Field Guides Tour Report

Uganda: Shoebill, Rift Endemics & Gorillas 2018

May 19, 2018 to Jun 8, 2018

Jesse Fagan

For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE.

Rothschild's Giraffes on the savanna at Murchison Falls NP. Photo by guide Jesse Fagan.

Thanks to our fun group for a very good time in Uganda. We couldn't have done it without are fine team of guides, tour reps, and driver. Thanks to Alfred, Elias, and David, as well as, Grace and Judith at Far Horizons. And, of course, many, many thanks to all of our local guides and porters who pushed and pulled us up and down mountains to see Uganda's awesome wildlife.

I wish you all the best in your future travels and hope to see you again soon.

Jesse Fagan (aka Motmot) from Lima, Peru

KEYS FOR THIS LIST
One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)
WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK (Dendrocygna viduata) – Fairly common, (but never big numbers) in wetlands like Mabamba Swamp and Lake Mbuoro. This species is found in South America and Africa.

COMB DUCK (OLD WORLD) (Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos) – This odd duck was seen in flight and perched on top of a tree during our Victoria Nile boat ride. Also known as Knob-billed Duck and sometimes separated from the Comb Duck of South America.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (Alopochen aegyptiaca) – Good numbers in most wetland habitat. Our first was along the shores of Lake Victoria.

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE (Plectropterus gambensis) – Our only ones were a group of 10 near Lake Albert.

HOTTENTOT TEAL (Spatula hottentota) – This was a surprise. A group of four were in a few shallow pools along the road as we left Lake Mbuoro.

AFRICAN BLACK DUCK (Anas sparsa) – Another surprise was finding a pair of this species in The Neck (Bwindi Imp. For.).

YELLOW-BILLED DUCK (Anas undulata) – Seen at Mabamba Swamp and again at Lake Mbuoro NP.

Numididae (Guineafowl)

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL (Numida meleagris) – Common in dry brushlands and grasslands. Often seen along the road.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)
HANDSOME FRANCOLIN (Pternistis nobilis) – Paul spotted our first along the road in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest on our way out of Ruhija. We were able to get good scope views.

HEUGLIN’S FRANCOLIN (Pternistis icterorhynchos) – One atop a termite mound near Masindi was a great look.

RED-NECKED FRANCOLIN (Pternistis afra) – These were common at Queen Elizabeth NP and around Lake Mbuuro.

CRESTED FRANCOLIN (Dendroperdix sephaena) – Less common than the previous species, but seen well, our best looks at Lake Mbuuro.

**Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)**

LESSER FLAMINGO (Phoeniconaias minor) – Just two immatures on a salt pan at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**Ciconiidae (Storks)**

AFRICAN OPENBILL (Anastomus lamelligerus) – Singles here and there, but mainly from the moving vehicle. Not super common.

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK (Leptoptilos crumenifer) – A common denizen of roadside dumps and communication towers. This bird stands as tall as a small child.

YELLOW-BILLED STORK (Mycteria ibis) – Not many, but seen well on the Victoria Nile and again at the Kazinga Channel.

**Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)**

LONG-TAILED CORMORANT (Microcarbo africanus) – Good numbers at Lake Victoria and along the Victoria Nile.

GREAT CORMORANT (White-breasted) (Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus) – A few along the Victoria Nile, but large concentrations were on the Kazinga Channel near Lake Edward. The African subspecies (several) show white breasts unlike European populations.

**Anhingidae (Anhingas)**

AFRICAN DARTER (Anhinga rufa rufa) – This sharp looking bird was seen well on the Victoria Nile.

**Pelecanidae (Pelicans)**

GREAT WHITE PELICAN (Pelecanus onocrotalus) – One atop a termite mound near Masindi was a great look.

**Balaenicipitidae (Shoebill)**

SHOEBILL (Balaeniceps rex) – This species tied for bird of the trip. Not surprisingly. It is an awesome creature. Mabamba Swamp came through for us and we enjoyed very close intimate looks with a pair.

**Scopidae (Hamerkop)**

HAMERKOP (Scopus umbretta) – We remarked on their huge stick nests in the acacia trees. Seen throughout the tour.

**Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)**

DWARF BITTERN (Ixobrychus sturnii) – One at Queen Elizabeth NP sitting on top of some tall grasses had us all scratching our heads. We got it in the scope just to be sure. Probably a migrant moving around looking for a good marsh.

GRAY HERON (Ardea cinerea) – Good numbers on the Nile.

BLACK-HEADED HERON (Ardea melanoccephala) – One of the more common herons seen on the tour.

GOLIATH HERON (Ardea goliath) – This beast of a heron was seen well during our Nile boat ride.

PURPLE HERON (Ardea purpurea) – Good numbers along the Nile, but also again at Lake Mbuuro.

GREAT EGRET (Ardea alba) – Not super common, but seen at Murchison, Queen Elizabeth NP, and around Lake Mbuuro. A few were seen from the moving vehicle, too.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (Ardea intermedia) – We had three near Kakoge and then another at Murchison Falls.

LITTLE EGRET (Egretta garzetta) – This one is most similar to our New World Snowy Egret. However, in non-breeding the lores are gray and it lacks the elaborate neck plumes, instead being replaced by two simple long feathers. Elegant.

CATTLE EGRET (Bubulcus ibis) – Cattle Egrets in the Old World! Count ‘em.

SQUACCO HERON (Ardeola ralloides) – Lots along the Victoria Nile.

RUFIOUS-BELLIED HERON (Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis) – We debated whether this bird should be the national bird of Uganda. Spectacular bill and colors. Seen at Victoria Nile and a few other spots along the way.

MARABOU STORK (Leptoptilos crumenifer) – A common denizen of roadside dumps and communication towers. This bird stands as tall as a small child.

**Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)**

SACRED Ibis (Threskiornis aethiopicus) – More seen on the second-half of the tour like on the Kazinga Channel and Lake Mbuuro. Also, seen on the drives feeding in rice fields.

HADADA IBIS (Bostrychia hagedash) – These were common throughout the tour.

**African Spoonbill** (Platalea alba) – One was at the Kazinga Channel.

**Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)**

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (Elanus caeruleus) – Singles at a few sites.

AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK (Polyboroides typus) – One of the more common raptors seen on tour.

Palm-nut Vulture (Gypohierax angolensis) – Not many this year, but good numbers around Ishasha.

**African Harrier-Hawk** (Polyboroides typus) – One of the more common raptors seen on tour.

**White-headed Vulture** (Trigonoceps occipitalis) – One was soaring with a vulture kettle over Ishasha. It was several sizes larger than the White-backed.

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE (Torgos tracheliotos) – Awesome looks at several individuals at a Zebra kill while leaving Lake Mbuuro.

**African Harrier-Hawk** (Polyboroides typus) – One of the more common raptors seen on tour.

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE (Torgos tracheliotos) – Awesome looks at several individuals at a Zebra kill while leaving Lake Mbuuro.
HOODED VULTURE (Necrosyrtes monachus) – A few around Entebbe at the start of the tour were our only ones.

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (Gyps africanus) – The most common vulture on this tour. Seen at Murchison Falls, Queen Elizabeth, Ishasha, and Lake Mbuuro.

RUEPELL’S GRIFFON (Gyps rueppelli) – One was scoped at Queen Elizabeth NP.

BATELEUR (Terathopius ecaudatus) – The odd shape in flight is diagnostic. We saw them regularly in the open country.

BLACK-BREASTED SNAKE-EAGLE (Circaetus pectoralis) – One was soaring low for good looks at Lake Mbuuro.

BROWN SNAKE-EAGLE (Circaetus cinereus) – Singles on the drives.

BANDED SNAKE-EAGLE (Circaetus cinerascens) – We stopped for one on our drive north to Masindi. The light banding on the legs and flanks was visible only at close range. Otherwise very similar to the previous species.

CROWNED EAGLE (Stephanoaetus coronatus) – Heard calling in flight, but briefly seen soaring through the Budongo treetops.

MARTIAL EAGLE (Polemaetus bellicosus) – Awesome perched scope views of an immature at Lake Mbuuro.

LONG-CRESTED EAGLE (Lophaetus occipitalis) – Best raptor silhouette prize? Common on telephone poles throughout the country.

AFRICAN HAWK-EAGLE (Aquila spilogaster) – A group of four were soaring over the acacia woodland at Lake Mbuuro.

LIZARD BUZZARD (Kaupifalco monogrammicus) – Fairly common at a few spots during the first half of our tour.

DARK CHANTING-GOSHAWK (Melierax metabates) – Good numbers (5 or so) near the escarpment on the day we drove from Murchison Falls back to Masindi. Our only ones, however.

GABAR GOSHAWK (Micronisus gabar) – One very quickly dashed by our boat along the shores of the Victoria Nile.

AFRICAN MARSH-HARRIER (Circus ranivorus) – Good numbers coursing over Mabamba Swamp and Lake Mbuuro.

