

SHOEBILLS & GORILLAS OF UGANDA TOUR REPORT 2023

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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 and 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 able to watch an adult at particularly close range for as long as we wished! We also managed to find Lesser Jacana, the often-elusive Weyns's Weaver and at least one 'wintering' Blue Swallow nearby. Copulating Bat Hawks and Orange Weavers were found in Entebbe Botanical Gardens and on day two, brightly coloured Papyrus Gonoleks and a skulking White-winged Swamp Warbler both featured en route to Kibale National Park. In the forest we were truly 'wowed' by displaying Green-breasted Pittas, a splendid Red-chested Owlet was found and we spent a long time with the habituated Chimpanzees whilst the Bigodi Wetland walk produced great views of White-spotted Flufftail. Our stay in Queen Elizabeth National Park was most enjoyable although it was very dry and even burned in places. Highlights included African Crake, White-tailed Lark and glorious Red-throated Bee-eaters whilst the fantastic boat trip along the Kazinga Channel produced a large flock of African Skimmers and tremendous looks at Giant Forest Hogs. In the wonderfully named Bwindi Impenetrable Forest we spent a magical hour with a family of Eastern Gorillas and scored enormously with views of the speedy little Neumann's Warbler and the decidedly rare Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill. These steep hills and beautiful forests also held a whole host of Albertine Rift endemic specialties that included Regal Sunbird as well as Handsome Spurfowl, Rwenzori Batis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Grauer's Warbler (heard only), Grauer's Swamp Warbler, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Rwenzori Apalis, Mountain Masked Apalis, Red-throated Alethe, Archer's Ground Robin, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Albertine and Willard's Sooty Boubous, Blue-headed Sunbird and Strange Weaver. We finished our African adventure with a bonus Red-faced Barbet near Lake Mburo. Amongst the many other mouth-watering specialties that we encountered were Montane (Rwenzori) Nightjar, Scarce Swift, Black-billed Turaco, Grey-throated (Grey-headed) Barbet, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Hairy-breasted (Streaky-throated) Barbet, 'Eastern' Yellow-billed Barbet, Dwarf Honeyguide, Speckle-breasted and Elliot's

Woodpeckers, Doherty's Bushshrike (heard only), Pink-footed Puffback, Mountain Oriole, Olive-breasted, White-throated (heard only) and Toro Olive Greenbuls, Trilling, Chubb's and Carruthers's Cisticolas, Black-faced Prinia, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Rwenzori Hill Babbler, Green White-eye, Mountain and Scaly-breasted (heard only) Illadopsises, Black-lored Babbler, Slender-billed, Stuhlmann's and Sharpe's Starlings, Chapin's Flycatcher, White-bellied and Grey-winged Robin-Chats, Equatorial Akalat, Grey-headed Sunbird, Red-chested Sunbird, 'Victoria Masked' and Golden-backed Weavers and Dusky Crimsonwing.

Our action-packed journey around Uganda began in Entebbe with a gentle stroll in the Botanical Gardens for the group's early arrivals which gave us a chance to locate the superb Grey-capped Warbler and Orange Weavers there. Our group of six was complete by the evening so the following day at 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 along dusty dirt roads to the landing stage produced only common birds and on arrival we soon found ourselves on the water in two small, motorised wooden pirogues. After a bit of a search our success with the Shoebill was ultimately a success and the boats were edged closer and closer to where the huge beast was resting so that we obtained some first-class, close-up views. We watched this prehistoric looking creature for as long as we wished and having had our fill of the Shoebill we went in search of other species.

As we wended our way around the creeks of the extensive swamps surrounding Lake Victoria, our boats gliding through the extensive lily pads, we 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, Blue-breasted Bee-eaters perched atop the dense swampland vegetation and there were numerous Yellow-billed Ducks, small numbers of Grey-headed Gulls, African Jacanas, Black Crakes, and African Swampphen with chicks. A single Rufous-bellied Heron was put up, African Marsh Harriers sailed past and we also managed to track down a pair of fairly obliging Lesser Jacana.

Back on land we went in search of the somewhat nomadic Weyns's Weaver. We were lucky enough to track down a male in breeding plumage as there seemed to be very few around at this time. Also in the area were migrant 'wintering' Blue Swallows and a lone Grey-rumped Swallow. In the afternoon we returned to the Botanical Gardens so that those who hadn't been there the previous day could catch up. We not only saw the Orange Weavers again but also added handsome male Golden-backed Weavers and a splendid pair of copulating Bat Hawks!

