

# Rockjumper Birding Tours'

## *Uganda*

4<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2006

### Trip Report

Compiled by Erik Forsyth



**Mountain Gorilla Family**  
Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP

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

Our trip total of 530 species in 17 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 16 Albertine Rift endemics on our route, with other highlights including stunning views of the magnificent Shoebill, Grauer’s Broadbill - pair at the nest, African Finfoot, Doherty’s Bushshrike, Papyrus Gonolek, Dusky Twinspot, Pennant-winged Nightjar, White-naped Pigeon and many more. Some of the mammalian highlights included fantastic views of Giant Forest Hog, L’Hoest’s Monkey, tree-climbing Lion at

Ishasha, Rothschild's Giraffe, Chimpanzees and some rarely seen mammals including the nocturnal Potto and Lord Derby's Anomalure 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 five hundred and thirty 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 boating down the mighty Victoria Nile; to locating Grauer's Broadbill at the nest, one of the most seldom-seen birds that are endemic to the Albertine Rift's moss-draped montane forests!

Leaving Entebbe (where the aircraft from the famous 1976 raid still lies derelict on a nearby runway!), we made our way through Kampala picking up our first of many Marabou Storks & Hooded Vultures, within the city. Our first destination was Lake Mburo National Park and *en route*, we found an unprecedented number of Weyn's Weaver (estimated 2-3000) flying over a roadside forest en route to Masaka. Further along the road we found several flocks of Gray Crowned-Crane, Uganda's National bird. Impressively horned Ankoli Cattle were seen before entering the Park. Some notable sightings at Lake Mburo included excellent views of the secretive African Finfoot, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Black-shouldered Nightjar, the very rare Red-faced Barbet, Black Cuckoo-shrike, Southern Black-

Flycatcher, Tabora Cisticola, White-winged Black-Tit and a stunning male Red-headed Weaver. Notable mammals included impressive numbers of Plain's Zebra and Topi.

Next stop was the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and our sense of excitement mounted as we approached this unique and priceless reserve. Approximately 650 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 Bat Hawk, the beautiful Black Bee-eater, an extremely obliging Willcock's Honeyguide, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Elliot's Woodpecker, Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, smart White-bellied Robin-Chat, Luehder's Bushshrike, and Black-billed Weaver.

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 Many-colored Bushshrike, the shy Handsome Francolin, Ruwenzori and Black-faced Apalis, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, the striking Ruwenzori Batis, and the multi-colored Doherty's Bushshrike. The walk to Mubwindi Swamp, although steep produced some star birds including Great Blue Turaco, Rameron Pigeon, Bar-tailed Trogon, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatchers and the stunning Regal Sunbird. However, the highlight was an exceptional sighting of a pair of African Green (Grauer's) Broadbill feeding a chick at the nest. During our final birding session in the bamboo zone, we located a superb Archer's Robin-Chat and obtained good views of Mountain Yellow-Warbler.

The world-renowned Queen Elizabeth National Park was our next destination and here we had great sightings of Small Buttonquail and African Crake. Other highlights included 2 Giant Forest Hogs, thousands of bright pink Lesser Flamingo on Lake Katwe, a male Greater Painted-snipe, Temminck's Courser, White-tailed Lark, the stunning Black-headed Gonolek and Fan-tailed Grassbird. The boat ride on the Kazinga Channel with its vast aggregations Hippopotamus, cormorants, pelicans and other waterbirds (including African Skimmer) was unforgettable.

Next we traveled to Kibale Forest, Africa's premier Chimpanzee-watching destination. Our Chimpanzee trek was a real adventure and after tracking for a short while, we located the Chimps and obtained superb views of our closest living relative. Other primates are particularly abundant here and we enjoyed excellent viewing of several species of monkeys including good looks at Guereza and Central Africa Red Colobus. Birding highlights included several views of the secretive White-spotted Flufftail, Joyful Greenbul, White-tailed Ant-Thrush and the localized Masked Apalis. Although we heard the mythical Green-breasted Pitta at Kibale, they were only glimpsed by our Park guide. A productive rainforest night drive resulted in views of the strange Potto (a primitive, slow-moving primate), the miniature Demidoff's Galago and the rarely seen gliding Lord Derby's Anomalure.

Our next stop was Masindi and *en route* we enjoyed excellent views of the spectacular White-crested Turaco, Siffling Cisticola and a pair of Marsh Tchagra. Leaving Masindi early the following morning we headed to the Murchison Falls National Park. Our first stop was the dry woodlands of the Butiaba Escarpment. Enjoyable birding here produced the lovely Foxy Cisticola, Black-faced Waxbill, the rare Heuglin's Masked-Weaver and a single Brown-backed Woodpecker. We arrived at the Murchison Falls National Park in the late afternoon in time for some initial exploration. An evening drive was highly rewarding producing no less than five species of nightjar including a spectacular male Pennant-winged,

undoubtedly one of the world's most impressive birds.

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. Many other waterbirds lined the banks including Goliath Heron and Allen's Gallinule 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, Red-necked Falcon, the localized Heuglin's Francolin, Denham's Bustard, Northern Carmine and Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, close views of 3 hunting Lioness and as evening fell, four nightjar species including breathtaking views of another well-endowed male Pennant-winged Nightjar,

Further exploration in the park today took us to the mighty falls themselves, where the Nile is forced through a six meter gap resulting in the strongest flow of water on the planet! Rock Pratincoles wheeled in the spray and other birding highlights included Red-winged Warbler, Red-winged Gray Warbler and Silverbird. Another highlight was a Black Mamba extracting bats from a nearby colony. In the south of the park we birded Kaniyo Pabidi Forest, where we were rewarded with good views of Chimpanzees on a trail.

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 excellent scope views of Black-bellied Seedcracker at the nest as well as the equally stunning Red-headed Bluebill, a Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Dwarf and Blue-breasted Kingfisher, White-thighed Hornbill, Chestnut-capped and African Shrike-Flycatcher, Yellow-crowned and Brown-eared Woodpecker and the rare Uganda Woodland-Warbler.

An early start from Masindi the following morning produced good views of the seldom-recorded Freckled Nightjar. From here we continued to Jinja investigating open woodland *en route*. New birds for us included Yellow-billed Shrike and Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling and several groups of Oribi were seen. Further along the road we found the impressive Marsh Widowbird. In the late afternoon we arrived at Jinja located at the source of the Nile. After first stopping to view a colony of Straw-coloured Bats, we took some time to relax and enjoy the views of the Nile from our colonial style guesthouse.

On our final morning we birded the fabulous Mabira Forest. Here we were treated to excellent forest birding, with highlights including African Pied Hornbill, Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush, views of both Gray and Yellow Longbill, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Sooty Boubou and Weyns' Weaver. A close view of a Red-headed Bluebill was another good find. Entebbe Botanical Gardens was our final birding stop and produced several shorebirds and the lovely Orange Weaver. The tour ended off at Entebbe, a thoroughly enjoyable and successful trip.

## **Annotated List of Bird Species recorded**

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

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

NB: Abbreviated names and locations of sites: NP = National Park.

Buhoma, "The Neck", Mubwindi Swamp and Ruhija are in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.

Ishasha, Mweya track and Lake Katwe are in the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Bigodi Swamp is at the edge of Kibale Forest.  
Kaniyo Pabidi Forest Reserve is part of the Murchison Falls National Park.  
Mabamba wetlands are situated near Kampala.

## Grebes

### **Little Grebe**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A single bird was seen a small roadside wetland en route to Kibale. An unusually uncommon bird in Uganda.

## Pelicans

### **Great White Pelican**

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

A flock of 100 along the Kazinga Channel and 6 at Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

### **Pink-backed Pelican**

*Pelecanus rufescens*

A common bird in Uganda, regularly nesting on the roadside. Small numbers were recorded in Queen Elizabeth NP, Murchison Falls and at Lake Victoria in Entebbe.

