



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## **ABA Kenya** **Tsavo West & East Extension** *16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (5 days)*



**Male Lions by David Hoddinott**

*On this extension we focus our time on the exceptional Tsavo reserves which hold a wonderful assortment of dry country species and a plethora of big game including more opportunities to see a variety of antelope species, African Elephant and Big Cats such as Lion, Leopard and Cheetah. On the birding front the list of quality species is numerous and includes Scaly Chatterer, Red-naped Bushshrike, Pringle's Puffback, Tsavo Sunbird, Taveta Weaver, Golden-breasted and Fischer's Starlings, White-throated Robin, the rare and little known Friedmann's Lark, Hartlaub's Bustard and Grey-headed*

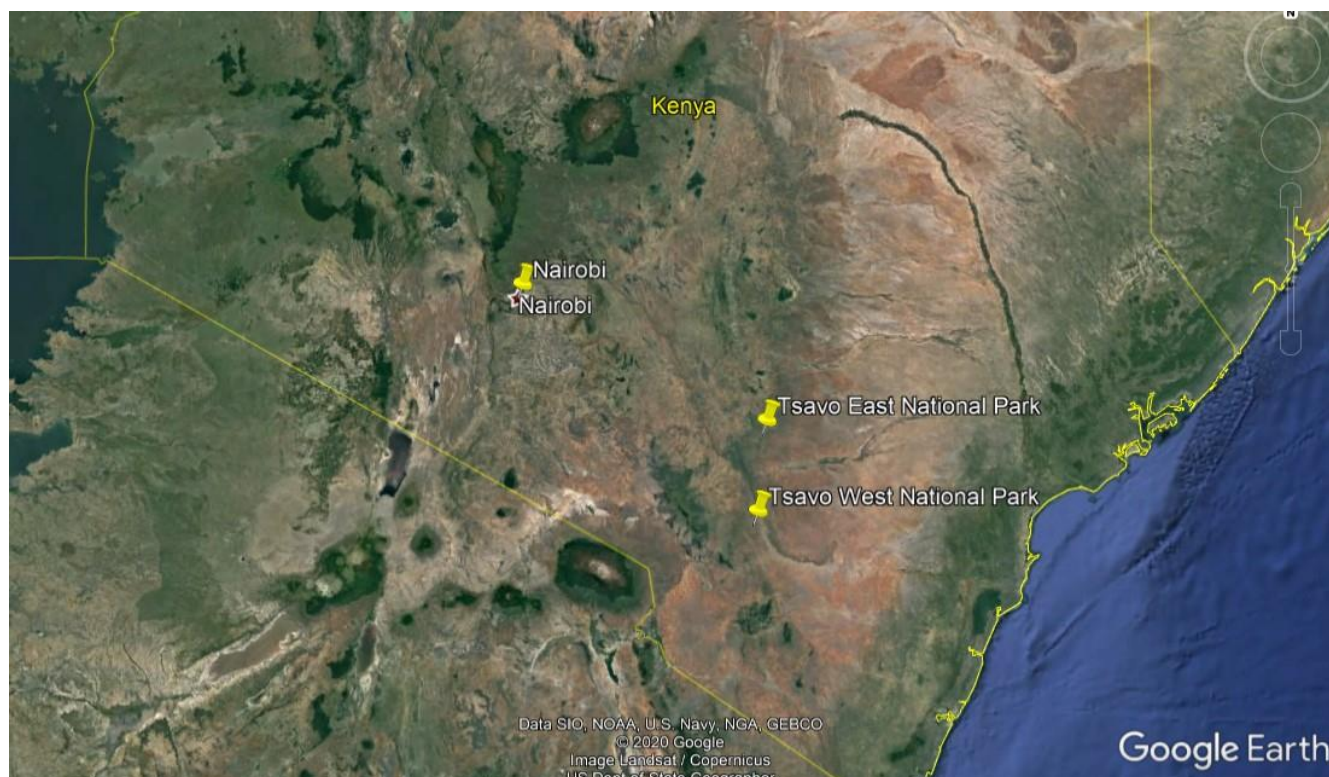
Silverbill to name a few. This extension is designed to be a more general birding and wildlife experience than a purely bird focused extension.

### THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

#### THE ITINERARY

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Nairobi to Tsavo West</b>
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Tsavo West</b>
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Tsavo West to Tsavo East</b>
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Tsavo East</b>
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Tsavo East to Nairobi and depart</b>

### TOUR MAP:



## THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

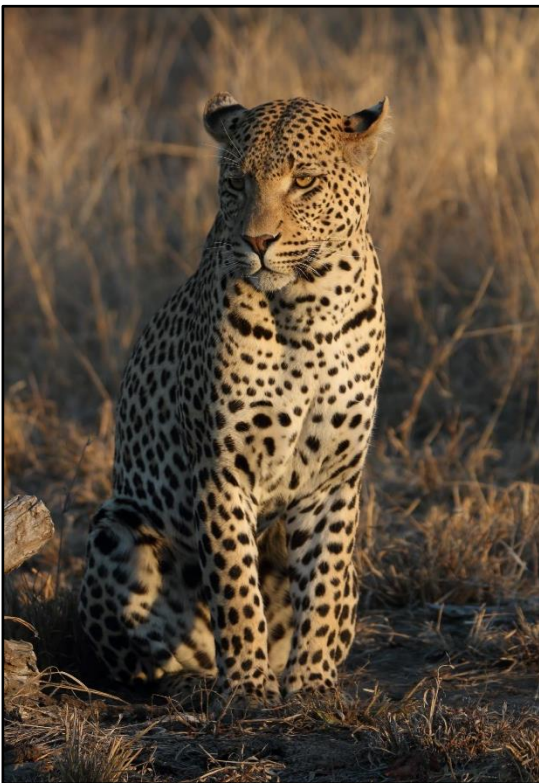
**Day 1: Nairobi to Tsavo West National Park.** This morning we depart Nairobi and head out east for the world-famous Tsavo National Parks. Both Tsavo East and Tsavo West hold fantastic numbers of big game and we will enjoy a total of 4 nights (2 nights in each reserve), where we will enjoy multiple game drives looking for the region's special birds and animals. Tsavo West protects over 9000 square kms of habitat with major focal points including Mzima Springs, the beautiful Tsavo River and Lake Jipe on the border of Tanzania.



**Red-and-yellow Barbets by Markus Lilje**

Our lodge is situated inside Tsavo West National Park and is perched on the rim of the Ndewe Escarpment, offering a vast panorama

of the Tsavo Plains below. This area is well known as a migrant trap and we can expect to enjoy some superb birding on the grounds of the lodge. At certain times of the year, the lights of the hotel attract large numbers of Palaearctic passerines during their nocturnal migration. We will look out for Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, White-throated Robin, Thrush Nightingale, Northern, Isabelline and Pied Wheatears, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Lesser Grey, Red-backed and Isabelline Shrikes and a bevy of warblers that might include Marsh, Olive-tree, Barred, River, Upcher's and the little known Basra Reed.



**Leopard by Riaan Botha**

**Day 2: Tsavo West.** Game-watching and birding in Tsavo West NP will produce large numbers of new sightings which may include Somali Ostrich, Martial, Tawny and Long-crested Eagles, Crested Francolin, Yellow-necked Spurrow, Harlequin Quail, Kori, Buff-crested, Black-bellied and Hartlaub's Bustards, Southern Ground Hornbill, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Pearl-spotted Owlet, the rare and localised Friedmann's Lark, Northern Crombec, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Tiny, Rattling and Winding Cisticolas, Tawny-flanked and Pale Prinias, African Grey, Pale and Spotted Flycatchers, Chinspot, Pygmy and Eastern Black-headed Batis, Rufous and Scaly Chatterers, White-bellied and Acacia Tits, Mouse-colored Penduline Tit, Amethyst, Scarlet-chested, Beautiful, Variable, Collared and Eastern Violet-backed Sunbirds, as well as the localized Tsavo Sunbird, now considered to be a separate species from the closely related Purple-banded Sunbird.

We will also take time to visit the shores of Lake Jipe we will look for the localized Taveta Weaver, Zanzibar Red



Bishop and African Reed and Lesser Swamp Warblers. We also have a chance of finding the reintroduced Black Rhinoceros in this area.

