

VENT Trip Report

Uganda

21st January – 7th February 2005

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



Mountain Gorilla and Shoebill. Photographs taken by David Shackelford

Top ten birds during the tour (voted by participants):

10. Papyrus Gonolek
9. Shining Blue Kingfisher
8. Verreaux's Eagle-Owl
7. White-crested Turaco
6. Black Bee-eater
5. Regal Sunbird
4. Gray-crowned Crane
3. Saddle-billed Stork
2. Standard-winged Nightjar
1. Shoebill



Mubwindi Swamp and Lion. Photographs taken by David Shackelford

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Participants: Jane Chelius, Dick and Nancy Eales, Jack Hanna, John Olmsted, Paul Rodewald, Anne Shackelford, Ed and Prue Yelinek

“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

By all accounts, our recent tour through the east African country of Uganda was a fantastic experience. From cruising on the Nile River searching through a myriad of wildlife for one of Uganda’s star birds the Shoebill, driving through dusty rural villages with local shepherds tending their herds of bizarre Ankole cattle, spotlighting at night in hopes of encountering nocturnal African predators, and trekking through the rainforests of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park following the steep trails of endangered Mountain Gorillas, it was truly unforgettable. In all, we found almost six hundred species of birds and a wealth of other wildlife in this, one of Africa’s most biologically diverse countries.

We began by heading north through the sprawling capital city of Kampala where Marabou Storks and Hooded Vultures lined the rooftops through a crowd of hustled noises and haze of vehicle exhaust and burning piles of litter. Rumor has it that there were no storks or vultures within the cities until the corrupt and despicable acts of General Idi Amin, former head of Uganda, who slaughtered literally hundreds of thousands of innocent lives during his time in power and turned much of the country to ruin. Luckily the political situation in Uganda has significantly stabilized under the remarkable leadership of Museveni using a clever strategy of benevolent dictatorship. We continued through dry savannah to the town of Masindi where we enjoyed an afternoon birding along a dirt road and airstrip

which hosted a plethora of Palaearctic migrants such as the Eurasian Wryneck, Isabelline Wheatear, and Upcher's Warbler.

The following day we spent exploring the riches of Budongo, a large isolated forest patch with a well known section often referred to as the 'The Royal Mile' where the trees tower above the pathway and the screams of Chimpanzees can be heard echoing through the forest. The morning was alive with song as we optically peeled back layer by layer of vegetation to uncover an impressive selection of Central African bird species, some of which in the cases such as the bold Ituri Batis and diminutive Uganda Woodland Warbler, have geographic distributions that are otherwise virtually restricted to inaccessible taboo regions of the Congo Basin! Kingfishers were particularly obliging and we obtained scope views of four different species including the secretive canopy dwelling Chocolate-backed Kingfisher was found many days later during a return to Budongo after extensive searching. Besides four species of monkey throughout the day, we were extremely pleased to find the first of two great apes possible during our tour. After a relaxing picnic lunch we were delighted to observe a large assemblage of over forty Chimpanzees as they watchfully crossed the path. The sentinel male kept careful watch as we approached closer to the apes gradually crossing one by one and climbing back into the trees. It was remarkable to observe the subtle behavioral details of these primates such as the care the mothers gave to their babies and how the younger individuals would playfully interact.

We then made our way further northwest during a warm morning drive into the less frequently visited Murchison Falls National Park. We ate a picnic lunch overlooking our first views of the Nile River followed by a visit to the mighty Murchison Falls. These legendary falls more than lived up to our expectations, for it is here where the Nile River in its entirety is forced through a ten meter gap crevasse resulting in the most powerful flow of water on the planet! Elegant Rock Pratincoles wheeled in the forceful spray that burst from the crevasse splashing our faces and created a continuous rainbow illusion arcing above the impressive falls. North of the Nile we undertook an open-top safari drive through dryer habitat where we saw our first Rothschild's Giraffes and African Elephants which were being rid of parasites by curious Yellow-billed Oxpeckers and bold Piapiacs, a unique species of slender-tailed corvid. There were several birds unique to this dryer habitat which we were not to see again during our tour including the brilliant turquoise Abyssinian Roller, the tiny Speckle-fronted Weaver building a spherical nest of marsh reeds, and the spectacular Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, a massive terrestrial bird with conspicuously long eye-lashes and bright lavender and crimson skin formations on its face. We drove back towards our opulent lodge after dark searching for nocturnal wildlife, and managed to obtain unbelievable views of a bird called the Standard-winged Nightjar. This extraordinary bird is overall patterned with rufous and brown, but with exceptionally long racquets that hang from the middle of the wing. As the nightjar flies, these standards dance behind the bird in an elegant figure-eight pattern giving a spectacular illusion unrivaled in the natural world.

The following morning we embarked early on our boat cruise on the Nile River in search for the enigmatic Shoebill. There are only an estimated fifty pairs of this impressive rare stork in the whole of Uganda, and otherwise its range is virtually limited to the swampy

Sudd region of south-central Sudan. We passed through flocks of African Skimmers that flew gracefully feeding just above the water surface as dozens of half submerged Hippopotamus grunted complacently in bloats of hierarchical dominance. We had spectacular views of several Elephant herds feeding and bathing at the edge of the Nile near African Crocodiles that basked in the sunlight with their powerful jaws opened wide. At one point we banked the boat and with our armed guard took a hike through acacia woodland where we found such pleasures as the Beautiful Sunbird, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, and Gray-crowned Cranes, truly regal creatures that adorn a golden plume of feathers which glisten in the sunlight like an angel's halo. After almost eight hours of scanning through the papyrus swamps which border the Nile River, we suddenly spotted what we had been searching for, the majestic Shoebill! After turning the boat around, everyone was able to meet the stony-eyed stare of this extraordinary bird. The huge Shoebill is so unique that it is classified in a family of its own within the bird kingdom. It possesses an enormous bill strikingly similar to a Dutch clog, which is specialized for capturing lungfish that dwell along the muddy river bottom.

We continued southwest over the Butiaba Escarpment to the Kibale Forest, where we found our remote luxury tent camp prepared for us. Although a striking contrast from our five-star resort lodge the night before with a waterfall pool overlooking the Nile, our accommodation was far from basic. We had about eight staff members working for us, preparing our meals, boiling hot water for our showers, washing our laundry, cleaning our spacious tents complete with two double beds, restroom facilities, and reclining furniture, and even delivering breakfast to our tents upon our wake-up call request! The forest around us was phenomenal; in fact, Kibale has the largest concentration of primates of anywhere in Africa. We were able to find barrels of noisy Blue Monkeys, Red-tailed Monkeys with brilliant white noses, the social Red Colobus Monkeys, large troops of Guereza Colobus Monkeys, ridiculously hairy Gray-cheeked Mangabeys, and the scarce but beautiful L'Hoest's Monkey, the most terrestrial of the African forest monkeys. Otherwise our explorations through the forest yielded some great understory birding including skulky families such as illadopsis, greenbuls, and ant-thrushes. Venturing out at night through the raucous calls produced by large colonies of Hammer Bats, we were extremely fortunate to have a superb sighting of an exquisitely spotted African Civet, a rarely encountered nocturnal predator found only in the dense tropical forests of central Africa.

We next undertook a long day journey through the rural farmlands and villages of western Uganda. Here we encountered shepherds tending their droves of peculiar Ankole cattle, a unique breed that grows unbelievably massive horns. We continued to our lodging on a ridge overlooking the scenic Kazinga Channel, which connects Lake Edward with Lake Albert on the border of the Congo. Even from the comfort of our lavish rooms we could see multicolored Saddle-billed Storks and African Elephants at the water's edge, and over dinner that evening we could hear the fearsome roar from a pride of nearby lions. The following day we launched a boat to explore the edge of the channel and were able to approach to within meters of obstinacies of African Buffalo, elaborately patterned Nile Monitors, several bull Elephants, and a host of colorful bird species from starlings to falcons. We were also very fortunate at one point to locate a lioness with three tiny cubs

following behind her as well as a close sighting of two Giant Forest Hogs, certainly one of the most grotesque looking animals of the world. Later while riding on the roofs of our safari vehicles through the herds of Ugandan Kob and Defassa Waterbuck, we were very fortunate to spot two exquisite Leopards laying only twenty meters from our position! We were able to watch these majestic creatures at length, taking in every detail of their elegantly spotted fur and delicate behavior before they sleeked away into the impenetrable undergrowth.