BLACK KITE (Milvus migrans) – We had several northern migrant/winter visitors (Black-billed) still around the Murchison Falls area.

BLACK KITE (Milvus migrans – YELLOW-BILLED) (Milvus migrans parasitus) – Common throughout the tour.

AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE (Haliaeetus vocifer) – One was scoped perched above the forest as we left Bwindi from Ruhija.

AUGUR BUZZARD (Buteo augur) – Small numbers in the Bwindi/Buhoma region.

Otididae (Bustards)

BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARD (Lissotis melanogaster) – A pair were seen on our game drive through Murchison Falls NP.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

AFRICAN CRAKE (Crex egregia) – We spotted one out in the open in a roadside ditch as we left Queen Elizabeth NP.

BLACK CRAKE (Zapornia flavirostra) – Common in several wetland sites where they often walk in the open.

AFRICAN SWAMPHEN (Porphyrio melanocephalus) – One was seen during our boat ride down the Victoria Nile.

Sarothruridae (Flufftails)

WHITE-SPOTTED FLUFFTAIL (Sarothrura pulchra) [*]

Helionithidae (Pinfeet)

AFRICAN FINFOOT (Podica senegalensis) – Awesome views of a pair along the edges of Lake Mbuuro. Just three members of this family, two in the Old World, one in the New World (Sungrebe).

Gruidae (Cranes)

GRAY CROWNED-CRANE (Balearica regulorum) – What a beautiful bird. This is the national bird of Uganda. Thankfully, seen well on various occasions.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

WATER THICK-KNEE (Burhinus vermiculatus) – This species is not present in the north. We encountered them first at Queen Elizabeth NP and again further south.

SENEGAL THICK-KNEE (Burhinus senegalensis) – This was the species in the north, seen well along the Victoria Nile.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-WINGED STILT (Himantopus himantopus) – Our only ones were on the Kazinga Channel.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

LONG-TOED LAPWING (Vanellus crassirostris) – Seen well at Murchison Falls.

SPUR-WINGED LAPWING (Vanellus spinosus) – Good numbers at Murchison Falls and Kazinga Channel.

BLACK-HEADED LAPWING (Vanellus tectus) – A group of six were near our picnic lunch spot at Murchison Falls NP.

SENEGAL LAPWING (Vanellus lugubris) – Small numbers were seen at Queen Elizabeth NP.

CROWNED LAPWING (Vanellus coronatus) – Good numbers were seen at Queen Elizabeth NP, but this was our only site for them.

WATTLED LAPWING (Vanellus senegallus) – The most common lapwing on the tour. Seen at several sites.

KITTTLITZ’S PLOVER (Charadrius pectoralis) – At least three were seen on our boat ride down the Kazinga Channel.

THREE-BANDED PLOVER (Charadrius tricollaris) – One was seen on the Kazinga Channel and several more along a shallow pool as we left Lake Mbuuro.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

LESSER JACANA (Microparra capensis) – Just one (for a few folks) during our boat ride through Mabamba Swamp.

AFRICAN JACANA (Actophilornis africanus) – Good, close looks in Mabamba Swamp and again on the Nile.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON GREENSHANK (Tringa nebularia) – A few on a saltpan in Queen Elizabeth NP.

MARSH SANDPIPER (Tringa stagnatilis) – One was spotted by Paul and I during our Kazinga Channel boat ride.
**Turnicidae (Buttonquail)**

**SMALL BUTTONQUAIL** (Turnix sylvaticus) – Always good to see buttonquail. We had good looks at a bird running along the tire tracks ahead of our vehicle.

**Glaeolidiae (Pratincoles and Coursers)**

**TEMMINCK'S COURSER** (Cursorius temminckii) – Large numbers (20+) were around the place we parked to scope the saltpan at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**COLLARED PRATINCOLE** (Glareola pratincola) – A small group was along the muddy shore of the Kazinga Channel.

**Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)**

**GRAY-HOODED GULL** (Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus) – Large numbers at Lake Victoria.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (Larus fuscus) – A group of 8 were seen during our Kazinga Channel boat ride.

**GULL-BILLED TERN** (Gelochelidon nilotica) – Large numbers were on the Kazinga Channel where we had nice comparisons with the next species.

**WHITE-WINGED TERN** (Chlidonias leucopterus) – 100's or 1000's (?) at Lake Victoria (Entebbe) and Kazinga Channel. Most were in non-breeding plumage.

**AFRICAN SKIMMER** (Rynchops flavirostris) – Large numbers sitting along the banks of the Kazinga Channel.

**Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)**

**ROCK PIGEON** (Columbia livia) – Thankfully not seen too much (they are introduced here as well). They may have too much competition from the next species.

**SPECKLED PIGEON** (Columbia guinea) – Seen outside of Entebbe and again on the drive to Lake Mburow. A fairly localized species in Uganda.

**AFEP PIGEON** (Columbia unicincta) [*]

**RAMERON PIGEON** (Columbia arquatrix) – Good numbers in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

**BRONZE-NAPE PIGEON** (Columbia iriditorques) [*]

**MOURNING COLLARED-DOVE** (Streptopelia decipiens) – Common along the Victoria Nile.

**RED-EYED DOVE** (Streptopelia semitorquata) – The most common Streptopelia on this tour. Seen in a wide variety of habitats.

**RING-NECKED DOVE** (Streptopelia capicola) – Prefers dry brushland, so we had good numbers at Queen Elizabeth NP and Lake Mburow.

**VINACEOUS DOVE** (Streptopelia vinacea) – Small numbers around Masindi.

**LAUGHING DOVE** (Streptopelia senegalensis) – Not super common, but seen throughout the tour in a variety of habitats.

**EMERALD-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE** (Turtur chalcospilos) – These were around in good numbers at Lake Mburow. We scoped one from behind the bus.

**BLACK-BILLED WOOD-DOVE** (Turtur abyssinicus) – Our only one was in the Budongo Forest.

**BLUE-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE** (Turtur afer) – A bit more common than the other two Turturs, as they are found in a variety of habitats including cultivation and secondary growth. This one had the yellow bill.

**TAMBOURINE DOVE** (Columba lutaria) – Lots in the Murchison Falls-Masindi area, mostly by their call.

**AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON** (Treron calvus) – A nice looking bird that we saw well a few times.

**Musophagidae (Turacos)**

**GREAT BLUE TURACO** (Corythaëola cristata) – Turacos are just awesome. This is the largest and the most common. Seen well a few times.

**BLACK-BILLED TURACO** (Tauraco schuettii) – The Mubwindi Swamp hikers had this one well. Others just a heard only. One of the more difficult ones to see.

**WHITE-CRESTED TURACO** (Tauraco leucolophus) – We caught up with this species at Royal Ranch Swamp near Masindi.

**ROSS'S TURACO** (Musophaga rossae) – Some had it at the botanical gardens in Entebbe (like Paul), but we had it as a group during one of our roadside stops.

**BARE-FACED GO-AWAY-BIRD** (Corythaëoides personatus) – Do we like this name? Not sure.

**EASTERN PLANTAIN-EATER** (Cinirifer zonurus) – Good numbers on the first half of the tour, then they disappeared. No plantains in the west and south?!

**Cuculidae (Cuckoos)**

**SENEGAL COUCAL** (Centropus senegalensis) – Singles in the Masindi area.

**BLUE-HEADED COUCAL** (Centropus monachus) – Prefers papyrus marsh like Mabamba and along Lake Mburow.

**WHITE-BROWED COUCAL** (Centropus superciliosus) – Common throughout the tour, especially by voice.

**BLUE MALKOHA** (Ceuthmochares aereus) – This name is so cumbersome. Let's bring back Yellowbill.

**LEVAILLANT'S CUCKOO** (Clamator levaillantii) – This species was seen a few times at Lake Mburow.

**PIED CUCKOO** (Clamator jacobinus) – We had a pair on the Royal Mile walk.

**DIDERIC CUCKOO** (Chrysococcyx caprius) – Most of these Chrysococcyx cuckoos sorted out by call long before we saw them. This was an easy one to remember b/c it sounds like they are saying their name. "DEE-DEE-DIDERIC!"

**KLAAS'S CUCKOO** (Chrysococcyx klaas) – Just one on the tour.

**AFRICAN EMERALD CUCKOO** (Chrysococcyx cupreus) – A familiar sound in the taller forests.

**DUSKY LONG-TAILED CUCKOO** (Cercococcyx mexchowi) [*]

**BARRIED LONG-TAILED CUCKOO** (Cercococcyx montanus) – The Mubwindi Swamp hikers saw this species. Always tough.

**BLACK CUCKOO** (Cuculus clamosus) – The subspecies here is gabonensis, which looks a lot like Red-chested Cuckoo in poor light (something we found out!).

