



Uganda Trip Report

20th July to 6th August 2007



Trip report compiled by Keith Valentine

Tour Participants:

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Top 10 birds as voted by participants:

1. Shoebill

2. Pennant-winged Nightjar
3. Chocolate-backed Kingfisher
4. Black Bee-eater
5. Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill
6. White-spotted Flufftail
7. Dwarf Bittern
8. Gray Parrot
9. Handsome Francolin
10. Shining-blue Kingfisher

Tour Highlights

The extraordinary country of Uganda just keeps on producing some of the most incredible birding and mammal experiences year after year and this trip was no exception. Highlights included the prehistoric-looking Shoebill, fabulous encounters with the endangered Mountain Gorillas, incredible displaying male Pennant-winged Nightjars and White-spotted Flufftails running about at our feet. Our wonderful adventure yielded 533 species of birds while we also enjoyed 43 species of mammals in this, one of Africa's most biologically diverse countries.

Leaving the rather tranquil town of Entebbe, situated on the banks of Lake Victoria, we struck out for our first destination, Mabira Forest. This excellent island of forest is now under ever increasing pressure through sugarcane agriculture however the forest is still teeming with great birds. Highlights seen during our afternoon and morning in the forest included Gray Parrot, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Forest Woodhoopoe, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbet, Green-backed and Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Toro Olive and White-throated Greenbul, Common Bristlebill, Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush, Olive-green Camaroptera, Gray Longbill, Forest Robin, shy Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, African Shrike-flycatcher, Brown Illadopsis, scarce Tit-hylia, Little Green and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Sooty Boubou and the highly nomadic Weyns' and Yellow-mantled Weaver.



Leaving Mabira we made our way back through Kampala and on towards Masindi. The roadside birding on the route is excellent and we easily located Hartlaub's Widowbird and the stunning White-crested Turaco at Luwero Swamp. Further stops closer to Masindi produced Bruce's Green Pigeon and White-headed Barbet.

The 'Royal Mile' one of Uganda's premier forest birding sites was as good as ever producing a huge variety of species that barely occur anywhere else in East Africa. Our day of birding in the forest was very special and we quickly racked up some cracking birds that included Cassin's and Sabine's Spinetail, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, White-thighed Hornbill, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Brown-eared and Golden-crowned Woodpecker, Spotted Greenbul, Yellow-spotted Nicator, Black-capped Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Lemon-bellied Crombec, rare Ituri Batis, African Forest-Flycatcher, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher and Dusky Tit. The rank vegetation and farmland before reaching Budongo Forest always produces some cracking species and we enjoyed excellent views of Heuglin's Francolin, Blue-headed Coucal, African Yellow Warbler, Brown-backed Scrub-Robin, Brown Babbler, Marsh Tchagra, Compact Weaver, Cardinal and Red-headed Quelea, Black Bishop,

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Brown Twinspot and Black-bellied Firefinch.

The fabulous Murchison Falls National Park was enjoyed for the next two nights. We spent an afternoon at the impressive Murchison Falls, enjoyed an amazing spectacle on the boat cruise down the Nile River, visited the lovely north bank area and birded some incredible mature woodland. We enjoyed a brilliant trip down the Nile River that included some fabulous looks at the impressive Shoebill. This star bird was found at the edge of the delta and included a flight view of this spectacular creature. Little Bittern, Senegal Thick-knee, Blue-breasted Bee-eater and Northern Brown-throated Weaver were some of the other great birds enjoyed on the boat cruise. The woodland birding was outstanding and we secured awesome views of a number of very localized species that included African Cuckoo-Hawk, White-headed Vulture, Martial and



Banded Snake-Eagle, Red-necked Falcon, Stanley Bustard, Black-headed Lapwing, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Black Scimitarbill, stately Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, Black-billed Barbet, Greater Honeyguide, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, very scarce Red-pate and Foxy Cisticola, Red-winged Gray Warbler, Green-backed Eremomela, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Black-headed Batis, Superb Sunbird, rare Emin's and Yellow-billed Shrike, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Red-winged Pytilia, Fawn-breasted, Crimson-rumped and Black-rumped Waxbill and Brown-rumped and Cabanis' Bunting. The night drive was well worth the effort as we marveled at numerous Pennant-winged Nightjar males cruising about; undoubtedly one of the world's most impressive birds and a single Grayish Eagle-Owl also put in an appearance.

Our drive back to Masindi produced Spotted Morning-Thrush while Mocking Cliff-Chat and African Masked Weaver were found at the Butiaba Escarpment.

Our drive *en route* to Kibale Forest gave us perched African Goshawk, gorgeous Red-headed Lovebird, Nubian Woodpecker, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat and Bronze-tailed and Purple Glossy-Starling. At Sebitole we quickly found Afep Pigeon, Masked Apalis, Joyful Greenbul and Waller's Starling. A brilliant morning was spent with a group of Chimpanzees that were observed feeding in the



forest canopy and on the forest floor at close range. Between birding on the forest trails, the main road and Bigodi Swamp we picked some cracking specials that included crippling views of White-spotted Flufftail, stunning Shing-blue Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Barbet, Lesser Honeyguide, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Dusky-blue and Cassin's Flycatcher, Black-and-White Shrike-flycatcher, Olive-bellied Sunbird, Gray-green Bushshrike, Chestnut-winged and Narrow-tailed Starling, Red-headed Bluebill and Black-crowned Waxbill. A highly productive night excursion saw us obtaining fantastic views of Serval, African Civet, Demidoff's and Thomas's Galago, Black-shouldered Nightjar and African Wood-Owl.

The open moist grasslands and *euphorbia* dotted landscape welcomed us to Queen Elizabeth National Park. This wilderness teems with wildlife and between game drives on the Kasenyi track, visiting the Ishasha section of the reserve and cruising down the Kazinga channel we racked up some

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great sightings. The uncommon Dwarf Bittern, Harlequin Quail, African Crake, Black-bellied Bustard, Black Coucal, Black-winged Pratincole, African Skimmer, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Square-tailed Nightjar, Madagascar Bee-eater, Blue-throated Roller, Spot-flanked Barbet, White-tailed Lark, Trilling and Stout Cisticola, Gray-capped Warbler, Red-faced Crombec and Fan-tailed Grassbird were just some of the specials noted in this paradise. Other good sightings included three sleepy Lions and impressive aggregations of Kob, Elephant, Buffalo and Hippopotamus.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and its famous population of Mountain Gorillas were waiting for us. Everyone enjoyed one of the most amazing wildlife experiences on the planet when they were entertained for a full hour by a group of Mountain Gorillas in the depths of Bwindi Forest. The forest here is magical and includes a number of unique species that are extremely range restricted with the Albertine Rift Endemics high on everybody's hitlist. Memorable encounters included Western Bronz-naped Pigeon, Black-billed Turaco, Black Bee-eater, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Tullberg's and Elliot's Woodpecker, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Red-throated Alethe, Black-faced and Gray Apalis, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, White-browed Crombec, Neumann's Warbler, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, Equatorial Akalat, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Yellow-eyed Black and the scarce Chapin's Flycatcher, White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher, Tiny Sunbird and Pink-footed Puffback. The higher reaches of Bwindi produced Mountain and Augur Buzzard, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Handsome Francolin, Dusky Turtle-Dove, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Olive Woodpecker, Carruther's Cisticola, Rwenzori and Chestnut-throated Apalis, Grauer's Scrub-Warbler, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, White-starred Robin, Archer's Robin-Chat, Rwenzori Batis, Mountain Illadopsis, African Hill Babbler, Stripe-breasted Tit, Blue-headed and Regal Sunbird, Black-tailed Oriole, Luehder's, Doherty's and the mega Lagden's Bushshrike, Slender-billed Starling, Strange and Brown-capped Weaver, Dusky Twinspot and Yellow-bellied and Kandt's Waxbill.

