



**UGANDA BIRDING TOUR - SHOEBILL, ALBERTINE RIFT  
ENDEMIC AND GREAT APES TOUR REPORT**

**19 JULY - 01 AUGUST 2024**

**By Joshua Olszewski**



*The majestic **Shoebill** was seen splendidly on the first day of the tour (photo Hari Viswanathan).*

### Overview

Situated on the equator and encompassing a variety of tropical African habitats, Uganda has a diversity of bird species that is hard to rival for most African countries and is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in birding. Moreover, seeing such iconic and captivating species as **Shoebill**, **Green-breasted Pitta** and **Grauer's Broadbill**, as well as mammals of the same caliber, such as **Eastern (Mountain) Gorilla**, **Chimpanzee** and **White Rhinoceros** made this tour truly spectacular and memorable. Quite a few colorful and attractive families were well-represented on this tour, such as turacos (six species seen), sunbirds (21 species), weavers (29 species), waxbills (21 species), starlings (12 species) and barbets (14 species). Forest specials and highlights included other Albertine Rift endemics like **Grauer's Warbler**, **Rwenzori Apalis**, **Stripe-breasted Tit**, **Doherty's Bushshrike**, **Albertine Sooty Boubou**, **Dusky Crimsonwing**, **Kandt's Waxbill**, **Archer's Ground Robin**, **Red-faced Woodland Warbler**, **Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher**, **Purple-breasted** and **Blue-headed Sunbird**, as well as more widespread species like **Bar-tailed Trogon**, **Black-billed Turaco**, **Hairy-breasted**, **Yellow-spotted**, **Grey-throated** and **Yellow-billed Barbets**, **Yellow-throated**, **Speckled** and **Western Tinkerbirds**, **Many-colored Bushshrike**, **African Broadbill**, **Grey Parrot**, **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Chestnut Wattle-eye**, **Mountain Oriole**, **Pink-footed Puffback**, **White-tailed** and **African Blue Flycatchers**, **Western Nicator**, **Black-faced Rufous Warbler**, **Black Bee-eater**, **Brown** and **Mountain Illadopsis**, **Fire-crested Alethe**, **Grey-winged Robin-Chat** and **Brown-capped Weaver**.



*Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher* was just one of a plethora of Albertine Rift endemics seen in Bwindi (photo Hari Viswanathan)

Waterbirding was also noteworthy on this tour, with the mix of open lakes, forest streams, papyrus beds and grassy marshes delivering goods like **Papyrus Gonolek**, **Marsh Widowbird**, **White-winged** and **Grauer's Swamp Warblers**, **Highland Rush Warbler**, **Papyrus Yellow Warbler**, **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Blue Swallow**, **Swamp** and **Cassin's Flycatchers**, **White-backed Night Heron**, **Rufous-bellied Heron**, **Lesser Jacana**, **Lesser Moorhen**, **Allen's Gallinule** and **Shining-blue Kingfisher**. Savanna areas were always productive, with notable mentions being **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**, **Purple Starling**, **White-headed**, **Black-collared** and **Crested Barbets**, **Long-tailed Cisticola**, **Grey-headed Oliveback**, **Black Bishop**, **Brown Twinspot**, **Slate-colored Boubou**, **Buff-bellied Warbler**, **Piapiac**, **Black-lored Babbler**, **White-tailed** and **Flappet Larks** and **Palm-nut** and **White-headed Vulture**.

A detailed daily account can be read below, and the full bird and mammal lists are located at the end of the report.

### Detailed Report

#### **Day 1, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Arrival at Entebbe**

After our clients' arrival at Lake Victoria Hotel, we went for a short stroll around the gardens, which gave us our first looks at **Red-chested**, **Marico** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds**, **White-browed Robin-Chat**, **Hadada Ibis**, **Northern Black Flycatcher**, **Red-billed Firefinch**, **African Thrush** and the noisy **Eastern Plantain-eater**. Fly-bys from **African Palm Swifts**, an **African Harrier-Hawk** and a dashing **African Hobby** were also welcomed, before settling in for dinner and looking forward to the next two weeks of incredible birding.

#### **Day 2, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Mabamba Swamp and Entebbe Botanical Gardens**

Our first morning was an early, and rainy, one. Despite this, we made our way to the Mabamba Swamp boat launch, arriving just after sunrise. We then set off on our cruise down papyrus-lined channels into the wetland. Within five minutes of leaving the launch site, we came upon our main quarry for the day: the magnificent **Shoebill**. We spent a good amount of time enjoying unforgettable views of this menacing creature.

After our time with the **Shoebill**, we further explored the swamp, which was teeming with birdlife. Flocks of **Grey-headed Gulls** and **Reed Cormorants** filled the sky, while the swamp itself played host to large numbers of **Long-toed Lapwings**, **African Jacanas**, **Pied Kingfishers**, **Malachite Kingfishers** and **Little** and **Western Cattle Egrets**. Other species seen throughout the swamp included **Purple Heron**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **White-faced Whistling Duck**, **Yellow-billed Duck**, **African Swamphen**, **African Marsh Harrier**, **Winding Cisticola**, **Greater Swamp Warbler**, **Fan-tailed Widowbird**, a pair of **Blue-breasted Bee-eaters**, nesting **Northern Brown-throated Weavers**, a few **Lesser Moorhens**, a single **Lesser Jacana**, a brief **Allen's Gallinule** and mixed aerial flocks of swallows and martins. These consisted mostly of **Barn**, **Red-breasted** and **Lesser Striped Swallows**, but also delivered singletons of **Brown-throated Martin**, **Banded Martin** and the Endangered **Blue Swallow**.





