

**DULUTI FOREST CLUB**  
**BIRDS AND HOME TREES**



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **WELCOME TO DULUTI FOREST CLUB**

Welcome to Duluti Forest Club, a unique haven where nature, adventure, and tranquillity come together in perfect harmony. This book is designed to introduce you to the diverse bird species and trees that call Duluti Forest their home. It is our hope that through these pages, you will experience the beauty of the avian world and the fascinating flora that make this forest such an extraordinary place.

Our mission at Duluti Forest Club is to promote conservation, foster education, and encourage an appreciation for the wonders of nature. By learning more about the vibrant ecosystem here, we hope you'll gain a deeper connection to the environment and be inspired to join us in our efforts to protect and cherish this natural sanctuary. Whether you're a birdwatching enthusiast, a nature lover, or simply someone seeking peace in the beauty of the forest, there is something here for everyone to discover and enjoy.

### **LAKE DULUTI AND ITS SURROUNDINGS**

Lake Duluti, nestled at the foothills of Mount Meru, is a serene crater lake surrounded by lush, dense forest, making it a perfect natural retreat for both wildlife and visitors. This tranquil lake and its surrounding woodlands are home to a unique ecosystem that supports a diverse range of birdlife and native tree species. The combination of freshwater, forest canopy, and wetlands creates a rich environment where birds, plants, and animals thrive together.

As you explore the area, you'll notice the different layers of vegetation that provide food, shelter, and nesting grounds for numerous bird species. The towering native trees and aquatic plants around the lake help maintain the delicate balance of this habitat, attracting a variety of resident and migratory birds. The lake's calm waters offer a haven for waterfowl, while the forest acts as a bustling sanctuary for colourful songbirds, birds of prey, and more.

Lake Duluti is not just a beautiful location; it is an essential part of the regional ecosystem, playing a critical role in preserving biodiversity. By learning about and appreciating the rich birdlife and unique trees found here, we hope to inspire a commitment to conservation and the continued protection of this incredible natural environment.

## 2. HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Welcome to your exploration of the beautiful birdlife and trees of Lake Duluti! This book is organized in an easy-to-follow manner to help you get the most out of your birdwatching and nature experience at Duluti Forest Club.

Here's how you can navigate the book:

### 1. Bird Profiles

In this section, you will find detailed profiles of the bird species that inhabit the area around Lake Duluti. Each bird is listed with:

- **Common Name and Scientific Name:** The widely recognized name, as well as its scientific classification.
- **Description:** Learn how to identify each bird by its unique features, including its size, colours, and distinctive markings. Detailed descriptions will help you recognize these birds in the wild.
- **Preferred Habitat:** Discover where you are most likely to find each bird around Lake Duluti. This includes information on whether they prefer to stay near the water, perch high in the treetops, or roam along the forest floor.
- **Behaviour and Characteristics:** Gain insight into how each bird behaves in its natural environment. You'll find details on feeding habits, calls, mating displays, and whether they are solitary or social. This will help you understand not only how to spot the birds but also what to expect from them.
- **Trees They Frequent:** Each bird has preferences for certain tree species—whether for food, nesting, or shelter. This book provides information about which trees they prefer, helping you locate them more easily.

### 2. Tree Profiles

The trees of Lake Duluti are integral to its ecosystem. In the “Tree Profiles” section, you'll find information on:

- **Tree Names:** Both the common and scientific names are listed for each tree.
- **Description:** Details about each tree's appearance—such as the shape and size of its leaves, the colour of its bark, and its overall height. This section also includes information about the fruits or flowers of the tree, which may attract certain bird species.
- **Importance to Wildlife:** This explains how the tree supports the local bird population and other wildlife. You'll learn which birds eat the fruits, which use the branches for nests, and how the tree contributes to the entire ecosystem.

### 3. Recommended Birdwatching Spots

For those eager to see the birds in action, we've included a guide to the best birdwatching spots around Duluti Forest Club. Each location includes:

- **Spot Descriptions:** A brief overview of what makes each birdwatching spot special, such as dense tree canopies, open lake views, or flower-filled areas. You'll also find tips on the best times of day to visit.
- **Birds and Trees Found Here:** Specific birds and trees you are likely to find at each location, so you can plan your exploration accordingly.

### 4. Tips and Etiquette

To ensure that your experience—and that of others—is as enjoyable as possible, this guide includes birdwatching tips and etiquette. Simple guidelines help you understand how to safely and respectfully observe birds without disturbing them or their natural habitat.

### 5. Conservation Information

Throughout this book, you'll find notes about conservation efforts and how you can help. Our goal is to protect the environment so future generations can enjoy the wonders of Lake Duluti, just as you are now.

#### **Birdwatching Etiquette**

To ensure that both the birds and their natural habitat at Lake Duluti remain undisturbed, it is essential to follow some basic etiquette during your birdwatching experience. Respecting the environment will not only protect the wildlife but will also help you get the most rewarding sightings. Here are some important guidelines to keep in mind:

## 1. Maintain a Safe Distance

- **Observe, Don't Disturb:** Always stay at a respectful distance from the birds. Sudden movements or getting too close can scare the birds, forcing them to fly away or abandon their nests.
- **Use Binoculars:** Binoculars are your best tool for getting a closer look without approaching the birds. This helps you get a detailed view while keeping the birds safe.

## 2. Keep Noise Levels Low

- **Speak Softly:** Avoid talking loudly or shouting. Birds can easily be frightened by loud noises, which might interrupt their natural behaviours like feeding or calling to mates.
- **No Sudden Sounds:** Try not to make sudden, sharp noises. The quieter you are, the more likely you are to witness interesting bird behaviours, such as feeding, or courtship displays.