## Cormorants & Shags

### **Great Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Our first sighting was of 5 at the Mabamba Wetlands on a pre-tour trip. Several large flocks were seen on the Kazinga Channel (85).

*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, Lake Victoria and at Jinja.

## Anhinga & Darter

### **Darter**

*Anhinga melanogaster*

25 along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and a singleton at Jinja.

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

## 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 5 seen on the drive from Masindi to Jinja.

### **Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

Uganda's commonest heron, we recorded it almost daily in small numbers with highest numbers of 15 seen at various heronries en route from Queen Elizabeth NP to Kibale NP.

### **Goliath Heron**

*Ardea goliath*

A spectacular bird recorded in several wetlands including Lake Mburo NP, and on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP. We recorded 6 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, 15 were seen along the Nile and one in the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and a single bird was seen on our pre-tour visit to the Mabamba Wetland.

*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*

2 at the Kazinga Channel were our only sightings.

*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.*

**Black Egret** *Egretta ardesiaca*

A single bird was seen on the Nile at Murchison Falls. A scarce bird in Uganda.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Common in wetlands throughout, peak numbers were recorded at Jinja alongside the Nile (10+).

*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, was on the boat cruise on the Kazinga channel in Queen Elizabeth NP (12) and a further sighting on the Nile at Murchison Falls, where we saw two. Up to 20 birds were seen on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen accompanying herds of antelope, Buffalo or Elephants in the parks. Peak numbers of 60 were seen on our boat trip on the Kazinga Channel.

*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 only at Lake Mburo NP where we saw several birds on both days.

*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 that 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*

4 birds were seen on our boat trip on Lake Mburo.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

Single birds were seen both by Nelson and Sara 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 Lake Mburo NP.

## Storks

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*

10 on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP, and singelton's at Lake Katwe and Murchison Falls.

**African Openbill (~ed Stork)** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

A common bird in Uganda, this freshwater mussel specialist was seen in small numbers at several sites.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*

A single bird was seen at Lake Katwe, Queen Elizabeth NP

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This magnificent bird was first seen en route to Lake Mburo. We had further sightings of a pair at both Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP.

**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 100 were recorded en route from Jinja to Lake Mburo.

## Shoebill

**Shoebill***Balaeniceps rex*

The essence of Uganda, we found one of these incredible birds: wonderful views of one at the edge of tall papyrus on our Nile boat cruise at Murchison Falls NP and a single bird at the Mabamba Wetlands on the pre-tour trip. Clearly rated as the bird of the trip !

**Ibises & Spoonbills****Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Small numbers en route to Lake Mburo NP (25), at Queen Elizabeth NP (30), and (15) at Murchison Falls 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.

**Glossy Ibis***Plegadis falcinellus*

4 birds were seen at Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**African Spoonbill***Platalea alba*

3 birds were seen on the Kazinga Channel and 2 at Lake Katwe.

**Flamingos****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus ruber*

4 distant birds were seen in a crater lake in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Lesser Flamingo***Phoenicopterus minor*

An estimated 1300 were seen on Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Swans, Geese & Ducks****Fulvous Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna bicolor*

10 birds were seen on our boat trip on the Nile at the Murchison Falls NP.

**White-faced Whistling-Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

10 birds were seen on our boat trip on the Nile at the Murchison Falls NP.

**Egyptian Goose***Alopochen aegyptiacus*

This is another common waterfowl, seen on Lake Mburo, the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and finally in Murchison Falls NP.

**Comb Duck***Sarkidiornis melanotos*

3 on the Kazinga Channel, 4 at Lake Katwe and 5 on the Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

**African Pygmy-goose***Nettapus auritus*

A pair was seen on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetland.

**Yellow-billed Duck***Anas undulata*

Only seen on the pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands where we saw 10.

**Hottentot Teal***Anas hottentota*

5 were seen at Lake Katwe.

**Osprey****Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

A single bird was seen along the Victoria Nile at Murchison.

**Hawks, Eagles & Kites**

**Bat Hawk***Macheiramphus alcinus*

A singleton was seen at the traditional site at Buhoma and a further sighting of a single bird flying in the late evening at our hotel in Masindi.

**Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

Another well-known raptor, seen in small numbers in open habitats.

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 small numbers throughout Uganda. All birds seen were of the resident, yellow-billed African races.

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 being especially memorable. We were afforded great views of several atop large *Euphorbia*'s that provided wonderful photo opportunities. Peak numbers of 12 were seen on our Lake Mburo boat cruise.

**Palm-nut Vulture***Gypohierax angolensis*

We observed this handsome vulture at several sights throughout Uganda, with our first sighting of a pair at a nest near Buhoma.

**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 in Lake Mburo NP.

**(African) White-backed Vulture***Gyps africanus*

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

**Rueppell's Griffon***Gyps rueppellii*

A single bird was seen briefly in Murchison Falls NP.

**Lappet-faced Vulture***Torgos tracheliotus*

2 were seen in Lake Mburo and 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP's.

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

A single bird en route to Lake Mburo and 2 were 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, a single at Lake Mburo, 2 more in Queen Elizabeth NP and finally 4 en route to Murchison Falls NP.

**(Western) Banded Snake-Eagle***Circaetus cinerascens*

A singleton was seen en route to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and 4 on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**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 Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls.

**African Marsh-Harrier***Circus ranivorus*

We recorded singleton's of this widespread African harrier en route to Lake Mburo, in Queen Elizabeth NP and on our trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)***Polyboroides typus*

Recorded regularly throughout the tour. First seen at Lake Mburo where we had great views.

**Lizard Buzzard***Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

An attractive raptor that was seen at various localities during the tour including Entebbe.

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk***Melierax metabates*

We obtained good views of this long-legged raptor in the Murchison Falls NP.

**Gabar Goshawk***Micronisus gabar*

We had brief views of a single bird in flight en route from Masindi to Jinja.

**African Goshawk***Accipiter tachiro*

2 birds were seen briefly at our camp in Bwindi and a pair were seen and heard at our guest- house in Entebbe

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*

Singeltons were seen in Entebbe, en route from Masindi to Murchison and 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.

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

Another seldom recorded raptor in Uganda, yet we were fortunate to have an incredible 3 sightings. Our first sighting was at Ruhija, Bwindi NP.

**Augur Buzzard***Buteo augur*

A handsome buzzard that is pleasantly common in the mountainous, south-western corner of Uganda where we had 4 sightings.

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*

5 daily at Lake Mburo and a single bird at Murchison Falls.

**Wahlberg's Eagle***Aquila wahlbergi*

This raptor was commonly seen in open habitat throughout Uganda, with a high of 60+ birds thermalling high above Budongo Forest. This species is an intra-African migrant and these birds were presumably heading south to their breeding grounds in Southern Africa

**Martial Eagle***Polemaetus bellicosus*

This, Africa's largest eagle, was seen four times. We got superb views in the Queen Elizabeth NP and another in Murchison Falls NP

**Long-crested Eagle***Lophaetus occipitalis*

A very common raptor in Uganda, with small numbers daily in moist woodland habitats. Peak numbers of 6 were seen on our first day during the drive from Lake Mburo to Buhoma.

## Falcons & Caracaras

**Eurasian Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

A single bird was seen on the drive from Masindi to Murchison Falls.

NOTE: Clements has not split the distinctive Rock Kestrel *F. t. rupicolis* of Southern Africa from the nominate Eurasian Kestrel which we observed in Uganda.

**Gray Kestrel***Falco ardosiaceus*

This open country raptor was observed several times en route to Lake Mburo, in Queen Elizabeth NP and in Murchison Falls NP

**Red-necked Falcon***Falco chicquera*

We enjoyed excellent views of singeltons at Murchison Falls and en route from Masindi to Jinja.

**African Hobby***Falco cuvierii*

Singeltons were seen at Ruhija and at the Boma Guest House in Entebbe.

**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

We had scope views of a bird at the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

## Pheasants & Partridges

**Coqui Francolin***Francolinus coqui*

We heard several in Lake Mburo NP.

