Rwanda & Uganda tour – 9 to 29 July 2011
Trip report by participant Martin Wootton
Tour led and organised by Birding Africa

Introduction
This superb 3 week trip was a combination of two back-to-back tours run by Birding Africa led excellently by Callan & Deirdre Cohen.

In total, 23 of the 27 Albertine Rift Endemics possible were seen extremely well with the only misses being the almost mythical Albertine Owlet & Shelley’s Crimson-wing and the difficult Kivu Ground Thrush (heard only) and Dwarf Honeyguide.

My personal top ten is below:-

Red-collared Mountain Babbler
Shoebill
Green-breasted Pitta
African Green Broadbill
Black Bee-Eater
Pennant-winged Nightjar
African Crowned Eagle
Doherty’s Bush-Shrike
Rwenzori Turaco
Red-faced Barbet
The first 8 days covered Nyungwe and Akagera in Rwanda on an African Bird Club Conservation trip. Rwanda was absolutely magnificent and I would go back tomorrow given the chance. The birds and scenery were wonderful especially in Nyungwe and the Rwandans were always polite and helpful if a little inquisitive of what we were up to. The country is developing at a breakneck pace with much evidence of foreign investment but there also appears to be a genuine interest in protecting and developing the national parks at both Nyungwe & Akagera. There are clearly monumental population pressures and maintaining the national parks as they stand will require a great deal of effort.

The second leg was a “Uganda Specials” trip which targeted key species such as Green-breasted Pitta, African Green Broadbill, Fox’s Weaver and, of course, Shoebill. The stated aim of the Uganda leg was to spend time at key sites to see the specials but, being some of the best birding areas in Africa, it was inevitable that the final list would be high in quality & quantity. Uganda is perhaps more westernised than Rwanda – this was the only place where children asked for money (but not in a Gambia/Morocco/Egypt manner)

The Uganda leg also included a Gorilla tracking option which was fantastic with 9 seen during a top David Attenborough moment. A raft of other mammals was also recorded during the trip.

**Itinerary**

9th July 2011 – Flew from Manchester to Kigale via Amsterdam. Great service from KLM with flights very punctual and very attentive onboard staff. Food excellent by usual plane standards. Met at airport by Callan & Deirdre Cohen and taken to very nice local hotel.

10th July 2011 – basically a travel day with some good papyrus birding along the way, lunch in Butare and great birding in Nyungwe for the last couple of hours of the day.

11th July 2011 – stellar session along the Uwinka trail - 6 hours, a couple of hundred metres and a massive haul of Endemic goodies.

12th July 2011 – great walk down to Kamiranzovu swamp (“the swamp that swallows elephants” apparently). Another raft of goodies but no owls…Kamiranga trail late afternoon.

13th July 2011 – long birding day down in the lower forests around Banda, along the Uwinka trail and then francolin hunting late afternoon.

14th July 2011 – back to Uwinka trail to finally nail the francolin. Departed Nyungwe mid-day and then long drive back to Kigali via Butare. Night in Kigali.

15th July 2011 – drive over to Akagera via papyrus swamps and the very haunting genocide church at Nyamata. Night in Akagera.

16th July 2011 – all day in Akagera birding the access roads and along the Lake Ihema shore.

17th July 2011 – birding as yesterday and then last gasp birding along Miyumbu Ridge when Red-faced Barbet was clutched from the jaws of defeat. Long but happy drive back to Kigali included mega bridge stop at Rwinkavu. Night in Kigali. End of Rwanda trip – met new participants.

18th July 2011 – day one of the Uganda trip starts in Rwanda. Remarkably quick and painless border crossing (not sure where) and then drive to Rwamudiri (Ruhija) via chocolate stop known as Kabale.


20th July 2011 – gorilla trekking. Birded bamboo zone and late night owl/nightjar session.

21st July 2011 – early morning owl/nightjar session. Departed for Queen Elizabeth birding the access road (stellar Dusky Twinspots) & “The Neck” (stellar Black Bee-Eaters). Night near QENP.

22nd July 2011 – birding through QENP, great bridge stop (Crowned Eagle eating monkey sp), crossed equator and then on to Kibale via Fort Portal.

23rd July 2011 – early morning pitta-vigil. Birded trails back to lodge and then along access road. Participant went missing. Pitta session cancelled as leaders and park rangers searching. Not happy.

24th July 2011 – participant still missing. We are grounded so birding on hold for morning and another potential pitta session drifts by. Less happy. Participant reappears – the words “light” and “tunnel” spring to mind. Evening session – no pittas. Drive to Fort Portal with only one potential pitta-session left…

25th July 2011 – leave Fort Portal very early and get back to Kibale in time to stand around in dark again. Mass hysteria when pitta appears and half of the group see the bird – I’m in the other half! Bird reappears and starts displaying to all comers – yeeehah ! Night in Kampala.

26th July 2011 – long drive up to Soroti via Jinja and Mbale. Called at Lake Bisina to arrange boats for tomorrow’s Fox’s Weaver site. Lake Bisina looks such a good site, boats look interesting…..


28th July 2011 – decided to cut our losses at Bisina and headed back towards Mabira at 0330 arriving at 0930. Birded trails all day until gloom and increasing dampness stopped play. Rain got steadily heavier during night causing more than a little consternation…. Pressures and maintaining the national parks at both Nyungwe & Akagera. There are clearly monumental population pressures and maintaining the national parks as they stand will require a great deal of effort.

