



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Uganda Birds & Gorillas I Trip Report

*30<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010*



Green-breasted Pitta by Chris Goodie

**Trip Report Compiled by Tour Leader: Rainer Summers**

### **Tour Summary**

Uganda is an equatorial country that is hemmed in by the mighty Lake Victoria in the east and the towering mountains of the Rwenzori and Virungas in the west. It is a land of incredible diversity – life abounds, and this is visible from the corner of a street in Kampala, where Marabous and Hooded

Vultures squabble for scraps, to the rich rainforests alive with birds, butterflies and primates. It seems that every possible habitat in Uganda is crawling with birds – it is certainly one of the birdiest countries in Africa! Our tour led us on a circuitous route through this small nation, beginning in the leafy town of Entebbe that languishes on the edge of the vast Lake Victoria.



The first day of our tour saw us rising early and making our way through the manic capital of Kampala before making a stop in the rich farmbrush outside of town, as well as at Luwero Swamp. Some of the top birds seen in these areas were Marsh Widowbird, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Ross's Turaco, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, Double-toothed Barbet, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Bocage's Bushshrike, African Blue Flycatcher and Yellow-throated Leaflove. As we neared Masindi, a change in vegetation warranted a stop that yielded some lovely birds, including Bruce's and African Green Pigeon, White-crested Turaco, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked and White-headed Barbets, Nubian Woodpecker, Western Black-headed Batis, Piapiac, Bronze-tailed Starling, Spotted Palm Thrush and a bird quite out of range here, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver. Thereafter it was to our hotel in the "frontier" town of Masindi, which conveniently acts as a gateway to expansive

Budongo Forest and the famous Murchison Falls National Park.

The Royal Mile in Budongo Forest is a stunning section of rainforest with a relatively high proportion of Guinea Congolian inhabitants, giving it a distinctly "central African rainforest" feel. The main track through the towering forest here has a peripheral strip of land along each side where the undergrowth is cleared, allowing for excellent visibility into the high canopy. We enjoyed a superb days birding (quite a way to be introduced to rainforest birding!), and recorded Chocolate-backed, Blue-breasted and African Dwarf Kingfishers, White-thighed Hornbill, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Yellow-crested Woodpecker, African Shrike-flycatcher, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Western Oriole, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Madagascar Cuckoo, Sooty Tit, a plethora of greenbuls represented by Little Grey, Plain, Slender-billed, Yellow-whiskered, Spotted and Red-tailed, Sabine's Spinetail, lively Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Buff-throated Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Lemon-bellied Crombec (nesting), Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Forest Robin, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher, Sooty Flycatcher, Grey-chinned and Superb Sunbirds and Red-headed Malimbe. An interesting mammal addition was a Western Tree Hyrax relaxing near its roost hole high in a rainforest tree. Agricultural land and rich secondary growth supports a fantastic array of birds outside of Budongo Forest, and in these areas we saw Moustached Grass Warbler, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Compact Weaver, Whistling and Short-winged Cisticolas, Brown Twinspot, Black-bellied Firefinch, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Grey-capped Warbler, Heuglin's Francolin and Greyish Eagle-Owl.

The following day we left Masindi and made our way into Murchison Falls NP, with our first port of call being the section of Budongo Forest known as Kaniyo Pabidi. This forest is an easterly extension



of Budongo Forest that did not suffer at the hands of loggers, and houses a number of interesting species. We recorded a few beauties, including Puvell's Illadopsis, African Emerald Cuckoo, Narina Trogon, Grey Longbill and Green Crombec, before making our way through the undulating Guinea Savanna that covers large areas of this beautiful park. Our afternoon entailed a trip to the mighty Murchison Falls, where a large proportion of the Nile thunders through a small gap in the bedrock with spectacular results! Birding at the falls produced Western Osprey, Rock Pratincole sitting tight on rock faces near the falls, as well as the smart Red-winged Grey Warbler, before enjoying sundowners overlooking the Victoria Nile and Slender-tailed and Pennant-winged Nightjars on our journey home!



Murchison Falls National Park covers 3840 square kilometres and is Uganda's largest national park. The south bank region of Murchison Falls is blanketed by broad-leaved Guinea savanna, while the game-filled area north of the mighty river is quite open and dominated by Borassus palm savanna. We accrued an impressive list of specials in our time in Murchison, including Fulvous Whistling Duck, Little Bittern, Goliath Heron, Intermediate Egret, Shoebill, White-backed, Rüppell's and Lappet-faced Vultures, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Martial Eagle, Red-necked Falcon, Denham's Bustard, Allen's Gallinule, Senegal Thick-knee, Long-toed, Spur-winged and Black-headed Lapwings, Mourning Collared and Vinaceous Doves, Black-billed Wood Dove,

Blue-headed Coucal, Levillant's and Jacobin Cuckoos, Red-chested Cuckoo, Swallow-tailed and Red-throated Bee-eaters, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Black-billed Barbet, Greater Honeyguide, African Grey and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Shrike, Foxy Cisticola, Green-backed Eremomela, Northern Crombec, Lesser Blue-eared Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Silverbird, Western Violet-backed and Beautiful Sunbirds, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Kenya Sparrow, Speckle-fronted and Little Weavers, Northern Red Bishop and scarce Brown-rumped Bunting. However, this park is best known for the mysterious Shoebill, a bird that has become synonymous with the papyrus swamps around the Albert Nile delta. Our boat launch in search of this species was unsuccessful; however, after leaving the boat and driving on the north bank, we found a single Shoebill – what a moment! Murchison Falls suffered heavily from rampant poaching during the lawlessness of the Imin era, yet game numbers have bounced back nicely, and we saw some excellent game including Leopard, Patas Monkey, Uganda Grass Hare, Elephant, large numbers of Hippo and African Buffalo, Nile Crocodile, Rothschild's Giraffe, good numbers of Oribi, Uganda Kob, Kongoni and Defassa Waterbuck.

After a fantastic time in the park, we departed by driving along the road through the Bugungu region before ascending the Butiaba Escarpment. Our drive through this area netted us Black Scimitarbill, White-rumped Seedeater, Tawny Eagle, White-crested Helmetshrike, Mocking Cliff Chat and Vitelline Masked Weaver, before heading into the cool Busingiro section of Budingo Forest where, after some hard work, we found an Ituri Batis – a highly sought-after inhabitant of this forest. That evening we checked into our hotel in the Masindi area once again, and enjoyed a cold drink at the



bar before dinner and a well deserved rest.

A long drive ensued the following day, but not before a productive stop where we saw Red-winged Warbler, the sought-after Orange-tufted Sunbird, Mosque Swallow and Western Nicator. Thereafter we slogged onward to the Sebitole section of Kibale Forest. Our short stint here proved most enjoyable, and we saw Grey-throated Barbet, Cassin's Honeybird, Elliot's Woodpecker, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Joyful Greenbul, Green Hylia and Purple-headed Starling before checking in to our comfortable accommodations in the heart of the forest.



Kibale Forest is a primate stronghold, and aside from providing a home to 13 primate species, it is the only forest in East Africa that hosts Central African Red Colobus, an intrigal part of the diet of Kibale's large Chimpanzee population. Our time spent traversing the forest paths and driving the broad track through that winds within it was most productive. An early morning foray into the forest provided outrageous views of the highly sought after Green-breasted Pitta (the blue spots on the wings are iridescent blue and positively shine out from the dim forest floor!), whereafter we had a

lengthy and very personal experience with Chimpanzees, certainly a morning to behold! Other avian highlights in and around the forest included African Wood Owl, Black-shouldered Nightjar, Shining-blue Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater, Yellow-spotted, Yellow-billed and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, White-throated Greenbul, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Scaly-breasted and Brown Illadopsises, Narrow-tailed Starling, White-tailed Rufous Thrush, Little Green and Green-throated Sunbirds, White-spotted Flufftail, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Red-headed Bluebill, White-breasted Nigrita and Mountain Wagtail. We also saw a number of good mammals, including Red-legged Sun Squirrel, Central African Red and Guereza Colobus's, Grey-cheeked Mangabey and L'Hoest's and Red-tailed Monkeys, a superb primate haul for one forest!

From Kibale we travelled the short distance to Queen Elizabeth National Park (which has the title as being the park in Africa with the largest bird list with over 600 species recorded), and checked into our smart hotel perched atop the Mweya Peninsula overlooking the Kazinga Channel. Birding the rank grassland and *Euphorbia* savanna was very entertaining, not to mention the thronging Kazinga Channel that is always a highlight! Some of the top birds we recorded in Queen Elizabeth included Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Glossy Ibis, African Crake, Kurrichane Buttonquail, Water Thick-knee, Senegal and Crowned Lapwings, Collared Pratincole, African Skimmer (in large numbers on the Channel), Gull-billed Tern, Black Coucal, Square-tailed Nightjar, Marsh Tchagra, White-tailed, Rufous-naped, Flappet and Red-capped Larks, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, Swamp Flycatcher and Red-chested Sunbird. The Kazinga Channel acts as wildlife and bird magnet, and our afternoon on the Channel was most entertaining indeed! Huge numbers of game come down to drink and laze in the cool waters of the Channel, and we were



witness to large numbers of African Buffalo and Hippo (and a hunting Lioness!) alongside African Skimmers and large roosts of White-breasted Cormorants.

Leaving our palatial lodge, we drove through the Ishasha section of the park *en route* to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The Ishasha section is quite vast and is mostly covered in *Acacia* and fig studded savanna. Birds seen in the area included Black-and-white (Vanga) Flycatcher, Grey Penduline Tit, Red-faced Crombec, Cassin's Flycatcher, Ayres's Hawk Eagle, Temminck's Courser, Buff-bellied Warbler and White-winged Black Tit. Our routing took us right alongside the Ishasha River, and within arms-length of the Heart of Darkness, the DRC! After an entertaining lunch watching the cavorting Hippos in the river and trying to spot birds in both countries, we continued our drive out of the park.