We left Entebbe early the next morning and took the newly opened express way in order to avoid Kampala's horrendous traffic problems. We were headed to Kibale National Park and the long journey was brightened considerably by a stop that produced marvellously top-knotted Great Blue Turacos. At a convenient roadside swamp, a simply stunning pair of colourful Papyrus Gonoleks put on a magnificent show and a skulking White-winged Swamp Warbler was coaxed into view. True to its nature the latter species did not exactly flaunt itself but we were still pleased to tuck this one under our belts!

The journey took us further and further west and a fortuitous lunch stop gave us a couple of Speckle-breasted Woodpeckers and 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 birdwise and the paved road meant that traffic thundered by somewhat too close for comfort at times but nonetheless we still managed

to see some interesting species. Our main target was the Lowland Masked Apalis which gave itself up after a search and we also had good views of Red-tailed and Blue Monkeys and Ugandan Red Colobus whilst at a river crossing, we found the unassuming Cassin's Flycatcher. The remaining drive to our lodge took us via Fort Portal where a small swamp gave us Northern Brown-throated and Black-headed Weavers as well as the mysterious 'Victoria' Masked Weaver which may be a hybrid or a good species in itself. It has not been proven that they are extralimital Northern Masked Weavers as suggested in the field guide. We managed to arrive at our comfortable lodge before dusk.

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. We began our day in the darkness trying to tempt African Wood Owls into view and then our guide, Milka led us through the grey dawn into the sleeping forest that was just beginning to stir. We were fortunate because after a long period of silence in the area the pittas had started to become active again and it wasn't long before we heard the first 'blips' of their display – a sound that appears to be mechanical rather than vocal. We were aided by local trackers who were keeping an eye on the displaying birds and it wasn't long before we found ourselves watching these marvellous creatures. It was perched on a horizontal bough just a few metres away and we watched as it leapt into the air, forcefully flipping out its wings in order to make the distinctive noise, the luminous colours glowing in the dim forest light. Words cannot express our emotions but the whole experience was simply wonderful! Nearby a small flock of Western Guineafowl stole our attention and we eventually we lost the pittas.

Subsequently our thoughts turned 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. The great apes were found easily because they were feeding near where we had parked the car but they were feeding high in the trees. After a while the alpha male and his associates decided to descend from their lofty feeding place and then it was a dash through the forest to head them off to their next feeding place where we watched them on the ground and in low shrubs. The morning had been an unqualified success.

We returned to the forest in the afternoon and worked the main road so that by the end of the day we had also added a number of forest species to our lists but the highlight had to be the lovely little Red-chested Owlet that was persuaded to show itself and chose to do so on a surprisingly low perch for a change!

Early the next morning 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. We started off well with flight views of a Shining-blue Kingfisher before starting the walk. The highlight of the morning had to be the super little White-spotted Flufftails that walked around in front of us but we also enjoyed good views of (Eastern) Yellow-billed Barbet, Compact Weaver, Black-bellied Seedcracker and Magpie Mannikin.

After a good final lunch at our lovely lodge, we set off for Queen Elizabeth National Park and a completely new set of birds. The main road was dry and dusty and we saw little but entering the park we began to notch up some of the common birds of the area including Senegal Lapwing and Green-winged Pytilia.

The time spent in Queen Elizabeth National Park is always considered to be yet another of the great highlights of this action-packed tour and after an early breakfast we set out to explore the park. Along the main road the desiccated grasslands were badly burned out in many places but in some protected areas in the cool of the morning we managed to get brief looks at African Crake and spotted small numbers of Black Coucal (mainly in non-breeding plumage) as well as Moustached Grass Warbler.

Scattered out over the close-cropped Kasenyi Plains were Crowned Lapwing, Black-bellied Bustard, Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks and best of all, we managed some perfect views of the much rarer White-tailed Lark. 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!) and Defassa Waterbuck. An incredibly lucky sighting of a Serval Cat creeping through the long grasses made everybody's day. Good numbers of elephants were also 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! Away from the plains, the landscape is dotted with thickets and punctuated by Candelabra Euphorbias and in this bushy territory we also found the impressive Martial Eagle and garrulous Black-lored Babblers.

