

Trip Report

Uganda

30th January – 17th February 2006

Compiled and written by David Hoddinott from records kept during the course of the trip.



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Shoebill

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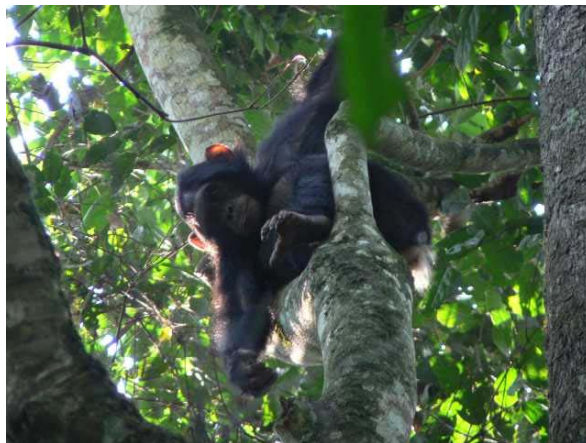
Rockjumper Birding Tours Uganda 2002 Trip Report
“The Best of African Birding”

www.rockjumper.co.za

Participants: Albert Andrews, Thomas & Robert Sinton, Don Toms, Stephan & Tess Williams.

“But the forests of Uganda, for magnificence, for variety of form and color, for profusion of brilliant life – plant, bird, insect, reptile, beast – for the vast scale and awful fecundity of the natural processes that are beheld at work, eclipsed, and indeed effaced, all previous impressions. One becomes, not without a secret sense of aversion, the spectator of an intense convulsion of life and death. Reproduction and decay are locked struggling in infinite embraces.”

~W.S. Churchill wrote of Budongo Forest, 1908



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Chimpanzee

Uganda is justly famous as the home of the bizarre Shoebill, the dream of many a birder, and for supporting over half the world’s remaining mountain gorillas. Our jam-packed itinerary produced far more than the intimate experiences we enjoyed with these main targets. In all, we found over 500 species of birds and a wealth of other wildlife in this, one of Africa’s most biologically diverse countries. Our other highlights ranged from obtaining fantastic photographs of one of the world’s great waders, the beautiful Egyptian Plover, to boating down the mighty Victoria Nile, to watching giant forest hog, and having magical experiences with several troops of chimpanzees.

After an evening arrival at sleepy Entebbe (where the aircraft from the famous 1976 raid still lies derelict on a runway!), we transferred to Mabira Forest near the source of the Nile. This exciting forest produced the rare Forest Woodhoopoe, the giant Great Blue Turaco, Black Cuckoo, Cassin’s Honeyguide, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike, and a magnificent juvenile Crown Hawk-Eagle. In the late afternoon we arrived at Jinja where we observed a huge roost of straw-colored fruit bats.

Next we drove northwards to Masindi, picking up some great birds en route including Marsh Widowbird, Banded Snake-Eagle, White-headed Barbet, Purple Glossy-Starling,

and a lovely female Pied Wheatear.

We made our acquaintance with Uganda's vast rainforests the following day at the world-famous Royal Mile, one of Africa's highest rated forest birding sites. Highlights included great scope views of all three forest kingfishers: Dwarf, Chocolate-backed, and Blue-breasted; Ayres's Hawk-Eagle; Gray Parrot; a stunning male Emerald Cuckoo; Cassin's and Sabine's spinetails; Blue-throated Roller; White-thighed Hornbill; Chestnut-capped, African Forest, and African Shrike flycatchers; the beautiful Black-capped Apalis; and, in the rank vegetation nearby, Compact Weaver, Brown Twinspot, and Magpie Mannikin.

The vast Murchison Falls National Park, which straddles the mighty Victoria Nile, was our next destination. Departing from our tranquil lodge perched overlooking the Nile, we explored various sections of the park. On our boat trip to the Lake Albert Delta, hundreds of waterbirds lined the banks, including the impressive Shoebill, and mammals including African buffalo and African elephant were evident. An out-of-range Egyptian Plover showed well. Later, we encountered large herds of game during an excursion into palm savannas north of the Nile. At Kaniyo Pabidi forest we managed superb views of Puvel's Illadopsis, here at its only East Africa location. Further exploration in the park took us to the mighty falls themselves, where the Nile is forced through a ten-meter gap resulting in the strongest flow of water on the planet! Rock Pratincoles wheeled in the spray, and other birding highlights included good numbers of Grasshopper Buzzards, Lesser Spotted Eagle, the nomadic Caspian Plover, Rufous-crowned Roller and a Stanley Bustard which had been attracted by the grass fires, stolid Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills, stunning Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Black-billed Barbet, Silverbird, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Red-throated Pipit, Red-winged Gray Warbler, and uncommon Pygmy Sunbirds.

Heading south, we re-entered the forest zone again at Budongo, finding amongst many other species a magnificent male White-spotted Flufftail, Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, the rare Ituri Batis, and Lemon-bellied Crombec. Kibale Forest, Africa's premier chimpanzee-watching destination, was our next stop. Our chimpanzee trek provided superb encounters with our closest living relatives. Primates are particularly abundant here and we enjoyed excellent viewing of several species of monkeys. Birding highlights included Crested Guineafowl, Black-billed Turaco, a superb Black-shouldered Nightjar, Narina Trogon, the radiant Black Bee-eater, the bizarre Yellow-billed Barbet, Joyful Greenbul, Mountain Wagtail, the localized Masked Apalis, and striking Brown-capped and Yellow-mantled weavers.

The world-renowned Queen Elizabeth National Park was our next destination, and we had sightings of Banded Snake-Eagle, a stunning male Pallid Harrier, African Crake, Allen's Gallinule, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, White-tailed Lark, and literally thousands of waterbirds including a flock of 80 African Skimmers. Sightings of giant forest hog—the

largest and undeniably ugliest pig on the planet, and large aggregations of elephant and

hippopotamus during our unforgettable boat ride on the Kazinga Channel, were further highlights.

However, we had an appointment in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, and our sense of excitement mounted as we approached this unique and priceless reserve. Approximately 600 mountain gorillas have survived the ravages of modern times, one for each ten million humans, and we were certainly privileged to be among those few who have, at first-hand, experienced these gentle giants. Although it requires an arduous trek, the awe in watching a family of mountain gorillas feeding, interacting, and resting, is undoubtedly one of the greatest wildlife experiences. The birding at Bwindi is also nothing short of spectacular, and we found a good selection of Albertine Rift endemics and other exciting forest birds. Memorable sightings included a beautiful Bar-tailed Trogon, Elliot's Woodpecker, Red-faced Woodland and Black-faced Rufous warblers, the rare Chapin's and Yellow-eyed Black flycatchers, Equatorial Akalat, White-bellied Robin-Chat, and Ansorge's Greenbuls, only discovered in Uganda in 2001. In the evenings we relaxed at one of the most luxurious tented camps on the continent. Time at higher elevation sites in the reserve resulted in a different set of special birds: Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, world-class views of Handsome Francolin, stunning Regal sunbirds, Ruwenzori and Chestnut-throated apalises, the striking Ruwenzori Batis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Dusky Crimsonwing, and the multicolored Doherty's Bush Shrike were all highlights.

In Lake Mburo National Park, we found the uncommon Rufous-bellied Heron and a good number of raptors including Lappet-faced Vulture and Little Sparrowhawk, Coqui Francolin, Green Sandpiper, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, a very confiding Pearl-spotted Owlet, Tabora Cisticola, the rare Greencap Eremomela, Red-headed Weaver, and a magnificent African Finfoot. Mammals abound in the park and we were treated to herds of zebra and impala. We were also treated to great views of a large herd of eland, the world's largest antelope.

Our final birding stop, at Entebbe, produced Green-headed Sunbird and no less than six species of weavers including nest-building Orange and Northern Brown-throated weavers.



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Murchison Falls and Plover

Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist 5th Edition* (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to January 2005.
An asterisk (*) indicates an Albertine Rift endemic species.

Pelicans

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

This large pelican was seen in small numbers along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

A common bird in Uganda, regularly nesting at the roadside with high numbers recorded in Jinja and on the Kazinga Channel boat cruise.

Cormorants & Shags

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

A large roost of an estimated sixty birds was found on our Kazinga Channel boat cruise, and smaller numbers at the Entebbe Botanical Gardens on our final day.

NOTE: The resident white-breasted African subspecies P. c. lucidus is regarded by some authorities to be a distinct species; White-breasted Cormorant.

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant

Phalacrocorax africanus

We recorded these widespread African cormorants in small numbers on the Nile River at Jinja and again from the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Anhinga & Darter

Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

A couple near Jinja and later up to thirty along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

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NOTE: The resident African subspecies P. c. rufa is regarded by most authorities to be a distinct species; African Darter.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers along the Nile and in Queen Elizabeth NP with highest numbers of six seen during the Nile boat cruise.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Uganda's commonest heron, we recorded it almost daily in small numbers with highest numbers of twenty seen at nesting colonies near Queen Elizabeth NP.

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

A spectacular bird recorded in several wetlands. We recorded four on the Nile at Murchison, some of them providing fantastic close up views and allowing great video opportunities of the largest heron in the world.

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea

Another widespread bird, up to eight along the Nile.

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

Great (White) Egret

Ardea alba

Fairly common in Uganda, recorded along the Kazinga Channel and at wetland sites in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Intermediate Egret

Egretta intermedia

Generally the least common of the three white, aquatic egrets, with our only sighting of two in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret E. brachyrhyncha (which is the form we recorded in Uganda), Plumed Egret E. plumifera and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Common in wetlands throughout, with our first sightings at Jinja.

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

(Common) Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides

Good numbers along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and again in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rufous-bellied Heron

Ardeola rufiventris

A scarce species in Uganda, we recorded one in Lake Mburo NP.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen accompanying herds of antelope, Buffalo or Elephants in the parks.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Striated Heron

Butorides striatus

Recorded twice along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and three seen in Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. Clements recognizes three full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens, Galapagos Heron B. sundevalli and the most widespread nominate form which we recorded in Uganda. This split is not recognized by Handbook of Birds of the World (del Hoyo et al) who lump these forms under the nominate..

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Four seen in Murchison Falls NP along the Nile.

Hamerkop

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

This bizarre bird, forming a monotypic family endemic to the Afrotropics, is pleasantly common throughout Uganda, with our first sightings at Entebbe on our first day and peak numbers of twenty-five on the Kazinga Channel.

Storks

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Observed at several wetlands in Murchison Falls NP and Queen Elizabeth NP. It was on the Kazinga Channel where we had fantastic views of an adult in full breeding plumage, which allowed great video footage.

African Openbill (~ed Stork)

Anastomus lamelligerus

A common bird in Uganda, this freshwater mussel specialist was encountered on our first day and around wetlands elsewhere on the trip including good numbers of an estimated forty birds on the Nile boat cruise.