*Vibrant **Red-headed Lovebirds** gave us stunning views at the boat launch area(photo Hari Viswanathan)*

Returning to the boat launch, we were greeted by a **Grey Crowned Crane** flying low overhead, after which we disembarked and had our breakfast at the launch site, attempting (and failing) to not get distracted by the hive of bird activity around us. Some notable mentions from around the boat launch included **Brown-throated Wattle-eye**, **Red-chested Sunbird**, **Black-headed**, **Black-necked**, **Village** and **Slender-billed Weavers**, **African Blue Flycatcher**, **Klaas's Cuckoo**, **Angola Swallow**, **Northern Grey-headed Sparrow**, **African Pied Wagtail**, **Green White-eye**, **Superb Sunbird**, **Black-and-white Mannikin**, the skulking **Grey-capped Warbler** and a group of vivid **Red-headed Lovebirds**. After breakfast, we made our way towards the ferry that would take us back to Entebbe across one of Lake Victoria's bays. We made a few stops en route to the ferry port, which got us **Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Western Banded Snake Eagle**, **White-browed Coucal**, **Striped Kingfisher**, **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike**, **Green-throated Sunbird**, **Green Crombec** and **Village Indigobird**.

Upon returning to the hotel, we then had lunch and killed the heat of the day before heading out in the late afternoon to the nearby Entebbe Botanical Gardens. Situated in the heart of the city on the lake shore, the garden's huge, freestanding trees and patches of forest and wetland create an environment incredibly rich in birdlife. Many large and colorful species are common here, such as **Great Blue** and **Ross's Turaco**, **Eastern Plantain-eater**, **Crowned Hornbill**, **African Green Pigeon**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Rüppell's** and **Splendid Starlings**, the massive **Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill** and highly vocal **Grey Parrots**. Even a brief visit to the gardens delivered a bounty of species, including **African Hobby**, **Olive Bee-eater**, **Double-toothed Barbet**, **Superb**, **Green-headed**, **Olive** and **Olive-bellied Sunbirds**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Leaflove**, **Little Greenbul**,

**African Grey Woodpecker, Palm-nut Vulture, Pink-backed Pelican** and the local pair of nesting **Bat Hawks**. We also had our first sighting of the strikingly black-and-white **Guereza** here. These primates were a regular site on this tour and were thoroughly enjoyed every time we saw them.

We then returned home for a delicious dinner and a good rest for traveling to our next base the following day.



*Groups of flamboyant **Great Blue Turacos** were a constant presence on this tour (photo Hari Viswanathan).*

### **Day 3, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Birding en route to Lake Mburo**

We departed from Entebbe early in the morning and headed west towards Lake Mburo, enjoying the **Grey Crowned Cranes** and **Marabou Storks** roosting on the pylons as we went. En route, we paid a short visit to Mpanga Forest near Mpigi to familiarize ourselves with some of the many forest species possible on this trip. Though birding in the forest was tricky, we managed to scratch out **African Emerald Cuckoo, Western Nicator, Least Honeyguide, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Yellow-crested Woodpecker** and the secretive **Fire-crested Alethe**. The cultivated areas outside the forest were more productive, and delivered **Purple-banded, Collared and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, White-headed Saw-wing, Grey-headed Nigrita, White-browed Scrub Robin, Black-crowned Tchagra, Crowned Hornbill, Brimstone Canary** and flyover views of **Weyn's Weaver**.

We then continued westward, stopping briefly at one of the many papyrus-filled wetlands that cross this road for the gorgeous **Papyrus Gonolek**. We were swiftly blessed with a very vocal pair

of these stunning bushshrikes calling right next to the car. We also visited a productive roadside wetland that was full of birds, including **Rufous-bellied** and **Squacco Herons**, **Spur-winged Goose**, **Blue-headed Coucal**, **Blue-billed Teal**, **Common Moorhen**, **African Swamphen**, **Glossy** and **African Sacred Ibis** and a few pairs of exquisite **Grey Crowned Cranes**. The cranes at this spot seemed quite used to people, allowing for close-up views of them. Birding along the road as we drove was also quite enjoyable. There was always exciting birds to see, and in the process, we managed to add **Long-crested Eagle**, **Grey-backed Fiscal**, both **Common** and **Grey Kestrels**, **Laughing Dove**, **Marico Sunbird** and **African Wattled Lapwing**.



*Papyrus Gonolek is a beautiful bushshrike with a peculiar habitat preference (photo Hari Viswanathan).*

Around mid-afternoon we reached the turnoff to Lake Mburo, set amidst low, rolling hills covered in open acacia scrubland and mixed woodland. The birding from here to the lodge was very productive and, having entered a new habitat, a host of new species had become available to us. Some that were seen included **Black-headed Gonolek**, **Trilling Cisticola**, **Flappet Lark**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Spot-flanked Barbet**, **Golden-breasted** and **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings**, **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **African Pipit**, **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **White-browed Coucal**, **Bare-faced Go-away-bird**, **Pin-tailed Whydah**, **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **African Pygmy** and **Striped Kingfishers** and a flock of the enigmatic **Brown-chested Lapwing**. It was great seeing such good numbers of this nomadic lapwing, which were also joined by a pair of similar **Senegal Lapwings**. The contrasting **Spur-winged Lapwings** were seen in a nearby pool, and more views of colorful **Little Bee-eaters**, **Malachite Kingfishers** and **Woodland Kingfishers** were also welcomed.



Approaching our accommodation at Rwakobo Rock, we had a brief view of **Slate-colored Boubou** before being greeted by a troop of **Olive Baboons** when we arrived. After checking in and enjoying the stunning view from the restaurant deck, the lodge manager took us to see a pair of roosting **Square-tailed Nightjars** nearby, while an immense **Martial Eagle** provided breathtaking, eye-level flight views. We also enjoyed seeing more **Red-headed Lovebirds** and **African Green Pigeons** around the lodge.