At lunchtime we shared the dining table with tame Swamp Flycatchers and Black-headed and Slender-billed Weavers as we gazed out at the spectacular view over the broad Kazinga Channel flowing below us and during the afternoon we 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. The star attraction had to be the flock of about 100 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 Pied Kingfishers were awe-inspiring and included a snowy-white leucistic individual. We got close to numerous Hippopotamus, 'Lake Chad' Buffalo (or perhaps again hybrids between Cape and Forest Buffalos), a few Nile Crocodiles and some thirsty African Elephants and we even got to see a few Giant Forest Hogs – a much wanted piggy! A large congregation of White-breasted Cormorants was gathered and also dotted along the shore were numbers of Egyptian Goose, Great White Pelicans, Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks as well as a few Reed Cormorant, African Sacred Ibis, Squacco, Goliath and Grey Herons, Great and Little Egrets, Hamerkop and Black Crake. A trio of Red-throated Bee-eaters added a brilliant splash of colour where African Fish Eagles stood sentinel. A totally superb day!

The next day we bade farewell to Mweya Lodge and 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. A productive stop in some open Acacia woodland gave us a fierce little Pearl-spotted Owlet and the gaudy Crested Barbet. We also hunted out Stout Cisticola in the grasslands before reaching the Ishasha sector of the park where we ate our picnic lunch on the Ishasha River on the border with Congo watching some Hippos hauled up on the sand in front of

us. A number of Uganda Topi were spotted on the open plains but sadly there was no sign of the 'famous' tree-climbing Lions this trip.

It was then time to close the roof of the landcruiser and head on to our next destination and we arrived in the ever-growing village of Buhoma, situated at the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park 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 at any given time, we managed to see some of those important and coveted Albertine Rift endemic species such as Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Red-throated Alethe and the notoriously skulking Neumann's Warbler. Even the recently described Willard's Sooty Boubou was teased out of the tangles and its distinctive pale blue-grey iris was noted. Furtive Equatorial Akalats flitted in the undergrowth, Black-billed Turacos posed well as did the uncommon Chapin's Flycatcher. A fine male African Broadbill twirled and displayed upon his perch and during our walk we also managed views of Bar-tailed Trogon and the pretty White-bellied Robin-Chat. A fine supporting cast of other species included Ansorge's Greenbul, a species first discovered in the country during BirdQuest's 2001 Uganda tour as well as Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Elliot's Woodpecker, Pink-footed Puffback, Mountain Oriole, Black-faced Rufous Warbler and Stuhlmann's Starling.

We had already seen a fine selection of primates that included Red-tailed, L'Hoest's and Blue Monkeys, Vervet, 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 everyone 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! Here follows an account of the experience from one of the participants:

"The predawn rain dampened the roadway but not our spirits as we wound our way up the mountain to Ruhija, the starting point for our gorilla tracking adventure. Our arrival was met by a rousing welcome from a community dance troupe, after which we learned about the benefits that have accrued to both the human and gorilla communities by the presence of trekkers like us.

Anticipation rose as we met our guide and learned which gorilla family we would meet. The name of our family translated to "Happy" in English and derived from the demeanour of the silverback, who presided over a family of seven, including a four-months old.

A twenty-minute drive took us to the starting point for the trek where we met our porters and escorts. Immediately we began a steep descent through duff and wet vegetation, a porter holding one hand and the other hand grasping a bamboo hiking pole. After just forty-five minutes we stopped and, to our surprise, we were instructed to grab our cameras and leave our packs; our gorilla family had been found!

The magnificent silverback was the first member of the group that we saw and he dominated our viewing opportunities. Our individual porters were masters at getting each and every one of us into prime viewing positions and our wonderful trackers discretely cleared vegetation that obstructed our view. Our silverback alternated between action – a downhill charge followed by leisurely munching – and relaxation. In between he kept a watchful eye on his family, at least three of which (two adults and one baby) we could see through the vegetation.

