



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Uganda Birds and Gorillas I Trip Report

*30<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (18 days)*



**Trip Report Compiled by: Rainer Summers**

### **Tour Summary**

Much has been written about the equatorial country of Uganda. Churchill's "Pearl of Africa" is probably best known as the country that the despotic dictator Idi Amin plunged into disarray during the 70's. However, it is nowadays better known for its Mountain Gorillas, superb birding and friendly people. Our tour provided an excellent overview of what this fascinating country has to offer. From

vast rainforests resounding with the calls of some of our closest primate kin, to endless grassy plains covered in large herds of game, this tour produced some astounding highlights. We enjoyed close-ups of feeding Chimpanzees in Kibale Forest and Mountain Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, huge concentrations of Elephant, African Buffalo and Hippo along the banks of the Kazinga and Nile, Leopard in Lake Mburo, and the incomparable Shoebill in Murchison Falls (one of 529 bird species recorded); in short this tour had it all!

We began in Entebbe, a sleepy town situated on the edge of mainland Africa's largest water body, Lake Victoria. The town is dotted with tropical gardens that act as a strong magnet for birds, and as a result we notched-up a number of excellent species before the official start of the tour! African Hobby, Palm-nut Vulture, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Double-toothed Barbet, Red-chested Sunbird and Eastern Plantain Eater were all seen within Entebbe, before skirting Kampala and heading south towards Lake Mburo NP. On the drive, a flock of Grey Parrots perched in a roadside tree provided great scope views (these birds are often only seen as they fly overhead), while later an interesting find in the form of White-backed Duck (a first record for RBT in Uganda) added a little zest to the otherwise quiet drive. Arriving at Lake Mburo, we encountered Coqui Francolin and a single Brown-chested Lapwing which both showed very well, however, the undisputed highlight of the day was a Leopard! This sleek feline watched us from nearby, allowing extended views before slinking off into the tall grass!



Lake Mburo NP is in the so called "southern savanna" zone, and as such hosts a few species at the northern limit of their range (and as such are not found anywhere else in Uganda). Traversing the reserves savanna woodland and lakeside scrub provided sightings of Common Zebra and Impala (both only found in this area of Uganda), Topi, Bohor Reedbuck and a large herd of majestic Eland (very localised in Uganda), African Buffalo and Hippopotamus. Birds we encountered here included the spectacular Pennant-winged Nightjar, Long-tailed Cisticola and Red-faced Barbet (the latter two very sought after species, reaching the northern limit of their ranges here), White-backed Night Heron, African Finfoot, Ross's Turaco, Papyrus Gonolek, Grey-capped Warbler and Rufous-bellied Heron. After a welcome rest through the heat of the day, we enjoyed a relaxing afternoon drive which merged into a night drive, where a tiny African Scops Owl showed briefly in a roadside tree before we retired for the day.

Leaving the undulating savannas of Lake Mburo we drove southwest to the mythical Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, bastion of the Mountain Gorilla and home to multiple Albertine Rift Endemics. As we moved into the highlands, the increase in altitude brought with it a change in avifauna, and we saw Augur Buzzard, Red-rumped Swallow, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, Bronzy Sunbird, and Black-throated Canary. After a long travel day we settled into our comfortable accommodations overlooking a steep, forested section of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Bwindi is famous for its Mountain Gorillas, and provides a home to around half of the world population of this charismatic creature. A thriving industry has been moulded around tracking these rainforest beasts, and the day had dawned where we too would be searching for these gentle giants! After the debriefing by the park guards, we drove to the starting point close to The Neck, where we would begin tracking the H group. This group lives quite deep in the forest, and after a long walk we were finally afforded the opportunity to come face to face with the gorillas. The setting could not have been more perfect, with the animals choosing a sunny glade to while away the midday hours. After some vigorous photo taking, we sat down near the second silverback (this group strangely has two as opposed to the usual one silverback) and some of the younger members of the group, and just *watched*.

Near the end of our allotted time, the main silverback made an appearance, providing us with perfect send off before we started the lengthy journey back to Buhoma!

Birding the mossy, enchanted forests around Buhoma is always a treat, as the wide and well kept forest tracks facilitate easy access and good viewing. Some of the specials we found included mind-blowing views of Neumann's Warbler (which is often difficult to see, let alone have perched in a sunny gap singing!), Ansorge's Greenbul, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Red-throated Alethe, Equatorial Akalat, the rare Chapin's Flycatcher, a highly co-operative Handsome Francolin, Black-billed Turaco, Scarce Swift, stunning Black Bee-eater, Elliot's Woodpecker, Bocage's and Lühder's Bushshrike, Pink-footed Puffback, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Banded Prinia, Mountain Masked Apalis, Kakamega Greenbul, wing flicking Yellow-streaked Greenbul, smart Black-faced Rufous Warbler, White-browed Crombec, Stuhlmann's and Narrow-tailed Starling, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Green-throated Sunbird and Brown-capped Weaver.

From Buhoma, we struck out for the high altitude portion of the forest at Ruhija, enjoying very good views of Greater Honeyguide en route at The Neck. Ruhija has its own distinctive charm, with its



remote location and unimpeded vistas of endless rainforest. Much of the birding at Ruhija is centred on the legendary Mubwindi Swamp, an 80 hectare wetland surrounded by rather impressive forest. It is home to Grauer's Broadbill and Grauer's Swamp Warbler, two globally threatened species. Our day in the swamp was particularly productive, and over and above superb views of the delightful broadbill, other notable species were White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Cinnamon Bracken, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Archer's Ground Robin, skulky Grauer's Swamp Warbler, Bar-tailed Trogon, excellent

sightings of Lagden's Bushshrike, Mountain Oriole, Carruthers's Cisticola, Waller's and Sharpe's Starling, White-starred Robin, Strange Weaver and a pair of shy Dusky Crimsonwing.

After Ruhija and the amazing Bwindi Impenetrable NP, we continued onward to Queen Elizabeth NP (but not before enjoying brilliant views of Western Tinkerbird, Doherty's Bushshrike, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Grey Cuckooshrike and Grauer's Warbler at Ruhija), a reserve that boasts the largest bird list of any protected area in Africa (600 plus species!). Our drive took us through the wild Ishasha section of QENP, and after a long journey we were very thankful to arrive at our palatial accommodations at Mweya Lodge.

Birding QENP is focused on the large, rank grasslands, *Euphorbia* studded woodlands and large waterbodies. Departing the hotel we were struck by the sheer volume of the dawn chorus (quite astounding actually), the woodland alive with calls of White-browed Robin-Chat, Black-lored Babbler and Black-headed Gonalek. The days birding produced views of a variety of grassland and wetland species, and we saw smart Black Coucal, Moustached Grass Warbler, Compact Weaver, Fawn-breasted Waxbill skulky African Crake, White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures, handsome Uganda Kob, Marsh Sandpiper, Pied Avocet, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Spotted Redshank (the latter a great find indeed). The Kazinga Channel connects Lakes Edward and George, acting as a haven for birds and mammals, and is an integral part of any visit to Uganda. We were witness to masses of lazing Hippo, African Buffalo and African Elephant, African Skimmer, Gull-billed and White-winged Terns, Collared Pratincole, skulky Little Bittern, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, Saddle-billed Stork and a mass of White-breasted Cormorant. Undoubted mammal of the day was Giant Forest Hog, two of which allowed excellent views while driving the sandy tracks near the lodge.

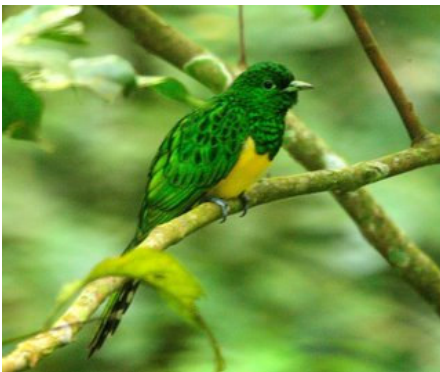
Departing QENP, we undertook the short drive to Kibale National Park, a large forest bloc that is particularly important as a stronghold for primates and Guinea-Congolian species (this forest is in tract contiguous with Queen Elizabeth NP). Our lunch stop brought with it outstanding views of a pair of Joyful Greenbul, which sat contented mere metres from us, before we continued along the bumpy

road to our accommodations. The remainder of the day was spent at Bigodi Wetland, a beautiful wetland area replete with shaded waterways, Papyrus beds, swaying palms and dense stands of forest. We managed great views of Dusky-blue and Black-and-white Flycatchers, White-spotted Flufftail (a delightful mini bantam-like bird), a brief view of Shining-blue Kingfisher before rounding off the day with views of Black-shouldered Nightjar at dusk.

Kibale Forest provides a home to around 1400 Chimpanzees (the largest population of these great apes in Uganda), including groups which have been habituated. We began our full day on an excursion to find these remarkable beasts, first with a sighting White-tailed Rufous Thrush before driving to the park headquarters and beginning our chimp trek. A short walk ensued, before we stopped at a massive *Ficus mucosa*, and proceeded to enjoy an extended session watching 12 Chimpanzees go about the business of feeding on the juicy fruit adorning the huge fig tree. Birding the forest produced views of Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, White-throated Greenbul, Little Green Sunbird, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Superb Sunbird, Red-headed Malimbe, Lowland Masked Apalis and Joyful Greenbul and mammals in the form of Central African Red Colobus and a co-operative Red-legged Sun Squirrel. Nocturnal exploits allowed views of the diminutive Demidoff's Galago and African Wood Owl.



