

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



UGANDA: African Golden Cat Quest! Mostly Mammals and Shoebill

Wednesday 22nd March - Sunday 2nd April 2023

4 Wise Birding Clients

Leaders: Chris Townend & Sam (Niwamanya Rwenzel)

Huge thanks to Sam, our excellent driver Joel & bird guide Gordon in Ruhija.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

Eastern Gorilla: We enjoyed a wonderful hour in the presence of the Bitukura family group in Ruhija.

East African Potto: Three separate animals recorded with excellent views at Bigodi Swamp and in Kibale Forest.

Serval: A fantastic sighting at close range after a long night of spotlighting.

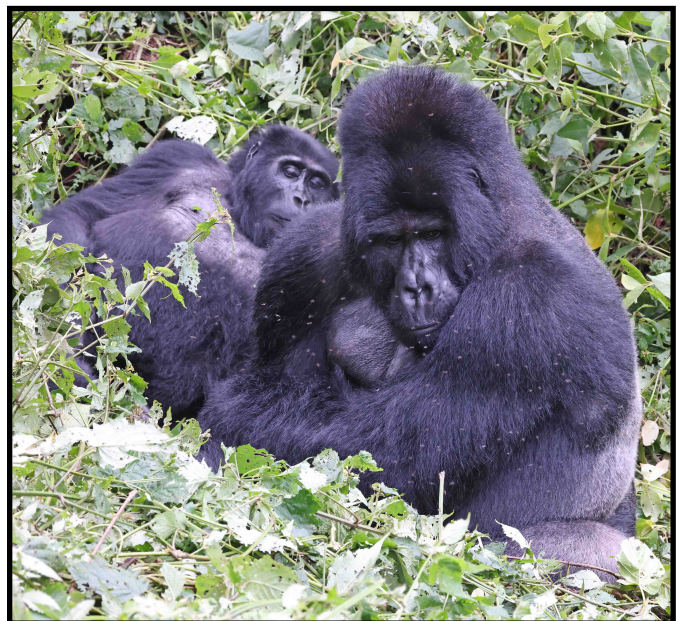
Lord Derby's Flying Squirrel: A great sighting in Ruhija by spotlight.

White-bellied Pangolin: A privilege to see two different animals prior to their release back into the wild.

Primates: Aside from Chimps and Gorillas, we saw numerous other species including Ashy Red Colobus, Ugandan Crested Mangabey, Blue Monkey & more!

Four species of Galago: Demidoff's and Thomas's Dwarf Galago, plus Spectacled Lesser Galago and Thick-tailed Greater Galago.

Shoebill: We enjoyed fabulous views of the incredible Shoebill at Mabamba Swamp.



White-bellied Pangolin and Gorilla were just two of the many highlights

Summary

Following our [pioneering tour in March 2022](#), this was Wise Birding's second attempt on trying to see African Golden Cat as well as a great selection of other mammals. Despite having sent a private client the week before on this very same itinerary who was successful in seeing the cat, sadly we were unsuccessful, despite coming close.

Of course everyone on the trip was prepared for this outcome and despite trying very hard at all hours of the day and night, we just didn't get that bit of luck that you sometimes need in mammal watching! However, what we did see were a great selection of East African mammals, including many iconic species with restricted ranges, plus a good mix of birds including a number of Albertine Rift Endemics.

We focused our effort in the Kibale Forest and the Ruhija section of Bwindi Forest. Following our pioneering tour in 2022, we have learned a great deal about African Golden Cat and how best to approach the task to actually see one in the wild. We continue to collect data on sightings (through our trail cameras) with essential help from our friends at Harrier Tours. This data set of cat movements, locations and times we hope will be invaluable for the success of our future Golden Cat tours.

African Golden Cat has been seen in the wild by few people, despite having a sizeable distribution throughout areas of Central-East and West Africa. This beautiful and mythical cat is considered to be most closely related to the Caracal and Serval and not closely related to the Asiatic Golden Cats.

You can view one of our many exciting Golden Cat Videos [HERE](#)
(click settings icon at bottom of video for best quality)

We saw a total of 47 mammals and 253 species of bird on this tour.



SUMMARY OF DAILY ACTIVITIES

Much of our time was spent slowly driving quiet roads during the late afternoon and early evening for mammals and using trail cameras to assist us. In addition, we also spent much time spotlighting and using thermal imaging cameras with no lights to increase chances for mammal encounters. Despite focusing most of our time for African Golden Cat, the whole purpose of the tour was to also enjoy the other numerous mammals and birds that Uganda has to offer.

DAY	DATE	ITINERARY
1	Wed 22 March	Arrive Entebbe. Visit to Botanical Gardens. Overnight Entebbe
2	Thur 23 March	Morning: Mabamba Swamp boat trip for Shoebill Afternoon: Travel to Kibale Forest Spotlighting 9pm - 12.30am Overnight Guereza Canopy Lodge
2	Fri 24 March	Morning: Birding forest trails around lodge. Evening: Kibale Forest and Bigodi Swamp Spotlighting 6pm - 9pm Overnight GC Lodge
4	Sat 25 March	Morning: Spotlighting 03.30am - 06.45am Chimp Trek / Bigodi Swamp birding Spotlighting 7pm - 02.30am Overnight GC Lodge
5	Sun 26 March	Morning: Bigodoi Swamp primates and birding Evening: Night walk edge of Kibale 7.30 - 9.30pm Spotlighting 9.30pm - 06.00am Overnight GC Lodge
6	Mon 27 March	Afternoon: Birding along road by lodge Spotlighting 7.30pm - 02.30am Overnight GC Lodge
7	Tue 28 March	Morning: Heavy rain, so relaxed birding from lodge Afternoon: Bigodi Swamp and Turaco Trail Night walk Bigodi Swamp 8.30pm - 10.30pm Overnight GC Lodge
8	Wed 29 March	Morning: Last birding around lodge grounds Depart for Ruhija via Queen Elizabeth NP Afternoon: Boat trip Kazinga Channel QENP Spotlighting 9pm - 11pm Overnight Bush Lodge QENP
9	Thur 30 March	Morning: Game drive 06.45am - 09.45am & Hog Pool Afternoon: Travel Ishasha Road & Pangolin Rescue Centre Spotlighting through Bwindi “neck” arrive 10pm Overnight Ruhija
10	Fri 31 March	Gorilla Trek: Viewing from 10am - 11am / Birding for Peter Afternoon: Heavy rain all afternoon! Spotlighting 7pm - 11pm Buhoma side Overnight Ruhija
11	Sat 01 April	Spotlighting 03.30am - 07.00am Bamboo side After breakfast head to Lake Mburo NP Afternoon: boat trip on Lake Mburo 4pm - 6pm and early evening Game Drive until 7pm. Spotlighting 8.30pm - 10pm. Overnight Arcadia Cottages, Lake Mburo NP
12	Sun 02 April	Morning: Transfer to Entebbe airport