**RED-CHESTED CUCKOO** (Cuculus solitarius) – Seen or heard nearly every day of the tour.

**Strigidae (Owls)**

**AFRICAN SCOPS-OWL** (Otos senegalensis) – This one we called up our last night at Mburow camp. It is a tiny owl!
PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET (Glaucidium perlatum) – Seen well at Lake Mbuoro.
RED-CHESTED OWLET (Glaucidium tephronotum) – A new species for the tour thanks to the local knowledge of Alfred. We tracked down one at Kibale forest and folks had another on the trek to to Mubwindi swamp.
AFRICAN WOOD-OWL (Strix woodfordii) – For those that stayed out after Wayne's birthday celebration, we had a pair just down from the Buhoma Lodge.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

PENNANT-WINGED NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus vexillarius) – Awesome bird to see in flight right at dusk over the Lake Mbuoro savanna.
BLACK-SHOULDERED NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus nigriscapularis) – Seen at a site just outside of Masindi and heard again at Lake Mbuoro.
MONTANE NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus ruenzorii) – Also known as Rwenzori Nightjar, but not treated as a separate species by all taxonomic authorities. This species comprises several subspecies differing by the amount of white in the wing and slight vocal differences.
LONG-TAILED NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus climacurus) – New for our tour and a cool bird to see in flight. Seen at dusk near Masindi.
SLENDER-TAILED NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus clarus) – Seen at the same site as Long-tailed.
SQUARE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus fossilis) – We heard this one early one morning, then called it in the next evening.

Apodidae (Swifts)

SCARCE SWIFT (Schoutedenapus myoptilus) – A total of four were seen flying over the Kibale forest.
LITTLE SWIFT (Apus affinis) – Seen during our drives a few times.
WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT (Apus caffer) – One of the more common swifts on the tour.
AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT (Cypsiurus parvus) – Quite common and seen most days of the tour.

Collidae (Mousebirds)

SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD (Colius striatus) – An "every day" bird.
BLUE-NAPED MOUSEBIRD (Urocolius macrourus) – Seen just a few times on the tour. Prefers mostly good native savanna. Singles or small numbers at Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mbuoro.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

NARINA TROGON (Apaloderma narina) [*]
BAR-TAILED TROGON (Apaloderma vittatum) – We saw a pair in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Phoeniculidae (Woodhoopoes and Scimitarbills)

GREEN WOODHOOPOE (Phoeniculus purpureus) – One during our drive through Ishasha, and again at Lake Mbuoro.
WHITE-HEADED WOODHOOPOE (Phoeniculus bollei) – This is a primary montane forest species which we saw well in Bwindi.
COMMON SCIMITARBILL (Rhinopomastus cyanomelas) – A trio in Ishasha and another at Lake Mbuoro.

Bucerotidae (Ground-Hornbills)

ABYSSINIAN GROUND-HORNBILL (Bucorvus abyssinicus) – This awesome species (a living prehistoric fossil) was first seen in Budongo and again at Murchison Falls.

Buceridae (Hornbills)

CROWNED HORNBILL (Lophoceros alboterminatus) – Seen along the shores of Lake Victoria and again around Budongo Forest.
AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL (Lophoceros nasutus) – Fairly common in the drier woodlands like Murchison and Mbuoro.
BLACK-AND-WHITE-CASQUED HORNBILL (Bycanistes subcylindricus) – Seen a bunch of times, where it prefers more secondary forest to the next species.
WHITE-THIGHED HORNBILL (Bycanistes albotibialis) – Only Budongo Forest. A bird of tall primary forest.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

MALACHITE KINGFISHER (Corythornis cristatus) – Pretty common at wetlands like Mabamba Swamp and Lake Mbuoro.
AFRICAN PYGMY-KINGFISHER (Ispidina picta) – Good numbers in the Budongo Forest.
AFRICAN DWARF KINGFISHER (Ispidina lecontei) – A pair were along the Royal Mile.
CHOCOLATE-BACKED KINGFISHER (Halcyon badia) – We scoped a calling bird along the Royal Mile.
GRAY-CAPPED KINGFISHER (Halcyon leucocephala) – Seen in the dry woodland of Murchison and Queen Elizabeth.
WOODLAND KINGFISHER (Halcyon senegalensis) – Slightly more common than the previous species as its better adapted to more secondary growth.
BLUE-BREASTED KINGFISHER (Halcyon malimbica) – One at the Budongo Forest visitor center calling from the canopy. Seen flying from tree top to tree top.
STRIPE-KINGFISHER (Halcyon chelicuti) – Good numbers at Murchison and Lake Mbuoro.
GIANT KINGFISHER (Megaceryle maxima) – Surprising, but our only one was the first day at Lake Victoria.
PIED KINGFISHER (Ceryle rudis) – Thousands (easily) along the banks of the Victoria Nile and again at Kazinga Channel.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

BLACK BEE-EATER (Merops gularis) – A forest bee-eater seen well at The Neck.
RED-THROATED BEE-EATER (Merops bulocki) – Good looks along the shore of Victoria Nile.
LITTLE BEE-EATER (Merops pusillus) – A few times throughout the tour.
BLUE-BREASTED BEE-EATER (Merops variegatus) – Our only ones were four at Murchison Falls.
CINNAMON-CHESTED BEE-EATER (Merops oreobates) – We caught up with this species at Bwindi Imp. Forest.
SWALLOW-TAILED BEE-EATER (Merops hirundineus) – A few were on our drive to Kibale Forest sitting on power lines.
WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER (Merops albicollis) – Just one on our drive to Murchison Falls from Masindi.
MADAGASCAR BEE-EATER (Merops superciliosus) – Singles were seen a few times. One of the least common of the bee-eaters on our tour.
**NORTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATER** (Merops nubicus) – This lovely bird was seen well in the open savanna at Murchison Falls.

**Coraciidae (Rollers)**

**LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER** (Coracias caudatus) – They seemed more common in the south from Bwindi to Lake Mbuoro.

**BROAD-BILLED ROLLER** (Eurypterus glaucurus) – Pretty common at places like Masindi and Lake Mbuoro.

**BLUE-THROATED ROLLER** (Eurypterus gularis) – Such a strange call they make! A noisy squawk from the forest.

**Lybiidae (African Barbets)**

**AFRICAN HOBBY** (Falco ardosiaceus)

**GRAY KESTREL** (Falco tinnunculus)

**LEAST HONEYGUIDE** (Indicator pumilio)

**DWARF HONEYGUIDE** (Indicator exilis)

**AFRICAN GRAY WOODPECKER** (Dendropicos obsoletus) – A good find of this rare woodpecker seen on the Albert Lake escarpment.

**GRAY-BACKED WOODPECKER** (Dendropicos fuscascens) – This tiny woodpecker was seen a few times.

**BROWN-EARED WOODPECKER** (Campethera caroli)

**BUFF-SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (Campethera nivosa) – One was seen along the road near GFC in Bwindi.

**GREEN-BACKED WOODPECKER** (Campethera cailliautii) – This species was scoped at Lake Mbuoro where apparently uncommon.

**TULLBERG'S WOODPECKER** (Campethera tullbergi) – Finally caught up with this species in the Kibale Forest.

**SPOT-FLANKED WOODPECKER** (Tricholaema lacrymosa) – This acacia woodland species was seen well at Murchison Falls and Lake Mbuoro.

**WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER** (Lybius leucocephalus) – Seen on our drive to Masindi and again at Lake Mbuoro. Just small numbers.

**YELLOW-BILLED BARBET** (Lalythus bidentatus) – One of our first barbets seen around Entebbe.

**LEAST BARBET** (Lybius exilis)

**GREAT HONEYGUIDE** (Indicator indicator) [*]

**Eurypygidae (Wattle-eyes and Batises)**

**EUROPEAN KESTREL** (Falco tinnunculus)

**AFRICAN KESTREL** (Falco tinnunculus)

**AFRICAN HOBBY** (Falco cucularius) – A family were seen around the Boma in Entebbe. They must have nested nearby.

**AFRICAN BROADBILL** (Eurypterus glaucurus) – Pretty common at places like Masindi and Lake Mbuoro.

**AFRICAN GRAY WOODPECKER** (Dendropicos capensis) – A pair were seen in the forest near GFC.

**Kestrels**

**EUROPEAN KESTREL** (Falco tinnunculus)

**AFRICAN KESTREL** (Falco tinnunculus)

**AFRICAN HOBBY** (Falco cucularius) – A family were seen around the Boma in Entebbe. They must have nested nearby.

**Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)**

**RED-HEADED LOVEBIRD** (Agapornis pullarius) – Always in flight!

**Psittacidae (New World and African Parrots)**

**GRAY PARROT** (Psittacus erithacus) – Small numbers were seen in the Kibale Forest.

**MEYER'S PARROT** (Poicephalus meyeri) – Far more common than the previous species. Seen a few times perched in the scope. Also called Brown Parrot.

