



This year we watched a pair of Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill feeding their young in the nest. This parent was bringing fruit. The colour of the bird closely matches the foliage making this a very difficult bird to find away from the nest particularly as the call/song is almost inaudible! (Nik Borrow)

ULTIMATE UGANDA

19 JULY – 8 AUGUST 2015

LEADERS: NIK BORROW

Uganda is famously quoted as being the 'Pearl of Africa' and although neither Henry Morton Stanley nor Winston Churchill had birders and ecotourists in mind when they awarded the country this title it is most certainly an appropriate one! This is surely an essential destination for any world-travelling bird watcher as it is home to the incredible Shoebill, a good number of Albertine Rift endemics and is an excellent place to see a few otherwise difficult western African forest species. A visit to this friendly and welcoming country also offers a great mammal-watching experience and of course primates in particular with Eastern Gorilla and Chimpanzee at the top of the list. It is not often that the mammals get a mention before the birds, but on this

occasion it is apt, as our experiences with the incredible Eastern Gorillas of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest were truly unforgettable! To rival this experience the incomparable Shoebill surrendered to our collective gaze on day one and we were also lucky to find the often-elusive Weyns's Weaver nearby. In Mabira Forest we found Yellow-eyed Greenbul and Forest Wood Hoopoes whilst at Kaniyo Pabidi in Murchison Falls National Park Puvel's Illadopsis entertained and the secretive Nahan's Francolin put in an appearance. In the wooded savannahs there were also fabulous Pennant-winged Nightjars, Bat Hawk and a group of garrulous Dusky Babblers. In the Budongo Forests we found treetop Ituri Batis and Uganda Woodland Warbler with Heuglin's Francolins in the surrounding cultivation. We embarked on a 'chimp trek' in Kibale National Park and in the wonderfully named Bwindi Impenetrable Forest we spent a magical hour with a family of Eastern Gorillas and scored enormously with excellent views of the little-known and rare Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill at the nest. There was also a whole host of Albertine Rift endemic species that included the gorgeous Doherty's Bushshrike and Regal Sunbird as well as Handsome Francolin, Ruwenzori Batis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Neumann's Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Ruwenzori Apalis, Mountain Masked Apalis, Red-throated Alethe, Archer's Ground Robin, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Willard's Sooty Boubou (heard only), Blue-headed Sunbird and Strange Weaver. In the swamps of the southwest we connected with Papyrus Yellow Warbler and Papyrus Canary and beneath the volcanoes at Mgahinga we enjoyed views of many Ruwenzori Turacos as well as Lagden's Bushshrike, Dusky Crimsonwing and the colourful Golden Monkey. We finished our African adventure with Brown-chested Lapwings, Red-faced Barbets, African Finfoots and a pair of nest-building White-backed Night Herons in Lake Mburo National Park! Amongst the many other mouth-watering specialities that we encountered were Mountain Buzzard, Black-billed Turaco, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Black-shouldered and Ruwenzori Nightjars, White-thighed Hornbill, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Fine-banded and Elliot's Woodpeckers, Jameson's Wattle-eye, Lowland Sooty Boubou (heard only), Mountain Sooty Boubou, Papyrus Gonolek, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Mountain Oriole, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Kakamega, Olive-breasted, Joyful, Toro Olive, White-throated and Yellow-streaked Greenbuls, White-browed Crombec, White-winged and Grauer's Swamp Warblers, Trilling, Chubb's, Carruthers's, Foxy and Long-tailed Cisticolas, Black-faced Prinia, Red-winged Grey Warbler, Lowland Masked and Chestnut-throated Apalises, Grey-capped Warbler, Scaly-breasted and Mountain Illadopsises, Black-lored Babbler, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Grey-chested Babbler, Stuhlmann's and Sharpe's Starlings, Kivu Ground Thrush (heard only), Silverbird, Chapin's Flycatcher, White-bellied, Grey-winged and Blue-shouldered Robin-Chats, Eastern Forest Robin, Equatorial Akalat, Grey-headed and Red-chested Sunbirds, Shelley's Sparrow, 'Victoria' Masked Weaver, Golden-backed Weaver, Red-headed Bluebill, Brown Twinspot, Kandt's Waxbill, Black-chinned Quailfinch and Western Citril.



The road to Mabamba Swamp produced our first Western Banded Snake Eagles (left) but the flock of breeding plumaged Weyns's Weavers certainly had the 'Wow-factor!' (right). (Nik Borrow)

Our epic journey around Uganda began in Entebbe and soon after dawn we set off for Mabamba Swamp to search for the species that was arguably to become the 'ultimate' bird of the tour – the enormous and totally unique Shoebill. Along the roadside we paused for what was to be just the first of a number of Western Banded Snake Eagles and when we got to the swamp there was a flock of stunning breeding plumaged Weyns's Weavers seemingly unconcerned by our attentions. This somewhat nomadic species can sometimes elude us and so this observation was a wonderful way to begin this tour for its range is such that we currently find it on no other BirdQuest tour. The vibrantly colourful Black-headed Gonoleks and gorgeous Red-chested Sunbirds were all around as our local boatmen prepared our motorised wooden pirogues for the excursion out onto the lake. Boarding our simple craft, jewel-like Malachite Kingfishers darted away and chequered Pied Kingfishers hovered overhead as we wended our way around the creeks of the extensive swamps surrounding Lake Victoria. African Marsh Harriers sailed past and we also noted Egyptian Goose, Yellow-billed Duck, Striated Heron, Hadada Ibis, Little Egret, Hamerkop and Reed Cormorant. Overhead Black-winged and Yellow-billed Kites and the vociferous African Fish Eagle were all to be expected in this habitat whilst in the dense swampland vegetation Blue-headed Coucals lurked and handsome Long-toed Lapwing, numerous African Jacanas, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Winding Cisticolas and Swamp Flycatcher were all prominent as were the common Northern Brown-throated, Black-headed and Slender-billed Weavers.



Although there are a number of spectacular species to be found in Uganda the Shoebill placed in its own monotypic family is often considered the ultimate prize. This year we enjoyed stupendous views at Mabamba Swamp and four more in Murchison Falls National Park. (Nik Borrow)

Upon turning a corner we found our way blocked by a barrage of boats and in each one was a group of people intent on the bulk of a large grey bird stood silently in the swamp ahead intently staring into the waters for the tell tale ripples of a Lungfish. Despite the bad timing of coinciding with so many other birders we glided in to join the throng of admirers but the Shoebill itself seemed totally unfazed by the crowd that

had gathered. We stayed for some time as the other visitors slipped away and waited for some action, hoping for a catch and sure enough eventually the bird tensed up focusing hard on its potential prey and with a leap and a lunge it forced its huge bill into the murky waters. Sadly it came up with nothing and as if embarrassed by its lack of success it took to the skies, circling round over our heads before disappearing from view. A distant pair of Papyrus Gonoleks was seen but the fine weather was changing and we very soon found ourselves sitting in the open boats with the rain falling on our heads so that making a retreat to dry land and shelter seemed to be the best option.



Typical birds of the Ugandan waterways include the unique Hamerkop (top left), Yellow-billed Duck (top right) and the jewel-like Malachite Kingfisher (bottom left). Small numbers of Olive Bee-eaters were also noted (bottom right). (Nik Borrow)

Returning to terra firma we enjoyed a good picnic lunch as the weather improved and we spent the afternoon watching some Red-breasted Swallows, Moustached Grass Warbler, Grey-capped Warbler, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Olive-bellied Sunbird and sorting out a few Orange and Golden-backed Weavers by the lakeshore where large numbers of moulting (and breeding plumaged) White-winged Terns were feeding over the lake and enjoying some general birding familiarising ourselves with widespread species such as African Harrier-Hawk, bizarrely top-knotted Great Blue Turacos, noisy Eastern Plantain-eaters, Diederik and Klaas's

Cuckoos, Woodland Kingfisher, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills and Angola Swallow. Leaving Mabamba we headed towards Jinja taking in our first Congo Pied Hornbills en route.

There is not much to recommend the town of Jinja (although we did see a pair of African Hobby from our hotel!) but it is in easy reach of the sadly rather degraded remnants of Mabira Forest. It was only a few years ago that this extension of the Budongo Forests was seriously threatened by a proposed government-backed expansion of the sterile sugar cane plantations that surround it. A fierce protest followed in which several people died but it has saved this leafy haven at least for the time being. The cool forest therefore continues to provide a refuge for a number of interesting species and during our productive time here we managed to find some very special birds. In particular we were searching for the skulking Yellow-eyed Bristlebill (a distinctive form of Yellow-lored Bristlebill) that we finally found at an ant swarm in the afternoon and enjoyed excellent views whilst trying to avoid the 'Siafu' as these blind *Dorylus* Driver Ants have a powerful and painful bite! It was a great place to get acquainted with confusing greenbuls and aside from Red-tailed Bristlebill we also met with Slender-billed, Little, Little Grey, Plain, Yellow-whiskered, White-throated and Red-tailed Greenbuls, although the best of the bunch was probably the somewhat localised but dowdy Toro Olive Greenbul. Two other species have outposts in Mabira Forest, namely Forest Wood Hoopoe and Lowland Sooty Boubou and although we enjoyed great looks at a family of wood hoopoes we only heard the boubou briefly. Other highlights included an exceptionally obliging male White-spotted Flufftail on the same pool as a Shining-blue Kingfisher and mega views of Scaly-breasted Illadopsis and Eastern Forest Robin. The sounds of the forest were dominated by bouncing Tambourine Doves, raucous Black-billed Turacos and the 'pops' and 'trills' of Speckled and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds and Yellow-spotted and Streaky-throated Barbets. Sabine's and Cassin's Spinetails fluttered overhead, an African Dwarf Kingfisher was gone all too quickly and we battled for views of a Blue-shouldered Robin Chat in the thick undergrowth. Some of the other noteworthy species included Afep Pigeon, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Grey Parrot, African Shrike-flycatcher, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Western Oriole, Velvet-mantled Drongo, White-headed Saw-wing, Grey Longbill, Buff-throated Apalis, Olive-green Camaroptera, Purple-headed Starling, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Grey-headed, Little Green, Grey-chinned, Blue-throated Brown and Olive Sunbirds, Black-necked and Vieillot's Black Weavers, Red-headed Malimbe and White-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas.

