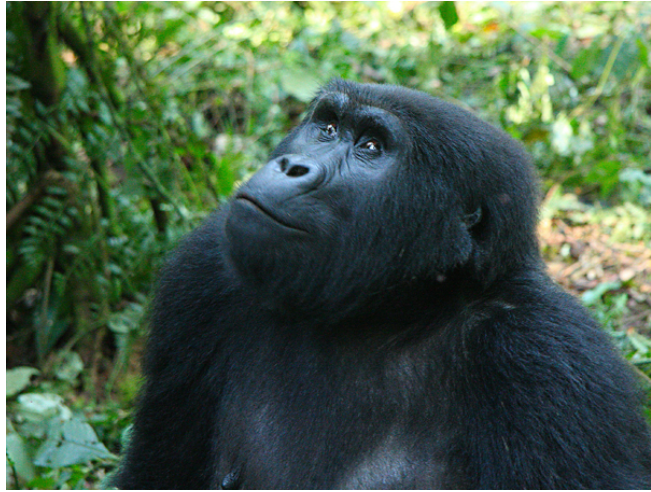


UGANDA:

Shoebills, Gorillas & Chimps • Tue 19th-Sat 30th Jan 2010



Clockwise from top left: This obliging **Shoebill** at Mabamba Swamp ensured our 2010 tour to Uganda got off to the best possible start! • And **Gorilla** in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest - the chance to meet these gentle primates face to face in their mountain forest habitat is one of the most compelling reasons for many to visit Uganda © tour participant Keith Bedford • Flushed with success at seeing Shoebill (*just* visible in this picture, above the tip of the stick), it's smiles all round from participants on our Mabamba boat trip © Callan Cohen •

**report compiled by tour leaders
Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken**

Trip Diary

Tour Leader: Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken

We've decided this year to present the trip report as a summary of the major highlights, followed by an annotated checklist of the species recorded. (If you weren't on this tour and are interested in a typical Uganda tour daily program, the 2009 tour report reads as a day by day diary although note the order of places visited sometimes changes from year to year). At the end of the tour, we also presented each participant with a photo highlight CD of 145 photos taken on the trip. Many of these photos are loaded on the Gallery page of the Limosa website and they give a good idea of the trip experience; many thanks to all those participants that contributed photos for the CD.

This trip really felt as if it was packed with highlights, and here are some of the most memorable ones that we discussed as a group at the end of the tour:

-- Shoebill!

Getting onto a small wooden boat on the first morning and gliding through a maze of papyrus channels in search of one of the world's most desired species was an exciting start to the trip. We eventually spotted our quarry, and 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 spread its feathers in the sun and showed off its clog-like bill from all angles. It was a real trip highlight - and a bonus for the photographers. Birds abounded in this vast, tranquil swamp and included hordes of African Jacanas running over the waterlilies, an overwintering flock of Slender-billed Gulls, Black Egret "shadow-fishing", Blue-breasted and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, White-faced and Fulvous Whistling Ducks, African Purple Swamphen, Malachite Kingfisher, Swamp Flycatcher, Western Marsh Harrier, African Fish Eagle and much more. It was all so exciting we didn't even mind too much that a sudden rain shower stopped play for about 20 minutes. Indeed, on the Equator, rain is possible at any stage but this trip is planned in one of the driest months and we had almost no bad weather on the entire trip.

-- Gorillas!

A chance to meet these gentle primates face to face in their mountain forest habitat is one of the most compelling reasons for many to visit Uganda. The hour spent on the forest floor with the gorillas was a trip, and lifetime, highlight. This year one person in each group was touched (literally) by the gorillas, and very unusually, one put his hand on Anne's shoulder - see the Gallery on our website for the photos! The weather was excellent and an excellent selection of very professional photos, ranging from the silverback to the smallest baby, was taken by the group.

-- Bwindi Impenetrable Forest birding!

Without doubt, some of the best and most accessible forest birding in Africa. Just the forest edge held Common Wattle-eye, Baglaffeht Weavers, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Black-throated Apalis, Pink-footed Puffback, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Dusky Blue Flycatcher, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, an active colony of Vieillot's Weavers, 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, Elliot's Woodpecker, the smart Black-billed Weaver - and amazing views of a male African Emerald Cuckoo. 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, and Equatorial Akalat, Scaly-breasted Illadopsis and more. Further along, we enjoyed excellent views of Black-billed Turaco, White-tailed Ant Thrush, Grey-headed Sunbird and Ansorge's Greenbul, only recently discovered in Uganda and not yet in the field guide maps. Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo flew past quickly in response to its call. A major highlight was point-blank views of the elusive Woodhouse's Antpecker - see the photo for proof! And then the close Cassin's Honeybird that was outdone by the Cassin's Hawk Eagle! The keenest birders were most impressed by the excellent selection of medium-altitude Albertine Rift endemics that we saw (the highest altitude ones are logistically beyond our reach without special planning). These species are restricted to these mountains and their ranges extend just over the border to Rwanda and the Congo, but you are unlikely to see them there! Top must go to our amazing views of the pitta-shaped Neumann's Warbler - but then there was the Red-throated Alethe too! The rather drab Chapin's Flycatcher was a great find, as was Red-faced Woodland Warbler and Mountain Apalis.

