

Uganda:

Shoebills, Gorillas & Chimps

20 Jan - 1 Feb 2009



Tour Leaders: Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken

Daily diary

Tues 20 January 2009 Overnight flight from London to Entebbe.

Wed 21 January 2009 Early morning arrival in Entebbe at 8h30, followed by a short 5-minute transfer to the hotel. Although it was the dry season, right here on the equator rain is possible at any time of year, and it was initially overcast with some light drops of rain. We used the opportunity to have two hours off to relax, snooze and recover from the overnight flight. By the time we met again, the weather had cleared up and we began our birding: in no better place than the guesthouse garden! I did initially suggest that we spend the time walking slowly through the area nearby, but in the hour and a quarter that we spent before lunch, we barely made it out of the garden gate (too many birds kept catching our attention!).

The bird came quick and fast with many characteristic African species. Yellow-billed Kites, an African subspecies of Black Kite, wheeled overhead, sharing the sky with overflying Marabou Storks, Black-headed Heron, Palm Swift – and a smart Long-crested Eagle which we located in a nearby palm tree – what a hairstyle!

Eastern Grey Plantain-Eaters, a large, raucous turaco that sounds more like a chimpanzee than a bird, hopped in the tree tops. We were dazzled by not only Red-chested and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, but also by Ruppell's Glossy Starling and Amethyst Starlings, and a male Klaas's Cuckoo. A Woodland Kingfisher, with its bright neon-blue wings, was hunting insects in the garden. Common East African garden birds included also Tawny-flanked Prinia, African Thrush, Speckled Mousebird, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow and Hadada. Nearby was Shikra, Brimstone Canary, a smart Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Baglafaecht Weaver. We finished the walk by finding a Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher nest in the garden and had excellent views of the male and female. A huge Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill was somewhat of a distraction as we ate lunch on the open verandah!

After lunch we visited the local sewage ponds (would you expect anything less?) where we saw a few typical waders including Greenshank, Marsh, Common and Green Sandpipers, Little Stint, Little Ringed Plover – and the more African species in the form of Hamerkop and Spurwinged Lapwing, with some Blue-breasted Bee-eaters and a male Pin-tailed Whydah across the road.

We then visited the famous Entebbe Botanical Gardens, which has large trees, landscaped lawns and a lakefront on the vast Lake Victoria. Splendid Starlings in a treetops were the first birds we saw here and we had the chance to get repeated views of many of the species we saw before lunch. We added quite a number too: African Fish-Eagles, Palmnut Vulture, and Steppe Buzzard on the raptor front, African Pied and Crowned Hornbills,

Near the shoreline we saw Winding Cisticola, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater and hordes of Yellow Wagtails – and had good views of two rather localised weavers: Golden-backed and Orange. A Grey-capped Warbler responded well to its call and this normal skulker sat out for all to see. Dinner was enjoyed on the verandah of our guest house, as the bats flew around us in the tropical evening.

Thurs 22 January 2009 Today was going to be a long travel day and we were prepared for this in advance. We met for an early morning tea and coffee before departing, and we stopped for a picnic breakfast at Mpanga Forest Reserve on our way where we had excellent views of a Red-tailed Monkey, our second primate after the Vervet Monkey at the Botanical Gardens the day before. We spend the entire day travelling, making a number of birding stops to break up the drive. The scenery varied from tropical forest fragments and bush in the lowlands around Lake Victoria, to acacia-covered woodlands near Lake Mburo National Park (complete with long-horned Ankole Cattle grazing near the impala antelope), to finally the steep and rather dramatic mountain scenery as we near Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, where we would stay for four nights. The stops were varied and we saw a lot of species in the end, which ranged from Grey Crowned Cranes displaying in the fields, waterbirds such as the big flock of Yellow-billed Storks at a roadside pond, towns overflowing with the garbage-collector Marabou Storks and a tree full of Bare-faced Goawaybirds. A wetland and woodland stop near Masaka was productive and we had excellent views of a young African Harrier-Hawk, African Green Pigeon, and Angola Swallow. Broad-billed and Lilac-breasted Rollers, and Long-crested Eagles were excellent distractions on roadside poles. We were glad to settle into our comfy beds after dinner at the end of a long day.

Fri 23 January 2009 The sun only rises at 7 in the morning, so we had an optional birding session from 7-7h30, before breakfast, to allow a slightly more relaxed start for those who wanted it. Mind you, we didn't need to go far and merely set up our telescopes on the deck of the restaurant and watched what come our way. The views were spectacular: a steep valley dropped away in front of the lodge, with a rushing river below, and the forests slopes of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest just on the other side!

Common Wattle-eye, Yellow-throated Leafloves, a female Green-headed Sunbird and Baglafaecht Weavers showed well before breakfast. During breakfast, we also heard chimpanzees screaming from the dense forest but they remained hidden. On arrival at Bwindi, we initially focussed on the forest edge, where the birds were most active, before heading into the forest proper. We stopped to watch an active colony of Vieillot's Weavers, and had excellent views of the males and females and their various antics before being distracted by a flock of White-throated Bee-eater hawking insects from the top of the tree. Northern Double-collared Sunbird, active White-chinned Prinias, Little, Plain, and Yellow-whiskered Greenbuls, Black-crowned Waxbill, Buffspotted Woodpecker and the smart Black-billed Weaver were some of the highlights here. In the understorey, we had good looks of a Grey-winged Robin-Chat, a rather localised bird, as well as a Red-tailed Bristlebill with its blue eye-patch. Further along, we had excellent views of Anson's Greenbul, only recently discovered in Uganda and not yet in the field guide maps. Equatorial Akalat showed well, as did a Grey-throated Barbet (with its bizarre nasal tufts) and the smart Black-faced Rufous Warbler, while Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo flew past quickly in response to its call. Perhaps the greatest surprise was the abundance and diversity of butterflies that seemed particularly eye-catching and active today. Shining-blue Blue Mother-of-Pearl butterflies, African Leaf Butterflies, African Map butterfly, and numerous acraeas, blues, whites and others all entertained. A dark navy forest Charaxes even sat on Robin for a while!

We had lunch at the lodge, enjoying the view. Chris spotted our first Guereza Colobus monkeys in the trees opposite, and we also enjoyed a flyby Augar Buzzard, among others. After a break, we headed back to the main forest for late afternoon birding. Highlights here were a pair of Petit's Cuckooshrike. Brown-capped Weaver (forages more like a nuthatch than a weaver), Bronze Sunbird, Common Wattle-eye, African Blue Flycatcher, and a White-tailed Blue Flycatcher on the short walk back to the lodge.