Masindi town acts an important central base to a number of key savanna and forest birding areas in the north of the circuit. After an overnight stay, we headed-off early for Kaniyo Pabidi, a section of the mighty Budongo Forest and gateway to Murchison Falls NP. Our first major bird of the day was Abyssinian Ground Hornbill; a pair was seen perched in a roadside tree just before reaching the edge of the forest. Kaniyo Pabidi provides a home to the only population of Puvell's Illadopsis in East Africa, and after a little searching we got great views of this understory skulker. Our mornings birding was quite productive, and we had sightings of a calling Narina Trogon, stunning African Emerald Cuckoo, Yellow Longbill, Green Crombec and another trip highlight in the form of a Rufous-sided Broadbill performing its buzzing, circular display! After lunch we made our way through Murchison Falls NP, the scenery changing from rainforest to dense Guinea-Sudanian woodland. This



habitat change brought with it a change in bird species, and we saw our first Red-throated and Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, Red-winged Warbler, Short-winged Cisticola and beautiful White-crested Turaco. This park is Uganda's largest protected area, and it was wonderful to travel through miles and miles of bush with no sign of human habitation! We spent our afternoon at the famous Murchison Falls, where a rocky intrusion has constricted the swiftly flowing Nile and created an untamed beast of a waterfall rather than a playful, elegant curtain of falling water. Birding in and around the falls we enjoyed great views of Finch's Agama, Rock Pratincole, Giant Kingfisher, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-

Weaver, Little Weaver and super Red-winged Grey Warbler. After the incredible dusk bat emergence from below the falls, we made our way back to our lodgings, and enjoyed great views of Slender-tailed and Pennant-winged Nightjar and Uganda Grass Hare.

Many birders primary reason for travelling to Uganda is to hunt down the prehistoric Shoebill, a huge and very impressive avian inhabitant of large papyrus swamps in central Africa. We embarked on a boat trip down the massive Nile toward the Albert-Nile delta in search of this bird, and in the process chalked up a number of superb creatures. The Palm trees lining the banks held a few sleek Red-necked Falcon, with Senegal Thick-knee, Giant and Purple Heron dotting the quiet backwaters, the latter two always vigilant for unwary fish. A surprising find was two showy White-crowned Lapwing, a first Uganda record for Rockjumper (and a recent addition to the park list). Game abounds in the park (having made a good recovery after the wholesale slaughter which occurred in Idi Amin's era) and we witnessed large pods of Hippo, African Elephant, Rothschild's Giraffe, and Nile Crocodile lying like scaly logs on the banks. After a tense period of unsuccessful searching, a Shoebill was found, much to everyone's delight. What a bird! We then made our way to the ferry launch, and proceeded to drive onto the north bank of the Nile. A number of good birds were seen, and we enjoyed excellent views of the scarce White-fronted Black Chat, attractive White-crested Turaco, Black-billed Barbet, Beautiful Sunbird, Heuglin's Francolin, Denham's Bustard, Kenya (Shelley's) Rufous Sparrow, Speckle-throated Weaver, Northern Red Bishop, African Quail-Finch, multiple Oribi, Kongoni (Jackson's) Hartebeest) and rounded our day off with a hunting Bat Hawk.



The following day we left the park, and struck out for the Butiaba Escarpment. This area commands a lovely view of Lake Albert with the Congo's Blue Mountains visible far in the distance. Here we observed Foxy Cisticola, Vitelline Masked Weaver, Mocking Cliff Chat, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting and impressive Martial Eagle, before escaping the heat as we entered the Busingiro section of Budongo Forest. Although the numbers of birds we recorded here was not immense, we were certainly treated to quality, with eye-level views of Yellow-crested Woodpecker, fidgety Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, tiny Lemon-bellied Crombec, Eastern Forest Robin and Brown-chested Alethe, before travelling back to Masindi.

The Royal Mile is a spectacular birding locality in Budongo Forest, named after a former Ugandan King who enjoyed spending time there (I don't blame him!). The enormous *Milicia excelsa*, *Entandophragma angolensis* and *Cynometra* trees give the Royal Mile a cathedral-like feel, with the species present also adding to the special aura of the place. Spectacular forest kingfishers in the form of African Dwarf, Chocolate-backed and Blue-breasted added splashes of vibrant colour, while drab Little Grey, Plain and Little greenbuls did just the opposite, blending into their environment with ease. Some of the other specials we encountered include diminutive Ituri Batis, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher, scarce Crested Malimbe, jewel-like Red-headed Bluebill, dashing Sabine's and Cassin's Spinetail, Buff-spotted and Brown-eared Woodpeckers, Jameson's Wattle-eye, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, dashing (literally) Spotted Greenbul, Red-chested Cuckoo, Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Red-tailed Rufous Thrush and mammal of the day, a single Chequered Elephant Shrew. Birding the productive rank grass and farmland nearby was also very rewarding, and we recorded the sought-after Brown Twinspot, Black-bellied Firefinch, Grey-headed Oliveback, Brown-backed Scrub Robin and Whistling Cisticola.



With the trip drawing to a close, we left Masindi and made our way towards Jinja, stopping outside Masindi in an area of mixed *Acacia* and broadleaved woodland, where we obtained views of White-crested Turaco, noisy Nubian Woodpecker, African Grey Woodpecker, White-crested Helmetshrike, Grey-headed Bushshrike, glowing Bronze-tailed and Lesser

Blue-eared Starling, scarce Marsh Widowbird and two skittish Striped Ground Squirrel. After lunch, our journey took us through Kampala, a bustling, smokey city with crazy traffic, and it was a relief to get out of this city and onto the road east to Jinja! We entered Jinja, the famed source of the Nile (and aptly home to the Nile Special brewery!), and rounded off with masses of Straw-coloured Fruit Bat hanging bunched in a large colony, Red-necked Falcon, African Hobby and a single Osprey before kicking back and relaxing in our tranquil hotel.

Jinja used to be one of the most important economic hubs in Uganda, a title that changed very quickly after Idi Amin chased out all Asian residents (many successful business owners, and the backbone of the Ugandan economy at the time). Now, however, the town is growing in stature once more, and is popular amongst adventure tourists seeking to experience the thrill of the churning whitewater on the Nile. Leaving the town, we made our way to Mabira Forest, an extremely birdy forest on the Jinja-Kampala road. We ended the birding triplist off by recording a couple of great species, including perched Crowned Eagle, Afep Pigeon and African Pied Hornbill, restless Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Blue-shouldered Robin Chat, a swift flock of Weyns's Weaver and a close-up Western Nicator, whilst Grey Longbill called from deep tangles but remained unseen.



We concluded the tour in Entebbe, savouring the wide variety of highlights, from amazing scenery, to rare and sought-after mammals and birds and great company; All this in a small, friendly East African country!

#### Photo credits

**Cover Page:** Mountain Gorilla by Linda Harrison. **In text:** Red-chested Sunbird and African Emerald Cuckoo by Keith Valentine, Red-throated Bee-eater by Merl Arnot, Grauer's Broadbill, Chimpanzee, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, African Pied Hornbill all by Rainer Summers.

## Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC List of Please cite: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

### Total species recorded (including heard): 529

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

QENP = Queen Elizabeth National Park

NP = National Park

#### Guineafowl Numididae

##### Helmeted Guineafowl

*Numida meleagris*

Commonly recorded at a number of scattered savanna sites throughout the tour.

#### Pheasants, Fowl and Allies Phasianidae

##### Nahan's Francolin

*Ptilopachus nahani*

This shy species was unfortunately only heard while in Budongo Forest.

##### Coqui Francolin

*Peliperdix coqui*

We obtained outstanding views of this smart species at Lake Mburo.

##### Crested Francolin

*Dendroperdix sephaena*

A few individuals were seen at Lake Mburo.

**Heuglin's Francolin** *Pternistis icterorhynchus*

Good views were had of four individuals in Murchison Falls NP.

**Handsome Francolin** *Pternistis nobilis*

We got superb views of a single at Buhoma, with a later bird seen at Ruhija.

**Red-necked Francolin** *Pternistis afer*

We saw good numbers in Lake Mburo NP and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

### Ducks, Geese and Swans Anatidae

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

First recorded on Lake Victoria, with birds later seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconatus*

We saw three birds in the south of the country. This is quite a rare bird in Uganda, and this is the first time this species has been recorded on a RBT Uganda Tour!

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*

Two distant birds were seen at a wetland in the south of the country.

**Knob-billed (Comb) Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Seen in the south of the country, and later on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

This common waterfowl was recorded in scattered wetland localities throughout the tour.

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

Two were seen in the south of the country.

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*

A single bird was seen on the edge of Lake Katwe.

### Grebes Podicipedidae

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We saw good numbers on Lake Victoria.

### Storks Ciconiidae

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

Seen in QENP and later along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

First seen on the edge of Lake Victoria, we recorded good numbers at a variety of localities thereafter.

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

First encountered near Buhoma, where we saw four birds.

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

A huge and handsome species, we saw a single bird on the Kazinga Channel, with four recorded later on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Seen all over Uganda, with truly impressive numbers in Kampala.

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

This species was seen at a few sites throughout the tour.

**Hadada (Hadedda) Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

These noisy and conspicuous birds were frequently seen (note these birds pale eye, not present in southern African birds).

**Glossy Ibis***Plegadis falcinellus*

Three birds were seen along the Nile while in Murchison Falls NP.

**African Spoonbill***Platalea alba*

A total of three were seen in QENP.

**Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae****Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

Seen on the Kazinga Channel and on the Nile

**White-backed Night Heron***Gorsachius leuconotus*

A particularly sought after species, we had magnificent views of this species in Lake Mburo NP.

**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

A number of birds were seen in thick lakeside vegetation on Lake Mburo.

**Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

A few were seen on Lake Mburo.

**(Common) Squacco Heron***Ardeola ralloides*

This species was seen on the Kazinga Channel and later on the Nile.

**Rufous-bellied Heron***Ardeola rufiventris*

Two birds were recorded in a shallow, flooded area at Lake Mburo.

**Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

A common, easily seen species, often in association with big game.

*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.*

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

This aquatic hunter (unlike the following species) was first recorded in QENP, and then at scattered wetland locales thereafter.

**Black-headed Heron***Ardea melanocephala*

A terrestrial bird, we saw birds on a number of days during the tour.

**Goliath Heron***Ardea goliath*

The largest heron in the world, we had great views in QENP and Murchison Falls NP.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

We saw this smart bird along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

**Great (White) Egret***Ardea alba*

We saw this species at some of the larger water bodies (i.e. Kazinga Channel, Nile River in Murchison Falls).

*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 widespread wetland bird was seen at a number of wetlands throughout the tour.

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

**Hamerkop Scopidae****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

In a monotypic family, and endemic to the Afrotropics and Madagascar, we saw it regularly in wetland situations throughout Uganda.