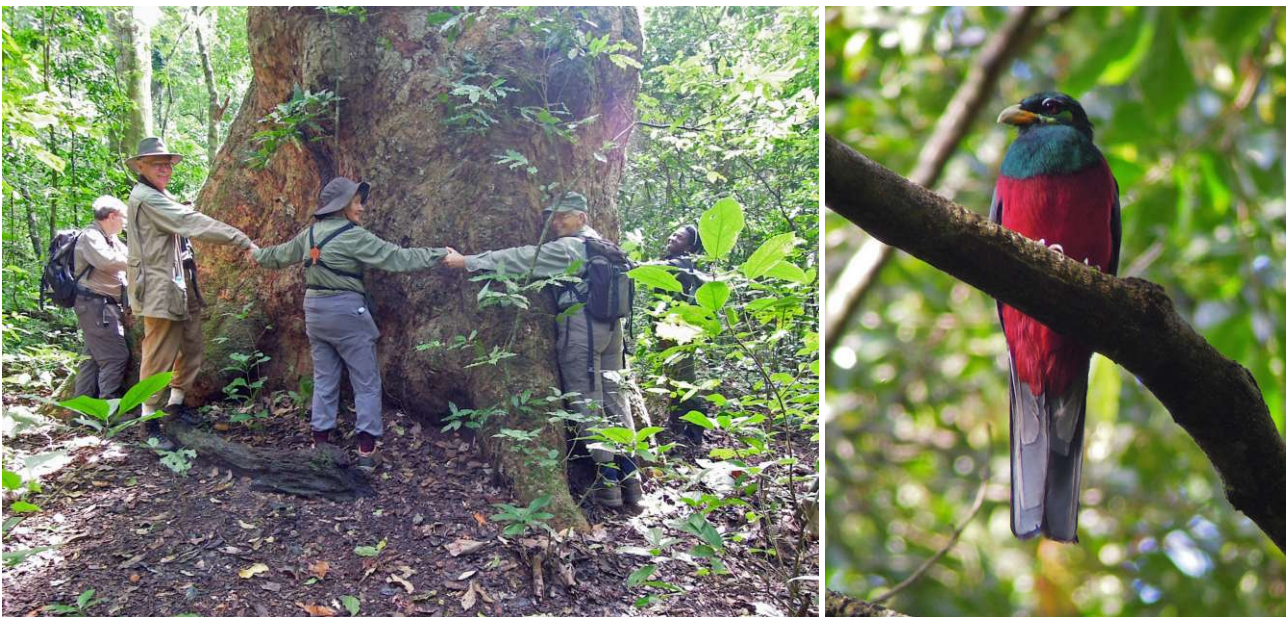


We had some memorable moments in Mabira Forest with a very obliging male White-spotted Flufftail (left) and close-up views of the distinctive yellow-eyed form of Yellow-lored Bristlebill at an ant swarm (right). (Nik Borrow)

From Mabira we had to retrace our steps to the outskirts of the sprawling city of Kampala noting Hooded Vultures, Speckled Pigeons and many Marabou Storks along the way as we grappled with the appalling traffic conditions before breaking free and heading northwards towards our next destination of Murchison Falls National Park. Driving through open cultivated countryside that is dominated by open swampland where exotic-looking Long-crested Eagles and Lizard Buzzards were commonly seen roadside birds, we

made a stop en route at the Luwero swamps where we easily found the desirable Marsh Widowbird along with Fan-tailed Widowbird, the Yellow-shouldered form of Yellow-mantled Widowbird and Compact Weaver. Western Black-headed Batis and yellow-eyed White-shouldered Black Tits showed well and there were also Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, African Blue Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey Tit-flycatcher and glittering Marico and Copper Sunbirds. In the late afternoon we birded some open ranch lands where White-crested Turacos showed well, a pair of Bruce's Green Pigeons were seen and we tackled the identification of numerous starlings that included Rüppell's, Lesser Blue-eared and Purple Starlings. White-browed Sparrow-Weavers were attending their untidy nests, White-headed Barbets showed well upon the tops of the fig trees and we also saw Vinaceous Dove, Black-billed Wood Dove, 'Central' African Hoopoe, Lesser Honeyguide, Meyer's Parrot and a spectacular trio of Grey-headed Bushshrikes. We arrived at the gate to Murchison Falls National Park towards the end of the afternoon for an overnight stay at Kaniyo Pabidi in the Budongo Forest sector of the park and once inside the gate we were treated to a great sighting of a pair of prehistoric-looking Abyssinian Ground Hornbill.

Kaniyo Pabidi is part of the sprawling Budongo Forest and although tourists hoping to see chimps most regularly visit this locality, we birders had Puvel's Illadopsis on our minds. Soon after dawn broke, the illadopsis (our main quarry) could be heard singing and fortunately we found the birds quickly with a pair showing extremely well for us down to just a few feet away. We then explored the network of trails that lead into the superb rainforest with its magnificent mahogany and ironwood trees, which we all admired and our guide Joyce encouraged us into a brief tree-hugging session! As usual the birding was relatively slow going. Birds could be heard easily enough, but seeing them was a different matter! Invisible kingfishers called from the canopy, Fire-crested Alethes whistled from the undergrowth. Yellow-crested Woodpeckers were in the treetops and both Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and a male Narina Trogon were scoped underneath the high canopy. We enjoyed a tremendous success in luring a Nahan's Partridge into view and other birds included Blue Malkoha, Red-chested Cuckoo, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Honeyguide Greenbul, Green Hylia and Brown Illadopsis.



Tree-hugging around the oldest tree in the forest was encouraged at Kaniyo Pabidi and a male Narina Trogon looks on! (Nik Borrow)

After lunch we continued on through the park trying to dodge the biting jaws of fearsome Tsetse flies although they weren't particularly bad this year. We stopped off briefly at our next lodge to drop off our bags for our overnight stay before heading on to the top of Murchison Falls birding along the way. The Yellow-mantled Widowbirds here indeed had full yellow mantles, Sooty Chats were common and our first stunning Red-throated Bee-eaters were seen. A Cabanis's Bunting showed well and we also had views of Bateleur, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Black-billed Barbet, White-crested Helmetshrike, Pale Flycatcher and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver. At the thunderous falls themselves we watched in awe as the huge volume of

water surged through the narrow ravine and over the edge of the falls. A few Rock Pratincoles rested on the rocks and our first Giant Kingfisher was seen. In the bushes surrounding the area we found a Green Crombec and some excitable Red-winged Grey Warblers. With sundowners in hand we watched as night fell and at dusk thousands of bats erupted from the cliff face and in the twilight a fantastic Bat Hawk floated overhead. The night drive back to the lodge was somewhat disappointing as only one Pennant-winged Nightjar was seen briefly but we saw two Greyish Eagle-Owls and the rabbit-like Uganda Grass-Hare.



At the truly spectacular Murchison Falls, Rock Pratincoles were seen gathered on the rocks (top right) and at night we managed to see several Greyish Eagle-Owls (bottom left). (Nik Borrow)

The next day we were up well before dawn and we all finally connected with some superb male Pennant-winged Nightjars along the road complete with trailing pennants. Arriving at Paraa on the Nile itself below the falls we took a trip by small boat downstream to the delta, which gave us a marvellous opportunity to see the wildlife from a different tsetse-free perspective! Cruising down-river we watched numerous Hippopotamuses wallowing in the shallows. Shining Wire-tailed Swallows skimmed low across the waters and we found small numbers of Senegal Thick-knees and African Fish Eagles, a singleton Western Osprey and our first Palm-nut Vultures. Wildfowl included White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged and Egyptian Geese and Knob-billed Duck and there were small numbers of majestic Goliath Herons and African Darters, large numbers of

Pied Kingfishers as well as plenty of egrets, a few Little Bitterns, Yellow-billed and Saddle-billed Storks, African Openbill and African Sacred, Hadada and Glossy Ibises. Black Crakes were easy to see and Mourning Collared Doves and Blue-headed Coucals favoured the enormous stands of Papyrus and to top all of this we found no less than four more Shoebills, two of which we could approach on foot under the watchful eye of our armed guard! Uganda's National Bird the impressive Grey Crowned Crane was admired and the walk also produced Black-faced Quailfinch.



Our river cruise along the Nile allowed us intimate encounters with the towering Saddle-billed Stork (left) and the striking Long-toed Lapwing (right). (Nik Borrow)

We disembarked at the Delta Point and were reunited with the cars and our driver/guides Livingstone and John, who were there to meet us and take us on a game drive through the north bank sector of the park. In contrast to the south bank which is for the most part heavily vegetated with shrubs and trees and tall grasses the habitat on the north bank comprises rolling hills and open Borassus Palm-studded grasslands inhabited by large herds of game that include numerous Uganda Kob, stately Rothschild's Giraffes, some adorned with Yellow-billed Oxpeckers and many African Savanna Elephant, Defassa Waterbuck, Sudan Oribi and Lelwel Hartebeest as well as the distinctive Patas Monkey.



The north bank of Murchison Falls National Park offers some great mammal-watching opportunities and Rothschild's Giraffe (left), Lelwel Hartebeest (centre) and the richly coloured Patas Monkey (right) can all be found. (Nik Borrow)

On the short grass plains of the north bank we hunted out some spiky-crested Black-headed Lapwings amongst the African Wattled Lapwings. A group of Spotted Thick-knees were disturbed from their hiding place and hundreds of Piapiacs were seen. In the scrubby savanna where Grey-backed Fiscals were common and flocks of Blue-naped Mousebirds whirred from one bush to another. Both Spot-flanked and Black-billed Barbets were seen and there were also displaying Flappet Larks, African Grey Hornbill, Black Scimitarbill, Cardinal and African Grey Woodpeckers, Northern Crombec, Spotted Palm Thrush, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Speckle-fronted Weaver and Black-rumped Waxbill. We admired the colours of Swallow-tailed and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, breeding plumaged Northern Red Bishops, the sublime Silverbird, African Golden Oriole, Beautiful Sunbird, Vitelline Masked Weaver, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu and Brown-rumped Bunting. Raptors were well represented in the park and we recorded Palm-nut, White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures as well as Bateleur, Long-crested and Wahlberg's Eagles and Dark Chanting Goshawk. A dapper pair of diminutive Red-necked Falcons were seen whilst a juvenile African Harrier-Hawk was watched raiding some weaver nests with its double-jointed legs. Of the less common birds in the park, several attractive Shelley's Sparrows were seen well and once again we found a garrulous group of Dusky Babblers, a species that used to be notoriously difficult to find.



We are now getting a good track record for finding Dusky Babbler (left) in the park and we scored well again this year! The Red-throated Bee-eater (right) is a riot of colour that simply had to be seen to be believed! (Nik Borrow)

Reluctantly we departed the park and the idyllically situated Nile Safari Lodge with its delicious meals and made our way through cultivation and open scrub where we managed looks at Gabar Goshawk, Black-faced Waxbill, Village Indigobird and the rather dowdy White-rumped Seedeater. We arrived at the Butiaba Escarpment around lunchtime and despite the heat of the day we found a pair of Mocking Cliff Chats, some Cinnamon-breasted Buntings and tracked down the colourful Foxy Cisticola on the scrubby hillsides. A distant African Hawk-Eagle was spotted and we did well to find a pair of Orange-winged Pytilias – a scarce bird in Uganda!

We arrived at Busingiro, part of the sprawling Budongo Forest in the early afternoon and although it was fairly quiet we spent a profitable couple of hours there inside the cool forest before rain stopped play. A super Chocolate-backed Kingfisher sat and posed for us, perky Chestnut-capped Flycatchers flitted about, fanning their chestnut tails as they went and Rufous-crowned Eremomelas were spied up in the canopy where we spent a long time trying to spot the diminutive Ituri Batis that piped out its high-pitched calls over the forest from the tops of the huge trees. Eventually our efforts were fulfilled and as the rain started falling so the forest birds disappeared and there seemed little left to do but to continue to Masindi and our welcoming hotel.



Target birds on the Butiaba Escarpment were the colourful Foxy Cisticola (left) and the decidedly handsome Mocking Cliff Chat. (right)
(Nik Borrow)

The following day we were back in the woods, this time to a stretch of forest that is known as the Royal Mile. Once again the tall trees meant that we were stretching our backs and craning our necks upwards to try to spot tell tale movements in the canopy. White-thighed Hornbills were big enough but even these weren't immediately apparent in the leafy mass above our heads. Imagine then how difficult it was to try to spot the tiny Lemon-bellied Crombec and the diminutive Uganda Woodland Warbler! Incredibly after having battled with the latter species we were amazed to find a couple of individuals no more than a few feet above our heads, behaviour like we had never seen before on this tour! Even the crombec came down to a reasonable level and allowed good scope views. Of the other more conspicuous birds we saw a small flock of distinctive wing-flicking Spotted Greenbuls and we enjoyed fantastic views of Blue-breasted Kingfisher, showy Yellow-crested Woodpeckers and Fraser's Forest and Ashy Flycatchers. Other species included Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Western Nicator, Red-tailed Ant Thrush, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Jameson's Wattle-eye and Red-headed Bluebill.