Buhoma is the gateway for many people to the world famous Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, a bastion for Mountain Gorilla conservation, and a hotbed for Albertine Rift Endemics. Viewing Mountain Gorillas rates with the world's ultimate mammal viewing experiences, and with good reason. These huge, gentle (sometimes!) beasts inhabit a rainforest wonderland, and viewing them is...simply superb. Their personal interactions, gestures and even eyes are simply amazing, and make for an



experience of a lifetime! Any person that claims to have any interest in natural history must track gorillas at least once in their life... On the birding front, a broad trail through the forest provides good access to prime montane forest habitat, and offers superb forest birding! We saw a number of excellent birds, including Bar-tailed Trogon, Tullberg's Woodpecker, African Broadbill, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Scarce Swift, Pink-footed Puffback, Lühder's Bushshrike, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Anson's and Honeyguide Greenbuls, Neumann's Warbler, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Chubb's Cisticola, Black-throated and Grey Apalis, Olive-green Camaroptera,

Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Stuhlmann's Starling, Red-throated Alethe, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Chapin's Flycatcher, Grey-throated Tit Flycatcher, Northern Double-collared and Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds and Black-billed Weaver. The farmbrush and associated areas nearby were quite productive, and some of the better avians seen were Mackinnon's Fiscal, Red-headed Lovebird, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Singing Cisticola, Black-throated Canary, Black and Yellow Bishops and noisy Red-throated Wryneck.

Leaving Buhoma, we travelled through "The Neck" before arriving at our high altitude camp. One of the major attractions here is Mubwindi Swamp, a wetland that hosts some of Africa's most sought-after birds. The swamp is beautiful and feels positively ancient, with winding elephant paths lining the wetland edge and tall, lichen bedecked trees rising out of the swamp's periphery. Top birds seen on our walk to the swamp included Brown-capped Weaver, Waller's Starling, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Grauer's Swamp Warbler, Carruther's Cisticola, Lagden's Bushshrike, Great Blue Turaco (in huge numbers around the fruiting trees!), White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Sharpe's Starling, Archer's Ground Robin, Grey Cuckooshrike, Mountain Oriole and Strange Weaver.

The Ruhija area was very productive, and we enjoyed some excellent birding in this montane forest wonderland! Birding the forest trails and winding roads produced Handsome Francolin, Mountain Buzzard, Crowned Eagle, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Western Tinkerbird, Ruwenzori Batis, Doherty's Bushshrike, Stripe-breasted Tit, Olive-breasted Greenbul, Grauer's Warbler, Ruwenzori,



Mountain Masked and Chestnut-thoated Apalis, White-browed Crombec, Mountain Illadopsis, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Slender-billed Starling, Blue-headed and Regal Sunbirds, Dusky Crimsonwing, Yellow-bellied and Black-headed Waxbills, Yellow-crowned Canary, Streaky and Thick-billed Seedeaters, and the shy Black-fronted Duiker.

After the montane wonderland of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, we drove to Lake Mburo NP. This is a birdy reserve that is covered in more classic “southern savanna” that most people are accustomed to when they think of Africa – the feel of the park is completely different to that of other game parks we experienced in Uganda, and this is also affirmed by the game that inhabit the park – it is the only place in Uganda that we encountered Impala and Plains Zebra, and even the African Buffalo here are larger, both physically and in terms of horns, than their brethren further north in Uganda. The actual lake offers some excellent species, and our foray onto its waters and around its edge produced White-backed and Black-crowned Night Herons, Rufous-bellied Heron and excellent African Finfoot, while the adjacent *Acacia* woodlands Coqui Francolin, Brown-chested Lapwing, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, African Cuckoo, African Scops Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Red-faced Barbet, Bearded Woodpecker, Black-headed Oriole, Long-tailed Cisticola, Greater Blue-eared Starling and Lesser Masked Weaver. Thereafter we left for Jinja, a vibrant and important commercial town situated at the “source of the Nile” where we spent our last night at a pleasant lodge overlooking the Nile. This positioned us conveniently close to Mabira Forest, which would represent our last rainforest birding. The drive in at dusk afforded us views of enormous numbers of Straw-coloured Fruitbats as they emerged from their roosts to forage – a mind-blowing sight indeed!



Mabira Forest lies on the road between Kampala and Jinja, and protects a delightful tract of very birdy mid-altitude rainforest. We had a great time here and picked up a number of excellent species, including the sought-after Nahan’s Francolin, White-headed Woodhoopoe, African Pied Hornbill, White-throated Bee-eater, jewel-like Jameson’s Wattle-eye, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Yellow-lored Bristlebill, Fire-crested Alethe, secretive Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Grey-headed Sunbird, Weyn’s and Yellow-mantled Weavers and the stunning Black-bellied Seedcracker (the later found attending a nest and providing superb views!).

The final instalment of our tour was a visit to the Entebbe Botanical Gardens that line the edge of Lake Victoria, and whose luscious green vegetation and rank lake-edge habitat hold a number of excellent species. Here we finished off with scope views of African Hobby and Orange Weaver, as well as a Spotted-necked Otter swimming in the lake. All in all, Uganda once again produced the goods, and we enjoyed a most enjoyable and successful tour to this equatorial wonderland!

## Annotated List of Birds recorded

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



**Total species recorded (including heard): 545**

(ARE) indicates an Albertine Rift endemic species

QENP = Queen Elizabeth National Park

NP = National Park

**Guineafowl Numididae****Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

A widespread savanna inhabitant that was seen fairly frequently during the tour.

**Crested Guineafowl***Guttera pucherani*

Two birds were seen in Kibale Forest.

**Pheasants, Fowl and Allies Phasianidae****Nahan's Francolin***Ptilopachus nahani*

We were most fortunate to see four birds in Mabira Forest. A localised and sought after avian of lower elevation forests in Uganda.

**Coqui Francolin***Peliperdix coqui*

Three birds showed well at Lake Mburo.

**Crested Francolin***Dendroperdix sephaena*

Heard in Murchison Falls NP, with sightings of this bushveld inhabitant later at Lake Mburo NP.

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

We enjoyed fantastic views of this species near Masindi.

**Handsome Francolin \* ARE***Pternistis nobilis*

A female and six chicks strolled across the road at Ruhija, providing excellent views.

**Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)***Pternistis afer*

Common in QENP and in Lake Mburo NP.

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

Good numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Fulvous Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna bicolor*

We saw this species in Murchison Falls NP along the Nile. A scarce species which is infrequently recorded on our tours in Uganda.

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

This huge bird was seen alongside the Nile in Murchison Falls, and later in wetlands en route to Lake Mburo and in Lake Mburo NP as well.

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

Seen on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls, in QENP and in Lake Mburo NP.

**Egyptian Goose***Alopochen aegyptiacus*

This widespread & common bird was seen at Murchison Falls NP, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

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

Seen at Lake Mburo and on Lake Victoria.

**Grebes Podicipedidae****Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Five were seen on a small dam near Lake Mburo.



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### Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

**Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

A scarce species in Uganda, we recorded a few species at Lake Munyanyage near QENP.

**Lesser Flamingo***Phoenicopterus minor*

Seen in good numbers alongside the previous species at Lake Munyanyage.

### Storks Ciconiidae

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

First recorded on the Kazinga Channel, where we had great views.

**African Openbill***Anastomus lamelligerus*

Widespread and seen in the vicinity of many wetlands on the tour.

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

Seen in Murchison Falls NP.

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

We recorded this species at a number of scattered wetland sites throughout the tour.

**Marabou Stork***Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Commonly recorded during the tour, especially in the vicinity of human settlements.

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**African Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Seen at a few scattered wetland sites during the tour.

**Hadada Ibis***Bostrychia hagedash*

Recorded fairly frequently.

**Glossy Ibis***Plegadis falcinellus*

Two birds were seen in QENP.

### Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

**Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

A few birds were seen on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**White-backed Night Heron***Gorsachius leaconotus*

We had excellent views of a pair at Lake Mburo. This is quite a sought after species!

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

Seen on the Victoria Nile, QENP and in Lake Mburo NP.

**Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

This species was seen in QENP, at Lake Mburo and along the shores of Lake Victoria.

*NOTE: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. The IOC recognizes three full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens, Galapagos Heron B. sundevalli and the most widespread nominate form that we recorded in Uganda.*

**Squacco Heron***Ardeola ralloides*

Seen at a few scattered wetland sites during the tour.

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

A smart bird, it was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**Western Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Quite a common species on the tour.

*NOTE: This group is split into 2 species by the IOC, the nominate Western Cattle Egret B. ibis and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

Seen at most major wetland sites.



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

Common seen in open country sites throughout the tour.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*

The world's largest heron, it was seen on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

Recorded on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

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

Seen at scattered wetland sites.

*NOTE: IOC now recognises Great Egret as 2 separate species, namely Western Great Egret A. alba and Eastern Great Egret as A. modesta. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

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

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Seen on the Kazinga, Lake Mburo and Lake Victoria.

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

**Hamerkop Scopidae**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This interesting species (belonging to a monotypic family) was seen at a number of wetland areas during the tour.

**Shoebill Balaenicipitidae**

**Shoebill** *Balaeniceps rex*

Certainly one of the most sought after birds in the world, we had extended scope views of an individual in a shallow, flooded area along the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP, what a fantastic species.

**Pelicans Pelecanidae**

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*

Seen at scattered wetland sites during the tour, including birds at a breeding colony en route to Masindi.