The following day we traveled out of the scenic south gate of Queen Elizabeth National Park and onward to Ishasha River on the border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Here we enjoyed a peaceful lunch listening to the grunts of Hippopotamus and watching an assortment of birds working in the Congo forest including the striking Black Bee-eater, a master of aerial acrobatics capturing insects while proudly displaying an intense garnet red throat and shimmering turquoise chest. Certainly this was a tranquil locality, however, we had an appointment in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and our sense of excitement mounted as we approached this unique and priceless reserve. This forest is renowned as the most accessible place in the world to come face to face with Mountain Gorillas. Although it requires an arduous trek, the awe in watching a band of Mountain Gorillas feeding, resting, and interacting is undoubtedly one of the greatest wildlife experiences on earth.

After an almost sleepless night in out luxury tents in anticipation of the next day, we made our way to the ranger station where we were driven to begin our ascension deeper into the mountains, a journey that was to take the better part of four hours one way through truly inspiring rainforest. When we were within one hundred meters of the gorillas we were led by a single representative quietly to the family group of eight individuals including two youngsters, several females, and one huge Silverback that governs the family fraternity. Weighing in at well over four hundred pounds, his dark muscular physique was truly dominating at a distance of only five meters! For a full hour we watched mesmerized as these magnificent creatures carried on normal rituals of their day. At the end of the day we all knew we had experienced something inexplicably precious that will live with us the rest of our lives.

The mountain forest of Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable is also known for its prolific bird life and scenery, and during our time in the national park we enjoyed both to the fullest potential. Brightly colored bush-shrikes and weavers building nests, swifts and raptors dashing by overhead, large mixed flocks of canopy species such as crombecs and sunbirds, and a fantastic collection of skulky tangle specialists all intermingled within verdant tropical forest interrupted only by clear mountain streams. We continued onward to the highest mountain elevations in Uganda at about 7,500 feet above sea level in an area of Bwindi called Ruhizha. The breathtaking views from our accommodation on the top of a mountain ridge overlooked the steep forested valleys of the national park and the lofty Virunga Volcanoes of Rwanda in the distance. This region, regarded geographically as the Albertine Rift, supports a host of endemic birds, which exist only in this small isolated region of the world. Between off-road drives and several hikes through the rainforest we were able to catch up with a number of these spectacular birds such as the secretive Short-

tailed Warbler, the probing Stripe-breasted Tit, and the rarely observed Dusky Crimson-wing. During one particularly long day-hike we walked over a neighboring mountain to the scenic Mubwindi Swamp for which the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is named. Red-tailed Monkeys, Bar-tailed Trogons, and Rwenzori Sun Squirrels actively called around us as we descended the precipitous valley slope to the swamp where we located the reticent Grauer's Scrub-Warbler, perhaps one of the most range-restricted birds in the world. During a night drive following dinner we managed to spotlight an extremely rare prosimian called a Potto, most closely related to the lemurs of Madagascar and lorises of tropical Asia.

From the Rwenzori Mountains we made our way back into the dryer scrub of the east, but this time much further south towards Lake Mburo National Park. Even along our drive into the reserve we had fantastic sightings including uninterrupted scope views of an impressive Giant Eagle-Owl and a brief glimpse of a Leopard as it furtively stalked a young Impala antelope. During a late night drive we were able to locate large gangs of African Buffalo, several reddish-colored antelope with dark curiously curved horns called Topi, and families of Olive Baboon that barked noisily protesting our presence in their territory. We were also pleased with sightings of a pair of Spotted Hyena near our camp before we settled in for the night falling asleep to the sounds of Foam-nest Frogs and an audacious African Scops-Owl. The following day we traveled around the lake perimeter encircled by stalks of papyrus and Hippopotamus lurking in the deeper pools. We managed to find a number of bird specialties including the elusive African Finfoot that we managed to lure in for unparalleled views, several reclusive Rufous-bellied Herons, and the spectacular scarlet and gold Papyrus Gonolek. We were also able to observe Eland, the largest of the world's antelopes mixed in with dozens of well camouflaged Burchell's Zebra in the acacia scrub.

Wrapping up our tour, we continued northeast, crossing the equator where we stopped for the obligatory African curio shopping on our way towards Jinja. Located on the shores of Lake Victoria, the western edge of the city is regarded as the official source of the Nile, the world's longest river. The final morning of the tour, we made our way into Mabira Forest where we were entertained as we watched a troop of over fifty Red-tailed Monkeys and Gray-cheeked Mangabeys fearlessly leap high above our heads through the tree canopy as the lively chorus of dawn filled the crisp air around us. After several hours of productive final birding to catch up with some difficult species we had missed during the tour, we headed back through the hustled capital city of Kampala and returned to Entebbe for our international return flights.



African Elephant and Murchison Falls. Photographs taken by David Shackelford

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 and along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP and again in Lake Mburo National park with an estimated thirty individuals.

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

A common bird in Uganda, regularly nesting at the roadside with high numbers recorded in Entebbe, again on the Kazinga Channel boat cruise, and finally at Lake Mburo NP.

Cormorants & Shags

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

A large roost of an estimated three hundred birds was found on our Kazinga Channel boat cruise, and smaller numbers at the Entebbe Botanical Gardens 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 on the Nile River cruise below Murchison Falls and again on the Kazinga Channel.

Anhinga & Darter

Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

Up to thirty along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and smaller numbers in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

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 ten seen around Mweya and Lake Kikorongo.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Uganda's commonest heron, we recorded it almost daily in small numbers with highest numbers of twenty seen on the Nile River cruise.

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

A spectacular bird recorded in several wetlands including Lake Kikorongo and Queen Elizabeth NP. We recorded up to twenty birds 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 ten 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 three 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 from Murchison Falls NP.

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 and usually confined the wetlands where we recorded four 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.

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

Two seen briefly 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.

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 twenty birds on the Nile boat cruise.

Abdim's Stork

Ciconia abdimii

A large flock of over three hundred individuals was seen in Murchison Falls NP, and closer views were had several times of smaller groups.

Woolly-necked Stork

Ciconia episcopus

A total of ten seen in Murchison Falls.

White Stork

Ciconia Ciconia

An uncommon bird in Uganda, we recorded a dozen individuals on the north side of Murchison Falls NP, and later one bird on the way into Queen Elizabeth NP.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

This magnificent bird was first seen at Queen Elizabeth NP with further sightings in Lake Mburo 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 a single individual: wonderful views of one at the edge of tall papyrus on our Nile boat cruise.

Ibises & Spoonbills

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Small numbers seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth, and again at Lake Mburo.

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 three of these cosmopolitan birds were seen from Murchison Falls NP and from wetlands in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

This distinctive bird was found only in Queen Elizabeth NP, with a total of twelve seen.

Swans, Geese & Ducks

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Five were seen from our boat on the Nile in Murchison falls and we had extended views of this attractive duck.

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Amazingly, this widespread and familiar duck was seen at only one sites along the Nile where we estimated twenty-five birds.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

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

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

Seen our first day in Entebbe, an estimated twenty bird in Murchison Falls, with scattered individual sightings thereafter.

Comb (Knob-billed) Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Ten found on the Nile in Murchison Falls and another four 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.

African Black Duck

Anas sparsa

A scarce species in Uganda, we were able to find two on a night drive in Kibale Forest and another individual the following day.

NOTE: The Old World nominate (the form we recorded in Uganda) is sometimes lumped with the New World Green-winged Teal *A. carolinensis*. Clements does recognize this split.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

Eight birds seen at a small roadside pond *en route* to Lake Mburo NP and another four found inside the park the following day.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

Fifty birds seen at a seasonal pond in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Five birds recorded at a seasonal pond in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Osprey *Pandionidae*

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Three seen along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites *Accipitridae*

Bat Hawk

Macheiramphus alcinus

A single bird scoped at its nest near Buhoma.

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 good 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 a single bird on the Butiaba Escarpment with large numbers on the ground in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Lappet-faced Vulture

Torgos tracheliotus

Several individuals seen flying over at various locations, with our best sighting of two birds, perched atop a tree outside of Lake Mburo NP.

White-headed Vulture

Trigonoceps occipitalis

A single seen flying over while having lunch at the Ishasha River.

Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle

Circaetus beaudouini

This rare raptor was seen perched and in flight in Murchison Falls NP where we were fortunate to locate four 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

Two of these strikingly patterned raptors were observed at Queen Elizabeth 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, where we recorded a total of six individuals at scattered localities throughout the tour.

(Western) Banded Snake-Eagle

Circaetus cinerascens

Two of these uncommon raptors were seen our first day at Luwero Swamp with two more individuals 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 ten individuals in a single day in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Marsh-Harrier

Circus ranivorus

We recorded small numbers of this widespread African harrier at Luwero Swamp and again in Queen Elizabeth 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 nine individuals in the vicinity of Luwero Swamp, Murchison Falls NP, Queen Elizabeth NP, and Lake Mburo NP.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)

Polyboroides typus

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

Lizard Buzzard

Kaupifalco monogrammicus

An attractive raptor that was first seen en-route to Murchison Falls NP, with further sightings at scattered sites around Uganda.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk

Melierax metabates

We obtained excellent views of this long-legged raptor three times in Murchison Falls NP.