## 3. Avoid Feeding the Birds

- **Don't Offer Food:** Birds have specific dietary needs and feeding them human food can make them ill. Feeding can also make birds dependent on humans and change their natural behaviours, which can harm their chances of survival.
- **Respect Natural Diets:** Allow birds to forage naturally. Lake Duluti provides plenty of food sources such as insects, seeds, and fruits from the local trees.

## 4. Stay on Marked Trails

- **Avoid Disturbing Habitat:** Stay on marked trails and paths to avoid trampling on important habitats. The undergrowth may house nests, and disturbing the vegetation can disrupt the lives of many bird species and other wildlife.
- **Prevent Erosion:** Walking off-trail can cause soil erosion, damage tree roots, and degrade the ecosystem over time. Help keep the area as pristine as possible by following designated routes.

## 5. Leave No Trace

- **Take Your Trash with You:** Carry a small bag to collect any trash, and make sure not to leave anything behind. Plastic and other waste can harm wildlife.
- **Avoid Picking Plants:** Let flowers and plants remain where they grow. Not only do they add to the beauty of the forest, but they are also an important part of the birds' ecosystem, providing food and shelter.

## 6. Use Appropriate Birdwatching Gear

- **Avoid Bright Colours:** Wear muted colours that blend in with the natural environment. Bright or flashy clothing can draw unnecessary attention and potentially startle birds.
- **Camera Use:** If photographing birds, use a zoom lens rather than trying to get too close. Avoid using flash, as it can startle birds, especially during nesting.

## 7. Be Patient

- **Observe Quietly:** Birdwatching is an activity that requires patience. Birds may not appear immediately, so take your time, find a quiet spot, and wait. Remaining still and observant will improve your chances of seeing something amazing.
- **Respect Nesting Areas:** If you come across a nest, keep a respectful distance. Nesting birds are especially sensitive, and your presence may cause them to abandon their nests, which can be disastrous for their young.

## 8. Respect Other Birdwatchers

- **Share the Space:** Be mindful of other birdwatchers and photographers. Allow everyone a chance to observe, and don't block someone else's view or crowd around a bird.
- **Communicate Quietly:** If you spot something interesting, signal quietly to those around you. This will keep the disturbance to a minimum while allowing everyone to enjoy the experience.

### 3. UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL TREES AND THEIR ROLE

The trees of Lake Duluti are not just part of the stunning landscape—they are essential components of the ecosystem that support a wide range of bird's species. Each tree provides a unique set of resources, whether it's food, shelter, or nesting sites, helping create a thriving environment for the birds that call Lake Duluti home.

#### Trees as Homes and Food Sources

Different types of trees play distinct roles in the lives of birds. Here is a closer look at how some of the most prominent tree species around Lake Duluti contribute to supporting the local bird population:

#### 1. Fig Trees (*Ficus* spp.)



- ❖ **Food Sources:** Fig trees are famous for their abundant and nutritious fruits, which attract a variety of bird species, such as parrots, hornbills, and barbets. The ripe figs provide a high-energy food source, especially during fruiting season, drawing birds from far and wide.
- ❖ **Nesting Sites:** Fig trees often have thick branches, providing excellent support for nests. Larger birds like African Fish Eagles may nest here, utilizing the high and sturdy branches for safety.

## 2. Acacia Trees ( *Acacia* spp.)



- ❖ **Insect Habitat:** Acacias attract a plethora of insects, making them an ideal feeding ground for insectivorous birds like woodpeckers and bee-eaters. The presence of ants, caterpillars, and other insects draws many birds to their branches.
- ❖ **Nesting Support:** Weavers are particularly fond of Acacia trees. The thorny branches provide added protection for the intricately woven nests, keeping predators at bay. Their ability to support multiple nests makes Acacias a favourite among the social weaver bird species.

### 3. Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*)



- ❖ **Water Bird Habitat:** Papyrus reeds are crucial for many wetland birds, including herons and egrets. Birds use the papyrus not only for nesting but also for hunting fish and other small aquatic creatures. It forms a perfect habitat along the lake's edge, offering cover and food for birds like the African Jacana, which skilfully walks across floating vegetation.

#### 4. Sycamore Fig (*Ficus sycamorus*)



- ❖ **Seasonal Feeding Station:** This tree, known for producing large quantities of figs, acts as an important seasonal feeding station for fruit-eating birds. Species like starlings and hornbills are often seen flocking to this tree when the figs are in abundance.
- ❖ **Shelter for Birds:** The sycamore fig's broad canopy offers excellent shelter from the sun and rain, creating a microhabitat where smaller birds can take refuge.

## 5. Raffia Palms (*Raphia* spp.)



- ❖ **Nesting and Shelter:** Raffia palms produce large leaves that are often used by birds like weavers to create durable nests. The large clusters of seeds produced by these palms also provide an additional food sources for some birds.
- ❖ **Safe Roosting Spots:** The height and structure of the palm make it ideal for safe roosting, especially for birds seeking cover from ground predators.

## 6. African Olive (*Olea Africana*)



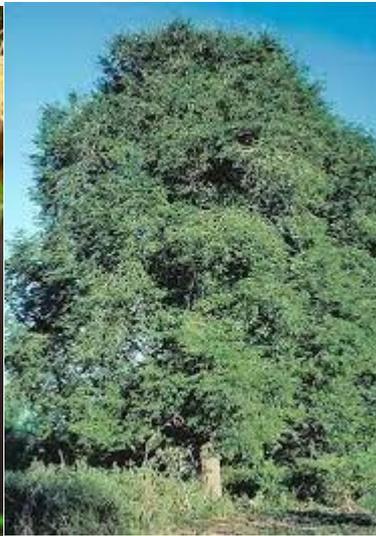
- ❖ **Fruit for Small Birds:** The fruits of the African Olive attract smaller birds, such as bulbuls and thrushes. These trees bear small, fleshy fruits that are easy for small beaks to access, providing a vital source of nourishment during times when other fruits may be scarce.
- ❖ **Camouflaged Nesting:** The dense foliage of the African Olive tree makes it a suitable spot for smaller birds to camouflage their nests, reducing the chances of predation.