Abdim's Stork

Ciconia abdimii

Large flocks totaling over one thousand individuals were seen in Murchison Falls NP, and closer views were had several times of smaller groups.

Woolly-necked Stork

Ciconia episcopus

One was seen at Luwero Swamp and a further three near Buhoma.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

This magnificent bird was first seen at Murchison Falls NP.

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

A very common and conspicuous bird in Uganda, where it has become commensal with man in many areas. We saw them in the Queen Elizabeth NP, Murchison Falls NP and even in downtown Kampala, where they nest atop ornamental trees in the city gardens!

Shoebill

Shoebill

Balaeniceps rex

The essence of Uganda, we found four individuals including wonderful views of one at the edge of tall papyrus on our Nile boat cruise.

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Ibises & Spoonbills

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Small numbers seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth, and again up to twenty in meadows near Kabale.

NOTE: The Malagasy T. e. bernieri and Aldabran T. e. abbotti are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis T. bernieri

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

Another typical sound of moist areas in Africa, Hadadas were found almost daily in small numbers.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

A total of two of these cosmopolitan birds were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

This distinctive bird was found on the Kazinga Channel and near Kabale.

Swans, Geese & Ducks

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

This widespread and familiar duck was seen in small numbers along the Nile and Kazinga Channel.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Another common waterfowl, first seen at wetlands in Murchison Falls NP and later in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

An estimated fifteen were seen on the Nile boat cruise to Murchison Falls.

Comb (Knob-billed) Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Eight found on the Nile in Murchison Falls and another one along the Kazinga Channel.

NOTE: The Old World nominate S. m. melanotos (African Comb Duck) is sometimes considered separate from the New World S. m. sylvicola (American Comb Duck). Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

Six seen at a roadside crater lake en route from Kibale to Queen Elizabeth NP.

Osprey Pandionidae

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Two seen along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae

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

Another well-known raptor seen in small numbers in open habitats in Queen Elizabeth NP and again in Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: Some authorities lump the African and Asian Black-shouldered Kite E. caeruleus with Australian Kite E. axillaris and the American E. leucurus White-tailed Kite. Clements recognizes these three forms as full species.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

This ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor was found in good numbers through-out Uganda. All birds seen were of the resident, yellow-billed African races.

NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite M. parasitus.

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

A familiar bird whose ringing call is one of the archetypal sounds of Africa, we recorded good numbers around wetlands throughout the tour, with tame pairs along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP being especially memorable. We were afforded great views of several atop large *Euphorbia*'s which provided wonderful photo opportunities.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

We first observed this handsome vulture in Entebbe and various sights throughout Uganda, with most records coming from Queen Elizabeth NP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

The common vulture around human habitation, with small numbers recorded near Kampala at the beginning and the end of the trip with additional birds in Queen Elizabeth NP.

(African) White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

The common vulture in savanna areas, we recorded ten in Queen Elizabeth NP and two in Lake Mburo NP.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

Several individuals seen flying over and one perched atop a tree inside Lake Mburo NP.

Beudouin's Snake-Eagle *Circaetus beudouini*

This rare raptor was seen perched and in flight in Murchison Falls NP where we were fortunate to locate two individuals over two days.

NOTE: This resident and partially migratory Sahelian species is regarded by some authorities to be a form of Short-toed Eagle C. gallicus.

Black-breasted (~ched) Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

One was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: This resident Central and Southern African species is regarded by some authorities to be a form of Short-toed Eagle C. gallicus.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

The commonest snake-eagle in Uganda, we recorded two, one near Masindi and another in Murchison Falls NP.

(Western) Banded Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

One of these uncommon raptors was seen near Masindi and another in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Bateleur

Terathopius ecaudatus

The “tightrope-walker” of the raptor world is a handsome species that we found in healthy numbers in the savanna parks of Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth as well as Luwero Swamp our first day.

Western (Eurasian) Marsh-Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

This Palearctic migrant was seen in small numbers throughout Uganda with highest counts of four individuals in a single day in Murchison Falls NP.

African Marsh-Harrier

Circus ranivorus

We recorded small numbers of this widespread African harrier in Lake Mburo NP.

Pallid Harrier

Circus macrourus

This elegant Palearctic bird was seen in the vicinity of Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth, where we had a total of three individuals, all stunning males.

Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

Generally less common than Pallid Harrier in Uganda, we nevertheless recorded a total of four individuals at scattered localities in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)

Polyboroides typus

A distinctive raptor recorded three times at scattered sights throughout Uganda.

Lizard Buzzard

Kaupifalco monogrammicus

An attractive raptor that was first seen at Luwero Swamp with further sightings at scattered sites around Uganda.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk

Melierax metabates

We obtained excellent views of one of these long-legged raptors in Murchison Falls NP.

Gabar Goshawk

Micronisus gabar

This uncommon raptor was seen very well in Queen Elizabeth NP where we found one melanistic bird.

African Goshawk

Accipiter tachiro

This widespread, forest *Accipiter* was seen at Buhoma by Stephan & Tess, they found a juvenile near there room.

NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk A. tousseneli. Clements accepts this controversial split.

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)

Accipiter badius

This small *Accipiter* was seen at scattered sites throughout Uganda.

NOTE: We recorded the Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Southern Shikra A. b. polyzonoides. These forms may also be split from the Asian nominate A. b. badius and other Asian forms. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

Little Sparrowhawk

Accipiter minullus

This diminutive, yet fierce *Accipiter* was seen near Buhoma and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Black Goshawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*
A scarce species in Uganda. One was seen flying over Buhoma.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*
Extensive bush fires in the Murchison Falls NP area had brought about an irruption of this Sahelian migratory species, and we enjoyed superb sightings of small numbers daily during our stay there.

Eurasian (Common) Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
This Palearctic raptor was seen in small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*
A handsome buzzard that is pleasantly common in the mountainous, southwestern corner of Uganda, we recorded a total of four birds with highest numbers in the Ruhizha area.
NOTE: Some authorities lump the Southern African Jackal Buzzard B. rufofuscus and the Somalia Archer's Buzzard B. archeri within this species. Clements and most other authorities now recognize three full species.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*
This brown Palearctic eagle with “stove-pipe” legs, was seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*
This raptor was commonly seen in open habitat throughout Uganda, with most sightings coming from the Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo areas. At the former site we had both dark and pale morph individuals.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*
We enjoyed great views of one at Mabira Forest, another over Budongo forest and a final sighting of one on the drive from Buhoma to Kabale.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*
A very common raptor in Uganda, with small numbers daily in moist woodland habitats.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*
This rare forest-dwelling raptor was seen once at Busingiro.

(African) Crowned Hawk-Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
This impressive raptor, the most powerful in Africa and Africa's version of the Harpy Eagle (it preys largely on monkeys), was seen extremely well at Mabira Forest where we found a sub-adult, an adult was later seen soaring over Kaniyo Pabidi forest.

Falcons & Caracaras

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*
A total of five were seen on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Eurasian (Common/Rock) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
This widespread, familiar raptor was seen once en route from Kibale to Queen Elizabeth NP.

Gray Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

This open country raptor was observed in small numbers several times during the tour with our best views from Murchison Falls NP.

African Hobby

Falco cuvierii

This sought after falcon was observed on our first day where we had brief views of a pair flying near Entebbe.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

This cosmopolitan raptor was seen very well at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Pheasants & Partridges

Coqui Francolin

Fringillidae coqui

This localized species was heard during breakfast from the Mantana Tented Camp in Lake Mburo NP and later five were seen from the vehicles.

Crested Francolin

Fringillidae sephaena

Three individuals of this bantam-like bird were observed in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP and a further six in Lake Mburo NP.

Heuglin's Francolin

Fringillidae icterorhynchus

This species was heard calling near Budongo and again near Murro.

Red-necked Spurfowl

Fringillidae afer

The most commonly recorded francolin on the trip, with large numbers seen in the savanna reserves of Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Handsome Francolin*

Fringillidae nobilis

This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was seen exceptionally well on two occasions at Ruhizha.

Guineafowl

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Common and ubiquitous, Helmeted Guineafowl were encountered in good numbers at many sites.

NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) which we recorded in Uganda, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl.) Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Crested Guineafowl

Guttera pucherani

We obtained good views of two of these fowls on a "Bad Hair Day" at Kaniyo Pabidi with further sightings of eight at Kibale Forest and five at Buhoma.

NOTE: The form concerned is sometimes split off as Western Crested Guineafowl G. edouardi

Cranes

Gray (Southern) Crowned-Crane

Balearica regulorum

Uganda's handsome national bird is delightfully common throughout the country, with our initial encounter of a pair at Luwero Swamp and later up to fifty near Kabale.

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Rails, Gallinules & Coots

White-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura pulchra

This secretive, forest rail's hooting call was heard in several forests and we enjoyed phenomenal views of one male near Kibale Forest.

African Crake

Crecopsis egregia

We obtained superb views of this species in the grassland in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

Africa's common wetland crake, we saw over a dozen on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, with small numbers at wetlands elsewhere on the trip.

Finfoot

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

An uncommon and sought-after species, we were fortunate to have excellent views of one in Lake Mburo NP.

Bustards

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

An uncommon bird to see in Uganda, we managed great views of four individuals in Queen Elizabeth NP and several more in Lake Mburo NP.

Stanley Bustard

Neotis denhami

A rare and nomadic bird in Uganda, we were fortunate to have great views of one in Murchison Falls NP.

Jacanas

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

A widespread and characteristic wader was conspicuous in wetlands throughout the tour. First found at Murchison Falls NP along the Nile River where we estimated twenty individuals in a single day.

Stilts & Avocets

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

This characteristic wader was found in small numbers along the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP and again on the Kazinga Channel where we estimated ten birds.

Thick-knees

Water Thick-knee

Burhinus vermiculatus

Common at the edges of wetlands in Queen Elizabeth NP, with up to twenty individuals seen in a single day.

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

The common thick-knee along the Victoria Nile, with a total of ten birds seen on the boat cruise.

Coursers & Pratincoles

Egyptian Plover

Pluvianus aegyptius

A truly magnificent bird and very rare in Uganda, we were very fortunate to see one on the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

This elegant wader was seen first at Murchison Falls, where we observed a flock of ten individuals wheeling in the sky and again in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock (White-collared) Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

A common denizen of rapids in the Victoria Nile, where at least ten were present around Murchison Falls. We enjoyed superb scope views and watched them foraging in the mists of the falls.

Plovers & Lapwings

Long-toed Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus crassirostris

Eight of these elegant waders were found at Murchison Falls NP and five more were later observed at Lake Mburo NP.

Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)

Vanellus spinosus

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were common and conspicuous in Queen Elizabeth, Murchison Falls, and Lake Mburo NP's.