Eastern Gorillas of the Bitukura family group





East African Potto



East African Potto



Marsh Mongoose



Lord Derby's Flying Squirrel





Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill



Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill



Crowned Hornbill





Ashy Red Colobus

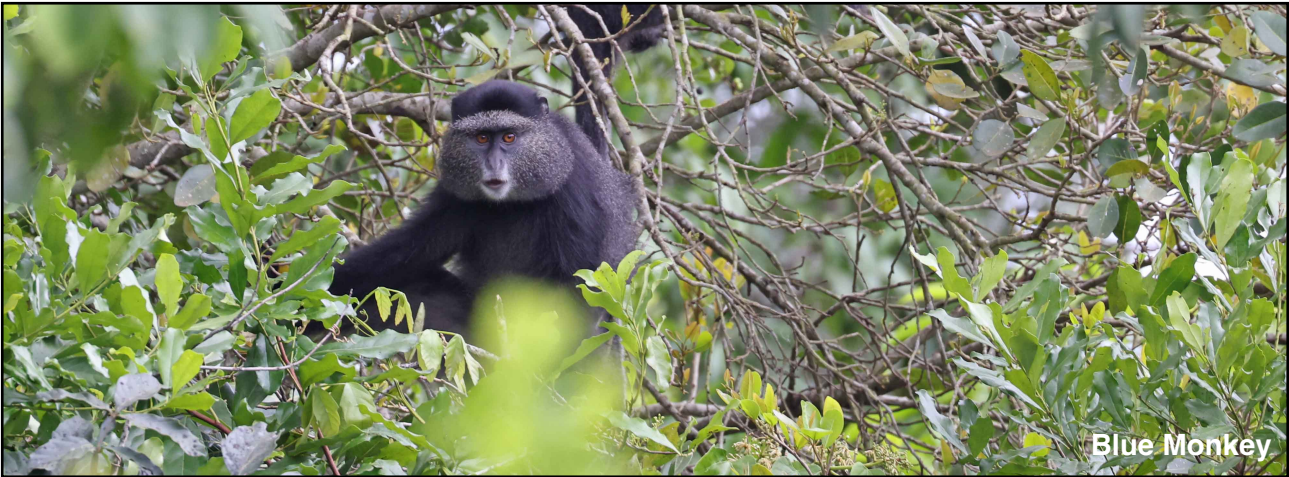


Red-tailed Monkey

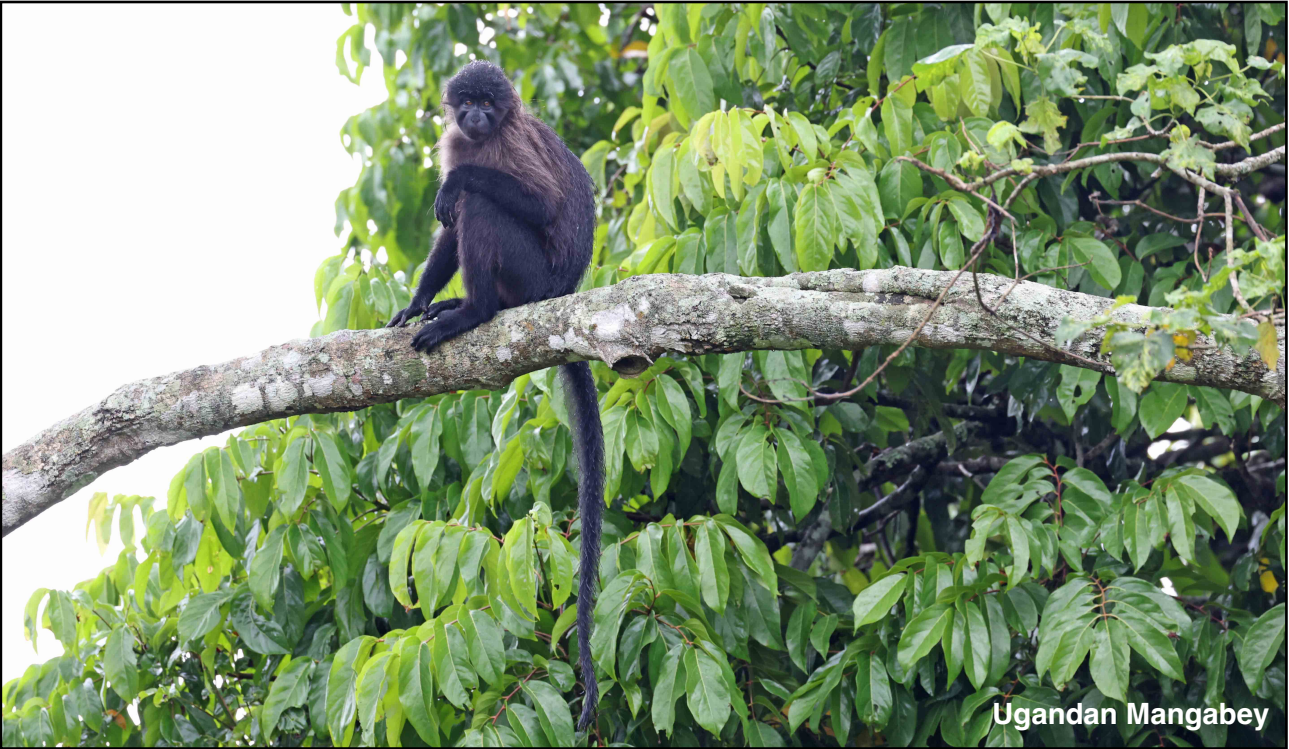




Kibale Forest



Blue Monkey



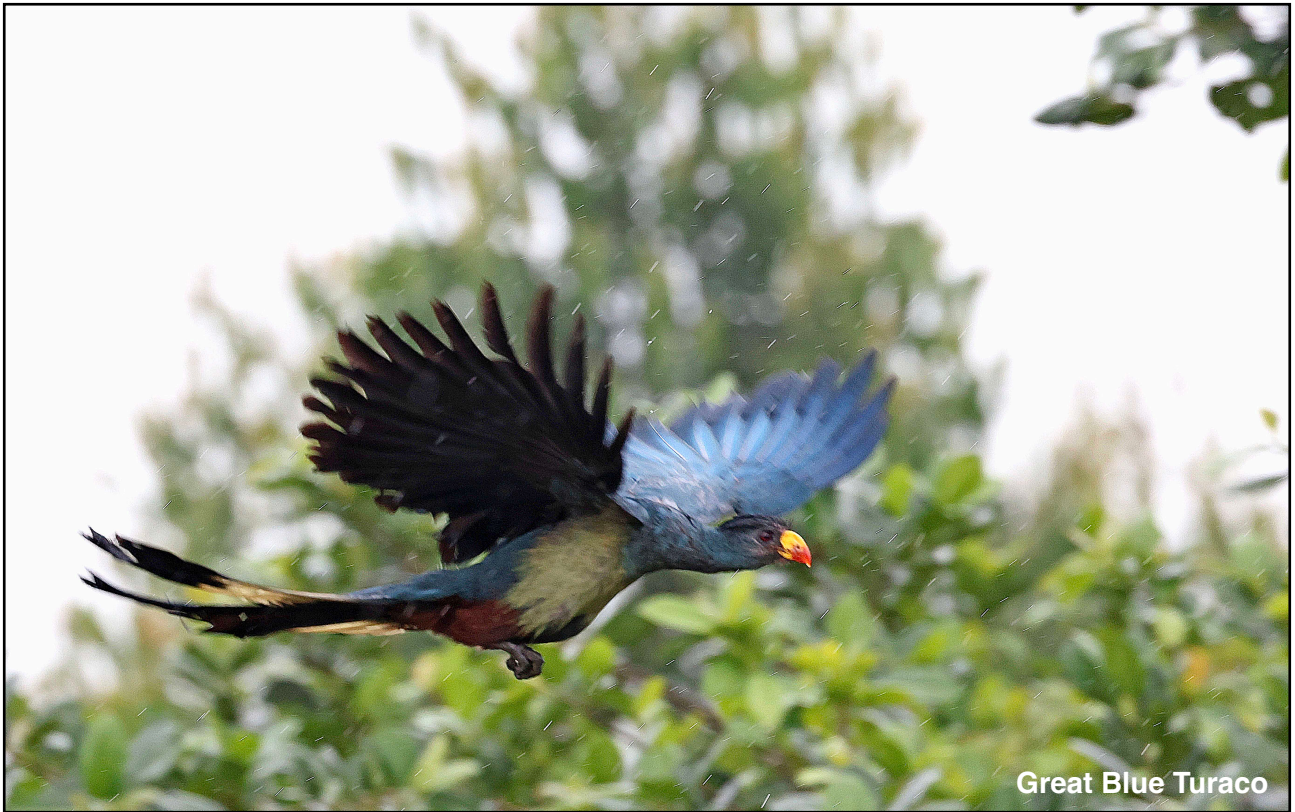
Ugandan Mangabey



Chimpanzee



Great Blue Turaco



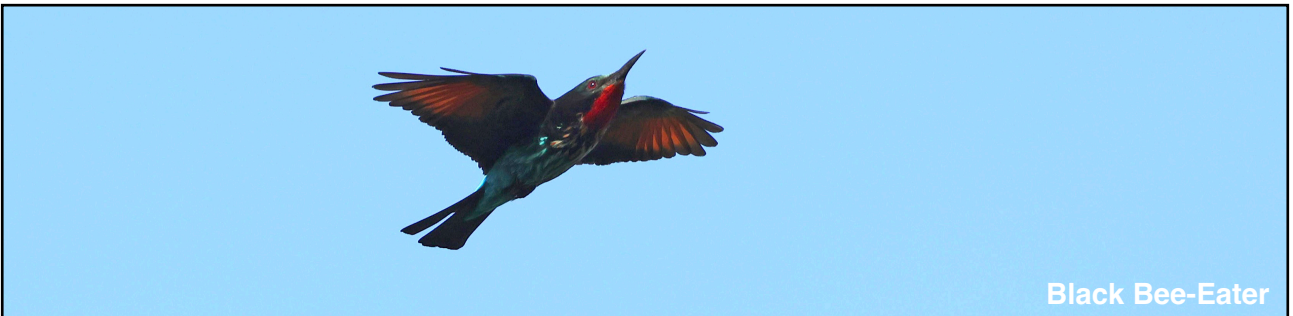
Great Blue Turaco



Blue-throated Roller



Black Bee-Eater



Black Bee-Eater



Little Bee-Eaters



Grey-crowned Crane



Bare-faced Go-Away Bird



African (Savanna) Elephant



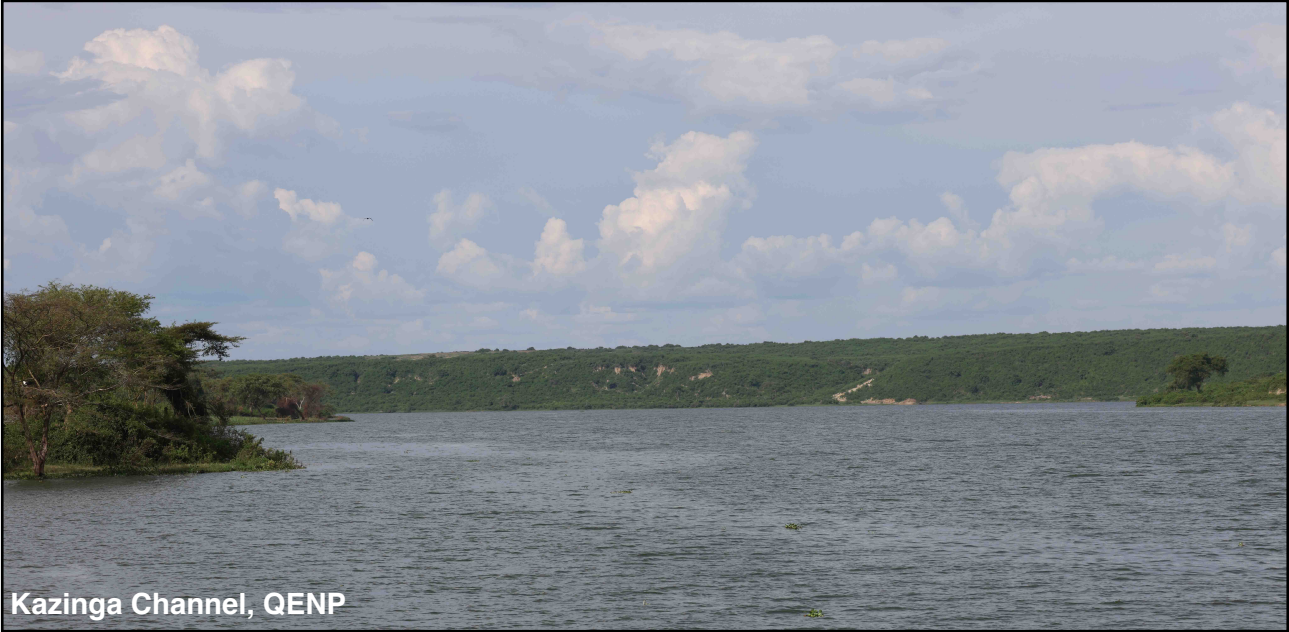
African (Savanna) Elephant



African (Savanna) Elephant



African (Savanna) Buffalo and Yellow-billed Oxpecker



Kazinga Channel, QENP



Abdim's Storks

Martial Eagle



African Fish Eagle



Wahlberg's Eagle





Nile Bushbuck



Uganda Kob



Lions in QENP



Lioness in QENP





Lion in QENP



Serval in Kibale

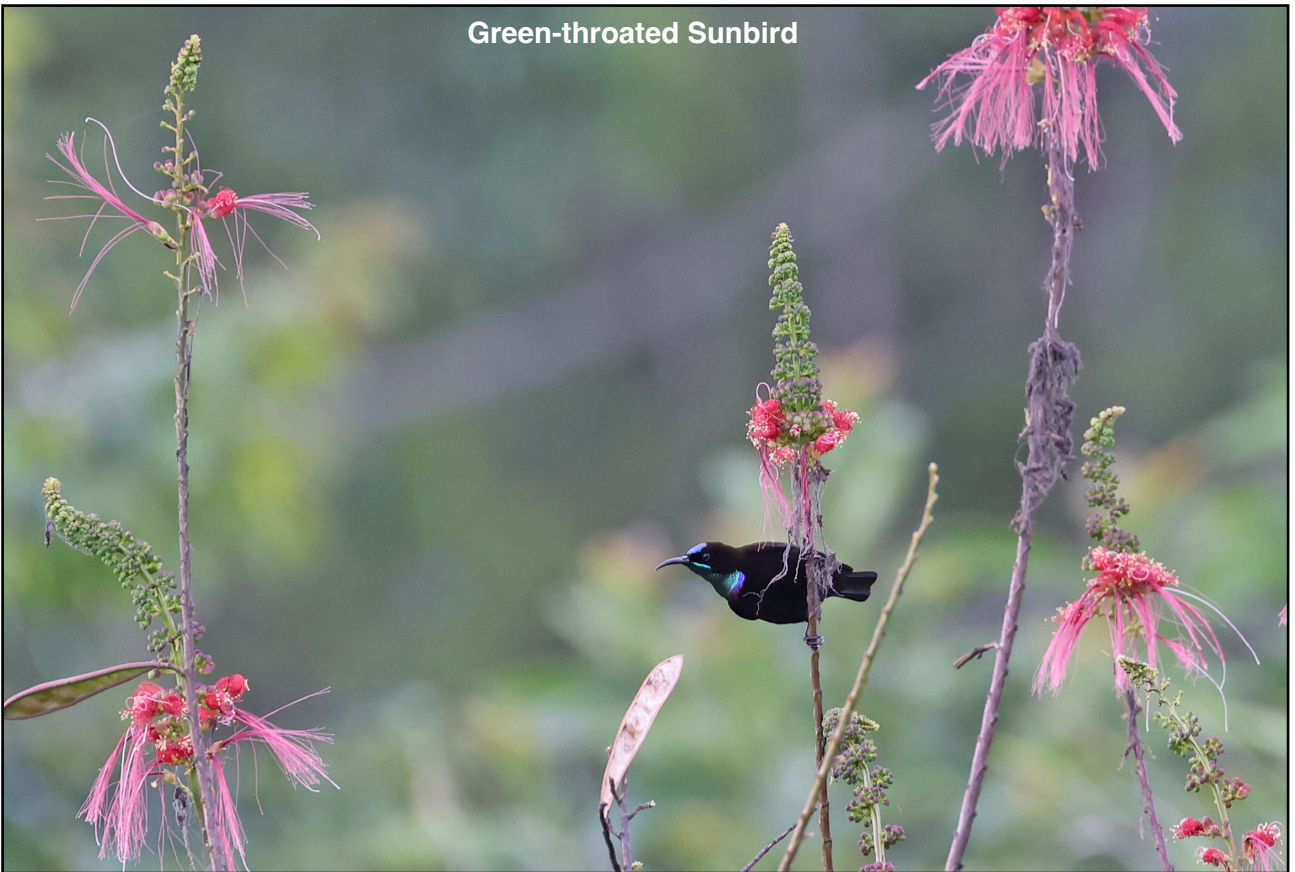


Black-necked Weaver



Thick-billed Weaver

Green-throated Sunbird

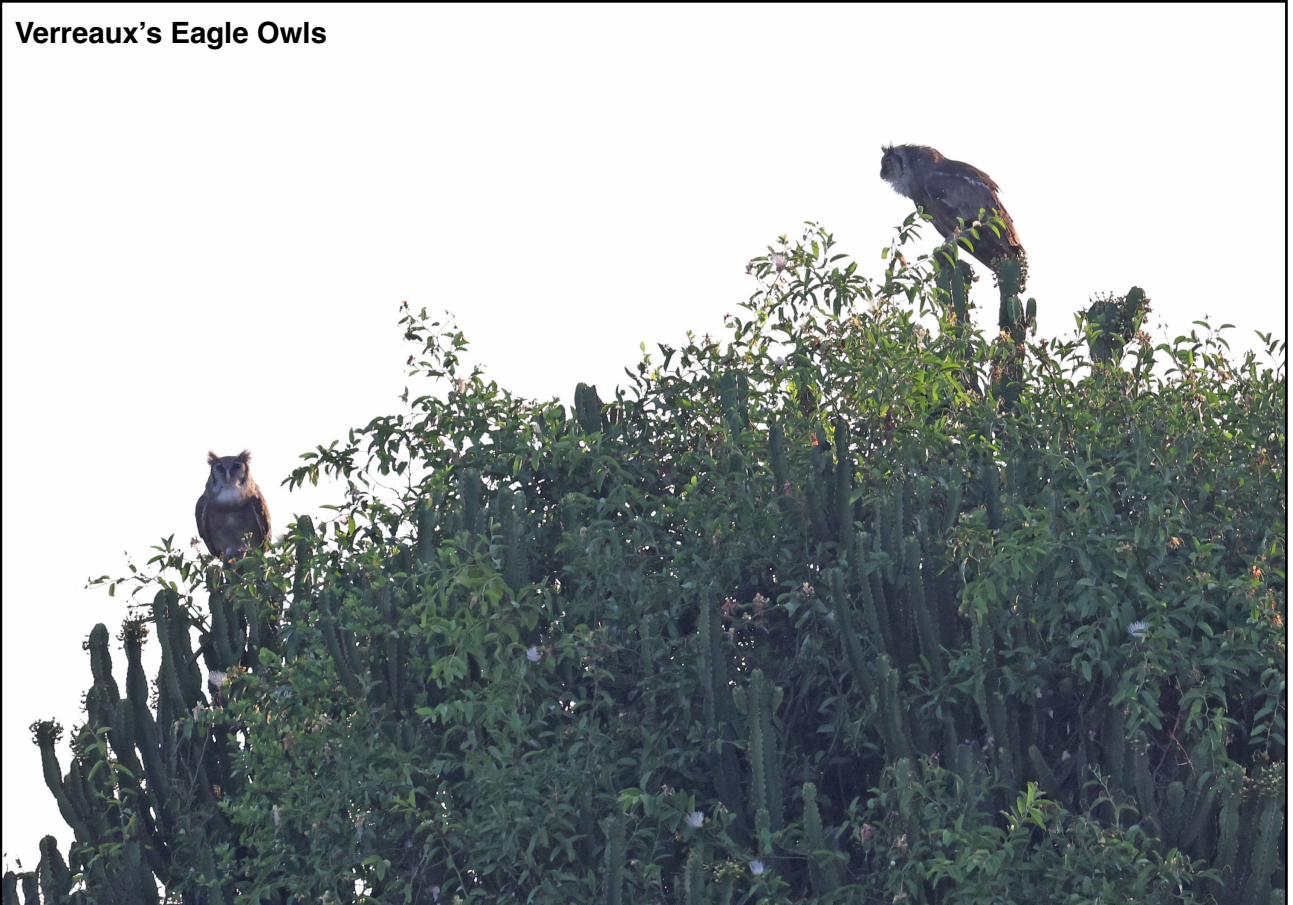


Bronzy Sunbird



African Green Pigeon

Verreaux's Eagle Owls





Rüppell's Vultures and Palm-nut Vulture

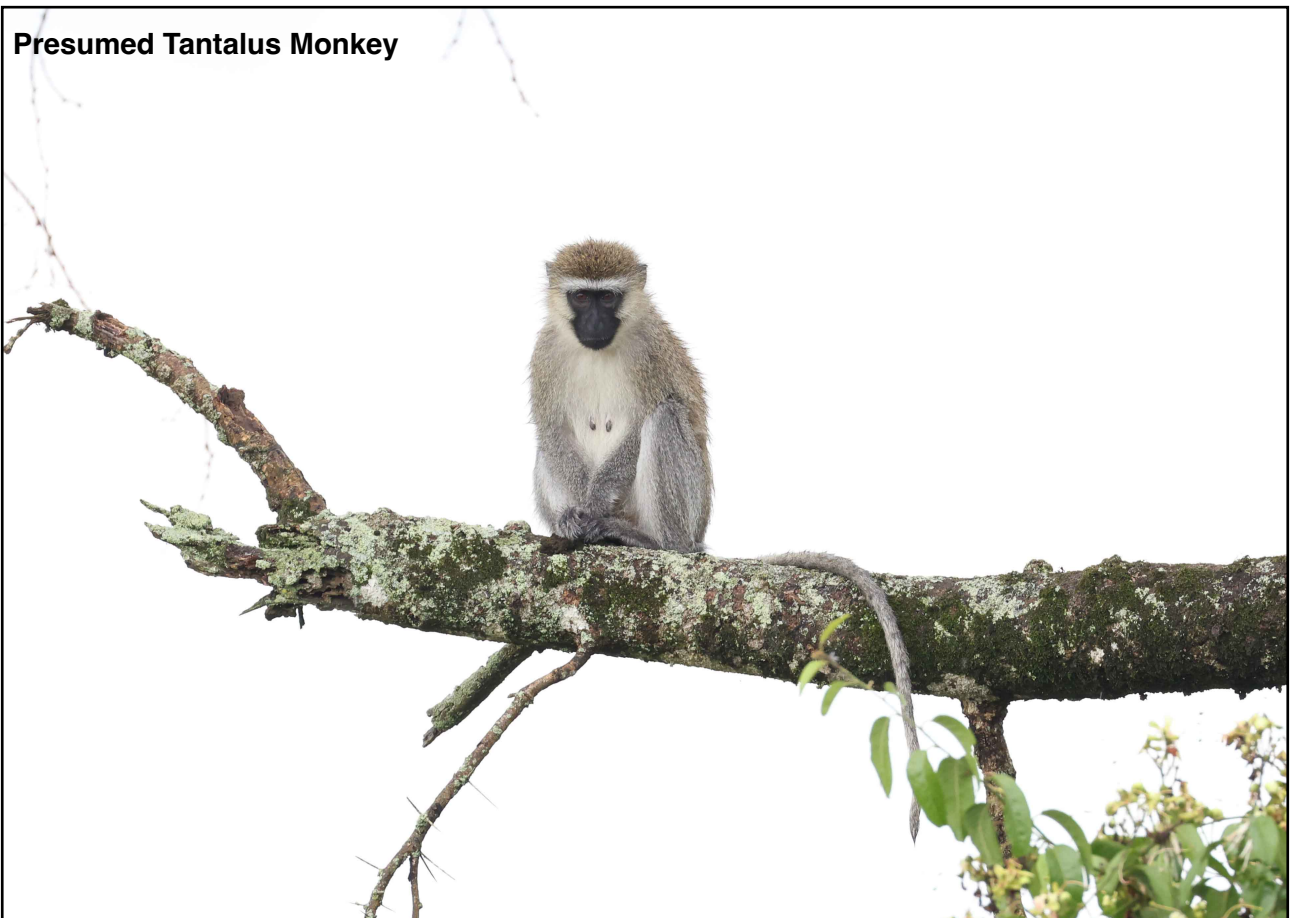


Palm-nut Vulture

Female Saddle-billed Stork



Presumed Tantalus Monkey





Spectacled Lesser Galago



Forest Giant Pouched Rat



Carruther's Mountain Squirrel



Rwenzori Three-horned (Johnston's) Chameleon

White-bellied Pangolin



White-bellied Pangolin





Black Crake

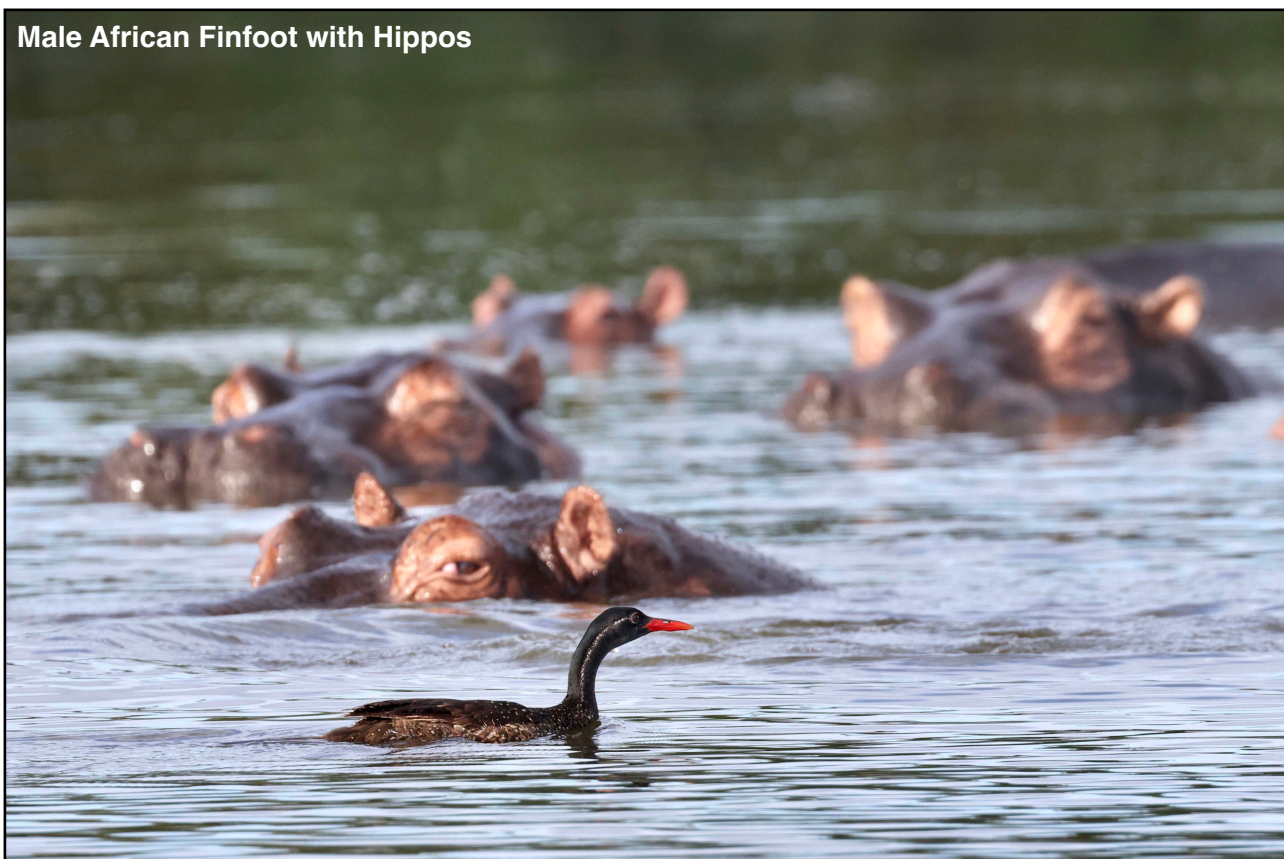


Handsome Francolin

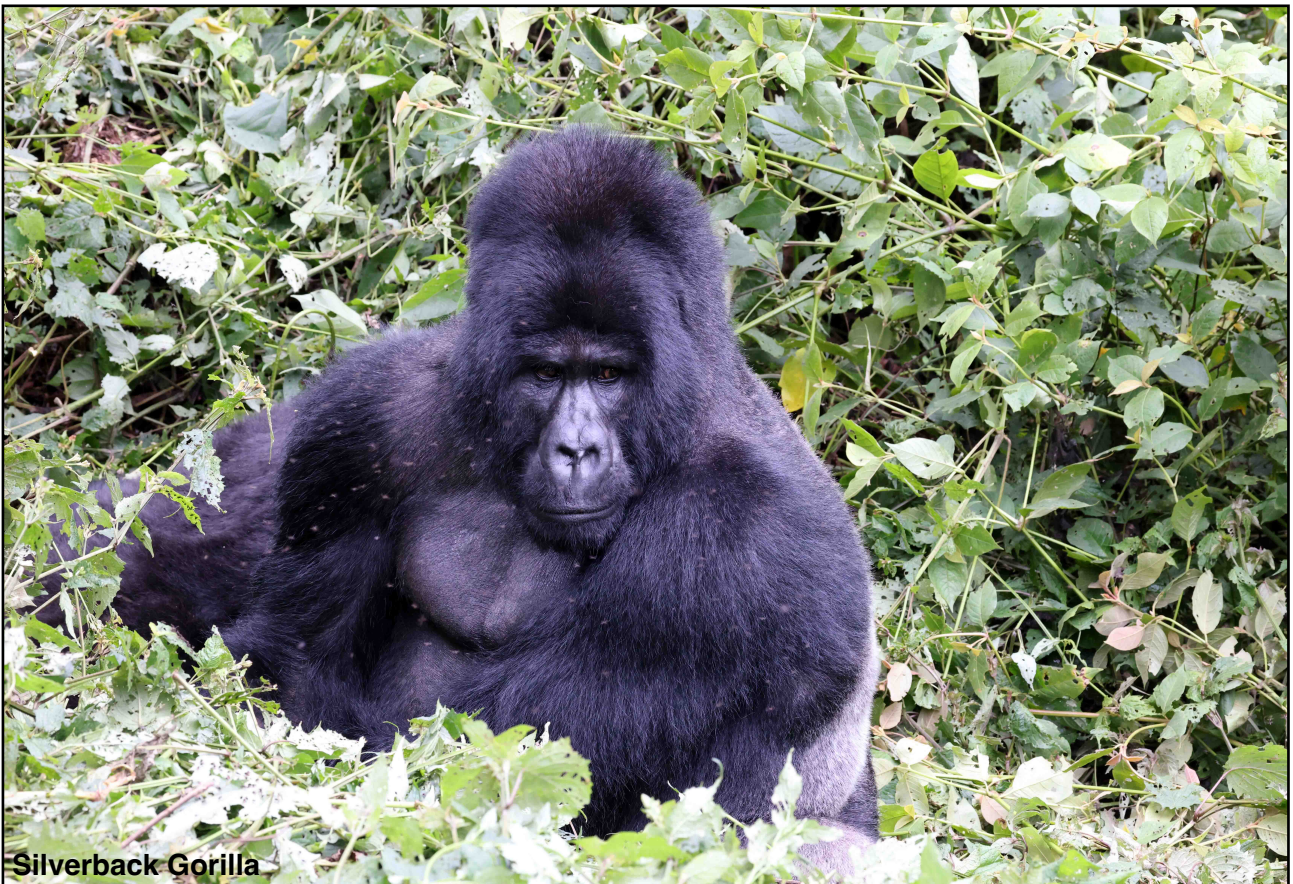
Male African Finfoot



Male African Finfoot with Hippos



Square-tailed Nightjar



Silverback Gorilla

Conservation Donation – Following this tour to Uganda, £200 was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund.

Wise Birding Holidays has been supporting a number of small conservation projects over the years. However, we now believe that to try and make a bigger difference to conservation it is best to pool the donations from most of our tours into one central fund. Once a target amount has been reached this money will be used to support one single project in the hope of achieving more for conservation. Currently this amounts to over £10,000. Some tours will continue to donate money to help some of the smaller projects that we feel will still benefit from smaller donations.

Please visit www.wisebirding.co.uk to find out more.