Sat 24 January 2009 Today was the much-anticipated gorilla day and we were all excited and apprehensive about how the day would turn out. While everyone else went trekking with the assigned Uganda Wildlife Authority Gorilla guides, Deirdre and I took Vivian and Maureen on a birding and mammal-watching walk in the forest at Bwindi.

The gorilla trekkers had a long, albeit rather gentle, walk and were rewarded with excellent views of the largest group of habituated mountain gorillas in Bwindi. A sharp thundershower in the afternoon did dampen the spirits of the gorilla trekkers somewhat (who were caught in the open and got rather wet), but the memories of this close and special encounter with these gentle giants will no doubt remain after memories of the long day out have faded. Vivian, who had been assigned another gorilla group the following day, had only to walk for 15 minutes to find the gorillas, emphasising how luck can affect the length of the walk to find these unique creatures. Gorilla habituation is ongoing and a further two groups are soon to become open to the public, allowing even more options for gorilla trekking in the future.

The day started well with a perched Black Sparrowhawk in a tree opposite the lodge. After breakfast, we went to the park reception and split into our groups. The gorilla trekkers had bird highlights that included Ayres's Hawk-Eagle and Brown-crowned Tchagra, but this was really secondary to the gorillas themselves. The others of us enjoyed a morning walk from Buhoma with many bird highlights including Black-throated Apalis, Bocage's Bush-Shrike, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Dusky-Blue Flycatcher, White-bellied Robin-Chat, White-tailed Ant Thrush, Red-throated Alethe, Red-headed Malimbe, Emerald Cuckoo, Pink-footed Puffback, African Sooty Flycatcher, Green-throated Sunbird, Elliot's Woodpecker, Mountain Masked Apalis, and Black-billed Turaco.

Sunday 25 January 2009 As with many days of the trip, I led an early walk, starting at sunrise, allowing those in the mood to either start early or join an hour later. Only Mick joined today's early option, and we also added Many-coloured Bush-Shrike and Red-chested Cuckoo before Deirdre and the rest joined us. Today we walked the same trail as yesterday, catching up with many of the same species that we had seen the previous day when many of the party were gorilla trekking. We missed a few, of course, but also added excellent views of Bar-tailed Trogon, a bird that we had heard the previous day but which had not managed to see despite some effort. We also spend a little longer watching primates, as we had the luck of encountering large groups of both Red-tailed and the localised and little-known L'Hoest's Monkey this morning. Deirdre also spotted Blue Monkey from the lodge at breakfast, adding to the day's total!

We all returned to the lodge for a latish lunch, where the highlight was certainly a Black Bee-eater, one of Africa's forest jewels, that kept distracting us during lunch! An Ayres's Hawk-Eagle and Luiders's Bush-Shrike (a very smart bird indeed!) both showed well from the deck of the lodge. We headed out again in the late afternoon to a more open site nearby where the highlights were Ross's Turaco, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, a close Long-crested Eagle, Mackinnon's Fiscal and Western Citril.

Monday 26 January 2009 Today, after a relaxed breakfast overlooking the forest (Jenny spotted the perched Black Sparrowhawk again), we headed slowly northwards through the remote southern sector of the Queen Elizabeth National Park. Here we soon found a huge herd of Topi, with well over a hundred animals, that crossed the road in front of us. Here we also found our first Bateleur, a superb pair of White-headed Vultures, Brown Snake-Eagle and Striped Kingfisher. New mammals included large herds of Uganda Kob, as well as Defassa Waterbuck and African Buffalo. A Cassin's Grey Flycatcher showed well at a river crossing. We had our picnic lunch at a small forested stream, where Deirdre spotted a Blue Monkey and some of us had good looks at a Western Nicator. The butterflies here were nothing short of spectacular with many brightly coloured swallowtails and others attracted to the water.

Further north, we stopped at a papyrus swamp where, with some patient recording of calls, we had stunning views of a pair of Papyrus Gonolek (while White-winged Warbler and White-spotted Flufftail called back but remained hidden). This skulking bush-shrike with its bright red underparts and yellow cap was very popular.

In the acacia woodlands, we picked up a Buff-bellied Warbler and Flappet Lark. We also saw our first elephant of the trip, as well as Warthog. We were also looking out for the grotesque Giant Forest Hog, somewhere in size between a warthog and a buffalo, but we were unable to locate one in its thicket habitat. Our search was not in vain, however, as we passed a Leopard sitting fully out in the open, which the people on the left of the bus saw well. We reversed quickly, but it snuck into a bush and sat and watched us for a while from the dense branches, before slipping away out of sight. Some raptors included African Fish-Eagle, Short-toed Eagle and Western Marsh-Harrier. We checked in to our lodge at Mweya, perched on a high peninsula with panoramic views of the Kasinga channel and Lake Edward, with distant African Buffalo and Elephant drinking below, and enjoyed the last hour of sunlight.

After dinner, some of us heard the Spotted Hyaena whooping just outside, while Chris was woken up in the early hours of the morning by a Hippo munching the lawn just a few metres from their porch!

Tuesday 27 January 2009 We had an early breakfast today so that we could head out on our game drive to catch the early morning activity. As it turned out, it was rather overcast and so the birds and mammals remained active the whole morning. The mammals really stole the show on this drive. We explored a park of the park that is best for Lion, but a series of pug marks in a patch of mud on the road were the closest we came. In another stroke of incredible luck, we saw our second leopard in two days! It was initially concealed in a dense bush but then leap out into the open and pranced behind another bush before disappearing. A huge trip highlight was spending about 20 minutes watching a family group of African Elephants close to the bus as they fed, communicated and encourage the tired young ones off their feet before slowly crossing a few metres in front of us. We also had close views of a troop of Olive Baboon and the

dominant male showed off his large canines. Uganda Kob, Waterbuck and Warthog were seen again too, but another burst of excitement came when a Giant Forest Hog burst across the road in front of us – another target mammal finally seen! Red-necked Francolins scurried off the road in front of us, an African Pygmy Kingfisher showed well, and good views of raptor included Banded Snake Eagle and at least two Montagu's Harriers. A salty crater lake had a flock of Lesser Flamingos and Great White Pelicans.

