

Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures



Uganda Trip Report

29th June to 16th July 2007



Trip report compiled by Keith Valentine

Top 10 birds as voted by participants

1. Shoebill
2. African Finfoot
3. Pennant-winged Nightjar
4. Grauer's Broadbill
5. Black Bee-eater
6. Red-chested Owlet
7. White-spotted Flufftail
8. Papyrus Gonolek
9. Regal Sunbird
10. Gray Crowned Crane

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, the highly sought-after Grauer's Broadbill at its nest in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and incredible displaying male Pennant-winged Nightjars. Our wonderful adventure yielded 536 species of birds including an amazing 19 species that are endemic to the beautiful forests of the Albertine Rift. We also enjoyed 49 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 some astonishing views of the rare Nahan's Francolin, Gray Parrot, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Forest Woodhoopoe, African Pied Hornbill, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Brown-eared and Golden-crowned Woodpecker, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Toro Olive Greenbul, Yellow-spotted Nicator, Fire-crested Alethe, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Gray Longbill, shy Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, African Shrike-flycatcher, Green-throated and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Sooty Boubou and the highly nomadic Weyns' 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 Gray-capped Warbler at Luwero Swamp. Further stops closer to Masindi produced Bruce's Green Pigeon, stunning White-crested Turaco, Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, Spot-flanked and White-headed Barbet, Green-backed Eremomela, Yellow-bellied Hylia and Yellow-billed Shrike.

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, Dwarf, Chocolate-backed and Blue-breasted Kingfisher, White-thighed Hornbill, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Willcock's Honeyguide, Spotted and White-throated Greenbul, Black-capped Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, African Forest-Flycatcher, Forest Robin, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Dusky Tit and Crested Malimbe. While in the forest we enjoyed a remarkable sighting when a group of Chimpanzees sauntered into the middle of the track and proceeded to stride down the road for an extended period of time. The rank vegetation and farmland before reaching Budongo Forest always produces some cracking species and we enjoyed excellent views of Blue Quail, Heuglin's Francolin, African Crake, Blue-headed Coucal, Brown-backed Scrub-Robin, Brown Babbler, Compact Weaver, Black Bishop, Brown Twinspot and Black-bellied Firefinch.

The fabulous Murchison Falls National Park was enjoyed for the next three 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. The Kanyo Pabidi section of Budongo Forest was great and gave us Black-billed Turaco, Narina Trogon, fantastic Blue-throated Roller, Red-tailed Ant-Thrush, brilliant Brown-chested Alethe, Yellow Longbill, Jameson's Wattle-eye and scoped Rufous-sided Broadbill. We enjoyed a brilliant trip down the Nile River despite not coming up without the number one target, the Shoebill. This star bird was eventually tracked down on the north bank where a single bird was brilliantly scoped at the edge of the delta. Little Bittern, 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, Banded Snake-Eagle,



Red-necked Falcon, Black-headed Lapwing, Red-headed Lovebird, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Black Scimitarbill, Black-billed Barbet, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Foxy Cisticola, Red-winged Gray Warbler, scarce White-fronted Black-Chat, Western Violet-backed Sunbird, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Red-winged Pytilia, Bar-breasted Firefinch and Parasitic Weaver. 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 perched on an open tree. One of the best sightings of the entire trip was actually seeing the rare and little known Ring-necked Francolin. Amazing views were had of a single bird that flushed from our feet after it was initially heard calling from a superb stretch of woodland savanna.

Our drive back to Masindi gave us White-rumped Seed-eater, while Mocking Cliff-Chat and White-winged Black Tit were found at the Butiaba Escarpment and a Lemon-bellied Crombec was seen at Busangiro.

Our drive *en route* to Kibale Forest gave us Marsh Tchagra, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Fawn-breasted Waxbill and Papyrus Gonolek while the forest and its lush surrounds produced a wide array of highlights. At Sebitole we quickly found Masked Apalis, Cassin's Honeyguide, Brown-capped Weaver, Joyful Greenbul and Waller's Starling. Between birding on the forest trails, the main road and Bigodi Swamp we picked some cracking specials such as White-spotted Flufftail, lovely Ross' Turaco, scarce Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, African Pitta (for some), White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Dusky-blue and Cassin's Flycatcher, Scaly-breasted and Brown Illadopsis, Narrow-tailed Starling and stunning Red-headed Bluebill. A night excursion saw us obtaining fantastic views of 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 great sightings. African Hobby, Black Coucal, African Skimmer, Slender-tailed and Square-tailed Nightjar, Madagascar Bee-eater and White-tailed Lark were just some of the specials noted in this paradise. Other good sightings included one large male Lion and impressive aggregations of 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 different species that are extremely range restricted with the Albertine Rift Endemics high on everybody's hitlist. Memorable encounters included Western Bronz-naped Pigeon, Bar-tailed Trogon, Black Bee-eater, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Least Honeyguide, Tullberg's and Elliot's Woodpecker, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Red-throated Alethe, Black-faced Apalis, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, Neumann's Warbler, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, Equatorial Akalat, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Rwenzori Batis, Blue-headed Sunbird and the rare Jameson's Antpecker. The higher reaches of Bwindi produced Handsome Francolin, Red-chested Owlet, Montane Nightjar, excellent Grauer's Broadbill at the nest, Carruther's Cisticola, Rwenzori Apalis, Grauer's Scrub-Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Stripe-breasted Tit, Tiny, Regal and Purple-breasted Sunbird, mega Lagden's Bushshrike, Strange Weaver, Red-faced Crimsonwing and Dusky Twinspot.