Budongo Forest gave us some wonderful opportunities to see both Chocolate-backed (left) and Blue-breasted Kingfishers (right)(Nik Borrow)

At the end of the day when the birding had fallen extremely quiet we came across a troop of Chimpanzees that had gathered to feast on some fruiting figs. A large male was sat apart from the rest with a younger individual in attendance pleading with open hand for a little of what the elder was eating. On closer inspection we realised that this animal was eating a baby Colobus and we must have only just missed witnessing the hunt itself!



We were treated to some excellent views of Uganda Woodland Warbler down low for a change (left) and an encounter with some Chimpanzees was memorable as we saw this male tucking into a baby Colobus! (right) (Nik Borrow)

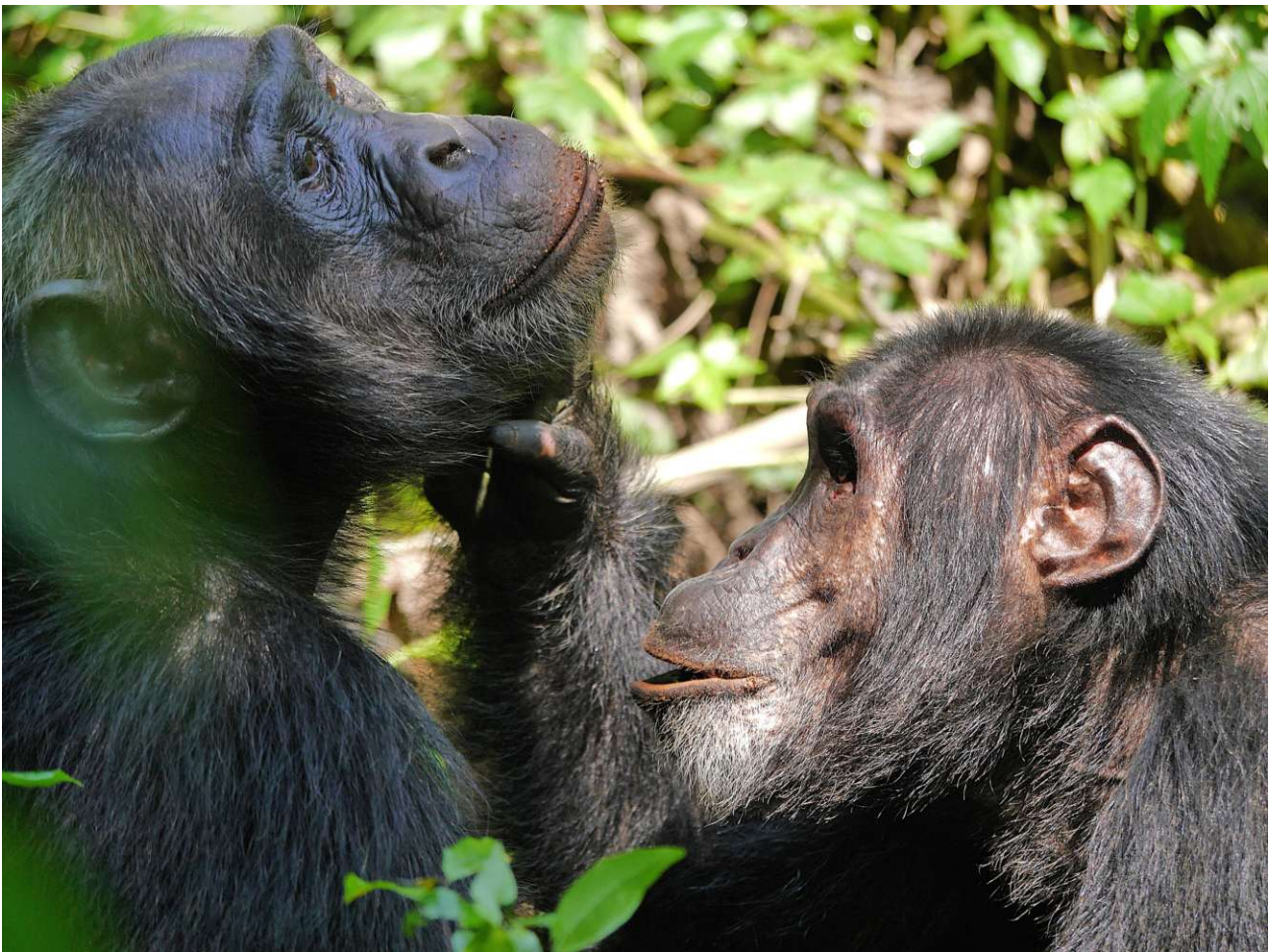
Leaving the forest behind we spent some time birding the open cultivation that borders it and fortunately managed to connect with some Heuglin's Francolins, a species we had missed in Murchison Falls National Park. We also managed views of the pretty Brown Twinspot and Red-headed Lovebird as well as Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Baglafaecht Weaver, Black Bishop and Red-collared Widowbird.

The next day was mainly a long travel day to Kibale Forest but we first spent some time by some of Uganda's many swamps. Sadly it was a grey and rainy morning but despite the unpromising weather in the surrounding cultivation we found the charming Grey-headed Oliveback (although it did not hang around for long) and also Marsh Tchagra, Fan-tailed Grassbird and Black-bellied Firefinch whilst in the papyrus our battle to get views of White-winged Swamp Warbler and Papyrus Gonolek began. However time was not on our side as we had a long journey to undertake to Kibale National Park and although this was a long continuous drive, we still managed to pull a few species out along the way such as African Cuckoo-Hawk, White-throated Bee-eater, Northern Fiscal, Whistling Cisticola, Splendid Starling, Narrow-tailed Starling, Black-crowned Waxbill and Magpie Mannikin. We arrived at the edge of Kibale Forest in the late afternoon for some birding but the woodland was particularly quiet and this unfortunately became a pattern for much of the remainder of the tour as birds seemed generally to be nesting or to have newly fledged young. However, after much persistence we managed views of Lowland Masked Apalis and a perched Blue-throated Roller was scoped. We also had our first looks at some crazy-looking Grey-headed (split from Grey-throated) Barbets with their 'rhinoceros' nasal-tufts. Black-and-white Shrike-flycatchers with their comical pointed crests perched up, noisy and excitable Chubb's Cisticolas were in the undergrowth and Northern Double-collared Sunbird and Dark-backed Weaver were also found before the light faded and it was time to depart and continuing on through tea estates headed for our accommodation situated just outside of Kibale National Park.

We had to be up well before dawn in order to increase our chances of finding the elusive Green-breasted Pitta, a species that normally prefers to call at first light. Our guide led us through the darkness into the sleeping forest that still had not yet stirred and in the pitch black we waited and fruitlessly strained our ears to

catch the sound of the frog-like “blip” of the pitta. We had been told that the birds had been displaying up until 5 days previously and seemed to have now fallen quiet and indeed nothing we could do during the morning could motivate the birds to call for us. Gradually the inhabitants of the forest were waking up and the dawn chorus began. However from the pitta itself we heard nothing and as the birds were apparently not displaying there was little else to do but walk the trails through their territories in our quest and hope for the best. With all of our attention focused on the quest for the pitta very few other species were noted but we did manage to see a Western Bronze-naped Pigeon until it was time to turn our attention towards Kibale’s other star attraction – Chimpanzee.

Kibale Forest has surely got to be THE place to see Chimpanzee as it now boasts of at least a 90% hit rate chance of seeing members of their habituated troops. Leaving the pitta territories behind we were taken into the heart of a group of chimps that currently numbers around 120 individuals and soon found ourselves beneath a tree full of the great apes gorging themselves on ripe figs. As it was by now late morning most had eaten their fill and eventually the creatures descended from their lofty dining room to relax and groom on the forest floor. We felt exceedingly privileged to have such an intimate close encounter with these animals, seemingly so oblivious to our presence. Very few other new birds were seen that day although a Brown-chested Alethe feeding on the track ahead of us was a pleasure to see and in the afternoon we found the colourful Black Bee-eater and both Cassin’s Honeybird and Cassin’s Flycatcher both named after John Cassin (1813-69) who was an American businessman as well as a renowned systematic ornithologist and eventually became curator of ornithology and Vice-President of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.



We were privileged to spend some memorable moments with the Kibale Chimpanzees. (Nik Borrow)

The next morning we embarked on a lengthy and thoroughly enjoyable walk around Bigodi Wetland that produced a number of interesting and often very showy species. This is a community-operated nature

reserve that always provides some excellent birding being a mixture of cultivation, papyrus swamp and riparian woodland. Top-knotted Great Blue and Ross's Turacos are impressive birds by anyone's standards and we enjoyed prolonged views of an African Goshawk sunning itself in the early morning. The flowering shrubs were busy and we added Purple-banded and Superb Sunbirds and also saw brilliant breeding plumaged male Black Bishop, Bocage's Bushshrike, Dusky-blue Flycatcher and finally, just as we had to leave we found the striking Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet at their nest hole. After lunch we set off for Queen Elizabeth National Park and a completely new set of birds.



An African Goshawk (left) basks in the early morning sun at Bigodi Wetland. Uganda is surely the easiest place to see the impressive and other-worldly Great Blue Turaco (right). (Nik Borrow)

We paused briefly at the equator for the obligatory tourist shots before reaching the open savannas of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Getting into the park wasn't too easy however as the electronic payments system was 'down' and as cash payments are not allowable at the gates themselves our driver had to make a lengthy diversion to the headquarters where it was possible to pay. Eventually we managed to enter and were treated to views of a pair of enormous Verreaux's Eagle Owls on their nest in the late afternoon before arriving at the sumptuous Mweya Lodge for a two nights stay. During our time spent in the park we explored the extensive savannas, acacia woodland and waterways both in our sturdy landcruiser and by boat. Our luxurious accommodation overlooked the Kazinga Channel and the grounds held glorious Red-chested Sunbirds, tame Swamp Flycatchers and numerous Black-headed and Slender-billed Weavers that also joined us at the dining table at lunch-time allowing ample opportunity for close study!

Our time spent in Queen Elizabeth National Park is always considered as yet another of the great highlights of the tour and as always our day began before dawn for we took with us a picnic breakfast and set out in the early morning half-light. We were lucky that there was still some nocturnal activity and found pairs of both Slender-tailed and Square-tailed Nightjars before the daybreak sent them to their roosts. Along the road in the cool of the morning we found some Red-necked Spurfowl and enjoyed good looks at several African Crakes that trotted out into full view. Plain-backed Pipit, Yellow-throated Longclaw and Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks were numerous, Black-lored Babbler called from the shrubby clumps of vegetation which a few non-breeding Black Coucals claimed as perching posts and small flocks of Fawn-breasted Waxbill were found by the roadside. There were good numbers of Lesser Flamingos on a huge crater-lake whilst out on the Kasenyi Plains it was lapwing central with the much-wanted Brown-chested Lapwing putting in a fine appearance as well as African Wattled, Senegal and Crowned Lapwings. Also scattered out over the plains were Kittlitz's Plover, Collared Pratincole and several Temminck's Coursers whilst tiny Black-chinned Quailfinch bounded away like speeding bullets. A sleepy pride of eight Lions was seen and other species of

interest included the huge Martial Eagle, Common Scimitarbill, Wattled Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker and Spectacled and Lesser Masked Weavers.



