



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Rwanda extension & Uganda II

11th – 17th July & 18th July – 4th August 2008



Trip report compiled by Tour Leader Fraser Gear

Tour Summary

Uganda and Rwanda together make up one of Africa's most memorable bird tours. Both countries are home to a staggering diversity of birds and other wildlife. Our tour included a week long extension into Rwanda where we visited three fantastic reserves including exploring the wonderful Virunga

Mountains in search of the rare Mountain Gorilla. In Uganda we covered all of the countries essential birding sites and enjoyed the remarkable scenery and diverse habitats where we marvelled at the superb Shoebill, enjoyed tracking chimps in Kibale National Park and explored the amazing Bwindi Impenetrable National Park for its plethora of highland endemics.

Our tour to Rwanda began with a short visit to the Genocide memorial in Kigali. Here the story of Rwanda's unbelievably brutal recent history is well presented. The layout at the memorial is very graphic, the reality of which hits hard. It took us all quite a while to fully recover from our visit. In the afternoon we transferred to the small town of Ruhengeri, wonderfully situated at the base of the Virunga Mountains. Our lodge grounds were highly productive and we enjoyed the birding just around our hotel. The highlight here was a fine pair of Lanner Falcon that kept vigil in a large eucalyptus on the roadside. Our primary focus for the area was viewing the endangered Mountain Gorilla on foot. The Volcano's National Park is one of the last homes for this magnificent species in the world. We were highly successful in our quest as everyone returned from the hike in good spirits after spending some quality time with these fantastic apes.

We then began heading south to our primary birding destination, the beautiful Nyungwe forest set in the south west corner of the country close to the DRC border. The Nyungwe Forest is simply amazing and protects one of the largest tracts of highland forest in East Africa which is an important refuge for numerous localized Albertine Rift Endemics. One of Nyungwe's main attractions is the ease of locating the Albertine Rift endemics when compared to neighbouring Uganda. We birded the forest on broad, easy trails where we located numerous superb birds including the stunning Purple-breasted and Ruwenzori Double-collared Sunbirds and Ruwenzori Turaco. Walks in other parts of the park produced Bar-tailed Trogon, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Red-throated Alethe and Dusky Crimsonwing. We also had a very good encounter with a covey of the rather secretive Handsome Francolin. For Red-collared Mountain Babbler we had to climb a long steep path but once high enough we enjoyed great views of this desirable species. We left the forested slopes of Nyungwe on a high ready for the next part of the adventure exploring the Savannas and lakes of Akagera.

The birding in Akagera was easy and productive. We found some good savanna species such as Miombo Wren-Warbler as well as targets like Red-faced and Crested Barbets. In the evening we were treated to a pair of Grey Kestrel that hunted bats over our hotel. The lakeshore provided some good birding and we were thrilled to find Shoebill on our day exploring the lakes. We had a memorable time birding Rwanda's parks finding a superb selection of birds and spending time with one of the world's greatest mammals, the Mountain Gorilla. It was now time for the main event as we crossed the border into Uganda.

Our tour began in Entebbe, a wonderful little town situated on the banks of Lake Victoria. After an overnight stay we immediately headed to Mabira forest the following morning for our first taste of Uganda rainforest birding. We spent the majority of the day birding in the Mabira Forest Reserve. Some of the notable specials included Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, gorgeous Red-headed Bluebill and the often secretive Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo.

Today we continued north to the town of Masindi which was our base for visiting the fabulous Royal Mile, part of the superb Budongo Forest complex. On our drive to Masindi we made a few roadside stops, the first of which was at the Luwero swamps. This quick stop produced the localized Hartlaub's Marsh Widowbird, striking Western Banded Snake-Eagle and a fine selection of moist savanna species. At later breaks further towards Masindi we had good views of Bruce's Green Pigeon, White-headed

Barbet and the gorgeous White-crested Turaco. The following morning we were off to bird in Budungo Forest and the famed Royal Mile where we enjoyed a superb day. Chocolate-backed and African Dwarf Kingfishers are key specials here and after some work we eventually enjoying excellent views of both. We were very fortunate to find a single Madagascar Cuckoo while exploring this forest. Spotted Greenbul showed fantastically and we tried in vain to locate a Buff-spotted Flufftail that called enticingly from the undergrowth. Other good birds noted were Blue-throated Roller, Willcock's Honeyguide, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Lemon-bellied Crombec, fabulous Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Crested Malimbe and Green Twinspot.

Murchison Falls National Park was our base for the next few nights and from our lodge near the top of the falls we explored the diverse habitats that make up this great park. Our day on the Nile proved to be particularly memorable for a number of reasons, no sooner had we begun to enjoy our launch cruise down river our boat engine stopped and refused to start again. Thanks to the wonderful cell phone coverage in this area we discovered that there were no available boats to rescue us on. Luckily for us a passing research boat picked us off the island we were stuck on and dropped us on the opposite bank. From here an interesting truck ride returned us to the starting point and we headed out by vehicle this time to try and get to the delta where shoebill are found. Eventually we abandoned the vehicle and walked through a maze of elephant bulls and hippo to eventually locate the desirable Shoebill. We also enjoyed an amazing two Leopard sightings during the day! On our night excursions we had mind-blowing views of a number of fantastic male Pennant-winged Nightjar and Greyish Eagle-Owl. Other good species located on our drives through the park included Heuglin's Francolin, Brown-backed Woodpecker and Red-winged Grey-Warbler. After our most enjoyable time at Murchison we headed back south via another section of the Budungo forest. Luck was on our side on this particular afternoon as we scored with sensational Nahan's Francolin and the highly localized Ituru Batis.