Lunch was on the deck with panoramic views of the lakes. An Aryes's Hawk Eagle flew past at eye level, while Slender-billed and Yellow-backed Weavers hopped on the tables the moment one left ones's food unguarded.

The afternoon was dedicated to a cruise on the Kasinga Channel that was a real highlight of the tour, not only for the variety of birds seen (well over 60 species) but also for the sheer numbers and close views of mammals too. Our heads never quite stopped spinning during the 2 and a half hour trip, and highlights included a huge flock of African Skimmers, Heuglin's, Grey-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, White-winged and Gull-billed Terns, Wire-tailed Swallow, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Palmnut Vulture, African Fish-Eagles displaying overhead, Yellow-billed and Saddle-billed Storks, Goliath and Grey Herons, Great and Little Egrets, Great and Long-tailed Cormorants. Spur-winged and Wattled Lapwings and more. Quite amusing were the Common and Wood Sandpipers and Yellow Wagtails that hopped on the backs of Hippos as the large animals lounged in the water – so that's what your migrants get up to when they are not at home!

Wednesday 28 January 2009 Highlight of the pre-morning walk included Blue-cheeked and White-throated Bee-eaters, Red-rumped and Lesser Striped Swallows, Crowned Lapwing and White-browed Robin-Chats duetting. After breakfast, we headed out on which must surely be one of the most scenic drives in Africa, through the Katwe explosion craters. The small road winds through this collection of extinct volcanic craters, some filled with forest and others with water creating the most idyllic crater lakes. The Ruwenzori Mountains (the fabled Mountains of the Moon and the highest mountain range in Africa) loomed in the background and the savanna expanse of the Queen Elizabeth National Park stretched from horizon to horizon, with distant views of the Rift Valley lakes Edward and George. We had this entire section of the national park to ourselves, not seeing a single other car the entire morning. The morning started off overcast and a bit rain, making the road slippery in places (we had to give our bus a little push over a patch of the notorious black cotton soil!), but it soon cleared up nicely. We had our picnic lunch over a forested crater. Raptors, including Bateleur, Palmnut Vulture, Wahlberg's Eagle, Eurasian Honey-Buzzard and a pair of the huge Lappet-faced Vulture, soared just overhead. We also had scoped views of a Greater Honeyguide here. Woodland birds included Marsh Tchagra, African Cuckoo, Black-lored Babbler, Gabar Goshawk and Croaking Cisticola. At one particularly scenic crater we stopped for a scan – and Deirdre spotted a Giant Forest Hog in a glade below! We watched it from above as it disappeared among the vegetation but then reappeared later at its wallow. A lone male Buffalo cooled off on the lake below and some baboons watched us from the trees. A Pearl Charaxes butterfly flew quickly through the group, too. We made an obligatory photo stop where we crossed the Equator and then headed up into the hills to our accommodation on the edge of yet another crater lake.

Thursday 29 January 2009 This morning was our chimp trekking day. We had to split into two groups (as the maximum per group was 6 people) and, together with the experience chimp trekkers, Deirdre led the one group and I the other. Kibale Forest National Park has the highest primate diversity in Africa and we were treated to excellent sightings of Guereza Colobus, Red-tailed Monkey, the rather evil-looking Grey Cheeked Mangabey – and superb viewings of Chimpanzees! Deirdre's group had a large troop of chimps feeding in a fig tree overhead, while my group had a slightly smaller group feeding on stinkwood berries. We were also privileged to see a rather unusual behaviour of 2 baby chimps playing with, tugging the tail of and grooming a Red-tailed Monkey, a species normally eaten by the adult chimps if they can catch them! We also had Narina Trogon and Purple-headed Starling on the chimp walk.

We returned to the crater lake for lunch where we were continually distracted by Bronze Sunbirds, Eastern Grey Plain Eaters and a Crowned Hornbill. We returned to the forest for a late afternoon walk where we walked along a broad track and scoped the forging flocks in the canopy, seeing Hairy-breasted Barbet. Speckled and Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, African Shrike-Flycatcher (tail wagging), Dusky Tits, Red-headed Malimbe, Chestnut-winged Starling, Grosbeak Weaver, and a fly-by of 4 the rare White-naped Pigeon. We also had great catch-up views of Narina Trogon and African Grey Parrot.

Friday 30 January 2009 This morning's pre-breakfast walk produced wonderful scenic views of mists rising from forested valleys, crater lakes and subsistence agriculture spreading across the hill tops. We added good views of Brown-backed Scrub-Robin, African Goshawk, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Green-throated and Green-headed Sunbirds and a few others. After breakfast, we did a short walk up the hill above the lake where we saw both Giant Kingfishers and Lizard Buzzard. We headed to a nearby crater lake that was completely surrounded by forest. Here we had the most unbelievably close views of Guereza Colobus Monkeys, and could see every details of their black and white fur and square faces, with their shaggy coats and hanging tails. We also managed scoped views of a male Giant Kingfisher and a pair of Yellow-billed Duck, and Robin spotted a Brown-backed Honeybird and Red-chested Cuckoo. The more energetic primate-spotters did a loop walk through a swamp forest for about 45 minutes but were eventually rewarded with unbeatable views of a large troop of the localised Uganda Red Colobus. These thumbless primates, with their rusty-red caps, were seen munching leaves and looking after their young, including suckling.

We then began our journey southwards, back towards Entebbe through tea plantations, forest fragments and subsistence cultivation, stopping for lunch in a town en route. It was depressing to see how the tracts of forest were quickly being cleared, with huge trees slowly being removed and the small groups of Guereza Colobus Monkeys being confined to ever-smaller patches of forest. A stop near some fruiting fig trees produced a bonanza of birds including Violet-backed Starlings, Yellow-spotted and Grey-throated Barbets, Great Blue and Ross's Turacos, and Splendid Starlings. One of the attractions of Uganda is that many large birds can be seen while driving through the country, even far from nature reserves, and we saw both African Grey Parrots and Black-and-white Casqued Hornbills flying over. A pair of Grey Crowned Cranes was seen in a field on the edge of the road closer to Entebbe.

