

# CLASSIC UGANDA TOUR REPORT 2023

13 June - 4 July 2023

by 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 privileged to watch an adult at the nest with a young chick where we were also lucky to find Lesser Jacana and Blue Swallow. In the afternoon we drove to Mabira Forest for a brief look before returning the following morning. Here we enjoyed an encounter with two parties of Nahan's Partridge, battled with skulking Yellow-eyed Bristlebills and were introduced to a variety of lowland forest species including Forest Wood Hoopoe and Lowland Sooty Boubou. Heading north, brightly coloured Papyrus Gonoleks, secretive White-winged Swamp Warbler and a surprise Golden-winged Sunbird allowed views en route to Soroti which was our base for an excursion towards Lake Opetta 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. In this area we also saw Dwarf Bittern, Lesser Moorhen, Allen's Gallinule, Red-pate Cisticola, Karamoja Apalis and Heuglin's Masked Weaver. 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. Of the avian specialities we scored with Dusky Babbler as well as Heuglin's Spurfowl and Denham's Bustard 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. A superb pair of Grey-headed Olivebacks enlivened the journey to Kibale National Park where we unfortunately suffered from excessive rain. The Chimpanzees kept to the tops of the trees and despite walking 25 kilometres over a day and a half the Green-breasted Pitta eluded us this year. Picking ourselves up, it was onwards to Queen Elizabeth National Park where the desirable Giant Forest Hog put in a grand appearance and African Crane was seen well 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 watched a male Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill guarding his nest that presumably contained the sitting

female. These steep hills and beautiful forests also held a whole host of Albertine Rift endemic specialties that included Regal Sunbird as well as Handsome Spurrow, Rwenzori Batis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Grauer's Warbler, Grauer's Swamp Warbler, Neumann's Warbler, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Rwenzori Apalis, Mountain Masked Apalis, Red-throated Alethe, 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 Papyrus Canary and a visit to Mgahinga National Park produced the expected Rwenzori Turaco and Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird and Archer's Ground Robin. We finished our African adventure at Lake Mburo along with Red-faced Barbet apparently teamed up with Black-collared Barbet and the boat trip on the lake was a lovely gentle way to end the tour with close views of families of African Finfoot and White-backed Night Heron. Amongst the many other mouth-watering specialties that we encountered were Clapperton's Spurrow, Black-shouldered and Montane (or Ruwenzori heard only) Nightjars, White-crested and Black-billed Turacos, Dusky and Barred Long-tailed Cuckoos, Red-chested Flufftail (heard only), Mountain Buzzard, 'Congo' African Pied Hornbill, White-thighed Hornbill, Grey-throated and 'Eastern' Yellow-billed Barbets, Dwarf and Willcocks's (heard only) Honeyguides, Fine-banded, Speckle-breasted and Elliot's Woodpeckers, Lagden's Bushshrike (heard only), Doherty's Bushshrike, Albertine Sooty Boubou, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Mountain Oriole, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, White-tailed Lark, Kakamega, Olive-breasted and White-throated Greenbuls, White-headed Saw-wing, White-browed Crombec, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Highland Rush Warbler, Trilling, Chubb's, Carruthers's and Long-tailed Cisticolas, Black-faced Prinia, Red-winged Grey Warbler, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Grey-capped Warbler, Green-backed Eremomela, Rwenzori Hill Babbler, Green White-eye, Scaly-breasted and Mountain Illadopsises, Black-lored Babbler, Grey-chested Babbler (heard only), 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, Red-winged Pytilia, Brown Twinspot and Western Citril.

Our action-packed journey around Uganda began in Entebbe where a visit to the Botanical Gardens gave us a gentle introduction to the birds with Bat Hawk and colourful Grey Parrots being highlights and after some searching produced the desired Orange Weaver. The next day we set off early for Mabamba Swamp to look 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 three small, motorised wooden pirogues. We were fortunate to be taken to a recently discovered Shoebill nest where the adult stood towering over its tiny youngster which spent most of its time prostrate on the matted papyrus. We were certainly privileged to watch this very special species so intimately and whilst there we saw Blue Swallow fly over and hunted out a pair of diminutive Lesser Jacana pattering around on the extensive lily pads.

