



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Trip Report

Uganda – Birds & Gorillas II

2nd to 20th July 2016 (19 days)



Shoebill at Mabamba Swamp by Markus Lilje

Trip Report Compiled by Tour Leader: Markus Lilje

Top 10 birds as voted for by participants:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Green-breasted Pitta | 6. Pennant-winged Nightjar |
| 2. Grauer's Broadbill | 7. Lagden's Bushshrike |
| 3. Shoebill | 8. Papyrus Gonolek |
| 4. White-spotted Flufftail | 9. Northern Carmine Bee-eater |
| 5. African Finfoot | 10. Northern Red Bishop |

Tour Summary

The extremely bird-rich and biologically diverse country of Uganda keeps producing some of the most incredible birding and mammal experiences year after year and this trip was no exception. Highlights included the prehistoric-looking Shoebill, fabulous encounters with the endangered Mountain Gorillas, the highly sought-after Grauer's Broadbill, sensational Green-breasted Pitta, bizarre Pennant-winged Nightjar, secretive White-spotted Flufftail, Brown-chested Lapwing, Joyful Greenbul, African Finfoot, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, exquisite Brown and Green Twinspots, Lagden's, Many-colored and Luehder's Bushshrikes, rare and seldom-seen White-

backed Night Heron and a wealth of ultra-localised Albertine Rift endemics that included the recently described Willard's Sooty Boubou, Stripe-breasted Tit, Ruwenzori and Mountain Masked Apalises, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Handsome Francolin, dazzling Regal Sunbird and Strange Weaver, to name just a few!



Weyns's Weaver by Markus Lilje

We began our birding adventure in the city of Entebbe, where some introductory birding around the gardens of our accommodations yielded eye-catching species before the tour even began for some participants. The main target in this area was quite possibly the top target of the whole tour: the monotypic Shoebill! We headed out towards the nearby Mabamba Swamp at the edge of Lake Victoria, boarding a few small boats and heading out in search of our quarry. After some time, we managed to find our quarry without too much effort, managing fantastic views of the outlandish Shoebill! The bird allowed for a close approach and amazing photographic opportunities. This was an incredible experience with one of the world's most strange and desirable birds! After it stood motionless for a while, it suddenly flashed down into the water and came out with its lungfish breakfast, before flying a little further to its next spot. The remainder of our time meandering through the papyrus and reed-lined channels gave us an array of other good species that included the rare Lesser Jacana, several Long-toed Lapwings, Blue-



Shining-blue Kingfisher by Markus Lilje

breasted Bee-eater, Fan-tailed Widowbird, Malachite Kingfisher, African Marsh Harrier, Knob-billed Duck, Swamp Flycatcher and Winding Cisticola. Other birds in the area included the scarce Weyns's Weaver, Eastern Plantain-eater, Great Blue Turaco, Yellow-throated Leaflove, Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, African Blue Flycatcher and several Red-chested Sunbird. Our lunch stop proved to be a great place to learn the differences between some of the weaver species, as we watched Northern Brown-throated,



Village, Viellot's Black, Black-headed and Slender-billed Weavers. We then carried on the journey to Jinja - through the traffic mess that is Kampala - our final destination for the day and our base for the next two nights. Jinja lies directly on the banks of the Nile and is a good base from which to explore the Mabira Forest.

Mabira Forest was our first forest location, where we spent a little time on the first afternoon and the whole second day of the tour. There were huge numbers of new and special species that we managed to see as we spent time walking along a road and some smaller trails that allowed access to the forest. Near a small pool in the forest, we had some fabulous sightings that included Shining-blue Kingfisher, Brown-chested Alethe, Sabine's, Cassin's and Mottled Spinetails, Red-headed Bluebill, White-breasted Nigrita, Lowland Sooty Boubou, Black-capped Waxbill and Yellow-mantled Weaver. Due to very dry



Royal Mile by Markus Lilje

conditions, there was very little ant activity around, although we did still manage to get glimpses of Yellow-lored Bristlebill and also turned up a spectacular Forest Robin, scarce Least Honeyguide, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Speckled and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds and White-throated Greenbul. Other specialities seen included the the stunning Jameson's and Chestnut Wattle-eyes, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Olive-green and Yellow-browed Camaropteras, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Grey-headed Sunbird, Blue Malkoha, Red-chested Cuckoo, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Buff-throated Apalis, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Western Oriole, Little Greenbul, Grey-headed Nigrita, Fire-crested Alethe, African Shrike-Flycatcher, Red-headed Malimbe and, after much effort, Yellow Longbill. At around dusk, we ended the day in Jinja, searching for and finding great Peregrine Falcon as well as African Hobby flying over open areas in this region. After leaving Jinja on the following morning, we made a quick and final stop in the forest and were rewarded with fantastic views of a shy White-spotted Flufftail that showed really well, walking around in the open for everyone to enjoy!



Fire-crested Alethe by Markus Lilje

From Jinja, we made our way back west and then north towards Masindi, skirting the bustling city of Kampala along the way. A mid-morning stop at the now fast-disappearing Luweero Swamp produced our main target: a few male Marsh Widowbird as well as Western Banded Snake Eagle, Yellow-mantled Widowbird, Broad-billed Roller, African Openbill and a few others around some maize fields. Our lunch stop a little further on gave us Western Black-headed Batis, Brown Twinspot and Wahlberg's Eagle and Pink-backed Pelican overhead. Our final birding stop of the day was in the Kafu Ranches, dominated by Guinea Savanna woodland that is, sadly, also quickly disappearing.

Here we were thrilled to have a fantastic afternoon birding session with some great highlights. We managed to get good views of several White-headed, Double-toothed and Spot-flanked Barbets, Yellow-



fronted Tinkerbird, Yellow-breasted Hyliota, Purple, Violet-backed, Lesser Blue-eared and Bronze-tailed Starlings, White-shouldered Black Tit, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Northern Black and Grey Tit-Flycatchers, African Wattled Lapwing, Diederik Cuckoo, Meyer's Parrot, African and stunning Bruce's Green Pigeons, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Striped Kingfisher, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, White-browed Scrub Robin and, after much searching, we finally managed to see a White-crested Turaco.

Next up was the tall, verdant forest along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest Reserve. We spent most of the day walking along this beautiful and famous stretch of road, finding hard-to-see Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Ituri Batis, Chocolate-backed and African Dwarf Kingfishers, Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, Forest Robin, Fire-crested Alethe, Narina Trogon, gradually managing to add many others, including Brown-eared and Buff-spotted Woodpeckers, Dusky Tit, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Spotted and Little Grey Greenbuls, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Little



Guereza Colobus by Markus Lilje

Green Sunbird, Purple-headed Starling, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Western Nicator and Black-throated Black-capped Apalis. We then moved to the much more open and easy farm-bush habitat nearby, where highlights were many and included specialities like Black and Black-winged Red Bishops, Whistling Cisticola, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, sensational Copper and Variable Sunbirds, Compact Weaver and Fawn-breasted Waxbill. After a long but productive day, we returned to our accommodation in Masindi with anticipation for the fabulous Murchison Falls National Park that lay ahead.

Early the next morning, we headed straight for the nearby Masindi Airstrip where a short walk in some nearby scrubby habitat proved to be very birdy and gave us new and exciting species like Cardinal Quelea, Ross's Turaco, Black-bellied Firefinch, Brown Twinspot and Orange-breasted Waxbill as well as further good looks at a number of other species.



Murchison Falls view by Markus Lilje

Thereafter, a short stop at Kaniyo Pabidi near the northern tip of Budongo Forest and within the confines of Murchison Falls National Park produced the main target species after much effort: the often tricky Puvell's Illadopsis that was scoped while it called in some thickets. The woodland en route to our lodge and on the way to the falls was quiet in the midday heat but we did manage to pick up some Red-throated Bee-eater and a few other birds in this slightly different habitat. After a short break at our lodge in the national park after lunch, we headed to the magnificent waterfall nearby for the rest of the day. We spent some time along the Nile at the falls,

which were spectacular and well worth the walk, despite the heat and humidity. A few nice birds popped up as well and included Red-winged Grey Warbler, a number of Rock Pratincole lounging about on the



large rocks in the river below and Giant Kingfisher fishing along the edges - a magical spot indeed! We hung around until dusk, hoping for a Bat Hawk to emerge and were very lucky to find one, despite only a small number of bats around. Our drive back to our lodge that evening was a little quiet, with Greyish Eagle-Owl and Bunyoro Rabbit/Uganda Grass-Hare being the highlights.



Patas Monkey by Markus Lilje

Our full day in the park was superb and gave us so many epic birds and magnificent mammals! On the way to the river, we already had 4 fantastic male Pennant-winged Nightjar. The day properly started out with a delightful cruise down the Nile River where we obtained excellent views of three more Shoebill that showed well. We also had a brief look at a Pel's Fishing Owl, numerous African Fish Eagle, Goliath and numerous other species of Heron, Senegal Thick-knee, two Little Bittern, Western Osprey, Malachite and hordes of Pied Kingfishers, Swamp Flycatcher, Blue-headed Coucal, African Darter, brief Papyrus Gonolek and Northern Brown-throated Weaver, as well as several species of

mammals like the monstrous Hippopotamus and close Defasa Waterbuck.

We ended our boat trip near the delta and hopped off onto the north bank of the Nile where we met up with our 2 vehicles and continued our safari. Small, sheltered bays and a floodplain edge gave us Glossy Ibis, Grey Crowned Crane and numerous dazzling Northern Red Bishop. Black-headed, Spur-winged and African Wattled Lapwings were decked out in good numbers on the short-grazed lawns adjacent to the water, while Black-billed Barbet and Black-billed Wood Dove were seen in the surrounding dry woodland and thickets. Raptors were also numerous and included Lappet-faced and White-backed Vultures, while an Abdim's Stork joined them to our great surprise. Other raptors included Bateleur, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Dark Chanting Goshawk and Grey Kestrel. After lunch, we continued along the north bank picking up Grey-headed and Striped Kingfishers, many Blue-naped Mousebird, Swallow-tailed, Red-throated and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Beautiful Sunbird, Spotted Palm Thrush, Black-bellied Bustard, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Vitteline Masked Weaver, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Buff-bellied Warbler, Black-rumped Waxbill and fantastic Abyssinian Ground Hornbill. Piapiac and Yellow-billed Oxpecker were seen catching rides on the back of big game like African Buffalo and African Elephant, while some of the other mammals included Oribi, Lelwel Hartebeest, Kob, Common Warthog and the boldly-patterned and localised Rothschild's Giraffe.

The next morning, we departed Murchison and began making our way back towards Masindi. During our drives in this part of the park, we found some good species in mixed, broad-leaved woodland too, including Yellow-billed Shrike, White-crested Helmetshrike, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Sooty Chat, Green-backed Eremomela, Red-winged Pytilia, Brown-rumped Bunting and Northern Crombec. A few stops outside the park still produced good species that included Red-headed Lovebird, Marsh Tchagra, Senegal Coucal,



Abyssinian Ground Hornbill by Markus Lilje



Violet-backed Starling, Yellow-billed Shrike, and Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike. Thereafter, the Bugungu Road gave us White-rumped Seedeater, Grey-capped Warbler, Olive and White-throated Bee-eaters and Crested Francolin. The area around the Butiaba Escarpment was very dry and produced some great birds: Cutthroat Finch, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Namaqua Dove, Black-tailed Waxbill and Bar-breasted Firefinch. Our final birding stop of the day was at Busingiro, on the western edge of Budongo Forest Reserve. Here we added Cassin's Hawk-Eagle and Black Sparrowhawk to the ever-growing list and also improved our previous views of species like Red-tailed Greenbul and Little Green Sunbird.



Chimpanzee by Markus Lilje

Leaving the Guinea Savanna zone of central Uganda, we continued the journey south-west towards Kibale National Park, a huge forest reserve harbouring a wonderful selection of mouth-watering birds and primates. The drive was a long one but we did punctuate it with a few scheduled birding stops, the first being in the early morning in an area of highly productive farm-bush, woodland and swamp-edge habitat near the town of Murro. Here we were delighted to obtain wonderful views of Red-headed Lovebird, Marsh Widowbird, Blue-headed Coucal, Purple-banded and the scarce Orange-tufted Sunbirds. The remainder

of the drive took us past cultivated fields and small rural villages, where we saw numerous Lizard Buzzards and a Long-crested Eagle before we arrived at Sebitole at the northern end of Kibale National Park. Some late afternoon birding at Sebitole proved to be spectacular as we found special birds like Lowland Masked Apalis, Dark-backed Weaver, Grey-throated Barbet, Afep Pigeon, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Cassin's Honeybird, Black-bellied Seedcracker and a great number of different starlings. We arrived at our lovely lodge near the edge of Kibale National Park in the early evening after experiencing some very dusty road conditions on the road that is getting built through the forest.

