



**ULTIMATE UGANDA: SHOEBILL, ALBERTINE RIFT ENDEMIC &
GREAT APES
SET DEPARTURE BIRDING TOUR REPORT**

01-19 AUGUST 2021

By Dylan Vasapoli



Uganda is the most accessible and reliable destination to see the mega Shoebill.

Overview

Our annual 19-day set departure Uganda birding and primates tour covers some of the best birding regions in Uganda. Concentrating on the main birding circuit, that focuses on the western half of the country, this tour is specifically set up to maximize chances of finding as many of the Albertine Rift bird endemics as possible, along with making allowances for other highly prized and sought-after species such as **Shoebill** and **Green-breasted Pitta**. Of course, Uganda's main mammalian attractions are not ignored, with this tour making time for them – namely **Chimpanzee** and **Eastern (Mountain) Gorilla** tracking. The country's vast network of excellent savanna parks also adds to the mammalian attraction, and indeed the 'Big 5' are all possible along this routing. These are namely; **Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Rhinoceros (White), and African Buffalo**.



*We were highly successful in finding **Leopards** on this tour, in addition to birds – this was one of four seen, with this individual sighted at Lake Mburo National Park.*

This 2021 tour was run within the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic with a small group of participants. Despite the altered circumstances, locally and worldwide, the running of this tour was not adversely affected, and we enjoyed a smooth tour throughout. Timed during the first half of August, means this is supposed to be prior to the rainy season – although being a tropical, equatorial country, rain is a possibility throughout, and indeed, we did have rain on a number of days, though fortunately, it only compromised our birding on a very minor basis. Indeed, the birding was exceptional throughout the tour, with the total trip list surpassing 550 species, with nearly 530 species being seen. The highlights are too many to list, but knock-out views of **Shoebill** were a great start to the tour, as were a high number of Albertine Rift endemics – some 23 seen, almost all of the possibilities – including excellent and prolonged views of **Rwenzori Turaco, Grauer's (African Green) Broadbill** and **Neumann's Warbler**, along with three separate **Green-**

breasted Pittas (in a single morning). Another testament to the excellent birding on this tour, was the number of days where the daily total surpassed 100 – even on days that were primarily centered on forest birding, such as our day birding the Royal Mile in the Budongo Forest. We also had memorable encounters with **Eastern (Mountain) Gorillas** and **Chimpanzees**, along with an almost unbelievable four sightings of **Leopards!** These were only a small part of the 40+ mammal species seen, which included the ‘Big 5’ and so many others. Overall, almost all of the main target species were seen on this tour, with more detailed information on the species located in the report below, along with the attached lists at the end of the report.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 1st August 2021. Arrival in Entebbe, and birding the shores of Lake Victoria

Following Ira and Ramona’s arrival into Uganda, we spent the remainder of the morning resting at our comfortable guest house in Entebbe. Of course, a number of birds were seen whilst ‘resting’, and we enjoyed the likes of **Red-chested**, **Scarlet-chested** and **Variable Sunbirds** all busily feeding on the flowers, while a pair of **Black-headed Gonoleks** skulked around the thickets and flocks of **Bronze Mannikins** zipped overhead. Other notable sightings included **White-browed Robin-Chat** and a pair of **Meyer’s Parrots** that were nesting on a nearby telegraph pole.

Our afternoon was spent exploring the always-fantastic Entebbe Botanical Gardens, along with stopping off at a local **Bat Hawk** spot in town along the way – the pair of **Bat Hawks** were present and gave us unobstructed views. We slowly wandered around the gardens, exploring the various roads and trails, cutting through small tracts of forest on the edge of Lake Victoria (although a recent rise in water levels had washed away and ruined much of the great habitat that was formerly present). **Great Blue Turaco** is always a major highlight here, and watching numbers of these truly massive and stunning birds bounding away up in the trees didn’t disappoint. Nearby, we also enjoyed **Ross’s Turaco** and many **Eastern Plantain-eaters**. **Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills** were a regular feature throughout our time here, while it took a little while to track down some calling **Grey Parrots**, we eventually enjoyed excellent views of this prized species.

In some of the denser areas, **Little Greenbuls** gave us fleeting views, leaving us wanting a bit more, while we couldn’t have asked for better views of the tiny **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, with **Grey-capped Warbler** and **Green Hylia** remaining firmly hidden. Numbers of **Olive Bee-eaters** and **Broad-billed Rollers** lined the tree tops on the edge of the lake, and were replaced with **Pied Kingfisher** lower down. A single **Red-headed Lovebird** whizzing by and landing at the top of a nearby tree, was an unexpected highlight, while returning our attention to the lake edge, we notched up **Western Osprey**, **African Fish Eagle**, **Winding Cisticola** and a number of different weavers – **Village**, **Vieillot’s Black**, **Golden-backed** and the decidedly tricky **Orange Weaver**. Other species seen during our time here included **African Openbill**, the strange **Hamerkop**, **Palm-nut Vulture**, **African Green Pigeon**, **Crowned Hornbill**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher**, **Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher** and **Olive** and **Olive-bellied Sunbirds**. Mammals seen here included a few troops of the incredible **Guereza** (Black-and-white Colobus) and **Striped Ground** and **Isabelline Red-legged Sun Squirrels**. We ended a great first day on tour with the sun setting over Lake Victoria.



*The massive **Great Blue Turaco** is always a firm highlight around Entebbe.*

Day 2, 2nd August 2021. Shoebill, and transfer to Lake Mburo National Park

This is one of the most highly anticipated days of the trip – searching for Shoebill. We had an early start, and before long we were loaded up, and on the road to Mabamba Swamp. Once we arrived, we set off in our dug-out canoe, and explored some of the many channels that line the vast papyrus swamps. It didn't take us long before we found a **Shoebill**, and we were treated to some incredible views of this prehistoric-looking beast. A short while later, the bird took off, and we began searching for some of the many other species that call this area home. A stunning **Papyrus Gonolek** showed exceptionally well, as did the shy **Little Bittern**, however both **Greater Swamp** and **Grey-capped Warblers** refused to cooperate. **Weyns's Weaver** left us wanting more, however **Northern Brown-throated Weaver** showed exceptionally well. Our search for Lesser Jacana was sadly unsuccessful, but we did enjoy numbers of **Black Crakes**, **African Jacanas** and **Long-toed Lapwings**, as some compensation. The cute **Blue-breasted Bee-eater** was yet another highlight. Back on land, we headed off to try and better our views of Weyns's Weaver and explored some nearby areas – alas, no weavers, but we did add the likes of **Rufous-naped Lark**, **Red-faced Cisticola** and **Blue-spotted Wood Dove**, before it started raining and we called time on the area.

We continued on our way to Lake Mburo National Park, with intermittent rain throughout (sometimes quite heavy) and made a successful roadside stop for **White-winged Swamp Warbler**, which did eventually show. After enjoying some of the equator antics, we pressed onwards to Lake Mburo, and arrived at the turnoff in the mid-afternoon. We immediately set about birding the entrance road, and found the going slow as the birding was just so good! A group of **Brown-chested Lapwings** feeding next to the road were arguably our main highlight – this being a sought-after and decidedly tricky species to pin down. We enjoyed a wide range of other species, everything from **Lilac-breasted Rollers** and **Grey-backed Fiscals** to colorful seedeaters such as **Red-billed Firefinch**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** and **Golden-breasted**

Bunting. After checking in at our comfortable lodge located atop a scenic ‘koppie’, we set about exploring the surrounds on foot. While the birding was a bit slow, we enjoyed the likes of **Crested Francolin**, **Blue-naped Mousebird**, both **Nubian** and **Golden-tailed Woodpeckers**, **Common Scimitarbill** and **Yellow-throated Leaflove**. The entrance also produced our first large mammals of the trip – many of them seeking the water available outside the park, due to the very dry conditions present. We notched up **Common Dwarf Mongoose**, **Impala**, (Defassa) **Waterbuck**, **Plains Zebra** and **Common Warthog**. We then settled in for the evening following a great day!