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, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Coqui Francolin, White-winged Black-Tit, the rare and localized Red-faced Barbet and Tabora Cisticola. New mammals to our burgeoning list included impressive numbers of Plain's Zebra 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 (536 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

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

A distant view was had of 2 birds on Lake Kikorongo in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pelicans

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

A flock of 25 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, Luwero Swamp and at the Nile Delta.

Cormorants & Shags

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Our first sighting was of half a dozen 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 5 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*

5 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 10 on the Victoria Nile boat cruise and a further 5 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.

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 on the Nile at Murchison Falls (6) and a further sighting of 5 on the boat cruise on the Kazinga channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 3 were seen in Lake Mburo NP and a single bird was also observed on the Victoria Nile.

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*

5 were seen at a day roost in Lake Mburo NP with our first sighting being a group of 10 flying over the Mweya Peninsula in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-backed Night-Heron*Gorsachius leuconotus*

A scarce bird throughout its range, we found 2 birds on Lake Mburo in the national park.

Little Bittern*Ixobrychus minutus*

A total of 3 birds were found on our memorable boat trip down the Victoria Nile.

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 5 birds along the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP while a further 10 were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

African Openbill (~ed Stork)*Anastomus lamelligerus*

A common bird in Uganda, this freshwater mussel specialist was seen in small numbers at several sites including peak numbers of 10 on the Victoria Nile boat cruise.

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia abdimii*

Our only sighting was of 4 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This magnificent bird was first seen on the Nile boat cruise where we had great views of 4 and later a further 2 were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

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 the north bank of the Nile at the delta. This was undoubtedly one of the great highlights of the trip.

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

Easily seen on the Victoria Nile and at Lake Mburo NP.

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

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

Another typical sound of moist areas in Africa, Hadadas were found almost daily in small numbers.

African Spoonbill*Platalea alba*

5 birds were seen exceptionally well on the Kazinga Channel.

Flamingos**Lesser Flamingo***Phoenicopterus minor*

We found around 50 birds at Lake Katwe in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Swans, Geese & Ducks**White-faced Whistling-Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

We saw 15 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 4 birds were seen on the Victoria Nile and a further 10 on Lake Kikorongo, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Osprey**Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

We had wonderful views of 2 at along the Victoria Nile with a further 2 seen on lake Mburo.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites**African Cuckoo-Hawk***Aviceda cuculoides*

We enjoyed a couple of good sightings 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 several sights throughout Uganda, with most records coming from Queen Elizabeth NP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

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

(African) White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

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

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

2 birds were seen in Lake Mburo NP. Widespread across Africa however it is thought that the Global population is no more than 2000 pairs.

Black-breasted Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

Singles were seen in the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth NP and in Lake Mburo NP.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

The commonest snake-eagle in Uganda, birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP, Queen Elizabeth 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 the papyrus swamps of Lake Mburo.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

Recorded regularly throughout the tour.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

An attractive raptor that allowed for great views on numerous occasions. Peak numbers of 5 were seen during the drive from Masindi to Kibale NP.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

We obtained good views of this long-legged raptor near Masindi and again in Murchison Falls NP.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

One was seen at the Boma Guest House in Entebbe on our first day.

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

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk) *Accipiter badius*

Our only sighting was one bird that was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

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

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

A seldom recorded raptor in Uganda, we were fortunate to find this species on 2 occasions, first on our drive to Kibale NP and again at Lake Mburo 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*

Birds were sighted in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

This species was easily sighted in the Masindi area.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*



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

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

A very common raptor in Uganda, with small numbers daily in moist woodland habitats. **Crowned Hawk-Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We had sightings of 2 birds in the Ruhizha area.

Falcons & Caracaras

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

We found one at a crater lake in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 and Murchison Falls NP's.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

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

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

A rather scarce bird throughout its range. A single immature was sighted along the banks of the Ishasha River in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pheasants & Partridges

Coqui Francolin *Francolinus coqui*

A single bird was brilliantly seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Crested Francolin *Francolinus sephaena*

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

Ring-necked Francolin *Francolinus streptophorus*

Undoubtedly one of the most significant and brilliant finds of the tour. This very rare bird was sighted in Murchison Falls NP after it was initially heard calling. An amazing experience indeed and one that I still can almost not believe!