Thereafter we traveled to our final destination, Lake Mburo National Park. Some notable sightings at Lake Mburo included magnificent views of the secretive African Finfoot, highly sought-after White-backed Night-Heron, Brown-chested Lapwing, Temminck's Courser, stunning Ross' Turaco and Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Coqui Francolin, Narina Trogon, the rare and localized Red-faced Barbet, Tabora Cisticola, White-winged Black-Tit and African Penduline-Tit. New mammals to our burgeoning list included Dwarf Mongoose, Plain's Zebra, Bohor Reedbuck, Bush Duiker and Impala.

The tour ended off in Entebbe where we said our goodbyes after a thoroughly enjoyable and successful trip!



Annotated List of Bird Species recorded (533 Species)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist 5th Edition* (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to June 2005.
An asterisk (*) indicates an Albertine Rift endemic species.

Grebes

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Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

A single bird was observed at the source of the Nile at Jinja.

Pelicans

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

A flock of 40 were seen along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

A common bird in Uganda, regularly nesting on the roadside. High numbers recorded were on the Kazinga Channel boat cruise and Luwero Swamp.

Cormorants & Shags

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Our first sighting was of a single bird on the Victoria Nile boat cruise and later a large flock was seen on the Kazinga Channel.

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 several sites; the Victoria Nile boat cruise, Murchison Falls NP and Jinja.

Anhinga & Darter

Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

At least 50 were seen along the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers in Jinja, Queen Elizabeth NP and on the Victoria Nile boat cruise.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Uganda's commonest heron, we recorded it on many days in small numbers.

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

A spectacular bird recorded in several wetlands including the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP. We recorded 3 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

10 were seen along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

We found 6 at Jinja and a further 2 on the Kazinga Channel.

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

Intermediate Egret

Egretta intermedia

We found a single bird on our amazing cruise down the Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

This species is common in wetlands throughout, with our first sighting on Lake Victoria.

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 at Jinja with further sightings on the Nile at Murchison Falls (1) and 4 on the boat cruise on the Kazinga channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen accompanying herds of antelope, Buffalo or Elephants in the parks.
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

A total of 5 were seen in Lake Mburo NP and a single bird was also observed on the Kazinga channel.

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

3 were seen at a day roost in Lake Mburo NP.

White-backed Night-Heron

Gorsachius leuconotus

A scarce bird throughout its range, we had a brilliant view of 1 bird roosting in a waterside thicket on Lake Mburo in the national park.

Little Bittern

Ixobrychus minutus

A total of 2 birds were found on our memorable boat trip down the Victoria Nile.

Dwarf Bittern

Ixobrychus sturmii

A very seldom recorded species and we were extremely fortunate to obtain brilliant views of a single bird at a flooded pond in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Hamerkop

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

This bizarre bird, forming a monotypic family endemic to the Afrotropics and Madagascar, is pleasantly common throughout Uganda.

Storks

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Our first sighting was of 7 birds along the Kazinga Channel with a further 10 seen at Lake Mburo.

African Openbill (~ed Stork)

Anastomus lamelligerus

A common bird in Uganda, this freshwater mussel specialist was seen in small numbers at several sites including the Victoria Nile boat cruise and Jinja.

Woolly-necked Stork

Ciconia abdimii

Our only sighting was of 2 near Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

This magnificent bird was seen on the Nile boat cruise where we had great views of 3.

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

A very common and conspicuous bird in Uganda, where it has become commensal with man in many areas.

Shoebill

Shoebill

Balaeniceps rex

The essence of Uganda, we found one of these incredible birds at the edge of tall papyrus on our brilliant trip down the Victoria Nile. This was undoubtedly one of the great highlights of the trip.

Ibises & Spoonbills

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Easily seen at Jinja and along the Kazinga channel.

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.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

5 birds were seen exceptionally well on the Kazinga Channel.

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Flamingos

Lesser Flamingo

Phoenicopterus minor

Around 40 birds were sighted at Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Swans, Geese & Ducks

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

This species was seen by some of the group on our cruise down the Victoria Nile. Not seen by the leader.

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

We saw 5 on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

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

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

We found 10 birds along the Victoria Nile.

Comb Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

A flock of 8 birds were seen near Masindi and a further 7 were sighted along the Victoria Nile.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

A number of birds were sighted at a large wetland between Entebbe and Lake Mburo NP.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites

African Cuckoo-Hawk

Aviceda cuculoides

We enjoyed a good sighting in Murchison Falls NP.

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 good 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.

Palm-nut Vulture

Gypohierax angolensis

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

Hooded Vulture

Necrosyrtes monachus

The common vulture around human habitation, with small numbers recorded near Kampala at the beginning of the trip. Several were also seen in Murchison Falls NP.

(African) White-backed Vulture

Gyps africanus

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

White-headed Vulture

Trigonoceps occipitalis

A single bird was sighted in Murchison Falls NP. Widespread across Africa however it is thought that the Global population is no more than 2000 pairs.

Black-breasted Snake-Eagle

Circaetus pectoralis

A single bird was seen in flight in Lake Mburo NP with a snake hanging from its clutches before it was bombed by a cruising Tawny Eagle. Great intertainment!

Brown Snake-Eagle

Circaetus cinereus

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The commonest snake-eagle in Uganda, birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP and Lake Mburo NP.

(Western) Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

We enjoyed great views of one bird in Murchison Falls NP.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

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

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

We found this species once cruising above moist grassland at Luwero Swamp.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

This species was sighted at the Royal Mile and at Lake Mburo NP.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

An attractive raptor that allowed for great views on numerous occasions. Peak numbers of 3 were seen near Masindi.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

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

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

Seen twice on the tour, once in Murchison Falls NP and a brilliant ‘dark phase’ bird near Masindi.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

One was seen perched at the roadside between Kibale NP and Masindi.

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

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

A seldom recorded raptor in Uganda, we were fortunate to find this species near Mabira Forest.

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus*

We enjoyed some fantastic views of this species at the higher reaches of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

A handsome buzzard that is pleasantly common in the mountainous, south-western corner of Uganda.

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*

A single bird was observed in Lake Mburo NP dive-bombing a Black-breasted Snake-Eagle.

Wahlberg’s Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

This species was easily sighted in savanna areas throughout Uganda.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

This, one of Africa’s largest eagles, was seen on several occasions in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP’s.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

A very common raptor in Uganda, with small numbers daily in moist woodland habitats.

Cassin’s Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*

We had sightings of 1 bird in the Ruhizha area and 1 along the Royal Mile.

Falcons & Caracaras

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

We found one *en route* to Queen Elizabeth NP from Kibale Forest.

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 in Queen Elizabeth, Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP’s.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

A very smart raptor. We enjoyed a single bird in Murchison Falls NP.

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Pheasants & Partridges

Coqui Francolin

Francolinus coqui

2 birds flushed at our feet in Lake Mburo NP where we had good flight views.

Crested Francolin

Francolinus sephaena

We enjoyed good sightings in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

Nahan's Francolin

Francolinus nahani

A single bird was briefly seen in Mabira Forest by some of the group.

Heuglin's Francolin

Francolinus icterorhynchus

We were fortunate to have superb views of 3 of these localized francolins in Murchison Falls NP with our initial sightings coming from near Masindi.

Handsome Francolin *

Francolinus nobilis

We had fantastic views of this tricky to see bird when 1 was seen feeding in the road towards late evening at Ruhizha, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Red-necked Spurfowl

Francolinus afer

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

Harlequin Quail

Coturnix delegorguei

We flushed 2 birds with the vehicle in Queen Elizabeth NP .

