

A pocket guide to  
**ANIMAL ASSES  
OF EAST AFRICA**



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Title page: Warthog; Contents: Leopard

## Acknowledgements

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## Introduction

When studying living beings, it is key to distinguish their species. Different animals do different things, respond in different manners and interact in different ways with their environment. By recognizing species, biologists are able to study them one by one and answer questions like: "What makes a lion so cool?", "When is a hippo too fat?" and "Why do mosquitoes exist?".

So, identifying species is extremely helpful, but it can be harder than it seems. Normally, species are distinguished by their physical characteristics. This works well - on paper. In the field however, a lot of animals are easily scared and thus run off, leaving you unable to see anything but their ass. Sadly, these relevant characters are often let out of field guides. Well... at least until now. Therefore, during your next safari, sit back, enjoy the view, and use this guide. Now you'll know the answer to "To which species does this ass belong?".



## SUCCESSFUL ANIMAL WATCHING

When first spotting a mammal butt in the wild, make sure you're not staring at it inappropriately. If caught: apologise. Seek a good vantage point to study that ass undisturbed in its natural habitat. If possible, grab your binoculars and your field journal.

Try to note the following features: how would you describe its general build (is it a basic bum)? Is it a levelled ass or a bubble butt? What colour(s), textures, patterns and size does it have? What is its longest extremity? What direction should you approach it from for a surprise hug (i.e. does it have horns or other pointy bits)? Is it doing anything special? Does it seem clenched, quivering or bouncing?

Keep these features in mind when you follow this guide. If you can't avert your fascinated gaze long enough to follow all the questions, try to sketch its distinct features and use this as a reference to have another look at it later. Keep in mind that some baby butts may resemble the behind of other species.

### Species were identified with the help of

A Photographic Guide to Snakes, Other Reptiles and Amphibians of East Africa; Bill branch; 2005; ISBN 9781775841654

A Field Guide to the Tracks & Signs of Southern, Central and East African Wildlife; Chris & Mathilde Stuart; 2013; ISBN 9781770073609

A Pocket Guide to Mammals of East Africa; Chris & Mathilde Stuart; 2009; ISBN 9781770077065

### Species rating according to IUCN Red List (last accession 8 march 2020):

1 Critically endangered, 2 Endangered, 3 Vulnerable, 4 Near threatened, 5 Least concern

### Key to symbols used in this book

**Carnivore**  
meat eater



**Herbivore**  
plant eater



**Insectivore**  
insect eater



**Omnivore**  
eats everything



**Scavenger**  
eats cadavers



## How to use this guide (part 1)

FOLLOW THE QUESTIONS AND THAT'S IT.  
NOW, GO FORTH WITH VIGOR  
AND FIND THAT PRECIOUS BOOTY!

Yup, those  
are questions

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### Ass Identification Key

(but also based on some of their extremities)

Beware of the puns: we're scientists, but we're cheeky!

1. Is the butt hairless/featherless?
 

- i Yes, smooth as a baby
  - ii Nope, but seems smooth still

Step 2

Step 9
2. Would it be cold to the touch?
 

- i Cold on the surface, but not in the heart
  - ii Warm and squishy

Step 3

Step 5
3. Is the butt accompanied by a long tail?
 

- i Yes, a long tail with scales
  - ii Nope, but small is also fine

Step 4

**Tortoise (68)**
4. Are there spikes on the butt's tail?
 

- i Yes, standing proudly!
  - ii Nope, just smooth

**Nile crocodile (60)**

**Monitor lizard (60)**
5. Is the butt either black to brown or pinkish to blushing red?
 

- i Yes, but don't fool yourself: they're not shy!
  - ii Nope, they are grayish

Step 6

Step 7
6. Is there fur that butts against the bum?
 

- i Yes, contrasting the bare buttocks
  - ii Nope, exposed and pink, but often protected by clothing

**Baboon (45)**

**Hooman (56)**
7. Does the head extremity have a horn?
 

- i Yes, this butt is attached to a horny head
  - ii Nope! No point in that, is there?