Saturday 31 January 2009 This morning was to be the search for one of the world's most desired species, the incomparable Shoebill. Once known as the Whale-headed Stork, Shoebill is not related to the storks at all but is the sole member of its own family, restricted to the remote papyrus swamps of central Africa. We headed down a bumpy road before arriving at the edge of the swamp, where we transferred into three wooden boats and headed into the narrow channels. Here it was almost totally silent, just the calls of Carruther's and Winding Cisticolas, and the bubbling of Blue-headed Coucal, all of which were seen well, and the soft splashes of the oars as we were slowly paddled along the flowering waterlilies. After some excellent views of Malachite Kingfisher, Swamp Flycatcher and more brief Lesser Jacana and Sitatunga antelope for some, we spotted the distinctive grey shape of our quarry in the distance. We slowly glided towards the Shoebill, and it stood, unmoving and staring at us with its cold reptilian eyes. It slowly became accustomed to our presence, and began to preen, showing off its clog-like bill from all angles. It was a real trip highlight and a bonus for the photographers. We made a few birding stops on the way back to our guesthouse, and spent the rest of the afternoon after a late lunch preparing our bags and doing some last-minute garden birding, before enjoying dinner on the verandah as the Straw-coloured Fruit Bats flew past.

Sunday 1 February 2009 After breakfast, we headed to the airport for check-in and the flight back to London, the last morning that Hadadas would be in the dawn chorus for a while!

Annotated List of Species

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

A few groups of this iconic African bird in the Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP).

Red-necked Francolin *Francolinus afer*

Very common along roadsides in QENP.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen well at the Shoebill swamp.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Seen on the Kazinga channel trip.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Seen initially at the sewage works and again on the Kazinga Channel boat trip.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

Small numbers in the crater lakes near Kibale and at the Shoebill swamp.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A family group in the crater lakes near Kibale.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Seen exceptionally well on the Kazinga channel trip; also seen in marshes near the roadsides and a salty crater lake.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Seen on the first day around Entebbe.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Seen really well on the Kazinga channel trip.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Very common throughout towns in Uganda, the characteristic garbage disposal bird.

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Small numbers, once along the roadside and then on the Kazinga Channel.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Common and conspicuous throughout, characteristic raucous call.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

One on the shores of Lake Victoria on the first day.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Seen on the Kazinga channel trip and Shoebill marsh.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Small numbers throughout.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Small numbers on wetlands throughout including the Kazinga Channel.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Common throughout, away from water, often nesting in towns.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

Excellent views of 1 on the Kazinga channel.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Seen on the Kibale crater lakes and the Shoebill marsh.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Seen on the Kazinga trip and the Shoebill marsh.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Small numbers on Lake Victoria and Kazinga Channel.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Common and widespread; one of the first birds seen. An African endemic family.

Shoebill *Balaeniceps rex*

One of the undisputed trip highlights, seen closely at a papyrus swamp. An African endemic family.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Seen well at the salty crater lake and Kazinga channel.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Common on Lake Victoria and Kazinga.

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Small numbers of fresh water throughout, including the Kazinga Channel and Shoebill swamp.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Over 100 seen on the Kazinga boat trip near the gull roost.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

One seen well near Mweya on a candelabra tree.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaecus*

A pair seen very closely near Mweya, on a candelabra tree.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A juvenile bird in the guest house garden in Entebbe was determined to be this species from careful checking of photographs and not the expected African Hobby.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One seen soaring at our crater lunch stop; a well-barred male.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Just one of this roadside bird seen in southern QENP.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

The parasitus form. "Yellow-billed Kite", was common in villages and along roadsides throughout.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Pleasantly common, and seen exceptionally well on the Kazinga channel.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

This distinctive pied raptor was seen common in small numbers and was first seen in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Just three seen soaring near the Shoebill marsh.

African White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

Small numbers in QENP.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

Excellent views of a pair just above our heads in QENP.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

Excellent views of a pair just above our heads in QENP.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Two in QENP.

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

One in QENP, perched on a candelabra tree.

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

One in QENP, perched on a candelabra tree.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

Common in QENP, with adults and juveniles seen.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Seen in the vicinity of the Kazinga Channel.

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

Good views by all at the Shoebill marsh.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Common in QENP, with adults and juveniles seen.

African Harrier-hawk *Polyboroides typus*

A juvenile at the stop at the sewage works and an adult scoped from the deck at Bwindi.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

Common in QENP, with adults and juveniles seen.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

One seen well near our accommodation near Kibale.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Seen at Entebbe, Masaka and QENP.

Black Goshawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

Excellent scoped views from the lodge at Bwindi.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Superb views at our accommodation near Kibale; also near the Shoebill spot.

Common (Steppe) Buzzard *Buteo Buteo vulpinus*

Seen at the Entebbe Bot Gardens and the Kazinga Channel trip.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Seen very well from our accommodation at Bwindi.

Ayres's Hawk-eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*

One for the gorilla trekkers, one from the lodge at Bwindi and another at lunch at QENP.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

Best seen during our crater lunch stop in QENP.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Small numbers of this attractive eagle seen throughout, including excellent views in QENP.

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

Heard only, most noticeably at the papyrus beds in QENP.

African Crane *Crex egregia*

One flushed from the roadside in QENP but seen well.

Black Crane *Amaurornis flavirostra*

Seen well on the Kazinga trip.

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

The national bird of Uganda was seen widely in roadside fields, especially on the travel days.

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*

Very common on the Kazinga trip.

Black-winged Stilt *Charadrius pecuarius*

Seen at Entebbe Bot Garden, at the salty crater lake and on the Kazinga trip.

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris*

Two flushed by a harrier on the first day at the sewage works (with lots of white in the wing) were not seen well.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

First seen at the sewage works in Entebbe and then in large numbers at the Kazinga channel.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Seen at the Mweya airstrip on the pre-breakfast walk.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Seen very well on the Kazinga channel trip.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticulus*

Seen on the Kazinga channel.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Seen well at the sewage works in Entebbe.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Seen on the Kazinga trip.

Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*

Flushed and then ducking and diving among the floating vegetation on the Shoebill trip.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

First at the Entebbe Bot Gardens and seen well on the Kazinga trip.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

One on the Kazinga trip, showing well in grass on the channel edge.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Seen by Robin only in the Kazinga channel from Mweya Lodge.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

At the sewage works in Entebbe and on the Kazinga channel.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

At the sewage works in Entebbe and on the Kazinga channel.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

A handful on the first day at the sewage works.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Small numbers on the first day at the sewage works and the Kazinga channel.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers on the first day at the sewage works and the Kazinga channel (including walking on the backs of hippos!).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Small numbers at the sewage works in Entebbe and on the Kazinga channel.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Seen in a crater lake in QENP and the Kazinga Channel.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

A scattering along the Kazinga channel.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*

A few of this larger, greyer gull in among the former.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

A big flock of about 200 on the Kazinga channel.

