

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS  
UGANDA

3<sup>RD</sup> JULY – 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2005

TOUR REPORT

**LEADERS: CHRIS DOUGHTY AND HERBERT BYARUHANGA**

After an uneventful but long and tiring flight, we landed at Entebbe airport, made famous by the movie 'Victory at Entebbe'. Quickly clearing customs, we drove to the bustling capital of Kampala, for a two nights stay.

Heading south to Lake Victoria, we broke the drive with a birding stop at a dense stand of papyrus, where we enjoyed good looks at Northern Brown-throated Weaver and the gaudy and noisy Papyrus Gonolek. Later that morning, our dugout canoes sliced silently through the still waters of a sprawling papyrus swamp along the edge of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake. Binoculars at the ready, straining our eyes at the clearing ahead, as our dugout canoes were punted slowly closer and closer until a pair of one of the most bizarre birds of Africa and of the world for that matter, were standing a mere 15 metres away. Standing perfectly still on the floating water hyacinths, suddenly one of the birds plunged its huge bill into the water and pulled out a large lung fish and after a little juggling, promptly swallowed it whole. For most tour participants the Shoebill or Whaleheaded Stork was one of the main reasons for travelling to Uganda, the 'pearl of Africa', as this must be the easiest country to see this prehistoric-looking, yet graceful bird. In the afternoon we made a brief stop at Mpanga Forest, west of the capital Kampala, many of the birds we saw were to become familiar inhabitants of the forest, however, special species included Streaky-throated Barbet, Honeyguide Greenbul and Little Green Sunbird.

The following morning, we drove through the never ending suburbs of Kampala, where hundreds of Hooded Vultures and Marabou Storks circled overhead and further west a roadside stop at Equator Point, an isolated patch of forest yielded a whole host of birds including Shikra, Diederik Cuckoo, Lilac-breasted Roller, White-headed Barbet, Chin-spot Batis and Marico Sunbird. During the stop to eat our picnic lunch, a Striped Ground Squirrel put in a brief appearance. Entering Mbuoro National Park, we enjoyed some late afternoon birding in bushy savanna, where we observed Coqui Francolin, Senegal Lapwing, Little Bee-eater, Trilling Cisticola, Brubru and Lesser Masked Weaver, as well as Olive Baboon, Green Monkey, Common Zebra, Warthog, African Buffalo, Bohor Reedbuck, Waterbuck, Impala and Topi, before reaching our cottages, where we spent the night.

Next day saw us working the savanna grasslands which were dotted with acacia trees and the occasional small swamp. Birding highlights included the very uncommon Rufous-bellied Heron, Egyptian Goose, a fine collection of vultures, which featured African White-backed, the uncommon Ruppell's Griffon and the huge Lappet-faced, other birds

of particular interest included Gabar Goshawk, Crested Francolin, Water Thick-knee, Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Common Scimitarbill, Spot-flanked Barbet, the extremely localised and uncommon Red-faced Barbet, Buff-bellied Warbler, the localised Long-tailed Cisticola, which has only recently been discovered in Uganda and only in this national park. Other birds of interest included White-winged Tit, Wattled Starling and Fawn-breasted Waxbill. We also enjoyed watching large numbers of Hippopotamus in Lake Mburu, along with Dwarf Mongoose, Bushbuck and Eland.

The following day was predominantly a travel day; we drove over some torturous roads which eventually took us to the far southwest of Uganda, to the small township of Kisoro, close to the border with Rwanda. We broke the long drive with an extended birding stop in the dense rainforest of Echuya Forest Reserve. Here we enjoyed great scope views of a pair of Olive Pigeons, as well as White-starred Robin, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, Yellow White-eye, White-naped Raven and best of all great looks at the very skulking Doherty's Bush-shrike. We also saw our first Blue Monkeys here.

The following morning as we were getting into the bus, Chris noticed a large falcon fly into the top of a tall eucalypt, in the car park of our lodge. After a little searching; we were able to enjoy good scope views of an adult Lanner Falcon, the day was off to a good start. We drove to the nearby Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda's smallest but most scenic national park. It is part of a much larger conservation area that straddles political boundaries and includes Parc des Volcans in Rwanda and Parc des Virungas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Three extinct volcanoes, part of the spectacular Virunga Range, lie within the boundaries of the Ugandan portion of this biologically rich area. We followed a trail that climbs steadily up Mt. Sabinyo, one of the three extinct volcanoes. Close to the entrance of the park flowering shrubs attracted large numbers of sunbirds, which included Northern Double-collared, Rwenzori Double-collared and Variable. Climbing a little higher we came to an area of low scrubby vegetation which was favoured by Dusky Turtle-Doves, attractive Black-headed Waxbills and Western Citrils. Continuing to climb, we entered tall montane forest, where the most sought after birds of the area were to be found, and one by one, we slowly prized them out of the forest and on to our ever growing trip list. We enjoyed great looks at Western Green Tinkerbird, Olive-breasted Mountain Greenbul, Mountain Yellow Warbler, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher and Mountain Black Boubou. We played hide and seek with a skulking Black-faced Rufous Warbler and an even more skulking Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, before stopping to enjoy our picnic lunch. As we were having lunch a Mountain Buzzard flew overhead and a little later an immature goshawk was observed very well, flying in and out of the forest, following some careful deliberation we were all happy that we had been watching an immature Chestnut-flanked Goshawk, of which there are only a handful of records for Uganda. However, the most prized birds of the park are the extremely range restricted Albertine Rift endemics and before the end of the day we had enjoyed good looks at 5 such species, which included Rwenzori Turaco, Mountain Masked Apalis, Rwenzori Batis, Regal Sunbird and best of all the very beautiful and rarely seen Dusky Crimsonwing.

The following day was set aside for Gorilla trekking and a very tough but rewarding day, it turned out to be. To sit close to a family party of these immense but placid creatures interacting with one another, in their natural habitat, was a very special, once-in-a-lifetime experience. The area was not without birds and walking to and from the Gorillas we added Grey Woodpecker, White-browed Robin-Chat, Mountain Thrush, Green-headed Sunbird, Northern Puffback, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Chestnut-winged Starling, the stunning Yellow Bishop, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and Yellow-crowned Canary.

Our next major stop was the famous Biwindi Impenetrable National Park, on the Zaire-Rwanda border, where we spent the first two very rewarding days exploring montane forest, while based at the research station at Ruhizha. Low cloud often hung over the moss-festooned trees and interfered with the birding, but soon the sun appeared and the birds became more active. The cozy atmosphere of our bunkhouse, the excellent food prepared by Moses, which we consumed close to a roaring fire and the long list of Central African endemics made for an exciting and enjoyable time. After much diligent searching along a long narrow trail that traversed across the intermittently steep terrain, great views were obtained of Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, African Crowned Eagle, Bar-tailed Trogon, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Toro Olive Greenbul, Chestnut-throated Apalis, African Hill-Babbler, Collared Sunbird, Ludher's Bush-shrike, Montane Oriole and Stuhlmann's Starling, to name but a few. Even so, the highlights of our time here were undoubtedly the six Albertine Rift endemics we saw; the rarely seen African Green Broadbill, the skulking Grauer's Rush-Warbler, the attractive Collared Apalis the elusive Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, the unusual Strip-breasted Tit and the iridescent Blue-headed Sunbird. New mammals included the very attractive L'Hoest's Monkey, Carruther's Mountain Squirrel and Boem's Squirrel.

Our next two days were spent birding the lower altitudes of Biwindi Impenetrable National Park. From our comfortable tented camp at Buhoma we only had to walk a few minutes to reach the cavernous interior of this highly acclaimed forest. Subsequently, we birded the narrow trails, slowly getting acquainted with the splendors of this centre of avian endemism. A Senegal Coucal suddenly burst from the undergrowth, a small flock of Alpine Swifts flew above the canopy, an Elliot's Woodpecker checked out thin bamboo-stems, a Red-throated Alethe moved silently through the undergrowth, Buff-throated Apalises and an Ashy Flycatcher foraged high up in the lower canopy and the highly localised Short-tailed Warbler another Albertine Rift endemic, was eventually tracked down. A Blue-throated Roller showed off for a while and an African Broadbill performed acrobatic displays. Other interesting species included White-headed Woodhoopoe, Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, Mountain Illadopsis, White-browed Crombec, the ultra secretive Equatorial Akalat, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Cassin's Grey Flycatcher, Dusky Tit and Sooty Boubou. We also enjoyed our first looks at the attractive Red-legged Sun Squirrel.