There is no single word that adequately describes the experience, although spiritual, magical and enchanting all come quickly to mind. All too soon the given hour of viewing was over. The long climb back up began but the entire experience put a spring in our step that propelled us up the mountain. We summited to high-fives, hugs and a ‘diploma’ commemorating an experience none of us will ever forget”

Approximately just over 1,000 ‘mountain’ Gorillas have survived the ravages of modern times and a population of about 400 animals is believed to inhabit Bwindi itself. 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.

After our two full days in the Buhoma area of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, it was time to relocate to the higher section of the park at Ruhija. The journey took us from the lower part of the forest and through the cultivated valleys. At ‘The Neck’, a narrow corridor of forest connecting two sections of the park we picked up a few more forest species and in particular Toro Olive Greenbul and Grey-headed Sunbird.

Ruhija was to be our base for the next two nights and the wooded hillsides here provided suitable habitat that allowed us to add to our growing collection of forest species and Albertine Rift endemics and some late afternoon birding provided us with brief views of Handsome Spurfowl as well as Western Tinkerbird and as dusk fell a pair of ‘Rwenzori’ Montane Nightjars were spot-lighted along the road.

For at least some of the group, perhaps the main reason for coming to Ruhija was to trek up and then down, down and down to the Mubwindi Swamp where some major targets occur. We followed a well-trodden trail through exceedingly birdy terrain and managed to see Albertine endemic Rwenzori Batis, Rwenzori and Mountain Masked Apalises, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Strange Weaver, Albertine Sooty Boubou, Stripe-breasted Tit, pretty Archer's Ground Robin, Blue-headed Sunbird and the sensational Regal Sunbird.

We already knew that the guides knew the locations of two nests of the decidedly rare Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill and as we neared the first, a bird was immediately on show sat by the side of it – a rather dishevelled ball of moss and lichen. We moved closer and fortunately enjoyed repeated views of a pair of these beautiful little lime-green and powder-blue birds foraging and returning with food for their hungry youngsters. Having rested and had our fill of these birds, we continued down to a second nest where we could see the entrance hole and a little head poking out waiting patiently for the eggs to hatch.

A bit further on we reached the Mubwindi Swamp itself where we sat and ate our lunch enjoying the view that has not changed significantly in centuries. The Grauer's Swamp Warbler took a little time to see but ultimately, we all saw a few displaying birds leaping out of the sedges, dragging their tails behind them.

Our final day was strictly a travel day as we had to get all the way back to Entebbe to connect with late evening flights. However, the birds kept coming with stunning Grey Crowned Cranes en route. A brief stop at a convenient pool gave us small numbers of White-backed Duck before the journey took us past Mburu National Park an area that comprises of dry acacia bush surrounding the lake itself and much open grazing land for the ridiculously large-horned Ankole Cattle. Hence this was a new habitat which in turn supported a few new species of birds for us. We had just enough time to enable us to squeeze some more goodies in the form of a pair of restricted range Red-faced Barbets with a Black-collared Barbet in tow and we ended up munching our lunchtime sandwiches amongst Impala and Plains Zebra. The final new bird of the trip was Lilac-breasted Roller on the telegraph wires as we left Mburu.

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 hardworking driver guide who really made our tour a holiday to remember.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* leader-only
Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*
Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*
Western Crested Guineafowl *Guttera verreauxi*
Crested Francolin *Ortygornis sephaena*
Handsome Spurfowl ◊ (H Francolin) *Pternistis nobilis*
Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*
Montane Nightjar ◊ (Ruwenzori N) *Caprimulgus [poliocephalus] ruwenzorii*
Scarce Swift ◊ *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*
Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*
Alpine Swift* *Tachymarptis melba*
Little Swift *Apus affinis*
White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*
Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*
Eastern Plantain-eater (E Grey P-e) *Crinifer zonurus*
Ross's Turaco *Tauraco rossae*
Black-billed Turaco ◊ *Tauraco schuettii*
Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*
Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*
White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*
Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*
Blue Malkoha (B Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus*
Levaillant's Cuckoo (Striped C) *Clamator levaillantii*
Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*
African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*
Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*
Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx montanus*

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* heard-only

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta* leader-only

African Olive Pigeon *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*

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

African Rail (A Water R) *Rallus caerulescens* heard-only

African Crane *Crecopsis egregia*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Black Crane *Zapornia flavirostra*