**Crested Francolin***Francolinus sephaena*

First seen in Lake Mburo NP, and then seen daily in Murchison Falls NP.

**Scaly Francolin***Francolinus squamatus*

A single bird was flushed of the road en route to Queen Elizabeth NP and a further 2 flushed near Masindi.

**Heuglin's Francolin***Francolinus icterorhynchus*

We were fortunate to have superb views of one of these localized francolins in Murchison Falls NP and several others in farmland near Masindi.

**Handsome Francolin***Francolinus nobilis*

We had excellent views of 5 birds at Ruhija including a female with 3 young seen by Sara and Denise on the Mubwindi Swamp trail.

**Red-necked Spurfowl***Francolinus afer*

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

## Guineafowl

**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

Common and ubiquitous, Helmeted Guineafowl were encountered in good numbers at many sites. Peak numbers of 15 were seen 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 12 of these fowls on a "Bad Hair Day" en route to Queen Elizabeth 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 a single bird flushed from grassland in the Queen Elizabeth NP.

## Cranes

**Gray (Southern) Crowned-Crane***Balearica regulorum*

Uganda's handsome national bird is delightfully common throughout the country. Small flocks totaling at least 60 were seen in open fields during the drive to Lake Mburo.

## Rails, Gallinules & Coots

**White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

This secretive, forest railid's hooting call was heard in several forests and males was finally seen briefly at both Kibale and Mabira Forests.

**Red-chested Flufftail***Sarothrura rufa*

Heard at very close range at the Mubwindi Swamp.

**African Crane***Crecopsis egregia*

We obtained good flight views of 2 as well as two birds running on the road in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Black Crane***Amaurornis flavirostra*

Africa's common wetland crane, first recorded at Lake Mburo, and 15 recorded at both Murchison Falls and at the Mabamba Wetland.

**Allen's Gallinule***Porphyrio alleni*

2 birds were seen on the Nile at Murchison Falls.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

Only recorded on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

## Finfoots

### **African Finfoot**

*Podica senegalensis*

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

## Bustards

### **Denham's Bustard**

*Neotis denhami*

3 birds were spotted by Dave Smythe at Murchison Falls NP.

### **Black-bellied Bustard**

*Lissotis melanogaster*

We enjoyed good views of three birds in Queen Elizabeth NP and a singleton in Murchison Falls NP.

## Jacanas

### **African Jacana**

*Actophilornis africanus*

A widespread and characteristic wader was conspicuous in wetlands throughout the tour. First found at Queen Elizabeth NP, where we recorded 6+.

## Painted-Snipe

### **Greater Painted-snipe**

*Rostratula benghalensis*

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

## Stilts & Avocets

### **Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

This characteristic wader was seen at Katwe Lake (30+).

### **Pied Avocet**

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

A total of 20 of these familiar Old World waders were seen at Katwe Lake, Queen Elizabeth NP.

## Thick-knees

### **Water Thick-knee**

*Burhinus vermiculatus*

Recorded at the edges of wetlands in Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP.

### **Senegal Thick-knee**

*Burhinus senegalensis*

A single bird was seen during the boat cruise on the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

## Courasers & Pratincoles

### **Temminck's Courser**

*Cursorius temminckii*

3 birds were seen in the Queen Elizabeth NP.

### **Rock (White-collared) Pratincole**

*Glareola nuchalis*

A fairly common denizen of rapids in the Victoria Nile, where 14 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 (6) and 4 on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)** *Vanellus spinosus*

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were common and conspicuous in and Queen Elizabeth NP (20) and Murchison Falls NP (10).

**Senegal (Lesser Black-winged) Lapwing** *Vanellus lugubris*

A lapwing of burnt or heavily grazed grassland, we recorded this species in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*

Only recorded in Queen Elizabeth NP where we saw 12.

**Wattled Lapwing (Plover)** *Vanellus senegallus*

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in small numbers throughout the trip, with our first sighting from Lake Mburo and other encounters in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*

30 were seen on the Kazinga Channel and a further sighting of a single bird at Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

## Sandpipers & Allies

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Recorded in Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth NP and on Lake Victoria.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

We recorded these palaeartic migrants at Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth NP and on Lake Victoria.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

First observed in Lake Mburo 4, 10 at Queen Elizabeth and 5 at Murchison Falls.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

30 birds were seen daily at Lake Katwe.

## Gulls

**Gray-headed Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus*

10 were seen on the Kazinga Channel and 15 on the Nile at Murchison Falls.

## Terns

**Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*

Up to 25+ were seen at Lake Katwe, Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

A single bird was seen on the Nile at Murchison Falls.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

We saw small flocks of these palaeartic migrants at Queen Elizabeth NP and at Jinja on the Nile.

## Skimmers

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*

One of Africa's most elegant birds. We were fortunate to find a single bird, which showed well on the Kazinga Channel.

## Doves & Pigeons

- Rock Dove** *Columba livia*  
Common in Kampala and other large towns.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*  
Small numbers were observed in Kampala, Masaka and Mbarara towns.
- Afep Pigeon** *Columba unicincta*  
This plump, forest pigeon was scoped in Kibale Forest with a further sighting of 4 seen en route to Murchison Falls and lastly heard in Mabira Forest.
- 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 8+ at Buhoma and 7 at Ruhija.
- White-naped Pigeon** *Columba albinucha*  
We were fortunate in finding a single bird at Kibale Forest. A localised and scarce bird in Uganda.
- Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*  
Heard only at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- African Mourning Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*  
Another fairly common savanna dove, with its distinctive call being a regular background sound in Queen Elizabeth NP and Murchison Falls.
- 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 Lake Mburo NP (50).
- 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 10+ in Murchison Falls NP.
- Laughing (Palm) Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*  
A widespread, familiar species recorded in small numbers.
- Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*  
In Uganda, this familiar woodland dove is restricted to the southern and eastern savannas. We found 8+ 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 saw 30+ daily.
- 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).
- 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).
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*  
A single bird was seen flying over the Nile at Murchison Falls.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*  
A single bird was seen by Dave Redfield and Livingstone.
- 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*

3 birds were seen in flight just outside Budongo Forest.

**(African) Gray Parrot***Psittacus erithacus*

2 birds were seen briefly at Mabira Forest on the last day. 3 birds were seen on the pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands. 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 6 at Lake Mburo NP, 4 in the Masindi area and 6 *en route* from Masindi to Entebbe. Up to 4 birds were resident around our guest house in Entebbe.

## 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 7 at Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

**Black-billed Turaco***Tauraco schuettii*

A commonly heard bird in Ugandan forests. We saw a single bird in Bwindi and another at Queen Elizabeth NP's

**White-crested Turaco***Tauraco leucolophus*

We obtained superb views of one individual of this stunningly beautiful bird near Masindi and another in the Murchison Falls area. Often considered the most beautiful of all turacos.

**Ross' Turaco***Musophaga rossae*

Another stellar turaco, 4 were seen at Lake Mburo NP.

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird***Corythaixoides personatus*

A bizarre looking bird, 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

**Pied Cuckoo***Clamator jacobinus*

A single bird was seen at Murchison Falls NP.

**Red-chested Cuckoo***Cuculus solitarius*

This familiar bird was frequently heard throughout the trip and eventually seen exceptionally well at the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest. (much to the relief and joy of Sara)

**Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo***Cercococcyx mechowi*

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

**Klaas' Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

A brood parasite favouring the cup nests of woodland birds, many heard throughout the tour and a female scoped at Bwindi Forest.

**African Emerald Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we had great scope views of males at Bwindi and Kibale Forests.

**Dideric Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx caprius*

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

**Yellowbill (Blue Malkoha)***Ceuthmochares aereus*

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was heard at several forest sites including a single bird seen briefly at Kaniyo Pabidi.

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 a single bird in the Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus*

This large swamp-dwelling coucal was first observed on the Nile at Murchison Falls NP and at the Mabamba Wetlands on the pre-tour.

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

A single bird was seen in the Murchison Falls NP.