Nahan's Francolin *Francolinus nahani*

We had superb views of 3 birds that almost ran into us in Mabira Forest after our initial efforts only yielded brief looks for a few people.

Heuglin's Francolin *Francolinus icterorhynchus*

We were fortunate to have superb views of 8 of these localized francolins in Murchison Falls NP.

Handsome Francolin * *Francolinus nobilis*

We had brief views of 2 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.

Blue Quail *Coturnix adanonii*

This species is very seldom recorded throughout its range and is a highly sought-after species. We were incredibly fortunate to find 2 birds near the town of Masindi.

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.



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. Some folks had a brief view in Mabira Forest before a stunning male was finally seen at Bigodi Swamp.

Red-chested Flufftail

Sarothrura rufa

This species was heard calling at Mubwindi Swamp.

African Crake

Creccopsis egregia

We obtained some amazing views of 2 birds outside Budongo Forest with further sightings in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

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

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

We had brief views of 1 bird on the Victoria Nile.

Finfoots

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

We enjoyed outstanding views of 3 birds at Lake Mburo NP. This was undoubtedly a huge target and one of the best birds of the trip.

Bustards

Stanley Bustard

Neotis denhami

We enjoyed wonderful views of 2 on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

A single bird was seen in flight during our drive through the Ishasha section of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Jacanas

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

This widespread and characteristic wader was conspicuous at a couple of wetland sites. First found at Murchison Falls NP.

Stilts & Avocets

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

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

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avocetta

At least 50 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 6 were seen during the boat cruise on the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

Coursers & Pratincoles

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

A single bird was found on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock (White-collared) Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis



A fairly common denizen of rapids in the Victoria Nile, where 10 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 4 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 and Lake Mburo 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 10 superb birds outside Lake Mburo NP.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

A total of 15 were seen at various spots in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

Our only sighting was of 1 of these attractive waders on the Kazinga Channel.

Sandpipers & Allies

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

We found 15 birds in Queen Elizabeth NP, most were from Lake Katwe.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

This species was seen along the Victoria Nile and at Lake Katwe.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

2 birds were found on Lake Katwe.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Our only sighting was 1 bird seen at Lake Katwe.

Gulls

Gray-headed Gull

Larus cirrocephalus

A couple of birds were seen in the Lake Albert Delta and a further 10 seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Terns

Gull-billed Tern

Sterna nilotica

We found at least 100 on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP with initial sightings of 20 odd on the Victoria Nile.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

2 birds were seen at Entebbe Botanical Garden.

Skimmers

African Skimmer

Rynchops flavirostris

One of Africa's most elegant birds. We had superb views of around 50 birds on the Kazinga Channel.



Doves & Pigeons

Rock Dove

Columba livia

Common in Kampala and other large towns.

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea

Small numbers observed in Kampala, Jinja and Kabale towns.

Afep Pigeon

Columba unicincta

This plump, forest pigeon was briefly seen by some of the group at Mabira Forest where we found a single bird flying over the forest canopy.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon

Columba arquatrix

This widespread African forest pigeon occurs in the higher parts of Bwindi NP, where we had 4 birds at Ruhizha.

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon

Columba iriditorques

We had fair views of 2 at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

African Mourning Dove

Streptopelia decipiens

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

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 20 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 4 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 common pigeon in Uganda, their distinctive lime-yellow bodies were frequently seen perched atop roadside trees throughout the tour.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies

Red-headed Lovebird

Agapornis pullarius



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

(African) Gray Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

A couple of birds were seen at Mabira Forest. 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.

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 13 between Masindi and Kibale NP.

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 Kaniyo Pabidi, with further sightings at Bwindi.

White-crested Turaco *Tauraco leucolophus*

We obtained superb views of 2 individuals of this stunningly beautiful bird near Masindi with further views between Masindi and Kibale NP.

Ross' Turaco *Musophaga rossae*

Another stellar turaco, 2 were seen at Bigodi Swamp.

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*

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

Cuckoos

Pied Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*

We had good sightings of this species near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

Levaillant's (African Striped) Cuckoo *Oxylophus levaillantii*

We had good views of 3 in Murchison Falls NP.

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 Mabira Forest and at Buhoma.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

We enjoyed some brilliant views of this species in Mabira Forest and in Murchison Falls NP.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

We had good views of one in Murchison Falls NP.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*

Always a difficult species to see even when calling, we had a magic view of one bird perched at eye level in Mabira Forest.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

This species was heard calling in the early hours of the morning at Buhoma.

