



Our cover star is Uganda's only endemic bird – the little-known Fox's Weaver. It took a long journey to the east of the country near Lake Opeta to see this rare bird but the views we managed ensured that the journey was worth it (Nik Borrow)

CLASSIC UGANDA

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LEADER: NIK BORROW

Uganda is famously quoted as being the 'Pearl of Africa' and although neither Henry Morton Stanley nor Winston Churchill had birders and ecotourists in mind when they awarded the country this title, it is most certainly an appropriate one! Uganda is surely an essential destination for any world-travelling birdwatcher as it is home to the incredible Shoebill, a good number of Albertine Rift endemics and is also an excellent place to see a few otherwise difficult western African forest species. A visit to this friendly and welcoming country also offers a great mammal-watching experience including primates in particular with Eastern Gorilla and Chimpanzee obviously at the top of the list! It is not often that the mammals get a mention before the birds, but on this occasion, it is apt, as our encounters with the incredible Eastern 'Mountain' Gorillas of

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park were truly unforgettable! The incomparable Shoebill was a worthy rival and fortunately surrendered to our collective gaze on day one when we were also lucky to find Lesser Jacana.



Arguably the bird of the trip; the unique and totally bizarre Shoebill...It was a privilege to watch this massive bird at exceedingly close quarters on our first day at Mabamba Swamp! (Nik Borrow)

In the afternoon we drove to Mabira Forest for a brief look before returning the following morning. Here we enjoyed amazing views of a party of Nahan's Partridge, glimpsed skulking Yellow-eyed Bristlebills and were introduced to a variety of lowland forest species. Heading north we took in the *mongalla* subspecies of Red-pate Cisticola before arriving at Soroti which was our base for an excursion towards Lake Opeta to see Uganda's only endemic the hulking Fox's Weaver. This once elusive species has now been 'staked out' and is much more reliable than previously thought when genuine sightings were few and far between. A long drive took us to the northwest of the country where we visited the impressive Murchison Falls and saw our first big game that include handsome Rothschild's Giraffes and a sleepy Leopard. Of the avian specialities we scored with Dusky Babbler as well as Heuglin's Spurfowl in the savannahs, sought out Puvel's Illadopsis in the dark woodlands at Kaniyo Pabidi and found the tiny, brightly coloured Foxy Cisticola on the Butiaba escarpment. A day on the Royal Mile of Budongo Forest produced the diminutive Ituri Batis in the tops of the tall trees. Brightly coloured Papyrus Gonoleks and skulking White-winged Swamp Warbler allowed views en route to Kibale National Park where we obtained marvellous views of two juvenile Green-breasted Pittas with at least one adult which we were privileged to be able to follow through the forest as they foraged just metres ahead of us. The Chimpanzees put on a really fine show for us and then it was onto Queen Elizabeth National Park where the desirable Giant Forest Hog put in a grand appearance and despite being so dry African Crake was seen as well as both buttonquails in the bush whilst the fantastic boat trip along the Kazinga Channel produced a large flock of African Skimmers. In the wonderfully named Bwindi Impenetrable Forest we spent a magical hour with a family of Eastern Gorillas and scored enormously with excellent views of the speedy little Neumann's Warbler and a pair of the little-known and decidedly rare Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill feeding their fledged youngsters. These steep hills and beautiful forests also held a whole host of Albertine Rift endemic specialities that included Regal and Purple-breasted Sunbirds as well as

Handsome Spurfowl, Rwenzori Batis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Grauer's Warbler, Grauer's Swamp Warbler, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Rwenzori Apalis, Mountain Masked Apalis, Red-throated Alethe, Archer's Ground Robin, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Willard's Sooty Boubou, Blue-headed Sunbird and Strange Weaver. Near Lake Bunyonyi we found the rare Papyrus Yellow Warbler and a visit to Mgahinga National Park produced the expected Rwenzori Turaco and Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird. We finished our African adventure with a splendid flock of Brown-chested Lapwings at Lake Mburo along with Red-faced Barbet apparently teamed up with Black-collared Barbet. The boat trip on the lake was a lovely gentle way to end the tour with close views of African Finfoot and White-backed Night Heron. Amongst the many other mouth-watering specialities that we encountered were Black-shouldered and Montane (Ruwenzori) Nightjars, Black-billed Turaco, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Red-chested Flufftail (heard only), Dwarf Bittern, 'Congo' African Pied Hornbill, White-thighed Hornbill, Grey-throated and 'Eastern' Yellow-billed Barbets, Dwarf, Willcocks's and Least Honeyguides, Speckle-breasted and Elliot's Woodpeckers, Jameson's Wattle-eye, Lagden's Bushshrike (heard only), Doherty's Bushshrike, Albertine Sooty Boubou, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Mountain Oriole, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, White-tailed Lark, Joyful Greenbul (heard only), Olive-breasted and White-throated Greenbuls, White-headed Saw-wing, White-browed Crombec, Uganda Woodland Warbler (heard only), Mountain Yellow Warbler, Highland Rush Warbler, Trilling, Chubb's and Carruthers's Cisticolas, Black-faced Prinia, Red-winged Grey Warbler, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Grey-capped Warbler, Rwenzori Hill Babbler, Green White-eye, Scaly-breasted and Mountain Illadopsises, Black-lored Babbler, Grey-chested Babbler, Stuhlmann's and Sharpe's Starlings, Silverbird, Chapin's Flycatcher, White-bellied, Grey-winged and Blue-shouldered Robin-Chats, 'Eastern' Forest Robin, Equatorial Akalat, Grey-headed and Red-chested Sunbirds, Shelley's Sparrow, Dusky Crimsonwing, Kandt's Waxbill, Quailfinch, Red-headed Bluebill, Dusky and Brown Twinspots and Western Citril.



Arguably the mammal of the trip! The silverback Mountain or Eastern Gorilla. (Nik Borrow)

Our action-packed journey around Uganda began in Entebbe and before dawn we set off for Mabamba Swamp to search for the species, which for many of us was to be the 'ultimate' bird of the tour – the enormous and totally unique Shoebill. The 90 minutes journey to the landing stage was uneventful and as the sun began to rise in the sky, we soon found ourselves on the water in two small, motorised wooden

pirogues. We had to search a little for the Shoebill and came across Lesser Jacana before the huge Shoebill itself but once located our encounter was close and intimate! As we wended our way around the creeks of the extensive swamps surrounding Lake Victoria our boats flushed jewel-like Malachite Kingfishers that darted from the reeds whilst chequered Pied Kingfishers hovered overhead. The handsome Long-toed Lapwings were much in evidence as were vociferous African Fish Eagles, White-faced Whistling Duck and numerous Yellow-billed Ducks. African Jacanas, Black Crake and even an African Swamphen were spotted and sightings of at least three Rufous-bellied Herons were most welcomed. A few African Marsh Harriers sailed past, Blue-headed Coucals and Blue-breasted Bee-eaters perched atop the dense swampland vegetation and our boats even flushed a Black Coucal. We also noted Grey-headed Gull, Reed Cormorant, Hadada Ibis, Squacco Heron, Western Cattle Egret, Purple Heron, Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Marsh Tchagra, Greater Swamp Warbler, Winding Cisticola, Swamp Flycatcher, Slender-billed, Northern Brown-throated, and Black-headed Weavers, Fan-tailed Widowbird,



Blue-breasted Bee-eater (left) and Splendid Starling (right) were just two of the colourful species during our morning at Mabamba Swamp. (Nik Borrow)

Some areas of remnant grassland and scrub round the shores of the lake still survive amongst the ever-expanding cultivated areas and during our brief time here we also notched up African Palm Swift, Eastern Plantain-eater, Red-eyed Dove, Black-winged Kite, African Harrier Hawk, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Lizard Buzzard, Speckled Mousebird, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Red-headed Lovebird, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Pied Crow, Dark-capped Bulbul, White-headed Saw-wing, Grey-rumped, Barn, Angolan and Lesser Striped Swallows, Red-faced and Croaking Cisticolas, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Splendid Starling, Scarlet-chested and Red-chested Sunbirds, Village, Vieillot's Black and Golden-backed Weavers, Bronze Mannikin, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Red-billed Firefinch, Pin-tailed Whydah and Western Citril.

Time was as limited as we only had the morning at Mabamba and we were hoping to reach Mabira Forest, our next destination for some late afternoon birding so we set off for a rather tedious journey that skirted the heavy traffic of Kampala picking up a few species along the way that included Great Blue and Ross's Turacos, African Openbill, Marabou Stork, Grey and Black-headed Herons, Wahlberg's Eagle, Woodland Kingfisher, Grey-backed Fiscal, Rüppell's Starling, Sooty Chat, Northern Grey-headed and House Sparrows and African Pied Wagtail.

By the time we reached Mabira the shadowy afternoon had made the forest quiet but we managed to glimpse the desirable Yellow-eyed Greenbul as well as Common Swift, Tambourine Dove, African Blue Flycatcher, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, Olive-green Camaroptera, Green White-eye, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Olive, Green-throated and Olive-bellied Sunbirds and Baglafaecht Weaver. We continued to the town of Jinja that overlooks the source of the Nile and planned to return the following morning.

There is not much to recommend the town of Jinja (although at dawn the next day we did see a Bat Hawk hunting around our hotel!) but it is in easy reach of the sadly rather degraded remnants of Mabira Forest. It was only a short time ago that this extension of the Budongo Forests was seriously threatened by a proposed government-backed expansion of the sterile sugar cane plantations that surround it. A fierce protest followed in which several people died but it has saved this leafy haven at least for the time being. The cool forest therefore continues to provide a refuge for a number of interesting species and during our productive time here we managed to find some very special birds. The star of the morning was undoubtedly the group of four delightful Nahan's Partridge that were coaxed into view and trotted across our path and then back again for a repeat viewing.

With limited time in the forest we found what we could and our haul included Blue Malkoha, Afep Pigeon, White-spotted Flufftail, 'Congo' African Pied Hornbill, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Buff-spotted, Brown-eared and Yellow-crested Woodpeckers, Grey Parrot, Chestnut Wattle-eye, African Shrike-flycatcher, Western Oriole, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Western Nicator, Slender-billed, Honeyguide, Little and Little Grey Greenbuls, Grey Longbill, Buff-throated Apalis, Purple-headed Starling, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, 'Eastern' Forest Robin, Collared and Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds, Black-necked Weaver, Red-headed Malimbe and White-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas. We then found ourselves on the road once again.