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

About 50 of this small gull with the other gulls.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Common on Lake Victoria and Kazinga Channel.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Small numbers on the Kazinga trip.

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*

About 100 on the Kazinga Channel below Mweya – what a sight!

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Small numbers of Feral Pigeons on the second day, while travelling.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Small numbers in towns, often replaces Feral Pigeon, seen well at the Masaka sewage works stop.

Afep Pigeon *Columba uncinata*

Ghostly call heard by both chimp-trekking trips but the bird wasn't seen.

White-naped Pigeon *Columba albinucha*

A tight group of four of this rare and localized species flew past during the late afternoon birding at Kibale, allowing the white nape of at least one to be seen well.

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen at Mweya.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Common and widespread throughout.

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Common in QENP.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Just a handful seen, mainly in QENP.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*

Widespread in small numbers; seen in the gardens on the first day.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris*

Small numbers in deep forest throughout, often flying across the path or road.

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*

Small numbers in fruiting trees throughout.

Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

Seen during the chimpr trekking and afternoon birding at Kibale; also flying over the main road the next day.

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri*

Seen well at the fuel stop on day 2.

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*

A favourite bird for most people! Small numbers throughout, but seen especially well at Buhoma and on the drive from Kibale.

Black-billed Turaco *Tauraco schuettii*

Seen at Buhoma by some only.

Ross's Turaco *Mussophaga rossae*

Seen very well in the late afternoon farm walk near Buhoma.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides personatus*

A small group seen perched atop a candelabra tree on the 2nd day; also seen by Robin in QENP.

Eastern Grey Plantain-eater *Crinifer zonurus*

Common around Entebbe, and seen from our hotel.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

Seen well a number of times at Buhoma.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Heard often, and seen well in the scope in the early birding walk at Buhoma with Mick. Also seen by Robin at the Red Colobus spot.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamorus*

We saw this dark cuckoo from behind and rather poorly right at the start of our first morning walk at Buhoma. Heard more at Buhoma a few times, didn't respond to playback.

[Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A silent female in the canopy of the rainforest at Buhoma could have been this or the next species. We couldn't quite see the bill base colour and undertail spotting!]

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

Called in along the crater drive in QENP. A silent female in the canopy of the rainforest at Buhoma could have been this or the former species. We couldn't quite see the bill base colour and undertail spotting!

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*

One called up at Buhoma, which showed briefly.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

Heard only at Buhoma.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Heard often, but a stunning male seen in the garden on the first day.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Seen in a tree top at Buhoma.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Seen well around the weaver colony at the entrance at Buhoma; also seen rather deep in the forest at Buhoma.

Yellowbill *Ceuthmochares aereus*

Heard only; on the afternoon Kibale walk.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

Seen well on the Shoebill boat trip.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

Seen very well in QENP where very common.

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

Seen by some hawking insects around the lights at Mweya.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen on the first day in Entebbe, small numbers near palms throughout.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Large flocks over the craters in QENP.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Seen at Mweya by Robin.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Very common at Mweya, nesting in a water tower. Also seen at Entebbe.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Small numbers at Mweya.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Common and widespread throughout.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Seen often in QENP but only well a few times.

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

Seen very well at Kibale.

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum*

Seen very well at Buhoma.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*

Seen along the roadside near Masaka on the drive from Entebbe to Buhoma.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Common and widespread, especially around Entebbe and along roadsides.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

Small numbers in QENP, a smart bird!

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Seen in the scope at QENP.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*

Heard only, in QENP and Kibale.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

Common and widespread, especially around Entebbe.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ceyx pictus*

Seen very well in the Entebbe Bot Gardens on the first day and again in QENP.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Excellent views on the Shoebill trip and Kazinga channel.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Seen in the crater lakes near Kibale.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Very common near water, especially Lake Victoria and Kazinga.

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*

One seen from our lodge deck at Bwindi, during lunch; a much-desired forest bee-eater.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

One at QENP, briefly.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus*

Seen well at Entebbe Sewage Works and at the Shoebill swamp.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates*

Seen first in the open country near Bwindi and then very well at our crater lake accommodation at Kibale.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

Common and widespread; seen well at Bwindi and other places.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Common around water, such as Entebbe and QENP (Mweya).

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Seen well during our crater lake lunch stop in QENP.

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cynaomelas*

Two seen briefly in QENP.

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus*

Small numbers throughout; the hornbill with the red bill.

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*

One scoped at the Bot Gardens on the first day.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Seen in the QENP.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus*

This very impressive hornbill was common around Entebbe and forested areas throughout.

Grey-throated Barbet *Gymnobucco bonapartei*

Seen well at Buhoma and the fruiting roadside tree between Kibale and Entebbe; remember the nasal tuft?

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

Seen well on the afternoon walk at Kibale.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Seen well on the afternoon walk at Kibale.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Heard often, and seen well at Buhoma.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Seen well near our garden in Entebbe; heard often in QENP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

Seen well on our first morning at Buhoma and again in a fruiting tree on the drive from Kibale to Entebbe.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

Seen very well on the afternoon walk at Kibale.

Wahlberg's Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus*

Seen by Robin near Kibale.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

Heard along the roadside near the Shoebill marsh.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

Scoped in a tree at the crater lake lunch stop.

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Seen by some in QENP.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa*

Seen very well on the forest edge at Buhoma.

Speckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendropicos poecilolaemus*

Seen against the light on the Red Colobus trek near Kibale.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

One at Buhoma, on the forest edge.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

Seen along the main trail at Buhoma; also at Kibale.

Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Seen in our garden at Entebbe.

Shrike-Flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

One seen on the afternoon walk at Kibale; wags tail from side to side.

Black-and-white Flycatcher *Bias musicus*

Seen nesting in our guest house garden in Entebbe, along the main trail at Buhoma, and in front of our lodge at Bwindi.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya castanea*

Heard while chimp trekking and at Buhoma, but never responded for a closer look.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

Heard only along the trail at Buhoma.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

A number seen well near our lodge at Buhoma.