Time was 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. By the time we reached Mabira the shadowy afternoon had made the forest quiet but we managed to track down the desirable Yellow-eyed Greenbul before continuing 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 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 including some Nahan's Partridges but they were very secretive and kept to the shadows of the dense undergrowth. With limited time in the forest, we concentrated on the specials and were pleased to have good views of both Forest Wood Hoopoe and Lowland Sooty Boubou. A Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat was seen and a brief view of White-spotted Flufftail was obtained before we found ourselves on the road once again. The next long drive took us northeastwards to the distant town of Soroti taking in a stop at a swamp that yielded a secretive White-winged Swamp Warbler, colourful Papyrus Gonolek and a surprise male Golden-winged Sunbird!

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 and 2022 tours and during our visit managed to see at least 10 birds 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 habit of actually feeding on the ants themselves! Whilst birding in the area we also saw Clapperton's Spurfowls in the early morning calling loudly from overnight roosts, Dwarf Bitterns were positively common with a number of individuals seen incredibly well and a pair of African Rail was coaxed into view. Other species included Highland Rush Warbler and Shelley's Sparrow whilst Cardinal and Red-billed Queleas, Black-winged Red and Northern Red Bishops were all in glorious technicoloured breeding plumage. In the afternoon we visited a Heuglin's Masked Weaver colony, found roadside Red-pate Cisticola and watched Lesser Moorhens and Allen's Gallinules skittering over the lily pads as the sun went down. The last bird of the day being our first Foxy Cisticola.

We departed the next morning, ticking off some gorgeous Abyssinian Rollers in Soroti town and a flock of Compact Weavers nearby before starting the long journey towards Masindi in the north-west of the country. The afternoon was spent birding the Kimengo Ranches where we gained super views of White-crested Turacos and a colourful array of starlings that included Lesser Blue-eared, Bronze-tailed and Purple Starlings.

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 Puvell's Illadopsis. We explored the network of trails that led into the superb rainforest with its magnificent mahogany and ironwood trees and despite the birds being very silent we still managed to find two individuals and enjoyed some amazing close and prolonged views. Canopy Black-billed Turacos were also seen and after a picnic 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 and finished our day with a visit to the top of the

spectacular Murchison Falls which produced the expected Rock Pratincoles. Good views of several Heuglin's Spurfowl were obtained and Long-tailed Nightjar and a Greyish Eagle-Owl was spotted by the roadside near our comfortable lodge situated in the heart of the park.

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, small numbers of Senegal Thick-knees eyed us warily from the banks and pairs of dapper Red-necked Falcon and White-backed Night Herons were a real treat. 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. A close Denham's Bustard on the short grass plains was much appreciated and spiky-crested Black-headed Lapwings were seen. We admired the colours of Swallow-tailed, Little, Northern Carmine and Red-throated Bee-eaters and were astonished by the hundreds of Piapiacs that were seen as we birded the scrubby savanna where we also found several prehistoric-looking Abyssinian Ground Hornbills. A trio of excitable Red-winged Grey Warblers was enjoyed and our day ended watching spectacular male Pennant-winged Nightjars gliding all around us at dusk.

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. The usual haunts had either been disturbed by roadworks or else were silent and it wasn't until the very last opportunity that we got a response and a furtive group was finally seen. Our journey then took us onward across the now very much inhabited Buliisa 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 did well birding the scrubby hillsides and found goodies such as Green-backed Eremomela and White-shouldered Black Tit.

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 Ituri Batis. Ultimately it was only the crombec that refused to be seen and we also managed views of both Chocolate-backed and African Dwarf Kingfishers and Sabine's Spinetails amongst other more widespread forest species. In the late afternoon rain began to fall which curtailed our activities and was set to plague us over the following few days.

The next day was mainly a long travel day to Kibale Forest but we first spent time by one of Uganda's many swamps. The vegetation was absolutely sodden, after overnight rain and we got ourselves soaking wet looking for Grey-headed Oliveback in the weedy fields. Yellow-shouldered and 'all black' Red-collared Widowbirds and Orange-breasted Waxbills were seen during our search but of the oliveback there was no sign, that is until we got back to the car where we found a pair posing nicely for us! The rest of the drive was uneventful but by the time we reached the edge of Kibale National Park situated near the town of Fort Portal in the mid-afternoon torrential

rain was falling which put paid to any birding activities. We tried watching the birds at a small swamp near Fort Portal but the situation was really hopeless and we admitted defeat and headed to our lodge to dry out.