Day 3, 3rd August 2021. Birding Lake Mburo National Park and surrounds

Our morning began with some birding around our lodge, where our primary quarry was the incredibly localized and near-endemic, **Red-faced Barbet**. It took a little while of searching, but we were eventually rewarded with excellent views of a pair of these sought-after birds. Other birds seen during our morning stroll included **African Green Pigeon**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **Brown-throated Wattle-eye**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Black-necked Weaver** and a few of the delightful **Black-faced Waxbill**. With our main target in the bag, we continued onwards into the Lake Mburo National Park, where we would spend a few hours driving around and exploring the dry acacia savannas that comprise the main habitat here. We had an incredible morning, and the birds kept on rolling in. **Bare-faced Go-away-bird** was an early highlight, as was the skulking **Slate-colored Boubou**, which showed well. **Buff-bellied Warblers** were numerous and we enjoyed multiple looks at this lively bird, and we were also able to compare these with the even smaller **Grey Penduline Tit**. We enjoyed many barbets here, with a pair of **White-headed Barbets** and a small party of **Crested Barbets** being our main highlights, with **Spot-flanked Barbet** a regular feature. We stumbled into a feeding flock, and spent some time working the flock to see what was around. **White-winged Black Tit** and **Black Cuckooshrike** were conspicuous, however a few of the decidedly scarce **Green-capped Eremomelas** were also present, as they fed unobtrusively. Both **Lesser** and **Greater Honeyguides** gave us good views, and we were also able to dig out the fierce-looking **Pearl-spotted Owlet**! Recently burnt grassland produced **Plain-backed Pipit**, and here we were also finally able to get onto a **Long-tailed Cisticola**. Although very dry, some of the grassy areas held **Yellow-throated Longclaw** and **Zitting Cistiola**. As the day started warming up, raptors became more obvious, and we enjoyed multiple sightings of **Bateleur**, along with **Wahlberg’s Eagle**, **African Harrier-Hawk** and both **White-backed** and **Lappet-faced Vultures**.

We returned back to our lodge for a short afternoon siesta, before venturing back into the park in the afternoon, with a boat cruise on Lake Mburo - our ‘main event’ for the afternoon. Our afternoon got off to a flying start when we had another look at the fresh carcass we had found up a tree earlier in the morning, and found the culprit, a female **Leopard**, up the tree. We strongly suspected Leopard, but couldn’t find the cat in the morning. We enjoyed some great views, before it eventually climbed down and went to relax in some of the dense thickets nearby, crossing right in front of us! Before long, we found ourselves on the boat and enjoying the likes of the many **Pied** and **Malachite Kingfishers** on the lake. We slowly meandered along, searching various bays and gullies for the many specials. It took quite some time of searching, and we were beginning to wonder if we would miss them, but eventually we did find two female **African Finfoot** (well spotted, Ira!), and enjoyed superb views of these shy and sought-after birds. We were also able to enjoy a male **African Finfoot** shortly before ending our boat trip. One of the other major highlights, and a huge surprise, went to a showy pair of **White-spotted Flufftails** we found

working the edge of the dam. While this species is expected on a Uganda birding tour, it certainly isn't expected at this site. A wide range of other waterbirds and general riverine thicket species were seen, and included numerous **African Fish Eagles, Wood and Common Sandpipers, Water Thick-knee, Striated Heron, Giant Kingfisher, Snowy-crowed and Red-capped Robin-Chats, Swamp Flycatcher, Greater Swamp Warbler and Slender-billed Weaver**. The many pods of **Hippopotamus** always provide some amusement with their peculiar characteristics, and we were also able to advance our reptile list with **Nile Crocodile**.

Arriving back on land in the late afternoon, we were transitioning straight into our night drive, and soon set off. As the sun was setting, we found a number of roosting raptors, ranging from **Lappet-faced and White-headed Vultures** to **Bateleur**. As night fell, we soon enjoyed our first views of **African Savanna Hare** and **Central African Large-spotted Genet**, but the nocturnal birds were all quiet sadly. We ventured back past our Leopard kill, and found the female **Leopard** gorging herself on her freshly killed **Plains Zebra** calf, in plain sight on the ground. We soaked in the moment, and this once in a lifetime view, for quite some time before eventually leaving this beautiful cat to herself, and continuing on. The rest of the night drive was quiet, with little else of interest seen. Regardless, we returned back to the lodge for a late dinner, brimming from ear to ear, and reminisced about the truly excellent day we had experienced.



*The tricky East African endemic **Red-faced Barbet** showed well after a bit of a search.*

Day 4, 4th August 2021. Transfer to Kisoro, birding en-route

With the day largely devoted to travel, as we ventured into the ‘volcano land’ of south-western Uganda around Kisoro, we began the day with a morning walk around our lodge. The morning was a little on the slow side, though we did enjoy a number of more widespread species such as **Ross’s Turaco, Little Bee-eater, Pale Flycatcher, White-browed Robin-Chat, Red-cheeked**

Cordon-bleu and **Yellow-fronted Canary**. We soon found ourselves in the car, and driving towards Kisoro. We had a few birding stops along the way, and added the likes of the decidedly tricky **Papyrus Canary** and the rare **Ruaha Chat**. We also found other birds such as **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Augur Buzzard**, **Carruthers's Cisticola**, **Mackinnon's Fiscal**, **Bronzy Sunbird**, **Brimstone Canary** and the lovely **Black-crowned Waxbill**. Our main stop was the Echuya Forest, where we spent a few hours. The birding was quite simply sublime, and we barely covered 50 meters of the road during our entire time here, with new species continually popping up. As it often goes with forest birding, many of the birds are canopy dwellers, and some of the views leave you wanting more – though with some effort, you are usually rewarded with better, closer views. We got our Albertine Rift endemic campaign off with good views of **Rwenzori Batis**, **Red-faced Woodland Warbler**, **Rwenzori Apalis**, **Rwenzori Hill Babbler**, **Strange Weaver**, **Regal Sunbird** and the shy **Archer's Ground Robin**! A great many other species were seen including: **Albertine Sooty Boubou**, **Mountain Oriole**, **Olive-breasted Greenbul**, **White-browed Crombec**, **Mountain Yellow Warbler**, **Chubb's Cisticola**, **White-starred Robin**, **Northern Double-collared Sunbird** and a large group of the snazzy **Kandt's Waxbill**. We eventually had to pull ourselves away, and pressed on to Kisoro. Our evening was capped off with a very vocal, and showy **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** around our accommodations in the evening.



Regal Sunbird is a delightful Albertine Rift endemic.

Day 5, 5th August 2021. Birding Mgahinga Gorilla National Park

Mgahinga Gorilla National Park is located in the very southwest of the country, and is home to a few species of birds that aren't easily possible anywhere else on the main Uganda birding circuit. These are namely Rwenzori Turaco and Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird – and they naturally formed our main targets. We didn't have to work hard for the sunbird, with a stunning male

Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird greeting us as soon as we hopped out of the car at the park entrance – with many more seen during the course of the day. The **Rwenzori Turacos** are a little bit scarcer and more unobtrusive, but we didn't have to work too hard for these either, and enjoyed multiple great looks at our first attempt. The mix of forest and open scrubby areas proved very productive and we enjoyed an excellent, and bird-filled, hike up and down the trails that lead up to Mount Sabyinyo. This area is another treasure chest, full of Albertine Rift endemics, and we were able to add to our impressive list from the previous evening with the likes of the scarce **Dwarf Honeyguide** and **Mountain Masked Apalis**, while enjoying repeat, and arguably even better, views of the likes of **Rwenzori Batis**, **Rwenzori Apalis**, **Rwenzori Hill Babbler**, **Strange Weaver** and **Archer's Ground Robin**. Try as we might, we couldn't turn any of the many **Kandt's Waxbills** into Dusky Crimsonwings (or the rare Shelley's Crimsonwing). **Handsome Spurfowl** was another that eluded us, calling in the distance and remaining unseen, as did **Lagden's Bushshrike**. Other birds we enjoyed during our walk were **Dusky Turtle Dove** (which showed after a long search), a surprise **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **Western** and **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds** virtually side-by-side, **Olive Woodpecker**, the difficult-to-see **Doherty's Bushshrike**, **White-tailed Blue Flycatcher**, **Chestnut-throated Apalis**, **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler**, **White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** and **Baglafaecht Weaver**. Mammals were represented by a few (Western) **Bushbuck**, along with the localized and very shy 'Golden Monkey', which is currently classified as a subspecies of **Blue Monkey**. After a good hike up and down the mountain, we returned back to our lodge and relaxed for the remainder of the afternoon, returning just in time, as it started raining.