## 7. Eucalyptus Trees (Eucalyptus spp.)



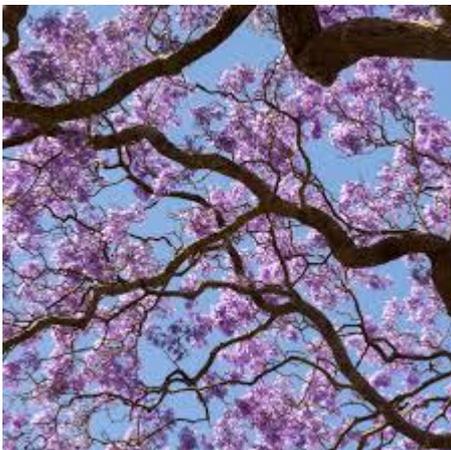
- ❖ **Roosting Sites:** Tall and sturdy, Eucalyptus trees are often used by larger birds like eagles and cormorants as roosting sites. Their heights provides a vantage point for birds to spot potential prey and keep a lookout for predators.
- ❖ **Nesting for Raptors:** Raptors, such as the African Fish Eagle, prefer the high branches for nesting, ensuring their young are safe from ground-level dangers.

## 8. Tamarind Tree (*Tamarindus indica*)



- ❖ **Feeding and Nesting:** The Tamarind tree's fruits attract many birds, including parrots, which enjoy the tangy pulp. The thick branches of this tree also provide excellent nesting spots for birds that prefer more hidden and well-supported sites.

## 9. Jacaranda Tress (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)



- ❖ **Flowers for Nectar Feeders:** While not as common as other species, Jacaranda trees are loved by nectar-feeding birds when in bloom. Sunbirds, in particular, enjoy the nectar from these bright purple flowers.
- ❖ **Shade and Shelter:** Jacarandas offer wide canopies that provide good shade and shelter for birds looking to rest or roost during the hottest parts of the day.

## 10. African Mahogany (Khaya anthotheca)



❖ **Nesting Sites for Large Birds:** Large and sturdy, African Mahogany trees offer excellent nesting platforms for birds such as eagles and hawks, providing high and stable branches above the forest floor.

❖ **Attraction for Insectivores:** The tree's flowers attract a variety of insects, drawing insect-eating birds such as flycatchers and bee-eaters.

## 11. Albizia (Albizia spp.)



❖ **Canopy Shelter:** With a wide and open canopy, Albizia trees provide ample cover and shaded perching spots for many bird species.

❖ **Seed Source for Parrots:** Albizia seeds are favored by parrots and other seed-eating birds, making it a regular feeding spot in the forest.

**12. Croton (Croton megalocarpus)**





❖ **Food Source for Doves and Hornbills:** Birds often feed on the seeds and the insects that inhabit Croton trees, creating a dynamic feeding zone.

❖ **Insect Habitat:** The tree supports a healthy insect population, attracting birds like shrikes and starlings.

### 13. Podocarpus (Podocarpus falcatus)



❖ **Evergreen Shelter:** This tree maintains foliage all year, providing consistent shelter for forest birds, particularly in wetter seasons.

❖ **Seed Attraction:** Its seeds attract doves, pigeons, and other small forest birds seeking nourishment.

#### 14. Mango Tree (*Mangifera indica*)



❖ **Fruit-Eating Bird Magnet:** When in season, mango trees attract a colorful array of frugivorous birds such as barbets, starlings, and hornbills.

❖ **Seasonal Feeding Hotspot:** The trees become a central feeding area for birds, especially during ripening months.