**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**

**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Seen alongside major rivers and waterways (e.g. Victoria Nile, Lakes Mburo and Victoria).

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Long-tailed Cormorant.*

**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Seen in similar areas to the previous species, with our best views being along the Kazinga Channel.

**Anhingas, Darters Anhangidae**

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*

We saw this species along the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

*NOTE: The IOC splits Darter A. melanogaster into 3 separate species, namely African Darter A. rufa, Oriental Darter A. melanogaster and Australasian Darter A. novaehollandiae. Clements does not yet recognise these splits.*



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## Ospreys Pandionidae

**Western Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

One was seen at Murchison Falls.

## Kites Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

**Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

Seen at many open country sites during the tour.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-shouldered Kite.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Quite commonly seen over urban areas, with birds here belonging to the resident yellow-billed form.

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

**African Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

Seen at a number of large waterbodies, this species possesses a beautiful call, characteristic of the Africa's waterways.

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

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

We saw this species over Kampala, where it is a common.

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

This species was recorded at savanna game reserves (i.e. Murchison Falls, QENP and Lake Mburo).

**Rüppell's Vulture***Gyps rueppellii*

Recorded in Murchison Falls NP and QENP.

**White-headed Vulture***Trigonoceps occipitalis*

Seen along the Ishasha River in QENP.

**Lappet-faced Vulture***Torgos tracheliotus*

Small numbers were seen in the savanna reserves (i.e. Murchison Falls, QENP and Lake Mburo NP).

**Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

Seen in Murchison Falls, QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

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

A few scattered sightings were had, with the first bird seen at Luwero Swamp.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Banded Snake-Eagle.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

A beautiful bird, characteristic of the African savanna, we recorded it on a number of occasions in savanna areas.

**African Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

Seen near Kibale Forest and at a wetland site near Lake Mburo.

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

Seen at scattered sites during the tour.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk***Melierax metabates*

We saw DCG's in woodland areas near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

**African Goshawk***Accipiter tachiro*

Recorded on a few occasions during the tour, usually in the vicinity of forest.

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

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

Seen by some near Murchison Falls.



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

**Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

The largest sparrowhawk in Africa, we saw a few scattered birds on the tour.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black Goshawk.*

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Quite a common raptor which was seen on a number of occasions in the former half of the trip.

**Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus*

We had good views of this species in the high altitude forests of Ruhija.

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*

Seen in the highland areas of south-western Uganda, where it was common.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

This resident, brown eagle was seen at the large savanna reserves.

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

Seen near Murchison Falls and later in QENP.

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

A single young bird was seen over Maramagambo Forest in QENP.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

Africa's largest eagle, it was seen in QENP and Lake Mburo.

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

We recorded this species quite frequently during the tour, often alongside roads while in passing.

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

Seen at Kibale Forest, with some great flight views over Bwindi Impenetrable Forest at Ruhija.

### **Falcons Falconidae**

**Common (Eurasian) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

We saw this species en route to QENP, with further sightings in the park and near Kampala.

*NOTE: IOC and Clements have not split the distinctive Rock Kestrel F. t. rupicolis of Southern Africa from the nominate Common Kestrel which we observed.*

**Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*

This species was recorded in a number of moist savanna areas on the tour.

**Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera*

We had good views of two birds in a Borassus Palm in Murchison Falls NP.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*

We saw this species outside of Entebbe, with good scope views for some in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

### **Bustards Otidae**

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

Two birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP, with excellent views of one of the individuals as it crept through a grassy area overlooking the Albert Nile.

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

Heard on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

### **Flufftails Sarothruridae**

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

This lovely bird was seen at Bigodi Swamp.



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

Heard at Mubwindi Swamp.

**Finfoots Heliornithidae****African Finfoot***Podica senegalensis*

We saw a male and a female at Lake Mburo, with great views of the male as it cruised past the boat dock prior to our boat cruise!

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae****African Rail***Rallus caerulescens*

This shy species was heard at Lake Mburo.

**African Crake***Crex egregia*

We saw two birds in QENP.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely *Crexopsis*.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

Small numbers of this noisy species were seen at scattered wetland sites starting with alongside the Victoria Nile.

**Allen's Gallinule***Gallinula alleni*

One bird showed briefly in a shallow, flooded area alongside the Victoria Nile at Murchison.

**Cranes Gruidae****Grey Crowned Crane***Balearica regulorum*

Quite common, and seen at a number of wetland associated sites during the tour. Uganda's national bird.

**Buttonquail Turnicidae****Kurrichane Buttonquail***Turnix sylvaticus*

Two birds were seen in on the Kasenyi Track in QENP.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae****Senegal Thick-knee (Dikkop)***Burhinus senegalensis*

A few birds were seen on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)***Burhinus vermiculatus*

Good views were had in QENP.

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

We had good views of this bird at Lake Munyanyage in QENP.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

This bird was seen at Lake Munyanyage in QENP.

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

A wetland species, it was seen alongside the Victoria Nile and later at Lake Mburo.

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

Murchison Falls, QENP and the shores of Lake Victoria all yielded sightings of this striking bird.

**Black-headed Lapwing***Vanellus tectus*

A smart and localised inhabitant of short grass areas in Murchison Falls, where we saw 10 birds.

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

Decent numbers of this species were seen in QENP on bare and short grazed areas.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*

Seen in QENP and later en route to Lake Mburo NP.

**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*

Small numbers were recorded at scattered grassy wetland associated sites during the tour.

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

We had lovely views of two near Lake Mburo NP.

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

Recorded in QENP.

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

A single was seen along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

Seen at scattered wetland sites during the tour.

### Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

2 birds were spotted at a wetland near Lake Mburo NP.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

A few birds were recorded at Lake Munyanyage in QENP.

### Courasers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii*

This lovely, delicate species was seen in the Ishasha section of QENP, where we saw four.

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

Recorded in QENP.

**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis*

We saw a few of these birds were seen on rocks flanking the Victoria Nile above Murchison Falls.

### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*

This species has fantastically long and elegant wings, and was seen in good numbers along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

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

We saw this bird along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

### Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

**Common Pigeon (Rock Dove)** *Columba livia*

Sighted on a few occasions in the vicinity of human settlements.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

Seen perched on buildings in a few towns.

**Afep Pigeon** *Columba uncinata*

Heard in Kibale Forest.

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



This species was recorded at Ruhija in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

Unfortunately only heard while at Buhoma.

**(African) Mourning [Collared] Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*

Recorded along the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP, and later in QENP.

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

Seen virtually daily.

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

We saw this species in the QENP area and around Lake Mburo.

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

An inhabitant of Guinea Savanna, we saw it near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

We had scattered sightings of this widespread species.

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

Restricted to the south and east of Uganda, we saw it Lake Mburo NP.

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

Found in Guinea Savanna, we saw this one in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Fairly widespread in Uganda, we saw this species a number of times in moist woodland.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistris*

Recorded at a number of forest sites.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

Heard in Murchison Falls NP.

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

We were very fortunate to see six birds en route to Masindi in a fruiting fig.

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calva*

Seen at a few scattered sites during the tour, including alongside the previous species near Masindi.

### Parrots and Allies Psittacidae

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

After a number of quick fly by's, we had great views of this species near Buhoma.

**Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*

A superbly intelligent bird, we saw this species on a few occasions as they flew overhead, with particularly good views near Masindi.

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

We saw this woodland associated bird on a number of occasions, with our first views in woodland near Kampala.

### Turacos Musophagidae

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*

One of the world's "great blue birds", we saw this species on a number of occasions, including huge numbers in association with fruiting trees in Mubwindi Swamp!

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

More often heard than seen, we recorded it at Kibale, Buhoma and Ruhija.

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

An absolutely stunning bird, we saw this species near Masindi.

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



Seen at a few scattered sites, with good scope views on the first in good secondary scrub near Kampala.

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

A single was seen in QENP, with better sightings in Lake Mburo.

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

This species with its maniacal call was seen on a number of occasions in the former half of the tour, and then again later near Kampala.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

Seen en route from Murchison Falls NP to Masinda, and then near Masindi once again.

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

A large, hulking inhabitant of wetland areas, we saw it on the Nile and later in a wetland near Buhoma.

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

Widespread and seen on a number of occasions in moist woodland during the tour.

*NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus which we recorded in Uganda.*

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*

Seen in rank grassland in QENP, with a total of three birds seen.

**Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)** *Ceuthmochares aereus*

First seen on the Royal Mile, with later sightings at Buhoma and Mabira.

*Note: The IOC splits the complex into Green Malkoha, C. australis that occurs in East and Southern Africa and Blue Malkoha, C. aereus that we observed and occurs in East, West and Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

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

Two birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*

Seen by some en route to Masindi from Entebbe, with a later sighting Murchison Falls NP.

**Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Seen en route from Entebbe to Masindi, with a further bird en route from Murchison Falls to Masindi.

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Seen at a few scattered sites during the tour.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Seen at Kaniyo Pabidi, and later at Ruhija.

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

A notorious skulker, we tried for it a number of occasions, although no views were forthcoming.

**Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx olivinus*

A pair were seen at Buhoma.

**Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx montanus*

Another notorious skulker, we heard this species at Ruhija.

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

We heard this species at a few forest and dense woodland sites, but unfortunately it was not seen.

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

Seen at Murchison Falls, and in Kibale and Mabira Forests.

**Madagascar Cuckoo** *Cuculus rochii*

Extended scope views of this uncommon migrant from Madagascar were had at the Royal Mile. It confirmed its identity by responding to a Madagascar Cuckoo call!

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*

One bird was scoped while in *Acacia* woodland at Lake Mburo NP.