**Calyptomenidae (African and Green Broadbills)**

**AFRICAN BROADBILL** (Smithornis capensis) – A pair were seen in the forest near GFC.

**Eurylaimidae (Asian and Grauer's Broadbills)**

**GRAUER'S BROADBILL** (Pseudocalyptomena graueri) – For those that did the Mubwindi Swamp trek you had excellent views of a pair at a nest! One of the rarest birds on the trip and an Albertine Rift endemic.
BROWN-THROATED WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira cyanea) – The wattle-eyes are named after the female plumage. Males can be a tough ID. This was by far the most common species seen on our tour.

CHESTNUT WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira castanea) – Seen in the Budongo Forest and Kibale. Prefers understory of tall forest.

JAMESON’S WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira jamiesoni) – Rare and local. Seen pretty well at the Royal Mile.

RUWENZORI BATIS (Batis diops) – A few of us caught up with this Albertine Rift endemic near Ruhija.

CHINSPOOT BATIS (Batis molitor) – Just one seen at The Neck.

BLACK-HEADED BATIS (Batis minor) – Seen a few times early on in the trip.

Vangidae (Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies)

AFRICAN SHRIKE-FLYCATCHER (Megabyas flavomaculatus) – We saw both male and female birds on a couple of different days.

BLACK-AND-WHITE SHRIKE-FLYCATCHER (Bias musicus) – Also known as Vanga Flycatcher. This is a cool looking species!

Alaudidae (Larks)

BRUBRU (Nilaus afer) – Seen a few times, but never very common.

NORTHERN PUFFBACK (Dryoscopus gambensis) – Slightly more common than the previous species.

PINK-FOOTED PUFFBACK (Dryoscopus angolensis) – This species is found in a small area around Bwindi, but it was fairly common there.

MARSH TCHAGRA (Tchagra minutus) – Just a pair on our drive from Masindi to Kibale.

BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA (Tchagra senegalus) – Seen at Murchison Falls. Far less common than the next species.

BROWN-CROWNED TCHAGRA (Tchagra australis) – This was the most common tchagra seen on the tour. It seems to inhabit a wide variety of habitat types. The calls are slightly different between the three species.

LUEHDER’S BUSHSHRIKE (Laniarius luehderi) – Seen well in the Bwindi area.

TROPICAL BOUBOU (Laniarius major) – Heard near Masindi, but finally seen at a stop outside The Neck in Bwindi.

BLACK-HEADED GONOLEK (Laniarius erythrogaster) – Common. Our best views may have been on the grounds of Boma.

PAPYRUS GONOLEK (Laniarius mufumbiri) – Crazy looking bird! Awesome plumage. We saw it well crossing the Kazinga Channel, but also again in reeds at Lake Mbuvo (Susan was happy about that!).

WILLARD’S SOOTY BOUBOU (Laniarius willardi) – Some taxonomic authorities still treat this as a subspecies of Mountain Sooty Boubou (L. poensis). This particular taxon is an Albertine Rift endemic. One was seen in Bwindi near GFC. The pale eye is a distinctive field mark.

MOUNTAIN SOOTY BOUBOU (RUWENZORI) (Laniarius poensis holomelas) – This is the species seen around Ruhija. I believe the common name (if split) will be Albertine Sooty Boubou. The split seems to involve many factors include iris color, morphology, and distinct vocalization differences.

GRAY-GREEN BUSHSHRIKE (Telophorus bocagei) – I prefer the old name of Bocage's Bushshrike.

SULPHUR-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE (Telophorus sulforepectus) – Widespread (at least by voice) in a variety of wooded habitats.

MANY-COLORED BUSHSHRIKE (Telophorus multicolor) – This one was a hit with most folks. Seen well at GFC.

DOHERTY’S BUSHSHRIKE (Telophorus dohertyi) – This one had us ooing and awing. A bright spot of color in a sea of green.

LAGDEN’S BUSHSHRIKE (Malaconotus lagdeni) – Small disjunct worldwide distribution makes this a good one to see for those on the Mubwindi Swamp trek.

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

GRAY CUCKOO-SHRIKE (Coracina caesia) – Finally caught up with this species in Bwindi.

BLACK CUCKOO-SHRIKE (Campephaga flavia) – Just one at Lake Mbuvo.

PETIT’S CUCKOO-SHRIKE (Campephaga petiti) – Seen a few times around GFC and Buhoma.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

GRAY-BACKED FISCAL (Lanius excubitoroides) – Common and widespread in open country.

MACKINNON’S SHRIKE (Lanius mackinnoni) – Seen a few times around Bwindi where it prefers clearings in forests.

NORTHERN FISCAL (Lanius humeralis) – Like Gray-backed, also common and widespread in open habitat. Slightly less common, however, than Gray-backed.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

WESTERN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE (Oriolus brachyrynchus) – The more widespread oriole on this tour. Fairly common in taller woodlands.

AFRICAN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE (Oriolus larvatus) – Seen or heard in the south at Lake Mbuvo.

BLACK-TAILED ORIOLE (Oriolus percivali) – Formerly Montane Oriole. This one was seen in the forests of Bwindi.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

FORK-TAILED DRONGO (Dicrurus adsimilis) – Seen a few times throughout our tour. A couple of sightings on power lines.

VELVET-MANTLED DRONGO (PRINCIPE) (Dicrurus modestus modestus) – Seen in taller forests of Kibale and Bwindi.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

BLACK-HEADED PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (Terpsiphone rufigeneta) – Seen several times in Budongo; also known as Red-bellied P-F.

AFRICAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (Terpsiphone viridis) – Seen most days.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

PIAPIAC (Ptilostomus afer) – Some of us just like saying the name.

PIED CROW (Corvus albus) – Common in open country, cities, and towns.

WHITE-NECKED RAVEN (Corvus albicollis) – Just one on our long drive from Bwindi to Lake Mbuvo.

Nicatoridae (Nicatories)

WESTERN NICATOR (Nicator chloris) – Tim was especially happy to finally see this species well at Bigodi Swamp.

Alaudidae (Larks)
RUFIOUS-NAPE LARK (Mirafra africana) – A common species at Queen Elizabeth NP.
FLAPPET LARK (Mirafra rufocinammomea) – We enjoyed hearing the mechanical noise (the "flapping") from the wings in flight.
WHITE-TAILED LARK (Mirafra albicauda) – Seen at Queen Elizabeth and Ishasha.

**Hirundinidae (Swallows)**

BANDED MARTIN (Riparia cincta) – A couple were seen at Queen Elizabeth NP.
ROCK MARTIN (Ptyonoprogne fuligula) – Just a couple on our drive to Ruhija.
ANGOLA SWALLOW (Hirundo angolensis) – One of the more common swallows seen on the trip.
WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW (Hirundo smithii) – Small numbers around Murchison and Queen Elizabeth.

MONTANE BLUE SWALLOW (Hirundo atrocaerulea) – One or two folks may have seen this very rare species with Alfred at Mabamba Swamp. Most likely a non-breeding visitor to Uganda.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (Cecropis daurica) – Finally caught up with four birds at Lake Mburo.
LESSER STRIPED-SWALLOW (Cecropis abyssinica) – Big numbers throughout the tour. Probably the most common swallow encountered on the tour.

RUFIOUS-CHESTED SWALLOW (Cecropis semirufa) – Seen around Entebbe and Queen Elizabeth.

MOUSE SWALLOW (Cecropis senegalensis) – Just one in the tea plantation near Kibale. A very large swallow.

WHITE-HEADED SAWWING (Psalidoprocne albiceps) – Also very common in a variety of habitats. The immatures have dark heads.

BLACK SAWWING (Psalidoprocne pristoptera) – Seen only in the highland forests like Buhoma and Ruhija where common.

**Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)**

AFRICAN BLUE FLYCATCHER (Elminia longicauda) – Singles or pairs throughout the tour.
WHITE-TAILED BLUE FLYCatcher (Elminia albiventris) – Seen in the Bwindi/Buhoma area.
WHITE-BELLIED CRESTED FLYCATCHER (Elminia albicauda) – Just one of these rare fairy flycatchers was seen in Ruhija.

**Paridae (Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice)**

WHITE-SHOULDERED BLACK-TIT (Melaniparus guineensis) – A pair were seen at the Kafu river crossing during our drive to Masindi. This species has yellow eyes.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK-TIT (Melaniparus leucomelas) – Seen at Lake Mbuoro. The species with dark eyes.

DUSKY TIT (Melaniparus funereus) – Good numbers in canopy flocks at the The Neck.

STRIPE-BREASTED TIT (Melaniparus fasciventer) – Seen most days in Ruhija where rare to uncommon.

**Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)**

SLENDER-BILLED GREENBUL (Stelgidillas gracilirostris gracilirostris) – Seen well near the GFC visitor's center at a fruiting tree.

RED-TAILED BRISTLEBILL (Bleda syndactylus woosnamii) [*]

SHELLEY'S GREENBUL (KAKAMEGA) (Arizelocichla masukuensis kakamegae) – This species "Kakamega" Greenbul was uncommon in the forest around GFC and Buhoma.