Our full day in Kibale National Park began very early with a pre-dawn start as we made our way to where we met our local guide to begin the search for the once near-mythical Green-breasted Pitta. We entered the forest while it was still dark and as we approached the spot where we wanted to wait for the bird to call, some elephant moved into the area, forcing us to relocate to another site. Here we waited, hoping for the Pitta to start calling, which it eventually did; unfortunately, despite much time and effort in this area, we were not successful and started moving on to where the Chimpanzees were hanging out. Suddenly, a pair of Pitta flushed from the side of the track and, after a few anxious minutes, we were all looking at this wonderful bird, busily searching for food on the forest floor. What a fantastic sighting! To add to this, we flushed African Wood Owl while going for the Pitta as a bonus. Soon after leaving the area, we located a troop of Chimpanzees up in the canopy of some fruiting fig trees, while some had already come down for a rest, allowing for a really close approach! Here we watched them for a while, as



Joyful Greenbul by Markus Lilje

they relaxed and interacted.



Yellow-billed Barbet by Markus Lilje

After enjoying our time with these fascinating primates, we made our way back for lunch and a little break. The grounds of our lodge were rather birdy, despite it being the middle of the day and species like African Dusky Flycatcher and a variety of sunbirds showed well. In the afternoon, we returned to the forest where a stroll along the road turned up Petit's Cuckooshrike, Black Bee-eater, Western Oriole, Blue Malkoha, Speckled and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Klaas's Cuckoo, Grey-chinned Sunbird, Chestnut-winged Starling, Hairy-breasted Barbet and Purple-headed and Narrow-tailed Starlings. Along a nearby stream, we enjoyed Cassin's Flycatcher, while a flowering

Erythrina had wonderful Green-throated, Scarlet-chested, Copper, Collared and Green-headed Sunbirds.

Our next morning at the nearby Bigodi Swamp was another very successful excursion when we explored it for a few hours on foot. One of the most obvious birds were the many gaudy Great Blue Turaco, although we were also impressed by the variety of primates this small area served up; as we found Eastern Red and Guereza Colobus, L-Hoest's Monkey, Grey-cheeked Mangabey and Red-tailed Monkey, among others. Birds around here were many too, with some highlights including Joyful Greenbul, Yellow-billed Barbet, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Speckle-breasted, Brown-eared and Buff-spotted Woodpeckers, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Green Hylia and many others. After lunch back at the lodge, it was, again, time to hit the road and drive south towards the Queen Elizabeth National Park – another reserve that promised diversity and some good new experiences. This drive took us through more tiny villages, extensive banana plantations and markets and finally, past the impressive distant Ruwenzori Mountains.

Soon after entering the park, we drove through some tall grasslands, before we were surprised by 2 Lions relaxing on a termite mound right on the roadside! The water bodies nearby had a number of storks, Kittlitz's Plover, Hamerkop and a large flock of Lesser Flamingo as well as Lesser Black-backed Gull. Our final drive towards our wonderfully located lodge had us adding a few more birds, before we could enjoy the view over the Kazinga Channel from our rooms and ended the day with a delicious dinner.

We spent a very enjoyable and bird-filled day in Queen Elizabeth National Park. The early morning saw us heading out to an area of tall, rank grassland where we managed to find brief African Crake crossing the road and longer views of Black Coucal, White-winged Widowbird and Holub's Golden Weaver, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, Yellow-throated Longclaw and Marsh Tchagra while a Palmnur Vulture seemed to follow us for a long time! Other noteworthy species seen this morning included Temminck's Courser, Red-necked Spurfowl, Brown Snake Eagle, White-browed



African Skimmer by Markus Lilje

Coucal, many Black-headed Gonolek, Crowned, Senegal and African Wattled Lapwings, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, White-tailed, Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks, Black-lored and Arrow-marked Babblers and brightly-coloured White-browed Robin-Chat.



White-headed Wood Hoopoe by Markus Lilje

saw from the boat were Wattled Starling, African Hoopoe, Barn, Angola and a variety of other swallows, Swamp Flycatcher and Brown-throated Martin. We also encountered a good number and variety of game today, including great views of African Elephant, Hippopotamus, Bushbuck, Kob, Defassa Waterbuck and a few Yellow-winged Bats in the late afternoon. In the early evening, we embarked on a short evening/night drive, which delivered good views of Square-tailed and Black-shouldered Nightjars!

We left our wonderful lodge and setting in Queen Elizabeth National Park the following day and began the fairly long drive towards Buhoma at the lower edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. However, we were not done just yet with Queen Elizabeth as most of the drive today would be within the national park. We slowly made our way, driving parallel to the Kazinga Channel, before crossing it (finding Papyrus Gonolek and Souther Red Bishop) and then exploring the Ishasha section of the park. Some of the best species we found included the scarce Brown-chested Lapwing, Olive Bee-eater, Martial and Western Banded Snake Eagles, African Cuckoo Hawk, Common Scimitarbill and Stout and Trilling Cisticola. A leisurely picnic lunch was then enjoyed at the edge of the Ishasha River, admiring a pod of Hippos while gazing across the river towards the Democratic Republic of the Congo – in this area, we also had a few good birds, including White-headed and Rueppell's Vultures and Red-capped Robin-Chat. Some of the mammals we found in this area included Tsessebe, Kob, Olive Baboon, Tantalus Monkey and African Buffalo along the way before reaching the main road to Buhoma. The long drive to our lodge was uneventful, although, we did find a few species that included Mackinnon's Shrike. Finally, we arrived at our lodge on the outskirts of the lush, hilly, tantalising and legendary Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Before turning into the lodge, we spent some time on the edge of the forest, already finding a few good birds like Many-coloured and Bocage's Bushshrikes, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Black-throated Apalis, White-chinned Prinia, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and



Malachite Kingfisher by Markus Lilje



Brown-capped Weaver.

During our time in the beautiful, luxuriant rainforest at Buhoma, we worked the track and adjacent trails that lead through the forest and our forays yielded some of the most wonderful birds of the trip. Highlights were many and included specialities like African Broadbill, Black Bee-eater, Tullberg's and Elliot's Woodpeckers, Black-and-white and African Shrike-flycatchers, Bar-tailed Trogon, Pink-footed



Black-billed Weaver by Markus Lilje

Puffback, Black Cuckoos, Luhder's Bushshrike, White-browed Crombec, newly described Willard's Sooty Boubou, Blue-throated Roller, Neumann's Warbler, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Black-billed Weaver, Mountain Oriole, Yellow-whiskered, Kakamega, Olive-breasted, Ansorge's, Cabanis's, Plain and Red-tailed Greenbuls, Red-throated Alethe, localised Red-faced Woodland Warbler, striking Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Tiny and Northern Double-collared Sunbirds, Chapin's Flycatcher, Mountain Illadopsis, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Jameson's Antpecker, White-bellied Robin-Chat, dapper Equatorial Akalat and Grey-headed Sunbird. Sensational birding! Most of the group also went Gorilla trekking, being split up to follow 2 different family groups. After much effort up and down the famously steep and slippery slopes, it was a fantastic experience to spend an hour very close to these amazing animals. This intimate and unforgettable time is surely one of the global wildlife highlights! Other mammals encountered during our time at Buhoma included the beautiful L'Hoest's and Red-tailed Monkeys and Black-fronted Duiker.

Next up was the higher reaches of Bwindi around the small village of Ruhija. Our drive up to Ruhija took us through some more open farmland, where we found Yellow Bishop, Black-throated Canary, African Firefinch, Holub's Golden Weaver and Chubb's Cisticola. A little further up, near 'The Neck' we found some more active forest areas, where we enjoyed some more good birding, with further views of Black and Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, many sunbirds around flowers, Red-tailed Ant-Thrush, Crested Malimbe, Crowned Eagle, Dusky Tit and some great Augur Buzzard. The remainder of the day was spent birding along the road towards Ruhija and in the vicinity of the town. Once again, the birding was spectacular, with specialities like the gorgeous Doherty's Bushshrike, Abyssinian Thrush, Stripe-breasted Tit, Chestnut-throated, Ruwenzori and Mountain Masked Apalises, Grey Cuckooshrike, White-starred Robin, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Thick-billed Seed eater, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and Grauer's Warbler as well as a number of highly desirable Albertine Rift endemics that included Mountain Masked and Ruwenzori Apalises, Strange Weaver and the exquisite Regal Sunbird - all showing stupendously well. The mammal highlight of the day was probably the great views of Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel that we all enjoyed seeing along the trail.



Grauer's Broadbill by Markus Lilje





Handsome Francolin by Markus Lilje

We had one full day at Ruhija, which we mainly spent on the Mubwindi Swamp trail. We did incredibly well here, despite the effort of walking the trail not always allowing us to bird as hard as we would have liked. Parts of our morning hike down to Mubwindi Swamp were extremely quiet but we did manage to see Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Olive Woodpecker, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, African Olive Pigeon, Slender-billed Starling, Mountain Buzzard and Black-faced Prinia before arriving in the area where a pair of Grauer's Broadbill had bred until a few days before. Local guides scoured the surrounding

hillsides for any sign of the birds and as we were about to move on, we heard a shout that birds had been located! Everyone more-or-less ran up an impossibly steep slope and, just minutes later, we were all looking at Grauer's Broadbill (voted the number 2 bird of the tour!) – all somewhat out of breath. What a phenomenal sighting of this mega! As if this was not enough, Lagden's Bushshrike then showed up and also showed wonderfully, giving its mournful call overhead! Around the swamp itself, we managed to achieve views of the skulking Grauer's Swamp Warbler, Carruther's Cisticola and Regal Sunbird. The general birding on the way up was good and produced close Black-throated Apalis, Ruwenzori Batis, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Sharpe's Starling and Brown-capped Weaver. The walk was a long and tiring one but well worth it as the forest here is truly magical, with a staggering selection of mouth-watering birds. After a short break in the vehicle, everyone was up for more birding so we took a short walk along the main track through the bamboo zone and picked up Mountain Sooty Boubou, uncommon and localised Western Tinkerbird, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, fantastic Handsome Francolin as well as a number of other species, before it got quite cold and the lack of any further birding potential spelt out the end of our day's birding. As we left on the last morning here, we found a few more birds and had our best views yet of African Goshawk; many Archer's Robin Chats were calling, but none ever showed.

Unfortunately, it was time to leave the wonders of Bwindi and embark on the long drive to the savanna woodlands of Lake Mburo National Park. We then departed Bwindi and wound our way down the rolling hills and through the forest, where the edge of the park abruptly gives way to extensive cultivated, over-grown and barren fields covering the once-forested hillsides, now covered by villages. This area did produce Western Citril, Yellow-crowned Canary, Lanner Falcon and Dusky Turtle Dove, although we tried to limit our time in this very dusty area! During the rest of our drive, we stopped a few times to look at Mosque Swallow, White-necked Raven and an extensive swamp, which gave us views of the furtive, but vocal, White-winged Swamp Warbler. Further on, near our lunch site and in drier habitat we stopped for Bare-faced



Lagden's Bushshrike by Markus Lilje



Go-away-bird, Lilac-breasted Roller and Variable Sunbird, while a small dam had White-backed Duck, Red-billed Teal and Little Grebe. We finally arrived at Lake Mburo in the late afternoon and were greeted by herds of Impala and Defassa Waterbuck, while Common Eland and Plain's Zebra were new for our tour. That night we fell asleep to the sounds of grunting Hippos.



African Finfoot by Markus Lilje

The next morning, we embarked on a boat trip, boarding a small, motorised boat and puttering around Lake Mburo for two very memorable and atmospheric hours. This gave us some great sightings of sought-after species; such as a pair of the scarce and seldom-seen, but well-hidden, White-backed Night Heron and widespread but tricky African Finfoot, of which we had a number of different individuals - finding females, young males, and finally a fantastic adult male bird. Fantastic! We also enjoyed more close encounters with Pied and Malachite Kingfishers, Water

Thick-knee, Striated and Squacco Herons, Northern Brown-throated Weaver, Yellow-throated Leaflove and the common but very handsome African Fish Eagle.