Our next national park on the menu was Kibale, one of the countries most famous as many eager tourists arrive here from countless parts of the globe to view the threatened but truly remarkable Chimpanzee's in the wild. We birded the highlands on the way to the park which produced some really good birds including the stunning Many-colored Bushshrike and Masked Apalis. We eventually arrived at our tented camp rather late but in good spirits. Kibale is famous for its high primate diversity and on our full day in the park we recorded an incredible ten species of primates! The entire group also had phenomenal experiences with a large group of Chimps. In the evening we had good views of African Wood Owl and the delightful Galago's. White-spotted Flufftail and Black Bee-eater were two wonderful species that we also located in the area.

Leaving the forests we entered the beautiful savanna park of Queen Elizabeth. This fabulous reserve always produces some unforgettable highlights and it was here that we found a group of Lions at their kill, relaxed herds of Elephant and uncountable numbers of Hippo. The Kazinga launch cruise was very bird rich and we especially enjoyed good looks at African Skimmer, Yellow-billed Stork, Madagascar Bee-eater and African Spoonbill. Our savanna explorations were highly enjoyable and we had good sightings of African Hobby, African Crake and Black Coucal before departing for the mountains.

After the easy birding on the savannas we were once again ready for some exciting forest birding. The fabulous Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is most famous for its Mountain Gorilla populations however it is also the premier birding site for a number of highly localized Albertine Rift Endemics. We began our explorations at Ruhija, the high altitude section of the reserve. Birding here is always a pleasure and we managed to add numerous endemics and specials to our list. Strange Weaver, Western Tinkerbird, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Doherty's Bushshrike, Archer's Robin-Chat, Dusky Crimsonwing, Stripe-

breasted Tit, Regal Sunbird and Grauer's Warbler were all memorable. Unfortunately our search for Grauer's Broadbill failed as the birds had abandoned the nest site after a particularly heavy storm. We then continued down to the lower altitude Buhoma area where some of the participants tracked the legendary Mountain Gorilla's. Time spent birding the forest trails in the Buhoma area rewarded us with views of the seldom recorded Tit Hylia, splendid Bar-tailed Trogon, Dwarf Honeyguide, African Broadbill, Yellow-eyed Black and the rare Chapin's Flycatcher, Equatorial Akalat and White-bellied Robin-Chat, Lühder's Bushshrike and the scarce Woodhouse's Antpecker.

Today we were departing for Lake Mburo National Park, our final reserve on the route. We decided to travel to Lake Mburo via the Ruhija section again in an effort to catch up with a few species that were giving us the run around. We were thrilled to finally nail the delightful Dusky Twinspot at the last possible site before descending again towards Kabale and onwards to Lake Mburo. A wetland stop on the way gave us fine views of Papyrus Gonolek, White-winged Warbler and some of us also managed a brief look at the scarce Papyrus Canary. At Lake Mburo we enjoyed a combination of game drives and a boat trip where we enjoyed sensational looks at African Finfoot and the shy White-backed Night Heron. Tabora Cisticola and Red-faced Barbet proved to be quite easy, Coqui Francolin and Brown-chested Lapwing gave good views while Rufous-bellied Heron showed well and Golden-tailed Woodpecker was found in the woodlands.

Our final birding took place at the lovely botanical gardens in Entebbe before we finally had to say goodbye. Uganda is a very special place, full of superb birds, exciting wildlife and perhaps most notably, wonderful people.

Photo credit: Shoebill by James Wakelin.

BIRD SPECIES LIST

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological congress), Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2006; Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press (version 2.0). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>

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

Pelicans

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

A common bird in Uganda, regularly nesting on the roadside.

Cormorants & Shags

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Our first sighting was on the Nile near Jinja, subsequently recorded in good numbers 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.

Anhinga & Darter

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Recorded on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers at scattered localities.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Uganda's commonest heron, we recorded it almost daily in small numbers.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

A spectacular bird recorded in several wetlands including the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP. The largest heron in the world.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Another widespread bird, seen along the Nile.

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 this species on the Nile boat cruise and 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.

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.

Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris*

A seldom seen bird, we were fortunate to locate this attractive species at Lake Mburo 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*

Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

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*

Seen at a day roost in Lake Mburo NP.

White-backed Night-Heron *Gorsachius leuconotos*

A really special bird, seen at the day roost in Lake Mburo NP, one gets rather close to a big gang of hippo in order to get a view!

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 on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

African Openbill (~ed Stork)*Anastomus lamelligerus*

A common bird in Uganda, this freshwater mussel specialist was seen in small numbers on Lake Victoria.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This magnificent bird was first seen on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Marabou Stork*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

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

Shoebill**Shoebill***Balaeniceps rex*

The essence of Uganda, we found one of these incredible birds at the edge of tall papyrus on our incredible day adventure of broken boats, rough pick-ups and big game! Finding this bird was a great score given the odds that stacked against us. We were lucky to record this species in calmer style in Rwanda's Akagera NP on the pre-tour extension.

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

Small numbers regularly recorded throughout the tour.

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

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

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

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

We found this species along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

African Spoonbill*Platalea alba*

One was seen exceptionally well on the Kazinga Channel.

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

We saw these attractive ducks on the 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 a few on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP..

Comb Duck*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

We found this species on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP..

Yellow-billed Duck*Anas undulata*

Recorded on the tours last day.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites**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 Murchison Falls NP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

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

(African) White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

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

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

Small numbers were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP and Lake Mburo NP. Widespread across Africa however it is thought that the Global population is no more than 2000 pairs.

Rueppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppellii*

We enjoyed great views of a single bird in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

The commonest snake-eagle in Uganda and fairly regularly recorded.

(Western) Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

We enjoyed great scope views of one near Murro.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

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

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

We found this species in small numbers Lake Mburo NP.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

Recorded regularly in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

An attractive raptor that was recorded on our first and last two days of the tour.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

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

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

Seen at Buhoma, Bwindi.

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

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk) *Accipiter badius*

One was seen on our travel day from Murchison Falls to Masindi.