Rwenzori Turaco is a highly sought-after special, missed on most Uganda birding tours.

Day 6, 6th August 2021. Transfer from Kisoro to Ruhija, birding en-route

Following a hearty breakfast, we checked out of our comfortable Kisoro lodging, and began the journey onwards to Ruhija, located in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, where we would be based for the next two nights. We stopped off at the Echuya Forest, where we spent a few hours birding. Although a little quiet after all the rain the previous day, things soon began livening up and we had a spectacular walk with loads of bird activity. A few showy **Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters** kicked things off, before a **Red-chested Cuckoo** put in a fine appearance. A short distance away, we heard the always elusive **Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo**, and much to our surprise enjoyed an absolutely stunning sighting after minimal effort – with the bird perched in the open, at length for us. We couldn't have asked for a better view of this desirable (and normally very shy) species! A few **Black-faced Prinias** played hide and seek with us, but eventually showed, while a brief glimpse of a **Red-throated Alethe** left us wanting more. **Thick-billed Seedeater** was also added to our growing tally, while we enjoyed repeat views of the likes of **African Olive Pigeon, Long-crested Eagle, Western Tinkerbird, Mountain Oriole, Rwenzori Apalis, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Rwenzori Hill Babbler, Regal Sunbird** and **Kandt's Waxbill**. Following our time in Echuya, we spent some time searching for Papyrus Yellow Warbler once more – and had our hearts in our mouths when the very similar **African Yellow Warbler** emerged from within the papyrus. Sadly, despite our best efforts, we had to admit defeat on this front. Our time was not wasted however, as we enjoyed excellent birding around the swamp, picking up the likes of the tricky **Papyrus Canary** once more, along with others such as **Blue-headed Coucal, Papyrus Gonolek, Carruthers's Cisticola, Greater Swamp Warbler, Green-headed Sunbird** and a great number of weavers – ranging from the small **Slender-billed Weaver** through to the large **Holub's Golden Weaver**, and a number in between.

Before we knew it, we found ourselves within the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and our first birding stop produced the tricky Albertine Rift endemic **Grauer's Warbler**. We also enjoyed our first **Black-billed Turacos** and **Grey-throated Barbets**, while **Lagden's Bushrike** frustrated us once more by calling in the valley and remaining unseen. A single **Handsome Spurfowl** was seen in the bamboo zone, before we arrived at our comfortable lodge. We spent the afternoon birding around Ruhija, and enjoyed a fruitful afternoon. Our first **Stripe-breasted Tit** showed early on, while we enjoyed the likes of **Fine-banded Woodpecker, Black-billed Weaver** and **Grey-headed Sunbird** as well. The walk also provided us with some great views of a number of Albertine Rift endemics we had seen already on the tour, with species such as **Rwenzori Batis, Rwenzori and Mountain Masked Apalises, Regal Sunbird, Rwenzori Hill Babbler** and **Red-faced Woodland Warbler**. Our afternoon was capped off by finding a confiding **Red-throated Alethe**, that gave us great looks, before slipping back into the undergrowth as quickly as it appeared. We settled in for a good meal, high in anticipation for tomorrow's activities – the walk down to Mubwindi Swamp, an important and much anticipated birding day.

Day 7, 7th August 2021. Birding Ruhija – the Mubwindi Swamp walk

One of the most highly anticipated days of the tour began with a great start as a vocal **African Wood Owl** showed well for us in our lodge gardens, whilst enjoying our early breakfast. We were greeted to a cool, overcast day, and we set off for the long hike down to (and eventually back up from) the Mubwindi Swamp. The primary reason for visiting this swamp is for it being easily the most accessible and probably the only reliable place in the world to see the almost mythical

Grauer's Broadbill (formerly African Green Broadbill). Our timing this year was spot on, as a pair of adult **Grauer's Broadbills** were on a nest and actively feeding their young. However, before we were to see these incredible birds, we first had to hike down, and we had an incredibly birdy and productive walk. Skulking **Mountain Illadopsis** kicked things off right as we got onto the trail, which were followed by the likes of **White-headed Wood Hoopoe**, **Lühder's Bushshrike**, **Stripe-breasted Tit**, **Black-throated Apalis**, **Yellow-streaked Greenbul**, **Waller's Starling**, **Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher** and **Brown-capped Weaver**. We spent a while trying to entice a vocal **Grey-chested Babbler** out of the thickets, but we could only glimpse the branches and leaves shaking moments after it left. A small party of **Dusky Crimsonwings** feeding in the open compensated for our brief views earlier in the morning, and we enjoyed repeat views of a number of other Albertine Rift endemics which we had become accustomed to over the previous few days – **Rwenzori Batis**, **Mountain Masked** and **Rwenzori Apalises** and **Regal Sunbird**, to mention a few. Eventually we got down into the range of the broadbill, and within no time, we were enjoying incredible views of the **Grauer's Broadbills**, as the adults brought food for the hungry chicks and switched around regularly. We were able to track the birds as they went into the surrounding trees to feed, and we had sublime views of this rare and localized special!



*An adult **Grauer's Broadbill** about to jump into its nest and feed its chicks.*

Next up was a quick trip to the actual Mubwindi Swamp, where we had excellent and prolonged looks at a number of **Grauer's Swamp Warblers** – another major target for the area. **Carruthers's Cisticola** and **Western Citril** were also in evidence, and while we were able to entice a pair of **African Rails** into the open, the calling **Red-chested Flufftail** wasn't as cooperative. We had our lunch and relaxed in the shade, before starting the long journey back up the hill. We called in at the **Grauer's Broadbills** once more, and again enjoyed watching these birds for a short while, before focusing on some of the other species. An ominous-looking cloud

had rolled in, and shortly after finishing up with the broadbills, the rain started, and continued for some time, leaving the trail wet and slippery. This also put paid our efforts to continue birding our way back up the trail, but we persisted wherever there was a break in the rain. We were able to add the likes of **Dusky Tit** and enjoyed another **Dwarf Honeyguide**, but **Lagden's Bushshrike** went by unseen once more, and **Blue-headed Sunbird** frustrated us as well, calling every so often, but going unseen despite our best efforts. We eventually made it back to the top, wet and tired, and took it easy for the rest of the afternoon. A short owling session after dinner produced a few **Greater Thick-tailed Galagos**, and some unidentified smaller galagos that sped away every time we got eyeshine, but the hoped-for Montane (Rwenzori) Nightjar was notable only by its absence.

