Sweetwater - 6,7 Sept.
2. Samburu - 7,8,9 Sept.
3. Naivasha - 9,10 Sept.
4. Maasai Mara - 10,11,12 Sept.
5. Nairobi NP - 13 Sept.
6. Lake Nakuru NP - 20 Sept.



Lion, catnap in tree shadow. 2,4



Shade-loving lion reluctantly moved to another vehicle when each left. 2,4



Mother lion and cubs, catnapping. 2,4



Mother cheetah with fresh kill. 2,4



Cheetah cubs summoned by mom. 2,4



All cheetahs gathered for dinner. 2,4



Cheetah enjoying a morning rest. 2,4



Leopard checking ahead. 2



Leopard on the move. 2

These large cats are sought out by the safari guides, so the cats could get somewhat surrounded by the safari vans each day. They are obviously used to the attention and not bothered by it. I counted 22 vehicles following the Leopard. The cheetah feast was surrounded by perhaps a dozen close vans.



Elephant. 1,2,4



Elephant. 1,2,4



Elephant and Vulturine Guineafowl 1,2,4



Orphan young elephants being fed. 5

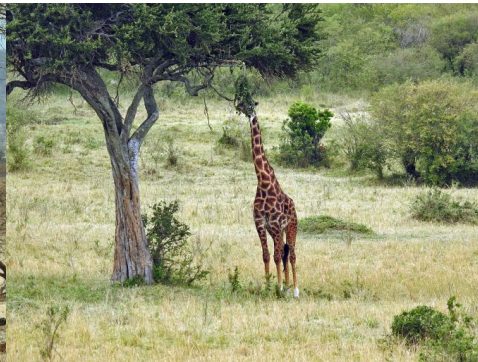


Hand-feeding pellets to the giraffes. 5

The photos to the left are just outside Nairobi National Park. One is at an orphanage for young elephants whose parents have died naturally or by poaching. They are helpless for the first three years or so and would die in the wild without a mother's milk. The other is a special place to learn about different types of giraffes.



Reticulated Giraffe - polygons. 2



Rothschild's Giraffe - broken polygons. 4

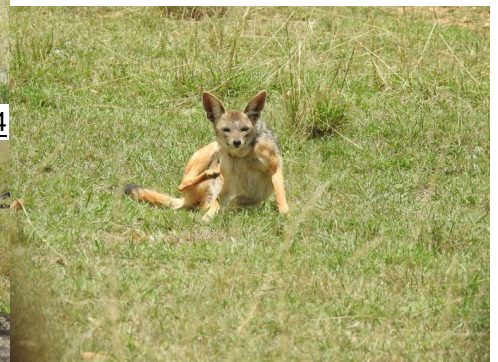
Giraffe classification is based on the polygon patterns. We were feeding Rothschild's Giraffes with broken polygon patterns. The Reticulated Giraffes have solid dark polygons bounded by white lines.



Spotted Hyena keeping cool. 1,4



Spotted Hyena walking. 1,4



Black-backed Jackal. 4



Southern Tree Hyrax. 1



Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax. 5



Mongoose? 2



Olive Baboon. 1,2



Colobus 3 and Vervet 2,3,6 Monkeys



Vervet Monkey. 2,3,6



Black Rhinoceros. 1



White Rhinoceros 1,5,6 with Oxpeckers

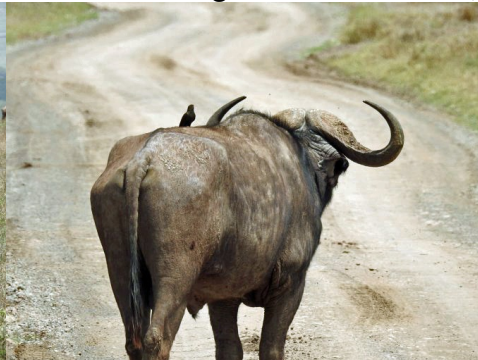


White Rhinoceros 1,5,6, Cattle Egret

Red-billed and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers and Cattle Egrets feed on insects, thereby helping the large animals.



Blue Wildebeest. 5



African Buffalo. 1,6 and Oxpecker



Common Warthog 1,4 in S. Nairobi



Kudu. 2



Topi. 4



Hartebeest. 5

It is possible that some of my identifications are incorrect.



Crocodile. 2,5



Hippopotamus. 5



Lizard in treetop. 5



Waterbuck. 1,2



Oryx. 2



Termite mound. 2,4



Thomson's Gazelle. 1



Impala. 1,4,5



Gerenuk. 2



Dik-dik. 2

This is just a sampling of the great variety of wildlife that can be seen in Kenya. It also shows the creativity of God in designing these creatures. Though over time there can be variations within a created kind of animal (and plant), there are limits. Cats cannot evolve into dogs, or the reverse, and the same for all others. God initially designed each kind with an abundance of variation potential, which got expressed over time through isolation and different habitats. Just think of the variety in all the domestic dogs, and wild dogs, that derived from a wolf-type of ancestor. But the dogs did and cannot become donkeys.

By Dr. Ed Holroyd, 27 October 2022