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Butterflies along the Ishasha Road



Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



The mammal checklist mostly follows [the IUCN framework](#) (Red List) but also the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) www.gbif.org and Handbook of The Mammals of the World.

The bird checklist follows the nomenclature and classification from Gill F, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (Eds). 2022. **IOC World Bird List** (v12.1). <https://www.worldbirdnames.org/new/>

The IOC World Bird List complements three other primary world bird lists that differ slightly in their primary goals and taxonomic philosophy, i.e. [The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World](#), [The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World](#), 4th Edition, and [HBW Alive/Bird Life International](#).

Total number of mammals recorded: 47 species

African (Savanna) Elephant

Loxodonta africana

Numerous animals seen whilst in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) on two days.

White-bellied (Common African) Pangolin

Phataginus tricuspis

Two animals that were due for release were seen feeding naturally on the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest during the early evening of the 30th.

Serval

Leptailurus serval

A fantastic sighting during the early hours of the 27th on our return to Guereza Canopy Lodge. The animal was seen at close range for a couple of minutes in the spotlight.

Lion

Panthera leo

A total of 9 animals seen whilst in QENP on the 30th. Groups of 4, 3 and 2 animals.

African Civet

Civettictis civetta

One on the night of the 26th seen well in the spotlight in Kibale Forest.

Rusty-spotted (Large-spotted) Genet

Genetta maculata

Recorded during night drives in Kibale (25th and 27th), QENP (29th) and Ruhija (31st).

Marsh Mongoose

Atilax paludinosus

Sightings on the 25th and 26th were seen well whilst spotlighting on the Ngogo Road. A brief animal on the 24th was thought to be this species.

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguineus

A single animal on the 1st at Lake Mburo NP.

Side-striped Jackal

Lupulella adustus

Two animals seen during the early hours of the 27th just prior to our Serval sighting.

Spotted-necked Otter

Hydrictis maculicollis

Some good sightings this year with 2 animals seen on Lake Victoria whilst exploring Entebbe Botanical Gardens during our first evening (22nd). Then another the next day during our boat trip at the Mabamba Swamp.

Plains Zebra

Equus quagga

Recorded at Lake Mburo NP only on two days.

Giant Forest Hog

Great to see four animals cooling off in a mud pool QENP during the late morning of 30th.