Day 8, 8th August 2021. Transfer from Ruhija to Buhoma – birding en-route

Although the distance between Ruhija and Buhoma is fairly short, the drive takes some time due to the windy roads, and mainly, the incredible birding along the way. Our first stop was in some mixed farm bush habitat where we spent a long while searching for Dusky Twinspot. Try as we might, we just couldn't find any birds, and had to make do with others such as **Dusky Turtle Dove**, **Brown-backed Scrub Robin**, small groups of **Fawn-breasted** and **Yellow-bellied Waxbills** and numbers of **Yellow-crowned Canaries**. We eventually had to make the call, and pressed onwards to 'The Neck' – a small section of forest that the main road passes through. Slowly walking the road is always birdy, and today was no exception, with a number of birds present and seen. A **Cassin's Flycatcher** kicked things off, before we had a number of great looks at the stunning **Black-faced Rufous Warbler**. A fruiting fig held masses of **Grey-throated** and stunning **Yellow-spotted Barbets**, and some careful searching revealed the likes of **Speckled Tinkerbird** and **White-breasted Nigrita**. A flowering tree was alive with a small grouping of the localized and usually difficult-to-find **Purple-breasted Sunbird** – which we spent a while watching, eventually getting some great views of this scarce Albertine Rift endemic. **Black Bee-eater** was another major highlight along the roadside, while a bright flash of yellow and green revealed a stunning male **African Emerald Cuckoo**. We were able to entice a **Lühder's Bushshrike** completely into the open, while the calling **Many-colored Bushshrike** refused to budge.

We eventually had to pull ourselves away, and pressed onwards to Buhoma, where we arrived at our fantastic lodge for a slightly late lunch. We resumed birding in the afternoon, with a short stint along the main Buhoma Trail, which was absolutely alive with birds as well. The difficult **Grey-winged Robin-Chat** showed very well, while **Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat** frustrated us by calling from deep within the thickets. An opportunistic stop for a pair of **African Wood Owls** superbly spotted by our local guide, Christopher, added **Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher**, **Green Crombec** and **Toro Olive Greenbul**. Right on the edge of the forest proper we bumped into a feeding party that was a bit of a frenzy – **Brown-capped Weavers** were actively feeding along the branches, before one morphed into a **Kakamega Greenbul** – a sought-after species. The stunning **Red-headed Malimbe** soon appeared and we were fixed on watching this snazzy bird moving about. **Pink-footed Puffback**, **Plain** and **Red-tailed Greenbuls** and **Chestnut Wattle-eye** were all added in quick succession, before we noted a **Narrow-tailed Starling** landing in the open and giving us great views. Thunder and the start of rain drops soon had us turned around and heading back for cover, and brought a close to a truly wonderful day.



Grey-winged Robin-Chat is one of a number of shy forest robins that can be seen around Buhoma.

Day 9, 9th August 2021. Gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

Today was another highly anticipated day, as it was our day set aside for tracking **Eastern Gorillas** (formerly known as Mountain Gorilla) – easily one of the most memorable and truly wonderful wildlife experiences out there. A steady stream of rain greeted us in the morning, and initially had us concerned, but as it continued unabated, we could only roll with it. We set off after the ‘M’ (Mubare) Group – which involved a stiff hike up a long hill, which was tricky in the wet conditions. Pushing and pulling one another, we made it to the top, and soon found ourselves in the forest, and could hear the first grunting calls of the gorillas a short while later. The heavens seemed to be smiling on us, as the rain stopped right as our hour with these great apes began, and we were treated to incredible views and lifelong memories of our encounters with these wonderful creatures. Birding always falls secondary to the gorillas, but we were able to eke out species such as **White-browed Coucal**, **Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill**, **Mackinnon’s Shrike** and numbers of **Western Citrils**. **Red-throated Wryneck** and **Brown Babbler** greeted us when we arrived back at the car following our gorilla trekking experience, with the sun completely out now. We rested for a few hours, and set all our bags and clothes out to dry, before spending the last portion of the day birding some of the farmlands on the outskirts of Buhoma. It was a birdy afternoon and we enjoyed species such as **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Klaas’s Cuckoo**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Brown-throated Wattle-eye**, **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat**, our first **White-chinned Prinias** (at long last), **Black-throated Canary** and numbers of sunbirds – namely **Bronzy**, **Copper**, **Green-headed**, **Olive-bellied** and **Scarlet-chested**. We capped off another excellent day with a hearty meal.



*Tracking **Eastern (Mountain) Gorillas** is one of the ultimate wildlife experiences anywhere in the world!*

Day 10, 10th August 2021. Birding Buhoma – Main Trail and surrounds

We had a full day birding the Main Trail, and some of the other smaller trails that loop off it, at Buhoma in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Our morning was a bit on the quiet side, with us only able to eke out sightings of **Sooty Flycatcher** and **Fraser's Rufous Thrush**, before we lucked into a feeding party congregating around termites. Stunning views of **Red-throated Alethe** kicked things off, before **White-tailed Ant Thrush** and **Red-tailed Bristlebill** joined the party. An **Equatorial Akalat** left us wanting a bit more, but was compensated for by a number of other species such as **Ansorge's Greenbul** and **Elliot's Woodpecker**, and all to the backdrop of **Chimpanzee's** calling in the distance. A short while later, we located a far more confiding **Equatorial Akalat**, and were also able to compare this to the similar **White-bellied Robin-Chat** – numbers of which we found throughout the day. One of our main targets on the trail is the shy and down-right difficult-to-see **Neumann's Warbler**. We picked up on a calling bird in a good area, and with some careful positioning, we had the most incredible experience watching this skulking species flying, hopping and sitting, at length, a short distance away from us – giving us unobstructed views and even allowing for a few photos! Smiling from ear to ear, we continued on our way adding **Blue-headed Sunbird** (which we couldn't obtain visuals of earlier around Ruhija), **Mountain Wagtail**, **Jameson's Antpecker**, the stunning **Bar-tailed Trogon** and a showy pair of **African Broadbills**. Another major target is the recently described **Willard's Sooty Boubou**, and after some time searching, we eventually heard a bird, and soon had the individual in our view and watched it for a short while! With two of the shy and retiring specials of the area 'out of the way', we focused our remaining time on some of the other species in the afternoon, and just as we started making some progress, the clouds rolled in, the thunder started, and being pragmatic, we decided to make our way back towards the start of the trail to avoid the worst of the rain. Of course,

we had a few birding stops on the way, enjoying even better views of **Red-throated Alethe**, this time an adult feeding an immature, and chasing a **White-tailed Ant Thrush**, as well as **African Shrike-flycatcher**, while **Grey-chested Babbler** and **Chapin's Flycatcher** frustrated us by calling out of sight. The rain finally materialized on the journey back, and put paid to our late afternoon birding efforts. Nonetheless, we enjoyed a spectacular day birding with a great deal of highly sought-after birds seen, and our trip list continuing to grow!



A rare view of a Neumann's Warbler. This Albertine Rift endemic is one of the main specials to be seen around Buhoma.

Day 11, 11th August 2021. Birding Queen Elizabeth National Park – the Ishasha sector

We left Buhoma early this morning, and made good ground to the Ishasha sector of Queen Elizabeth National Park, arriving in the cool of the early morning. The first portion of the park was alive and full of birds. Bright **Double-toothed Barbets** were our first sighting, before we lucked onto a **Scaly-thoated Honeyguide** and saw the first of many **Purple-banded Sunbirds** of the day. **Moustached Grass Warblers** were vocal and showed well, while we were only able to pick up a single **Fan-tailed Grassbird**, which did also show well! This part of the park is perhaps most famous for its tree-climbing Lions. We spent a while trying to track them down, but they were conspicuous by their absence, with all of their regular haunts deserted. As we slowly explored the mix of grassy plains, acacia thornveld and mixed scrub we steadily built our list and enjoyed sightings of a showy **African Crake**, **Black-bellied Bustard**, **Senegal Lapwing**, **African Cuckoo**, **White-headed Barbet**, **African Hoopoe** and **Black-lored Babbler**, with immense numbers of both **Flappet Larks** and **Croaking Cisticolas**. **Stout Cisticola** took a while to find, but we eventually managed to track down a calling bird. Some wetlands held the massive **Goliath Heron** and the stunning **Saddle-billed Stork**, just as the raptors were beginning to take flight –

with **White-backed**, **White-headed** and **Lappet-faced Vultures**, **Bateleur**, **Brown Snake Eagle** and **Grey Kestrel** all being sighted. We had our lunch overlooking the Ishasha River and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and were able to add various species to our DRC lists – including the likes of **Ross’s Turaco** and **Crowned Hornbill**. We made our way out of the park, and onwards to our comfortable lodge overlooking the Kazinga Channel, where we arrived in the late afternoon. We had a short break, before commencing with a walk around the lodge, adding our first **African Blue Flycatcher** and after some careful searching, the sought-after **Forest Hog** – which gave us good comparative looks, with the similar (and much smaller) **Warthog** close by. We had a short owling session after dinner, which produced a number of **Square-tailed Nightjars** and some close looks at **Hippopotamus** feeding on land. Another great end to a fantastic day, with a day list well over 100 species!