After the boat trip, we spent the remainder of the day driving the network of roads that meander through the park's beautiful *acacia* savanna and managed to find a number of target species that are mostly restricted to this habitat that is rather localised in Uganda and far more typical of neighbouring Kenya and Tanzania. These included Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Spot-flanked, Crested, White-headed, localised and sought-after Red-faced Barbets, Green-winged Pytilia, Black Cuckooshrike, Southern Black Flycatcher, Grey Penduline Tit, Chinspot Batis, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, White-winged Black Tit, Long-tailed Cisticola, gaudy Greater Blue-eared Starling, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Common Scimitarbill, Bearded Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey Tit-flycatcher, Meyer's Parrot, Brown-chested Lapwing, Wattled Starling and Marico Sunbird. On the last evening, a short wait produced wonderful views of Pennant-winged Nightjar in flight – showing off their bizarre, elongated primaries.

Alas, our trip was drawing to a close and it was with sadness that we had to leave Lake Mburo and begin the drive back to Entebbe, where our mammoth Ugandan birding tour had begun almost 3 weeks earlier. We found a few birds along the way, including wonderfully close Woolly-necked and Saddle-billed Storks, African Openbill, Grey Crowned Crane, African Swamphen, Common Moorhen, Hottentot Teal, White-faced and Fulvous Whistling Ducks, African Jacana and African Marsh Harrier.

Thank you to everyone for making this such a memorable, enjoyable and successful birding tour of 'The Pearl of Africa' - the very special country of Uganda.



Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological congress), Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2015; Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press (version 5.2).

Total species recorded: 550 of which 540 were seen and 10 heard only

*ARE indicates an Albertine Rift endemic species

MFNP = Murchison Falls National Park

QENP = Queen Elizabeth National Park

BINP = Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

LMNP = Lake Mburo National Park

NP = National Park

NR = Nature Reserve

Ducks, Geese and Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Small numbers were seen at a few sites in the first week.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

On the final day, we found around 7 of these birds at a roadside wetland.

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

A single bird was seen at a small wetland on the way to LMNP.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen well at MFNP and on the final day.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

We had a flock in flight on the first day.

NOTE: IOC splits Comb Duck into two species: Knob-billed Duck S. melanotos and Comb Duck S. sylvicola, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Comb Duck S. melanotos.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Fairly common and easily seen in Murchison Falls and QENP.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

Quite common at Mabamba wetland and seen again on the final days.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhynchos*

2 of these birds, scarce in Uganda were seen at a roadside stop near LMNP.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

Around 5 birds were scoped at a roadside wetland on the final day.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Recorded in a variety of savanna situations on the tour.

New World Quail Odontophoridae

Nahan's Partridge *Ptilopachus nahani*

Heard only at the Royal Mile and Kanyo Pabidi.



Pheasants, Fowl and Allies Phasianidae**Crested Francolin***Dendroperdix sephaena*

Seen on 5 days in very scattered parts of the country, with best views maybe in QENP.

Scaly Francolin*Pternistis squamatus*

A single bird was seen in the Ishasha section of the QENP.

Heuglin's Francolin*Pternistis icterorhynchus*

Seen flying away near the Royal Mile.

Handsome Francolin*Pternistis nobilis*

Seen very well on 2 days in the higher parts of BINP near Ruhija – a sought-after Rift Valley endemic.

Red-necked Spurfowl*Pternistis afer*

Common in QENP and in LMNP.

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

Three seen en route to Lake Mburo.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae**Lesser Flamingo***Phoeniconaias minor*

Many hundred were seen around a small crater lake in QENP.

Storks Ciconiidae**Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis*

Seen on 3 days: great views along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

African Openbill*Anastomus lamelligerus*

Amazingly common in some areas, even around Kampala. Recorded on 9 days around wetlands.

Abdim's Stork*Ciconia abdimii*

A very uncommon bird on our tours - one was seen well in flight during our full day in Murchison Falls NP.

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

Great close views near the roadside on the final day of the tour.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

A beautiful bird; was seen a number of times, including a very close bird on the final day.

Marabou Stork*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Commonly seen throughout, often in towns and cities.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**African Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Small numbers seen at scattered wetland sites throughout the trip, most around LMNP.

NOTE: IOC splits Sacred Ibis into two species: African Sacred Ibis *T. aethiopicus* and Malagasy Sacred Ibis *T. bernieri*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Sacred Ibis *T. aethiopicus*.

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

We saw this noisy bird on almost every day.

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

2 were seen in MFNP.

African Spoonbill*Platalea alba*

Great views of 4 of these on the Kazinga Channel in QENP.



Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

Little Bittern

Ixobrychus minutus

Outstanding views of 2 separate birds in MFNP.

White-backed Night Heron

Gorsachius leuconotus

2 very well hidden birds were well spotted by the boatman on Lake Mburo.

Black-crowned Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

A few were seen in flight in the early morning in QENP.

Striated Heron

Butorides striata

Seen in very large numbers on Lake Mburo, with a few at Mabamba.

NOTE: IOC splits this species into two species: Striated Heron B. striata & Lava Heron B. sundevalli, whereas Clements only recognizes one species: Striated Heron B. striata.

Western Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Widespread and seen in wetland, grassland and savanna situations.

NOTE: IOC splits Cattle Egret into two species: Western Cattle Egret B. ibis and Eastern Cattle Egret B. coromandus, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Cattle Egret B. ibis.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Small numbers were seen, with the best day being with 6 birds along the Kazinga Channel.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Seen on many days in grassland habitat.

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

This regal species was seen very well during our Nile River boat cruise and along the Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo.

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea

Seen mainly at Mabamba and MFNP.

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

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Several sightings at wetlands during the trip.

Intermediate Egret

Egretta intermedia

3 birds were seen well along the Nile in MFNP.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Seen on 5 days, including at Mabamba and QENP.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret E. dimorpha into a single species. IOC however, recognizes this split.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

Belonging to a monotypic family, we saw them quite frequently during the trip.

Shoebill Balaenicipitidae

Shoebill

Balaeniceps rex

Sensational views were had of this sought-after species at the Mabamba Swamp, where extremely close and long views were enjoyed. A further 3 birds were seen along the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP. Probably Uganda's most famous bird target and not unexpectedly, this monotypic species was voted as one of the top birds of the tour.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

Seen on 8 days of the tour, with views at Jinja, MFNP and QENP being memorable.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**Reed Cormorant***Phalacrocorax africanus*

Seen at various wetlands on 8 days.

White-breasted Cormorant*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Around 800 birds were seen in a big group at the mouth of the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

NOTE: IOC splits Great Cormorant into two species: Great Cormorant *P. carbo* and White-breasted Cormorant *P. lucidus*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Great Cormorant *P. carbo*.

Anhingas, Darters Anhangidae**African Darter***Anhinga rufa*

Many were seen in Murchison Falls NP along the Nile.

NOTE: Both IOC and Clements recognize the split of Darter into four separate species.

Ospreys Pandionidae**Western Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

One was seen along the Nile during our MFNP boat trip.

NOTE: IOC splits Osprey into two species: Western Osprey *P. haliaetus* and Eastern Osprey *P. cristatus*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Osprey *P. haliaetus*.

Kites Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

Seen on 8 days in small numbers.

African Harrier-Hawk*Polyboroides typus*

Singletons and pairs were seen on around 11 days.

NOTE: This species is often called *Gymnoglene*.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

Fairly commonly seen throughout the trip, with most records in QENP.

African Cuckoo-Hawk*Aviceda cuculoides*

Seen well as we left the Ishasha section of QENP.

Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

Seen in the vicinity of Kampala and Jinja in big numbers.

White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

Seen in woodlands of MFNP, QENP and LMNP.

Rueppell's Vulture*Gyps rueppelli*

A scarce bird here, we had 3 birds in QENP.

White-headed Vulture*Trigonoceps occipitalis*

We had an adult in flight over the Ishasha River in the DRC and a perched youngster in LMNP.

Lappet-faced Vulture*Torgos tracheliotus*

We had distant perched views in MFNP, before more views in LMNP and QENP.

Brown Snake Eagle*Circaetus cinereus*

Seen on 6 days, including most views in QENP woodland.

Western Banded Snake Eagle*Circaetus cinerascens*

A very good tour for this species – we enjoyed good perched and flight views on 5 days.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

This fantastic savanna raptor was seen fairly frequently, mainly over the larger reserves.

Bat Hawk*Macheirampus alcinus*

A very sought-after bird that was seen at dusk at Murchison Falls, where it was going after bats.



Crowned Eagle

Stephanoaetus coronatus

We enjoyed flight views near Mubwindi Swamp after distant views over Mabira Forest.

Martial Eagle

Polemaetus bellicosus

Best views were of an adult MFNP, with 2 other views.

Long-crested Eagle

Lophaetus occipitalis

Numbers were seen on most days of the trip, often on roadside poles.

Wahlberg's Eagle

Hieraaetus wahlbergi

We recorded this species on 8 days, with good views of small numbers.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle

Hieraaetus ayresii

A single bird was seen in flight over the Kibale accommodations.

Tawny Eagle

Aquila rapax

Small numbers seen in MFNP and LMNP.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle

Aquila africana

Single birds seen soaring overhead in Kibale and Busingiro and Sebitole Forests on 2 consecutive days.

Lizard Buzzard

Kaupifalco monogrammicus

Incredibly common in some areas, like on the drive to Masindi. Scattered sightings elsewhere.

Dark Chanting Goshawk

Melierax metabates

Seen first near Kafo ranches and later around MFNP.

African Goshawk

Accipiter tachiro

A single young bird was seen well at close range as we left BINP.

Shikra

Accipiter badius

1 bird was seen briefly in flight near the Butiaba Escarpment.

Black Sparrowhawk

Accipiter melanoleucus

One bird was seen briefly in Busingiro Forest.

African Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

Seen very well at Mabamba on the first day; another bird seen later.

Yellow-billed Kite

Milvus aegyptius

Small numbers seen throughout, many in Kampala.

NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into Black Kite *M. migrans* and Yellow-billed Kite *M. aegyptius*. IOC now recognises this split but Clements does not as yet.

African Fish Eagle

Haliaeetus vocifer

A number of superb views of this species along waterbodies (e.g. Nile, Kazinga, Lake Mburo).

Mountain Buzzard

Buteo oreophilus

Very good views were enjoyed of a pair in flight over the Mubwindi Swamp.

Augur Buzzard

Buteo augur

Seen on 3 consecutive days in the Ruhija area.

Bustards Otididae

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

Good views of 2 birds in QENP and another near Masindi in flight.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura pulchra

This delightful species was first heard in Mabira, where we had fantastic views of 2 birds on the second morning there.



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

Sensational views were had of this widespread, but often difficult species at Lake Mburo. An incredible male and 2 females and a juvenile were seen during our early morning boat trip on the lake!

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

Heard at the Mubwindi Swamp.

African Crake*Crex egregia*

Seen briefly along the road in the early morning in QENP, where we had 2.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

Easily seen along the Nile, Kazinga Channel and Lake Mburo.

African Swampphen*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

A single bird was seen at a wetland on the last day.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Seen at a small wetland near Lake Mburo.

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

Scattered sightings of Uganda's National bird were enjoyed, with a few very close encounters.

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

Good views of around 5 birds were seen along the Nile in MFNP.

Water Thick-knee*Burhinus vermiculatus*

Good numbers of around 15 along the Kazinga Channel and 5 later in LMNP.

NOTE: Thick-knees are also often referred to as Dikkops or Stone-curlews.

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

A few along the Kazinga Channel.

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

Great views at Mabamba and then along the Nile in MFNP, QENP and LMNP.

Spur-winged Lapwing*Vanellus spinosus*

This handsome species was seen in MFNP and QENP in good numbers.

Black-headed Lapwing*Vanellus tectus*

Good numbers were seen on the north bank of the Nile in MFNP.

Senegal Lapwing*Vanellus lugubris*

We had large numbers in burnt areas in QENP.

Crowned Lapwing*Vanellus coronatus*

6 were seen in QENP and one in LMNP.

African Wattled Lapwing*Vanellus senegallus*

Seen on a total of 6 days; we enjoyed extremely close views a few times.



Brown-chested Lapwing

Vanellus superciliosus

This is a scarce and sought-after intra-african migrant that was seen well in Ishasha and later on the final morning near LMNP.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

Around 6 birds were seen over 2 days in QENP.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

Two pairs of these widespread sub-Saharan birds were seen well along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Lesser Jacana

Microparra capensis

2 birds were seen fairly well during our morning at Mabamba Swamp.

