

Rockjumper Birding Tours'

Uganda

1st to 19th August 2005

Trip Report

Compiled by David Hoddinott



Mountain Gorilla Family
Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP

Red-bellied Paradise-Flycatcher
Mubwindi Swamp, Bwindi Impenetrable NP

Our trip total of 566 species in 19 days reflects the immense birding potential of the “Pearl of Africa”. Whilst the focus of the tour was certainly the rich assemblage of Albertine Rift endemics and tropical African bird species, we did not neglect the amazing diversity of other birds and mammals that occur in Uganda. Participants were treated to an amazing 21 out of a possible 24 Albertine Rift endemics on our route, with other highlights including stunning views of the magnificent Shoebill, Green-breasted Pitta, Grauer’s Broadbill, Jameson’s Wattle-eye, African Finfoot, Doherty’s Bushshrike, Yellow-billed Barbet, Pennant-winged Nightjar, Red-chested Owlet and many more. Some of the mammalian highlights included fantastic views of tree-climbing

Lions, Elephant, Buffalo, Rothschild's Giraffe, Chimpanzees and some rarely seen mammals including Sitatunga and Alexander's Cusimanse and intimate experiences with a family of Mountain Gorillas. For more highlights and a detailed trip report read on



African Dwarf Kingfisher
Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Chimpanzee
The fabled Royal Mile, Budongo Forest

Above photographs taken on tour in Uganda by Adam Riley

Trip report

Uganda is justly famous as the home of the bizarre Shoebill, the dream of many a birder, and for supporting over half the world's remaining Mountain Gorillas. Our jam-packed itinerary produced far more than the intimate experiences we enjoyed of these main targets. In all, we found over five hundred and fifty species of birds and a wealth of other wildlife in this, one of Africa's most biologically diverse countries. Our other highlights ranged from finding the spectacular Pennant-winged Nightjar to observing thousands of bats flood a night sky with Bat Hawks in pursuit; to boating down the mighty Victoria Nile; from watching Tree-climbing Lions to locating twenty one of the seldom-seen birds that are endemic to the Albertine Rift's moss-draped montane forests!

After arrival at sleepy Entebbe (where the aircraft from the famous 1976 raid still lies derelict on a runway!), we made our way through Kampala picking up our first of many Marabou Storks & Hooded Vultures, within the city. Thereafter we made our way to Masindi via Luwero Swamp where we found the impressive Black Coucal, Gray-capped Warbler, Green-backed Eremomela and Marsh Widowbird. A little further on a roadside stop produced some star birds including African Hawk-Eagle, White-crested Turaco, White-headed Barbet, Yellow-billed Shrike and Purple Glossy-Starling.

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

The following day was spent in the Budongo Forest on the Royal Mile, one of Africa's highest rated forest birding sites. Here we enjoyed our first forest birding which produced a stunning Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Sabine's and Cassin's Spinetail, Dwarf, Chocolate-backed and Blue-breasted Kingfishers, Blue-throated Roller, White-thighed Hornbill, Spotted Greenbul, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, the elusive Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-capped and African Shrike Flycatchers, Dusky Tit and Chestnut-winged Starling.

At dawn the following morning we made our way to Murchison Falls National Park picking up a superb flock of Red-headed Quelea *en route* to Kaniyo Pabidi. Here we found a family of the highly sought-after Nahan's Francolin, a huge flock of Crested Guineafowl, African Wood-Owl, the stunning Narina Trogon, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Fire-crested Alethe and Puvel's Illadopsis, the last mentioned at its only East African location, and the bizarre Alexander's Cusimanse.

Further exploration in the park took us to the mighty Falls themselves, where the Nile is forced through a ten metre gap resulting in the strongest flow of water on the planet! Rock Pratincoles wheeled in the spray and other birding highlights included Ayres' Hawk-Eagle, the stately Martial Eagle, Bruce's Green-Pigeon, White-shouldered Black-Tit, Red-winged Gray Warbler and Silverbird. In the evening we were treated to a spectacle of emerging bats with Bat Hawks in hot pursuit.

Departing from our tranquil lodge in the heart of magnificent woodland inside Murchison Falls NP, we ventured into the Lake Albert Delta where we located our quarry, the truly impressive, stony-eyed Shoebill. Hundreds of other waterbirds lined the banks including an Allen's Gallinule with chick and mammals including African Buffalo and African Elephant were evident. Later, we encountered large herds of game during an excursion into palm savannas north of the Nile. Here, we also encountered Rothschild's Giraffe, the impressive Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, a pair of Red-necked Falcon and Heuglin's Francolin. Nightdrives in the park produced a Grayish Eagle-Owl and nightjars including breathtaking views of well-endowed male Pennant-winged Nightjar, undoubtedly one of the world's most impressive birds.

Heading south, we scored a fabulous Rueppell's Griffon, the brightly coloured Foxy Cisticola, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Red-winged Prinia, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Mocking Cliff-Chat, Western Violet-backed Sunbird and Gray-headed Oliveback before we re-entered the forest zone at Budongo.

Next we traveled to Kibale Forest, Africa's premier Chimpanzee-watching destination. Our Chimpanzee trek was a real adventure and after extensive tracking we were unable to locate the Chimps, however our compensation was a magnificent pair of Green-breasted Pittas, one of Africa's rarest and most sought-after rainforest jewels. Primates are particularly abundant here and we enjoyed excellent viewing of several species of monkeys. A very co-operative Red-chested Owlet was the star of further birding in Kibale Forest, although it did have competition from the elusive Black-shouldered Nightjar, White-spotted Flufftail, Honeyguide and Joyful Greenbuls, White-tailed Antthrush, Papyrus Gonolek and the localized Masked Apalis.

The world-renowned Queen Elizabeth National Park was our next destination and we had great sightings of Small Buttonquail and African Crake. Other highlights included Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Palmnut Vulture, Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Black-bellied Bustard, Greater Painted-snipe, Temminck's Courser, Greater Honeyguide, White-tailed Lark, Red-chested Sunbird, Black-headed Gonolek and Compact Weaver and literally thousands of waterbirds. Further exploration from the

splendid Mweya Lodge allowed us exhilarating experiences with a family of Banded Mongoose. Sightings of aggregations of Elephant and Hippopotamus during our unforgettable boat ride on the Kazinga Channel were further highlights. A fitting finale to this superb National Park was an incredible sighting of thirteen tree-climbing Lions lazing on the branches of two huge fig trees.

However we had an appointment in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and our sense of excitement mounted as we approached this unique and priceless reserve. Approximately 600 Mountain Gorillas have survived the ravages of modern times, one for each ten million humans, and we were certainly privileged to be amongst those few who have at first hand, experienced these gentle giants. Although it requires an arduous trek, the awe in watching a family of Mountain Gorillas feeding, interacting and resting, is undoubtedly one of the greatest wildlife experiences. The birding at Bwindi is also nothing short of spectacular and we found a good selection of Albertine Rift endemics and other exciting forest birds. Memorable sightings included beautiful Bar-tailed Trogons, Black Bee-eater, an extremely obliging Ross's Turaco, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Elliot's Woodpecker, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Shelley's and Ansorge's Greenbuls, the latter only discovered in Uganda in 2001, Black-faced Rufous and the extremely elusive Neumann's Warblers, White-browed Crombec, the rare Chapin's and Yellow-eyed Black Flycatchers, smart White-bellied Robin-Chat, Luehder's Bushshrike, Black-billed Weaver and the scarce Jameson's Antpecker. Another major highlight at Bwindi was catching up with the elusive Chimpanzees that we missed at Kibale and we had excellent views of three screaming from the tree-tops.

Time at higher elevation sites in Bwindi resulted in a different set of special birds and we were fortunate in observing a very co-operative Tullberg's Woodpecker, Ruwenzori and Black-faced Apalises, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, the striking Ruwenzori Batis, Stripe-breasted Tit, several stunning Blue-headed Sunbirds and the rare Purple-breasted Sunbird, the multicoloured Doherty's Bush Shrike and Dusky Crimson-wing. However, the highlight was an exceptional sighting of a pair of African Green Broadbill with a recently fledged juvenile. The walk to Mubwindi Swamp, although steep produced some star birds including Mountain Buzzard, Black-billed Turaco, the extremely localized Grauer's Scrub-Warbler, Mountain Yellow Warbler, White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher and the stunning Regal Sunbird. During our final birding session in the bamboo zone, we located a superb Grauer's Warbler, African Hill Babbler (the local colorful form usually split as Ruwenzori Hill Babbler), Kandt's Waxbill and the stunning Archer's Robin-Chat.

Next we moved on to the seldom-visited Mgahinga National Park. This is a very scenic National Park and we enjoyed great views of the three towering volcanoes, Mt. Sabinyo, Mt. Gahinga and Mt. Muhavura from the comfort of our rooms. Our walks in the Park produced the most sought-after birds, the magnificent Ruwenzori Turaco and Ruwenzori Double-collared Sunbird. Other interesting species seen here were Dusky Turtle-Dove, Cape Robin-Chat and Yellow-crowned Canary.

Thereafter we traveled to Lake Mburo National Park and *en route*, we found a large flock of Gray Crowned-Crane, Uganda's National bird. Some notable sightings at Lake Mburo included Rufous-bellied Heron, Brown-chested Lapwing, a soaring Little Sparrowhawk, fantastic views of the secretive African Finfoot, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, the very rare Red-faced Barbet, Black Cuckooshrike, Southern Black-Flycatcher, Tabora Cisticola, White-winged Black-Tit and stunning male Red-headed Weavers. Notable mammals included impressive numbers of Plain's Zebra and Impala.

Our final destination was Mabira Forest. Here we were treated to some fantastic forest birding which included the following highlights, a magnificent Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, flocks of Great Blue Turaco, Forest Woodhoopoe, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Toro Olive-Greenbul, Red-tailed Ant-Thrush, Yellow Longbill, Forest Robin, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, the stunning Jameson's Wattle-eye, Sooty Boubou and Weyn's Weaver. Our final birding stop, at Entebbe, produced Gull-billed Tern, African Pied Hornbill and many species of weavers including Orange Weavers. The tour ended off at Entebbe, a thoroughly enjoyable and successful trip.

Annotated List of Bird Species recorded **566 species (555 seen + 11 heard)**

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist* 5th Edition (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to June 2005.

An asterisk (*) indicates an Albertine Rift endemic species.

Grebes

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

A single bird was seen on the Kazinga Channel and a further one at a small roadside wetland near Lake Bunyoni. An unusually uncommon bird in Uganda.

Pelicans

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

A flock of twenty of these large pelicans was seen flying over the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP. Furthermore this large pelican was seen in small numbers at Lake Kikorongo and along the Kazinga Channel (50) in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

A common bird in Uganda, regularly nesting on the roadside. Highest numbers recorded were on the Kazinga Channel boat cruise where we observed fifty on a small peninsular. Small numbers were also recorded near Luwero Swamp and the Lake Albert Delta.

Cormorants & Shags

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Our first sighting was of one on the Victoria Nile boat cruise. Several large flocks were seen on the Kazinga Channel (60).

NOTE: The resident white-breasted African subspecies P. c. lucidus is regarded by some authorities to be a distinct species; White-breasted Cormorant.

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant

Phalacrocorax africanus

We recorded these widespread African cormorants in small numbers at Lake Mburo NP.

Anhinga & Darter

Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

Up to thirty along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: The resident African subspecies P. c. rufa is regarded by most authorities to be a distinct species; African Darter.

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers along the Nile and in Queen Elizabeth NP with highest numbers of 15 seen on the drive from Masindi to Kibale NP.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Uganda's commonest heron, we recorded it almost daily in small numbers with highest numbers of 30 seen at various heronries en route from Kibale NP to Queen Elizabeth NP.

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

A spectacular bird recorded in several wetlands including the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP. We recorded eight birds on the Nile at Murchison, some of them providing fantastic close up views and allowing great photographic opportunities of the largest heron in the world.

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea

Another widespread bird, twelve were seen along the Nile and one en route from Lake Mburo to Jinja.

NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron

Great (White) Egret

Ardea alba

Fairly common in Uganda, recorded along the Victoria Nile with peak numbers of ten at Lake Kikorongo.

NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Intermediate Egret

Egretta intermedia

Generally the least common of the three white, aquatic egrets, with our sighting of one from the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret E. brachyrhyncha (which is the form we recorded in Uganda), Plumed Egret E. plumifera and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Common in wetlands throughout, with our first sighting at Murchison Falls NP, five on the Kazinga Channel and large numbers at Entebbe Botanical Gardens (80)

NOTE: Clements lumps Little and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret E. dimorpha into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

(Common) Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides

Our first sighting, also where we recorded our highest numbers of the trip, was on the boat cruise on the Nile at Murchison Falls, where we saw three. Smaller numbers were encountered on the Kazinga channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and at Lake Mburo NP.

Madagascar Pond-Heron

Ardeola idea

We found one at a roadside pan in Murchison Falls NP.

Rufous-bellied Heron

Ardeola rufiventris

A scarce species in Uganda and usually confined to the wetlands around Lake Kyoga. We recorded it at a wetland in Lake Mburo NP, where we enjoyed excellent scope views of one.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen accompanying herds of antelope, Buffalo or Elephants in the parks. Peak numbers of 25 seen around Kampala and Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Striated Heron

Butorides striatus

Recorded in small numbers at a few wetlands, including one on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison Falls NP and two on the boat cruise at Lake Mburo.

NOTE: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. Clements recognizes three full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens, Galapagos Heron B. sundevalli and the most widespread nominate form which we recorded in Uganda. This split is not recognized by Handbook of Birds of the World (del Hoyo et al) who lump these forms under the nominate..

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

One was seen at a papyrus swamp near Budongo Forest.

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

Little Bittern

Ixobrychus minutus

Four seen exceptionally well on the boat cruise along the Nile at Murchison Falls National Park. A scarce bird in Uganda.

Hamerkop

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

This bizarre bird, forming a monotypic family endemic to the Afrotropics and Madagascar, is pleasantly common throughout Uganda, with our first sightings *en route* from Entebbe to Masindi.

Storks

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Our first sighting was of twenty seen in the distance at Lake Kikorongo and on the Kazinga Channel we recorded up to ten. It was on the Kazinga Channel where we had fantastic views of an adult in full breeding plumage that allowed for great photographic opportunities.

African Openbill (~ed Stork)

Anastomus lamelligerus

A common bird in Uganda, this freshwater mussel specialist was seen in small numbers at the Lake Albert delta, Queen Elizabeth NP and Jinja.

Woolly-necked Stork

Ciconia abdimii

Our first sighting was of a pair during the Victoria Nile boat cruise, thereafter we encountered them in small numbers at several localities including four in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

One was seen in a field near Budongo Forest and two in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

This magnificent bird was first seen at Murchison Falls where we found a pair, further sightings of four were had at Lake Kikorongo and a pair on the Kazinga Channel the following day.

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

A very common and conspicuous bird in Uganda, where it has become commensal with man in many areas. Peak numbers of 80+ were seen around downtown Kampala, where they nest atop ornamental trees in the city gardens!

Shoebill

Shoebill

Balaeniceps rex

The essence of Uganda, we found a total of three of these incredible birds: wonderful views of one at the edge of tall papyrus on our Nile boat cruise. Another two individuals were seen further down the Nile and also gave good flight views. Clearly rated as the bird of the trip !

Ibises & Spoonbills

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Small numbers seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's, with highest count of 30 at wetlands en route from Mgahinga to Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: The Malagasy T. e. bernieri and Aldabran T. e. abbotti are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis T. bernieri

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

Another typical sound of moist areas in Africa, Hadadas were found almost daily in small numbers with peak numbers of 30 at Lake Mburo.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

Two were seen on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison Falls NP and a further one on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

One was seen at Lake Kikorongo with a further five on the Kazinga Channel.

Flamingos

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

We had superb views of one at Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Lesser Flamingo

Phoenicopterus minor

At least eighty were seen on Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Swans, Geese & Ducks

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Amazingly, this widespread and familiar duck was seen at only two sites, peak numbers of eight were seen on the Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Another common waterfowl, seen at Lake Kikorongo and on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Spurwinged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

One was seen on the Kasenyi track in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Comb Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotus

One was seen at the Lake Albert Delta.

African Black Duck

Anas sparsa

A pair was seen at a stream in Kibale NP. A scarce bird in Uganda.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

Small numbers were seen at Lake Kikorongo with a further sighting of sixteen at a small roadside wetland near Lake Bunyoni.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

One was seen at a small roadside wetland near Lake Bunyoni.

Osprey

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

One was seen along the Victoria Nile at Murchison.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites

African Cuckoo-Hawk

Aviceda cuculoides

A juvenile was seen near our lodge in Murchison Falls NP.

Bat Hawk

Macheiramphus alcinus

We enjoyed a great sighting of three hunting bats above Murchison Falls. A single was also seen at Buhoma.

Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite

Elanus caeruleus

Another well-known raptor, seen in small numbers in open habitats. Peak numbers of ten were seen on the drive from Buhoma to Ruhija.

NOTE: Some authorities lump the African and Asian Black-shouldered Kite E. caeruleus with Australian Kite E. axillaris and the American E. leucurus White-tailed Kite. Clements recognizes these three forms as full species.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

This ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor was found in good numbers throughout Uganda. All birds seen were of the resident, yellow-billed African races. Peak numbers were of 15 seen en route from Lake Mburo to Jinja, in the Kampala area.

NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite M. parasitus.

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

A familiar bird whose ringing call is one of the archetypal sounds of Africa, we recorded good numbers around wetlands throughout the tour, with tame pairs along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and the boat trip on Lake Mburo being especially memorable. We were afforded great views of several atop large *Euphorbia*'s that provided wonderful photo opportunities. Peak numbers of twelve were seen on the Victoria Nile boat cruise.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

We observed this handsome vulture at several sights throughout Uganda, with most records coming from Queen Elizabeth NP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

The common vulture around human habitation, with small numbers recorded near Kampala at the beginning and end of the trip. Several were also seen near Mabira Forest.

(African) White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

The common vulture in savanna areas, we recorded small groups each day during our stay in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Rueppell's Griffon *Gyps rueppellii*

We found one in the Murchison Falls NP.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

One was seen in Murchison Falls NP and another on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP, the latter was seen at a carcass.

Black-breasted (~chested) Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

One was seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: This resident Central and Southern African species is regarded by some authorities to be a form of Short-toed Eagle C. gallicus.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

The commonest snake-eagle in Uganda, two were seen in the Masindi area, two more in Queen Elizabeth NP and finally one at Lake Mburo NP.

(Western) Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

One was seen during the Victoria Nile boat cruise in Murchison Falls NP.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

The "tightrope-walker" of the raptor world is a handsome species that we found in healthy numbers in the savanna parks of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo.

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

We recorded this widespread African harrier at only two sites, three in Murchison Falls NP and one in the Masindi area.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

One stunning male was seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded nine times at scattered sights throughout Uganda.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

An attractive raptor that allowed great scope views near Masindi on the first day. A total of twelve were seen at various localities during the tour.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

We obtained good views of this long-legged raptor in the Bugungu Game Reserve en route to the Butiaba Escarpment.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

We had brief views of one in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

African Goshawk

Accipiter tachiro

One of these widespread, forest *Accipiters* was seen very well at Bigodi Swamp.

NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk A. tousseneli. Clements accepts this controversial split.

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)

Accipiter badius

One was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: We recorded the Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Southern Shikra A. b. polyzonoides. These forms may also be split from the Asian nominate A. b. badius and other Asian forms. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

Little Sparrowhawk

Accipiter minullus

This diminutive, yet fierce *Accipiter* was seen soaring in Lake Mburo NP.

Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk

Accipiter rufiventris

We enjoyed stunning scope views of one at Mgahinga NP.

Black Goshawk (Great/Black Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter melanoleucus*

Another seldom recorded raptor in Uganda, yet we were fortunate to have an incredible 5 sightings. Our best sighting was of an adult next to the road en route from Ruhija to Mgahinga.

Mountain Buzzard

Buteo oreophilus

One was scoped at Mubwindi Swamp.

NOTE: Some authorities including del Hoyo et al in HBW lump the Southern African Forest Buzzard B. trizonatus within this species. Clements recognizes them as two full species.

Augur Buzzard

Buteo augur

A handsome buzzard that is pleasantly common in the mountainous, south-western corner of Uganda. We recorded a total of 12, with the highest numbers in the Ruhizha area.

NOTE: Some authorities lump the Southern African Jackal Buzzard B. rufofuscus and the Somalia Archer's Buzzard B. archeri within this species. Clements and most other authorities now recognize three full species.

Tawny Eagle

Aquila rapax

One was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Wahlberg's Eagle

Aquila wahlbergi

This raptor was commonly seen in open habitat throughout Uganda, with most sightings in the Murchison Falls area with up to eight daily.

African Hawk-Eagle

Hieraaetus spilogaster

We enjoyed brief views of a pair near Masindi.

Ayres' Hawk-Eagle

Hieraaetus ayresii

This uncommon raptor was only seen in Murchison Falls NP where we found one.

Martial Eagle

Polemaetus bellicosus

This, Africa's largest eagle, was seen twice. We got superb views of one in Murchison Falls NP and another in Lake Mburo NP.

Long-crested Eagle

Lophaetus occipitalis

A very common raptor in Uganda, with small numbers daily in moist woodland habitats. Peak numbers of four were seen on our first day during the drive from Entebbe to Masindi.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle

Spizaetus africanus

We saw one distant bird at Budongo Forest however we were treated to superb views of an adult at Mabira Forest.

(African) Crowned Hawk-Eagle

Stephanoetus coronatus

This impressive raptor, the most powerful in Africa and Africa's version of the Harpy Eagle (it preys largely on monkeys), was seen once. We enjoyed magnificent views of a pair next to the road in Maramagumbo, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Falcons & Caracaras

Gray Kestrel

Falco ardosiaceus

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

This open country raptor was observed several times in Murchison Falls NP (one was seen catching bats in the evening at Murchison Falls).

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

Our first sighting was of one perched on a powerline near Budongo Forest with further sightings of a superb pair on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

We enjoyed a great sighting of a pair shortly after leaving Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

We had brief views of one near Chuya Forest en route from Mgahinga to Lake Mburo NP. Unfortunately a White-necked Raven chased it off its perch.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One was seen at the Victoria Nile just before we boarded the ferry, in Murchison Falls NP.

Pheasants & Partridges

Coqui Francolin *Francolinus coqui*

We heard several in Lake Mburo NP.

Crested Francolin *Francolinus sephaena*

Our first sighting was of one near Masindi and a further six of these bantam-like birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Ring-necked Francolin *Francolinus streptophorus*

We heard this species calling in Murchison Falls NP.

Scaly Francolin *Francolinus squamatus*

We heard this species near Murro.

Nahan's Francolin *Francolinus nahani*

Five of these secretive and seldom seen forest francolins were observed by everyone at Kaniyo Pabidi, Budongo Forest.

Heuglin's Francolin *Francolinus icterorhynchus*

We were fortunate to have superb views of one of these localized francolins in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Francolinus afer*

The most commonly recorded francolin on the trip, with large numbers seen daily in the savanna reserves of Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's. Peak numbers were 20 in QENP.

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei*

Some of us had brief views as two flushed off a track in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Guineafowl

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Common and ubiquitous, Helmeted Guineafowl were encountered in good numbers at many sites. Peak numbers of 20 in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) which we recorded in Uganda, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl.) Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*

We obtained superb views of a large flock (27) of these fowls on a "Bad Hair Day" in Kaniyo Pabidi Forest in Murchison Falls NP. Two were also seen in Kibale NP.

NOTE: The form concerned is sometimes split off as Western Crested Guineafowl G. edouardi

Buttonquail

Small Buttonquail

Turnix sylvatica

We enjoyed superb views of two in burnt grassland on the Kasenyi track in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Cranes

Gray (Southern) Crowned-Crane

Balearica regulorum

Uganda's handsome national bird is delightfully common throughout the country, with our initial encounter of five on the first day. A flock of at least 150 was seen in open fields during the drive from Lake Mburo to Jinja.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots

White-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura pulchra

This secretive, forest rail's hooting call was heard in several forests and a stunning male was finally seen at Bigodi Swamp.

Buff-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura elegans

We heard this species on both days at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

African Crake

Crecoptis egregia

We obtained unbelievable views of one in Queen Elizabeth NP. It truly was a spectacular sighting of a seldom seen bird.

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

Africa's common wetland crake, we saw 10 on the Nile boat cruise in Murchison Falls NP, two on the Kazinga boat trip and finally two on the Lake Mburo boat trip.

Allen's Gallinule

Porphyrio alleni

We enjoyed stunning views of an adult with chick in the Lake Albert Delta.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

We enjoyed good views of three at a roadside lake near Mgahinga NP.