Guineafowl

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Common and ubiquitous, Helmeted Guineafowl were encountered in good numbers at many sites.

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

A single group of 20 birds were well seen at the forest edge along the Royal Mile.

Cranes

Gray (Southern) Crowned-Crane

Balearica regulorum

Uganda's handsome national bird is delightfully common throughout the country.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots

White-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura pulchra

This secretive, forest rail's hooting call was heard in several forests. Excellent sightings were had of 2 birds at Bigodi. Certainly one of the highlights of the tour.

Buff-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura elegans

This species mournful call was heard at Buhoma.

Red-chested Flufftail

Sarothrura rufa

This species was heard calling at Mubwindi Swamp.

African Crane

Crecoptis egregia

A single bird was flushed by the vehicle in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black Crane

Amaurornis flavirostra

Africa's common wetland crane, first recorded at Jinja and later on the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls and on the Kazinga Channel.

Finfoots

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

We enjoyed outstanding views of 2 birds at Lake Mburo NP.

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Bustards

Stanley Bustard

Neotis denhami

We enjoyed wonderful views of 4 on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

Two birds were sighted in tall grass in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Jacanas

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

This widespread and characteristic wader was found at Murchison Falls NP.

Stilts & Avocets

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

This characteristic wader was seen in small numbers at Lake Katwe, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avocetta

At least 15 birds were found at Lake Katwe, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Thick-knees

Water Thick-knee

Burhinus vermiculatus

This species is common at the edges of wetlands in Queen Elizabeth NP and at Lake Mburo.

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

A total of 5 were seen during the boat cruise on the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

Courser & Pratincoles

Temminck's Courser

Cursorius temminckii

We enjoyed an excellent view of 1 in Lake Mburo NP.

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

15 birds were found on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-winged Pratincole

Glareola nordmanni

We enjoyed 6 birds flying over a burnt field in the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock (White-collared) Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

A fairly common denizen of rapids in the Victoria Nile, where 50 plus were present around Murchison Falls. We enjoyed superb 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.

Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)

Vanellus spinosus

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

Black-headed Lapwing

Vanellus tectus

This is a localized species in Uganda and we were fortunate to find 6 birds in short grass on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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 NP.

Wattled Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus senegallus

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in small numbers throughout the trip.

Brown-chested Lapwing

Vanellus superciliosus

This is a rare east-west migrant. We found around 25 superb birds in and outside Lake Mburo NP.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

A total of 20 were seen at various spots in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

Our only sighting was of 2 of these attractive waders on the Kazinga Channel.

Sandpipers & Allies

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

We found 10 birds in Queen Elizabeth NP, most were from Lake Katwe.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

This species was seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Birds were found at Queen Elizabeth NP and Lake Mburo NP

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

A total of 3 were seen on the Kazinga channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

10 birds were found on Lake Katwe and along the Kazinga channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Gulls

Gray-headed Gull

Larus cirrocephalus

At least 30 were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Terns

Gull-billed Tern

Sterna nilotica

We found at least 40 on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

2 birds were seen along the Victoria Nile and a single was sighted on the Kazinga channel.

Skimmers

African Skimmer

Rynchops flavirostris

One of Africa's most elegant birds. We had superb views of around 40 birds 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 on our drive to Lake Mburo NP from Buhoma.

Afep Pigeon

Columba unicincta

This plump, forest pigeon was seen very well at Kibale NP especially in flight over forest clearings.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon

Columba arquatrix

This widespread African forest pigeon occurs in the higher parts of Bwindi NP, where we had 3 birds at Ruhizha.

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon

Columba iriditorques

We had brief views of 1 at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP, although this species was heard calling frequently in the area.

Dusky Turtle-Dove

Streptopelia lugens

A scarce bird in Uganda, we found a single bird perched and calling in the Ruhizha area.

African Mourning Dove

Streptopelia decipiens

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

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

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

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

Common in open savanna throughout the country.

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 at least 6 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 6 in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-billed Wood-Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*

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

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur afer*

Uganda's most widespread wood-dove and recorded on many 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).

Bruce's Green-Pigeon *Treron waalia*

We had brief views of 2 near Masindi on our first day.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calva*

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

Parrots, Macaws & Allies

Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*

A lovely little parrot that we saw on several occasions including superb scope views of a couple just outside Masindi.

(African) Gray Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

Birds were seen at Mabira Forest and outside Masindi. 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 this species regularly in the woodland around Masindi and Lake Mburo NP.

Turacos

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore is wonderfully common in Uganda and we found good numbers on several days. Our highest count was of 10 at Bigodi Swamp.

Black-billed Turaco *Tauraco schuettii*

The common turaco of Uganda forests, we had several encounters with this beautiful bird. This species was first seen at Bwindi.

White-crested Turaco *Tauraco leucolophus*

We obtained superb views of 1 individual of this stunningly beautiful bird at Luwero Swamp.

Ross' Turaco *Musophaga rossae*

Another stellar turaco, 3 were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

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

A bizarre bird, we had great views of several in Lake Mburo NP.

Eastern (Gray) Plantain-eater *Crinifer zonurus*

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

Cuckoos

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

This familiar bird was frequently heard throughout the trip, but only seen on a few occasions. Views were had in Bodongo Forest.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

We enjoyed some brilliant views of this species in Bwindi Forest.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx mechowi

Always a difficult species to see, we heard it along the Royal Mile.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

This species was heard calling along the Royal Mile.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Generally shy and less common than its congeners, we had great views along 'the Royal Mile', Budongo Forest and at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

This widespread African species was seen in Murchison Falls NP. Favors closed nests (and therefore often conspicuous around weaver colonies).

Yellowbill (Blue Malkoha)

Ceuthmochares aereus

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was seen at several forest sites on the tour.

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

This is a species of rank, moist, tall grassland. We found 5 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

This large swamp-dwelling coucal was first observed near Masindi with further sightings in Murchison Falls NP.

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

We had good views of 1 in Murchison Falls NP.

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

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

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

We heard several calling in Lake Mburo NP.

Grayish Eagle-Owl

Bubo cinerascens

We had superb views of 1 in Murchison Falls NP during our night drive.

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

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl

Bubo lacteus

A single bird was sighted at sunset in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Wood-Owl

Strix woodfordii

We had wonderful views of a single bird on a night drive in Kibale NP, our first sighting was during the day in Mabira Forest being mobbed by a flock of birds.

Pearl-spotted Owlet

Glaucidium perlatum

A single bird was seen briefly by some of the group in Lake Mburo NP.

Nightjars & Allies

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Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

A single bird was seen at dusk just outside Kibale NP.

Montane (Ruwenzori) Nightjar * *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*

This species was heard up at Ruhizha.

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

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

2 birds were seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

We had awesome views of numerous males and females at Murchison Falls NP and 2 birds at Queen Elizabeth NP. A fantastic species and one of the highlights of our time spent in Uganda.

Swifts

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

This scarce forest spinetail was observed over the Royal Mile and Kibale Forest where we found 1 and a brilliant group of 7 birds respectively.

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini*

Another scarce species. We found 2 flying over the Royal Mile at Budongo Forest.

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful around palms throughout, we observed large numbers at Murchison Falls NP.

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

Common Swift *Apus apus*

We had 3 birds at Lake Mburo NP following a weather system.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

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

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Fork-tailed and with a sickle-shaped (rather than square) white rump, common around Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Mousebirds

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

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

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

The fast-flying, savanna cousin of Speckled Mousebird and sporting a most unlikely blue patch on its nape. We found this species in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Trogon

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

The guttural hooting of this magnificent bird was heard at several forest sites and a superb view was enjoyed at Lake Mburo NP.

