

Kenya September 20th - 29<sup>th</sup> 2011.

A continuation of "Elephants" Galore and the add on trip north after Ithumba

We had been recommended All Seasons Safaris for this sector of the trip and after the usual research we decided to go with them. They were helpful from the start and we have no regrets. We needed them for the 8 days following the DSWT part of the trip and it worked well. To avoid a needless return to Nairobi we arranged a remote pick up in Emali and they were there on time and in the correct place on the right day.

From there we went down to Amboseli for "that" photograph of Ellies with Kilimanjaro in the background. I cannot credit All Seasons with that but the Mountain had fresh snow and clear skies and the Ellies cooperated too. One objective achieved. Our digs in Sopa were a pleasant surprise and extremely comfortable with friendly staff. Having achieved our target on day one we went into the Kumani Reserve for day two. Very cheap, free, and lots of wildlife especially Giraffe. We had the place to ourselves as it was closed. Probably why it was free! (Ex African Safari Club property and now owned by the local community.)

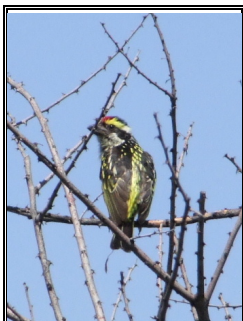


Then a long haul up to Nakuru and a five night stay at Kemu Cottages. This is a superb place to unwind at 7,000' in very pleasant Self Catering Bungalows.

[www.kembu.com](http://www.kembu.com) Zoe and Andrew were excellent hosts and we would stay there again. The Farm and Cottage grounds were bustling with birds including the gorgeous Golden-winged Sunbird and Cape Robin-Chat. They also organised a side trip to the Kiplonge Crater and Waterfall which was a great day out but not for the unfit. Our self catering intent faltered when we found out how good the Restaurant food was too.



*Cape Robin-Chat. Kemu.*



*Red-fronted Barbet. Baringo.*



*African Scops Owl. Baringo.*

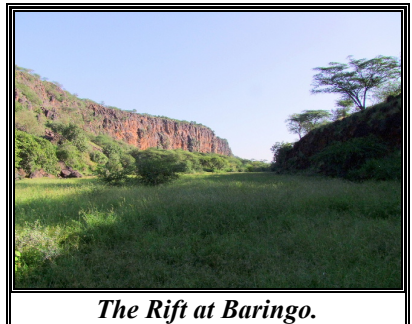
We did a day trip up to Lake Baringo to view the birdlife and Rift Valley walls which are quite spectacular there. This is where Geologist JG Gregory formed his Rift Theory which now bears his name.

Of course we took a day into Lake

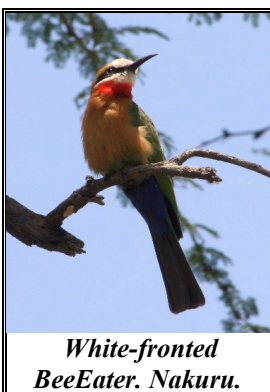
Nakuru National Park which was surprisingly interesting even for experienced wildlife fans. Top marks. On the way back south we called in at Naivasha to a place our driver knew which involved a trip on the Lake to feed the Fish Eagles and a walk around the shore area amongst lots of animals. Recommended.

Then back to Nairobi and the plane home.

All in all whilst we had some minor issues with All Seasons they did an excellent job for a difficult client and we would use them again.



*The Rift at Baringo.*



*White-fronted BeeEater. Nakuru.*

Statistics. total bird count was 312 and there were many common birds that we simply did not see this trip. I counted 216 new species (for Kenya) and 35 Lifers.