29th July 2011 – the torrential rain didn’t really prepare us for the dramas of the day ahead. The bus had amazing difficulties negotiating the main access roads out of the lodge and then more problems getting along the access road to the Lake Victoria Shoebill site. The boats at Lake Bisina had quashed a little bit of the adventure in the group and therefore the thought of driving down a slippery road to sit on a plank in a hippo/croc/Bilharzia infested lake in the middle of a thunderstorm with a risk of missing a flight home didn’t appeal to some. To his eternal credit Callan hired a local 4-wheel drive which got four masochists down to the shore. Then the rain stopped. And the sun came out. And the boat was big. With a motor. And seats. And the Shoebill just allowed us to get as close as we wanted. Late (23.30) flight from Entebbe to Amsterdam. Flight on time again, food rubbish.

30th July 2011 – landed at 0645. Three hours at Schipol to relax and take stock and then quick flight back to Manchester with various hen parties, etc. Back to reality !

**Health & Safety stuff**

No problems anywhere.

Bilharzia is present in many Ugandan waters and malaria remains a constant issue.

We were very fortunate in having two superb drivers/helpers (Musa & Joash) throughout the 3 weeks who shielded us from the excesses of African drivers.
One of the participants decided to go walk-about in Kibale (she wandered off from the lodge into the forest while we were still on our birding walk) and a full scale army/police operation swung into action to try and find her. She was out overnight during a horrendous thunderstorm but, thankfully, was found after 24hrs. It would be quite long-winded and probably a bit too raw to describe the full events and the feelings at the time but essentially we were playing catch-up for the rest of the tour due to one individual. The one thing that shone through was the unwavering efforts of Callan & Deirdre Cohen to get the authorities on board and to ensure that the situation was resolved as soon as possible. Their efforts were totally appreciated by the rest of the group.

Travel
British nationals do not require a visa to enter Rwanda and there is no fee to enter the country on arrival. Customs at Kigali painless and baggage recovery really quick

There is a visa requirement to enter Uganda. I got mine at the border crossing ($50) whilst others got theirs via the Ugandan Embassy in London (£25). When one takes into account postage charges in the UK the options cost about the same. Both options seemed to be relatively pain-free. The border crossing (exiting Rwanda & entering Uganda) took about 1.5 hours – remarkably quick given the African love for queues, paperwork and general buggering about. There is no charge to exit Uganda.

KLM are the only realistic option if you need to enter at Kigali and leave at Entebbe. The flights were excellent – great check-in and puntual with good, attentive service. The food was excellent on the outward journey, less so on the return.

Accommodation
Really good throughout – Birding Africa obviously provided the best accommodation available near the key birding sites. Deirdre & Callan were both extremely efficient and diligent in phoning ahead and seamlessly ensuring that hotels were ready for us

Weather
The weather was fantastic right up to the final days at Mabira when we had real problems getting from the lodge back to the main road due to a torrential thunderstorm. The skill of the drivers in getting the bus out in one piece was phenomenal

Money
Probably worth noting that old (pre-2000) dollar bills are not generally accepted as legal tender in Uganda.

Taxonomy
Nomenclature and taxonomy in the list below follows Clements and the latest update (Dec 2010)

Bibliography
Birds of East Africa – Stevenson & Fanshawe. The standard reference book for the region. Good plates & great information. Some of the ranges now seem a little odd as further information has become available but the book is still absolutely invaluable

Birds of Africa south of the Sahara Ed 1 – Sinclair & Ryan. Always useful as a cross-reference and to put species’ ranges into context. The plates in the updated version have apparently been significantly revamped and improved

Where to Watch Birds in Uganda – Roussow & Saatchi. Nice bit of advance reading

History of a Genocide – Gerard Prunier. Excellent read to better understand the 1994 atrocities in Rwanda. The book does not dwell too much on the violence but gives a great insight into the history of Rwanda and how it influenced the violence

Bulletin of the African Bird Club (Vol 17; No 2) – great article by Callan Cohen et al. covering Akagera & Nyungwe. Came through my door at exactly the right moment!

Birds
- Lifers are indicated below in bold type.
- Birds in square brackets are heard-only.
- Albertine Rift Endemics are marked thus **
- Sub-species status may be based on geographical location and does not imply that sub-specific identification was carried out. This is simply my interpretation.
- Note that this is a list of birds seen by me and not by the group and/or the leader.

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae
White-faced Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*)
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*)
Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)
Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)
Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*)
Yellow-billed Duck (*Anas undulate*)

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae
[Coqui Francolin (*Francolinus coqui*)]
[Scaly Francolin (*Francolinus squamatus*)]
Red-necked Francolin (*Francolinus afer*)
  - *ssp cranchii* – lots of these along the access road in Akagera and the road through Queen Elizabeth NP

**Handsome Francolin (*Francolinus nobilis*)** – one that is heard far more often than seen. Eventually got cracking views of one on trotting around on a path at Nyungwe

Helmeted Guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*)
  - *ssp meleagris* – loads in Akagera in particular
  - *ssp reichenowi* – the pet ones in the hotel grounds at Soroti were these!!
PODICEPIDIFORMES: Podicipedidae
Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis)

PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae
Pink-backed Pelican (Pelecanus rufescens)

PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae
Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)
Long-tailed Cormorant (Phalacrocorax africanus)

PELECANIFORMES: Anhingidae
Darter (Anhinga melanogaster)

CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae
Little Bittern (Ixobrychus minutus)
  • ssp payesii – lots of this very distinctive race at Lake Victoria in particular
Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea)
Black-headed Heron (Ardea melanocephala)
Goliath Heron (Ardea goliath) – a few at the larger waters – Lake Ihema and Lake Bisina in particular. Another bogey bird out of the way...
Purple Heron (Ardea purpurea)
Great Egret (Ardea alba)
Little Egret (Egretta garzetta)
Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis)
Squacco Heron (Ardeola ralloides)
Striated Heron (Butorides striata)
  • ssp atricapilla

CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae
Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus)
Sacred Ibis (Threskiornis aethiopicus)
Hadada Ibis (Bostrychia hagedash)
  • ssp nilotica

CICONIIFORMES: Scopidae
Hamerkop (Scopus umbretta)

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae
African Openbill (Anastomus lamelligerus)
Saddle-billed Stork (Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis)
Marabou Stork (Leptoptilos crumeniferus)
Yellow-billed Stork (Mycteria ibis)

CICONIIFORMES: Balaenicipitidae
Shoebill (Balaeniceps rex) – defo in the trip top five and probably number one given the circumstances. Mind-numbing views of one surrounded by water lilies and jacanas at Lake Victoria on the last day of the trip

FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae
European Honey-buzzard (Pernis apivorus) – my best ever views of one – perched in a tree in the forest near Banda, Nyungwe. A very surprising find to say the least given the time of year
Black-shouldered Kite (Elanus caeruleus)
  • ssp caeruleus
Black Kite (Milvus migrans)
  • ssp parasitus – the Black versus Yellow-billed debate continues
African Fish-Eagle (Haliaeetus vocifer)
Palm-nut Vulture (Gypohierax angolensis)
Hooded Vulture (Necrosyrtes monachus)
White-backed Vulture (Gyps africanus)
Lappet-faced Vulture (Torgos tracheliotus)
  • ssp tracheliotus
Western Banded Snake-Eagle (Circaetus cinerascens)
Bateleur (Terathopius ecaudatus)

African Marsh-Harrier (Circus ranivorus) – seen in papyrus swamps in Rwanda and later at Lake Bisina and, particularly, Lake Victoria
African Harrier-Hawk (Polyboroides typus)
Lizard Buzzard (Kaupifalco monogrammicus)
Gabar Goshawk (Micronisus gabor)
  • ssp aequatorius – two in QENP
African Goshawk (Accipiter tachiro)
  • ssp sparsimfasciatus – somewhere between QENP & Fort Portal
Shikra (Accipiter badius)
  • ssp sphenurus – this was presumably the race perched by the hotel in Kampala
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk (Accipiter rufiventris)
  • ssp rufiventris – following initial confusion one was identified by on-the-spot digital photos taken by Callan
Black Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter melanoleucus*)
- *ssp melanoleucus*

Mountain Buzzard (*Buteo oreophilus*)
- *ssp oreophilus* – seen regularly around Nyungwe. Clements lumps this nominate with the Forest Buzzard of South Africa (*ssp trizonatus*).

Augur Buzzard (*Buteo augur*) - "I've got a raptor……it's an Augur" Again…..and again…

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle (*Aquila ayresii*)

Martial Eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*) - one in the sky at the same time as a Crowned Eagle at Akagera

Long-crested Eagle (*Lophaetus occipitalis*)

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus africanus*) – displaying bird watched at Nyungwe

Crowned Hawk-Eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) – very brief views of one at Nyungwe followed by a high displaying bird at Akagera. Both these were eclipsed by a young bird which gave phenomenal, prolonged views feeding on a monkey (1st-year Schmidt's Red-tailed Monkey according to Ron the resident monkey specialist) near Bwindi

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
- *ssp rufescens*

Grey Kestrel (*Falco ardosiaceus*)

Red-necked Falcon (*Falco chicquera*)
- *ssp ruficollis*

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

[White-spotted Flufftail (*Sarothrura pulchra*)]

Red-chested Flufftail (*Sarothrura rufa*)
- *ssp elizabethae* – one zipped back and forth across the board walk at Kamiranzovu Swamp in Nyungwe in response to a recording.

Black Crake (*Amaurornis flavirostra*)

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)
- *ssp madagascariensis*

Allen's Gallinule (*Porphyrio alleni*) – one young bird, just starting to acquire some adult blueness, was seen very well at Lake Victoria

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
- *ssp meridionalis*

**GRUIFORMES: Otididae**

Black-bellied Bustard (*Lissotis melanogaster*)
- *ssp melanogaster* – just one of these sneaking around in the long grass at QENP

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**

Grey Crowned-Crane (*Balearica regulorum*)
- *ssp gibbericeps* – regularly seen in Uganda where it is the national bird. The farming practices in Rwanda and Uganda clearly influence distribution – at the border, farming changes from arable (Rwanda) to pastoral (Uganda) and cranes, which weren't seen at all in Rwanda suddenly appeared in the first km of Ugandan territory

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Long-toed Lapwing (*Vanellus crassirostris*)
- *ssp crassirostris* - first seen in Akagera and then common at various swamps throughout Uganda

Spur-winged Plover (*Vanellus spinosus*)

Senegal Lapwing (*Vanellus lugubris*) - first seen in Akagera and then relatively common on recently burned areas within Queen Elizabeth NP

Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus senegallus*)
- *ssp senegallus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Lesser Jacana (*Microparra capensis*) – loads (estimate 40-50) of these little crackers seen at Lake Bisina. One later on Lake Victoria

African Jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Temminck's Courser (*Cursorius temminckii*)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Grey-hooded Gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*)

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)
- *ssp guinea*

Olive Pigeon (*Columba arquatrix*) – aka Rameron Pigeon (though not really sure why). Frequent in Nyungwe and Bwindi
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon (*Columba iriditorques*) – great views of one which perched briefly at Bwindi and then shot off into the forest

African Mourning Dove (*Streptopelia decipiens*)
- *ssp logonensis*

Red-eyed Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*)

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove (*Turtur afer*)

Tambourine Dove (*Turtur tympanistria*)

African Green-Pigeon (*Treron calvus*)
- *ssp salvadorii* - Akagera

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**

Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)
- *ssp erithacus* – birds of the nominate race seen in Kibale and over Entebbe. An interesting article in the local paper indicated that 200 parrots were due to be re-released into Kibale shortly !