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

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*
Senegal Lapwing (Lesser Black-winged L) *Vanellus lugubris*
Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus*
African Wattled Lapwing (A W Plover) *Vanellus senegallus*
Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*
Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*
African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*
African Openbill (A Open-billed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*
African Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia microscelis*
Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus*
White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*
Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata*
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris*
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E) *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Shoebill ♦ *Balaeniceps rex*

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus*

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*

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 (African C E) *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

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*
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* heard-only
Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*
Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*
Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* heard-only
Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum*
African Hoopoe *Upupa africana*
White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*
Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*
Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus*
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus*
Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*
Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*
Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*
Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*
Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*
Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*
African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*
Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*
Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*
Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus*

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates*
Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*
White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*
Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*
Grey-throated Barbet ◊ (G-headed B) *Gymnobucco [bonapartei] cinereiceps*
Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*
Western Tinkerbird (W Green T) *Pogoniulus coryphaea*
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* heard-only
Yellow-spotted Barbet ◊ *Buccanodon duchailui*
Hairy-breasted Barbet ◊ (Streaky-throated B) *Tricholaema hirsuta*
Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa*
Red-faced Barbet ◊ *Lybius rubrifacies*
Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*
Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*
Yellow-billed Barbet ◊ (Eastern Y-b B) *Trachyphonus purpuratus*
Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii*
Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*
Dwarf Honeyguide ◊ *Indicator pumilio*
Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii* heard-only
Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis* heard-only
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* leader-only
Lesser Honeyguide (Thick-billed H) *Indicator [minor] conirostris*
Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*
Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Chloropicus xantholophus*
Speckle-breasted Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos poecilolaemus*
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Elliot's Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos elliotii*
African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaecus*
African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*
Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*
Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri*
Grauer's Broadbill ◊ (African Green B) *Pseudocalyptomena graueri*
African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*
Green-breasted Pitta ◊ *Pitta reichenowi*
Rwenzori Batis ◊ *Batis diops*
Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* heard-only
Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri* heard-only
Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea* leader-only
Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea*
Many-colored Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor*
Bocage's Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei*
Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* heard-only
Doherty's Bushshrike ◊ *Telophorus dohertyi* heard-only
Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*
Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*
Pink-footed Puffback ◊ *Dryoscopus angolensis*
Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*
Albertine Sooty Boubou ◊ *Laniarius holomelas*
Willard's Sooty Boubou ◊ (Mountain S B) *Laniarius willardi*
Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*
Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major*
Papyrus Gonolek ◊ *Laniarius mufumbiri*

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher (Vanga F) *Bias musicus*
Grey Cuckooshrike *Cebblepyris caesius*
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*
Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*
Mackinnon's Shrike (M Fiscal) *Lanius mackinnoni*
Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*
Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*
Western Oriole (W Black-headed O) *Oriolus brachyrynchus*
Mountain Oriole ◊ (Montane O) *Oriolus percivali*
Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) *Dicrurus adsimilis*
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*
Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
White-necked Raven (W-naped R) *Corvus albicollis*
African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* leader-only
White-bellied Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albiventris*
Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus*
Stripe-breasted Tit ◊ *Melaniparus fasciiventer*
Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafraga africana*
Flappet Lark *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*
White-tailed Lark ◊ *Mirafraga albicauda*
Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*
Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*
Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis*
Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*
Kakamega Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla kakamegae*

Olive-breasted Greenbul ◊ (O-b Mountain G) *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 albigularis* heard-only

Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

Toro Olive Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristopectera*

White-headed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne albiceps*

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Blue Swallow ◊ *Hirundo atrocaerulea*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*

Red-breasted Swallow (Rufous-chested S) *Cecropis semirufa*

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W) *Melocichla mentalis*

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

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

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Red-faced Woodland Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus laetus*
Grauer's Warbler ◊ *Graueria vittata* heard-only
Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi*. heard-only
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*
White-winged Swamp Warbler ◊ (W-w Warbler) *Bradypterus carpalis*
Grauer's Swamp Warbler ◊ *Bradypterus graueri*
Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*
Trilling Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola woosnami*
Chubb's Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola chubbi*
Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*
Carruthers's Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola carruthersi*
Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus*
Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*
Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*
Black-faced Prinia ◊ *Prinia melanops*
White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon*
Rwenzori Apalis ◊ (Collared A) *Oreolais ruwenzorii*
Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*
Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*
Lowland Masked Apalis (Masked A) *Apalis binotata*
Mountain Masked Apalis ◊ (Black-faced A) *Apalis personata*
Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni*
Chestnut-throated Apalis ◊ *Apalis porphyrolaema*
Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*
Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea*
Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida*