### Typical Owls Strigidae

- African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*  
We had excellent views of this tiny owl at Lake Mburo NP.
- Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*  
Two were seen at dawn near Masindi, with a further bird seen in broad daylight between Masindi and Kibale Forest.
- African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii*  
Great views were had of one in Kibale Forest.
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*  
One was scoped in QENP, with another bird seen later in Lake Mburo NP.
- Red-chested Owlet** *Glaucidium tephronotum*  
A very shy bird, a single was heard in Kibale Forest, with a pair heard calling at Ruhija.

### Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae

- Black-shoulderd Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*  
We had excellent views of a single near Kibale Forest.
- Swamp Nightjar** *Caprimulgus natalensis*  
Unfortunately only heard while at Lake Mburo.
- Slender-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus clarus*  
One bird was seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Square-tailed (Mozambique) Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii*  
This species was seen in QENP.
- Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*  
Males in breeding plumage are absolutely stunning, and we had great views of this species in Murchison Falls NP and in Lake Mburo NP.

### Swifts Apodidae

- Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*  
Two birds were seen over forest at Buhoma. Found over montane rainforest.
- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*  
One bird was seen speeding over the Ishasha River (guide only).
- Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini*  
We had great views of two drinking at the Royal Mile.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*  
Seen in the vicinity of palms in the former half of the tour.  
*NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. IOC and Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*
- African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*  
A few birds were seen near Kabale town in the south-west of Uganda.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis*  
Fairly common and seen at a number of sites throughout Uganda.
- White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*  
Another widespread swift that was seen on a number of days.

### Mousebirds Coliidae

- Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*



Common and seen on every day of the tour save one!

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

We saw this species in savanna areas (i.e. near Masindi, Murchison Falls NP and Lake Mburo NP).

### Trogon Trogonidae

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

We saw a single male at Kaniyo Pabidi.

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

A stunning bird, we saw two at Buhoma.

### Rollers Coraciidae

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

A smart bird, it was seen at Lake Mburo and later on our drive from Lake Mburo to Entebbe.

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

Seen in moist woodland throughout the country.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*

We had great views of this sought-after species at the Royal Mile. It is an inhabitant of “lowland” Guinea-Congolian Forest.

**Grey-headed (-hooded) Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*

Fairly widespread and seen in a range of woodland areas.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

Seen at a number of woodland sites, it was particularly common at Lake Mburo.

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

The rainforest equivalent of the previous species, it was seen at the Royal Mile and Kibale and Mabira Forests.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

Seen at scattered woodland sites throughout the country. Birds here are of the residentn central African race that lack the black stripe behind the eye.

**African Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ispidina lecontei*

This fantastic bird provided excellent views along the Royal Mile. Africa’s smallest kingfisher.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

We saw this beauty in a number of forest and woodland situations during our tour.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

A jewel of the waterways, we saw it along a number of river and wetland systems during the tour.

**Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadribrachys*

We saw this beauty along a forest stream in Kibale Forest, as well as at Bigodi Wetland.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Very common at all large waterbodies in Uganda, with huge numbers along the Nile and on the edge of Lake Victoria.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

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

We encountered this beautiful canopy rainforest inhabitant on a number of occasions, including at Kibale Forest, along the Ishasha River and at Buhoma.

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



Seen in Murchison Falls NP, where it was fairly common.

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

Recorded in QENP, and later in the vicinity of Lake Mburo NP.

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

This inhabitant of forest edge in montane areas was seen on a few occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

We saw this species at Luwero Swamp and later in Murchison Falls NP, where it was common.

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

Recorded at Mabira Forest.

**Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*

Initially seen in Murchison Falls NP, we later saw them in good numbers in QENP.

### Hoopoes Upupidae

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

We saw a single in QENP.

### Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

**White-headed Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei*

Recorded at Buhoma, Ruhija and later at Mabira Forest.

**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

First seen near Masindi, with further sightings in Murchison Falls NP.

**Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

Good views of this species were had on the Bugungu Road near Murchison Falls NP.

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Recorded in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

**Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus*

Seen at scattered locales during the tour.

**African Pied Hornbill** *Tockus fasciatus*

A total of seven were seen at Mabira Forest.

**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*

We saw this bird at a number of woodland sites during the tour.

**White-thighed Hornbill** *Bycanistes albotibialis*

This forest hornbill was seen at the Royal Mile, with later sightings near Budongo Forest en route to Masindi.

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

Seen at a number of scattered forest patches throughout the tour.

### Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

**Abyssinian Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

This huge species was seen in Murchison Falls NP. It is the northern and western counterpart to Southern Ground Hornbill.

### African Barbets Lybiidae

**Grey-throated Barbet** *Gymnobucco bonapartei*



Seen on a number of occasions in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

**Speckled Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A dull and fairly mottled bird, it was seen at a number of forest sites during the tour.

**Western Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

A smart and sought after species, two were seen at Ruhija.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

We recorded this species on the Royal Mile and in Kibale Forest.

**Yellow (Golden)-rumped Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Recorded at a few forest sites.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Good views were had in woodland near Masindi.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet***Buccanodon duchaillui*

A beautiful bird, of which we had lovely views in Kibale Forest.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet***Tricholaema hirsuta*

We had very good views of this species in Kibale Forest.

*Note: Some authorities split this species into Hairy-breasted Barbet T. hirsuta that occurs in West Africa and Streaky-throated Barbet T. flavipunctata that we observed and occurs in East and Central Africa. IOC and Clements do not accept this split (see Ryan and Sinclair 2003).*

**Spot-flanked Barbet***Tricholaema lacrymosa*

A woodland inhabitant, we saw this species for the first time near Masindi.

**White-headed Barbet***Lybius leucocephalus*

Good views of this species were had in woodland near Masindi.

**Red-faced Barbet***Lybius rubrifacies*

A sought after species with a small range (wholly restricted to East Africa, and found only in south-western Uganda, northern Tanzania and in the east of Rwanda), we had excellent views while in Lake Mburo NP.

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

Recorded in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Seen at a few localities, with our initial views near Masindi, with birds posing beautifully on a tree on the Butiaba showing very well.

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

One was seen in Kibale Forest.

**Honeyguides Indicatoridae****Cassin's Honeybird***Prodotiscus insignis*

We had excellent views of this scarce species at Sebitole.

**Willcocks's Honeyguide***Indicator willcocksii*

One was seen en route to the Neck from Buhoma.

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

Great scope views were had of this rainforest species in Kibale Forest.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

Heard in woodland en route from Entebbe to Masindi, as well as later in QENP.

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

Recorded in Murchison Falls NP and in QENP.

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

A single showed very well near Buhoma.

**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica*

Seen at a few scattered woodland sites, with our first views near Masindi.

**Tullberg's (Fine-banded) Woodpecker** *Campethera tullbergi*

A smart bird, it was seen on a trail at Buhoma.

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

This woodpecker with a soft whistle of a call was seen in Kibale Forest.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

We saw this species at Ruhija at forest edge.

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus*

Recorded in *Acacia* savanna at Lake Mburo.

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

The rainforest equivalent of the previous species, we saw it at the Royal Mile, Busingiro and Kibale Forest.

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

Seen at Sebitole (an interesting sighting), and later at Buhoma.

**African Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae*

Recorded in Murchison Falls and QENP.

**Brown-backed Woodpecker** *Dendropicos obsoletus*

An uncommon species, a single was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

### Broadbills Eurylaimidae

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis*

Possessing an interesting, mechanical sound when displaying, we were fortunate to see two at Buhoma.

### Pittas Pittidae

**Green-breasted Pitta** *Pitta reichenowi*

We had amazing views of three birds (two adults and a juvenile) while in Kibale Forest. This is certainly one of the most sought after birds in Africa, and we were very fortunate to have such fantastic close (and lengthy views of this species).

### Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae

**(African) Shrike-flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus*

Seen at a few forest sites, this species exhibits an interesting sideways tail wagging habit. We saw this species nesting at the Royal Mile.

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

We saw this species at Bigodi Wetland, and later along the Ishasha River and at Buhoma.

*NOTE: An alternative common name for this species is Vanga Flycatcher.*

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

Initially seen at the Royal Mile, it was recorded at most forest sites thereafter.

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

Seen by some at the Royal Mile, we later saw this one again at Mabira Forest.

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

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

We had a couple of good views of this species at Ruhija.

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*



We saw this species at Ruhija and thereafter at Lazke Mburo. It strangely occurs in montane forest in East Africa.

**Western Black-headed Batis** *Batis erlangeri*

Seen in the vicinity of Masindi and Murchison Falls NP.

**Ituri Batis** *Batis ituriensis*

After some hard work, a single was seen at Busingiro sector of Budongo Forest.

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

We recorded this species at a number of forest edge and moist woodland sites in Uganda.

### Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

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

Recorded on the Butiaba Escarpment en route from Murchison Falls to Masindi.

### Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

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

Heard only while in the Murchison Falls area.

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

A single was seen at Mubwindi Swamp. This is a very sought after species!

**Many-coloured Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus multicolour*

Heard while at Buhoma.

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

Initially seen at Luwero Swamp, we saw it on a few occasions at Buhoma thereafter.

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

This woodland species was heard only.

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

A single was seen by some at Ruhija.

**Marsh Tchagra** *Tchagra minuta*

Three birds were seen in rank grassland at QENP.

*NOTE: The more southerly forms of this species are often separated as Anchieta's Tchagra T. anchietae with the Ugandan form retained in the nominate group. IOC does not accept this split.*

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

We recorded this species between Masindi and Kibale, and later in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

Seen in Murchison Falls NP.

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

We had good views of this uncommon species at Buhoma.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

This species was recorded at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Lowland Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

A very skulky species, it was heard at Mabira Forest.

**Mountain Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius poensis*

Another skulker, it was heard at Ruhija.