After several days of solid forest birding it was a relief to explore the mammal-rich savanna grasslands of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Herds of Kob and African Elephants roamed the vast grasslands, along with small bands of mischievous Banded Mongoose. A Black-chested Snake-Eagles patrolled the skies and Spur-winged and

Crowned Lapwings were found in recently burned areas of grassland, a pair of secretive Harlequin Quail and a furtive Common Buttonquail also showed themselves briefly and an uncommon Black Coucal was flushed from the edge of the track. The boat trip on the famous Kazinga channel was a photographic extravaganza, where crocodiles, pelicans, herons, storks, waders, skimmers, bee-eaters and kingfishers all posed for the camera. Grey-headed Gulls idled away the hottest hours of the day, on rocks in the river; a more detailed look revealed that the rocks were in fact the backs of partly submerged hippos! We also saw a family party of Giant Forest Hogs. From the breakfast table we observed our only Spotted Hyaena of the tour. We had a hard time leaving this fabulous park and as we made our way to the north, through areas of gallery forest alternated with huge expanses of savanna grasslands, an impromptu stop for a Black Bee-eater caused quite a stir as a pair of birds posed nicely in the top of a dead tree. We also saw our first Guereza Colobus Monkeys and a cave full of Egyptian Fruit-bats, while birding in this area.

Further to the north we explored Kibale National Park, which harbours the greatest variety and concentration of primates in East Africa. Birding along the tracks that wound their way through superb primary forest, turned up outstanding birds such as Crested Guinea-fowl, White-spotted Flufftail, Levillant's Cuckoo, Sabine's Spinetail, Yellow-billed Barbet, Western Nicator and Joyful Greenbul. We watched an unobtrusive pair of Afep Pigeons sunning themselves in the treetops and skilled use of the tape-recorder produced close looks at Yellow-eyed Bristlebill, Fire-crested Alethe and Scaly-breasted Illadopsis. Other memorable birds included White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Uganda Woodland-Warbler, Brown Illadopsis, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Purple-headed Starling and Black Bishop. However, by far the rarest and certainly the most beautiful bird of Kibale National Park, was the very rarely seen Green-breasted Pitta. Following a great deal of searching we were able to watch a pair of these stunning birds foraging together on the forest floor. Another highlight here was watching a family party of delightful Chimpanzees; we very much enjoyed watching their antics as they fed in one of their favourite fig trees, where we enjoyed uninterrupted views of this rarely seen ape. Elsewhere in the park we enjoyed watching Central African Red Colobus, the very attractive Red-tailed Monkey and Rwenzori Red Duiker.

At Murchison Falls National Park, we enjoyed a fabulous boat rip on the Victoria Nile, hundreds of hippos and formidable-looking crocs were resting on the banks or in the shallows and hordes of herons, storks, ibises, ducks and waders were foraging along the muddy edge of the river. Some of the more note-worthy birds we saw included Black-crowned Night-Heron, Senegal Thick-knee, Common Sandpiper and Black Crake. At the base of the falls, Rock Pratincoles perched on protruding rocks in the river. On game drives through the extensive, but burned grasslands of the park we flushed lots of Vinaceous Doves and observed the localised Scaly Francolin, Denham's and Black-bellied Bustards and the very uncommon Black-headed Lapwing. A short walk took us to the top of the falls, where the Nile squeezes through an incredibly narrow gap only ten metres wide. Evil Idi Amin is rumoured to have enjoyed watching his adversaries being sent plummeting to a watery death 30m below! Perched in a large tree was the only Osprey that we saw during the tour and we also enjoyed good close looks at a stunning White-crested Turaco. Exploring the grounds of our very exclusive lodge strategically

situated on a hill overlooking the Nile, we found Spotted Morning-Thrush, Northern Crombec, Beautiful Sunbird and Lesser Blue-eared Starling. During game drives through the park we were able to find the uncommon White-headed Vulture, Dark Chanting-Goshawk, impressive Tawny and Marshal Eagles, Black-billed Wood-Dove, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Swallow-tailed and Red-throated Bee-eaters, Green Woodhoopoe and a pair of huge Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills. Mammals were much in evidence and included Patas Monkey, a couple of Uganda Grass-Hares, a pride of Lions, large numbers of Giraffes, uncommon Oribis and docile Kongonis. A dainty Red-necked Falcon flew overhead at dusk, later in the evening we were able to watch Square-tailed, Long-tailed and bizarre Pennant-winged Nightjars sitting in the middle of the track. An African Civet also appeared briefly on the track.

Over the next three days we sampled the delights of the wonderful Budongo Forest Reserve; the first area we birded was the 10 metre wide earthen path called 'The Royal Mile'. Turning our attention to the more skulking species, we birded some of the narrow trails leading deep into the pristine forest. The forest was literally alive with birds; Yellow-crested Woodpeckers effortlessly climbed the tree trunks, Ituri Batis called from the tree tops, a Red-bellied Paradise-flycatcher flittered around in the dense undergrowth, a Pale-breasted Illadopsis was lured into view and Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds were busily feeding on flowering shrubs. Other birds of particular interest included African, Dusky Long-tailed and African Emerald Cuckoos, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and the very rare African Dwarf Kingfisher, White-thighed Hornbill, Little Grey, Icterine, White-throated and Spotted Greenbuls, Green Hylia, Yellow Longbill, Rufous-crowned Eremomela and Olive-green and Yellow-browed Camaropteras. It took some brilliant work with the tape recorder to entice a family party of seldom seen Nahan's Francolins to fly across the road, enabling the whole group to see them! Flycatchers were well represented and we managed to clock up African Dusky, Grey-throated, Forest and Chestnut-capped. The forest was a good area to see squirrels, and we added Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel, Gambian Sun Squirrel and African Giant Squirrel. We also glimpsed a Chequered Elephant Shrew which quickly disappeared into the forest.

On the final day of the tour we made a visit to the beautifully landscaped Entebbe Botanical Gardens. To our surprise, we still added new species, recently arrived Madagascar Bee-eaters, perched in dead trees along the edge of Lake Victoria, a pair of Superb Sunbirds showed very well, Splendid Starlings perched in the top of a tall tree and we found a few nest-building Orange Weavers.

Under the benevolent rule of President Museveni, Uganda seems determined to remain peaceful and, with its friendly and welcoming inhabitants, win the tourists back to 'The pearl of Africa'.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

### PELECANIDAE

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Good numbers observed in Queen

Elizabeth National Park.

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens* Small numbers observed throughout most wetland areas.

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE

**White-necked Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Large numbers present in some wetland areas.

**Long-tailed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus* Common throughout all wetland areas.

#### ANHINGIDAE

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa* Commonly observed in Murchison Falls National Park. But strangely absent elsewhere.

#### ARDEIDAE

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* A solitary bird was noticed in flight, during the boat trip on the Victoria Nile, at Murchison Falls. This species is an uncommon bird in Uganda.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole country.

**Common Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* A common bird throughout all wetland areas.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus* A few sightings throughout most wetland areas.

**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardeola rufiventris* A solitary individual of this very uncommon species of heron was flushed from cover at a small wetland area in Lake Mburu National Park. This sighting was at the extreme northern end of this birds range.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Many good sightings.

**Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* Small numbers scattered throughout most wetland areas.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath* Several good sightings at this monstrous species of heron.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* A few good sightings, this species appeared to be less common in Uganda, than in other parts of Africa.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Small numbers present in most wetland areas.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* By far the commonest species of heron in Uganda, it was present throughout all grassland areas, often occurring far from water.

#### SCOPIDAE

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* A very common species, which we saw on almost every day of the tour.

#### CICONIIDAE

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* We only recorded this common species of stork, in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

- Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus* Small groups observed on two separate occasions, both sightings occurred in farmland.
- African Open-billed Stork** *Anastromus lamelligerus* Small numbers present in several wetland areas.
- Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* Several good sightings of this very attractive and elegant species.
- Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* Many hundreds of birds were present in and around the capital Kampala and other larger towns.

#### BALAENICIPITIDAE

- Shoebill** *Balaeniceps rex* One of the world's rarest birds, this bizarre-looking species was voted bird of the trip by tour participants. It was a real treat to see them so well in a huge papyrus swamp along the shore of Lake Victoria.

#### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

- Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Small numbers present in most wetland areas.
- Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* Frequently encountered throughout the tour.
- African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* We only observed this species in Queen Elizabeth National Park, but we saw them very well.

#### ANATIDAE

- Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus* Small numbers present in several wetland areas.
- Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* A solitary bird, was observed briefly at Kiyanja Swamp, not far from Kampala.
- Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Surprisingly large numbers present at several wetland areas.
- White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* Good numbers present in Mabamba Bay, along the shore of Lake Victoria, while we were searching for the elusive Shoebill.
- Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata* Good numbers present in Mabamba Bay and one or two other wetland areas.