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

Gabar Goshawk *Accipiter gabar*

This goshawk was first seen near Masindi.

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus*

A good find, we had views of a bird at Ruhija.

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*

First recorded in Murchison Falls NP.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

This raptor was commonly seen in open habitat throughout Uganda.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

This, Africa's largest eagle, was seen on several occasions both in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

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

Ayre's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*

We saw one adult at Mabira forest.

African Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

We enjoyed good views in Rwanda, Akagera NP.

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoeatus coronatus*

We enjoyed several good views of this awesome monkey killer.

Falcons & Caracaras

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

We found one in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

We found a fine pair in Rwanda.

Gray Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

This open country raptor was observed several times in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

Pheasants & Partridges

Coqui Francolin *Francolinus coqui*

We saw this species in Lake Mburo NP.

Crested Francolin *Francolinus sephaena*

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

Ring-necked Francolin *Francolinus streptophorus*

We heard one near Murro.

Nahan's Francolin *Francolinus nahani*

Three of these secretive and seldom seen forest francolins were observed exceptionally well in Mabira Forest.

Heuglin's Francolin *Francolinus icterorhynchus*

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

Handsome Francolin * *Francolinus nobilis*

We had superb views of a few birds only on the tour extension in Rwanda.

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.

Guineafowl

Helmeted Guineafowl*Numida meleagris*

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

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

Crested Guineafowl*Guttera pucherani*

We obtained quick views of these fowls on a walk near the neck in Bwindi.

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

Cranes**Grey 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 railid's hooting call was heard in several forests and a single bird was seen at Kibale Forest.

African Crake*Crecopsis egregia*

We obtained views in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

Africa's common wetland crake, recorded along the Nile and in Lake Mburo NP.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

We enjoyed good views in Lake Mburo NP.

Finfoots**African Finfoot***Podica senegalensis*

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

Bustards**Denham's Bustard***Neotis denhami*

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

Black-bellied Bustard*Lissotis melanogaster*

We enjoyed great views in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Jacanas**African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

This widespread and characteristic wader was conspicuous in wetlands throughout the tour.

Stilts & Avocets**Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

This characteristic wader was seen in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Thick-knees**Water Thick-knee***Burhinus vermiculatus*

This species is common at the edges of wetlands in Queen Elizabeth NP, seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Senegal Thick-knee*Burhinus senegalensis*

Seen during the boat cruise on the Victoria Nile at Murchison Falls NP.

Coursers & Pratincoles

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*
Small numbers of these elegant waders were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock (White-collared) Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*
A fairly common denizen of rapids in the Victoria Nile, present around Murchison Falls.

Plovers & Lapwings

Long-toed Lapwing (Plover) *Vanellus crassirostris*
These elegant waders were seen 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.

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.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*
Seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Wattled Lapwing (Plover) *Vanellus senegallus*
This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in small numbers throughout the trip.

Brown-chested Lapwing *Vanellus superciliosus*
This is a rare east-west migrant. We found this beautiful species in Lake Mburo.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*
We found this beautiful species in good numbers at Murchison Falls NP.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
Seen on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*
Our only sighting of these attractive waders on the Kazinga Channel.

Sandpipers & Allies

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
We found this species on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Seen on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
We recorded one of these palaeartic migrants in Lake Mburo NP.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
First observed on the Kazinga Channel.

Gulls

Gray-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*
Only seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Terns

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*
We found this species on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
We found these small terns in Murchison Falls NP and on the Kazinga Channel.

Skimmers**African Skimmer***Rynchops flavirostris*

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

Doves & Pigeons**Rock Dove***Columba livia*

Common in Kampala and other large towns.

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

Only recorded in Rwanda on the pre-tour extension.

Afep Pigeon*Columba unicincta*

This plump, forest pigeon was briefly seen at Mabira forest.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon*Columba arquatrix*

This widespread African forest pigeon occurs in the higher parts of Bwindi NP, where we had great scope views of several at Ruhizha.

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon*Columba iriditorques*

We had incredibly distant views of one 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 and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

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

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

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

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.

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 them in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-billed Wood-Dove*Turtur abyssinicus*

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

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove*Turtur afer*

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

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 great 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 once on the travel day to Kibale

(African) Gray Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

Seen mainly in flight at Mabira, Budongo and Entebbe. 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.

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.

Black-billed Turaco

Tauraco schuettii

The common turaco of Uganda forests, we had several encounters with this beautiful bird.

White-crested Turaco

Tauraco leucolophus

We obtained superb scope views of one individual of this stunningly beautiful bird on our way to Masindi.

Ross' Turaco

Musophaga rossae

Another stellar turaco, seen well at Ishasha.

Ruwenzori Turaco*

Ruwenzoriis johnstoni

A fine endemic that was seen well in Rwanda at Nyungwe forest.

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

Madagascar Cuckoo

Cuculus madagascariensis

We had a great sighting of this migrant cuckoo on the Royal Mile.

Levaillant's (African Striped) Cuckoo

Oxylophus levaillantii

We had good views of one in Budongo Forest.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

We enjoyed great scope views of one on the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

We had good views only in Rwanda at Nyungwe.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx mechowi

The most commonly heard and widespread of the three long-tailed cuckoos in Uganda, we managed to see this species well at Mabira.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx montanus

We saw this species well at Bwindi.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

A brood parasite favouring the cup nests of woodland birds, many heard throughout the tour and one seen on our final day.

African Emerald Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we had great views in Kibale forest.

Dideric Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx caprius*

This widespread African species was heard on many days of the tour and first observed in the Masindi area.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)*Ceuthmochares aereus*

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

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 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Blue-headed Coucal*Centropus monachus*

This large swamp-dwelling coucal was first observed near 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 in Murchison Falls NP during our night drive.