Klaas' Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

A brood parasite favouring the cup nests of woodland birds, many heard throughout the tour with birds seen at Mabira Forest and Murchison Falls NP.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*



Generally shy and less common than its congeners, we had great views of both male and females at Mabira Forest and 'the Royal Mile', Budongo Forest.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

This widespread African species was in Murchison Falls NP and Queen Elizabeth 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 7 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

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

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

We had good views of 5 during the drive from Murchison Falls NP to Masindi.

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.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii*

We had wonderful views of a pair near Kibale NP.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

We heard one in Lake Mburo NP.

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*

A stunning species that is rather uncommon throughout its range. We had brilliant views of 1 bird on the trail down to Mubwindi Swamp.

Nightjars & Allies

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

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

Montane (Ruwenzori) Nightjar * *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*

Single birds were sighted up at Ruhizha on consecutive nights.

NOTE: Clements lumps the nominate Rwenzori 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.

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*

A single bird was seen on the Mweya Peninsula, Queen Elizabeth NP at dusk.

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

One was seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*



We had awesome views of several males and females at Murchison Falls 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 where we found 1 bird.

Cassin's Spinetail

Neafrapus cassini

Another scarce species. We found 4 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.

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba

We had good numbers around Kibale and in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Swift

Apus barbatus

We found at least 20 birds near Kabale in the south-western corner of the country.

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 first in Murchison Falls NP, with further sightings at Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Trogons

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

The guttural hooting of this magnificent bird was heard at several forest sites and superb views were enjoyed at Kanyo Pabidi and Kibale NP.

Bar-tailed Trogon

Apaloderma vittatum

We enjoyed a couple of superb sightings of this beautiful bird at Buhoma.

Kingfishers

Malachite Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata

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

African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) picta

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

(African) Dwarf Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) lecontei

Another elusive forest kingfisher. We enjoyed incredible views of a single bird at Busingiro (Budongo Forest) and another along the Royal Mile.

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 one 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 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*

A single bird was 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 of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*

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 Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

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

Slightly larger and with a preference for fringes of papyrus beds, we found 3 individuals at a wetland on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison.

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

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates*

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

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*

An elegant bee-eater of dry savanna, we found 2 birds in Murchison Falls NP.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

We had superb views of 25 odd birds at our accommodation in Jinja.

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*

Our only sighting was in Queen Elizabeth 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 40 birds were seen.

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 at the Royal Mile, Kanyo Pabidi and Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Hoopoes

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

We found 1 in Murchison Falls NP.

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

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana*

A single bird was found in Murchison Falls NP.

Woodhoopoes

Green Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

Single birds were sighted around Masindi.

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 good views of 5 birds in Murchison Falls NP.

Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

We found 2 birds in Lake Mburo NP.

Hornbills

Crowned Hornbill

Tockus alboterminatus

Common and widespread in moister habitats across the country, we saw our first bird en route from Kampala to Masindi.

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*

Much more localised than its similar crowned cousin and with white tail edges (rather than tail tips). We had good views of several at Mabira Forest and a single at Busingiro.

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 2 on the Royal Mile and 3 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 outside Masindi in the late evening.



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 its 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, Kibale and Mabira 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

A savanna species. We found 2 birds in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet

Buccanodon duchaillui

An elegant forest barbet with a beautiful purring call. We found a single bird along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet

Tricholaema hirsuta

Singles were seen at Mabira Forest and at the ‘Neck’ in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

Spot-flanked Barbet

Tricholaema lacrymosa

We had excellent views of this savanna barbet on our first day near Masindi and thereafter 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 on an amazing 3 occasions.

Black-billed Barbet

Lybius guifsobalito

This species was encountered in Murchison Falls NP where we had good views of 4 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 and down at Ruhizha.

Honeyguides

Greater Honeyguide

Indicator indicator

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Lesser Honeyguide

Indicator minor

A single bird was sighted in the Ruhizha area.

Willcock's Honeyguide

Indicator willcocksi

We had great views of one along the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

(Western) Least Honeyguide

Indicator exilis

We were extremely fortunate to locate a single bird in the Buhoma section of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.



Cassin's Honeyguide*Prodotiscus insignis*

This is a seldom seen species in Uganda and we obtained fine views of a single bird loosely associated with a feeding flock at Sebitole, Kibale NP.

Woodpeckers & Allies**Rufous-necked Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis*

We had superb views of 2 shortly after leaving Buhoma.