Queen Elizabeth National Park is normally an excellent place to see African Crake (left) and this year Senegal Lapwings (right) were also numerous. (Nik Borrow)

At lunchtime we shared the dining table with tame Black-headed and Slender-billed Weavers and Swamp Flycatchers as we gazed out over the Kazinga Channel flowing below us. Later that afternoon we sat back and enjoyed the fantastic experience of an afternoon boat trip on the waters. An event that offered excellent wildlife viewing with plenty of photographic opportunities for waterside birds and in particular a sizeable flock of African Skimmers. As usual there were amazing numbers of Pied Kingfishers catching and carrying fish everywhere. A large congregation of White-breasted Cormorants was gathered and there were smaller numbers of Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, Water Thick-knee, Black-winged Stilt and Three-banded Plover. A smattering of Palearctic waders included Wood, Common and Marsh Sandpipers and Common Greenshank. Over the waters were Grey-headed Gulls, hundreds of returning Palearctic migrant Barn Swallows and along the reedy edges Lesser Swamp Warbler. Added on to this were some excellent encounters with bathing African Savanna Elephants, Lake Chad Buffalo a few Nile Crocodiles and more and more hippos.



On the Kazinga Channel a fine flock of African Skimmers (left) allowed close approach and several African Spoonbills (right) were seen. (Nik Borrow)

Leaving Mweya Lodge the next day we embarked upon what was basically a very long ‘game drive’ that took us through some wild country to the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park. In the papyrus along the Kazinga Channel we tried hard to coax the colourful Papyrus Gonolek and the less impressive Carruthers’s Cisticola into view and managed to get views of both species. Travelling through the park we hunted out Trilling and Stout Cisticolas, Southern Red Bishop, African Firefinch and Crimson-rumped Waxbill but many species seen during this day were already familiar to us. We spent a while hunting around for the ‘famous’ tree-climbing Lions of the area but despite checking each and every fig tree none were to be found. This may not have been the most exciting and action-packed of days but we did what we could and then cut our losses and headed on to Buhoma situated at the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. We reached our destination at the end of the day and settled into our comfortable and welcoming lodge with rooms that overlooked the valley and the impressive steep forested slopes beyond. We had arrived at the wonderfully named Impenetrable Forest with the promise of its selection of fascinating Albertine Rift endemics and other exciting forest birds. So named because of the steepness of the hillsides, rather than the density of the vegetation, this beautiful forest dates back to before the Pleistocene ice age, which makes it at over 25,000 years old, one of the most biologically diverse in Africa.



The forest birding in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is not always easy but the rewards are often great! Both White-tailed Ant Thrush (left) and Bar-tailed Trogon (right) were seen well. (Nik Borrow)

The next day were spent trying to hunt out the specialties of the forest which wasn't easy as there was very little activity or birdsong and again we pondered on whether birds were either nesting or in post-breeding mode. However despite this problem and the slow birding pace we still managed to notch up a great selection of the specials. One of the greatest successes was that after much persistence we all actually saw the tiny Neumann's (or Short-tailed) Warbler. This Albertine Rift endemic is notoriously difficult to see as it moves very fast on or near the ground and usually in the densest vegetation. A skittish Equatorial Akalat played harder to get whilst Black-faced Rufous Warblers and Mountain Illadopsises were also denizens of the understory but allowed views. A White-bellied Robin-Chat was teased out of the shadows but Grey-winged and Red-capped Robin-Chats were far easier to see. Bar-tailed Trogons and White-tailed Ant Thrush showed well as did the supposedly 'rare' Chapin's Flycatcher but despite a great and prolonged effort we only heard the recently described Willard's Sooty Boubou. Scarce Swifts were in the skies above us, a volatile Blue-headed Sunbird and Ansorge's Greenbul, a species first discovered in the country during BirdQuest's 2001 Uganda tour were seen and there was the diminutive White-browed Crombec to marvel at. Other species of note included Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Elliot's Woodpecker, Pink-footed Puffback, Lühder's Bushshrike, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Mackinnon's Shrike, Mountain Oriole, Cabanis's Greenbul, Chubb's Cisticola, Stuhlmann's Starling, Sooty Flycatcher, Brown-capped Weaver and Streaky and Thick-billed Seedeaters.

Buhoma is particularly famous for its gorilla trekking opportunities and most of us had opted to go in search of our close cousins. Of course we were wondering just how easy (or difficult depending on how you view your half-filled glass) it was going to be to see these gentle giants! This year we had permits to visit Rushegura or 'R' group led by Mwirima and Mubare or 'M' group led by Kanyonyi. The latter is the first group of Gorillas to have been habituated for tourism in the park. After the lengthy briefing session we set off on our 'trek'. It was the luck of the draw how far away the animals are as the gorillas obviously move daily in search of food but this year both groups proved to be within a short walk of the park headquarters and the trek only lasted half a day. During the excursion, the pace is always geared to that of the slowest member of the group and expert guides, guards and trackers ensured the safety of all. Approximately 880 'mountain' Gorillas have survived the ravages of modern times and a population of about 400 animals is believed to inhabit Bwindi itself. Patiently our guides and trackers led us deeper amongst the troop thus introducing us to the various family members and revealing an ever-moving somewhat theatrical tableau, at times carefully peeling the vegetation away from the animals. It is difficult to describe ones actual feelings whilst spending time amongst these great apes for the single hour allowed but as always the emotional experience more than compensated for any physical discomfort or hardship that was required! Although these habituated troops sometimes do object to human presence, mostly we found them either oblivious to our attentions or, in the case of the youngsters, a little too curious for their own good and we were able to watch them at rest and play. However for the most part, all these marvellous creatures were intent on doing was sleeping or packing more food into their already distended stomachs! The hour whizzed by and sadly in the end it was time to leave.



The Gorilla trek was as always a tremendous success for all that participated. The encounter is always a marvellous and deeply moving experience (Peter Morris).

The taxonomy of the 'mountain' Gorillas has been hotly debated in recent decades. Most taxonomists seem to agree now on two species of Gorilla, Western Lowland Gorilla (*G. gorilla*) and Eastern Gorilla (*G. beringei*). The eastern group includes both the Eastern Lowland Gorilla (*G. beringei graueri*) and two mountain populations of the nominate form *G. b. beringei*. The Bwindi population is at the centre of the argument and has been suggested to form a third subspecies *G. beringei bwindi*. It has been claimed that these are not 'mountain' gorillas at all on morphological and ecological grounds. Mitochondrial DNA research however reveals the Bwindi and Virunga populations to be indistinguishable.

Our next short journey took us from the lower part of the forest at Buhoma to the higher areas around Ruhija. A displaying Little Rush Warbler and Cape Wagtail showed well en route whilst the amazing cries of Tropical Boubous echoed through the valleys and we noted Yellow Bishop, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and Black-throated Canary in the weedy fields. At 'The Neck', a narrow corridor of forest connecting two sections of the park we picked up a few more forest species and in particular were pleased to find a smart Black Cuckoo, singing Willcocks's Honeyguide, Kakamega Greenbul, Black-faced Prinia, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher and Waller's Starling. When we reached higher altitudes Chestnut-throated Apalises 'trilled' and Yellow-crowned Canary 'tinkled' from the treetops, a dapper Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk glided past and we managed scope

views of the drop-dead-gorgeous Doherty's Bushshrike. We continued onto Ruhija where the air was cooler and we began to find some of the higher-level specialities of the Impenetrable Forest. The retiring and secretive Grauer's Warbler proved surprisingly easy to see in the tangles, as did Stripe-breasted Tit and we also found our first Mountain Masked Apalis, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler and glorious Regal Sunbirds whilst staying out till dusk provided us with the desired Ruwenzori Nightjar. We settled into our comfortable lodge at Ruhija with its panoramic views (and hot water bottles!) and rested up for a good nights sleep to prepare for the long hike the next day.



We enjoyed exceptionally good views of Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet (left) as we journeyed towards the Ruhija area where the fabulous Doherty's Bushshrike (right) was also seen well. (Nik Borrow)

The main reason for coming to Ruhija was to trek up and down and up and down and up and finally down, down and down to the Mubwindi Swamp where some major targets occur. It was a fine, dry morning and the views over the forest and swamp were superb. During our descent, following a well maintained trail, many Slender-billed and Waller's Starlings entertained as they left their roosts and Mountain Yellow Warbler was seen. There were attractive Olive-breasted Greenbuls and wing-flicking, tail-pumping Yellow-streaked Greenbuls and a few Mountain Orioles but the dark forest was generally quiet birdwise until we reached the bottom. Here the area around the swamp is prime habitat for the rarely seen Grauer's (or African Green) Broadbill, which we always hope to see, but the truth is that this charismatic species can easily be missed. This year we were most fortunate as the well-monitored nest had two grown young in it and the parents were busy bringing food back and forth so that we were treated to some fine scope views. In the same area we managed views of Albertine Rift endemics such as the poorly named Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher (complete with pale cream eyes!), Ruwenzori Batis, endearingly cute Red-faced Woodland Warblers and the pretty Ruwenzorii (or Collared) Apalis. Our next target, the skulking Grauer's Swamp Warbler, was to be found in the swamp itself but they were secretive and it took some time before we all had satisfactory views. Whilst we were waiting we could also watch attractive Kandt's Waxbills flitting back and forth. We returned using a less steep route back up to the road and on the way battled to obtain views of Archer's Ground Robin and Grey-chested Babbler (ex illadopsis!) and also managed sightings of Fine-banded Woodpecker, Grey Cuckooshrike, Sharpe's Starling and White-starred Robin. Some of our party who had chosen not to participate on the hike had enjoyed a great time birding along the road and had seen Handsome Francolin well.

The following morning we continued birding in the Ruhija area for a short time but the only new addition to our list was a very obscured male Oriole Finch! It seemed best to cut our losses and move on as we had a long journey ahead of us and also an important stop to make en route. We found White-necked Raven along the way and near Lake Bunyonyi we stopped at a very productive area of degraded papyrus swamp. The

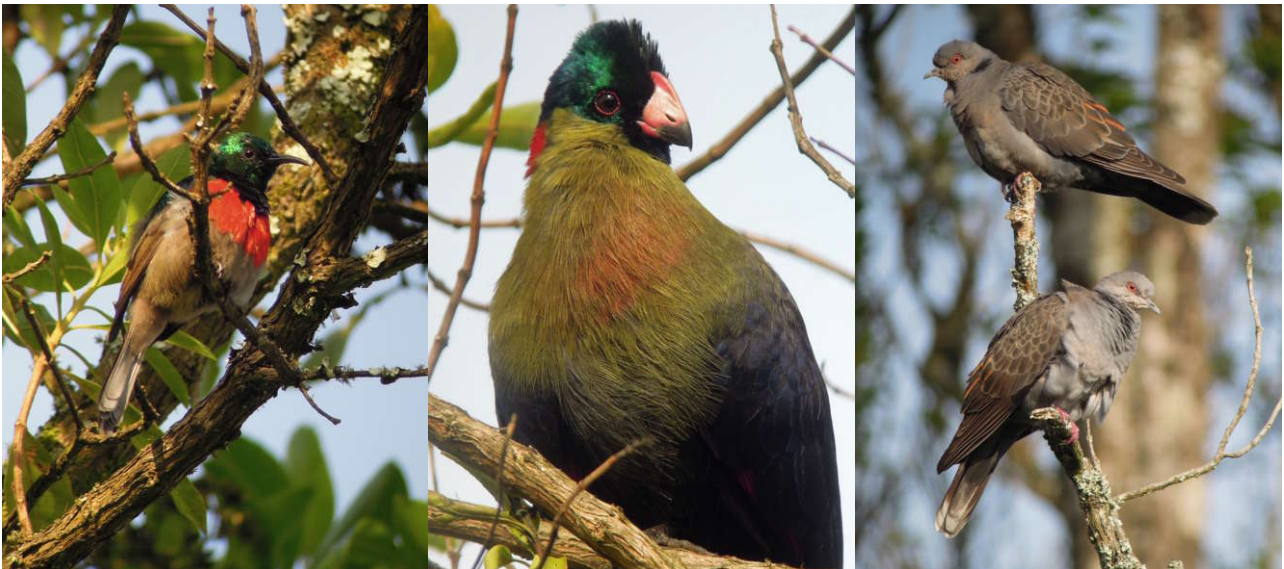
drainage of the swamp and spread of the potato fields continue to threaten this fragile habitat and the site is looking like it might disappear at any time. Our main quarry here was the inexplicably localised Papyrus Yellow Warbler and we were amazed that it took no time at all to get close views of this inexplicably rare and somewhat unusual warbler in the papyrus. The equally mysterious weavers that we presume to be the disputed form known as Victoria (or Entebbe) Masked Weaver were also found here. This is a taxon first described by John Ash in 1986 that was later dismissed as a hybrid without any firm justification, particularly as there appear to be colonies of these hybrids! Bearing a superficial resemblance to Northern Masked Weaver they show subtle differences in the extent of the black mask, colouration of underparts and eye colour, which seems to vary between grey and brown. Somebody needs to get some successful DNA work done on these! After some searching we had brief but good views of the localised Papyrus Canary and also noted African Woolly-necked Stork, Greater Swamp Warbler before it was time to leave.