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus*

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

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

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*

Heard only at Lake Mburo NP.

**Grayish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*

Heard at Masindi.

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.

**African Wood-Owl** *Strix woodfordii*

Seen at Bwindi, Kibale and at our guest-house in Entebbe.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*

We had good looks at 2 at Lake Mburo NP.

## Nightjars & Allies

**Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

We were treated to superb views at Lake Mburo NP.

**Swamp Nightjar** *Caprimulgus natalensis*

2 at Murchison Falls NP.

**Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus*

Good looks on the road in the Murchison Falls NP.

**Slender-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus clarus*

2 seen well in the Murchison Falls NP.

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimilgus fossii*

A single bird was seen well at the Murchison Falls NP.

**Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*

The barking call of this species was heard at Masindi, and the bird was seen pre-dawn on two consecutive days.

**Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

We had awesome views of several male and females at Murchison Falls NP. A spectacular bird rated in our top 5 birds for the tour.

## Swifts

**Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

4 were seen above Budongo Forest.

**African Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful around palms throughout, we observed large numbers at Murchison Falls with as many as 20 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.*

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*

We found a large flock of 100 at Queen Elizabeth and 30 at Bigodi Swamp.

**Common (Eurasian) Swift** *Apus apus*

100+ were seen in the Ishasha section of the Queen Elizabeth NP's.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

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

**Horus Swift** *Apus horus*

3 birds were seen amongst a flock of White-rumped Swift at the Murchison Falls. A scarce and little known bird in Uganda.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*

Fork-tailed and with a sickle-shaped (rather than square) white rump, we first found this species en route to Lake Mburo with further sightings in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls 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 Lake Mburo NP, with further sightings at Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP.

## Trogon

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

The guttural hooting of this magnificent bird was heard at several forest sites and a male was seen at the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

**Bar-tailed Trogon** *Apaloderma vittatum*

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

## Kingfishers

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

The common, small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, with sightings on cruises in Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth NP and Murchison Falls NP.

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher** *Ispidina (Ceyx) picta*

This beautiful, little bird was seen in small numbers in savanna habitat throughout.

**(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 regular sightings.

**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*

A bird that can be extremely difficult to find, although often heard on many occasions. Only heard at the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

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

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

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

One of the characteristic sounds of moist African savanna, this beautiful bird was regularly encountered in Lake Mburo and between Masindi and Jinja.

**Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*

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

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

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

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

We had two 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 along the shores of Lake Victoria where we saw 30+ daily.

## 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 several at Buhoma and Kibale.

**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 Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

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

Slightly larger and with a preference for fringes of papyrus beds, we found 2 individuals at a wetland on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison and 6 were seen on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

*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 Ruhija in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*

An elegant bee-eater of dry savanna, we found several on our afternoon drives at Murchison.

**White-throated Bee-eater** *Merops albicollis*

A widespread species first seen en route to Buhoma where we saw 10 birds.

**Madagascar Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*

Our first sighting was in Queen Elizabeth NP and several more seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicus*

10+ were seen during the Victoria Nile boat cruise at Murchison Falls NP.

## Rollers

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudata*

4 of these colourful 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 Entebbe and Lake Mburo.

## Hoopoes

### **Eurasian Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

One of these attractive birds was seen at Murchison Falls.

*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 an obliging group of 12 at Queen Elizabeth and 6 en route from Masindi to Entebbe.

### **White-headed Woodhoopoe**

*Phoeniculus bollei*

This uncommon forest bird was observed at Ruhija and Buhoma.

### **Black Scimitar-bill**

*Rhinopomastus atterimus*

We heard the call of this species en route to Murchison Falls.

### **Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill**

*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Another widespread and familiar African bird that we encountered in the savannas of Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP.

## Hornbills

### **Crowned Hornbill**

*Tockus alboterminatus*

Widespread in moister habitats across the country, we saw our first birds at “the Neck” Bwindi NP.

### **African Pied Hornbill**

*Tockus fasciatus*

Much more localised than its similar crowned cousin and with white tail edges (rather than tail tips). 5 at Mabira Forest and 25 were seen en route to the Mabamba Wetlands.

### **African Gray Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Uganda seen at several sites. Small numbers were seen in the drier savanna of Lake Mburo and at Murchison Falls.

### **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 several groups in Entebbe on day one.

### **White-thighed Hornbill**

*Ceratogymna albotibialis*

Only seen in Budongo Forest, where we located 2 on the Royal Mile.

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

### **Abyssinian (Northern) Ground-Hornbill**

*Bucorvus abyssinicus*

A total of 16 of these spectacular and unique birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP. Our first sighting was of 3 birds spotted by Sara below the Butiaba escarpment.

## Barbets

### **Gray-throated Barbet**

*Gymnobucco bonapartei*

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

### **Speckled Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A scruffy, ubiquitous bird in lower altitude forest in Uganda, where its purring call is one of the common background sounds. We obtained great views of 4 at Buhoma.

### **Western Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

3 birds were seen in the Bamboo zone at Ruhija.

**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 birds at Lake Mburo with further sightings at Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*

An elegant forest barbet with a beautiful purring call. We had great views of single birds at Bwindi and Kibale Forests.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta*

This unkempt-looking bird was first seen at Bigodi Swamp.

*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 Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.

**White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen in Lake Mburo, the Southern section of Queen Elizabeth NP and peak numbers of 10 en route from Masindi to Entebbe.

**Red-faced Barbet** *Lybius rubrifacies*

We were extremely fortunate to find a pair of these scarce birds in the campsite at Lake Mburo NP.

**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 our first birds *en route* to Bwindi NP.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet, heard in all the western forests. Our first sighting was of a single bird in open woodland near Buhoma with a further sighting of 2 at Bigodi Swamp and a single bird at Budongo Forest.

## Honeyguides

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*

A single bird was seen on the pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**(Western) Least Honeyguide** *Indicator exilis*

Heard at Mabira Forest.

**Willcock's Honeyguide** *Indicator willcocksi*

We had good scope views of this scarce bird at Buhoma.

**Cassin's Honeyguide** *Prodotiscus insignis*

A single bird seen well at Sebitoli, Kibale Forest.

**Wahlberg's Honeyguide** *Prodotiscus regulus*

A pair of these scarce birds were seen and heard in open woodland on the pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

## Woodpeckers & Allies

**Rufous-necked Wryneck** *Jynx ruficollis*

We had superb views of 2 shortly after leaving Buhoma.

**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica*

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

**Tullberg's Woodpecker**

A single bird at "the Neck", Bwindi.

*Campethera tullbergi*

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker**

Singeltons at Kibale and Mabira Forests.

*Campethera nivos*

**Brown-eared Woodpecker**

Another beautiful forest-dwelling woodpecker. We had brief excellent views of a pair excavating a nest hole at Budongo Forest

*Campethera caroli*

**Cardinal Woodpecker**

This widespread African woodpecker was observed on several locations with our first sighting at Lake Mburo.

*Dendropicos fuscescens*

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

This large forest woodpecker (with the almost invisible yellow crest!) was seen in Budongo Forest.

*Dendropicos xantholophus*

**Elliot's Woodpecker**

We enjoyed superb views of a pair at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

*Dendropicos elliotii*

**Gray Woodpecker**

A single bird was seen in open woodland near Masindi.

*Dendropicos goertae*

**Brown-backed Woodpecker**

A single bird was found on the Butiaba escarpment.

*Dendropicos obsoletus*

## Broadbills

**African Broadbill**

Heard only at Buhoma.

*Smithornis capensis*

**Grauer's Broadbill\***

After a short search, we obtained great scope views at Ruhija. A pair were seen feeding a juvenile at the nest. A rare bird in Africa and at present this is the only accessible site to see this species.

*Pseudocalyptomena graueri*

## Pittas

**Green-breasted Pitta**

Heard in Kibale NP. A shy and retiring species.

*Pitta reichenowi*

## Larks

**White-tailed Lark**

We had superb views of 3 birds in the moist grasslands in Queen Elizabeth NP.