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum*

This species was only heard at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Kingfishers

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*

We enjoyed fabulous views of this uncommon species when 2 birds were seen at close range in Kibale NP.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

The common, small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, with maximal numbers seen on our launch cruise in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) picta

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

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

A bird that can be extremely difficult to find, although often heard on many occasions. We had fantastic scope views of 2 on the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

Gray-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala

This beautiful woodland kingfisher was observed in good numbers in Murchison Falls NP. It was also seen in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis

One of the characteristic sounds of moist African savanna, this beautiful bird was regularly encountered in small numbers in open country throughout the tour.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Halcyon malimbica

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

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti

Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small, terrestrial kingfisher was first observed near Masindi, and thereafter seen regularly throughout.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

2 birds were seen during our Victoria Nile boat cruise.

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.

Bee-eaters

Black Bee-eater

Merops gularis

A truly magnificent forest bee-eater with a most unlikely colour combination. We enjoyed fantastic views of several in the Buhoma section and 'the neck' of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Red-throated Bee-eater

Merops bullocki

The northern equivalent of the more familiar White-fronted Bee-eater and every bit as beautiful, it was fairly numerous in 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 in small numbers at Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Blue-breasted (White-cheeked) Bee-eater

Merops variegatus

Slightly larger and with a preference for fringes of papyrus beds, we found 1 at the edge of the papyrus on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison.

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

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater

Merops oreobates

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

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

Merops hirundineus

An elegant bee-eater of dry savanna, we found 4 birds in Murchison Falls NP.

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

We had superb views of 50 odd birds at our accommodation in Jinja with further sightings at Queen Elizabeth NP.

Madagascar Bee-eater

Merops superciliosus

Sightings came from Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP where we enjoyed great views of several.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicus

A superb looking species that was seen exceptionally well in Murchison Falls NP where at least 15 birds were seen.

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Rollers

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

A single bird was sighted at Lake Mburo NP.

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.

Blue-throated Roller

Eurystomus gularis

Replaces Broad-billed Roller in closed forest environments and was seen in Queen Elizabeth NP and at 'the neck' in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Woodhoopoes

Green Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

We had good sightings of a couple of groups in Lake Mburo NP.

White-headed Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus bollei

This uncommon forest bird was observed at Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Forest Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus castaneiceps

We enjoyed great views of 1 in Mabira Forest, this is a very uncommon and localized species in the country.

Black Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

We had brief views of 2 birds in Murchison Falls NP.

Hornbills

Crowned Hornbill

Tockus alboterminatus

Usually Common and widespread in moister habitats across the country, we saw our only birds near Masindi.

African Gray Hornbill

Tockus nasutus

The common savanna hornbill in Uganda seen at several sites. Small numbers were seen in the drier savanna of 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 10 in the Mabira Forest area.

White-thighed Hornbill

Ceratogymna albotibialis

Only seen in Budongo Forest, where we eventually located 3 on the Royal Mile and 2 at Busingiro.

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

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill

Bucorbvus abyssinicus

This great species was sighted on a number of occasions in the open woodlands in Murchison Falls NP, our first sighting was of 2 birds just inside the park entrance.

Barbets

Gray-throated Barbet

Gymnobucco bonapartei

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

Speckled Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus scolopaceus

A scruffy, ubiquitous bird in lower altitude forest in Uganda, where it's purring call is one of the common background sounds. Our first views were in Mabira Forest.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus subsulphureus

Similar to its more familiar yellow-rumped cousin but with a contrastingly yellow throat and a more rapid tempo to its "tinking", this forest barbet was seen in small numbers at Budongo and Kibale Forests.

Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus bilineatus

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

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus

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A savanna species. We found 1 in Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

An elegant forest barbet with a beautiful purring call. We found 2 birds at Mabira Forest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

2 pairs were seen at Mabira Forest.

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 in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen near Masindi and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Red-faced Barbet *Lybius rubrifacies*

A very special bird that is confined almost entirely to Lake Mburo NP. This stunner was seen once when a pair were located at our camp.

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito*

This species was encountered in Murchison Falls NP where we had good views of 2 birds.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

A spectacular barbet that is widespread in moist savanna, overgrown cultivation and gardens in Uganda. We enjoyed sightings in Jinja and Kibale NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet, heard in all the western forests. We had brilliant views of this colorful species in Kibale NP.

Honeyguides

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

A single bird was sighted in Kibale NP.

Willcock's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksi*

A single bird was heard calling from a known call post in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Cassin's Honeyguide *Prodotiscus insignis*

This is a seldom seen species in Uganda and some of the group found a single bird on the outskirts of Kibale NP.

Woodpeckers & Allies

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

This attractive savanna species was observed near Masindi and at Lake Mburo NP.

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii*

Seldom recorded in Uganda, we found a single bird at Mabira Forest.

Tullberg's Woodpecker *Campethera tullbergi*

A single bird was sighted at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa*

We enjoyed excellent, prolonged views of this species in Mabira Forest

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli*

Another beautiful forest-dwelling woodpecker. We found a single bird along the Royal Mile.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicops fuscescens*

This widespread African woodpecker was observed on several locations with our first sighting at Kibale NP.

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

This large forest woodpecker (with the almost invisible yellow crest!) was seen on the Royal Mile.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

Our first sighting was of one that was briefly seen at the 'Neck' with further good views at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

We enjoyed good views of a few around the town of Masindi.

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicus griseocephalus*

2 birds were sighted up at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus*

We had wonderful views of 3 birds in Murchison Falls NP, this species is a fairly uncommon inhabitant of broad-leaved woodland.

Broadbills

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*

This species was heard calling at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Larks

White-tailed Lark *Mirafra albicauda*

We found 2 birds in the moist grasslands in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*

We recorded at least 6 birds in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Uganda's most widespread lark, we found a few at Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Swallows

Plain (Brown-throated) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

At least 25 birds were seen on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

We were fortunate to find this species on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP. 15 birds were seen in total.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogen fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen once on the outskirts of Bwindi Impenetrable 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. obsoleta. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

This palaeartic migrant was recorded in fair numbers at numerous locations.

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 common hirundine in Uganda, seen most days of the tour.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers were seen 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 common in Uganda and seen throughout the region.

Rufous-chested Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*

A couple of pairs were seen in the grassland areas of Queen Elizabeth NP.

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Mosque Swallow

Cecropis senegalensis

Another large attractive swallow. Seen at Murchison Falls NP and Masindi.

White-headed Sawwing

Psalidoprocne albiceps

This elegant bird was first seen foraging near Masindi, with regular sightings at scattered locations throughout Uganda.

Black Sawwing

Psalidoprocne holomelas

Outnumbers the above species in most of the higher altitude sites in Uganda.

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

Small numbers were seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail

Motacilla clara

A scarce bird of forested streams. A single bird was seen at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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 up to 20 daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

We obtained excellent views in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

African (Grassland/Grassveld) Pipit

Anthus cinnamomeus

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

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

Cuckoo-shrikes

Gray Cuckoo-shrike

Coracina caesia

A total of 4 birds were seen in the higher parts of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Petit's Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga petiti

An uncommon forest cuckoo-shrike that we recorded in small numbers at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP (in total 7 seen).

Black Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga flava

Birds were sighted on the outskirts of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and in Lake Mburo NP.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga phoenicea

We were fortunate to find one in Murchison Falls NP on our final day in the area.

Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike

Campephaga quiscalina

We enjoyed 1 sighting of this rather scarce bird 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.

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.

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

Shelley's Greenbul

Andropadus masukuensis

In total we found just 2 birds during our wanderings of the lovely Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Little Greenbul

Andropadus virens

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

(Little) Gray Greenbul

Andropadus gracilis

Singles were seen at Mabira Forest, the Royal Mile and Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Ansorge's Greenbul

Andropadus ansorgei

Only recently discovered in Uganda (first record in August 2001 by Nik Borrow and Adam Riley). We were fortunate to see 12 at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul

Andropadus curvirostris

This inconspicuous greenbul was seen twice in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Slender-billed Greenbul

Andropadus gracilirostris

A common greenbul of forest canopy, we saw it first at Mabira 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 many forests throughout.