Nubian Woodpecker*Campethera nubica*

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

Tullberg's Woodpecker*Campethera tullbergi*

A total of 5 were seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Brown-eared Woodpecker*Campethera caroli*

Another beautiful forest-dwelling woodpecker. We had good views of 2 at Mabira Forest and another one at Bigodi Swamp, Kibale NP.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker*Campethera abingoni*

This is a rare species in Uganda and was found at a bridge crossing between Kabale and Lake Mburo NP.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker*Dendropicos poecilolaemus*

A seldom seen species that was brilliantly scoped at Bigodi Swamp, Kibale NP.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

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

Bearded Woodpecker*Dendropicos namaquus*

A single bird was sighted in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

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

Elliot's Woodpecker*Dendropicos elliotii*

Our first sighting was of one that was briefly seen at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP. We then enjoyed fabulous views at the 'Neck'.

Gray Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

Our first observation was of one at Jinja, further sightings were had between Masindi and Kibale NP.

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**Rufous-sided Broadbill***Smithornis rufolaterlais*

We had excellent scope views of a single bird in the Kanyo Pabidi section of Budongo Forest.

Grauer's Broadbill **Pseudocalyptomena graueri*

This one of Uganda's most prized birds was brilliantly seen at Ruhizha, a pair were found feeding two juveniles at the nest. A very special sighting indeed!

Pittas**African Pitta***Pitta angolensis*

This is a very scarce species in Uganda and some of the group were fortunate enough to get a view of a single bird while on a search for Green-breasted Pitta in Kibale NP.

Larks

White-tailed Lark*Mirafra albicauda*

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

Rufous-naped Lark*Mirafra africana*

Good numbers were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Flappet Lark*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

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

Swallows**Plain (Brown-throated) Martin***Riparia paludicola*

At least 100 birds were seen on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogen fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen in good numbers 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 palaearctic migrant was recorded in small numbers on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow H. rustica and the New World Barn Swallow H. erythrogaster. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive H. r. savignii which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palaearctic 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.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

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

Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica*

An uncommon species in Uganda, 2 birds were seen near Ruhizha.

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

White-headed Sawwing*Psalidoprocne albiceps*

This elegant bird was first seen foraging 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. 5 of these elegant birds was seen 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 10 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 3 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 9 seen).

Black Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga flava*

A single bird was sighted in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga phoenicea*

We were fortunate to find one female near Ruhizha.

Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga quiscalina*

We enjoyed 2 sightings 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 8 birds during our wanderings of the lovely Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Little Greenbul*Andropadus virens*

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

(Little) Gray Greenbul*Andropadus gracilis*

One was seen at Mabira Forest.

Ansorge's Greenbul*Andropadus ansorgei*

Only recently discovered in Uganda (first record in August 2001 by Nik Borrow and Adam Riley). We were fortunate to see 4 at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul*Andropadus curvirostris*

This inconspicuous greenbul was seen once at Kanyo Pabidi.

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 common sounds in lower altitude forest throughout Uganda. Our first views were of 1 at Sebitole with another 3 in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

We found a wonderful group of 12 of these striking greenbuls on the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Seen in small numbers at scattered sites, our first and most memorable sighting was 4 birds at Sambiya River Lodge, Murchison Falls NP.

Joyful Greenbul *Chlorocichla laetissima*

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

Cabanis' Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

We found 3 birds in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Toro Olive-Greenbul *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

A rather scarce bird. We found 2 birds 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 5 in Kibale Forest.

Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactyla*

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

Yellow-spotted (Western) Nicator *Nicator chloris*

This is an aberrant hook-billed greenbul that was seen exceptionally well at Mabira Forest.

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 and Mabira Forest.

Thrushes & Allies

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

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

Red-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*

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

White-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*

We enjoyed great views of a pair at dawn outside Kibale Forest with a further 2 sighted at Buhoma.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

Two were 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.

Brown-chested Alethe *Alethe poliocephala*

A shy species of forest interior. We had a great view of a single bird in Kanyo Pabidi Forest.

Red-throated Alethe* *Alethe poliophrys*

We enjoyed excellent views of at least 5 birds on the trails at Buhoma.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*

This ant-following species was well seen at Mabira Forest.

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



Cisticolas & Allies

Red-faced Cisticola*Cisticola erythrops*

This common, widespread and vocal species was seen very well near Masindi and Kibale NP.

Singing Cisticola*Cisticola cantans*

This species was seen a couple of times 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 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.

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 one of these seldom seen species in Lake Mburo NP. A particularly rare species in Uganda.

Siffling (Short-winged) Cisticola*Cisticola brachypterus*

A small, nondescript warbler of open, bushy areas. We had good views near Masindi .

Foxy Cisticola*Cisticola troglodytes*

This handsome bird of dry *Acacia* savanna was seen well 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 Queen Elizabeth NP.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we found several, seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

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 2 in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-winged Gray Warbler*Drymocichla incana*

This striking and highly localized little warbler was found in small numbers at Murchison Falls.

Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis **Apalis ruwenzorii*

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found in the montane forest around Ruhizha (3 seen).