*Mirafra albicauda*

**Rufous-naped Lark**

Seen daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

*Mirafra africana*

**Flappet Lark**

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

*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

**Red-capped Lark**

We had good views of 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

*Calandrella cinerea*

*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 were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*

6 birds were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogen fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen in small numbers at lake Mburo and at Bwindi Forest.

*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. Palaearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsolete. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

6 birds were seen on the pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

This Palaearctic migrant was recorded daily throughout the tour

*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, seen most days of the tour with a high count of 100 at Lake Mburo.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

Conspicuous over water Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth NP and along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

*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, with peak numbers of 20 daily at Lake Mburo with further sightings of 5 at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Rufous-chested Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*

3 birds were seen at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*

Another large attractive swallow. 6 at Lake Mburo, 2 at Queen Elizabeth and 2, en route from Masindi to Jinja.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

An uncommon species in Uganda, with 2 en route from Masindi to Murchison and 2 on the pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetland.

*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 seen at scattered locations throughout Uganda, our first sighting was of 2 birds en route from Lake Mburo to Bwindi Forest.

**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 Buhoma.

*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*

A scarce bird in Uganda. A single bird was seen en route from Ruhija to Buhoma.

**Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

A scarce bird of forested streams. A single of these elegant birds was seen on the stream at “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 10 daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Plain-backed Pipit**

*Anthus leucophrys*

A single bird at Queen Elizabeth NP and 2 in cultivated land outside Budongo Forest.

*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 were 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.*

**Long-billed Pipit**

*Anthus similis*

2 birds were seen on a rocky hillside en route from Lake Mburo to Bwindi.

## Cuckoo-shrikes

**Petit's Cuckoo-shrike**

*Campephaga petiti*

An uncommon forest cuckoo-shrike that we recorded en route from Ruhija to Buhoma in Bwindi NP.

**Black Cuckoo-shrike**

*Campephaga flava*

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

**Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike**

*Campephaga phoenicea*

A male bird was seen at Bigodi Swamp.

**Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike**

*Campephaga quiscalina*

A 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.*

**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 Buhoma, with small numbers seen at all other subsequent forest sites.

**(Little) Gray Greenbul**

*Andropadus gracilis*

3 at Buhoma and 6 at Mabira Forest.

**Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul**

*Andropadus curvirostris*

This inconspicuous greenbul was seen at Budongo Forest.

**Slender-billed Greenbul**

*Andropadus gracilirostris*

A common greenbul of forest canopy, we saw it first at Bwindi Forest, 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 Ruhija, Buhoma and heard at Mabira Forests.

**Eastern Mountain-Greenbul**

*Andropadus nigriceps*

A conspicuous and attractive bird of highland forests where 4 were seen in the upper sections of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

*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 had good views of a single bird en route to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove)***Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Seen in small numbers at scattered sites, we first saw 4 en route to Bwindi Forest.

**Joyful Greenbul***Chlorocichla laetissima*

A strangely local greenbul in Uganda, we found a single bird at Sebitole, Kibale Forest.

**Yellow-streaked Greenbul***Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

We observed this wing-flicking species at Ruhija.

**White-throated Greenbul***Phyllastrephus albigularis*

Another uncommon, skulking greenbul, of which we found two at Budongo 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.

**Green-tailed Bristlebill***Bleda eximia*

2 of these scarce forest birds were seen flying across the trail at Mabira Forest.

**Yellow-spotted (Western) Nicator***Nicator chloris*

An aberrant hook-billed greenbul that was seen exceptionally well at Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Red-tailed Greenbul***Criniger calurus*

Singeltons were seen at Bwindi and at Budongo Forests.

## 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. Single birds at Budongo and Mabira Forests.

**Red-tailed Ant-Thrush***Neocossyphus rufus*

This elusive species was seen in Budongo Forest.

**White-tailed Ant-Thrush***Neocossyphus poensis*

We enjoyed great views of a pair at dawn near Bigodi Swamp.

**Olive Thrush***Turdus olivaceus*

2 were seen at Ruhija.

**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, we enjoyed good views of 2 of these beautiful forest thrushes feeding in the open at Ruhija.

**Fire-crested Alethe***Alethe diademata*

This ant-following species was seen heard only at Budongo 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 in moist vegetation adjoining forest at Buhoma and Budongo.

**Singing Cisticola***Cisticola cantans*

3 birds were seen en route to Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Whistling Cisticola***Cisticola lateralis*

Another common sound was the pleasant whistle of this species. We had good views of 3 in scrubland outside the Budongo Forest.

**Trilling Cisticola***Cisticola woosnami*

The strange, quavering call of this common woodland cisticola was heard and 5 birds were seen at Lake Mburo NP. Also heard in the Ishasha section of the Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Chubb's Cisticola** *Cisticola chubbi*

Another noisy cisticola with wonderful duetting songs, we found small numbers at Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola cheniana*

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

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes*

The wetland cisticola in Uganda, its winding song was heard in reedbeds, papyrus swamps and damp grassland throughout the trip. First seen well en route from Lake Mburo to Queen Elizabeth 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' Cisticola** *Cisticola carruthersi*

Replaces the above species in the centre of papyrus swamps and hence less frequently encountered. We found 2 en route to Bwindi NP and 5 at Mubwindi Swamp.

**Stout Cisticola** *Cisticola robustus*

Similar to but considerably less commonly encountered than the following species, we found a single bird in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Croaking (Striped) Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

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

**Tabora Cisticola** *Cisticola angusticaudus*

We found 2 of these 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 2 near Masindi and 2 at Murchison Falls NP.

**Foxy Cisticola** *Cisticola troglodytes*

This handsome bird of dry *Acacia* savanna was seen at the Butiaba escarpment. (This species was voted in the top 5 on a couple of lists).

**Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

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

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we found several, at Lake Mburo with further encounters in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

**White-chinned Prinia** *Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon*

This confiding, gregarious species was first observed at Lake Mburo with further sightings at Bwindi NP.

**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 a single bird in Murchison Falls NP.

**Red-winged Grey Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*

3 of these attractive warblers were seen well at the Murchison Falls.

**Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis\*** *Apalis ruwenzorii*

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found in the montane forest around Ruhija (five seen).

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

**Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*

Heard only on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

**Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*

2 of these beautiful birds were found at Ruhija. Bwindi NP.

**Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*

In Uganda, largely restricted to Kibale Forest NP, 2 seen well at the Sebitole Section 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 4 at Ruhija, in Bwindi NP.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

This widespread, woodland apalis is relatively scarce in Uganda, with our only sightings being of 4 at 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 5 at Ruhija in Bwindi 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 Bwindi and Budongo Forests.

**Gray-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida*

This attractive, yet skulking bird was heard on many occasions, we obtained excellent views of a pair at Lake Mburo NP.

**Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in moist wooded habitat throughout Uganda, First seen in Lake Mburo.

*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.*

**Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota*

Another skulking camaroptera, it’s piercing calls were heard at all lower altitude forest sites, with our only sighting at Budongo Forest.

## Old World Warblers

**Grauer’s Scrub-Warbler** *Bradypterus graueri*

A singleton was seen very briefly at Mubwindi Swamp.

**Cinnamon Bracken -Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

A single of these richly marked birds was seen at Ruhija.

**Black-faced Rufous Warbler** *Bathmocercus rufus*

The “reversing truck” call of this beautiful warbler was commonly heard at lower altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, where we had a good sighting of a female bird.

**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 Queen Elizabeth (5) and en route from Kibale to Masindi.

**Greater Swamp-Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

A single bird was seen in Papyrus Swamp en route to Lake Mburo.

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

A single bird was seen well in reeds alongside our boat on the Kazinga Channel.

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

2 birds were seen very well in rank grassland outside Budongo Forest.

**Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis*

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

**Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*

3 of these *Acacia*-inhabiting species were seen at Lake Mburo NP.

**Grauer's Warbler\****Graueria vittata*

This unusual, barred warbler (with a Scaly-throated Honeyguide-like call) was heard only at Bwindi Forest.