Red-knobbed Coot

Fulica cristata

We found three at a roadside lake near Mgahinga NP.

Finfoots

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

We enjoyed outstanding views of one male at Lake Mburo NP. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

Bustards

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

We enjoyed good views of two females, one in Murchison Falls NP and another in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Jacanas

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

A widespread and characteristic wader was conspicuous in wetlands throughout the tour. First found on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison Falls NP, where we also recorded peak numbers (15+).

Painted-Snipe

Greater Painted-snipe

Rostratula benghalensis

We had good views of one male at Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Stilts & Avocets

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

This characteristic wader was first seen at Lake Kikorongo (3). Further sightings were had at a Katwe crater lake (30) and finally at Entebbe Botanical Gardens (2).

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

A total of 4 of these familiar Old World waders were seen at Katwe Lake, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Thick-knees

Water Thick-knee

Burhinus vermiculatus

Common at the edges of wetlands in Queen Elizabeth NP, up to 20 seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

The common thick-knee along the Victoria Nile, with a total of 12 birds seen on the boat cruise.

Coursers & Pratincoles

Temminck's Courser

Cursorius temminckii

We enjoyed good views of 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

Two of these elegant waders were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock (White-collared) Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

A fairly common denizen of rapids in the Victoria Nile, where 20 were present around Murchison Falls. We enjoyed superb scope views and watched them foraging in the mists of the falls.

Plovers & Lapwings

Long-toed Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus crassirostris

These elegant waders were seen on the boat cruise in Murchison Falls NP and in Lake Mburo NP where we found 4 birds at both sites.

Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)

Vanellus spinosus

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were common and conspicuous in Murchison Falls NP (8) and Queen Elizabeth NP (30).

Senegal (Lesser Black-winged) Lapwing

Vanellus lugubris

A lapwing of burnt or heavily grazed grassland, we recorded this species in good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP (40).

Crowned Lapwing

Vanellus coronatus

A total of eight were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Wattled Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus senegallus

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in small numbers throughout the trip, with our first sighting from the Masindi area and other encounters in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth (30) and Lake Mburo NP's.

Brown-chested Lapwing

Vanellus superciliosus

This is a rare east-west migrant. We found a superb flock of ten in Lake Mburo NP.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

Small numbers were seen at Lake Katwe and on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

Our only sighting was of one of these attractive waders on the Kazinga Channel.

Sandpipers & Allies

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

We were fortunate to find 4 of these attractive migrant waders at Katwe Lake.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

One was seen on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Small numbers seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

We recorded one of these palaeartic migrants at a roadside pan in Murchison Falls NP.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

First observed in Queen Elizabeth NP (8) and smaller numbers at Lake Mburo NP.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

First observed in Murchison Falls NP, with up to 6 seen at Queen Elizabeth NP and 2 at Lake Mburo.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

One was seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

A small flock of 8 was seen at Lake Katwe.

Gulls

Gray-headed Gull

Larus cirrocephalus

A flock of 12 were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Terns

Gull-billed Tern

Sterna nilotica

Two were seen on Lake Victoria from the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybridus

A total of 10 were seen on the Nile boat cruise and a further 4 on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

We were fortunate to see 2 on the Nile boat cruise and 1 on the Kazinga Channel.

Skimmers

African Skimmer

Rynchops flavirostris

One of Africa's most elegant birds. We were fortunate to see one large flock on the Kazinga Channel.

Doves & Pigeons

Rock Dove

Columba livia

Common in Kampala and other large towns.

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea

Small numbers observed in Kampala and Kabale towns.

Afep Pigeon

Columba unicincta

This plump, forest pigeon was seen in Kibale Forest where we found a single bird.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon *Columba arquatrix*

This widespread African forest pigeon occurs in the higher parts of Bwindi NP, where we had great scope views of one at Buhoma. Three were also seen at Mgahinga NP.

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*

We enjoyed superb scope views of one in Mgahinga NP where we saw a total of three.

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

Another fairly common savanna dove, with its distinctive call being a regular background sound in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Probably Uganda's commonest dove, inhabiting a wide range of moist woodland and forest habitats, with good numbers recorded almost daily throughout the trip.

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Common in open savanna in the southern parts of the country. Large numbers were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP (20).

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*

This richly marked dove replaces the much more widespread Ring-necked Dove as the common savanna dove in the drier areas along the Nile, and is most easily separated from that species by its call. We observed 3 in Murchison Falls NP.

Laughing (Palm) Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

A widespread, familiar species recorded in small numbers. We found several in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur chalcospilus*

In Uganda, this familiar woodland dove is restricted to the southern and eastern savannas. We found one in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-billed Wood-Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*

The common wood-dove of the dry, northern savanna around Murchison Falls NP where we obtained great views of several.

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur afer*

Uganda's most widespread wood-dove and recorded on several days of the tour. Its' stuttering, downscale hooting characteristically ends abruptly (rather than tailing off like the similar Emerald-spotted and Tambourine Dove). Small numbers were seen in the Masindi area.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

The forest equivalent of the wood-doves, and therefore widespread and common in Uganda, we saw small numbers on many tour days (with many more heard daily).

Bruce's Green-Pigeon *Treron waalia*

Three of these large pigeons were seen near Murchison Falls.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calva*

Another common pigeon in Uganda, their distinctive lime-yellow bodies were frequently seen perched atop roadside trees throughout the tour.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies

Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*

A lovely little parrot. We found our first one just outside Budongo Forest and later enjoyed great scope views of several near Murro.

(African) Gray Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

A flock of 17 were seen flying over the forest at Busingiro. A pair was also seen flying over Kibale Forest and another pair at Buhoma. It is so much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird!

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri*

A parrot of moister savanna and woodland. We observed 4 in the Masindi area, with further sightings at Lake Mburo NP.

Turacos

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore is wonderfully common in Uganda and we found good numbers on several days. Our highest count was of 8 at Kibale Forest.

Black-billed Turaco

Tauraco schuettii

The common turaco of Uganda forests, we had several encounters with this beautiful bird. This species was first seen in Kibale NP, with further sightings at Buhoma and Ruhizha, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

White-crested Turaco

Tauraco leucolophus

We obtained superb sights of 4 individuals of this stunningly beautiful bird in the Masindi area and a further pair near Murro. Often considered the most beautiful of all turacos.

Ruwenzori Turaco*

Ruwenzorornis johnstoni

Three were seen exceptionally well in Mgahinga NP. A rare and seldom seen Albertine Rift Endemic.

Ross' Turaco

Musophaga rossae

Another stellar turaco, which we first observed on the Butiaba escarpment however our best views were of a pair near Murro.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

A bizarre bird, our first sighting was of one at Ishasha in Queen Elizabeth NP and we had great views of several in Lake Mburo NP.

Eastern (Gray) Plantain-eater

Crinifer zonurus

This floppy-winged bird with its' maniacal call is the essence of moist woodland in Uganda and we saw many individuals throughout.

Cuckoos

Levaillant's (African Striped) Cuckoo

Oxylophus levaillantii

Our first sighting was of a pair near Murro and several individuals of this long-tailed cuckoo were also seen in Bwindi NP.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

This familiar bird was frequently heard throughout the trip, but only seen on a few occasions. At Budongo Forest and Kibale NP we obtained superb views.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx mechowi

The most commonly heard and widespread of the three long-tailed cuckoos in Uganda, we managed to see it on the Royal Mile at Budongo Forest.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx montanus

Another species far more often heard than seen, we heard one at Ruhizha.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

A brood parasite favouring the cup nests of woodland birds, many heard throughout the tour and one male seen very well at Bigodi Swamp.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we had great scope views of two males at Busingiro Forest.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

This widespread African species was heard on many days of the tour and first observed in the Masindi area with further sightings in Murchison Falls NP. Favors closed nests (and therefore often conspicuous around weaver colonies).

Yellowbill (Blue Malkoha) *Ceuthmochares aereus*

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was seen at several forest sites including Budongo Forest, where we enjoyed superb views of 3 and Mabira Forest.

Note: Some authorities split this species into Green Malkoha, C. australis that occurs in East and Southern Africa and Blue Malkoha, C. aereus that we observed and occurs in East, West and Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*

We found one at Luwero Swamp and another 6 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

This large swamp-dwelling coucal was first observed near Masindi with further sightings at Murchison Falls NP (3).

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

Our first sighting was of one during the drive from Masindi to Murchison Falls NP, with further sightings in Murchison Falls NP and en route from Masindi to Kibale NP.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

The commonest coucal in Uganda and across much of East Africa. We first observed it at Murchison Falls, with further sightings from Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo.

NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus which we recorded in Uganda.

Typical Owls

Grayish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens*

A single seen in Murchison Falls NP during our night drive.

NOTE: Clements splits this northern, dark-eyed form from the, more southerly yellow-eyed Spotted Eagle-Owl B. africanus. This split is not widely accepted.

Fraser's Eagle-Owl

We heard one calling at Ruhizha.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus*

We heard one calling in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii*

We enjoyed great scope views of one during the day, at Kaniyo Pabidi.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

We saw two in the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth NP and another at Lake Mburo NP.

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*

A rarely seen forest owlet. Another owl that we worked very hard to see. We finally had fantastic scope views of this fierce looking bird during the day at Kibale Forest.

Nightjars & Allies

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

We were treated to superb views of this smart bird near Kibale Forest.

Montane (Ruwenzori) Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*

We heard this species during our stay at Ruhizha.

NOTE: Clements lumps the nominate Ruwenzori endemic form of this nightjar with the more widespread Montane or Abyssinian Nightjar, widely regarded as a different species C. poliocephalus. Furthermore, Usambara Nightjar C. guttifer, a Tanzanian endemic, is regarded as a third species within this complex. Clements does not accept these splits, however, they are treated as distinct by Stevenson & Fanshawe.

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

We had awesome views of a male and female at Murchison Falls NP and further sightings of three males in Lake Mburo NP.

Swifts

Scarce Swift

Schoutedenapus myoptilus

Up to 30 seen flying over Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Sabine's Spinetail

Rhaphidura sabini

This scarce forest spinetail was observed over the Royal Mile where we enjoyed great views of six.

Cassin's Spinetail

Neafrapus cassini

One was seen flying over the Royal Mile at Budongo Forest.

African Palm-Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

Plentiful around palms throughout, we observed large numbers at Murchison Falls with as many as 80 being seen on a day in the park.

NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm-Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Common (Eurasian) Swift

Apus apus

Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

The common urban swift, with small numbers found in towns throughout.

White-rumped Swift

Apus caffer

Fork-tailed and with a sickle-shaped (rather than square) white rump, we first found this species near Masindi with further sightings in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Mousebirds

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

A contender for commonest bird of the trip, with small numbers recorded daily.

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

The fast-flying, savanna cousin of Speckled Mousebird and sporting a most unlikely blue patch on its nape. We found this species first in Murchison Falls NP, with good numbers thereafter (especially numerous in Lake Mburo NP, where up to 20 seen daily).

Trogon

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

The guttural hooting of this magnificent bird was heard at several forest sites and a superb male seen at Kaniyo Pabidi. A further sighting was of one stunning male during our lunch break at the top of Ruhizha.

Bar-tailed Trogon

Apaloderma vittatum

We enjoyed an incredible 3 sightings of this beautiful bird at Buhoma.

Kingfishers

Malachite Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata

The common, small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, with maximal numbers seen on our launch cruises in Queen Elizabeth NP (3) and Murchison Falls NP (6).

African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) picta

This beautiful, little bird was seen in small numbers in savanna habitat throughout, with our best sightings of a very confiding individual at Budongo Forest.

(African) Dwarf Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) lecontei

Another elusive forest kingfisher. We enjoyed incredible telescope views along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest where we very fortunate to have a phenomenal six sightings.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

A bird that can be extremely difficult to find, although often heard on many occasions. We had fantastic views of two pairs on the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

Gray-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

This beautiful woodland kingfisher was observed in small numbers at Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's with a highest daily count of four.

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis

One of the characteristic sounds of moist African savanna, this beautiful bird was regularly encountered in Murchison Falls NP.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Halcyon malimbica

This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was heard at several forests, and seen exceptionally well along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest and again in Kibale NP.

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti

Rather more drab than its spectacular cousins, this small, terrestrial kingfisher was first observed near Masindi, and thereafter seen in small numbers in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

Three sightings of this giant of the kingfisher world, all on the Nile at Murchison Falls.

Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis

The world's commonest kingfisher was seen in large numbers in wetlands throughout, but was especially conspicuous on the launch cruises along the Kazinga Channel and Nile, and of course along the shores of Lake Victoria.

Bee-eaters

Black Bee-eater

Merops gularis

A truly magnificent forest bee-eater with a most unlikely colour combination. We had fantastic good views of a pair at Kibale NP and a further one at Buhoma.

Red-throated Bee-eater

Merops bulocki

The northern equivalent of the more familiar White-fronted Bee-eater and every bit as beautiful, large numbers were found along the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

The most widespread and familiar of a suite of look-alike bee-eaters in Uganda, we found them at Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Blue-breasted (White-cheeked) Bee-eater *Merops variegatus*

Slightly larger and with a preference for fringes of papyrus beds, we found three individuals at a wetland on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison.

NOTE: The Ethiopian form M. v. lafresnayii, is sometimes considered a distinct species, Abyssinian Bee-eater.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater

Merops oreobates

The largest of the three small look-alike bee-eaters and favouring forest fringes at higher altitudes. Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters were fairly common around Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and at Mgahinga NP.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

Merops hirundineus

An elegant bee-eater of dry savanna, we found a stunning pair on the Butiaba escarpment.

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

Our first sighting was of one at our lunch stop en route from Masindi to Kibale NP. A small flock was also seen in Queen Elizabeth NP. They breed in the Sahelian savanna but winter in the Equatorial forests.

Madagascar Bee-eater

Merops superciliosus

Our first sighting was of a stunning pair on the Victoria Nile boat cruise and small numbers were also seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicus

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

A stunning pair was seen during the Victoria Nile boat cruise at Murchison Falls NP.

Rollers

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudata*

A group of 3 of these magnificent birds were seen at Lake Mburo.

NOTE: The Ethiopian, C. c. lorti might be split as Blue-breasted Roller.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

The common roller of moist, open country throughout Uganda. The highest numbers were seen (30) between Lake Mburo NP and Jinja.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*

Replaces Broad-billed Roller in closed forest environments and was first observed on the Royal Mile at Budongo Forest.

Hoopoes

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One was seen during the boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel.

NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar U. marginalis and Eurasian U. epops. The white-winged African form which we encountered in Uganda is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe U. senegalensis with the fourth species being African Hoopoe U. africana. However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African. Further confusion arises in the placement of the senegalensis form within this grouping with most authorities placing it with the dark-winged africana group, however, Stevenson & Fanshawe place it with the white-winged Eurasian nominate grouping.

Woodhoopoes

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Our first sighting was of a pair near Masindi. Further sightings were had of a small flock of six near Murro and finally a pair at Lake Mburo NP.

White-headed Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*

This uncommon forest bird was first observed at Sebitole, Kibale NP with further sightings at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Forest Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*

This rarely recorded Woodhoopoe was observed in Mabira Forest, where we encountered a pair.

Black Scimitar-bill (Woodhoopoe) *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

This species was seen in Murchison Falls NP during the Victoria Nile boat cruise. A bird of low densities and not often recorded on this tour.

Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Another widespread and familiar African bird that we encountered in the savannas of Queen Elizabeth NP. We enjoyed fantastic views of a pair in the southern Ishasha section.

Hornbills

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus*

Common and widespread in moister habitats across the country, we saw our first birds near Murro.

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*

Much more localised than its similar crowned cousin and with white tail edges (rather than tail tips). After an extensive search we were finally rewarded with good views of three at Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

African Gray Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

“The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding”

www.rockjumper.co.za

The common savanna hornbill in Uganda. Large numbers were seen in the drier savanna of Murchison Falls (25) with further sightings of small numbers in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna subcylindricus*

Another spectacular bird that is delightfully common, this species was seen in good numbers almost daily, starting with fifteen near Budongo Forest on the second day.

White-thighed Hornbill *Ceratogymna albotibialis*

Only seen in Budongo Forest, where we located 4 on the Royal Mile 6 at Busingiro.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped with the West African Brown-cheeked Hornbill C. cylindricus.

Abyssinian (Northern) Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

A total of 14 of these spectacular and unique birds were seen on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Barbets

Gray-throated Barbet *Gymnobucco bonapartei*

An unusual barbet with nose tufts and the toy-trumpet call. First found at Sebitole, with good numbers in most forest habitats thereafter.

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A scruffy, ubiquitous bird in lower altitude forest in Uganda, where it's purring call is one of the common background sounds. We obtained great views of 3 at Budongo Forest on the Royal Mile with further sightings at Buhoma.

Western Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

Our first sighting was of one at Ruhizha and later we enjoyed superb views of this stunning bird at Mgahinga NP.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Similar to its more familiar yellow-rumped cousin but with a contrastingly yellow throat and a more rapid tempo to its "tinking", this forest barbet was seen in small numbers at Budongo, Buhoma and Mabira Forest. It was seen nesting at the latter site.

Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A ubiquitous bird in Uganda, occurring in savanna and forest throughout. Small numbers were seen and heard almost daily.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

A savanna species seen well on several occasions. We found our first ones at Masindi with further sightings at Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

An elegant forest barbet with a beautiful purring call. We had great views of several at Kibale Forest and one at Mabira Forest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

This unkempt-looking bird was first seen at Budongo Forest with further sightings in Kibale NP.

Note: Some authorities split this species into Hairy-breasted Barbet T. hirsuta that occurs in West Africa and Streaky-throated Barbet T. flavipunctata that we observed and occurs in East and Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

We had excellent views of this savanna barbet at Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen near Masindi, the Southern section of Queen Elizabeth NP and peak numbers in Lake Mburo NP (6).

Red-faced Barbet *Lybius rubrifacies*

We were extremely fortunate to find this rarity at Lake Mburo NP. A stunning bird ! After an extensive search we finally found a pair whilst having lunch.

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito*

A dapper-looking bird that was encountered in Murchison Falls NP where we had good views of several birds.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

A spectacular barbet that is widespread in moist savanna, overgrown cultivation and gardens in Uganda. We saw one in Murchison Falls NP and a pair in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet, heard in all the western forests and often never seen but we were amazingly lucky with an extremely obliging individual at Bigodi Swamp. We eventually obtained superb views of this beauty and even got some great photos.

Honeyguides

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*

We enjoyed superb views of one during our early morning walk at Sambiya Lodge. A rare bird in Uganda !

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was seen in the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth NP and later a juvenile was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

One was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris*

We heard one calling at Kaniyo Pabidi.

(Western) Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis*

We had extended views of one at Mabira Forest.

Woodpeckers & Allies

Rufous-necked Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis*

We had superb views of one shortly after leaving Buhoma.

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

This attractive savanna species was observed in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Tullberg's Woodpecker *Campethera tullbergi*

Our first sighting was of two on the Nek with a further sighting of one at Ruhizha.

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli*

Another beautiful forest-dwelling woodpecker. We had excellent views of a pair at Kaniyo Pabidi, Budongo Forest.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendropicops poecilolaemus*

We enjoyed superb views of a pair at their nest at Bigodi Swamp. This is a very rare bird !

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicops fuscescens*

This widespread African woodpecker was observed on several occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Golden-crowned (Yellow-crested) Woodpecker *Dendropicops xantholophus*

This large forest woodpecker (with the almost invisible yellow crest!) was seen in the Budongo Forest and we obtained excellent scope views on the Royal Mile.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicops elliotii*

We enjoyed superb views of small numbers at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicops goertae*

Our first observation was one near our lodge at Murchison Falls National Park. We also enjoyed good views of one in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicops obsoletus*

One male was seen in a flock near Sambiya Lodge.

Broadbills

Grauer's Broadbill*

Pseudocalyptomena graueri

After a long search, we finally managed to obtain great scope views of this species at Ruhizha, a pair was seen with their recently fledged juvenile.

Pittas

Green-breasted Pitta

Pitta reichenowi

A pair was seen extremely well feeding in the leaf litter at Kibale NP. What a mega !

Larks

White-tailed Lark

Mirafraga albicauda

We had superb views of four in the moist grasslands in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rufous-naped Lark

Mirafraga africana

Three were seen during our stay at Mweya in QENP.

Flappet Lark

Mirafraga rufocinnamomea

Uganda's most widespread lark, with our first sightings in Murchison Falls NP and others in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-capped Lark

Calandrella cinerea

We had good views of one individual in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: The African Red-capped Lark complex C. cinerea, was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex C. brachydactyla but is now considered distinct by most authorities. Several distinctive groupings have now been split off from Red-capped Lark, including Blanford's Lark of Ethiopia C. blanfordi.

Swallows

Plain (Brown-throated) Martin

Riparia paludicola

A small flock of four was seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogen fuligula

This dark hirundine was only seen in small numbers at Ruhija.

NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form H. f. fuligula would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin H. pusilla which is resident in Uganda. Palearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsolete. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

A Palearctic migrant recorded in small numbers on several days of the trip, with the highest daily tally being 10 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow H. rustica and the New World Barn Swallow H. erythrogaster. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive H. r. savignii which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.

Angola Swallow

Hirundo angolensis

Another fairly common hirundine in Uganda, we found fifteen in Murchison Falls NP and small numbers on most days thereafter.

Wire-tailed Swallow

Hirundo smithii

Conspicuous along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, with as many as three seen.

NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form which would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow which would be H. filifera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Lesser Striped-Swallow

Cecropis abyssinica

A widespread African swallow that is fairly common in Uganda, we found one at Luwero Swamp.

Mosque Swallow

Cecropis senegalensis

Another large attractive swallow. Our only sighting was of one near Kibale NP.

Red-rumped Swallow

Cecropis daurica

An uncommon species in Uganda, up to twenty were seen in the Kibale area.

NOTE: This species complex may be a candidate for multi-species splitting, the Ugandan form remaining within the nominate group but H. d. melanocrissus of Ethiopia becoming Black-vented Swallow and H. d. domicella becoming West African Swallow.

White-headed Sawwing

Psalidoprocne albiceps

This elegant bird was first seen foraging over the road near the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest, with regular sightings at scattered locations throughout Uganda.

Black Sawwing

Psalidoprocne holomelas

Outnumbers the above species in most of the higher altitude sites in Uganda, with up to 15 daily in the south-western highlands, especially around Ruhija and Mgahinga.

NOTE: The Black Saw-wing complex is sometimes split into eight full species with the Ugandan form being retained in P. holomelas.

Wagtails & Pipits

African Pied Wagtail

Motacilla aguimp

A common and familiar African bird that we found in good numbers virtually daily.

Cape Wagtail

Motacilla capensis

This species was first seen at Buhoma with a further sighting of one at Mgahinga.

Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail

Motacilla clara

A scarce bird of forested streams. Three of these elegant birds were seen on the stream on the Nek in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Yellow-throated Longclaw

Macronyx croceus

This meadowlark-like bird is a common denizen of open habitat in Uganda, with small numbers recorded at several localities. We enjoyed good sightings of at least three daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

We obtained excellent views of two near Murro and one in Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ugandan races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Clements does not recognise this split.

African (Grassland/Grassveld) Pipit

Anthus cinnamomeus

Small numbers encountered daily in the drier areas of Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.

Cuckoo-shrikes

Gray Cuckoo-shrike

Coracina caesia

A total of nine seen in the higher parts of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Petit's Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga petiti

An uncommon forest cuckoo-shrike that we recorded in small numbers at Sebitole, Kibale Forest and at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP (in total eight seen).

Black Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga flava

We were fortunate to have good views of several at Buhoma and Lake Mburo NP.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga phoenicea

We enjoyed fair views of one male near Sambiya Lodge and another near Queen Elizabeth NP.

Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga quisqualina

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

“The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding”

www.rockjumper.co.za

One male was seen very well at Mabira Forest.

Bulbuls

Common Bulbul

Pycnonotus barbatus

A ubiquitous species and one of the few birds to be recorded on every day of the trip, with numerous daily tallies in excess of 20 individuals.

NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species. The form that we saw in Uganda, P. b. tricolor may be split as Dark-capped Bulbul, Clements does not recognize this split.

Shelley's Greenbul

Andropadus masukuensis

Only several of these attractive birds, were encountered, all at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: The form encountered in Uganda is often treated as a distinct species, Kakamega Greenbul A. kakamegae.

Little Greenbul

Andropadus virens

Along with Yellow-whiskered, the commonest greenbul in lower altitude forest in Uganda, though much more commonly heard than seen. First seen in Budongo Forest, with small numbers seen at all other subsequent forest sites.