EASTERN MOUNTAIN-GREENBUL (OLIVE-BREASTED) (Arizelocichla nigriceps kikuyuensis) – Quite distinctive looking (one of the easier greenbuls to identify), it was fairly common in the forest around Ruhija.

HONEYGUIDE GREENBUL (Baeopogon indicator indicator) – Heard in a bunch of different places, but finally caught up with a visual at Buhoma.

YELLOW-THROATED GREENBUL (Atimastillas flavicolis) – Not many, but our first was at Royal Ranch Marsh.

RED-TAILED GREENBUL (Criniger calurus emini) – Small numbers in the forest at Budongo and Bwindi.

GRAY GREENBUL (Eurillas gracilis ugandae) – Also known as Little Gray Greenbul. We had two in the forest at Royal Mile.

ANSORGE’S GREENBUL (Eurillas ansorgei) – Previously unknown from The Neck due to misidentification with Little Gray. The voice is distinctive, however. Alfred and I spent some time recording its vocalizations.

PLAIN GREENBUL (Eurillas curvirostris) – I prefer the old name Cameroon Sombre Greenbul. Small numbers at Budongo and Kibale forests.

YELLOW-WHISKERED GREENBUL (Eurillas latirostris) – Common (at least by voice) in the Bwindi forest, especially around Ruhija.

LITTLE GREENBUL (Eurillas vires vires) – One of the more common greenbul songs heard in a variety of forest types. Seen less often as it likes to stay hidden.

TORO OLIVE-GREENBUL (Phyllastrephus hypochloris) [*]

CABANIS'S GREENBUL (Phyllastrephus cabanisi) – Good numbers in the forest around GFC and Buhoma.

WHITE-THROATED GREENBUL (WHITE-THROATED) (Phyllastrephus albicollaris albicollaris) – Seen in the Budongo forest where it responded well to tape. Our only site for this species.

YELLOW-STREAKED GREENBUL (YELLOW-STREAKED) (Phyllastrephus flavostriatus olivaceogriseus) – Seen well on our last day leaving Ruhija and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. A large greenbul.

COMMON BULBUL (DARK-CAPPED) (Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor) – Another "everyday" bird.

**Macrosphenidae (African Warblers)**

GREEN CROMBEC (Sylvietta vires) – The most common crombec seen on our tour. Found in a variety of woodlands, the song was with us everywhere.

LEMON-BELLIED CROMBEC (Sylvietta denti) [*]

WHITE-BROWED CROMBEC (Sylvietta leucophrys) – Seen extremely well near eye-level during our first afternoon of birding in Ruhija.

NORTHERN CROMBEC (Sylvietta brachyura) – Just one during our drive back from Murchison to Masindi.

MOUSTACHED GRASS-WARBLER (Melocichla mentalis) – Also known as African Moustached Warbler. Seen well on our drive to Masindi the second day of the tour.

YELLOW LONGBILL (Macrosphenus flavicans) – We had decent looks at a pair in the Budongo forest. They always managed to stay high in the vine tangles.
GRAY LONGBILL (Macroscelophus concolor) – Also seen in the Budongo forest, but during our afternoon birding along the paved road through the forest. They showed a little better than the previous species.

GRAUER'S WARBLER (Graueria vittata) – Seen well a couple of times in the forest near Ruhija.

GREEN HYLIA (Hyliia prasinia) – At least by voice a common species in most taller forest. We had good looks at a pair while doing our paperwork to get into Budongo forest.

Scotocercidae (Bush Warblers and Allies)
CHESTNUT-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (Erythrocercus mecellii) – A pair in the savanna woodland near Masindi.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)
RED-FACED WOODLAND-WARBLER (Phylloscopus laetus) – Seen most days at Bwindi.
UGANDA WOODLAND-WARBLER (Phylloscopus budongoensis) – Seen at the Royal Mile.

Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and Allies)
MOUNTAIN YELLOW-WARBLER (Iduna similis) – Folks on the Mubwindi trek saw this species and for the other group just a heard only.
AFRICAN REED WARBLER (Acrocephalus baeticatus) – A pair were seen skulking in the reeds during our stop at the Kazinga Channel bridge.
LESSER SWAMP WARBLER (Acrocephalus gracilirostris) – Another species seen at the bridge over the Kazinga Channel.
GREATER SWAMP WARBLER (Acrocephalus rufescens) – Seen briefly on the Victoria Nile, but better looks at Lake Mburo.

Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)
FAN-TAILED GRASSBIRD (Schonicoeca brevirostris) – Also known as Broad-tailed Warbler. Seen in the marshes during a stop between Masindi and Kibale.
CINNAMON BRACKEN-WARBLER (Bradypterus cinnamomeus) [*]
WHITE-WINGED SWAMP WARBLER (Bradypterus carpalis) – Fantastic looks at a marsh stop on our way to Kibale forest. Heard a few other times.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)
RUWENZORI APALIS (Apalis ruwenzorii) – This species was seen and heard a few times around Ruhija. An Albertine Rift endemic.
BLACK-THROATED APALIS (Apalis jacksoni jacksoni) – Three were seen in the Bwindi forest.
BLACK-FACED APALIS (Apalis personata) – Also known as Mountain Masked Apalis; good numbers were seen around Ruhija. This is a striking apalis. Another Albertine Rift endemic.
YELLOW-BREASTED APALIS (YELLOW-BREASTED) (Apalis flavida caniceps) – Small numbers during the tour. Our first were near the Budongo Forest and again on the drive to Lake Mburo.
BUFF-THROATED APALIS (BUFF-THROATED) (Apalis rufogularis nigrescens) – Preferring the taller forest where they stuck to the canopy. We saw them (or tried to) in Kibale and Bwindi. A bit confusing as very similar to Gray Apalis.
GRAY APALIS (GRAY) (Apalis cinerea cinerea) – Not many, but we heard them in Ishasha and finally seen in the Bwindi forest near Buhoma.
GREEN-BACKED CAMAROPTERA (GRAY-BACKED) (Camaroptera brachyura bревiacauda) – Nearly an "everyday" bird. The song followed us everywhere.
YELLOW-BROWED CAMAROPTERA (Camaroptera superciliaris) – Just one at the Royal Mile where it stayed way up in the canopy.
OLIVE-GREEN CAMAROPTERA (Camaroptera chloronota torensis) – Singles around Buhoma and The Neck.
WHITE-CHINNED PRINIA (Chistolais leucopogon) – Not a true prinia. Small numbers were seen Kibale, Queen Elizabeth, and Buhoma, where it prefers forest edge.
RED-WINGED GRAY WARBLER (Drymocichla incana) – We saw one in open savanna scrub near Masindi.
RED-FACED CISTICOLA (RED-FACED) (Cisticola erythrops sylvia) – This is one of the more common cisticolas found in open scrub and savannah. Quite loud and vocal.
SINGING CISTICOLA (Cisticola cantans belli) – One was seen in scrubby agriculture outside the entrance to Royal Mile.
WHISTLING CISTICOLA (Cisticola lateralis antinorii) – A pair were seen outside of Masindi in open country edge habitat.
TRILLING CISTICOLA (Cisticola woosnami woosnami) – Large numbers in dry savanna at Ishasha and again Lake Mburo.
CHUBB'S CISTICOLA (CHUBB'S) (Cisticola chubbi chubbi) – Loud and vocal. The highland cisticola of forest edge and clearings. Common around GFC.
RATTLING CISTICOLA (Cisticola chiniana simplex) – Several on our Murchison Falls safari ride in savanna country.
WINDING CISTICOLA (WINDING) (Cisticola galactotes marginatus) – The common cisticola of marshes everywhere.
CARRUTHER'S CISTICOLA (Cisticola carruthersi) – Small numbers in papyrus marshes. One was at the Kazinga Channel crossing and again at Lake Mburo.
CROAKING CISTICOLA (Cisticola natalensis stranei) – Common around Murchison Falls and again Queen Elizabeth.
TABAORA CISTICOLA (Cisticola angusticauda) – We had nice looks at this prinia-like cisticola at Lake Mburo.
SIFFLING CISTICOLA (Cisticola brachypterus hypoxanthus) – One was near Masindi on our second afternoon of birding. Also known as Short-winged Cisticola.
FOXY CISTICOLA (Cisticola tropolyctes troglodytes) – Indeed, "foxy" is a good name. A fine looking cisticola that we stomped out along the escarpment.
ZITTING CISTICOLA (AFRICAN) (Cisticola juncidis uryopygialis) – Large numbers were around this year.
GRAY-CAPPED WARBLER (Eminia lepida) – Heard more often than seen, but we had nice looks along the shores of Lake Victoria our first day out.
BLACK-FACED RUFOUS-WARBLER (Bathmocercus rufus vulpinus) – Vocal and seen a few times around Buhoma.
BUFF-BELLED WARBLER (Phylloscelis pulchella) – A pair were in open country south of Masindi. This one can be kind of confusing, not looking quite right for a "warbler," is it a prinia?
TAWNY-FLANKED PRINIA (Prinia subflava subflava) – Small numbers around Masindi and Queen Elizabeth.
BANDED PRINIA (BLACK-FACED) (Prinia bairdii obscura) – A cool looking prinia that we saw well in the ferny understorey at The Neck and Ruhija.