-- Chimpanzees!

These are always an unexpected highlight, after all, it's not every day one gets to meet human's closest relative. While gorillas are docile and gentle, chimps are much more active and harder to watch as they swing in the tree tops and rush along the forest floor. However, we were treated to an hour watching a mum and baby rather

messily eating figs in a treetop, and perhaps more excitingly, a whole troop was spotted by Deirdre crossing the road in the open while we all had our eyes in the trees. We rushed over to where she was and had close views in the open; one mother had a very small baby below her. Their shrieks and buttress-slapping sounds resonated through the forest and was almost as exciting as the sightings.

-- Kibale Forest and that Black Bee-eater!

Kibale was our first introduction to the Central African forests and it was here that we saw many of the common forest species for the first time. However, the undisputed highlight must surely have been the full-scoped view of that Black Bee-eater! Other goodies were the butterfly-display of Black-and-white Shrike Flycatcher, Superb Sunbird, Honeyguide Greenbul, Cassin's Flycatcher and some also had great views of Narina Trogon. Nearby we photographed Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters. *Monodora myristica* was that tree with the fabulous, orchid-like hanging flowers.

-- More Monkey Business!

We also spent some time finding and watching the "non-ape" primates, often thanks to Deirdre's sharp eyes. Red-tailed Monkey was a favourite; the sinister Grey-cheeked Mangabey (now split as Uganda Mangabey, and Uganda's only endemic monkey) was seen better than we've ever seen it before; Red Colobus was a good find at Kibale; the shaggy Guereza Colobus are perhaps the most elegant-looking; and special mention must be made of the extended views of the terrestrial L'Hoest's Monkey at Kibale. In the savanna areas, we also had close views of a troop of Olive Baboons and the dominant male showed off his large canines. Vervet Monkeys were seen well too.

-- Butterflies!

Perhaps the greatest surprise for everyone was the abundance and diversity of butterflies that seemed particularly eye-catching and active. Blue Mother-of-Pearl butterflies, African Leaf Butterflies, African Map butterfly, Emperors, Swallowtails, Gliders, Sailors, Pansies, Commodores, and numerous Acraeas, Blues, Whites and others all entertained. One puddle near a lunch stop in QENP had about 30 species of butterflies, from intricately-patterned Blues to outrageous Swallowtails.

-- Our Accommodation:

Besides the comfortable rooms and superb meals served on the veranda at our Entebbe Guest House, the garden birding was superb. African Hobbies performed their acrobatics above the garden while Red-chested and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds looked on and Eastern Grey Plantain-eater cackled maniacally to themselves. From our Bwindi lodge, the views were spectacular: a steep valley dropped away in front of the lodge, with a rushing river below, and the forested slopes of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest just on the other side! Guereza Colobus were in the tree tops, and Cinnamon-chested and White-throated Bee-eaters hawked from dead snags. Mind you, a troop of gorillas even took up residence in front of the restaurant for three days about a month before we arrived! Our lodge at Mweya, in QENP, was perched on a high peninsula with panoramic views of the Kasinga channel and Lake Edward, with distant African Buffalo drinking below. The garden was full of weavers, sunbirds, canaries, robin-chats and more – and African Fish-Eagles glided past at eye level. Our Kibale forest accommodation was very private, with an exclusive section of forest and swamp to explore, even though the rooms were a bit more rustic than elsewhere. However, the wildlife was superb: White-spotted Flufftail at our feet in the forest, a profusion of Fireball lilies, Snowy-crowned Robin-chat at breakfast, the sounds of the Chimps coming from the adjacent forest and Black-and-white Casqued Hornbills flying overhead.

-- Game watching: the other mammals!

Both Queen Elizabeth and Mburo offered superb game watching. A huge trip highlight was spending some time watching a family group of African Elephants close to the bus as they fed, communicated and the young ones crossed the road a few metres in front of us. Later, a huge bull lumbered up the road and we had to wait about half an hour for him to move off. Buffalo, Topi, Uganda Kob, Waterbuck, Hippo and Warthog were watched too, as were Zebra, Impala and Eland (for some) in Mburo. This isn't quite the Serengeti or the Kruger Park for cats: we did look quite hard in areas where we have seen both Leopard and Lion on past trips, but a series of pug marks in a patch of mud on the road was the closest we came.

-- Great roadside birding!