(Little) Gray Greenbul

Andropadus gracilis

A total of four were seen on the Royal Mile at Budongo Forest.

Ansorge's Greenbul

Andropadus ansorgei

Only recently discovered in Uganda (first record in August 2001 by Nik Borrow and Adam Riley). We were fortunate to see two fairly well at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul

Andropadus curvirostris

This inconspicuous greenbul was seen in small numbers at Budongo and Kibale Forests.

Slender-billed Greenbul

Andropadus gracilirostris

A common greenbul of forest canopy, we saw it first at Busingiro, with small numbers at all other forest sites on the trip.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Andropadus latirostris

A common greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had good sightings at Buhoma, Ruhija and Mabira Forests.

Eastern Mountain-Greenbul

Andropadus nigriceps

A conspicuous and attractive bird of highland forests that we found in good numbers (24) in the upper sections of Bwindi Impenetrable NP with a further 2 being seen at Chuya Forest.

NOTE: Clements splits the form concerned as Eastern Mountain Greenbul, as opposed to Western Mountain Greenbul A. tephrolaemus of West Africa. Stevenson & Fanshawe and other authorities do not as yet accept this split and refer to the complex simply as Mountain Greenbul A. nigriceps.

Honeyguide Greenbul

Baeopogon indicator

The querulous calls of this canopy-dwelling greenbul are common sounds in lower altitude forest throughout Uganda. We first saw this species at Kibale Forest where we enjoyed good scope views.

Spotted Greenbul

Ixonotus guttatus

We found a wonderful pair of these striking greenbuls.

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove)

Chlorocichla flavicollis

A species that everyone was keen to see, we saw one on the Nile boat cruise and finally great scope views of a pair at Lake Mburo NP.

Joyful Greenbul

Chlorocichla laetissima

A strangely local greenbul in Uganda, we found a pair in Kibale Forest NP, where it is a common resident at higher altitudes (the pair allowed for great scope views).

Toro Olive-Greenbul

Phyllastrephus hypochloris

Another confusing greenbul that usually makes matters worse by remaining in thick cover, however we were fortunate to have great views of two at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: Baumann's Greenbul P. baumannii of West Africa is sometimes lumped into this species.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus

We first observed this wing-flicking species at Buhoma with several further sightings of up to ten at Ruhija.

White-throated Greenbul

Phyllastrephus albigularis

Another uncommon, skulking greenbul, of which we found one at Kaniyo Pabidi whilst enjoying our lunch and a further six at Mabira Forest.

Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill

Bleda syndactyla

The quiet, purring calls of this attractive greenbul were commonly heard at several forest sites on the trip. This shy, ant-following species was seen for the first time at Mabira Forest.

Yellow-spotted (Western) Nicator

Nicator chloris

An aberrant hook-billed greenbul that was seen exceptionally well at Kaniyo Pabidi and again at Bigodi Swamp.

Red-tailed Greenbul

Criniger calurus

One of the most handsome of all greenbuls and a relatively common forest bird throughout Uganda. We saw two at Budongo Forest and small numbers at other low altitude forests at Buhoma and Mabira.

Thrushes & Allies

Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush (Fraser's Ant-Thrush) *Neocossyphus fraseri*

The distinctive whistle of this rufous, forest thrush, is one of the background sounds in many western Ugandan forests. We obtained the first of seven sightings at Budongo.

Red-tailed Ant-Thrush

Neocossyphus rufus

This elusive species was heard at several forests and finally seen in Mabira Forest.

White-tailed Ant-Thrush

Neocossyphus poensis

We enjoyed great views of one at dawn near Bigodi Swamp.

Kivu Ground-Thrush*

Zoothera tanganjicae

We heard this very secretive species singing at Chuya Forest but unfortunately it would not show itself.

*NOTE: Some authorities split Kivu Ground-Thrush *Z. tanganjicae*, the one we heard from Abyssinian Ground-Thrush *Z. piaggiae*. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

Olive Thrush

Turdus olivaceus

Small numbers were seen at Ruhizha and Mgahinga.

African Thrush

Turdus pelios

Uganda's most common thrush, we found this species in moist woodland and forest at most sites on the trip.

Red-throated Alethe*

Alethe poliophrys

One of the most handsome Albertine Rift endemics, after an extensive search we found one of these beautiful forest thrushes at Chuya Forest.

Fire-crested Alethe

Alethe diademata

This ant-following species was seen at Kaniyo Pabidi with a further sighting of one at Mabira Forest.

*NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe of West Africa, becoming *A. castanea*.*

Cisticolas & Allies

Red-faced Cisticola

Cisticola erythrops

This common, widespread and vocal species was seen very well at Bigodi Swamp with further sightings near Buhoma.

Singing Cisticola

Cisticola cantans

This species is scarce in Uganda, we had good views of one near Sambiya Lodge.

Whistling Cisticola

Cisticola lateralis

Another common sound was the pleasant whistle of this species. We had good views of two alongside the road near Budongo Forest.

Trilling Cisticola

Cisticola woosnami

The strange, quavering call of this common woodland cisticola was first heard in the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth NP where we managed to obtain views of two, with a further one seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi*

Another noisy cisticola with wonderful duetting songs, we found small numbers at Bigodi Swamp and thereafter regular daily sightings in Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga NP's.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola cheniana*

Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola galactotes*

The commonest wetland cisticola in Uganda, its winding song was heard in reedbeds, papyrus swamps and damp grassland throughout the trip. First seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: Some authorities split this widespread African species into five species. Winding Cisticola C. galactotes that we observed, would become C. marginatus and occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola C. haematocephala that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola C. luapula occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola C. galactotes of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola C. lugubris endemic to Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

Carruthers's Cisticola *Cisticola carruthersi*

Replaces Winding in the centre of papyrus swamps and hence less frequently encountered. We found three at Mubwindi Swamp.

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus*

Similar to but considerably less commonly encountered than the following species, we found only three, in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Croaking (Striped) Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

A common denizen of moist grassland, we encountered this species at Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Tabora Cisticola *Cisticola angusticaudus*

We found two of this seldom seen species in Lake Mburo NP. A particularly rare species in Uganda.

Siffling (Short-winged) Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*

A small, nondescript warbler of open, bushy areas. We encountered several in Murchison Falls NP.

Foxy Cisticola *Cisticola troglodytes*

This handsome bird of dry *Acacia* savanna was seen only in Murchison Falls NP.

Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

The world's most widespread cisticola is common in Uganda and we found small numbers in grasslands in Murchison Falls NP.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we found several, with our first sightings near Budongo Forest with further encounters in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

White-chinned Prinia *Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon*

This confiding, gregarious species was first observed on the higher section of Kibale Forest, with small numbers seen daily at Buhoma.

Banded Prinia *Prinia bairdii*

This snappy-looking, but at times skulking prinia, was seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split off as Black-faced Prinia P. melanops.

Red-winged Prinia (Warbler) *Heliolais erythroptera*

A widespread African warbler of local distribution in Uganda, we found two in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-winged Gray Warbler *Drymocichla incana*

A localized species, which was observed in thick woodland, just above Murchison Falls itself.

Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis* *Apalis ruwenzorii*

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found in the montane forest around Ruhizha (four seen) with a further sighting in Chuya Forest.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into Black-collared Apalis A. pulchra.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*

We heard it several times on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Black-throated Apalis

Apalis jacksoni

One of the commonest forest and forest edge apalises in Uganda, we found our first of these beautiful birds at Budongo and thereafter small numbers daily in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Mabira Forest.

Masked Apalis

Apalis binotata

In Uganda, largely restricted to Kibale Forest NP, where we enjoyed magnificent scope views of one in an afternoon in the higher altitude, northern part of the park.

Black-faced (Mountain Masked) Apalis*

Apalis personata

Another Albertine Rift endemic restricted to the South Western corner of the country. We found several at Buhoma and Ruhizha, in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

This widespread, woodland apalis is relatively scarce in Uganda, with our only sightings being of one en route from Masindi to Kibale NP and another in Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into two or more species, with the central Ugandan form becoming Green-tailed Apalis A. caniceps. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Buff-throated Apalis

Apalis rufogularis

A relatively common resident of the canopy of lower altitude forest in Uganda, with sightings at Budongo Forest, Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Mabira Forest.

Chestnut-throated Apalis

Apalis porphyrolaema

The commonest apalis in montane forest, with its “ringing telephone” call frequently heard, we obtained good views of a total of seven at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: The more southerly form (occurring in Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi) is sometimes split off as Chapin’s Apalis A. chapini.

Gray Apalis

Apalis cinerea

This species was seen at Budongo Forest, Kibale NP and Buhoma.

Gray-capped Warbler

Eminia lepida

This attractive, yet skulking bird was heard on many occasions, but we obtained excellent views of one next to the road at Luwero Swamp and another at Buhoma.

Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera

Camaroptera brachyura

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in moist wooded habitat throughout Uganda, with good sightings near Masindi and Murro.

NOTE: Most authorities now recognise the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms C. brevicaudata. We encountered the grey-backed form in Uganda. Clements still lumps these two groups.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera

Camaroptera superciliaris

This handsome warbler was first seen on the “Royal Mile” at Budongo Forest and our only other sighting was of a pair at Mabira Forest.

Olive-green Camaroptera

Camaroptera chloronota

Another skulking camaroptera, it’s piercing calls were heard at all lower altitude forest sites, with our first sighting of one at the “Royal Mile” and further sightings at Buhoma and Mabira Forest.

Old World Warblers

White-winged Scrub-Warbler

Bradypterus carpalis

This highly localized and beautiful swamp-dwelling warbler was seen near Kibale NP.

Grauer's Scrub- (Rush-) Warbler*

Bradypterus graueri

We had good views of this localised species, which is restricted to a handful of marshes in the Albertine Rift, at Mubwindi Swamp in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Cameroon Scrub (Evergreen Forest) Warbler

Bradypterus lopezi

We enjoyed superb views of several at Mgahinga NP.

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler

Bradypterus cinnamomeus

We battled to see this undergrowth-dwelling warbler. Two were finally seen a Mgahinga NP.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler

Bathmocercus rufus

The “reversing truck” call of this beautiful warbler was commonly heard at lower altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, after extensive searching we were finally rewarded with great views of a pair on the Nek.

Moustached Grass-Warbler (African Moustached-Warbler) *Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was encountered several times during the tour with great views of several in Murchison Falls NP and near Murro.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*

We heard this species at Lake Mburo National Park and enjoyed superb views of one on the Kazinga Channel.

African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta natalensis*

This species was seen very well in rank grassland in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta similis*

This beautiful songster was found in the montane forest around Ruhizha where we enjoyed great views of several.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was first seen at Luwero Swamp with further sightings in Murchison Falls NP.

Grauer's Warbler* *Graueria vittata*

This unusual, barred warbler (with a Scaly-throated Honeyguide-like call), was seen exceptionally well at Ruhija. An unprecedented sighting of this elusive species.

Green-backed Eremomela *Eremomela canescens*

We enjoyed great views of several at Luwero Swamp and two on the Butiaba escarpment.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*

Local in Uganda, we found this attractive bird on the Royal Mile and at Busingiro in Budongo Forest.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We heard the species almost daily at many forest sites, though it was seen only at near Kibale NP.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*

We had fantastic scope views of one in the canopy on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys*

We enjoyed good views of this attractive crombec at Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and at Chuya Forest.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

This dry *Acacia* woodland species was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

We enjoyed good views of one near Sambiya Lodge.

Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler* *Hemitesia neumanni*

This elusive Albertine rift endemic literally ran circles around us in the undergrowth at Buhoma. After many hours and extensive searching some of us were rewarded with fair views. Mathew even managed to get a photo of one.

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*

This skulking species was heard and briefly seen at Mabira Forest.

Gray Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

This is another secretive species, we found two at Mabira Forest.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Its “HEE-lia!” call was one of the common background sounds at all the lower altitude forest sites on the tour. We unfortunately did not see one.

Red-faced Woodland-Warbler* *Phylloscopus laetus*

Another Albertine Rift endemic, which we encountered in good numbers in Ruhizha and Buhoma with a final sighting of several Mgahinga NP.

Yellow-bellied Hylia *Hylia flavigaster*

We had superb views of one on the Butiaba escarpment.

Fan-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola brevirostris*

We obtained excellent views of two of these uncommon birds, in rank grass, near Murro.

NOTE: This African species is sometimes lumped with the Indian *S. platyura* Broad-tailed Warbler.