Meyer’s Parrot (*Pocephalus meyeri*)
- *ssp saturatus* – first seen in Akagera

**CUCULIFORMES: Musophagidae**

Great Blue Turaco (*Corythaeola cristata*) – loads of these in all forested areas throughout the trip

Black-billed Turaco (*Tauraco schuettii*)
- *ssp emini* – this took ages to pin-down but we eventually had great views in Nyungwe. This bird has a distribution primarily within DRC and so is only readily accessible in Rwanda/Uganda

**Ruwenzori Turaco (*Ruwenzorornis johnstoni*)**
- *ssp kivuensis* – lots of these crackers in Nyungwe.

Ross’s Turaco (*Musophaga rossae*) – surprisingly common throughout

Bare-faced Go-away-bird (*Corythaixoides personatus*)
- *ssp leopoldi* – first seen in Akagera and regular in the lower areas thereafter

Eastern Plantain-eater (*Crinifer zonurus*)

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Red-chested Cuckoo (*Cuculus solitarius*) – phenomenal views of a calling male in Bwindi

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo (*Cercococcyx mechowi*) – a calling bird was enticed to zip across a clearing at Bwindi

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo (*Cercococcyx montanus*)
- *ssp montanus* – these were exceedingly frustrating in Nyungwe until a calling bird was located and was thoroughly grilled in the open canopy

Klaas’s Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx klaas*)

African Emerald Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx cupreus*)
- *ssp cupreus* – an immature gave average views in Nyungwe but was later totally eclipsed by a singing adult male in Kibale

Dideric Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx caprius*) – one at the Dusky Twinspot site in Bwindi and then a few near Soroti

Yellowbill (*Ceuthmochares aereus*)
- *ssp aereus* – great views of one at Kibale

Blue-headed Coucal (*Centropus monachus*)
- *ssp fischeri*

White-browed Coucal (*Centropus superciliosus*)
- *ssp loandae* - Akagera

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl (*Bubo lacteus*) – great views of one at it’s day roost in QENP

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Montane Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*) – these are Rwenzori Nightjars to everyone except Clements taxonomists. One gave fantastic flight views in Nyungwe. Several efforts to see them in Bwindi inexplicably failed (loads of birds calling, perfect weather, etc)

Pennant-winged Nightjar (*Macrodipteryx vexillarius*) – a stunning male gave amazing views over the lodge at Akagera. Surely one of the weirdest flying birds?

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

Scarce Swift (*Schoutedenapus myoptilus*)
- *ssp chapini* – loads of these distantly in Nyungwe and then much better views on the approach to Bwindi

African Swift (*Apus barbatus*)
- *ssp ???* - probably the confusion bird of the trip. The swifts seen in Southern Uganda may be A. barbatus but equally may be a new species. Callan noted that these birds utter an odd “chittering” call though they didn’t on our visit

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*)

White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*)- some fantastic, point-blank views were had of birds trying to take over Red-rumped Swallow nests in Rwanda

Alpine Swift (*Tachymarptis melba*)

African Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*)

**COLIIFORMES: Coliidae**

Specled Mousebird (*Colius striatus*)

Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urocolius macrourus*)
TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae
Narina Trogon (Apaloderma narina)
• ssp brachyurum – great views in Nyungwe
Bar-tailed Trogon (Apaloderma vittatum)
• ssp camerunensis – great views in Nyungwe

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae
Malachite Kingfisher (Alcedo cristata)
• ssp galerita
Grey-headed Kingfisher (Halcyon leucocephala)
• ssp pallidiventris
Woodland Kingfisher (Halcyon senegalensis)
• ssp senegalensis – all the birds interrogated seemed to be of the resident nominate race rather than the intra-African race cyanoleuca which should occur in the area at this time of the year
Striped Kingfisher (Halcyon chelicuti)
• ssp chelicuti - relatively common but one bird displaying to Woodland Kingfishers brought a large round of oohs & aahs from the assembled birders
Giant Kingfisher (Megaceryle maximus)
Pied Kingfisher (Ceryle rudis)

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae
Black Bee-eater (Merops gularis)
• ssp australis – great views of at least 3 of these fantastic birds at The Neck, Bwindi
Blue-breasted Bee-eater (Merops variegates)
• ssp loringi – great views of these on the Shoebill boat trip on Lake Victoria
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater (Merops oreobates) – lots of these in Nyungwe generally in the vicinity of road cuttings and embankments. Seemed to be less frequent in Bwindi
White-throated Bee-eater (Merops albicollis)
Madagascar Bee-eater (Merops superciliosus)
• ssp superciliosus - lots of the nominate race seen in Queen Elizabeth NP and later a few around Lake Victoria. It would seem that these are Intra-Africa migrants rather than visitors from Madagascar

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae
Lilac-breasted Roller (Coracias caudatus)
• ssp caudatus – nominate birds seen occasionally in Uganda
Broad-billed Roller (Eurystomus glaucurus)
• ssp suahelicus

CORACIIFORMES: Phoeniculidae
Green Woodhoopoe (Phoeniculus purpureus)
• ssp marwitzi – this is (tentatively) the race seen near Lake Bisina
White-headed Woodhoopoe (Phoeniculus bollei)
• ssp jacksoni – lots of these in mixed flocks in Nyungwe

CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae
Crowned Hornbill (Tockus alboterminatus) – 2 seen well in Kibale
African Pied Hornbill (Tockus fasciatus)
• ssp fasciatus
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill (Ceratogymna subcylindrica)
• ssp subquadrata – lots of these beauties in suitable forested areas
Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill (Ceratogymna abyssinicus) – a fantastic pair of these near Soroti