**Green-backed Eremomela***Eremomela canescens*

We enjoyed great views of two on the Butiaba escarpment en route to Murchison Falls.

**Green Crombec***Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). 2 were seen at Bwindi Forest.

**White-browed Crombec***Sylvietta leucophrys*

David Redfield, Livingstone and Verna saw a single bird at Ruhija, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Northern Crombec***Sylvietta brachyura*

This dry *Acacia* woodland species was seen at our picnic stop at the Butiaba escarpment.

**Red-faced Crombec***Sylvietta whytii*

We enjoyed good views of 3 at Lake Mburo.

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

This elusive Albertine rift endemic was seen briefly at Buhoma.

**Yellow Longbill***Macrosphenus flavicans*

This skulking species was seen well at Mabira Forest.

**Gray Longbill***Macrosphenus concolor*

This is another secretive species. We found a single bird 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.

**Red-faced Woodland-Warbler\****Phylloscopus laetus*

Another Albertine Rift endemic, which we encountered at Ruhija and Buhoma.

**Uganda Woodland Warbler***Phylloscopus budongoensis*

First heard in song and after a long search we found a pair in the canopy of a large tree, Budongo Forest. A scarce bird in Uganda and a lifer for all including the guide.

**Fan-tailed Grassbird***Schoenicola brevirostris*

We obtained good views of singeltons in damp grasslands at Queen Elizabeth and at a wetland near Masindi.

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

## Old World Flycatchers

**Silverbird***Empidonis semipartitus*

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

**Pale Flycatcher***Bradornis pallidus*

First recorded in Lake Mburo NP with further sightings in the 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 NP's, with several seen daily.

**Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher***Melaenornis edolioides*

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

**Southern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis pammelaina*

We were very fortunate to find 2 daily 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*

2 were seen very well at Mubwindi Swamp. A scarce, Albertine Rift endemic.

**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 Budongo Forest.

**Swamp Flycatcher***Muscicapa aquatica*

A common denizen of swamp edges throughout southern Uganda, with our first records from the Lake Mburo with further sightings at Queen Elizabeth and on the Nile at Murchison Falls.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

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

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata*

A quiet, inconspicuous bird that we found at Bwindi 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 "The Neck" in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*

A pair were found in the gardens at our camp in Kibale.

**Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis*

This active species, which replaces the next species in the forest interior, was seen at Budongo Forest.

**Gray Tit- (Lead-colored) Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*

We saw 2 at Lake Mburo and a single bird at Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

**White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*

We found this beautiful Afro-montane forest robin at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. We managed to obtain excellent views on several occasions. An amazing total of 7 of these shy birds were seen.

**Forest Robin** *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*

This shy species was heard at Budongo Forest.

**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 and a single bird seen in the Bamboo zone at Ruhija.

**Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat** *Cossypha cyanocampter*

2 seen briefly at Kibale 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*.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis*

A single bird was seen at Kibale Forest.

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

This beautiful but shy songster was first seen at dawn at Buhoma, where we watched a pair duetting. We had one further sighting at Kibale.

**Gray-winged Robin-Chat**

A single was heard singing at Kibale Forest.

**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 seen near Lake Mburo and at Kibale.

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

This widespread African scrub-robin was seen near Murchison Falls 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 Lake Mburo to Ruhija.

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* that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.

### **Familiar Chat**

2 were seen en route to Lake Mburo.

### **Sooty Chat**

*Myrmecocichla nigra*

Distinctive and ubiquitous, Sooty Chats were found at several sites with peak numbers (up to 30 daily) in the grassland parts of Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

### **Mocking Cliff-Chat**

*Thamnolaea 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 Budongo and Mabira Forests

### **Black-and-white (Vanga) Shrike-flycatcher**

*Bias musicus*

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were observed at Buhoma and on our pre-tour to the Mabamba Wetlands.

### **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. 2 at Lake Mburo and 4 seen at Buhoma.

### **Chestnut Wattle-eye**

*Platysteira castanea*

Sara spotted a male at Budongo Forest and another was heard at Mabira.

### **Jameson's Wattle-eye**

*Dyaphorophya jamesoni*

A single bird was heard calling at Mabira Forest.

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

### **Ruwenzori Batis\***

*Batis diops*

2 were seen at Ruhija, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

### **Chinspot Batis**

*Batis molitor*

This widespread African batis was only observed at Lake Mburo NP and heard singing at Ruhija in Bwindi Impenetrable NP

### **Black-headed Batis**

*Batis minor*

Largely replacing Chinspot Batis in the northern savanna of Uganda, we found a single bird in Murchison Falls NP.

## **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 2 birds.

### **African Blue-Flycatcher**

*Elminia longicauda*

Another lively bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail. We enjoyed good views of 2 in open woodland alongside Budongo Forest.

### **White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher**

*Elminia albicauda*

The montane equivalent of the above species in Uganda. We recorded it commonly in the Ruhija area.

### **White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch)**

*Elminia albiventris*

We had a good view of a single bird at Buhoma, Bwindi NP.

### **Black-headed (Red-bellied) Paradise-Flycatcher**

*Terpsiphone rufiventer*

2 at Kibale and a single bird at Budongo Forest.

### **African Paradise-Flycatcher**

*Terpsiphone viridis*

A handsome bird that was seen several times in Bwindi NP and a male on a nest in Kibale Forest.

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 a singleton seen at Kibale Forest.

### **Brown Illadopsis**

*Illadopsis fulvescens*

This understorey babbler was seen at Mabira Forest.

### **Mountain Illadopsis**

*Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

A single bird was seen at Ruhija.

### **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*

Our first sighting was at Lake Mburo. Small numbers were 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 of 6 en route to the Budongo Forest.

### **Arrow-marked Babbler**

*Turdoides jardineii*

This widespread African woodland babbler was observed Lake Mburo and at Queen Elizabeth NP.

## Chickadees & Tits

### **White-winged Black Tit**

*Melaniparus leucomelas*

A single bird was seen 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.

### **Dusky Tit**

*Melaniparus funereus*

We had good looks at several in Ruhija and Buhoma.

## Penduline Tits

### **African Penduline Tit**

*Anthoscopus caroli*

2 birds were found at Lake Mburo NP.

## Sunbirds & Spiderhunters

### **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**

*Anthreptes longuemarei*

A female of this species was seen at Murchison Falls.

### **Little Green Sunbird**

*Anthreptes seimundi*

This inconspicuous, drab sunbird was first seen at Budongo, with a subsequent sighting at Mabira Forest.

### **Green Sunbird**

*Anthreptes rectirostris*

A small yet relatively conspicuous sunbird, we found our first at Bwindi, with further sightings at Budongo and Kibale Forests.

*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 several birds throughout the tour with our first sighting at Buhoma.

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis*

This attractive species was seen in Buhoma, and Kibale Forests.

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

This large forest sunbird was seen at Kibale Forest.

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

2 at the “Neck” and a single bird at Buhoma. An attractive bird!

**Western Olive-Sunbird** *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

Its distinctive call was heard daily in all lower altitude forests, with our only sighting at Mabira.

*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.*

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

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

**Bronze Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*

This attractive long-tailed sunbird was first seen in flowering trees around our camp at Buhoma with further sightings at Kibale Forest.

**Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

A common forest-edge species, we recorded a singleton at Kibale and 3 at Mabira Forests.

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

The common sunbird of forest edge at Buhoma and Ruhija in Bwindi NP.

**Regal Sunbird\*** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) regia*

This was one of the highlights of Ruhija, a total of 8 seen, including a number of stunning co-operative males.

**Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella*

Several males of this attractive species were seen at the Butiaba escarpment and at Murchison Falls.

**Mariqua Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) mariquensis*

This dry country species was found in Lake Mburo and at Murchison Falls.