Old World Flycatchers

Silverbird

Empidonax semipartitus

This beautiful flycatcher with chestnut underparts, was seen exceptionally well in Murchison Falls NP and on the Butiaba escarpment.

Pale Flycatcher

Bradornis pallidus

We saw up to six daily in Murchison Falls NP.

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher

Melaenornis fischeri

Birds of the race *toruensis*, which LACKS a white eye-ring (!), were common in Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga NP's, with several seen daily.

Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher

Melaenornis edolioides

First recorded on the drive to Murchison Falls NP with further sightings in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Southern Black Flycatcher

Melaenornis pammelaina

We were very fortunate to find two in Lake Mburo NP. This species was only recently discovered in Uganda by Adam Riley, and occurs here at the very northern tip of its range.

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher*

Melaenornis ardesiacus

Two were seen very well on a forest trail at Buhoma with our only other sighting of one at Mubwindi Swamp. A scarce, Albertine Rift endemic.

African Forest-Flycatcher

Fraseria ocreata

A scarce forest flycatcher however, we found five on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Sooty Flycatcher

Muscicapa infuscata

A swallow-like bird often seen perched in groups on dead snags high above the forest canopy, with our first records from Buhoma and a further sighting in Mabira Forest.

Swamp Flycatcher

Muscicapa aquatica

A common denizen of swamp edges throughout southern Uganda, with our first records from the Nile at Murchison Falls and especially tame individuals hawked near our lunch tables at Mweya. It was also seen in small numbers at Lake Mburo NP.

Chapin's Flycatcher*

Muscicapa lendu

This rare bird was seen on two occasions at Buhoma.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

A common forest-edge species first recorded at Buhoma and most regularly encountered daily at Bwindi Impenetrable NP with further sightings at Mgahinga NP.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher

Muscicapa comitata

A quiet, inconspicuous bird that we first found in the morning at Bigodi Swamp, with further sightings at several locations in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Cassin's (Gray) Flycatcher

Muscicapa cassini

A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. We found individuals at Sebitole, Kibale Forest NP and another at "The Neck" in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Ashy Flycatcher

Muscicapa caerulescens

This widespread woodland denizen was seen near Bigodi Swamp and at Mabira Forest.

Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus griseigularis

This active species, which replaces the next species in the forest interior, was seen well on the Royal Mile and at Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

Gray Tit- (Lead-colored) Flycatcher

Myioparus plumbeus

We obtained excellent views of two near Masindi and another two in Murchison Falls NP.

White-starred Robin

Pogonocichla stellata

We found this beautiful Afro-montane forest robin at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Chuya Forest where we managed to obtain excellent views on several occasions. An amazing total of six of these shy birds were seen.

Forest Robin *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*

This shy species was heard at many forest sites and finally seen at Mabira Forest where we obtained good views.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

A fairly common, though somewhat retiring denizen of the forest undergrowth near Buhoma, we had superb views of one.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossypha (Cossyphicula) roberti*

This akalat-like bird with a robin-chat-like voice was seen on the forest trails at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Archer's Robin-Chat (~ Ground-Robin)* *Cossypha archeri*

An Albertine Rift Endemic that occurs at higher altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, with several heard singing along the road above Ruhizha. After an extensive search we were finally rewarded with fantastic views of one at Ruhizha.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*

We enjoyed superb views of two at Mgahinga NP. A scarce bird in Uganda.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*

A pair was seen at Mabira Forest.

White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

The crescendo calls of this handsome bird were amongst the dominant sounds of the dawn chorus in woodland throughout the trip. We recorded them in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP, where they obligingly perched atop large *Euphorbia*.

Snowy-crowned (~headed) Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

This beautiful songster was first seen near Murro where we enjoyed great scope views of one with further sightings in moist woodland at several localities.

Spotted Morning-Thrush *Cichladusa guttata*

Another beautiful songster, recorded in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP.

Brown-backed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*

This species was first seen at Bigodi Swamp with further sightings near Buhoma and at Ruhija.

Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

This widespread African scrub-robin was seen on our first day near Masindi with further sightings of two at Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would become White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African C. l. zambesiana (the Ugandan form) would remain as Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African C. l. leucoptera would become White-winged Scrub-Robin. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

African (Common) Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

This widespread and familiar bird is common only in the higher parts of Uganda, with our first records on the drive from Ruhizha to Mgahinga.

NOTE: Clements recognizes the split of African S. torquata and Common S. rubicola Stonechats (the latter a Palaearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form S. t. albofasciata which may become Ethiopian Stonechat.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*

Distinctive and ubiquitous, Sooty Chats were found at several sites with peak numbers (up to 15 daily) in the grassland parts of Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

White-fronted Black-Chat *Myrmecocichla albifrons*

This is a rare species. We enjoyed a magnificent sighting of four perched up on dead trees in the late afternoon in Murchison Falls NP.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnodia cinnamomeiventris*

A pair of these delightful chats was seen on the Butiaba escarpment.

Wattle-eyes

African Shrike-flycatcher

Megabias (Bias) flammulatus

These large, tail-wagging forest flycatchers were seen on several occasions including sightings at the Royal Mile and Busingiro in Budongo Forest, Buhoma and a final sighting of one female at Mabira Forest.

Black-and-white (Vanga) Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus*

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were observed at Bigodi Swamp where we enjoyed outstanding views of several males and females.

Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

By far the most commonly encountered wattle-eye in Uganda, with several in moist woodland and at forest edge throughout. Especially conspicuous at Buhoma and also seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*

These attractive little birds, were first seen at Budongo Forest with small numbers also seen at Buhoma. We enjoyed superb sightings of up to eight at Mabira Forest.

Jameson's Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya jamesoni*

After extensive searching for this spectacular species at Budongo, with no success we were extremely fortunate in obtaining sightings of one at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into the West African Red-cheeked Wattle-eye D. blissetti

Ruwenzori Batis* *Batis diops*

This attractive species was seen on several occasions in the vicinity of Buhoma and Ruhizha, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

This widespread African batis was only observed Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and at Lake Mburo NP.

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

Largely replacing Chinspot Batis in the northern savanna of Uganda, we found several of this species in Murchison Falls NP.

Ituri Batis *Batis ituriensis*

We heard one calling at Budongo Forest.

Monarch Flycatchers

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocercus mccallii*

A snappy-looking, sprightly flycatcher recorded at its only East African site, Budongo where we enjoyed superb views of several.

African Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

Another lively bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail. We enjoyed good views of one at Mabira Forest.

White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*

The montane equivalent of the above species in Uganda. We recorded it commonly in the Ruhizha area (with our first sighting at Buhoma).

White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch) *Elminia albiventris*

We had several sightings at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Black-headed (Red-bellied) Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

First seen well at Budongo Forest, with further sightings at several other lowland forests.

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

A handsome bird recorded in good numbers daily in wooded habitats.

NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which include the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Grey-headed Paradise-Flycatcher T. plumbeiceps. The subspecies which we recorded in Uganda T. v. ferreti in the central areas and T. v. kivuensis in the south-west will fall within the northern African Paradise-Flycatcher complex T.

viridis if the group were to be split. Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males and we observed an example of this phenomenon in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Babblers

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis albipectus

This forest understorey skulker was heard at many lowland forests, with fair sightings of one at Buhoma.

Puvel's Illadopsis

Illadopsis puveli

In East Africa, still known only from Kaniyo Pabidi in Budongo, where we were rewarded with outstanding views of one.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis rufipennis

This species was heard calling at Busingiro.

Brown Illadopsis

Illadopsis fulvescens

This understorey babbler was seen once in Kibale NP and heard at several other forest sites.

Mountain Illadopsis

Illadopsis pyrrhoptera

Commonly heard at all altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, with 4 seen well alongside a forest road at Buhoma.

African Hill Babbler

Pseudoalcippe abyssinica

Another skulking forest babbler seen well at Ruhija in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. This form is endemic to the Albertine Rift and is almost certainly specifically distinct from eastern birds.

NOTE: The Rwenzori form in south-western Uganda, I. a. atriceps is usually split off as Rwenzori Hill Babbler and the subspecies occurring in East Africa from Zambia to Eritrea remain with the nominate grouping I. a. abyssinica African Hill Babbler. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Black-lored Babbler

Turdoides sharpei

Small numbers recorded daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes lumped within the White-rumped Babbler T. leucopygius complex which would then include the nominate T. l. leucopygius White-rumped Babbler- an Ethiopian near-endemic, T. l. sharpei Black-lored Babbler of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and neighboring countries and T. l. hartlaubii Hartlaub's Babbler of Namibia, Botswana, Angola, Zambia and neighboring countries. Clements accepts this as a full species.

Brown Babbler

Turdoides plebejus

We had sightings of a small family group near Masindi and a further sighting of three in Murchison Falls NP.

Arrow-marked Babbler

Turdoides jardineii

This widespread African woodland babbler was observed in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Chickadees & Tits

White-winged Black Tit

Melaniparus leucomelas

We saw a pair exceptionally well at Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: The nominate dark-eyed White-winged Black Tit M. leucomelas which we recorded in Uganda used to be lumped with White-shouldered Black Tit M. guineensis. Clements recognizes this recent split.

White-shouldered Black Tit

Melaniparus guineensis

We enjoyed good sightings of two in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: Refer to previous species.

Dusky Tit

Melaniparus funereus

We had superb views of two on the "Royal Mile" at Budongo and a group of five in Kibale Forest.

Stripe-breasted Tit*

Melaniparus fasciiventer

A handsome Albertine Rift endemic that was observed on three consecutive days at Ruhizha.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters

Gray-headed Sunbird

Deleornis (Anthreptes) axillaris

We had good sightings of this species at Buhoma, on the Nek and at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: The species is sometimes lumped with the West African Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird D. fraseri.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*

A male of this magnificent sunbird was seen near Sambiya Lodge in Murchison Falls NP.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*

This inconspicuous, drab sunbird was first seen at Budongo, with subsequent sightings at several other forest sites.

Green Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*

A small yet relatively conspicuous sunbird, we found our first ones on the "Royal Mile" with further sightings and great views of several at Kibale Forest. We were afforded some great scope views of this canopy species.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two forms, the Eastern (including Ugandan) Grey-chinned Sunbird A. tephrolaemus and the nominate Western Yellow-chinned Sunbird.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*

The commonest *Anthreptes* sunbird in Uganda, we recorded good numbers almost daily throughout the tour.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis*

This attractive species was first seen at Murchison Falls NP with further sightings at Kibale NP and Buhoma.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) cyanolaema*

This large forest sunbird was seen at Kibale NP, Bigodi Swamp and Mabira Forest.

(Ruwenzori ~) Blue-headed Sunbird* *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) alinae*

Small numbers were seen daily at Ruhizha with our best sightings at Mubwindi Swamp.

Western Olive-Sunbird *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

Its distinctive call was heard daily in all lower altitude forests, with our first sighting at Budongo. Further sightings included several at Buhoma and Mabira Forests.

NOTE: The Olive-Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and some other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird C. olivacea and the form which we recorded in Uganda, Western Olive-Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack there-of, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various forms within the complex.

Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) rubescens*

One stunning male of these uncommonly recorded sunbirds, was seen just outside Budongo Forest.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

A common bird in Uganda, we recorded it regularly, with good numbers in open woodland habitats.

Purple-breasted Sunbird* *Nectarinia purpureiventris*

One stunning male was seen at Mubwindi Swamp.

Bronze Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis*

This attractive long-tailed sunbird was first seen near Kibale NP, with more sightings coming from the dry scrub between Buhoma and Ruhizha and in Mgahinga NP.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

A common forest-edge species, which we observed in small numbers in Budongo Forest and thereafter encountered in small numbers at most other lowland forest sites.

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus*

We were fortunate to see one female high in the canopy at Buhoma.

Stuhlmann's (Rwenzori) Double-collared Sunbird* *Cinnyris stuhlmanni*

A total of eight were observed in Mgahinga NP, where we enjoyed superb scope views of several males.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) preussi*

The common sunbird of forest edge at Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP with further sightings in Mgahinga NP.

Regal Sunbird* *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) regia*

This was one of the highlights of Ruhizha and Chuya Forest, a total of 20 seen, including a number of stunning co-operative males.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella*

This exquisite sunbird is fairly common only in the drier northern savanna around Murchison Falls NP, where we had good views of two males.