PICIFORMES: Lybiidae
Yellow-billed Barbet (Trachyphonus purpuratus)
• ssp elgonensis – good views of one in Bwindi
Crested Barbet (Trachyphonus vaillanti)
• ssp suahelicus – great views of two in Akagera whilst on the Red-faced Barbet hunt
Grey-throated Barbet (Gymnobucco bonapartei)
• ssp cinereiceps – frequent in Bwindi
Speckled Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus sclopoaceus)
• ssp flavisquamatus - Kibale
Western Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus coryphaeus)
• ssp hildamariar – really good views were had of these on our first full day in Nyungwe
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus subsulphureus)
• ssp flavimentum – the best views were probably of those seen in Mabira
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus bilineatus)
• ssp leucolaimus – Kibale (tentative – may be mfumbiri ?)
• ssp mfumbiri - Bwindi
• ssp jacksoni - Nyungwe
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird (Pogoniulus chrysoconus)
• ssp chrysoconus
Yellow-spotted Barbet (Buccanodon duchaillui) – one in Kibale
Hairy-breasted Barbet (Tricholaema hirsute)
• ssp ansorgii – seen in Kibale & Mabira. Much nicer than the grubby Streak-throated versions in Cameroon
Spot-flanked Barbet (*Tricholaema lacrymosa*)
- *ssp lacrymosa* – the nominate was seen only in the Soroti area
- *ssp radcliffei* – the first was near Butare, Rwanda and then lots more seen particularly in Akagera

Red-faced Barbet (*Lybius rubrifacies*) – these left it until the very last minute at Akagera. It felt as though we had scoured every snag and bush in Akagera before a calling pair landed straight above us and gave brilliant, walk-away views. And very, very nice they were too

Double-toothed Barbet (*Lybius bidentatus*)
- *ssp aequatorialis* – pretty awesome birds as usual. Several of these seen in secondary growth in both Rwanda & Uganda

**PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae**

Least Honeyguide (*Indicator exilis*)
- *ssp pachyrhynchus* – at least one was going ballistic in response to the tape at along the Mubwindi Swamp trail at Bwindi

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Nubian Woodpecker (*Campethera nubica*)
- *ssp nubica* – Queen Elizabeth NP

Golden-tailed Woodpecker (*Campethera abingoni*)
- *ssp kvariondensis* – one seen well in Akagera by Lake Ihema

Buff-spotted Woodpecker (*Campethera nigosa*)
- *ssp herberti* – a pair gave cracking views in the lodge grounds at Kibale

Grey Woodpecker (*Dendropicos goertae*)
- *ssp goertae* - Akagera

**PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae**

"African Green Broadbill (*Pseudocalyptomena graueri*) – fantastic views of one at the nest. We were advised that the bird’s nest had been predated a couple of days before we visited so hopes weren’t particularly great. The presence of elephants nearby also added a slight edge to proceedings. However we were able to watch the bird making and testing out the new nest – sitting for long periods with it’s head poking out. In the photo below the bottom of the nest can just be seen above the bird.
PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae
Green-breasted Pitta (Pitta reichenowi) – we were getting a little desperate after 3 days at Kibale when there was no sign of any pittas. They seem not to call when it rains. The final morning eclipsed our wildest dreams when one sat up and displayed for the assembled ranks of birders. The photos below show the bird in display action – on the branch and then jumping up whilst making a “prrrp” (or similar !) noise. Apparently the noise is mechanical rather than voice. Fabulous performance for over 10 minutes.

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae
Grey-backed Fiscal (Lanius excubitoroides)
- ssp excubitoroides - Uganda
- ssp boehmi - Rwanda
Mackinnon's Shrike (Lanius mackinnoni)
Common Fiscal (Lanius collaris)
- ssp humeralis - Uganda
- ssp capelli – presumably the race seen in Rwanda and Bwindi ?

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae
Grey Cuckoo-shrike (Coracina caesia)
Black Cuckoo Shrike (Campephaga flava) – great views of one in Nyungwe

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae
Piapiac (Ptilostomus afer)
Pied Crow (Corvus albus)
White-necked Raven (Corvus albicollis) - seen daily at Nyungwe

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae
White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher (Elminia albicauda) – first seen at Butare and then reasonably common later in Bwindi
African Paradise-Flycatcher (Terpsiphone viridis)
- ssp ferreti - widespread
- ssp kivuensis – assumed to be the race seen in Nyungwe (?)
PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae
Rufous-naped Lark (*Mirafra africana*)
  - ssp *ruwenzoria* / *tropicalis* – one rather scabby juvenile seen in Queen Elizabeth NP

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
Banded Martin (*Riparia cincta*)
  - ssp *suahelica* – great views of a flock of these perched in papyrus at Lake Bisina
Rock Martin (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*)
  - ssp *fusciventris*
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
  - ssp *rustica* – surprising numbers of these. Clearly they knew how poor the European summer was going to be
Angola Swallow (*Hirundo angolensis*) – common in both countries
Wire-tailed Swallow (*Hirundo smithii*)
  - ssp *unitalis* – ones at Bwindi assumed to be this race
Rufous-chested Swallow (*Cecropis semirufa*)
  - ssp *gordoni* – QENP

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae
White-winged Black-Tit (*Melaniparus leucomelas*)
  - ssp *insignis* – small numbers seen in Akagera
Dusky Tit (*Melaniparus funereus*)
  - ssp *funereus* – a couple in the lower forests at Nyungwe were the only ones
**Stripe-breasted Tit (*Melaniparus fasciiventer*)
  - ssp *fasciiventer* – a few in both Nyungwe and Bwindi. Lots of nest-boxes at the latter site apparently provided & monitored by British birders….

PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae
African Penduline-Tit (*Anthoscopus caroli*)
  - ssp *roccatii* – great views of at least 6 on our last day at Akagera

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae
Common Bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*)
  - ssp *tricolor*
Little Greenbul (*Andropadus virens*)
  - ssp *holochlorus* - Kibale
Little Grey Greenbul (*Andropadus gracilis*)
  - ssp *ugandae* - Mabira
Plain Greenbul (*Andropadus curvirostris*)
  - ssp *curvirostris* –aka Cameroon Sombre Greenbul. Lots of these at Kibale including one on a nest by the lodge bar
Slender-billed Greenbul (*Andropadus gracilirostris*)
  - ssp *gracilirostris*
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (*Andropadus latirostris*)
  - ssp *latirostris*
Eastern Mountain-Greenbul (*Andropadus nigriceps*)
  - ssp *kikuyensis* – particularly common in Nyungwe and then less frequent at Bwindi. This complex is ripe for splitting with this race being commonly referred to as Olive-breasted Mountain-Greenbul
Yellow-throated Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus albigularis*)
  - ssp *albigularis* – not the most co-operative of greenbuls. One eventually showed well in Mabira

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae
Red-faced Cisticola (*Cisticola erythrops*)
  - ssp *sylvia*
Trilling Cisticola (*Cisticola woosnami*)
  - ssp *woosnami* – Akagera and QENP
Chubb’s Cisticola (*Cisticola chubbi*)
  - ssp *chubbi* – previous sighting of Chubb’s was race “discolour” at Mt.Cameroon which may be a different species (Brown-backed Cisticola)
Winding Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*)
  - ssp *marginatus* – nyansae is the widespread Ugandan race but the ones at Lake Bisina may have been these (?)
  - ssp *nyansae* – particularly common along the shore of Lake Ihema at Akagera
Carruthers’s Cisticola (*Cisticola carruthersi*)- loads of these wherever papyrus swamps remained across Rwanda and Uganda
Stout Cisticola (*Cisticola robustus*)
- *ssp nuchalis* – one of these in Queen Elizabeth NP assumed to be this race
- *ssp strangal* – a few in QENP

Tabora Cisticola (*Cisticola angusticauda*) – very showy and reasonably common in Akagera

Croaking Cisticola (*Cisticola natalensis*)
- *ssp strangei* – a few in QENP.

Tabora Cisticola (*Cisticola angusticauda*) – very showy and reasonably common in Akagera

Siffling Cisticola (*Cisticola brachypterus*)

Banded Prinia (*Prinia bairdii*)
- *ssp obscura* – fantastic views of birds in the lower forests at Ruhija. This very beautiful bird is a potential split to Black-faced Prinia

White-chinned Prinia (*Schistolaia leucopogon*)
- *ssp reichenowi*

**Ruwenzori Apalis (*Apalis ruwenzorii*)** – very common along the Uwinka trail at Nyungwe. Infrequent at Bwindi

Black-throated Apalis (*Apalis jacksoni*)
- *ssp jacksoni* – great views of one along the school trail at Ruhija

**Black-faced Apalis (*Apalis personata*)**
- *ssp personata* – aka Mountain Masked Apalis (by everyone except Clement) Lots and lots of these gorgeous endemics in Nyungwe and then very regular in Bwindi

Yellow-breasted Apalis (*Apalis flavida*)
- *ssp golzi* – one seen in Akagera

Buff-throated Apalis (*Apalis rufogularis*)
- *ssp argentus* – commonly split as Kungwe Apalis. Good views in Nyungwe of this uncommon & range-restricted bird
- *ssp nigrescens* – Kibale

Chestnut-throated Apalis (*Apalis porphyrolaema*)
- *ssp affinis* – very neat birds. Regular in Nyungwe

Grey-capped Warbler (*Eminia lepida*) – just one seen in a papyrus swamp near Kigali. A few others heard later

Green-backed Camaroptera (*Camaroptera brachyuran*)
- *ssp ???* – at least one near Lake Victoria on the last day. Should have paid more attention I guess

Miombo Wren-Warbler (*Calamonastes undosus*)
- *ssp undosus* – fantastic views of this very subtly marked bird. Reasonable candidate for splitting with this becoming Pale Wren-Warbler and the more southerly birds becoming Stierling’s Wren-Warbler

**Passeriformes: Sylviidae**

White-winged Scrub-Warbler (*Bradypterus carpalis*) – fantastic views of one singing and displaying in papyrus swamp between Kigali and Akagera. One of the trip highlights

**Grauer’s Scrub-Warbler (*Bradypterus graueri*)** – one seen along the access road on our first day in Nyungwe. Mubwindi swamp would have been another option in Uganda but unfortunately elephants prevented us getting to the relevant habitat

Cinnamon Breck-en-Warbler (*Bradypterus cinna mueus*)
- *ssp mildbreadi* – one virtually sat on the iPod at the start of the Uwinka trail in Nyungwe. Fantastic performance

Moustached Grass-Warbler (*Melochichla mentalis*)
- *ssp amauroura* – one in QENP

**Grauer’s Warbler (*Graueria vittata*)**

Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*)
- *ssp citriniceps* – great views of a couple in a mixed flock at Akagera

Green-capped Eremomela (*Eremomela scotops*)
- *ssp citriniceps* – great views of a couple in a mixed flock at Akagera

White-browed Crombec (*Sylvietta leucophrys*)
- *ssp chloronota* – superb little birds seen in Nyungwe

Red-faced Crombec (*Sylvietta whytii*)
- *ssp jacksoni* – Akagera only

**Neumann’s Warbler (*Hemitesia neumanni*)** – aka Short-tailed Warbler. One gave us the run-around in Nyungwe before finally giving decent views