Red-pate Cisticola of the subspecies mongalla seen well by the roadside en route to Soroti. (Nik Borrow)

The long drive took us northeastwards to the distant town of Soroti taking in a rather southerly singing Red-pate Cisticola en route and some gorgeous Abyssinian Rollers in Soroti town. Our main reason for visiting

this once dangerous region which had been out of bounds for so long was for a chance to see Uganda's only endemic bird, the little-known Fox's Weaver. Mysteriously there had been no published breeding records since 1996 when 47 nests were counted. We had managed to see the species in 2011 and 2012 in the Lake Bisina area but no nests were found and then only a few years ago a colony was discovered a little bit further east near Lake Opeta and suddenly what had been a true enigma of a bird was finally nailed down and accessible. We therefore followed in the footsteps of the Birdquest 2021 tour and during our visit managed to see at least four males and a single female at their nests which were not as once thought to be out on the lake itself but in the seasonally inundated grasslands that are dotted with whistling thorn. These strange trees that form a symbiotic relationship with an ant were also home to the localised Karamoja Apalis which we also managed to see as well as observing a male Fox's Weaver feeding on the ants themselves! Whilst birding in the area we also saw a Clapperton's Spurfowl in the early morning calling loudly from its overnight roost, a Dwarf Bittern was seen in flight and an African Rail was coaxed into view. Other species included Diederik Cuckoo, Vinaceous Dove, Black-billed Wood Dove, Namaqua Dove, African Green Pigeon, Gabar Goshawk, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Lesser and Greater Honeyguides, Nubian Woodpecker, Meyer's Parrot, Highland Rush Warbler, Silverbird, Beautiful Sunbird, Shelley's Sparrow, White-billed Buffalo Weaver, Little and Holub's Golden Weavers, Cardinal and Red-billed Queleas, Black-winged Red and Northern Red Bishops, Black-rumped Waxbill, Eastern Paradise Whydah and Yellow-throated Longclaw. The afternoon was spent driving westwards across the country to Masindi for an overnight stay.



White-throated Greenbul (left) and Puvel's Illadopsis (right) in the dark forests at Kaniyo Pabidi. (Nik Borrow)

From Masindi we headed into Murchison Falls National Park and made a prolonged stop in the forest at Kaniyo Pabidi where the main target was Puvel's Illadopsis. Despite the birds being very silent we managed to find a pair and followed them as they foraged on the forest floor. We then explored the network of trails that lead into the superb rainforest with its magnificent mahogany and ironwood trees, which we all admired. The often-skulking White-throated Greenbul also showed well here and a pair of Crowned Eagle displayed high overhead, whilst other species included African Emerald Cuckoo, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Green Crombec, Yellow Longbill, Red-tailed Ant Thrush and Grey-headed Sunbird.

After lunch we continued on through the park managing to evade the biting jaws of fearsome Tsetse flies as they weren't particularly bad this year. A visit to the top of Murchison Falls produced the expected Rock Pratincoles and spectacular White-crested Turacos. We also tracked down a pair of excitable Red-winged Grey Warblers whilst other species picked up during the day included White-rumped Swift, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Black-billed and Double-toothed Barbets, Black-crowned Tchagra, Red-breasted Swallow, Red-faced and Singing Cisticolas, Spotted Palm Thrush, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Spectacled Weaver, Black-bellied Firefinch, Village Indigobird and Yellow-fronted Canary.

Our accommodation for two nights was at the well situated Paraa Lodge below the falls and overlooking the Nile.



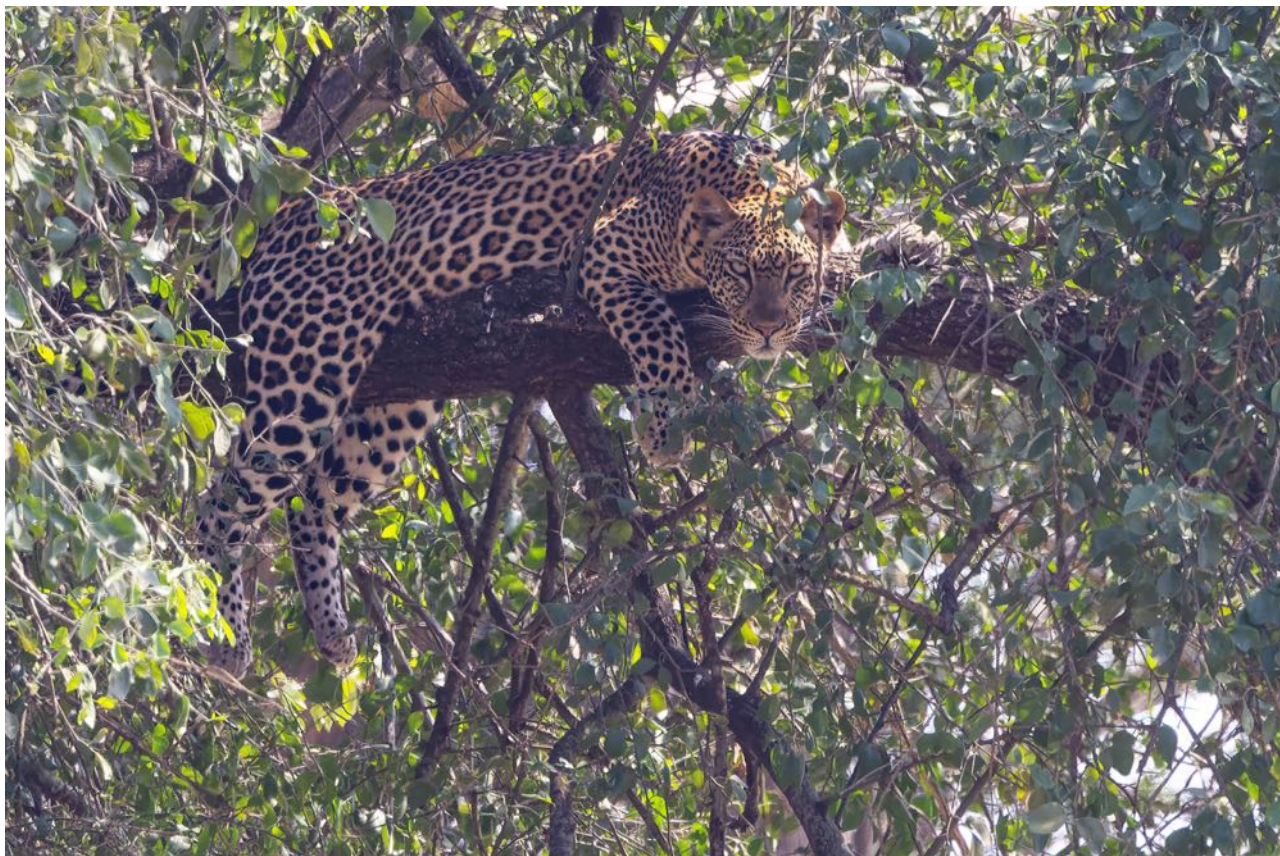
Rock Pratincoles (left) were guarding their newly hatched chicks at the top of the falls. Hippopotamuses (right) are a major feature of the Ugandan waterways! (Nik Borrow)

The next morning, we took a trip by small boat downstream along the Nile to the delta, which gave us a marvellous opportunity to see the wildlife from a different perspective! Cruising down-river we watched numerous Hippopotamuses wallowing in the shallows. Shining Wire-tailed Swallows skimmed low across the waters and we found small numbers of Senegal Thick-knees, Spur-winged Lapwing and African Fish Eagles and our first Palm-nut Vultures. Wildfowl included Knob-billed Duck and Egyptian Geese and there were many African Darters, White-breasted Cormorants, large numbers of Pied Kingfishers as well as plenty of egrets and small numbers of majestic Goliath Herons, Striated Herons and Yellow-billed, Woolly-necked and Saddle-billed Storks. Uganda's National Bird the impressive Grey Crowned Crane was admired and Mourning Collared Doves favoured the enormous stands of Papyrus. A dapper Red-necked Falcon was a special treat.



Graceful Rothschild's Giraffes are pleasingly common in the park. (Nik Borrow)

We disembarked at the Delta Point and were reunited with our car and driver and continued on a game drive through the north bank sector of the park. In contrast to the south bank which is for the most part heavily vegetated with shrubs and trees and tall grasses the habitat on the north bank comprises rolling hills and open Borassus Palm-studded grasslands inhabited by large herds of game that include numerous Uganda Kob, stately Rothschild's Giraffes, some adorned with Yellow-billed Oxpeckers and many African Savanna Elephant, 'Lake Chad' Buffalo, Defassa Waterbuck, Sudan Oribi and Lelwel Hartebeest as well as the distinctive Patas Monkey. We heard news of a Leopard near-by and were lucky to find it still sprawled in its tree.



We enjoyed a great sighting of a Leopard taking shelter from the heat of the day. (Nik Borrow)

On the short grass plains of the north bank, we hunted out some spiky-crested Black-headed Lapwings amongst the African Wattled Lapwings and as the day warmed up so raptors took to the thermals and we recorded White-backed, Rüppell's, White-headed and Lappet-faced Vultures, as well as Bateleur, Brown Snake Eagle, Martial Eagle and Eastern Chanting Goshawk.

We admired the colours of Swallow-tailed, Little, Northern Carmine and Red-throated Bee-eaters and an individual of the latter species was found that sported a striking leucistic plumage and looked a little like it had fought a battle with a tin of white paint! Hundreds of Piapiacs were seen as we birded the scrubby savanna where Grey-backed Fiscals were common and flocks of Blue-naped Mousebirds whirred from one bush to another. Good views of several Heuglin's Spurfowl were obtained and other birds seen during the course of the afternoon included Black-bellied Bustard, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, African Grey Hornbill, African Grey Woodpecker, African Paradise Flycatcher, Rattling and Zitting Cisticolas, Buff-bellied Warbler, Violet-backed Starling, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Speckle-fronted Weaver and Plain-backed Pipit.

As we left the park, a concerted effort was made to find the skulking and retiring Dusky Babbler, a species that can be notoriously difficult to find. We succeeded in finding two groups the first of which remained shy and kept well-hidden at distance but fared better with a second encounter and ultimately everyone had

decent views of this difficult bird. Our journey then took us onward across the now very much inhabited Bullisa Plains where we tracked down White-rumped Seedeater and then up the Butiaba escarpment which as usual we arrived at during the most inhospitable and hot hours of the day but ultimately, we found the main bird on the scrubby hillsides which was the small but colourful Foxy Cisticola.