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

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*Bubo lacteus*

Unfortunately only heard in the Budungo Forest.

African Wood-Owl*Strix woodfordii*

We had wonderful views in Kibale NP.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

We had good views in Lake Mburo NP.

Red-chested Owlet*Glaucidium tephronotum*

We had a frustrating time with this species – heard calling above our heads but we barely managed a glimpse.

Nightjars & Allies**Montane (Ruwenzori) Nightjar ****Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*

Although we heard them call, try as we might we did not get a view, at Ruhizha.

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.

Black-shouldered Nightjar*Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

One nearly took off our heads when we played its call in Lake Mburo NP.

Pennant-winged Nightjar*Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

We had awesome views of several males and females at Murchison Falls NP. One male in full breeding plumage was seen flying above our vehicle even before the sun had set.

Swifts**Scarce Swift***Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

First seen at Mabira, then recorded over the forest at Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Sabine's Spinetail*Rhaphidura sabini*

This scarce forest spinetail was observed over the Royal Mile where we enjoyed great views of birds coming down to drink – awesome!

African Palm-Swift*Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful around palms throughout.

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

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba*

We found a small flock over Queen Elizabeth NP.

Common Swift*Apus apus*

Recorded at Murchison Falls NP.

White-rumped Swift*Apus caffer*

Fork-tailed and with a sickle-shaped (rather than square) white rump, we found this species at scattered sites.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

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

Horus Swift*Apus horus*

Only seen on the Rwanda extension at Akagera NP where an occasional bird was mixed in with the large flock of swifts above our hotel.

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 NP.

Trogons**Narina Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

This beautiful species was found at Kibale forest.

Bar-tailed Trogon*Apaloderma vittatum*

We enjoyed a superb sighting of this beautiful bird at Buhoma.

Kingfishers**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

The common, small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, recorded regularly.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher*Ispidina (Ceyx) picta*

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

(African) Dwarf Kingfisher*Ispidina (Ceyx) lecontei*

Another elusive forest kingfisher. We enjoyed incredible views along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest where after a lengthy search we finally found one.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher*Halcyon badia*

A bird that can be extremely difficult to find, although often heard on many occasions. We had fantastic views of 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 NP.

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

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

One bird was seen on Lake Mburo, an impressive kingfisher indeed.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

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

Bee-eaters**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis*

A truly magnificent forest bee-eater with a most unlikely colour combination. Our first sighting was from Kibale NP.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*

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

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

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

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

Slightly larger and with a preference for fringes of papyrus beds, we found 3 individuals at a wetland on the Nile 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 Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*

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

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

We had good views at forested sites throughout.

Madagascar Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*

Our best sighting was in Queen Elizabeth NP where we enjoyed great views of several along the Kazinga Channel.

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

These magnificent birds were seen 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 once on the Royal Mile.

Woodhoopoes

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Our first sighting was near Masindi with further sightings in Lake Mburo NP.

White-headed Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*

This uncommon forest bird was observed at Bwindi NP.

Black Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

We had good views of one in Murchison Falls NP.

Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Another widespread and familiar African bird that we first encountered in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP and further sightings in Lake Mburo NP.

Hornbills

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus*

Common and widespread in moister habitats across the country, recorded regularly.

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.

African Gray Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Uganda seen at several sites.

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

Another spectacular bird that is delightfully common, this species was seen in good numbers almost daily.

White-thighed Hornbill *Ceratogymna albotibialis*

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

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

Barbets

Gray-throated Barbet *Gymnobucco bonapartei*

An unusual barbet with nose tufts and the toy-trumpet call. First found at Mabira.

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.

Western Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

Our only sighting was of one at Ruhizha.

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.

Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

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

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

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

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

An elegant forest barbet with a beautiful purring call. We had great views of one Kibale.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

This unkempt-looking bird was first seen at Mabira.

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 day in Lake Mburo NP's.

White-headed Barbet*Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen near Masindi.

Red-faced Barbet*Lybius rubrifacies*

We were extremely fortunate to find this rarity at Lake Mburo NP. A stunning bird!

Black-billed Barbet*Lybius guifsobalito*

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

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

A spectacular barbet that is widespread in moist savanna, overgrown cultivation and gardens in Uganda. We saw our first one at Luwero Swamp and later in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet, heard in all the western forests. We saw our first one at Mabira.

Crested Barbet*Trachyphonus vaillantii*

Found at Akagera in Rwanda only.

Black-collared Barbet*Lybius torquatus*

Found at Akagera in Rwanda only.

Honeyguides**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

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

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

We found 2 in Lake Mburo NP.

Willcock's Honeyguide*Indicator willcocksi*

We had views of one at the Royal Mile.

(Western) Least Honeyguide*Indicator exilis*

We had good views of one at Kibale forest.

Dwarf Honeyguide**Indicator exilis*

We had brief but good views of this tiny honeyguide at Bwindi.

Thick-billed Honeyguide*Indicator exilis*

We found this species at Bwindi.

Woodpeckers & Allies**Nubian Woodpecker***Campethera nubica*

This attractive savanna species was observed in small numbers in scattered sites.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

We found one at Bwindi NP.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

This widespread African woodpecker was observed on several locations with our first sighting near Masindi.

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

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

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

We found this species at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Our first observation was of one in Murchison Falls NP.

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus*

We had wonderful views of a pair in Murchison Falls NP.

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus*

We had wonderful views at Ruhuja section of Bwindi.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendropicus poecilolaemus*

We found this seldom recorded woodpecker in Murchison Falls NP.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*

We found this species at Lake Mburo, just on the edge of its range.

Broadbills**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis*

We had excellent views of a pair including a displaying male at Buhoma.

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis*

After a loads of work we still only managed a "heard".

Larks**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafraga africana*

Small numbers seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Flappet Lark *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

Uganda's most widespread lark, recorded regularly.