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

Excellent views of this species were had at most wetlands; recorded on 7 days.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

2 birds were seen along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

3 along the Kazinga Channel.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

2 birds were seen along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Around 8 birds were seen in flight over LMNP.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

2 birds were seen along the Kazinga Channel in QENP, with a few later at Lake Mburo.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

One seen in flight along the Kazinga Channel.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

2 along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Temminck's Courser

Cursorius temminckii

6 birds seen well in QENP.

Collared Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

A distant bird was seen along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Rock Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

Good scope views were had at Murchison Falls, perched and hunting over the river.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

African Skimmer

Rynchops flavirostris

We had a fantastic sighting of around 150 birds at an extremely close range during our Kazinga Channel boat trip.

Grey-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus

Seen well at the Mabamba Swamp, along the Kazinga Channel and MFNP.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

A single distant bird was seen near QENP.



Gull-billed Tern*Gelochelidon nilotica*

Birds were seen well over the 3 days in QENP, including great views along the Kazinga Channel.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybrida*

A single distant bird was seen on the first day on Lake Victoria.

White-winged Tern*Chlidonias leucopterus*

A good number of birds were seen well on the first day over Lake Victoria.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae**Rock Dove***Columba livia*

Seen in scattered urban areas during the tour.

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

These large pigeons were seen in a few towns during the tour.

Afep Pigeon*Columba unicincta*

A single bird was seen in flight in Sebitole, others heard in Kibale Forest.

African Olive Pigeon*Columba arquatrix*

Fair numbers seen very well during the Mubwindi Swamp walk.

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon*Columba iriditorques*

A single bird was seen briefly in the Buhoma area. A few others were heard calling.

Dusky Turtle Dove*Streptopelia lugens*

Scarce in Uganda: one was seen just after we left BINP.

Mourning Collared Dove*Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen along the Nile in MFNP and a few in QENP.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

Commonly recorded during the trip.

Ring-necked Dove*Streptopelia capicola*

Seen in QENP and in LMNP.

Vinaceous Dove*Streptopelia vinacea*

Seen near Masindi and in MFNP.

Laughing Dove*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Seen on several occasions at scattered drier locations.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove*Turtur chalcospilos*

A few sightings in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-billed Wood Dove*Turtur abyssinicus*

Seen well in MFNP.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove*Turtur afer*

Many scattered sightings at the forest edge throughout the country.

Tambourine Dove*Turtur tympanistris*

A widespread forest species; a few were seen on 10 days.

Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

This is scarce in Uganda – we had 4 birds coming in to drink near the Butiaba Escarpment.

Bruce's Green Pigeon*Treron waalia*

We had fantastic views of 3 birds feeding on fruit in the Kafo Ranches area.

African Green Pigeon*Treron calva*

Seen in woodland habitat on 11 days. Great views in a mixed feeding group at the Kafo Ranches with the previous species.



Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

We were treated to a number of superb views of this amazing species, including many at close range at the Bigodi Swamp.

Black-billed Turaco

Tauraco schuettii

More often heard than seen – we had views on 3 days including looks at Buhoma and near Ruhija.

White-crested Turaco

Tauraco leucolophus

2 birds were seen well in the woodland of the Kafo Ranches area.

Ross's Turaco

Musophaga rossae

We enjoyed good views a few times, including near Masindi and LMNP.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

A total of maybe 5 birds were recorded over 2 days, in and around LMNP.

Eastern Plantain-eater

Crinifer zonurus

Seen on many days of the trip in good numbers, particularly during the first half.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

A few birds were seen near Masindi and in MFNP.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

Around a dozen birds were seen during our boat trip on the Nile, while others were seen on 3 further days.

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

Commonly seen at several localities, with most at QENP.

NOTE: IOC splits White-browed Coucal into two species: White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus and Burchell's Coucal C. burchellii, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus.

Black Coucal

Centropus grillii

A scarce bird – we had one bird in tall grass in QENP.

Blue Malkoha

Ceuthmochares aereus

We were lucky with this species, getting some good views in scattered forest and edge sites, mainly during the first half of the tour.

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

Singletons were seen on 4 days; on the Royal Mile and QENP.

Diederik Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

Birds were heard frequently and seen on numerous days of the tour.

Klaas's Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

We had great views on a few days – a very stunning iridescent species!

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Despite hearing this species frequently, we only managed a sighting of a female in Sebitole.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx mechowi

This notorious skulker was seen well by most along the Royal Mile.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx olivinus

Heard at fairly close range in Buhoma.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

In this region birds look similar to the following species – we had a very good view on the second day we had along the Buhoma Trail; heard elsewhere.



Red-chested Cuckoo*Cuculus solitarius*

Good views on several occasions, like in Mabira Forest; heard even more often.

African Cuckoo*Cuculus gularis*

Uncommon on this tour – we had fairly good views of one bird in MFNP.

Owls Strigidae**Greyish Eagle-Owl***Bubo cinerascens*

We enjoyed great views of 2 birds during a night drive and an early morning drive in MFNP.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*Bubo lacteus*

We enjoyed very good views in 2 different parts of QENP and in LMNP.

NOTE: This species is also often called Giant Eagle-Owl.

Pel's Fishing Owl*Scotopelia peli*

A brief view of this highly sought after species was had by some participants before it flew away during our Nile River Boat trip in MFNP.

African Wood Owl*Strix woodfordii*

We flushed 2 birds that were then scoped during our Green-breasted pitta sighting in Kibale Forest.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

Seen well in the woodland of LMNP.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Black-shouldered Nightjar***Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

Excellent flight views in QENP.

Long-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus climacurus*

Disappointingly brief views of one in flight in MFNP.

Square-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus fossii*

One showed very well just after dusk during a drive in QENP.

Pennant-winged Nightjar*Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

We had a remarkable drive on the way to our Nile River boat trip, where around 4 birds were seen on the road, before we had incredible flight views on the final evening in LMNP.

Swifts Apodidae**Mottled Spinetail***Telacanthura ussheri*

A single high-flying bird was seen over a clearing in Mabira Forest.

Sabine's Spinetail*Rhaphidura sabini*

At least 6 birds showed well in a Mabira Forest clearing.

Cassin's Spinetail*Neafrapus cassini*

Three of these scarce birds were seen briefly in flight over the Mabira Forest.

African Palm Swift*Cypsiurus parvus*

Commonly seen in the vicinity of palms throughout the tour.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

Seen at scattered localities during the tour.

Horus Swift*Apus horus*

We had good views of 4 birds near the Butiaba Escarpment; scarce in Uganda and much of their range.

White-rumped Swift*Apus caffer*

Recorded in small numbers at various sites throughout the trip.



Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

Commonly seen on most days of the tour!

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

Seen in savanna on 8 days of the tour.

Trogon Trogonidae

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

We had good fortune with this bird, finding a lovely male after it called near the Royal Mile.

Bar-tailed Trogon

Apaloderma vittatum

A single bird was seen well on the second day on the Buhoma track – unfortunately, most participants were on the Gorilla trek.

Rollers Coraciidae

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

We saw this beauty in and before LMNP – always a stunning bird enjoyed by all.

Blue-throated Roller

Eurystomus gularis

We had unusually many of these, with 6 sightings, including 3 young birds seen in various forest locations.

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus

Commonly seen; mainly during the first half of the tour.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

Good scope views were had along the Royal Mile. A fabulous bird!

Grey-headed Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala

Excellent views of these on many occasions.

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti

Widespread, and seen in a number of woodland sites on 8 days.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Halcyon malimbica

Brief views of this skulking species in both Mabira Forest and along the start of the Royal Mile.

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis

Commonly seen throughout much of the tour outside forests.

African Dwarf Kingfisher

Ispidina lecontei

We had very good sightings of at least 2 birds along the Royal Mile.

African Pygmy Kingfisher

Ispidina picta

Widespread and seen at in a variety of woodland and forest situations, including along the Royal Mile.

Malachite Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata

Excellent views of these at many wetlands, where we got close to many birds. Biggest numbers at LMNP and along the Kazinga Channel, where one was a snow-white individual.

Shining-blue Kingfisher

Alcedo quadribachys

Excellent views of at least one sub-adult at one of the pools in Mabira Forest.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

One or 2 huge birds were seen very well along the edge of the Nile, just above the Murchison Falls.

Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis

Very common on large waterways with staggering numbers along the Nile and Kazinga Channel, where over 650 birds were counted!



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

We enjoyed some great views in Kibale Forest, at Buhoma and near the Neck.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater*Merops hirundineus*

A few birds were seen very well in and near in MFNP.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Seen at scattered locations, including near Masindi, in QENP and in LMNP.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater*Merops variegatus*

This wetland associated bee-eater was seen well at Mabamba Swamp.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater*Merops oreobates*

Found in fairly high altitude areas; we saw them on a few occasions around the Ruhija area in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Red-throated Bee-eater*Merops bullocki*

Good numbers in MFNP, where some gave great close views.

White-throated Bee-eater*Merops albicollis*

First seen in flight at Luweero Swamp before we had good views near Butiaba Escarpment.

Olive Bee-eater*Merops superciliosus*

Most sightings were around QENP after other sightings previously.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

Another spectacular bee-eater that was seen very well, with around 35 birds in MFNP.

Hoopoes Upupidae**African Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

A singleton was seen in QENP along the Kazinga Channel.

NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar U. marginalis and Eurasian U. epops. The most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African. The IOC accepts the splits of Madagascar, African and Eurasian Hoopoes.

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

Good views of these at Sebitole, before we had further great views along the Buhoma and Mubwindi walks.

Green Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus purpureus*

A single bird seen by some at the Kafo Ranches only.

Black Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

2 were seen very well in MFNP, the only site where this dry-zone species is possible on the tour.

Common Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Seen well on 3 days, in both QENP and LMNP.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae**Abyssinian Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus abyssinicus*

Superb views were had of 3 of these big birds on the northern side of MFNP.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**Crowned Hornbill***Lophoceros alboterminatus*

Recorded on 8 days, with great views at various scattered sites.



African Pied Hornbill

Lophoceros fasciatus

Seen by some near Mabamba Swamp and then very well near Mabira forest.

African Grey Hornbill

Lophoceros nasutus

Several sightings in savanna habitat, with largest numbers in MFNP.

White-thighed Hornbill

Bycanistes albotibialis

Good views of this forest hornbill were had at the Royal Mile and on both sides of MFNP.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill

Bycanistes subcylindricus

The first half of the tour gave us numerous chances to get good views of this impressive species.

African Barbets Lybiidae

Grey-throated Barbet

Gymnobucco bonapartei

Seen on 5 days, with first sightings at Sebitole and great views around BINP.

Speckled Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus scolopaceus

Seen at various forest sites on 7 days.

Western Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus coryphaeus

We enjoyed great views of this bird in the Ruhija forest.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus subsulphureus

Commonly heard and seen on 7 days, at most forest sites.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus bilineatus

Commonly heard, with most numerous sightings in the Kibale and BINP forests.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus Chrysoconus

Seen in Kafo Ranches and later in QENP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet

Buccanodon duchaillui

This colourful rainforest barbet was seen well at Mabira and Buhoma, among others.

Hairy-breasted Barbet

Tricholaema hirsuta ansorgii

We saw these at Mabira, the Royal Mile and at Sebitole.

Spot-flanked Barbet

Tricholaema lacrymosa

This woodland inhabitant was seen in fair numbers at MFNP and later in LMNP.

White-headed Barbet

Lybius leucocephalus

A handsome species; we recorded them in very good numbers at the Kafo Ranches in good numbers.

Red-faced Barbet

Lybius rubrifacies

We finally had 2 birds at a small lodge in LMNP – a sought-after, limited-range species.

Black-billed Barbet

Lybius guifsobalito

Several seen quite well in MFNP.

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

A very colourful species that was seen on numerous occasions, in very scattered locations.

Yellow-billed Barbet

Trachyphonus purpuratus

One of these striking barbets was seen very well during the Bigodi Swamp walk, where it was first heard.

Crested Barbet

Trachyphonus vaillantii

This is very uncommon in Uganda – we had at least 5 birds during 3 sightings in LMNP.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird

Prodotiscus insignis

A scarce bird in Uganda – we had views of this bird in Sebitoli and later along the Buhoma track.

Willcocks's Honeyguide

Indicator willcocksii

A single bird was seen near the 'Neck', unfortunately only briefly.



Least Honeyguide*Indicator exilis*

One bird was seen in Mabira forest during an afternoon walk there.

Thick-billed Honeyguide*Indicator conirostris*

2 birds were seen well but briefly during our Mubwindi Swamp walk.