Other likely possibilities include Long-tailed and Taita Fiscals, Tropical and Slate-colored Boubous, Brubru, Black-backed and Pringle's Puffbacks, Black-crowned, Brown-crowned and Three-streaked Tchagras, Rosy-patched, Orange-breasted and Grey-headed Bushshrikes, Northern White-crowned Shrike and White-crested Helmetshrike, Black-headed, African Golden and Eurasian Golden Oriole, both Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers perched atop large animals, brilliant Golden-breasted, Greater Blue-eared, Rüppell's, Violet-backed, Magpie, Superb, Hildebrandt's and Fischer's Starlings, Chestnut and Parrot-billed Sparrows, Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, White-headed and Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Village, Lesser and Vitelline Masked, Spectacled, Baglafaecht, Chestnut and Red-headed Weavers, Green-winged Pytilia, Red-cheeked and Blue-capped Cordon-bleus, Purple Grenadier, Jameson's Firefinch, Common, Crimson-rumped and Black-cheeked Waxbill, African and Grey-headed Silverbill, Quailfinch, Bronze Mannikin, Long-tailed Paradise and Straw-tailed Whydahs, and Cinnamon-breasted and Somali Buntings. Over 60 species of mammals occur in the park, including the scarce and elusive Lesser Kudu, and we will be treated to an exceptional African birding and big game experience during our time here! Tonight, we have a chance at finding a few of the numerous nightjars that forage around the lodge and species that we could encounter include Eurasian, Plain, Sombre and Donaldson-Smith's.



Golden-breasted Starling by Matthew Matthiessen



Secretarybird by Julian Parsons

**Day 3: Tsavo West to Tsavo East.** After breakfast this morning we depart Tsavo West and head across to neighboring Tsavo East. Mammals will be a feature of our drive and we could well see Lion (these descended from the famous "man-eaters of Tsavo"), Cheetah, Leopard, African Buffalo, Lesser Kudu, Maasai Giraffe and Plains Zebra. The Tsavo complex is home to the largest population of African Elephant in Kenya (said to number over 7000) and a small population of Black Rhinoceros. We then continue on our drive to Tsavo East where we will have an opportunity to check into our lodge and then in the afternoon enjoy a game drive. The latter part of the afternoon is often extremely productive from both a birding and mammal watching point of view and we can definitely expect to see something special.

**Day 4: Tsavo East.** Tsavo East National Park is one of the oldest and largest parks in Kenya and is over 13,000 square kms in extent and is covered by a large network of roads



which we will have plenty of time to explore. This reserve is drier on the whole than neighboring Tsavo West with large open flat plains that are excellent for species such as Somali Ostrich, Secretarybird, elegant Pallid and Montagu's Harriers, Buff-crested, Kori and White-bellied Bustards, Black-headed Lapwing, Northern Carmine and Somali Bee-eaters, Red-winged and Pink-breasted Larks, Ashy Cisticola, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Long-tailed and Taita Fiscals, Black-faced Sandgrouse and Cut-throat Finch. Tonight, we will stay in the Voi area on the western edge of Tsavo East where species such as Western Barn Owl and Nubian and Slender-tailed Nightjars are sometimes seen.



Cheetah by Adam Riley

The dry country of Tsavo East holds a huge variety of species and we have a full day set aside to explore the reserves wonderful variety of habitat. Raptors are often a major feature and we will look for Egyptian, Hooded, White-headed, White-backed, Rüppell's and Lappet-faced Vultures, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Black-chested and Brown Snake Eagles, African Hawk-Eagle, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, migrating Steppe and Lesser Spotted Eagles, the majestic Bateleur, Pygmy Falcon and Eurasian Hobby. Other potential ticks include Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Little, White-throated, Blue-cheeked, Olive and European Bee-eaters, Lilac-breasted, Purple and European Rollers, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Northern Red-billed and Von der Decken's Hornbills, Nubian, Bearded and Cardinal Woodpeckers, Greater and Lesser Honeyguides, D'Arnaud's, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Flappet Lark, and Chestnut-headed and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks.



Purple Grenadier by Markus Lilje

As was the case in Tsavo West, Tsavo East will also give is excellent chances for many species of big game and is particularly good for Cheetah, Lion, Black-backed Jackal and Spotted Hyeana plus dry country antelope such as Coke's Hartebeest, Lesser Kudu, Beisa Oryx, Gerenuk and Kirk's Dik-dik.

**Day 5: Tsavo East NP to Nairobi.** This morning we will depart Tsavo East, continuing to look for any species that we may still need. After exiting the reserve, we then head for Nairobi, passing through upland grasslands with open savannah. This area supports a good population of cisticolas and widowbirds including Pectoral-patch, Zitting, Desert, Tiny, Croaking and Ashy Cisticolas and Red-collared, White-winged and Jackson's Widowbirds. Later in the afternoon we arrive in Nairobi where the tour concludes.