Senegal (Lesser Black-winged) Lapwing

Vanellus lugubris

A lapwing of burnt or heavily grazed grassland, we recorded this species in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

Crowned Lapwing

Vanellus coronatus

Up to five were seen daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Wattled Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus senegallus

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in small numbers throughout the trip, with our first sighting coming from Murchison Falls NP with further sightings at Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP. Peak numbers of fifteen were seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Five of these Palaearctic migrants were seen on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

This scarce Palaearctic migrant to Uganda was seen near the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP where we enjoyed good scope views of two.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

Small numbers around wetlands in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Caspian Plover

Charadrius asiaticus

We had fantastic views of thirty in both Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Sandpipers & Allies

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

This Palaearctic migrant was seen in good numbers at Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

NOTE: The New World Wilson's Snipe G. g. delicata is sometimes considered distinct from the Old World nominate form..

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Three of these attractive migrant waders were seen along the Kazinga Channel.

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

We were fortunate to see one on the Kazinga Channel. A rare bird in Uganda.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

Six were seen in Queen Elizabeth NP, along the Kazinga Channel.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

First observed in Murchison Falls NP, with peak numbers of eight in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Four seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

First observed in Murchison Falls NP, again in Queen Elizabeth NP, and again at Lake Mburo NP where we had peak numbers of five daily.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Large numbers observed in Murchison Falls NP, again in Queen Elizabeth NP, and again at Lake Mburo NP.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Up to five seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Two seen along the Kazinga Channel.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Six seen along the Kazinga Channel.

Gulls

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

About forty seen along the Kazinga Channel.

NOTE: This polytypic species has a confusing taxonomy and several forms have been split off and several other forms may be split off in the future.

Heuglin's Gull

Larus heuglini

A single individual of this pale-backed gull was seen on the Kazinga Channel.

NOTE: This form has recently been split from Lesser Black-backed Gull L. fuscus.

Gray-headed Gull

Larus cirrocephalus

About sixty seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Terns

Gull-billed Tern

Sterna nilotica

One hundred and twenty estimated along the Kazinga Channel and one on Lake Victoria seen from Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

A large number of over one hundred were seen in the Lake Albert delta.

Skimmers

African Skimmer

Rynchops flavirostris

One of Africa's most elegant birds. Our first sighting was of a small group of four on the Nile and later we were fortunate to observe a flock of about eighty on the Kazinga Channel.

Doves & Pigeons

Rock Pigeon

Columba livia

Common in Kampala.

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea

Ten observed *en route* from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon

Columba arquatrix

This widespread African forest pigeon only occurs in the higher parts of Bwindi NP, where we saw a flock of ten.

(Western) Bronze-naped Pigeon

Columba iriditorques

A compact, elusive canopy-dweller, far more often heard than seen. Some of the group obtained views of one flying over at Buhoma in Bwindi NP and was heard several times in the vicinity.

African Mourning Dove

Streptopelia decipiens

Another fairly common savanna dove, with its distinctive call being a regular background sound in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

Probably Uganda's commonest dove, inhabiting a wide range of moist woodland and forest habitats, with good numbers recorded almost daily throughout the trip.

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove

Streptopelia capicola

Common in open savanna in the southern parts of the country, with large numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Vinaceous Dove

Streptopelia vinacea

This richly marked dove replaces the much more widespread Ring-necked Dove as the common savanna dove in the drier areas along the Nile, and is most easily separated from that species by its call. We enjoyed good views of two near Masindi.

Laughing (Palm) Dove

Streptopelia senegalensis

A widespread, familiar species recorded in good numbers at several locations during the tour.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove

Turtur chalcospilos

In Uganda, this familiar woodland dove is restricted to the southern and eastern savannas, and we found a pair in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-billed Wood-Dove

Turtur abyssinicus

The common wood-dove of the dry, northern savanna around Murchison Falls NP where we obtained great views of several birds.

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove

Turtur afer

Uganda's most widespread wood-dove and commonly recorded on many days of the tour. Its stuttering, down-scale hooting characteristically ends abruptly (rather than tailing off like the similar Emerald-spotted and Tambourine Dove).

Tambourine Dove

Turtur tympanistria

The forest equivalent of the wood-doves, and therefore widespread and common in Uganda, we saw small numbers on many tour days (with many more heard daily).

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis

We obtained great views of up to twenty of this attractive long-tailed dove on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

African Green-Pigeon

Treron calva

Another common pigeon in Uganda, their distinctive lime-yellow bodies were frequently seen perched atop roadside trees throughout the tour.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies

Red-headed Lovebird

Agapornis pullarius

A lovely little parrot, which we observed near Masindi and Murro.

(African) Gray Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

Small numbers were seen in flight at Mabira Forest and a further one at Budongo Forest. It is so much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird.

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot

Poicephalus meyeri

A parrot of moister savanna and woodland. We first observed them near Masindi with further sightings from Lake Mburo NP.

Turacos

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore is wonderfully common in Uganda and we found good numbers on several days.

Black-billed Turaco

Tauraco schuettii

The common turaco of Uganda forests, we had several encounters with this beautiful bird. This species was first seen at Mabira Forest and later at several sites in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

White-crested Turaco

Tauraco leucolophus

We obtained superb views of three near Murro. Often considered the most beautiful of all turacos.

Ross' Turaco

Musophaga rossae

Another stellar turaco, which we observed several times during the tour with our best views being a pair near Murro.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

A bizarre bird with enormous character, we had great views of up to eight daily in Lake Mburo NP.

Eastern (Gray) Plantain-eater

Crinifer zonurus

This floppy-winged bird with a maniacal call is the essence of moist woodland in Uganda and we saw many individuals throughout.

Cuckoos

Pied Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus

We had good views of one in Murchison Falls NP and another in Lake Mburo NP.

Levaillant's (African Striped) Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

Several individuals of this long-tailed cuckoo were seen in the Buhoma area.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

This familiar bird was frequently heard throughout the trip, but only seen on three occasions, the first being in Murchison Falls NP.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

The "I'm so saAAD!" call of this bird was heard at several localities and we enjoyed great views of one at Mabira Forest.

Common Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

We had great scope views of one at Buhoma.

African Cuckoo

Cuculus gularis

Several were seen in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP's.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx mechowi

The most commonly heard and widespread of the three long-tailed cuckoos in Uganda, we managed to finally see it at Buhoma where we enjoyed great scope views of one.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx olivinus

A very difficult species to see. We had it calling at close quarters in Bwindi Impenetrable NP on several occasions.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx montanus

Another species far more often heard than seen, however we managed to get great views of one calling bird at Ruhizha.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

A brood parasite favoring the cup nests of woodland birds, many heard throughout the tour and one male seen in Lake Mburo NP.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we heard this species throughout the tour and finally managed good scope views of two males on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

This widespread African species was heard on many days of the tour and first observed in Murchison Falls, with further sightings at several other localities.

Yellowbill

Ceuthmochares aereus

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was seen at several forest sites including Mabira, Budongo and Buhoma.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

This large swamp-dwelling coucal was first observed inside Murchison Falls NP, with further sightings at several localities during the tour.

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

An uncommon bird in Uganda, we had a good sighting of one near Murro.

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

The commonest coucal in Uganda, and across much of East Africa. We first observed it at Murchison Falls, with further sightings from Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP's.

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

Typical Owls

African Scops-Owl

Otus senegalensis

This tiny owl was heard only at Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: The African races are sometimes still lumped with European Scops Owl O. scops.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl

Bubo lacteus

Two magnificent views of this species were had in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: Clements splits this northern, dark-eyed form from the, more southerly yellow-eyed Spotted Eagle-Owl B. africanus. This split is not widely accepted.

African Wood-Owl

Strix woodfordii

Heard at our camps at Buhoma.

Nightjars & Allies

Black-shouldered Nightjar

Caprimulgus nigriscapularis

We enjoyed good views of one near Kibale Forest.

Swifts

Scarce Swift

Schoutedenapus myoptilus

This forest swift was seen daily over Buhoma.

Sabine's Spinetail

Rhaphidura sabini

This scarce forest spinetail was observed over the Royal Mile at Budongo Forest.

Cassin's Spinetail

Neafrapus cassini

This unstable-looking species, with exceptionally broad wings and short tail was seen briefly in Budongo Forest.

African Palm-Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

Plentiful around palms throughout, we observed large numbers almost daily during the tour.

NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm-Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba

A small flock of ten were seen at Kasese.

Common (Eurasian) Swift

Apus apus

An estimated ten individuals were seen during the drive from Buhoma to Ruhizha.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

The common urban swift, with large numbers found near Kampala. We saw many birds at Mweya Lodge in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-rumped Swift

Apus caffer

Fork-tailed and with a sickle-shaped (rather than square) white rump, we found this species daily in Queen Elizabeth National Park and again at Lake Mburo NP.

Mousebirds

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

A contender for commonest bird of the trip, with large numbers recorded daily.

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

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The fast-flying, savanna cousin of Speckled Mousebird and sporting a most unlikely blue patch on its nape, we found this species first in Murchison Falls NP, with good numbers thereafter at Queen Elizabeth NP and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Trogons

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

The guttural hooting of this magnificent bird was heard at several forest sites, a female was seen in Kibale NP and a superb male seen was seen at Ruhizha.

Bar-tailed Trogon

Apaloderma vittatum

We enjoyed great sightings of two males of this beautiful bird at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Kingfishers

Malachite Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata

The common, small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, with maximal numbers seen on our launch cruises in Queen Elizabeth NP, Murchison Falls NP, and again at Lake Mburo.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) picta

This beautiful, little bird was seen in small numbers in savanna habitat throughout, with our best sightings coming from Budongo Forest.

(African) Dwarf Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) lecontei

Another elusive forest kingfisher that availed to incredible telescope views along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

A species which can prove particularly elusive, however we were afforded superb scope views of two on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Gray-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala

This beautiful woodland kingfisher was first observed near Murchison Falls and thereafter frequently recorded in all savanna areas. The highest daily count was ten individuals in Murchison Falls.

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis

One of the characteristic sounds of moist African savanna, this beautiful bird was first seen en route to Masindi and thereafter regularly encountered throughout Uganda.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Halcyon malimbica

This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was seen exceptionally well along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti

Rather more drab than its spectacular cousins, this small, terrestrial kingfisher was first observed en-route on the second day near Luwero Swamp, and thereafter seen in small numbers at other savanna areas.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

We had three sightings of this giant of the kingfisher world, all along the Nile River during our boat cruises in Murchison Falls NP.

Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis

The world's commonest kingfisher was seen in large numbers in wetlands throughout, but seemed especially conspicuous on the launch cruises along the Kazinga Channel and Nile, and of course along the shores of Lake Victoria. As usual, it was one of the first and last tour birds!

Bee-eaters

Black Bee-eater

Merops gularis

A truly magnificent forest bee-eater with a most unlikely colour combination. We had fantastic scope views of one near Kibale Forest and later observed birds on both days at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Red-throated Bee-eater

Merops bullocki

The northern equivalent of the more familiar White-fronted Bee-eater and every bit as beautiful, good numbers were found along the Nile and around our lodgings at Murchison. Two were also seen on the Kazinga Channel.