#### PANDIONIDAE

- Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* This graceful bird of prey is a migrant to Africa from the Palearctic, it mainly occurs from September to April. However, small numbers of presumably immature, non-breeding birds are present throughout the year. We observed great scope views of a solitary bird perched in a large tree above Murchison Falls.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant were observed throughout the tour.

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* This common intra-African migrant was observed on most days of the tour.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* Small numbers present throughout the tour.

**African Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* The call of this splendid raptor is the sound of the African bush, it was abundant throughout all wetland areas of Uganda.

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* It was pleasing to find that this normally uncommon species of vulture, proved to be present in good numbers throughout Uganda.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* Large numbers present throughout the larger towns of the country.

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps accipitalis* We were very fortunate to enjoy a good sighting of this very uncommon species of vulture, during our time in Murchison Falls National Park.

**African White-headed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* Small numbers present throughout all the national parks.

**Ruppell's Griffon Vulture** *Gyps rueppelli* A solitary bird of this uncommon species was present amongst a large flock of vultures feeding on a dead antelope, in Lake Mburu National Park. This sighting occurred on the extreme southwestern edge of its range.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus* This huge species of vulture has a small and declining population, one of its major threats is widespread accidental poisoning, largely due to strychnine used by many farmers for predator control, one major deliberate poisoning incident, killed 86 individuals in Namibia. The increasing use of agricultural pesticides is also a major problem. We observed this uncommon species on three separate occasions.

**Black-chested Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* This uncommon species was only observed on one occasion, we observed a bird in flight in Queen Elizabeth National Park, on the western edge of this birds range.

**Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* We enjoyed a couple of good sightings.

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus* Several good sightings throughout the tour.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus* A couple of very good looks at this uncommon species in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus metabates* One sighting, of a bird in flight, during our time in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* Several good sightings of this locally common species.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius* We enjoyed a couple of good looks at this fairly common species.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this common species of raptor.

**Chestnut-flanked Goshawk** *Accipiter castamilius* There are only a handful of sightings of this uncommon species of *Accipiter* from Uganda. We enjoyed very good close looks at a juvenile bird in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, only a few

- kilometres from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where this species is widespread.
- Great Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus* A few good looks at this fairly common species.
- African Harrier-hawk** *Polyboroides typus* Many good sightings of this fairly common but very interesting bird-of-prey.
- Angur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* Many good looks at this common but very attractive large species of raptor.
- Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus* We enjoyed two good sightings of this uncommon and range restricted species. Both sightings occurred at high altitude, the first sighting took place in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and the second sighting was in an upland area of the Biwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.
- Tawny Eagle** *Aquila napax* Surprisingly, this common species was only observed on one occasion, a solitary bird was viewed flying overhead in Murchison Falls National Park.
- Wahlberg's Eagle** *Aquila wahlbergi* We enjoyed a surprisingly large number of sightings of this uncommon species of raptor, throughout our time in Uganda.
- African Hawk-Eagle** *Hienaaetus spilogaster* We enjoyed super looks at a solitary bird of this uncommon species, during our time in the Biwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.
- Ayre's Hawk-Eagle** *Hienaaetus aynesii* Once again, we enjoyed great looks at a solitary bird of this uncommon species, whilst birding in the Biwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park.
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecanatus* Many good sightings in the national parks of this most attractive species of raptor.
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus accipitalis* Another spectacular raptor, which proved to be abundant throughout the whole of Uganda.
- Martial Eagle** *Polemaethus bellicosus* We enjoyed good sightings of both adult and immature birds of this very large African raptor, during our time in Murchison Falls National Park.
- African Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus* We enjoyed two great looks at this very impressive and Africa's largest bird-or-prey. The first sighting occurred in the Biwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and the second in Bundongo Forest Reserve. This huge species of eagle feeds entirely on monkeys.

#### FALCONIDAE

- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus* Several very good sightings of this attractive species of falcon.
- African Hobby** *Falco civieri* During a briefing in the grounds of our hotel in Kampala, one of this uncommon species flew overhead, it was to be our only sighting of the tour.
- Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera* During our time in Murchison Falls National Park one of these fairly common falcons flew past the group at dusk one evening.
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* This uncommon falcon was only observed on one occasion, an adult bird was observed flying into the top of a tall eucalypt in the grounds of our lodge at Kisoro. After some searching we located the bird and

enjoyed good scope views of it.

#### NUMIDIDAE

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* We enjoyed many large flocks throughout the tour.

**Crested Guineafowl** *Guttera pucherani* We enjoyed great looks at an unusually tame flock of birds in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

#### PHASIANIDAE

**Scaly Francolin** *Francolinus squamatus* Observed well on a couple of occasions, one bird even allowed us to look at it in the scope!

**Nahan's Francolin** *Francollinus nahani* This endangered and very uncommon species is only known from a few localities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and a few places in western Uganda. Unfortunately, its numbers continue to decline due to deforestation and forest degradation. This species is very difficult to observe as it occurs in thick ground cover in dense primary rainforest and rarely ventures onto forest tracks or open areas. We were extremely fortunate to observe this species so well, thanks to our local guide Herbert, who used a tape recording of this species call, in order to entice them to fly across a wide road. Well done Herbert.

**Coqui Francolin** *Francolinus coqui* This uncommon species was observed only once, in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Crested Francolin** *Francolinus sephaena* This common species was seen well on several occasions.

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Francolinus afer* Another common species which we saw well on several occasions.

**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei* A pair of this uncommon intra-African migrant, flew in front of our vehicle and disappeared into thick grassland during one of our game drives in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

#### TURNICIDAE

**Common Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvatica* A solitary bird flushed from the side of the road and disappeared into thick grassland, during the same game drive and in the same area in Queen Elizabeth National Park, that we saw the Harlequin Quail.

#### RALLIDAE

**White-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura pulchra* This skulking forest crane, was observed by a couple of people in Kibale National Park and then most of the group saw this species very well, when it responded well to tape in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Black Crane** *Amaurionis flavirostris* Observed well in most wetland areas.

**African Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis* Observed briefly, by some members of the group in Mabamba Bay, while searching for Shoebill.

#### JACANIDAE

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Commonly observed throughout all wetland areas.

## GRUIDAE

**Grey Crowned-Crane** *Balearica regulorum* This very attractive species of crane is the national bird of Uganda, it proved to be common throughout most wetland areas.

## OTIDIDAE

**Denham's Bustard** *Neotis denhami* This very large species of bustard is an uncommon bird, we saw it well in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis melanogaster* This much smaller species of bustard is a far more common and widespread species, once again, we saw it well in Murchison Falls National Park.

## BURHINIDAE

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* We enjoyed a couple of good sightings of this species.

**Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis* The northern counterpart of the above species, we observed a large flock along the edge of the Victoria Nile in Murchison Falls National Park.

## GLAREOLIDAE

**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii* The most widespread species of courser in Africa; we saw it only once, we enjoyed very close looks at a solitary in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* The most widespread species of pratincole in Africa; we saw it only once, a small flock was present in open grassland in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola muchalis* This highly specialized species of pratincole is always associated with rocky boulders in large rivers. We saw it very well at the foot of Murchison Falls.

## CHARADRIIDAE

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* A very common species throughout Uganda.

**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris* Always associated with water, it proved common throughout most wetland areas.

**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* A common grassland species.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* Another common grassland species, surprisingly, we only recorded this species in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Black-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus tectus* We recorded this very handsome species of lapwing in Murchison Falls National Park. This is the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

**Senegal Lapwing** *Vanellus lugubris* This uncommon species of lapwing was seen very well in Lake Mburu and Queen Elizabeth National Parks.

## PLUVIANELLIDAE

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Churadrius pecuarius* This common and widespread African plover was only seen in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* Another common and widespread African plover, it too was only seen in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

#### SCOLOPACIDAE

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* A common Palearctic migrant throughout Africa, we saw it well in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* Another common Palearctic migrant throughout Africa, we saw it very well on a few occasions.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Another common Palearctic migrant throughout Africa, we saw it well on the boat trip in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* Yet another common Palearctic migrant throughout Africa, we saw it alongside the Common Greenshank, during the boat trip in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

#### LARIDAE

**Grey-headed Gull** *Larus cirrocephalus* This resident species of African gull, was also seen on the same boat trip in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

#### RYNCHOPIDAE

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris* This uncommon species was also seen on the boat trip in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

#### STERNIDAE

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* Mainly a common Palearctic migrant throughout Africa. Lake Victoria is one of the few places in Africa where large numbers of presumably immature birds over-winter in Africa. Massive flocks were present there with much smaller numbers also present at Murchison Falls National Park.