The Lake Bunyonyi area holds some interesting species and we did well to find the localised Papyrus Yellow Warbler (left) very quickly. The true identity of the mysterious masked weavers (right) that are quite common here has yet to be established. (Nik Borrow)

We continued on and stopped for a short time at Echuya Forest where a most obliging Cinnamon Bracken Warbler flaunted itself in front of us and Abyssinian Thrush was seen well. We had been having a great deal of difficulty getting everyone on to seeing the intriguingly named Strange Weaver but finally we succeeded and everyone had great views of a pair. Before reaching our final destination of Kisoro we scoped some Hottentot Teal, Little Grebe and Red-knobbed Coot on a roadside pool.

Mgahinga National Park is situated right on the borders with Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in a truly, very beautiful setting under the shadow of the volcanoes and has now become firmly established as a regular destination on the BirdQuest itinerary. Walking over the regenerating heathland in the fresh morning air, we admired the scenery with the towering cones of three impressive volcanoes dominating the skyline. In glorious surroundings we found the glittering Ruwenzori Double-collared Sunbird along with Dusky Turtle Dove and more Doherty's Bushshrikes. Perhaps the most 'special' birds that we saw came in the shape of the incredible Ruwenzori Turaco. We heard the strange cries echoing around us in the still air before we saw the first bird but when we did it was simply a "Wow!" of delight. The incredible combination of colours was a joy to behold and we spent a long time watching these beauties – a must-see bird if you are a turaco fan! Our walk took us up to the bottom of the impressive Sabinyo Gorge where Dusky Crimsonwings were seen well as we ate our picnic lunch. Afterwards our descent took through some eerie stands of seemingly lifeless bamboo and we emerged to find a wonderful Lagden's Bushshrike that sat up and posed hooting mournfully at us. The last birds of the day turned out to be a Cape Robin Chat before our time in the far southwest finally ran out.



Left to right: Ruwenzori Double-collared Sunbird, Ruwenzori Turaco and Dusky Turtle Doves all contributed to a wonderful day in Mgahinga National Park. (Nik Borrow)

The next day it was time to move on as we had a long journey ahead of us in order to get to Lake Mburo but we were still missing a few forest species and so we stopped off at Echuya Forest again where we had an incredible run of luck that started with a very responsive and showy Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo and a smart Red-throated Alethe was spotted sat out in the open sunning itself in the early morning light. Near Kabale we stopped to look at the colony of African Black Swifts there and as we neared Mburo both Black-chested and Brown Snake Eagles were sat on roadside pylons and on a small pool both Red-billed Teal and White-backed Duck were seen. The park itself comprises dry acacia bush surrounding the lake and grazing land for the ridiculously large-horned Ankole Cattle and hence a new habitat that supported a few new species of birds for us. As we arrived Black-faced Go-away-bird, Slate-coloured Boubou and Greater Blue-eared Starling were seen and we enjoyed more sightings of the desirable Brown-chested Lapwing.



A pair of White-backed Night Herons (left) allowed close approach at their nest site on Lake Mburo. Once again our African Finfoot experience did not disappoint and we had superb views of both female and male (right). (Nik Borrow)

We had the whole of the next day in the park and the following morning we were up before dawn struggling to see a Black-shouldered Nightjar that was calling in the grounds of our lodge. It was touch and go but we finally succeeded just as dawn broke! After having enjoyed a hearty breakfast we embarked on a short boat

trip out on the lake itself and soon found ourselves watching a pair of White-backed Night Herons in the process of building their nest. Our boat propelled us through rotund snorting hippos and sentinel African Fish Eagles until we had successfully tracked down a female African Finfoot which although initially somewhat skittish, settled down to allow excellent views although a little later, a male performed even better! Returning to the shore we then went in search of the localised Red-faced Barbet and after some time we managed to find a pair and enjoyed some great views of this scarce bird. With the specialities in the bag we could relax a bit and enjoy other birds and mammals that the park has to offer such as Tawny Eagle, Black-bellied Bustard, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Lilac-breasted Roller, Green Wood Hoopoe, Little Spotted Woodpecker, Southern Black Flycatcher, Common Zebra and Impala. As dusk fell Swamp, Square-tailed and Pennant-winged Nightjars were seen and an African Scops Owl was captured in the torch beam.



The localised Red-faced Barbet (left) allowed some good views this year and we saw small numbers of migrant Brown-chested Lapwings (right). (Nik Borrow)

The following morning we packed and embarked on the long drive back to Entebbe but Lake Mburo hadn't quite finished with us yet for before we left we found a Long-tailed Cisticola as a farewell present! We stopped at a swamp that looked particularly promising on our journey but the only new birds seen were Fulvous Whistling Duck and African Swamphen. It had surely been an amazing trip with so many memories to cherish! Uganda is the proud owner of an extensive network of well-managed parks and reserves which contain a wide range of habitats: high to low altitude rain forests, vast open wetlands, thorn-bush and dry savannahs. The country boasts a bird list of over 1,000 species, as well as large numbers of big game and wonderful facilities for unrivalled primate watching, making this one of the most outstanding eco-destinations anywhere in the world. All of these natural wonders are complemented by the extremely high standard of comfortable accommodation that is now available (and is improving every year). The people are friendly and helpful and in particular thanks to Livingstone, our hardworking driver/guide who really made our tour a holiday to remember.



Pied Kingfishers. (Nik Borrow)



One of the five Shoebills seen during this tour takes to the skies at Mabamba Swamp. (Nik Borrow)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

E = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Seen in Murchison Falls NP and Kyazanga Swamp.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Small numbers at Kyazanga Swamp.

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* 5 seen near Lake Mburo NP.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP and Kyazanga Swamp.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* 1 in Murchison Falls NP and a few at Kyazanga Swamp.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Most common in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* First seen at Mabamba Swamp.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* 1 seen near Lake Mburo NP.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* Small numbers en route to Kisoro and common at Kyazanga Swamp.
Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* A common bird in suitable habitat.
Western Crested Guineafowl *Guttera [pucheranij] verreauxi* (NL) 2 seen by Steve and Henry in Kibale Forest.
Nahan's Partridge *Ptilopachus nahani* (E) ◇ Good looks at 1 at Kaniyo Pabidi.
Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* Easy to see in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.
Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus* (H) Heard at Mabamba Swamp.
Heuglin's Francolin *Pternistis icterorhynchus* ◇ 3 seen in cultivation near Budongo Forest.
Handsome Francolin *Pternistis nobilis* ◇ Great looks in Bwindi for those who opted out of the swamp walk.
Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* Common and easy to see in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.



Crested Francolin (left) and Red-necked Spurfowl (right) are both common and easy to see. (Nik Borrow)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 2 en route to Kisoro and another near Lake Mburo NP.
Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* (NT) Hundreds in Queen Elizabeth NP and 1 at Kyazanga Swamp.
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* Most numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.
African Openbill (A Open-billed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus* In suitable habitat throughout.
African Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* Mabamba Swamp, Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Common and widespread.
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Common and widespread.
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Seen in Murchison Falls NP and Kyazanga Swamp.
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Small numbers in suitable habitat.
Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* The resident race *payesii*, Murchison Falls and Lake Mburo NPs.
White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus* ◇ A pair at their nest in Lake Mburo NP.
Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Squacco Heron (Common S H) *Ardeola ralloides* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common and widespread.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Common and widespread, breeding colonies noted.
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP. A decline in numbers?
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Most numerous in Murchison Falls NP.
Great Egret *Ardea alba* Widespread sightings in small numbers.
Yellow-billed Egret (Intermediate E) *Egretta [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* 1 in Murchison Falls NP.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* This familiar species was observed at various wetlands throughout the country.
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Common and widespread.

Shoebill (Whale-headed Stork) *Balaeniceps rex* ◊ (V) 1 Mabamba and 4 Murchison Falls NP.
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* 8+ Queen Elizabeth NP.
Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.
White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Most numerous on the Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth NP.
African Darter *Anhinga rufa* Small numbers Murchison Falls NP.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants in Murchison Falls NP.
Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus* Small numbers were seen at widespread locations.
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus* Small numbers were seen at widespread locations.
Palm-nut Vulture (Vulturine Fish Eagle) *Gypohierax angolensis* Seen at widespread locations.
African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* Singletons en route to Kibale and in Mburo NP.
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* (E) Around Entebbe, Kampala and Jinja.
White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* (E) Seen in Murchison, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* (V) Small numbers in Murchison, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.
Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* 1 near Mburo NP.
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* 3 sightings in and around Mburo NP.
Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* No less than 13 widespread sightings.
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.
Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* 1 seen hunting over Murchison Falls at dusk.
Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* (NT) 2 seen over Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* (V) Singletons in Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* A regularly met with roadside bird with an impressive hairdo!



Western Banded Snake Eagles (left) were common this tour and we saw some impressive Long-crested Eagles! (Nik Borrow)

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* Singletons in Mburo NP.
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* Scope views of 1 on the Butiaba Escarpment.
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* A number of widespread sightings particularly by roadsides.
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* 1 in the Murchison area.
Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* Small numbers in the Murchison area.
African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* Our best views were at Bigodi Swamp.
Shikra *Accipiter badius* Seen en route to Murchison and Kibale.
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris* Flight views near Ruhija.
Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) *Accipiter melanoleucus* 4 widespread sightings.
African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus* Small numbers in appropriate habitat.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* Commonly seen in appropriate habitat.

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus* ◊ (NT) 1 in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* Small numbers from Bwindi to Mgahinga.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* Heard in Murchison Falls NP and 1 female seen in Lake Mburo NP.

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* 2 males seen well in Mabira Forest.

Buff-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans* ◊ (H) Only heard in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa* ◊ (H) Only heard near Masindi.

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* A male and a female seen well on Lake Mburo.

African Rail (A Water R) *Rallus caerulescens* (H) Heard in Mubwindi Swamp.

African Crake *Crex egregia* At least 8 were seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Easily seen in appropriate habitat.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* About 6 at Kyazanga Swamp.

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* 2 seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Seen en route to Kisoro, near Lake Mburo and at Kyazanga Swamp.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* Seen en route to Kisoro.

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* (E) Plenty of great sightings of this superb species.