Mariqua Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) mariquensis

This dry country species was first encountered on the Butiaba escarpment with our only other sightings of three at Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. suahelicus which we recorded in Uganda would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Mariqua Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Red-chested Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) erythrocerca

The common, long-tailed sunbird of wetland edges, with our first sightings coming from Queen Elizabeth NP (where males were conspicuous around Mweya Lodge). We also had superb views of one male in Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Purple-banded Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) bifasciata

Our first encounter was of one in Maramagumbo Forest, Queen Elizabeth NP with a further excellent sighting of one male at Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: The form N. e. tsavoensis of Kenya is sometimes split off as Tsavo Purple-banded Sunbird.

Orange-tufted Sunbird

Cinnyris bouvieri

We found a pair of this rare species near Murro where they were seen carrying nesting material.

Superb Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superba

This large, spectacular sunbird was first observed in small numbers on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest and later at Busingiro and Kibale NP.

Variable Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) venusta

The beautiful orange-bellied form of this sunbird, was seen on many occasions, with many good sightings *en route* from Buhoma to Ruhizha and in Mgahinga NP.

NOTE: This complex may be split into 3 full species based on belly colour, although at this stage the details are rather vague.

Copper Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea

We obtained superb views of several in the moist woodland near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

White-eyes

African Yellow White-eye

Zosterops senegalensis

The only white-eye in Uganda, and common in wooded habitat throughout, we observed our first individuals in the Masindi area.

Old World Orioles

African Golden Oriole

Oriolus auritus

We observed one stunning male in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Western Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus brachyrhynchus

This forest interior species was seen in small numbers at Budongo Forest.

African Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus larvatus

We had good views of a pair near Masindi.

Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole

Oriolus percivali

This common denizen of montane forests was recorded daily around Ruhizha, with 4 seen on the hike to Mubwindi Swamp.

Shrikes

Gray-backed Fiscal

Lanius excubitoroides

Uganda's commonest fiscal, occupying a variety of moist woodland habitats. First recorded at the roadside on our first day, and daily at savanna sites during the rest of the trip (peak numbers of 20 daily in Queen Elizabeth NP).

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal) *Lanius mackinnoni*

The forest-edge fiscal in Uganda, with small numbers seen on the drive to Buhoma and *en route* from Buhoma to Ruhija and Ruhija to Mgahinga.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa, though nevertheless seen daily in savanna habitats, with our first records from Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvine*

We had a fantastic sighting of a pair with young near Masindi.

Bushshrikes & Allies

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Uganda's common puffback, was seen in small numbers in Murchison Falls NP and in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

This uncommon forest shrike was seen very well at Sebitole with further sightings at Buhoma.

Marsh Tchagra *Tchagra minuta*

We had good views of a pair, of this diminutive tchagra, in rank vegetation near Masindi.

NOTE: The more southerly forms of this species are often separated as Anchieta's Tchagra T. anchietae with the Ugandan form retained in the nominate group.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra, we saw (and especially heard) small numbers daily in savanna of Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: Moroccan Tchagra T. s. cucullata of north-west Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

This species prefers moister country than the preceding one and we obtained good views of several in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

This very attractive species, was seen exceptionally well at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

A widespread shrike commonly heard and significantly less often seen. After extensive searching we were finally rewarded with good views of a pair at Lake Mburo NP.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

A brilliantly coloured bush-shrike that is delightfully common in savanna parts of Uganda, with our first sightings coming from Luwero Swamp and peak totals from the Queen Elizabeth NP, up to eight daily.

Papyrus Gonolek *Laniarius mufumbiri*

The swamp equivalent of the Black-headed Gonolek (and one of Uganda's papyrus specialties), we had good views of this colourful bird at Bigodi Swamp.

Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

This localized forest bush-shrike was seen at Mabira Forest, where we obtained great sightings of one creeping about in the tangles.

Mountain Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis*

We obtained brief views of two individuals at Ruhizha.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into Fuelleborn's Black Boubou L. fuelleborni.

Gray-green (Bocage's) Bushshrike *Telophorus bocagei*

This elegant shrike (which is neither gray nor green nor any combination thereof) was seen very well at Bigodi Swamp and at Buhoma.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

A widespread African savanna species that was heard on several occasions. We obtained good views of one in Murchison Falls NP and another near Murro.

Many-colored Bushshrike *Telophorus multicolor*

We found one at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Doherty's Bushshrike *Telophorus dohertyi*

Excellent views of this stunning creature were had on the drive between Buhoma and Ruhizha. This was one of the highlights of Bwindi.

Lagden's Bushshrike *Malaconotus lagdeni*

This very rare species was only heard at Ruhizha.

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

Another elusive species. We heard its hooting calls in the distance in Murchison Falls NP.

Drongos

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird, which was seen during our first day and thereafter regularly recorded in open savanna habitats.

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*

This recently split forest equivalent of the Fork-tailed Drongo, was only seen at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: Older versions of Clements lump this species within Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis but the split has been recognized in recent Clements updates.

Crows, Jays & Magpies

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*

A bizarre corvid that was observed on our first day during the drive up to Masindi and thereafter in small flocks in Murchison Falls NP.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers on our first day and on all the road trips thereafter.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

Small numbers were seen near Mgahinga NP.

Starlings

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Small flocks of this irruptive species were seen in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Our only records of this widespread African starling came from Lake Mburo NP where we saw four.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

Common only in the drier northern savanna, where we recorded small flocks near Masindi and good numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: This species complex is widely treated as two distinct species, the nominate group which we recorded in Uganda, remains as Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling and the southern broad-leaved woodland form becomes Southern Blue-eared or Miombo Glossy-Starling L. elisabeth. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had superb views of two near Masindi on the first day.

Splendid Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling is fairly common in moist woodlands throughout southern and central Uganda. We had excellent views of our first birds near Masindi with further sightings near Murro.

Purple Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis purpureus

We had wonderfully good scope views of two near Masindi on the first day.

Rueppell's (Long-tailed) Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis purpuropterus

This ubiquitous bird is Uganda's commonest starling and its loud calls were a regular component of the dawn choruses we heard throughout the trip. Good numbers were observed on all drive days with peak numbers of 30 near Masindi.

Purple-headed Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis (Hylopsar) purpureiceps

This beautiful forest starling was first observed at Budongo Forest, with further sightings from Kibale and Mabira Forests.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured/Amethyst) Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

This exquisite bird was seen very well in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Slender-billed Starling

Onychognathus tenuirostris

This large starling is infrequently recorded in Uganda and we observed four near Ruhizha.

Chestnut-winged Starling

Onychognathus fulgidus

Another uncommonly recorded species, we had great views of two at Budongo Forest.

Waller's Starling

Onychognathus walleri

We enjoyed great scope views of two at Mubwindi Swamp.

Narrow-tailed Starling

Poeoptera lugubris

We saw flocks of this diminutive long-tailed starling at the upper section to Kibale Forest and small numbers at Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Stuhlmann's Starling

Poeoptera stuhlmanni

Less common than the preceding species, two were seen at Buhoma.

Sharpe's Starling

Pholia sharpii

This nomadic species was seen exceptionally well at Ruhizha and Chuya Forest.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus africanus

This "specially modified" starling was found on ungulate herds in Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Old World Sparrows

Shelley's Rufous Sparrow

Passer shelleyi

We were fortunate to see four on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi that we observed occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Rufous Sparrow P. motitensis occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous Sparrow P. rufocinctus occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow P. cordofanicus occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow is endemic to Socotra.

(Northern) Gray-headed Sparrow

Passer griseus

Uganda's commonest sparrow is plentiful throughout and was recorded on an almost daily basis.

NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the central and southern Ugandan form being retaining in the nominate grouping with the same nomenclature.

Weavers & Allies

Speckle-fronted Weaver

Sporopipes frontalis

Common only north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, where we found eight individuals.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver

Plocepasser superciliosus

This relatively uncommon species was observed at several sites in the dry savannas of Murchison Falls NP.

Baglafaecht Weaver

Ploceus baglafaecht

A common weaver of moister, open habitats and our first sighting was of one at Buhoma. We had further sightings of small flocks in Mgahinga NP where it was recorded on a daily basis.

NOTE: This polytypic species complex has been considered for multi-species splitting. Two distinct forms occur in Uganda, the

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

widespread *P. b. stuhlmanni* (Stuhlmann's Weaver) and in the north, *P. b. emini* (Emin's Weaver). We only recorded the former during our tour.

Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni*

This tiny species was very common in Queen Elizabeth NP, where tame individuals were seen at close quarters around our breakfast table. It was also recorded in good numbers in Lake Mburo NP.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

We only observed this dry country species at Luwero Swamp and in small numbers near Murro.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

A scarce weaver of woodland and forest edge. We first observed this species in Queen Elizabeth NP, with a good sighting of three males.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

A fairly common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge. We found one near Murro.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

A snappy-looking weaver of forest edge that we recorded in small numbers at all lower altitude forest sites, with our first sighting near Murro and highest numbers from the vicinity of Kibale NP.

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

This is another dapper bird of forest fringes, which we recorded twice at Buhoma.

Strange Weaver* *Ploceus alienus*

This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was seen at Mubwindi Swamp and Ruhija.

Holub's (Large) Golden-Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, we found one in Murchison Falls NP, one near Murro and another in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

A beautiful bird largely restricted to the wetlands of the Lake Victoria basin. We had superb views of two in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*

Another swamp associated species, which we observed on the Nile and in Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

African (Vitelline) Masked-Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

One of Uganda's most conspicuous birds, with large colonies found in many towns. First seen near Budongo Forest.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is also a candidate for multi-species splitting and the subspecies P. c. bohndorffi which we recorded in Uganda will probably remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by Clements.

Vieillot's (Black) Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

Rivals the above for title of commonest Ugandan weaver, with our first sighting of a large nesting colony near Budongo Forest.

NOTE: The distinctive West African form of this weaver is sometimes split off as Chestnut-and-black Weaver P. castaneofuscus.

Weyns' Weaver *Ploceus weynsi*

This irruptive species, which can be very difficult to find, was observed at Mabira Forest where we were very fortunate to see a small flock of six.

Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

Another common weaver of wetlands throughout Uganda, which we found in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP. Yet another species which fed off our dining tables at Mweya Lodge! Large numbers were seen along the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*

This forest-dwelling species was observed only once at Kibale NP.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

This handsome forest weaver was observed in small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantes superciliosus*

This is an uncommon, rank grassland species, which was first observed near Murro with a further sighting of a pair in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

The only common malimbe in Uganda, our first sighting was of a pair in Kibale Forest. Several more were seen at Buhoma and Mabira Forests.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

Our first sighting was of one male near Masindi, with a further sighting of three in Lake Mburo NP.

Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*

We were fortunate to find a flock of twenty in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythropis*

We found a flock of thirty near Masindi.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

We first found the “African avian locust” in Murchison Falls NP where only a small flock of 30 were seen.

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*

We had fantastic views of two males in the Masindi area and further sightings of six during the drive from Kibale to Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-winged (Red) Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

This common species was observed in Murchison Falls NP, where up to sixty were seen daily.

Orange Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

(Southern) Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

One stunning male was observed in breeding plumage in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped/Cape Widow) *Euplectes capensis*

Observed on two occasions in cultivations in the south-western highlands of Uganda.

Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

This is the most widespread Ugandan widowbird, which we observed in fields near Mabira Forest.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

Small numbers were seen daily in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split from the following species by some authorities. Clements does not yet accept this split.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes [macrourus] macrocercus*

We found three near Murro.

NOTE: This species is lumped by Clements with E. macrourus Yellow-mantled Widowbird.

Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

This is a fairly common bird in Uganda, which we recorded in small numbers near Kibale NP.

Waxbills & Allies

Jameson’s Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons*

A pair was seen on a forest trail at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP. This is a shy and reclusive species that is seldom seen.

White-breasted Negrofinch *Nigrita fusconota*

The descending song of this negrofinch was heard at all lower altitude forests, with our first of many sightings coming from Budongo Forest.

Gray-headed Negrofinch *Nigrita canicapilla*

More common than its congener, we found small numbers daily at all forest sites, with our initial sightings also coming from Budongo Forest.

Gray-headed Oliveback *Nesocharis capistrata*

A pair was seen in Murchison Falls NP but unfortunately not everyone saw them and so it was with great relief that we found another pair the following morning near Sambiya Lodge.

Green-backed Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

“The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding”

www.rockjumper.co.za

We enjoyed superb views of this highly elusive species at Mabira Forest, one male was well found by Dodge.