#### COLUMBIDAE

**African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calva* Many good sightings throughout the tour.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea* Several good sightings of this attractive species.

**Afep Pigeon** *Columba uncinata* This uncommon species was observed feeding in a large tree in Kibale National Park. This is the extreme eastern edge of this species range.

**Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* Commonly encountered in forested areas.

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Common in villages and towns.

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Proved to be common in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur afer* By far the commonest wood-dove in Uganda.

**Black-billed Wood-Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus* Proved to be fairly common in Murchison Falls National Park, the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistris* Commonly encountered throughout all forested areas of Uganda.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Surprisingly, this common species was only observed in

Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* A common bird throughout most areas of Uganda.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Seen on almost every day of the tour.

**African Mourning Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* This less common species was observed well in the scope on several occasions.

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea* This common species was observed in Murchison Falls National Park, at the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* Common and widespread throughout Uganda.

**Dusky Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia lugens* This highland species, proved locally common in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

#### PSITTACIDAE

**Brown Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri* Seen well in and around the township of Masindi.

**Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus* Small flocks observed frequently.

**Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius* Only recorded on the second last day of the tour, in the outer suburbs of Kampala.

#### MUSOPHAGIDAE

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata* This huge species of turaco was commonly encountered throughout the tour.

**Ross's Turaco** *Musophaga rossae* This very beautiful bird was seen well on a few occasions.

**Rwenzori Turaco** *Tauraco johnstoni* This Albertine Rift endemic is common within its restricted range, we saw it very well in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

**White-crested Turaco** *Tauraco leucolophus* Another very attractive and uncommon species of turaco, we saw it well on a few occasions.

**Black-billed Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii* This uncommon species of turaco was observed well in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personata* This range restricted species was seen well on a couple of occasions.

**Eastern Grey Plantain-eater** *Crinifer xonurus* This species proved to be common throughout all areas of Uganda.

#### CUCULIDAE

**Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Oxylophus levaillantii* We saw this uncommon intra-African migrant only once, however, we did see it very well in Kibale National Park.

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* Another uncommon intra-African migrant, which we saw only once, in Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* This more common intra-African migrant was seen well on several occasions.

**Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercocoacyx mechowi* This uncommon and very elusive species was eventually trapped down and seen well in the Budongo Forest

Reserve.

**Diederik Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius* This common intra-African migrant was seen well on a few occasions.

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* This species is also a common intra-African migrant and was seen well on a few occasions.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus* This very beautiful and uncommon intra-African migrant was observed very well in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Yellowbill** *Ceuthmochares aereus* This uncommon and secretive species of cuckoo was seen well in the Kibale National Park and again in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* Common and widespread throughout Uganda.

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* This less common species was also seen well on a few occasions.

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii* We were very fortunate to observe this very uncommon coucal in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

#### STRIGIDAE

**Northern White-faced Scops-Owl** *Ptilopus leucotis* Great spotting by Joanna, enabled the group to enjoy watching a family party of four birds at their daytime roost, in the outer suburbs of Kampala.

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Bubo lacteus* Our local guide in Murchison Falls National Park knew the daytime roost of a pair of this very large and impressive species of owl.

**Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus* Observed in the headlights of our vehicle on a few occasions in Murchison Falls National Park.

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii* A solitary bird was observed at very close quarters in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus* This species was also observed at close quarters at Murchison Falls National Park.

**Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx vexillarius* This species was also observed at close quarters at Murchison Falls National Park.

#### APODIDAE

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Common and widespread throughout Uganda.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* Less common, but also very widespread throughout Uganda.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* Good numbers of this large species of swift were observed flying over the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus* A small flock of this very uncommon species of swift was observed by members of one vehicle, during our drive from Mbarara to Kisoro.

**Eurasian Swift** *Apus apus* A massive weather-front passed over Murchison Falls National Park in the early hours of the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, causing a massive and

spectacular electrical storm over the park, while we were safely tucked up in our beds. We awoke the following day to find a flock of literally hundreds of Eurasian Swifts flying overhead. These birds were on migration from the Palearctic and were moving just ahead of the weather front. It is estimated that 25 million Eurasian Swifts all winter in Africa, from late August to April. Birds passing through Uganda in spring and autumn, are thought to be of the Oriental race *pekinensis*, which breed from Iran to Mongolia and northern China.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* Many good sightings throughout the tour.

**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* A few birds of this uncommon species were observed flying over Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary.

**Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini* A few birds of this uncommon species were observed flying over Kibale National Park. This is the extreme eastern edge of this birds range.

#### COLIIDAE

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus* A common and conspicuous bird throughout Uganda.

**Blue-naped Mousebird** *Urocolius macrourus* This species prefers drier areas of arid savanna, where it proved to be fairly common.

#### TROGONIDAE

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* We enjoyed a few good looks at this attractive species.

**Bar-tailed Trogon** *Apaloderma vittatum* We had great looks at this uncommon species in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* Common and conspicuous throughout all wetland areas.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* A common bird throughout savanna areas.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* We enjoyed two very good sightings of this species, which is the largest kingfisher in Africa.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* Commonly conspicuous throughout the whole of Uganda.

**Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica* We enjoyed a couple of good sightings of this uncommon species, which in Uganda is at the eastern edge of the birds range.

**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia* We enjoyed super close looks at this attractive and uncommon species in Budongo Forest Reserve, at the extreme eastern edge of this birds range.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata* Commonly observed in all wetland areas.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta* This woodland species was commonly encountered throughout the tour.

**African Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ispidina lecontei* This uncommon species of kingfisher was observed very well on one occasion in the Budongo Forest Reserve, once again, at the eastern edge of this birds range.

#### MEROPIDAE

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* Commonly encountered.

**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** *Merops oreobates* This extremely range restricted species, proved to be common at higher altitudes throughout Uganda.

**Blue-breasted Bee-eater** *Merops variegates* This bee-eater is similar to the above species but is a bird of the lowlands and is usually associated with water. We enjoyed several good looks at this species at Mabamba Bay on the shores of Lake Victoria.

**White-throated Bee-eater** *Merops albicollis* This intra-African migrant had literally just arrived onto its non-breeding grounds in Uganda, from breeding grounds in northern Africa, when we observed a small flock in the outer suburbs of Kampala.

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus* Small numbers present in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis* We enjoyed super scope views of a couple of birds in Maramagambo Forest in Queen Elizabeth National Park. This must surely be one of the most beautiful bee-eaters in the world.

**Madagascar Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus* On the last day of the tour in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens, a small flock was seen very well. These birds had just arrived into Uganda, from their breeding grounds in Madagascar.

**Red-throated Bee-eater** *Merops bulocki* This very attractive species of bee-eater proved to be fairly common in Murchison Falls National Park, the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

#### CORACIIDAE

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* A common bird throughout Uganda.

**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis* This splendid looking roller was observed in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park and in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias canudata* This species was commonly encountered in Lake Mburu National Park but not elsewhere in Uganda.

#### PHOENICULIDAE

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* This common and widespread species was only observed in Murchison Falls National Park.

**White-headed Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei* This very uncommon species of Woodhoopoe was observed very well in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* Seen well on one occasion in Lake Mburu National Park, at the extreme northern edge of this birds range.

#### BUCEROTIDAE

**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus masutus* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

**Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus* This is also a common bird throughout Uganda.

**Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill** *Bycanistges subcylindricus* This very large species of hornbill is also very common throughout all forested areas of Uganda.

**White-thighed Hornbill** *Bycanistge cylindricus* This large and uncommon species of hornbill was observed well on a couple of occasions in the Budongo Forest Reserve, at the eastern edge of this birds range.

**Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus byssinicus* This very uncommon huge species of ground-frequenting hornbill was observed very well on a couple of occasions during the tour.

#### CAPITONIDAE

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus* A common bird throughout Uganda.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* Only observed on one occasion, in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park. This is at the extreme eastern edge of this birds range.

**Western Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus coryphaeus* This extremely range restricted species was seen well in the Mgahinga Gorilla and Biwindi Impenetrable National Parks. This is part of an isolated population in the Albertine Rift forest, which occurs much farther to the east than the other two populations, on the west coast of Africa.

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* A few good sightings of this species, which is at the eastern edge of its range in Uganda.

**Grey-throated Barbet** *Gymnobucco bonapartei* Several good looks at this interest species of barbet.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* A common species which we only saw on one occasion, in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa* This range restricted species was seen very well on a few occasions.