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

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*

We had good views of 3 on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni*

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

Masked Apalis *Apalis binotata*

In Uganda, largely restricted to Kibale Forest NP, 2 were seen well at the Sebitole section of the park.

Black-faced (Mountain Masked) Apalis * *Apalis personata*

Another Albertine Rift endemic restricted to the South Western corner of the country. We found 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 1 bird in Queen Elizabeth 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 7 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 Luwero Swamp and at Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in moist wooded habitat throughout Uganda, first seen 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 2 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 several times during the tour with great views of several in Queen Elizabeth NP.



- African Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus*
While on the Kazinga boat cruise we found 2 birds in the adjacent reedbeds.
- Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis*
This beautiful songster was found in the montane forest around Ruhizha where we enjoyed great views of 3.
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*
This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- 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 first seen outside Masindi and again 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 and at Busingiro in Budongo Forest.
- Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*
The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We heard the species almost daily at many forest sites, first seen at the Royal Mile.
- Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti*
We enjoyed fabulous views of this scarce bird when a pair was seen at Busingiro.
- White-browed Crombec** *Sylvietta leucophrys*
We enjoyed good views of this attractive crombec at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*
This dry *Acacia* woodland species was seen only once at the Butiaba Escarpment.
- 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 and then seen above our heads in Kanyo Pabidi.
- Gray Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*
This is another secretive species, we found 3 birds at various sites in the greater Budongo Forest area.
- 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 Hylia** *Hylia flavigaster*
We were fortunate to locate a single bird outside Masindi.
- Fan-tailed Grassbird** *Schoenicola brevirostris*
We obtained good views of one displaying at a wet area between Masindi and Kibale Forest and then a second bird 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 9.
- 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 on our drive to Mabira Forest with further sightings in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher * *Melaenornis ardesiacus*

2 were seen very well on a forest trail at Buhoma with further sightings of 2 at Mubwindi Swamp. A scarce, Albertine Rift endemic.

African Forest-Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*

A scarce forest flycatcher however, we found 6 on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata*

A swallow-like bird often seen perched in groups on dead snags high above the forest canopy, with our first records from Sebitole. We had further sightings in Buhoma.

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.

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 individuals at Kibale and at "The Neck" in Bwindi Impenetrable 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.

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 erythrorhox*

This shy species was heard at many forest sites. Seen along the Royal Mile where we obtained good views.

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. erythrorhox would become Western Forest Robin. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

Single birds were seen on consecutive days in Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

We enjoyed a brilliant a couple of views in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

An Albertine Rift Endemic that occurs at higher altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, with several heard singing and one seen briefly at Ruhizha.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*

A very shy species that was briefly seen by some at Mabira Forest.

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

The crescendo calls of this handsome bird were amongst the dominant sounds of the dawn chorus in woodland throughout the trip. We recorded them in good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP, up to 8 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 and Murchison Falls NP's.



Spotted Morning-Thrush*Cichladusa guttata*

Another beautiful songster, recorded in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP in small numbers on a daily basis.

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 Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

African (Common) Stonechat*Saxicola torquata*

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

White-fronted Black-Chat*Myrmecocichla albifrons*

This is a particularly difficult species to find in its broadleaved woodland habitat. We were very fortunate to obtain stunning views of a pair in Murchison Falls NP.

Mocking Cliff-Chat*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

We marveled at 3 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*

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. Especially conspicuous at Buhoma.

Chestnut Wattle-eye*Platysteira castanea*

These attractive little birds, were first seen at Mabira Forest with several others seen at Busingiro and Buhoma.

Jameson's Wattle-eye*Dyaphorophya jamesoni*

There were only brief views for some of this tiny species at Kanyo Pabidi Forest.

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

Ruwenzori Batis **Batis diops*

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

Chinspot Batis*Batis molitor*

This widespread African batis was only observed 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.

Monarch Flycatchers**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher***Erythrocerus mcallii*

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 Buhoma and Ruhizha area.

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

We had a single sighting at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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 seen well at Kibale Forest.

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 Kibale Forest.

Mountain Illadopsis *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

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

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 NP.

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

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*

We had a sighting of a small family group outside Masindi.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*

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

Chickadees & Tits

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas*

2 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.



White-shouldered Black Tit*Melaniparus guineensis*

We enjoyed a couple of sightings, firstly a single bird was seen in Murchison Falls NP and then a group of 4 were sighted on the Butiaba Escarpment.

NOTE: Refer to previous species.

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.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters

Gray-headed Sunbird*Deleornis (Anthreptes) axillaris*

We had good sightings of this species at Kanyo Pabidi, Mabira Forest and Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

Western Violet-backed Sunbird*Anthreptes longuemarei*

We found one of these rather scarce birds in the broadleaved woodland at Murchison Falls NP.