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* Easily seen in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Spotted Thick-knee (S Dikkop) *Burhinus capensis* 6 in Murchison Falls NP.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris* First seen well at Mabamba Swamp.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* Easily seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Black-headed Lapwing (B-h Plover) *Vanellus tectus* Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

Senegal Lapwing (S Plover) *Vanellus lugubris* Most numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus* A pair seen at their nest in Queen Elizabeth NP.



Black-headed Lapwing in Murchison Falls NP(left) and Crowned Lapwing with egg in Queen Elizabeth NP (right). (Nik Borrow)

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Easily seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.

Brown-chested Lapwing *Vanellus superciliosus* ◊ 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP and at least 3 in Lake Mburo NP.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Good numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* 2 in Queen Elizabeth NP and 1 en route to Kisoro.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Easily seen in appropriate habitat.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 1 of these Palearctic migrants on the Kazinga Channel.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 2 of these Palearctic migrants on the Kazinga Channel.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 2 of these Palearctic migrants in Mburo NP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Widespread sightings of these Palearctic migrants.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Widespread sightings of these Palearctic migrants.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* 5 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* 50+ in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* 30+ at the top of the falls in Murchison Falls NP.

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* (NT) Great looks at the large flock on the Kazinga Channel.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Small numbers at Mabamba Swamp and Queen Elizabeth NP.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* Many of these Palearctic migrants on Lake Victoria.

Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove) (feral) *Columba livia* Feral or table birds only.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* Seen on urban electric wires and rooftops.

Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta* Several recorded in Mabira and Kibale Forests.

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* Good numbers in the southwest.

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques* Seen in Kibale Forest.

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* Great looks in Mgahinga NP.

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* Common in Murchison Falls NP.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* This common and widespread species sings "I am a Red-eyed Dove".

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* Mainly southerly overlapping with Vinaceous towards Murchison Falls NP.

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* The more numerous dove in the north of the country. Best identified by voice.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Widespread sightings.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* A few of these dry country doves were seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* The common wood dove in the 'drier' habitats of Murchison Falls area.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* The common wood dove of moister country and regularly encountered.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* Commonly encountered but often just in flight.

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia* 2 seen briefly at the Kimengo Ranches.

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* Widespread sightings.

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata* Uganda is one of the easiest places in Africa to see this magnificent bird.

Black-billed Turaco *Tauraco schuettii* ♦ We enjoyed good views in several of the Ugandan forests.

White-crested Turaco *Tauraco leucolophus* Great views on the Kimengo Ranches.

Ruwenzori Turaco *Ruwenzorornis johnstoni* ♦ A certain highlight of our day in Mgahinga NP.

Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae* Seen well at Bigodi Wetlands and Lake Mburo NP.



Black-billed Wood Dove in Murchison Falls NP (left) and this Ross's Turaco posed nicely in Lake Mburo NP (right). (Nik Borrow)

Black-faced Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides [personatus] leopoldi* Small numbers in Lake Mburo NP area.

Eastern Plantain-eater (E Grey P-e) *Crinifer zonurus* Very common (and noisy) in the lowlands.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* Widespread sightings and usually associated more with papyrus.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* Widespread sightings throughout the savannas.

Black Coucal *Centropus grillii* Birds in breeding plumage in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus* Widespread sightings of single birds.

Levaillant's Cuckoo (African Striped C) *Clamator levaillantii* (LO) Nik saw 1 near Entebbe.

Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius* Widespread sightings.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Heard often but only seen at Mabamba Swamp and Kibale Forest.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* Widespread sightings.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi* ◇ Seen in Budongo Forest.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus* (H) Heard in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx montanus* Great views in Echuya Forest.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* Best views were obtained at 'the Neck'.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* Heard more often than seen throughout the tour.

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* 1 seen well at dusk in Lake Mburo NP.

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens* Excellent looks in Murchison Falls NP.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* Great views of a pair on their nest in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum* (H) Heard only in Kibale Forest.

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis* ◇ A male was seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Ruwenzori Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii* ◇ A male was seen at Ruhija.

Swamp Nightjar *Caprimulgus natalensis* Great looks at dusk in Lake Mburo NP.

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* A pair was seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* Seen in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus vexillarius* Excellent views in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.



A number of well-endowed male Pennant-winged Nightjars were seen during the tour. (Nik Borrow)

Scarce Swift ◇ *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* Seen over Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Mgahinga NP.

Sabine's Spinetail *Raphidura sabini* Small numbers seen over Mabira and Budongo Forests.

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini* 1 seen over Mabira Forest.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Common in suitable habitat.

Common Swift (Eurasian S) *Apus apus* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant over Murchison Falls and Bwindi.

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus* Small numbers seen near Kabale.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Most often a bridge and town bird (that's where their nesting habitat is!).

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* Widespread sightings but relatively few seen.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* An abundant and very widespread species noted throughout the tour.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Common in bush country though often flying by at a rate of knots!

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* Great views of males at Kaniyo Pabidi and heard in Kibale Forest.

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum* Great views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* Small numbers were seen in and near Lake Mburo NP.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* 1 was scoped in Kibale Forest.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat during the tour.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* 1 was scoped at Kaniyo Pabidi and more were seen in Budongo Forest.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* Small numbers in Murchison, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* Heard more often than seen but great views in Budongo Forest.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* Common and widespread.

African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei* Singletons at Kaniyo Pabidi and Royal Mile but they did not hang around!

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* Widespread sightings in small numbers.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* Common and easy to see in appropriate habitat.

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys* Singletons at Mabira, Budongo and 'the Neck'.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* 4 in Murchison Falls NP.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Astonishingly numerous in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* Seen well in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Small numbers in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus* Small numbers at Mabamba, Murchison Falls NP and Nabugabo.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates* Numerous sightings in the Bwindi area.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki* Numerous in Murchison Falls NP.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* A few seen en route to Kibale.

Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar B-e) *Merops superciliosus* First seen well at Mabamba Swamp.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* Small numbers of these intra-African migrants in Murchison Falls NP.

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps* 3 seen well in Mabira Forest.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei* Several groups in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Only seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Black Scimitarbill (B Wood-hoopoe) *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* 1 seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* Singletons in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* Widespread sightings in small numbers.

Congo Pied Hornbill (African P H) *Lophoceros [f.] fasciatus* ♦ Best views were in Mabira Forest.

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Easily seen in Murchison and Lake Mburo NPs.

White-thighed Hornbill *Bycanistes albotibialis* ♦ 3 seen in Budongo Forest.



White-thighed Hornbills along the Royal Mile (left) and the bizarre Grey-headed Barbet recently split from Grey-throated. (Nik Borrow)

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus* Pleasingly numerous during the tour.

Grey-headed Barbet (G- throated B) *Gymnobucco [bonapartei] cinereiceps* ◊ Budongo and Bwindi Forests.
Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* More often heard than seen in the lower altitude forests.
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* More often heard than seen in the lower altitude forests.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Regularly recorded in the higher altitude forests and cultivation.
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* The common tinkerbird of the savannahs and cultivation.
Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchailui* The 'snoring' song was heard more than the bird was seen in forest.
Streaky-throated Barbet *Tricholaema [hirsuta] flavipunctata* Seen well in Mabira Forest and heard elsewhere.
Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Good views in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.
White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus* Seen well on the Kimengo Ranches and Lake Mburo NP.
Red-faced Barbet *Lybius rubrifacies* ◊ (NT) A pair was seen well in Lake Mburo NP.
Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito* Small numbers were seen in the Murchison Falls area.
Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* Widespread sightings.
Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus [p.] purpuratus* Seen well at Bigodi Wetland and in the Bwindi area.
Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* Singletons in Budongo and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.
Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii* ◊ 1 was scoped at 'the Neck'.
Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris* 1 was seen in Mabira Forest.
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* Singletons in Murchison Falls NP and on the Butiaba Escarpment.
Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* 1 was seen in Lake Mburo NP.
Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* Seen in Lake Mburo NP.
Little Spotted Woodpecker (Green-backed W) *Campethera [c.] cailliautii* The race *nyansae* in Lake Mburo NP.



Little Spotted Woodpecker at Lake Mburo NP (left) and a Grey Kestrel waits for bats at Murchison Falls (right). (Nik Borrow)

Fine-banded Woodpecker (Tullberg's W) *Campethera [tullbergi] taeniolaema* 2 seen in Bwindi Forest.
Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa* 1 seen at Kaniyo Pabidi.
Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli* (H) Heard in Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Widespread sightings from Murchison Falls to Lake Mburo NPs.
Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus* (H) Heard in Lake Mburo NP.
Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Dendropicos xantholophus* 3 seen well at Kaniyo Pabidi.
Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae* Seen well in the Murchison Falls area.
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.
Red-necked Falcon *Falco [chicquera] ruficollis* A pair was seen well in Murchison Falls NP.
African Hobby *Falco cuvierii* A pair at Jinja and another en route to Entebbe.
Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius* Great looks in the Masindi area.
Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* (V) Seen in flight over the various forests.

Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri* Only small numbers in very widespread localities

Grauer's Broadbill (African Green B) *Pseudocalyptomena graueri* ◊ (V) A pair on nest with 2 juveniles at Ruhija.

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* A male in Mabira Forest.

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher (Vanga F) *Bias musicus* First seen well at Bigodi Wetlands.

Ruwenzori Batis *Batis diops* ◊ Seen well at Ruhija and Echuya Forest.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* Small numbers in the southwestern forests.

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri* Several seen in the Murchison area and Queen Elizabeth NP.

Ituri Batis *Batis ituriensis* ◊ A male seen high in the canopy in Budongo Forest.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea* A number of sightings in the lower altitude forests.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea* Widespread sightings during the tour.

Jameson's Wattle-eye *Platysteira jamesoni* ◊ Singletons in Mabira and Budongo Forests

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* A flock in Murchison Falls NP.

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* A trio at Kimengo Ranches.

Lagden's Bushshrike ◊ *Malaconotus lagdeni* (NT) 1 seen well at Mgahinga.



The Albertine Rift endemic Ruwenzori Batis (left) and the rare Lagden's Bushshrike were both seen well in the southwest. (Nik Borrow)

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor* (H) Heard only in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Bocage's Bushshrike (Grey-green B S) *Chlorophoneus bocagei* Seen well at Bigodi Wetland and Bwindi Forests.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Seen in Lake Mburo NP and heard elsewhere.

Doherty's Bushshrike *Telophorus dohertyi* ◊ This gorgeous bird was seen well at Ruhija and Mgahinga.

Marsh Tchagra (Blackcap T) *Bocagia minuta* Seen well near Masindi and in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Brown-crowned Tchagra (Brown-headed T) *Tchagra australis* Heard widely but only seen in the Buhoma area.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Easy to see in the Murchison and Queen Elizabeth areas.

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis* A few seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* Seen in Murchison Falls NP, Kibale and the southwest.

Mountain Black Boubou (Montane Sooty B) *Laniarius poensis* ◊ Seen well in Echuya Forest.

Willard's Sooty Boubou *Laniarius willardi* (H) ◊ Heard only in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Slate-coloured Boubou *Laniarius funebris* Great views of 1 at Lake Mburo NP.

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* Several widespread sightings.

Papyrus Gonolek *Laniarius mufumbiri* ◊ (NT) Very skulking in the papyrus but finally seen well.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster* Especially numerous in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Brubru *Nilaus afer* 1 seen well in Lake Mburo NP.

Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia* Good views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* Best views were obtained in Lake Mburo NP.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* A female en route to Masindi.
Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Mackinnon's Fiscal *Lanius mackinnoni* Small numbers were seen in the southwest.
Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* Common and widespread but absent from the southwest.
Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Widespread sightings during the tour.
African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* 1 seen in flight at Kimengo Ranches
Western Oriole (W Black-headed O) *Oriolus brachyrhynchus* Seen well in Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Mountain (Montane) Oriole *Oriolus percivali* ◊ Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Black-headed Oriole (Eastern B-h O) *Oriolus larvatus* Singletons in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.
Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) *Dicrurus adsimilis* Commonly encountered in the savannahs.
Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus* 3 seen in Mabira Forest.
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* (H) Heard in Mabira Forest.
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer* Seen well in the Budongo and Kibale Forests.
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Widespread sightings.



Mackinnon's Fiscals were easily seen in the southwest (left). The kivuensis race of African Paradise Flycatcher at Buhoma. (Nik Borrow)

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer* Most abundant in the Murchison area.
Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common and widespread.
White-necked Raven (White-naped R) *Corvus albicollis* Only in the southwest.
African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* Widespread sightings of this dainty bird.
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* Seen well in the Bwindi area.
White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis* 2 sightings in the Murchison area.
White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.
Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus* Seen in Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Stripe-breasted Tit *Melaniparus fasciiventer* ◊ Just 2 sightings of these Albertine Rift endemics at Ruhija.
Western Nicator *Nicator chloris* Heard often and seen in Budongo Forest and Bigodi Wetland.
Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafrā africana* Most numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Flappet Lark *Mirafrā rufocinnamomea* Common in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* 1 in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Every day!
Kakamega Greenbul *Arizelocichla kakamegae* ◊ Just 1 pair seen at 'the Neck'.
Olive-breasted Greenbul (O-b Mountain G) *Arizelocichla kikuyuensis* ◊ Small numbers in the southwestern forests.
Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* Easily seen in the forests.
Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* Common but more often heard than seen in the forests.
Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis* Small numbers in Mabira, Budongo and Bwindi Forests.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G) *Eurillas curvirostris* Small numbers in Mabira, Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* Common and easily seen in the forests.
Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* Seen in Budongo, Kibale and Bwindi Forests.
Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus* Seen well in Budongo Forest.
Joyful Greenbul *Chlorocichla laetissima* ◊ A pair seen near Kibale Forest.



Eventually we found Joyful Greenbuls near Kibale (left). Mountain Yellow Warbler was easy to see in Echuya Forest. (Nik Borrow)

Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis* Widespread sightings of the creamy-throated race *flavigula*.
Toro Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus hypochloris* ◊ A pair seen well in Mabira Forest.
Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* A pair seen well at Buhoma.
White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis* ◊ Small numbers of these often shy but vocal forest greenbuls.
Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* Seen well during the walk to Mubwindi Swamp.
Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* Sightings in Mabira, Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Yellow-eyed Bristlebill *Bleda [notatus] ugandae* ◊ Great looks at a pair at an ant swarm in Mabira Forest.
Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* Seen well in Mabira, Kaniyo Pabidi and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.
White-headed Saw-wing *Psaldoprocne albiceps* ◊ A common and widespread bird throughout the lower country.
Black Saw-wing *Psaldoprocne [pristoptera] holomelas* Common around Bwindi Impenetrable NP.
Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* 1 at Mabamba Swamp followed by more in Queen Elizabeth NP and Nabugabo.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* This Palearctic migrant was most numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* Numerous during the tour, particularly around settlements.
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Small numbers in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Small numbers in the south west.
Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Widespread sightings.
Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa* Just a few seen at Mabamba and in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* A few widespread sightings.
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Seen in the southwest and in Lake Mburo NP.
Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W) *Melocichla mentalis* Often heard and occasionally seen in grassland.
Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans* (H) Heard only in Mabira Forest.
Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor* Seen well in Mabira Forest and heard elsewhere.
Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* Seen in Murchison Falls NP.
Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* 1 seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* Often heard and occasionally seen.
Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti* 2 seen well in Budongo Forest.
White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys* ◊ Great views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Neumann's Warbler (Short-tailed W) *Urosphena neumanni* ◇ This difficult bird was seen relatively well in Bwindi.

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii* This delightful 'flycatcher' was seen well in Budongo Forest.

Grauer's Warbler *Graueria vittata* ◇ Seen well at Ruhija.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* Often heard and occasionally seen.

Red-faced Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus laetus* ◇ An Albertine Rift endemic seen in Bwindi and Echuya Forests.

Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens* Seen well near Lake Bunyonyi.

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Seen in Murchison Falls NP and along the Kazinga Channel.

African Yellow Warbler (Dark-capped Y W) *Iduna natalensis* 1 seen well near Masindi.

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Iduna similis* ◇ Seen well in Bwindi and Echuya Forests.

Papyrus Yellow Warbler *Calamonastides gracilirostris* ◇ (V) This rare bird was seen easily in the Bunyonyi area.

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* A displaying bird seen well at Buhoma.

White-winged Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis* ◇ Often heard in swamps and seen en route to Kibale.

Grauer's Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus graueri* (E) Brief views of displaying birds in Mubwindi Swamp.

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Wonderful views at Echuya Forest.

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus [lopezi] mariae* (H) Heard in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Fan-tailed Grassbird (F-t Warbler) *Schoenicola brevirostris* 1 seen near Masindi.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythropus* Often heard throughout the tour and occasionally seen.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* Seen en route to Masindi.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* Seen en route to Kibale.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* ◇ Seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP and heard in Lake Mburo NP.

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi* ◇ First encountered in Kibale Forest and common in the southwest.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Very common in the Murchison Falls area.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus* A common and showy cisticola seen frequently in appropriate wetlands.

Carruthers's Cisticola *Cisticola carruthersi* ◇ Mostly associated with papyrus.



A showy Cinnamon Bracken Warbler in Echuya Forest (left) and Carruthers's Cisticola along the Kazinga Channel (right). (Nik Borrow)

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* Common in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling) *Cisticola brachypterus* First encountered in Murchison Falls NP.

Foxy Cisticola *Cisticola troglodytes* ◇ Good views were obtained on the Butiaba escarpment.

Long-tailed Cisticola (Tabora C) *Cisticola angusticauda* 1 seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed C) *Cisticola juncidis* Easily seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Common and widespread.

Black-faced Prinia *Prinia melanops* ◇ This attractive species was seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

White-chinned Prinia *Prinia leucopogon* First seen well at Mabamba Swamp.

Ruwenzori Apalis (Collared A) *Oreolais ruwenzorii* ◇ Good views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Red-winged Grey Warbler *Drymocichla incana* ◇ Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.

Yellow-breasted Apalis (Black-breasted A) *Apalis flavida* Seen well in the Luwero area.

Lowland Masked Apalis (M A) *Apalis binotata* ◇ 2 were seen well in Kibale Forest.

Mountain Masked Apalis (Black-faced A) *Apalis personata* ◇ Easy to see in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps* (H) Heard in Budongo Forest.
Chestnut-throated Apalis *Apalis porphyrolaema* The warbler with the ‘trim-phone’ call in the southwest.
Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis* Numerous opportunities to see this species well in the various forests.
Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea* Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida* Often heard and occasionally seen.



The Albertine Rift endemic Ruwenzori Apalis (left) and the unusual Grey-capped Warbler (right). (Nik Borrow)

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Common and widespread.
Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota* Often heard and first seen in Mabira Forest.
Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus* Good views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* Small numbers seen well in Budongo Forest.
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis albipectus* ◇ Seen well in Mabira Forest and heard in Kibale and Bwindi Forest.
Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli* ◇ Excellent views at Kaniyo Pabidi.
Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis* (H) Heard in Budongo Forest.
Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* Seen in Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Mountain Illadopsis *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera* ◇ Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth and in the Lake Mburo area.
Dusky Babbler *Turdoides tenebrosus* ◇ We connected with a family group in Murchison Falls NP.
Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus* Small numbers were seen in Murchison Falls NP.
Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Ruwenzori Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe atriceps* ◇ Small numbers were seen at Ruhija and the southwest.
African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* Common and widespread throughout the tour.
Grey-chested Babbler ◇ (G-c Illadopsis) *Kakamega poliothorax* Glimpses in Bwindi and Mgahinga.
Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* Common in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Purple-headed Starling *Lamprotornis purpleiceps* Easily seen in Mabira, Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Small numbers in the Lake Mburo area.
Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* Some flocks between Murchison and Masindi.
Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus* Seen during the journeys to and departing from Kibale Forest.
Purple Starling (P Glossy S) *Lamprotornis purpureus* Just a couple seen on the Kimengo ranches.
Rüppell's Starling (R's Long-tailed S) *Lamprotornis purpuropterus* Very common and widespread.
Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* A few seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.
Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris* Large numbers seen flying over Bwindi Forest.
Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri* Large numbers seen flying over Bwindi Forest.

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris* Small numbers in the Kibale area and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Sharpe's Starling *Poeoptera sharpii* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Red-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus* Brief views in Budongo and Kibale forests.

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis* Amazing views in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Fraser's Rufous Thrush (Rufous Flycatcher T) *Stizorhina fraseri* Easily seen in the various forests.

Kivu Ground Thrush *Geokichla [piaggiae] tanganjicae* ◊ (H) Heard only in Mgahinga NP.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* Widespread sightings.

Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain T) *Turdus abyssinicus* Several seen in Echuya Forest and at Mgahinga.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe castanea* 1 glimpsed in Budongo Forest.

Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Erythropgia hartlaubi* Widespread sightings.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Erythropgia leucophrys* Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata* A few seen in Budongo Forest.

Grey-throated Tit-flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis* Often heard and occasionally seen in the various forests.

Grey Tit-flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* Several seen in the Murchison area.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Dioptornis fischeri* Easy to see in the southwest.

Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis ardesiacus* ◊ Seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* Numerous widespread sightings.

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* 1 of apparently this species seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus* 2 seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Silverbird *Empidornis semipartitus* ◊ A truly beautiful flycatcher and easily seen in the Murchison Falls area.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* Seen at most wetlands and impossible to be missed in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher (C's Grey F) *Muscicapa cassini* Seen along rivers in Kibale and Bwindi Forests.



Swamp Flycatchers (left) are common inhabitants of the papyrus and Cassin's Flycatchers (right) can be readily found along the forested streams of the southwest. (Nik Borrow)

Chapin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa lendu* ◊ (V) A pair was seen well in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* Easy to see in the southwest.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata* Small numbers at Bigodi Wetland and in the southwest.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata* Treetop birds in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Red-throated Alethe *Pseudaethe poliophrys* ◊ Excellent looks in Echuya Forest.

Brown-chested Alethe *Pseudaethe poliocephala* 1 hopping along the track in Kibale Forest.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti* ◊ Good looks in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Archer's Ground Robin *Cossypha archeri* ◊ Several seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and at Mgahinga.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* 2 seen well at Mgahinga.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera* ◇ Seen well at Buhoma.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter* ◇ Difficult to see well in Mabira Forest and at 'the Neck'.

White-browed Robin-Chat (Heuglin's R) *Cossypha heuglini* Particularly numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* Seen well at Buhoma.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat (S-headed R-c) *Cossypha niveicapilla* Several opportunities to see this species.

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* Several opportunities to see this species well in the southwest.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis* ◇ 2 sightings in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T) *Cichladusa guttata* Easily seen in the Murchison area.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* Easy to see near Kibale Forest and in the southwest.

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolea cinnamomeiventris* A trio on the Butiaba escarpment.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* Easy to see in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Grey-headed Sunbird *Deleornis axillaris* ◇ Seen in Mabira, Kaniyo Pabidi and Bwindi forests.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* Sightings in Mabira, Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Grey-chinned Sunbird (Green S) *Anthreptes rectirostris* Sightings in most of the forests.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* A common and widespread sunbird.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* A few widespread sightings.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanoaema* A few widespread sightings.