Hylochoerus meinertzhageni**(Central African) Warthog**

Small numbers recorded on four days whilst in QENP and Lake Mburo NP. The

Phacochoerus africanus

subspecies is *massaicus*.

Impala

Recorded on two days exploring Lake Mburo NP. High count of 150+ animals on the 1st.

Aepyceros melampus**Black-fronted Duiker**

This distinctive Duiker was seen well in Ruhija with single animals on the 31st and 1st.

Cephalophus nigrifrons**Weyn's Duiker**

Recorded on two days whilst spotlighting in Kibale Forest. Two animals including a male on the 25th and a single on the 26th.

Cephalophus weynsi**(Defassa) Waterbuck**

Small numbers recorded on four days whilst in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

Kobus ellipsiprymnus**Uganda Kob**

This very attractive ungulate was seen well whilst in QENP on the 29th and 30th.

Kobus kob**African "Savanna" Buffalo**

Small numbers recorded whilst in QENP and whilst exploring Lake Mburo NP.

Syncerus caffer**(Nile) Bushbuck**

A number of sightings in Kibale Forest then further sightings at QENP and Lake Mburo NP. The **subspecies** is *bor*.

Tragelaphus scriptus**Hippopotamus**

First recorded in QENP and then again whilst exploring Lake Mburo NP.

Hippopotamus amphibius**Yellow-winged Bat**

This impressive bat species was recorded in QENP on the 29th.

Lavia frons**Hammer-headed Fruit Bat**

Great to both hear and see these large bats on the edge of Kibale Forest on the evening of the 26th.

Hypsignathus monstrosus**Spectacled Lesser Galago**

A single in Kibale Forest on the 26th and then the best views during spotlighting sessions in Ruhija with a minimum of 7 animals seen, including 6 just on the evening of the 31st.

Galago matschiei**Demidoff's Dwarf Galago**

Singles recorded on the 24th & 25th around Kibale Forest were the only two animals confirmed to species.

Galagoides demidoff**Thomas's Dwarf Galago**

Seen well at Bigodi Swamp on the 24th, heard on the 25th and then 2 animals seen on the 28th in Kibale Forest. **Galago vocalisations:** www.wildsolutions.nl/vocal-profiles/

Galagoides thomasi**Thick-tailed Greater Galago**

This large and distinctive Galago was seen well during a night drive in Lake Mburo on the evening of the 1st.

Otolemur crassicaudatus

East African Potto***Perodicticus ibeanus***

Three separate animals recorded with excellent views at Bigodi Swamp on the 24th and 28th and another in Kibale Forest on the 25th.

L'hoest's Monkey***Allochocebus lhoesti***

This beautiful primate was recorded on two days in the forests of Ruhija with counts of at 5 animals on the 31st and 2 animals the next day.