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor*

One well on the early walk at Buhoma.

Grey-green Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei*

Seen well on the forest edge at Buhoma.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

Calling only at QENP.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*

Seen well in rank growth in QENP.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

Seen well at Buhoma and near our Kibale accommodation.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

Lovely song heard in QENP but not seen.

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

Seen on the Buhoma main trail, in the forest canopy.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

In the garden in Entebbe on the first day.

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius leuhderi*

This elusive bush-shrike was seen very well in tangles near our lodge at Buhoma.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Loud bell-like call heard in QENP.

Papyrus Gonolek *Laniarius mufumbiri*

Seen well in dense papyrus swamps; a trip highlight bird.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

Common and widespread, and seen especially well in Entebbe.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Seen in an acacia tree on the crater drive.

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

A pair seen well at Buhoma in the forest.

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*

Seen well at Buhoma; the male has a large yellow gape!

McKinnon's Shrike *Lanius mackinnoni*

Seen in the farm bush near Buhoma; also in our lodge there.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Common in QENP and often seen on the roadsides.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Small numbers throughout; especially around Kibale.

Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Seen at Kibale during the chimp trek.

Mountain Oriole *Oriolus percivali*

Seen at Buhoma on the main trail.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Seen on our drives in the QENP.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

Seen a number of times at Buhoma.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Common and widespread on roadsides throughout.

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus*

Small numbers in the canopy of tall trees at Kibale and Buhoma; seen well at Kibale on the afternoon walk.

White-headed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne albiceps*

We eventually got a good view of this, after a few fly bys, at our crater lake accommodation.

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Small numbers at the forest edge at Buhoma.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*

Seen on the Kazinga Channel boat trip; also Masaka sewage works.

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Very common above water, such as on the Shoebill trip and at Mweya.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

One flying overhead on the Shoebill trip.

Rock Martin *Pyonoprogne fuligula*

Seen often from the deck of our lodge at Bwindi.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Very common and widespread.

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*

This resident version of the Barn Swallow is widespread and common, breeding in most towns.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Two at Mweya.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Common and widespread.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Seen collecting mud in the road near the Shoebill marsh.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Seen on the pre-breakfast walk at Mweya on the airstrip.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*

Seen in the QENP and the edge of the Shoebill swamp.

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Seen in the QENP performing its wing-flapping display high in the sky.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Seen in long grass in QENP and on our pre-breakfast walk at the crater lake accommodation near Kibale.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami*

Many heard along the crater lake drive in QENP but not seen despite some effort.

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbii*

Commonly heard around Buhoma, and seen well near our accommodation.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

Very common and widespread, the common cisticola near water and seen well in Entebbe and the Shoebill swamp.

Carruthers's Cisticola *Cisticola carruthersi*

This papyrus-endemic seen well on the Shoebill trip.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

Two seen well in QENP; a big cisticola!

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

One heard in QENP.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Widespread, seen first in the garden in Entebbe.

Banded Prinia *Prinia bairdii*

Smart birds: seen well at Buhoma on one of the walks.

White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon*

Common on the forest edge at Buhoma. Doesn't really look like a prinia!

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

Seen twice in acacia trees in QENP.

Mountain Apalis *Apalis personata*

Seen along the main track at Buhoma,

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni*

Seen exceptionally well a few times at Buhoma; smart bird!

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*

Seen at Buhoma.

Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

Good views at Buhoma.

Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida*

Heard a lot, and seen exceptionally well at Entebbe Bot Gardens on the first day.

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*

A strange, little bird that was always in dense creepers. Seen well at Buhoma.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

Seen at Buhoma on one of the days.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Common and widespread!

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

Two seen really well on the forest edge at Buhoma.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*

One of this drab but noteworthy bird seen along the main trail at Buhoma.

Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

One seen well on the forest edge at Buhoma.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*

Seen a number of times at Buhoma, often high in trees.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris*

We eventually got good views of this skulker in a tangle along the entrance road to Buhoma.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*

Seen briefly only on the early morning walk at Buhoma; also heard at Kibale.

Yellow-throated Greenbul *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

A small group of these leafloves seen well at our accommodation at Buhoma.

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

A super skulker, but seen well at Buhoma.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

One seen along the forest trail at Buhoma on one day.

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*

Superb views on the afternoon walk at Kibale; also seen at the lunch stop with the butterflies.

African Blue Flycatcher *Eminia longicauda*

Seen twice near Buhoma and at the crater lake accommodation; smart bird!

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Eminia albicauda*

Seen well at Buhoma between the park and the lodge.

White-winged Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis*

Heard only in the dense papyrus beds of the Kazinga Channel.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*

Smart bird: eventually seen well by all in a leafy tangle along the forest trail at Buhoma.

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

Heard only along the crater drive through QENP.

[European Reed Warbler or African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus or baeticatus*

A few heard and seen around Mweya; not reliably separable by plumage or voice, except in the hand.]

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Seen once along the main track at Buhoma.

Red-faced Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus laetus*

Heard only, along the forest trail at Buhoma.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A few; one on the first day in the garden in Entebbe.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

Seen in a tangle at Kibale.

White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys*

Seen well along the main trail at Buhoma.

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis albipectus*

Good views of this skulker for some at Buhoma.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

Heard only at Kibale, but seen by some while waiting after the chimp trekking.

Mountain Illadopsis *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*

A small family group seen well on the main trail at Buhoma.

Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei*

Seen well on the crater drive.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*

Seen well at QENP near the former species; this species has a yellow eye.

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*

Widespread, and small numbers throughout.

Splendid Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

An attractive, large starling that was common on drives through degraded forest.

Rüppell's Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

Very common and widespread, especially around Entebbe and QENP.

Purple-headed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpureiceps*

Small numbers at Kibale.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnirycincus leucogaster*

Seen in fruiting trees in Entebbe and along the roadside on the second last day.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*

Seen at Kibale a few times.

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

A small group seen in a dead tree at Buhoma.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

At least 10 seen on animals (such as Buffalo) on the Kazinga channel boat trip and in QENP.

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*

One seen along the main trail at Buhoma for some.

Rufous Flycatcher-thrush *Stizorhina fraseri*

Heard at Buhoma and Kibale, but not located.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

Small numbers in around settlements, such as on the first day around Entebbe.