**Shoebill Balaenicipitidae****Shoebill***Balaeniceps rex*

After some intense searching we enjoyed superb views of an individual hunting in a small pan on the north bank of the Nile. Despite the heat, watching this Shoebill as it patiently hunted for food in the ever diminishing, vegetation choked pan was a definite trip highlight (and one of the better wildlife sightings one could enjoy anywhere!). The massive bill (and indeed size of the bird) is astounding, with the group also enjoying flight views of the bird prior to it landing at the pond (akin to a jumbo jet landing!).

### Pelicans Pelecanidae

#### **Great White Pelican**

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Two were seen on the Kazinga Channel. The crisp, white colour of the bird gives it a very smart, dignified appearance.

#### **Pink-backed Pelican**

*Pelecanus rufescens*

Common in Uganda, we had our best views on the Kazinga and in Jinja.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

#### **Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax africanus*

We encountered this at water bodies throughout the tour, beginning with Entebbe.

#### **White-breasted Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Our best views were of a flock sitting on the bank along the Kazinga Channel. The birds were employing gular fluttering to keep cool.

### Anhingas Anhangidae

#### **Darter**

*Anhinga melanogaster*

First encountered on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

### Falcons Falconidae

#### **Common Kestrel**

*Falco tinnunculus*

This species was first seen in the vicinity of Kampala, with a further two seen in QENP.

*NOTE: IOC has now split the distinctive Rock Kestrel F. rupicolus of Southern Africa from the nominate Common Kestrel which we observed in Uganda.*

#### **Grey Kestrel**

*Falco ardosiaceus*

First seen on our drive from Entebbe to Lake Mburo NP. Quite widespread in Uganda, where it is seen in small numbers in more open country.

#### **Red-necked Falcon**

*Falco chicquera*

This handsome bird was seen in Murchison Falls NP and later in Jinja. Usually associated with palms.

#### **African Hobby**

*Falco cuvierii*

A very agile hunter, this species is not uncommon in Uganda. We first encountered it in Entebbe.

#### **Lanner Falcon**

*Falco biarmicus*

We had a rapid fly-by of a bird presumed to belong to this species while near Masindi.

### Kites Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

#### **Osprey**

*Pandion haliaetus*

One bird was seen from our accommodations in Jinja.

#### **Bat Hawk**

*Macheiramphus alcinus*

A single bird was seen hunting at sunset as we neared the ferry across the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

#### **Black-winged Kite**

*Elanus caeruleus*

We saw this species fairly frequently during the course of our tour.

#### **Black (Yellow-billed) Kite**

*Milvus (aegyptius) migrans*

A ubiquitous species; its forked tail was a familiar sight in many open country and city environments. All birds seen were of the resident Yellow-billed form.

NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite *M. aegyptius*, bizarrely however IOC does not accept this split.

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*

This species was encountered in various aquatic environs throughout the tour.

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

Birds (generally singles) were encountered fairly regularly during the tour.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

We encountered maximum numbers of this species in Kampala, where they form the “clean-up” squad along with Marabou Storks.

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

Generally the most common savanna vulture, we encountered this species in Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

**White-headed Vulture** *Aegypius occipitalis*

Three birds were recorded in Lake Mburo NP.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Aegypius tracheliotus*

An enormous bird (the biggest Afro-tropical vulture), we recorded it in Lake Mburo NP and QENP.

**Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*

We encountered three birds while in Lake Mburo NP.

**Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*

Seen in Lake Mburo NP and later in QENP.

**Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*

Great views were had of birds en route to Lake Mburo NP and later en route to Jinga from Masindi.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

A beautiful and widespread bird of savanna areas across Africa, we enjoyed great views in Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Two birds were seen en route from Lake Mburo to Buhoma.

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

Singles were encountered at scattered localities throughout the tour.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

A total of three birds were seen in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

We first encountered it in bushveld habitat at Lake Mburo NP.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*

This species was seen at Buhoma and later in Kibale NP.

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

**Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)** *Accipiter badius*

A total of two birds were seen on separate days in the vicinity of Masindi and Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: We recorded the northern Shikra *A. b. sphenurus* which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Shikra *A. b. polyzonoides*. These forms may also be split from the Asian nominate *A. b. badius* and other Asian forms. These splits are not widely recognised.

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

One bird was recorded in Lake Mburo NP.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

We saw a few scattered birds along roadsides during the tour. Its distinctive call was sometimes the give-away as to its presence!

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*

This handsome raptor was seen on a number of days in the highland areas in south-western Uganda.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

A savanna associated raptor, we recorded it at Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.

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

We encountered this species with most frequency in the latter half of the tour, where its "T-shaped" silhouette was a fairly regularly encountered.

**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii*

A lunch stop en route from Ruhija to QENP brought with it a superb view of an individual devouring an unlucky Speckled Mousebird.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

Africa's largest eagle, we saw a single bird en route from Murchison to Busingiro.

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

One of the more common eagles on the tour, we encountered this species relatively frequently at roadsides, its "punk-style" hair-do evident for everyone to see!

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We had superb views of an individual perched high in a rainforest tree in Mabira Forest.

### Bustards Otidae

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

A single bird was seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster*

Two birds were seen in Lake Mburo NP

### Flufftails Sarothruridae

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

We enjoyed superb views of a single bird at Bigodi Swamp. A stunning bird!

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

This secretive species was heard calling at Mubwindi Swamp.

### Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

**African Crake** *Crecopsis egregia*

A few birds were seen while we drove the wide roads through QENP.

**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra*

We recorded scattered birds at a few wetland localities throughout the tour.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

A single bird was seen in a wetland system in southern Uganda.

### Finfoots Heliornithidae

**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis*

Our Lake Mburo boat cruise allowed excellent views of this usually secretive species.

### Cranes Gruidae

**Grey Crowned Crane** *Balearica regulorum*

Uganda's national bird, we enjoyed a number of great views this species throughout the tour.

### Buttonquail Turnicidae

**Kurrichane Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus*

Heard at Lake Mburo (guide only).

**Thick-knees Burhinidae****Senegal Thick-knee***Burhinus senegalensis*

We recorded this species on the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP during our boat cruise.

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

Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

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

A few birds were seen in QENP, with our best views being at Lake Katwe.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avocetta*

This smart shorebird was recorded at Lake Katwe.

**Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae****Long-toed Lapwing***Vanellus crassirostris*

Seen at scattered wetlands during the tour (e.g. Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP).

**Spur-winged Lapwing***Vanellus spinosus*

A smart species (the northern counterpart of the Blacksmith Lapwing), we recorded birds at a few wetland areas during the tour.

**White-crowned Lapwing***Vanellus albiceps*

We saw two birds very well and at close quarters on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls during our boat cruise. It seems this species has recently started breeding here, but is the first time it has been recorded in Uganda on a Rockjumper tour!

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

First seen in Lake Mburo NP, with peak numbers seen in QENP.

**Crowned Lapwing***Vanellus coronatus*

Recorded in QENP.

**African Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus*

This large lapwing was first encountered at Lake Mburo NP.

**Brown-chested Lapwing***Vanellus superciliosus*

A single bird of this sought-after migrant was seen in Lake Mburo NP (interestingly, it is a trans-equatorial migrant, moving east-west through tropical Africa).

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

We recorded this species in QENP.

**Three-banded Plover***Charadrius tricollaris*

Also recorded in QENP.

**Jacanas Jacanidae****African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

Seen at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour.

**Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae****Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus*

A single bird was found on Lake Katwe, a great find indeed!

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

We saw 10 birds in QENP at Lake Katwe.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

Seen in QENP.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A single bird was seen on the Kazinga Channel.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Four birds were seen on Lake Katwe in QENP.

### Courasers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

**Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

Our best views of this species came during our Kazinga Channel boat cruise.

**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis*

This smart species was seen at Murchison Falls in good numbers.

### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

We recorded three birds on Lake Katwe.

**Grey-headed Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus*

Two birds were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

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

This species was seen in good numbers along the Kazinga Channel and Lake Katwe.

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

Good numbers of this species were recorded on the Kazinga Channel (birds looking patchy in their non-breeding dress).

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*

The skimmer roost along the Kazinga Channel provided us with superb views of this amazingly long-winged and elegant bird.

### Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

**Common Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Recorded in and around human settlements during the tour.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

Initially seen in Kampala, and then at a few small towns thereafter.

**Afep Pigeon** *Columba unicincta*

After a few lightning quick fly-bys in Kibale Forest, we had lovely views of three birds in Mabira Forest.

**African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*

A few birds were seen in the montane rainforest at Ruhija.

**Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*

Some had brief views of a bird at Buhoma. Their mournful call high in the canopy is often all that alerts one to their presence!

**Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*

This savanna species was seen in QENP and later in Murchison Falls NP.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

This species was seen almost daily, and must be one of the most common doves on the tour.

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

We saw this species in good numbers in savanna environs.

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

Seen in Murchison Falls NP, as well as the drier areas around Masindi. Best told from the previous species by its distinctive call.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

A few scattered birds were seen during the tour.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*

This species is restricted to the south and east of Uganda. We recorded it in Lake Mburo NP.

**Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*

Seen in Murchison Falls NP, where it was fairly common. Restricted to woodland in the north of Uganda.

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*

A fairly widespread wood dove Uganda, we recorded it at a number of localities throughout.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

Seen in forest and dense woodland, we recorded it at a number of locales starting with at Lake Mburo.

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calva*

A parrot-like pigeon, it was seen quite widely throughout the tour.

### Parrots and Allies Psittacidae

**Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius*

Seen at Lake Mburo NP by some.

**Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*

Our best views of this species was of 10 birds perched in a tree on our route from Entebbe to Lake Mburo NP. Further birds were seen near Kibale NP, and later near the Royal Mile and Mabira Forest.

**Meyer's (Brown) Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri*

We encountered this species first at Lake Mburo NP, where a number of individuals were seen. Not uncommon in woodland across Uganda.

### Turacos Musophagidae

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*

A spectacular species, it is pleasantly common in Uganda, and treated us to numerous good views.

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

We recorded this species Bwindi Impenetrable NP and later in Mabira Forest.

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

A stunning species (one of the best looking turacos!), it was well seen in Murchison Falls NP, and later near Masindi.