Getting to our next lodge was always a challenge as progress was hampered by the steady supply of excellent birds that could be seen from the roadside. Long-crested Eagles sat on telephone poles, Palmnut Vulture drifted by, flocks of the giant Great Blue Turacos hopped in fruiting trees with Black-and-white Casqued Hornbills, Marabou Storks patrolled the towns with Rüppell's Glossy Starlings, and White-throated Bee-eaters and Broad-billed Rollers kept vigil on the telephone wires. We stopped at a roadside papyrus swamp, where with some patient recording of calls, we had stunning views of a pair of Papyrus Gonolek - this skulking bush-shrike with its bright red underparts and yellow cap was very popular (while White-winged Warbler here was rather more brief and much more drab).

-- The crater drive in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP).

After breakfast, we headed out on what 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. We had our picnic lunch over a forested crater. Raptors, including Bedouin's Snake Eagle, Bateleur, Wahlberg's Eagle, Shrika, White-backed, White-headed and a pair of the huge Lappet-faced Vultures, soared just overhead, mixed with European Bee-eaters. The weather was perfect for this drive; but if it is raining, the road becomes impassable.

-- The dancing cranes!

Twenty Grey-crowned Cranes dancing in a field near Bwindi were a surprise on the second last day of the trip. They were edged out of their positions by a long procession of sheep, followed by dairy cows, and accompanied by Woolley-necked Storks – a strange menagerie indeed! Adding to this were some good raptors: A Lizard Buzzard and then the elusive Ovambo Sparrowhawk perched in a tree for us to see. A great way to complete the Bwindi experience.

-- The boat trips

We already mentioned the Shoebill boat trip - but the dedicated cruise on the Kazinga Channel in QENP was perhaps even more spectacular, not only for the variety of birds seen (well over 60 species) but also for the sheer numbers and close views of mammals too – mind you, the private boat, with its carpeted floors, free drinks and finger snacks might have helped too! It was piloted by the lodge manager, who snuck away from his usual duties to look after us – and we rewarded him with a lifer, a small group of Caspian Plovers! Our heads never quite stopped spinning during the two 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 our UK migrants get up to when they are not at home! The Mburo boat trip was a special way to end the trip, and highlights included White-backed Night Heron, African Finfoot, Hippos you could almost touch, delicate Malachite Kingfishers, Ross's Turaco – but we did have to get back to the airport at some stage!

Thanks to all for a much-enjoyed tour.

Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken

Annotated list of birds

(Total number of birds recorded by group = 338 species)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

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

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*

A small group seen by one of the Chimp trekking groups at Kibale.

Red-necked Francolin *Francolinus afer*

Very common along roadsides in QENP.

White-faced Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Numerous on the Shoebill boat trip.

Fulvous Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Numerous on the Shoebill boat trip.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen well at the Shoebill swamp.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Seen well at the Shoebill swamp.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Many 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 a juvenile on the Mburo boat trip.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Seen on the first day around Entebbe and Shoebill trip.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Seen really well on the Kazinga channel trip and from the vehicle in Entebbe.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

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

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

A small flock with some cows and Crowned Cranes near Bwindi!

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

A few on the lawns of the State House at Entebbe.

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

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

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Common and conspicuous throughout, characteristic raucous call.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Seen on the Shoebill trip.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

Good views on the Kazinga channel.

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus*

Good views on the Mburo boat trip of this highlight bird!

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Good views on the Mburo boat trip.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Seen well on the Mburo boat trip.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Seen on the Kazinga channel trip, Shoebill marsh and Mburo trip.

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 2 on the Kazinga channel.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Seen on the Shoebill marsh.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Seen on the Kazinga trip and the Shoebill marsh.

Black Egret *Egretta ardesiaca*

Seen on the Shoebill marsh doing its classic umbrella-feeding.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Small numbers on 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.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Common around Entebbe and Kazinga Channel; also at Mburo.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Seen well on the Kazinga channel boat trip.

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

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

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Over 200 seen on the Kazinga boat trip near the gull roost.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

Seen very closely in QENP, on a candelabra tree; and roadsides nearby.

African Hobby *Falco cuvieri*

Two in our garden at Entebbe; excellent views!

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A few on the roadsides.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

The African taxon, Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus (migrans) aegyptius*, 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 on the roadside on the first day.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Small numbers near towns.

African White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

Small numbers in QENP; soaring below us on the Crater Drive.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

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.

Beudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus beudouini*

Two birds seen initially perched and then flying overhead and across the road in QENP; this African species is sometimes lumped under the same species as the migrant Short-toed Eagle.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

Common in QENP, with adults and juveniles seen; one also near Mburo.

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 and also common along the Kazinga channel.

African Harrier-hawk *Polyboroides typus*

Small numbers on many days; this large grey raptor with the white tail band is also known as Gymnogone.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

One seen in the garden at a hotel lunch stop for some.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

One at the hotel garden lunch stop and another flying below us against the crater lake.