The following damp 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, Milka who led us through the gloom into the dark forest that was just beginning to stir. Sadly, we could not see or hear any pittas in the time available so we turned our attention 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 unlucky on this trip as although we saw plenty of chimps they preferred to keep to the tops of the tall trees because it was so wet and muddy on the forest floor. Despite our best efforts at finding some on or nearer the ground the animals resolutely refused to come down so we returned to looking for pittas and this time with another guide, Benson who had also seen them recently but despite walking 25 kilometres over our given time the birds remained hidden. We tried everything we could and at one point were chased by a female elephant protecting her calf. This was a terrifying but also strangely exhilarating moment when several of us found that we were still able to run despite having thought we had lost the ability to do so but when the guard loads his gun as the huge beast crashes through the jungle towards us then run is exactly what one does! So, our stay at Kibale was somewhat of a disappointment this tour although incredible views of a pair of Scaly-breasted Illadopsis in the forest and a family of Speckle-breasted Woodpeckers and a pair of Verreaux's Eagle-Owls at our lodge did something to heal the pain.

In the afternoon we started our drive through picturesque crater highlands to Queen Elizabeth National Park. The conditions were still very wet which meant that seeing African Crake by the roadsides was a lot easier. 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. There were plenty of Senegal Lapwings and small numbers of Greater and Lesser Flamingos could be seen on a sulphurous crater lake. The often-elusive White-tailed Lark was in full song and could be seen displaying over the kob mating grounds where some sleepy lions were resting. 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 and Kibale National Parks is now deemed to be predominantly hybrid!

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 300+ 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, 'Lake Chad' Buffalo and a few Nile Crocodiles. Star attraction though was a family of Giant Forest Hogs that had come to a salt lick. As usual there were amazing numbers of Pied Kingfishers catching and carrying fish everywhere. We even found a snowy white leucistic individual – quite a striking

bird! A large congregation of White-breasted Cormorants was gathered and dotted along the shore was a selection of common waterbirds and African Fish Eagles standing sentinel that all offered fine photographic opportunities as the day came to a spectacular end.

The following morning, 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 had superb views of a pair of Papyrus Gonoleks and a great selection of bush birds included the unassuming Trilling Cisticola and the comical Crested Barbet. In the Ishasha sector of the park we found two 'tree-climbing' lionesses comfortably wedged in one of the spreading fig trees there but ultimately 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 overlooking 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 was only heard this year but the recently described Willard's Sooty Boubou was teased out of the tangles and its distinctive pale blue-grey iris was noted. A fine male African Broadbill twirled and displayed upon his perch and furtive Equatorial Akalats were also 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 Elliot's Woodpecker, Pink-footed Puffback, Lühder's Bushshrike, Black-faced Prinia, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Chapin's Flycatcher, Mountain Illadopsis, Grey-winged and White-bellied Robin-Chats and Blue-headed Sunbird.

We had already encountered 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.

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 'Katwe' 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 a short 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.

Three nights had sped by far too fast and we left the following morning bound for Ruhija. On the journey we found Little Green Woodpecker and at 'The Neck', an area of forest that connects smaller and larger regions of the park we found Black Bee-eater but otherwise the forest was disappointingly quiet. It wasn't until we reached higher elevations that things started to happen and we found our first higher altitude specialties with Dwarf Honeyguide, Rwenzori Apalis, the gorgeous Regal Sunbird, Strange Weaver and ultimately a splendid Handsome Spurfowl by the roadside.

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 two pairs of Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbills were nesting. The trail was very birdy so with the avian distractions, getting to our destination was not an easy task. Along the way we gathered views of Rwenzori Batis, Mountain Oriole, Olive-breasted Greenbul, Mountain Masked Apalis, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Stripe-breasted Tit and Sharpe's and Waller's Starlings.

We finally reached the valley bottom where the first nest was still hanging intact in the tree and we didn't have to wait long before we spotted the male sitting close nearby. Presumably the female was sitting inside the nest as we never saw her and the male didn't go very far during the time that we spent there which meant that we had prolonged and ultimately walkaway views of the bird through the scope. 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. After lunch we checked on the second nest but no birds were to be seen so we started the climb back. The return journey was of course almost

entirely uphill but we took it slowly and there were rewards scattered along the way which included looks at the rather dull little Grauer's Warbler with its soft purring trill that enabled us to locate it.