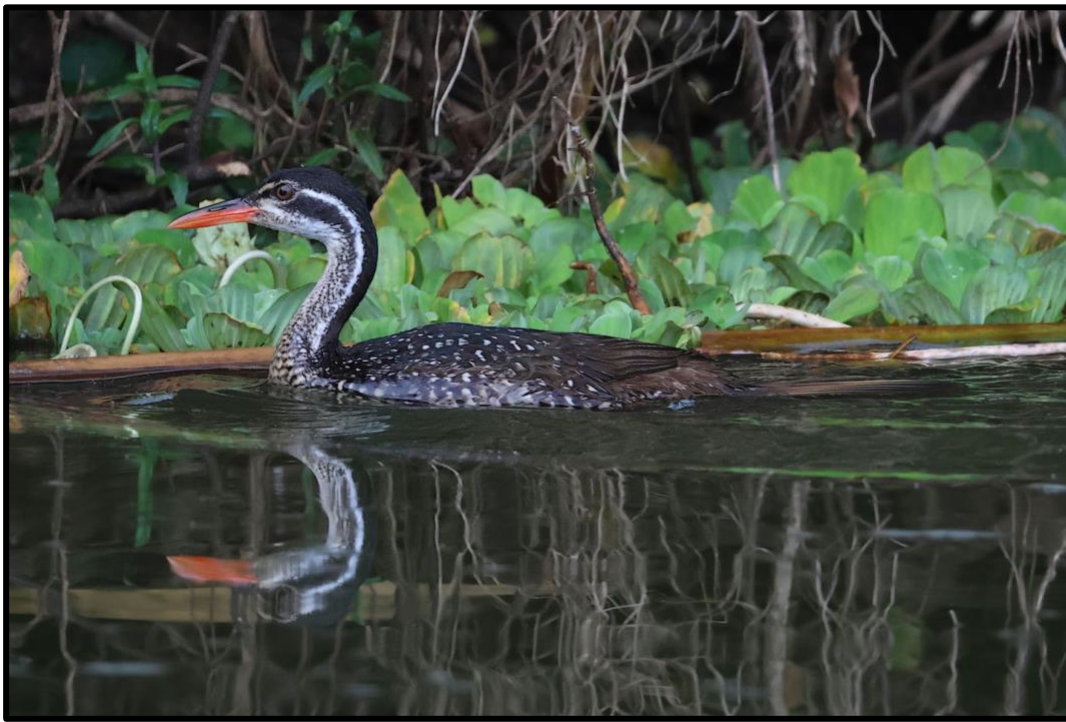
#### Day 4, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024. Birding in Lake Mburo National Park

Today was a full day spent in the bird-rich savannah and woodlands of Lake Mburo National Park. Upon reaching the park gate, we added **Red-headed Weaver** and **Greater Blue-eared Starling** to our trip list before venturing south down the main park road that takes you towards the lake. The bush here was bustling with activity, and new species we managed to find during the morning included **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Long-tailed Cisticola**, **Buff-bellied Warbler**, **Nubian, African Grey** and **Bearded Woodpecker**, **White-winged Black Tit**, **Ashy Flycatcher**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**, **Bateleur**, **Crested Francolin**, **Greater Honeyguide**, **Crested** and **Black-collared Barbet**. Mammals also abound in this reserve, with plentiful sightings of **Waterbuck** (here of the *defassa* subspecies), **Plains Zebra**, (Rothschild's) **Northern Giraffe**, **Impala**, **Warthog**, **Olive Baboon** and **Tantalus Monkey**, supplemented by smaller numbers of **Tsessebe** (known locally as Topi), **Common Dwarf Mongoose**, **Bushbuck** and a single group of **Common Eland**. We then returned to the lodge for lunch, trying not to get distracted by the great birding around the viewing deck. **Lappet-faced Vulture**, **Little Spotted Woodpecker** and **White-headed Barbet** were new trip birds seen here, and we had more views of **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **Red-headed Lovebird** and **Double-toothed Barbet**.



*A duetting pair of White-headed Barbets was a pleasant distraction (photo Hari Viswanathan).*

In the afternoon, we headed back into the park, where we got more views of **Senegal Lapwing** and then ventured down to the lake for a late afternoon boat cruise. This gave us great views of two secretive waterbird species: an immature **White-backed Night Heron** and several **African Finfoots** (including a female with two juveniles). Other highlights from the cruise included **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Green-headed** and **Red-chested Sunbirds**, **Carruther's Cisticola**, another brief **Papyrus Gonolek**, **Little Bittern**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Water Thick-knee** and plenty **Malachite Kingfishers**, **Striated Herons** and **African Fish Eagles**. The lake also held large numbers of **Hippopotamus**. After the cruise, we headed back through the reserve towards the lodge. On the way we spotted some roosting vultures which included two **White-headed Vultures**, and further on we chanced upon a few displaying **Pennant-winged Nightjars**, which was a real treat to see. As we returned to camp, we had a brief view of a **Fiery-necked Nightjar** before settling down for dinner.



*The elusive African Finfoot is often more approachable by boat (photo Hari Viswanathan).*

### Day 5, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024. Birding near Rwakobo Rock Lodge, transfer to Ruhija

We spent some time around the lodge this morning, hoping to connect with Red-faced Barbet which had eluded us throughout our time in Lake Mburo. Sadly, this was not meant to be, but we did enjoy the bustling fruit trees around the lodge that were full of birds. We also added **Cabanis's Greenbul**, had great looks at a **Grey Kestrel** and a quarrelsome group of **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chats**. After one last look at the roosting **Square-tailed Nightjar**, we went down to the park gate for a short birding stint. Here we added **Copper Sunbird** and had a good haul of afore-mentioned species, highlights including great views of **Double-toothed Barbet**, **Buff-bellied** and **Grey-capped Warblers**, **Black-faced** and **Arrow-marked Babblers**, **Brimstone Canary**, **Holub's**



**Golden Weaver** and **Blue-naped Mousebird**. The road out of the lodge back to the main road got us **Rufous-naped Lark**, **Sooty Chat**, **Rufous-bellied Heron**, **Squacco Heron**, **Grey Crowned Crane** and a perched **Black-chested Snake Eagle**.

Leaving Lake Mburo and the savanna behind, we journeyed west and quickly entered the rolling hills of farmland and eucalyptus plantations that extend towards Bwindi. The town of Kabale gave us a female **Ruaha Chat** and our first **Western Citril** and **Bronzy Sunbird** of the trip, while a nearby papyrus bed got us more stunning views of **Papyrus Gonoleks** (including a fledgling). We continued along the network of rough dirt roads in this area, picking up another **Ruaha Chat** (this one, a male) perched on a telephone line. Near the chat we also found our first **Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater**, **White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher**, **White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** and **Rock Martin** of the trip. Around mid-afternoon, we arrived at our next stop: Lake Bonyoni. This massive Rift Valley lake is the second deepest in Africa after Tanganyika, and the pockets of papyrus along its edges are where we searched for the rare **Papyrus Yellow Warbler**. This elusive bird provided stunning views and gave itself up quite quickly, while the complementary papyrus special found here, Papyrus Canary, would not show at all. Here we also found **Black-crowned Waxbill**, **Mackinnon's Shrike**, **Green-headed Sunbird**, **White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** and **Augur Buzzard**.