Gabar Goshawk

Micronisus gabar

This uncommon raptor was seen once briefly in flight in Murchison Falls NP.

African Goshawk

Accipiter tachiro

This widespread, forest *Accipiter* was seen at point-black range hear the headquarters of Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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, with our best sighting being scope views of a pair near Masindi.

NOTE: We recorded the Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Southern Shikra A. b. polizonoides. 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 once during our day at the forest of Budongo.

Little Sparrowhawk

Accipiter minullus

This uncommon raptor was seen carrying prey in flight and then obscurely perched in the scope *en route* from Murchison Falls NP.

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 almost thirty-five individuals over three days.

Eurasian (Common) Buzzard

Buteo buteo

This Palearctic raptor was seen in small numbers at at Murchison Falls NP and again near Hoima.

Mountain Buzzard

Buteo oreophilus

A total of nine birds were observed in the Ruhizha area over a period of two days.

NOTE: Some authorities including del Hoyo et al in HBW lump the Southern African Forest Buzzard B. trizonatus within this species. Clements recognizes them as two full species.

Augur Buzzard

Buteo augur

A handsome buzzard that is pleasantly common in the mountainous, southwestern corner of Uganda, we recorded a total of thirteen 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 once at the north end of Murchison Falls NP and again in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Steppe Eagle

Aquila nipalensis

This large Palearctic raptor was seen once near a bush fire 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 area. At this site we had both dark and pale morph individuals.

African Hawk-Eagle

Aquila spilogaster

A pair of this widespread African raptor was seen soaring over the forest of Budongo.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle

Hieraaetus ayresii

A single bird was first seen flying over Budongo forest with a pair of this uncommon raptor later being seen at Kibale Forest.

Martial Eagle

Polemaetus bellicosus

This, Africa’s largest eagle, was seen twice flying over the Butiaba Escarpment.

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 and heard in Budongo forest and later we all obtained wonderful flight views of a pair during our hike in Ruhizha.

(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 only seen once, a pair soaring over Budongo forest.

Falcons & Caracaras

Eurasian (Common/Rock) Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

This widespread, familiar raptor was seen once in Murchison Falls and again in 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.

Red-necked Falcon

Falco chicquera

This elegant raptor, which is uncommon in Uganda, was seen once, a close perched bird while walking to the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

African Hobby

Falco cuvierii

This sought after falcon was observed once soaring at Sebitoli with a further two birds being seen *en route* on the return drive to Entebbe the final day of the tour.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

This cosmopolitan raptor was seen once very close on the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP's.

Pheasants & Partridges

Coqui Francolin

Francolinus coqui

This localized species was heard during breakfast from the Mantana Tented Camp in Lake Mburo NP and a pair was seen later that morning from the vehicles.

Ring-necked Francolin

Scleroptila streptophorus

This very rare species in Uganda was unfortunately heard only in the grassland near Hoima.

Crested Francolin

Francolinus sephaena

At least ten individuals of this bantam-like bird were observed in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP and the Butiaba Escarpment.

Scaly Francolin

Pternistes squamatus

This elusive species was heard briefly during our walk on the road surrounded by the Kibale forest.

Heuglin's Francolin

Francolinus icterorhynchus

Several of these localized francolins were seen with many more heard in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-necked Spurfowl

Francolinus 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*

Francolinus nobilis

This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was heard on several occasions during the gorillas trek for both groups and again in the bamboo forest of 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 superb views of two of these fowls on a "Bad Hair Day" crossing the road in Mabira Forest.

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 while walking near the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots

White-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura pulchra

This secretive, forest rail's hooting call was heard in several forests and several birds were seen during a mid-day walk near our camp in Kibale Forest.

Red-chested Flufftail

Sarothrura rufa

A secretive swamp-swelling rail, we were very fortunate to flush an individual from the edge of Mubwindi Swamp.

African Crake

Crecoptis egregia

We obtained good flushed 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.

Purple Swamphen

Porphyrio porphyrio

This usually common rail is strangely scarce in Uganda, with our only sighting being at Lake Mburo NP.

*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognised as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become African Swamphen *P. madagascariensis*. Other forms to be recognised may include Indian Swamphen *P. poliocephalus*, Philippine Swamphen *P. pulverulentus* and Eastern Swamphen *P. melanotus*.*

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Another normally common rail that is scarce in Uganda. A single was seen at Lake Mburo NP.

Finfoot

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

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

Bustards

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

An uncommon bird to see in Uganda, we managed great views of several individuals near Masindi, again in Murchison Falls NP, and again in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Stanley Bustard

Neotis denhami

A rare and nomadic bird in Uganda, we were fortunate to have scope and flight views of one individual north of the Nile River 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 thirty individuals in a single day.

Stilts & Avocets

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

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

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

A total of eighty of these familiar Old World waders were seen on a small seasonal pond in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Thick-knees

Eurasian Thick-knee

Burhinus oedicephalus

A rare and seasonal visitor to Uganda, we managed to spotlight an estimated eight individuals in flight while on a night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Water Thick-knee

Burhinus vermiculatus

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

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

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

Coursers & Pratincoles

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

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

Rock (White-collared) Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

A common denizen of rapids in the Victoria Nile, where at least five 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

Four of these elegant waders were found at Murchison Falls NP and four 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 NP, Murchison Falls NP, and Lake Mburo NP.

Senegal (Lesser Black-winged) Lapwing

Vanellus lugubris

A lapwing of burnt or heavily grazed grassland, we recorded this species in Murchison Falls NP and 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 an open area near Entebbe, Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

This Palearctic migrant was seen at Katwe Lake in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

This scarce Palearctic migrant to Uganda was seen near the Nile River in Murchison Falls NP.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

Good numbers around wetlands in Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-fronted Plover

Charadrius marginatus

A single bird was found along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Sandpipers & Allies

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

This Palearctic migrant was seen in good numbers at Murchison Falls NP, Queen Elizabeth NP, and finally scope views at Lake Mburo NP.

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

Thirty of these attractive migrant waders seen at Katwe Lake and along the Kazinga Channel.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

A single bird was observed in Murchison Falls NP with larger numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP, mostly along the Kazinga Channel

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

First observed in Murchison Falls NP, with much higher counts in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

One bird seen well near Budongo forest where we flushed it from a small marsh.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

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

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

An estimated five hundred birds at Lake Katwe with another few birds along the Kazinga Channel.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

A scarce bird in Uganda, we found a single bird along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

About thirty birds scoped at Lake Katwe with another few birds along the Kazinga Channel.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

About fifty birds scoped at Lake Katwe with another few birds along the Kazinga Channel.

Gulls

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

About one hundred birds seen at Katwe Lake with another few birds 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 seen at Katwe Lake.

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

Gray-headed Gull

Larus cirrocephalus

About forty individuals seen on the Kazinga Channel.

(Common) Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

A single bird in basic plumage along the Kazinga Channel

Terns

Gull-billed Tern

Sterna nilotica

Ten birds along the Nile River with a further one hundred estimated along the Kazinga Channel.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Good numbers along the Nile, in Queen Elizabeth NP, and an estimated three hundred birds on Lake Victoria from the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Skimmers

African Skimmer

Rynchops flavirostris

One of Africa's most elegant birds. We were fortunate to observe a flock of about one hundred and twenty-five birds daily on the Nile River as well as a flock of about one hundred birds on the Kazinga Channel.

Doves & Pigeons

Rock Pigeon

Columba livia

Common in Kampala.

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea

A pair observed *en route* to Lake Mburo NP, whilst we were stuck in a traffic jam.

Afep Pigeon

Columba uncinata

This plump, forest pigeon was first observed at Kibale Forest, where it was also heard daily.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon

Columba arquatrix

This widespread African forest pigeon only occurs in the higher parts of Bwindi NP, where we saw small numbers daily.

White-naped Pigeon

Columba albinucha

This rare and elusive pigeon was seen amazingly well through the scope at Kibale Forest.

(Western) Bronze-naped Pigeon

Columba iriditorques

A compact, elusive canopy-dweller, far more often heard than seen. Some of the group obtained views of a pair 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 and Queen Elizabeth 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.

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 brief views of this attractive long-tailed dove at the base of the Butiaba Escarpment.

Bruce's Green-Pigeon

Treron waalia

A single bird was seen by some of the group as it flew over our moving vehicles displaying its characteristic yellow belly, which differentiates it from the more common African Green-Pigeon.