We are now getting a good track record for finding Dusky Babbler (left) in and around Murchison Falls NP. We also managed to find the bright little Foxy Cisticola (right) on the Butiaba escarpment. (Nik Borrow)

Unfortunately, we lost some birding time in the afternoon due to intense roadworks through the Busingiro sector of Budongo and our vehicle had also developed technical problems which needed attention so we returned to Masindi a little earlier than planned.



'Eastern' Forest Robin was seen well both in Mabira and Budongo Forests. (Nik Borrow)

The following day we were back in the woods, this time to a stretch of forest that is known as the Royal Mile. The tall trees meant that we were stretching our backs and craning our necks upwards to try to spot tell-tale movements in the canopy. White-thighed Hornbills were big enough but even these weren't immediately apparent in the leafy mass above our heads. Imagine then how difficult it was to try to spot the tiny Lemon-bellied Crombec and the diminutive Uganda Woodland Warbler and sadly, despite all of our best efforts, these remained disembodied voices in the canopy. We were much more successful with our views of Ituri Batis and were able to get repeated scope views of this tiny bird piping out its song from the highest snags. It must be said that the day was really hard work but views of spectacular birds like Blue-throated Roller, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, 'Eastern' Yellow-billed Barbet and Jameson's Wattle-eye made it all worthwhile and other new species added during the day included Sabine's Spinetail, Dusky Long-tailed and Red-chested Cuckoos, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Dusky Tit, Red-tailed Bristlebill, a solitary distinctively wing-flicking Spotted Greenbul, Plain Greenbul, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela and Brown Illadopsis.

In the late afternoon we birded the weedy fields just outside of the forest and found Variable Sunbird, Black-crowned Waxbill and ultimately Brown Twinspot before the light began to fail and it was time to return to Masindi.



High in the canopy of Budongo Forest we spotted the tiny Ituri Batis (left) whilst in the cultivation surrounding the forest, we found our only Brown Twinspot of the trip (right). (Nik Borrow)

The next day was mainly a long travel day to Kibale Forest but we first spent time by some of Uganda's many swamps. Our second Bat Hawk of the trip was a bit of a surprise as it unexpectedly flew overhead. Yellow-shouldered and Red-collared Widowbirds were seen in the weedy fields whilst in the papyrus our battle to get views of White-winged Swamp Warbler and Papyrus Gonolek began. We fared well with the warbler but the gonolek strangely proved problematic and we could only assume that they were secretive and breeding. Other species seen during the journey included Ring-necked Dove, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Red-rumped Swallow, Northern Crombec, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, African Stonechat, Green-headed Sunbird, Bronzy Sunbird, Red-headed Bluebill, Brimstone Canary and Cabanis's Bunting.

We reached the edge of Kibale National Park situated near the town of Fort Portal in the mid afternoon and were able to begin our first explorations of the area with some roadside birding. It was somewhat quiet and this unfortunately was becoming a predictable pattern in these forests during this tour as birds seemed generally to be nesting or to have newly fledged young. However, after much persistence we managed views of displaying Lowland Masked Apalis. We also had our first looks at some crazy-looking Grey-headed (split from Grey-throated) Barbets with their 'rhinoceros' nasal-tufts as well as great looks at White-headed Wood

Hoopoe, Cassin's Honeybird, Chubb's Cisticola, Cassin's and Sooty Flycatchers and Mountain Wagtail. Some Uganda Red Colobus also put on a good show.



A pair of very agitated Lowland Masked Apalis in Kibale NP. (Nik Borrow)

The following morning, we had to be up well before dawn in order to increase our chances of finding the elusive Green-breasted Pitta, a species that normally prefers to display at first light. A pair of African Wood Owls greeted us where we met our guide, Justice who led us through the darkness into the dark forest that was just beginning to stir. The pittas were known to have recently fledged young and so we were not expecting to hear the displays that normally help locate the birds. Instead, we headed directly to the areas where the family was favouring to feed in the early morning and sure enough it wasn't long before we found them on the trail ahead of us. Our visit coincided with that of another birdwatching group and after some tense moments jostling for position along the narrow trail everyone gradually calmed down as we gained repeated views of the family party feeding on the trail ahead of us. Because we had two full days in Kibale Forest we repeated the experience the following day and saw the birds in better light and also had them to ourselves!



One of the adult Green-breasted Pittas that was feeding on the trail apparently unconcerned by our presence. (Nik Borrow)

Eventually we turned our attentions to the forest's other star attraction – Chimpanzee. Kibale National Park has surely got to be THE place to see Chimpanzee as it now boasts of at least a 90% hit rate chance of seeing members of their habituated troops of the eastern race *schweinfurthii*, although with time available it is highly unlikely that one could miss these great apes on a day visit to the forest. We were particularly lucky on this trip as we encountered some chimps that had come down from the trees and were feeding or resting on the forest floor and although there was something of a scrum of other tourists gathering to watch them these habituated individuals did not seem to mind at all. It is easy to assume that the animals are always this easy or approachable but this is far from the truth because if they are feeding high in the fig trees the experience can be totally different!



One of the 'eastern' Chimpanzees that we encountered during our time with them in Kibale Forest National Park. (Nik Borrow)

We also made a special effort to see a secretive Scaly-breasted Illadopsis and other species seen during our time in the forest included Alpine Swift, Narina Trogon, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-winged and Narrow-tailed Starlings, White-tailed Ant Thrush, Ashy and African Dusky Flycatchers, Red-capped Robin-Chat and Little Green and Superb Sunbirds.

A break for lunch each day was most welcomed back at the lodge where we gained excellent views of a male Speckle-breasted Woodpecker as well as Rock Martin whilst a quick visit to a swamp near Fort Portal gave us Lesser Swamp Warbler.

On the final morning of our stay, we embarked on a somewhat lengthy but thoroughly enjoyable walk around the nearby Bigodi Wetland that produced a number of interesting species. This is a community-operated nature reserve that always provides some excellent birding being a mixture of cultivation, papyrus swamp and riparian woodland. It had been exceptionally dry and water levels were very low but we still managed to see a colourful Shining-blue Kingfisher near the starting point and Rodgers, our guide led us along a trail that ran around the swamp, at one point crossing it via a boardwalk. New species added included Little Sparrowhawk, White-chinned Prinia, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Grey-winged. Robin-Chat, Red-headed Quelea in breeding plumage and Magpie and Black-and-white Mannikins. A little group of Variegated Butterfly Bats

was an interesting find and the sanctuary is also a good place for primates and we enjoyed views of Red-tailed Monkey, Guereza and Ugandan Grey-cheeked Mangabey.



Speckle-breasted Woodpecker (left) and Dusky-blue Flycatcher (right) were seen in the Kibale area. (Nik Borrow)

In the afternoon we started our drive through picturesque crater highlands to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Arriving at the Queens Pavilion, we scanned the hillsides and lake at where we spotted African Spoonbill, and Great White Pelican as well as our first Hippos and a selection of big game. The conditions were extremely dry but despite driving into the park, putting up clouds of dust along the dirt roads, Red-necked Spurfowl were easily seen by the roadsides. We stopped to admire a photogenic herd of African Elephant but while cameras were clicking the group sadly missed a leader only Black-rumped Buttonquail that was flushed by one of them! Small numbers of Lesser Flamingo could be seen on a sulphurous crater lake, Senegal Lapwings were seen as well as Little Swift, Olive Bee-eater, Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks and Black-lored Babbler.



Photogenic herds of African Elephants are a feature of the park. (Nik Borrow)

Our time spent in Queen Elizabeth National Park is always considered to be yet another of the great highlights of the tour and after an early breakfast we set out to explore the park which is predominantly open grasslands dotted with thickets and punctuated by Candelabra Euphorbias. Despite being exceptionally dry

we still managed to see two African Crakes, a Common Buttonquail was flushed and we also scored with views of the often-elusive White-tailed Lark. Scattered out over the close-cropped Kasenya Plains were Senegal, African Wattled and Crowned Lapwings, Kittlitz's Plover, Collared Pratincole, Banded Martin, Mosque Swallow, Wattled Starling, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Southern Red Bishop and African Pipit.

This habitat is home to good numbers of large mammals and we spent some time on the mating grounds watching the richly coloured and excitable Uganda Kob with a supporting cast of Common Warthog, 'Lake Chad' Buffalo (often sporting Yellow-billed Oxpeckers!), 'Nile' Bushbuck, and Defassa Waterbuck. Good numbers of elephants were seen, the population here being curious as the gene pool of African 'Savanna' Elephants has been infiltrated by that of the smaller Forest Elephant (perhaps those fleeing from devastated forests in Congo, seeking safer lands) so that the population in Queen Elizabeth National Park is now deemed to be predominantly hybrid!



The impressive flock of African Skimmers on the Kazinga Channel numbered about 250 birds this year and in the hands of our skilled boatman, we enjoyed a most intimate encounter with them (Nik Borrow)

At lunchtime we gazed out at the spectacular view over the broad Kazinga Channel flowing below us and then in the afternoon, sat back and enjoyed the fantastic experience of an afternoon boat trip on the waters, an event that offered excellent wildlife viewing with plenty of photographic opportunities for waterside birds and mammals. The star attraction had to be the flock of about 250 African Skimmers that our boat glided right up to for some close-up views and having had our fill we cruised along the banks where there were huge numbers of Hippopotamus and 'Lake Chad' Buffalo, a few Nile Crocodiles and some thirsty African Elephants. Star attraction though was a family of Giant Forest Hogs that had come down to drink. As usual there were amazing numbers of Pied Kingfishers catching and carrying fish everywhere. A large congregation of White-breasted Cormorants was gathered and dotted along the shore were numbers of Egyptian Goose, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks as well as a few Reed Cormorant, African Sacred Ibis, Little Bittern, Squacco and Grey Herons, Great and Little Egrets, Hamerkop, Black Crake, Water Thick-knee, Black-winged Stilt and Three-banded Plover. A Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat darted up from the banks and Wire-tailed Swallows darted across the waters where African Fish Eagles stood sentinel. Before dusk fell, we managed to see a super male Square-tailed Nightjar landed on the ground in front of us thus ending a totally superb day.