**Rhinoceros (63)**

Step 8
8. Is the ass bathed in water or in sand?
 

- i Sand, seems itchy
  - ii Water, nice and clean

**Elephant (44)**

**Common hippo (49)**

\*Disclaimer: keep your distance, always ask consent first\*

There's the end!

Page number  
for easy  
browsing

Sometimes we'll add illustrations for easy explanation  
(Also, we just like to draw asses)



## How to use this guide (part 2)

Main characteristics  
&  
fun facts

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White-backed vulture

Aegyptiinae

*Gyps africanus*

**Critter characteristics:** These bald-headed butts are the garbage men of nature. They pick carcasses clean and their bare neck is just perfect for the job: they stay nice and clean, while eating rotten meat. You can imagine how good their immune system is. This is mostly because of the high amount and concentration of acids inside their stomach, which kills lethal bacteria. Because of these acids, they can also digest bones, which make up 70-90% of their diet.

**Ass essence:** Feathered with (for most species) a head baldier than their behind.




Ostrich (common)


Struthionidae


*Struthio camelus*

**Critter characteristics:** These fluffy, feathered fellows are the largest (non-flying) birds known to man. What they lack in flying speed, they make up for in running speed, with a top speed of 70 kilometers per hour! They have a forward kick that can kill a human (or even a lion) and they live in herds of up to 50 individuals, in which the dominant female incubates all the eggs at daytime. The dominant male takes the night shift, since it has black feathers, and therefore blends in nicely with its surroundings in the dark. Since these critters don't have teeth, they swallow stones to grind their food. An adult ostrich carries about one kilogram of stones in its belly.

**Ass essence:** Brown-butt females and black-butt males, both with a white-tipped plumage on their tail and legs simply built for running.







Visuals of the ass in the middle,  
since they are at the center of this guide

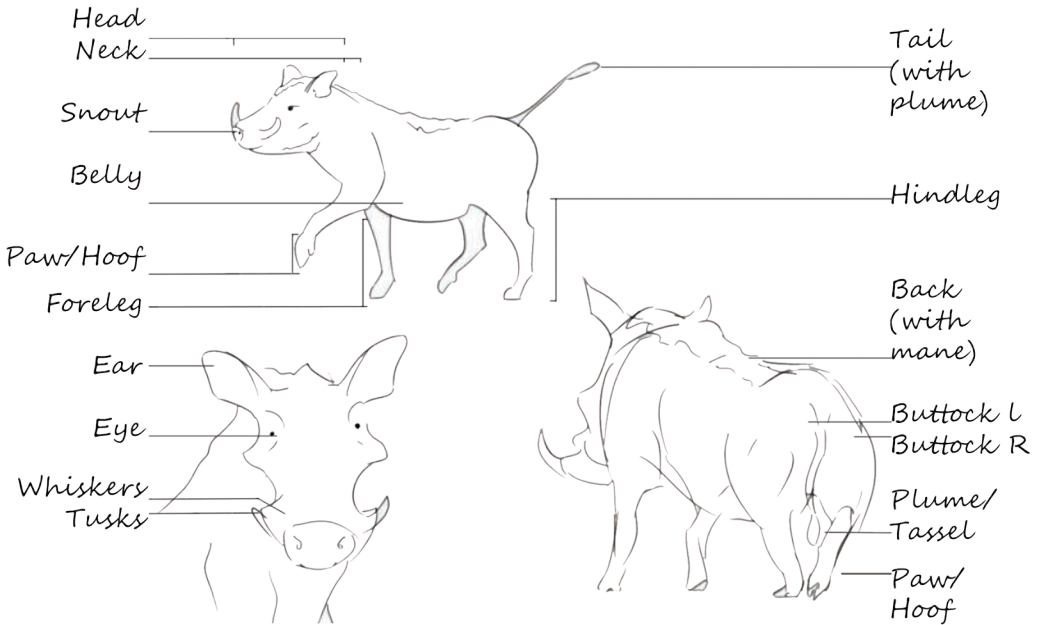
Latin names of the species  
for further reading