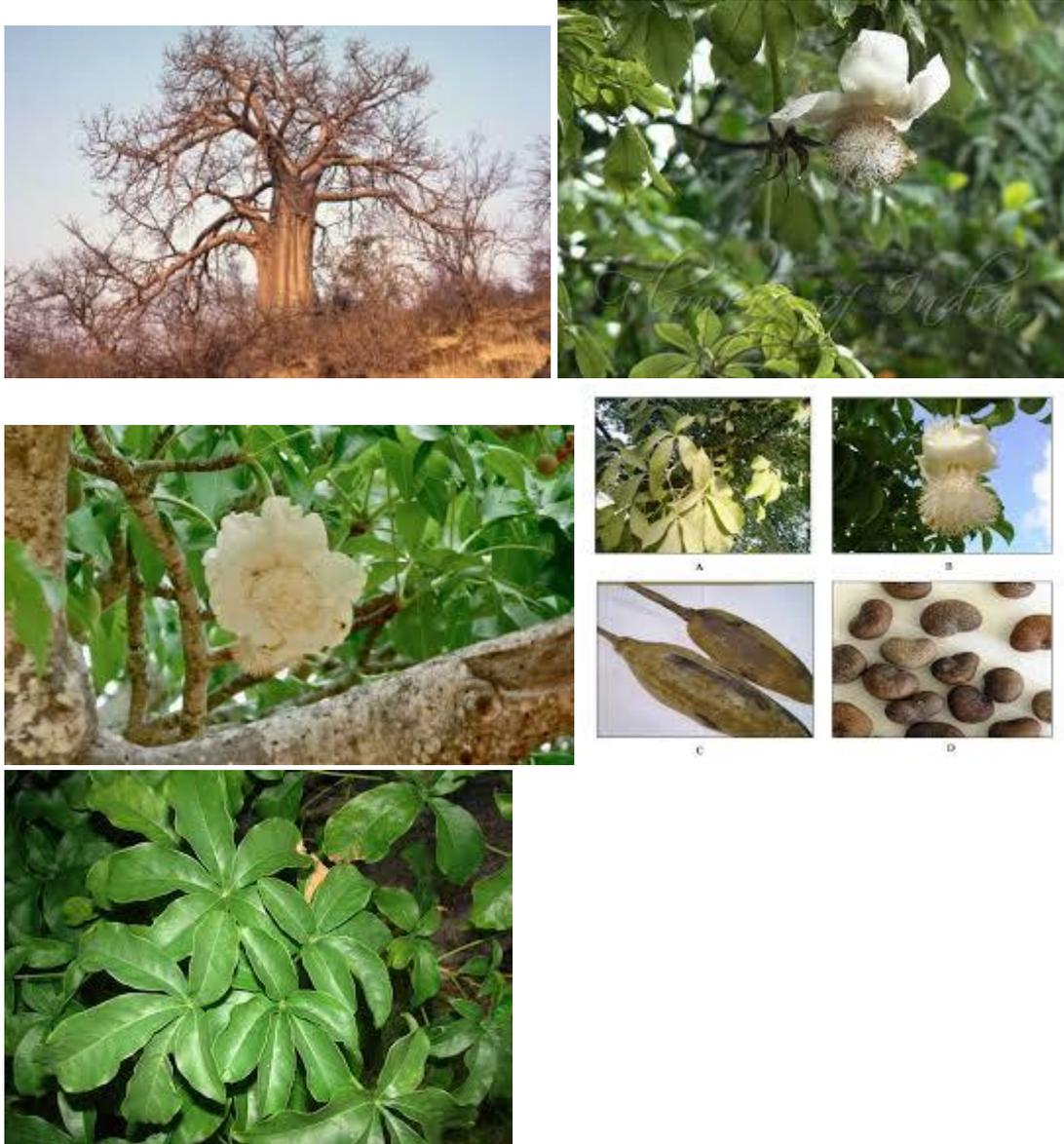
## 15. Flame Tree (*Delonix regia*)



❖ **Nectar for Sunbirds:** The bright red blossoms are rich in nectar, attracting sunbirds and other nectar feeders.

❖ **Shade and Roosting:** With its umbrella-like canopy, this tree offers shade and daytime rest spots for perching birds.

## 16. Baobab Tree (*Adansonia digitata*)



❖ **Roosting and Nesting Cavities:** The Baobab's large trunk often forms natural hollows, ideal for owls and other cavity-nesting birds.

❖ **Unique Shelter:** Due to its immense size and structure, it provides uncommon shelter that many birds can take advantage of, especially in arid regions

## 17. Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*)



❖ **Pollinator Attraction:** The small white flowers attract insects, which in turn attract insect-eating birds like drongos and warblers.

❖ **Shade and Nesting Site:** With its dense foliage and resilience in dry conditions, Neem trees offer safe nesting spots in otherwise sparse areas.

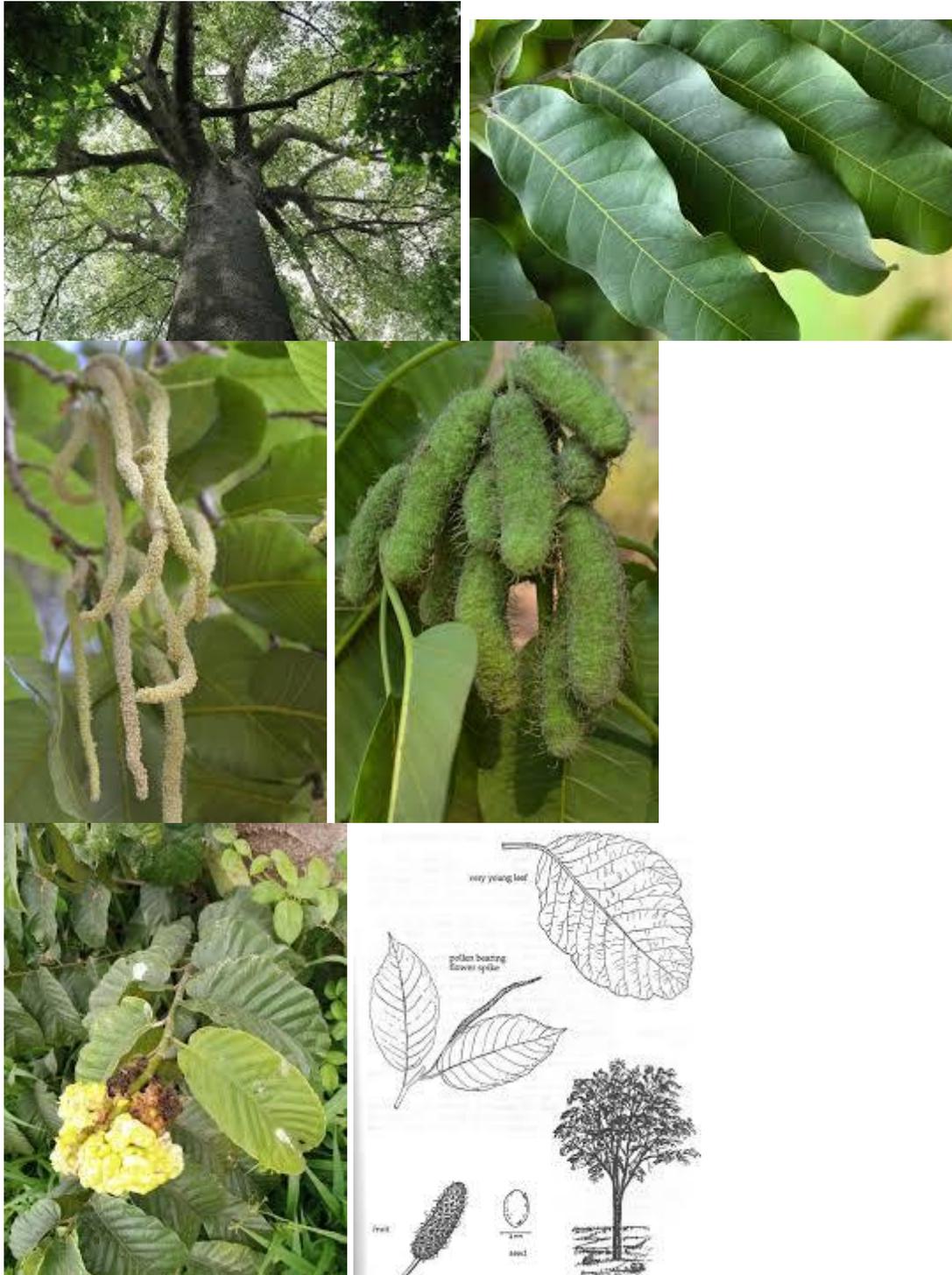
## 18. *Kigelia* (*Kigelia africana*) – Sausage Tree