**Ross's Turaco** *Musophaga rossae*

Another stunner, we recorded it in Entebbe and Lake Mburo NP.

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

In Uganda, only found in the south of the county, where we obtained great views (quite common at Lake Mburo NP).

**Eastern (Grey) Plantain-eater** *Crinifer zonurus*

We saw this species all over Uganda, where its strange, raucous call was often a source of much amusement.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

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

This is a large wetland coucal, with our best views being in the papyrus lining the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Probably the most common coucal in Uganda, we recorded it fairly frequently during the tour.

*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.*

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*

This species favours rank grassland, the habitat that we saw it in QENP (We saw four birds here, with further views of a single in Murchison Falls NP).

**Green (Blue) Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares aereus*

This skulky forest species that's favours thickets was well seen in Budongo and Mabira forests.

*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. IOC and Clements do not as yet accept this split.*

**Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*

We recorded this species outside of Lake Mburo NP, with a later sighting in QENP.

**Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Seen in QENP, as well as later leaving Murchison Falls NP.

**Klaas' Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

A single male was seen on the first day of the tour, whereafter it was only heard.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Our best views of this species were at Kaniyo Pabidi, where we were treated to superb views of the gorgeous male and drab but still smart female.

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

This notorious skulker was heard in a number of forests, with a brief view coming at the Royal Mile.

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

Our best views of this species was of an accommodating individual that perched in the open along the Royal Mile, Budongo Forest.

### Typical Owls Strigidae

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*

A single was briefly seen in Lake Mburo NP. One of the smallest owls in Africa!

**Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*

We were very fortunate to obtain excellent views of a roosting individual on a roadside stop en route from Kibale NP to Masindi.

**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii*

This species was seen very well at our accommodations on the edge of Kibale Forest.

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

We got scope views of this species at Lake Mburo NP.

**Red-chested Owlet** *Glaucidium tephronotum*

Heard calling in Kibale Forest.

### Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae

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

This species was seen as it flew over our head while near Kibale NP.

**Ruwenzori Nightjar \*** *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*

Heard while at Ruhija.

**Swamp Nightjar** *Caprimulgus natalensis*

We heard this species while at Lake Mburo.

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

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

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii*

Heard at Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

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

An amazing bird, it was seen on a number of occasions during the trip. The males are quite phenomenal, and are a highlight of any tour!

**Swifts Apodidae****Scarce Swift***Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

Seen over the Buhoma portion of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Sabine's Spinetail***Rhaphidura sabini*

A very smart bird, we recorded eight birds over a clearing on the Royal Mile.

**Cassin's Spinetail***Neafrapus cassini*

Only found in two forests in East Africa (Mabira, and Budongo, where we saw it at the Royal Mile). A scarce species, of which we saw two specimens as they whizzed overhead.

**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen in good numbers in the latter half of the tour in the presence of palms (as the name suggests!).

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

**Alpine Swift***Tachymarptis melba*

Four were seen over Kibale Forest (guide only).

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

Good numbers were seen throughout the tour. A stocky swift with a broad white rump and square tail.

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

We also had good numbers of this species, which although superficially similar to Little Swift is slimmer, with a forked tail and smaller white rump.

**Mousebirds Coliidae****Speckled Mousebird***Colius striatus*

One of the commonest birds of the trip, with birds seen almost daily.

**Blue-naped Mousebird***Urocolius macrourus*

A more elegant and faster flying version of the previous bird, with birds sighted in Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP's.

**Trogons Trogonidae****Narina Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

A forest beauty, which we obtained excellent scope views of in Kaniyo Pabidi, with a later sighting at the Royal Mile.

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

Possibly a more beautiful version of the previous species, we saw this one in Buhoma and later near Mubwindi Swamp at Ruhija.

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

Birds were seen en route to and in Lake Mburo NP.

**Broad-billed Roller***Eurystomus glaucurus*

A noisy and aggressive species, good numbers were seen in moister woodland environments during the tour.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Chocolate-backed Kingfisher***Halcyon badia*

A brilliant bird, this rainforest inhabitant provided extended scope views at the Royal Mile.

**Grey-headed Kingfisher***Halcyon leucocephala*

First encountered in QENP, with a number of subsequent sightings in savanna type habitats.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

This noisy species was first encountered in Lake Mburo NP.

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

Two of this rainforest beauty were seen on the Royal Mile, allowing excellent views!

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

The nominate central African resident sub-species is very common in Uganda, and we had numerous good views of this one.

**African Dwarf Kingfisher***Ispidina lecontei*

Another rainforest inhabitant, we got superb views of a single on the Royal Mile.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher***Ispidina picta*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the country (as well as alongside the previous species at the Royal Mile).

**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

We saw this species alongside major waterbodies, beginning with Lake Mburo.

**Shining-blue Kingfisher***Alcedo quadibrachys*

This incredible species was seen near to Kibale NP. Our view was unfortunately quite brief, most likely because of constant human traffic past its favoured waterway.

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

A large kingfisher, which was seen on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

Enormous numbers of this species were seen on the tour! Probably the most common kingfisher species in the world.

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

An amazing bird, some had scope views of this species at Buhoma.

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

A number of birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater***Merops oreobates*

Found at fairly high altitudes, we got excellent views of this species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Red-throated Bee-eater***Merops bulocki*

We saw good numbers of this species in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Five birds were seen en route to Masindi from Kibale NP, with later sightings near Mabira Forest.

**Olive Bee-eater***Merops superciliosus*

This species was especially common in QENP, where we obtained numerous sightings!

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

Another beautiful bee-eater (!), we saw this species on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae****White-headed Woodhoopoe***Phoeniculus bollei*

An impressive bird, it was seen at Ruhija and later in Kibale NP.

**Green Woodhoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

Seen at a number of sites, beginning with great sightings in Lake Mburo NP.

**Common Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

We saw a single in Lake Mburo NP.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

#### **Crowned Hornbill**

*Tockus alboterminatus*

First encountered as we departed Entebbe, and then at scattered woodland sites thereafter.

#### **African Pied Hornbill**

*Tockus fasciatus*

We obtained excellent scope views of this species in Mabira Forest.

#### **African Grey Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

This savanna inhabitant was encountered in Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.

#### **White-thighed Hornbill**

*Bycanistes albotibialis*

We obtained a few great views of this species in Budongo Forest.

#### **Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill**

*Bycanistes subcylindricus*

Relatively common in Uganda, we enjoyed numerous great views of this species.

### Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

#### **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**

*Bucorvus abyssinicus*

This prehistoric looking bird was well seen on a number of occasions in Murchison Falls NP, with our first sighting being of a pair alongside the road near Kaniyo Pabidi.

### Barbets Ramphastidae

#### **Grey-throated Barbet**

*Gymnobucco bonapartei*

Possessing a "tufted nose", this species was first encountered in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

#### **Speckled Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

Seen at a number of forest sites beginning with Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

#### **Western Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We obtained superb views of this tough species while at Ruhija.

#### **Yellow-throated Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Possessing a more rapid call than the following species, it was seen in Kibale, Budongo and Mabira forests. Moustachial stripes are yellow, with a yellow throat and grey underparts.

#### **Yellow (Golden)-rumped Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

The most common forest tinkerbird in Uganda, with numerous sightings beginning with Buhoma. Although similar to the previous species, has white moustachial stripes and yellow washed underparts.

#### **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

We encountered this savanna Tinkerbird in Lake Mburo NP, with a later sighting in savanna near Masindi.

#### **Yellow-spotted Barbet**

*Buccanodon duchaillui*

This beautiful bird was seen at Buhoma and Mabira. Possesses a lovely purring call.

#### **Hairy-breasted Barbet**

*Tricholaema hirsuta*

Good views were had in Kibale NP.

*Note: We observed the race ansorgei. 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. IOC and Clements does not as yet accept this split (see Ryan and Sinclair 2003).*

#### **Spot-flanked Barbet**

*Tricholaema lacrymosa*

A savanna species, seen very well in Lake Mburo NP.

#### **White-headed Barbet**

*Lybius leucocephalus*

We obtained excellent views of this species near Masindi.

#### **Red-faced Barbet**

*Lybius rubrifacies*

This species is very range restricted, and in Uganda only occurs only in Lake Mburo NP, where we obtained excellent sightings.

**Black-billed Barbet***Lybius guifsobalito*

Similar in appearance to the previous species, we enjoyed very good sightings while in Murchison Falls NP.

**Double-toothed Barbet***Lybius bidentatus*

A spectacular bird, we first encountered it in Entebbe, with scattered sightings thereafter (including a strange, partially leucistic bird near Masindi).

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

Seen very well at the Royal Mile.

**Honeyguides Indicatoridae****Willcocks's Honeyguide***Indicator willcocksii*

We had an excellent view of this species on the Royal Mile.

**Least Honeyguide***Indicator exilis*

A single bird was heard calling in Mabira Forest.

**Thick-billed Honeyguide***Indicator conirostris*

This species was heard calling in a tall stand of *Cynometra* trees in Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

Great views were had at The Neck, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****Red-throated Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis*

Two birds were seen near Buhoma.

**Nubian Woodpecker***Campethera nubica*

This species was well seen near Masindi.

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker***Campethera nivosa*

Recorded at Buhoma and the Royal Mile.

**Brown-eared Woodpecker***Campethera caroli*

We saw two birds at the Royal Mile; a smart bird indeed!

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

This widespread African species was seen intermittently throughout the tour.

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

Very similar in appearance to the previous species (but differing in being a rainforest inhabitant), we enjoyed superb views in Budongo Forest.

**Elliot's Woodpecker***Dendropicos elliotii*

Excellent views were had of this species at Buhoma.

**African Grey Woodpecker***Dendropicos goertae*

Seen very well in Masindi and Jinja.

**Broadbills Eurylaimidae****Grauer's (African Green) Broadbill \*** *Pseudocalyptomena graueri*

A highly prized species, this Albertine Rift Endemic was seen in Mubwindi Swamp. A pair was seen, and obtained lovely scope views of the birds at their mossy ball of a nest. Ruhija is the only accessible place in the world to see this species, with the steep trek down to the bottom of Mubwindi Swamp being totally worth the effort!

