

WANDER to WONDER



**THIS EDITION:
Blue Monkey**

**Volume 21
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WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



**The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder.
G.K. Chesterson**



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editor's note

Welcome to the 21st edition of WANDER to WONDER

This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on the Sykes' Blue Monkey, a Kenyan monkey.

Until next edition, with another theme,

Martina

MARTINA NICOLLS



map





primates

Primates includes apes (great apes and lesser apes), simians (non-hominoid monkeys) and baboons (non-hominoid).

Apes (*Hominoidea*) are a group of primates that includes 22 species. There are 6 species of great apes and 16 species of lesser apes. Apes do not have tails.

Great apes include chimpanzees (2 species), gorillas (2 species) and orangutans (2 species). Lesser apes include gibbons (16 species).

Monkeys are not apes. Monkeys are non-hominoid simians. There are about 260 species. Monkeys have tails. The Sykes' Blue Monkey is one species.

Baboons are also non-hominoids in the genus *Papio*. There are 5 species. Baboons have tails, usually short tails.









sykes' blue monkey

The Sykes' Blue Monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*) is native to African countries, from the Congo Basin, Ethiopia, Somalia, to Angola, to southern Africa, except Namibia and Botswana. The subspecies *Cercopithecus mitis albogularis* is native to eastern Kenya in Africa – specifically in the highlands east of the Rift Valley.

The Blue Monkey does not look blue, but its face has a blue tinge. It is grey or dark-grey with small white ears and a white collar. It has black feet and legs. It can grow to about 60 centimetres (24 inches). Its tail is very long at 55-109 centimetres (22-44 inches).

The Blue Monkey is found in forests, including bamboo forests, living mainly in tall trees. It is mainly a frugivore, eating fruit, but it will also eat insects, flowers, and leaves.

It lives in groups of about 20, with one male and many females. Females give birth every two years. They are pregnant for about five months, before giving birth to a young monkey, complete with fur and their eyes open. Young monkeys are cared for by several mothers, which is called allomothering.



















other monkeys



vervet monkey

The Vervet Monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) is found in East Africa and South Africa.

The Vervet Monkey has a black face with a white fringe and a grey furry body.

They grow to about 50 centimetres (20 inches) tall.

They live in woodlands in social groups of 10-70 individuals.







colobus monkey

The Eastern Black-and-White Colobus Monkey (*Colobus guereza*) comes from East Africa, in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Colobus means docked, which refers to their stump, or short, thumb.

The Eastern Black-and-White Colobus Monkey is large, black and white, with a very long hairy tail.

It grows to about 61 centimetres (24 inches). Its tail is as long as its body and head, totalling another 61 centimetres. The tail has a white tuft at its end.

The Eastern Black-and-White Colobus Monkey is herbivorous, eating leaves, fruit, flowers, and grass.

It is territorial and lives in forests in groups of about nine individuals, with one male and lots of females.

Females are pregnant for six months before giving birth. Baby monkeys are looked after, or mothered, by many members of the group.