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus*

One seen flying next to the vehicle at Mburo for some.

Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

Amazing scoped views of this rare and overlooked raptor at the crane fields near Buhoma.

Black Goshawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

Excellent scope views in the roadside "Mangabey" forest patch; also briefly in the forest near the Shoebill.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

One flying by at the crane spot near Buhoma.

Common (Steppe) Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Small numbers in QENP.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Great views en route to Mburo in the river gorge, and also distantly at the coffee shop in town.

Cassin's Hawk-eagle *Aquila africana*

Very clear and close views overhead at Buhoma.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Small numbers of this attractive eagle seen along roadsides throughout.

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*

Close views along the forested shoreline of Lake Mburo on our boat trip.

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

Wonderful views of the arch-skulker in a forest swamp near our Kibale accommodation.

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa*

Heard calling from a dense reddbed on the edge of Lake Victoria but refused to show!

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

Seen well all the boat trips.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

We had good views of the African green-backed race on the Shoebill trip.

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

The national bird of Uganda was seen widely in roadside fields, especially on the travel days, but the definite highlight was watching a field of about 20 dancing birds near Buhoma.

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*

Very common on the Kazinga trip, also at Mburo.

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris*

Seen well on the Shoebill boat trip.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

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 and Mburo boat trips.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticulus*

Seen on the Shoebill and Kazinga channel boat trips.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Common on the Kazinga boat trip.

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*

Three seen on the shoreline from the Mweya boat trip were an excellent record!

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Seen at Entebbe Bot Garden, at the salty crater lake and 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*

Many on all the boat trips; seen very well.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Seen on both the Shoebill and Kazinga trips, showing well in grass on the channel edge.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Two seen well on the Mweya boat trip.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Seen on the Kazinga channel.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Small numbers on all the boat trips.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Seen well in Mburo.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Small numbers on all the boat trips.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common on the Kazinga channel.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Small numbers on the Shoebill trip and on the Kazinga channel.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Good views on the Shoebill trip.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Small numbers on the Shoebill trip and on the Kazinga channel.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Small numbers on the Shoebill trip and on the Kazinga channel.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*

A few of this larger, greyer gull in amongst the Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

A big flock of about 100 on the Kazinga channel.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

Fantastic views of about 100 overwintering birds on Lake Victoria.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Smaller numbers among the Slender-billed Gulls.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

Common on the Shoebill trip and on the Kazinga channel.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Common on Lake Victoria and Kazinga Channel.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

A few big flocks of overwintering birds on Lake Victoria.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Common on the Kazinga trip.

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*

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

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Small numbers of “Feral Pigeons” in some towns.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Small numbers in towns, often replaces “Feral Pigeon”.

Afep Pigeon *Columba uncinata*

Ghostly call heard by both chimp-trekking trips and a flock of three was seen overflying in the morning.

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*

A small pigeon flying over at the forest lunch spot en route to Bwindi could only have been this species; they were also heard calling here and at Bwindi.

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen at QENP.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Common and widespread throughout.

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Common in savanna areas.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Uncommon and mainly seen in towns and QENP.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*

One seen at Mburo.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*

Widespread in small numbers.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

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

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*

Seen at Mburo.

Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

Only seen in flight: at the filling station on the first morning, and the “Mangabey stop”.

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri*

Seen well at the fuel stop on day 2.

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*

A spectacular bird! Small numbers throughout, and seen very well.

Black-billed Turaco *Tauraco schuettii*

Seen at Buhoma.

Ross's Turaco *Mussophaga rossae*

Seen on our drive to Kibale and then from the boat at Mburo.

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

Small numbers at Mburo.

Eastern Grey Plantain-eater *Crinifer zonurus*

Common around Entebbe, and seen from our hotel.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

Seen well on the Mburo boat trip.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Heard often, but not seen on this trip, despite much trying!

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

Heard often, but not seen on this trip, despite much trying!

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 and seen by some.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Superb views at Buhoma!

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Seen well around the weaver colonies a few times.

Yellowbill *Ceuthmochares aereus*

Seen on the forest edge at Kibale.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

Heard on the Shoebill boat trip.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

Seen very well in QENP where very common; also near Buhoma.

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

Heard in the evenings near our Mburo accommodation.

- Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*
Heard in the evenings near our Kibale accommodation.
- Swamp Nightjar** *Caprimulgus natalensis*
Heard in the evenings near our Mburo accommodation.
- Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*
One over the forest at Bwindi.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
Small numbers near palms on travel days.
- Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*
Small numbers at Kibale and over the craters in QENP.
- 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 by one of the chimp-trekking groups.
- Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis*
Seen in the tree tops, and flying, at Kibale.
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*
Common and widespread, especially around Entebbe and along roadsides.
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*
Amazing views of them displaying in QENP, a smart bird!
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*
One near the Shoebill spot and .
- Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*
Heard only, in QENP and Kibale.
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*
Common and widespread.
- African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ceyx pictus*
A few seen briefly only.
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*
Excellent views on the boat trips.
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
Very common on the boat trips.
- Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis*
Amazing views near its nest at Kibale; a much-desired forest bee-eater.
- Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*
Three at QENP.
- Blue-breasted Bee-eater** *Merops variegatus*
Seen well at the Shoebill swamp.
- Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** *Merops oreobates*
Seen well at a quarry near Kibale where they were nesting.
- White-throated Bee-eater** *Merops albicollis*
Common and widespread; a very striking bee-eater.
- Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*
Common around water, such as the Kazinga channel.
- European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
Seen well during our crater lake lunch stop in QENP.
- White-headed Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei*
A family group seen well at Buhoma.
- Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*
A small group in Mburo.
- Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cynaomelas*
Seen in QENP.
- Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus*
Small numbers throughout; the hornbill with the red bill.
- African Pied Hornbill** *Tockus fasciatus*
Small numbers in forest patches near Lake Victoria; seen very well.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Seen at Mburo.

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 the Mangabey Spot; remember the nasal tuft?

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

Seen well at Kibale.

Western Green Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

One seen above us at Buhoma.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Seen well in the forest patch near the Shoebill swamp.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Seen well at Buhoma.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Seen well near Mweya.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

Seen well at the Mangabey Spot; very striking.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

Heard only, at Kibale.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

This gaudy red bird was seen on the crater drive in QENP.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

Heard often at Kibale but not seen.

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*

Great views at Buhoma.

Brown-backed or Wahlberg's Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus*

Seen by Robin near Kibale.

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Seen by some in QENP near the papyrus.

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Dendropicos xantholophus*

Seen well peeking out of its nest along the main trail at Buhoma; also flushed off the forest floor at Kibale.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

Seen well along the main trail at Buhoma.

Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Seen in the garden at a lunch stop.

Shrike-Flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

Seen at the forest patch near the Shoebill marsh and at Kibale; wags tail from side to side.

Black-and-white Flycatcher *Bias musicus*

Seen at Kibale; does a butterfly-like display flight.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya castanea*

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

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

Seen well near at Buhoma.

Grey-green Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei*

Heard only on the forest edge at Buhoma.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*

Seen well in rank growth in QENP.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

Seen well at Buhoma for some, on the scrubby forest edge.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

Seen in QENP.

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

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

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, and seen at Mburo.

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.

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.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Common (especially in QENP) and often seen on the roadsides.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Small numbers throughout; especially in the highlands around Buhoma.

Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Heard only at Kibale.

Montane Oriole *Oriolus percivali*

Seen at Buhoma on the main trail.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Seen on our drives in the QENP and also Mburo.

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*

Seen along the road at the Mangabey Spot.

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

Seen well at Kibale.

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.

White-headed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne albiceps*

Seen on the crater drive.

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Small numbers at the forest edge at Buhoma.

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

Rock Martin *Pyonoprogne fuligula*

Seen at 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, and we found a nest with chicks at a lunch stop.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Two at Mweya.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Common and widespread.

Rufous-chested Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*

One seen well on the Shoebill trip.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Seen at Mweya.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*

Seen in the QENP.

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

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

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Seen at our accommodation near Kibale.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami*

Many heard along the crater lake drive in QENP – and one seen!

Chubb's Cisticola *Cisticola chubbi*

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

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

Very common and widespread, but only seen well along the riverside at our lunch stop en route to Bwindi.

Carruthers's Cisticola *Cisticola carruthersi*

This papyrus-endemic has heard on the Shoebill trip.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

Heard in QENP.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Seen in QENP and Mbuho.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Widespread, seen first in the garden at our lunch stop.

White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon*

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

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 and Kibale.

Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

Good views at Buhoma.

Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida*

Heard a lot, and seen well at a papyrus stop and on the Mbuho boat trip.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera (brachyura) brevicaudata*

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

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

Seen at Buhoma.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Common and widespread!

Shelley's Greenbul *Andropadus masukuensis*

A small group of these grey-headed birds seen foraging along trunks in a bird party at Buhoma.

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

Heard often, and seen at Buhoma.

(Little) Grey Greenbul *Andropadus gracilis*

One heard at the our lunch stop en route to Bwindi.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*

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

Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

Seen well at Kibale and Buhoma.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*

Seen at Buhoma, high in the canopy.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris*

We eventually got good views of this skulker in a tangle at Buhoma.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*

Seen well at Kibale.

Yellow-throated Greenbul *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Seen by some at Buhoma.

Toro Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*

Seen well at Kibale and heard at Bwindi.