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

Small flocks on the Kazinga Channel.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

Small flocks on the plains at Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogen fuligula*

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

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

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

This palaeartic migrant was recorded in small numbers at Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*

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

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers were seen along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

Lesser Striped-Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow that is fairly common in Uganda.

Rufous-chested Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*

Small numbers were seen at several sites including daily sightings in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

A single bird at Akagera in Rwanda only.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Another large attractive swallow. Two were seen during the drive from Murchison to Masindi.

White-headed Sawwing *Psalidoprocne albiceps*

This elegant bird was first seen foraging at Luwero swamps.

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. One of these elegant birds was seen at Bwindi.

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.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

We obtained excellent views of at Lake Mburo NP.

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

African (Grassland/Grassveld) Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Small numbers encountered 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*

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.

Black Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga flava*

We were fortunate to have good views at Ishasha section.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

We recorded this species in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga quiscalina*

A bird was heard calling at Mabira Forest.

Bulbuls

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

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

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

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

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

Along with Yellow-whiskered, the commonest greenbul in lower altitude forest in Uganda, though much more commonly heard than seen.

(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). Seen at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Shelly's Greenbul *Andropadus masukuensis*

Recorded at Bwindi, Buhoma.

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

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

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 Buhoma, and Ruhizha.

Eastern Mountain-Greenbul *Andropadus nigriceps*

This is a conspicuous and attractive bird of highland forests that we found in good 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. We had views at Kibale.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

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

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Seen in small numbers at scattered sites.

Toro Olive-Greenbul *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

We had superb views of one on the Royal Mile.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

We observed this wing-flicking species in small numbers at Ruhizha.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

This is another uncommon, skulking greenbul, which we found in Budongo Forest.

Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactyla*

The quiet, purring calls of this attractive greenbul were commonly heard at several forest sites on the trip.

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.

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

Seen exceptionally well at Mabira Forest.

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii*

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

African Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

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

White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*

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

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 one at Mabira and another at Kaninyo Pabidi.

White-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*

Brief views at Bwindi Buhoma.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

Seen at Ruhizha.

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

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

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

Red-throated Alethe * *Alethe poliophrys*

We found this species at Buhoma – much easier in Rwanda at Nyungwe however.

Cisticolas & Allies**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythropis*

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

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

We found one in Murchison Falls NP.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

Another common sound was the pleasant whistle of this species. First seen near Luwero swamps.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami*

The strange, quavering call of this common woodland cisticola was heard and then seen on a few occasions in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi*

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

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola cheniana*

We enjoyed good sightings of 2 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 regularly, Seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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

Carruthers's Cisticola *Cisticola carruthersi*

Replaces Winding in the centre of papyrus swamps and hence less frequently encountered. We found at wetlands en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus*

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

Croaking 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 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. Seen near Murchison Falls NP.

Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

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

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we found several.

White-chinned Prinia *Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon*

This confiding, gregarious species was seen best at Sebitole section of Kibale NP.

Banded Prinia *Prinia bairdii*

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

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 one in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-winged Gray Warbler *Drymocichla incana*

This striking little warbler was found in small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis * *Apalis ruwenzorii*

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found in the montane forest around Ruhizha.

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

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni*

One of the commonest forest and forest edge apalises in Uganda, we found our first of these beautiful birds at Budongo Forest.

Masked Apalis *Apalis binotata*

In Uganda, largely restricted to Kibale Forest NP, one 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 sightings near Luwero.

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 our first sighting at Mabira Forest.

Chestnut-throated Apalis *Apalis porphyrolaema*

The commonest apalis in montane forest, with its “ringing telephone” call frequently heard, we obtained good views 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 heard on many occasions, we obtained good views in Murchison Falls 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.

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

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*

This handsome warbler was first seen briefly at the Royal Mile.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

Another skulking camaroptera, it’s piercing calls were heard at all lower altitude forest sites, we had sightings at Mabira Forest.

Miombo Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes undosus*

We obtained good views in Akagera in Rwanda only.

Old World Warblers

White-winged Scrub-Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis*

This highly localized and beautiful swamp-dwelling warbler was heard on several occasions and finally seen exceptionally well at a roadside wetland en route to Lake Mburo NP.

Grauer’s Scrub-Warbler * *Bradypterus graueri*

We were fortunate to have views at Mubwindi Swamp.

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

This species was seen 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 2 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.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*

Seen at a papyrus swamp in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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- Lesser Swamp-Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
Seen at Murchison Falls NP.
- Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis*
This beautiful songster was found in the montane forest around Ruhizha.
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*
This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was first seen in Murchison Falls NP and we had one further sighting in Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Grauer's Warbler *** *Graueria vittata*
This unusual, barred warbler (with a Scaly-throated Honeyguide-like call), was seen very well at Ruhizha.
- Yellow-bellied Hylia** *Hylia flavigaster*
Seen by some of the participants near Luwero Swamp.
- Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*
Local in Uganda, we found this attractive bird on the Royal Mile.
- Green-backed Eremomela** *Eremomela canescens*
We enjoyed superb views of this fantastic bird in Murchison Falls NP.
- Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops*
Cleaning up the eremomelas we scored with fine views in Lake Mburo NP.
- Tit-Hylia** *Pholidornis rushiae*
Local in Uganda, we raved when we found this species at The Neck.
- 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 Mabira.
- Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti*
We saw this species on the Royal Mile.
- White-browed Crombec** *Sylvietta leucophrys*
We enjoyed good views of this attractive crombec in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*
This dry *Acacia* woodland species was seen in small numbers, daily in Murchison Falls NP.
- Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii*
We enjoyed good views finally at Lake Mburo NP.
- Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler *** *Hemitesia neumanni*
This elusive Albertine rift endemic was seen extremely briefly at Buhoma.
- Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans*
This skulking species was heard and seen at Mabira Forest.
- Gray Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*
This is another secretive species, also found at Mabira.
- 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 of one at Mabira.
- Red-faced Woodland-Warbler *** *Phylloscopus laetus*
This is another Albertine Rift endemic, which we encountered in good numbers at Buhoma and Ruhizha.
- Fan-tailed Grassbird** *Schoenicola brevirostris*
We obtained good views of one displaying at Luwero Swamp.
- NOTE: This African species is sometimes lumped with the Indian S. platyura Broad-tailed Warbler.*