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 first *en route* to Queen Elizabeth NP and again briefly in Lake Mburo NP.

(African) Gray Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

A single was observed the first day near Entebbe, another pair was seen flying over the headquarters at Kibale Forest, and finally another pair was seen in flight at Mabira Forest our final morning. 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 outside of Kampala, with further sightings from Queen Elizabeth NP and 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 Kibale Forest and at several sites in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

White-crested Turaco

Tauraco leucolophus

We obtained superb sights of two individuals of this stunningly beautiful bird in the Hoima area. 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 Hoima.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

A bizarre bird with enormous character, we had great views of several in Lake Mburo NP as well as a pair near the Ishasha River.

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

Levaillant's (African Striped) Cuckoo

Oxylophus levaillantii

Several individuals of this long-tailed cuckoo seen in the Ruhizha 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 Budongo Forest.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

The "I'm so saAAD!" call of this bird was heard at several localities throughout Bwindi but was not seen.

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 in Budongo.

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, before we finally managed to obtain brief views of a two individual.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx montanus

Another species far more often heard than seen, however we managed to get flight views of a calling bird at Ruhizha, one of the best sightings of the tour.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

A brood parasite favoring the cup nests of woodland birds, many heard throughout the tour and seen in the vicinity of Murchison Falls 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 scope views in Buhoma.

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 Bwindi and Budongo with best views obtained at Mabira Forest.

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 first observed it near Masindi with two more sightings near Murchison Falls NP.

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.

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 on the night drive and again near our campsite.

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 in Lake Mburo NP, once in the day time and again in the spotlight during our night drive.

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 Kibale and in Bwindi. Fantastic daytime views of a single bird at dawn inside of our camp at Kibale.

Red-chested Owlet

Glaucidium tephronotum

This fierce looking bird was heard only from a distance during our trek to Mubwindi Swamp.

Nightjars & Allies

Montane (Ruwenzori) Nightjar [*]

Caprimulgus ruwenzorii

Some of the group had views of a single bird in the spotlight at Ruhizha.

NOTE: Clements lumps the nominate Rwenzori endemic form of this nightjar with the more widespread Montane or Abyssinian Nightjar, widely regarded as a different species C. poliocephalus. Furthermore, Usambara Nightjar C. guttifer, a Tanzanian endemic, is regarded as a third species within this complex. Clements does not accept these splits, however, they are treated as distinct by Stevenson & Fanshawe.

Swamp (White-tailed/Natal) Nightjar

Caprimulgus natalensis

A single bird was seen very well in Murchison Falls NP, during our night drive.

Slender-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus clarus

We had superb views of a single bird in Murchison Falls NP, during our night drive.

Square-tailed (Mozambique/Gabon) Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

Three birds were seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Standard-winged Nightjar

Macrodipteryx longipennis

One of the world's most bizarre species and certainly one of the highlights of our tour. We obtained superb views of five individuals on our night drive in Murchison Falls, including several

males, with stunning long standards. A male was also seen circling around us near dusk as we drove out of Budongo Forest.

Swifts

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

This forest swift was seen daily over Buhoma.

Mottled Swift *Telacanthura ussheri*

This large swift is uncommon in Uganda. We were fortunate to see three individuals flying with African Black Swifts in Ruhizha.

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

This scarce forest spinetail was observed over the Royal Mile and again at Kibale Forest.

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini*

This unstable-looking species, with exceptionally broad wings and short tail was seen in Budongo Forest and again in Mabira 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 large group of an estimated one hundred and fifty birds were seen swarming in Lake Mburo NP.

Common (Eurasian) Swift *Apus apus*

An estimated ten individuals of this Palearctic migrant were seen flying in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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.

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

Four individuals of this scarce swift were seen outside the border of Ruhizha while enjoying a picnic lunch.

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 near the border of Ruhizha.

Mousebirds

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

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

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

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 and a superb male seen on the Royal Mile.

Bar-tailed Trogon

Apaloderma vittatum

We enjoyed an incredible nine sightings of this beautiful bird at Buhoma between the two gorilla groups and a heard it again on the swamp walk at Ruhizha, all in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Kingfishers

Shining-Blue Kingfisher

Alcedo quadribrachys

We enjoyed superb scope views of this scarce species at a pond in Budongo Forest.

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 Murchison Falls NP.

(African) Dwarf Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) lecontei

Another elusive forest kingfisher which availed to incredible telescope views along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest and further scope views in Mabira Forest the final day of the tour.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

A bird for which we hearing on many occasions along the Royal Mile during our first visit. We were extremely fortunate to obtain great scope views of a single bird upon our return to the 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 twenty individuals in Murchison Falls.

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis

One of the characteristic sounds of moist African savanna, this beautiful bird was first seen near our hotel at Entebbe on our first day 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 and once more in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti

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

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

One sighting of this giant of the kingfisher world, when we observed a pair nesting along the Nile River during our cruise 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 a pair in Kibale Forest and later observed birds on the Ishasha River and 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.

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

The most widespread and familiar of a suite of look-alike bee-eaters in Uganda, we found them first at Luwero Swamp, and later at other sites throughout Uganda.

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

Slightly larger and with a preference for fringes of papyrus beds, we found four individuals in Luwero Swamp with others 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, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters were fairly common 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 and again on the Butiaba escarpment.

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

Small flocks of these migratory birds were seen regularly throughout Uganda, the largest flock being an estimated one hundred individuals at Queen Elizabeth NP. They breed in the Sahelian savanna but winter in the Equatorial forests.

Blue-checked Bee-eater

Merops persicus

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

European Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

This Palearctic migrant bee-eater was seen only at Murchison Falls NP where we observed about thirty birds total.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicus

This stunningly colored bee-eater was only found north of the Nile during our afternoon drive in Murchison Falls NP where we had views of eight single birds.

Rollers

Abyssinian Roller

Coracias abyssinica

This beautiful and elegant long-tailed roller was observed on the north side of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP. This pair was well south of their normal range, in the Sahelian savannas.

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

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 at Kibale Forests and again at the Ishasha River.

Hoopoes

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

A total of three of these unique birds were seen, twice at Murchison Falls and again in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 seen in the savanna near Luwero Swamp and again Lake Mburo NP.

White-headed Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus bollei

This uncommon forest bird was first observed at Kibale Forest with further sightings from Buhoma and Ruhizha. Our first sightings were incredible as we all obtained scope views as the group of birds called and comically swung their tails back and forth in pendulum style.

Forest Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus castaneiceps

This rarely recorded Woodhoopoe was heard in Mabira Forest. A few participants managed views of a single bird flying over the forest.

Black Scimitar-bill (Woodhoopoe)

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

This species was heard in Murchison Falls NP, where it refused to respond to tape playback.

Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

Another widespread and familiar African bird that we encountered once leaving 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 north of Luwero Swamp 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 three of these spectacular and unique birds were seen in Murchison Falls NP on the north side of the Nile.

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 most forest habitats thereafter.

Speckled Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus scolopaceus

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

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 Budongo Forest 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 almost daily.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus

A savanna species seen on several occasions in Murchison Falls NP and the Butiaba Escarpment.

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 in Buhoma.

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 Murchison Falls National Park our first day and once again *en route* to the Ishasha River.

Red-faced Barbet

Lybius rubrifaciens

A very scarce and localised bird, we were extremely fortunate to see a pair early in the morning while departing our campsite at lake Mburo NP.

Black-billed Barbet

Lybius guifsobalito

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

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

A spectacular barbet that is widespread in moist savanna, overgrown cultivation and gardens in Uganda. This was one of the first birds we saw on the tour near Luwero Swamp, when we had scope views of a single bird.

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 pair at Mubwindi Swamp and again in Mabira Forest.

Honeyguides

Greater Honeyguide

Indicator indicator

This, the only guiding honeyguide, was seen three times, once in Murchison Falls, again in Queen Elizabeth NP and finally in the thorn scrub near Lake Mburo.

Thick-billed Honeyguide

Indicator conirostris

The forest equivalent of the Lesser Honeyguide, we saw three individuals of this species near the swamp at Ruhizha.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped in Lesser Honeyguide I. minor.

Willcocks's Honeyguide

Indicator willcocksii

We obtained sightings of these elusive and rarely seen honeyguides in Kibale Forest again in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

(Western) Least Honeyguide

Indicator exilis

We had extended views of this species foraging along a huge orchid covered limb in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Dwarf Honeyguide*

Indicator pumilio

This scarce Albertine Rift endemic was seen remarkably well in Ruhizha.

Cassin's Honeyguide (Honeybird)

Prodotiscus insignis

We had excellent views of two individuals, of this elusive species, at Kibale Forest.

Woodpeckers & Allies

Eurasian Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

We were very fortunate to see one individual of this very scarce Palearctic migrant near the airstrip at Masindi.