**Wattle-eyes, Batises Platysteiridae****(African) Shrike-flycatcher***Megabias flammulatus*

Seen at Buhoma and Mabira. This large, forest flycatcher has a curious side-to-side tail wag, which often betrays its presence!

**Black-and-white (Shrike-) Flycatcher** *Bias musicus*

This interesting species was seen very well in Kibale NP.

NOTE: Also known as *Vanga Flycatcher*.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophyia castanea*

Seen at Buhoma and later at Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Jameson's Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophyia jamesoni*

A male was seen on the Royal Mile.

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

**Ruwenzori Batis** \* *Batis diops*

Possessing distinctive “stars” on the forecrown, we observed a few specimens in Ruhija.

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*

Seen at Lake Mburo NP, and later heard at Ruhija (a strange montane site!).

**Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor*

Very good views were had in and nearby Murchison Falls NP (including good views of a bird on the nest).

**Ituri Batis** *Batis ituriensis*

We got great scope views of this species at the Royal Mile. In East Africa, this uncommon bird is restricted to Budongo Forest (where we saw it, and Semliki Forest, on the DRC border in western Uganda).

**Brown-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira cyanea*

First seen in Murchison Falls NP, this species beautiful call was heard fairly frequently during the tour.

### Helmetshrikes and Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*

Around five birds were seen near to Masindi.

**Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*

A single of this large bushshrike was seen in thornveld near to Masindi.

**Lagden's Bushshrike** *Malaconotus lagdeni*

The rare forest version of the previous species, we were very lucky to get superb views of two birds while at Ruhija. Curiously, this highly sought-after species is found in the Albertine Rift in Central/East Africa, and only again in West Africa in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Liberia (a very disjunct population indeed!).

**Bocage's Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus bocagei*

We had very good views of this species at Buhoma.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

This species was only heard.

**Doherty's Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus dohertyi*

A single was excellently seen at Ruhija. A very striking bird indeed!

**Marsh Tchagra** *Tchagra minuta*

We had very good views of this species at QENP and later in Murchison Falls NP. This species has a preference for areas of rank grass.

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.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the country.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*

Seen at various savanna localities during the trip, with initial an initial sighting at QENP.

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

This uncommon forest shrike was seen at Buhoma.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

We encountered it in montane habitat (at Ruhija), as well as at Murchison Falls NP.

**Lowland Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

Seen by some at Mabira Forest (poor views unfortunately).

**Mountain Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius poensis*

Heard while at Ruhija.

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

This species was well seen while at Buhoma. Has a habit of keeping to thick tangles.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Widespread in Uganda, we encountered our first specimens at Lake Mburo NP.

**Papyrus Gonolek** *Laniarius mufumbiri*

A very skulky bird, this species was seen at Lake Mburo, and later en route to Masindi from Kibale NP.

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

Our best views of this species were at QENP, where this species sometimes perches conspicuously on *Euphorbia* stems. A commoner savanna equivalent of the previous species.

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

A single was seen in *Acacia* woodland at Lake Mburo NP, with another single seen later outside of Murchison Falls NP.

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

**Grey Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia*

We had a good sighting of this species at Ruhija.

**Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava*

A woodland and forest edge species, we first encountered it at Lake Mburo.

**Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga quiscalina*

Seen at Mabira Forest. The female showed quite well, but the male seemed to stay higher up in the towering trees, and we did not get as good a view of him.

### Shrikes Laniidae

**Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)** *Lanius mackinnoni*

This species was seen near to Ruhija. Found on forest edge in higher lying areas in the country.

**Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides*

Very common, and seen on most days.

**Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*

Seen on good number of days, but not as common as the previous species.

### Old World Orioles

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus*

Two of this glowing, bright yellow bird were seen near Masindi.

**Western Oriole** *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

First seen in Kibale Forest, with good views later at the Royal Mile.

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

We had good views of this species at Ruhija.

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

This species was seen at Lake Mburo NP. Found in savanna and woodland in Uganda.

**Drongos****Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

Recorded in savanna habitats throughout Uganda. Has a tendency to mob raptors.

**Monarch Flycatchers****White-bellied Crested Flycatcher***Elminia albiventris*

A single bird was seen at Buhoma.

**Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone rufiventer*

This smart bird was first encountered in Kibale Forest, and was later seen at Kaniyo Pabidi as well.

**African Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

This oft recorded flycatcher was seen in a variety of habitats in Uganda.

**Crows Corvidae****Piapiac***Ptilostomus afer*

This strange game and livestock associated corvid was seen in good numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

Commonly recorded on the tour.

**Tits Paridae****White-shouldered Black Tit***Melaniparus guineensis*

Seen near Murchison Falls NP. Possesses a pale eye, and is found in woodland in the northern part of Uganda.

**White-winged Black Tit***Melaniparus leucomelas*

We had good views of this species at Lake Mburo NP. Found in the south of Uganda, and has a dark iris (as opposed to the pale iris of the previous species).

**Dusky Tit***Melaniparus funereus*

A number of birds in a flock showed well near Mubwindi Swamp, with further birds seen in Budongo Forest later in the tour.

**Stripe-breasted Tit \****Melaniparus fasciiventer*

This good looking bird was fairly frequently encountered at Ruhija.

**Penduline Tits Remizidae****Grey (African) Penduline Tit***Anthoscopus caroli*

Seen by some at Lake Mburo NP.

**Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae****White-headed Saw-wing***Psalidoprocne albiceps*

This smart species was seen quite frequently throughout the country.

**Black Saw-wing***Psalidoprocne holomelas*

Fairly common in the more high lying areas, where it generally replaces the previous species.

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

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

A flock of around 20 birds were seen on the Kazinga.

**Banded Martin***Riparia cincta*

This species was seen over grassland on the Kasenyi Track

**Angola Swallow***Hirundo angolensis*

Quite a common species, and seen quite frequently in villages. Appears as a dirtier version of Barn Swallow, with an incomplete breast band.

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

A beautiful swallow, we had great views of it on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

First encountered on a lunch stop en route to Buhoma.

*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. Palaeartic birds would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsolete. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

Seen fairly regularly throughout the tour in savanna environs.

**Red-breasted Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*

First seen at Lake Mburo, we then encountered it in small numbers at savanna sites throughout the tour.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*

This large swallow was seen Lake Mburo NP, and later in QENP.

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

We encountered two birds en route to Buhoma from Lake Mburo NP. The black undertail coverts which make the vent appear “square” is distinctive.

### Larks Alaudidae

**White-tailed Lark** *Mirafra albicauda*

A single of this uncommon species was seen in QENP.

**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana*

Recorded in QENP.

**Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Fairly common in Uganda, we recorded a few individuals in savanna areas during the tour.

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*

Five birds were seen near QENP. For the most part, a scarce bird in Uganda.

### Cisticolas & Allies

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

Heard quite frequently (the “squeezy toy”) call is quite distinctive, we had our best views of it near Buhoma.

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*

We got a good view of a single near Buhoma.

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*

Three were seen near the Royal Mile, with this species pleasant call betraying its presence.

**Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami*

Often heard in dryer woodland areas, we had good views of this species at Lake Mburo NP.

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

Common around Bwindi Impenetrable NP. A noisy inhabitant of high lighting areas in Uganda.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola cheniana*

Three birds were seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes*

A wetland associated species, we saw this one on the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this widespread African species into five species. Winding Cisticola C. marginatus, which occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola C. haematocephalus 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. IOC ratifies these (however Clements does not as yet recognise these splits).

**Carruthers's Cisticola** *Cisticola carruthersi*

Three birds were seen in Mubwindi Swamp. Although normally found in papyrus habitat, this species is found in the high lying Mubwindi Swamp which is devoid of papyrus.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

A large cisticola, we encountered it at a number of savanna sites beginning with Lake Mburo NP.

**Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*

We saw this species in Murchison Falls NP.

**Foxy Cisticola** *Cisticola troglodytes*

This smart cisticola was seen en route to Busingiro section of Budongo Forest from Murchison Falls NP.

**Long-tailed (Tabora) Cisticola** *Cisticola angusticaudus*

We had a very good view of two birds in Lake Mburo NP. This species is very range restricted in Uganda, and is only found in the extreme south of the country in Lake Mburo NP.

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

We first encountered this species over grassland in QENP. The most widespread cisticola in the world.

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

Seen at scattered sites throughout the country after our initial encounters in Lake Mburo NP.

**Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*

We had good views of this species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

**White-chinned Prinia** *Schistolais leucopogon*

First seen near Buhoma, and then later in Kibale NP.

**Red-winged Warbler** *Heliolais erythropterus*

A single was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Quite good looking, we saw three birds in Murchison Falls NP. Quite range restricted in Uganda.

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

Seen in QENP and later near Masindi. Usually seen foraging in *Acacia* trees.

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

We had good views of this species at Ruhija.

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

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

Four birds were encountered in Lake Mburo NP.

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

**Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*

Two birds were seen in Kibale Forest. This species is strangely range restricted in Uganda.

**Mountain Masked Apalis \*** *Apalis personata*

This species was seen on a number of occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

A few birds were seen at Buhoma. A common forest edge species in Uganda.

**Chestnut-throated Apalis** *Apalis porphyrolaema*

We recorded a few birds at Ruhija. Its “ringing-telephone” call was a regular forest sound in the montane forests around Ruhija.

**Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*

Seen at Buhoma, Kibale and Budongo forests. A fairly common forest apalis in Uganda.

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

Two birds were seen at Buhoma.

**Grey-capped Warbler***Eminia lepida*

We had an excellent view of this smart species in Lake Mburo NP. More often heard than seen.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera***Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Quite a widespread bird in Uganda, we first recorded it on the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Yellow-browed Camaroptera***Camaroptera superciliaris*

A very smart Camaroptera (!), we had very good views of this one at the Royal Mile and Mabira Forest.

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

This skulky species was seen at Buhoma. We also encountered a strange, completely albino bird while walking the trail at Buhoma.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae****Dark-capped Bulbul***Pycnonotus tricolor*

Seen every day. Probably the most common bird of the trip.

*Note: A confusing genus, the birds we saw have been split from Common Bulbul P. barbatus which is found further north in Africa.*

**Kakamega Greenbul***Andropadus kakamegae*

Four birds were seen at Buhoma. Often seen as it works mossy stems and vines in small groups.