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

Seen well in the Kafo Ranches and again later at the Butiaba escarpment.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide*Indicator variegatus*

One bird was scoped and seen exceptionally well during our Bigodi Swamp walk.

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

This distinctive bird was seen in MFNP, where we had a few juveniles.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Nubian Woodpecker***Campethera nubica*

Seen on 7 days, with good views at the end in LMNP.

Tullberg's Woodpecker*Campethera tullbergi*

Two separate sightings were had in BINP, with views for most participants in Buhoma.

NOTE: Some authorities split the eastern race that we saw as Fine-banded Woodpecker. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivos*

Seen at 3 widely-spaced sites, with best views at the Bigodi Swamps.

Brown-eared Woodpecker*Campethera caroli*

Seen at Mabira Forest and along the Royal Mile, before best views at Bigodi Swamp.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker*Dendropicos poecilolaemus*

A high-sought species that we managed to find at the Bigodi Swamp, where a pair was busy around their nest.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

Single birds were seen well at a number of the more open woodland sites during the tour.

Bearded Woodpecker*Dendropicos namaquus*

A single female showed very well on the last full day we had in LMNP.

Yellow-crested Woodpecker*Dendropicos xantholophus*

The forest equivalent of the previous species – we had good sightings at Busingiro and Kibale Forests.

Elliot's Woodpecker*Dendropicos elliotii*

Good views of a few at Buhoma.

African Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

We had views in the Kafo Ranches and later in QENP's Ishasha section.

Olive Woodpecker*Dendropicos griseocephalus*

A single bird was seen well during our walk to the Mubwindi Swamp.

Brown-backed Woodpecker*Dendropicos obsoletus*

2 birds showed well in MFNP woodland – a scarce species.

Falcons Falconidae**Common Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

Seen near Kampala on the first day of the tour.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

Singletons and pairs were seen on 8 days at widely scattered sites.

Red-necked Falcon*Falco chicquera*

Superb scope views were had near the Royal Mile and again in MFNP.



African Hobby*Falco cuvierii*

We enjoyed good open flight and perched views of these very fast flyers near Jinja at dusk.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

A single bird was seen briefly in flight soon after we left the BINP.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

We had a single bird on the outskirts of Jinja and another 2 birds later over Mabira Forest.

Parrots and Allies Psittacidae**Red-headed Lovebird***Agapornis pullarius*

Seen on 3 days; on either side of MFNP, including some spectacular views, before we had good numbers in the Murro area during a long drive day.

Grey Parrot*Psittacus erithacus*

We had a good number of birds, mainly in flight at a few scattered locations during the start of the tour.

Meyer's Parrot*Poicephalus meyeri*

Good views on a number of occasions, including at the Kafo ranches and LMNP.

NOTE: This species is often called Brown Parrot.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae**African Broadbill***Smithornis capensis*

We were lucky to get great scope views of a displaying bird at Buhoma.

Grauer's Broadbill*Pseudocalyptomena graueri*

Another top bird for the tour! We were incredibly lucky to have 3 birds near a recently discarded nest on the Mubwindi Swamp walk. The local guides put in a lot of effort before they the birds were spotted and we ran up a very steep slope to all get extended and very memorable views of this little gem in the canopy near us.

Pittas Pittidae**Green-breasted Pitta***Pitta reichenowi*

This is a very sought-after, tricky and stunning bird. After missing it in the morning we managed to find a wonderful pair that gave great views while we were walking toward the Chimpanzees! An amazing experience with this still near-mythical bird!

Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae**African Shrike-flycatcher***Megabyas flammulatus*

Seen on 6 days, with good views in many of the forest sites.

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

Seen well on 4 days, with some of the best look along the Mubwindi Swamp walk.

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

Ruwenzori Batis * ARE*Batis diops*

Encountered over 2 days in the Ruhija area of BINP, with great views along the Mubwindi Swamp walk.

Chinspot Batis*Batis molitor*

Most birds we encountered were in the Ruhija area.

Western Black-headed Batis*Batis erlangeri*

Good views at the Kafo Ranches and in MFNP.

Ituri Batis*Batis ituriensis*

We had great views of this tiny canopy species along the Royal Mile where it perched in some open twigs.



Chestnut Wattle-eye

Dyaphorophya castanea

Good views at Mabira forest and the Royal Mile, with further sightings along the Buhoma trail.

NOTE: Both IOC and Clements have recently split this species into Chestnut Wattle-eye *D. castanea* of East and Central Africa and West African Wattle-eye *D. hormophora* of West Africa.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye

Platysteira cyanea

This handsome species was seen on numerous occasions.

Jameson's Wattle-eye

Platysteira jamesoni

Seen very well in Mabira forest on the second afternoon – a very shy species!

Helmetshrikes & allies Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatus

Some participants had views of this large bushshrike in the MFNP woodlands.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike

Malaconotus blanchoti

Most participants had views of this large bushshrike in the MFNP woodlands.

Lagden's Bushshrike

Malaconotus lagdeni

Another tough and sought-after species – we enjoyed superb views of this beautiful bushshrike very near the Grauer's Broadbill location.

Many-coloured Bushshrike

Chlorophoneus multicolor

Superb views were had of this beautiful bushshrike near the Buhoma area.

Bocage's Bushshrike

Chlorophoneus bocagei

Seen well on 4 days; mainly in the Buhoma area.

NOTE: This species is often called Grey-green Bushshrike.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike

Chlorophoneus sulphureopectus

2 birds were seen in the Kafo ranches woodland.

Doherty's Bushshrike

Chlorophoneus dohertyi

A single bird was seen very well, if somewhat briefly in some thickets in the Ruhija area.

Marsh Tchagra

Bocagia minuta

A total of 8 birds were seen, with birds in tall and moist grass at scattered location.

NOTE: Some authorities split the southern African form of the species without a wing bar as *Anchieta's Tchagra*. This split is not recognized by either IOC or Clements but is recognized in *Birds of Africa South of the Sahara* by Sinclair and Ryan.

Brown-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra australis

Sightings were had at MFNP and around the tea plantations near the Neck.

Black-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra senegalus

Seen well on a few occasions, with most sightings in and near around MFNP.

Pink-footed Puffback

Dryoscopus angolensis

We enjoyed most good views in the canopy on 3 days in the Buhoma area.

Northern Puffback

Dryoscopus gambensis

Seen on a few days, with good views at the Kafo Ranches, in MFNP and at Ruhija.

Lowland Sooty Boubou

Laniarius leucorhynchus

This skulking bird is usually very hard to see, although we had a bird show well briefly in a tangle in Mabira forest.

Mountain Sooty Boubou

Laniarius poensis

We had a few brief views of this bird in Ruhija thickets.

Willard's Sooty Boubou * ARE

Laniarius willardi

We had brief views of this bird while it called in thickets in the Buhoma area.



Lühder's Bushshrike*Laniarius luehderi*

We had numerous good views in the thickets around 'the Neck' area.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius aethiopicus*

Seen on a few occasions, including near our Kibale accommodations.

Papyrus Gonolek*Laniarius mufumbiri*

Brilliant views on the edge of the Kazinga Channel after we had first brief views in MFNP – a stunning and always very popular bird.

Black-headed Gonolek*Laniarius erythrogaster*

This handsome bird was seen on many occasions; abundant in QENP.

Brubru*Nilaus afer*

This aberrant shrike was seen well in LMNP.

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

A few birds were seen very well on the School trail and elsewhere at Ruhija.

Black Cuckooshrike*Campephaga flava*

We had numerous sightings: in QENP and the LMNP woodlands.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike*Campephaga phoenicea*

We enjoyed good views of a few birds on the outskirts of MFNP in *Acacia* woodland.

Petit's Cuckooshrike*Campephaga petiti*

Good views were had daily in the Buhoma area of BINP as well as in Kibale Forest.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike*Campephaga quiscalina*

3 birds were seen fairly well in tall forest in Mabira.

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

An unusual shrike that was seen fairly well on a few occasions in MFNP, especially on the last morning there.

Mackinnon's Shrike*Lanius mackinnoni*

Seen on a number of occasions around BINP's more open areas – very close on the Mubwindi walk.

NOTE: This species is often called Mackinnon's Fiscal.

Grey-backed Fiscal*Lanius excubitoroides*

Commonly seen throughout the country's woodland areas.

Northern Fiscal*Lanius humeralis*

Commonly seen, especially during the drives between less dry sites.

NOTE: Both Clements and IOC recently split Common Fiscal into two species: Southern Fiscal *A. collaris* and Northern Fiscal *A. humeralis*.

Orioles Oriolidae**African Golden Oriole***Oriolus auratus*

Well seen in woodland at the Kafo Ranches.

Western Oriole*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Very well seen in Mabira forest and later at the Royal Mile and at Kibale Forest.

Mountain Oriole*Oriolus percivali*

Good views at Buhoma and Ruhija.

Black-headed Oriole*Oriolus larvatus*

Seen at MFNP and LMNP – generally common in the sub-Saharan African savanna.



Drongos Dicruridae

- Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*
 Seen at scattered savanna sites during the trip.
Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*
 Just a single bird was seen in Mabira Forest.

Monarch Monarchidae

- Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone rufiventer*
 This beauty was seen in Mabira, along the Royal Mile and near Buhoma.
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*
 We recorded them at scattered woodland and forest sites, including a few fantastic white-morph males.

Crows Corvidae

- Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer*
 This interesting bird was seen in big numbers around Jinja, Masindi and in Murchison Falls NP, where we saw them riding on the backs of several mammal species.
Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
 Regularly recorded during the trip.
White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*
 2 birds were seen well on the drive to LMNP.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

- African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*
 Best views were on the first day near Mabamba; seen on 4 other days later.
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*
 Fairly commonly seen on 3 days in BINP.
White-bellied Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albiventris*
 A single bird eventually showed well for all on the Mubwindi Swamp walk.

Tits Paridae

- White-shouldered Black Tit** *Melaniparus guineensis*
 Seen well in the Kafo ranches and later in MFNP.
White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas*
 Good views on 2 days in LMNP.
Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus*
 Seen in forest at Kibale and different areas of the BINP.
Stripe-breasted Tit *ARE *Melaniparus fasciiventer*
 We had sensational views of a number of birds in mixed flocks on 2 days in the Ruhija area.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

- Grey Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli*
 A few participants were lucky with views of this tiny bird on the outskirts of MFNP on 2 days.



Nicators Nicatoridae**Western Nicator***Nicator chloris*

More often heard than seen, although we did enjoy good views on the Royal Mile, at Sebitoli and the Bigodi Swamp.

Larks Alaudidae**Rufous-naped Lark***Mirafra africana*

A widespread African lark, we saw this species in QENP in good numbers.

Flappet Lark*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

This species was seen distantly on display in MFNP and very well in QENP.

White-tailed Lark*Mirafra albicauda*

A scarce bird that was seen well in flight over grasslands of the QENP.

Red-capped Lark*Calandrella cinerea*

2 were seen calling in flight in QENP.

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

Seen every day of the trip.

NOTE: NOTE: Part of another very confusing polytypic species complex. In Africa the IOC nomenclature recognises the following good species: Common Bulbul (*P. barbatus*), Dark-capped Bulbul (*P. tricolor*), Somali Bulbul (*P. somaliensis*) and Dodson's Bulbul (*P. dodsoni*). Clement's lumps all of the above as Common Bulbul (*P. barbatus*).

Kakamega Greenbul*Andropadus kakamegae*

Seen well in the Buhoma forest – has a distinctive way of moving along the branches.

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. This split is recognized by IOC but not by Clements.

Olive-breasted Greenbul*Andropadus nigriceps*

We had views of this species in BINP, with best views near Mubwindi Swamp.

NOTE: IOC splits the Mountain Greenbul complex into several species: including the nominate Mountain Greenbul (*A. nigriceps*) endemic to the highland forests of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, Yellow-throated Greenbul (*A. chlorigula*) endemic to southern Tanzania and Black-browed Greenbul (*A. fusciceps*) endemic to Malawi, northern Mozambique & extreme S Tanzania as well as this species from central Kenya and Uganda.

Slender-billed Greenbul*Andropadus gracilirostris*

Encountered at many of the forest sites, where it is usually high in the foliage.

Little Greenbul*Andropadus virens*

Commonly recorded at forests throughout the tour – one of the common sounds of the forests too.

Little Grey Greenbul*Andropadus gracilis*

Seen at Mabira and along the Royal Mile among others during the first half of the tour.

Ansorge's Greenbul*Andropadus ansorgei*

We saw these birds in pretty good numbers on the Buhoma trail.