❖ **Fruit for Hornbills and Bats:** The large, sausage-like fruits provide food to hornbills and other fruit-feeding birds.

❖ **Flower Nectar:** The tree's big, reddish flowers produce nectar that attracts both birds and insects.

## 19. Mvule (*Milicia excelsa*)



❖ **Roosting Tree for Large Birds:** Its broad and tall structure is used by birds like hornbills and raptors for safe roosting.

❖ **Seed Source for Small Birds:** The seeds are a key food source for smaller forest birds such as weavers and canaries.

## 20. Mukuyu (*Ficus vallis-choudae*)



❖ **Fruit Buffet for Frugivores:** As a type of fig, Mukuyu produces fruits that are beloved by fruit-eating birds like green pigeons, turacos, and parrots.

❖ **Shelter in Canopy:** With its expansive branches, it offers excellent overhead protection and roosting sites for many species.

## Supporting the Bird Ecosystem

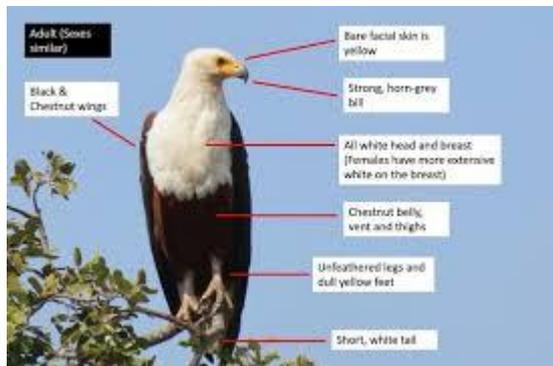
Trees at Lake Duluti create a dynamic ecosystem that supports a range of bird species throughout the year. By providing a combination of food, nesting sites, and shelter, the trees are instrumental in maintaining a balanced habitat.

- **Fruit-bearing Trees** like figs and tamarind attract frugivores, which, in turn, play a role in seed dispersal, helping maintain the forest.
- **Insect-rich Trees** such as Acacias support insect-eating birds, which help control insect populations.
- **Tall Trees** like eucalyptus provide roosting and nesting sites for larger birds, ensuring they have safe place to breed and raise their young.

Each tree has a distinct role, and together they create an interconnected environment where birds and trees thrive in mutual dependence. By protecting the trees at Lake Duluti, we also protect the vibrant and diverse birdlife that makes this region so unique.

## 4. Bird Profiles

### 1. African Fish Eagle





**Scientific Name:** *Haliaeetus vocifer*

❖ **Description:**

A large, majestic raptor with a white head, chestnut body, and black wings. Easily recognized by its bold contrast in color and loud, ringing call — often considered the “voice of Africa.”

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Mostly spotted perched high in trees near the lake or soaring above the water. Feeds primarily on fish and is known for dramatic, diving catches. Usually seen alone or in mating pairs.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Eucalyptus** (for roosting and nesting)
- **Fig Trees** (as observation points)
- **African Mahogany** (high sturdy branches for nesting)

## 2. Malachite Kingfisher



**Scientific Name:** *Corythornis cristatus*

❖ **Description:**

A tiny, vibrant bird with electric blue upperparts, a rufous-orange underbody, and a dagger-like red bill. It has a shimmering crown of blue flecks — stunning to see up close.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Usually found near the edges of the lake, perched low over water on reeds or small branches. It feeds on small fish and aquatic insects, diving with precision. Shy and solitary.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Papyrus** (ideal hunting perch and cover)
- **Sycamore Fig** (for occasional shelter)
- **Tamarind Trees** (rest stops when away from the water)

### 3. Pied Kingfisher



**Scientific Name:** *Ceryle rudis*

❖ **Description:**

Medium-sized black and white kingfisher with a spiky crest and strong flight. Often seen hovering like a helicopter over water before plunging to catch fish.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Favors open water with perches nearby. Highly active and social; often seen in pairs or small family groups. Known for hovering in midair before diving into the lake.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- • **Eucalyptus Trees** (perch above water)
- • **Papyrus** (for resting)
- • **Croton Trees** (hunting insects near edge areas)