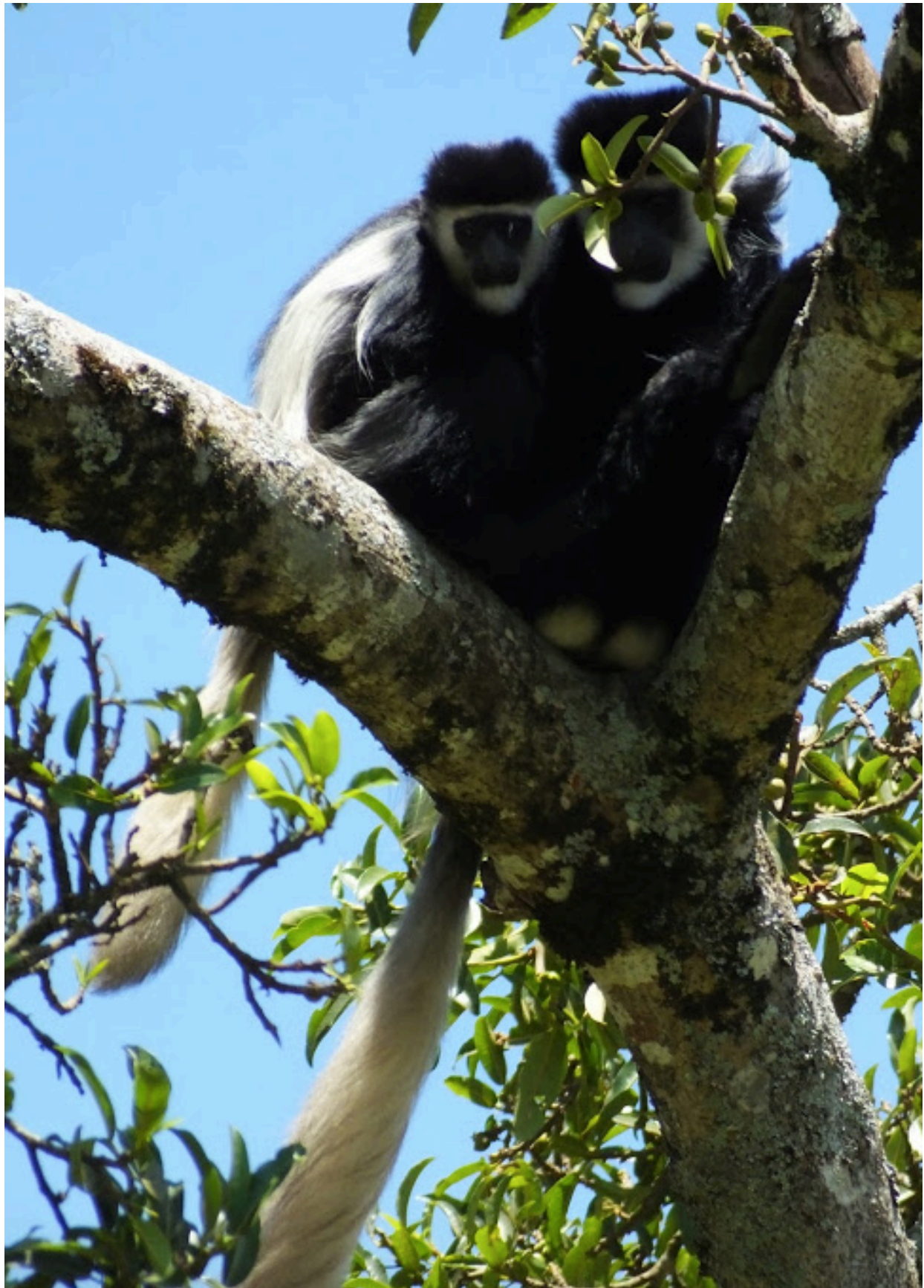
The Eastern Black-and-White Colobus Monkey is primarily arboreal (living in trees).

It is diurnal, active mainly during the day. It spends half of its day resting, and a lot of time feeding.

Its predators include leopards and large eagles.

They can live up to 20-30 years in the wild.







old

barbary macaque

The Barbary Macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) is also known as the Barbary Ape. It is a mammal and a primate. It is not an ape (no tail) – it is a monkey (it has a tail).

The Barbary Macaque has yellow-brown to grey fur, with a lighter underbelly. It has an orange-brown cap. It has a dark-pink face with a prominent brow. Its tail is vestigial, meaning that it has become functionless – it is only about 2 centimetres (less than one inch) long.

It grows to about 55 centimetres (22 inches) tall.

The Barbary Macaque is native to the Atlas and Rif Mountains in Morocco and Algeria in northwest Africa. It is also found on Gibraltar. It prefers forests, grasslands, scrublands, and rocky regions.

It eats plants, flowers, seeds, bark, worms, snails, spiders, scorpions, grasshoppers, termites, beetles, ants and other insects. Its predators include leopards and eagles.

The Barbary Macaque lives in colonies.

They live to about 25-30 years.





the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, data quality and financing models.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017)
A Mongolian Lament (2015)
The Komodo Verses (2012)

Liberia's Deadeast Ends (2012)
Bardot's Comet (2011)
Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010)
The Sudan Curse (2009)

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