*The rare and localized Papyrus Yellow Warbler gave itself up quickly at Lake Bonyoni (photo Hari Viswanathan).*

Afterwards, we completed the last leg of our journey and made it to the immense Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. Our base for the night was in the village of Ruhija located inside the park. After signing in at the gate we stopped along the road that cuts through the pristine, Afromontane Forest and started picking up a few forest species, including some Albertine Rift

endemics. These included **Rwenzori** and **Mountain Masked Apalises**, **Strange Weaver**, **Stripe-breasted Tit**, **Regal Sunbird**, **Yellow-streaked Greenbul**, **White-browed Crombec** and the first of many **Black Saw-wings**. The last find of the day was a **Black-fronted Duiker** walking in the road near the Ruhija gate.



*Watching a pair of **Grauer's Broadbills** ferrying berries to their fledgling at eye-level was a major highlight (photo Hari Viswanathan)!*

### **Day 6, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Walk down to Mubwindi Swamp**

Today was a highly anticipated day on this tour, as we did the iconic walk down to Mubwindi Swamp in search of the beautiful and range-restricted **Grauer's Broadbill**. This spot is the only safely accessible and reliable spot for this rare bird, and we managed to locate two pairs, including one feeding a fledgling. The supporting cast for the Broadbill included the taxonomically-strange **Grauer's Warbler**, four apalis species (**Rwenzori**, **Mountain Masked**, **Black-throated** and **Chestnut-throated Apalises**), **Archer's Ground Robin**, **Albertine Sooty Boubou**, **Lühder's** and **Doherty's Bushshrike**, **Black-billed Turaco**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **White-headed Wood Hoopoe**, **Black-faced Prinia**, **Slender-billed** and **Stuhlmann's Starling**, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Mountain Oriole**, **Chubb's Cisticola**, **Yellow-whiskered**, **Olive-breasted** and **Slender-billed Greenbuls**, **Grey-throated Barbet**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **White-bellied Crested Flycatcher**, **Grey-chinned**, **Regal** and **Northern Double-collared Sunbirds**, **Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher**, **Red-faced Woodland Warbler**, **Dusky Crimsonwing**, **Thick-billed Seedeater**, **Strange** and **Brown-capped Weavers** and a nesting pair of **Mountain Buzzards**. Squirrels were also quite a feature of this walk, and we enjoyed several species like **Boehm's Bush Squirrel**, **Red-legged Sun Squirrel** and **Carruther's Sun Squirrel**, alongside primates like **Red-tailed Monkey** and **Guereza**. The swamp itself gave us brief views of the other main special found

along this walk: **Grauer's Swamp Warbler**, as well as **Carruther's Cisticola** and a soaring pair of **Palm-nut Vultures**.

### Day 7, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Birding around Ruhija, transfer to Buhoma via "The Neck"

This morning, we birded the forests that flank the road entering Ruhija from the south. We had driven this road when we arrived at Ruhija, but never got the chance to bird it properly. The morning activity was bustling all along the drive, new additions including **Mountain Yellow Warbler**, **Rwenzori Hill Babbler**, **Western Tinkerbird**, **Sharpe's Starling**, **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **White-starred Robin**, **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler**, **Purple-breasted** and **Blue-headed Sunbirds**, **Kandt's Waxbill** and **Yellow-billed Barbet**. We only heard **Handsome Spurfowl** here unfortunately, but we were consoled on our way out of Ruhija in the nearby sorghum fields. Here we found large numbers of seed-eating birds that were gorging themselves on the ripe crops growing on the slope. These included large numbers of **Black-and-white Mannikin** and **Baglafaecht Weaver**, as well as smaller numbers of **Streaky Seedeater**, **Yellow-crowned Canary**, **Black-crowned**, **Yellow-bellied** and **Common Waxbills** as well as our main target: a pair of **Dusky Twinspots**. A distant **Red-chested Flufftail** was also heard calling in the nearby wetlands.



*Dusky Twinspot is only found on the Albertine Rift and Angolan Escarpment (photo Hari Viswanathan).*

After lunch we left Ruhija and made our way towards Buhoma, stopping to bird the forests at "The Neck". Here at slightly lower altitude, we managed to get some new forest species like **Black-faced Rufous Warbler**, **Yellow-spotted Barbet**, **Narrow-tailed Starling**, and the attractive



**Black Bee-eater.** A large mixed troop of **Red-tailed** and **Blue Monkeys** was also a treat as was a group of seven **Great Blue Turacos** drinking at a forest pool next to the road. We then continued towards Buhoma, with some of the village farmland areas en route delivering good species like **African Woolly-necked Stork**, **Singing Cisticola** and **Variable Sunbird**. In the town of Buhoma itself, the telephone lines were adorned with large numbers of **Angolan Swallows** along with a few **Red-breasted Swallows**. After checking in at our accommodation, we had a short birding stint along the entrance road into Bwindi Forest. The trees around the gate played host to tons of sunbirds, with **Purple-breasted**, **Bronzy**, **Little Green**, **Olive-bellied**, **Northern Double-collared**, **Blue-throated Brown**, **Green-throated** and **Collared Sunbirds** all in evidence. Just past the gate we managed to connect with the shy **Grey-winged Robin-Chat**, a noisy group of **White-chinned Prinias** and a pair of **Bocage's Bushshrikes**.



*Spending time with this group of **Western Gorillas** in Bwindi was a bucket-list experience!  
(photo Hari Viswanathan)*

### **Day 8, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Gorilla trekking from Buhoma**

Today was less of a birding-orientated day, as we had dedicated this day to doing the ever-popular gorilla trekking experience from the Buhoma visitor center. Despite the rather arduous trail our group had been allocated, we were eventually treated to point blank views of a family of **Eastern (Mountain) Gorillas**, led by an intimidating silverback who was no doubt the crowd favorite. Watching the male's stoicism alongside the silly antics of the youngsters playing around him was quite a special sight. A definite bucket list experience for anyone interested in wildlife! We still managed to spot a few good birds while on our walk, with a soaring **Crowned Eagle**, **Alpine Swift**, **Grey Apalis**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo** and **Diederik Cuckoo** as new additions to the trip list.