Blue-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra alinae* ◇ Several seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common throughout the various forests.

Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens* A singleton in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Seen from Entebbe to Buhoma.

Bronzy Sunbird (Bronze S) *Nectarinia kilimensis* Common in the southwest.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* Seen in various lower altitude forests.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris reichenowi* Numerous in the southwest.

Regal Sunbird *Cinnyris regius* ◇ Small numbers of this superb sunbird in the southwest.



Our best views of Grey-chinned Sunbird were at Bigodi Swamp (left). Regal Sunbirds were a joy to behold in the southwest (Nik Borrow)

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP

Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) *Cinnyris mariquensis* First seen well at the Luwero Swamps.

Red-chested Sunbird *Cinnyris erythrocerus* ◇ A stunning sunbird and common around the swamps and wet places.

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* A few seen at Bigodi Wetland and Lake Mburo NPs.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* Several seen at Bigodi Wetland.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* The attractive orange-bellied race, *igneiventris* was seen in the southwest.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* Widespread sightings and common in suitable habitat.

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* Seen on the Kimengo Ranches and in Murchison Falls NP.
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* Small numbers in Murchison Falls NP.
House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Roadside birds seen in settlements during journeys.
Shelley's Sparrow (S's Rufous S) *Passer shelleyi* ◊ Seen well in Murchison Falls NP.
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow (G-h S) *Passer griseus* Very common and widespread.
Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* Only in Murchison Falls NP.
Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons* Widespread sightings.
Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* From Masindi (*emini*) to the southwest (*stuhlmanni*).
Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni* Associated with papyrus, lakes and dining tables!



One of the best places to see Slender-billed Weavers (left) is on the dining table at Mweya Lodge. Baglafaecht Weavers of the race *stuhlmanni* (right) were seen well in the southwest. (Nik Borrow)

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* Small numbers in the Murchison Falls area and Queen Elizabeth NP.
Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* Several widespread sightings.
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* Widespread sightings in open habitats throughout the tour.
Strange Weaver *Ploceus alienus* ◊ Our best views of this Albertine Rift endemic were in Echuya Forest.
Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* 3 widespread sightings throughout the tour.
Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius* A couple near Mabamba Swamp.
Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops* Seen at Mabamba Swamp and Murchison and Mburo NPs.
Victoria Masked Weaver *Ploceus victoriae* The mysterious weavers near Bunyonyi were seen well. See Note.
Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* First seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* Small numbers in the Murchison area.
Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus* This species was a constant companion throughout the tour.
Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus* A common bird often seen in colonies by roadside villages.
Weyns's Weaver *Ploceus weynsi* ◊ Some fine breeding plumaged males at Mabamba Swamp.
Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed W) *Ploceus melanocephalus* An abundant waterside weaver.
Golden-backed Weaver (Jackson's G-b W) *Ploceus jacksoni* A couple seen at Mabamba Swamp.
Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus* Seen well from Luwero to Queen Elizabeth NP.
Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor* Several seen in Kibale NP.
Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis* Small numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.
Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* Seen in Mabira, Budongo, Kibale and Bwindi Forests.
Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* 2 seen in Lake Mburo NP.
Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops* A breeding plumaged male en route to Masindi.
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Some large flocks seen.
Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer* 1 male in breeding plumage at Lake Bisina.
Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii* Breeding plumaged males near Masindi and at Bigodi Wetland.
Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* Birds in breeding plumage in the Murchison area.
Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* Birds moulting out of breeding plumage in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* Birds in breeding plumage in the Murchison area.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* In non-breeding plumage in the Bwindi area.

Fan-tailed Widowbird (Red-shouldered W) *Euplectes axillaris* Breeding plumaged birds throughout the tour.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes [m.] macroura* In breeding plumage in the Murchison Falls area.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes [macroura] macrocercus* In breeding plumage near Luwero.

Marsh Widowbird (Hartlaub's M W) *Euplectes hartlaubi* In breeding plumage near Luwero.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* Breeding plumaged birds near Masindi and en route to Kibale.

White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus* Small numbers recorded in the forests.

Grey-headed Nigrita (G-crowned Negrofinch) Small numbers recorded in the forests.

Grey-headed Oliveback *Nesocharis capistrata* ◊ 1 seen briefly near Masindi.

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afra* A pair seen well on the Butiaba Escarpment.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* (LO) 1 seen by Nik in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Dusky Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza jacksoni* ◊ Excellent scope views in Mgahinga NP.

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* ◊ Singletons in Budongo Forest and at Bigodi Wetland.

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri* ◊ Seen well in the Masindi area.

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara* A pair seen in the Masindi area.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Very common around Buliisa and in Queen Elizabeth and Mburo NPs.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* Sightings from Queen Elizabeth to Lake Mburo NPs.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* Most common in the Murchison Falls area.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Estrilda quartinia* Small numbers in the Ruhija area.

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola* Small numbers in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga* Several seen in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes* Small numbers seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* Small numbers from Mabamba to Murchison Falls NP.

Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula* Seen well in the Kibale area.

Kandt's Waxbill *Estrilda kandti* ◊ Small numbers seen well in the Ruhija area and at Mgahinga.

Black-faced Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos* Several near Buliisa.

Black-faced Quailfinch *Ortygospiza [a.] atricollis* 1 seen in flight in Murchison Falls NP.

Black-chinned Quailfinch *Ortygospiza [atricollis] gabonensis* 4 seen in flight in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullatus* Common and widespread.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor* Seen at widespread locations during the tour.

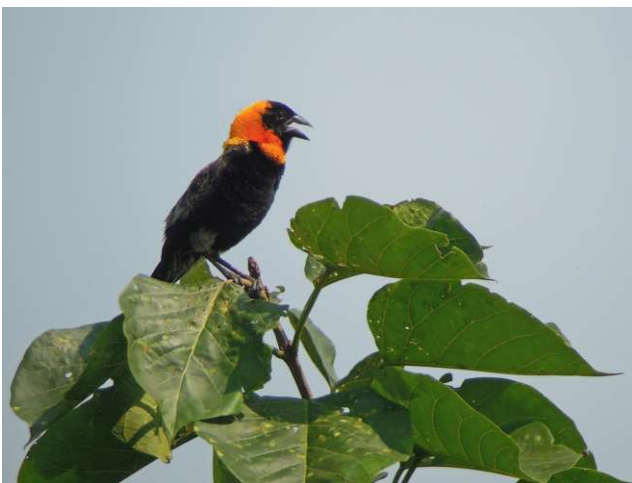
Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides* 1 en route to Kibale and 4 at Bigodi Wetland.

Village Indigobird (Red-billed Firefinch I) *Vidua chalybeata* Widespread sightings with males in breeding plumage.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Common and widespread, many breeding plumaged birds.

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* Easy to see in the south west.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Everywhere!



Black Bishop in plumage at Bigodi (left). African Pied Wagtails seemed to be everywhere! (right) (Nik Borrow)

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* Widespread and common in appropriate habitat.

African Pipit (Grassland P) *Anthus cinnamomeus* Most numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP and Nabugabo.
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* Most numerous in Queen Elizabeth NP.
Oriole Finch *Linurgus olivaceus* A male at Ruhija.
Western Citril *Crithagra frontalis* ◊ Most numerous in the southwest.
Papyrus Canary *Crithagra koliensis* ◊ A male near Lake Bunyonyi.
White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygius* Small numbers seen in the Buliisa area.
Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis* Several in the Buhoma area.
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Common and widespread.
Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphuratus* Widespread sightings.
Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolatus* Common in the southwest.
Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni* Small numbers in the southwest.
Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* Small numbers near Ruhija.
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* Several on the Butiaba escarpment.
Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* Sightings in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.
Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis* A male for those in one car in Murchison Falls NP.
Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* 1 in Murchison Falls NP.



We enjoyed some incredible encounters with African Savanna Elephants. (Nik Borrow)

MAMMALS

Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes* Seen in Budongo and Kibale Forests.
Eastern Gorilla *Gorilla beringei* (NL) This year our group visited 'M' and 'R' groups.
Central African Red Colobus *Piliocolobus oustaleti* Seen in Kibale Forest.
Guereza Colobus (Eastern Black-and-white C) *Colobus guereza* Widespread sightings.
Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* Common and widespread.
Grey-cheeked Mangabey (White-c M) *Lophocebus albigena* Small numbers in Mabira and Kibale Forests.

Vervet Monkey (Savanna M) *Cercopithecus pygerythrus* Widespread sightings.

L'Hoest's Monkey *Cercopithecus lhoesti* Seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP.

Gentle Monkey (Blue M) *Cercopithecus mitis* Seen in Budongo and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Golden Monkey *Cercopithecus [mitis] kandti* 2 seen in Mgahinga NP.

Red-tailed Monkey (Black-cheeked White-nosed M) *Cercopithecus ascanius* Common and widespread.

Spectacled Galago *Galago matschiei* 1 seen at night at Ruhija.

Demidoff's Galago *Galagoides demidoff* (LO) Nik saw 1 at night at Kaniyo Pabidi.

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum* Seen in Jinja.

Hammer Bat *Hypsignathus monstrosus* (H) Heard at night at Kaniyo Pabidi.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Uganda Grass Hare *Poelagus marjorita* Several in Murchison Falls NP.

Striped Ground Squirrel *Euxerus erythropus* Small numbers seen from Mabamba to Murchison Falls NP.

Carruthers's Mountain Squirrel (M Tree S) *Funisciurus carruthersi* 1 seen in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Boehm's Squirrel (B Bush S) *Paraxerus boehmi* Seen in Mabira, Budongo and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel (A Bush S) *Paraxerus alexandri* Seen in Budongo Forest.

Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel (Mountain S S) *Heliosciurus ruwenzori* Several seen in the Ruhija area.

African Giant Squirrel (G Forest S) *Protoxerus stangeri* Singletons in Kibale and Bwindi Impenetrable Forests.

Unstriped Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus* Common in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea* Several widespread sightings.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* Troops in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta* 1 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Leopard *Panthera pardus* 2 in Murchison Falls NP.

Lion *Panthera leo* 8 in Queen Elizabeth NP.

Western Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* (H) Heard at night at Kaniyo Pabidi.

African Savanna Elephant *Loxodonta africana* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Common Zebra (Plains Z) *Equus quagga* The race *boehmi* was common in Lake Mburo NP.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Rothschild's Giraffe *Giraffa [camelopardalis] rothschildi* Seen in Murchison Falls NP.

Cape Buffalo *Syncerus caffer* Only at Lake Mburo NP.

Lake Chad Buffalo *Syncerus brachyceros* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Nile Bushbuck *Tragelaphus bor* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Cape Bushbuck *Tragelaphus sylvaticus* Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx* 25+ in Lake Mburo NP.

Bush Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* 1 in Murchison Falls NP.

Johnston's Duiker *Cephalophus johnstoni* At least 2 at Buhoma.

Black-fronted Duiker *Cephalophus nigrifrons* Seen at higher elevations in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Sudan Oribi *Ourebia montana* Common in Murchison Falls NP.

Uganda Kob *Kobus thomasi* Seen in Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth NPs.

Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus defassa* Seen in Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NPs.

Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus* Seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Uganda Topi *Damaliscus ugandae* Seen in Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo NP.

Lelwel Hartebeest *Alcelaphus lelwel* Common in Murchison Falls NP.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. Gill, F and Donsker, D (Eds). 2015. IOC World Bird Names (v5.3). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Victoria Masked Weaver *Ploceus victoriae*

First described in 1986, this form has not generally been accepted in the ornithological literature and its validity questioned. It has been suggested that it is a hybrid between Yellow-backed Weaver *P. melanocephalus* and Northern Brown-throated Weaver *P. castanops*. The situation has still not been resolved.