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

This species showed very well at Buhoma.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

We saw this species at a few scattered sites, with our initial sighting at Murchison Falls.

**Papyrus Gonolek** *Laniarius mufumbiri*

A stunning papyrus specialist, we had excellent views of two between Masindi and Kibale.



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

Another smart species, it was seen at a number of savanna woodland sites.

**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

This species was recorded in Murchison Falls NP.

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae****Grey Cuckooshrike***Coracina caesia*

We saw a small flock of this species at Ruhija. An inhabitant of montane forest.

**Black Cuckooshrike***Campephaga flava*

This species was seen at a few savanna sites during the tour.

**Petit's Cuckooshrike***Campephaga petiti*

This species was seen at Kibale Forest and at Buhoma.

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

A pair were seen at Mabira Forest.

**Shrikes Laniidae****Yellow-billed Shrike***Corvinella corvina*

An interesting species found in Guinea Savanna, we recorded two separate groups totalling seven birds in Murchison Falls NP.

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

An inhabitant of secondary growth and forest edge, it was seen on a few occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

The most common fiscal in Uganda, we saw it on a number of occasions on the tour.

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

Quite common, and seen on a number of occasions (although less common than the previous species).

**Orioles Oriolidae****Western (Black-headed) Oriole***Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

A Guinea-Congolian Rainforest species, it was seen at the Royal Mile.

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

An east African endemic restricted to montane forest, it was seen on a few occasions at Ruhija.

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

We saw this species at Lake Mburo NP.

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

Seen at scattered woodland sites throughout the tour.

**Velvet-mantled Drongo***Dicrurus modestus*

We had good views of this species at Mubwindi Swamp, and later in Mabira Forest.

**Monarch Monarchidae****Red-bellied (Black-headed) Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

Seen on a few occasion in Budongo and Kibale Forests.

**African Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

We saw this species on a number of occasions during the tour.



Crows Corvidae

- Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer*  
Seen in good numbers around Masindi and Murchison Falls NP.
- Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*  
We recorded this species regularly during the tour.
- White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*  
Four birds were seen in high altitude country near Ruhija.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

- African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*  
Initially seen at Luwero Swamp, we later recorded it in Murchison Falls and Bigodi Wetland.
- White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda*  
We had some excellent views of this species along forest edge in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- White-bellied Crested Flycatcher** *Elminia albiventris*  
One bird showed briefly at Mubwindi Swamp.

Tits Paridae

- White-winged Black Tit** *Melaniparus leucomelas*  
We saw this species at Ishasha, and in Lake Mburo NP.
- Dusky Tit** *Melaniparus funereus*  
This species showed well at the Royal Mile and later in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Stripe-breasted Tit \*ARE** *Melaniparus fasciiventer*  
A smart bird, it was seen at Ruhija on a few occasions.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

- Grey (African) Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli*  
We saw this miniscule bird at Ishasha and Lake Mburo NP.

Nicators Nicatoridae

- Western Nicator** *Nicator chloris*  
Heard on a number of occasions, it was seen near Masindi.

Larks Alaudidae

- White-tailed Lark** *Mirafraga albicauda*  
We saw a few birds in QENP.
- Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafraga africana*  
Moist grassland at QENP produced a few sightings of this widespread lark.
- Flappet Lark** *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*  
This species was seen on a few occasions in savanna areas of the tour.
- Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*  
Two birds were seen in QENP.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

- Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor*  
This species was seen daily.

*Note: A confusing genus, the birds we observed have been split by the IOC from Common Bulbul P. barbatus which is found further north in Africa. Clements does not yet recognise this split.*



**Kakamega (Shelley's) Greenbul***Andropadus kakamegae*

A pair were seen working along a trunk at The Neck.

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

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

We saw this species on a few occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

**Little Greenbul***Andropadus virens*

After hearing this species on a number of occasions, we had great views of one at Mabira Forest.

**Little Grey Greenbul***Andropadus gracilis*

This species was seen at the Royal Mile and at Mabira Forest.

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

We had very good views of this species at Buhoma. Interestingly, this species was only recently discovered in Uganda with the first confirmed record in August 2001 by Nik Borrow and Adam Riley.

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

Seen at Kaniyo Pabidi and later at Busingiro.

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

We encountered this greenbul at a number of sites, where it was seen in its typical pose peering from the edge of the canopy.

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

This species was encountered at a number of rainforest sites during the tour.

**Honeyguide Greenbul***Baeopogon indicator*

Heard on a number of occasions, it was seen at Buhoma.

**Spotted Greenbul***Ixonotus guttatus*

This species showed well at the Royal Mile. Nicknamed "sprinting greenbul" because of its habit of moving through the canopy at speed!

**Joyful Greenbul***Chlorocichla laetissima*

Strangely localised in Uganda, we saw this species at Sebitole and at Bigodi Wetland.

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

Our best views of this noisy inhabitant of secondary scrub was near Buhoma.

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

**Toro Olive Greenbul***Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

This scarce East African endemic was seen at The Neck, with better views later at Mabira Forest.

**Cabanis's Greenbul***Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Unfortunately only poor views while at The Neck.

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

We had good views of this species in Kibale Forest.

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

Seen at Mubwindi Swamp and at Ruhija.

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

This skulker was seen in Kibale and Mabira Forests.

**Yellow-lored Bristlebill***Bleda notatus*

Two birds were seen at Mabira Forest, with the second showing superbly.

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

Encountered at the Royal Mile, Buhoma and Mabira Forest.



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### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

- White-headed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne albiceps*  
Widespread, and seen at a number of lower altitude sites in the country.
- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne holomelas*  
Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP. It generally replaces the previous species at higher altitude sites.  
*NOTE: The Black Saw-wing complex is sometimes split into eight full species with the Ugandan form being retained in P. holomelas.*
- Brown-throated (Plain) Martin** *Riparia paludicola*  
We saw this species on the Nile, Kazinga Channel, and later a good flock was encountered at Lake Mburo.
- Angola Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis*  
Quite common and seen on a number of occasions during the tour.
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*  
This species was seen well on the Nile.
- Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
We saw this species on a number of occasions in the latter half of the tour.  
*NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form H. f. fuligula would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin H. pusilla which is resident in Uganda. Palaearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsolete. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognise any of these splits.*
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*  
Seen regularly during the tour.
- Red-breasted Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*  
We saw this species at scattered woodland sites during the tour.
- Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*  
One bird showed well near Masindi.
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*  
A few birds were seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

### Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettidae

- Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler \* ARE** *Hemitesia neumanni*  
This is a skulky and very sought after Albertine Rift Endemic, and after some hard work we had great views of this species at Buhoma.
- Grauer's Warbler \* ARE** *Graueria vittata*  
Another skulky species, we had good views of one at Ruhija.
- Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocercus mccallii*  
We had fantastic views of this species at in Budongo Forest.
- Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina*  
Heard at most forest patches, it was seen in Kibale Forest.

### Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

- Red-faced Woodland Warbler \* ARE** *Phylloscopus laetus*  
Good views were had of this species at Buhoma and Ruhija.

### Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

- Greater Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*  
Seen by some in papyrus along the Nile, and later heard at Lake Mburo.
- Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*



We saw a total of four along the Kazinga Channel.

**Mountain Yellow Warbler***Chloropeta similis*

Heard while at Ruhija.

**Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae****Fan-tailed Grassbird (Broad-tailed Warbler)***Schoenicola brevirostris*

A single bird was seen in rank grassland in QENP.

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

This species was seen in Mubwindi Swamp.

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

We saw a single of this papyrus specialist en route to Lake Mburo from Ruhija.

**Evergreen Forest Warbler***Bradypterus lopezi*

Heard at Mubwindi Swamp.

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler***Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

This skulker was heard at Ruhija in thick bracken and associated scrub.

**Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae****Red-faced Cisticola***Cisticola erythrops*

After seeing this species at a number of sites, we saw at Bigodi Wetland.

**Singing Cisticola***Cisticola cantans*

Two birds were seen near Buhoma in rank vegetation.

**Whistling Cisticola***Cisticola lateralis*

Seen near the Royal Mile, with a further sighting between Masindi and Kibale.

**Trilling Cisticola***Cisticola woosnami*

We first recorded it en route from QENP to Buhoma, and later in Lake Mburo NP.

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

A highland inhabitant, it was common around Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Rattling Cisticola***Cisticola chiniana*

We saw a few birds in Murchison Falls NP.

**Winding Cisticola***Cisticola marginatus*

Seen at a few scattered wetland areas, where its "winding" call was a good indicator as to its presence.

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

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

We had some excellent views at wetlands near Ruhija.

**Croaking Cisticola***Cisticola natalensis*

This large cisticola was seen on few occasions in QENP.

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

A small cisticola, it was seen in rank vegetation near the Royal Mile.

**Foxy Cisticola***Cisticola troglodytes*

We had great views of this species in Murchison Falls NP.

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

This small bodied, long-tailed cisticola was seen in Lake Mburo NP. This species has quite a limited distribution in Uganda, being restricted to the extreme south of the country.

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

Seen in Murchison Falls and QENP.

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

This species was seen frequently during the tour.

**Black-faced (Banded) Prinia***Prinia bairdii*

Some got very poor views at Buhoma, with the bird proving extremely unco-operative.

*NOTE: The Ugandan form (which we observed) is sometimes split off as Black-faced Prinia P. melanops. This split is recognised by the IOC.*

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

A very noisy species, it was first seen outside of Kampala in moist scrub, with scattered sightings in moor, secondary scrub and forest edge thereafter.

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

A single bird was seen between Masindi and Kibale Forest.

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

We saw this smart Albertine Rift Endemic on a few occasions in the Ruhija area.