The following morning, we continued birding in the Ruhija area for a short time but it was cold and windy with no activity so we decided to move on. 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 a response but the view was fleeting and most of the group had missed it. The water levels were very high this year and the track through the papyrus totally flooded but by donning our rubber boots we waded into the middle where we located another pair and gained close views of a pair of this inexplicably rare and somewhat unusual warbler in the papyrus. Our luck then continued because shortly after, we found three individuals of the localised Papyrus Canary and happily set off on our journey again. Stopping for a short time at Echuya Forest, a Western Tinkerbird, particularly showy Regal Sunbirds and a Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo that flaunted itself were the highlights before ending our day at the famous Traveller's Rest in Kisoro which was besieged by huge numbers of Straw-coloured Fruit Bats.

Mgahinga National Park was our penultimate destination and lies in a truly very beautiful setting under the shadow of the three inactive volcanoes situated right on the borders with Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. In glorious surroundings with the towering cones of these impressive peaks dominating the skyline we easily found the glittering Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird as well as Dusky Turtle Dove, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler and White-tailed Crested Flycatcher. Archer's Ground Robin and Dusky Crimsonwing showed well and we enjoyed great looks at several Albertine Sooty Boubous. Doherty's Bushshrike was coaxed out from dense vegetation for the briefest of views but perhaps the most 'special' bird 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 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 and several 'Golden' Monkeys were seen along the way as well as three Montane Side-striped Chameleons before our time in the far southwest finally run out.

It was then a long haul in the landcruiser, retracing our steps back and then onwards to Lake Mburo National Park. A roadside pool produced the usual White-backed Ducks and we arrived at the park in the early afternoon encountering a totally different environment 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.

In the late afternoon we found the much hoped for Red-faced Barbet teamed up with a Black-collared Barbet, the latter a recent colonist to the region and the dry park also produced Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Nubian and Little Spotted Woodpeckers, Long-tailed Cisticola and Southern Black Flycatcher. As dusk fell, we found a pair of Swamp Nightjars, a non-reeding male 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 with two



youngsters and allowed us to get extra close to an obliging immature African Finfoot that was then followed by a female with two chicks for amazingly prolonged views. One wonders if these are now truly habituated because they seem to ignore the boat entirely! 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.

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 our driver and all of our local guides who really made our tour a holiday to remember.

## **SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR**

### **BIRDS**

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

**Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*

**White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus*

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

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

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

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*

**Nahan's Partridge** ♦ *Ptilopachus nahani*

**Crested Francolin** *Dendroperdix sephaena*

**Handsome Spurfowl** ♦ *Pternistis nobilis*

**Heuglin's Spurfowl** ♦ *Pternistis icterorhynchus*

**Clapperton's Spurfowl** ♦ *Pternistis clappertoni*

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer*

**Fiery-necked [Black-shouldered] Nightjar** ♦ *Caprimulgus [pectoralis] nigriscapularis*

**Montane [Ruwenzori] Nightjar** *Caprimulgus [poliocephalus] ruwenzorii*

**Swamp Nightjar (Natal N, African White-tailed N)** *Caprimulgus natalensis*

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*  
Square-tailed Nightjar (Gabon N) *Caprimulgus fossii*  
Pennant-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus vexillarius*  
Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*  
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*  
Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* A couple over Kibale NP.  
Little Swift *Apus affinis*  
White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*  
Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*  
Bare-faced Go-away-bird (Black-faced G) *Crinifer [personatus] leopoldi*  
Eastern Plantain-eater (E Grey P-e) *Crinifer zonurus*  
Rwenzori Turaco ♦ *Gallirex johnstoni*  
Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae*  
White-crested Turaco ♦ *Tauraco leucolophus*  
Black-billed Turaco ♦ *Tauraco schuettii*  
Denham's Bustard ♦ *Neotis denhami*  
Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*  
Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*  
White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*  
Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*  
Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus* heard-only  
Levaillant's Cuckoo (African Striped C) *Clamator levaillantii*  
Jacobin Cuckoo (Black-and-white C) *Clamator jacobinus*  
Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius*  
Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*  
African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*  
Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*  
Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo ♦ *Cercococcyx montanus*

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**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* heard-only

**Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia*

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

**Afep Pigeon** *Columba unicincta*

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

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

**Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata*

**Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens*

**Mourning Collared Dove (African M D)** *Streptopelia decipiens*

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

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*

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

**Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*

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

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

**Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*

**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis*

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

**Red-chested Flufftail** ♦ *Sarothrura elegans* heard-only

**African Rail (A Water R)** *Rallus caerulescens*

**African Crane** *Crex egregia*

**Lesser Moorhen** *Paragallinula angulata*

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*  
African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*  
Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*  
Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*  
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*  
Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*  
Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*  
Water Thick-knee (W Dikkop) *Burhinus vermiculatus*  
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
Long-toed Lapwing (L-t Plover) *Vanellus crassirostris*  
Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover) *Vanellus spinosus*  
Black-headed Lapwing (B-h Plover) *Vanellus tectus*  
Senegal Lapwing (Lesser Black-winged Plover) *Vanellus lugubris*  
Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus*  
African Wattled Lapwing (A W Plover) *Vanellus senegallus*  
Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*  
Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*  
Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*  
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*  
Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*  
Rock Pratincole (White-collared P) *Glareola nuchalis*  
African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*  
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*  
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*  
African Openbill (A Open-billed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*  
Woolly-necked Stork (African W-n S)) *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis*  
Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*  
African Darter *Anhinga rufa*  
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus*  
White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*  
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*  
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*  
Dwarf Bittern ◊ *Ixobrychus sturmii*  
White-backed Night Heron ◊ *Gorsachius leuconotus*  
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata*  
Squacco Heron (Common S H) *Ardeola ralloides*  
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*  
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*  
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
Great Egret (Western G E) *Ardea alba*  
Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E) *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*  
Shoebill ◊ (Whale-headed Stork) *Balaeniceps rex*  
Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*  
Osprey. *Pandion haliaetus*  
Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus*  
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*  
Palm-nut Vulture (Vulturine Fish Eagle) *Gypohierax angolensis*

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Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*  
White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus*  
Rüppell's Vulture (R's Griffon V) *Gyps rueppelli*  
White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*  
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*  
Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*  
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*  
Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*  
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*  
Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*  
Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*  
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*  
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*  
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*  
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*  
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*  
Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*  
African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*  
Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) *Accipiter melanoleucus*  
African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*  
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*  
African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*  
Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus*  
Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*  
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*  
Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum* heard-only  
African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens*  
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl (Giant E-O) *Bubo lacteus*  
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*  
Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*  
Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*  
Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*  
Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum*  
Forest Wood Hoopoe ◊ (F Scimitarbill) *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*  
White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*  
Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*  
Black Scimitarbill (B Wood-hoopoe) *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*  
Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*  
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*  
Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus*  
African Pied Hornbill ◊ (Congo P H) *Lophoceros [fasciatus] fasciatus*  
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*  
White-thighed Hornbill ◊ *Bycanistes albotibialis*  
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus*  
Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*  
Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*  
Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*  
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*  
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*  
Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*  
Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*  
Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*  
Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*  
African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei*

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*  
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*  
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*  
Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*  
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*  
Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*  
Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus*  
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates*  
Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*  
Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar B-e) *Merops superciliosus*  
Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*  
Grey-throated Barbet ◊ (G- headed B) *Gymnobucco [bonapartei] cinereiceps*  
Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*  
Western Tinkerbird (W Green T) *Pogoniulus coryphaei*  
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*  
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*  
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*  
Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* heard-only  
Hairy-breasted Barbet (Streaky-throated B) *Tricholaema [hirsuta] ansorgii*  
Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa*  
White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*  
Red-faced Barbet ◊ *Lybius rubrifacies*  
Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito*  
Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*  
Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*  
Yellow-billed Barbet ◊ (Eastern Y-b B) *Trachyphonus [p.] purpuratus*  
Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii*  
Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*

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Dwarf Honeyguide *Indicator pumilio*  
Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii* heard-only  
Lesser Honeyguide (Thick-billed H) *Indicator [minor] conirostris* heard-only  
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* heard-only  
Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*  
Brown-eared Woodpecker *Pardipicus caroli* non-leader  
Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*  
Little Green Woodpecker *Campethera maculosa*  
Little Spotted Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii*  
Fine-banded Woodpecker ◊ *Campethera taeniolaema*  
Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*  
Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Chloropicus xantholophus*  
Speckle-breasted Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos poecilolaemus*  
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*  
Elliot's Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos elliotii*  
African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*  
Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus*  
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*  
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*  
Red-necked Falcon *Falco [chicquera] ruficollis*  
African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*  
Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*  
Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri*  
Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*  
Grauer's Broadbill ◊ (African Green B) *Pseudocalyptomena graueri*  
African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*  
Rwenzori Batis ◊ *Batis diops*  
Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri*