Other notable sightings from the walk were multiple views of **Lühder's Bushshrike**, **Tambourine Dove**, **Yellow-spotted Barbet**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Speckled Tinkerbird**, **Mackinnon's Shrike** and **Thick-billed Seedeater**.

### Day 9, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Morning birding at Buhoma, Queen Elizabeth en route to Kibale

We decided to have another go at birding the entrance road into Bwindi from Buhoma to try rack up some more forest species. It was cloudy and relatively quiet, but we managed to get some notable species like **White-tailed Ant Thrush**, **Plain Greenbul**, **Many-colored Bushshrike**, **Pink-footed Puffback**, **Sooty Flycatcher**, **Fraser's Rufous Thrush**, **African Broadbill** (including one at a nest) and a female **Bar-tailed Trogon**. Before leaving Buhoma, we stopped at a nearby **African Wood Owl** roost and also visited the Buhoma pangolin rescue center. This center is home to a number of Common African Pangolins that have been rescued from poachers and are being rehabilitated back into the forests in Bwindi. Although they weren't wild, it was still fascinating to witness these strange scaly mammals in real life, and to support such an imperative local conservation initiative. Birding around the pangolin center was also quite enjoyable, with **Blue-spotted Wood Dove**, **White-chinned Prinia**, **Ross's Turaco**, **Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater**, **African Harrier-Hawk** and **Mackinnon's Shrike** all in evidence. We made one last stop in the Buhoma farmlands before reaching the main road, where we had great views of a singing **Red-throated Wryneck**.



*Stout Cisticolas* abound in the grasslands in Queen Elizabeth National Park (photo Hari Viswanathan).



Continuing our journey north, we had a long drive ahead of us, most of which was on dirt roads running through Queen Elizabeth National Park. Here, the forests and agriculture gave way to savanna and woodland thickets. Once again, with the new habitat came many new birds for the trip, even though we didn't have much time to spend in the park. The lush grasslands were home to **Fawn-breasted Waxbill**, **Stout Cisticola**, **Marsh Tchagra**, **Sooty Chat**, **Red-collared Widowbird**, **Southern Red Bishop**, **Flappet Lark** and **Moustached Grass Warbler**. We enjoyed picking out these less common species from the myriad of **Yellow-throated Longclaws** and **Red-necked Spurfowl** which were abundant in this area. The surrounding woodland also delivered good birds such as **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, **Spectacled Weaver**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Black-lored Babbler**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Blue-spotted Wood Dove**, **Olive Bee-eater** and **Palm-nut Vulture**. The highlight from the reserve had to be a **Black Coucal** which landed in a roadside bush as we were driving past. It was also here in the park where we saw good numbers of **Kob**, alongside other game like **African Savanna Elephant**, **Cape Buffalo** (hosting groups of **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**), **Waterbuck**, and **Warthog**. We had great views of a large roadside herd of **Kob** as we were leaving the park, which flushed a pair of **White-tailed Larks**. Crossing the Kazinga channel, we enjoyed the swarms of **Wire-tailed**, **Barn** and **Lesser Striped Swallows** before wrapping up the birding for the afternoon and heading straight to Kibale for some much-needed rest.



*It took a while, but we eventually managed breathtaking views of **Green-breasted Pitta** (photo Aditya Viswanathan).*

### **Day 10, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Pitta and chimp trekking in Kibale Forest, Bigodi Swamp birding**

Another highly anticipated day of the tour, today we had another trekking experience, this time for the dazzling **Green-breasted Pitta**. After venturing into the forest and waiting for what felt like a



long time, we heard one calling in the distance and made our way towards it. Eventually this jewel of the forest performed very well for us, providing stunning views while it foraged on the ground and perched at eye-level on low branches. After we had our fill of the pitta, we went straight into trekking for **Chimpanzees**. Within five minutes of re-entering the forest, we could hear the exuberant cries from the large group of Chimps just ahead of us. Once we reached them, we spent a good hour watching them foraging in the trees and foraging, grooming and lounging on the ground at close range. Another unforgettable wildlife experience with a truly iconic animal!

After an exciting morning, we headed back to the lodge for lunch and a midday siesta, though the bird activity around the lodge made it hard to relax. **Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Mottled Swift, Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, Marsh Tchagra, Blue-throated Brown, Olive-bellied, Green-headed, Scarlet-chested and Copper Sunbirds, Grey-headed Nigrita and African Blue Flycatcher** provided welcome distractions during the heat of the day. Our afternoon birding session was at the nearby Bigodi Swamp on the outskirts of the forest. This small reserve encompasses a patch of swamp forest surrounded by agricultural forest edge habitat, providing an interesting mix of birds. Notable mentions from here included **Red-headed Bluebill, Magpie Mannikin, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Purple-headed and Violet-backed Starlings, Thick-billed Weaver and Western Nicator**. Two new *Accipiter* species seen here were **Black Sparrowhawk and Little Sparrowhawk**. This reserve is also a great place to see two forest primates: **Ashy Red Colobus and Grey-cheeked Mangabey**, which we saw well on multiple occasions.

### Day 11, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Transfer to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

Today was mostly a travel day, with roadside birding stops en route to our next destination. Just outside our lodge at Kibale was a bed of elephant grass that was full of breeding weavers. We had a look around for Compact Weaver, which eluded us, but we did manage to find **Village, Vieillot's Black, Black-headed, Thick-billed, Holub's Golden and Black-necked Weavers**, alongside **Black-crowned Waxbill, White-chinned Prinia**, commuting **Grey Parrots** and a roosting flock of **African Openbills**. We made a few stops as we passed through Kibale Forest, finding birds like **Brown Illadopsis, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Speckled and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, White-tailed Ant Thrush, Red-chested Cuckoo, Plain Greenbul, Sooty Flycatcher and Cassin's Flycatcher**. A small wetland in the town of Fort Portal was also quite productive. Once again, weavers were the main subject here, with **Northern Masked Weaver** being the main attraction here, alongside the usual suite of afore-mentioned weaver species. **Highland Rush Warbler** was also a highlight here as was **Black Crake** and a brief **Levaillant's Cuckoo**. Leaving Fort Portal, the road then cut through the northern end of Kibale Forest, once again giving us a chance at some forest species. **Grey-throated Barbet, Brown-capped Weaver and Purple-headed Starling** were good finds along this stretch, and a small stream crossing delivered **Cassin's Flycatcher** and the skittish **Shining-blue Kingfisher**.