Plain Greenbul*Andropadus curvirostris*

Just a few were seen near Buhoma.

NOTE: This species is often called Cameroon Sombre Greenbul.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul*Andropadus latirostris*

We saw this distinctive bird on at least 6 days, including at Mabira, the Royal Mile and Ruhija.

Honeyguide Greenbul*Baeopogon indicator*

Seen well in the Buhoma area.

Spotted Greenbul*Ixonotus guttatus*

Two flocks of these attractive greenbuls were seen along the Royal Mile, eventually showing very well.



Joyful Greenbul*Chlorocichla laetissima*

A sought-after species, only possible in some parts of Kibale Forest outside of its Congolese range. We had 3 birds that gave us some wonderful and extended views!.

Yellow-throated Leaflove*Chlorocichla flavicollis*

After good views on the first morning, we had scattered sightings elsewhere.

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

Toro Olive Greenbul*Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

2 seen fleetingly in Mabira Forest.

Cabanis's Greenbul*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Usually very shy, although we had a number of great views around BINP.

White-throated Greenbul*Phyllostrephus albigularis*

Seen very well at Mabira, with further sightings along the Royal Mile.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

This large greenbul was seen at Ruhija, where we recorded around 8 birds.

Red-tailed Bristlebill*Bleda syndactylus*

A shy and skulky bird, we were able to get brief views in Mabira and Kibale forests for some.

Yellow-lored Bristlebill*Bleda notatus*

Another very tricky species that was only seen by a few participants in thick undergrowth in Mabira Forest.

NOTE: Some authorities (i.e Birds of Africa South of the Sahara by Ryan and Sinclair) split B. notatus into two species: Yellow-lored Bristlebill B. notatus in West-central Africa and Yellow-eyed Bristlebill B. ugandae in central Africa. If split, the species we saw refers to Yellow-eyed Bristlebill B. ugandae. However, neither IOC nor Clements accept this split.

Red-tailed Greenbul*Criniger calurus*

Small numbers were seen at various forest sites, mainly around Buhoma.

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

Seen on 12 days. A very handsome swallow!

Black Saw-wing*Psalidoprocne holomelas*

Commonly seen throughout the last week or so around forest.

NOTE: The Black Saw-wing complex is sometimes split into eight full species with the Ugandan form being retained in P. holomelas. Neither IOC nor Clements accept any of these splits.

Grey-rumped Swallow*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

2 birds were seen very well over the edge of the Mabamba Swamp on the first morning.

Brown-throated Martin*Riparia paludicola*

One of these tiny martins showed very well over the Kazinga Channel during our Boat trip.

Sand Martin*Riparia riparia*

An unseasonal bird was seen on the first afternoon near Mabamba Swamp.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

A few seen along the Kazinga Channel, possibly failed breeders or birds that overwintered.

Angola Swallow*Hirundo angolensis*

Commonly seen throughout, especially in towns.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

Good views along the Nile in MFNP and a few other sites.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Seen a number of times around BINP, especially the Ruhija area.



Lesser Striped Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

Very common and seen at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Red-breasted Swallow*Cecropis semirufa*

Seen on 7 days, with great views around Mabamba and MFNP.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

Seen on 2 days, during the drive to and in LMNP.

Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica*

Small numbers were seen on 3 days in the last week of the tour.

NOTE: IOC splits Red-rumped Swallow into two species: Red-rumped Swallow *C. daurica* and West African Swallow *C. domicella*, whereas Clements only recognizes one species, Red-rumped Swallow *C. daurica*.

Crombecs, African warblers Macrosphenidae**Moustached Grass Warbler***Melocichla mentalis*

This vocal inhabitant of rank vegetation was seen on 6 days, including some great views.

Yellow Longbill*Macrospheus flavicans*

This sneaky forest skulker was finally seen, after much effort, in Mabira Forest.

Grey Longbill*Macrospheus concolor*

Brief views were had of one in Mabira and along the Royal Mile; heard elsewhere.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

2 birds were seen very well in a thicket near the edge of the MFNP.

Red-faced Crombec*Sylvietta whytii*

3 birds were seen well by most participants in Kafo Ranches, with a few more at LMNP.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

Heard more often than seen, although we did enjoy a number of good views around the BINP.

Lemon-bellied Crombec*Sylvietta denti*

Unfortunately just heard high up in the canopy along the Royal Mile.

White-browed Crombec*Sylvietta leucophrys*

We were really fortunate to get some amazing eye-level views of this canopy species in the Buhoma area and at the 'Neck'.

Cettia Bush Warblers & allies Cettidae**Neumann's Warbler***Urosphena neumanni*

Seen fleetingly on the second day in the Buhoma area, by the participants that did not go for the Gorillas in this area.

Yellow Flycatchers Erythroceridae**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher***Erythrocerus mccallii*

Excellent views along the Royal Mile, with around 8 birds seen, one later in Busingiro.

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis**Grauer's Warbler * ARE***Graueria vittata*

This unobtrusive and skulky bird was seen twice in the Ruhija area.

Green Hylia*Hylia prasina*

Very regularly heard throughout forest areas, where we had a few nice sightings, including one at the Bigodi Swamp.



Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**Red-faced Woodland Warbler * ARE** *Phylloscopus laetus*

Fantastic views were had of this species at Buhoma and Ruhija.

Uganda Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus budongoensis*

A single bird was seen way overhead along the Royal Mile, where they are always very hard to find in the high canopy.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae**Greater Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

Seen at the Mabamba Swamp on the first morning and at Lake Mburo.

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

A single bird was seen at a roadside pond on the drive to Lake Mburo.

African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

A single bird was seen in the reeds during the MFNP boatride.

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis*

We heard and saw this bird well in farm-bush near the Royal Mile.

NOTE: This species is often known as Dark-capped Yellow Warbler.

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Iduna similis*

Seen fairly well in the bamboo zone in Ruhija.

Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae**White-winged Swamp Warbler** *Bradypterus carpalis*

This vocal, arch-skulker was seen briefly on the way to Kibale and very well by most of the group near the town of Ankole.

Grauer's Swamp Warbler * ARE *Bradypterus graueri*

We had a glimpse of a single bird at Mubwindi Swamp.

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

2 birds were seen in the bamboo zone of Ruhija.

Fan-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola brevirostris*

Excellent views of this species with our best sighting a scoped, calling bird in the Murro area.

NOTE: This species is often known as Broad-tailed Warbler.

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

Small numbers were seen at scattered locations, including near Masindi.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

Seen near the Royal Mile.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

Seen on 2 days; in scrubby habitat in the Masindi area and near the Butiaba escarpment.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami*

We had some nice views of calling birds in QENP and LMNP.

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi*

Fairly commonly seen in BINP.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*

Seen well at a few different woodland sites throughout.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

Seen around a few wetlands, with most sightings at Mabamba Swamps.



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

Carruthers's Cisticola

Cisticola carruthersi

We had a few sightings on the final few days: at Mubwindi Swamp, a wetland on the drive to LMNP and along the edge of the lake itself.

Stout Cisticola

Cisticola robustus

A single bird was seen well in the Ishasha portion of QENP.

Croaking Cisticola

Cisticola natalensis

A large cisticola with an oversized bill; seen in MFNP and QENP.

Short-winged Cisticola

Cisticola brachypterus

One bird was seen near the Neck, on the edge of BINP.

Long-tailed Cisticola

Cisticola angusticauda

On the afternoon in LMNP, we found around 6 birds, including some adults feeding chicks.

Zitting Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

Seen in big numbers in grasslands of MFNP and QENP.

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

Seen frequently during the first two-thirds of the trip.

Black-faced Prinia

Prinia bairdii

An often shy species that keeps to the thickets. Everyone had a number of good looks in Buhoma and Ruhija areas.

NOTE: IOC splits Banded Prinia into two species: Black-faced Prinia *P. melanops* of east Africa, which we saw and Banded Prinia *P. bairdii* of Central Africa. Clements does not recognize this split.

White-chinned Prinia

Schistolais leucopogon

Seen on 7 days, with most sightings around BINP.

Ruwenzori Apalis * ARE

Oreolais ruwenzorii

More common than it can be in the higher altitude, where we enjoyed a number of good sightings.

NOTE: This species is often known as Collared Apalis.

Red-winged Grey Warbler

Drymocichla incana

We enjoyed excellent views of 2 birds near Murchison Falls.

Buff-bellied Warbler

Phyllolais pulchella

Seen well in MFNP and later in LMNP.

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

A pair showed very well in LMNP on the last afternoon there.

Lowland Masked Apalis

Apalis binotata

We had good views of a single bird in the Sebitole forest.

Mountain Masked Apalis * ARE

Apalis personata

This sought-after and localised bird was seen very well in the Ruhija forest.

Black-throated Apalis

Apalis jacksoni

Seen on a few occasions at the royal mile and in BINP. A gorgeous bird!

Chestnut-throated Apalis

Apalis porphyrolaema

This “ringing telephone” was heard and seen well on a few occasions around Ruhija.

Buff-throated Apalis

Apalis rufogularis

Seen well at scattered forests throughout the tour.

Grey Apalis

Apalis cinerea

A few sightings around BINP, after first birds in Mabira Forest.



Grey-capped Warbler*Eminia lepida*

One seen very well in the thickets near the Butiaba Escarpment – a good songster.

Grey-backed Camaroptera*Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Heard or seen on most days.

NOTE: IOC splits Green-backed Camaroptera into three species: Grey-backed Camaroptera C. brevicaudata, which is the species we saw, Green-backed Camaroptera C. brachyura and Hartert's Camaroptera C. harterti. Clements only recognizes one species, Green-backed Camaroptera C. brachyura.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera*Camaroptera superciliaris*

Seen fairly briefly at Mabira Forest.

Olive-green Camaroptera*Camaroptera chloronota*

Excellent views at Mabira and Buhoma.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler*Bathmocercus rufus*

We had superb views of this species at Buhoma after some time and effort to get this skulker out!

Green-backed Eremomela*Eremomela canescens*

Seen very well in MFNP, where they move around in small flocks.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela*Eremomela badiceps*

A total of around 20 birds were seen during numerous sightings along the Royal Mile.

Fulvettas & Ground Babblers Timaliidae**Scaly-breasted Illadopsis***Illadopsis albipectus*

2 were seen briefly along small forest trails along the Royal Mile.

Puvel's Illadopsis*Illadopsis puveli*

We put in a big effort to find this species and were finally rewarded with fantastic scope views at Kaniyo Pabidi, the only site that has this bird in East Africa.

Brown Illadopsis*Illadopsis fulvescens*

Heard around Mabira and the Royal Mile as well as impossibly close at Bigodi Swamp walk – never seen, unfortunately.

Mountain Illadopsis*Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

A somewhat different looking Illadopsis that was seen better on the trail at Buhoma and Mubwindi.

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae**Black-lored Babbler***Turdoides sharpei*

Commonly seen in QENP, recorded on every day here.

Brown Babbler*Turdoides plebejus*

Seen at a few open and scrubby areas in the region around Masindi, including a farm bush site on the way to the Royal Mile.

Arrow-marked Babbler*Turdoides jardineii*

Commonly seen in QENP.

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae**Ruwenzori Hill Babbler***Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

We got really lucky to get a few easy views of this sometimes tricky bird in the Ruhija area.

NOTE: The black-headed Ruwenzori 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.



White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye

Zosterops senegalensis

Seen on most days.

Dapple-throat & allies Arkanatoridae

Grey-chested Babbler

Kakamega poliothorax

Heard briefly during the Mubwindi Swamp walk, but it didn't want to come out.

Hyliotas Hylotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota

Hyliota flavigaster

We enjoyed great views of this tough species in the Kafo ranches and again in MFNP.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

First seen during the boat trip along the Kazinga Channel and later in the LMNP area.

Purple-headed Starling

Lamprotornis purpureiceps

A widespread rainforest starling that was seen at Mabira, along the Royal Mile and around Kibale.

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

A few birds were seen very well in LMNP woodland.

Lesser Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chloropterus

Around 4 were seen well in the Kafu Ranches, many others in flight here were probably also this species.

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 Starling

Lamprotornis chalcurus

A tricky species that we saw in the Kafo ranches, where we had 2 birds.

Splendid Starling

Lamprotornis splendidus

Seen very well a few times during longer drives around towns and cities in particular.

Purple Starling

Lamprotornis purpureus

A stunning bird that was seen very well at the Kafo ranches.

Rüppell's Starling

Lamprotornis purpuroptera

Commonly seen on many days.