Having packed our bags into the vehicle, some intense and angry mobbing birds caught our attention in the garden of Mweya Lodge the cause of which turned out to be a large Puff Adder curled up under a hedge. After this excitement, we embarked upon what was basically a very long 'game drive' that took us through some wild country into the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park. At the bridge over the Kazinga Channel we only got glimpses of some shy Papyrus Gonoleks despite trying hard although we fared better

with Carruthers's Cisticola. In many places the dry park had been burned but we still managed to add Black-chested Snake Eagle, Lanner Falcon, Trilling Cisticola, Arrow-marked Babbler, White-browed Scrub Robin, Green-winged Pytilia and Golden-breasted Bunting whilst in the Ishasha Sector of the park a flushed Harlequin Quail was a lucky find.



A family of Giant Forest Hogs by the Kazinga Channel was much appreciated. (Nik Borrow)

We watched some sleepy sun-bathing Hippos by the Ishasha River on the Congo border, saw the Ugandan Topis in the park whilst making a fruitless search for tree-climbing Lions but then it was time to close the roof of the landcruiser and head on to our next destination, the village of Buhoma that is situated at the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. We arrived at the end of the day and settled into our comfortable and welcoming lodge with its rooms that overlook a deep valley and the impressive steep forested slopes beyond. This beautiful forest dates back to before the Pleistocene ice age, which makes it at over 25,000 years old, one of the most biologically diverse in Africa and goes by the name wonderfully evocative name the 'Impenetrable Forest', due to the steepness of its hills as opposed to the density of its vegetation and with this view came the promise of seeing a selection of fascinating Albertine Rift endemics and other exciting birds.

The next few days were spent trying to hunt out the specialties of the region and we started our explorations in the forest above Buhoma. The trail itself was pleasantly birdy and without being overwhelmed by birds we managed to see some of those important and coveted Albertine Rift endemic species such as Red-faced Woodland Warbler and Red-throated Alethe. The notoriously skulking Neumann's Warbler put on a relatively fine show and the recently described Willard's Sooty Boubou was teased out of the tangles and its distinctive pale blue-grey iris was noted. After frustratingly only having heard the species in Kibale forest and elsewhere, several Black-billed Turacos were now seen well. A fine male African Broadbill twirled and displayed upon his perch and furtive Equatorial Akalats were also eventually seen and headed a fine supporting cast of other species that included Ansorge's Greenbul, a species first discovered in the country during BirdQuest's 2001 Uganda tour as well as Least Honeyguide, Elliot's Woodpecker, Pink-footed Puffback, Lühder's Bushshrike, and Red-tailed and Cabanis's Greenbuls, Black-faced Prinia, Black-throated

and Grey Apalises, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Stuhlmann's Starling, Chapin's Flycatcher, White-bellied and Blue-shouldered Robin-Chats and Black-billed and Brown-capped Weavers.



At Buhoma we enjoyed amazing views of the diminutive Neumann's Warbler (left) and obtained some excellent views of the recently described Albertine Rift endemic Willard's Sooty Boubou and even noted its blue iris! (right) (Nik Borrow)

We had already seen a fine selection of primates during the tour that included Red-tailed, L'Hoest's, Blue, Tantalus and Patas Monkeys, Guereza, Uganda Grey-cheeked Mangabey, Olive Baboon, Uganda Red Colobus and of course Chimpanzee but Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is particularly famous for its gorilla trekking opportunities and this 'Great Ape' was the star attraction and most of us had opted to go in search of our close cousins.



Close up and personal with the Eastern Gorillas of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. (Nik Borrow)

Of course, we were wondering just how easy (or difficult depending on how you view your half-filled glass) it was going to be to see these gentle giants! This year we had permits to visit 'Binyindo' group from Buhoma. After the lengthy briefing session, we set off on our 'trek'. It was the luck of the draw how far away the animals are as the gorillas obviously move daily in search of food and this year it seemed that our group was pretty close and it was only some 30 minutes hike up through the forest over tangled roots and knotted vegetation before we found them. During the excursion, the pace is always geared to that of the slowest member of the group and expert guides, guards, porters and trackers ensured the safety of all. Approximately just over 1,000 'mountain' Gorillas have survived the ravages of modern times and a population of about 459 animals is believed to inhabit Bwindi itself. Patiently our guides and trackers led us deeper amongst the troop thus introducing us to the various family members and revealing an ever-moving, somewhat theatrical tableau, at times carefully peeling the vegetation away from the animals so that we could see them better.

The emotional and spiritual experience of seeing these huge apes always more than compensates for any physical discomfort (briars and stinging nettles!) or hardship (those steep hills!) that is required. Although these habituated troops might occasionally object to our human presence, mostly it seems that they are either oblivious to our attentions or, in the case of the youngsters, a little too curious for their own good and it is normal to be able to watch these creatures at rest and play. However, for the most part, all they are usually intent on doing is sleeping or packing more food into their already distended stomachs and passing wind loudly!

The taxonomy of the 'mountain' Gorillas has been hotly debated in recent decades. Most taxonomists seem to agree now on two species of Gorilla, Western Lowland Gorilla (*G. gorilla*) and Eastern Gorilla (*G. beringei*). The eastern group includes both the Eastern Lowland Gorilla (*G. beringei graueri*) and two mountain populations of the nominate form *G. b. beringei*. The Bwindi population is at the centre of the argument and has been suggested to form a third subspecies *G. beringei bwindi*. It has been claimed that these are not 'mountain' gorillas at all on morphological and ecological grounds. Mitochondrial DNA research however reveals the Bwindi and Virunga populations to be indistinguishable.



The matriarch and the youth of today. (Nik Borrow)

Three nights at the lovely Engagi Lodge had sped by far too fast and we left the following morning bound for Ruhija. In the cultivated areas we found Augur Buzzard, Mackinnon's Shrike, Streaky Seedeater and for one

lucky person, Dusky Twinspot. At 'The Neck', an area of forest that connects smaller and larger regions of the park we found African Black Duck but otherwise the forest was disappointingly dry and dusty. It wasn't until we reached higher elevations that things started to happen. We found our own Johnston's (or Rwenzori Three-horned) Chameleon as it was crossing the road, there were also African Olive Pigeon, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Grey Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Rwenzori Hill Babbler and White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and then the Albertine Rift endemics started tumbling with a splendid Handsome Spurfowl by the roadside followed by Stripe-breasted Tit, Purple-breasted Sunbird, Strange Weaver and ultimately as dusk fell the 'Rwenzori' Montane Nightjar and another African Wood Owl.



Johnston's or Rwenzori Three-horned Chameleon (left) and the glorious Purple-breasted Sunbird (right) (Nik Borrow)

Ruhija was to be our base for the next two nights and the wooded hillsides provided suitable habitat that allowed us to add to our growing collection of forest species and Albertine Rift endemics. Perhaps the main reason for coming to Ruhija was to trek up and down and then down, down and down to the Mubwindi Swamp where some major targets occur. It was a fine, dry morning and the views over the forest were superb. We followed a clear trail that had in places been enhanced by the crater-like footprints of elephants. We were aiming to get to the bottom as early as we could because we knew that the pair of Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill had recently fledged young and were no longer in the nest and so the probabilities of locating them were much reduced. The trail was very birdy so with the avian distractions, getting to our destination was not an easy task. However, we had already seen most of the specialties and so it was a little easier to walk past them although we dared not ignore a Grey-chested Babbler calling from the undergrowth and some good brief views were obtained of it in flight from one hiding place to another. Of the other specials, Rwenzori Batis appeared to be everywhere, both Mountain Oriole and Olive-breasted Greenbul were common but more often heard than seen and Rwenzori and Mountain Masked Apalises, Mountain Illadopsis and the pretty Archer's Ground Robin all showed well. More common species seen included wing flicking, tail-pumping Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Chinspot Batis, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Waller's Starling, Abyssinian Thrush and Thick-billed Seed eater.

During the walk, a bizarre incident happened when the corpse of a young L'Hoest's Monkey fell from the sky and crashed into the undergrowth beside us. Looking up we saw an immature Crowned Eagle perched just above our head and of course amazing views were obtained.

We finally reached the valley bottom where the old nest was still hanging intact in the tree and we waited there whilst our excellent guide Amos went in search over the steep hillsides for the broadbill family. We were entertained by a very busy bird party that included another Albertine endemic, the unassuming Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher until we heard the broadbill itself but couldn't pick it out before it flew. Then it was only

a short time after that the family party was relocated by the guides fortunately only a short distance up the hill and we all managed to get great views of the pair and the two juveniles.



One of the adult Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbills (left) and one of the recently fledged juveniles (right) (Nik Borrow)

Flushed with success we continued down to the swamp itself where we ate our lunch and gazed out on the beautiful view where Grauer's Swamp Warblers performed whirring little display flights over the rushes and the gorgeous Regal Sunbird was finally seen.



The beautiful valley surrounding Mubwindi Swamp is home to the Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill and Grauer's Swamp Warbler. (Nik Borrow)

The return journey was of course uphill but there were rewards along the way with super looks at the rather dull little Grauer's Warbler with its soft purring trill that enabled us to locate it. We also had brief looks at

Albertine Sooty Boubou and found a Blue-headed Sunbird. The following morning, we continued birding in the Ruhija area for a short time where another wonderful roadside Handsome Spurfowl was seen but the only new additions to our list were Western Tinkerbird, Sharpe's Starling and Yellow-crowned Canary before it was time to move on.



We enjoyed multiple sightings of Handsome Spurfowl this tour both on the roadsides and during the walk to Mubwindi Swamp. (Nik Borrow)

White-necked Raven was found along the way and near Lake Bunyonyi we stopped at a very productive area of degraded papyrus swamp. The drainage of the swamp and spread of the potato fields continue to threaten this fragile habitat and the site is looking like it might disappear at any time. Our main quarry here was the inexplicably localised Papyrus Yellow Warbler and we were amazed that it took no time at all to get close views of this inexplicably rare and somewhat unusual warbler in the papyrus. Despite searching hard, we couldn't find the localised Papyrus Canary and ultimately only added Black-crowned Night Heron. We continued on our way and stopped for a short time at Echuya Forest where Kandt's Waxbills were seen and before reaching our final destination of Kisoro we scoped some Blue-billed Teal and Red-knobbed Coot on a roadside pool whilst being besieged by school children!