Ituri Batis ◊ *Batis ituriensis*

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*

Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea*

Lagden's Bushshrike *Malaconotus lagdeni* heard-only

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor*

Bocage's Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei*

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

Doherty's Bushshrike ◊ *Telophorus dohertyi*

Marsh Tchagra (Blackcap T) *Bocagia minuta*

Brown-crowned Tchagra (Brown-headed T) *Tchagra australis*

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Lowland Sooty Boubou ◊ *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

Albertine Sooty Boubou ◊ *Laniarius poensis*

Willard's Sooty Boubou ◊ *Laniarius willardi*

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major*

Papyrus Gonolek ◊ *Laniarius mufumbiri*

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus*

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina*

Mackinnon's Shrike *Lanius mackinnoni*

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

Western Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Mountain (Montane) Oriole ◊ *Oriolus percivali*

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*

Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

White-necked Raven (W-naped R) *Corvus albicollis*

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher ◊ *Elminia albicauda*

White-bellied Crested Flycatcher ◊ *Elminia albiventris*

White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata*

White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas*

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus*

Stripe-breasted Tit ◊ *Melaniparus fasciiventer*

Grey Penduline Tit (African P T) *Anthoscopus caroli*

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafraga africana*

Flappet Lark *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

White-tailed Lark ◊ *Mirafraga albicauda*

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*  
Yellow-eyed Bristlebill ◊ *Bleda ugandae*  
Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis*  
Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*  
Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* heard-only  
Olive-breasted Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla kikuyuensis*  
Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*  
Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens*  
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris*  
Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G) *Eurillas curvirostris*  
Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis*  
Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*  
White-throated Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus albogularis*  
Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* heard-only  
Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*  
Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*  
Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*  
White-headed Saw-wing ◊ *Psalidoprocne albiceps*  
Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*  
Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*  
Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
Blue Swallow ◊ *Hirundo atrocaerulea*  
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*  
Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*  
Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*  
Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*  
Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*  
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*  
Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans* heard-only  
Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*  
Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*  
Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*  
Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*  
Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti* heard-only  
White-browed Crombec ◊ *Sylvietta leucophrys*  
Neumann's Warbler ◊ (Short-tailed W) *Urosphena neumanni* heard-only  
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mcallii*  
Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*  
Red-faced Woodland Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus laetus*  
Uganda Woodland Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus budongoensis*  
Grauer's Warbler ◊ *Graueria vittata*  
Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*  
Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*  
Mountain Yellow Warbler ◊ *Iduna similis*  
Papyrus Yellow Warbler ◊ *Calamonastides gracilirostris*  
Fan-tailed Grassbird (F-t Warbler) *Catriscus brevirostris*  
Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* heard-only  
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*  
White-winged Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis*  
Grauer's Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus graueri*  
Highland Rush Warbler ◊ *Bradypterus centralis*  
Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*  
Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*  
Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*  
Trilling Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola woosnami*

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Chubb's Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola chubbi*  
Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*  
Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*  
Carruthers's Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola carruthersi*  
Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus*  
Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*  
Red-pate Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola ruficeps*  
Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling C) *Cisticola brachypterus*  
Foxy Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola troglodytes*  
Long-tailed Cisticola ◊ (Tabora C) *Cisticola angusticauda*  
Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed C) *Cisticola juncidis*  
Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*  
Black-faced Prinia ◊ *Prinia melanops*  
Red-winged Prinia (R-w Warbler) *Prinia erythroptera*  
White-chinned Prinia *Prinia leucopogon*  
Ruwenzori Apalis ◊ (Collared A) *Oreolais ruwenzorii*  
Red-winged Grey Warbler ◊ *Drymocichla incana*  
Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*  
Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*  
Mountain Masked Apalis ◊ (Black-faced A) *Apalis personata*  
Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni*  
Chestnut-throated Apalis ◊ *Apalis porphyrolaema*  
Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*  
Karamoja Apalis ◊ *Apalis karamojae*  
Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea*  
Grey-capped Warbler ◊ *Eminia lepida*  
Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*  
Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