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

The most widespread and familiar of a suite of look-alike bee-eaters in Uganda, we found them first in Queen Elizabeth NP and later in Lake Mburo NP.

Blue-breasted (White-cheeked) Bee-eater *Merops variegatus*

Slightly larger and with a preference for fringes of papyrus beds, we found two individuals in Luwero Swamp with others seen on the Nile boat cruise at Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: The Ethiopian form M. v. lafresnayii, is sometimes considered a distinct species, Abyssinian Bee-eater.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater

Merops oreobates

The largest of the three small look-alike bee-eaters and favouring forest fringes at higher altitudes, they were fairly commonly seen in Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

Merops hirundineus

An elegant bee-eater of dry savanna, we found several birds in Murchison Falls NP.

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

Small flocks of these migratory birds were seen regularly throughout Uganda. They breed in the Sahelian savanna but winter in the Equatorial forests.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

Merops persicus

Another migrant, though typically found in larger flocks in the vicinity of water. We first recorded this species in Murchison Falls NP, with sightings at other scattered sites throughout Uganda.

European Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

This Palearctic migrant bee-eater was seen at scattered localities throughout Uganda. Our best sighting was of ten in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicus

This stunningly coloured bee-eater was only found in Murchison Falls NP where we had incredible views of several. A total of fourteen were seen.

Rollers

Abyssinian Roller

Coracias abyssinica

This beautiful and elegant long-tailed roller was observed in Murchison Falls NP, where we were fortunate to see several.

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

Seven of these magnificent birds were seen during our drive from Lake Mburo to Kampala, on one of the last days of the tour.

NOTE: The Ethiopian, C. c. lorti might be split as Blue-breasted Roller.

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus

The common roller of moist, open country throughout Uganda, with highest numbers of ten birds seen between Jinja and Entebbe.

Blue-throated Roller

Eurystomus gularis

Replaces Broad-billed Roller in closed forest environments and was observed on the Royal Mile at Budongo Forest.

Hoopoes

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

One of these unique birds was seen near Masindi.

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 white-winged African form which we encountered in Uganda is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe U. senegalensis with the fourth species being African Hoopoe U. africana. However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African. Further confusion arises in the placement of the senegalensis form within this grouping with most authorities placing it with the dark-winged africana group, however, Stevenson & Fanshawe place it with the white-winged Eurasian nominate grouping.

Woodhoopoes

Green Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

A pair was seen in the savanna at the Butiaba escarpment with further sightings in Lake Mburo NP.

White-headed Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus bollei

This uncommon forest bird was observed at Kibale Forest where we found a flock of eight. The group called and comically swung their tails back and forth in pendulum style.

Forest Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus castaneiceps

This rarely recorded Woodhoopoe was seen exceptionally well in Mabira Forest where we watched a pair feeding for several minutes.

Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

Another widespread and familiar African bird that we encountered in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP and again in the savannas of Lake Mburo NP.

Hornbills

Crowned Hornbill

Tockus alboterminatus

Common and widespread in moister habitats across the country, we saw our first birds near Mabira Forest on our first day with further sightings throughout the tour.

African Pied Hornbill

Tockus fasciatus

Much more localised than its similar crowned cousin and with white tail edges (rather than tail tips), we found this species in good numbers at Mabira Forest.

African Gray Hornbill

Tockus nasutus

The common savanna hornbill in Uganda, with large numbers seen in the drier savannas of Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NPs.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill

Ceratogymna subcylindricus

Another spectacular bird that is delightfully common, this species was seen in good numbers almost daily, starting with several at Entebbe on the first day.

White-thighed Hornbill

Ceratogymna albotibialis

Only seen in Budongo Forest, where we located six in the vicinity of the Royal Mile and another ten upon our return to Budongo Forest several days later.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped with the West African Brown-cheeked Hornbill C. cylindricus.

Abyssinian (Northern) Ground-Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus

A total of five of these spectacular and unique birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Barbets

Gray-throated Barbet

Gymnobucco bonapartei

The barbet with the nose tufts and the toy-trumpet call. First found at Kibale Forest, with good numbers in Buhoma thereafter.

Speckled Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus scolopaceus

A scruffy, ubiquitous bird in lower altitude forest in Uganda, where it's purring call is one of the common background sounds. We obtained great views of several at Budongo Forest on the Royal Mile.

Western Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus coryphaeus

We enjoyed a superb sighting of one at Ruhizha.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus subsulphureus

Similar to its more familiar yellow-rumped cousin but with a contrastingly yellow throat and a more rapid tempo to its “tinking”, this forest barbet was seen in small numbers at Mabira, Budongo and again in Kibale Forest.

Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A ubiquitous bird in Uganda, occurring in savanna and forest throughout. Small numbers were seen and heard on several occasions.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

A savanna species seen on several occasions including sightings at Masindi and Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

An elegant forest barbet with a beautiful purring call. We had good views at Kibale Forest and again several times in Buhoma.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

This unkempt-looking bird was first seen through the scope at Kibale Forest and again at Bigodi Swamp.

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

We had excellent views of this savanna barbet at Murchison Falls NP during our walk from the Nile and again in Lake Mburo NP.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was first observed *en route* to Masindi on our second day and again in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito*

A dapper-looking bird that was only encountered in Murchison Falls NP where we had good views of several birds.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

A spectacular barbet that is widespread in moist savanna, overgrown cultivation and gardens in Uganda. We enjoyed great scope views of a pair in Jinja.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet, heard in all the western forests and often never seen but we were amazingly lucky with an obliging individual in Kibale Forest.

Honeyguides

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was seen only once. We had superb views of an adult *en route* from Masindi to Kibale.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

One was seen early morning en route from Masindi to Kaniyo Pabidi and another near Bigodi Swamp.

Willcocks's Honeyguide

Indicator willcocksii

We obtained good views of one of these elusive and rarely seen honeyguides at Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

Cassin's Honeyguide (Honeybird)

Prodotiscus insignis

We had excellent views of one at Mabira Forest.

Woodpeckers & Allies

Rufous-necked Wryneck

Jynx ruficollis

We had wonderful views of a pair near Buhoma.

Nubian Woodpecker

Campethera nubica

This attractive savanna species was observed in Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NPs.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker

Campethera nivosus

This diminutive forest woodpecker was observed at Mabira Forest and once in Buhoma.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker

Dendropicos poecilolaemus

We had good views of one at Bigodi Swamp.

Cardinal Woodpecker

Dendropicos fuscescens

This widespread African woodpecker was observed on three occasions.

Bearded Woodpecker

Dendropicos namaquus

A pair was seen exceptionally well in Lake Mburo NP.

Golden-crowned (Yellow-crested) Woodpecker

Dendropicos xantholophus

This large forest woodpecker (with the almost invisible yellow crest!) was seen in Budongo Forest and Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Elliot's Woodpecker

Dendropicos elliotii

This fine woodpecker was seen once at Buhoma with a mixed flock.

Gray Woodpecker

Dendropicos goertae

Our first observation was in Jinja and later we found several near Masindi.

Broadbills

African Broadbill

Smithornis capensis

We managed to obtain great views of one at Buhoma, performing its strange and noisy circular display flight and later a pair was seen at the Nek.

Larks

White-tailed Lark *Mirafra albicauda*
We had good views of one in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*
Several birds were seen during our drive through the dry savannah of Queen Elizabeth NP.

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*
Uganda's most widespread lark, with our first sighting near Murro and others in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*
We had good views of six in Queen Elizabeth NP, including one on the Kazinga Channel.
NOTE: The African Red-capped Lark complex C. cinerea, was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex C. brachydactyla but is now considered distinct by most authorities. Several distinctive groupings have now been split off from Red-capped Lark, including Blanford's Lark of Ethiopia C. blanfordi.

Swallows

Bank Swallow (Sand Martin) *Riparia riparia*
We recorded good numbers of this common and familiar hirundine in open country throughout the trip. Our most spectacular sightings came from Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP, where hundreds were seen on several days.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*
This uncommon species in Uganda was seen once while driving through the savannah of Queen Elizabeth NP.

Gray-rumped Swallow *Hirundo griseopyga*
Two were seen at a roadside grassland during the drive from Lake Mburo NP to Entebbe.

Rock Martin *Hirundo fuligula*
This dark hirundine was seen near the town of Kabale.
NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form H. f. fuligula would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin H. pusilla which is resident in Uganda. Palearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsolete. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
An abundant Palearctic migrant recorded on almost every single day of the trip in good numbers.
NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow H. rustica and the New World Barn Swallow H. erythrogaster. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive H. r. savignii which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*
Another common hirundine in Uganda, we found several on our first day around the airport. Small numbers were also seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*
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Conspicuous along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, with as many as seven seen.

NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form which would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow which would be H. filifera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Lesser Striped-Swallow

Hirundo abyssinica

A widespread African swallow that is fairly common in Uganda, with several at the roadside on our first day and found at several locations thereafter throughout the tour.

Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow

Hirundo semirufa

This large, handsome swallow was seen at close quarters in Queen Elizabeth NP and again *en route* to Lake Mburo NP.

Mosque Swallow

Hirundo senegalensis

Another large attractive swallow, which we observed once at the airport in Entebbe.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

An uncommon species in Uganda, which we observed in Queen Elizabeth NP and also foraging over the forests at Ruhizha.

NOTE: This species complex may be a candidate for multi-species splitting, the Ugandan form remaining within the nominate group but H. d. melanocrissus of Ethiopia becoming Black-vented Swallow and H. d. domicella becoming West African Swallow.

House Martin

Delichon urbica

Another uncommon Palearctic hirundine, our first sighting was of two at the airport with further sightings of twenty at Ruhizha.

White-headed Sawwing

Psalidoprocne albiceps

This elegant bird was first seen foraging over the road our first day at Mabira Forest, with further regular sightings at scattered locations throughout Uganda.

Black Sawwing

Psalidoprocne holomelas

Outnumbers the above species in most of the higher altitude sites in Uganda, with up to ten daily in the south-western highlands, especially around Ruhizha.

NOTE: The Black Saw-wing complex is sometimes split into eight full species with the Ugandan form being retained in P. holomelas.

Wagtails & Pipits

African Pied Wagtail

Motacilla aguimp

A common and familiar African bird that we found in good numbers virtually daily.

Cape Wagtail

Motacilla capensis

This species was seen only near our lodging at Buhoma in the Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Vast numbers of these Palearctic migrants were found in open country throughout Uganda, with peak totals of up to one hundred birds daily in the Mweya area. We also observed the *feldeggi* black-headed race, considered by some authorities to be a separate species. An unusual sighting was of one walking on the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest, usually a species of open country where they prefer short grassland.

Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

One of these elegant birds was seen on the stream in Kibale Forest followed by sightings of three birds at the bridge between Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

This meadowlark-like bird is a fairly common denizen of open habitat in Uganda, with small numbers recorded daily in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

We obtained excellent views of one in a scrubby field outside Budongo Forest.

NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ugandan races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Clements does not recognise this split.

African (Grassland/Grassveld) Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

A single bird was seen at the roadside en route from Buhoma to Ruhizha.

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

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*

We had good scope views of one on a rocky outcrop between Kabale and Lake Mburo NP.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Two of these Palearctic migrants were observed in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Five of these attractive Palearctic migrants were seen along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Cuckoo-shrikes

Gray Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia*

A total of three seen in the higher parts of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*

An uncommon forest cuckoo-shrike that we recorded in small numbers, our first sighting was of good views of one female at Sebitole, and our only other sighting was of one at Buhoma.

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

Small numbers were seen at Buhoma and in Lake Mburo NP.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Coracina quiscalina*

Two males seen well in Mabira Forest.

Bulbuls

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

A ubiquitous species and one of the few birds to be recorded on every day of the trip, with numerous daily tallies in excess of twenty individuals.

NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species. The form that we saw in Uganda, P. b. tricolor may be split as Dark-capped Bulbul, Clements does not recognize this split.

Little Greenbul

Andropadus virens

Along with Yellow-whiskered, the commonest greenbul in lower altitude forest in Uganda, though much more commonly heard than seen. First seen in Mabira Forest, with small numbers seen in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Ansorge's Greenbul

Andropadus ansorgei

Only recently discovered in Uganda, this species was seen very well at the Nek in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul

Andropadus curvirostris

This inconspicuous greenbul was seen in small numbers in Mabira and Budongo Forests.

Slender-billed Greenbul

Andropadus gracilirostris

A common greenbul of forest canopy, we saw one at Mabira Forest and another at the Nek in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Andropadus latirostris

A common greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had good sightings at Mabira Forest and Ruhizha.

Eastern Mountain-Greenbul

Andropadus nigriceps

A conspicuous and attractive bird of highland forests that we found once at Buhoma.

NOTE: Clements splits the form concerned as Eastern Mountain Greenbul, as opposed to Western Mountain Greenbul A. tephrolaemus of West Africa. Stevenson & Fanshawe and other authorities do not as yet accept this split and refer to the complex simply as Mountain Greenbul A. nigriceps.

Honeyguide Greenbul

Baeopogon indicator

The querulous calls of this canopy-dwelling greenbul are common sounds in lower altitude forest throughout Uganda. We first saw this species at Budongo with a further sighting at Buhoma.

Spotted Greenbul

Ixonotus guttatus

This species, which is restricted to Budongo Forest, was seen exceptionally well as we scoped one at Busingiro.

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove)

Chlorocichla flavicollis

A species that was heard throughout the trip, we found one in Murchison Falls NP and another at Buhoma.

Joyful Greenbul

Chlorocichla laetissima

A strangely local greenbul in Uganda, we found a pair in Kibale Forest NP, where it is a common resident at higher altitudes.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus

We had good views of two of this wing-flicking species at Ruhizha.

Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill

Bleda syndactyla

The quiet, purring calls of this attractive greenbul were commonly heard at all forest sites on the trip, however, this shy, ant-following species was only seen at Mabira Forest on our first day where we enjoyed good views of two.

Yellow-spotted (Western) Nicator

Nicator chloris

An aberrant hook-billed greenbul that was observed exceptionally well along the roadside in Mabira Forest, Kaniyo Pabidi and Sebitole.

Red-tailed Greenbul

Criniger calurus

One of the most handsome of all greenbuls and a relatively common forest bird throughout Uganda, we found our first one at Mabira Forest and saw good numbers with bird parties in Bwindi NP.

Thrushes & Allies

Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush (Fraser's Ant-Thrush) *Neocossyphus fraseri*

The distinctive whistle of this rufous, forest-based thrush, is one of the background sounds in many western Ugandan forests. We obtained good views of one on the Royal Mile.

Olive Thrush

Turdus olivaceus

In Uganda, restricted to higher altitudes, we heard this species calling at Ruhizha.

*NOTE: This polytypic species complex may be split into many as ten different species, and several are already generally accepted e.g. Taita Thrush *T. helleri*. The main north/south split is likely to be in Tanzania with the northern birds (including those in Uganda) becoming Northern Olive Thrush *T. abyssinicus* and the nominate form being called Southern Olive Thrush.*

African Thrush

Turdus pelios

Uganda's most common thrush, we first found it at Entebbe, and encountered this species in moist woodland and forest elsewhere on the trip.

Red-throated Alethe*

Alethe poliophrys

We heard this species calling at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Fire-crested Alethe

Alethe diademata

This ant-following species was seen once in Mabira Forest.

*NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe of West Africa, becoming *A. castanea*.*

Cisticolas & Allies

Red-faced Cisticola

Cisticola erythrops

This common, widespread and vocal species was heard on many occasions and seen first at Murchison Falls with further good sightings at Murro.

Whistling Cisticola

Cisticola lateralis

We had good views of one near Budongo Forest.

Trilling Cisticola

Cisticola woosnami

The strange, quavering call of this woodland cisticola was first heard and then seen in Queen Elizabeth NP with further sightings in Lake Mburo NP where we saw several individuals.

Chubb's Cisticola

Cisticola chubbi

Another noisy cisticola with wonderful duetting songs, we found good numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and around Kibale Forest NP.

Rattling Cisticola

Cisticola chinianus

A common and conspicuous denizen of drier *Acacia* savanna in the northern part of the country, we found two in Murchison Falls NP.

Winding Cisticola

Cisticola galactotes

The commonest wetland cisticola in Uganda, its winding song was heard issuing from reedbeds, papyrus swamps and damp grassland throughout the trip. First seen in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: This widespread African species complex has been proposed for multi-species splitting and the Ugandan form C. g. nyansae is likely to remain within the nominate grouping.

Carruthers's Cisticola

Cisticola carruthersi

Replaces Winding in the center of papyrus swamps and hence less frequently encountered. We finally obtained good views of two en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Croaking (Striped) Cisticola

Cisticola natalensis

A common denizen of moist grassland, we encountered this species at Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NP.

Tabora (Long-tailed) Cisticola

Cisticola angusticaudus

This colourful cisticola has only recently been discovered in Uganda and we found a group of three in Lake Mburo NP, where we obtained excellent views.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped with the more southerly Neddicky or Piping Cisticola C. fulvicapillus.

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, seen throughout the tour, with our first sightings near Mabira Forest our first day.

White-chinned Prinia

Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon

This confiding, gregarious species was first observed on the higher section of Kibale Forest, with up to five seen daily in Bwindi.

Banded Prinia

Prinia bairdii

This snappy-looking but at times skulking prinia was seen only in Bwindi Impenetrable NP where we had great sightings of six birds.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split off as Black-faced Prinia P. melanops.

Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)

Heliolais erythroptera

A widespread African warbler of local distribution in Uganda, we found a single individual in woodland in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-winged Gray Warbler

Drymocichla incana

A localized species, which we observed in thick woodland near the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis*

Apalis ruwenzorii

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found only in the montane forest around Ruhizha where we commonly heard and finally observed a pair.

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

Black-capped Apalis

Apalis nigriceps

A scarce bird in Uganda, we were fortunate to observe two individuals in a bird party along the Royal Mile and a final sighting of two at Busingiro.

Black-throated Apalis

Apalis jacksoni

One of the commonest forest and forest edge apalises in Uganda, we saw this beautiful at several sites including Busingiro and Buhoma.

Masked Apalis

Apalis binotata

In Uganda, largely restricted to Kibale Forest NP, where we found several in an afternoon in the higher altitude, northern part of the park.

Black-faced (Mountain Masked) Apalis*

Apalis personata

Another Albertine Rift endemic restricted to the south-western corner of the country, we found good numbers around Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

This widespread, woodland apalis is relatively scarce in Uganda, with our only sightings being three birds in Lake Mburo NP.

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

Buff-throated Apalis

Apalis rufogularis

A relatively common resident of the canopy of lower altitude forest in Uganda, with sightings from the Royal Mile and Busingiro in Budongo Forest.

Chestnut-throated Apalis

Apalis porphyrolaema

The commonest apalis in montane forest, with its “ringing telephone” call frequently heard, we obtained superb views of a four at close quarters at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: The more southerly form (occurring in Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi) is sometimes split off as Chapin’s Apalis A. chapini.

Gray Apalis

Apalis cinerea

This species was seen at Busingiro, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Gray-capped Warbler

Eminia lepida

This attractive, yet skulking bird was heard on many occasions, but we obtained excellent views in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in moist wooded habitat throughout Uganda, with our first sighting at Mabira Forest.

NOTE: Most authorities now recognise the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms C. brevicaudata. We encountered the grey-backed form in Uganda. Clements still lumps these two groups.

Olive-green Camaroptera

Camaroptera chloronota

Another skulking camaroptera, it's piercing calls were heard at all lower altitude forest sites, with a confiding individual seen along the Royal Mile.

Old World Warblers

White-winged Scrub-Warbler

Bradypterus carpalis

This highly localized and beautiful swamp-dwelling warbler was heard at many papyrus swamps.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler

Bathmocercus rufus

The "reversing truck" call of this beautiful warbler was commonly heard at lower altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, one seen near Buhoma. Others heard in Kibale Forest NP.

Moustached Grass-Warbler (African Moustached-Warbler) *Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was encountered several times during the tour with great views of a singing bird near Budongo Forest.

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

This Palaearctic migrant was seen briefly at Jinja and then very well at Lake Mburo during our boat cruise.

Greater Swamp-Warbler

Acrocephalus rufescens

A single was seen in rank vegetation en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Hippolais pallida

One was seen very well in Lake Mburo NP.

African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler

Chloropeta natalensis

This species was seen very well in scrubby vegetation near Budongo Forest.

Mountain Yellow Warbler

Chloropeta similis

This beautiful songster was seen in the montane forest around Ruhizha.

Buff-bellied Warbler

Phyllolais pulchella

This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was observed only once in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Grauer's Warbler*

Graueria vittata

This unusual, barred warbler (with a Scaly-throated Honeyguide-like call), was heard at Ruhizha.

Green-backed Eremomela

Eremomela canescens

This attractive warbler was seen very well in Murchison Falls NP where we found a small group of three birds.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into the West African E. pusilla (Senegal Eremomela.) The enlarged species is called Green-backed Eremomela.

Greencap Eremomela

Eremomela scotops

A very rare bird in Uganda, which is restricted to the southern savannas of the Lake Mburo area. We were very fortunate to find a pair in Lake Mburo NP.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela

Eremomela badiceps

Local in Uganda, we found this attractive bird on the Royal Mile and Busingiro, Budongo Forest in small numbers.

Green Crombec

Sylvietta virens

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We heard the species almost daily at many forest sites, though it was seen only once, at Bigodi Swamp.

Lemon-bellied Crombec

Sylvietta leucophrys

We were fortunate to observe a single bird at Busingiro, Budongo Forest, a very scarce bird in Uganda.