Red-tailed Monkey***Cercopithecus ascanius***

This unmistakable primate was in Kibale Forest on four days. The **subspecies** is *Schmidti*.

Blue Monkey***Cercopithecus mitis***

A single in Kibale Forest near our lodge was a notable sighting. Animals were also heard in Kibale on the 27th. Three animals in Queen Elizabeth NP on the 30th along the Ishasha Road - **subspecies** *stuhmanni*. In Ruhija one animal was seen on the 31st with others heard nearby - **subspecies** *doggetti*. If treated as separate species they become

Stuhlmann's Blue Monkey & Doggett's Silver Monkey**Vervet Monkey*****Chlorocebus pygerythrus***

Recorded on four days in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

Tantalus Monkey***Chlorocebus tantalus***

At least 2 animals showed features for this species on the Ishasha Road - Grey/ White tail tip (not black) & greyer hands/feet. The subspecies here is thought to be *budgetti*. In time, the species may become a full species, **Budgett's Tantalus**.

Mantled Guereza***Colobus guereza***

This highly impressive primate was recorded on six days whilst exploring Entebbe Botanical Gardens and the Kibale and Ruhija forests. Seen well on numerous occasions with counts of 5-15 animals.

Ugandan Crested Mangabey***Lophocebus ugandae***

Now split from Grey-cheeked Mangabey, this species was recorded on four days, in Kibale Forest and Bigodi Swamp, with counts of up to 8+ animals.

Olive Baboon***Papio anubis***

A common species recorded on six days.

Ashy Red Colobus***Piliocolobus tephrosceles***

A number of animals seen well whilst exploring Kibale Forest with sightings on four days.

Eastern Gorilla***Gorilla beringei***

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the entire tour was spending an hour in the presence of the Bitukura family group in Ruhija on the morning of 31st March. A total of 7 animals were seen and included some great behaviour as young infants interacted with the group.

Chimpanzee***Pan troglodytes***

Another highlight of the tour was spending an hour with a troop of 15+ animals in Kibale Forest on the morning of the 25th March. We also had sightings of animals by chance. Crossing the Ngogo Road on the morning of the 24th (2 animals) and another 2 animals feeding in Guava trees near Guereza Canopy Lodge on the morning of the 26th.

African Savanna Hare*Lepus microtis*

At least 3 animals recorded during a night drive in QENP on the 29th.

Carruther's Mountain Squirrel*Funisciurus carruthersi*

A single animal on the 31st in Ruhija.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

Recorded on three days. Kibale Forest and Bigodi Swamp and whilst travelling back to Entebbe on our final day.