**Streaky-throated Barbet** *Tricholaema flavipunctata* A couple of good looks at this large species of barbet.

**White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus* We also enjoyed a couple of good looks at this species.

**Black-billed Barbet** *Lybius guifsobalito* This uncommon and thinly distributed species of barbet was observed well in Murchison Falls National Park, at the southern edge of this birds range.

**Red-faced Barbet** *Lybius rubrifacies* We were very fortunate to observe this uncommon and incredibly range restricted species, while birding in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus* Proved to be common throughout Uganda.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachylaemus purpuratus* We enjoyed a couple of good looks at this attractive species of barbet.

#### INDICATORIDAE

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator* Some members of the tour party observed this species of honeyguide in the grounds of our hotel at Masindi.

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor* We enjoyed a couple of sightings of this species

while birding in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Dwarf Honeyguide** *Indicator pumilio* We were all very pleased to enjoy not one but two sightings of this little known and apparently uncommon Albertine Rift endemic, in Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

#### PICIDAE

**Tulberg's Woodpecker** *Campethera tullbergi* We enjoyed great looks at this range restricted and uncommon species in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera nivosa* Another uncommon species of woodpecker which we saw on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park. This bird was at the eastern edge of its range.

**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica* This large species of woodpecker proved to be common throughout Uganda. Uganda is the western edge of this birds range.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* This widespread and common species was seen well on several occasions.

**Elliot's Woodpecker** *Dendropicos elliotii* This uncommon species of woodpecker is mainly found along the west coast of Africa, but has a small isolated population in the Albertine Rift. We saw it well on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Yellow-crested Woodpecker** *Dendropicos xantholophus* This large and uncommon species of woodpecker was observed well on two separate occasions. Once again, this bird was at the extreme western edge of its range.

**Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae* A common species of woodpecker which we saw very well while Gorilla trekking close to the village of Nkuringo.

**Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicos griseocephalus* Some members of the tour party observed this common species of woodpecker in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. This bird was at its extreme northern edge of its range.

#### EURYLAIMIDAE

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis* We enjoyed great looks at a solitary bird which performed well for us in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**African Green Broadbill** *Pseudocalptomena graueri* This species is known from only two areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park in southwestern Uganda. It is rarely seen and very difficult to observe well. We were very fortunate to be shown a nest of this species by two local researchers who were studying the birds behaviour. We enjoyed great scope views of a bird peering out of its nest, presumably sitting on eggs. This occurred in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

#### PITTIDAE

**Green-breasted Pitta** *Pitta reichenowi* An incredibly rare bird, almost never seen, we know virtually nothing about this bird, there may be one sighting every few years. Thanks to our local guide in Kibale National Park, following a great deal of searching we were able to watch a pair of birds hopping *around* on the forest floor for an extended period of time. This species only occurs in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the extreme western edge of Uganda.

## ALAUDIDAE

**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana* Common and widespread throughout the more open areas of Uganda.

**Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Another common and widespread species, which we saw on a couple of occasions.

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* We saw this common species very well on one occasion in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

## HIRUNDINIDAE

**Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula* Surprisingly, we only saw this common species on one occasion, close to our tented camp at Buhoma.

**Plain Martin** *Riparia palundicola* Another common species which we only saw once, we saw it very well in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* This uncommon intra-African migrant was observed on only one occasion, a small flock was observed flying above open country in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* We observed this uncommon species of swallow very well on a few separate occasions.

**Mosque Swallow** *Hirundo senegalensis* We also observed this uncommon species of swallow on several occasions.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Hirundo abyssinica* We observed this common resident on many occasions.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Towards the end of the tour large numbers of Barn Swallows, an abundant Palearctic migrant, were observed flying overhead in large flocks.

**Angola Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis* By far the commonest swallow throughout Uganda, observed on almost every day of the tour.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Many good sightings of this attractive species of swallow.

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne holomelas* Many good sightings throughout the tour.

**White-headed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne albiceps* Also many good sightings of this range restricted species.

**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* We only recorded this uncommon species in one area, Mabamba Bay, on the shores of Lake Victoria.

## MOTACILLIDAE

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole tour.

**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara* This uncommon inhabitant of fast-flowing forest streams, was observed on one occasion in exactly this habitat in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis* Mainly a bird of southern Africa, there is a small isolated population in Uganda where it is uncommon. We saw it well on a couple of occasions.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macromyx croceus* We enjoyed a few good looks at this

widespread species.

**Grassland Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* This common and widespread species was observed by some members of the tour party in the small township of Kisoro.

**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* A pair of this uncommon species of pipit was observed extremely well on one occasion at Mabamba Bay on the shores of Lake Victoria.

#### CAMPEPHAGIDAE

**Black Cuckoo-shrike** *Campephaga flava* We enjoyed several good looks at this uncommon species of cuckoo-shrike.

**Petit's Cuckoo-shrike** *Campephaga petiti* We were very fortunate to enjoy good sightings of both male and female birds of this very uncommon species, while birding in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Grey Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina caesia* Another uncommon species of cuckoo-shrike and once again we enjoyed a few good sightings in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

#### PYCNONOTIDAE

**Western Nicator** *Nicator chloris* We enjoyed a couple of good looks at this attractive species, Uganda is the eastern edge of this birds range.

**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor* By far the commonest bird in Uganda, observed on almost every day of the tour.

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Andropadus latirostris* We enjoyed a few good sightings of this species in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Little Greenbul** *Andropadus virens* We enjoyed several good sightings of this common species throughout the tour.

**Olive-breasted Mountain Greenbul** *Andropadus kikuyuensis* This species has two isolated populations; one in southwestern Kenya, centered around Kakamega Forest and the other throughout the Albertine Rift. We saw it well on several occasions in the far west of Uganda.

**Slender-billed Greenbul** *Andropadus gracillrostris* This species proved to be common in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Kakamega Greenbul** *Andropadus kakamegae* The range of this species is exactly the same as for the Olive-breasted Mountain Greenbul. However, it is far less common and we only saw it on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Yellow-streaked Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* A bird of patchy distribution throughout Africa, it proved to be fairly common in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park, which is the extreme northern edge of this birds range.

**Little Grey Greenbul** *Andropadus gracilis* We enjoyed good looks at this fairly common species in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Ansorge's Greenbul** *Andropadus ansorgei* This uncommon species of greenbul was observed well on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Toro Olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus hypochloris* Uncommon, elusive, range-restricted but fortunately, we observed it well on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

- Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastephus icterinus* A West African greenbul, which is the eastern edge of its range in far west Uganda. We saw it well on one occasion in the Busingiro section of Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Joyful Greenbul** *Chlorocichla laetissima* Another very range restricted species which we saw well in Kibale National Park.
- Red-tailed Bristlebill** *Bleda Syndactyla* Another West African species which reaches the eastern edge of its range in Uganda. We enjoyed good looks at this species in the Maramagambo Forest, in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Yellow-eyed Bristlebill** *Bleda ugandae* This species only occurs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. We saw it well in Kibale National Park.
- Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus* Another West African species which reaches the eastern edge of its range in far western Uganda. It is a common but shy species, fortunately we saw it well on a couple of occasions in mixed species feeding flocks in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- White-throated Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus albogularis* Yet another West African species which reaches the eastern edge of its range in the far west of Uganda. We saw it well on a couple of occasions in the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Yellow-throated Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flavicollis* We observed this widespread species on two separate occasions throughout the tour.
- Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator* Another West African species which reaches the eastern edge of its range in Uganda. We saw it well on a couple of occasions in Mpanga Forest, not far from Kampala.
- Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus* Another West African species which reaches the eastern edge of its range in the far west of Uganda. It is a very attractive species, which is unusual for a greenbul, we saw it well on a couple of occasions in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

#### TURDIDAE

- Red-throated Alethe** *Alethe poliophrys* An unobtrusive Albertine Rift endemic, fortunately it responded to tape very well in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Fire-crested Alethe** *Alethe diademata* Once again this unobtrusive inhabitant of the forest floor responded well to tape in Kibale National Park.
- Mountain Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus* This common species was observed well on several occasions.
- African Thrush** *Turdus pelios* This much more widespread species was also observed well on several occasions.
- White-tailed Ant-Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis* Only observed by Chris during our time in Kibale National Park.
- Red-tailed Ant-Thrush** *Neocossyphus rufus* This range restricted species was observed very well on a couple of occasions during our walk in the Maramagambo Forest, in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush** *Stizorhina fraseri* Once again at the eastern edge of its range in Uganda, we saw this species well in Queen Elizabeth national Park and Budong Forest Reserve.