**Red-faced Woodland-Warbler (*Phylloscopus laetus*)**
- *ssp laetus* – one of the most common birds in the higher parts of Nyungwe. Far less common in Bwindi later in the trip

**Passeriformes: Muscicapidae**

Pale Flycatcher (*Bradornis pallidus*)
- *ssp murinus* – Akagera only

White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis fischeri*)
- *ssp toruensis* – the eye ring on this race is not particularly obvious. Loads seen throughout our stay at Nyungwe and Bwindi

Northern Black-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis edolioides*)
- *ssp lugubris* – Uganda

Southern Black-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis pallidus syn.)
**Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher (Melanornis ardesiacus)** – a few at Kamiranzovu Swamp in Nyungwe and then one at the broadbill site near Mbwindi Swamp

- **ssp minuscule** - Kibale
- **ssp infuscata**

**Swamp Flycatcher (Musincapa aquatica)**
- **ssp infulata**

**African Dusky Flycatcher (Musincapa adusta)**
- **ssp pumilia**

**Cassin's Flycatcher (Musincapa cassini)** – lovely views in Bwindi & Kibale

**White-starred Robin (Pogonocichla stellata)**
- **ssp ruwenzorii** – several of these gorgeous creatures finally seen well in Bwindi

**White-bellied Robin-Chat (Cossyphicula roberti)**
- **ssp rufescientior**

**Archer's Robin-Chat (Cossypha archeri)**
- **ssp archeri** – one gave an absolutely stellar performance at Nyungwe giving perfect, prolonged views. One was less well behaved at Bwindi but showed well eventually

**White-browed Robin-Chat (Cossypha heuglini)**
- **ssp heuglini** - QENP

**Red-capped Robin-Chat (Cossypha natalensis)**
- **ssp intensa** — one gave great views around the cabins at Mabira

**Stonechat (Saxicola torquatus)**
- **ssp axillaris**

**Sooty Chat (Myrmecocichla nigra)**
- **White-headed Black-Chat (Myrmecocichla arnotti)**
  - **ssp ?????** – lots seen around the approach to Akagera. These birds mysteriously associate closely with man and the females have white collars. They are being tentatively split by some authorities as “Ruaha Chat” Clements doesn’t identify any races for this species

**Mocking Cliff-Chat (Thamnolaeae cinnamonomeiventris)**
- **ssp subrufipennis** – one at the lodge in Akagera

**Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush (Neocossyphus fraseri)**
- **ssp vulpine** – ace views of one at Kibale

**Kivu Ground-Thrush (Zoothera tanganjicae)** – one singing at Nyungwe by Kamiranzovu swamp simply wouldn’t show

**Olive Thrush (Turdus olivaceus)**
- **ssp bambusicola** – Rwanda & SW Uganda

**African Thrush (Turdus pelios)**
- **ssp centralis** – Uganda

**Red-throated Alethe (Alethe poliophrys)**
- **ssp poliophrys** – one of the stars of Nyungwe. An individual showed down to a metre and actually followed us along the path as we tried to leave it alone. Conversely, in Bwindi, we could only get flights views on one which shot back-and-forth across the road

**African Shrike-Flycatcher (Megabyas flammulatus)**
- **ssp aequatorialis** – great views at Kibale

**Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher (Bias musicus)**
- **ssp musicus** – after blip views in Nyungwe we finally had fantastic views of several pairs in Kibale

**Chestnut Wattle-Eye (Platysteira castanea)**
- **ssp castanea** – a few in Kibale

**Ruwenzori Batis (Batis diops)** – regular in Nyungwe. Smart little birds with lovely “headlights”

**Chinspot Batis (Batis molitor)**
- **ssp puella** – popped up occasionally throughout Rwanda and Uganda

**Scaly-breasted Illadopsis (Illadopsis albipectus)** – prolonged scope views of a singing bird at Kibale

**Black-lored Babbler (Turdoides sharpie)**
- **ssp sharpie** – Akegera & QENP

**Arrow-marked Babbler (Turdoides jardineii)**
- **ssp emini** – roadside birds on route from Kigali to Akagera

**Red-collared Mountain-Babbler (Kupeornis rufocinctus)** – a small party gave very poor views at Nyungwe and then, in literally our final hour, 3 totally stunning birds shot into the tape giving the best views imaginable.
PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae
African Yellow White-eye (Zosterops senegalensis)
  • ssp toroensis – assuming that this is the race seen in Nyungwe & Bwindi

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae
Collared Sunbird (Hedydipna collaris)
  • ssp garguensis – Nyungwe & Bwindi
**Blue-headed Sunbird (Cyanomitra alinae)
  • ssp alinae – as below but in Bwindi
  • ssp tanganyicae – brilliant birds with some stunning views at Nyungwe
Western Olive Sunbird (Cyanomitra olivacea)
  • ssp raggazi – the rest of the world seems to be lumping Eastern & Western Olive Sunbirds – but not Clements yet
Scarlet-chested Sunbird (Chalciscomitra senegalensis)
  • ssp lamperti
**Purple-breasted Sunbird (Nectarinia purpureiventris) – loads of these around the huge Symphonia trees found in Nyungwe. Totally stunning birds when seen in the correct light