#### 4. African Jacana



**Scientific Name:** *Actophilornis africanus*

❖ **Description:**

Known as the “lily trotter,” the African Jacana has long legs and extremely long toes that let it walk gracefully on floating vegetation. Its chestnut-brown body contrasts with a white face and blue bill and forehead shield.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Found along the lake’s edges where there are lily pads, papyrus, and other aquatic plants. Feeds on insects and larvae found on or near the water surface. They are often seen gracefully walking across floating leaves, giving the illusion of walking on water.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- • **Papyrus** (provides cover and shade)
- • **Low-hanging Fig branches** (occasional perches near the water)
- • **Nearby reeds and aquatic grass mats** (nesting materials often come from these)

## 5. Black-headed Heron



**Scientific Name:** *Ardea melanocephala*

### ❖ Description:

A tall, graceful wading bird with grey plumage and a striking black head and neck. It has a slow, stalking walk and a dagger-like beak used to catch prey.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Often seen in shallow waters or the grassy edges of the lake, searching for fish, frogs, and insects. Sometimes stands still for long periods. Solitary or found in loose groups.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Eucalyptus Trees** (used for nesting and high roosting)
- **Acacia Trees** (open, accessible roosts)
- **Raffia Palms** (for roosting near wetlands)

## 6. Weaver Birds



**Scientific Name:** *Ploceus spp.* (various species)

### ❖ Description:

Small, energetic birds with yellow plumage and black masks (males during breeding). Famous for their intricately woven hanging nests, which sway from branches like ornaments.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Social and noisy, often found in colonies near water or in open woodland. Males build nests to attract females — if rejected, the nest is torn down and rebuilt! Feed on seeds, grains, and small insects.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Acacia Trees** (preferred nesting sites due to thorny protection)
- **Albizia** (broad branches support many nests)
- **Croton Trees** (close to food sources and insect life)

## 7. Hadada Ibis



**Scientific Name:** *Bostrychia hagedash*

### ❖ Description:

Large bird with iridescent green wings and a long, curved beak. Known for its loud, distinctive “haa-ha-haadada” call, especially at dawn and dusk.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Forages in wet grasslands and along muddy lakeshores. Uses its curved beak to probe the ground for worms, insects, and snails. Usually seen in pairs or small groups.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Eucalyptus Trees** (communal roosting)
- **Neem Trees** (for shade and protection)
- **Albizia Trees** (for nesting and height advantage)

## 8. African Paradise Flycatcher



**Scientific Name:** *Terpsiphone viridis*

### ❖ Description:

A small, stunning bird with a long, flowing tail and chestnut or rufous plumage (some males also appear in black and white morphs). The males have a long streamer tail — very elegant in flight.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Prefers wooded and forested areas. Hunts insects mid-air in a graceful swoop. Often flits from branch to branch with its long tail trailing.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Jacaranda Trees** (nectar insects and shaded branches)
- **African Mahogany** (sheltered nesting branches)
- **Croton Trees** (dense cover for insect hunting)

## 9. Sacred Ibis



**Scientific Name:** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

### ❖ Description:

A large white bird with a bald black head and a long, downward-curved bill. It has black wingtips and tail feathers that show during flight. Graceful and striking, especially in wetland settings.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Commonly seen around the lake's edges, marshes, and shallow waters. Forages by probing in mud for insects, frogs, and small invertebrates. Sometimes found in flocks.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Raffia Palms** (popular roosting and nesting sites)
- **Eucalyptus Trees** (high branches for group roosting)
- **Fig Trees** (provide dense, protected perches)

**10. Hamerkop**



**Scientific Name:** *Scopus umbretta*

❖ **Description:**

Medium-sized brown bird with a unique hammer-shaped head and a slightly hooked bill. Famous for its massive, untidy nests often bigger than needed — a marvel in bird architecture.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Typically found near shallow waters, foraging for frogs, fish, and insects. Known for its ritualistic “dancing” displays and repetitive calls.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Croton Trees** (nest construction support)
- **Tamarind Trees** (ideal location for oversized nests)
- **Albizia Trees** (provide space and coverage)

## 11. White-browed Coucal



**Scientific Name:** *Centropus superciliosus*

❖ **Description:**

A shy bird with chestnut wings, cream-colored underside, and a distinct white eyebrow line. Its song is a deep, bubbling "whoop-whoop" often heard more than seen.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Found in thick undergrowth, bushy areas, and reed beds. Feeds on insects, lizards, and small mammals. Moves quietly and prefers to stay hidden.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Dense shrubs and undergrowth** (Camouflaged movement)
- **Croton Trees** (quiet shelter and nesting)
- **African Olive** (thick leaves for hiding)

**12. Tropical Boubou**



**Scientific Name:** *Laniarius major*

❖ **Description:**

A bold black-and-white bird with a haunting duet call often exchanged between mates. Slender build with a white belly and black wings featuring a white stripe.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Often seen in pairs, moving through bush and forest edge. Omnivorous — eats insects, fruits, and small animals. Territorial and vocal.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Croton and Acacia Trees** (for food and cover)
- **Neem Trees** (vantage points and fruit supply)
- **Jacaranda Trees** (dense perching spots)

### 13. Speckled Mousebird



**Scientific Name:** *Colius striatus*

❖ **Description:**

Small, soft-plumaged bird with brown-grey coloration and a long tail. Looks like a fluffy mouse with a crest. Moves in groups, often upside-down while feeding.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Social birds that feed on fruits, leaves, and buds. Seen in small groups flitting from tree to tree, chirping softly. Rest communally at night.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Fig Trees** (primary feeding source)
- **Neem and Mango Trees** (fruit favorites)
- **African Olive** (dense cover for resting)