Violet-backed Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

Seen on 6 days! Some of these stunners were seen around MFNP.

NOTE: This species is sometimes called Plum-coloured Starling.

Slender-billed Starling

Onychognathus tenuirostris

We had a large flock of around 100 birds, mainly in flight near the Mubwindi Swamp.

Chestnut-winged Starling

Onychognathus fulgidus

A few birds were seen in flight over different parts of the Kibale Forest.

Waller's Starling

Onychognathus walleri

Good scoped views of a few perched birds on the Buhoma walk.

Stuhlmann's Starling

Poeoptera stuhlmanni

First seen over Sebitole, before we scoped a few birds in the Buhoma forests.

Narrow-tailed Starling

Poeoptera lugubris

Seen on 5 days, with best views of a number of these birds in Kibale Forest.

Sharpe's Starling

Poeoptera sharpii

Seen very well in Ruhija on 2 occasions, where scope views even showed the pale eye of these birds.



Oxpeckers Buphagidae**Yellow-billed Oxpecker***Buphagus africanus*

Recorded in the presence of large game in MFNP, QENP and LMNP.

Thrushes Turdidae**Red-tailed Ant Thrush***Neocossyphus rufus*

We all very good views of this bird at on the Buhoma trail and near 'the Neck'.

White-tailed Ant Thrush*Neocossyphus poensis*

Single birds showed for some participants on the Buhoma trail and 'the Neck'.

Fraser's Rufous Thrush*Stizorhina fraseri*

Seen well and on a number of occasions in Mabira and Budongo forests as well as in Buhoma later.

African Thrush*Turdus pelios*

Seen on most days of the tour.

Abyssinian Thrush*Turdus abyssinicus*

A total of about 8 birds were seen over 3 days around Ruhija.

*NOTE: This species, found in montane forest from northern Tanzania to northern Somalia, is a split from Olive Thrush Turdus olivaceus, which is endemic to southern Africa. Both IOC and Clements now accept this split.***Chats and Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae****Fire-crested Alethe***Alethe castanea*

We were lucky to have 2 unusually relaxed birds: one in Mabira Forest and one along the Royal Mile.

*NOTE: IOC splits the West African form as White-tailed Alethe A. diademata. Clements does not accept this split.***Brown-backed Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas hartlaubi*

Good views in the Budongo farm-bush on both sides of Masindi.

White-browed Scrub Robin*Cercotrichas leucophrys*

We enjoyed a single calling bird in the thickets at the Kafo Ranches.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus griseigularis*

Seen on 5 days – generally an unobtrusive canopy species: Royal Mile and Buhoma.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus plumbeus*

We had fantastic views at the Kafo Ranches and again later in LMNP.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes called Fan-tailed Flycatcher.***White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher***Dioptornis fischeri*

Commonly recorded around BINP.

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher * ARE*Malaenornis ardesiacus*

5 birds were seen very well during our walk to the Mubwindi Swamp at Ruhija.

Northern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis edolioides*

Common during the first two-thirds of the tour in woodland.

Southern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis pammelaina*

At the northern end of its range, we saw a few of these in LMNP.

Pale Flycatcher*Melaenornis pallidus*

Seen well a few times in MFNP.

Silverbird*Empidonis semipartitus*

A few good views of this beauty in drier parts in and near MFNP.

Ashy Flycatcher*Muscicapa caerulescens*

Sebitole provided 3 of these birds as part of a mixed flock.

Swamp Flycatcher*Muscicapa aquatica*

Seen on 7 days, with some great close-up views at Mabamba, QENP and around Lake Mburo.



Cassin's Flycatcher*Muscicapa cassini*

Seen on 2 days: in Kibale Forest and along the Ishasha River.

African Dusky Flycatcher*Muscicapa adusta*

Commonly seen, especially during the time in Kibale and uhoma areas.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher*Muscicapa comitata*

A few birds showed well at the Bigodi Swamp before we had numerous good views around Buhoma.

Sooty Flycatcher*Muscicapa infuscata*

Generally seen perched up on dead snags; we found them along the Royal Mile, at Kibale and Buhoma.

Red-throated Alethe * ARE*Pseudaethe poliophrys*

Some participants got views of this species in Buhoma.

Brown-chested Alethe*Pseudaethe poliocephala*

A single bird showed fairly well, hopping along the edge of a small waterbody inside Mabira Forest.

White-bellied Robin-Chat*Cossyphicula roberti*

This smart bird allowed for good views on the second long walk at Buhoma after it was only heard on the first day there.

Archer's Ground Robin * ARE*Cossypha archeri*

After a lot of time and effort, we had to leave the area having only heard this bird near Ruhija.

White-browed Robin-Chat*Cossypha heuglini*

Common in Mabira and QENP, and later seen in LMNP as well.

NOTE: This species is also known as Heuglin's Robin-Chat.

Red-capped Robin-Chat*Cossypha natalensis*

We had great views at our lunch site along the Ishasha River in QENP.

NOTE: Another name for this species is Natal Robin.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat*Cossypha niveicapilla*

Seen on 3 days with especially good views in MFNP.

White-starred Robin*Pogonocichla stellata*

A few birds were seen very well on and near the road in the Ruhija area.

Forest Robin*Stiphornis erythrothorax*

We enjoyed 2 great sightings; a calling bird was seen mere meters away in Mabira, before one moved around fairly openly along the Royal Mile in the early morning.

Equatorial Akalat*Sheppardia aequatorialis*

Seen very well on 2 consecutive days along the Buhoma road.

Spotted Palm Thrush*Cichladusa guttata*

Seen well in the Kafo Ranches thickets and then around Murchison Falls NP.

African Stonechat*Saxicola torquatus*

We saw a few of these in scrubby, open country on the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

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 has already occurred within both groups. IOC recognizes the split of Madagascan Stonechat *S. sibilla* from African Stonechat, whereas Clements does not recognize this split. Neither Clements nor IOC recognize the split of Ethiopian Stonechat *S. albofasciatus* as yet.

Sooty Chat*Myrmecocichla nigra*

Common in more open, savanna habitat. First seen in the Mabamba area and on 10 days in total.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae**Grey-headed Sunbird***Deleornis axillaris*

A fairly atypical sunbird, which was seen well in Mabira forest and at Buhoma.

Little Green Sunbird*Anthreptes seimundi*

This small, drab sunbird was seen on 4 days, including in Kibale forest.



Grey-chinned Sunbird*Anthreptes rectirostris*

Seen on 7 days, with good views in a number of different forests.

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 split is not accepted by IOC or Clements.

Collared Sunbird*Hedydipna collaris*

Commonly recorded in forest-edge and tall woodland.

Green-headed Sunbird*Cyanomitra verticalis*

Seen on 3 days, mainly in Kibale NP in a large flowering tree.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird*Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

A large sunbird that was seen in various forests, including different parts of Budongo and Buhoma.

Blue-headed Sunbird * ARE*Cyanomitra alinae*

This bird was heard at close range, but we were not able to find it where it was perched.

Olive Sunbird*Cyanomitra olivacea*

Fairly commonly seen in a number of forests.

Green-throated Sunbird*Chalcomitra rubescens*

This smart sunbird was seen well near the Kibale forest and in Buhoma.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird*Chalcomitra senegalensis*

This very attractive sunbird was seen in savanna habitat throughout.

Bronzy Sunbird*Nectarinia kilimensis*

Commonly recorded from Kibale forest onwards – a larger species.

Olive-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris chloropygius*

Excellent views in the garden of our Kibale Forest accommodations and many other places.

Tiny Sunbird*Cinnyris minullus*

Excellent views on 2 days in the Buhoma area.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird*Cinnyris reichenowi*

Commonly seen throughout BINP.

Regal Sunbird * ARE*Cinnyris regius*

This stunner was seen on a few occasions at Ruhija and near the Mubwindi Swamp.

Beautiful Sunbird*Cinnyris pulchella*

Seen on several occasions; at Kafo ranches and in MFNP.

Marico Sunbird*Cinnyris mariquensis*

Commonly seen in the Kafo Ranches and later in QENP.

Red-chested Sunbird*Cinnyris erythrocerus*

Seen commonly around Mabamba and in QENP.

Purple-banded Sunbird*Cinnyris bifasciatus*

After good first views in Murro, we had another few birds in Ishasha.

Orange-tufted Sunbird*Cinnyris bouvieri*

We were very happy to find at least 2 of these birds in a flowering patch in the Murro area.

Superb Sunbird*Cinnyris superbus*

We had some good birds on the first 2 days of the tour.

Variable Sunbird*Cinnyris venustus*

A single bird was seen well by most participants along the road, during our drive to LMNP.

Copper Sunbird*Cinnyris cupreus*

Commonly seen in farm-bush habitat in the Masindi area and our Kibale forest lodge among others.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser mahali*

Common in the Kafo Ranches.



Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

Sometimes scarce – we had them on a few occasions in and near MFNP.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen at many scattered towns.

Shelley's (Rufous) Sparrow *Passer shelleyi*

A large number of around 25 birds were seen well near the base of the Butiaba escarpment.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Very common around human settlements, and seen almost daily.

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

Around 20 birds were seen well in MFNP.

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Recorded regularly during the first half of the tour.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Commonly seen, mainly in slightly higher altitude areas.

Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni*

Very appropriately named; seen at Mabamba and around QENP wetlands.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

Seen well at the Kafo Ranches and in QENP.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Most often encountered in the Buhoma area, with a few other sightings elsewhere.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

A nice bird that was seen well on many occasions throughout.

Strange Weaver * ARE *Ploceus alienus*

We had good views of a total of about 5 birds over 2 days in the Ruhija area.

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

This reverse-coloured weaver was seen at Buhoma a few times and then again near Ruhija.

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

Birds were seen in QENP grasslands and exceptionally well near the 'Neck'.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*

A few were seen on the first morning and again along the shores of the Nile and Lake Mburo.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

Seen very well, mainly in QENP.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Seen well in MFNP, where we had birds nest-building.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Commonly seen throughout.

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. This species is also sometimes called Spotted-backed Weaver.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

Very common throughout, outside forests.

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*

A single male was seen very well at the edge of the Mabamba Swamp; a very handsome weaver!



Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
Seen on many occasions, highest numbers in MFNP; a very handsome weaver!	
NOTE: This species is also often called Yellow-backed Weaver.	
Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>
Numerous around MFNP.	
Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>
Seen well in Mabira and Sebitole forests.	
Compact Weaver	<i>Ploceus superciliosus</i>
Small numbers seen in rank grassland on 5 days, including around Masindi.	
Dark-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>
Scarce in Uganda ; we had 4 birds at Sebitole.	
Brown-capped Weaver	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>
Regularly seen feeding along branches in BINP.	
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
Seen on 7 days, including at Mabira, Royal Mile, Kibale and Buhoma.	
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>
Seen briefly by some on the Royal Mile and later near ‘the Neck’.	
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Seen on around 5 days, with birds seen well at Kafo Ranches and MFNP.	
Cardinal Quelea	<i>Quelea cardinalis</i>
Small numbers were seen in tall grassland on a few days, including near the Masindi Airstrip.	
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Seen in large numbers in MFNP and QENP.	
Black Bishop	<i>Euplectes gierowii</i>
Seen in rank vegetation on 4 days of the tour, including around Masindi.	
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
Seen mainly on the drive from MFNP to the Butiaba escarpment with a few others elsewhere.	
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Two single birds were seen, with the first stunning male bird near the Kazinga Channel.	
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>
These fantastically red birds were fairly common in the Murchison Falls area.	
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Just a few birds were seen near the ‘Neck’.	
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
Best views were around Mabamba Swamp with singles at some other wetlands.	
NOTE: This species is sometimes called Red-shouldered Widowbird.	
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macroura</i>
Seen on 5 days in farm-bush habitats around Luweero Swamps and around Masindi.	
NOTE: Both yellow-mantled and black-mantled colour morphs are present in Uganda and we saw both morphs on the tour.	
Marsh Widowbird	<i>Euplectes hartlaubi</i>
Males were eventually seen very well at Luweero Swamp and again later at Murro.	
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
A total of around 7 birds were seen well in tall grass in QENP.	
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
A few were seen in farm-bush between Masindi and the Royal Mile.	



Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae**Jameson's Antpecker***Parmoptila jamesoni*

Seen by just a few participants in the Buhoma area while most were trekking Gorillas.

White-breasted Nigrita*Nigrita fusconotus*

Seen at a number of forests, including Mabira, Budongo and Buhoma.