*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 Entebbe and further sightings at Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superba*

A female scoped at Kibale and a male in flight at Murchison were our only sightings.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) venusta*

The beautiful orange-bellied form of this species, was seen in Bwindi 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 in Queen Elizabeth NP 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 Lake Mburo NP.

## Old World Orioles

**Western Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

This forest interior species was seen at Budongo Forest.

**African Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*

We had good views 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP and a single near Masindi.

**Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole** *Oriolus percivali*

4 at Buhoma.

## 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, recorded at Buhoma on three days.

**Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa, though nevertheless seen daily in savanna habitats, with our first records from Lake Mburo.

**Yellow-billed Shrike** *Corvinella corvine*

A single bird was seen in open woodland en route from Masindi to Entebbe.

## Bushshrikes & Allies

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

This species was seen at Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

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

**Pink-footed Puffback** *Dryoscopus angolensis*

This uncommon forest shrike was seen very well at Buhoma.

**Marsh Tchagra** *Tchagra minuta*

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

*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 Queen Elizabeth and 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 at Buhoma and at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Lühder's Bushshrike** *Laniarius luehderi*

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

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

A widespread shrike commonly heard and significantly less often seen. 2 were seen at Buhoma and a single at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Black-headed Gonolek** *Laniarius erythrogaster*

A brilliantly coloured bush-shrike that is delightfully common in savanna parts of Uganda, with sightings coming from Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

**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 near Bwindi Forest. Also recorded on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**Sooty Boubou**

*Laniarius leucorhynchus*

This localized forest bush-shrike was seen at Mabira Forest, where we obtained excellent views of a single bird sitting out on an open branch.

**Mountain Sooty Boubou**

*Laniarius poensis*

David Redfield, Verna and Livingstone saw 2 individuals at Ruhija.

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

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

*Telophorus bocagei*

This elegant shrike was seen very well at Buhoma and at Kibale Forests.

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike**

*Telophorus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species that was seen well at Lake Mburo.

**Many-colored Bushshrike**

*Telophorus multicolor*

We had good looks at this shy forest bird at the "Neck", Bwindi Forest.

**Doherty's Bushshrike**

*Telophorus dohertyi*

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

## Helmetshrikes

**White Helmetshrike**

*Prionops plumatus*

A flock of these striking birds were seen en route from Masindi to Entebbe.

## 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 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 commonly around Masindi, Murchison Falls NP and around Entebbe.

**Pied Crow**

*Corvus albus*

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

## Starlings

**Wattled Starling**

*Creatophora cinerea*

5 at Queen Elizabeth and 10+ at the Murchison Falls NP.

**Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling**

*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Our only records of this widespread African starling came from Lake Mburo NP where we saw 4.

**Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling**

*Lamprotornis chloropterus*

Common only in the drier northern savanna, where we recorded small flocks in Murchison Falls NP and en route from Masindi to Entebbe.

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 8 en route from Masindi to Entebbe.

**Splendid Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling is fairly common in moist woodlands throughout southern and central Uganda. Seen daily at Lake Mburo and near Entebbe.

**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 50 on our drive to Lake Mburo.

**Purple-headed Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis (Hylopsar) purpureiceps*

This beautiful forest starling was observed at Kibale and Budongo Forests.

**Violet-backed (Plum-coloured/Amethyst) Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

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

**Slender-billed Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

We observed twelve near Ruhija.

**Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*

We enjoyed great scope views of 20 feeding in treetops at Mubwindi Swamp.

**Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeyoptera lugubris*

We saw flocks of this diminutive long-tailed starling at the "Neck", Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Stuhlmann's Starling** *Poeyoptera stuhlmanni*

Less common than the preceding species, 2 were seen at Buhoma.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

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

## Old World Sparrows

**Shelley's Rufous Sparrow** *Passer shelleyi*

We were fortunate to see 2 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 5 on two days.

**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 small flocks en route to Bwindi NP.

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

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*

We observed a pair at Murchison Falls NP.

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

A scarce weaver of woodland and forest edge. We observed 10 en route to Lake Mburo and a single male at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

A fairly common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge. We found 2 at both Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth and a single bird at Murchison Falls.

**Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*

A snappy-looking weaver of forest edge that we recorded in small numbers at all lower altitude forest sites, was seen at Buhoma and at Kibale.

**Black-billed Weaver** *Ploceus melanogaster*

This is another dapper bird of forest fringes, which we recorded 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, our first sighting was of 2 at Buhoma.

**Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius*

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

**Northern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus castanops*

Another swamp associated species, 2 were observed en route to Bwindi NP and 4 were seen on or pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

**African (Vitelline) Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*

4 were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Heuglin's Masked Weaver** *Ploceus Heuglini*

A male was spotted in Murchison Falls and we all had good but brief looks before it flew off. A scarce and little-known bird in Uganda.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*

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

*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 three en route to Bwindi NP.

*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 seen in unprecedented numbers of around 2-3000 birds flying over a forest, 76km from Masaka. We also had good close looks of small flocks flying at eye-level over the grassland adjoining this forest. A further sighting was of 12 birds flying over Mabira Forest.

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

Another common weaver of wetlands throughout Uganda, which we first recorded en route to Lake Mburo and then found in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP. Yet another species which fed off our dining tables and several were seen along the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

**Golden-backed Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni*

A single bird was seen en route to Bwindi 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 at Queen Elizabeth NP with a further sighting near Masindi.

**Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*

The only common malimbe in Uganda, our first sighting was of a pair at Bwindi Forest and further sightings were from Kibale and Mabira Forests.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*

We saw several of these stunning birds at Lake Mburo NP.

**Cardinal Quelea** *Quelea cardinalis*

We were fortunate to find a flock of 10 in grassland near Budongo Forest.

**Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythropis*

We found a 6 at Murchison Falls with a further 2 in grassland near Budongo Forest.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

We first found the “African avian locust” in Queen Elizabeth NP where a maximum of 300 were seen.

**Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii*

We had fantastic views of several males in cultivated fields around Masindi.

**Black-winged (Red) Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*

This common species was observed in cultivated fields around Masindi.

**Orange (Northern Red) Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*

Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Red (Southern) Bishop** *Euplectes orix*

10+ birds were seen at the Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

2 males in almost full-breeding plumage were observed 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 Bwindi Forest and near Masindi.

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macrourus*

Several males were seen daily in the Masindi area

*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*

2 males were seen near Masindi.

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

**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*

Several males were seen in full breeding plumage in the Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*

Small numbers were seen in grasslands around Masindi.

**(Hartlaub’s) Marsh Widowbird** *Euplectes hartlaubi*

5 birds were seen at Luwero Swamp.

**Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*

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

## Waxbills & Allies

**White-breasted Nigrofinch** *Nigrita fusconota*

The descending song of this nigrofinch was heard at all lower altitude forest, with our first sighting at Kibale Forest and a further sighting at Mabira Forest.

**Gray-headed Nigrofinch** *Nigrita canicapilla*

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

**Grey-headed Oliveback** *Nesocharis capistrata*

3 of these stunning little seedeaters were seen in cultivated lands outside Budongo Forest

**Green-winged Pytilia***Pytilia melba*

2 were seen briefly in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Dusky Crimson-wing***Cryptospiza jacksoni*

Verna, Dave Redfield and Livingstone had brief views of a single bird at Ruhija.

**Black-bellied Seedcracker***Pyrenestes ostrinus*

A stunning male was found attending a nest on the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

**Red-headed Bluebill***Spermophaga ruficapilla*

This is another beautiful and elusive seedeater. We had fantastic views of singelton's at Budongo and Mabira Forests.

**Dusky Twinspot***Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

4 birds were seen well at Ruhija, much to the delight of Sara.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch***Lagonostica rufopicta*

10 were seen at Murchison Falls.

**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 30+daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Black-bellied Firefinch***Lagonosticta rara*

A pair were seen near Budongo Forest.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu***Uraeginthus bengalus*

This widespread species was commonly recorded in Murchison Falls NP and also seen at Lake Mburo.