Boehm's Bush Squirrel*Paraxerus boehmi*

A single animal at Bigodi Swamp on the 25th was seen by all and Peter also saw an animal in Ruhija with Gordon on the 31st.

Lord Derby's Flying Squirrel (Anomalure)*Anomalurus derbianus*

Great views at close range by torch light on the evening of the 31st in Ruhija.

Forest Giant Pouched Rat*Cricetomys emini*

An animal on the Ngogo Road on the 25th during a spotlighting session.

African Climbing Mouse sp

-

Recorded in Kibale Forest on at least one night.

African Wood Mouse sp

-

A number of sightings during night drives in Kibale Forest.

REPTILES**Uganda Blue-headed Tree Agama***Acanthocercus ugandaensis*

Recorded on the 29th in QENP.

Striped Skink*Trachylepis striata*

Recorded on the 29th in QENP.

Tropical House Gecko*Hemidactylus mabouia*

Recorded regularly at various accommodation throughout the tour.

Rwenzori Three-horned (Johnston's) Chameleon *Trioceros johnstoni*

Recorded in Ruhija near our accommodation on the 31st.

Nile Monitor*Varanus niloticus*

Recorded on the 23rd, 30th and the 1st.

Burrowing Asp Sp.

-

Recorded at Guereza Canopy Lodge on the 24th.

Nile Crocodile*Crocodylus niloticus*

Recorded on Lake Mburo on the 1st during our boat trip.

Total number of birds recorded: 253 species



White-faced Whistling Duck

Just 2 birds recorded at Mabamba Swamp on the 23rd and then numerous birds on pools the 2nd April as we left Lake Mburo NP whilst travelling back to Entebbe.

Spur-winged Goose

Two birds at Mabamba Swamp on the 23rd were the only birds recorded.

Egyptian Goose

Recorded on three days.

African Black Duck

A single bird by spotlight(!) as we travelled across “the neck” to Ruhija on the 30th.

Yellow-billed Duck

Small numbers recorded at Mabamba Swamp.

Helmeted Guineafowl

Recorded around QENP on two days.

Crested Francolin

Recorded in QENP only on the 29th.

Handsome Spurfowl

We enjoyed excellent views of 2 birds on the 1st whilst birding Ruhija. This species is much easier to see at this time of year compared to the peak birding month of July when it becomes far harder to find.

Scaly Spurfowl

This shy species was seen briefly on the road to Guereza Canopy Lodge the 27th.

Red-necked Spurfowl

Recorded in Queen Elizabeth NP and Lake Mburo NP only.

Fiery-necked Nightjar

Heard calling and seen in Lake Mburo NP.

Montane Nightjar

The **subsp.** *ruwenzori* was heard calling at dusk on the main road in Ruhija on the 30th as we arrived. It is considered a full species by some and then becomes Rwenzori Nightjar.

Dendrocygna viduata

Plectropterus gambensis

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Anas sparsa

Anas undulata

Numida meleagris

Ortygornis sephaena

Pternistis nobilis

Pternistis squamatus

Pternistis afer

Caprimulgus pectorals

Caprimulgus poliocephalus

Square-tailed Nightjar

Seen during night drives in QENP on the 29th and again at Lake Mburo NP on the 1st.

Mottled Spinetail

Odd birds seen on at least one day.

African Palm Swift

Recorded on at least two days, but no doubt overlooked whilst focusing on mammals.

Little Swift

Small numbers recorded on at least four days.

White-rumped Swift

Small numbers recorded on at least one day.

Great Blue Turaco

Wonderful views of this impressive species over 8 days. Nearly all sightings were in and around Kibale Forest. Its unmistakable drumming call was heard on some days too.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

A single bird whilst travelling from Mabamba to Kibale Swamp was our only sighting.

Eastern Plantain-eater

A relatively common species recorded on at least six days.

Ross's Turaco

Counts of 2-3 birds on two days whilst exploring Kibale Forest and Lake Mburo NP.

A truly stunning Turaco!

Black-billed Turaco

Recorded on three days with 2 birds seen well in Kibale Forest on the 29th and heard on another day. A single bird in Ruhija was also seen by Peter on 31st.

Black-bellied Bustard

A single in QENP on the 30th.

Senegal Coucal

Recorded on at least one day.

Bue-headed Coucal

Heard only on the 28th around the edge of Kibale Forest.

White-browed Coucal

Recorded on at least six days.

Levaillant's Cuckoo

A single bird along the Ishasha Road on the 30th.

Diederik Cuckoo

Heard more than seen, but great views from Guereza Canopy Lodge on at least two days.

Klaas's Cuckoo

Heard calling on two days.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Heard singing on two days in Kibale Forest but never in a suitable place to see!

Caprimulgus fossii***Telacanthura ussheri******Cypsiurus parvus******Apus affinis******Apus caffer******Corythaeola cristata******Crinifer personatus******Crinifer zonurus******Tauraco rossae******Tauraco schuettii******Lissotis melanogaster******Centropus senegalensis******Centropus monachus******Centropus superciliosus******Clamator levaillantii******Chrysococcyx caprius******Chrysococcyx klaas******Chrysococcyx cupreus***

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo

Heard calling on at least six days, including a number of birds singing during the night.

Black Cuckoo

Heard calling on two days.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Recorded on six days and heard more than seen, but excellent views were enjoyed in Kibale Forest close to Guereza Canopy Lodge.

African Olive Pigeon

A couple of birds seen in Ruhija on the 1st.

Red-eyed Dove

A familiar sight and sound with records on at least six days.

Ring-necked Dove

Recorded on three days in Queen Elizabeth NP and Lake Mburo NP only.

Laughing Dove

Recorded on at least two days.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove

Seen well on at least two days whilst in Kibale Forest.

African Green Pigeon

Recorded on four days with a high count of 30+ birds while travelling to Kibale on the 30th.

African Finfoot

Lake Mburo has to be one of the best places in Africa to see this often tricky species and we enjoyed excellent views of a male and female during our boat trip.

White-spotted Flufftail

This stunning skulker showed exceptionally well to most of the group at Bigodi Swamp on the 26th. Heard on at least three other days.

African Swamphen

Heard only at Mabamba Swamp.

Black Crake

Recorded on three days with the best views whilst on Lake Mburo.

Grey Crowned Crane

Uganda's national bird was recorded on five days. Max. count of 15+ birds on the 23rd.

Water Thick-knee

Seen well from our boat trips to the Kazinga Channel QENP and on Lake Mburo.

Long-toed Lapwing

Good opportunities to see this striking wader with counts of up to 8 birds on the 23rd.

Recorded on pools along the Ishasha Road and at Mabamba Swamp.

Spur-winged Lapwing

Seen only along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Senegal Lapwing

Counts of 1 on the 29th and 2 birds on the 30th whilst in and around QENP.

Cercococcyx mechowi***Cuculus clamosus******Cuculus solitarius******Columba arquatrix******Streptopelia semitorquata******Streptopelia capicola******Spilopelia senegalensis******Turtur afer******Treron calvus******Podica senegalensis******Sarothrura pulchra******Porphyrio madagascariensis******Zapornia flavirostra******Balearica regulorum******Burhinus vermiculatus******Vanellus crassirostris******Vanellus spinosus******Vanellus lugubris***

Crowned Lapwing***Vanellus coronatus***

Seen on two days whilst in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

African Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus***

Recorded in QENP and Lake Mburo NP over three days.

Kittlitz's Plover***Charadrius pecuarius***

Seen along the Kazinga Channel and also along the Ishasha Road pools.

African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus***

Recorded on four days.

Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos***

Recorded on three days with the highest numbers in Lake Mburo NP.

Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola***

Seen on four days.

Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia***

Recorded on two days around QENP.

Collared Pratincole***Glareola pratincola***

Four birds in QENP gave some great views on the ground and in flight.

Grey-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus***

A single bird from our Mabamba Swamp boat trip and also the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Gull-billed Tern***Gelochelidon nilotica***

At least 12 birds from our boat trip along the Kazinga Channel in QENP.

Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis***

Recorded on three days whilst in QENP as well as roadside pools while travelling to Entebbe on our last day.

African Openbill***Anastomus lamelligerus***

This unmistakable Stork was recorded on four days with a max. count of 50+ birds on the 28th flying high over Kibale Forest.

Abdim's Stork***Ciconia abdimii***

Great to see this species from our boat trip at Mabamba Swamp with 150+ birds circling above us.

Woolly-necked Stork***Ciconia episcopus***

Four birds were seen well at roadside pools on the Ishasha Road.

Saddle-billed Stork***Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis***

Recorded on two days with a single on 26th and then 15+ birds on the 30th in QENP.

Marabou Stork***Leptoptilos crumenifer***

A very common species with birds recorded on at least four days.

Reed Cormorant***Microcarbo africanus***

Recorded in suitable wetland habitat on three days.

White-breasted Cormorant***Phalacrocorax lucidus***

Large numbers along the Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth NP.

African Sacred Ibis

Recorded on two days.

Hadada Ibis

A very common species and a great call! Recorded on six days.

Striated Heron

Recorded on three days. Mabamba Swamp, QENP and Lake Mburo only.

Squacco Heron

Recorded on two days.

Western Cattle Egret

Small numbers on five days.

Grey Heron

Counts of 1-2 birds on two days.

Black-headed Heron

A common heron recorded on six days.

Purple Heron

Recorded at Mabamba Swamp only.

Great Egret

Recorded along the Kazinga Channel only.