Later on, we made a stop at yet another papyrus bed which finally gave us visuals of **White-winged Swamp Warbler** which had been eluding us at every other spot we had tried for them. The rest of the drive up to the town of Masindi was relatively uneventful, bar a roadside **Village Indigobird** and some light car trouble to keep things interesting. Luckily there were no major issues, and we made to Masindi in the late afternoon. On the outskirts of the town, we stopped at a roadside patch of scrub which was alive with bird activity. Lots of small colorful finches were

around, among whom were a few handsome **Grey-headed Olivebacks**, singletons of **Bar-breasted Firefinch** and **Fawn-breasted Waxbill**, gorgeous male **Yellow-mantled** and **Red-collared Widowbirds** and a pair of stubborn **Brown Twinspots** that only gave brief flight views. An obliging **Brown-backed Scrub Robin** made up for the twinspots, as did large numbers of shimmering **Copper Sunbirds**. After passing through Masindi, we managed to bump into a couple of **Black Bishops** in the surrounding farmlands, as well as our first flocks of **Lesser Blue-eared Starlings** and the bizarre **Piapiac**. Upon reaching our accommodation at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, we were greeted by plentiful **Bushbuck**, **Tantalus Monkeys**, **Warthog** and even our main quarry at this location: two groups of **White Rhinoceros**, foraging around the reception! We then settled in for dinner as we listened to **African Scops Owls** calling in the distance.



*A truly dapper member of the waxbill family: **Grey-headed Oliveback** (photo Hari Viswanathan)*

### **Day 12, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Rhino trekking at Ziwa, transfer to Entebbe**

This was one of the more relaxed mornings of this tour as we had a substantial breakfast at the lodge reception while watching the tame **Marabou Storks** that wandered around the lawns alongside one of the rhinos. Afterwards, we were accompanied by one of the reserve rangers on a short walk behind the reception to a group of rhinos that were, fortunately, not too far away. Being on foot with such gargantuan creatures was an awe-inspiring moment, and we relished watching the interactions between the mothers and the nearby territorial male, who wasn't too fond of the younger bull in their ranks. Not to be outdone by the rhinos, the birdlife was prolific all over the reserve, with highlights including **Blue Malkoha**, **Lesser Blue-eared** and **Purple Starling**, **Vinaceous Dove**, **Whistling Cisticola**, **Western Black-headed Batis**, **White-browed Scrub Robin**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Greater** and **Lesser Honeyguides**, **Black Scimitarbill**, **Green**

**Wood Hoopoe, Gabar Goshawk, African Grey Hornbill, Black Cuckooshrike, Northern Puffback, Black-headed Gonolek, Meyer's Parrot, Double-toothed and Spot-flanked Barbets, African Pygmy Kingfisher** and the dashing **White-crested Turaco**. Leaving the reserve was also a difficult task, as there was good birding all along the entrance track. We were treated to brief views of a family of **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills** as we were driving towards the gate, while the village farmlands outside the gate delivered **Black-winged Bishop, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, Beautiful Sunbird, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, White-headed Barbet** and **Blue-spotted Wood Dove**.



*We were treated to multiple **White-crested Turacos** at Ziwa, truly spectacular birds! (photo Hari Viswanathan)*

After pulling ourselves away from Ziwa we started the journey back towards Entebbe, being entertained by the usual Ugandan roadside birds as we went. These included **Lizard Buzzard, African Pied Wagtail, Northern Gey-headed Sparrow, Rüppell's Starling, African Palm Swift, Angola Swallow, Broad-billed Roller, Northern Black Flycatcher, Eastern Plantain-eater** and **Striped Kingfisher**. A single **Grey-headed Kingfisher** and a distant **Brown Snake Eagle** were also seen. After the town of Kakoge, we stopped in a large wetland where we connected with the uncommon **Marsh Widowbird**, after which we completed the journey and arrived in Entebbe in the late afternoon.



### Day 13, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Relaxed birding in Entebbe Botanical Gardens

The last full day of tour was very relaxed. After a late breakfast we went for a walk around the Entebbe Botanical Gardens, seeing a lot of the same species we saw before, but improving on our visuals of **Ross's Turaco** and **Slender-billed Weaver** and adding **Golden-backed Weaver**, a flyby **Orange Weaver** and a single **Congo Pied Hornbill** to the trip list. **African Grey Woodpecker** also showed particularly well and seeing **Red-bellied** and **African Paradise Flycatchers** alongside each other was also enjoyable.

After this, we returned to the hotel and killed the rest of the rainy afternoon relaxing in the lounge area. This marked the end of a fantastic two weeks of birding in Uganda. We look forward to the next tour to this amazing country and seeing all its incredible wildlife once again!

### Bird List - Following IOC (December 2023)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)</b>	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
<b>Guineafowl (Numididae)</b>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
<b>Pheasants &amp; Allies (Phasianidae)</b>	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Coqui Francolin	<i>Campocolinus coqui</i>
Handsome Spurfowl (H)	<i>Pternistis nobilis</i>
Scaly Spurfowl (H)	<i>Pternistis squamatus</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
<b>Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)</b>	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Freckled Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
Pennant-winged Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus vexillarius</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Swifts (Apodidae)</b>	
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
<b>Turacos (Musophagidae)</b>	
Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer personatus</i>
Eastern Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>
Ross's Turaco	<i>Tauraco rossae</i>
White-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco leucolophus</i>
Black-billed Turaco	<i>Tauraco schuettii</i>
<b>Cuckoos (Cuculidae)</b>	
Blue-headed Coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>
Blue Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo (H)	<i>Cercococcyx mechowi</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
<b>Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)</b>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Afep Pigeon (H)	<i>Columba unicincta</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon (H)	<i>Columba iriditorques</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
<b>Finfoots (Heliornithidae)</b>	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Flufftails &amp; Forest Rails (Scolopacidae)</b>	
White-spotted Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>
Red-chested Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
<b>Rails, Crakes &amp; Coots (Rallidae)</b>	
African Rail (H)	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Lesser Moorhen	<i>Paragallinula angulata</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
<b>Cranes (Gruidae)</b>	
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
<b>Grebes (Podicipedidae)</b>	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
<b>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)</b>	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
<b>Plovers (Charadriidae)</b>	
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Brown-chested Lapwing	<i>Vanellus superciliosus</i>
<b>Jacanas (Jacanidae)</b>	
Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
<b>Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)</b>	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
<b>Storks (Ciconiidae)</b>	
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>
<b>Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)</b>	