*NOTE: A recent split from Shelley's Greenbul A. masukuensis, which is restricted to the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania and northern Malawi. Kakamega Greenbul is restricted to the Albertine Rift and a few scattered forest sites in East Africa, and named after the forest in western Kenya from which it was described.*

**Olive-breasted (Mountain) Greenbul***Andropadus nigriceps*

Fairy common at Ruhija where it was quite conspicuous.

*NOTE: The Mountain Greenbuls have recently been split into a number of species scattered in higher altitude forest patches across Africa. The birds we saw are endemic to the Albertine Rift and central Kenya.*

**Little Greenbul***Andropadus virens*

A common forest greenbul (one of the most common), it was first encountered at Buhoma.

**Little Grey Greenbul***Andropadus gracilis*

We encountered this species at the Royal Mile and Mabira, where it was well seen.

**Ansorge's Greenbul***Andropadus ansorgei*

Three birds were seen at Buhoma. Generally lacks distinctive features (aside from the gingery flanks and vent, and distinctive call).

**Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul***Andropadus curvirostris*

A largish forest greenbul (with an indistinct, broken white eyering), it was seen at the Royal Mile.

**Slender-billed Greenbul***Andropadus gracilirostris*

Quite common in Uganda, we enjoyed a number of good views of this species. A bicoloured bird with a reddish eye, it often perches conspicuously on the outer edge of the canopy.

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul***Andropadus latirostris*

This species was best seen at Ruhija, but was heard frequently during the tour (probably one of the most frequently heard greenbul species, along with Little Greenbul).

**Honeyguide Greenbul***Baeopogon indicator*

We had very good scope views of this species at Bigodi Swamp. The pale iris and white outer tail feathers were very evident in the scope. Usually only reveals its presence through its beautiful call.

**Spotted Greenbul***Ixonotus guttatus*

Five birds were seen very well at the Royal Mile. Often flocks move very swiftly through the canopy (and called "Sprinting" greenbuls by some as a result).

**Joyful Greenbul***Chlorocichla laetissima*

Very good views of this species were had near Kibale Forest. A good looking bird!

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

Seen very well near Buhoma. This moist woodland inhabitant has a white (not yellow) throat in Uganda.

NOTE: Birds in Uganda belong to the subspecies *flavigula* (also known as *pallidigula*).

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

Recorded in Kibale, Kaniyo Pabidi and Mabira forests. Usually seen in small flocks.

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

A large, wing and tail flicking greenbul that was well seen at Buhoma as it foraged in small groups. The yellow streaking on the underside of the bird is virtually impossible to see!

**Red-tailed Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus*

This skulky species was only heard at Kaniyo Pabidi and the Royal Mile.

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

Fairly common in Uganda, we recorded it at Buhoma, the Royal Mile and Mabira Forest.

### Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

**Western Nicator** *Nicator chloris*

Very good views were had of this shy species in Mabira Forest.

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus mcallii*

We had very good views of this species in Budongo Forest. In East Africa, only found in Budongo Forest.

**African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*

This lively bird was first seen at our lunch stop en route from Kibale to Masindi.

**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda*

This montane equivalent of the previous species was well seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. Constantly fans its tail, exposing white outer tail feathers.

### Old World Warblers Sylviidae

**Fan-tailed Grassbird (Broad-tailed Warbler)** *Schoenicola brevirostris*

Heard in QENP.

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

We enjoyed amazing views of this species at Buhoma. The bird sat in the open, in a beam of sunlight and called, a beautiful bird that allowed for a mind-blowing sighting.

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

Heard in a reedbed while on our Nile boat cruise, Murchison Falls NP.

**Grauer's Swamp Warbler \*** *Bradypterus graueri*

We saw three of this ARE while at Mubwindi Swamp.

**White-winged Swamp Warbler** *Bradypterus carpalis*

A papyrus specialist, we recorded it in papyrus in Bigodi Swamp.

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

A single of this skulky species was seen at Ruhija.

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

This smart bird was well seen at Buhoma. Its "reversing truck" call was heard fairly frequently in Buhoma.

**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

We had very good views of this species in rank grassland in QENP.

**Greater Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

Heard in a papyrus bed in Lake Mburo NP.

**African Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

Seen at Lake Mburo NP.

**Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis*

One was seen in rank vegetation near Buhoma.

**Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis*

Two birds of this montane inhabitant were seen at Ruhija.

**Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans*

We had very good views of this species at Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*

This skulky bird was heard at the Royal Mile and Mabira Forest.

**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina*

Seen in Kibale Forest, where we first recorded it, and later at Kaniyo Pabidi and Busingiro. Its distinctive "HEE-lia!" call was frequently heard in forest patches throughout the country.

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

We enjoyed a number of good sightings of this species at Buhoma and Ruhija.

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

We had a very good views of this species at Ruhija. Their quiet purring call is very similar to that of Scaly-throated Honeyguide.

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*

Excellent views were had of birds at Busingiro and the Royal Mile.

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

Seen near to Murchison Falls NP.

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

This pale-faced bird was first encountered in Lake Mburo NP.

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*

This species was seen at Kaniyo Pabidi and Mabira Forest. A common forest crombec.

**Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti*

A single bird was well seen in the Busingiro section of Budongo Forest. In East Africa, this species is restricted to Budongo and Semliki Forests.

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

Very nice views were had of a single at Buhoma.

### Babblers Timaliidae

**Scaly-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis albipectus*

This skulky species was heard on a few occasions, but was not seen.

**Puvel's Illadopsis** *Illadopsis puveli*

We enjoyed great views of this species. In East Africa this species is restricted to Kaniyo Pabidi section of Budongo Forest.

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens*

Heard in Kibale Forest.

**Mountain Illadopsis** *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

A few birds were well seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Ruwenzori Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

Great views were had of two birds at Ruhija.

*NOTE: This is a recent split from African Hill Babbler I. abyssinica, and occurs in the Albertine Rift and Nigeria/Cameroon. Clements do not recognize this split.*

**Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei*

Common in Lake Mburo and QENP.

**Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus*

This species was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*

A fair number of birds were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**White-eyes Zosteropidae****African Yellow White-eye***Zosterops senegalensis*

We saw this species in a variety of woodland and forest environs throughout the tour.

**Starlings Sturnidae****Wattled Starling***Creatophora cinerea*

A few birds were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling***Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Recorded at Lake Mburo NP. This species is more or less restricted to the south of Uganda.

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling***Lamprotornis chloropterus*

This species is common in the northern savannas of Uganda, and we saw large numbers in Murchison Falls NP and around Masindi.

*NOTE: This species complex is widely treated as two distinct species, the nominate group which we recorded in Uganda, remains as Lesser Blue-eared Starling and the southern broad-leafed woodland form becomes Miombo Blue-eared Starling L. elisabeth. IOC recognises this split (but Clements does not).*

**Bronze-tailed Starling***Lamprotornis chalcurus*

Generally quite uncommon, this species allowed great scope views while in Murchison Falls NP.

**Splendid Starling***Lamprotornis splendidus*

Another stunning starling, it was seen at Lake Mburo NP.

**Rüppell's Starling***Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

Probably the most common starling in Uganda, we recorded it fairly regularly throughout the tour.

**Purple-headed Starling***Lamprotornis purpureiceps*

We saw this small forest starling at a few sites, beginning with in Kibale Forest.

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

An exquisite bird, which was seen in staggering numbers in the Ishasha sector of QENP.

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

A fairly large, long tailed forest starling, of which we saw around 20 birds while at Ruhija.

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

This species was seen at Mubwindi Swamp in decent numbers.

**Stuhlmann's Starling***Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

We recorded four of this forest starling while at Buhoma.

**Narrow-tailed Starling***Poeoptera lugubris*

This small, long tailed forest starling was well seen at Buhoma and later in Kibale Forest.

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

Good numbers were seen on game animals in the large savanna parks (Lake Mburo NP, QENP and Murchison Falls NP). Feeds almost exclusively on ticks present on game.

**Thrushes Turdidae****Red-tailed Rufous (Ant-) Thrush***Neocossyphus rufus*

A single was seen on the Royal Mile. Often a tough bird to see!

**White-tailed Rufous (Ant-) Thrush***Neocossyphus poensis*

This species produced great views in Kibale Forest, and seen earlier in Buhoma as well.

**Fraser's Rufous Thrush (Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush)***Stizorhina fraseri*

Seen in Buhoma and Kibale Forest. Its beautiful and distinctive whistle is a common sound in Ugandan forests.

**African Thrush***Turdus pelios*

We saw and heard this species quite regularly during the tour. Its sunrise song was a fairly common sound on the tour.

**Olive Thrush***Turdus olivaceus*

One was seen at Ruhija.

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

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

Heard at Kaniyo Pabidi. This species often follows ant swarms.

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

**Red-throated Alethe \****Alethe poliophrys*

We enjoyed lovely views of this species at Buhoma.

**Brown-chested Alethe***Alethe poliocephala*

Quite a shy bird, we got great views of a bird collecting food on the side of the road at Busingiro.

**Chats and Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae****White-starred Robin***Pogonocichla stellata*

Very good views were had of this smart Afromontane species while at Ruhija.

**Eastern Forest Robin***Stiphornis xanthogaster*

This beauty was seen by some at Busingiro, with great views at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: This widespread tropical genus has been split into four species (which IOC accepts), which are variably distributed from east across to west Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits. Interestingly, a new species, Olive-backed Forest Robin *Stiphornis pyrrholaemus* has been discovered in Gabon, bringing the *Stiphornis* genus to a total of five species.

**Equatorial Akalat***Sheppardia aequatorialis*

At least two birds were seen at Buhoma, offering excellent views.

**White-bellied Robin-Chat***Cossyphicula roberti*

A single was seen at Buhoma. Very similar to the previous species, but differs in having white lores and dark central tails feathers flanked by orange outer tail feathers.

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

We saw a single bird while at Mubwindi Swamp, Ruhija.

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

One was seen at Mabira.

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

Frequently heard, our best views were in QENP, where this species is very common.

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

A single dashing off the road provided only fleeting views.

**Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat***Cossypha niveicapilla*

We recorded this species en route to Buhoma from Lake Mburo NP.

**Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush***Cichladusa guttata*

Seen at Murchison Falls NP, where we got great views of this accomplished songster.

**Brown-backed Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas hartlaubi*

One bird provided very good views near Masindi.

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

A widespread bird of the African bushveld, we recorded it at Lake Mburo NP.

**African Stonechat***Saxicola torquatus*

Birds were first encountered upon leaving Lake Mburo NP.

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

**Sooty Chat***Myrmecocichla nigra*

This species was seen regularly in savanna areas throughout the country.

**White-fronted Black Chat***Myrmecocichla albifrons*

We were most fortunate to get superb views of two males in Murchison Falls NP.

**Mocking Cliff Chat***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Well seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.

**Fraser's Forest Flycatcher***Fraseria ocreata*

Four birds were seen at the Royal Mile. In East Africa, this species is restricted to western Ugandan rainforests.

**White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher***Dioptrornis fischeri*

Encountered frequently in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. Interestingly, the birds of the race *toruensis* which occurs here lacks a white eye-ring!

**Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher \****Melaenornis ardesiacus*

We got great scope views of this Albertine Rift Endemic at Buhoma. The iris is quite pale, and not really yellow at all!

**Northern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis edolioides*

First encountered around Entebbe, it was seen quite widely in Uganda thereafter (save for the extreme south).

**Southern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis pammelaina*

In Uganda restricted to the southern savannas, which are only found in Lake Mburo NP. Reasonably common here, it was well seen on a few occasions.

**Pale Flycatcher***Bradornis pallidus*

Seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Silverbird***Empidornis semipartitus*

This beautiful dry country species was well seen at Murchison Falls NP.

**Ashy Flycatcher***Muscicapa caerulescens*

One was seen in Budongo Forest.

**Swamp Flycatcher***Muscicapa aquatica*

A papyrus swamp specialist (usually!), it was easiest to see at Mweya Lodge, QENP, where the birds are ridiculously tame!

**Cassin's Flycatcher***Muscicapa cassini*

A stream associated flycatcher, we saw this species over a stream at The Neck and Kibale NP.

**Chapin's Flycatcher***Muscicapa lendu*

We were very fortunate to see two birds while at Buhoma. Quite range restricted, and with a small population, this species is regarded by the IUCN as Vulnerable.

**African Dusky Flycatcher***Muscicapa adusta*

A forest edge species, encountered it in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Mabira Forest.

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

This species was well seen at Buhoma and in Kibale NP.

**Sooty Flycatcher***Muscicapa infuscata*

Seen at Buhoma and in Kibale NP.

**Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus griseigularis*

Quite an attractive species, we saw this species at Buhoma and Mabira.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus plumbeus*

One was seen at Lake Mburo NP. The woodland version of the previous species.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

**Little Green Sunbird***Anthreptes seimundi*

A drab species, with a single seen in Kibale Forest.

**Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird***Anthreptes rectirostris*

First seen at Buhoma, this forest edge species was recorded at a number of forest patches thereafter.

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. This is not accepted by the IOC.

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*

Commonly recorded at forest patches throughout the country.

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*

Birds were encountered at a number of sites, beginning with a single seen in our hotel gardens in Entebbe. A good looking secondary growth and forest edge species.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

A large, noisy forest sunbird that usually inhabits the forest canopy. Seen at Buhoma and Kibale Forest.

**Blue-headed Sunbird \*** *Cyanomitra alinae*

An Albertine Rift endemic, of which a male was seen at Mubwindi Swamp, providing decent views.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*

First seen at Buhoma, this species was then seen (and more often heard) at a number of forest sites thereafter.

NOTE: The Olive Sunbird species complex was split into two full species by IOC and 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, resulting in IOC lumping these forms into a single species Olive Sunbird *C. olivacea*.

**Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*

Two birds were seen at Buhoma.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

A stunner, we saw this species en route from Lake Mburo to Buhoma, and then at Buhoma as well.

**Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*

Very common in highland areas, where we saw multiple birds.

**Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*

We encountered this forest edge species at Buhoma and Kaniyo Pabidi.

**Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi*

Great views were had of this species at Buhoma.

**Regal Sunbird \*** *Cinnyris regius*

What a stunning bird! This Albertine Rift endemic was excellently at Ruhija.

**Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchella*

Also an amazing bird, we got great views at and near Murchison Falls NP.

**Red-chested Sunbird** *Cinnyris erythrocerus*

Often encountered in association with wetlands, it was particularly common in the gardens at Mweya Lodge.

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*

A single was seen at Lake Mburo NP.

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*

Two birds were seen in Kibale Forest, with a further female in Busingiro section of Budongo Forest.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*

Another beautiful sunbird, we saw it quite frequently in the former half of the tour.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*

Seen in QENP, and then again around Masindi.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

**Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*

A smart bird, it was well seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Kenya Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus*

Six of birds were seen 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 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. IOC however, only accepts Great, Kenya and Socotra Sparrows as full species, and according to their classification the birds we recorded (Shelley's Rufous Sparrow) are treated as Kenya Sparrow.

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*

Very common, this species was seen almost daily.

### Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

**Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*

We were treated to very good views of this species on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Maximum numbers were in Kibale NP, where a few big flocks were seen. Has a monster bill!

**Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*

A fairly common weaver of moister environs, it was especially common in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*

Our best views of this species were of the tame birds on dinner tables at Mweya Lodge.

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*

Two birds were well seen on a walk near Murchison Falls.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

Often seen foraging in undergrowth, this species was seen in Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.

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

A forest edge inhabitant, we saw this species at Buhoma and the Royal Mile. The smart looking males and females are distinctly different!

**Strange Weaver \*** *Ploceus alienus*

This Albertine Rift endemic that was seen at Ruhija.

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

A really good looking and sought after species that excellently seen at Buhoma.

**African (Holub's) Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*

This large species was seen at Lake Mburo NP.

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

Seen at Lake Mburo NP (guide only).

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

We saw this species foraging in woodland at Lake Mburo NP.

**Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*

This species was seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*

Seen quite regularly throughout the tour, birds here belong to the distinctive *bohndorffi* subspecies.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is 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 IOC or Clements.

**Vieillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*

We recorded this species almost daily.

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

**Weyns' Weaver** *Ploceus weynsi*

This nomadic forest species was seen in Mabira Forest (around 12 seen).

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

Birds we seen in good numbers in the latter half of the tour (birds being particularly tame at Mweya Lodge).

**Compact Weaver** *Pachyphantes superciliosus*

Seen in QENP and near the Royal Mile. A species usually associated with rank, grassy environs.

**Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*

A good looking species, with two seen at Buhoma.

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

We saw this species at Buhoma and Kibale Forest.

**Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*

An excellent view was had of this species at the Royal Mile. A lovely bird indeed!

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

A bird of bushveld, we recorded it at Lake Mburo NP. Birds here belong to the race *leuconotus*, the males of which have a black face mask which contrasts with the vivid red head and breast.

**Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*

This species was seen at Murchison Falls NP in large flocks, with scattered birds seen near the Royal Mile.

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

This, the most abundant bird on earth was seen in maximum numbers at Murchison Falls NP.

**Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii*

A single bird provided good views near Kibale NP.

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

Recorded in Murchison Falls NP.

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*

Seen in QENP.

**Northern Red Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*

This species replaces the previous one in northern grasslands, and was well seen in Murchison Falls NP.

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

A single bird was seen near Buhoma.

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

Birds were seen in sugarcane near Jinja.

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

A smart euplect, we saw this one around Masindi, and in Murchison Falls NP.

**Marsh Widowbird** *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We got great views of this species near Masindi and at Luwero Swamp.

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

Birds were seen in rank vegetation near Masindi. The race *concolor* (which we saw) lacks the red collar!

### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

**White-breasted Negrita** *Nigrita fusconotus*

First seen at Buhoma, it also seen in Kibale and Mabira forests. Its descending call was heard in a number of forests throughout the tour.

**Grey-headed Negrita** *Nigrita canicapillus*

Seen at Buhoma, and later in Budongo Forest.

**Dusky Crimsonwing \*** *Cryptospiza jacksoni*

A stunning Albertine Rift Endemic, two birds were seen near Mubwindi Swamp.

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

We had good views of this species at the Royal Mile.

- 
- Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*  
This beauty was seen near the Royal Mile.
- Dusky Twinspot** *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*  
Two birds were seen near Ruhija (guide only).
- Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*  
We got great views of this species near the Royal Mile.
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*  
A common bird in savanna areas.
- African (Blue-billed) Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*  
Three birds were seen near Buhoma.
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*  
This attractive species was seen in Lake Mburo and Murchison Falls NP's.
- Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Estrilda quartinia*  
Recorded en route from Buhoma to Ruhija.
- Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola*  
Seen well in QENP and later near Budongo Forest.  
*NOTE: The Ethiopian near-endemic E. p. ochrogaster is sometimes recognized as a distinct species, Abyssinian Waxbill.*
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*  
This species was seen at a number of sites throughout the tour.
- Black-crowned Waxbill** *Estrilda nonnula*  
Seen at Buhoma and Mabira Forest.
- Black-headed Waxbill** *Estrilda atricapilla*  
Two birds were seen at Ruhija.  
*NOTE: The birds we saw belong the graueri race restricted to east-central Africa, and sometimes known as Kandt's Waxbill.*
- Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotus*  
A dry country bird, we saw it at Lake Mburo NP.
- African Quail-Finch** *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*  
Five birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*  
This common species was seen quite regularly throughout the tour.
- Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*  
We found this species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and near Mabira Forest.
- Magpie Mannikin** *Lonchura fringilloides*  
While at Mabira, two birds whizzed away from us, providing poor views.

### Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*  
Males were quite conspicuous in some of the smaller towns we travelled through. This species parasitizes the Red-billed Firefinch.
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*  
This small but aggressive bird was seen at scattered sites throughout the tour. Parasitizes the Common Waxbill).

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

#### **Cape Wagtail**

*Motacilla capensis*

We recorded this species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, where it was quite common.

#### **Mountain Wagtail**

*Motacilla clara*

A single was seen as it flew overhead in Kibale NP.

#### **African Pied Wagtail**

*Motacilla aguimp*

Seen almost daily.

#### **Yellow-throated Longclaw**

*Macronyx croceus*

It was seen at a few scattered grassland sites throughout the tour.