Day 12, 12th August 2021. Birding Queen Elizabeth National Park, and transfer to Kibale

We had an exciting day in store for us, as we set out to explore the northern parts of Queen Elizabeth National Park – first the Kasenyi Track, before undertaking a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel. Our first obstacle was to navigate the temporary ferry in place across the Kazinga Channel (as the bridge was under repairs) – which took over 1.5 hours. Soon enough, we found ourselves driving within the dry grasslands dotted with Euphorbia thickets that dominate this section of Queen Elizabeth, enjoying the many birds and mammals that call this park home. We had a wonderful encounter with a large pride of **Lions** (including two small cubs) early on, and we spent a short while with these large cats! A bout of birding shortly afterwards produced a few new birds such as **Collared Pratincole**, **Kittlitz’s Plover** and **Quailfinch**. A small pan held a Ugandan rarity, **Temminck’s Stint**, along with the larger **Black-winged Stilt**, before we lucked onto a **Leopard**! The cat was in full ‘stalk’ mode, and had a firm eye on some completely unaware **Kob** feeding close by. We spent a while watching this majestic cat, as it went about stalking the **Kob**, before it disappeared from view, presumably waiting from a concealed position to pounce. Sadly, no further action was to happen, and we had to pull ourselves away and continue with our drive. A good sighting of an **African Crake**, along with others such as **Mourning Collared Dove** and **Black-lored Babbler** were some species of interest, while one of the many crater lakes in the area held a large flock of **Lesser Flamingos**. All too soon, our time had expired, and we had to make our way onwards to catch our private boat for a journey along the Kazinga Channel.

The boat trip is always exciting, and hosts excellent birding, and this trip was no different. Vast numbers of **Pied Kingfishers** were seen early on, before we enjoyed a large flock of **African Skimmers** roosting in between masses of **African Elephants**, **African Buffalos** and **Hippopotamuses**. We were also lucky to observe a **Forest Hog** bathing on the edge of the channel. Exploring various areas along the channel added a wide range of waterbirds including various herons, egrets, cormorants and kingfishers, with some of the more special sightings being a large flock of both **Great White** and **Pink-backed Pelicans** (giving great comparative views), a **Goliath Heron** eating a fish, **Gull-billed Tern**, **Ruff** and a stunning and rare dark-morph **Ayres’s Hawk-Eagle** flying overhead. Following a lunch break (and having one of our tires repaired) we continued on our way to Kibale Forest, where we arrived in the late afternoon, and settled into our comfortable accommodations, with anticipation building for the following day.



A Lioness looks out over the plains of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Day 13, 13th August 2021. The Green-breasted Pitta and Chimpanzee combo in Kibale

Our full day in and around Kibale Forest National Park is another of the hotly anticipated days, as we go in search of Green-breasted Pitta (which is a rare, poorly-known and highly sought-after central African species) along with our Chimpanzee tracking. We started off early in the morning, as we ventured into the forest in search of the pitta. We headed to a known territory, and it took a long while of searching, but we eventually managed to track one down, and spent a short while following a **Green-breasted Pitta**. After having had our fill, we left the bird in peace and shifted our attention to another target – **Red-chested Owlet**. Our excellent local guide had recently found a site for this prized species, and with a bit of searching we eventually struck gold, and spotted the **Red-chested Owlet** perched in the canopy, and enjoyed great looks at this scarce species! We heard that the first group tracking chimps had found two more **Green-breasted Pittas**, and we couldn't resist to try for further looks. This time, it was almost a bit too easy, as we found the birds soon after, and enjoyed some further great looks at this incredible species! We couldn't have asked for better encounters of this highly sought-after species! We then focused our attention on some of the other species in the forest, adding the likes of **Blue Malkoha**, **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**, **Yellow-crested Woodpecker** and the shy **Brown-chested Alethe**. **White-throated Greenbul** frustrated us by remaining out of sight.

With dark clouds building up, and rain in the air, we shifted our focus onto the **Chimpanzees**, and went off in search of a nearby family. Although we had to cover some distance in a short space of time, it was easy to keep tabs with the **Chimpanzees** as they were incredibly vocal. We soon found ourselves in the midst of the **Chimpanzees** as they were feeding on some fruiting trees, and they put on a spectacular show for us – made all the better with their interactions and excited calling. We enjoyed some fantastic, close encounters with these great apes that will stick with us for some

time. We had to cut our time with them short as the heavens opened up, and we scampered off to our car, and then back to our lodge, just in time for lunch and an afternoon rest.

We resumed our birding later in the afternoon, with birding some of the forest edge habitats and along the main road running through the forest. Things were slow initially, but picked up, and we enjoyed a fruitful afternoon with some great birds! Bare trees held **Black Bee-eater**, **Grey-throated Barbet**, **Yellow-crested Woodpecker** and both **Purple-headed** and **Chestnut-winged Starlings**, while numbers of **Alpine** and **Mottled Swifts** moved overhead in a mixed flock. **Western Oriole** finally obliged, and a surprise **White-naped Pigeon** flying overhead was a very welcome addition. We ended the day off in a flurry – first with excellent views of **Blue-throated Roller**, followed by two **Cassin’s Honeybirds**, and then both **Superb** and **Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds**. Content with our day (and still reeling from the pittas and chimpanzees), we settled in for the evening.



Green-breasted Pitta is one of the rarest and most sought-after African birds – after a long search, we were rewarded with great views!

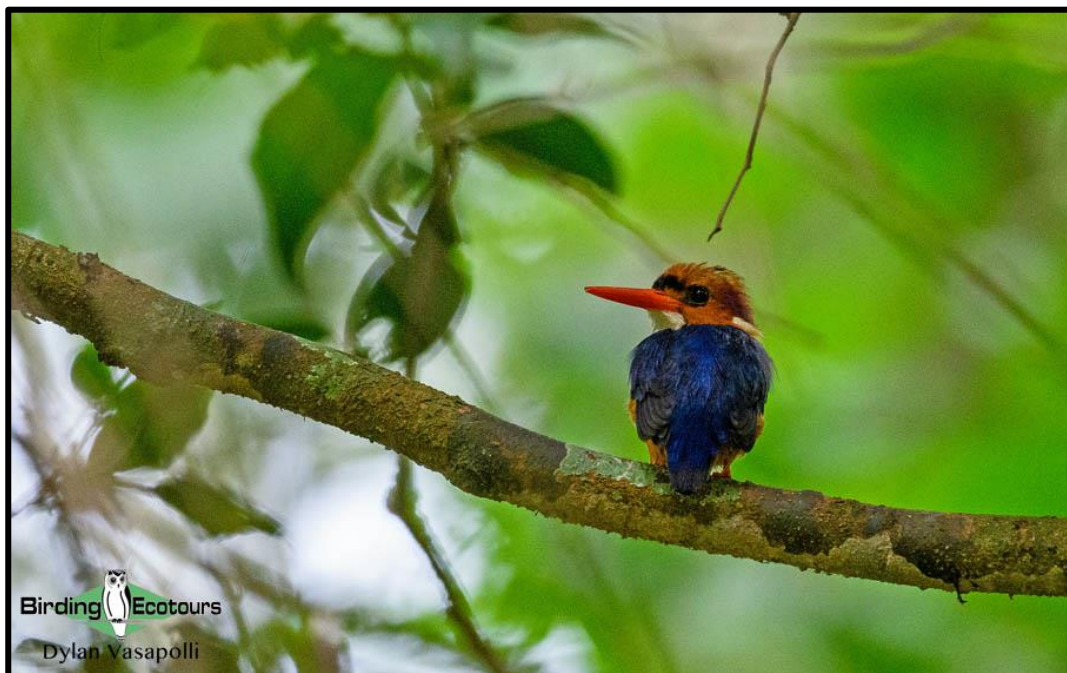
Day 14, 14th August 2021. Birding Kibale, and transfer to Masindi