Old World Flycatchers

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- Silverbird** *Empidonis semipartitus*
This beautiful flycatcher with chestnut underparts, was seen exceptionally well in Murchison Falls NP.
- Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*
We saw one in Murchison Falls NP and one near Masindi.
- 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 at Luwero Swamp.
- Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*
We found this species in Lake Mburo NP. This species was only recently discovered in Uganda by Adam Riley, and occurs here at the very northern tip of its range.
- Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher *** *Melaenornis ardesiacus*
Seen very well on a forest trail at Buhoma.
- 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 Kibale.
- Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica*
A common denizen of swamp edges throughout southern Uganda, with our first records from Murchison Falls NP with further sightings in Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Chapin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa lendu*
We found one of these rare birds at The Neck, Bwindi.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*
A common forest-edge species most regularly encountered daily at Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata*
This is a quiet, inconspicuous bird that we first found at Bwindi.
- Cassin's (Gray) Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini*
A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. We found individuals at Sebitole, Kibale.
- Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*
We found this species on the Royal Mile.
- Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis*
This active species, which replaces the next species in the forest interior, was encountered at Mabira.
- Gray Tit- (Lead-colored) Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*
We saw our first at Luwero Swamps.
- 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** *Stiphronis erythrothorax*
This shy species was seen on the Royal Mile.
NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the East African S. xanthogaster group, the one we observed would become Eastern Forest Robin, the Central African S. gabonensis would become Gabon Forest Robin and the West African S. erythrothorax would become Western Forest Robin. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.
- Equatorial Akalat** *Sheppardia aequatorialis*
We found this species at Bwindi.
- White-bellied Robin-Chat** *Cossyphicula roberti*
Found on the main trails at Bwindi, Buhoma.
- 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 very well at Ruhizha.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*

We were thrilled to obtain absolutely awesome views of this species on the Royal Mile.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*

Volcano NP in Rwanda only.

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

The crescendo calls of this handsome bird were amongst the dominant sounds of the dawn chorus in woodland throughout the trip. We recorded them in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis*

We were treated to fine views along the Royal Mile.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

African (Common) Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

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

NOTE: Clements recognizes the split of African S. torquata and Common S. rubicola Stonechats (the latter a Palearctic 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-headed Black Chat *Myrmecocichla arnoti*

Great views in strange habitat, a village outside of Akagera in Rwanda only.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

A heard only on the Butiaba escarpment.

Wattle-eyes

Shrike-flycatcher *Megabias (Bias) flammulatus*

These large, tail-wagging forest flycatchers were seen at Mabira Forest.

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

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were observed at 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. Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*

These attractive little birds, were first seen at Mabira Forest.

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 Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

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

Ituri Batis *Batis ituriensis*

Some hard work and a bit of luck with the weather eventually paid off and we had good views of this tiny bird.

Monarch Flycatchers

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

We had several sightings 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 at the Royal Mile.

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*

In East Africa, still known only from Kaniyo Pabidi in Budongo, where we did not manage a view but heard it call.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

This understorey babbler was seen near our camp at Kibale.

Mountain Illadopsis *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

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

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis*

We were lucky to get some great views of this tricky species on the Royal Mile.

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

Another skulking forest babbler seen 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 several sightings of small family groups in Murchison Falls NP.

Arrow-marked Babbler*Turdoides jardineii*

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

Red-collared Babbler**Kupeornis rufocinctus*

A big climb was rewarded with super views of this fine endemic in Nyungwe, Rwanda.

Chickadees & Tits**White-winged Black Tit***Melaniparus leucomelas*

One was 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 good sightings of one near Masindi.

NOTE: Refer to previous species.

Dusky Tit*Melaniparus funereus*

We had good looks at several at the Royal Mile.

Stripe-breasted Tit **Melaniparus fasciiventer*

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

Penduline Tits**African Penduline-Tit***Anthoscopus caroli*

We enjoyed good views of these tiny birds in Lake Mburo NP.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters**Gray-headed Sunbird***Deleornis (Anthreptes) axillaris*

We had good sightings of this species at Budungo and Mabira Forests.

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

Little Green Sunbird*Anthreptes seimundi*

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

Grey-chinned Sunbird*Anthreptes rectirostris*

A small yet relatively conspicuous sunbird, we found small numbers daily at Kibale.

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 regularly.

Green-headed Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis*

This attractive species was first seen near Masindi with further sightings in Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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

This large forest sunbird was seen at Budungo Forest and Buhoma.

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

Small numbers were seen at Ruhizha.

Western Olive-Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

Its distinctive call was heard daily in all lower altitude forests, first seen at Mabira.

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

- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) rubescens*
Two stunning males of these uncommonly recorded sunbirds, were seen at Buhoma.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*
A common bird in Uganda, we recorded it regularly, with good numbers in open woodland habitats.
- Bronze Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*
This attractive long-tailed sunbird was seen daily near Buhoma and Ruhizha.
- Purple-breasted Sunbird*** *Nectarinia purpureiventris*
This stellar sunbird was seen well many times in Nyungwe, Rwanda.
- Ruwenzori Double-collared Sunbird*** *Cinnyris stuhlmani*
A fine endemic, found in Nyungwe, Rwanda only.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*
A common forest-edge species, regularly recorded.
- 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, 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.
- Mariqua Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) mariquensis*
This dry country species was found at Luwero Swamp.
NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. suahelicus which we recorded in Uganda would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Mariqua Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.
- Red-chested Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) erythrocerca*
The common, long-tailed sunbird of wetland edges, we found many daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*
We found one near Jinja and another in the Entebbe Botanical gardens.
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superba*
This large, spectacular sunbird was first observed around Kibale.
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) venusta*
The beautiful orange-bellied form of this sunbird, was seen exceptionally well near Ruhija..
NOTE: This complex may be split into 3 full species based on belly colour, although at this stage the details are rather vague.
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea*
We obtained superb views of several in the moist woodland near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

White-eyes

- African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*
The only white-eye in Uganda, and common in wooded habitat throughout.