#### **African Pipit**

*Anthus cinnamomeus*

Our best views were in QENP. Often the “default” pipit across many areas in Africa.

*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.*

#### **Plain-backed Pipit**

*Anthus leucophrys*

Seen well in Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's

*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. IOC and Clements do not recognise this split.*

### Finches Fringillidae

#### **Yellow-crowned Canary**

*Serinus flavivertex*

Five were seen near Ruhija, treating us to good looks.

*NOTE: This species complex has been split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary Serinus canicollis and the form which we recorded in Uganda becomes Yellow-crowned Canary S. flavivertex. IOC and Clements both recognize this split.*

#### **Western Citril**

*Crithagra frontalis*

Recorded near Buhoma.

*NOTE: This complex is now split into three distinct species, the eastern Southern Citril C. hyposticta, the western Western Citril C. frontalis (which is the form occurring in Uganda) and the nominate African Citril C. citrinelloides. IOC and Clements do recognize these splits.*

#### **Black-throated Canary**

*Crithagra atrogularis*

Generally uncommon, this canary was seen near Buhoma.

#### **Yellow-fronted Canary**

*Crithagra mozambica*

Seen at scattered sites throughout Uganda. A widespread African species.

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

*Crithagra sulphurata*

A large canary, it was seen near Buhoma, and later at Mweya Lodge.

#### **Streaky Seedeater**

*Crithagra striolata*

We got good views of this species at Ruhija.

#### **Thick-billed Seedeater**

*Crithagra burtoni*

Good views were had of this highland species in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

### Buntings Emberizidae

#### **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza tahapisi*

Two birds were well seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.

#### **Golden-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza flaviventris*

We recorded this species at a few localities, the first being en route from Lake Mburo NP to Buhoma. Not as common in Uganda as it is in southern Africa.

#### **Cabanis's Bunting**

*Emberiza cabanisi*

A single provided excellent views in Murchison Falls NP as it sang.

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

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

### **Total species recorded: 44**

#### **Apes Hominidae**

##### **Chimpanzee**

*Pan troglodytes*

These amazing creatures were seen exceptionally well in Kibale Forest. Arriving at a towering *Ficus mucoso*, we managed to spot a few lofty individuals, before they were joined by other chimps that came strolling through the forest, providing brilliant views!

##### **(Mountain) Gorilla**

*Gorilla gorilla*

We were assigned the ‘H’ (for hard!) group, which entailed an arduous trek into the depths of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest starting near The Neck. The difficult walk was totally worth it, and made us savour our hour we spent with them even more. Close ups of adult females, youngsters and finally the massive silverback (of which there are two in this group)

#### **Colobid Monkeys Colobidae**

##### **Central African Red Colobus**

*Piliocolobus oustaleti*

This leaf feeding species is quite common in Kibale Forest, allowing us a number of good views during our time in the forest. This forest is this species stronghold in East Africa, and despite the supposed large off-take by chimps each year, the population seems to be doing well.

##### **Guereza Colobus**

*Colobus guereza*

A stunning monkey, it was seen at scattered sites in Uganda (from roadsides to forest reserves). The distinctive pied appearance of this species add an interesting

#### **Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae**

##### **Olive (Anubis) Baboon**

*Papio anubis*

Common in Uganda, with maximum numbers in QENP.

##### **Grey-cheeked Mangabey**

*Lophocebus albigena*

We saw this monkey in Kibale and Mabira forests.

##### **Vervet Monkey**

*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

Widespread in Uganda (as in many other areas of Africa), we saw this species on a number of days on the tour. Is able to live comfortably in suburban or wild situations.

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

*Cercopithecus lhoesti*

For the most part a terrestrial species (ascending trees to escape danger or feed), we saw this handsome monkey very well in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

*Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni*

Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable, Kibale and Budongo forests. Often quite vocal, producing a loud, unmistakable call.

##### **Red-tailed Monkey**

*Cercopithecus ascanius*

This colourful species was seen in Kibale, Budongo and Mabira Forests.

#### **Lorisids Loridae**

##### **Demidoff's Galago**

*Galago demidoff*

A tiny nocturnal rainforest inhabitant, a night drive in Kibale Forest produced sightings of three individuals.

### Flying-Foxes Pteropidae

#### **Straw-coloured Fruit Bat**

*Eidolon helvum*

En route to Buhoma from Lake Mburo we encountered a roost which contained a large number of individuals. Later, we saw huge numbers of fruit bats in Jinja.

### Large-Winged Bats Megadermatidae

#### **Yellow-winged Bat**

*Lavia frons*

This smart bat was commonly encountered in savanna parks (Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's) as well as near Masindi.

### Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

#### **Uganda Grass-Hare**

*Poelagus marjorita*

Seen on night drives in Murchison Falls NP.

### Squirrels Sciuridae

#### **Striped Ground Squirrel**

*Xerus erythropus*

Two were seen near to Masindi. Quite a large squirrel.

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

*Funisciurus carruthersi*

Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

#### **Boehm's Squirrel**

*Paraxerus boehmi*

Quite a "cute" squirrel, we encountered this delightful species in Bwindi Impenetrable, Budongo and Mabira forests.

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

*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

We had a very good view of this species while in Kibale Forest.

### Dogs and Allies Canidae

#### **Side-striped Jackal**

*Canis adustus*

One dashed across the road while travelling to Masindi from Busingiro.

### Mongoose Herpestidae

#### **Ichneumon (Egyptian) Mongoose**

*Herpestes ichneumon*

Two were seen as they crossed the road near to Kibale NP. A big mongoose, also known as Large Grey Mongoose further south.

#### **Dwarf Mongoose**

*Helogale parvula*

An appropriately named mongoose, these delightful creatures were seen at Lake Mburo NP.

#### **Banded Mongoose**

*Mungos mungo*

This social mongoose was seen in Lake Mburo, QENP and Murchison Falls NP.

### Hyaenas Hyaenidae

#### **Spotted Hyaena**

*Crocuta crocuta*

Two of these disposal agents of the African bush (and accomplished hunters in some areas too) were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**Cats Felidae****Leopard***Panthera pardus*

Some sharp spotting produced a superb sighting of this of this amazing cat while in Lake Mburo NP. The leopard behaved very well, and allowed us all extended views as it sat off the side of the road and surveyed its surrounds as dusk moved quickly in. One of the mammalian highlights of the tour.

**Giant Elephant Shrews Rhynchocyoninae****Chequered Elephant Shrew***Rhynchocyon cirnei stuhlmanni*

We were very lucky to see this amazing creature! A single was seen late in the afternoon at the Royal Mile, providing great views! Definitely one of the mammals of the trip.

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

The worlds largest land animal was seen in good numbers in QENP and Murchison Falls NP, our boat cruise allowing us detailed views of animals along the near banks.

**Horses Equidae****Common (Burchell's) Zebra***Equus quagga*

This species was seen at Lake Mburo. In Uganda, this species is only found in Lake Mburo NP, which represents the only area of "southern" savanna in this equatorial country.

**Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae****Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibius*

These huge, semi-aquatic beats was commonly seen in large water bodies in the large savanna game parks (Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls NP).

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

An amazing pig (the worlds largest!), we were very lucky to see two in thick *Euphorbia* scrub in Queen Elizabeth NP. Another mammalian highlight!

**Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

Recorded quite frequently in savanna parks throughout the country.

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

This species was well seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP. We recorded the distinctive Rothschild's form, which, if some recent taxonomy is to be believed, may be split into a separate species! Based on coat pattern and range differences, as well as genetic work, the one species of giraffe currently accepted may be split into six distinct species!

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae****African Buffalo***Syncerus caffer*

A number of good sightings of this species were had in the large savanna parks, with highlights being the large numbers of animals lazing in the waters of the Kazinga Channel and the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the tour, this shy species was first recorded Lake Mburo NP.

**Eland** *Taurotragus oryx*

A huge herd of these massive antelope (the world's largest) was seen at Lake Mburo NP.

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

This species was seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Blue Duiker** *Cephalophus monticola*

We saw two of this tiny antelope at the Royal Mile. Their average weight in around 4 kilograms!

*Note: The name duiker is derived from Afrikaans, and means "diver", a reference to these antelopes habit of dashing and diving into thick cover when disturbed.*

**Oribi** *Ourebia ourebi*

Large numbers of this species were seen on the north bank of the Nile, with astounding concentrations on the airstrip present here, the animals able to hop through the fence and graze on the green airstrip in relatively safely!

**Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca*

Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**Uganda Kob** *Kobus kob thomasi*

We recorded this species in QENP and Murchison Falls NP. This water dependant species is very handsome, and we were treated to excellent close up views as they stood on their leks.

**Defassa Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

The larger cousin of the previous species, we saw it in good numbers in the large, savanna reserves we visited.

**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus*

In Uganda, this species is restricted to the "southern" savannas, and as such was only seen in Lake Mburo NP. These impala here are much longer horned than animals in southern Africa.

**Topi** *Damaliscus lunatus*

We recorded this species in Lake Mburo NP. Incidentally, this is one of Africa's swiftest antelope.

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

A few were seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

## **Annotated List of Reptiles and Amphibians recorded**

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the Pocket guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of East Africa (2006) by S. Sprawls, K. Howell and R. Drewes.

### **Skinks Scincidae**

**Striped Skink** *Mabuya striata*

A single was seen near Lake Mburo NP.

### **Agamas Agamidae**

**Red-headed Rock Agama** *Agama agama*

A very smart lizard, we saw this species near Murchison Falls NP.

**Finch's Agama** *Agama finchi*

This recently described and colourful species was seen at Murchison Falls as they scurried over the rocks.

**Blue-headed Tree Agama** *Acanthocercus atricollis*

We saw this species near The Neck, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

### **Monitors Varanidae**

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**Nile/Water Monitor (Leguaan)**

*Varanus niloticus*

This species was seen on the Kazinga Channel in QENP and on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Crocodiles Crocodylidae**

**Nile Crocodile**

*Crocodylus niloticus*

Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**African Tree Frogs Hyperoliidae**

**Kivu Reed Frog**

*Hyperolius kivuensis*

A smart frog found on a tent in Kibale NP was thought to belong to this species.

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