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

A super skulker, but seen well at Buhoma.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

Seen along the forest trail at Buhoma; should rather be named "white-throated"!

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*

Heard often but not seen.

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

Seen at Buhoma; a smart bird!

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*

Seen well at Buhoma between the park and the lodge.

Neumann's Warbler *Hemitesia neumanni*

Superb views of this tough Albertine Rift endemic after some searching!

White-winged Swamp Warbler *Bradypterus carpalis*

Seen in the dense papyrus beds of the Kazinga Channel.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*

Heard in a leafy tangle along the forest trail at Buhoma.

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

Heard only along the crater drive through QENP.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Seen along the Kazinga channel.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Seen at Kibale.

Red-faced Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus laetus*

Great views of this Albertine Rift endemic along the forest trail at Buhoma.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

Seen in a tangle at Kibale.

White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta leucophrys*

Heard along the main trail at Buhoma.

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis albipectus*

Good views of this skulker at Buhoma.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

Heard only at Kibale.

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, mainly Entebbe and Buhoma.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnirycinclus leucogaster*

Seen in fruiting trees in Entebbe and in QENP.

Splendid Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

An attractive, large starling that was common on drives through degraded forest, and seen well in Entebbe.

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; one at Buhoma.

Stuhlmann's Starling *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*

A small group seen in a dead tree at Buhoma.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

At least 20 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*

Superb views of this skulking Albertine Rift endemic on the main trail at Buhoma.

Grey-winged Akalat *Sheppardia polioptera*

Seen along the trail at Buhoma.

Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

Seen along the trail at Buhoma.

White-bellied Robin-chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

Two seen by Deirdre along the main trail at Buhoma hopped out of view as we approached.

Blue-shouldered Robin-chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*

Heard only for most, although seen briefly by some at Kibale.

White-browed Robin-chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Very common at QENP, even seen at our accommodation.

Snowy-crowned Robin-chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

Seen well at our Kibale accommodation.

Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*

Seen well perched atop a bush at our Kibale and Buhoma accommodation.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

A few in open country in QENP.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*

Seen on the drives through QENP.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*

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

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Widespread in small numbers.

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 Kibale.

Chapin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa lendu*

One seen along the main trail at Buhoma. This scarce Albertine Rift endemic was a good find.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

Seen along the forest edge at Buhoma.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

Seen along the forest edge at Buhoma.

Grey-throated Tit-flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

Heard at Kibale.

Grey-headed Sunbird *Deleornis axillaris*

Small numbers seen well at Buhoma in the forest bird parties.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*

Two seen well at Buhoma.

Green Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*

Seen at Buhoma.

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.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

Seen at Kibale.

Western Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra obscura*

This drab forest sunbird seen at Kibale and Buhoma.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Common and widespread, even in towns.

Bronze Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis*

Small numbers at Buhoma on the forest edge.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius*

Seen well at Kibale.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris reichenowi*

Common around Buhoma.

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis*

Two in the hotel garden lunch stop.

Red-chested Sunbird *Cinnyris erythrocerus*

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

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*

Excellent views of a male at Kibale.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

Good views near Kibale and by some near Buhoma.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Abundant and widespread in towns.

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!

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Two in QENP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Common and widespread in small numbers 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 at Buhoma.

Northern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus castanops*

Seen on the Shoebill trip, hopping on the lily pads. Pale eye and brown face. Also seen on the Mburo boat trip.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

Breeding in the tree over the water at Mburo.

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.

Weyns's Weaver *Ploceus weynsi*

Surprisingly common and seen well near the Shoebill spot, both in the forest and flying over the water, perhaps to their little-known nests.

Yellow-backed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

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

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Small numbers in QENP.

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*

Two on the roadside near Buhoma.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

A few around Mweya in breeding plumage.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

One seen on the drive near Buhoma.

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

Males seen best on the Shoebill trip.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

A flock on the crater drive.

Woodhouse's Antpecker *Parmoptila woodhousei*

Excellent views of this tricky species at Buhoma.

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*

Heard at Kibale.

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus*

Seen at the Mangabey Spot, in the scope.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Common and widespread.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

One near the roadside on the second day.

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullatus*

Small flocks common throughout.

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

A few of the glossy-black males seen in villages, mimicking the call of their host, the Red-billed Firefinch.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

The males were conspicuous throughout.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Very common on open patches and roads throughout.

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

A few near our accommodation at Buhoma.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Common in towns.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

A number seen in QENP.

Brimstone Canary *Serinus sulphuratus*

Seen in the lunch stop garden, and many around Mweya.

Reptiles

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

Some impressive specimens on the Kazinga and Mburo boat trips.

Nile Monitor *Varanus niloticus*

One at the very end of the Kazinga boat trip.

Blue-headed Tree Agama *Acanthocercus atricollis*

One at the very end of the Kazinga boat trip.