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

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

A subtly beautiful and spunky bird, it was seen in riverine vegetation in Murchison Falls NP.

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

A small, *Acacia*-loving warbler, it was seen in the Ishasha section of QENP.

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

We recorded this species in mixed woodland near Masindi.

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

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

Recorded in the higher lying section of Bwindi Impenetrable NP around Ruhija.

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

A beautiful species, it was seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

We saw this species at Ruhija. Has a characteristic “ringing telephone” call.

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

We saw this species on a number of occasions in lower altitude forests during the tour.

**Grey Apalis***Apalis cinerea*

This species was seen well at Buhoma.

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

A beautiful and vocal species, it is usually heard more often than it seen. We first encountered it between Masindi and Kibale, with excellent views in QENP.

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

We saw this species at a few forest edge and farm bush sites.

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

Recorded at the Royal Mile and Mabira Forest, this must be the most beautiful of the camaropteras!

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

We saw this drab bird at Buhoma. Has an incessant call that can last many minutes.

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

A stunning avian, we enjoyed excellent views of this bird while at Buhoma.

**Green-backed Eremomela***Eremomela canescens*

Three birds were seen in Guinea woodland in Murchison Falls NP. A very smart bird!

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

Very localised in East Africa (and only found in forests in western Uganda), we had good views at the Royal Mile and Busingiro.

### Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

- Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*  
We recorded this species near the Royal Mile, and at a few scattered sites with rank vegetation thereafter.
- Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans*  
A notorious skulker, it was heard in Mabira Forest.
- Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*  
This species was seen at Kaniyo Pabidi, and later in Mabira Forest.
- Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*  
We saw this bird in the Murchison Falls area.
- Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii*  
Recorded in QENP and later in Lake Mburo NP.
- Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*  
Seen at Kaniyo Pabidi, and later along the Ishasha River. In Uganda, this bird is commonly heard in rainforest and moist secondary scrub near forest.
- Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti*  
We enjoyed fantastic views of this species as it attended a nest along the Royal Mile.
- White-browed Crombec** *Sylvietta leucophrys*  
This smart bird was seen at Mubwindi Swamp and along the main road at Ruhija.

### Babblers Timaliidae

- Scaly-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis albipectus*  
After initially seeing this species at Busingiro, we achieved lovely views in Kibale Forest.
- Puvel's Illadopsis** *Illadopsis puveli*  
This species, very localised in East Africa and only found at Kaniyo Pabidi, was seen briefly while strolling through the afore-mentioned forest.
- Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens*  
We recorded this species in Kibale Forest and later at Bigodi Wetland.
- Mountain Illadopsis** *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*  
Seen at Ruhija, where we had lovely views.
- Ruwenzori Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe atriceps*  
This smart bird was seen at Ruhija.  
*NOTE: The black-headed Rwenzori Hill Babbler that we saw in south-western Uganda, P. atriceps is sometimes split off from African Hill Babbler P. abyssinica. Although IOC accepts this split, Clements do not. This species has a very disjunct population, occurring in the Albertine Rift and in south-west Cameroon and north-eastern Nigeria. African Hill Babbler is distributed in East Africa from Zambia/Malawi to Eritrea.*
- Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei*  
Initially seen in Murchison Falls, we had good views of this species in QENP.
- Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus*  
Initially seen near the Royal Mile, it was later seen at a few scattered woodland sites.
- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*  
Quite common in QENP.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

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



Commonly seen in Uganda in forested and wooded situations.

### Starlings Sturnidae

#### **Wattled Starling**

*Creatophora cinerea*

This widespread and nomadic species was seen near Masindi, in QENP and in Lake Mburo NP.

#### **Purple-headed (Glossy-) Starling**

*Lamprotornis purpureiceps*

A rainforest starling, we had views of this species in Kibale Forest.

#### **Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling**

*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

We had good views of this species in Lake Mburo NP.

#### **Lesser Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling**

*Lamprotornis chloropterus*

Mostly recorded in the northern savannas of Uganda, we saw it in the Masindi and Murchison Falls areas.

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

#### **Bronze-tailed (Glossy-) Starling**

*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We enjoyed great views of this species near Masindi.

#### **Splendid (Glossy-) Starling**

*Lamprotornis splendidus*

Seen near Kampala, and then in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's. A stunning bird!

#### **Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling**

*Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

Certainly the most common starling in Uganda, we saw it frequently on the tour.

#### **Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling**

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Another stunning starling, it was seen in Murchison, QENP and Lake Mburo.

#### **Slender-billed Starling**

*Onychognathus tenuirostris*

We enjoyed scope views of a flock at Ruhija.

#### **Waller's Starling**

*Onychognathus walleri*

Good views of this species were had at Mubwindi Swamp.

#### **Stuhlmann's Starling**

*Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

A single was seen at Sebitole, with further birds seen at Buhoma and Mubwindi Swamp.

#### **Narrow-tailed Starling**

*Poeoptera lugubris*

Our best views were at a nesting colony in Kibale Forest.

#### **Sharpe's Starling**

*Pholia sharpii*

We had great views of this scarce bird at Ruhija.

### Oxpeckers Buphagidae

#### **Yellow-billed Oxpecker**

*Buphagus africanus*

Seen on game in the savanna parks (Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo).

### Thrushes Turdidae

#### **White-tailed Rufous (Ant-) Thrush**

*Neocossyphus poensis*

We had good views of this species in Kibale Forest and later Buhoma.

#### **Fraser's Rufous Thrush (Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush)**

*Stizorhina fraseri*

Seen well on the Royal Mile.

#### **African Thrush**

*Turdus pelios*

Seen at scattered woodland and associated sites during the tour.

#### **Abyssinian Thrush**

*Turdus abyssinicus*

This species showed well at Ruhija.



NOTE: This species, found in montane forest forest from northern Tanzania to northern Somalia, is a split from Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*, which is endemic to southern Africa.

**Fire-crested Alethe** *Alethe castanea*

Seen very briefly in Kaniyo Pabidi, some got excellent views of a single at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe of West Africa. IOC accepts this split.

**Red-throated Alethe \* ARE** *Pseudaethe poliophrys*

This smart Albertine Rift Endemic showed very well at Buhoma, with a further bird seen at Ruhija.

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

Unfortunately only heard while at Mabira Forest.

### Chats and Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*

Seen at Ruhija.

**(Eastern) Forest Robin** *Stiphornis erythrothorax xanthogaster*

A single bird showed very well at the Royal Mile.

NOTE: This widespread tropical genus was split into four species (previously accepted by IOC), which are variably distributed from east across to west Africa. Interestingly, a new species, Olive-backed Forest Robin *Stiphornis pyrrholaemus* was discovered in Gabon, bringing the *Stiphornis* genus to a total of five species. Recent genetic work however suggests all of these should be lumped, and this is the stance that IOC has taken, lumping all five!

**Equatorial Akalat** *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

Seen at Buhoma (guide only)

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

We had excellent views of this species at Buhoma.

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

A single bird showed very well at Mubwindi Swamp.

**Grey-winged Robin-Chat** *Cossypha polioptera*

A lovely bird, one provided excellent views at Bigodi Wetland.

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

Some enjoyed excellent views of this species (totalling two birds) at Mabira Forest, after mere flashes at the Royal Mile.

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

Heard quite frequently, we had a number of lovely sightings of this species at QENP.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat (Natal Robin)** *Cossypha natalensis*

One bird showed well near Buhoma.

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

Our best views of this species were along the Kazinga Channel.

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

First seen near Masindi, it was also seen in the Murchison Falls area.

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

This species was seen in scrub near the Royal Mile, with further sightings near Masindi and Buhoma.

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

A characteristic African bushveld species, it was seen in QENP.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

Seen in highland areas in the vicinity of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

Recorded en route from Ruhija to Lake Mburo on a rocky slope.



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- Sooty Chat** *Myrmecocichla nigra*  
Common in various savanna sites throughout the tour.
- Mocking Cliff Chat** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*  
A female was seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.
- Fraser's (African) Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria ocreata*  
Good views of this species were had at the Royal Mile. In East Africa, this species is restricted to rainforests in western Uganda.
- White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Dioptrornis fischeri*  
Seen on number of occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
- Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher \* ARE** *Malaenornis ardesiacus*  
Recorded at Buhoma and later at Mubwindi Swamp.
- Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides*  
We saw this species near Masindi and later in woodland at QENP.
- Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*  
This species was seen in Lake Mburo. In Uganda, it is restricted to the "southern" type savannas, and hence is only found at Lake Mburo.
- Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*  
A large drab flycatcher, it was seen in broad-leaved Guinea savanna in Murchison Falls NP.
- Silverbird** *Empidonis semipartitus*  
Quite a smart bird, it was seen in Murchison Falls NP.
- Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*  
A single was seen at the Royal Mile.
- Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica*  
Our best views of this species were at Mweya Lodge, were particularly confiding individuals allowed for point blank viewing.
- Cassin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini*  
We had great views of this species along the Ishasha River and on a stream at The Neck.
- Chapin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa lendu*  
A single was seen at Buhoma.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*  
Seen on a number of occasions in the latter half of the tour. The birds here are quite different in appearance from those in southern Africa!
- Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata*  
We had good views of two birds at Bigodi Wetland.
- Sooty Flycatcher** *Muscicapa infuscata*  
A pair were seen at the Royal Mile, with further birds seen at Kibale Forest.
- Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis*  
After frustrating us for a number of days, we finally saw this species at Buhoma, where it showed well, before recording it again at Mabira Forest.
- Grey Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*  
Heard at Lake Mburo.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

- Grey-headed Sunbird** *Deleornis axillaris*  
An atypical sunbird, a pair afforded good views at Mabira.
- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*  
One male was seen on the edge of Murchison Falls NP.