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill***Estrilda quartinia*

Small flocks of these attractive birds of the highlands near 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 flocks in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

**Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild*

Africa's most widespread waxbill was seen on the crater drive, Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Black-crowned Waxbill***Estrilda nonnula*

An attractive species, which we first saw en route to Bwindi with further sightings at Begodi Swamp.

**Black-headed (Kandt's) Waxbill***Estrilda atricapilla kandti*

This is an uncommon species that we found in small flocks at Ruhija.

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

**Black-cheeked Waxbill***Estrilda erythronotus*

A pair were seen building a nest at the Butiaba escarpment en route to Murchison Falls.

**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 good views of 15 in grasslands adjoining the Budongo Forest. 3 birds were seen on our pre-tour to the Mabamba Wetlands.

*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.*

## Indigobirds

**Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeata*

This, the brood parasite of Red-billed Firefinch, was observed at Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

**Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

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

## Siskins, Crossbills & Allies

### **Yellow-crowned Canary**

*Serinus flavivertex*

This highland species was observed outside Bwindi NP, where we saw 4.

*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 10 en route to the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. We enjoyed further sightings at Kibale.

*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.*

### **White-rumped Seedeater**

*Serinus leucopygius*

4 were seen en route to Murchison Falls NP.

### **Black-throated Canary**

*Serinus astroglaris*

7 birds were seen in cultivated land near our camp at Kibale Forest.

### **Yellow-fronted Canary**

*Serinus mozambicus*

This widespread African species was seen at several sites throughout the tour. Our first sighting was of 10 birds en route to Bwindi Forest.

### **Brimstone (Bully) Canary**

*Serinus sulphuratus*

This large canary was first seen at Queen Elizabeth with further sightings near Masindi and on our pre-tour trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

### **Streaky Seedeater**

*Serinus striolatus*

This is a common bird of highland forest edges, which we found in good numbers in the vicinity of Ruhija, Bwindi 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**

*Embriza tahapisi*

We saw 3 of these attractive birds at the Butiaba escarpment.

### **(African) Golden-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza flaviventris*

We had 6 sightings in Queen Elizabeth NP and a single bird at Murchison Falls.

## **Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded**

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

## Apes

### **Chimpanzee**

*Pan troglodytes*

First heard on several days at Bwindi Forest. 8 chimps were seen at Kibale Forest, first located feeding up high in fig trees and later we followed them while they foraged for food on the ground. A further sighting of 5, were had at Kaniyo Pabidi.

### **(Mountain) Gorilla**

*Gorilla gorilla*

After a brisk walk and a slippery trek up a muddy slope, we thoroughly enjoyed our hour with these great forest apes. 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 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 from Kibale Forest.

## 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 Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls 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 and Mabira Forests. 4 were seen on our pre-tour top the Mabamba Wetlands.

### **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. **L'Hoest's Monkey**

*Cercopithecus lhoesti*

This handsome, mainly terrestrial guenon, is Uganda's rarest monkey, however we were fortunate in obtaining fantastic views almost daily in Bwindi Impenetrable Park.

### **Blue (Gentle) Monkey**

*Cercopithecus mitis*

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

### **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. We recorded it at Bwindi, Kibale and Budongo Forests.

## Lorisids

### **Potto**

*Perodicticus potto*

We had excellent looks at the scarce and seldom recorded nocturnal primates on a night drive at Kibale Forest.

### **Demidoff's Galago**

*Galago demidoff*

One of these tiny nocturnal critters was seen on a night drive through Kibale Forest.

## Large-Winged Bats

### **Yellow-winged Bat**

*Lavia frons*

This beautiful animal was seen on 3 occasions in the thicket savannas of Murchison Falls NP. They flushed from trees when we were birding along the roads.

### **Straw-colored Fruit Bat**

*Eidolon helvum*

Up to 400 of these impressive creatures were seen in flying and roosting in large trees at Jinja on the Nile.

### **Egyptian Fruit Bat**

*Rousettus aegyptiacus*

A singleton was seen during a night drive in Kibale NP.

## Elephant Shrews

### **Chequered Elephant Shrew**

*Rhynchocyon cirnei*

A single animal seen briefly (frustratingly) at Kaniyo Pabidi Forest was believed to be this species.

## Hares & Rabbits

### **Uganda Grass-Hare**

*Poelagus marjorita*

Up to 3 were observed during our night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

## Squirrels

### **Striped Ground Squirrel**

*Xerus erythropus*

Widespread in Uganda with singletons at Lake Mburo, Bwindi, Murchison Falls and Masindi.

### **Carruther's Mountain Squirrel**

*Funisciurus carruthersi*

2 were seen at Ruhija.

### **Boehm's Squirrel**

*Paraxerus boehmi*

This tiny forest squirrel was seen at Bwindi and Budongo Forests.

### **Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel**

*Paraxerus alexandri*

Another diminutive species, good views of 2 at Budongo.

### **Red-legged Sun Squirrel**

*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

This large squirrel was seen in small numbers in Bwindi and at Kibale Forests.

## Anomalures

### **Lord Derby's Anomalure**

*Anomalurus derbianus*

We had excellent views of this nocturnal beast at Kibale Forest. A scarce and seldom seen mammal.

## Mustelids

### **Spot-necked Otter**

*Lutra maculicollis*

A single animal was seen briefly on our trip to the Mabamba Wetlands.

## Mongoose

### **Slender Mongoose**

*Herpestes sanguinea*

Singles were seen in Bwindi and at Murchison Falls.

### **Banded Mongoose**

*Mungos mungo*

These entertaining creatures were commonly observed on the grounds of Mweya Lodge in Queen Elizabeth NP where a family group of up to 15 individuals were seen.

## Hyenas

### **Spotted Hyena**

*Crocuta crocuta*

A singleton was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

## Cats

**Lion***Panthera leo*

A Lioness of the famed tree-climbing Lions of Queen Elizabeth NP was found snoozing in a Large Fig tree in the Ishasha section of the Park. Sara was over the moon as this was a highlight for her. 3 other Lioness were seen on the north bank of the Murchison Falls.

**Elephants****African Elephant***Loxodonta africana*

Elephants were common and conspicuous in the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls, with numerous close encounters of 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 40 observed daily.)

**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 400 individuals were seen during the course of our trip.

**Pigs****Giant Forest Hog***Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

2 of these seldom seen mammals were found after extensive searching at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

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

**Giraffes****Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis*

A total of 14 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 300 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.

**Bush Duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

A singleton was flushed in open woodland en route from Masindi to Jinja.

**Black-fronted Duiker***Cephalophus nigrifrons*

We had good views of a singleton running on the road at Ruhija.

**Oribi***Ourebia ourebi*

Large numbers of this elegant antelope were seen on the plains north of the Nile, in Murchison Falls NP (100+) as well as 6 recorded in open woodland between Masindi and Jinja.

**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 100+ seen in a day) and 20+ 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 Lake Mburo NP, with peak tallies of 40+ daily from the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls.

**Bohor Reedbuck***Redunca Redunca*

2 at Queen Elizabeth and a single at Murchison Falls.

**Topi***Damaliscus lunatus*

10 at Lake Mburo NP and a further 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)***Alcelaphus buselaphus*

Replaces the Topi in the drier savanna of Murchison Falls NP, where we found 80 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).

**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.

**Moreau's Tropical House Gecko***Hemidactylus mabouia*

Several were seen in buildings throughout Uganda.

**Nile Monitor***Varanus niloticus*

We found one on the Nile boat cruise and Dave Redfield and Erik saw one at Entebbe Zoo.

**Nile Crocodile***Crocodylus niloticus*

Many of these impressive reptiles were seen at Lake Mburo, on our boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth and along the Nile and in Murchison Falls.

**Black Spitting Cobra***Naja nigricollis*

A roadkill at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Black Mamba***Dendroaspis polylepis*

Excellent views were had of a large specimen extracting bats from a cave at the Murchison Falls.

**Bubbling Kassina***Kassina senegalensis*

We heard the calls of several on the north bank, Murchison Falls NP.