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia*

Common on the walls at Mweya at night.

Butterflies

The butterflies were nothing short of spectacular, with probably about 100 species noted. We did identify many of the species at the time, and if anybody would like their photo IDs confirmed, they are most welcome to email them to me.

Mammals

Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis*

A single scrub-hare was seen by some at Lake Mburo National Park.

Boehm's Squirrel *Paraxerus boehmi*

This bush squirrel was seen twice in liana tangles at Kibale National Park's Kanyanchu Headquarters. It's a small olive squirrel with pale stripes in between two bold black flank stripes.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

This very agile arboreal squirrel was seen flicking its tail at Kibale and Bwindi forests. It's a medium-sized grizzled squirrel with reddish limbs and black-and-white barred tail.

African Giant Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

Also very agile and arboreal, two were seen by Anne and Deirdre chasing each other near our bungalows, during our morning's bird walk in Kibale's swamp forest. They are large grizzled squirrels with a large grey head, reddish body and long black-and-white barred tail.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

Seen flying into the reed roof while dining at Lake Mburo National Park.

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza*

Also known as Black-and-white Colobus, this thumbless black forest monkey with white mantle and beard was first spotted at the roadside en route to Kibale National Park, and seen a number of times thereafter.

These colobids have adapted to eat 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 from Entebbe to Kibale!

Ugandan Red Colobus *Piliocolobus tephrosceles*

A large group of this thumbless grey and red forest monkey was in Kibale National Park. 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 compared to the black and white colobus, they need a greater variety and a greater proportion of young leaves. Also called Central Africa Red Colobus.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*

The most widespread of baboon species. Our first sighting was at Kibale National Park, where a group ran into the forest, while a large male stayed on the lookout and showed the best of its injured jaw and mouth. Also seen at Maramagambo Forest and Buhoma's park headquarters. At Lake Mburo National Park, we observed a harem that sat decidedly on the road blocking access to our boat launch. Juveniles and youngsters were the last ones to flee. Babies hung on bellies, others groomed each other or sat watching us and males yawned ostensibly, showing off their large canines. Ritualised jawning is an important way of emphatic signalling amongst males.

OLD NAME: Grey-cheeked Mangabey *Lophocebus albigena*

NEW NAME: Uganda Mangabey *Lophocebus ugandae*

These greyish ghostly-looking forest monkeys were first seen en-route to Kibale National Park. As Deirdre spotted them while driving through road works alongside some recent forest clearing, we stopped to absorb unusually close views. The group suffered from local extermination as they raided maize crops planted into the remnant forest patches. We were very lucky to see them so closely, and to even see several groups during that drive. These mostly arboreal monkeys are very agile and walk with an impressive stance, displaying their sharply angular shoulders and hips. The kink in their long tail reminds of their close relatives, baboons. The next day brought even more luck as two individuals were feeding at Kibale's Kanyanchu headquarters. One was eating Avocado flowers while the other was enjoying figs, while seated in a fig tree only 2 m above the ground! This one was most concerned with eating as many figs as he could possibly stuff in its cheek! They however mainly eat hard fruits and nuts and have adapted very strong teeth to get through the hardest of seeds such as those of *Monodora* (African orchid nutmeg) and Avocado, in which we found its teethmarks! It was enjoying the figs so much that it tolerated us to enjoy the best of the early morning observing and photographing it from only 3 m!

Red-tailed Monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*

The smallest forest guenon we've seen; first seen en-route to the Shoebill swamp. Also seen en-route to Kibale, at Kibale Forest, surrounding our accommodation and along the main road during our way out. Many seen in Bwindi forest at Buhoma. Their brightly coloured face (with white heart-shaped nose, white moustache and blue mask), long red tail and great agility indicate their great sense of space and colour! They jerk their head distinctively and chirp bird like high-pitched alarm calls. Mostly seen mid canopy, scanning leaves for insects. They also eat fruits, flowers and leaves.

OLD Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus [nictitans] mitis*

NEW Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*

These large long-tailed blue-grey monkeys, which are common over much of Africa, were heard only 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 lhoesti*

The most threatened monkey we saw. First seen en-route from Entebbe to Kibale, in one of the remnant forest patches, climbing through a dense tangle. However, this quiet forest monkey is usually seen moving along the ground. A large group was observed extensively alongside the main Kibale Forest road. As they quietly and repeatedly crossed the road, we were treated with exceptional views of its long-limbed dark body, white beard, and typical question-mark kink at the end of its tail. It eats mostly fruits and young leaves. A few were also seen at Buhoma during the gorilla trek.

OLD Tantalus Monkey *Cercopithecus tantalus*

NEW Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus tantalus*

The largest of the savannah monkeys. First seen at Queen Elizabeth National Park but best views were enjoyed at Lake Mburo National Park, from our boat, at the boat launch and during our last game drive. This small long-tailed monkey has a back face with white cheeks and brow band, and a gold-green grizzled back and crown. Omnivorous.