We had a full morning at our disposal to bird around Kibale, and concentrated our efforts at the wonderful Bigodi Swamp community area, and its network of trails. The morning was unfortunately one of those slow days, and while we accumulated a fairly high species list, the new birds were few and far between. We did enjoy multiple good looks at the scarce **Magpie Mannikin**, a few groups of **Compact Weavers** and a single **Buff-spotted Woodpecker**, while species such as **Shining Blue Kingfisher**, **Jameson’s Wattle-eye** and **Brown Illadopsis** all frustrated us by remaining unseen. We ended our morning off with a **Red-headed Bluebill** which didn’t hang around for too long, and the stunning **Yellow-billed Barbet**. We were also finally able

to get looks at **Grey-cheeked Mangabey** and **Ashy Red Colobus** here. Following a quick lunch break, we gathered our belongings and headed back for another try for a few more species, and succeeded only in adding **Hairy-breasted Barbet**. Contrary to the morning, we successfully found (and enjoyed excellent looks at) both the scarce **Lowland Masked Apalis** and shy **Highland Rush Warbler** in no time, on our way out. We then settled in for the long drive to Masindi, which takes significantly quicker than it used to with the new tarred road for the entire length of the journey. We arrived shortly after dark, and settled in for the evening at our wonderful old-school colonial hotel.

Day 15, 15th August 2021. Birding the Royal Mile, and transfer to Murchison Falls

In stark contrast to yesterday, today was one of those incredible birding days! We started our day off in the farm bush just outside the Budongo Forest in the early morning, where we quickly picked up a host of exciting species including our two main targets, **Brown Twinspot** and **Grey-headed Oliveback**. A host of other species were around, including **African Yellow Warbler**, **Short-winged Cisticola**, **Black Bishop**, **African Firefinch** and **Cabanis's Bunting**. We then progressed into the Budongo Forest, and more specifically along the 'Royal Mile' – so named for being a one-mile stretch of road that runs straight as an arrow, through the majestic forest, which the old kings of the Bunyoro Kingdom used as training grounds. We slowly progressed along the track, exploring various bouts of activity along with searching for some of the specials of the forest, and the birds kept on rolling in. We started off with the likes of **Brown Illadopsis**, **Grey Longbill** and great views of the shy **Red-tailed Ant Thrush**, before we picked up on an **African Dwarf Kingfisher** in the canopy.



The tiny African Dwarf Kingfisher is a major target whilst birding the Royal Mile.

Both **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** and **Forest Robin** took a lot of effort to lay eyes on, but we were successful on both fronts. Various other specials of the forest such as **White-thighed Hornbill**, **Rufous-crowned Eremomela**, **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** and **Fraser's Forest Flycatcher** all obliged, and just before breaking for lunch we finally located a calling **Ituri Batis** high in the canopy. Our post-lunch birding session resumed right where we left off, with us quickly adding the likes of **Spotted Greenbul** and **Crested Malimbe**, while also enjoying a stunning perched **Crowned Eagle** with an unfortunate severed **Blue Monkey** arm in its talons. No matter how many times we tried, **Fire-crested Alethe** and **Scaly-breasted Illadopsis** refused to show. The tiny **Lemon-bellied Crombec** rounded off our time in the forest. A quick spell in some of the farmlands outside of the forest gave up **Whistling Cisticola** and **Marsh Tchagra**, before we pressed onwards to the Butiaba Escarpment. We did a bout of birding around the escarpment, but with the sun blazing down, activity was low however we succeeded in adding **Foxy Cisticola**, **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**, the incredible **Beautiful Sunbird**, and another Ugandan rarity – **Cut-throat Finch**. With a bit of ground still to cover, we spent the remainder of the afternoon driving, and arrived at our comfortable lodge overlooking the Nile River in the late afternoon. We settled in for the evening, enjoying all with a Nile beer in hand, on the Nile River!

Day 16, 16th August 2021. Birding Murchison Falls – Paraa to the Albert Nile

We had a full day to explore the northern section of Murchison Falls National Park – beginning at Paraa and continuing up to the Albert Nile and the Nile River Delta area, before returning back. A new bridge over the Nile River meant there was no issue trying to catch the ferry across and allowed us to begin on our own time. The morning started off cool, overcast and windy, with a hint of rain in the air, and as such things were slow. A pair of **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills** were the first to show, and we enjoyed great looks, before also working out our first **Silverbird** and a small group of **Senegal Thick-knees**. Gradually the weather improved, and the sun started to come out, and the activity increased dramatically. On the open plains, vast herds of **Kob** roamed, dotted with numbers of **African Buffalo**, (Rothschild's) **Giraffe**, (Lelwel) **Hartebeest** and **Oribi**, with equally impressive numbers of **Piapiacs** present between the animals as well. Small groups of **Shelley's Sparrows** and **Speckle-fronted Weavers** delighted us, before we found our first **Northern Carmine Bee-eater**. We spent some time with these incredible show-stoppers, and enjoyed many more as our day went along. The plains also held both **Black-bellied** and **Denham's Bustards** and the strange **Patas Monkey**. More wooded areas produced the likes of **Heuglin's Francolin**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Spotted Palm Thrush** and **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver**, along with not one, but two **Leopards** up trees within sight of one another – one of them with a recent **Kob** kill! Both of these cats were cooling off out of the now warm sun, and gave us splendid views! We had been incredibly fortunate on this trip so far to have seen **Leopards** in both Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth National Parks as well as here – totaling four different **Leopard** sightings!

A stop for our lunch along the Nile River netted us **Black-headed Lapwing** (amongst many other waterbirds) and immense numbers of **African Elephants**, before we slowly started working our way back. It was fairly slow going with the mercury rising, but we plugged away and added the likes of **Rüppell's Vulture**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Black-billed Wood Dove**, **African Grey Woodpecker**, **Black Scimitarbill**, **Black-billed Barbet**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** and **Vitelline Masked Weaver**, amongst others. Just before crossing the Nile River at Paraa once more, we found **Red-throated Bee-eater** and had great looks at this beautiful species! An

afternoon rest and some refreshing gin and tonics were in order after arriving back at our lodge, and a short walk around the grounds in the early evening produced a flyby **Red-necked Falcon**, rounding off a superb day with in excess of 130 species seen.



Massive Abyssinian Ground Hornbills roam the open grasslands of Murchison Falls.