Common name	Scientific name
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
<b>Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)</b>	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
<b>Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)</b>	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Calherodius leuconotus</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
<b>Hamerkop (Scopidae)</b>	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
<b>Shoebill (Balaenicipitidae)</b>	
Shoebill - VU	<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>
<b>Pelicans (Pelecanidae)</b>	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
<b>Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)</b>	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
White-headed Vulture - CR	<i>Trionoceph occipitalis</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>
Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>
<b>Owls (Strigidae)</b>	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
African Scops Owl (H)	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
<b>Mousebirds (Coliidae)</b>	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>
<b>Trogon (Trogonidae)</b>	
Narina Trogon (H)	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
Bar-tailed Trogon	<i>Apaloderma vittatum</i>
<b>Hoopoes (Upupidae)</b>	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
<b>Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)</b>	
White-headed Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus bollei</i>
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
<b>Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)</b>	
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill - VU	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Hornbills (Bucerotidae)</b>	
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>
Congo Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes subcylindricus</i>
<b>Rollers (Coraciidae)</b>	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
<b>Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)</b>	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadribrachys</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
<b>Bee-eaters (Meropidae)</b>	
Black Bee-eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
Blue-breasted Bee-eater	<i>Merops variegatus</i>
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>
<b>African Barbets (Lybiidae)</b>	
Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Grey-throated Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco bonapartei</i>
Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>
Western Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus coryphaea</i>
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird - DD	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>
Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>
Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>
White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Pogonornis bidentatus</i>
<b>Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)</b>	



Common name	Scientific name
Least Honeyguide	<i>Indicator exilis</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
<b>Woodpeckers (Picidae)</b>	
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Pardipicus nivosus</i>
Little Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera cailliautii</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Yellow-crested Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus xantholophus</i>
Speckle-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos poecilolaemus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Elliot's Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos elliotii</i>
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>
<b>Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)</b>	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
<b>African &amp; New World Parrots (Psittacidae)</b>	
Grey Parrot - EN	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>
<b>Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)</b>	
Red-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>
<b>Typical Broadbills (Eurylaimidae)</b>	
Grauer's Broadbill - VU	<i>Pseudocalyptomena graueri</i>
<b>African &amp; Green Broadbills (Calyptomenidae)</b>	
African Broadbill	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>
<b>Pittas (Pittidae)</b>	
Green-breasted Pitta	<i>Pitta reichenowi</i>
<b>Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)</b>	
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Western Black-headed Batis	<i>Batis erlangeri</i>
Chestnut Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira castanea</i>
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
<b>Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)</b>	
Lagden's Bushshrike (H)	<i>Malaconotus lagdeni</i>

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
Many-colored Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus multicolor</i>
Bocage's Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus bocagei</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Doherty's Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus dohertyi</i>
Marsh Tchagra	<i>Bocagia minuta</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Pink-footed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus angolensis</i>
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
Albertine Sooty Boubou	<i>Laniarius holomelas</i>
Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>
Lühder's Bushshrike	<i>Laniarius luehderi</i>
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>
Papyrus Gonolek	<i>Laniarius mufumbiri</i>
Black-headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
<b>Vangas &amp; Allies (Vangidae)</b>	
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
<b>Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)</b>	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris caesius</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
<b>Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (Oriolidae)</b>	
Western Oriole (H)	<i>Oriolus brachyrynchus</i>
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Mountain Oriole	<i>Oriolus percivali</i>
<b>Drongos (Dicuridae)</b>	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
<b>Monarchs (Monarchidae)</b>	
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
<b>Shrikes (Laniidae)</b>	
Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>
Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>
Mackinnon's Shrike	<i>Lanius mackinnoni</i>
<b>Crows, Jays (Corvidae)</b>	
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
<b>Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)</b>	
African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia albicauda</i>
White-bellied Crested Flycatcher	<i>Elminia albiventris</i>
<b>Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)</b>	
White-winged Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus leucomelas</i>
Stripe-breasted Tit	<i>Melaniparus fasciiventer</i>
<b>Nicator (Nicatoridae)</b>	
Western Nicator	<i>Nicator chloris</i>
<b>Larks (Alaudidae)</b>	
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>
White-tailed Lark	<i>Mirafra albicauda</i>
<b>Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)</b>	
Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Stelgidillas gracilirostris</i>
Red-tailed Bristlebill (H)	<i>Bleda syndactylus</i>
Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>
Olive-breasted Greenbul	<i>Arizelocichla kikuyuensis</i>
Red-tailed Greenbul (H)	<i>Criniger calurus</i>
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>
Plain Greenbul	<i>Eurillas curvirostris</i>
Cabanis's Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus cabanisi</i>
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus flavostriatus</i>
Toro Olive Greenbul (H)	<i>Phyllastrephus hypochloris</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
<b>Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)</b>	
White-headed Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne albiceps</i>
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristopectera</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Blue Swallow - VU	<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>



