

Day 1, Saturday, 8 Dec 2001

Arrival

I arrived in Nairobi after two days of travel. Everything had gone smoothly, and I even got my checked duffel, which had waited 15 hours in London between flights. As I had arranged by e-mail with the Fairview Hotel, I was met at the airport by Daniel, who carried a sign with my name on it. Fortunately, we traveled efficiently to the Fairview where I met the rest of the volunteers just in time to buy a bottle of water, use the WC and go with Vincent to travel north, for our rendezvous with Belinda.



Mary Locke and Tom



Colleen



Alison

On our trip to Nanyuki, we were stopped three times by the police. As near as we could tell, they were looking for money. The first time, we pulled over, and then just drove away. The second time, the policeman came over to the car and had a discussion with the driver who told him he'd be back just after he delivered us. The third time we were stopped, and then waved on by the police. It was beginning to sink in that we were in a different part of the world than I was used to.

We stopped by a huge curio shop where I was attracted to an enormous variety of statues, both men and animals. They also had many items made from banana leaves. I decided to visit on my way back, so I wouldn't have to cart the souvenirs around with me.



Belinda "Bel"

At Nanyuki, we met up with Bel and had grilled sandwiches in a small restaurant. I met a carver, John, who wants us to stop on our way home and buy something from him. The people in both of the curio places were very interested in American pens, T shirts and baseball style caps..

On the way we observed a lot of wildlife, starting right in Nairobi with Maribu storks. At Lewa we were greeted with Yellow-necked Francolins (also known as spurfowl), helmeted guineafowl, An eagle, 4 Burchell's (or Plains) Zebra, impala herds, 2 Grevy's zebra, cows, goats, wart hogs, a ring-necked dove, more plains zebra, 2 reticulated giraffes, more plains zebra, another giraffe, waterbucks, baboons, the Blacksmith plover, lesser striped swallows, 3 elephants on the road, a large zebra herd, blue-eared starlings (which are iridescent blue all over, not just on their ears), 2 crowned cranes doing a mating dance (We later named them Catherine and Heathcliff and saw them frequently during our stay at Lewa Downs), a Lilac breasted roller, red-billed hornbills, a Kori Bustard with 1 chick, 2 more eagles in a tree top, oryx, more zebra, 2 more crowned cranes, a grey and black shrike with a long tail, a huge Gineafowl flock, more impala, wart hogs, 2 go-away birds, another lesser stripped swallow, and a female water buck.



We arrived at the lodge in time for supper, which was wonderful and then we went to bed by 22:00 since everyone was so tired. I slept very well.



This is me standing at the Equator, south of Lewa Downs.