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- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*  
A small and rather drab species, it was seen
- Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*  
We saw this bird at the Royal Mile, Kibale Forest and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.  
*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two forms, the eastern (including Ugandan) Grey-chinned Sunbird A. tephrolaemus and the nominate western Yellow-chinned Sunbird. This is not accepted by IOC*
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*  
Common and encountered on a number of occasions in most forests on the tour.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*  
Recorded at Kibale Forest and at Buhoma.
- Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*  
A large, typically canopy dwelling species that moves about at speed, we saw it at Buhoma and Mabira Forest.
- Blue-headed Sunbird \* ARE** *Cyanomitra alinae*  
We saw this smart Albertine Rift Endemic at Ruhija.
- Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*  
Quite widespread, it was seen at a number of forests (Kibale, Bwindi Impenetrable and Mabira).  
*NOTE: The Olive Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and some other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive Sunbird C. olivacea and the form which we recorded in Uganda, Western Olive Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack thereof, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various forms within the complex. The IOC does not recognise this split.*
- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*  
One male was seen at Kibale Forest, with birds nesting seen at Mabira Forest.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
Seen at scattered savanna sites during the tour.
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*  
Seen at a few highland sites, where it was noisy and easy to see.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*  
A forest edge species, it was seen at Sebitole, Bigodi Wetland and Buhoma.
- Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus*  
One provided very poor views as it flitted in and out of the canopy at Buhoma.
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi*  
Seen at a number of forest edge situations at at Buhoma, and especially at Ruhija, where it was common.
- Regal Sunbird \* ARE** *Cinnyris regius*  
A stunner, it was quite common at Ruhija, where we got a number of excellent views.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchella*  
This dry-country species was seen in good numbers in and around Murchison Falls NP.
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*  
We recorded this species near Masindi, and later in *Acacia* woodland in the vicinity of Lake Mburo.  
*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. C. m. suahelica, which we recorded in Uganda would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Marico Sunbird. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognize this split.*
- Red-chested Sunbird** *Cinnyris erythrocerus*  
Initially seen in Entebbe, this north-east African endemic was also commonly recorded in QENP.
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*  
We recorded a pair in moist *Acacia* woodland at the start of the Ishasha road.
- Orange-tufted Sunbird** *Cinnyris bouvieri*
- 



A single male was seen well near Masindi. This species is very uncommon and not recorded very often on our Uganda tours.

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*

This large sunbird was seen nesting at the Royal Mile (1 female), and another female at Busingiro.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*

Seen near Kampala, with a further bird seen by some at Buhoma.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*

We recorded this species on a number of occasions in the former half of the tour.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*

First seen near Masindi (this representing quite an interesting sighting, as this is quite far from the nearest area that this species is typically seen), with further sightings at the typical area on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

We saw this species in Murchison Falls and on the Butiaba Escarpment.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

This species was seen in Kasese Town. This species is beginning to colonise southern Uganda, and appears to be using transport routes from the coast to penetrate the interior of Uganda.

**Shelley's (Rufous) Sparrow** *Passer shelleyi*

Recorded in Murchison Falls NP, with quite a number seen on the north bank of the Nile.

*NOTE: IOC now split this African sparrow into six species. Shelley's Sparrow P. shelleyi that we observed occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Sparrow P. motitensis occurs in southern Africa, Kenya Sparrow P. rufocinctus occurs in east Africa, Kordofan Sparrow P. cordofanicus occurs in Sudan, Socotra Sparrow P. insularis occurs is endemic to Socotra and Abd al-Kuri Sparrow P. hemileucus is endemic to Abd al-Kuri Island and the west of Socotra .*

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

Seen almost daily and usually in the vicinity of human habitation.

### Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

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

This smart bird was seen on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Recorded at scattered localities in the vicinity of forest.

**Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*

We saw this bird at scattered sites, with it being particularly common in farmbrush in the highland areas around Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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

A very delicate bird, it was seen along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, with our best sightings around the dining area at Mweya Lodge.

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*

A single male was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

More often heard than seen, we saw it near Masindi in moist secondary scrub, and later at Lake Mburo.

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

A forest edge and secondary scrub species, it was seen on a number of occasions during the tour.

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

We enjoyed some great views of this species in Mubwindi Swamp.

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



A very smart bird, it showed very well at Buhoma.

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

Quite a large weaver, singles or small groups were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius*

Some had good views of this species (which is quite localised in East Africa) along the edge of Lake Victoria while in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

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

We recorded this species at a swamp near Masindi.

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

This species was recorded in *Acacia* woodland in Lake Mburo NP.

**Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*

A single male was seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*

This species was seen on a few occasions in the first few days of the tour in moist savanna and secondary growth.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is a candidate for multi-species splitting and the subspecies P. c. bohndorffi which we recorded in Uganda will probably remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by IOC or Clements.*

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

Seen on a number of occasions in moist scrub.

*NOTE: The distinctive West African form of this weaver is sometimes split off as Black-and-chestnut Weaver P. castaneofuscus. Neither IOC nor Clements accepts this split.*

**Weyns's Weaver** *Ploceus weynsi*

Some had excellent views of this nomadic forest edge inhabitant at Mabira Forest.

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

Our best views of this species were in QENP.

**Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*

Some enjoyed excellent views of this species in Mabira Forest.

**Compact Weaver** *Ploceus superciliosus*

An inhabitant of rank grassland, it was seen near the Royal Mile, with further sightings near Masindi and in QENP.

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

A smart bird, it was seen at Mubwindi Swamp.

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

We saw this avian was seen in Budongo, Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

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

A male was seen near Masindi, with a further bird seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.

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

Seen in moist grassland on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Seen near Murchison Falls and in QENP. The world's most populous species!

**Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii*

Rank grassland near the Royal Mile and Buhoma.

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

Our best views of this species were in Murchison Falls NP.

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*

Recorded in flocks in QENP.

**Northern Red Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*



We had good views of this bright species in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Seen near Buhoma in rank vegetation.

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

Seen on the first day in Luwero Swamp, with a further sighting en route from Ruhija to Lake Mburo.

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura*

Rank grassland near Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP provided a few views of this species.

**Marsh Widowbird** *Euplectes hartlaubi*

After some searching we found this species at Luwero Swamp.

**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*

We saw this bird in rank grassland in QENP.

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

First seen in rank vegetation near the Royal Mile, with further sightings near Masindi.

### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

**White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)** *Nigrita fusconotus*

This species was seen at Kibale, Bwindi Impenetrable and Mabira Forests.

**Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch)** *Nigrita canicapillus*

First seen at Bigodi Swamp, with a further sighting in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*

Seen in QENP.

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

We had fabulous views of three birds at Ruhija.

**Black-bellied Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

An absolute stunner, it was seen at Mabira Forest, where it showed exceptionally well near the nest. The subject of a number of scientific studies, it is a very interesting species as it exhibits non-sex related polymorphism, and is one of a handful of examples of disruptive selection in nature (see Clabaut *et al.* 2009, [www.ioe.ucla.edu/ctr/research/polymorphisms.html](http://www.ioe.ucla.edu/ctr/research/polymorphisms.html)).

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

Fabulous views of this stunner were had at Bigodi Wetland, with a further sighting at Mabira Forest.

**Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*

This sought-after species was seen near the Royal Mile, with further sightings near Masindi.

**Dusky Twinspot** *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

Seen by some near Ruhija.

**Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*

Our best views of this bird were near Masindi, after a poor initial sighting near the Royal Mile.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

The most common firefinch in Uganda, it was seen at scattered sites throughout the country.

**African (Blue-billed) Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*

A pair was seen in moist agricultural land near Buhoma.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

A smart savanna species, it was seen on a number of occasions in the former half of the tour.

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Estrilda quartinia*

This petit avian was seen alongside the road at Ruhija.

**Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola*

We had excellent views of this species near the Royal Mile, with later sightings in rank grassland in QENP.



NOTE: The Ethiopian near-endemic *E. ochrogaster* is sometimes recognized as a distinct species, Abyssinian Waxbill. This split is recognised by the IOC.

**Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild*

A widespread species in Africa, it was seen en route to Masindi and in the vicinity of the Royal Mile.

**Black-crowned Waxbill***Estrilda nonnula*

We saw this species at a few scattered moist secondary growth sites.

**Black-headed Waxbill***Estrilda altricapilla*

This species showed well near Ruhija.

NOTE: The subspecies we saw is sometimes split as *Kandt's Waxbill* *E. kandti*, and occurs in high altitude forest in the Albertine Rift and in Kenya, while the nominate occurs in west central Africa. This treatment is not followed by the IOC, although Ryan and Sinclair in their book "Birds of Africa south of the Sahara" do accept this split.

**Orange-breasted Waxbill***Amandava subflava*

Not recorded very frequently on our Uganda tours, we saw four of these beauties near the Royal Mile.

**Black-chinned Quail-Finch***Ortygospiza gabonensis*

Unfortunately a dot calling in the sky above short grassland at the Kasenyi track in QENP was all we saw of this species.

**Bronze Mannikin***Lonchura cucullata*

Widespread in Uganda, and seen on a number of occasions on the tour.

**Black-and-white Mannikin***Lonchura bicolor*

Recorded in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

**Magpie Mannikin***Lonchura fringilloides*

Seen by some near Buhoma.

**Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae****Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeata*

Seen on the Bugungu Road, and later en route to QENP from Kibale Forest.

**Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

Recorded almost daily in the former half of the tour.

**Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae****Cape Wagtail***Motacilla capensis*

This widespread species was recorded at Buhoma and later at Ruhija.

**Mountain Wagtail***Motacilla clara*

A pair were seen on a stream in Kibale Forest, with a further pair seen by some at The Neck.