Little Green Sunbird*Anthreptes seimundi*

This inconspicuous, drab sunbird was seen once at Mabira Forest and again at Busingiro.

Green Sunbird*Anthreptes rectirostris*

A small yet relatively conspicuous sunbird, we found small numbers at the Royal Mile, Busingiro and 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 at Kibale NP with further sightings in Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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

This large forest sunbird was seen at Mabira Forest.

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

Small numbers were seen at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Western Olive-Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

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

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

Green-throated Sunbird*Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) rubescens*

We were fortunate to find 2 of these uncommonly recorded sunbirds at Mabira Forest.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird*Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

A fairly common bird in Uganda, we recorded it near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

Purple-breasted Sunbird**Nectarinia purpureiventris*

We enjoyed fantastic views of 2 of these scarce Albertine Rift Endemics up at Ruhizha.

Bronze Sunbird*Nectarinia kilimensis*

This attractive long-tailed sunbird was seen daily near Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Olive-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

A common forest-edge species, we recorded several at Kaniyo Pabidi, Kibale Forest and Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Tiny Sunbird*Cinnyris minullus*

We were fortunate to see a pair near Mubwindi Swamp in the Ruhizha 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 6 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 Masindi area.

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*

Clyde and Joelle found a single bird in Entebbe on the final tour day.

Red-chested Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) erythrocerca*

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

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*

This species was only heard while in Lake Mburo NP

Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole *Oriolus percivali*

We found 5 at Ruhizha.

Shrikes

Gray-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

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.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

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

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvine*

This is a scarce species in Uganda and we were fortunate to find 3 birds near Masindi where great views were obtained.

Bushshrikes & Allies

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

This species was seen near Masindi, Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

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 pair, 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 in Kibale NP and at Buhoma.

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

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

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

A widespread shrike commonly heard and significantly less often seen. Sightings were in the Masindi and Murchison 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 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 between Masindi and Kibale NP.

Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

This localized forest bush-shrike was seen at Mabira Forest, where we obtained a brief sighting of 1 bird creeping about in the tangles.

Mountain Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis*

We obtained good views of 1 individual at Mubwindi Swamp, Ruhizha.

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

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

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

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

This species was heard on 3 occasions on the tour.

Many-colored Bushshrike *Telophorus multicolor*

This species was seen by a few of the participants when a pair were seen at Buhoma. This species was not seen by the leader.

Doherty's Bushshrike *Telophorus dohertyi*

This species was unfortunately only heard at Ruhizha.

Lagden's Bushshrike *Malaconotus lagdeni*

This mega special was sighted near Mubwindi Swamp in Ruhizha when it was seen together with a mixed feeding flock.

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

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

Helmetshrikes

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

Our first sightings were in Murchison Falls NP with subsequent views at 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 Buhoma, Mabira and Kibale Forests.
 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*

2 birds were seen on our departure day from Ruhizha to Kabale.

Starlings**Wattled Starling***Creatophora cinerea*

A total of 20 were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

We had sightings of at least 7 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 a single bird just outside Masindi.

Splendid Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis splendidus*

We managed to find 2 birds at Kibale NP.

Purple Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis purpureus*

We had wonderfully good views of 4 in Murchison Falls NP.

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

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

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

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

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

This exquisite bird was seen very well at Murchison Falls, Kibale and Lake Mburo NP's.

Waller's Starling*Onychognathus walleri*

We enjoyed good views of several in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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 and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Old World Sparrows

Shelley's Rufous Sparrow *Passer shelleyi*

We were fortunate to see 6 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 one bird.

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.

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 of woodland and forest edge. We observed this species once in Murchison Falls NP.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

A fairly common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge. We found one on the Butiaba Escarpment and a further 2 at Buhoma.

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 once 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 Kibale Forest 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. Clyde and Joelle found 1 at Entebbe on the final day.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*

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

African (Vitelline) Masked-Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

We found a single bird in Murchison Falls NP and another 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 hundred's of them in Mabira Forest.

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

Another common weaver of wetlands throughout Uganda.

 Golden-backed Weaver*Ploceus jacksoni*

This species was found by Joelle and Clyde on the final day in Entebbe.

 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 at Sebitole and in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

 Compact Weaver*Pachyphantes superciliosus*

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

 Crested Malimbe*Malimbus malimbicus*

A very scarce bird in Uganda. We found 2 on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

 Red-headed Malimbe*Malimbus rubricollis*

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

 Red-headed Weaver*Anaplectes rubriceps*

Our first sighting was of one at the Butiaba escarpment, with a further sighting of 2 in Lake Mburo NP.

 Red-headed Quelea*Quelea erythropis*

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

 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.

 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 Murchison Falls NP and around Masindi.

 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.

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

Observed on 1 occasions in cultivations in the south-western highlands of Uganda.