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Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*  
Green-backed Eremomela ◊ *Eremomela canescens*  
Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*  
Rwenzori Hill Babbler ◊ *Sylvia atriceps*  
Green White-eye ◊ *Zosterops stuhlmanni*  
Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* heard-only  
Mountain Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*  
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis albipectus*  
Puvel's Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis puveli*  
Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*  
Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*  
Dusky Babbler ◊ *Turdoides tenebrosa*  
Black-lored Babbler ◊ *Turdoides sharpei*  
Grey-chested Babbler ◊ (G-c Illadopsis) *Kakamega poliothorax* heard-only  
Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*  
Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*  
Purple-headed Starling *Lamprotornis purpureiceps*  
Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*  
Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*  
Brownze-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*  
Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*  
Purple Starling (P Glossy S) *Lamprotornis purpureus*  
Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*  
Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*  
Violet-backed Starling (Amethyst S) *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*  
Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri*  
Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*  
Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*

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Sharpe's Starling ◊ *Poeoptera sharpii*  
Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*  
Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*  
Fraser's Rufous Thrush (Rufous Flycatcher T) *Stizorhina fraseri*  
White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*  
Red tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*  
African Thrush *Turdus pelios*  
Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain T) *Turdus abyssinicus*  
Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe castanea*  
Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Erythropygia hartlaubi*  
White-browed Scrub Robin *Erythropygia leucophrys*  
Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*  
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*  
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* heard-only  
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*  
Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher ◊ *Melaenornis ardesiacus*  
Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*  
Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*  
Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus*  
Silverbird ◊ *Empidonis semipartitus*  
Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*  
Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*  
Cassin's Flycatcher (C's Grey F) *Muscicapa cassini*  
Chapin's Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa lendu*  
African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*  
Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*  
Red-throated Alethe ◊ *Chamaetylas poliophrys*  
White-bellied Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossyphicula roberti*



Archer's Ground Robin ◊ *Cossypha archeri*  
Grey-winged Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha polioptera*  
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha cyanocampter*  
White-browed Robin-Chat (Heuglin's R) *Cossypha heuglini*  
Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* heard-only  
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat (S-headed R-c) *Cossypha niveicapilla*  
White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata*  
Forest Robin ◊ (Eastern F R) *Stiphronis [erythrothorax] xanthogaster*  
Equatorial Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia aequatorialis*  
Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T) *Cichladusa guttata*  
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*  
Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*  
Grey-headed Sunbird ◊ *Deleornis axillaris*  
Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*  
Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*  
Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*  
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*  
Blue-headed Sunbird ◊ *Cyanomitra alinae*  
Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea*  
Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens*  
Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
Bronzy Sunbird (Bronze S) *Nectarinia kilimensis*  
Golden-winged Sunbird ◊ *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*  
Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius*  
Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris stuhlmanni*  
Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris reichenowi*  
Regal Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris regius*  
Beautiful Sunbird *pulchellus*

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Red-chested Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris erythrocerus*  
Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*  
Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*  
Shelley's Sparrow ◊ *Passer shelleyi*  
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*  
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*  
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*  
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*  
Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*  
Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons*  
Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*  
Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni*  
Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*  
Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*  
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*  
Strange Weaver ◊ *Ploceus alienus*  
Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*  
Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*  
Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*  
Heuglin's Masked Weaver ◊ *Ploceus heuglini*  
Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*  
Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*  
Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*  
Fox's Weaver ◊ *Ploceus spekeoides* Endemic  
Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus*  
Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*  
Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed W) *Ploceus melanocephalus*  
Golden-backed Weaver (Jackson's G-b W) *Ploceus jacksoni*

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Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus*  
Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*  
Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*  
Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*  
Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*  
Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*  
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*  
Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*  
Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*  
Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*  
Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*  
Fan-tailed Widowbird (Red-shouldered W) *Euplectes axillaris*  
Yellow-mantled Widowbird (Y-shouldered W) *Euplectes [macroura] macrocercus*  
Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes [macroura] macrocercus*  
Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*  
White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*  
Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*  
Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*  
Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor*  
Green Twinspot (G-backed T) *Mandingoa nitidula*  
Dusky Crimsonwing ◊ *Cryptospiza jacksoni*  
White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus*  
Grey-headed Nigrita (G-crowned Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*  
Grey-headed Oliveback ◊ *Delacourella capistrata*  
Black-faced Waxbill *Brunhilda erythronotos*  
Kandt's Waxbill ◊ *Estrilda kandti*  
Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola*  
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