Nubian Woodpecker

Campethera nubica

This attractive savanna species was observed at Luwero Swamp, again in Murchison Falls, and finally at Queen Elizabeth NP.

Tullberg's Woodpecker

Campethera tullbergi

A beautiful forest woodpecker seen at Buhoma in Bwindi NP by some of the group.

NOTE: The Ugandan form is split by some authorities and called Fine-banded Woodpecker, C. taeniolaema.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker

Campethera nivosa

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

Brown-eared Woodpecker

Campethera caroli

Another beautiful forest-dwelling woodpecker, of which some of the group had brief views of a single bird flying over the forest in Mabira.

Cardinal Woodpecker

Dendropicos fuscescens

This widespread African woodpecker was observed on three occasions. The barred-backed savanna form was seen at Hoima, and the green-backed forest form was seen at Kibale and Ruhizha.

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

This large forest woodpecker (with the almost invisible yellow crest!) was seen on both days in the Budongo Forest and we obtained excellent scope views at Kibale Forest.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

This fine woodpecker was first observed in Buhoma with a mixed flock, with further sighting at 'the neck' between Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Our first observation was en-route to Masindi, where we had excellent views of a single individual. We had further sightings of singles in Murchison Falls, the Butiaba escarpment, and Lake Mburo NP.

Broadbills

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*

Both groups managed to obtain great views of this species at Buhoma, while it was performing its strange and noisy circular display flight.

Larks

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 sightings in Murchison Falls NP and others in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

We had brief views of a single individual in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 NP, where up to three thousands were estimated in a single day.

Plain (Brown-throated) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

This species was seen near Mweya Lodge in Queen Elizabeth NP one day where we estimated five hundred birds.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

This uncommon species in Uganda was seen once while driving through the savannah of Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock Martin *Hirundo fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen one day in the vicinity of Ruhizha where we counted five birds.

*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 very common hirundine in Uganda, we found several on our first day on the ledges at Lake Victoria Hotel. Many were seen on most days thereafter.

Wire-tailed Swallow

Hirundo smithii

Conspicuous along the Nile in Murchison Falls NP, with as many as twenty seen. Again observed along the Kazinga Channel.

*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 in Murchison Falls NP as three birds flew behind our vehicle and landed within view.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

An uncommon species in Uganda, which we observed 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, which we observed outside the borders of Ruhizha during our lunch picnic.

White-headed Sawwing

Psalidoprocne albiceps

This elegant bird was first seen foraging over the road our first day near Luwero Swamp, with 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 thirty 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 the Bwindi headquarters in Buhoma

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

We found six individuals of this Palearctic migrant along the shore of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Vast numbers of these Palearctic migrants were found in open country throughout Uganda, with peak totals of over a thousand birds daily in the Mweya area. We also observed the *feldeggi* black-headed race, considered by some authorities to be a separate species.

Gray Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Very brief views were had of a pair flying away from us in Kibale Forest.

Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail

Motacilla clara

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

Yellow-throated Longclaw

Macronyx croceus

This meadowlark-like bird is a common denizen of open habitat in Uganda, with small numbers recorded throughout the tour, and peak numbers of ten individuals daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

We obtained excellent views several birds throughout the tour, always in small numbers. Our first views was an individual *en route* to Masindi our first day..

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

Small numbers encountered daily in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 know about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Good numbers of this Palaearctic migrants were observed on the Butiaba Escarpment and again near Hoima.

Red-throated Pipit

Anthus cervinus

Eight of these attractive Palaearctic migrants were seen along the edge of a small seasonal pond in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Cuckoo-shrikes

White-breasted Cuckooshrike

Coracina pectoralis

A single bird was seen very well our first *en route* to Masindi, a scarce bird in Uganda.

Gray Cuckooshrike

Coracina caesia

A total of eleven 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 at Kibale Forest and at all sites in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike

Coracina phoenicea

We were fortunate to have scope views of a single bird near the ferry to cross the Nile River in Murchison Falls National Park.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike

Coracina quiscalina

Three individuals (both male and female) 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 forty 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.

Shelley's Greenbul

Andropadus masukuensis

Several of these attractive birds, which regularly forage in the manner of nuthatches, were encountered, all at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

NOTE: The form encountered in Uganda is often treated as a distinct species, Kakamega Greenbul A. kakamegae.

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 at all other subsequent forest sites.

(Little) Gray Greenbul

Andropadus gracilis

Several sightings of this confusing greenbul both at Kibale and again in Bwindi NP.

Ansorge's Greenbul

Andropadus ansorgei

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

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

This inconspicuous greenbul was seen once at Kibale Forest with further sightings at Mabira.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*

A common greenbul of forest canopy, we saw them first at Budongo Forest, with small numbers at all other forest sites on the trip.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris*

A common greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had superb sightings at Ruhizha and small numbers at all other forested sites.

Eastern Mountain-Greenbul *Andropadus nigriceps*

A conspicuous and attractive bird of highland forests that we found in good numbers in the upper sections of Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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 and Kibale Forests.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

This species, which is restricted to Budongo Forest, was seen briefly along the Royal Mile.

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

A species that was heard throughout the trip, we had views of individuals throughout the tour at various sights. First observed near Kaniyo Pabidi.

Joyful Greenbul *Chlorocichla laetissima*

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

Cabanis' Greenbul *Chlorocichla cabanisi*

This uncommon understory skulker was seen only in Buhoma where we recorded a pair.

NOTE: The eastern form of this species complex is sometimes considered distinct as Placid Greenbul P. placidus.

Toro Olive-Greenbul *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

Another confusing greenbul that usually makes matters worse by remaining in thick cover, we had a sighting in Bwindi with one more brief sighting in Mabira Forest.

NOTE: Baumann's Greenbul P. baumanni of West Africa is sometimes lumped into this species.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

We first observed this wing-flicking species at Buhoma and a further four were observed at Ruhizha, where they are commoner.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

Another uncommon, skulking greenbul, of which we found a single bird along the Royal Mile with subsequent sightings in Kibale Forest.

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 our final day.

Yellow-spotted (Western) Nicator *Nicator chloris*

An aberrant hook-billed greenbul that was observed exceptionally well along the roadside in Kibale Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

One of the most handsome of all greenbuls and a relatively common forest bird throughout Uganda, we saw a 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 the first of six sightings on the Royal Mile.

Red-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*

This elusive species was seen very briefly and afterwards heard along the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest.

White-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*

This often secretive species was observed several times in Kibale Forest, we even had an individual visit our camp after our breakfast.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

In Uganda, restricted to higher altitudes, with our only records coming from Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP where we had superb views of several birds.

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*

One of the most handsome Albertine Rift endemics, we found and heard several of these beautiful forest thrushes along the track at Buhoma, where we enjoyed good but brief views.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*

This ant-following species was well but briefly along the Royal Mile with another brief sighting 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.

Singing Cisticola

Cisticola cantans

This species was seen well in Murchison Falls where we found a single individual.

Whistling Cisticola

Cisticola lateralis

We heard this species only once near the entrance to Murchison Falls.

Trilling Cisticola

Cisticola woosnami

The strange, quavering call of this woodland cisticola was 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 saw a single bird near 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 near 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 in lake Mburo NP.

Stout Cisticola

Cisticola robustus

Similar to but considerably less commonly encountered than the following species, we found only a single individual in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Croaking (Striped) Cisticola

Cisticola natalensis

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

Tabora (Long-tailed) Cisticola

Cisticola angusticaudus

This colourful cisticola has only recently been discovered in Uganda and we found a group of two individuals 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.

Siffling (Short-winged) Cisticola

Cisticola brachypterus

A small, nondescript warbler of open, bushy areas, which we observed in Murchison Falls and again in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Foxy Cisticola

Cisticola troglodytes

This handsome bird of dry *Acacia* savanna was seen only briefly on the Butiaba Escarpment.

Black-necked (-backed) Cisticola

Cisticola eximius

In Uganda, restricted to dry grassland north of the Nile, where it is fairly common. We saw two birds near the Pakuba Airstrip.

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, seen throughout the tour, with our first sightings near Masindi 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 sightings daily.

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 near the Murchison Falls.

Red-winged Gray Warbler

Drymocichla incana

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

Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis*

Apalis ruwenzorii

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found only in the montane forest around Ruhizha where we commonly heard but observed it only once.

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.

Black-throated Apalis

Apalis jacksoni

One of the commonest forest and forest edge apalises in Uganda, we saw this beautiful bird daily in 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 two 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 in first from the Royal Mile in Budongo Forest and most forest sites thereafter.