Northern Crombec

Sylvietta brachyura

This dry *Acacia* woodland species was seen once on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-faced Crombec

Sylvietta whytii

An uncommon woodland species, which we observed twice in Lake Mburo NP.

Yellow Longbill

Macrosphenus flavicans

This skulking species was seen well at Kaniyo Pabidi.

Gray Longbill

Macrosphenus concolor

Another secretive species which was heard at Mabira Forest and Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

Green Hylia

Hylia prasina

Its "HEE-lia!" call was one of the common background sounds at all the lower altitude forest sites on the tour.

Red-faced Woodland-Warbler*

Phylloscopus laetus

Another Albertine Rift endemic, which we had good views of at Buhoma.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

This tiny Palaearctic migrant was regularly encountered in small numbers, throughout Uganda.

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

We found one on the Royal Mile and another two at Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

This attractive Palaearctic migrant was observed near Ruhizha where we had two individuals visiting fruiting trees.

Old World Flycatchers

Silverbird

Empidonax semipartitus

This beautiful flycatcher with chestnut underparts, was seen exceptionally well within Murchison Falls NP, where it was common on the North bank of the Nile.

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher

Melaenornis fischeri

Birds of the race *toruensis*, which lacks a white eye-ring, were common in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, with several seen daily.

Southern Black-Flycatcher

Melaenornis pammelaina

A pair of this scarce bird in Uganda seen well near our camp in Lake Mburo NP.

Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher

Melaenornis edolioides

First recorded on the drive to Masindi with further sightings throughout the tour.

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher *

Melaenornis ardesiacus

A single bird was seen at Buhoma. A scarce Albertine Rift endemic.

African (Fraser's) Forest-Flycatcher

Fraseria ocreata

A large, fairly noisy flycatcher which was seen very well at Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

Sooty Flycatcher

Muscicapa infuscata

A swallow-like bird often seen perched in groups on dead snags high above the forest canopy, with our first records from Mabira Forest and several further encounters throughout the trip.

Swamp Flycatcher

Muscicapa aquatica

A common denizen of swamp edges throughout southern Uganda, especially tame individuals hawked near our lunch tables at Mweya.

Chapin's Flycatcher*

Muscicapa lendu

This rare bird was seen several times at Buhoma.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

A common forest-edge species regularly encountered at Buhoma.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher

Muscicapa comitata

A quiet, inconspicuous bird that we first found at Bigodi Swamp, with further sightings at several locations in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Cassin's (Gray) Flycatcher

Muscicapa cassini

A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it, we found individuals along the river in Kibale Forest NP and another in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP.

Ashy Flycatcher

Muscicapa caerulescens

This widespread woodland denizen was seen in Budongo Forest.

Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus griseigularis

This active species, which replaces the next in the forest interior, was seen on several occasions including sightings at Mabira Forest, along the Royal Mile and Busingiro, Budongo Forest.

Gray Tit- (Lead-colored) Flycatcher

Myioparus plumbeus

We obtained excellent views of two of this species in Lake Mburo NP.

White-starred Robin

Pogonocichla stellata

We found this beautiful Afro-montane forest robin only at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP where we managed to obtain excellent views of one individual.

Equatorial Akalat

Sheppardia aequatorialis

A fairly common, though somewhat retiring denizen of the forest undergrowth near Buhoma, we had good views of three birds.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossypha (Cossyphicula) roberti*
This akalat-like bird with a robin-chat-like voice was seen once at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Archer's Robin-Chat *Cossypha archeri*
This species was heard at Ruhizha.

Archer's Robin-Chat (~ Ground-Robin)* *Cossypha archeri*
An Albertine Rift Endemic that occurs at higher altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, with several heard singing along the road above Ruhizha.

White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*
The crescendo calls of this handsome bird were amongst the dominant sounds of the dawn chorus in woodland throughout the trip. We recorded them in good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP, where they hopped around on the lawns of Mweya.

Snowy-crowned (~headed) Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*
This beautiful songster was seen near Masindi.

Spotted Morning-Thrush *Cichladusa guttata*
Another beautiful songster, recorded in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP.

Brown-backed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*
This species was seen very well outside Budongo Forest.

Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*
This widespread African scrub-robin was seen exceptionally well in Lake Mburo NP.
NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would become White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African C. l. zambesiana (the Ugandan form) would remain as Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African C. l. leucoptera would become White-winged Scrub-Robin. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
Good numbers of this Palearctic migrant were recorded in open country throughout the trip, with peak numbers in the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls.

African (Common) Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
This widespread and familiar bird is common only in the higher parts of Uganda, with our first records at Ruhizha.
NOTE: Clements recognizes the split of African S. torquata and Common S. rubicola Stonechats (the latter a Palearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form S. t. albofasciata which may become Ethiopian Stonechat.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Another familiar European species, we recorded them near Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

We had superb views of one female near Masindi, a rare palearctic migrant in Uganda.

Familiar Chat

Cercomela familiaris

We had brief views of one on a rocky hillside en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Sooty Chat

Myrmecocichla nigra

Distinctive and ubiquitous, Sooty Chats were first found at Murchison Falls NP with regular subsequent sightings.

Wattle-eyes

African Shrike-flycatcher

Megabias (Bias) flammulatus

These large, tail-wagging forest flycatchers were seen on several occasions, with our first sighting of one along the Royal Mile.

Black-and-white (Vanga) Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus*

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were first observed at Bigodi Swamp, where we saw both males and females and we had further fantastic views of a pair at Buhoma.

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

By far the most commonly encountered wattle-eye in Uganda, with several in moist woodland and at forest edge throughout.

Chestnut Wattle-eye

Platysteira castanea

These attractive little birds, were first seen at Mabira Forest and later in the trip several at Buhoma.

Ruwenzori Batis*

Batis diops

This attractive species was seen in the vicinity of Ruhizha.

Chinspot Batis

Batis molitor

This widespread African batis was seen at Ruhizha.

Black-headed Batis

Batis minor

Largely replacing Chinspot Batis in the northern savanna of Uganda, we found one at Luwero Swamp.

Ituri Batis

Batis ituriensis

A very rare species mostly restricted to inaccessible areas of the Congo, we were very fortunate to observe a single bird through the scope at Busingiro.

Monarch Flycatchers

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher

Erythrocercus mccallii

A snappy-looking, sprightly flycatcher recorded at its only East African site, Budongo.

African Blue-Flycatcher

Elminia longicauda

Another lively bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail, we recorded it at Mabira Forest and near Kibale Forest.

White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher

Elminia albicauda

The montane equivalent of the above species in Uganda, we recorded it commonly in the Buhoma and Ruhizha areas.

Black-headed (Red-bellied) Paradise-Flycatcher

Terpsiphone rufiventer

First seen well in Mabira Forest with further sightings at Budongo and Kibale Forests.

African Paradise-Flycatcher

Terpsiphone viridis

A handsome bird recorded in good numbers daily in wooded habitats.

NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which include the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Grey-headed Paradise-Flycatcher T. plumbeiceps. The subspecies which we recorded in Uganda T. v. ferreti in the central areas and T. v. kivuensis in the south-west will fall within the northern African Paradise-Flycatcher complex T. viridis if the group were to be split. Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males and we observed an example of this phenomenon in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Babblers

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis albipectus

This forest understorey skulker was heard at Budongo Forest and Buhoma.

Puvel's Illadopsis

Illadopsis puveli

In East Africa, still known only from Kaniyo Pabidi in Budongo, where we were rewarded with good views of two.

Mountain Illadopsis

Illadopsis pyrrhoptera

Commonly heard at all altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, one was seen amazingly well alongside a forest road at Buhoma.

Black-lored Babbler

Turdoides sharpei

We enjoyed great views of two in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes lumped within the White-rumped Babbler T. leucopygius complex which would then include the nominate T. l. leucopygius White-rumped Babbler- an Ethiopian near-endemic, T. l. sharpei Black-lored Babbler of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and neighboring countries and T. l. hartlaubii Hartlaub's Babbler of Namibia, Botswana, Angola, Zambia and neighboring countries.

Brown Babbler

Turdoides plebejus

We had a good sighting of three near Budongo Forest.

Arrow-marked Babbler

Turdoides jardineii

This widespread African woodland babbler was observed at Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs where we had good sightings of several flocks.

Chickadees & Tits

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas*
We had superb views of several daily in Lake Mburo NP.

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus*
We had superb views of two Sebitole with a further sighting of two at Buhoma.

Stripe-breasted Tit* *Melaniparus fasciiventer*
This handsome Albertine Rift endemic was seen well at Ruhizha.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters

Gray-headed Sunbird *Deleornis (Anthreptes) axillaris*
One was seen very well at the Nek, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
NOTE: The species is sometimes lumped with the West African Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird D. fraseri.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*
This inconspicuous, drab sunbird was only seen at Budongo Forest.

Green Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*
A small yet relatively conspicuous sunbird, we found two at Kibale NP. We were afforded some great scope views of this canopy species.
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.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*
The commonest *Anthreptes* sunbird in Uganda, we recorded good numbers almost daily throughout the tour.

Pygmy Sunbird *Hedydipna platura*
We were fortunate to have superb scope views of several males of this scarce nomadic sunbird in Murchison Falls NP.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis*
This attractive species was seen well in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens on our last day.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) cyanolaema*
This large forest sunbird was first seen at Mabira Forest, with further sightings at Sebitole and the Nek, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Western Olive-Sunbird *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*
Its distinctive call was heard daily in all lower altitude forests, with our first sighting in Budongo Forest.
NOTE: The Olive-Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and some other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird C. olivacea and the form which we recorded in Uganda, Western Olive-Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack there-of, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various forms within the complex.

Green-throated Sunbird

Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) rubescens

This uncommonly recorded sunbird, was seen on several occasions at Buhoma.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis

A common bird in Uganda, we recorded it almost daily, with good numbers in open woodland habitats.

Bronze Sunbird

Nectarinia kilimensis

This attractive long-tailed sunbird was first seen in the vicinity of Queen Elizabeth NP, with more sightings coming from the dry scrub land between Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Olive-bellied Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia

A common forest-edge species, which we first observed at Bigodi Swamp and thereafter encountered in small numbers in Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Tiny Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) minulla

This diminutive species was observed on two occasions at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) preussi

The common sunbird of forest edge at Buhoma and Ruhizha, where several were seen daily.

Regal Sunbird*

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) regia

One of the highlights of Ruhizha, with two splendid males seen.

Beautiful Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella

This exquisite sunbird is common only in the drier northern savanna around Murchison Falls NP, where a total of four were recorded.

Mariqua Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) mariquensis

This dry country species was first recorded near Masindi with further sightings at Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. suahelicus which we recorded in Uganda would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Mariqua Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Red-chested Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) erythrocerca

The common, long-tailed sunbird of wetland edges, with our largest number of sightings coming from Queen Elizabeth NP (where males were conspicuous around Mweya Lodge).