## SYLVIIDAE

- Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis* This uncommon species was only observed on one occasion in farmland on the edge of the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis* This range restricted species proved to be common in upland forest.
- African Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus* This common species was seen well in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- White-winged Warbler** *Bradypterus carpalis* This uncommon, secretive and extremely range restricted species is only found in dense papyrus swamps. After several attempts we finally enjoyed good looks at a bird who responded well to tape at a papyrus swamp not far from Masindi.
- Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* This common but ultra skulking species was observed on a couple of occasions in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.
- Grauer's Rush-Warbler** *Bradypterus graueri* This Albertine endemic is an endangered species, it only occurs in a few small swamps within Rwanda, Burundi, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and southwestern Uganda. We enjoyed a few brief looks at this very uncommon species in a small swamp in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park. This is the only site for this species, which has any kind of protection, all other sites are threatened by human encroachment.
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella* We enjoyed a couple of very good sightings of this attractive species.
- Uganda Woodland-Warbler** *Phylloscopus budongoensis* This uncommon and range restricted species was observed briefly on one occasion at the park headquarters in Kibale National Park.
- Red-faced Woodland-Warbler** *Phylloscopus laetus* Yet another Albertine Rift endemic, we saw this common species on several occasions.
- Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina* Only seen on one occasion, in the Kaniyo Pabidi section of the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Short-tailed Warbler** *Hemitesia naumanni* One of the rarest of the Albertine Rift endemics, little is known about it. We were very fortunate to observe a pair of birds amongst a large mixed species feeding flock in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- White-browed Crombec** *Sylvietta leucophrys* This very range restricted species of montane forest, was seen well on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens* This West African species reaches the eastern edge of its range in western Uganda. We saw it well on a couple of occasions in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans* Yet another West African species which reaches the eastern edge of its range in western Uganda. We saw it only once, while birding in the Busingiro section of Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachnytna* A bird of semi-arid scrub, we saw it very well in the Murchison Falls National Park, which is at the extreme southern edge

of this birds range.

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eromomela badiceps* Another West African species, at the eastern edge of its range in Uganda, we saw it well in the Budongo Forest Reserve..

**Black-faced Rufous Warbler** *Bathmocercus rufus* This skulking species of forest undergrowth was observed on two occasions, firstly, in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and secondly, in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**African Moustached Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* We saw this uncommon species of tall, rank grassland, on a couple of occasions.

#### CISTICOLIDAE

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* Seen well on a few occasions.

**Wing-snapping Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii* Seen well in Queen Elizabeth National Park, at the extreme northern edge of this birds range.

**Black-backed Cisticola** *Cisticola eximius* This grassland species was seen well in Murchison Falls National Park, the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

**Stout Cisticola** *Cisticola robustus* Proved to be common in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* Common and widespread throughout Uganda.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* This common species was seen well in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes* This swampland cisticola was seen well on a few occasions.

**Carruther's Cisticola** *Cisticola carruthersi* This extremely range restricted species only occurs in papyrus swamps. We saw it well on one occasion at a small papyrus swamp close to Masindi.

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythroptera* Seen well on a few occasions.

**Chubb's Cisticola** *Cisticola chubby* This range restricted species proved to be common in rank vegetation throughout the highlands of Uganda.

**Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami* A common species of savanna grasslands, we saw it well in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis* This species occurs in rank vegetation and bracken at the forest edge and was not uncommon in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Siffling Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus* A bird of tall grassland, we saw it well in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Foxy Cisticola** *Cisticola troglodytes* This distinctive and range restricted species of lightly wooded grasslands, was seen well on a couple of occasions in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Long-tailed Cisticola** *Cisticola angusticaudus* This range restricted species is confined to lightly wooded savanna. It has only recently been recorded in Uganda, it just makes it across the border from Tanzania into Lake Mburu National Park, where we played hide-and-seek with a family party.

**Red-winged Grey Warbler** *Heliolais erythroptera* This range restricted species, on the eastern edge of its range in Uganda, was seen well on a couple of occasions in Murchison Falls National Park.

- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* Common and widespread throughout Uganda.
- White-chinned Prinia** *Prinia leucopogon* Only observed on one occasion, a bird was seen skulking in the undergrowth in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida* Another range restricted species, it proved to be fairly common in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole of Uganda.
- Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota* Only seen on one occasion in the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris* Another West African species, which only just makes it into Uganda. We saw it well in the Busingiro section of Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea* Seen well on a few occasions.
- Chestnut-throated Apalis** *Apalis porphyrolaema* This range restricted species proved to be fairly common in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis* Seen well in a few forested areas.
- Collared Apalis** *Apalis ruwenzorii* This Albertine Rift endemic was observed very well in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni* This very attractive species was also seen well in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Mountain Masked Apalis** *Apalis personata* Another Albertine Rift endemic, it proved to be common in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

#### MUSCICAPIDAE

- White-starred Robin** *Pogonochila stellata* This altitudinal migrant was seen well on several occasions.
- Equatorial Akalat** *Sheppardia aequatorialis* This shy and retiring species was observed surprisingly well at the edge of one of the tracks in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Eastern Forest Robin** *Stiphrornis xanthogaster* We enjoyed a couple of good sightings of this attractive species in the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* This species was observed by some members of the tour party in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.
- White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* This attractive species was seen well on several occasions.
- Snowy-headed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla* This skulking species was observed along the edge of the river during the boat trip on the Victoria Nile in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis* This attractive species was seen well in Kibale National Park.
- Archer's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha archeri* A high altitude Albertine Rift endemic, this species was seen by those who went to Mgahinga Gorilla National Park for the second time, while the rest of us were Gorilla trekking.
- White-bellied Robin-Chat** *Cossyphicula roberti* Almost an Albertine Rift endemic, this species also occurs in western Cameroon. We were fortunate to see it very well in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

- Sooty Chat** *Myrmecocichla nigra* Common and conspicuous throughout much of Uganda.
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* *Common stonechat* Also common and conspicuous throughout much of Uganda.
- White-browed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Seen very well on a couple of occasions.
- Brown-backed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas hartlaubi* Closely related to the above species, we saw it well on a couple of occasions.
- Spotted Morning-Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* Seen well on a couple of occasions in Murchison Falls National Park.
- White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina* Commonly observed in highland forest.
- Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides* Seen well on several occasions.
- Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis ardesiacus* This species is an uncommon Albertine Rift endemic. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at this species in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus* This widespread species was seen well on a couple of occasions in Murchison Falls National Park.
- Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caeruleascens* This widespread species was only observed on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* Common throughout all highland areas.
- Grey-throated Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis* A West African species at the eastern edge of its range in Uganda, where we saw it well on a few occasions.
- Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica* Common in the papyrus swamps of Uganda.
- Cassins' Grey Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini* At the extreme eastern edge of its range in Uganda, we saw it well on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata* Another bird at the extreme eastern edge of its range in Uganda, once again we saw it well on a couple of occasions in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria aereata* Once again at the extreme eastern edge of its range in Uganda, we saw it very well on a couple of occasions in the Budong Forest Reserve.
- Chin-spot Batis** *Batis molitor* At the northern edge of its range in Uganda, where it proved to be fairly common.
- Rwenzori Batis** *Batis diops* This Albertine Rift endemic, proved to be fairly common in highland forest.
- Ituri Batis** *Batis ituriensis* This extremely range restricted species is a little known inhabitant of lowland forest canopy. Seldom seen, we were very fortunate to observe this bird fairly well in the Busingiro section of Budongo Forest Reserve.
- African Shrike-flycatcher** *Megabias flammulatus* We saw this uncommon species very well on a few occasions.
- Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher** *Bias musicus* We also saw this uncommon species very well on a few occasions.
- Brown-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteina cyanea* This species was also seen very well

on a few occasions.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya castanea* This attractive species also proved common throughout all highland forest areas.

**African Paradise-flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

**Red-bellied Paradise-flycatcher** *Terpsiphone rufiventer* This much less common species of paradise-flycatcher was observed in Kibale National Park and again in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Silverbird** *Empidonis semipartitus* This widespread species proved common in Murchison Falls National Park.

**White-tailed Crested-flycatcher** *Trochocercus albonotatus* This montane forest resident was seen briefly on one occasion in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

**African Blue-flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda* Seen well on a few occasions.

**White-tailed Blue-flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda* Seen well on a few occasions, this species is at the northern edge of its range in Uganda.