**African Pied Wagtail***Motacilla aguimp*

Seen virtually daily.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw***Macronyx croceus*

We recorded this species at scattered moist grassland sites throughout the tour.

**African Pipit***Anthus cinnamomeus*

We saw this widespread species at a few scattered open country sites.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.

**Long-billed Pipit***Anthus similis*

This species, which is fairly infrequently recorded in Uganda, was seen en route to Lake Mburo from Ruhija.

**Plain-backed Pipit***Anthus leucophrys*

First seen in a fairly moist area near Masindi, with further sightings in QENP and Lake Mburo.

*NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ugandan races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Neither IOC nor Clements accept this split.*

### Finches Fringillidae

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

*Serinus flavivertex*

This species was fairly common near our accommodations at Ruhija.

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

#### **Western Citril**

*Crithagra frontalis*

Recorded near the Royal Mile, and later at Ruhija.

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

#### **White-rumped Seedeater**

*Crithagra leucopygia*

A scarce species, we had good views of a handful near Bugungu on the road out of Murchison Falls NP.

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

*Crithagra atrogularis*

This species was recorded near Buhoma in agricultural land.

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

*Crithagra mozambica*

We saw this species on a number of occasions in the former half of the tour.

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

*Crithagra sulphurata*

Peak numbers were recorded at Murchison Falls NP.

#### **Streaky Seedeater**

*Crithagra striolata*

Seen in highland areas, with a number of sightings in the higher areas of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, where it occurs in forest edge and secondary scrub.

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

*Crithagra burtoni*

Also seen in high altitude areas of Bwindi Impenetrable NP, where it was fairly common.

*NOTE: The Tanzanian endemic S. melanochrous is sometimes split off a Kipengere Seedeater; this is accepted by the IOC.*

### Buntings Emberizidae

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

*Emberiza tahapisi*

We saw a single bird on the Butiaba Escarpment.

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

*Emberiza flaviventris*

A really smart bird, we saw it on a few occasions in the latter half of the tour, with our first sightings being in QENP.

#### **Brown-rumped Bunting**

*Emberiza affinis*

This scarce Guinea Savanna inhabitant was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

## **Annotated List of Mammals recorded**

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

**Total species recorded: 45**

### Apes Hominidae



**Chimpanzee***Pan troglodytes*

Our chimpanzee trek in Kibale Forest was quite a memorable occasion, and we enjoyed an extended viewing sessions of these fascinating creatures as they went about their lives. Kibale is without doubt one of best places to view this incredible great apes.

**(Mountain) Gorilla***Gorilla gorilla beringei*

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of any tour to Uganda, and one of the greatest wildlife experiences on earth! Spending an hour with these gentle giants is a life changing experience, and will remain one of the best reasons to visit this marvellous country.

**Colobid Monkeys Colobidae****Central African Red Colobus***Piliocolobus oustaleti*

This monkey was seen in Kibale Forest, where they constitute the majority of the vertebrate diet of Chimpanzees!

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

A very attractive monkey, it was seen at scattered forest associated sites, with our initial sightings being near the Royal Mile.

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

Forest edge and woodland and savanna sites provided some excellent views of this species.

**Grey-cheeked Mangabey***Lophocebus albigena*

This interesting monkey with an "evil" face was seen in Kibale Forest.

**Patas Monkey***Cercopithecus patas*

These long-legged savanna monkeys of central Africa showed superbly on the borassus dotted grasslands on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

**Vervet Monkey***Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

Widespread and seen in a range woodland situations throughout Uganda.

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

Initially seen in Kibale Forest, we had some excellent views later in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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

A large forest monkey with a booming call, it was seen in Budongo and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

**Red-tailed Monkey***Cercopithecus ascanius*

This appropriately named monkey was seen in Kibale, Bwindi Impenetrable and Mabira Forests.

**Lorisids Loridae****Demidoff's Galago***Galago demidoff*

These tiny nocturnal mammals' high pitched calls were heard in Kibale Forest.

**Flying –Foxes Pteropidae****Straw-coloured Fruit Bat***Eidolon helvum*

Initially seen in the air over Masindi, we saw staggering numbers flying overhead at dusk in Jinja.

**Large-Winged Bats Megadermatidae****Yellow-winged Bat***Lavia frons*

An interesting looking bat with orangey-yellow wings, it was seen in QENP, and later in and around Lake Mburo.



**Hares & Rabbits Leporidae****Scrub Hare***Lepus saxatilis*

Seen in at night in Lake Mburo.

**Uganda Grass-Hare (Bunyoro Rabbit)***Poelagus marjorita*

Murchison Falls NP produced several sightings of this species.

**Squirrels Sciuridae****Striped Ground Squirrel***Xerus erythropus*

This species was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

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

Seen in a number of forests during the tour.

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

We saw this species in Kibale Forest.

**Mustelids Mustelidae****Spot-necked Otter***Lutra maculicollis*

A single was seen by some in Lake Victoria.

**Mongoosees Herpestidae****Ichneumon (Egyptian) Mongoose***Herpestes ichneumon*

This large mongoose was seen on two separate occasions near Masindi.

**Dwarf Mongoose***Helogale parvula*

A delightful creature, it was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

**Banded Mongoose***Mungos mungo*

Seen in QENP and in Lake Mburo NP. A social creature that is typically found in troops of up to 40 individuals!

**Hyenas Hyaenidae****Spotted Hyena***Crocuta crocuta*

This fascinating creature was heard at QENP.

**Genets & Civets Viverridae****Blotched (Large-spotted) Genet***Genetta tigrina*

A single was seen in Lake Mburo NP at night.

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

One leopard was seen in the early morning in Murchison Falls NP, with a one coughing very close to our vehicle during a nightdrive in Lake Mburo NP.

**Lion***Panthera leo*

A lioness was seen along the Kazinga Channel in QENP as she stalked a warthog. We also heard roaring while in Lake Mburo NP, these lions having recently taken up residence after coming across the border from Tanzania.

**Hyraxes Procavidae****Western Tree Hyrax***Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

We had good views of a single which was sitting partially out of its tree cavity on the Royal Mile.



### Elephants Elephantidae

#### **African Elephant**

*Loxodonta africana*

Recorded in Murchison Falls NP, as well as in QENP, where it was common.

### Horses Equidae

#### **Common (Burchell's) Zebra**

*Equus quagga*

This species is restricted to the southern savannas, and as a result is only found at Lake Mburo NP in Uganda where we had good numbers.

### Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

#### **Hippopotamus**

*Hippopotamus amphibius*

Large numbers were seen during our boat cruise on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls NP, followed by sightings on the Kazinga Channel in QENP and at Lake Mburo.

### Pigs Suidae

#### **Common Warthog**

*Phacochoerus africanus*

The savanna parks of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo produced views of this species.

### Giraffes Giraffidae

#### **Giraffe**

*Giraffa camelopardalis*

We saw giraffe on the north bank of the Nile, the animals here belonging to the distinctive Rothschild's form.

### Bovids & Horned Ungulates

#### **African Buffalo**

*Syncerus caffer*

These formidable creatures were seen at Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

#### **Bushbuck**

*Tragelaphus scriptus*

Seen in the three savanna parks mentioned for the previous species.

#### **Eland**

*Taurotragus oryx*

These enormous antelope were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

#### **Black-fronted Duiker**

*Cephalophus nigrifrons*

This rainforest inhabitant was seen at Ruhija.

#### **Yellow-backed Duiker**

*Cephalophus silvicultor*

Some saw this, the largest duiker in the world, at Buhoma.

#### **Oribi**

*Ourebia ourebi*

Although threatened in other areas in Africa, we saw large numbers on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

#### **Bohor Reedbuck**

*Redunca redunca*

Seen by some in Lake Mburo NP.

#### **Uganda Kob**

*Kobus kob thomasi*

A water dependant species, we saw it in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

#### **Defassa Waterbuck**

*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

This antelope was seen in the three savanna parks. The *defassa* subspecies we saw lacks the white "toilet seat" mark on the rump that characterises the nominate Waterbuck found further south.

#### **Impala**

*Aepyceros melampus*



Although widespread in Africa, in Uganda they are only found in Lake Mburo NP, where we saw them.

**Topi (Tsessebe)** *Damaliscus lunatus*

Good numbers were seen in QENP in the Ishasha sector, with further sighting in Lake Mburo NP.

**Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)** *Alcelaphus buselaphus*

Decent numbers were recorded on the north bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

## Annotated List of Reptiles recorded

### Total species recorded: 8

**African Rock Python** *Python sebae*

We saw a youngish individual in QENP during a night drive.

**Forest Cobra** *Naja melanoleuca*

A single snake, presumed to be this species, was seen in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens. It was moving along at speed, but a narrow hood could be seen at times as it sped through the grass!

**Striped Skink** *Mabuya striata*

We saw it in the Lake Mburo NP.

**Nile/Water Monitor (Leguaan)** *Varanus niloticus*

Seen by some in QENP.

**Red-headed Rock Agama** *Agama agama*

Quite a few were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

**Blue-headed Tree Agama** *Acanthocercus atricollis*

Recorded at Kibale Forest and at Ruhija.

**Moreau's Tropical House Gecko** *Hemidactylus mabouia*

Seen in the vicinity of accommodations at a few places on the tour, beginning with at Masindi.

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*

These incredible predators were seen in Murchison Falls NP, on the Kazinga Channel and later on Lake Mburo.

**Photo credits:** Blue-breasted Kingfisher by David Hoddinott; African Buffalo, Uganda Kob, Chimpanzee, Guereza Colobus and Blue Salamis *Salamis temora* all by Rainer Summers; Shoebill and Weyn's Weaver by Keith Valentine.

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