Chestnut-throated Apalis

Apalis porphyrolaema

The commonest apalis in montane forest, with its “ringing telephone” call frequently heard, we obtained superb views of a pair 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 first seen at Bwindi Impenetrable NP where we obtained daily sightings.

Gray-capped Warbler

Eminia lepida

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

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 in near Masindi.

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.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera

Camaroptera superciliaris

This handsome warbler was heard only at Mabira Forest the final day of our tour.

Olive-green Camaroptera

Camaroptera chloronota

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

Old World Warblers

White-winged Scrub-Warbler

Bradypterus carpalis

This highly localized and beautiful forest-dwelling warbler heard at many papyrus swamps and seen very well near Hoima.

Grauer's Scrub- (Rush-) Warbler*

Bradypterus graueri

Two individuals of this localised species, which is restricted to a handful of marshes in the Albertine Rift, were seen in Mubwindi Swamp in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler

Bradypterus cinnamomeus

We battled to see this undergrowth-dwelling warbler, and a pair was finally seen and many others heard, in the Ruhizha area.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler

Bathmocercus rufus

The “reversing truck” call of this beautiful warbler was commonly heard at lower altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, several 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 Hoima.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

This Palearctic migrant was seen during a boat drive on the Kazinga Channel.

Eurasian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

This migrant warbler was observed in the tangled vegetation outside of Budongo Forest.

African Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

A single bird was seen outside of Kibale Forest in a wetland patch.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*

A single was seen in rank vegetation from our boat trip along the Kazinga Channel.

African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta natalensis*

This species was seen during our drive to Ruhizha in the mountain fields.

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Chloropeta similis*

This beautiful songster was found in the montane forest around Ruhizha, with three birds seen.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was observed our first day near Luwero Swamp and again in the vicinity of Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Grauer's Warbler* *Graueria vittata*

This unusual, barred warbler (with a Scaly-throated Honeyguide-like call), was seen exceptionally well at Ruhizha skulking through the tangled vines.

Green-backed Eremomela *Eremomela canescens*

This attractive warbler was seen very well along the Butiaba Escarpment with a total of eight individuals.

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

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*

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

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys*

We were fortunate to observe a single bird along the Royal mile, a very scarce bird in Uganda.

White-browed Crombec

Sylvietta leucophrys

We found this attractive crombec only in Bwindi Impenetrable NP where we encountered it daily.

Northern Crombec

Sylvietta brachyura

This dry *Acacia* woodland species was once along the Butiaba Escarpment.

Red-faced Crombec

Sylvietta whytii

An uncommon woodland species, which we observed outside of Murchison Falls NP.

Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler*

Hemitesia neumanni

This elusive Albertine rift endemic literally ran circles around us in the undergrowth at Buhoma. After much battery use, we had all obtained glimpses of the bird, only some for longer periods.

Yellow Longbill

Macrosphenus flavicans

This skulking species was seen briefly in Budongo Forest and once again at length in Mabira Forest.

Gray Longbill

Macrosphenus concolor

Another secretive species which we saw well at Mabira 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, with sightings from Kibale and Budongo Forest.

Red-faced Woodland-Warbler*

Phylloscopus laetus

Another Albertine Rift endemic, which we encountered in good numbers in Ruhizha and Buhoma.

Uganda Wood-Warbler

Phylloscopus budongoensis

A very scarce bird, we all obtained great views of this secretive canopy-dwelling bird, pleasantly named after the forest in which it was observed.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

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

Upcher's Warbler

Hippolais languida

This scarce Palearctic migrant to Uganda was seen very well below our lodge in Murchison falls NP.

Fan-tailed Grassbird

Schoenicola brevirostris

We obtained excellent views of a single of these uncommon birds, in rank grass, in Queen Elizabeth NP.

NOTE: This African species is sometimes lumped with the Indian S. platyura Broad-tailed Warbler.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

This attractive Palearctic migrant was observed near Ruhizha where we had five individuals visiting fruiting trees.

Old World Flycatchers

Silverbird

Empidonax semipartitus

This beautiful flycatcher with chestnut underparts, was seen exceptionally well within Murchison Falls NP.

Pale Flycatcher

Bradornis pallidus

We saw a pair in Murchison Falls NP.

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 near Mubwindi Swamp. A scarce Albertine Rift endemic.

African (Fraser's) Forest-Flycatcher

Fraseria ocreata

A large, noisy flycatcher that was conspicuous along the Royal Mile in Budongo, with six seen.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Two birds seen in Murchison Falls NP, a common Palearctic migrant.

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 Budongo 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 during our picnic lunch in Kibale Forest, 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 at "The Neck" in Bwindi Impenetrable 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 along the Royal Mile and in the forest of Buhoma.

Gray Tit- (Lead-colored) Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*
We obtained excellent views 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 of four individuals.

Forest Robin *Stiphronis erythrothorax*
This shy species was heard at Mabira.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis*
A fairly common, though somewhat retiring denizen of the forest undergrowth near Buhoma, we had good views of six birds, although each were brief.

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

Gray-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*
This secretive species was seen by several during a mid-day walk near our camp in Kibale. It was later heard that day by all participants.

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.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*
We heard this retiring species only once at the end of the Royal Mile.

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.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis*
We heard this bird in several forest sights throughout the tour and some participants managed views near our cabins in Buhoma.

Snowy-crowned (~headed) Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*
This beautiful songster was first seen at Murchison Falls NP and again in Buhoma near our camp.

Spotted Morning-Thrush *Cichladusa guttata*

Another beautiful songster, recorded in the vicinity of Murchison Falls NP, with our best sightings near our hotel.

Brown-backed Scrub-Robin

Cercotrichas hartlaubi

This species was seen several times during the drive outside of Budongo Forest.

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

This widespread African scrub-robin was seen exceptionally well near Queen Elizabeth 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 in the tea plantations near Fort Portal.

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.

Isabelline Wheatear

Oenanthe isabellinus

An unusual sighting was a single individual was seen on the Butiaba Escarpment.

Sooty Chat

Myrmecocichla nigra

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

Mocking Cliff-Chat

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

A relatively local bird in Uganda, we found two on the Albertine Rift Escarpment near Butiaba.

Wattle-eyes

African Shrike-flycatcher

Megabias (Bias) flammulatus

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

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

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were first observed at Kibale Forest, where we saw both males and females and we had further fantastic views of a pair in cultivated land between Buhoma and Ruhizha and again in Mabira Forest.

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 Budongo Forest and later in the trip several in Mabira Forest.

Jameson's Wattle-eye

Dyaphorophya jamesoni

We were extremely fortunate in obtaining a sighting at Mabira Forest as it was only heard in Budongo Forest.

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

Ruwenzori Batis*

Batis diops

This attractive species was seen in the vicinity of Buhoma and Ruhizha, where a total of twelve individuals were counted. Our first sighting at the beautiful forest stream near Buhoma was particularly memorable.

Chinspot Batis

Batis molitor

This widespread African batis was only observed around Lake Mburo NP.

Black-headed Batis

Batis minor

Largely replacing Chinspot Batis in the northern savanna of Uganda, we found several of this species along the Butiaba Escarpment.

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 along the Royal Mile.

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 only near Kibale Forest where we had a total of five individuals.

White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher

Elminia albicauda

The montane equivalent of the above species in Uganda, we recorded it commonly in the Ruhizha area (with our first sighting at Buhoma).

White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch) *Elminia albiventris*

We saw several near Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch) *Trochocercus nitens*

Another shy forest flycatcher, but with a strange *Glaucidium* owl-like call, of which we heard in Mabira Forest.

Black-headed (Red-bellied) Paradise-Flycatcher

Terpsiphone rufiventer

First seen well in Budongo Forest along the Royal Mile.

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 many lowland forests, with excellent sightings in Kibale Forest.

Puvel's Illadopsis

Illadopsis puveli

In East Africa, still known only from Kaniyo Pabidi in Budongo, where we were rewarded with difficult views of a single bird.

Brown Illadopsis

Illadopsis fulvescens

This understorey babbler was seen only in Kibale Forest, where we observed two individuals.

Mountain Illadopsis

Illadopsis pyrrhoptera

Commonly heard at all altitudes in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, with several birds seen amazingly well alongside a forest road at Buhoma.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis rufipennis

A scarce species, we were fortunate to obtain spectacular views of a pair in Kibale Forest.

African Hill Babbler [*]

Pseudoalcippe abyssinica

Another skulking forest babbler seen only at Bwindi Impenetrable NP, where several were seen above Ruhizha. This form is endemic to the Albertine Rift and is almost certainly specifically distinct from eastern birds.