Red-throated Alethe *Alethe poliophrys*

One seen on two days in a row on the main trail at Buhoma, but very skulking on the second day.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

Seen along the trail at Buhoma.

Grey-winged Akalat *Sheppardia polioptera*

Seen along the trail at Buhoma.

White-bellied Robin-chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

Seen along the main trail at Buhoma.

Blue-shouldered Robin-chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*

Heard only, along the forest edge at Buhoma. Couldn't get him to show!

White-browed Robin-chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Very common at QENP, even seen at our accommodation.

Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*

Seen well perched atop a bush at the crater lake accommodation.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

A few in open country in QENP.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

One in the tea plantations near Kibale.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*

Seen on the crater drive through QENP and then at the Shoebill launch point.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*

Seen along the trail at Buhoma. No white eye in this race!

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edoloides*

Common in QENP and first seen in our Entebbe garden.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*

One seen well at Entebbe Bot Gardens.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

Common near water, very common in QENP, and one on the chandelier at Mweya!

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

On the small stream in QENP.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

A number seen along the forest edge at Buhoma.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

Seen along the forest edge at Buhoma.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata*

Two in the top of a tall tree along the main trail at Buhoma.

Grey-throated Tit-flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

Seen in the forest at Kibale.

Grey Tit-flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*

Seen on the drive through QENP.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*

Seen high in the canopy on our afternoon walk at Kibale.

Green Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*

Seen at Buhoma on two days.

Collared Sunbird *Anthodiaeta collaris*

Seen a few times in forests throughout the tour; a distinctive yellow and green sunbird.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*

Seen at Buhoma and the crater lake spot.

Western Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra obscura*

This drab forest sunbird seen at Buhoma.

Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens*

Seen at Buhoma and the crater lake spot.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Common and widespread, even in towns.

Bronze Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis*

Small numbers at Buhoma and our crater lake accommodation near Kibale.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris reichenowi*

Common around Buhoma.

Red-chested Sunbird *Cinnyris erythrocerus*

Very common near water, and seen on the first day and memorably at Mweya,

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Abundant and widespread in towns.

Grosbeak Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Seen at Kibale and the Shoebill launch.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Common around Buhoma and Entebbe; obvious pale eyes.

Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelzelni*

This delicate little weaver is common near water, especially in Entebbe, and on our breakfast plates at Mweya!

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Common and widespread throughout, especially common at Buhoma.

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

A poorly named bird: really a striking all black weaver with a yellow face! Seen on the forest edge near Buhoma.

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

One at our crater lake pre-breakfast walk.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

Seen at Entebbe on the first day, in the trees on the edge of the water.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*

Seen on the Shoebill trip, hopping on the lily pads. Pale eye and brown face.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

Just one in QENP on the crater drive.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Very common, especially in villages.

Vieillot's Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

Common and widespread, easily identified by the all-black plumage of the males.

Yellow-backed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

Common near water, such as Mweya (another guilty party at breakfast!)

Golden-backed Weaver *Ploceus jacksoni*

A scarce weaver that we saw at Entebbe on the first day.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

Two of this attractive weaver seen foraging, nuthatch-like, at Buhoma.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

Seen on the trail at Buhoma and at Kibale; a smart bird indeed.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

A few around Mweya in breeding plumage.

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

Males seen best on the Shoebill trip.

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*

Seen well on the forest edge near Buhoma and in the canopy at Kibale.

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus*

Seen at the Entebbe Botanical Gardens on the first day.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

Superb views of a male in QENP!

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Quite common, but mainly seen flying up off the side of the path.

Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula*

Seen a few times at Buhoma, Entebbe, and Kibale.

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullatus*

Small flocks common throughout.

Magpie Mannikin *Spermestes fringilloides*

Seen well at Buhoma at the start of the trail.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

The males were conspicuous throughout, including on the first day.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Very common on open patches and roads throughout.

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

A few near our accommodation at Buhoma and on the Shoebill trip.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Common in towns, and also on the Shoebill trip.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

Seen often in open country, and well on the Shoebill trip.

Western Citril *Serinus frontalis*

Seen at the lodge at Bwindi.

Brimstone Canary *Serinus sulphuratus*

Fairly common, seen on the first day in the garden, and many around Mweya.

Thick-billed Seed-eater *Serinus burtoni*

Seen on the forest edge around Buhoma.

Mammals (by Deirdre Vrancken)

[Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis*

A single scrub-hare was flushed and seen only by Callan, during the pre-breakfast walk at Mweya QENP.]

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

This very agile arboreal squirrel was seen flicking its tail at Kibale forest during one of the chimpanzee walks. It's a medium-sized grizzled squirrel with reddish limbs and black-and-white barred tail.

Forest Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*

Also very agile and arboreal, this squirrel was mobbed by birds on a dead tree at Bwindi forest. It's a large grizzled squirrel with a large grey head, reddish body and long black-and-white barred tail.

Böhm's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus boehmi*

This bush squirrel was seen twice in liana tangles at Bwindi forest. It's a small olive squirrel with pale stripes in between two bold black flank stripes.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*

This endearing and very social mongoose was common at the grounds of Mweya Safari Lodge. They sneaked out of the drainage pipes and lined up next to and atop each other under a tree. A few of them wore a radio-transmission collar because of the study at Oxford University. They were especially active and vocal early mornings and evenings, when our feet were surrounded by different groups running around and inspecting each other. Their scent marking was particularly curious, dragging themselves forward with hips fully flat on the ground.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*

Heard hair-raisingly close to our comfortable rooms at Mweya! We saw the spoor during a pre-breakfast walk at Mweya.

Leopard *Panthera pardus*

We saw elusive leopard twice near Mweya; once next to and then retreating into a shrub, and the next day moving swiftly from one shrub to another across a grassy opening. Even though the quality of the views were somewhat dependent on which side of the bus one was sitting on, we managed mostly good views at the end and even the driver was excited as he had never seen leopard before!

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eilodon helvum*

Being fruit bats, they have their large brown eyes and a lemur-like head. This is a large tawny-coloured bat with black wings, which flew over the garden, in a strong direct flight, during dinner at Entebbe. It roosts in large colonies.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

Flushed by Robin during the day in QENP; the only easily identified species.