Intermediate Egret

A single bird at the Mabamba Swamp next to a Little Egret was a nice comparison.

Little Egret

Recorded on four days.

Hamerkop

Recorded on five days.

Shoebill

Fabulous views of an adult & immature bird at very close range in the Mabamba Swamp.
A fantastic start to the tour!

Pink-backed Pelican

Small numbers recorded on three days. Max count of 25 birds in Kazinga Channel QENP.

Black-winged Kite

A single bird whilst travelling on the 30th.

African Harrier-Hawk

A single on the 30th along the Ishasha Road.

Palm-nut Vulture

Seen well on five days with counts of 1-2 birds.

European Honey Buzzard

Fantastic views of a low flying bird whilst having coffee at Guereza Canopy Lodge.

Hooded Vulture

Just 4 birds on the 30th while travelling.

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Bostrychia hagedash

Butorides striata

Ardeola ralloides

Bubulcus ibis

Ardea cinerea

Ardea melanocephala

Ardea purpurea

Ardea alba

Ardea intermedia

Egretta garzetta

Scopus umbretta

Balaeniceps rex

Pelecanus rufescens

Elanus caeruleus

Polyboroides typus

Gypohierax angolensis

Pernis apivorus

Necrosyrtes monachus

Rüppell's Vulture

At least 20 birds seen very well on the ground in QENP on the 30th.

Gyps rueppelli**Bateleur**

Seen well in QENP on two days.

Terathopius ecaudatus**Martial Eagle**

A perched adult in QENP on the 30th.

Polemaetus bellicosus**Long-crested Eagle**

This unmistakable and regular roadside Eagle was recorded on at least four days.

Lophaetus occipitalis**Wahlberg's Eagle**

Singles on 22nd at our accommodation, the 23rd whilst travelling and the 30th in QENP.

Hieraaetus wahlbergi**Steppe Eagle**

A single bird on the 28th amongst a number of other raptors circling above Bigodi Swamp.

Aquila nipalensis**Lizard Buzzard**

This very attractive and common roadside bird was recorded on four days.

Kaupifalco monogrammicus**African Goshawk**

Heard calling on the 24th and seen well on the 26th around Kibale Forest.

Accipiter tachiro**Black Sparrowhawk**

A single on the 28th high above Bigodi Swamp.

Accipiter melanoleucus**Western Marsh Harrier**

Singles of this winter visitor at Mabamba Samp and Lake Mburo.

Circus aeruginosus**African Marsh Harrier**

Great views of at least two birds at Mabamba Swamp on our first morning.

Circus ranivorus**Black Kite**

Wintering birds on the move were recorded on the 22nd and the 28th when a flock of 30+ birds were seen circling high with other raptors above Bigodi Swamp.

Milvus migrans**Yellow-billed Kite**

This resident species was recorded on at least six days.

Milvus aegyptius**African Fish Eagle**

This beautiful vocal eagle was seen only in Queen Elizabeth NP and Lake Mburo NP.

Haliaeetus vocifer**Common Buzzard**

Recorded in the forest of Kibale on two days including 20+ birds circling with other birds of prey high above Bigodi Swamp. Two birds also recorded on the 30th while travelling.

Buteo buteo

These wintering birds were of the eastern subsp form known as Steppe Buzzard.

Augur Buzzard

A pale morph bird seen well in Ruhija on the 1st and was our only sighting.

Buteo augur**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**

A single bird seen very well by torch light on the evening of the 29th whilst spotlighting in QENP and then two birds the following morning posed in the early morning light.

Bubo lacteus**African Wood Owl**

Heard on three evenings in Kibale and Ruhija.

Strix woodfordii

Speckled Mousebird

A common species recorded on at least eight days.

Narina Trogon

Peter saw one well in Ruhija on the 31st whilst the group were gorilla trekking.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe

Heard whilst in Ruhija on two days.

Crowned Hornbill

This distinctive orange-billed hornbill was recorded in Kibale Forest and Lake Mburo.

African Grey Hornbill

Heard calling on our final morning at Lake Mburo.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill

This wonderfully common and impressive hornbill was recorded on eight days.

Blue-throated Roller

Counts of 1-2 birds on three days. The forest equivalent of the Broad-billed Roller.

Broad-billed Roller

Recorded on two days,

Grey-headed Kingfisher

Good views whilst in QENP on two days.

Striped Kingfisher

This kingfisher of wooded grassland was seen well in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Heard calling in the Kibale Forest on one day.

Woodland Kingfisher

This common species was often seen when travelling and was recorded on six days.

African Pygmy Kingfisher

Heard on two days and seen by some on the 25th in Kibale.

Malachite Kingfisher

Recorded in suitable wetland habitats on at least three days.

Shining-blue Kingfisher

This shy species was seen by some at Bigodi Swamp on the 26th.

Pied Kingfisher

Uganda's commonest Kingfisher with birds seen on numerous occasions over five days.

Black Bee-eater

This highly sought after species was recorded on three days in Kibale Forest with some exceptionally close views of two birds near our accommodation.

Little Bee-eater

Recorded in QENP only

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater

This beautiful Bee-eater was first recorded on the 29th whilst travelling and then again in Ruhija on the 31st.

Colius striatus***Apaloderma narina******Phoeniculus bollei******Lophoceros alboterminatus******Lophoceros nasutus******Bycanistes subcylindricus******Eurystomus gularis******Eurystomus glaucurus******Halcyon leucocephala******Halcyon chelicuti******Halcyon malimbica******Halcyon senegalensis******Ispidina picta******Corythornis cristatus******Alcedo quadibrachys******Ceryle rudis******Merops gularis******Merops pusillus******Merops oreobates***

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

Recorded on the 23rd only.

European Bee-eater

Small groups were heard and seen over five days.

Grey-throated Barbet

Peter saw this species with Gordon whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking in Ruhija on the 31st.

Speckled Tinkerbird

Heard on many days around Kibale Forest and finally seen very well there on the 29th.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird

Seen well in Kibale on at least two days.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Seen only in Entebbe Botanical Gardens on the 22nd.

Yellow-spotted Barbet

Great views in Kibale Forest on the 24th.

Double-toothed Barbet

Great views of this stunning Barbet on at least three days.

Yellow-billed Barbet

Heard calling in Kibale Forest and seen on the 25th.

Crested Barbet

Two birds showed well in Lake Mburo NP on the 1st.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker

A female seen in Kibale Forest on the 28th.

Grey Kestrel

Seen in QENP on the 29th and the 30th.

Eurasian Hobby

A single at Entebbe Botanical Gardens on 22nd was our only sighting of this winter visitor.

Grey Parrot

Recorded on three days with small counts of only 1-6 birds.

Meyer's Parrot

Recorded only at Lake Mburo NP.

Chinspot Batis

Seen in Ruhija on the 31st.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye

Heard on two days.

Bocage's Bushshrike

A single bird from the dirt road near Guereza Canopy Lodge on the 28th.

Brown-crowned Tchagra

Seen well on the 24th near Guereza Canopy Lodge.

Merops persicus***Merops apiaster******Gymnobucco bonapartei******Pogoniulus scolopaceus******Pogoniulus bilineatus******Pogoniulus chrysoconus******Buccanodon duchailui******Lybius bidentatus******Trachyphonus purpuratus******Trachyphonus vaillantii******Dendropicos poecilolaemus******Falco ardosiaceus******Falco subbuteo******Psittacus erithacus******Poicephalus meyeri******Batis molitor******Platysteira cyanea******Chlorophoneus bocagei******Tchagra australis***

Northern Puffback

Recorded on at least one day.

Dryoscopus gambensis

Papyrus Gonolek

Two birds seen very well by some of the group at Bigodi Swamp on the 25th.

Laniarius mufumbiri

Black-headed Gonolek

Heard on numerous days and seen well on the 29th.

Laniarius erythrogaster

African Shrike-flycatcher

A pair of birds showed very well at Bigodi Swamp on the 24th.

Megabyas flammulatus

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher

This striking flycatcher showed on at least five days with male and female seen well.

Bias musicus

Grey Cuckooshrike

Peter saw with Gordon in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Ceblepyris caesius

Mackinnon's Shrike

Two birds were seen well in Kibale Forest on the 28th.

Lanius mackinnoni

Grey-backed Fiscal

A common shrike often seen whilst travelling with birds recorded on at least three days.

Lanius excubitoroides

Northern Fiscal

A common species around Guereza Canopy Lodge and recorded on at least seven days.

Lanius humeralis

Mountain Oriole

Peter saw with Gordon in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Oriolus percivali

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher

This common forest flycatcher was recorded on at least two days.

Terpsiphone rufiventer

African Paradise Flycatcher

Heard on our first day only.

Terpsiphone viridis

Pied Crow

A common species recorded on at least five days.

Corvus albus

African Blue Flycatcher

Recorded on three days around Kibale Forest.

Elminia longicauda

Stripe-breasted Tit

Peter saw with Gordon in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Melaniparus fasciiventer

Western Nicator

A bird showed very well at Bigodi Swamp on at least two days.

Nicator chloris

Rufous-naped Lark

Seen in QENP on the 30th.

Mirafraga africana

Red-capped Lark

Two birds in QENP on the 30th was a good sighting.

Calandrella cinerea

Slender-billed Greenbul

Recorded on at least two days in and around Kibale Forest.

Stelgidillas gracilirostris

Little Greenbul

A common greenbul heard more than seen, but seen well on two days in Kibale Forest.

Eurillas virens

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Peter saw with Gordon in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Toro Olive Greenbul

Seen on the 28th around Kibale Forest.