Day 17, 17th August 2021. Birding Murchison Falls – Murchison Falls and the Nile River

Today we awoke to a scorcher of a day, and rapidly headed out to get some birding in while there was still some activity. We patrolled the area around our lodge and were rewarded with quite a lot of birds, with some of the highlights being **Red-winged Grey Warbler**, **Western Black-headed Batis** and **Red-headed Weaver**, amongst others. We spent the better part of the morning hunting high and low for White-crested Turaco and Dusky Babbler, but were unsuccessful on both fronts sadly. A trip to the top of the actual Murchison Falls provided us with incredible views of the very high river plunging through a tiny gap – the immense force was clearly evident. We were also provided with a brief respite from the heat with a cool mist coming from the falls. With bird activity low, and the mercury at an almost unbearable point, we came back to our lodge for lunch and a quick rest. An afternoon boat trip was on the cards for our afternoon, and we enjoyed a pleasant trip up to the base of the Murchison Falls and back. The very high level of the Victoria Nile meant that most of the usual banks and wetland verges were all totally submerged and waterbirds were generally pretty scarce with low numbers of **White-faced Whistling Duck**, **African Jacana**, **Black Crake**, **Purple Heron** and **African Openbill** about all that was present. We did notch up repeat views of **Senegal Thick-knee**, and enjoyed watching a young **Bat Hawk**, though the immense numbers of **Red-throated Bee-eaters** were surely the main attraction. We enjoyed a lovely meal with views of the sun setting over the Nile, before venturing out for a night drive. We had a short and sharp rain shower in the early evening but this didn't deter the birds, and to put it

simply, we had the most exciting night drive filled with loads of nightjars! First up was a **Square-tailed Nightjar**, before we found an exciting **Slender-tailed Nightjar**, and then enjoyed good and multiple views of both these species. **Black-shouldered Nightjar** followed, and we capped things off with an incredible **Long-tailed Nightjar** which gave us splendid views!



Long-tailed Nightjar was one of four nightjar species, and a major highlight on our night drive!

Day 18, 18th August 2021. Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, and transfer to Entebbe

Today was the last full day of our tour, and it began nice and early with two vocal **Greyish Eagle-Owls**, which showed wonderfully around our lodge before breakfast. We checked out and made our way through the park, and onwards to the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, where we would spend our morning. A quick stop in the Kanyiyo Pabidi section of the Murchison Falls National Park/Budongo Forest, yielded a calling **Puvel's Illadopsis**, but in the brief period we had to try, we could not obtain visuals. As its name suggests, Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary is famous as being the only reserve (or place for that matter) in Uganda that has rhinos of any species – and are of course the main attraction. At present the reserve hosts some 30+ **White Rhinoceros**, and once the number grows a bit, there are plans in place to reintroduce this species to some of the other parks in the country. We had a great time tracking a number of these incredibly special animals, and enjoyed some close encounters with the **White Rhinoceroses** here. This is also a birdy reserve, and home to another of our main targets for the whole tour – **White-crested Turaco**. We had spent a while searching in and around Murchison Falls National Park, and it was with some immense satisfaction that we were able to enjoy good and prolonged looks at this very attractive turaco (surely the most attractive in the entire family?), with **White Rhinoceroses** on either side of us. A flock of **White-throated Bee-eaters** were a welcome sight – another species we had been searching for high and low without success until now. Other species of interest seen here included

Western Banded Snake Eagle, European Honey Buzzard, Lesser Blue-eared Starling and the sought-after and localized **Marsh Widowbird**. All too soon, we were on the road back to Entebbe, where we arrived in the afternoon, and relaxed for the remainder of the day. **Western Barn Owl** and a surprise **Freckled Nightjar** were added to our ever-growing list after dinner.

Day 19, 19th August 2021. Birding Lake Victoria, and departure

With evening departures, we had practically a full day at our disposal, and opted to spend the first part of the day birding, before getting ready for our departure during the afternoon. We spent the morning taking a boat trip out into the Lutembe Bay Wetland, which is a Ramsar Site. As with most of the water sources in the country, the water level of Lake Victoria was high, covering up the majority of the sandbars and marshy areas, but we still enjoyed a fruitful session. **Spur-winged Goose** and **White-faced Whistling Duck** were present, and **Purple** and **Grey Herons** and **Little** and **Great Egrets** dotted the edges. The open sand bars held masses of **Grey-headed Gulls**, and careful scanning through them revealed small numbers of scarce **Slender-billed Gulls**, and a few **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (including one individual of the ‘*barabensis*’ subspecies, known as ‘Steppe Gull’). **Gull-billed** and **White-winged Terns** were also scattered between. Small numbers of shorebirds were present, and we managed to pick up **Wood, Common** and **Curlew Sandpipers**, **Little Stint** and **Common Greenshank**. Other species of interest seen included better looks at **White-throated Bee-eater, African Marsh Harrier** and **Little Sparrowhawk**. Following a good and relaxed lunch, we double-checked the lists, relaxed and reminisced one last time, before gathering our things and bidding our farewells in the evening, following an exciting and successful 19 days birding through Uganda!



Northern Carmine Bee-eaters are one of the many glorious members of this family that can be seen in Uganda – this particular bird showing well at Murchison Falls National Park.

Bird List - Following IOC 11.1

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, birds seen only by the guide are marked with a (G) after the common name, all other species were seen by both clients and guide.

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

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened.

Ugandan and Albertine Rift endemics are bolded.

Common name	Scientific name
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
Handsome Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis nobilis</i>
Scaly Spurfowl (H)	<i>Pternistis squamatus</i>
Heuglin's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis icterorhynchus</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Black-shouldered Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus nigriscapularis</i>
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>
Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>
Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Mottled Swift	<i>Tachymarptis aequatorialis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer personatus</i>
Eastern Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>
Rwenzori Turaco	<i>Gallirex johnstoni</i>
Ross's Turaco	<i>Tauraco rossae</i>
White-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco leucolophus</i>
Black-billed Turaco	<i>Tauraco schuettii</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Senegal Coucal (H)	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
Blue-headed Coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
Blue Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</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>
Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo (H)	<i>Cercococcyx olivinus</i>
Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cercococcyx montanus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
White-naped Pigeon	<i>Columba albinucha</i>
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon (H)	<i>Columba iriditorques</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Dusky Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</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>
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Finfoots (Heliornithidae)	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
Flufftails (Sarothruridae)	
White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>
Red-chested Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
African Crake	<i>Crecopsis egregia</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</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>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Courasers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Temminck's Courser (H)	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
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>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Shoebill (Balaenicipitidae)	
Shoebill - VU	<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Rüppell's Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>
White-headed Vulture - CR	<i>Trigonoceps 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>
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>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</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>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl (H)	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
Red-chested Owlet	<i>Glaucidium tephronotum</i>
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>
Trogon (Trogonidae)	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
Bar-tailed Trogon	<i>Apaloderma vittatum</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
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>
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill - VU	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
White-thighed Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes albotibialis</i>
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes subcylindricus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon badia</i>
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
African Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina lecontei</i>
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Shining-blue Kingfisher (H)	<i>Alcedo quadibrachys</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Black Bee-eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
Blue-breasted Bee-eater	<i>Merops variegatus</i>
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>
Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
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	<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>

Common name	Scientific name
White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>
Red-faced Barbet	<i>Lybius rubrifacies</i>
Black-billed Barbet	<i>Lybius guifsobalito</i>
Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>
Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Cassin's Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus insignis</i>
Dwarf Honeyguide	<i>Indicator pumilio</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Pardipicus nivosus</i>
Brown-eared Woodpecker	<i>Pardipicus caroli</i>
Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Fine-banded Woodpecker	<i>Campethera taeniolaema</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Yellow-crested Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus xantholophus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Elliot's Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos elliotii</i>
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Common Kestrel (G)	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Grey Parrot - EN	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Red-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>
Typical Broadbills (Eurylaimidae)	
Grauer's Broadbill - VU	<i>Pseudocalyptomena graueri</i>
African & Green Broadbills (Calyptomenidae)	
African Broadbill	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Green-breasted Pitta	<i>Pitta reichenowi</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Rwenzori Batis	<i>Batis diops</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Western Black-headed Batis	<i>Batis erlangeri</i>
Ituri Batis	<i>Batis ituriensis</i>
Chestnut Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira castanea</i>
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
Jameson's Wattle-eye (H)	<i>Platysteira jamesoni</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Lagden's Bushshrike (H)	<i>Malaconotus lagdeni</i>
Many-colored Bushshrike (H)	<i>Chlorophoneus multicolor</i>
Bocage's Bushshrike (H)	<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>
Willard's Sooty Boubou	<i>Laniarius willardi</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>