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza*

Also known as Black-and-white Colobus, this thumbless black forest monkey with white mantle and beard was first spotted from our lodge at Bwindi. Also seen exceptionally well at eye level along one of the crater lakes. Some even crossed the grounds to climb papaya trees and eat leaves, their staple diet. They are specialised in eating mature leaves and can subsist on only few species. They do quite well in small and secondary forest patches; hence our numerous sightings on the drive back from Kibale to Entebbe!

Ugandan Red Colobus *Piliocolobus tephrosceles*

A large group of this thumbless grey and red forest monkey was found above the forest path during a short expedition at a crater lake. Noticeable was their typical small head with reddish punky hairstyle, bulky body and 'suicidal' / clumsy way of moving about (making them a preferred target for Chimpanzee). They're mostly leaf-eaters, but need a greater variety and more younger leaves than the black and white colobus. Also called Central Africa Red Colobus.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*

The most widespread of baboon species. Observed with much amusement in Queen Elizabeth National Park where a group sat around our bus, babies hanging on bellies, males yawning and juveniles playing with discarded bottles! Ritualised jawning is actually an important way of emphatic signalling amongst males - showing off their huge incisors! Also seen in on one of the chimpanzee treks in Kibale forest, sitting tranquilly in trees neighbouring chimpanzees!

Grey-cheeked Mangabey *Lophocebus albigena*

These greyish small forest monkeys were seen high up the canopy in Kibale during one of the chimpanzee treks. They are mostly arboreal, very agile and walk with a cool gait and impressive stance: sharply angled hips and very long tail. They mainly eat hard fruits and nuts.

Red-tailed Monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*

The smallest forest monkey we've seen; seen well at Bwindi and during the chimpanzee walks at Kibale. Their brightly coloured face (white heart-shaped nose!), long red tail and great agility prove of their great sense of space and colour! They distinctly move the head jerkily and chirp bird like high-pitched alarm calls. Mostly seen mid canopy, scanning leaves for insects. They also eat fruits,

flowers and leaves.

Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus [nictitans] mitis*

These large long-tailed blue-grey monkeys were seen at Bwindi from the deck of our lodge. Being the most versatile and generalist arboreal forest monkey, they prefer fruit, but also eat leaves and quite some insects, which they search for through bark, moss and rotten wood.

L'Hoest's Monkey *Cercopithecus l'hoesti*

The most threatened monkey we've seen. Seen at Bwindi and crossing the road at Kibale. A quiet and cryptic dark forest monkey with white beard, long limbs and question-mark kink at the end of its tail. Usually seen moving along the ground. Eats mostly fruits and young leaves.

Tantalus Monkey *Cercopithecus tantalus*

The largest of the savannah (or vervet-like) monkeys. Seen in Entebbe Botanical Gardens and QENP. A small long-tailed monkey with gold-green grizzled back and crown. A white brow band and cheeks surround the black face. Omnivorous.

Eastern Gorilla *Gorilla beringei*

Our persistent tracking eventually brought us close and fantastic views of these endangered Mountain Gorillas. A major trip highlight!

Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*

We had a relatively easy tracking experience at Kibale, treating us to two hours of chimpanzee watching! Another major trip highlight! One group had extensive views of chimpanzee eating in fig trees, later also tranquilly observed by a group of Olive Baboon. The other group observed Chimpanzee juveniles playing with Red-tailed Monkeys!

Giant Forest Hog *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

We had two sightings of this rare and hard to see mammal! One at Queen Elizabeth National Park, crossing the road. Another at the crater lakes, where it visited a latrine. Males get up to 275 kg and while their skull may break during head-on head collisions, their brain is protected in a bony capsule!

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

Very common in QENP, and at Mweya Safari Lodge where a 3-week old infant ran around very actively around its mother who typically had dropped down on her knees to feed.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Very common in the Kazinga Channel. Several seen in and out the water; some being preened by Yellow-billed Oxpeckers.

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer*

Big herds along the Kazinga channel; some being preened by Yellow-billed Oxpeckers. These buffalo are more reminiscent of forest than savanna buffaloes, currently considered as different forms of the same species.

Sitatunga *Tragelaphus spekei*

This swamp specialist was seen by some during our Shoebill boat trip. Like the bushbuck, it has a narrow head and deep body, but also long legs and splayed hooves. It is a mainly solitary mixed feeder.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*

Seen briefly during our morning drive in QENP. Like other bovines, it has a narrow head and deep body. It's solitary and feeds on browse and grass.

Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus defassa*

Many sightings in QENP; an impressive antelope! Dark grey-brown, with well-muscled large body and white under the tail. Horns up to a meter long, and slightly forward curving at the top. Despite its very strong odour, it's a frequent meal for lions! Primarily a grazer.

Uganda Kob *Kobus kob thomasi*

Very common antelope in QENP. An ochre-coloured and medium sized robust antelope. It's dependent on daily access to water and grows very quickly. It used to be exterminated from all shores Lake Victoria. Closely related to Waterbuck, it also has a pungent odour and forward curving horn tips.

Topi *Damaliscus lunatus*

Seen in a huge migratory herd in the Ishasha section of QENP. This large brown-purple antelope shows a deep chest, ridged shoulders, short neck and long face (so still able to reach the ground!). Its horns are double-curved and hollow. They live in large migratory herds and smaller residential groups. They're faster and more agile than Kob and Waterbuck and are closely related to the well-known Impala (around Lake Mburo) and Wildebeest (not in Uganda). This grazer prefers the longer leaves.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*

A few groups seen at a roadside savanna patch nearby Lake Mburo National Park, on our drive to Bwindi. Medium-sized gazelle-like antelope, which like Topi, has a fast gait, long legs, short neck but long face, and double-curved and hollow horns. They mostly graze in the wet season and browse in the dry season.

Yellow-backed Duiker *Cephalophus sylvicultor*

Spoor and dung of this large duiker revealed its presence at Bwindi.

Peters' Duiker *Cephalophus callipygus*

This bright russet duiker was seen in Kibale during one of the chimpanzee treks. It's a fairly large duiker with a heavily reinforced forehead. Eats mainly fruit; also leaves.

Black-fronted Duiker *Cephalophus nigrifrons*

Two of these medium-sized glossy red duikers were seen crossing the forest trail at Bwindi. Eats mainly fruit; also leaves.

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

At QENP we were treated to a herd of about 20 elephants appearing from out of nowhere, browsed at a few meters from our bus - always one eye on us - then herded together before crossing the road, pushing newborn calves over humps of soil. Two majestic single bulls were seen along the Kazinga Channel.