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**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*  
**Quailfinch** ◊ *Ortygospiza atricollis*  
**Cut-throat Finch** *Amadina atricollis*  
**Orange-breasted Waxbill (Zebra W)** *Amandava subflava*  
**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*  
**Red-headed Bluebill** ◊ *Spermophaga ruficapilla*  
**Green-winged Pytilia (Melba F)** *Pytilia melba* non-leader  
**Red-winged Pytilia** ◊ *Pytilia phoenicoptera*  
**Brown Twinspot** ◊ *Clytospiza monteiri*  
**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*  
**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*  
**Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*  
**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*  
**Village Indigobird (Red-billed Firefinch I)** *Vidua chalybeata*  
**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*  
**Cuckoo-finch** *Anomalospiza imberbis*  
**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis*  
**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*  
**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*  
**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*  
**African Pipit (Grassland P)** *Anthus cinnamomeus*  
**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*  
**Western Citril** ◊ *Crithagra frontalis*  
**Papyrus Canary** ◊ *Crithagra koliensis*  
**White-rumped Seedeater** *Crithagra leucopygia*  
**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*  
**Brimstone Canary** *Crithagra sulphuratus*  
**Thick-billed Seedeater** *Crithagra burtoni*

**Streaky Seedeater** *Crithagra striolatus*

**Yellow-crowned Canary** *Serinus flavivertex*

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

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

**Cabanis's Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi*

## **MAMMALS**

**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.

**Lion** *Panthera leo*

**Marsh Mongoose** *Atilax paludinosus*

**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo*

**Spotted-necked Otter** *Hydrictis maculicollis*

**Plains Zebra (Common Z)** *Equus quagga*

**Forest Hog (Giant F H)** *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*

**Giraffe (Rothschild's G)** *Giraffa [camelopardalis] rothschildi*

**Impala (Common I)** *Aepyceros melampus*

**Hartebeest (Lelwel)** *Alcelaphus [buselaphus] lelwel*

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

**Yellow-backed Duiker** *Cephalophus silvicultor*

**Topi (Uganda T)** *Damaliscus [lunatus] ugandae*

**Waterbuck (Defassa W)** *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa*

**Kob (Uganda K)** *Kobus [kob] thomasi*

**Oribi (Sudan O)** *Ourebia [ourebi] montana*

**Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca*

**African Buffalo (Cape B)** *Syncerus caffer*

**African Buffalo (Lake Chad B)** *Syncerus [caffer] brachyceros*

**Common Eland** *Tragelaphus oryx*

**Bushbuck (Nile B)** *Tragelaphus [scriptus] bor*

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius*

**Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons*

**African Straw-coloured Fruit Bat** *Eidolon helvum*

**Franquet's Singing Fruit Bat** *Epomops franqueti*

**Hammer-headed Fruit Bat** *Hypsignathus monstrosus* heard-only

**Mauritian Fruit Bat** *Taphozous mauritanus* non-leader

**Spectacled Lesser Galago** *Galago matschei*

**Demidoff's Dwarf Galago.** *Galagoides demidoff*

**L'Hoest's Monkey** *Cercopithecus lhoesti*

**Red-tailed Monkey (Black-cheeked White-nosed M)** *Cercopithecus ascanius*

**Blue Monkey (Gentle M)** *Cercopithecus mitis*

**Blue Monkey (Golden M)** *Cercopithecus [mitis] kandti*

**Vervet (Savanna Monkey)** *Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

**Tantalus Monkey** *Cercopithecus [pygerythrus] tantalus*

**Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus)** *Colobus guereza*

**Patas Monkey** *Erythrocebus patas*

**Uganda Grey-cheeked Mangabey (U Crested M)** *Lophocebus [albigena] ugandae* heard-only

**Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis*

**Uganda Red Colobus (Central African R C)** *Piliocolobus tephrosceles*

**Eastern Gorilla** *Gorilla beringei*

**Chimpanzee** *Pan troglodytes*

**African Savanna Hare** *Lepus victoriae*

**Bunyoro Rabbit** *Poelagus marjorita*

**Carruthers's Mountain Squirrel (M Tree S) *Funisciurus carruthersi* heard-only**

**Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium***

**Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel (Montane S S) *Heliosciurus ruwenzorii***

**Alexander's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus alexanderi***

**Boehm's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus boehmi***

**Giant Bush Squirrel (G Forest S) *Protoxerus stangeri***

**Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus* non-leader**

**African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus***

**Peters' Hybomys (Hump-nosed Mouse) *Hybomys univittatus***