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*
Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*
Rwenzori Hill Babbler ◊ *Sylvia atriceps*
Green White-eye ◊ *Zosterops stuhlmanni*
Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*
Mountain Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis albipectus* heard-only
Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*
Black-lored Babbler ◊ *Turdoides sharpei*
Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*
Purple-headed Starling *Hylopsar purpureiceps*
Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*
Rüppell's Starling (R Long-tailed S) *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*
Slender-billed Starling ◊ *Onychognathus tenuirostris*
Stuhlmann's Starling ◊ *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*
Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*
Sharpe's Starling ◊ *Pholia sharpii*
Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*
Fraser's Rufous Thrush *Stizorhina fraseri*
African Thrush *Turdus pelios*
Abyssinian Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus*
White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher (G-t F) *Myioparus griseigularis*
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus*
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*
Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher ◊ *Melaenornis ardesiacus*
Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*
Cassin's Flycatcher (C Grey F) *Muscicapa cassini*
Chapin's Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa lendu*
African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*
Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*
Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata*
Red-throated Alethe ◊ *Chamaetylas poliophrys*
White-bellied Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossyphicula roberti*
Archer's Ground Robin ◊ (A Robin-Chat) *Cossypha archeri*
White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*
Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* heard-only
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat (Snowy-headed R-C) *Cossypha niveicapilla*
White-starred Robin (W-s Forest R) *Pogonocichla stellata*
Grey-winged Robin-Chat (G-w Robin) *Sheppardia polioptera*
Equatorial Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia aequatorialis*
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*
Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*
Grey-headed Sunbird ◊ *Deleornis axillaris*
Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*
Grey-chinned Sunbird (Green S) *Anthreptes tephrolaemus*
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*

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius*
Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris reichenowi*
Regal Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris regius*
Red-chested Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris erythrocerus*
Purple-banded Sunbird (Little P-b S) *Cinnyris bifasciatus*
Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*
Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons*
Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*
Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni*
Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*
Strange Weaver ◊ *Ploceus alienus*
Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*
Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*
Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*
Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*
'Victoria Masked Weaver' ◊ *Ploceus sp. nov.*
Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*
Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*
Weyns's Weaver ◊ *Ploceus weynsi*
Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed W) *Ploceus melanocephalus*
Golden-backed Weaver ◊ (Jackson's G-b W) *Ploceus jacksoni*
Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus*
Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*
Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*
Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*
Fan-tailed Widowbird (Red-shouldered W) *Euplectes axillaris*
Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*
Magpie Mannikin *Spermestes fringilloides*
Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor*
Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccygia quartinia*
Dusky Crimsonwing ◊ *Cryptospiza jacksoni*
White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus*
Grey-headed Nigrita (G-h Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*
Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula*
Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola*
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*
Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*
Green-winged Pytilia (Melba F) *Pytilia melba*
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*
Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*
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*
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*
Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*
Golden-breasted Bunting (African G-b B) *Emberiza flaviventris*

MAMMALS

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*
Serval *Leptailurus serval*
Rusty-spotted Genet *Genetta maculata*
Common Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*
Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*
Plains Zebra *Equus quagga*
Forest Hog (Giant F H) *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*
Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus*
Black-fronted Duiker *Cephalophus nigrifrons*
Topi (Uganda T) *Damaliscus lunatus*
Waterbuck (Defassa W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa*
Kob (Uganda K) *Kobus [kob] thomasi*
African Buffalo (Lake Chad B) *Syncerus caffer*
Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*
Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*
Spectacled Lesser Galago *Galago matschiei*
L'hoest's Monkey *Allochrocebus lhoesti*
Red-tailed Monkey (Black-cheeked White-nosed M) *Cercopithecus ascanius*
Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*
Vervet (Green Monkey) *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*
Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza*
Grey-cheeked Mangabey (Uganda G-c M) *Lophocebus [albigena] ugandae*
Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*
Ugandan Red Colobus (Uganda R C) *Piliocolobus tephrosceles*
Eastern Gorilla (Mountain G) *Gorilla beringei*
Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*
African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae*

Carruther's Mountain Squirrel (M Tree S) *Funisciurus carruthersi*

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

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

Boehm's Bush Squirrel (B Dwarf S) *Paraxerus boehmi*

Giant Forest Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*