RED-WINGED PRINIA (Prinia erythroptera jodoptera) – We chased one down in open country south of Masindi. Also known as Red-winged Warbler.

GREEN-BACKED EREMOMELA (Eremomela canescens) – Just one near Bulisa.

RUFOUS-CROWNED EREMOMELA (Eremomela badeiceps badeiceps) – Pretty common at the Royal Mile.

*Sylviidae (Sylvia Warblers)*

AFRICAN HILL BABBLER (RUWENZORI) (Sylvia abyssinica atriceps) – Small numbers in the Bwindi forest.

Zosteropidae (White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies)

AFRICAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE (Zosterops senegalensis) – Pretty common throughout a variety of habitats.

*Pellorneidae (Ground Babblers and Allies)*

BROWN ILLADOPSIS (Illadopsis fulvescens) [*] – We saw this species on our way out of Queen Elizabeth NP.

PALE-BREASTED ILLADOPSIS (Illadopsis rufigennis) – One was seen in the forest outside of Buhoma.

MOUNTAIN ILLADOPSIS (Illadopsis pyrrooptera) – Seen in the same forest as the previous species.

SCALY-BREASTED ILLADOPSIS (Illadopsis albipectus) [*] – We worked hard for this one and it paid off with good looks for most. A very local and rare bird in East Africa.

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes and Allies)

BLACK-LORED BABBLER (Turdoides sharpei) – Seen a few times at Murchison Falls NP.

BROWN BABBLER (Turdoides plebejus) – Three were spotted at our afternoon birding spot south of Masindi on day two.

ARROW-MARKED BABBLER (Turdoides jardineii) – Slightly more common in the west and south than the previous two species of Turdoides. Our first were in Queen Elizabeth and again at Lake Mburo.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

DUSKY-BROWN FLYCATCHER (Muscicapa adusta pumila) – Certainly not the flashiest bird we saw on this trip.

SWAMP FLYCATCHER (Muscicapa aquatica infalula) – Common at wetland sites, but it was also nesting at the entrance sign to Queen Elizabeth NP Mweya Lodge.

CASSIN'S FLYCATCHER (Muscicapa cassini) – Singles at Kibale forest and again in Buhoma.

SOOTY FLYCATCHER (Bradornis fuliginosus minuscipus) – A pair were seen during our afternoon walk along the paved entrance road to the chimp camp.

DUSKY-BLUE FLYCATCHER (Bradornis comitatus comitatus) – Seen in the Kibale forest.

PALE FLYCATCHER (PALE) (Agriola pallidus murinus) – A small group were seen at the Royal Ranch Swamp.

GRAY-THROATED TIT-FLYCATCHER (Fraseria griseigularis griseigularis) – We caught up with this species in the Buhoma-Bwindi forest.

GRAY TIT-FLYCATCHER (Fraseria plumbea plumbea) – Seen in the same forest as the previous species.

ASHY FLYCATCHER (Fraseria caerulescens) – Similar to the previous two species, but with a more upright posture. A few were seen in the Kibale forest.

SILVERBIRD (Melaenornis semipartitus) – Seen a few times at Murchison Falls NP.

YELLOW-EYED BLACK-FLYCATCHER (Melaenornis edolioides lugubris) – Pretty common on the first half of this tour (away from taller forest).

WHITE-EYED SLaty-FLYCATCHER (Melaenornis fischeri toruensis) – The subspecies we saw in Bwindi do not show the broad white eye-ring.

FIRE-CRESTED ALETHE (FIRE-CRESTED) (Alethe diademata castanea) [*] – Seen in the same forest as the previous species.

BROWN-BACKED SCRUB-ROBIN (Cercotrichas hartlaubii) – Seen a few times in the Murchison Falls-Masindi area.

RED-BACKED SCRUB-ROBIN (Cercotrichas leucophrys) – Seemed less common than the previous species, but singles were seen over a couple of different days. Also known as White-browed Scrub-Robin.

WHITE-BELLIED ROBIN-CHAT (Cossyphica abdita) – One was seen briefly during our walk into the Bwindi forest from Buhoma.

ARCHER'S ROBIN-CHAT (Cossypha archeri) – Most folks in our group saw this on the Mubwindi Swamp trek.

GRAY-WINGED ROBIN-CHAT (Cossypha poliopera) – This species was seen a few times around the cabins in Buhoma.

WHITE-BROWNED ROBIN-CHAT (Cossypha heuglini) – One was seen briefly during our walk into the Bwindi forest from Buhoma.

RED-CAPPED ROBIN-CHAT (Cossypha natalensis) [*] – Seen in the same forest as the previous species.

SNOWY-CROWNED ROBIN-CHAT (Cossypha niveicapilla) – One was perched on a power cable during our drive from Masindi to Kibale.

SPOTTED MORNING-THRUSH (Cichladusa guttata) – Good numbers in the Murchison Falls area.

WHITE-STARRED ROBIN (Pogonocichla stellata ruwenzorii) – One was in the Bwindi forest.

RED-THROATED ALETHE (Pseudoalethe poliophrys) – Seen in the Bwindi forest near the GFC lodge.

FOREST ROBIN (EASTERN) (Stiphromis erythrothorax xanthogaster) – Such a nice song, but a devil to see well! One did circles around us in the Budongo forest.

AFRICAN STONECHAT (AFRICAN) (Saxicola torquatus axillaris) – Small numbers around Kibale (in the tea) and again in open country around Bwindi.

SOOTY CHAT (Myrmecocichla nigra) – Fairly common in most open country savanna.

CAPPED WHEATEAR (Oenanthe pileata) – One of the more interesting finds of our trip. This looks to be just the third record for Uganda. Nice work group! Seen at QENP.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

RUFOUS FLYCATCHER-THRUSH (Neocossyphus fraseri vulpinus) – One was seen on the Royal Mile walk.
RED-TAILED ANT-THRUSH (RED-TAILED) (Neocossyphus rufus gabunensis) – We chased one around in the Budongo forest, but just a few folks saw it well. Stayed high and circled us.

OLIVE THRUSH (Turdus olivaceus) – Just one in the forest near Ruhija.

AFRICAN THRUSH (AFRICAN) (Turdus pelios centralis) – Most days.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

WATTLED STARLING (Creatophora cinerea) – Not a common starling. We saw a group of 5 near Kibale.

VIOLET-BACKED STARLING (Cinnyricinclus leucogaster) – Around in small numbers throughout the trip.

WALLER'S STARLING (Onychognathus walleri) – Seen in the Bwindi forest near Ruhija.

SHARPE'S STARLING (Phola sharpii) – Good numbers perched on canopy snags in Bwindi near Ruhija.

NARROW-TAILED STARLING (Poeoptera lugubris) – One was seen in Kibale forest, but also again in Bwindi.

STUHMANN'S STARLING (Poeoptera stuhlmanni) – Seen in the Bwindi forest near Buhoma.

PURPLE-HEADED STARLING (Hyloprora purpureiceps) – A trio were on the Royal Mile walk.

RUEPELL'S STARLING (Lamprotornis purpuroptera) – Common. Seen most days. Africa's version of a Great-tailed Grackle.

SPLENDID STARLING (Lamprotornis splendidus) – Seen well at the Boma in Entebbe.

LESSER BLUE-EARED STARLING (Lamprotornis chloropterus) – At least a hundred were in flocks at the Royal Ranch Swamp near Masindi.

GREATER BLUE-EARED STARLING (Lamprotornis chalybeaeus) – Good numbers at Lake Mbuoro. Larger than the previous species and replaces it in the south.

Buphagidae (Oxpeckers)

YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER (Buphagus africanus) – Not many, but good looks at Kazinga Channel sitting on top of muddy elephants and buffalo.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

GRAY-HEADED SUNBIRD (Deleornis axillaris) – Rare or at least uncommon it seems. Seen in Budongo and again at Buhoma. Prefers taller forest.

WESTERN VIOLET-BACKED SUNBIRD (Anthreptes longuemarei) – One was seen at the entrance to Budongo Forest on our third day.

SEIMUND'S SUNBIRD (Anthreptes seimundi) – Also known as Little Green Sunbird. Also rare to uncommon. Singles on two different days.

GREEN SUNBIRD (GRAY-THROATED) (Anthreptes rectirostris tephrolaemus) – Seen on the Royal Mile walk and again around Buhoma.

COLLATED SUNBIRD (Hedydipna collaris garguensis) – Widespread, but small numbers.

GREEN-HEADED SUNBIRD (GREEN-HEADED) (Cyanomitra verticalis viridisplendens) – Seen a few times around Kibale and Queen Elizabeth NP.

