

Project Update: April 2005

The expedition ran from 26 October to 8 November 2004 and involved 15 scientists, rangers and guides from the National Museums of Kenya, East Africa Herbarium, Nature Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Services and the local community.

130 bird species were recorded comprising 4 species not recorded at Ndere before, Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (a globally-threatened species), One-third of the Lake Victoria Basin Biome species and a huge population of Barn Swallows possibly roosting at Ndere. The species were characteristic of grasslands, woodlands and shoreline birds.

Work on Invertebrates is nearly complete. Already, 36 species representing 35 Genera and 20 families have been identified. These include Lepidoptera (18 species in 14 Genera and 4 Families); Gastropods and Coleoptera (3 and 9 species all of different Genera and families, respectfully); Hymenoptera (5 species in 2 families); and Odonata (1 species). Isoptera and Orthoptera in 4 Genera in 2 families each await identification.

The expedition concentrated exclusively on dicotyledonous plants. At least 109 species representing 49 families were identified; 56% were shrubs, 28% herbs and 14% trees. 3 introduced species - *Lantana camara*, *Lantana trifolia* and *Musa* spp - were reported. *Lantana camara* is now invasive at Ndere. Only one new record and one parasitic plants were found.

The expedition resulted in the training of 3 local 'guides' in basic identification/sampling techniques and 2 bird guidebooks donated to the park for their continued self-training. New ideas for follow up research were also identified.