Mgahinga National Park was our penultimate destination and lies in a truly very beautiful setting under the shadow of the three volcanoes situated right on the borders with Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Sadly, somewhat overcast conditions often obscured our view of with the towering cones of these impressive volcanoes dominating the skyline. A Doherty's Bushshrike was coaxed out from dense vegetation for the briefest of views and in glorious surroundings we easily found the glittering Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird as well as Dusky Turtle Dove, Mountain Yellow Warbler and Cinnamon Bracken Warbler. Perhaps the most 'special' birds that we saw came in the shape of the incredible Rwenzori Turaco. We heard the strange cries echoing around us in the still air before we saw the first bird but when we did it was simply a "Wow!" of delight. The incredible combination of colours was a joy to behold and we spent a long time watching these beauties – a must-see bird if you are a turaco fan! Our walk took us as far as the bottom of the impressive Sabinyo Gorge where Dusky Crimsonwing was seen well and also some juvenile

crimsonwings, one of which responded strongly to Red-faced Crimsonwing and although difficult to tell apart from Abyssinian, appeared to be this species. Also, in the valley we briefly saw a Dwarf Honeyguide as well as White-tailed Crested Flycatcher and White-browed Crombec. On the walk we also saw 'Virunga' Buffalo and several 'Golden' Monkeys and both Montane Side-striped and Johnston's Chameleons before our time in the far southwest finally run out.



After a bit of a hike, Rwenzori Turacos (left) showed well for us and at the base of Sabinyo gorge we had great views of Dusky Crimsonwing (right). (Nik Borrow)

It was then a long haul retracing our steps back through the Echuya Forest where a short stop added Olive Woodpecker and Black Cuckooshrike. African Black Swifts were flying around the hillsides near Kabale and a final attempt at getting good views of Papyrus Gonolek was triumphant! A roadside pool produced the usual White-backed Duck and we arrived at Lake Mburo National Park in the afternoon a totally different world from where we had been for the past week, it being a thorn-bush haven surrounded by grazing land for the ridiculously large-horned Ankole Cattle.



A Red-faced Barbet teamed up with a Black-collared Barbet at Lake Mburo. (Nik Borrow)

In the late afternoon we found the much hoped for Red-faced Barbet teamed up with a Black-collared Barbet, a recent colonist to the region and the dry park also produced a super Verreaux's Eagle-Owl as well as Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Tawny Eagle, Crested Barbet, Little Spotted Woodpecker, Western Black-headed Batis, Brubru, Yellow-breasted Apalis and Southern Black Flycatcher. As dusk fell, we found a female Pennant-winged Nightjar and a most obliging African Scops Owl.

Before dawn we added a super Black-shouldered Nightjar to our list before a relaxing morning boat trip on the lake which delivered a pair of nesting White-backed Night Herons and allowed us to get extra close to an obliging African Finfoot for amazingly prolonged views. One wonders if these are now truly habituated because they seem to ignore the boat entirely! A pair of Scaly Spurfowl drinking by the water's edge was a good bonus and we finished the tour with some recently arrived Brown-chested Lapwings. These marvellous birds brought the tour to a close although we did manage to add some Lilac-breasted Rollers on the journey back to Entebbe.



A White-backed Night Heron on its well-hidden nest at Lake Mburo. (Nik Borrow)

It had surely been an amazing trip with so many memories to cherish! Uganda is the proud owner of an extensive network of well-managed parks and reserves which contain a wide range of habitats: high to low altitude rain forests, vast open wetlands, thorn-bush and dry savannahs. The country boasts a bird list of over 1,000 species, as well as large numbers of big game and wonderful facilities for unrivalled primate watching, making this one of the most outstanding eco-destinations anywhere in the world. All of these natural wonders are complemented by the extremely high standard of comfortable accommodation that is now available (and is improving every year). The people are friendly and helpful and in particular thanks to all of our local guides who really made our tour a holiday to remember.



A small flock of Brown-chested Lapwings was the last goodie of the tour. (Nik Borrow)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

BIRDS

Total of bird species recorded: 529

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Widespread sightings at Mabamba and in the northern wetlands.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* 4 in the Soroti area.

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* 1 was scoped near Mburo.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Good numbers in Murchison Falls NP and a few in QENP.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Common in Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Mburo.

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota* 2 on a pool near Kisoro.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* 1 at 'The Neck'.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* Widespread sightings at various wetlands.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Common in Murchison Falls NP and QENP.

Nahan's Partridge *Ptilopachus nahani* A foursome was seen well in Mabira Forest.

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* Easily seen in Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Mburo.

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei* Heard at Opeta and a female was flushed in Ishasha.

Handsome Spurfowl *Pternistis nobilis* A great showing in the Ruhija sector of Bwindi and seen each day.

Scaly Spurfowl *Pternistis squamatus* 2 seen drinking by the edge of Lake Mburo.

Heuglin's Spurfowl *Pternistis icterorhynchus* 3 seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

Clapperton's Spurfowl *Pternistis clappertoni* 1 seen perched up early morning at Opeta.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* Common and easy to see in QENP and Mburo.

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis* 1 male seen well at Mburo.

Montane [Ruwenzori] Nightjar *Caprimulgus [poliocephalus] ruwenzorii* 1 male seen at dusk at Ruhija.
Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* Excellent views in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Pennant-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus vexillarius* 1 female at dusk at Mburo.
Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini* 2 seen flying over Budongo Forest.
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Seen in suitable habitat most common in the north.
Alpine Swift *Tachymartia melba* A couple over Kibale NP.
Common Swift *Apus apus* A few sightings of over-summering or early returning Palearctic migrants.
African Black Swift *Apus barbatus* A few near Kabale.
Little Swift *Apus affinis* Most often a bridge and town bird (that's where their nesting habitat is!).
White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Great Blue Turaco *Corythaëola cristata* Uganda is one of the easiest places in Africa to see this magnificent bird.
Bare-faced (Black-faced) Go-away-bird *Crinifer [personatus] leopoldi* Seen near QENP and at Mburo.
Eastern Plantain-eater (E Grey P-e) *Crinifer zonurus* Widespread sightings of this noisy bird.
Ruwenzori Turaco *Gallirex johnstoni* At least 12 at Mgahinga NP.
Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae* Best views were near 'The Neck'.
White-crested Turaco *Tauraco leucolophus* 2 seen well in Murchison Falls NP.
Black-billed Turaco ♦ *Tauraco schuettii* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable NPs.



Ross's Turaco (left) near 'The Neck' and Black-billed Turaco (right) at Ruhija. (Nik Borrow)

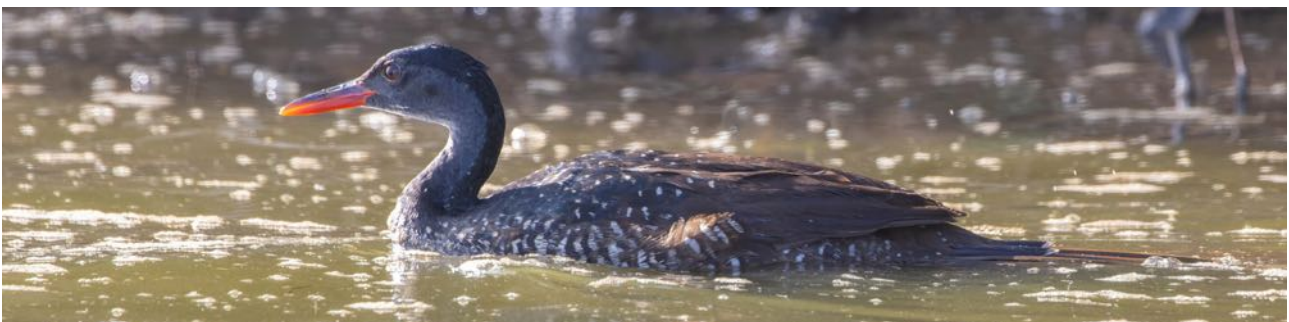
Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* 2 seen in Murchison Falls NP.
Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* Widespread sightings usually associated with papyrus in Uganda.
White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* Widespread sightings throughout the savannas.
Black Coucal *Centropus grillii* Breeding plumaged birds in the north.
Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus* Widespread sightings in the forested areas.
Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius* Singletons at Opeta and Murchison Falls.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* (H) Frequently heard but never set eyes on.
African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* Seen in Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowii* Frequently heard but only seen in Budongo Forest.
Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* (H) Heard only in Kibale Forest.
Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* Seen in Budongo Forest and 'The Neck'.



A juvenile Red-chested Cuckoo with its 'parent' Cape Wagtail seen at 'The Neck' (left) Tambourine Doves (right) were more often heard than seen but this one showed well at Buhoma. (Nik Borrow)

Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* Domestic or 'table' birds only.
Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* Seen on urban electric wires and rooftops.
Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta* 1 seen in Mabira Forest.
African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* Easily seen in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.
Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* Seen as we left Ruhija and again at Mgahinga NP.
Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* Easily seen in Murchison and Queen Elizabeth NP.
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* This common and widespread species sings "I am a Red-eyed Dove".
Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* Common in Queen Elizabeth NP and the south.
Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* Common in the north.
Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Widespread sightings.
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* Small numbers seen in Mburo NP.
Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur afer* Small numbers seen in the Murchison Falls area.
Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* The common wood dove of moister country and regularly encountered.
Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* Commonly encountered in the forested areas but often just in flight.
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Small numbers at Opeta.
African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* Widespread sightings.
African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* 1 male and 2 females at Mburo NP during the boat trip.



African Finfoot at Lake Mburo National Park. (Nik Borrow)

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* A pair showed well at Mabira Forest.
Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans* (H) Heard near Bigodi Swamp.
African Rail (A Water R) *Rallus caerulescens* 2 seen near Lake Bisina.
African Crake *Crex egregia* Despite being dry we saw 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Seen near Kisoro and again near Mburo.
Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* 15+ on a pool near Kisoro.
African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* 1 seen well at Mabamba Swamp.
Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Easily seen at various swamps and watery places.
Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* Widespread sightings and good numbers near Kabale.
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A few on a crater lake en route to Queen Elizabeth NP.
Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* 30+ on the crater lake in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* 1 was flushed in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Black-rumped Buttonquail *Turnix nanus* (LO) 1 was flushed by an elephant (!) in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* Commonly seen along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.
Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* Very common and easily seen in QENP and Mburo.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* 3 in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris* Most numerous at Mabamba Swamp where they had chicks.
Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* Easily seen in Murchison and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.



Black-headed Lapwings showed well in Murchison Falls NP. (Nik Borrow)

Senegal Lapwing (S Plover) *Vanellus lugubris* Small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus* Small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.
African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Easily seen in Murchison, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.
Brown-chested Lapwing ◊ *Vanellus superciliosus* A flock of 4 new arrivals near Lake Mburo NP.
Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* A pair in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* 3 seen well at Mabamba Swamp.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Easily seen in appropriate habitat.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 1 of these Palearctic migrants on Lake Mburo.
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* 6+ in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* Adults with chicks at Murchison Falls.
African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* 250+ on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Just a few at Mabamba Swamp and in Murchison and QENP.
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* Easily seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.