BLUE-THROATED BROWN SUNBIRD (Cyanomitra cyanoalaema octaviae) – Just a pair in the Bwindi forest near Buhoma.

BLUE-HEADED SUNBIRD (Cyanomitra alinae alinae) – In the Bwindi forest near Ruhija.

OLIVE SUNBIRD (Cyanomitra olivacea) – Singles seen throughout the tour, but never very common.

GREEN-THROATED SUNBIRD (Chalcomitra rubescens) – The males of this species are striking. Seen at Bugodi Swamp and again at Buhoma.

SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD (Chalcomitra senegalensis lamperti) – Maybe our first sunbird of the tour? We had them on the grounds of the Boma among other places.

BRONZE SUNBIRD (Nectarinia kilimensis kilimensis) – The males with their long tails are awesome looking.

OLIVE-BELLIED SUNBIRD (Cinnyris chloropyygius) – One was seen at Murchison Falls and more common at Kibale Forest.

NORTHERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD (WESTERN) (Cinnyris chloropygius regius) – This was the common sunbird at Queen Elizabeth and Buhoma.

REGAL SUNBIRD (Cinnyris regius regius) – Seen a few times near Ruhija.

BEAUTIFUL SUNBIRD (BEAUTIFUL) (Cinnyris pulchellus pulchellus) – The males are lovely. Seen a few times in the Budongo Forest.

MARIQUA SUNBIRD (Cinnyris mariquensis suahelicus) – Just two for the tour. Our first near Masindi and again at Lake Mbuoro.

RED-CHESTED SUNBIRD (Cinnyris erythrocercus) – These were seen on the grounds of the Boma in Entebbe.

SUPERB SUNBIRD (Cinnyris superbus) – One female at the Royal Mile was our only one of the tour.

VARIED SUNBIRD (ORANGE-CHESTED) (Cinnyris venustus igneiventris) – A pair was seen at Buhoma.

COPPER SUNBIRD (Cinnyris cypreus cypreus) – Small numbers around Masindi and again at Kibale forest.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL (Motacilla auigimp) – Good numbers throughout the tour.

AFRICAN PIPIT (Anthus cinnamomeus) – Our first was at Murchison Falls, but more were at Queen Elizabeth NP.

PLAIN-BACKED PIPIT (Anthus leucophrys) – Just singles near Masindi and again at Queen Elizabeth NP.

YELLOW-THROATED LONGCLAW (Macronyx croceus) – The African equivalent of our meadowlarks!

Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)

GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING (Emberiza flaviventris) – Tim saw it first at Queen Elizabeth NP on the grounds of the Mweya Lodge. We all saw it again on the road near Ruhija.

Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)

WHITE-RUMPED SEEDEATER (Crithagra leucopygia) – A few around the GFC and along the forest road.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY (Crithagra mozambica) – Not common, but regular on the first half of the tour.

WESTERN CITRIL (Crithagra frontalis) – One was feeding on thistle heads on the edge of town near our Buhoma lodges.

BRIMSTONE CANARY (Crithagra sulphurata sharpii) – Very similar to Yellow-fronted, but larger overall. Less common, too. A couple seen on two different days.

STREAKY SEEDEATER (Crithagra striolata graueri) – Three individuals were seen and one was scoped at the highland pass near our turnoff to Ruhija.
THICK-BILLED SEEDEATER (Crithagra burtoni kilimensis) – Fairly common around Buhoma and Ruhija.

YELLOW-CROWNED CANARY (Serinus flavivertex sassii) – One was seen in The Neck.

**Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)**

HOUSE SPARROW (Passer domesticus) – Not super common, thankfully, but a few throughout the tour in different towns. [I]

SHELLEY’S RUFOUS SPARROW (Passer shelleyi) – We saw this species during our safari ride at Murchison Falls NP.

NORTHERN GRAY-HEADED SPARROW (Passer griseus) – Common in many places throughout the tour.

**Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)**

SPECKLE-FRONTED WEAVER (Sporopipes frontalis) – A nice looking weaver that we saw briefly at Murchison Falls, but again on our drive back to Masindi near Balisa.

WHITE-BROWED SPARROW-WEAVER (Plocepasser mahali) – Our only ones were on our drive from Entebbe to Masindi during one of our roadside stops.

CHESTNUT-CROWNED SPARROW-WEAVER (Plocepasser superciliosus) – Fairly common at Murchison Falls NP.

RED-HEADED MALIMBE (Malimbus fulvus) – This forest species was seen at Budongo and again near Buhoma.

RED-HEADED MALIMBE (Malimbus rubricollis) – This was seen on our Lake Mbuero boat ride.

MARTIN’S MALIMBE (Malimbus capensis) – A few were seen around The Neck and on our drive to Lake Mbuero.

LITTLE MALIMBE (Malimbus tricolor) – Some folks saw this our first day out at Mabamba Swamp.

WHITE-BEAKED MALIMBE (Malimbus pictus) – This one was seen a few times, but it was also common on the grounds of the Boma hotel.

BLACK-BREASTED MALIMBE (Ploceus nigricollis) – One of the first new weavers seen near our lodges at Buhoma.

SPECTACLED MALIMBE (Ploceus orix) – Seen a few times around Murchison Falls, Masindi, and again on Lake Mbuero.

BLACK-HEADED MALIMBE (Malimbus jugularis) – Seen well a few times at Ruhija.

HOLUB’S MALIMBE (Malimbus rubricollis) – This forest species was seen at Budongo and again around Buhoma.

GREY-HEADED NIGRITA (Malimbus nigricollis) – Fairly common at Murchison Falls NP.

SPECKLE-FRONTED MALIMBE (Malimbus estriatus) – Our only ones were on the grounds of the Boma where common.

NORTHERN BROWN-THROATED MALIMBE (Malimbus castanops) – Our only ones were seen on the grounds of the Boma where common.

LESSER MASKED-WEAVER (Ploceus intermedius) – This species was around in good numbers at Lake Mbuero and nesting above the muddy hippos at Queen Elizabeth NP.

VITELLINE MASKED-WEAVER (Ploceus castanops) – Seen on our safari ride at Murchison Falls.

VIEILLON’S WEAVER (Ploceus xanthops) – We had large numbers leaving a roost site at the entrance to Budongo Forest. Seen a few other times as well.

VILLAGE WEAVER (Ploceus cucullatus) – Easily one of the most seen weavers on the tour.

BLACK-HEADED WEAVER (Ploceus melanocephalus) – The name caused all sorts of confusion. This is the former Yellow-backed Weaver, which was seen most days during the first half of this tour.

GREY-HEADED NIGRITA (Nigrita canicapillus) – Also, similar habits to the previous species. However, both negrofichinches were seen well and scoped a few times.

BROWN-CAPPED WEAVER (Ploceus insignis) – This nice looking weaver was around the Buhoma lodges. More of a forest weaver seen foraging mid-story in the trees.

COMPACT WEAVER (Pachyphantes superciliosus) – Not super common, but a few times during the tour.

RED-BILLED QUELEA (Quelea quelea) – Hundreds in the scrubby savanna vegetation during our safari ride through Murchison Falls.

NORTHERN RED BISHOP (Euplectes franciscanus) – Did everyone get a satisfactory photo?

SOUTHERN RED BISHOP (Euplectes orix) – Just a couple on our drive through Ishasha. Northern and Southern have subtle plumage differences, but separate out by range.

BLACK-WINGED BISHOP (Euplectes hordeaceus) – One was on the drive to Masindi our second day of the tour.

BLACK BISHOP (Euplectes gierowii) – Good numbers in cutover habitat and agricultural fields between Masindi and Murchison Falls.

YELLOW BISHOP (Euplectes capensis) – A few were seen around The Neck and on our drive to Lake Mbuero.

WHITE-WINGED WIDOWBIRD (Euplectes albonotatus) – Awesome to watch them in flight. Seen well at Queen Elizabeth NP in the tall grass.

YELLOW-MANTLED WIDOWBIRD (YELLOW-SHOULDERED) (Euplectes macroura macroura) – This subspecies was seen early on around Masindi with yellow-shoulders and dark backs.

YELLOW-MANTLED WIDOWBIRD (YELLOW-MANTLED) (Euplectes macroura macroura) – This subspecies was more predominant further north closer to Murchison Falls and on the drive to Kibale.

RED-COLLARED WIDOWBIRD (Euplectes ardens) – Small numbers in the sugarcane fields around Masindi.

FAN-TAILED WIDOWBIRD (Euplectes effusus) – Good numbers in most large swamps like Mabamba and Lake Mbuero.

MARSH WIDOWBIRD (Euplectes hartlaubi) – Seen at Royal Ranch Swamp in good numbers where scoped a few times. Fairly local in East Africa.

GROSBEAK WEAVER (Amblyospiza albifrons) – A female was seen at Bigodi Swamp.

**Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)**

GRAY-HEADED NIGRITA (Nigrita canicapillus) – This forest species was heard more often than seen as it prefers to sit on tops of trees in the canopy.

WHITE-BREASTED NIGRITA (Nigrita fusconotus) – Also, similar habits to the previous species. However, both negrofichinches were seen well and scoped a few times.

GRAY-HEADED OLIVEBACK (Nesocharis capistrata) – Awesome, rare bird that we found on a roadside stop on our way to Kibale. The local mayor seemed interested in our find as well. ;-)

YELLOW-BELLIED WAXBILL (Coccopygia parsonii) – Seen at the high pass just before arriving to Ruhija.
**FAWN-BREASTED WAXBILL** (Estrilda paludicola) – A group of four were seen as we made our way back across the Victoria Nile to Masindi.

**CRIMSON-RUMPED WAXBILL** (Estrilda rhodopyrga) – One was seen on our drive to Masindi, but then a group of 10 or so were at the Kazinga Channel.

**BLACK-RUMPED WAXBILL** (Estrilda astrild) – Small numbers seen at several different sites.

**COMMON WAXBILL** (Estrilda nonnula) – One of the more common Estrildids seen on the trip.

**RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU** (Uraeginthus bengalus) – This species was common in the Masindi/Murchison Falls area, also at Lake Mburo.

**BROWN TWINSPOT** (Clytospiza monteiri) – Pairs were seen near Masindi and outside of the Budongo Forest entrance. However, always skulky and difficult.

**RED-BILLED FIREFINCH** (Lagonosticta senegala) – The firefinches are tough to separate. Close attention to bill color, undertail covert color, and crown color is important. This was by far the most common species encountered on the tour.

**BAR-BREASTED FIREFINCH** (Lagonosticta rufopicta) – Seen at the boat ramp along the Victoria Nile. Our only ones of the tour.

**BLACK-BELLE ried FIREFINCH** (Lagonosticta rara) – A female was near Masindi and also encountered in the agricultural lands outside of Budongo Forest.

**BRONZE MANNIKIN** (Spermestes cucullata) – Lots throughout the tour.

**BLACK-AND-WHITE MANNIKIN** (Spermestes bicolor) – Much less common than the previous species. Our first was on our drive from Masindi to Kibale.

**Viduidae (Indigobirds)**

**PIN-TAILED WHYDAH** (Vidua macroura) – Common, but the male display is always spectacular to watch.

**VILLAGE INDIGOBIRD** (Vidua chalybeata) – Seen at Bulisa and one was on our drive to Lake Mburo from Bwindi.

### MAMMALS

**STRAW-COLORED FRUIT BAT** (Eidolon helvum) – The hundreds of large fruit bats we saw in the evening at Masindi would almost certainly be this species.

**ROUSETTE FRUIT BAT SP.** (Rousettus aegyptiacus) – These were the fruit bats roosting in our cabins at the chimp camp. Also known as Egyptian Fruit Bat or Egyptian Rousset. Susan had hundreds it seemed!

**YELLOW-WINGED BAT** (Lavia frons) – The lovely bat in the trees along the Victoria Nile.

**BLUE MONKEY** (Cercopithecus mitis) – A nice looking monkey seen well in the Budongo Forest.

**BLACK-CHEEKED WHITE-NOSED MONKEY** (Erythrocebus patas) – Our first were along the Royal Mile, but more intimately inside the Kibale Forest with our trackers. Awesome interactions with a young male and the older alpha chimp. Lots of pounding of buttresses and running around calling and trashing!

**L'HOEST'S MONKEY** (Cercopithecus l'hoesti) – A lovely looking monkey. Seen well at Bigodi Swamp and again in Bwindi.

**BLACK-FACED WHITE-NOSED MONKEY** (Cercopithecus aethiops) – One of our first primates of the tour. A few were around Entebbe and again at Lake Mburo.

**PATAS MONKEY** (Erythrocebus patas) – These were in the acacia trees during our safari ride through Murchison Falls. A nice looking primate.

**GRAY-CHEEKED MANGABEY** (Cercocebus albigena) – Good numbers in the Kibale Forest.

**OLIVE BABOON** (Papio anubis) – Lots once we made Budongo Forest and continued through to Bwindi.

**MANTLED GUEREZA** (Colobus guereza) – Formerly known as Black-and-white Colobus Monkey. Tim finally figured that out for us! A beautiful primate seen many times on the tour. Their long dangling tails were spectacular.

**UGANDA RED COLOBUS** (Piliocolobus tephrosceles) – These were the primates with the red caps. Seen at Bigodi and in the Kibale Forest.

**CHIMPANZEE** (Pan troglodytes) – Our first were along the Royal Mile, but more intimately inside the Kibale Forest with our trackers. Awesome interactions with a young male and the older alpha chimp. Lots of pounding of buttresses and running around calling and trashing!

**MOUNTAIN GORILLA** (Gorilla beringei beringei) – Wow. Not sure any of us will forget our close encounters with a family and the silverback, or the 7 mile trek uphill to find them! Worth it? Of course.

**STRIPE D GROUND SQUIRREL** (Xerus erythropus) – A couple ran across the road a few times looking like mongooses.

**ALEXANDER'S BUSH SQUIRREL** (Paraxerus alexandri) – Seen in the Budongo Forest and Kibale.

**BOEHM'S BUSH SQUIRREL** (Paraxerus boehmi) – This species replaced the previous (?) in Bwindi at higher elevations. It looked like a large chipmunk.

**RUWENZORI SUN SQUIRREL** (Heliosciurus ruwenzorii) – Also seen in Bwindi near Ruhija. Similar to the previous but larger and lacking the stripes on the back.

**RED-LEGGED SUN SQUIRREL** (Heliosciurus rufobrachium) – Very similar to the previous species, but with obvious red legs. We saw one in the Bwindi forest near GFC.

**SIDE-STRIPE D JACKAL** (Canis adustus) – A Pair were in the short grass at Murchison Falls NP. A good mammal to see.

**EGYPTIAN MONGOOSE** (Herpestes ichneumon) – One on the trip.

**BANDE D MONGOOSE** (Mungos mungo) – These were around the grounds of the Mweya Lodge at Queen Elizabeth NP.

**DWARF MONGOOSE** (Helogale parvula) – Cool creature. We saw them well at Lake Mburo.

**SPOTTED HYAENA** (Crocuta crocuta) – As we were leaving Queen Elizabeth NP, this species crossed the road and disappeared into the tall grass. Most saw it well enough, however.

**LEOPARD** (Panthera pardus) – Amazing creature. Jesse was probably the most excited! ;-)

**LION** (Panthera leo) – Did we see Lions, too?!? Sure did, and of the tree-climbing variety.

**AFRICAN ELEPHANT** (Loxodonta africana) – Good numbers at Murchison Falls and again at QENP.

**BURCHELL'S ZEBRA** (Equus burchelli) – Only at Lake Mburo on this trip, but good numbers.

**WARTHOG** (Phacochoerus aethiopicus) – We watched them feed on their knees at Murchison Falls.

**HIPPOPOTAMUS** (Hippopotamus amphibius) – Lots on the Nile River. Also, at QENP and Lake Mburo.
ROTHSCHILD’S GIRAFFE (Giraffa rothschildi) – An elegant creature. Good to see so many at Murchison Falls NP. The older ones were darker in color.

BUSHBuck (Tragelaphus scriptus) – Small numbers in most of the savanna parks.

AFRICAN BUFFALO (Syncerus caffer) – According to Alfred, the ones seen in Murchison Falls are now Chad Buffalo. Those seen in QENP and Lake Mbu ro are called Cape Buffalo.

BUSH (GRAY) DUKER (Sylvicapra grimmia) – One crossed our path in the Bwindi forest, but quickly vanished.

DEFASSA WATERBUCK (Kobus defassa) – Good numbers in all of the savanna parks.

KOB (Kobus kob) – Large numbers at Murchison and QENP.

TOPI (Damaliscus lunatus) – One at QENP and a few more at Lake Mbu ro.

HARTEBEEST (KONGONI) (Alcelaphus buselaphus) – Small numbers at Murchison Falls NP.

ORIBI (Ourebia ourebi) – This tiny quadruped was around in good numbers during our safari ride through Murchison Falls NP.

IMPALA (Aepyceros melampus) – Lots at Lake Mbu ro. Several males with very large harems.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

A few additional critters we saw on the tour:

1) Nile Crocodile (Cocodylus niloticus) = Good numbers on the Victoria Nile and a couple of big ones at Kazinga Channel.

2) Goldie’s Tree Cobra (Pseudohaje goldii) = There are just two species of tree climbing cobras, and just one in the range of Uganda. This was the cobra we saw along the paved road in the Kibale Forest. Awesome! One of the most venomous creatures in Africa.

3) Nile Monitor (Varanus niloticus) = Two different individuals at QENP.

Totals for the tour: 493 bird taxa and 40 mammal taxa