Old World Orioles

- Western Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*
This forest interior species was seen in small numbers at Budongo and Kibale Forests.
- Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole** *Oriolus percivali*
We found this attractive species at Bwindi, Ruhija.
- Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*
We found the first birds on the way to Masindi.

Shrikes**Gray-backed Fiscal***Lanius excubitoroides*

Uganda's commonest fiscal, occupying a variety of moist woodland habitats. First recorded at the roadside on our first day, and daily at savanna sites during the rest of the trip.

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)*Lanius mackinnoni*

The forest-edge fiscal in Uganda, recorded at Ruhizha.

Common Fiscal*Lanius collaris*

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

Bushshrikes & Allies**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

This species was seen in 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 Murchison Falls 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 Murchison Falls 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. Two were seen well near Masindi.

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.

Mountain Sooty Boubou*Laniarius poensis*

We obtained good views of two individuals at Ruhizha.

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

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

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

Many-coloured Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus multicolor*

A superb bird, we had great views at Sebitole in Kibale NP.

Doherty's Bushshrike *Telophorus dohertyi*

Excellent views of this stunning creature were had at Ruhizha.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A beautiful species recorded from Rwanda only, Akagera NP.

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

Our first sighting was of a group seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Drongos

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

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

Crows, Jays & Magpies

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*

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

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

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

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

A large powerful bird recorded in the highlands near Ruhija.

Starlings

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

This species was found in Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

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

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

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Found near Masindi.

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.

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

This exquisite bird was seen on our way to Murchison Falls NP.

Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

This large starling is infrequently recorded in Uganda and we observed a birds at ruhija, Bwindi.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri*

We enjoyed good views of several in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*

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

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

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

Sharpe's Starling *Pholia sharpii*

This nomadic species was seen only in Rwanda at Nyungwe.

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**Great Sparrow** *Passer motitensis*

We were fortunate to see this species 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 at 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 at Luwero Swamp and in Murchison Falls NP.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

A scarce weaver of woodland and forest edge. We observed this species once in Queen Elizabeth NP and later had good sightings of 6 in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

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

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

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

Strange Weaver * *Ploceus alienus*

This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was seen on several occasions 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 of two at Luwero Swamp.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

A beautiful bird largely restricted to the wetlands of the Lake Victoria basin. We had poor views of a bird in flight.

- Northern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus castanops*
Another swamp associated species, which we observed in Entebbe Botanical Gardens.
- African (Vitelline) Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*
Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*
One of Uganda's most conspicuous birds, with large colonies found in many towns. First seen near Masindi.
NOTE: This widespread African complex is also a candidate for multi-species splitting and the subspecies P. c. bohndorffi which we recorded in Uganda will probably remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by Clements.
- Vieillot's (Black) Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*
Rivals the above for title of commonest Ugandan weaver, with our first sighting near Jinja.
NOTE: The distinctive West African form of this weaver is sometimes split off as Chestnut-and-black Weaver P. castaneofuscus.
- Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver** *Ploceus melanocephalus*
Another common weaver of wetlands throughout Uganda, which we found in small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Golden-backed Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni*
We enjoyed good views at Luwero Swamp.
- Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*
This forest-dwelling species was observed only at Mabira Forest.
- Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*
This handsome forest weaver was observed in small numbers at Sebitole and in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*
This species was recorded only from Lake Mburo NP.
- Weyns's Weaver** *Ploceus weynsi*
This handsome forest weaver was seen only in flight at Mabira.
- Compact Weaver** *Pachyphantus superciliosus*
This is an uncommon, rank grassland species, which was first observed near Murchison Falls NP.
- Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*
We found 2 on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.
- Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*
The only common malimbe in Uganda, our first sighting was of one at Mabira Forest.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*
Our first sighting was of one at Luwero.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*
We first found the "African avian locust" in Murchison Falls NP.
- Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*
We found some of this species mixed in with flocks of the more common previous species.
- Cardinal Quelea** *Quelea cardinalis*
We were happy to find this attractive species whilst traveling away from Masindi.
- Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii*
We had fantastic views of a male near Budongo Forest and several others at Murchisons.
- Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*
This common species was observed in Murchison Falls NP.
- Orange Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*
Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped Widow)** *Euplectes capensis*

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

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.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

A flock were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Two males were seen near Masindi.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We had good views at Luwero Swamp.

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

Woodhouse's Antpecker *Parmoptila woodhousei*

Fine views of this delightful rare species was certainly one of the highlights of Bwindi.

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 daily at all forest sites, with our initial sightings coming from Mabira Forest.

Red-headed Bluenill *Spermophaga ruficapilla*

This beautiful seedeater was seen at Mabira.

Green Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*

We saw these shy seedeaters on the Royal Mile.

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicopera*

This bird flew away as soon as we found it, offering only flight views near Murchisons.

Green winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

This bird was seen near Masindi.

Dusky Crimson-wing * *Cryptospiza jacksoni*

We had superb views at Ruhizha.

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri*

This beautiful seedeater of rank vegetation was seen near Masindi.

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

We enjoyed great views on our way away from Ruhija, last minute score!

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.

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*

This large firefinch was seen near Masindi.