*NOTE: The Rwenzori form in south-western Uganda, *I. a. atriceps* is usually split off as Rwenzori Hill Babbler and the subspecies occurring in East Africa from Zambia to Eritrea remain with the nominate grouping *I. a. abyssinica* African Hill Babbler. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

Gray-chested Illadopsis

Kakamega poliothorax

We heard a single bird singing alongside the trail near Buhoma.

Black-lored Babbler

Turdoides sharpei

Seen daily 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 sightings of several small family groups in Murchison Falls NP.

Arrow-marked Babbler

Turdoides jardineii

This widespread African woodland babbler was only observed at Queen Elizabeth NP where we had two separate groups.

Chickadees & Tits

[White-shouldered Black Tit]

Melaniparus [leucomelas] guineensis

A pair of these tits was seen near Murchison Falls NP with another individual near Masindi.

NOTE: Most authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The nominate dark-eyed M. l. leucomelas which we recorded in Uganda remains White-winged Black-Tit and the more northern and western yellow-eyed M. l. guineensis becomes White-shouldered Black-Tit. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Dusky Tit

Melaniparus funereus

We had superb views of a group of two of these tits in Budongo Forest with further sighting of a group of four at Buhoma.

Stripe-breasted Tit*

Melaniparus fasciiventer

A handsome Albertine Rift endemic was observed on three consecutive days at Ruhizha.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters

Gray-headed Sunbird

Deleornis (Anthreptes) axillaris

Several birds were seen during the tour in Buhoma and again on our final day in Mabira Forest.

NOTE: The species is sometimes lumped with the West African Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird D. fraseri.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird

Anthreptes longuemarei

Two males and one female of this magnificent sunbird were found near Murchison Falls.

Little Green Sunbird

Anthreptes seimundi

This inconspicuous, drab sunbird was first seen at Budongo Forest, with subsequent sightings at Buhoma.

Green Sunbird

Anthreptes rectirostris

A small yet relatively conspicuous sunbird, we found four at Budongo Forest, a pair at Buhoma, and a final bird in Mabira. 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 views of two individuals of this scarce nomadic sunbird in Murchison Falls NP.

Green-headed Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis

This attractive species was first seen in the Hoima area, with several sightings thereafter throughout the tour.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) cyanoaema

This large forest sunbird was seen at Kibale Forests, Buhoma, and Mabira Forest.

(Ruwenzori ~) Blue-headed Sunbird* *Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) alinae*

Several of these handsome endemics were found in 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 first seen on the grounds of Kibale Foerst, with further sightings 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.

Purple-breasted Sunbird* *Nectarinia purpureiventris*

Another of our avian highlights, we had brief views of one male in the vicinity of Ruhizha. This rarely observed and irruptive Albertine Rift endemic!

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 in Budongo Forest and thereafter encountered in small numbers at most other lowland forest sites.

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) minulla*

This diminutive species was observed on one occasions by part of the group at Buhoma in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) preussi*

The common sunbird of forest edge at Buhoma and Ruhizha, where over forty individuals were recorded in five days.

Regal Sunbird* *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) regia*

One of the highlights of Ruhizha, with over thirty seen, including a number of stunning, co-operative males.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella*

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

Mariqua Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) mariquensis*

This dry country species was only recorded once by part of the group 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 was observed at Luwero Swamp, Murchison Falls NP, and 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 and again in Mabira Forest where we found a female building a nest.

Variable Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) venusta

The beautiful orange-bellied form of this sunbird, was seen on several occasions, with our best sightings from 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 most sightings of this attractive sunbird in several locations throughout the tour, with our first sightings near Luwero Swamp.

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

African Golden Oriole

Oriolus auratus

We had brief views of a single bird near the Ishasha River.

Western Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus brachyrhynchus

This forest interior species was first observed at Budongo and heard and seen in most forest sights thereafter.

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 daily around Ruhizha.

Shrikes

Rufous-tailed (Isabelline) Shrike

Lanius isabellinus

Two of these Palearctic migrants were 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 first 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 seen at the airstrip north of Masindi and again 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 our first day near Masindi and heard several others.

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 recorded several in the highlands of Ruhizha.

Pink-footed Puffback

Dryoscopus angolensis

This uncommon forest shrike was first observed at Kibale, with further sightings at Buhima in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Marsh Tchagra

Tchagra minuta

We had fantastic views of a male, of this diminutive tchagra, in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 Budongo 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 Lwero Swamp and peak totals from the Queen Elizabeth NP and Murchison Falls 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 a papyrus swamp in the Hoima area, and later enjoyed brief views from a roadside papyrus swamp near the town of Kabale.

Mountain Sooty Boubou

Laniarius poensis

We obtained excellent views of two individuals 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 several sites in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike

Telophorus sulfureopectus

A widespread African savanna species that was heard on several occasions. We obtained excellent views of a pair near Luwero Swamp with another sighting in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Many-colored Bushshrike

Telophorus multicolor

Seen briefly by some of the group in Kibale Forest and heard again in Buhoma of Bwindi.

Doherty's Bushshrike

Telophorus dohertyi

Excellent views of this stunning creature, on the drive between Buhoma and Ruhizha, was one of the highlights of Bwindi.

Lagden's Bushshrike

Malaconotus lagdeni

This very rare species was only heard on our walk to Mubwindi Swamp.

Gray-headed Bushshrike

Malaconotus blanchoti

Another elusive species. We heard its hooting calls in the distance on two occasions, and had brief views in Murchison Falls NP.

Helmetshrikes

White Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatus

Two groups of these gregarious shrikes was observed near Masindi and again in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTE: This species is being considered for a 3-way split. P. p. cristatus which we recorded in Uganda would become Curly-crested Helmetshrike, P. p. poliocephalus would become Southern Helmetshrike and the nominate P. p. plumatus would become Straight-crested Helmetshrike. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Drongos

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

A familiar, ubiquitous bird, which was first seen *en route* to Masindi our first 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 Kibale 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 that was first observed on the back of an elephant north of the Nile in Murchison Falls NP and again near our hotel in Jinja.

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 four individuals, as we were descending from Ruhizha.

Starlings

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

This irruptive species was only observed outside of Murchison Falls NP where we found a flock of over fifty individuals.

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 outside of Kampala, with peak numbers near lake Mburo NP.

Purple Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis purpureus

We had excellent views of this unusually proportioned starling, in dry country, near the escarpment in Murchison Falls NP.

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 first observed at Kaniyo Pabidi, with further sightings from Budongo, Kibale and Buhoma Forests.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured/Amethyst) Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This exquisite bird was seen well near Hoima, with our best sightings from Queen Elizabeth NP.

Slender-billed Starling

Onychognathus tenuirostris

This large starling is infrequently recorded in Uganda and we observed several during two days in Buhoma.

Waller's Starling

Onychognathus walleri

This forest-dwelling species was first observed at the upper section of Kibale Forest, with further sightings at several areas in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Narrow-tailed Starling

Poeoptera lugubris

We saw flocks of this diminutive long-tailed starling at the upper section to Kibale Forest and up to twenty daily at all sites in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Stuhlmann's Starling

Poeoptera stuhlmanni

Less common than the preceding species, it was observed at the upper section to Kibale Forest and in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

Sharpe's Starling

Pholia (Cinnyricinclus) sharpii

A localised and elusive bird of montane forests in Uganda, with sightings of which we had excellent scope views, at Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP.

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

Shelly's Rufous Sparrow

Passer motitensis

We recorded two 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 several individuals.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver

Plocepasser superciliosus

This relatively uncommon species was observed at several sites within the dry savannas of Murchison Falls NP.

Baglafaecht Weaver

Ploceus baglafaecht

A common weaver of moister, open habitats and our first sighting was a single bird in Murchison Falls NP with subsequent sightings throughout the tour.

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 several times during the tour with our first sightings *en route* to Masindi our first day.

Spectacled Weaver

Ploceus ocularis

A common weaver of moist woodland and forest edge. We first observed this species at Luwero Swamp with scattered sightings throughout Uganda.

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 four consecutive days at Buhoma.

Strange Weaver*

Ploceus alienus

This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was observed once near our camp in Ruhizha and again at the Mubwindi Swamp.

Holub's (Large) Golden-Weaver

Ploceus xanthops

A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, we found a 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 nest-building males in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver

Ploceus castanops

Another swamp associated species, which we observed on our last day at the Lake Victoria Hotel.

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.*

Vieillot'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*.*

Weyn's Weaver

Ploceus weynsi

This irruptive species, which can be very difficult to find, was observed very briefly where we had a pair fly over in Mabira Forest.

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 observed at lake Mburo NP and again on the last day at Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver

Ploceus bicolor

This scarce bird in Uganda was observed in the upper sections of Kibale Forest where we found a cooperative pair very close to the main road.

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 only once with two individuals in Queen Elizabeth NP.

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 a male near Masindi with several individuals sighted later during the tour at other dry forest locations.

Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea

We first found the "African avian locust" in Murchison Falls NP, with peak numbers of five hundred in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-winged (Red) Bishop

Euplectes hordeaceus

This common species was observed in Murchison Falls NP, where they were identified in their non-breeding plumage by their distinctive black wings.

(Southern) Red Bishop

Euplectes orix

This species was observed in breeding plumage in Queen Elizabeth 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, which we observed at Luwero Swamp and around the shores of Lake Mburo.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

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

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

This species was found in the rank grasses of Queen Elizabeth NP

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

We found a fantastic breeding plumage male in the grasslands below Ruhizha.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We found a single non-breeding plumage individual, which we scoped at Luwero Swamp.

Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

A common bird in Uganda, which we first recorded at Murchison Falls NP and thereafter regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Uganda.

Waxbills & Allies

Woodhouse's Antpecker *Parmoptila woodhousei*

A very scarce bird throughout its limited range in Uganda, some of the group was fortunate to see an individual foraging in a mixed flock from the trails of Buhoma.

White-breasted Negrofinch *Nigrita fusconota*

The descending song of this negrofinch was heard at all lower altitude forests, with our first of many sightings coming from 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 Kibale Forest.

Gray-headed Oliveback *Nesocharis capistrata*

This uncommon and elusive but exceptionally beautiful seedeater was only briefly observed by some of the group outside of Budongo Forest.

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*

This scarce species was observed by some of the group from the vehicles in Murchison Falls NP.

Green-backed Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*

A single male was observed by some of the group foraging in the undergrowth of Mabira Forest.

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. .

Red-headed Bluebill

Spermophaga ruficapilla

Another elusive seedeater, which some of the group had sightings near our camp in Buhoma.

Brown Twinspot

Clytospiza monteiri

This beautiful seedeater of rank vegetation was seen in the cultivations near Masindi, again in Hoima, and finally outside of Queen Elizabeth NP.

Dusky Twinspot

Euschistospiza cinereovinacea

We were very fortunate in obtaining views of a pair of these elusive seedeaters at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Bar-breasted Firefinch

Lagonosticta rufopicta

We were fortunate to have sightings of this elusive species along the Butiaba Escarpment.

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.

Black-bellied Firefinch

Lagonosticta rara

This large firefinch was seen near Hoima where we had six individuals.

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 Buhoma, with further sightings near 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 in Murchison Falls NP, with further sightings in the rank vegetation near Kibale Forest.

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

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

Africa's most widespread waxbill was first observed in the Hoima area, with good numbers being observed in Queen Elizabeth NP and between Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Black-crowned Waxbill

Estrilda nonnula

An attractive species, which we first saw near Luwero Swamp and thereafter regularly encountered at all lowland forest sites.

Black-headed Waxbill

Estrilda atricapilla

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

Red-billed Quailfinch

Ortygospiza gabonensis

We had brief views of this rarely observed and secretive seedeater on the edge of a swamp in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

Ubiquitous in moist habitats throughout Uganda, and our most memorable sightings were at Murchison Falls NP, where we enjoyed intimate views of a pair feeding several juveniles.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor*

Although more localized than the preceding species, we had fantastic views of several flocks at Hoima.

*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 briefly in two flocks at Queen Elizabeth NP.

Indigobirds

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

This, the brood parasite of Red-billed Firefinch, was only observed once *en route* to Lake Mburo NP where we had a singing male on a telephone line, next to the filling station.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

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

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies

Cape (Yellow-crowned) Canary *Serinus canicollis*

This highland species was observed near Ruhizha, where we saw two individuals and heard others issuing their jangling songs from the treetops.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary and the form which we recorded in Uganda would become *S. flavivertex* Yellow-crowned Canary. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

African 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.*

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*

This widespread African species was first observed whilst we were having lunch on our first day and seen regularly thereafter

Brimstone (Bully) Canary *Serinus sulphuratus*

This large canary was first seen near Luwero Swamp, with further sightings at scattered locations throughout Uganda, with highest numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Streaky Seedeater

Serinus striolatus

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

Thick-billed Seedeater

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 two birds through the scope on the Butiaba Escarpment.

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 by some in Murchison Falls NP.

Cabanis' Bunting

Emberiza cabanisi

This rarely recorded species was observed briefly by some of the group 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 over forty individuals that we watched crossing over the dirt track. In amongst them, was a female nursing a tiny baby. We again heard this species at Buhoma.

Colobid Monkeys

(Mountain) Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla

The M group of habituated gorillas was visited by all participants. Despite the treks being 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!

Central African Red Colobus

Procolobus oustaleti

We found numerous groups of these relatively scruffy-looking monkeys in the higher part of Kibale Forest NP. 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 Kibale Forest NP and Mabira Forest, where we had fantastic views of a family of ten individuals and five 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 Kibale and again in Buhoma.

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.

Lorisids

Potto

Perodicticus potto

We were extremely fortunate to obtain spectacular views of this rarely encountered nocturnal species during a night drive in Ruhizha.

Spectacled Galago

Galagoides matchiei

We had great views of this nocturnal primate at Ruhizha during our spotlighting excursion.

Thomas's Galago

Galagoides thomasi

This extremely fast nocturnal species, was observed during our night drive at Kibale and again in Ruhizha.

Flying-Foxes

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat

Eidolon helvum

We heard large numbers and saw a few of these bats flying above the bridge in Jinja while driving in the evening to our hotel.

Hammer Bat

Hypsinathus monstrosus

We heard large numbers vocalizing around our tents in Kibale and saw several during our night drive in the area.

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 on most night drives in dry habitat, first seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Uganda Grass-Hare

Poelagus marjorita

Several individuals were observed during our night drive in Murchison Falls NP.

Squirrels

Striped Ground Squirrel

Xerus erythropus

This tiny terrestrial squirrel was first seen near Luwero Swamp, with further sightings in the north.

Carruthers' Mountain Squirrel

Funisciurus carruthersi

A fairly nondescript forest squirrel that we saw at Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Boehm's Squirrel

Paraxerus boehmi

This tiny forest squirrel was commonly observed in Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel

Paraxerus alexandri

Another diminutive species, of which we observed three at Budongo Forest.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus rufobrachium

This large squirrel was first seen at Kibale, with a further sighting near Buhoma.

African Giant Squirrel

Protoxerus stangeri

This large species was encountered in Kibale Forest.

Rats and Mice

Northern Unstriped Grass Rat

Arvicanthis niloticus

This plain rodent was seen in the vicinity of Queen Elizabeth NP.

Dogs and Allies

Side-striped Jackal

Canis adustus

We observed a single animal during our night drive in Kibale Forest.

Mustelids

Spot-necked Otter

Lutra maculicollis

We had brief views of a single animal during our boat cruise on the Nile River, but enjoyed great views of another while having lunch between Buhoma and Ruhizha.

Mongoose

Ichneuman (Egyptian) Mongoose

Herpestes ichneumon

We had a sighting of a single animal from our vehicle in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguinea

We saw four animals from our vehicle in Murchison Falls NP.

Dwarf Mongoose

Helogale parvula

We observed one animal our first day near Masindi and another pair in Lake Mburo NP.

Banded Mongoose

Mungos mungo

These entertaining creatures were commonly observed on the grounds of Mweya Lodge.

Hyaenas

Spotted Hyaena

Crocuta crocuta

We had fantastic nocturnal sightings of a pair of hyaenas, right next to the road in Lake Mburo NP.

Genets & Civets

Blotched (Large-spotted) Genet

Genetta tigrina

An individuals of this attractive species was seen during our night drive in Lake Mburo NP.

African Civet

Civettictis civetta

This beautiful, nocturnal creature, was seen very well at night in Kibale Forest.

Cats

Leopard

Panthera pardus

Sightings of this elegant feline, resulted in some of the highlights of the tour. We observed a pair, resting in the grass in Queen Elizabeth NP, and later an individual in Lake Mburo NP, was a truly superb experience.

Lion

Panthera leo

At first we encountered a female with three cubs in Queen Elizabeth NP, and later we saw a single lion at length near our vehicle during a drive through the national park.

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 sightings of two 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 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.

Bush (Common/Gray) Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

This widespread African species is rather uncommon in Uganda, and we observed a pair in Murchison Falls NP.

Black-fronted Duiker

Cephalophus nigrifrons

This uncommon forest duiker was seen in Ruhizha from our vehicles.

Yellow-backed Duiker

Cephalophus silvicultor

This, the largest of all duikers, was observed during our night drive in Kibale Forest.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebi

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

Bohor Reedbuck

Redunca redunca

Several of these nondescript antelope were found near Lake Mburo.

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 ten individuals in an afternoon, north of the Nile.