Eastern Mountain-Greenbul

Andropadus nigriceps

This is a conspicuous and attractive bird of highland forests that we found in fair numbers 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 regular sounds in lower altitude forest throughout Uganda. This species remained heard only.

Spotted Greenbul

Ixonotus guttatus

We found a wonderful group of 8 of these striking greenbuls on the Royal Mile with a further 2 sighted at Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove)

Chlorocichla flavicollis

Seen in small numbers at scattered sites, our first and most memorable sighting was 2 birds at our accommodation in Jinja.

Joyful Greenbul

Chlorocichla laetissima

A strangely local greenbul in Uganda, we found 2 birds at Sebitole.

Toro Olive-Greenbul

Phyllastrephus hypochloris

A rather scarce bird. We found 1 bird in Mabira Forest.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus

We observed this wing-flicking species in small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

White-throated Greenbul

Phyllastrephus albigularis

This is another uncommon, skulking greenbul, of which we found 8 in Budongo Forest and 1 in Mabira Forest.

Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill

Bleda syndactyla

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

Yellow-spotted (Western) Nicator

Nicator chloris

This is an aberrant hook-billed greenbul that was seen exceptionally well along the Rooyal Mile and at Kanyo Pabidi.

Red-tailed Greenbul

Criniger calurus

One of the most handsome of all greenbuls and a relatively common forest bird throughout Uganda. We saw small numbers daily at Buhoma, Budongo and Mabira Forest.

Thrushes & Allies

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

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The distinctive whistle of this rufous, forest thrush, is one of the background sounds in many western Ugandan forests. We found this species at Budongo and Mabira Forests.

Red-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*

This elusive species was heard at Kanyo Pabidi in Budongo Forest.

White-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*

We enjoyed great views of a pair at dawn outside Kibale Forest.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

1 bird was seen at Ruhizha.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split off as Mountain Thrush, Turdus abyssinicus. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

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*

We enjoyed excellent views of at least 7 birds on the trails at Buhoma.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*

This ant-following species was well seen at a nest in Kanyo Pabidi.

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 near Masindi and Kibale NP.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

This species was seen once in Murchison Falls NP.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

Another common sound was the pleasant whistle of this species. We had good views near the Royal Mile and Murchison Falls NP.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami*

The strange, quavering call of this common woodland cisticola was heard and seen in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP.

Red-pate Cisticola *Cisticola ruficeps*

A significant find as this species is almost unrecorded this far south in Uganda. Excellent views were obtained of 2 birds on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi*

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

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola cheniana*

We enjoyed good sightings on the North bank of the Nile in 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. Seen well at a variety of wetlands throughout.

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

Carruthers's Cisticola *Cisticola carruthersi*

Replaces Winding in the centre of papyrus swamps and hence less frequently encountered. We found 2 at Mubwindi Swamp in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus*

Singles were sighted on consecutive days in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Croaking (Striped) Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

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

Tabora Cisticola *Cisticola angusticaudus*

We found 4 of this seldom seen species in Lake Mburo NP. A particularly rare species in Uganda.

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Siffling (Short-winged) Cisticola

Cisticola brachypterus

A small, nondescript warbler of open, bushy areas. We had good views near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

Foxy Cisticola

Cisticola troglodytes

This handsome bird of dry *Acacia* savanna was seen by some of the group in Murchison Falls NP.

Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

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

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we found many at widespread locations.

White-chinned Prinia

Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon

This confiding, gregarious species was first observed at Kibale, with further sightings of small numbers seen daily at Buhoma.

Banded Prinia

Prinia bairdii

This snappy-looking, but at times skulking prinia, was seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP where we obtained superb views of several.

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 5 in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-winged Gray Warbler

Drymocichla incana

This striking and highly localized little warbler was found once at Murchison Falls where we had great looks.

Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis *

Apalis ruwenzorii

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found in the montane forest around Ruhizha (6 seen).

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

Black-capped Apalis

Apalis nigriceps

We found just 1 bird on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Black-throated Apalis

Apalis jacksoni

One of the commonest forest and forest edge apalises in Uganda, we found fair numbers of these beautiful birds at Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Masked Apalis

Apalis binotata

In Uganda, largely restricted to Kibale Forest NP, 1 was seen 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 several at Buhoma and Ruhizha, in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

This widespread, woodland apalis is relatively scarce in Uganda, with our only sighting being 3 birds in Lake Mburo NP.

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

Buff-throated Apalis

Apalis rufogularis

A relatively common resident of the canopy of lower altitude forest in Uganda, with sightings at Budongo Forest, Kibale 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 8 at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

Gray Apalis

Apalis cinerea

This species was seen in small numbers at Buhoma.

Gray-capped Warbler

Eminia lepida

This attractive, yet skulking bird was sighted at at Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

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The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in moist wooded habitat throughout Uganda, first seen near Masindi with many further sightings.

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

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*

This handsome warbler was excellently seen in Mabira Forest.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

Another skulking camaroptera, its piercing calls were regularly heard at many forest sites, we found a single bird at Mabira Forest.

Old World Warblers

White-winged Scrub-Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis*

This highly localized swamp-dwelling warbler was heard on several occasions.

Grauer's Scrub-Warbler * *Bradypterus graueri*

We were fortunate to have good views of 3 at Mubwindi Swamp.

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

This species was heard at Ruhizha.

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 number of sightings.

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

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was encountered a couple of times during the tour with views of one near Masindi and one in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*

This species was heard at Lake Mburo NP on the boat ride.

African Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta natalensis*

A total of 2 birds were seen in rank vegetation near Masindi.

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta similis*

This beautiful songster was found in the montane forest around Ruhizha where we enjoyed great views of 2.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was seen in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

Grauer's Warbler * *Graueria vittata*

This unusual, barred warbler (with a Scaly-throated Honeyguide-like call), was seen well at Ruhizha.

Green-backed Eremomela *Eremomela canescens*

This localized species was seen in Murchison Falls NP where good views were obtained.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*

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

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We heard the species almost daily at many forest sites, first seen at Mabira Forest.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*

We managed to locate 1 of these scarce birds along the Royal Mile.

White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys*

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

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

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

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

We found 2 birds in Queen Elizabeth NP and enjoyed a further view of 1 in Lake Mburo NP.

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

This elusive Albertine rift endemic was seen incredibly well at Buhoma.

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*

This skulking species was heard at Mabira Forest.

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Gray Longbill

Macrosphenus concolor

This is another secretive species, we found birds at Mabira Forest and along the Rooyal Mile.

Green Hylia

Hylia prasina

Its "HEE-lia!" call was one of the common background sounds at all the lower altitude forest sites on the tour. We had excellent views at a few forests throughout the tour.

Red-faced Woodland-Warbler *

Phylloscopus laetus

This is another Albertine Rift endemic, which we encountered in small numbers at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Yellow-bellied Hyliota

Hyliota flavigaster

We were fortunate to locate a single bird in Murchison Falls NP.

Fan-tailed Grassbird

Schoenicola brevirostris

We obtained good views of one in tall grassland at Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 where we found a total of 7.

Pale Flycatcher

Bradornis pallidus

We saw 4 in Murchison Falls NP.

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher

Melaenornis fischeri

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

Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher

Melaenornis edolioides

First recorded near Masindi with further sightings in Murchison Falls NP.

Southern Black-Flycatcher

Melaenornis pammelaina

A localized bird in Uganda, completely confined to Lake Mburo where it was only recently discovered in 2001. We found 2 birds.