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

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

 Yellow-mantled Widowbird*Euplectes macrourus*

Small numbers were seen daily in Murchison Falls NP.

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

 Yellow-shouldered Widowbird*Euplectes [macrourus] macrocercus*

We found 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*

Huge flocks were encountered in Queen Elizabeth NP.

 Red-collared Widowbird*Euplectes ardens*

We found a number of males near Masindi.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We found 15 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 small numbers near Kibale NP.

Waxbills & Allies

Jameson's Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons*

This is one of Uganda's more difficult species to find and we were incredibly lucky to find a pair at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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 all 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 3 birds on 2 separate occasions in Murchison Falls NP.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

A pair was sighted just outside Murchison Falls NP with a further sighting of 3 birds in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-faced Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza reichenovii*

Tricky to find and rather shy, we were very fortunate to locate 5 birds at Ruhizha.

Dusky Crimson-wing * *Cryptospiza jacksoni*

We had superb views of two at Ruhizha where they were watched at length collecting nesting material.

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 a couple of times near Masindi.

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

We managed to find a single bird near Ruhizha.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We found 4 of these rather uncommon birds in Murchison Falls NP, here at the southern limit of their range.

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 near Masindi.

African (Blue-billed) Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

Another widespread bird in Africa, although, in Uganda largely restricted to the moister southern parts. We found 2 near Buhoma.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

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 once when 3 birds were found between Masindi and Kibale NP.

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

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Africa's most widespread waxbill was seen in small numbers near Masindi and Queen Elizabeth NP.



Black-crowned Waxbill*Estrilda nonnula*

This attractive species was found in small numbers at Kibale NP and around Masindi.

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 more localized than the preceding species, we had good views of small numbers at Kibale NP.

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.

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.

Parasitic Weaver*Anomalospiza imberbis*

We had good scope views of one male in Murchison Falls NP. This species is very rarely recorded on the route.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies**Yellow-crowned Canary***Serinus flavivertex*

This highland species was observed once at Ruhizha when 6 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 area.

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

White-rumped Seed eater

We found 6 en route from Murchison Falls to Budongo Forest.

Black-throated Canary*Serinus atrogularis*

This species was recorded in fallow land near Bwindi Impenetrable NP on two occasions.

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 Seed eater*Serinus striolatus*

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

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 a Kipengere Seed-eater.

Buntings**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

We found a total of 4 birds at the Butiaba Escarpment.

(African) Golden-breasted Bunting*Emberiza flaviventris*

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 10 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

Good numbers of this species were observed 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 on a couple of occasions in the thicket savannas of Queen Elizabeth NP and outside Murchison Falls NP.

Horseshoe Bats

Horseshoe Bat sp.

Rhinolophus sp

A species of horseshoe bat was recorded in the town of Masindi.

White-toothed Shrew

White-toothed Shrew sp.

Crocidura sp

Some of the group had good looks at one in Kibale Forest.

Root Rats

Root Rat sp.

Tachyoryctes sp

We had good views of one at close range up at Ruhizha.

Hares & Rabbits

Scrub Hare

Lepus saxatilis

We found one in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Uganda Grass-Hare

Poelagus marjorita

Up to 12 were observed during our night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Squirrels

Striped Ground Squirrel

Xerus erythropus

We found 1 between Masindi and Kibale NP.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel

Funisciurus pyrropus

We found one in Kibale NP.

Carruthers Mountain Squirrel

Funisciurus carruthersi

Small numbers were seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Boehm's Squirrel

Paraxerus boehmi

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

Red-legged Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus rufobrachium

This large squirrel was seen in small numbers in Kibale NP and Mabira Forest.

Rwenzori Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus ruwenzori

We found 1 in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.



Mongoose

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguinea

We had brief views of 2 between Masindi and Kibale NP.

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 20 individuals was seen.

Marsh Mongoose

Atilax palidonosus

A single animal was seen near Masindi.

Hyaenas

Spotted Hyaena

Crocuta crocuta

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

Cats

Serval

Felis serval

One of the star mammal sightings on the tour, we found 1 just sitting in the middle of the main road in the Ruhizha area.

Leopard

Panthera pardus

This species was heard at close range in Lake Mburo NP one night.

Lion

Panthera leo

We enjoyed a great sighting of a large male in 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 20 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.

Black-fronted Duiker

Cephalophus nigrifrons

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

Yellow-backed Duiker

Cephalophus silvicultor

We enjoyed looks at 3 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 2 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 25 were seen in Lake Mburo NP and a further 6 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)

Alcelaphus buselaphus

Replaces the Topi in the drier savanna of Murchison Falls NP, where we found 40 in an afternoon, north of the Nile.

Photo Credits: Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, Pennant-winged Nightjar, Grauer’s Broadbill and Stripe-breasted Tit all by Keith Valentine.

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