Dusky Crimson-wing*

Cryptospiza jacksoni

An amazing total of eleven of this rarely recorded Albertine rift endemic were seen. Our first sighting was of a pair during an afternoon walk at Ruhizha. We enjoyed further sightings at Chuya Forest and in Mgahinga NP.

Red-headed Bluebill

Spermophaga ruficapilla

This is another beautiful and elusive seedeater. We had fantastic although very brief views of a male at Mabira Forest.

Brown Twinspot

Clytospiza monteiri

This beautiful seedeater of rank vegetation was seen near the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest and again near Busingiro.

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

By far Uganda's most regularly recorded firefinch, and often common around rural homesteads, we found it frequently in open habitats, with peak numbers of 40 daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-bellied Firefinch

Lagonosticta rara

This large firefinch was seen near Budongo Forest.

African (Blue-billed) Firefinch

Lagonosticta rubricata

Another widespread bird in Africa, although, in Uganda largely restricted to the moister southern parts. We had sightings of several near Masindi and Murro.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu

Uraeginthus bengalus

This widespread species was commonly recorded in Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill

Estrilda quartinia

Three of these attractive birds of the highlands, were seen at Ruhija.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped in the South African Swee Waxbill E. melanotis.

Fawn-breasted Waxbill

Estrilda paludicola

This seedeater was seen in small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: The Ethiopian near-endemic E. p. ochrogaster is sometimes recognized as a distinct species, Abyssinian Waxbill.

Black-rumped Waxbill

Estrilda troglodytes

This dry country waxbill, was seen very well on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

Africa's most widespread waxbill was seen in small numbers near Murro.

Black-crowned Waxbill

Estrilda nonnula

An attractive species, which we first saw near Murro and then had great views of a flock at our lunch stop en route from Kibale NP to Queen Elizabeth NP.

Kandt's Waxbill

Estrilda kandti

This is an uncommon species that we found in small numbers at Ruhija and Mgahinga.

NOTE: Clements has recently accepted this as a separate species from Black-headed Waxbill. E. atricapilla

Bronze Mannikin

Spermestes cucullata

This is a ubiquitous species in moist habitats throughout Uganda.

Black-and-white Mannikin

Spermestes bicolor

Although more localized than the preceding species, we had fantastic views of a flock of six at Luwero Swamp on our first day and thereafter seen in small numbers regularly throughout the trip.

NOTE: This complex may be split two-ways, the southern and eastern Brown-backed Mannikin L. nigriceps and the northern and western nominate group which would remain as Black-and-white Mannikin. The latter is the form we recorded in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Magpie Mannikin

Spermestes fringilloides

This rare species was observed exceptionally well in Murchison Falls NP where we enjoyed scope views of one.

Indigobirds

Village Indigobird

Vidua chalybeata

This, the brood parasite of Red-billed Firefinch, was observed in Bugungu Game Reserve and near Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pin-tailed Whydah

Vidua macroura

This species, which usually parasitizes Common Waxbill, was observed in good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies

Yellow-crowned Canary

Serinus flavivertex

This highland species was observed at Mgahinga NP, where we saw at least two.

NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary and the form which we recorded in Uganda would become S. flavivertex Yellow-crowned Canary. Clements now recognizes this split.

Western Citril

Serinus frontalis

Widespread but never very common in moist habitat in Uganda. Our first sightings were of a pair near Budongo Forest. We enjoyed further sightings in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: This complex is treated by some authorities as 3 distinct species, the eastern Southern Citril S. hypostictus, the western Western Citril S. frontalis (which is the form occurring in Uganda) and the nominate African Citril S. citrinelloides. Clements does recognize these splits.

Black-throated Canary

Serinus atrogularis

We found two at the roadside en route from Buhoma to Ruhizha.

Yellow-fronted Canary

Serinus mozambicus

This widespread African species was first observed in Murchison Falls NP. Good numbers (20) were seen near the “Royal Mile” at Budongo Forest.

Brimstone (Bully) Canary

Serinus sulphuratus

This large canary was first seen near Budongo Forest, with further sightings near Kibale NP.

Streaky Seedeater

Serinus striolatus

This is a common bird of highland forest edges, which we found in good numbers in the vicinity of Ruhija and Mgahinga NP.

Thick-billed Seedeater

Serinus burtoni

Another canary that is fairly common in and around Bwindi Impenetrable NP, and we had good sightings of several at Buhoma.

NOTE: The Tanzanian endemic S. b. melanochrous is sometimes split off a Kipengere Seed-eater.

Buntings

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Emberiza tahapisi

One was seen on the Butiaba escarpment.

(African) Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

This widespread species is remarkably scarce in Uganda (by comparison with savanna further south and east in Africa), with only several sightings, our first was of two in Queen Elizabeth NP with further sightings at Mgahinga NP.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded (42 species)

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows “The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals” by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997.

Apes

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

“The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding”

www.rockjumper.co.za

Chimpanzee

Pan troglodytes

The piercing screams of our closest living relative, were heard along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest and we spent a great deal of time searching for Chimps in Kibale NP without success. After all this effort we thought we had missed them but at Buhoma we were treated to great views of three screaming from the canopy above us.

(Mountain) Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla

Despite the treks being fairly long and hard for some of us, the experience of sitting with these forest giants for an hour, made it all worth it! Certainly one of the world's greatest wildlife experiences!

Colobid Monkeys

Central African Red Colobus

Procolobus oustaleti

We found several small groups in Kibale NP with our best sightings of four at Bigodi Swamp. Like all colobi, they feed primarily on leaves, with this species favoring the newer, more tender foliage.

Guereza Colobus

Colobus guereza

This mature-leaf folivore, arguably the most beautiful of all monkeys, is delightfully common in Uganda and we found healthy populations in all the western forests, with our first sightings and peak numbers from Budongo Forest (20).

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys

Olive (Anubis) Baboon

Papio anubis

This familiar primate occurs widely in Uganda, preferring woodland and forest edge. Large troops were regularly encountered at the roadside in Murchison Falls NP and Lake Mburo NP.

Gray-cheeked Mangabey

Lophocebus albigena

This dark, forest-dwelling primate, the males of which sport an unusual cape of hair on their mantles, was found in Kibale Forest NP.

Vervet Monkey

Cercopithecus pygerythrus

The savanna monkeys are, with the *Papio* baboons, the most widely distributed primates in Africa, inhabiting woodland and savanna habitats throughout the continent. In Uganda, two sub-species hybridize broadly across the centre of the country, though individuals north of the Nile appear to be almost pure *Tantalus* and those around the shores of Lake Victoria pure Vervet. We only encountered Vervet Monkeys on this trip.

L'Hoest's Monkey

Cercopithecus lhoesti

This handsome, mainly terrestrial guenon, is Uganda's rarest monkey, however we were fortunate in obtaining fantastic views at Ruhija.

Blue (Gentle) Monkey

Cercopithecus mitis

This long-tailed monkey was far more frequently heard than seen, although we did obtain superb sightings of ten at Budongo.

Red-tailed Monkey

Cercopithecus ascanius

The smallest and most strikingly patterned Ugandan guenon, is also the most commonly encountered, occurring in forests and forest-edge throughout the country. Our first records came from Budongo Forest, with peak totals of 10+ in Mabira Forest.

Lorisids

Thomas's Galago

Galagoides thomasi

This extremely fast nocturnal species, was observed during our night drive at Kibale NP.

Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2004 Trip Report

"The Best of African, Asian & Malagasy Birding"

www.rockjumper.co.za

Large-Winged Bats

Yellow-winged Bat

Lavia frons

This beautiful animal was found on a number of occasions in the thicket savannas of Murchison Falls NP.

Hares & Rabbits

Uganda Grass-Hare

Poelagus marjorita

Up to four

were observed during our night drive in Murchison Falls NP and two were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Squirrels

Striped Ground Squirrel

Xerus erythropus

This tiny terrestrial squirrel was seen in small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

Boehm's Squirrel

Paraxerus boehmi

This tiny

forest squirrel was seen at Mabira Forest.

Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel

Paraxerus alexandri

Another diminutive species, of which we observed at most forest sites including good views of several at Buhoma.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus rufobrachium

This large squirrel was seen in small numbers in Kibale NP.

Rwenzori Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus ruwenzori

We had good views of two at Ruhizha.

Dormice

Dormouse prob Lorrain

Graphiurus lorrain?

We had a great sighting of one at our camp at Ruhizha.

Rats & Mice

Unstriped Grass Rat

Arvicanthis niloticus

We found one in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Mongoose

Dwarf Mongoose

Helogale parvula

One was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Banded Mongoose

Mungos mungo

These entertaining creatures were commonly observed on the grounds of Mweya Lodge where a family group of up to forty individuals was seen.

Alexander's Cusimanse

Crossarchus alexandri

We had brief views of this rare, shaggy rainforest mongoose in Kaniyo Pabidi, Budongo Forest.

Cats

Lion

Panthera leo

Our first sighting was of one at Lake Kikorongo with further sightings of a small pride in Queen Elizabeth NP. The highlight was however of seeing thirteen tree-climbing lions in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Elephants

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

Elephants were common and conspicuous in the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls (up to 30 in each), with numerous close encounters of drinking, bathing and feeding individuals.

Horses

Common (Burchell's) Zebra

Equus burchelli

Another animal restricted to the southern savanna and therefore, in Uganda, to Lake Mburo NP, where we found it fairly common (over 20 observed.)

Hippopotamuses

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

Uganda is arguably the best place in Africa to see and photograph hippos, with habituated groups lounging around on the banks of the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and the Nile in Murchison Falls NP. Over 500 individuals were seen during the course of our trip.

Pigs

Giant Forest Hog

Hylochoerus meinertzhageni

This seldom seen mammal was seen particularly well on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP, where we found up to twelve individuals.

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

Another familiar savanna animal that we found in suitable habitat throughout, with our first sightings in Murchison Falls NP and especially tame individuals around Mweya Lodge in Queen Elizabeth NP. Our final sightings were of many in Lake Mburo NP.

Giraffes

Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

A total of twenty-seven of these well-marked "Rothschild's" race, were found north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer

This fearsome animal was observed in all the savanna national parks, with our most memorable sightings being large herds of up to 200 individuals in Murchison Falls NP. Groups feeding along the Kazinga channel were especially photogenic.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

This elegant and attractively marked, mainly nocturnal antelope, was seen in small numbers in all three savanna reserves that we visited.

Sitatunga

Tragelaphus scriptus

We found one in the Mubwindi Swamp, this is a rarely seen antelope.

Black-fronted Duiker *Cephalophus nigrifrons*

We had good views of several on the trail at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Peter's Duiker *Cephalophus callipygus*

We had good but brief views of one at Kaniyo Pabidi, Budongo Forest.

Oribi *Ourebia ourebi*

Large numbers of this elegant antelope were seen on the plains north of the Nile, in Murchison Falls NP (40+) and a further three in Lake Mburo NP.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*

Two were seen on the North bank of the Nile at Murchison Falls NP and an impressive male at Lake Mburo NP.

Uganda Kob *Kobus kob thomasi*

A handsome antelope that is ubiquitous in the moist savanna grasslands of western Uganda, being particularly conspicuous in the lekking grounds along the Kasenyi Track in Queen Elizabeth NP (estimated 200+ seen in a day) and peak numbers of 400 on the North bank in Murchison Falls NP.

Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

In smaller aggregations than its congener, though nevertheless numerous, we found this large antelope first in Murchison Falls NP, with peak tallies of 40+ daily from the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*

This most familiar of antelope is another southern savanna "special", with our only records coming from Lake Mburo NP, where it is common.

Topi *Damaliscus lunatus*

A total of 15 were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP and a further 6 in Lake Mburo NP.

Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest) *Alcelaphus buselaphus*

Replaces the Topi in the drier savanna of Murchison Falls NP, where we found 30 in an afternoon, north of the Nile.

Annotated List of Reptiles Species recorded

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows 'A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa' by Spawls, Howell, Drewes and Ashe (Academic Press 2002).

Leopard Tortoise *Geochelone pardalis*

We had superb views of one in Murchison Falls NP.

Blue-headed Tree Agama *Acanthocerus atricollis*

Several were seen around Kibale NP.

Red-headed Rock Agama *Agama agama*

Several impressive males were seen at Murchison Falls NP.

Nile Monitor *Varanus niloticus*

We found one on the Nile boat cruise.

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

Many of these impressive reptiles were seen on our boat cruise along the Nile. We enjoyed superb sightings of some enormous individuals.

Forest Cobra *Naja melanoleuca*

We had good views of one at Mabira Forest.