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher *

Melaenornis ardesiacus

1 bird seen very well on a forest trail at Buhoma. A scarce, Albertine Rift endemic.

African Forest-Flycatcher

Fraseria ocreata

A scarce forest flycatcher however, we found 3 on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Sooty Flycatcher

Muscicapa infuscata

A swallow-like bird often seen perched in groups on dead snags high above the forest canopy, with our only sighting coming from Mabira Forest.

Swamp Flycatcher

Muscicapa aquatica

A common denizen of swamp edges throughout southern Uganda, with our first records from Murchison Falls NP with further sightings in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Chapin's Flycatcher

Muscicapa lendu

A particularly scarce Albertine Rift near endemic. We were fortunate to obtain cracking views of a pair of birds along one of the trails in Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

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

Dusky-blue Flycatcher

Muscicapa comitata

This is a quiet, inconspicuous bird that we first found at Bigodi Swamp, further views were had in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Cassin's (Gray) Flycatcher

Muscicapa cassini

A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. We found 2 individuals at Kibale NP.

Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus griseigularis

This active species, which replaces the next species in the forest interior, was seen along the Royal Mile and in Mabira Forest.

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Gray Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus plumbeus

A pair was sighted in Queen Elizabeth NP before 1 was found in a mixed species flock in Lake Mburo NP.

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.

Forest Robin

Stiphornis erythrothorax

This shy species was heard at many forest sites. Seen by some of the group in Mabira Forest.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the East African S. xanthogaster group, the one we observed would become Eastern Forest Robin, the Central African S. gabonensis would become Gabon Forest Robin and the West African S. erythrothorax would become Western Forest Robin. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Equatorial Akalat

Sheppardia aequatorialis

2 birds were seen in Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

White-bellied Robin-Chat

Cossyphicula roberti

We enjoyed some good views in Buhoma, 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 one seen at Ruhizha.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat

Cossypha cyanocampter

A very shy species that was seen in Mabira Forest.

White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat

Cossypha heuglini

The crescendo calls of this handsome bird were amongst the dominant sounds of the dawn chorus in woodland throughout the trip. We recorded them in good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP, up to 15 seen daily, where they obligingly perched atop large *Euphorbia*.

Red-capped Robin-Chat

Cossypha natalensis

One bird was seen well at Buhoma.

Snowy-crowned (~headed) Robin-Chat

Cossypha niveicapilla

This beautiful but shy songster was first seen near Masindi, we had further sightings at Kibale NP.

Spotted Morning-Thrush

Cichladusa guttata

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

Brown-backed Scrub-Robin

Cercotrichas hartlaubi

This species was seen near Masindi where we obtained great views.

Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin

Cercotrichas leucophrys

This widespread African scrub-robin was seen at Lake Mburo NP.

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

African (Common) Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

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

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.

Sooty Chat

Myrmecocichla nigra

Distinctive and ubiquitous, Sooty Chats were found at several sites in the grassland parts of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Mocking Cliff-Chat

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

We marveled at 2 of these delightful chats 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 Kibale, Mabira and Budongo Forests.

Black-and-white (Vanga) Shrike-flycatcher

Bias musicus

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These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were observed very well at Bigodi Swamp and Buhoma.

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.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*

These attractive little birds, were first seen at Mabira Forest with several others seen along the Royal Mile.

Jameson's Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya jamesoni*

This secretive species was only heard along the Royal Mile.

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

Ruwenzori Batis * *Batis diops*

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

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

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

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

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

Ituri Batis *Batis ituriensis*

Extremely scarce and highly localized, we found a single bird in the forest canopy along the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

Monarch Flycatchers

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocercus mccallii*

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

African Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

Another lively bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail. We enjoyed good views of several near Masindi and Bigodi Swamp.

White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*

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

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

We found 4 beautiful birds at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens*

This species was heard only in Mabira Forest.

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

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

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

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

NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which include the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Grey-headed Paradise-Flycatcher T. plumbeiceps. The subspecies which we recorded in Uganda T. v. ferreti in the central areas and T. v. kivuensis in the south-west will fall within the northern African Paradise-Flycatcher complex T. viridis if the group were to be split. Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males and we observed an example of this phenomenon in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Babblers

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis albipectus*

This forest understorey skulker was heard in Mabira and Kibale Forests.

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*

In East Africa, still known only from Kaniyo Pabidi in Budongo, where we only heard it call.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

This understorey babbler was seen well at Mabira Forest.

Mountain Illadopsis *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

Commonly heard at all altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, with several seen well at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

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African Hill Babbler

Pseudoalcippe abyssinica

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

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

Black-lored Babbler

Turdoides sharpei

Small numbers were recorded daily in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

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 a couple of sightings near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

Arrow-marked Babbler

Turdoides jardineii

This widespread African woodland babbler was observed once in Queen Elizabeth and once in Lake Mburo NP's.

Chickadees & Tits

White-winged Black Tit

Melaniparus leucomelas

3 birds were seen exceptionally well at Lake Mburo NP.

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

Dusky Tit

Melaniparus funereus

We had good looks along the Royal Mile and further sightings in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Stripe-breasted Tit *

Melaniparus fasciiventer

This is a handsome Albertine Rift endemic that was observed in small numbers at Ruhizha.

Penduline Tits

African Penduline-Tit

Anthoscopus caroli

This tiny species was observed in woodland habitat in Lake Mburo NP, we observed them at extremely close range.

Tit-hylia

Pholidornis rushiae

Very rare in East Africa and we enjoyed fabulous looks at a pair from one of its only known sites in the country, Mabira Forest.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters

Little Green Sunbird

Anthreptes seimundi

This inconspicuous, drab sunbird was seen once at Mabira Forest, once along the Royal Mile and again at the 'Neck', Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Green Sunbird

Anthreptes rectirostris

A small yet relatively conspicuous sunbird, we found small numbers at Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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 small numbers at all forested areas throughout.

Green-headed Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis

This attractive species was first seen in Murchison Falls NP with further sightings at Kibale NP and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) cyanolaema

This large forest sunbird was seen in Mabira and Kibale Forests.

(Ruwenzori ~) Blue-headed Sunbird *

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) alinae

Small numbers were seen at Ruhizha.

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Western Olive-Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura

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

*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 fairly common bird in Uganda, we recorded it near Masindi and in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

Bronze Sunbird

Nectarinia kilimensis

This attractive long-tailed sunbird was seen a couple of times near Buhoma.

Olive-bellied Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia

A common forest-edge species, we recorded several at Kibale Forest.

Tiny Sunbird

Cinnyris minullus

We were fortunate to see a single bird in the Buhoma area.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) preussi

The common sunbird of forest edge at Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, where we found small numbers daily.

Regal Sunbird *

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) regia

This was one of the highlights of Ruhizha, a total of 7 seen, including a number of stunning co-operative males.

Beautiful Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella

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

Mariqua Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) mariquensis

This dry country species was found in the Jinja area and at Lake Mburo NP.

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

Purple-banded Sunbird

Cinnyris bifasciatus

A single was seen very well at Lake Mburo NP.

Red-chested Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) erythrocerca

The common, long-tailed sunbird of wetland edges, we found many daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Superb Sunbird

Cinnyris superbus

Good views were had of this stunning species in Murchison Falls NP and at Bigodi Swamp.

Variable Sunbird

Cinnyris venustus

We found 2 birds near Masindi and had further views in the Ruhizha area.

Copper Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea

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

White-eyes

African Yellow White-eye

Zosterops senegalensis

The only white-eye in Uganda, and common in wooded habitat throughout, we observed our first individuals at Mabira Forest.