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocercus mccallii* Once again this species is at the extreme eastern edge of its range in Uganda. We were very fortunate to observe it very well in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

#### TIMALIIDAE

**Scaly-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis albipectus* Illadopsis, the holy grail of African birds, without a tape of their call, you would almost never see these inhabitants of the forest floor. Fortunately, they respond well to tape, as did this species in Kibale National Park.

**Mountain Illadopsis** *Illadopsis pyrrhopectus* Responded well to tape in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens* Responded well to tape in Kibale National Park.

**Pale-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis rufipennis* Responded well to tape in the Busingiro section of the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**African Hill-Babbler** *Pseudoakcipiter albyssinica* Some taxonomists believe the race we saw is worthy of full species status, calling it Rwenzori Hill-Babbler. We saw it on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* Small flocks present in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpie* Several small flocks observed throughout the tour.

#### PARIDAE

**Dusky Tit** *Parus funereus* This forest inhabiting tit, was seen well on a few occasions in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**White-winged Tit** *Parus leucomelas* This fairly common species was observed well in Lake Mburu National Park.

**White-shouldered Tit** *Parus guineensis* Similar in appearance to the above species, we saw it well in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Stripe-breasted Tit** *Parus fasciiventer* We enjoyed good looks at this Albertine Rift endemic in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

## NECTARINIDAE

**Bronze Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* Common and widespread.

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis* Also common and widespread throughout Uganda.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* At the eastern edge of its range in Uganda, we saw it well on one occasion in the Busingiro section of the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Blue-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra alinae* Another Albertine Rift endemic which proved to be fairly common in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris preussi* A common and widespread species in parts of Uganda.

**Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygia* Another common species throughout western Uganda.

**Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris stuhlmanni* This range restricted species was observed very well in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

**Regal Sunbird** *Cinnyris negia* This uncommon and very attractive species of sunbird was yet another Albertine Rift endemic. We saw it very well in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and again in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris* Once again, at the far eastern edge of its range, it proved to be fairly common in most forested areas.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common throughout all forested areas.

**Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi* At the far eastern edge of its range in Uganda, we were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at this species feeding on flowering shrubs in the car park of the Mpanga Forest.

**Grey-headed Sunbird** *Deleornis axillaris* At the far eastern edge of its range, we observed this species very well in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cuprea* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superba* At the eastern edge of its range in Uganda, this very large species of sunbird was seen very well on the last day of the tour in Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

**Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis* Seen well on a few occasions.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra semegalensis* Common and conspicuous throughout much of Uganda.

**Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchella* This attractive species was commonly encountered in flowering shrubs around our accommodation in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Red-chested Sunbird** *Cinnyris erythrocnca* We saw this range restricted species on a few occasions.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris vermusta* This wide spread species proved to be common on the lower slopes of the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* Common and widespread throughout Uganda.

## ZOSTEROPIDAE

**Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* A common bird throughout all forested areas of Uganda.

## LANIIDAE

**Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris* Common throughout all open areas of Uganda.

**Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides* This species is common along the forest edge.

**Mackinnon's Fiscal** *Lanius mackinnoni* This is an uncommon species of the forest edge,

which we saw well on a few occasions.

## MALACONOTIDAE

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus* Common and widespread throughout Uganda.

**Ludher's Bush-shrike** *Laniarius luehderi* This very attractive species, was seen well on a few occasions.

**Black-headed Gonolek** *Laniarius erythrogaster* This stunningly attractive species of bush-shrike, was seen well on many occasions.

**Papyrus Golek** *Laniarius mufumbiri* An extremely range restricted species, which never leaves papyrus swamps. We saw it very well on a couple of occasions.

**Mountain Black Boubou** *Laniarius poensis* This extremely range restricted species is an ultra skulker and almost never seen. We were very fortunate to enjoy a good look at this species in the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

**Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius leucorhynchus* Similar in appearance to the above species, but nowhere near as skulking, we saw it very well in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer* A diminutive species of bush-shrike occurring in arid savanna. It proved to be fairly common in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis* A few good looks, particularly when Gorilla trekking.

**Pink-footed Puffback** *Dryoscopus angolensis* An uncommon species of montane forest,

we saw a small group of females in a mixed species feeding flock in Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegala* A common bird throughout Uganda.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* Equally common, this species prefers more arid areas.

**Marsh Tchagra** *Tchagra minuta* This is a very uncommon species, we were very fortunate to see this species well during our time in Queen Elizabeth National Park

**Doherty's Bush-shrike** *Malaconotus dohertyi* Only occurs in the Albertine Rift and one area of Kenya. In both areas it is a very secretive and skulking species, which is very difficult to observe. Fortunately, we saw it very well on a couple of occasions.

## DICRURIDAE

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* Common and conspicuous throughout Uganda.

**Velvet-mantled Drongo** *Dicrurus modestus* Once again, at the far eastern edge of its range, we saw it well in Kibale National Park.

## CORVIDAE

**Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer* Once again, a bird at the extreme eastern edge of its range, it proved to be fairly common in small flocks in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole of Uganda.

**White-naped Raven** *Corvus albicollis* A common bird throughout mountainous areas of Uganda.

## ORIOLIDAE

**Montane Oriole** *Oriolus percivali* Commonly encountered in montane forest.

**Western Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus brachyrhynchus* At the eastern edge of its range in Uganda, it proved to be fairly common.

## STURNIDAE

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* Commonly encountered in the national parks with large mammals.

**Stuhlmann's Starling** *Pieoptena stuhlmanni* Small flocks observed in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptena lugubris* At the extreme eastern edge of its range, small flocks were observed in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Chestnut-winged Starling** *Onychognathus fulgidus* Once again at the extreme eastern edge of its range, a small flock flew over us in the village of Nkuringo, as we were about to start the Gorilla trekking.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Proved to be fairly common in savanna areas.

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus* At the extreme eastern edge of its range, we encountered one or two large flocks in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Bronze-tailed Starling** *Lamprotornis chalcurus* Once again at the eastern edge of its range, we observed a solitary bird perched on a street lamp in the township of Masindi.

**Ruppell's Long-tailed Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureopterus* Large flocks encountered throughout the whole of Uganda.

**Purple-headed Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureiceps* Once again at the eastern edge of its range, it proved to be fairly common throughout most forested areas.

**Splendid Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus* Once again at the eastern edge of its range, this uncommon species was only observed on the last day of the tour, in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* We encountered several small flocks throughout the tour.

**Sharpe's Starling** *Cinnyricinclus sharpie* An uncommon and thinly distributed species, we were very fortunate to enjoy good close looks at a small flock feeding in a fruiting tree in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophona cinerea* This widespread species was only observed in

Lake Mburu National Park, where we saw several small flocks.

#### PASSERIIDAE

**Shelley's Rufous Sparrow** *Passer shelleyi* Nowhere common and thinly distributed, we saw this species in Murchison Falls National Park.

#### PLOCEIDAE

**Speckled-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis* Small numbers of this uncommon species were present in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole of Uganda.

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* Small numbers of this attractive species were observed in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus* This uncommon and easily overlooked species was only recorded from Murchison Falls National Park, this is the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

**Black-headed Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* The common weaver throughout Uganda.

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* Small numbers present in a couple of areas.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* Surprisingly, this common species was only observed on one occasion, a pair of birds were observed in a small papyrus swamp, close to the township of Masindi.

**Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis* This forest weaver proved to be common throughout Uganda.

**Baglatfecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglatfecht* Commonly observed throughout the tour.

**Grosbeak Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons* Several good sightings throughout the tour.

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus* This uncommon species was present in Murchison Falls National Park, at the southern edge of this birds range.

**Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni* A fairly common bird of swamps, we saw it well on a few occasions, Uganda is the extreme northern edge of this birds range.

**Yellow-backed Weaver** *Ploceus melamocephalus* Many good looks throughout the tour.

**Northern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus castanops* Almost endemic to Uganda, just crossing the border into the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. A bird of swamps and reedbeds, we saw it well on a few occasions, particularly on the first day of the tour.

**Compact Weaver** *Ploceus superciliosus* This uncommon species of damp grassland was seen well in Queen Elizabeth National Park and in the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius* A locally common bird of wetland areas, we only observed this bird on the last day of the tour in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens. This species was at the extreme eastern edge of its range.