Common name	Scientific name
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
African Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Megabyas flammulatus</i>
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris caesius</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Petit's Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga petiti</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Mackinnon's Shrike	<i>Lanius mackinnoni</i>
Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>
Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>
Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Western Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrynchus</i>
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Mountain Oriole	<i>Oriolus percivali</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Velvet-mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia albicauda</i>
White-bellied Crested Flycatcher (H)	<i>Elminia albiventris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
White-winged Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus leucomelas</i>
Dusky Tit	<i>Melaniparus funereus</i>
Stripe-breasted Tit	<i>Melaniparus fasciiventer</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Grey Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>
Nicators (Nicatoridae)	
Western Nicator (H)	<i>Nicator chloris</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Stelgidillas gracilirostris</i>
Red-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda syndactylus</i>
Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>
Spotted Greenbul	<i>Ixonotus guttatus</i>
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>
Kakamega Greenbul	<i>Arizelocichla kakamegae</i>
Olive-breasted Greenbul	<i>Arizelocichla kikuyuensis</i>
Red-tailed Greenbul	<i>Criniger calurus</i>
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>
Plain Greenbul	<i>Eurillas curvirostris</i>
Little Grey Greenbul	<i>Eurillas gracilis</i>
Ansorge's Greenbul	<i>Eurillas ansorgei</i>
White-throated Greenbul (H)	<i>Phyllastrephus albigularis</i>
Cabanis's Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus cabanisi</i>
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus flavostriatus</i>
Toro Olive Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus hypochloris</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
White-headed Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne albiceps</i>
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Angolan Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>
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>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Moustached Grass Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>
Grey Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus concolor</i>
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>
Red-faced Crombec (H)	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>
Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>
Lemon-bellied Crombec	<i>Sylvietta denti</i>
White-browed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta leucophrys</i>
Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies (Cettiidae)	
Neumann's Warbler	<i>Urosphena neumanni</i>
Yellow Flycatchers (Erythroceridae)	
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocerus mccallii</i>
Hylia (Hylidae)	
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>
Leaf Warblers & Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Red-faced Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus laetus</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Grauer's Warbler	<i>Graueria vittata</i>
Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Mountain Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna similis</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Catriscus brevirostris</i>
Evergreen Forest Warbler (H)	<i>Bradypterus lopezi</i>
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler	<i>Bradypterus cinnamomeus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
White-winged Swamp Warbler	<i>Bradypterus carpalis</i>
Grauer's Swamp Warbler - EN	<i>Bradypterus graueri</i>
Highland Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus centralis</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>
Trilling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>
Chubb's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chubbi</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>
Carruthers's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola carruthersi</i>
Stout Cisticola	<i>Cisticola robustus</i>
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
Short-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>
Foxy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola troglodytes</i>
Long-tailed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola angusticauda</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-faced Prinia	<i>Prinia melanops</i>
White-chinned Prinia	<i>Schistolais leucopogon</i>
Rwenzori Apalis	<i>Oreolais ruwenzorii</i>
Red-winged Grey Warbler	<i>Drymocichla incana</i>
Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Lowland Masked Apalis	<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>
Buff-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis rufogularis</i>
Grey Apalis	<i>Apalis cinerea</i>
Grey-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Yellow-browed Camaroptera (H)	<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>
Olive-green Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>
Black-faced Rufous Warbler	<i>Bathmocercus rufus</i>
Green-capped Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>
Rufous-crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Rwenzori Hill Babbler	<i>Sylvia atriceps</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Green White-eye	<i>Zosterops stuhlmanni</i>
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Ground Babblers (Pellorneidae)	
Brown Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>
Mountain Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis pyrrhoptera</i>
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis (H)	<i>Illadopsis albipectus</i>
Puvel's Illadopsis (H)	<i>Illadopsis puveli</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>
Dapple-throat & Allies (Modulatricidae)	
Grey-chested Babbler (H)	<i>Kakamega poliothorax</i>
Hyliotas (Hylotiidae)	
Yellow-bellied Hyliota (H)	<i>Hyliota flavigaster</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Purple-headed Starling	<i>Hylopsar purpureiceps</i>
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
Bronze-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>
Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Slender-billed Starling	<i>Onychognathus tenuirostris</i>
Chestnut-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>
Waller's Starling	<i>Onychognathus walleri</i>
Narrow-tailed Starling	<i>Poeoptera lugubris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Red-tailed Ant Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus rufus</i>
White-tailed Ant Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>
Fraser's Rufous Thrush	<i>Stizorhina fraseri</i>
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
Abyssinian Thrush	<i>Turdus abyssinicus</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Fire-crested Alethe (H)	<i>Alethe castanea</i>
Brown-backed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas hartlaubi</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Fraser's Forest Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus griseigularis</i>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>
Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis ardesiacus</i>
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>
Silverbird	<i>Empidornis semipartitus</i>
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>
Chapin's Flycatcher - VU (H)	<i>Muscicapa lendu</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa comitata</i>
Sooty Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa infuscata</i>
Red-throated Alethe	<i>Chamaetylas poliophrys</i>
Brown-chested Alethe	<i>Chamaetylas poliocephala</i>
White-bellied Robin-Chat	<i>Cossyphicula roberti</i>
Archer's Ground Robin	<i>Cossypha archeri</i>
Grey-winged Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha polioptera</i>
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat (H)	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>
Forest Robin	<i>Stiphornis erythrothorax</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Equatorial Akalat	<i>Sheppardia aequatorialis</i>
Spotted Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa guttata</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Sooty Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla nigra</i>
Ruaha Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla collaris</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Grey-headed Sunbird	<i>Deleornis axillaris</i>
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
Grey-chinned Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</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>
Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris stuhlmanni</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>
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Shelley's Sparrow	<i>Passer shelleyi</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>
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>
Black-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanogaster</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>
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</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>
Compact Weaver	<i>Ploceus superciliosus</i>
Brown-capped Weaver	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</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>
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</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>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Jameson's Antpecker	<i>Parmoptila jamesoni</i>
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>
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>
Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Red-headed Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga ruficapilla</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Brown Twinspot	<i>Clytospiza monteiri</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</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>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Western Citril	<i>Crithagra frontalis</i>
Papyrus Canary	<i>Crithagra koliensis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Cabanis's Bunting	<i>Emberiza cabanisi</i>

Species seen:	525
Species heard:	26
Species seen by guide only:	1
Total species:	552

Mammal List

Mammals '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:

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened.

Common name	Scientific name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Western Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant - VU	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Rabbits and Hares (Leporidae)	
African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>
Squirrels and Relatives (Sciuridae)	
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Euxerus erythropus</i>
Isabelline Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>
Carruther's Mountain Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus carruthersi</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Boehm's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus boehmi</i>
Old World Mice, Rats and Gerbils (Muridae)	
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Bushbabies (Galagidae)	
Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Grey-cheeked Mangabey - VU	<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Tantalus Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>
L'Hoest's Monkey - VU	<i>Allochrocebus lhoesti</i>
Red-tailed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>
Guereza	<i>Colobus guereza</i>
Ashy Red Colobus - EN	<i>Piliocolobus tephrosceles</i>
Great Apes (Hominidae)	
Eastern Gorilla - CR	<i>Gorilla beringei</i>
Chimpanzee - EN	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>
Bats (Chiroptera)	
African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>
Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Lion - VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard - VU	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Civets, Genets, Linsangs and allies (Viverridae)	
Central African Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>
Hyaenas and Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena (H)	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)	
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Horses, Asses and Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Hogs and Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Forest Hog	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus - VU	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Blue Duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>
Black-fronted Duiker	<i>Cephalophus nigrifrons</i>
Giraffes and Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe - VU	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>

Species seen:	46
Species heard:	1
Total species:	47