Grey-headed Gull (left) and Yellow-billed Stork (right) during the Kazinga Channel boat trip. (Nik Borrow)

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* Widespread sightings during the tour outside of the forest.
(African) Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis* 2 in Murchison Falls NP.
Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* 5 in Murchison Falls NP and a singleton at Mburo.
Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Common and widespread, Uganda's garbage disposal team!
African Darter *Anhinga rufa* Very common in Murchison Falls NP.
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* Easily seen at widespread aquatic habitats.
White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Many in Murchison Falls and the Kazinga Channel, QENP.
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* A noisy, common and widespread bird.
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Just 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* A male of the resident race *payesii* on the Kazinga Channel, QENP.
Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii* 1 in flight at Opeta.
White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus* A pair on their nest in Lake Mburo NP.
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* 1 at Nyamuliro and another at Lake Mburo.
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Sightings at Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Lake Mburo.
Squacco Heron (Common S H) *Ardeola ralloides* Easily seen in various wetland habitats.
Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris* 3 at Mabamba Swamp and a singleton at Opeta.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread and common in suitable habitat.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Small numbers at widespread localities in the north.
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Scattered sightings and a few breeding colonies.
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* Small numbers in Murchison Falls and QENP.
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Most numerous at Mabamba Swamp and Murchison Falls NP.
Great Egret *Ardea alba* Scattered sightings in watery places.
Intermediate Egret *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* Small numbers at Mabamba Swamp and Murchison Falls NP.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* This familiar species was observed at various wetlands throughout the country.
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Widespread sightings throughout away from the forest.
Shoebill (Whale-headed Stork) *Balaeniceps rex* A close encounter at Mabamba Swamp.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* A large flock was seen on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* Most numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus* Small numbers were seen at widespread locations.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogone) *Polyboroides typus* Small numbers were seen at widespread locations.

Palm-nut Vulture (Vulturine Fish Eagle) *Gypohierax angolensis* Small numbers at Murchison Falls and QENP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* Small numbers seen en route back to Entebbe.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* Pretty much restricted to Murchison, QENP and Lake Mburo.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* A juvenile was seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* 15+ in Murchison Falls NP.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* A male in Murchison Falls NP and a female at Lake Mburo.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* Singletons in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* A singleton in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* A few sightings in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* Scattered sightings mainly in the north.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* Seen in Murchison Falls NP and at Mburo.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* Singletons at Jinja and near Masindi.

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* Displaying birds over Kaniyo Pabidi and a pair and a juvenile in Bwindi.



This immature Crowned Eagle nearly dropped its L'Hoest's Monkey prey on us during the walk to Mubwindi Swamp! (Nik Borrow)

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* Singletons in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* A regularly encountered roadside bird with an impressive hairdo!

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* Just one sighting in the Mabamba area.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* A white-headed bird in Bwindi.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* 1 in Lake Mburo NP.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* A number of widespread sightings particularly by roadsides.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* 1 juvenile at Opeta.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* Small numbers seen in the north.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* 3 sightings in the Murchison Falls area.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* (H) 1 heard at Kibale.
Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* 1 en route to Kibale and another at Bigodi Swamp.
African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus* 2 at Mabamba Swamp, another at Nyamuliro and en route to Entebbe.
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.
African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* Easily seen in wetland habitats.
Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* Small numbers in the southwest.
African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* Excellent views in Lake Mburo NP.
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* 2 seen well in Lake Mburo NP.
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* 2 at Kibale and another at Ruhija.



African Wood Owl at dusk at Ruhija (left) and White-headed Wood Hoopoe (right) in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. (Nik Borrow)

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* An abundant and very widespread species noted throughout the tour.
Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Common in bush country though often flying by at a rate of knots!
Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* Several seen in Kibale Forest.
Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum* (H) Just heard in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei* Family groups seen well in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* 3 seen in Murchison Falls NP.
Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
African Pied Hornbill (Congo P H) *Lophoceros [f.] fasciatus* Seen at Mabira Forest and Budongo.
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Most numerous in Murchison Falls NP.
White-thighed Hornbill *Bycanistes albotibialis* Small numbers at Budongo.
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus* Pleasingly numerous during the tour.
Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* Small numbers were seen by the road between Mburo and Masaka.
Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus* 4 at Soroti.
Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* Singletons at Budongo and en route to Ishasha.
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Widespread sightings.
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* 1 seen in Budongo Forest.
Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* Most numerous in Murchison Falls NP.
Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* Widespread roadside sightings in appropriate habitat.
Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* Heard in Budongo but seen in Kibale Forest.
Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* Widespread sightings.
African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei* (H) Heard only in Budongo Forest.
African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* A few seen in Murchison Falls, Budongo and Queen Elizabeth NP.
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* Easily seen in appropriate habitat.
Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys* 1 seen at Bigodi Swamp.
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Astonishingly numerous at Mabamba, Murchison and along the Kazinga Channel.
Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* Seen well in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* Easily seen in Murchison Falls NP.
Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Small numbers at widespread localities.
Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus* Easily seen at Mabamba Swamp.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates* Numerous sightings near Kibale and in the Bwindi area.
Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki* Common in Murchison Falls NP and 1 along the Kazinga Channel.
Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar B-e) *Merops superciliosus* Seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* Small numbers seen well in Murchison Falls.



A semi-leucistic Red-throated Bee-eater (left) and Northern Carmine Bee-eater (right) in Murchison Falls NP. (Nik Borrow)

Grey-throated Barbet (G-headed B) *Gymnobucco [bonapartei] cinereiceps* Kibale and Bwindi Forests.
Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* More often heard than seen in the lower altitude forests.
Western Tinkerbird (W Green T) *Pogoniulus coryphaei* 1 at Ruhija.
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* More often heard than seen in the lower altitude forests.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Regularly recorded in the higher altitude forests and cultivation.
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Regularly recorded in savannah and cultivation.
(Eastern) Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* In forests from Mabira to Bwindi.
Hairy-breasted Barbet (Streaky-throated B) *Tricholaema [hirsuta] ansorgii* Seen in the lower altitude forests.
Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Seen well in Murchison Falls and Mburo NPs.
Red-faced Barbet *Lybius rubrifacies* A pair of this restricted range species showed well in Mburo NP.
Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito* Seen well in the Murchison Falls area.
Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* A recent colonist to the country seen duetting with Red-faced Barbet!
Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* Good views in Murchison Falls NP and Lake Mburo.
(Eastern) Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus [p.] purpuratus* Seen well in Budongo and Kibale forests.
Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* (NL) Another recent colonist to the country seen by Jonathan at Mburo.
Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* 1 seen in Kibale Forest.
Dwarf Honeyguide *Indicator pumilio* 1 seen briefly in Mgahinga NP.
Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii* 1 seen in Budongo Forest.
Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis* 1 seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris* (H) Heard only in Mabira Forest and Kaniyo Pabidi.
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* 3 widespread sightings.
Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* 1 at Opeta and a few at Lake Mburo.
Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Pardipicus nivosus* 4 sightings in Mabira Forest, Kaniyo Pabidi and the Kibale area.
Brown-eared Woodpecker *Pardipicus caroli* 1 in Mabira Forest.
Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* Just 1 at Opeta.
Little Spotted Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii* At least 2 at Lake Mburo.
Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Chloropicus xantholophus* 3 sightings in Mabira and Kibale Forests.
Speckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendropicus poecilolaemus* A male seen well at Kibale.
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicus fuscescens* 4 sightings at Murchison and QENP and Echuya Forest.
Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicus elliotii* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae* A few in Murchison Falls NP.
Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus* A pair in Echuya Forest.
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* 2 in QENP and en route to Kisoro.
Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* Just 2 seen in Mabira Forest.
Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri* Seen at Opeta, Murchison Falls NP and Mburo.
Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius* Fast flying birds over Mabamba and Murchison Falls NP.
Grauer's Broadbill *Pseudocalyptomena graueri* A pair and 2 juveniles seen well at Mubwindi Swamp.
African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* A splendid displaying male in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
Green-breasted Pitta *Pitta reichenowi* Fantastic views of at least 1 adult and 2 juveniles in Kibale NP.
Rwenzori Batis *Batis diops* This Albertine Rift endemic was seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.



This Grey Kestrel (left) was resident in our lodge garden at Kibale. The Albertine Rift endemic Rwenzori Batis (right) showed well at Ruhija. (Nik Borrow)

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* Heard more than seen in and around Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri* A pair at Lake Mburo.
Ituri Batis *Batis ituriensis* A treetop male in Budongo Forest.
Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea* Heard more than seen in the various lower altitude forests.
Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea* Widespread encounters during the tour.
Jameson's Wattle-eye *Platysteira jamesoni* A cracking male in Budongo Forest.
Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* 1 in Murchison Falls NP.
Lagden's Bushshrike *Malaconotus lagdeni* (H) Heard only in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
Bocage's Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei* Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* (H) Heard in Murchison Falls and Mburo NPs.
Doherty's Bushshrike *Telophorus dohertyi* This noisy, gorgeous bird was only glimpsed at Mgahinga.
Marsh Tchagra (Blackcap T) *Bocagia minuta* Singletons at Mabamba, Masindi and Queen Elizabeth NP.
Brown-crowned Tchagra (Brown-headed T) *Tchagra australis* More often heard than seen.
Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Most numerous in the Murchison area.
Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis* Small numbers seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* Seen in the Murchison area and the forests of the south west.
Albertine Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis* Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga NPs.
Willard's Sooty Boubou *Laniarius willardi* The blue eyes were seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi* Seen well in the Bwindi forests.
Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* Seen at Masindi and Mburo NP.
Papyrus Gonolek *Laniarius mufumbiri* It took time but great views of this papyrus specialist again this year.
Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster* Widespread but especially numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Brubru *Nilaus afer* A male at Mburo NP.

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* A number of sightings in the lower altitude forests.

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus* Widespread and not uncommon.

Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia* Good views in Bwindi Impenetrable and Echuya Forests.

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* A male was seen well in Echuya Forest.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* A pair seen well on the Butiaba escarpment.

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti* Small numbers in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina* (H) Heard in Mabira Forest.

Mackinnon's Shrike *Lanius mackinnoni* Small numbers were seen in the southwest.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* Common and widespread but absent from forest and the southwest.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Widespread sightings during the tour.

Western Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus* Often heard and seen in Mabira, Budongo and Kibale forests.

Mountain (Montane) Oriole *Oriolus percivali* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus* Seen well in Mabira and Kibale Forests.

Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) *Dicrurus adsimilis* Commonly encountered in the savannahs.

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer* Seen in Budongo and Kibale Forests and Bigodi Wetland.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Seen from Murchison Falls NP onwards.

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer* Abundant in the north.



The immature Piapiacs show a striking pink bill. This species was particularly abundant in Murchison Falls NP. (Nik Borrow)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common and widespread.

White-necked Raven (W-naped R) *Corvus albicollis* Seen on journeys to and from Mgahinga.

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* Widespread sightings of this dainty bird.

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* Seen well at Ruhija and Mgahinga.

White-bellied Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albiventris* 2 seen at Mubwindi Swamp.

White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata* A pair was seen well at Mgahinga.

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus* Seen well in the Budongo and Bwindi Forests.

Stripe-breasted Tit *Melaniparus fasciiventer* Just one of these Albertine Rift endemics at Ruhija.

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris* Great views in Mabira Forest.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Common in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-tailed Lark *Mirafra albicauda* 1 of these uncommon larks was seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* Easily seen in the forests.

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* Sightings in Budongo and Bwindi Impenetrable forests.

Yellow-eyed Bristlebill *Bleda ugandae* Skulking birds in Mabira Forest.

Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis* The creamy-throated race *flavigula* was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus* A lonely bird in Budongo Forest!

Joyful Greenbul *Chlorocichla laetissima* (H) Heard near Kibale.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* Heard more often than seen in the lower altitude forests.

Olive-breasted Greenbul *Arizelocichla kikuyuensis* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Echuya Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* Common but more often heard than seen in the forests.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* Common and easily seen in the forests.

Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G) *Eurillas curvirostris* Small numbers in the forests.

Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis* Most numerous in Mabira Forest but also seen in Kibale Forest.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albogularis* A shy but vocal forest greenbul, best views at Kaniyo Pabidi.

Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* Tail-pumping, wing-flicking birds seen well at Ruhija.

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Every day!

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] holomelas* Common around Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

White-headed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne albiceps* A widespread bird throughout the lower country.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* Small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* 2 seen at Mabamba Swamp.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Widespread sightings.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.



Black Saw-wing (left) at Ruhija and Wire-tailed Swallows (right) in Murchison Falls NP(Nik Borrow)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Some of these Palearctic migrants at Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* Numerous during the tour, particularly around settlements.

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa* Small numbers at scattered localities.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* 1 seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Widespread sightings.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Small numbers seen in Murchison Falls NP and in the south-west.

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* A few seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP.
Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans* 1 seen at Kaniyo Pabidi.
Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor* 1 seen at Mabira Forest.
Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* Seen on the Butiaba Escarpment and near Masindi.
Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* More often heard than seen.
Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti* (H) Remained invisible in the treetops of Budongo Forest.
White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys* Good views at Mgahinga and in Echuya Forest.
Neumann's Warbler (Short-tailed W) *Urosphena neumanni* Relatively good views of this difficult bird at Buhoma.
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii* Seen well in Budongo Forest.
Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* Often heard but only seen once at Bigodi Swamp.
Red-faced Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus laetus* An Albertine Rift endemic seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.



Red-faced Woodland Warbler (left) is an Albertine Rift endemic. Chubb's Cisticola (right) is common in the south-west highlands. (Nik Borrow)

Uganda Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus budongoensis* (H) Remained invisible in the treetops of Budongo Forest.
Grauer's Warbler *Graueria vittata* This lover of vine tangles was seen well at Ruhija.
Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens* A pair seen well at Mabamba Swamp.
Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Seen at Fort Portal.
African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* (H) Heard near Masindi.
Mountain Yellow Warbler *Iduna similis* Finally seen at Mgahinga.
Papyrus Yellow Warbler *Calamonastides gracilirostris* Skulking but seen quite easily near Lake Bunyonyi.
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Seen well at Mgahinga.
White-winged Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis* Often heard in swamps and seen en route to Kibale.
Grauer's Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus graueri* Typically brief views of several in Mubwindi Swamp.
Highland Rush Warbler *Bradypterus centralis* Good views near Lake Bisina.
Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* Often heard throughout the tour and occasionally seen.
Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* A number of sightings in the north.
Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* Seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.
Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi* First encountered in Kibale Forest and common in the southwest.
Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Common in Murchison Falls NP.
Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus* A common and showy cisticola seen frequently in appropriate wetlands.
Carruthers's Cisticola *Cisticola carruthersi* Mostly associated with papyrus but also seen well in Mubwindi Swamp.
Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* Seen from Mabamba to Queen Elizabeth NP.
Red-pate Cisticola *Cisticola ruficeps* The race *mongalla* seen near Kumi and Opeta.
Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling C) *Cisticola brachypterus* (H) Heard only in Murchison Falls NP.
Foxy Cisticola *Cisticola troglodytes* 2 seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.
Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed C) *Cisticola juncidis* Easily seen in Murchison and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Common and widespread but heard more than seen.

Black-faced Prinia ◊ *Prinia melanops* This attractive species was seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
White-chinned Prinia *Prinia leucopogon* First seen well at Bigodi Swamp.
Ruwenzori Apalis (Collared A) *Oreolais ruwenzorii* Good views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Red-winged Grey Warbler *Drymocichla incana* Excellent views in Murchison Falls NP.



A pair of duetting Red-winged Grey Warblers in Murchison Falls NP (left) and Mountain Masked Apalis in Bwindi (right) (Nik Borrow)

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* Seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Yellow-breasted Apalis (Black-breasted A) *Apalis flavida* (LO) Seen at Lake Mburo NP.
Lowland Masked Apalis (M A) *Apalis binotata* 2 in Kibale Forest.
Mountain Masked Apalis (Black-faced A) *Apalis personata* Easy to see in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Chestnut-throated Apalis *Apalis porphyrolaema* The warbler with the 'trim-phone' call in the southwest.
Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis* Numerous opportunities to see this species well in the various forests.
Karamoja Apalis *Apalis karamojae* A pair seen at Opet.
Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida* Often heard and occasionally seen.
Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Common and widespread.
Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris* Just 1 in Budongo Forest.
Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota* Seen in Mabira and Budongo Forests.
Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus* Good views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* Seen in Budongo Forest.
Rwenzori Hill Babbler *Sylvia atriceps* Small numbers were seen in the southwest.
Green White-eye *Zosterops stuhlmanni* Widespread.
Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* Seen in Budongo Forest and heard elsewhere.
Mountain Illadopsis *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera* Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis albipectus* Seen well in Kibale Forest.
Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli* Seen at close quarters at Kaniyo Pabidi.
Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus* Seen well in the Murchison area.
Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.
Dusky Babbler *Turdoides tenebrosa* two groups seen in the Murchison area.
Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Grey-chested Babbler (G-c Illadopsis) *Kakamega poliothorax* Flight views on the Mubwindi swamp walk.
Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* Just small numbers in Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.
Purple-headed Starling *Lamprotornis purpureiceps* Small numbers in forests at lower altitudes.
Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus* Seen from Entebbe to Kibale.
Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* Very common and widespread away from forest.
Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Small numbers seen in the Murchison area, Bigodi and Buhoma.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus [fulgidus] hartlaubii* A pair was seen in Kibale Forest.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri* Small numbers at Mubwindi Swamp.

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris* 1 was seen in Kibale Forest.

Sharpe's Starling *Poeoptera sharpii* Small numbers in the Ruhija area.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* A few seen in the northeast.

Fraser's Rufous Thrush (Rufous Flycatcher T) *Stizorhina fraseri* Heard more often than seen in the forests.

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis* Seen in Kibale NP.

Red tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus* Seen in Budongo Forest and Kibale NP.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* Widespread sightings.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe castanea* (H) Heard in Kibale Forest.

Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Erythropgyia hartlaubi* Seen in the Masindi area.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Erythropgyia leucophrys* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis* Often heard and occasionally seen in the various forests.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* Seen in Murchison Falls and Mburo NPs.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Dioptrornis fischeri* Small numbers seen in the southwest.

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis ardesiacus* 1 seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* Seen in the north and in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* 2 pairs seen in Mburo NP.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* 3 seen in Kibale NP.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* Widespread sightings in wetland habitats where often very tame.

Cassin's Flycatcher (C's Grey F) *Muscicapa cassini* Seen along rivers in Kibale Forest and at 'The Neck'.

Chapin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa lendu* A pair seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* Easy to see at Kibale and in the southwest.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata* Easily seen in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata* Treetop birds in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable forests.

Red-throated Alethe *Chamaetylas poliochrysis* Good views of this Albertine Rift endemic in Bwindi Forest.

Brown-throated Alethe *Chamaetylas poliocephala* (H) Heard in Kibale Forest.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti* 1 seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.



Cassin's Flycatchers (left) may be found sitting by forest streams. White-bellied Robin-Chat (right) is a retiring inhabitant of the forests above Buhoma. (Nik Borrow)

Archer's Ground Robin *Cossypha archeri* Great views of this Albertine Rift endemic in Bwindi Forest and Mgahinga.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera* 1 at Bigodi and seen well at Buhoma.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter* Close-up views of this notorious skulker at Buhoma.

White-browed Robin-Chat (Heuglin's R) *Cossypha heuglini* Particularly numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* Seen well in Kibale NP.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat (S-headed R-c) *Cossypha niveicapilla* Seen in Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

(Eastern) Forest Robin *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] xanthogaster* Seen well in Mabira and Budongo Forests.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis* Several sightings in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T) *Cichladusa guttata* Heard more often than seen in Murchison Falls area.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* Widespread sightings from Kibale to the southwest in small numbers.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* Easy to see in Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.

Grey-headed Sunbird *Deleornis axillaris* Several were seen at Kaniyo Pabidi and in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* A few in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Grey-chinned Sunbird (Green S) *Anthreptes rectirostris* Present in Mabira and Bwindi Impenetrable forests.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* A common and widespread sunbird.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* A few sightings near Masindi and the southwest.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanoaema* Present in Budongo, Kibale, and Bwindi forests.

Blue-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra alinae* A poor showing (just one!) in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common throughout the various forests but more often heard than seen.

Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens* Present in Mabira, Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable forests.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Widespread sightings in suitable habitat.

Purple-breasted Sunbird *Nectarinia purpureiventris* Some glittering males in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Bronzy Sunbird (Bronze S) *Nectarinia kilimensis* Small numbers at Kibale and Bwindi.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* Widespread sightings in suitable habitat.

Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris stuhlmanni* Easily seen at Mgahinga.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris reichenowi* Common in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Regal Sunbird *Cinnyris regius* This wonderful sunbird seen well at Ruhija and Echuya Forest.



An Albertine Rift endemic; a male Regal Sunbird poses in Echuya Forest. (Nik Borrow)

Beautiful Sunbird *pulchellus* Easily seen at Opeta and Murchison Falls area.
Red-chested Sunbird *Cinnyris erythrocerus* A stunning sunbird and common around the swamps and wet places.
Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* A pair seen well in Kibale Forest.
Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Just 1 seen outside of Budongo Forest.
Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* A few widespread sightings from Kumi to Masindi area.
Shelley's Sparrow *Passer shelleyi* Easily seen at Opeta and Murchison Falls area.
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* Very common and widespread.
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Roadside birds seen around settlements during journeys.
White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris* (LO) 1 flew over at Opeta.
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* A couple seen in Murchison Falls NP.
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.
Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.
Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons* Widespread from Murchison to Nyamuliro.
Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* The race *emini* in the Murchison area and *stuhmanni* in the south.



Red-chested Sunbird (left) is easy to see around the wetland habitats. 'Stuhlmann's' Baglafaecht Weaver (right) feeding on a giant Lobelia in Echuya Forest. (Nik Borrow)

Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni* Associated with papyrus and lakes.
Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* A few in the Murchison area.
Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Strange Weaver *Ploceus alienus* Good views of this Albertine Rift endemic in Bwindi and Echuya Forests.
Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster* Just 1 in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* Seen at Opeta, Fort Portal and the southwest.
Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops* Seen well at Mabamba Swamp and Fort Portal.
Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* (LO) A few seen in Lake Mburo NP.
Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.
Fox's Weaver *Ploceus spekeoides* At least 4 males and a female at Opeta.

Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus* This species was a constant companion throughout the tour.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus* A common bird often seen in colonies by roadside villages.

Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed W) *Ploceus melanocephalus* An abundant waterside weaver.

Golden-backed Weaver *Ploceus jacksoni* Seen well at Mabamba and Opeta.

Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus* From Masindi to Bigodi.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* Seen in the various forests at lower altitudes.

Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis* Very common and in breeding plumage at Opeta.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops* 1 male in breeding plumage at Bigodi.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Small numbers at Opeta and in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii* Breeding plumaged males near Masindi.

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* Breeding plumaged birds in the north.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* Birds in moulting plumage in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* Breeding plumaged birds in the north.



Both Black Bishop (left) and Northern Red Bishop (right) were seen in breeding plumage. (Nik Borrow)

Fan-tailed Widowbird (Red-shouldered W) *Euplectes axillaris* Breeding plumage birds at Mabamba to Opeta.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes [macroura] macrocercus* 2 males in breeding plumage near Masindi.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes [macroura] macrocercus* Breeding plumaged birds at Opeta and nr Masindi.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi* 2 males in breeding plumage near Masindi.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* 1 male in breeding plumage near Masindi.

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata* Common and widespread.

Magpie Mannikin *Spermestes fringilloides* 3 at Bigodi Swamp.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor* A few at Bigodi Swamp.

Dusky Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza jacksoni* A female seen well at Mgahinga.

Red-faced Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza reichenovii* A juvenile appeared to be this species.

White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus* Small numbers in the various forests at lower altitudes.

Grey-headed Nigrita (G-crowned Negrofinch) Small numbers only and first encountered in Mabira Forest.

Black-faced Waxbill *Brunhilda erythronotos* 1 on the Butiaba Escarpment.

Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula* Seen well near Budongo Forest and Fort Portal.

Kandt's Waxbill *Estrilda kandti* Seen well in Echuya Forest and at Mgahinga.

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola* Seen in Queen Elizabeth NP and at Nyamuliro.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes* Small numbers seen in the north.

Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis* (LO) Seen by Nik in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* Mainly in northern grasslands but also at Mabamba and Mburo.

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* (LO) Seen by Nik en route to Kibale.

Green-winged Pytilia (Melba F) *Pytilia melba* 1 male seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea* (NL) 1 seen by Jonathan near Ruhija.

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri* 1 male seen near Budongo Forest.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Widespread sightings and particularly common in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara* Seen in the Murchison Falls and Masindi areas.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta* A few seen in the Masindi area.

Village Indigobird (Red-billed Firefinch I) *Vidua chalybeata* Small numbers in the Murchison area.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Widespread sightings with some in breeding plumage.

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (Eastern P W) *Vidua paradisaea* A non-breeding male at Opeta.

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* Small numbers in the southwest.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* Pairs in Kibale and Bwindi.



Cape Wagtail (left) and Mountain Wagtail (right) (Nik Borrow)

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Everywhere!

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* Most common in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Pipit (Grassland P) *Anthus cinnamomeus* Small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* Easily seen in Murchison and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Western Citril *Crithagra frontalis* First seen at Mabamba but few sightings elsewhere.

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia* Small numbers on the Buliisa Plains.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Small numbers in Murchison and Mburo NPs.

Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphuratus* Seen from Masindi to Nyamuliro.

Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni* Seen well in the Bwindi area.

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolatus* Easily seen in the far southwest.

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* Seen at Ruhija.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* A pair on the Butiaba escarpment.

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* Seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* 1 seen near Masindi.



Rothschild's Giraffes by the shores of Lake Albert in Murchison Falls NP. (Nik Borrow)

MAMMALS

Total of mammal species recorded: 53

- Southern Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax arboreus* 1 seen well at Mgahinga.
- African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs. See Note.
- Leopard** *Panthera pardus* Relaxing in typical pose in a tree in Murchison Falls NP.
- Central African Large-spotted Genet** *Genetta maculata* (LO) 1 seen at night at our lodge at Kibale.
- Common Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* Small numbers at Mburo.
- Side-striped Jackal** *Lupelella adustus* 1 at night at Ruhija.
- Spotted-necked Otter** *Hydrictis maculicollis* (NL) 1 seen by Jonathan on Lake Bunyonyi.
- Plains Zebra (Common Z)** *Equus quagga* The race *boehmi* in Lake Mburo NP.
- Forest Hog (Giant F H)** *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni* A family group of 9 along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.
- Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* Common in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
- (Rothschild's) Giraffe** *Giraffa [camelopardalis] rothschildi* Common in Murchison Falls NP, introduced in Mburo.
- Impala (Common I)** *Aepyceros melampus* Common in Mburo NP.
- Lelwel Hartebeest** *Alcelaphus [buselaphus] lelwel* Easily seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Black-fronted Duiker** *Cephalophus nigrifrons* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Yellow-backed Duiker** *Cephalophus silvicultor* 1 seen briefly at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- (Uganda) Topi** *Damaliscus [lunatus] ugandae* Seen in the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth NP.
- (Defassa) Waterbuck** *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa* Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.
- (Uganda) Kob** *Kobus [kob] thomasi* Common in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
- (Sudan) Oribi** *Ourebia [ourebi] montana* Common in Murchison Falls NP.
- African Buffalo (Cape B)** *Syncerus caffer* Just 1 in Mburo NP.
- African Buffalo (Lake Chad B)** *Syncerus [caffer] brachyceros* Common in Murchison Falls and QE NPs.
- African Buffalo (Virunga B)** *Syncerus [caffer] mathewsi* 2 in Mgahinga NP.
- Common Eland** *Tragelaphus oryx* 4 in Lake Mburo NP.
- Bushbuck (Nile B)** *Tragelaphus [scriptus] bor* Singletons in Murchison Falls & Queen Elizabeth NPs and Mgahinga.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* Common in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* Seen at Opeta and in Queen Elizabeth NP.
African Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum* From Jinja to Soroti.
Hammer-headed Fruit Bat *Hypsignathus monstrosus* (H) Heard at night at Kibale.
Franquet's Singing Fruit Bat *Epomops franqueti* At night at Masindi.
Mauritian Fruit Bat *Taphozous mauritanus* (NL) 1 in one of the chalets at Kibale.
Variegated Butterfly Bat *Galuconycteris variegata* 11 in a roost at Bigodi Swamp.



An unusual sighting of a roost of 11 Variegated Butterfly Bats at Bigodi Swamp found by our local guide. (Nik Borrow)

Spectacled Lesser Galago *Galago matschei* Seen at night at Ruhija.
L'Hoest's Monkey *Cercopithecus lhoesti* Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Red-tailed Monkey (Black-cheeked White-nosed M) *Cercopithecus ascanius* Common and widespread.
Blue Monkey (Gentle M) *Cercopithecus mitis* The form *stuhmanni* seen in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.
Golden Monkey (Gentle M) *Cercopithecus [mitis] kandti* At least 4 at Mgahinga.
Vervet (Savanna Monkey) *Cercopithecus pygerythrus* Clearly this form at Lake Mburo NP.
Tantalus Monkey *Cercopithecus [pygerythrus] tantalus* Purest individuals in the northwest.
Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza* Murchison Falls, Kibale and Bwindi.
Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.
Uganda Grey-cheeked Mangabey (U Crested M) *Lophocebus [albigena] ugandae* Just 1 seen at Bigodi.
Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* Common and widespread.
Uganda Red Colobus (Central African R C) *Piliocolobus tephrosceles* Seen in Kibale NP.
Eastern Gorilla *Gorilla beringei* This year our group visited 'Binyindo' group.
Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes* The race *schweinfurthii* was seen well in Kibale NP.
African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae* The 'rabbit' seen in Murchison Falls was this species.
Carruthers's Mountain Squirrel (M Tree S) *Funisciurus carruthersi* Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium* Seen in Mabira Forest.
Alexander's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus alexanderi* 2 seen in Budongo Forest.
Boehm's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus boehmi* Seen in Mabira and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus* Seen at Mabamba, Murchison and Mburo NP.

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus* Seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Peters' Hybomys (Hump-nosed Mouse) *Hybomys univittatus* Seen in Kibale NP.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

It has been suggested that there are two species of African Elephant however a paper in *Molecular Ecology* (2015) 24, 6134-6147 by Samrat Mondol *et al.* suggests that the border of DRC and Uganda forms a major hybrid zone between African Savanna Elephant *Loxodonta [a.] africana* and Forest Elephant *Loxodonta [a.] cyclotis*. This is somewhat surprising as Queen Elizabeth National Park is just outside the current known range of forest elephants but may be explained by 'savanna' elephants moving into the forests for food and 'forest' elephants fleeing the effects of poaching into the park from DRC or simply moving into the savannas for food.



African Elephants take a drink in the Kazinga channel. (Nik Borrow)