Family of the  
species in question

Booty size  
comparison

Rarity of the species  
from uncommon  
to common

# Illustrated Glossary



## Glossary of Terms

*Here you'll find the words we use that you may have never heard of*

Endemic = Limited in range to a particular region or locality

Frugivorous = Feeding on fruit, fruit-eating

Ruminant = Able to eat plants by fermenting them in a specialized stomach

Teat = Mammary gland

The New World = North America, South America and Central America

The Old World = Africa, Asia and Europe

Ungulate = An animal with hooves



# Ass Identification Key

(but also based on some of their extremities)

Beware of the puns: we're scientists, but we're cheeky!

1. Is the butt hairless/featherless?
  - i Yes, smooth as a baby Step 2
  - ii Nope, but seems smooth still Step 9
  
2. Would it be cold to the touch?
  - i Cold on the surface, but not in the heart Step 3
  - ii Warm and squishy Step 5
  
3. Is the butt accompanied by a long tail?
  - i Yes, a long tail with scales Step 4
  - ii Nope, but small is also fine **Tortoise (68)**
  
4. Are there spikes on the butt's tail?
  - i Yes, standing proudly! **Nile crocodile (60)**
  - ii Nope, just smooth **Monitor lizard (60)**
  
5. Is the butt either black to brown or pinkish to blushing red?
  - i Yes, but don't fool yourself: they're not shy! Step 6
  - ii Nope, they are grayish Step 7
  
6. Is there fur that butts against the bum?
  - i Yes, contrasting the bare buttocks **Baboon (45)**
  - ii Nope, exposed and pink, but often protected by clothing **Hooman (56)**
  
7. Does the head extremity have a horn?
  - i Yes, this butt is attached to a horny head **Rhinoceros (63)**
  - \*Disclaimer: keep your distance, always ask consent first\*

  - ii Nope! No point in that, is there? Step 8
  
8. Is the ass bathed in water or in sand?
  - i Sand, seems itchy **Elephant (44)**
  - ii Water, nice and clean **Common hippo (49)**

9. Is the butt covered with warm feathers?
  - i Yes! Quickly go to the next question, before it flies away! Step 10
  - ii Nope, read fur-ther Step 22
  
10. Are the feathers closest to the butt black, and the ones on the back all white?
  - i Yes, this one's a classic Step 11
  - ii Nope, this one's more complex, a true work of art Step 14
  
11. How is the transition from black to white feathers?
  - i A dash of black, focusing the attention towards the butt Step 12
  - ii Both in equal amounts, this butt is balanced! Step 13
  
12. What color are its legs?
  - i Black **Sacred ibis (64)**
  - ii Pink **Yellow-billed stork (69)**
  
13. Does the head extremity have plumes?
  - i Yes, wild but(t) classy **Secretary bird (65)**
  - ii Nope, no distractions from the butt! **Saddle-billed stork (64)**
  
14. Is the butt pink and fluffy?
  - i Yes, I like pink butts and I cannot lie! **Flamingo (52)**
  - ii Nope Step 15
  
15. Is the head extremity (seemingly) bald?
  - i Yes, more feathers on the butt for optimized butt protection Step 16
  - ii Nope, keepin' the butt's extremities warm! Step 18
  
16. Does the butt have dots?
  - i Yes, spot on! We're dealing with a tiny dinosaur here **Guinea fowl (56)**
  - ii Nope, this butt is spotless Step 17
  
17. How high is the butt?
  - i Not at eye-level, but you'll automatically drop to your knees upon gazing at this butt **Ostrich (61)**
  - ii You may need to crouch for closer inspection **Vulture (61)**