Grey-headed Nigrita*Nigrita canicapillus*

Seen on 7 days in numerous forest sites that included Mabira and Kibale forests.

Grey-headed Oliveback*Nesocharis capistrata*

Seen in the farm-bush on the way to Busingiro – a sought-after species!

Red-winged Pytilia*Pytilia phoenicoptera*

A few of these scarce birds were seen on 3 consecutive days around MFNP.

Green-winged Pytilia*Pytilia melba*

A number of these birds were seen near LMNP after first views near the Butiaba Escarpment.

Cut-throat Finch*Amadina fasciata*

An extreme vagrant in this part of Uganda and probably because of the dry conditions; we had a number of these birds were seen near the base of the Butiaba Escarpment.

Green Twinspot*Mandingoa nitidula*

Around 4 birds showed, well for some, on the edge of Mabira Forest.

Dusky Crimsonwing*Cryptospiza jacksoni*

A single bird was glimpsed by one participant on the Mubwindi Swamp walk.

Black-bellied Seedcracker*Pyrenestes ostrinus*

This stunner was seen at close range by some in Sebitole along the edge of the forest.

Red-headed Bluebill*Spermophaga ruficapilla*

Seen by some at a small pool in the forest in Mabira forest.

Brown Twinspot*Clytospiza monteiri*

We enjoyed wonderful views of these birds in the Kafo Ranches and in the Murro area.

Dusky Twinspot*Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

One seen very briefly by some near Ruhija.

Black-bellied Firefinch*Lagonosticta rara*

Seen very well on 2 days, with best views in farm-bush near Masindi.

Bar-breasted Firefinch*Lagonosticta rufopicta*

A few birds were seen well near some water near our lunch site at the Butiaba escarpment.

Red-billed Firefinch*Lagonosticta senegala*

The most common firefinch in Uganda. Seen at a number of sites.

African Firefinch*Lagonosticta rubricata*

At least 3 were seen on the way to the 'Neck' and in near Ruhija.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu*Uraeginthus bengalus*

Many sightings were had, especially in and around MFNP and LMNP.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill*Coccygia quartinia*

During the drive to the Ruhija area, we had some good views of these small birds.

Fawn-breasted Waxbill*Estrilda paludicola*

Seen in rank grassland near the Royal Mile and around QENP.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda rhodopyga*

A single bird showed very well in the taller grasslands QENP.

Black-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda troglodytes*

Seen near the Butiaba Escarpment, where it came to some water during midday.



Common Waxbill*Estrilda astrild*

Seen well from the boat and later in MFNP.

Black-crowned Waxbill*Estrilda nonnula*

Small groups seen coming in to drink at a Mabira pool, while we had others at a few scattered localities including at Kibale.

Kandt's Waxbill*Estrilda kandti kandti*

Good views of this species around the bamboo zone in Ruhija.

NOTE: This species used to be lumped with Black-headed Waxbill *E. atricapilla*. Both IOC and Clements recognize this split.

Orange-breasted Waxbill*Amandava subflava*

Scarce; this bird showed quite well when it perched a few times on a track in farmbrush near Masindi.

Quailfinch*Ortygospiza atricollis*

Seen briefly in flight on the north bank of the Nile, MFNP.

NOTE: Clements splits Quailfinch into three species: African Quailfinch *O. fuscocrissa*, Black-faced Quailfinch *O. atricollis* and Red-billed Quailfinch *O. gabonensis*, whereas IOC only recognizes one species, Quailfinch *O. atricollis*.

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura cucullata*

A widespread species, seen at many localities.

Black-and-white Mannikin*Lonchura bicolor*

This is generally the forest equivalent of the previous species; we had sightings on 8 days, with good views around Buhoma for example.

NOTE: IOC recognizes the red-backed form of Southern Africa as a distinct species, Red-backed Mannikin *L. nigriceps*. Clements does not accept this split.

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

Phenomenal views on the drive to the Butiaba Escarpment and on the following day's long drive.

NOTE: This species is also often called Steel-blue Widowfinch.

Pin-tailed Whydah*Vidua macroura*

Seen almost daily during the first two-thirds of the tour.

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

Seen a few times in the Ruhija area.

African Pied Wagtail*Motacilla aguimp*

Common, and seen on many occasions on the tour.

Yellow-throated Longclaw*Macronyx croceus*

Seen at scattered grassland areas on the trip.

African Pipit*Anthus cinnamomeus*

Seen mainly in QENP in short grasslands.

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.

Plain-backed Pipit*Anthus leucophrys*

Seen on 2 consecutive days in QENP.



Finches Fringillidae

Western Citril

Crithagra frontalis

Best views in the ‘Neck’ and Ruhija areas of BINP and near its exit gate.

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 Seed eater

Crithagra leucopygia

A total of 5 birds were seen between Murchison Falls and the Butiaba Escarpment.

Black-throated Canary

Crithagra atrogularis

3 birds were seen very well along the drive between Buhoma and Ruhija.

Yellow-fronted Canary

Crithagra mozambica

Seen fairly regularly in wooded habitats.

Brimstone Canary

Crithagra sulphurata

Small numbers were recorded at scattered locations including throughout QENP.

Thick-billed Seed eater

Crithagra burtoni

A number of birds were seen well at various times in BINP.

Streaky Seed eater

Crithagra striolata

Similar numbers to the previous species; also in the vicinity of BINP.

NOTE: The Tanzanian endemic S. melanochrous is sometimes split off a Kipengere Seed eater; this is accepted by the IOC but not by Clements.

Yellow-crowned Canary

Serinus flavivertex

We had around 6 birds that finally showed well in the Ruhija area after we left the park.

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.

Buntings Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Emberiza tahapisi

Around 5 were seen, some very well on the Butiaba Escarpment.

Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

Good views of this handsome species during the latter half of the tour, including near ‘the Neck’.

Brown-rumped Bunting

Emberiza affinis

One bird showed very well and even sang for us on the last morning in MFNP.

Cabanis’s Bunting

Emberiza cabanisi

Two birds showed well in different farm-bush patches in the Masindi region.



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: 41 of which 40 were seen and 1 heard only

Wolves and allies Canidae

Side-striped Jackal

Canis adustus

Initially seen at MFNP, we had more views from one vehicle at Kibale forest.

Cats Felidae

Lion

Panthera leo

A male and female were seen well right on the edge of the road in QENP on our first afternoon there.

Mongoosees Herpestriidae

Dwarf Mongoose

Helogale parvula

Small groups were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguineus

A single animal was seen briefly crossing the road in MFNP and LMNP.

Banded Mongoose

Mungos mungo

Just 2 were seen briefly in MFNP, with a few more seen in QENP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates

Impala

Aepyceros melampus

Large numbers seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Hartebeest

Alcelaphus lelwel

Seen on the north bank of the Nile in MFNP.

Black-fronted Duiker

Cephalophus nigrifrons kivuensis

A few were seen at both Buhoma and along the Mubwindi Swamp walk.

Topi (Tsessebe)

Damaliscus ugandae

We recorded these antelope in the Ishasha portion of QENP.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus defassa

Seen on 6 days, with many in MFNP, QENP and LMNP.

Uganda Kob

Kobus kob thomasi

Large numbers encountered in MFNP and QENP.

Oribi

Ourebia montana

Very common on the northern side of the Nile, MFNP; sometimes called Sudan Oribi.

Blue Duiker

Philantomba monticola

Glimpsed in the undergrowth by some participants in Kanyo Pabidi.

Bohor Reedbuck

Redunca redunca

A few of these smallish antelope were seen in taller grass on the northern side of the Nile, MFNP.

Bush (Common) Duiker

Ourebia grimmia

3 animals were seen during the drive to the Butiaba escarpment.

Yellow-backed Duiker

Cephalophus silvicultor

We had an unusually relaxed animal that we saw very well along the Buhoma road.



African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer

These imposing bovids were seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs. The ones in MFNP and QENP are sometimes split as Lake Chad Buffalo.

Common Eland

Taurotragus oryx

A large herd was seen in open woodland of LMNP.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

We saw these in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs. The ones in MFNP and QENP are sometimes split as Nile Bushbuck.

Giraffe Hominidae

Rothschild's Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildii

Around 35 animals were seen very well in the woodland of MFNP.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

Many were seen on boat cruises on major water bodies (i.e. the Nile, Kazinga Channel, Lake Mburo).

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

Seen at all savanna parks (i.e. Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo).

Large-Winged Bats Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat

Lavia frons

Excellent views of these interesting and appropriately named bats in MFNP and later in QENP.

Flying-Foxes Pteropidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat

Eidolon helvum

We saw these large bats active at dusk and dawn around Jinja in huge numbers.

Wahlberg's Fruit Bat

Epomophorus wahlbergi

Around a dozen of these bats were seen resting under a roof in Mabira forest – this genus is particularly difficult to identify down to species level.

Rats & Mice Muridae

African Grass Rat

Arvicanthis niloticus

A few of these were seen on the road in QENP.

Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

African Savanna Hare

Lepus microtis

Two of these hares were seen during 2 days in QENP.

Uganda Grass Hare (Bunyoro Rabbit)

Poelagus marjorita

A few of these hares were seen during night drives in MFNP.

Horses Equidae

Common (Plains/Burchell's) Zebra

Equus quagga boehmi

We saw this attractive species in Lake Mburo NP.



Old World Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Red-tailed Monkey

Cercopithecus ascanius

Good views of this species at many different forest sites.

L'Hoest's Monkey

Cercopithecus lhoesti

We saw these monkeys around Bwindi. A handsome forest species that spends a large proportion of its time on the ground.

Blue Monkey

Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni

Seen at a number of forests on 7 days of the tour.

Tantalus Monkey

Cercopithecus tantalus

Widespread and seen in a range of more open woodland situations throughout Uganda. The individuals seen at Lake Mburo are sometimes split as Vervet Monkey.

Guereza (Black-and-white) Colobus

Colobus guereza

This attractive monkey was seen at a variety of forested and secondary forest sites on the tour.

Patas Monkey

Erythrocebus patas

A fantastic male surprised us at lunch in MFNP, where he enjoyed pineapple scraps from a previous group. A very terrestrial species.

Grey-cheeked Mangabey

Lophocebus albigena ugandae

Around 10 were seen around Mabindi forest, while we had more good views later during the Bigodi Swamp walk.

Olive Baboon

Papio anubis

Recorded in various forest and savanna situations, particularly common in MFNP and QENP.

Central African Red Colobus

Piliocolobus oustaleti

Initially seen at Sebitole, we had more views of these in the Bigodi Swamp.

Apes Hominidae

Demidoff's Dwarf Galago

Galagoides demidovii

Heard only in the early morning as we were walking towards our Pitta attempt in Kibale forest.

Apes Hominidae

(Mountain) Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla beringei

The group was split into 2 for this activity, with both groups getting wonderful looks at these huge apes at very close range. This must surely rank as one of the top wildlife experiences in the world, and despite the strenuous walk to get there and back it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.

Chimpanzee

Pan troglodytes

A troop of these fantastic animals allowed us into their midst for a while in Kibale NP. Here we got very close views of a few resting adults, while younger and messily-feeding animals were higher-up in the high forest canopy.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

Herds were seen in MFNP and QENP, we also enjoyed great views from the Kazinga Channel boat.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Carruther's Mountain Squirrel

Funisciurus carruthersi

A singleton was seen in the Buhoma area.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel

Funisciurus pyrropus

A single animal was seen fairly well low down along the Buhoma track.



Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>
A large species that showed well along the Royal Mile and the Buhoma Trail.	
Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus ruwenzorii</i>
4 of these higher-altitude animals were seen well in the Ruhija forests.	
Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus alexandri</i>
Seen along the Royal Mile and in the Buhoma forests.	
Boehm's Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus boehmi</i>
We saw these small squirrels at several forest sites – easier to identify with its clear back-stripes.	
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>
Singletons seen near Mabamba Swamp, near Luweero and in MFNP.	

Annotated List of Reptiles recorded

Total species recorded: 9

Nose-horned Adder	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>
At least one was seen in MFNP.	
Hinged Tortoise	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>
One was seen in LMNP.	
African Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>
A few were seen in LMNP.	
(Common) Red-headed Rock Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>
We enjoyed great views of these colourful animals mainly around MFNP.	
Southern Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>
Seen on the first day in Mabamba and later in the QENP area.	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Seen in MFNP and QENP.	
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
Seen on a handful of nights around the country.	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
This ancient predator was seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.	
Flapnecked Chameleon	<i>Bitis arietans</i>
Two that we presume are of this species were seen in MFNP.	

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