<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
<b>Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)</b>	
Moustached Grass Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>
Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>
Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>
White-browed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta leucophrys</i>
<b>Hylia (Hylidae)</b>	
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>
<b>Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)</b>	
Red-faced Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus laetus</i>
<b>Reed Warblers &amp; Allies (Acrocephalidae)</b>	
Grauer's Warbler	<i>Graueria vittata</i>
Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>
Mountain Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna similis</i>
Papyrus Yellow Warbler - VU	<i>Calamonastides gracilirostris</i>
<b>Grassbirds &amp; Allies (Locustellidae)</b>	
Evergreen Forest Warbler (H)	<i>Bradypterus lopezi</i>
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler	<i>Bradypterus cinnamomeus</i>
White-winged Swamp Warbler	<i>Bradypterus carpalis</i>
<b>Cisticolas &amp; Allies (Cisticolidae)</b>	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>
Chubb's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chubbi</i>
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-faced Prinia	<i>Prinia melanops</i>
Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Lowland Masked Apalis (H)	<i>Apalis binotata</i>
Mountain Masked Apalis	<i>Apalis personata</i>
Black-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis jacksoni</i>
Chestnut-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis porphyrolaema</i>
Grey Apalis	<i>Apalis cinerea</i>
Grey-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Olive-green Camaroptera (H)	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>
Black-faced Rufous Warbler	<i>Bathmocercus rufus</i>
<b>Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)</b>	
Rwenzori Hill Babbler	<i>Sylvia atriceps</i>
<b>White-eyes (Zosteropidae)</b>	
Green White-eye	<i>Zosterops stuhlmanni</i>
<b>Ground Babblers (Pellorneidae)</b>	
Brown Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>
Mountain Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis pyrrhoptera</i>
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis (H)	<i>Illadopsis albipectus</i>
<b>Laughingthrushes &amp; Allies (Leiothrichidae)</b>	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>
<b>Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)</b>	
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Purple-headed Starling	<i>Hylopsar purpureiceps</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>
Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Slender-billed Starling	<i>Onychognathus tenuirostris</i>
Stuhlmann's Starling	<i>Poeoptera stuhlmanni</i>
Narrow-tailed Starling	<i>Poeoptera lugubris</i>
Sharpe's Starling	<i>Pholia sharpii</i>
<b>Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)</b>	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
<b>Thrushes (Turdidae)</b>	
Fraser's Rufous Thrush	<i>Stizorhina fraseri</i>
White-tailed Ant Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
Abyssinian Thrush (H)	<i>Turdus abyssinicus</i>
<b>Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)</b>	
Fire-crested Alethe	<i>Alethe castanea</i>
Brown-backed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas hartlaubi</i>

Common name	Scientific name
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher (H)	<i>Fraseria griseigularis</i>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria plumbea</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria caerulescens</i>
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>
Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis ardesiacus</i>
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis comitatus</i>
Sooty Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis fuliginosus</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>
Red-throated Alethe (H)	<i>Chamaetylas poliophrys</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat (H)	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>
Archer's Ground Robin	<i>Dessonornis archeri</i>
Grey-winged Robin-Chat	<i>Sheppardia polioptera</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Sooty Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla nigra</i>
Ruaha Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla collaris</i>
<b>Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)</b>	
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
Grey-chinned Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes tephrolaemus</i>
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>
Blue-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra alinae</i>
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Green-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra rubescens</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Purple-breasted Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia purpureiventris</i>
Bronzy Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>
Northern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris reichenowi</i>
Regal Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris regius</i>
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Red-chested Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris erythrocerus</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>



Common name	Scientific name
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>
<b>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)</b>	
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
<b>Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)</b>	
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>
Slender-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Strange Weaver	<i>Ploceus alienus</i>
Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>
Orange Weaver	<i>Ploceus aurantius</i>
Northern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus castanops</i>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
Weyns's Weaver	<i>Ploceus weynsi</i>
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>
Brown-capped Weaver	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Black Bishop	<i>Euplectes gierowii</i>
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macroura</i>
Marsh Widowbird	<i>Euplectes hartlaubi</i>
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
<b>Waxbills, Munias &amp; Allies (Estrildidae)</b>	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Magpie Mannikin	<i>Spermestes fringilloides</i>
Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	<i>Coccygia quartinia</i>
Dusky Crimsonwing	<i>Cryptospiza jacksoni</i>

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>
White-breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>
Grey-headed Nigrita	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>
Grey-headed Oliveback	<i>Delacourella capistrata</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
Black-crowned Waxbill	<i>Estrilda nonnula</i>
Kandt's Waxbill	<i>Estrilda kandti</i>
Fawn-breasted Waxbill	<i>Estrilda paludicola</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Red-headed Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga ruficapilla</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Dusky Twinspot	<i>Euschistospiza cinereovinacea</i>
Brown Twinspot	<i>Clytospiza monteiri</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Bar-breasted Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rufopicta</i>
<b>Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)</b>	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
<b>Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)</b>	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
<b>Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)</b>	
Western Citril	<i>Crithagra frontalis</i>
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>
Thick-billed Seed eater	<i>Crithagra burtoni</i>
Streaky Seed eater	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>
Yellow-crowned Canary	<i>Serinus flavivertex</i>
<b>Buntings (Emberizidae)</b>	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
<b>Species seen: 388</b>	
Species heard:	24
Total recorded:	422

### Mammal List – Following Mammalwatching.com (April 2024)

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List:

VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered.

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Elephants (Elephantidae)</b>	
African Savanna Elephant - EN	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
<b>Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)</b>	
L'Hoest's Monkey - VU	<i>Allochrocebus lhoesti</i>
Red-tailed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>
Guereza	<i>Colobus guereza</i>
Ashy Red Colobus - EN	<i>Piliocolobus tephrosceles</i>
<b>Great Apes (Hominidae)</b>	
Eastern Gorilla - CR	<i>Gorilla beringei</i>
Chimpanzee - EN	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>
<b>Squirrels (Sciuridae)</b>	
Carruther's Mountain Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus carruthersi</i>
Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>
Boehm's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus boehmi</i>
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Euxerus erythropus</i>
<b>False Vampire Bats (Megadermatidae)</b>	
Yellow-winged False-vampire	<i>Lavia frons</i>
<b>Felids (Felidae)</b>	
Lion - VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
<b>Mongoose (Herpestidae)</b>	
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
<b>Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)</b>	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
<b>Equines (Equidae)</b>	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Bovids (Bovidae)</b>	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>
Black-fronted Duiker	<i>Cephalophorus nigrifrons</i>
Bush Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>
Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>
Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Northern Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
<b>Giraffes and Okapi (Giraffidae)</b>	
Northern Giraffe - VU	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
<b>Suids (Suidae)</b>	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
<b>Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)</b>	
Common Hippopotamus - VU	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
<b>Species seen:</b>	<b>31</b>