#### 14. Black-headed Oriole



**Scientific Name:** *Oriolus larvatus*

❖ **Description:**

A striking yellow bird with a black head and red eyes. It has a strong, sweet whistle that adds musical charm to the forest atmosphere.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Found in woodlands and forest edges. Feeds on fruits and insects. Shy, but its call is often heard before it's seen.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Mango Trees** (rich fruit source)
- **Albizia and Mahogany** (foraging and singing posts)
- **Flame Trees** (attracted by nectar and insect activity)

## 15. Variable Sunbird



**Scientific Name:** *Cinnyris venustus*

### ❖ Description:

A tiny, vibrant bird with metallic green head and throat, yellow belly, and iridescent blue back (males). Females are duller with olive-grey tones. Often hovers like a hummingbird.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Drawn to flowering trees and shrubs, especially where nectar is abundant. Active and quick, often seen flitting between flowers. Common in forest edges and gardens.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Flame Tree** (rich nectar source)
- **Jacaranda** (nectar blooms)
- **Tamarind and Croton Trees** (insects and resting spots)

## 16. Superb Starling



**Scientific Name:** *Lamprotornis superbus*

### ❖ Description:

A glossy, multicolored bird with iridescent blue-green feathers, white belly, and rust-orange chest. Bold and social with a sharp, whistling song.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Often seen in groups foraging on the ground or trees. Highly adaptive and commonly found in open areas, gardens, and woodland edges. Eats insects, seeds, and fruits.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Mango and Fig Trees** (fruit feeding)
- **Neem Trees** (insects and shade)
- **Albizia Trees** (social perching)

## 17. African Grey Hornbill



**Scientific Name:** *Lophoceros nasutus*

### ❖ Description:

Slender grey bird with a long, curved bill and white belly. Males have a black stripe down the center of the bill. It makes a loud, laughing call — a familiar forest sound.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Prefers open forest and woodland. Feeds on fruits, insects, and small reptiles. Flies in swooping glides, often seen in pairs or small family groups.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Mukuyu (Fig Trees)** (fruit feeding)
- **Croton and Neem Trees** (nesting and roosting)
- **Baobab** (cavity nesting)

## 18. African Green Pigeon



**Scientific Name:** *Treron calvus*

### ❖ Description:

A beautiful pigeon with green body, maroon shoulders, and yellow underwings. Surprisingly agile in trees. Moves quietly, blending into foliage.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Feeds mainly on figs and other fruits. Usually in small groups, resting and feeding high in the canopy. Makes a soft, repetitive cooing call.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Fig Trees (Mukuyu, Sycamore)** (main feeding source)
- **African Olive** (fruit and roosting)
- **Mvule and Neem Trees** (shaded rest spots)

## 19. Barn Owl



**Scientific Name:** *Tyto alba*

### ❖ Description:

Pale, ghost-like owl with a heart-shaped white face, soft mottled body, and silent flight. A nocturnal hunter with excellent hearing and sight.

### ❖ Habitat & Behavior:

Roosts during the day in tree cavities or abandoned buildings. Hunts rodents at night across open grass and lake edges. Solitary and silent.

### ❖ Trees They Frequent:

- **Baobab Trees** (roosting hollows)
- **African Mahogany** (cavity nesting)
- **Eucalyptus Trees** (high secluded branches)

## 20. Yellow-throated Longclaw



**Scientific Name:** *Macronyx croceus*

### ❖ **Description:**

Bright yellow breast with a bold black "necklace." Resembles a meadowlark in shape. Ground-dwelling but often perches on low branches.

### ❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Inhabits grassy lake edges and open fields. Feeds on insects and small invertebrates. Sings from elevated perches — a cheerful call in early mornings.

### ❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Low Acacia branches** (for singing)
- **Bushy undergrowth** (shelter and feeding)
- **Near Papyrus edges** (foraging grounds)

## 21. Village Weaver



**Scientific Name:** *Ploceus cucullatus*

❖ **Description:**

Bright yellow bird with a black face mask and red eyes (males). Known for their genius-level nest weaving — intricate, hanging balls made from grass and leaves. Females are duller in color.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Highly social birds, often found in noisy colonies. Males build nests in competition, and females choose their mates based on craftsmanship. Feed on grains, seeds, and insects.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Acacia Trees** (main nesting site due to thorn protection)
- **Albizia** (for group colonies)
- **Croton Trees** (nest support & food proximity)

## 22. Double-toothed Barbet



**Scientific Name:** *Lybius bidentatus*

### ❖ **Description:**

Chunky bird with a thick bill and a vivid red chest and face, black upperparts, and a white patch on the shoulder. Its “double-toothed” bill gives it a powerful look.

### ❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Feeds on fruits, especially figs, and occasionally insects. Often seen in pairs, calling to one another with hollow "hoo-hoo-hoo" notes. Nests in tree cavities.

### ❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Fig Trees** (primary food source)
- **Baobab and Mahogany** (cavity nesting)
- **Mukuyu** (dense feeding & perching)

### 23. Grey-headed Kingfisher



**Scientific Name:** *Halcyon leucocephala*

❖ **Description:**

Bright blue wings and tail, grey head, chestnut belly, and a striking red bill. Unlike other kingfishers, it's often found far from water.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Perches on tree branches in wooded areas or open forest, scanning for insects and lizards. Known for its loud, high-pitched call. Nests in earthen holes or tree cavities.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Neem Trees** (hunting perches)
- **Albizia and Mahogany** (for cover and rest)
- **Baobab Trees** (nest cavities)

## 24. Brown-hooded Kingfisher



**Scientific Name:** *Halcyon albiventris*

❖ **Description:**

Brown crown and face with turquoise wings and a sturdy red bill. A forest kingfisher that prefers land over water and has a soft, musical call.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Insects, grasshoppers, and lizards make up its diet. Found in woodland and dry forest areas. Often spotted quietly perched on low branches.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Croton Trees** (hunting zones)
- **Jacaranda and Neem Trees** (shaded roosts)
- **African Olive** (cover and insect hunting)

## 25. African Harrier-Hawk



**Scientific Name:** *Polyboroides typus*

### ❖ **Description:**

Large grey raptor with a bare yellow face, long tail, and double-jointed legs allowing it to reach into holes and crevices for prey — truly a clever hunter.

### ❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Forages in forests and wooded areas. Known for raiding weaver nests and tree holes for eggs and chicks. Glides silently, often seen circling above the forest canopy.

### ❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Mvule and Mahogany Trees** (nesting and gliding perch)
- **Albizia Trees** (ambush points)
- **Baobab Trees** (roosting in hollows)

## 26. Yellow-billed Kite



**Scientific Name:** *Milvus aegyptius*

### ❖ **Description:**

Graceful medium-sized raptor with dark brown plumage and a distinct yellow, hooked beak. Often seen gliding effortlessly in wide circles, especially over open spaces.

### ❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Scavenger and opportunistic hunter — feeds on scraps, fish, small reptiles, and insects. Very common around human settlements too. Often gathers in small flocks.

### ❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Eucalyptus Trees** (high vantage points)
- **Mahogany Trees** (nesting and roosting)
- **Baobab Trees** (broad branches for scanning prey)

## 27. Grey-backed Camaroptera



**Scientific Name:** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

### ❖ **Description:**

Tiny and secretive, with olive-green upperparts and a grey back. Has a short tail and a quick, darting flight. Its loud, sharp "chek-chek" call often gives away its location.

### ❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Stays low in dense undergrowth and shrubs, rarely seen in open spaces. Eats insects and spiders. More often heard than seen.

### ❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- Dense Bushes and Croton Undergrowth
- **African Olive** (lower branches and nesting)
- **Jacaranda Base Canopies** (for shelter)

## 28. African Pied Wagtail



**Scientific Name:** *Motacilla aguimp*

❖ **Description:**

Slim black and white bird with a long tail that constantly bobs up and down. Striking contrast in color and often very active near water.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Seen around lake edges, roadsides, and grassy patches. Hunts insects on the ground and is always on the move. Makes high-pitched chirping calls.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- Low overhanging branches near water
- **Fig Trees** (for quick resting)
- **Papyrus & reeds** (cover near feeding zones)

## 29. Bronze Mannikin



**Scientific Name:** *Spermestes cucullata*

❖ **Description:**

Tiny, compact finch with a dark brown head, bronze-green sheen on the back, and a white belly speckled with dark spots. Moves in flocks.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Feeds on grass seeds and small grains. Social and constantly chirping. Found in gardens, forest edges, and cultivated areas.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Neem Trees** (shade and seed drop)
- **Acacia & Albizia** (group perching)
- **Olive Trees** (safe resting cover)

### 30. Klaas's Cuckoo



**Scientific Name:** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

❖ **Description:**

Glossy green upperparts with a white underside and golden eye-ring. A secretive bird known for its loud, melodic "klaas-klaas" call. Males are more colorful than females.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Mostly seen during the breeding season. Parasitic — lays eggs in the nests of other birds. Found in wooded areas and along lake forests.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Mahogany and Albizia Trees** (for calling and display)
- **Croton** (searching host nests)
- **Neem Trees** (insect-rich areas)

### 31. Silvery-cheeked Hornbill



**Scientific Name:** *Bycanistes brevis*

❖ **Description:**

Large, black bird with a prominent silver casque on its bill and a scaly face. Its powerful, deep call and size make it hard to miss. Males have larger casques than females.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Seen in pairs or flocks flying overhead or feeding in fruiting trees. Eats mostly fruits but also insects and small animals.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- Fig Trees (Mukuyu)
- **Croton and Mahogany Trees** (fruit & nesting)
- **Baobab Trees** (resting hollows)

### 32. Greater & Lesser Flamingos



**Scientific Name:** *Phoenicopterus roseus* / *Phoeniconaias minor*

❖ **Description:**

Graceful birds with pinkish plumage, long necks, and long legs. The Lesser Flamingo is smaller and more vibrant pink than the Greater Flamingo.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Seen in flocks at the lake edge, especially during early mornings and late evenings. Feed by filtering algae and crustaceans in the shallow water.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- *Rarely perch in trees* — prefer open shorelines and muddy banks.
- Nest in shallow lakebeds and muddy flats.

**33. Little Egret**



**Scientific Name:** *Egretta garzetta*

❖ **Description:**

Elegant, all-white heron with black legs and a slender black bill. It moves gracefully through shallow water hunting fish and insects.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Common along Lake Duluti's shoreline and papyrus zones. Uses quick stabs and sudden stops to catch prey.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- **Raffia Palms** (roosting colonies)
- **Eucalyptus Trees** (communal perching)
- **Near Papyrus/Reeds** (for nesting)

**34. Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant**



**Scientific Name:** *Microcarbo africanus*

❖ **Description:**

Sleek black waterbird with a long tail and a sharp hooked bill. Often seen drying its wings on branches near water.

❖ **Habitat & Behavior:**

Swims and dives for fish, frequently seen perched on dead branches in the water. Very common at Lake Duluti.

❖ **Trees They Frequent:**

- Dead branches in shallow water
- Papyrus clumps
- **Eucalyptus Trees** (communal night roosting)

**COMING UP NEXT....**

**5. Conservation Efforts at Duluti Forest Club**