African (Blue-billed) Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

Another widespread bird in Africa, seen near Masindi.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We were very pleased to find this species in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

This widespread species was commonly recorded in Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill*Estrilda quartinia*

We found these attractive birds only at Nyungwe on the Rwanda extension.

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

Fawn-breasted Waxbill*Estrilda paludicola*

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

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

Crimson-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda rhodopyga*

This seedeater was seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda roglodytes*

This seedeater was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Common Waxbill*Estrilda astrild*

Africa's most widespread waxbill was seen in small numbers at Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-crowned Waxbill*Estrilda nonnula*

This attractive species, was found first near Mabira.

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*

Black-faced Waxbill*Estrilda erythronotus*

A group was seen in Rwanda in Akagera.

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura cucullata*

This is a ubiquitous species in moist habitats throughout Uganda.

Black and White Mannikin*Lonchura bicolor*

This species was only recorded on the Rwanda extension.

African Quail Finch*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

We found this species in Murchison Falls NP.

Indigobirds**Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeata*

This, the brood parasite of Red-billed Firefinch, was observed near Masindi.

Pin-tailed Whydah*Vidua macroura*

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

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

This highland species was observed once at Rwanda.

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

Western Citril*Serinus frontalis*

Widespread but never very common in moist habitat in Uganda. Our first sightings were near the Royal Mile.

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.

Papyrus Canary*Serinus koliensis*

Brief views at a roadside wetland on our way to Lake Mburo NP.

White-rumped Seedeater

We found this species after a long, hot search outside Murchisons.

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 NP.

Streaky Seedeater *Serinus striolatus*

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

Thick-billed Seedeater *Serinus burtoni*

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

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

Buntings**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris*

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

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

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

Apes**Chimpanzee** *Pan troglodytes*

Unbelievable experience was had with our close relatives at Kibale Forest. To say that the group was "raving" after the trek would be an understatement.

(Mountain) Gorilla *Gorilla gorilla*

In both Rwanda and Uganda the group enjoyed quality time with these awesome apes. One of the world's greatest wildlife experiences!

Colobid Monkeys**Central African Red Colobus** *Procolobus oustaleti*

We found an obliging troop at our camp at Kibale. They feed primarily on leaves, with this species favoring the newer, tenderer foliage.

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza*

This mature-leaf folivore, arguably the most beautiful of all monkeys, is delightfully common in Uganda and we found healthy populations in all the western forests.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys**Olive (Anubis) Baboon** *Papio anubis*

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

Gray-cheeked Mangabey *Lophocebus albigena*

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

Vervet Monkey *Cercopithecus pygerythrus* The savanna monkeys are, with the *Papio* baboons, the most widely distributed primates in Africa, inhabiting

woodland and savanna habitats throughout the continent.

L'Hoest's Monkey *Cercopithecus lhoesti*

This handsome, mainly terrestrial guenon, is Uganda's rarest monkey, however we were fortunate in obtaining fantastic views of several daily at Ruhizha, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Blue (Gentle) Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*

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

Red-tailed Monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*

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

Patas Monkey *Cercopithecus patas*

This long limbed mainly terrestrial monkey of the Sahel was found in Murchison Falls NP north of the Nile.

Lorisids

Demidoff's Galago *Galago demidoff*

This delightful creature was found on the night drive at Kibale.

Thomas's Galago *Galago thomasi*

Higher in the canopy than the preceding species, also found at Kibale and ending off an incredible ten primate day!

Large-Winged Bats

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

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

Flying Foxes

Staw-colored Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*

These large bats were encountered at Jinja.

Hares & Rabbits

Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis*

We found one in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Uganda Grass-Hare *Poelagus marjorita*

Were observed during our night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Squirrels

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

We found this species in Murchison Falls 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 Mabira Forest.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

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

Mongoose

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea*

We had brief views of one in Murchison Falls NP.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvulanea*

This smallest of carnivores was encountered at Lake Mburo NP.

Ichneumon Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon*

We had brief views of one the Bwindi area.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*

These entertaining creatures were commonly observed on the grounds of Mweya Lodge in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Marsh Mongoose *Atilax palidonosus*

A single animal was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Genets and Civets

Common (Small-Spotted) Genet *Genetta genetta*

One was seen during the night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

African Civet *Civettictis civetta*

Two were seen during our night drive at Kibale.

Cats

Lion *Panthera leo*

We enjoyed a great sighting of a large male next to the road with a kill in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Leopard *Panthera pardus*

Great luck gave us two super sightings in Murchison Falls. A large male in the morning and a female in the evening.

Hyraxes

Western Tree Hyrax *dendrohyrax dorsalis*

An interesting find on the Royal Mile, we were lucky to see one of these noisy but seldom seen creatures.

Elephants

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

Elephants were common and conspicuous in the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls, highlights were had with large bulls on foot whilst looking for Shoebill.

Horses

Common (Burchell's) Zebra *Equus burchelli*

Another animal restricted to the southern savanna and therefore, in Uganda, to Lake Mburo NP.

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

These well-marked “Rothschild’s” race, were found north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer

This fearsome animal was observed in all the savanna national parks, with our most memorable sightings being large herds of up to 200 individuals in 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 and Murchison Falls NP’s.

Eland

Taurotragus spekei

These large and stately antelope were found in Lake Mburo NP.

Bush Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

One was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Black-fronted Duiker

Cephalophus nigrifrons

We had good views 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.

Bohor Reedbuck

Redunca redunca

Sightings in Lake Mburo NP.

Uganda Kob

Kobus kob thomasi

A handsome antelope that is ubiquitous in the moist savanna grasslands of western Uganda.

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 30+ 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

Seen daily in Lake Mburo NP.

Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)

Alcelaphus buselaphus

Replaces the Topi in the drier savanna of Murchison Falls NP, north of the Nile.

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