Common Bulbul

A common species recorded on at least nine days.

Black Saw-wing

Recorded in Ruhija on two days visiting nest sites in the vegetated bank.

White-headed Saw-wing

Recorded on three days in and around Kibale Forest.

Sand Martin

Small groups recorded in QENP and Lake Mburo NP.

Barn Swallow

Recorded on at least four days with large flocks in QENP.

Angolan Swallow

A common species recorded on eight days and often at their nest sites.

Lesser Striped Swallow

This very attractive swallow was seen well on numerous occasions.

Moustached Grass Warbler

Heard singing in the grasslands of QENP on the 30th.

Green Crombec

Heard on at least two days and seen well on the 28th.

Green Hylia

Heard on at least three days around the Kibale Forest.

Willow Warbler

Three birds recorded at Bigodi Swamp on the 24th.

Common Reed Warbler

Birds singing at Mabamba Swamp on the 23rd were one of the African subspecies, previously considered a full species African Reed Warbler. African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus* (including *ambiguus*, *minor*, *cinnamomeus*, *suahelicus*, and *hallae*) is now lumped and becomes Common Reed Warbler.

White-winged Swamp Warbler

This skulker was heard singing at Bigodi Swamp and Lake Mburo NP.

Red-faced Cisticola

This distinctive Cisticola was seen well on at least two days.

Trilling Cisticola

Heard along the Ishasha Road and again at Lake Mburo.

Chubb's Cisticola

Peter saw with Gordon in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Eurillas latirostris***Phyllastrephus hypochloris******Pycnonotus barbatus******Psalidoprocne pristopectera******Psalidoprocne albiceps******Riparia riparia******Hirundo rustica******Hirundo angolensis******Cecropis abyssinica******Melocichla mentalis******Sylvietta virens******Hylia prasina******Phylloscopus trochilus******Acrocephalus scirpaceus******Bradypterus carpalis******Cisticola erythrops******Cisticola woosnami******Cisticola chubbii***

Winding Cisticola

Recorded on three days, but seen well on the 23rd.

Croaking Cisticola

Heard in QENP only.

Zitting Cisticola

Seen in QENP on the 30th.

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Recorded on at least four days in suitable grassland habitat.

White-chinned Prinia

This very attractive Prinia showed well at Bigodi Swamp on the 24th.

Mountain Masked Apalis

This Albertine Rift Endemic was seen by Peter in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking. It was also heard by all the group the following day.

Chestnut-throated Apalis

Seen by Peter in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking. It was also heard by all the group the following day.

Grey-capped Warbler

Heard on the 30th along the Ishasha Road.

Grey-backed Camaroptera

Recorded on at least six days.

Green White-eye

Recently split from Northern Yellow White-eye this species was seen on three days.

Black-lored Babbler

Seen well near Guereza Canopy Lodge on two days.

Purple-headed Starling

Seen on two days whilst in Kibale Forest.

Splendid Starling

A relatively common Starling recorded on at least three days.

Rüppell's Starling

A very common and distinctive Starling recorded on at least five days.

Violet-backed Starling

A small flock of 15 birds seen well near Guereza Canopy Lodge on the 28th.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Seen only in QENP on two days.

White-tailed Ant Thrush

Seen well on the 28th in Kibale Forest.

African Thrush

Recorded on at least six days.

Abyssinian Thrush

A single bird in Ruhija on the 31st.

Cisticola marginatus***Cisticola natalensis******Cisticola juncidis******Prinia subflava******Schistolais leucopogon******Apalis personata******Apalis porphyrolaema******Eminia lepida******Camaroptera brevicaudata******Zosterops stuhlmanni******Turdoides sharpei******Hylopsar purpureiceps******Lamprotornis splendidus******Lamprotornis purpuroptera******Cinnyricinclus leucogaster******Buphagus africanus******Neocossyphus poensis******Turdus pelios******Turdus abyssinicus***

Grey Tit-Flycatcher

Seen well at Bigodi Swamp on the 24th. Also known as Lead-colored Flycatcher.

Northern Black Flycatcher

Recorded on the 30th in QENP.

Ashy Flycatcher

Seen on two days in and round Kibale Forest.

Dusky Blue Flycatcher

Seen well at Bigodi Swamp on the 24th.

Spotted Flycatcher

Single birds on three days. One near Kibale and then two days in QENP.

White-browed Robin-Chat

This common songster was seen very well on at least three days.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat

Heard and seen on four days.

Whinchat

Great to see 2 of these birds wintering in QENP during a game drive on the 30th.

Sooty Chat

Seen on two days, mostly in and around QENP .

Grey-chinned Sunbird

Two birds seen well at Bigodi Swamp on the 28th. Previously Green Sunbird.

Collared Sunbird

A common but impressive species seen on at least three days.

Green-headed Sunbird

Good views over three days in and around Kibale Forest.

Olive Sunbird

Seen on at least one day in and around Kibale Forest.

Green-throated Sunbird

Seen very well on four days with great sightings in the gardens of Guereza Canopy Lodge.

Bronzy Sunbird

This special Sunbird was seen very well on five days with great sightings in the gardens of Guereza Canopy Lodge.

Olive-bellied Sunbird

Seen well on at least two days on the edge of Kibale Forest.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird

Seen by Peter in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Regal Sunbird

This stunning Albertine Rift Endemic was seen very well by Peter in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Marico Sunbird

This very localised species was seen well in QENP on the 30th.

Myioparus plumbeus***Melaenornis edolioides******Fraseria caerulescens******Bradornis comitatus******Muscicapa striata******Cossypha heuglini******Cossypha niveicapilla******Saxicola rubetra******Myrmecocichla nigra******Anthreptes tephrolaemus******Hedydipna collaris******Cyanomitra verticalis******Cyanomitra olivacea******Chalcomitra rubescens******Nectarinia kilimensis******Cinnyris chloropygius******Cinnyris reichenowi******Cinnyris regius******Cinnyris mariquensis***

Superb Sunbird

A beautiful male in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens was our best view of this species.

Cinnyris superbis

Copper Sunbird

Seen well on at least two days in and around Kibale Forest.

Cinnyris cupreus

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow

A common species recorded on at least five days.

Passer griseus

Thick-billed Weaver

Seen very well on at least five days.

Amblyospiza albifrons

Slender-billed Weaver

Seen on three days with birds at Lake Victoria, Mabamba Swamp and the Ishasha Road.

Ploceus pelzelni

Spectacled Weaver

Seen only in QENP on the 30th.

Ploceus ocularis

Black-necked Weaver

Seen well on numerous occasions with birds recorded on seven days.

Ploceus nigricollis

Strange Weaver

This Albertine Rift Endemic was seen very well by Peter in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Ploceus alienus

Northern Brown-throated Weaver

A pair at Mabamba Swamp on the 23rd was our only sighting.

Ploceus castanops

Lesser Masked Weaver

Good views of a small colony in QENP on the 30th.

Ploceus intermedius

Village Weaver

One of the commonest weavers recorded on at least seven days.

Ploceus cucullatus

Vieillot's Black Weaver

Great views of this distinctive weaver with birds recorded on six days.

Ploceus nigerrimus

Black-headed Weaver

Also known as the Yellow-backed Weaver, this species was seen well on at least two days.

Ploceus melanocephalus

Golden-backed Weaver

Recorded on at least two days. Typically at wetlands, Lake Victoria and Bigodi Swamp.

Ploceus jacksoni

Brown-capped Weaver

Seen very well by Peter in Ruhija on 31st whilst the rest of the group were gorilla trekking.

Ploceus insignis

Red-headed Malimbe

Two birds showed very well on the 25th.

Malimbus rubricollis

Red-headed Quelea

Small numbers recorded on at least the 28th, with most on the 30th in QENP.

Quelea erythrops

Southern Red Bishop

Seen in QENP on the 30th.

Euplectes orix

Fan-tailed Widowbird

Seen in QENP on the 30th.

Euplectes axillaris

White-winged Widowbird

Seen in QENP on the 30th.

Bronze Mannikin

A very common species recorded on at least six days.

Magpie Mannikin

Seen at Bigodi Swamp on the 28th.

Black-and-white Mannikin

Recorded on at least two days with birds at Bigodi Swamp with Bronze Mannikins too.

Grey-headed Nigrita

Recorded on at least four days.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu

Small numbers at Lake Mburo NP.

Red-headed Bluebill

Two birds on the 28th at Bigodi Swamp.

Black-bellied Seedcracker

Two birds at Bigodi Swamp on the 25th whilst the rest of the group were chimp trekking.

Red-billed Firefinch

This smart Firefinch was recorded on at least four days.

Pin-tailed Whydah

Recorded on at least three days including some impressive males.

African Pied Wagtail

Recorded on at least six days.

Yellow-throated Longclaw

Great views of this common grassland species on at least two days.

African Pipit

Recorded in QENP on the 30th.

Plain-backed Pipit

Recorded in QENP on the 30th.

Yellow-fronted Canary

Good views at Bigodi.

Brimstone Canary

Good views around Bigodi.

Thick-billed Seedeater

Seen in Ruhija on the 31st whilst returning from our gorilla trek!

Euplectes albonotatus***Spermestes cucullata******Spermestes fringilloides******Spermestes bicolor******Nigrita canicapillus******Uraeginthus bengalus******Spermophaga ruficapilla******Pyrenestes ostrinus******Lagonosticta senegala******Vidua macroura******Motacilla aguimp******Macronyx croceus******Anthus cinnamomeus******Anthus leucophrys******Crithagra mozambica******Crithagra sulphurata******Crithagra burtoni***

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