Old World Orioles

Western Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus brachyrhynchus

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

African Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus larvatus

A single bird was sighted in Lake Mburo NP

Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole

Oriolus percivali

We found 8 up at Ruhizha.

Shrikes

Gray-backed Fiscal

Lanius excubitoroides

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Uganda's commonest fiscal, occupying a variety of moist woodland habitats. Recorded daily at savanna sites throughout the trip (peak numbers of up to 20 daily in Queen Elizabeth NP).

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal) *Lanius mackinnoni*

The forest-edge fiscal in Uganda, recorded near Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Emin's Shrike *Lanius gubernator*

A very rare species of broadleaved woodland that we located in Murchison Falls NP, definitely one of the most significant finds of the trip.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

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

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvine*

This is a scarce species in Uganda and we were fortunate to find 4 birds in Murchison Falls NP.

Bushshrikes & Allies

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

This species was well at Lake Mburo NP.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

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

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

This uncommon forest shrike was seen very well on several occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Marsh Tchagra *Tchagra minuta*

We had good views of a single, of this diminutive tchagra, in rank vegetation near Masindi and a further 1 at Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 near Masindi, in Kibale NP and at Buhoma.

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

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

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

A widespread shrike commonly heard and significantly less often seen. Sightings were in the Masindi and Lake Mburo areas.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

A brilliantly coloured bush-shrike that is delightfully common in savanna parts of Uganda, with sightings coming from Queen Elizabeth, Lake Mburo 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 at a swamp near Queen Elizabeth NP.

Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

This localized forest bush-shrike was seen at Mabira Forest, where we obtained a sighting of 2 birds creeping about in the tangles.

Mountain Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis*

We obtained good views of 2 individuals at Ruhizha.

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

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

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

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

We had views of this species in Murchison Falls NP.

Doherty's Bushshrike *Telophorus dohertyi*

A stunning species that was well seen on 2 occasions in the Ruhizha.

Lagden's Bushshrike *Malaconotus lagdeni*

This mega special was extremely well seen near Mubwindi Swamp in Ruhizha area.

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

Another elusive species. We heard one in Murchison Falls NP.

Helmetshrikes

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

Our only sightings came from Lake Mburo NP.

Drongos

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird, which was seen regularly 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 on our drive up to Masindi and thereafter in small flocks in Murchison Falls NP.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

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

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

3 birds were seen on our departure day from Ruhizha to Buhoma.

Starlings

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

A total of 15 were seen in Murchison Falls NP with further views of 8 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

We had sightings of at least 5 birds while in Lake Mburo NP where this species is confined to in Uganda.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

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

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 2 birds between Masindi and Kibale.

Splendid Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

We managed to find 2 birds at Jinja.

Purple Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*

We had good views of 2 between Masindi and Kibale.

Rueppell's (Long-tailed) Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis purpuropterus*

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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 most days.

Purple-headed Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis (Hylopsar) purpureiceps

This beautiful forest starling was first observed along the Royal Mile, Busingiro and Kibale Forest.

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

This exquisite bird was seen at Kibale NP.

Slender-billed Starling

Onychognathus tenuirostris

Single birds were sighted in the high Ruhizha area on consecutive days.

Chestnut-winged Starling

Onychognathus fulgidus

This uncommon species was brilliantly scoped in Kibale NP.

Waller's Starling

Onychognathus walleri

We enjoyed good views of several in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and up at Sebitole.

Narrow-tailed Starling

Poeyoptera lugubris

We saw flocks of this diminutive long-tailed starling at Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Kibale Forest.

Stuhlmann's Starling

Poeyoptera stuhlmanni

Less common than the preceding species, singles were seen at Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus africanus

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

Old World Sparrows

Shelley's Rufous Sparrow

Passer shelleyi

We were fortunate to see 7 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 4 birds.

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

Plocepasser mahali

This is an extremely localized species on the route and we were fortunate to locate 1 bird on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver

Plocepasser superciliosus

This relatively uncommon species was observed a couple of times in Murchison Falls NP.

Baglafaecht Weaver

Ploceus baglafaecht

A common weaver of moister, open habitats, we found several in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and around Masindi.

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 only observed this dry country species near Murchison Falls NP.

Lesser Masked Weaver

Ploceus ocularis

A scarce weaver in Uganda of woodland and forest edge. We observed this species once in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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Spectacled Weaver

Ploceus ocularis

A fairly common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge. Heard regularly and eventually seen at Lake Mburo NP.

Black-necked Weaver

Ploceus nigricollis

A snappy-looking weaver of forest edge that we recorded in small numbers at all lower altitude forest sites, with our first sighting at Mabira Forest.

Black-billed Weaver

Ploceus melanogaster

This is another dapper bird of forest fringes, which we recorded in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Strange Weaver *

Ploceus alienus

This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was seen a few times in the Ruhizha area.

Holub's (Large) Golden-Weaver

Ploceus xanthops

A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, our first sighting was near Masindi with a further view of 1 at Lake Mburo.

Orange Weaver

Ploceus aurantius

A beautiful bird largely restricted to the wetlands of the Lake Victoria basin. 2 birds were seen in waterside vegetation at the edge of Lake Victoria.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver

Ploceus castanops

Another swamp associated species, which we observed on the Victoria Nile boat cruise in Murchison Falls NP and in Entebbe.

African (Vitelline) Masked-Weaver

Ploceus velatus

We found a single bird on the Butiaba Escarpment.

Village Weaver

Ploceus cucullatus

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

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 many sightings throughout.

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 species is highly nomadic and wanders from forest to forest in search of food. We were very fortunate to locate at least 40 of them in Mabira Forest.

Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver

Ploceus melanocephalus

Another common weaver of wetlands throughout Uganda.

Yellow-mantled Weaver

Ploceus tricolor

This forest-dwelling species was observed only twice in Mabira Forest.

Brown-capped Weaver

Ploceus insignis

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

Compact Weaver

Pachyphantes superciliosus

This is an uncommon, rank grassland species, which was first observed near Masindi. Other sightings included 2 in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-headed Malimbe

Malimbus rubricollis

The only common malimbe in Uganda, sightings were at Mabira, Budongo, Kibale and Bwindi Forests.

Red-headed Weaver

Anaplectes rubriceps

Our first sighting was of 3 in Murchison Falls NP, with a further sighting of 1 in Lake Mburo NP.

Red-headed Quelea

Quelea erythrops

Seen near Masindi and in Queen Elizabeth NP where the males were all sporting their full red heads.

Cardinal Quelea

Quelea cardinalis

Uncommon in Uganda, we were fortunate to have good looks at 2 birds in rank vegetation near Masindi.

Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea

We first found the "African avian locust" in Murchison Falls NP with subsequent sightings of many in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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- Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii*
We had fantastic views of this species near Masindi and at Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Black-winged (Red) Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*
This common species was observed in and near Murchison Falls NP.
- Orange Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*
Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*
We encountered this species in the grasslands of Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*
This species was observed in fields near Masindi.
- Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macrourus*
Small numbers were seen daily in Murchison Falls NP.
NOTE: This species is sometimes split from the following species by some authorities. Clements does not yet accept this split.
- Yellow-shouldered Widowbird** *Euplectes [macrourus] macrocercus*
We found this species at Luwero Swamp and around Masindi.
NOTE: This species is lumped by Clements with E. macrourus Yellow-mantled Widowbird.
- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*
A single male was encountered in Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*
We found a number of males near Masindi.
- Marsh Widowbird** *Euplectes hartlaubi*
We found 5 at Luwero Swamp, a really localized species in Uganda.
- Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*
This is a fairly common bird in Uganda, which we recorded in good numbers near Kibale NP.