Eastern Gorilla *Gorilla beringei*

Our tracking eventually brought us close and fantastic views of these endangered "Mountain Gorillas". Some gorillas became so interested in our group that they actually walked up to touch us! A major trip highlight!

Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*

We tracked our closest relatives very carefully. They had been moving about silently the past few days, patrolling their borders for any intruders. Both our tracking groups eventually joined up to watch two Chimpanzees feeding on the young fruits of a fig tree (*Ficus varifolia*) and later the leaves of *Celtis mildbraedii*. That morning, while birding on the main forest road, Deirdre smelled and then spotted a Chimpanzee crossing the road, upon which everyone dropped binoculars to see 6 Chimpanzees! As we all stood in a line across the wide murrum road, buttress trees towering out above us, one by one, they appeared from inside the forest and sat on the raised bank before steadily crossing the road. It was amazing to witness them watching us before they crossed, or to see them walk on their knuckles so silently but powerfully, to see the juvenile with its white tail-tuft and to see a newborn's hands and feet stick out from underneath its mother's belly.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

Very common in Queen Elizabeth National Park and Lake Mburo National Park where a male was grazing the area around the boat launch. Warthogs have a short neck and typically drop down through their knees to feed. They eat short grasses and roots, which they unearth with the sharp edge of their nose disc. Tusks are used to 'tusk wrestle' while the three pairs of facial callosities protect their jaws, eye and muzzle.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Very common in the Kazinga Channel, were they proved not too shy of our luxury boat! Several seen in and out the water; some being preened by Yellow-billed Oxpeckers. Several groups were also seen basking in the morning sun at Lake Mburo National Park.

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer*

Big herds along the Kazinga channel; some being preened by Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, some in between a flock of African Skimmers. These buffalo are more reminiscent of forest than savanna buffaloes, currently considered as different forms of the same species. Some herds along the southern section of Queen Elizabeth National Park and a huge herd at Lake Mburo National Park.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*

Seen briefly by Deirdre only at the Lake Mburo boat launch. Like other bovines, it has a narrow head and deep body. It's solitary and feeds on browse and grass.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx*

Very large tan-coloured bovine with spiraled horns and dewlap in males and females. Two were seen by Anita at Lake Mburo National Park.

Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus defassa*

Many sightings near Queen Elizabeth National Park and inside the park; 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. We also saw a few harems at Lake Mburo National Park.

Uganda Kob *Kobus kob thomasi*

Very common antelope in Queen Elizabeth National Park. An ochre-coloured and medium sized robust antelope. It was once exterminated from all shores of Lake Victoria but is now Uganda's national antelope. It's dependent on daily access to water and grows very quickly. Closely related to Waterbuck, it also has a pungent odour and forward curving horn tips.

Topi *Damaliscus lunatus*

Seen in small groups at Lake Mburo National Park. This large brown-purple antelope shows a deep chest, ridged shoulders, short neck and long face (so still able to reach the ground!). It lives in small residential groups, that congregate into large herds during migration. Its horns are double-curved and hollow. They're

faster and more agile than Kob and Waterbuck and are closely related to the well-known Impala and Wildebeest. This grazer prefers the longer leaves.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*

Several bachelor and mixed herds seen at Lake Mburo National Park. This ochre-coloured medium-sized gazelle-like antelope resembles Topi in its fast gait, long legs, long face, short neck and double-curved and hollow horns. It mostly grazes in the wet season and browses in the dry season. In Uganda, it only occurs at Lake Mburo National Park.

Black-fronted Duiker *Cephalophus nigrifrons*

Medium-sized glossy russet duikers with black front. Shy. One was seen by Anita and Deirdre, crossing the forest trail at Buhoma. Another was seen crossing the forest trail and walking alongside it for over 50 m. We followed it and were rewarded with unusual and extensive views. Eats mainly fruit; also leaves.

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

Spoor of these gentle giants was first seen at Kibale National Park, where the savanna species seasonally enters the forest from Queen Elizabeth National Park. Two were first seen along the main road before entering Queen Elizabeth National Park. When departing the Mweya area of Queen Elizabeth National Park, we found ourselves among a herd that was feeding alongside the road, allowing extensive and close views from both sides of the bus. Later that day, a few individuals were seen nearby a second herd. While most of the herd was drinking from a waterhole, a juvenile stubbornly blocked the road, allowing us fabulous photographs and views! When it eventually moved off the road, he got a chance to practice some head-shacking and ear-flapping mock-charges!

Plains Zebra (Boehm's subspecies) *Equus quagga boehmi*

Several seen at Lake Mburo National Park. They live in stable harems, with up to 6 females and their young. The stallion threatens approaching males while the females are not very tolerant to incomers.