**Strange Weaver** *Ploceus alienus* This well-named, uncommon and easily overlooked species, is an Albertine Rift endemic. It forages around in the mid-canopy, creeping along branches, like a nuthatch! We were very fortunate to see this

- species well on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis* An attractive but uncommon bird of montane forest, which we saw well on a few occasions.
- Vieillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus* Nesting in colonies, in dozens of villages throughout Uganda.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* This common but nomadic species was only observed on one occasion, a small flock was present in Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops* This uncommon and nomadic species was observed on only one occasion. A solitary bird was observed amongst crops, in farmland, on the edge of the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps* This uncommon and widespread species was only observed on one occasion, in Murchison Falls National Park.
- Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis* A bird of lowland rainforest, where it is fairly common. We saw it well on two separate occasions.
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* This locally common species was seen well in large stands of sugar cane near the township of Masindi.
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* A common bird of reedbeds, rank grassland and stands of sugar cane. We saw this species well in all of the three above habitats.
- Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii* Seen well in crops, on two separate occasions.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* A common bird of damp grassy areas, we saw it well on a few occasions.
- Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macrourus* An uncommon bird of damp grassland and marshy areas, we saw it well on a couple of occasions.
- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* Seen by Joanna from the bus, not far from the township of Masindi.
- Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix* A common and highly gregarious bird which proved to be common in Queen Elizabeth National Park, this is the extreme northern edge of this birds range.
- Northern Red Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus* An uncommon bird of seasonally flooded grasslands, we saw it very well in Murchison Falls National Park, at the extreme southern edge of this birds range.
- Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus* An uncommon bird of damp grassy areas, we saw it well on several occasions in Murchison Falls National Park and farmland in the Budongo Forest area.

#### ESTRILDIDAE

- Grey-headed Negrofinch** *Nigrita camicapilla* Seen well on a few occasions.
- White-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita fuscomotqa* Also seen well on a few occasions, Uganda is the extreme eastern edge of this birds range.
- Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri* We played hide-and-see with a pair of this uncommon species in farmland on the edge of the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Dusky Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza jacksoni* This uncommon and easily overlooked species is an Albertine Rift endemic. We were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at a solitary bird in the Mhahinga Gorilla National Park.

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole tour.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* Also common and conspicuous throughout Uganda.

**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata* Less common in Uganda than the above species, we did see it well on a few occasions.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta* This uncommon and localised species was observed well on one occasion at Murchison Falls National Park.

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Estrilda quartinia* Seen well on a couple of occasions.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* Surprisingly, this common species was only observed on one occasion, within a small mixed species feeding party of waxbills observed at a small swamp on the edge of the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga* Once again this common species was only observed in the mixed species feeding party of waxbills at a small swamp on the edge of the Budongo Forest Reserve.

**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes* A bird of semi-arid savanna, we saw it well on one occasion in Murchison Falls National Park, this is the extreme southern edge of this birds range..

**Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola* This uncommon species of grassy savannas, was seen well on a few occasions.

**Black-crowned Waxbill** *Estrilda nonnula* A grassland species which we saw well on a couple of occasions.

**Black-headed Waxbill** *Estrilda atricapilla* This uncommon species was seen particularly well in the lower areas of the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

**Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos* A bird of dry savanna, we saw it well on one occasion in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata* Common and conspicuous throughout Uganda.

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor* Less common but still conspicuous throughout much of Uganda.

#### VIDUIDAE

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata* This common nest parasitic species was seen well on three separate occasions

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* Many good sightings throughout the tour.

#### FRINGILLIDAE

**Brimstone Canary** *Serinus sulphuratus* Seen well on a few occasions, Uganda is the extreme northern edge of this birds range.

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Serinus mozambicus* Common and conspicuous throughout the whole of Uganda.

**Yellow-crowned Canary** *Serinus flavicollis* An uncommon bird of montane grassland and gardens. We only saw this species on one occasion, in the village of Nkuringo, after we had finished Gorilla trekking.

**Thick-billed Seed eater** *Serinus burtoni* We saw this common species well on a few occasions.

**Western Citril** *Serinus frontalis* Commonly observed throughout the tour.

**White-rumped Seedeater** *Serinus leucopygius* This uncommon species of dry acacia scrub was seen very well in the scope in Murchison Falls National Park, at the extreme southern edge of this birds range.

**Streaky Seedeater** *Serinus striolatus* Seen well on several occasions.

#### EMBERIZIDAE

**Oriole-Finch** *Lnurgus olivaceus* An uncommon bird of montane forest, we very much enjoyed watching this beautiful bird on one occasion in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.

**Cabanis's Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi* This attractive and uncommon species was only observed on one occasion. It was seen very well in the scope in farmland on the edge of the Budongo Forest Reserve.

## MAMMALS

- Chimpanzee** *Pan troglodytes* Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip, few people get to enjoy such good looks at this normally very shy species of ape.
- Gorilla** *Gorilla beringei* For many tour participants this was the highlight of the trip. It was a very special experience to stand next to a family party of these huge apes.
- Central African Red Colobus** *Procolobus oustaleti* Great looks in Kibale National Park.
- Guereza Colobus** *Colobus Guereza* Many good looks at this common but very attractive monkey.
- Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* Many large troops observed.
- Patas Monkey** *Erythrocebus patas* Seen well in Murchison Falls National Park.
- Green Monkey** *Cercopithecus aethiops* Many good sightings.
- L'Hoest's Monkey** *Cercopithecus l'hoesti* This attractive species was not uncommon in Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Blue Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis* Many good sightings of this common species.
- Red-tailed Monkey** *Cercopithecus ascanius* We also enjoyed some very good sightings of this very attractive species of primate.
- Egyptian Fruit-bat** *Rousettus egyptiacus* In Maramagambo Forest part of Queen Elizabeth National Park, we were taken to a large cave where hundreds of these bats were living. A very large African Python was also living in the cave, it spends much of its time asleep, waking occasionally to snatch a meal of fruit-bat, before going back to sleep again!
- Chequered Elephant Shrew** *Rhynchocyon cirnei* This species was observed briefly, heading for dense cover in the Kaniyo Pabidi section of Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Uganda Grass-Hare** *Poelagus marjorita* Seen on a couple of occasions during game drives in Murchison Falls National Park.
- Striped Ground Squirrel** *Xerus erythropus* A few good sightings of Uganda's only ground squirrel.
- Carruther's Mountain Squirrel** *funisciurus carruthersi* Seen well on a couple of occasions in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Alexander's Dwarf Squirrel** *Paraxerus alexandri* This very small species of squirrel was seen very well while we were birding in the Busingiro section of Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Boehm's Squirrel** *Paraxerus boehmi* We enjoyed good looks at this uniquely marked squirrel in the Biwindi Impenetrable National Park.
- Gambian Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus gambianus* This attractive grey coloured squirrel was observed well in the Kaniyo Pabidi section of the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Red-legged Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus rufobrachium* Several good sightings of this attractive species of squirrel.
- African Giant Squirrel** *Protoxerus strangeri* Good looks at this very large squirrel in the Budongo Forest Reserve.
- Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* This species was only observed in Lake Mburu

National Park.

**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo* Small parties observed on a couple of occasions.

**White-tailed Mongoose** *Ichneumia albicauda* Observed briefly in the road, after dark, in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Spotted Hyaena** *Crocuta crocuta* Surprisingly, a solitary Spotted Hyaena was pointed out to us by our waiter, while having breakfast in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**African Civet** *Viverra civetta* Seen briefly, after dark, during a game drive in Murchison Falls National Park

**Lion** *Panthera leo* We very much enjoyed watching a small pride of Lions, during a game drive in Murchison Falls National Park.

**African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* Good numbers present in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls National Parks.

**Common Zebra** *Hippotigris quagga* Large numbers present in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibus* Many hundreds of Hippopotamus are to be found in Uganda. They could sometimes be heard browsing at night, right next to our accommodation.

**Giant Forest Hog** *Hyochoerus meinertzhageni* This normally shy forest species, has become habituated to humans in Queen Elizabeth National Park. We saw a small family party during the boat trip on the Victoria Nile.

**Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* Many family parties observed.

**Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis* Good numbers present in Murchison Falls National Park.

**African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer* Africa's most dangerous mammal, proved to be common in many of the national parks.

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus* We observed many of these attractive mammals.

**Eland** *Taurotragus oryx* Small numbers were present in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Rewenzori Red Duiker** *Cephalophus rubidus* Glimpsed on two occasions in Kibale National Park.

**Oribi** *Ourebia ourebi* This uncommon species of antelope was observed well on a few occasions in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca* Seen well on a couple of occasions in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Kob** *Kobus kob* Large numbers present in Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls National Parks.

**Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* Good numbers present in most national parks.

**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus* Large herds present in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Topi** *Damaliscus lunatus* Good numbers present in Lake Mburu National Park.

**Kongoni** *Alcelaphus buselaphus* Seen very well in Murchison Falls National Park.