Purple-banded Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) bifasciata

Several of these sunbirds were seen near Budongo Forest with further sightings at Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: The form N. e. tsavoensis of Kenya is sometimes split off as Tsavo Purple-banded Sunbird.

Superb Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superba

This large, spectacular sunbird was observed during our time in Budongo Forest, we stunning views of one male at Busingiro.

Variable Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) venusta

The beautiful orange-bellied form of this sunbird, was seen on several occasions in the vicinity of Ruhizha.

NOTE: This complex may be split into 3 full species based on belly colour, although at this stage the details are rather vague.

Copper Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea

We obtained our first sighting at Luwero Swamp with a further sighting en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

White-eyes

African Yellow White-eye

Zosterops senegalensis

The only white-eye in Uganda, and common in wooded habitat throughout the tour.

Old World Orioles

Western Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus brachyrhynchus

This forest interior species was first observed at Mabira Forest with further sightings at Budongo.

African (Eastern) Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus larvatus

Replaces the above species in savanna habitat, but by no means a common bird in Uganda, with a single bird seen near Luwero and a second bird near lake Mburo NP.

Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole

Oriolus percivali

This common denizen of montane forests was recorded once at Ruhizha.

Shrikes

Rufous-tailed (Isabelline) Shrike

Lanius isabellinus

One of these Palearctic migrants was recorded in open savanna north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Gray-backed Fiscal

Lanius excubitoroides

Uganda's commonest fiscal, occupying a variety of moist woodland habitats. First recorded at the roadside on our second morning, and daily at savanna sites during the rest of the trip.

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)

Lanius mackinnoni

The forest-edge fiscal in Uganda, with small numbers seen outside our camp at Buhoma.

Common Fiscal

Lanius collaris

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa, though nevertheless seen daily in savanna habitats, with peak numbers around Mweya in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Woodchat Shrike

Lanius senator

A pair of these dapper Palearctic migrants was seen north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Bushshrikes & Allies

Brubru

Nilaus afer

Another widespread African savanna bird that is relatively uncommon in Uganda, and we saw only one individual in Lake Mburo NP.

NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru N. afer, Black-browed Brubru N. nigritemporalis, Angola Brubru N. affinis and Southern Brubru N. brubru. Only the Northern Brubru occurs in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Northern Puffback

Dryoscopus gambensis

Uganda's common puffback, we recoded two near Masindi.

Pink-footed Puffback

Dryoscopus angolensis

This uncommon forest shrike was seen daily at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Marsh Tchagra

Tchagra minuta

We had fantastic views of a male, of this diminutive tchagra outside Budongo Forest.

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

Black-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra senegala

The most widely distributed tchagra, we saw (and especially heard) small numbers daily in all open areas.

NOTE: Moroccan Tchagra T. s. cucullata of north-west Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Brown-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra australis

This species prefers moister country, than the preceding one, and we obtained good views at several locations with our first views near Kibale Forest.

Lühder's Bushshrike

Laniarius luehderi

This very attractive species, was first observed in the upper section of Kibale Forest, with further sightings in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Tropical Boubou

Laniarius aethiopicus

A widespread shrike commonly heard and significantly less often seen, we had good views of two near Masindi and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-headed Gonolek

Laniarius erythrogaster

A brilliantly coloured bush-shrike that is delightfully common in savanna parts of Uganda, with our first sightings coming from Luwero Swamp and peak totals from Queen Elizabeth NP.

Papyrus Gonolek

Laniarius mufumbiri

The swamp equivalent of the Black-headed Gonolek (and one of Uganda's papyrus specialties), we had good views of this colourful bird at Bigodi Swamp and later again at a roadside papyrus swamp near the town of Kabale.

Mountain Sooty Boubou

Laniarius poensis

We heard this species on several occasions in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into Fuelleborn's Black Boubou L. fuelleborni.

Gray-green (Bocage's) Bushshrike

Telophorus bocagei

This elegant shrike (which is neither gray nor green nor any combination thereof) was seen very well at Bigodi Swamp and once more at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike

Telophorus sulfureopectus

A widespread African savanna species that was heard on several occasions. We obtained excellent views of one near Luwero Swamp with other sightings in Lake Mburo NP.

Doherty's Bushshrike

Telophorus dohertyi

Excellent views of this stunning creature at Ruhizha, was one of the highlights of Bwindi.

Drongos

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

A familiar, ubiquitous bird, which was first seen *en route* to Masindi on our second day and thereafter regularly recorded in open savanna habitats.

Velvet-mantled Drongo

Dicrurus modestus

This recently split forest equivalent of the Fork-tailed Drongo, was only seen once in Mabira Forest where some of the group had outstanding scope views.

NOTE: Older versions of Clements lump this species within Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis but the split has been recognized in recent Clements updates.

Crows, Jays & Magpies

Piapiac

Ptilostomus afer

This bizarre corvid was first observed near our hotel in Jinja and thereafter seen commonly in Murchison Falls NP.

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers on our first day and on all the road trips thereafter.

White-necked Raven

Corvus albicollis

Restricted to mountainous areas in southern Uganda, we obtained superb sightings of one at Ruhizha.

Starlings

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Small numbers were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis chloropterus

Common only in the drier northern savanna, where we recorded our first flocks near Masindi, with others being seen within Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: This species complex is widely treated as two distinct species, the nominate group which we recorded in Uganda, remains as Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling and the southern broad-leafed woodland form becomes Southern Blue-eared or Miombo Glossy-Starling L. elisabeth. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Splendid Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis splendidus

This spectacular, large starling is wonderfully common in moist woodlands throughout southern and central Uganda. We had excellent views of our first birds at Jinja with peak numbers at Kabale.

Purple Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis purpureus

We had excellent views of this unusually proportioned starling, in dry country, near Masindi.

Rueppell's (Long-tailed) Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis purpuropterus

This ubiquitous bird is Uganda's commonest starling and its loud calls were a regular component of the dawn choruses we heard throughout the trip. Good numbers were observed on all drive days.

Purple-headed Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis (Hylopsar) purpureiceps

This beautiful forest starling was observed once in Kibale NP.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured/Amethyst) Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

This exquisite bird was seen very well in Lake Mburo NP where we found some large flocks.

Slender-billed Starling

Onychognathus tenuirostris

This large starling is infrequently recorded in Uganda and we observed one near Ruhizha.

Chestnut-winged Starling

Onychognathus fulgidus

We had great views of two at Busingiro.

Narrow-tailed Starling

Poeoptera lugubris

We saw a flock of this diminutive long-tailed starling at Buhoma, Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Stuhlmann's Starling

Poeoptera stuhlmanni

Less common than the preceding species, it was observed in small numbers at Buhoma.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus africanus

This "specially modified" starling was found on ungulate herds in Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Old World Sparrows

Shelley's Rufous Sparrow

Passer motitensis

We recorded five of this uncommon species north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

(Northern) Gray-headed Sparrow

Passer griseus

Uganda's commonest sparrow is plentiful throughout and was recorded on an almost daily basis.

NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the central and southern Ugandan form being retaining in the nominate grouping with the same nomenclature.

Weavers & Allies

Speckle-fronted Weaver

Sporopipes frontalis

Common only north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, where we found up to ten individuals.

- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*
We found two birds and several nests on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.
- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*
This relatively uncommon species was observed in small numbers in the dry savannas of Murchison Falls NP.
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*
A common weaver of moister, open habitats, we found small numbers daily in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
NOTE: This polytypic species complex has been considered for multi-species splitting. Two distinct forms occur in Uganda, the widespread P. b. stuhlmanni (Stuhlmann's Weaver) and in the north, P. b. emini (Emin's Weaver). We only recorded the former during our tour.
- Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*
This tiny species was very common in Queen Elizabeth NP, where tame individuals fed off our breakfast table. It was also recorded on our first and last day at Entebbe.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*
We observed this dry country species once in Murchison Falls NP.
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*
An uncommon species in Uganda, we first observed this species in Ishasha, Queen Elizabeth NP with further sightings in Lake Mburo NP.
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*
A common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge. Our first sighting was of one near Budongo Forest with scattered sightings elsewhere on the trip.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*
A snappy-looking weaver of forest edge that we recorded in good numbers at all lower altitude forest sites.
- Black-billed Weaver** *Ploceus melanogaster*
Another dapper bird of forest fringes, which we recorded in good numbers during our stay at Buhoma.
- Strange Weaver*** *Ploceus alienus*
This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was observed once at Ruhizha.
- Holub's (Large) Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*
A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, we found several in the vicinity of Buhoma.
- Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius*
A beautiful bird largely restricted to the wetlands of the Lake Victoria basin, we had superb views of one bathing in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver

Ploceus castanops

Another swamp associated species, which we observed on the Nile boat cruise and again on our last day at the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Village Weaver

Ploceus cucullatus

One of Uganda's most conspicuous birds, with large colonies found in many towns. First seen near Entebbe.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is also 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 Clements.

Viillot's (Black) Weaver

Ploceus nigerrimus

Rivals the above for title of commonest Ugandan weaver with daily sightings of large colonies.

NOTE: The distinctive West African form of this weaver is sometimes split off as Chestnut-and-black Weaver P. castaneofuscus.

Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver

Ploceus melanocephalus

Another common weaver of wetlands throughout Uganda, which we prolifically encountered in Queen Elizabeth NP. Another species that fed off our dining tables at Mweya Lodge!

(Jackson's) Golden-backed Weaver

Ploceus jacksoni

This particularly beautiful weaver was first observed at Jinja with a further sighting of a stunning male at Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Brown-capped Weaver

Ploceus insignis

This handsome forest weaver was observed at Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Compact Weaver

Pachyphantes superciliosus

An uncommon, rank grassland species, which was observed near Budongo Forest and Kaniyo Pabidi. Our final sighting was of one at Bigodi Swamp.

Red-headed Malimbe

Malimbus rubricollis

The only common malimbe in Uganda, with our first sightings of a pair at Budongo Forest and thereafter regularly encountered at most other forest sites.

Red-headed Weaver

Anaplectes rubriceps

A scarce bird in Uganda, we had great views of two in Lake Mburo NP.

Cardinal Quelea

Quelea cardinalis

We found a small flock of five at Bigodi Swamp.

Red-headed Quelea

Quelea erythrops

A flock of eight was seen outside Budongo Forest.

Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea

We found the "African avian locust" in Murchison Falls NP, with peak numbers of one hundred.

Black Bishop

Euplectes gierowii

We found one in scrubby vegetation outside Budongo Forest.

(Southern) Red Bishop

Euplectes orix

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This species was observed in breeding plumage in Queen Elizabeth NP with further sightings en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

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

Observed on several occasions in cultivations in the south-western highlands of Uganda.

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

The most widespread Ugandan widowbird, we observed several in Queen Elizabeth NP and again en route to Lake Mburo NP.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

This species was recorded several times in non-breeding plumage with our best views near Luwero Swamp where we could easily see the yellow shoulder patches.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We found two in non-breeding plumage, which we scoped at Luwero Swamp.

Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

A fairly common bird in Uganda, which we first recorded at Mabira Forest.

Waxbills & Allies

White-breasted Negrofinch *Nigrita fusconota*

The descending song of this negrofinch was heard at all lower altitude forests, with our first sighting coming from Mabira Forest and further sightings in Budongo Forest.

Gray-headed Negrofinch *Nigrita canicapilla*

Even more common than its congener, we found small numbers daily at all forest sites, with our initial sightings coming from Mabira Forest.

Gray-headed Oliveback *Nesocharis capistrata*

This uncommon and elusive but exceptionally beautiful seedeater was seen very well at Murro.

Dusky Crimson-wing* *Cryptospiza jacksoni*

This rarely recorded Albertine rift endemic was seen several times in the highlands of Ruhizha where we had unprecedented scope views.

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri*

This beautiful seedeater of rank vegetation was seen in the cultivations outside Budongo Forest.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

By far Uganda's most regularly recorded firefinch, and often common around rural homesteads, we found it frequently in open habitats with peak numbers of thirty in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*

This large firefinch was seen near Masindi and again at Murro.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

We had good views of two near Budongo Forest.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu

Uraeginthus bengalus

This widespread species was commonly recorded near Masindi and again in Murchison Falls.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill

Estrilda quartinia

This attractive bird of the highlands, was seen very well in the vicinity of Ruhizha.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped in the South African Sweet Waxbill *E. melanotis*.*

Fawn-breasted Waxbill

Estrilda paludicola

This seedeater was first observed near Murro, with further sightings in the rank vegetation in Lake Mburo NP.

*NOTE: The Ethiopian near-endemic *E. p. ochrogaster* is sometimes recognized as a distinct species, Abyssinian Waxbill.*

Crimson-rumped Waxbill

Estrilda rhodopyga

We had fantastic scope views of one at Murro.

Black-rumped Waxbill

Estrilda troglodytes

We had good views of two on the North bank of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

Africa's most widespread waxbill was only seen at Murro where we had good views of two.

Black-crowned Waxbill

Estrilda nonnula

An attractive species, which we found in large numbers at Bigodi Swamp.

Kandt's (Black-headed) Waxbill

Estrilda atricapilla

Restricted to the highlands, we observed two at Ruhizha in Bwindi.

Bronze Mannikin

Lonchura cucullata

Ubiquitous in moist habitats throughout Uganda. Peak numbers of twenty were seen at Bigodi Swamp.

Black-and-white Mannikin

Lonchura bicolor

Although more localized than the preceding species, we had good views of two at Bigodi Swamp.

*NOTE: This complex may be split two-ways, the southern and eastern Brown-backed Mannikin *L. nigriceps* and the northern and western nominate group which would remain as Black-and-white Mannikin. The latter is the form we recorded in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

Magpie Mannikin

Lonchura fringilloides

This extremely rare species was observed outside Budongo Forest where we found a flock of thirty.

Indigobirds

Village Indigobird

Vidua chalybeata

This, the brood parasite of Red-billed Firefinch, was only observed once, we found a male and two females at Kabale.

Pin-tailed Whydah

Vidua macroura

This species, which usually parasites Common Waxbill, was observed in good numbers throughout the tour.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies

Western Citril

Serinus citrinelloides

Widespread but never very common in moist habitat in Uganda (usually where Yellow-fronted Canaries are scarce or absent), with scattered sightings throughout the tour.

NOTE: This complex is treated by some authorities as 3 distinct species, the eastern East African Citril S. hypostictus, the western Western Citril S. frontalis (which is the form occurring in Uganda) and the nominate African/Abyssinian Citril S. citrinelloides. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Papyrus Canary

Serinus koliensis

We enjoyed good scope views of one at a large papyrus swamp en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Black-throated Canary

Serinus atrogularis

A pair was seen at a small rocky outcrop alongside the road en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Yellow-fronted Canary

Serinus mozambicus

This widespread African species was first observed outside Budongo Forest and seen regularly thereafter.

Brimstone (Bully) Canary

Serinus sulphuratus

This large canary was seen in good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Streaky Seed-eater

Serinus striolatus

A common bird of highland forest edges, which we found in good numbers in the vicinity of Buhoma.

Thick-billed Seed-eater

Serinus burtoni

Another canary that is fairly common in and around Bwindi Impenetrable NP, and we had good sightings at Buhoma.

NOTE: The Tanzanian endemic S. b. melanochrous is sometimes split off a Kipengere Seed-eater.

Buntings

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Emberiza tahapisi

We enjoyed good views of four birds at a rocky outcrop en route from Kabale to Lake Mburo NP.

Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

We found two in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Brown-rumped Bunting

Emberiza affinis

This widespread species is remarkably scarce in Uganda (by comparison with savanna further south and east in Africa), with our only sighting being an individual seen exceptionally well in Murchison Falls NP.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

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

Apes

Chimpanzee

Pan troglodytes

The piercing screams of our closest living relative, were heard along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest followed by excellent views of a family group of six at Kaniyo Pabidi. We also enjoyed good trekking at Kibale where we had superb views of eight feeding in a fruiting tree.

(Mountain) Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla

The M group of habituated gorillas was visited by all participants. Despite the trek being fairly long and hard, the experience of sitting with these forest giants for an hour, made it all worth it! Certainly one of the world’s greatest wildlife experiences!

Colobid Monkeys

Central African Red Colobus

Procolobus oustaleti

We found numerous groups of these relatively scruffy-looking monkeys in the higher part of Kibale Forest NP and again at Bigodi Swamp. Like all colobi, they feed primarily on leaves, with this species favoring the newer, more tender foliage.

Guereza Colobus

Colobus guereza

This mature-leaf folivore, arguably the most beautiful of all monkeys, is delightfully common in Uganda and we found healthy populations in all the western forests.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys

Olive (Anubis) Baboon

Papio anubis

This familiar primate occurs widely in Uganda, preferring woodland and forest edge. Large troops were regularly encountered at the roadside in Murchison Falls NP and again in Lake Mburo NP.

Gray-cheeked Mangabey

Lophocebus albigena

This dark, forest-dwelling primate, the males of which sport an unusual cape of hair on their mantles, was found in Mabira Forest and Kibale NP, where we had fantastic views of a family of eight individuals and four individuals, respectively.

Vervet Monkey

Cercopithecus pygerythrus

The savanna monkeys are, with the *Papio* baboons, the most widely distributed primates in Africa, inhabiting woodland and savanna habitats throughout the continent. In Uganda, two (sub)species hybridize broadly across the centre of the country, though individuals north of the Nile appear to be almost pure Tantalus and those around the shores of Lake Victoria pure Vervet.

L'Hoest's Monkey *Cercopithecus lhoesti*

This handsome, mainly terrestrial guenon, is Uganda's rarest monkey, however we were fortunate in obtaining fantastic views at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Blue (Gentle) Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*

This long-tailed monkey was far more frequently heard than seen, although we did obtain superb sightings at Budongo, Kibale, and further encounters at Buhoma.

Red-tailed Monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*

The smallest and most strikingly patterned Ugandan guenon, is also the most commonly encountered, occurring in forests and forest-edge throughout the country.

Flying-Foxes

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*

We found a large roost of several thousand of these bats in Jinja while driving in the evening to our hotel.

Large-Winged Bats

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

This beautiful animal was found on a number of occasions in the thicket savannas of Murchison Falls NP and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Hares & Rabbits

Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis*

Seen once during a night drive in dry habitat in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Uganda Grass-Hare *Poelagus marjorita*

One seen during our drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Squirrels

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

This tiny terrestrial squirrel was seen once in Murchison Falls NP.

Carruthers' Mountain Squirrel *Funisciurus carruthersi*

A fairly nondescript forest squirrel that we saw at Ruhizha.

Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel *Paraxerus alexandri*

A diminutive species, of which we observed two at Budongo Forest.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus rufobrachium

This large squirrel was seen on several occasions at Mabira Forest.

Mongoose

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguinea

We saw one in Murchison Falls NP.

Dwarf Mongoose

Helogale parvula

We observed two during a drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Banded Mongoose

Mungos mungo

These entertaining creatures were first seen in Murchison Falls NP and later commonly observed on the grounds of Mweya Lodge.

Hyaenas

Spotted Hyaena

Crocuta crocuta

We had fantastic views of two lying near their den in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Elephants

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

Elephants were common and conspicuous in the savanna parks of Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls, with numerous close encounters of drinking, bathing and feeding individuals.

Horses

Common (Burchell's) Zebra

Equus burchelli

Another animal restricted to the southern savanna and therefore, in Uganda, to Lake Mburo NP, where we found it common.

Hippopotamuses

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

Uganda is arguably the best place in Africa to see and photograph hippos, with habituated groups lounging around on the banks of the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Pigs

Giant (Forest) Hog

Hylochoerus meinertzhageni

We had a superb sighting of one of these oversized animals in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

Another familiar savanna animal that we found in suitable habitat throughout, with our first sightings in Murchison Falls NP and especially tame individuals around Mweya Lodge in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Giraffes

Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

Several of the well-marked “Rothschild’s” race, were found north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer

This fearsome animal was observed in all the savanna national parks, with our most memorable sightings being large herds in Queen Elizabeth NP. Groups feeding along the Kazinga channel were especially photogenic.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

This elegant and attractively marked, mainly nocturnal antelope, was seen in small numbers in all three savanna reserves that we visited.

Eland

Taurotragus oryx

This, the largest of the world’s antelope species, was observed in good numbers in Lake Mburo NP, where a herd of forty was seen.

Bush (Common/Gray) Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

This widespread African species is rather uncommon in Uganda, and we observed one in Lake Mburo NP.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebi

Large numbers of this elegant antelope were seen on the plains north of the Nile, in Murchison Falls NP.

Uganda Kob

Kobus kob thomasi

A handsome antelope that is ubiquitous in the moist savanna grasslands of western Uganda, being particularly conspicuous in the lekking grounds along the Kasenyi Track in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

In smaller aggregations than its congener, though nevertheless numerous, we found this large antelope first in Murchison Falls NP, with large numbers from the savanna park of Queen Elizabeth.

Impala

Aepyceros melampus

This most familiar of antelope is another southern savanna “special”, with our only records coming from Lake Mburo NP, where it is common.

Topi (Tsessebe)

Damaliscus lunatus

Fairly common in Lake Mburo NP and near the Ishasha River, where we observed good numbers of this unusually proportioned antelope.

Kongoni (Jackson's Hartebeest)

Alcelaphus buselaphus

Replaces the Topi in the drier savanna of Murchison Falls NP, where we found small numbers

daily, north of the Nile.

Annotated List of Reptile Species recorded

Nile Crocodile

We enjoyed good sightings of several in Murchison Falls NP and again on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Nile Monitor

We had good views on the Nile and several on the Kazinga Channel.

Rock Monitor

We found one on the road during a game drive in Queen Elizabeth NP.