Waxbills & Allies

- White-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita fusconota*
The descending song of this negrofinch was heard at all lower altitude forests, with our first of many sightings coming from Mabira Forest.
- Gray-headed Negrofinch** *Nigrita canicapilla*
More common than its congener, we found small numbers at most forest sites, with our initial sightings coming from Mabira Forest.
- Red-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia phoenicoptera*
This species is very tricky to locate and we had excellent views of 4 birds on 2 separate occasions in Murchison Falls NP.
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*
A single was sighted just outside Murchison Falls NP.
- Green-backed Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula*
Very shy and difficult to observe, we encountered a single bird in Mabira Forest that was secretive and did not allow for very good views.
- Red-headed Bluebill** *Spermophaga ruficapilla*
This beautiful species was seen twice on the tour, first in Kibale NP and again at Buhoma.
- Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*
This beautiful seedeater of rank vegetation was seen once near Masindi, a total of 3 birds were encountered.
- Dusky Twinspot** *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*
We managed to find a single bird near Ruhizha.
- 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 throughout.
- Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*
Rather uncommon throughout its range. This large firefinch was seen very well near Masindi.
- Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

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This widespread species was commonly recorded in Murchison Falls NP and around the town of Masindi.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Estrilda quartinia*

We found these attractive birds of the highlands daily in small numbers at Ruhizha.

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

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola*

This seedeater was seen only twice near the town of Masindi.

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

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*

Rather uncommon but we secured some great looks in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

Good views were enjoyed of this delicate species in and near Murchison Falls NP.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Africa's most widespread waxbill was seen only once in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula*

This attractive species, was found in small numbers at Kibale NP.

Kandt's Waxbill *Estrilda kandti*

This is an uncommon species that we found in small numbers at Ruhizha.

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

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*

This is a ubiquitous species in moist habitats throughout Uganda.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor*

Although much more localized than the preceding species, we still had good views of a single bird at a nest in Mabira Forest.

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 outside Murchison Falls NP and again *en route* to Lake Mburo NP.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

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

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*

This highland species was observed once at Ruhizha when 8 birds were seen.

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 sightings were in the Ruhizha, Masindi and Kibale areas.

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.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*

This widespread African species was seen on several occasions in the open savanna areas.

Brimstone (Bully) Canary *Serinus sulphuratus*

This large canary was seen in small numbers at Queen Elizabeth and Kibale NP's.

Streaky Seedeater *Serinus striolatus*

This is a common bird of highland forest edges, which we found in small numbers in the vicinity of Ruhizha.

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Thick-billed Seed-eater

Serinus burtoni

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

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

Buntings

(African) Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

This widespread species is remarkably scarce in Uganda (by comparison with savanna further south and east in Africa), small numbers were seen at Queen Elizabeth NP.

Brown-rumped Bunting

Emberiza affinis

A single bird was seen very well in Murchison Falls NP.

Cabanis' Bunting

Emberiza cabanisi

This species was noted by some of the group when one was briefly seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded (43 species)

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

Apes

Chimpanzee

Pan troglodytes

After hearing this species along the Royal Mile and Kanyo Pabidi in Budongo forest, we enjoyed a special encounter with 5 individuals in Kibale NP.

(Mountain) Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla

The views of these magnificent apes were very special and certainly one of the outstanding highlights of the tour.

Colobid Monkeys

Central African Red Colobus

Procolobus oustaleti

We found an obliging troop at Bigodi Swamp in Kibale NP. Like all colobi, they feed primarily on leaves, with this species favoring the newer, tenderer 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 the Royal Mile, Budongo 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.

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 Mabira Forest.

Vervet Monkey

Cercopithecus pygerythrus

The savanna monkeys are, with the *Papio* baboons, the most widely distributed primates in Africa, inhabiting woodland and savanna habitats throughout the continent. In Uganda, two sub-species hybridize broadly across the centre of the country, though individuals north of the Nile appear to be almost pure *Tantalus* and those around the shores of Lake Victoria pure Vervet. We only encountered Vervet Monkeys on this trip. Up to 20 were seen in Lake

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Mburo NP and around Masindi and Queen Elizabeth NP.

L'Hoest's Monkey *Cercopithecus lhoesti*

This handsome, mainly terrestrial guenon, is Uganda's rarest monkey, however we were fortunate in obtaining views of 3 at Kibale and later fantastic views of 20+ in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Blue (Gentle) Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*

This long-tailed monkey was far more frequently heard than seen, although we did obtain superb sightings at most forests visited including good views at Budongo and Bwindi.

Red-tailed Monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*

The smallest and most strikingly patterned Ugandan guenon, is also the most commonly encountered, occurring in forests and forest-edge throughout the country. Our first records came from 40 in Mabira Forest.

Lorisids

Demidoff's Galago *Galago demidoff*

We enjoyed wonderful views of this tiny primate in Kibale NP on an evening excursion.

Thomas's Galago *Galago thomasi*

We found 1 in the upper canopy of Kibale Forest on our evening excursion.

Flying –Foxes

Straw-colored Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*

Impressive numbers of these large bats were seen during the early evening in Jinja.

Large-Winged Bats

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

This beautiful animal was found once in Murchison Falls NP.

Hares & Rabbits

Uganda Grass-Hare *Poelagus marjorita*

Up to 7 were observed during our night drive and early morning departure in Murchison Falls NP.

Squirrels

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

We found 1 in Entebbe.

Boehm's Squirrel *Paraxerus boehmi*

This tiny forest squirrel was seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Mabira Forest.

Rwenzori Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus ruwenzori*

We found fair numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*

This large forest species was observed once in Kibale NP.

Mongoose

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*

These tiny mongoose were very well seen in Lake Mburo NP.

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 was seen.

White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda*

A single animal was seen on our late evening excursion in Murchison Falls NP.

Hyaenas

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Spotted Hyaena

Crocuta crocuta

This species was only heard on a couple of occasions on the tour. Once in Murchison Falls NP and again at Lake Mburo NP.

Genets & Civets

African Civet

Civettictis civetta

We found 1 of these seldom seen nocturnal creatures on our night drive in Kibale NP.

Cats

Serval

Felis serval

One of the star mammal sightings on the tour, we found 1 at the side of the road on our highly productive night drive in Kibale NP.

Lion

Panthera leo

We found 3 lions lying under a tree in the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 drinking, bathing and feeding individuals.

Horses

Common (Burchell's) Zebra

Equus burchelli

Another animal restricted to the southern savanna and therefore, in Uganda, to Lake Mburo NP, where we found it in good numbers.

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.

Pigs

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

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

Giraffes

Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

A total of 50 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 in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's. 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 Queen Elizabeth, Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.

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Bush Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

Mostly nocturnal, a single was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-fronted Duiker

Cephalophus nigrifrons

We had good views of several on the trails at Ruhizha.

Yellow-backed Duiker

Cephalophus silvicultor

We enjoyed looks at 1 of these incredibly large duikers on the trails at Buhoma.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebi

Large numbers of this elegant antelope were seen on the plains north of the Nile, in Murchison Falls NP (200+)

Bohor Reedbuck

Redunca redunca

We managed to find 3 in Lake Mburo NP.

Uganda Kob

Kobus kob thomasi

A handsome antelope that is ubiquitous in the moist savanna grasslands of western Uganda, being particularly conspicuous in the lekking grounds along the Kasenyi Track in Queen Elizabeth NP and on the North bank in Murchison Falls NP.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

In smaller aggregations than its congener, though nevertheless numerous, we found this large antelope first in Murchison Falls NP, with peak tallies of 20+ daily from the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo.

Impala

Aepyceros melampus

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

Topi

Damaliscus lunatus

A total of 10 were seen in Lake Mburo NP and a further 20 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)

Alcelaphus buselaphus

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

Photo Credits: Shoebill, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Pennant-winged Nightjar, Red-headed Lovebird and Brown-chested Lapwing all by Keith Valentine.

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