Bronze Sunbird (Nectarinia klimensis)
  • ssp klimensis – several stunning males seen through the trip
**Stuhlmann's Sunbird (Cinnyris stuhlmanni) – aka Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird.
  • ssp schubotzi - very clear altitudinal split between this and the next species with Northern being found at lower levels. Apparently the various races can be separated by bill length – this one has a medium sized bill
Northern Double-collared Sunbird (Cinnyris reichenowi)
  • ssp reichenowi
**Regal Sunbird (Cinnyris regius)
  • ssp regius (kivuensis ?) – a very beautiful sunbird and fortunately common in Nyungwe. Fairly frequent in Bwindi
Mariqua Sunbird (Cinnyris marquensis)
  • ssp osiris – in theory, the ones at Soroti could have been these
  • ssp suahelicus – lots of these in Akagera
Red-chested Sunbird (Cinnyris erythrocercus) – fantastic birds. Usually very showy at wetlands throughout Rwanda & Southern Uganda
Variable Sunbird (Cinnyris venustus)
  • ssp igneiventris - Nyungwe
Copper Sunbird (Cinnyris cupreus)
  • ssp cupreus

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae
African Golden Oriole (Oriolus auratus)
  • ssp auratus - Akagera
African Black-headed Oriole (Oriolus larvatus)
  • ssp rolleti - Akagera
Montane Oriole (Oriolus percivali) – regular in Nyungwe

PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae
Brubru (Nilaus afer)
  • ssp massaicus
Northern Puffback (Dryoscopus gambensis)
Black-backed Puffback (Dryoscopus cubla)
Marsh Tchagra (Tchagra minutus)
  • ssp minutus – QENP & Lake Bisina
Black-crowned Tchagra (Tchagra senegalus)
  • ssp armenus - Akagera
Luehder's Bushshrike (Laniarius luehderi) – fantastic views of a duetting pair during the unsuccessful Shelley’s Crimsonwing vigil in Nyungwe’s lower forests.
Black-headed Gonolek (Laniarius erythrogaster)
Papyrus Gonolek (Laniarius mufumbiri) – stunning birds seen in a variety of papyrus swamps through Rwanda and Uganda. Responds remarkably well to recording
Mountain Sooty Boubou (Laniarius poensis)
  • ssp holometas – only seen at Kamiranzovu swamp in Nyungwe and heard in Bwindi. Try as we may we couldn’t turn any into the mysterious “new” Willard’s Boubou….
Bocage’s Bushshrike (Telophrorhus bocagei)
  • ssp jacksoni – just one, very wet, individual near Lake Victoria
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike (Telophrorhus sulfuropectus)
  • ssp sulfuropectus / similis – the ones in Akagera were one of these races
Doherty's Bushshrike (Telophrorhus dohertyi) – yee-hah !! One shot into the recording at Kamiranzovu swamp in Nyungwe and gave prolonged views. One at Bwindi put on a much less satisfactory show
Lagden's Bushshrike (Malaconotus lagdeni)
  • ssp centralis – one of the big (literally) bonus birds of the trip. One appeared in the canopy briefly at Nyungwe along the Uwinka trail
Grey-headed Bushshrike (Malaconotus blancoli)
  • ssp hypopyrrhus – my best ever views of this in Akagera

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae
Fork-tailed Drongo (Dicrurus adsimilis)
PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling (Lamprotornis chalybaeus)  
• ssp scyobius
Splendid Glossy-Starling (Lamprotornis splendidus)  
• ssp splendidus
Rueppell's Glossy-Starling (Lamprotornis purpureoephera)  
• ssp purpureoephera
Violet-backed Starling (Cinnyricinctus leucogaster)  
• ssp verreauxi – fantastic spectacle of swarms of these at Akagera.
Slender-billed Starling (Onychognathus tenuirostris)  
• ssp theresae – Nyungwe and then lots at Bwindi
Waller's Starling (Onychognathus walleri)  
• ssp elgonensis – common in Nyungwe & Bwindi
Narrow-tailed Starling (Poeoeptera lugubris) – only noted in Kibale. Lots of fly-overs until one perched giving prolonged scope views
Stuhlmann's Starling (Poeoeptera stuhlmanni) – good perched views, eventually, at Bwindi
Sharpe’s Starling (Pholia sharpe) – lots of these beauties in Nyungwe with particularly good views in Kamiranzovu Swamp
Yellow-billed Oxpecker (Buphagus africanus)  
• ssp africanus – my first ever on ox (actually buffalo)

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
Cape Wagtail (Motacilla capensis)  
• ssp wellsii – first noted at Nyungwe
Mountain Wagtail (Motacilla clara)
African Pied Wagtail (Motacilla aguimp)
Plain-backed Pipit (Anthus leucophrys)  
• ssp zenkeri – Lake Ihema, Akagera
Yellow-throated Longclaw (Macronyx croceus) – 1st seen by Lake Ihema in Akagera then widespread in Ugandan swamps

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (Emberiza tahapisi)  
• ssp tahapisi
Golden-breasted Bunting (Emberiza flaviventris)  
• ssp kalaharica / carychroa – seen in reasonable numbers at both Akagera and Bwindi

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae
Yellow-fronted Canary (Serinus mozambicus)  
• ssp barbatus
Yellow-crowned Canary (Serinus flavivertex)  
• ssp sassii – particularly common around Ruhija village in Bwindi
Western Citril (Serinus frontalis) – lots of these in Nyungwe
Papyrus Canary (Serinus koliensis) – just managed to get good views of one in a papyrus swamp on the outskirts of Kigali on the first day
Brimstone Canary (Serinus sulphuratus)  
• ssp sharpii – great views of one during the fantastic bridge stop at Riwaankavu (?)
Streaky Seedeater (Serinus striolatus)  
• ssp graueri – Nyungwe & Bwindi inc one on a nest at the latter site
Thick-billed Seedeater (Serinus burtoni)  
• ssp tanganijicae - Nyungwe

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae
Grey-headed Sparrow (Passer griseus)

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae
Red-headed Malimbe  
• ssp centralis – great views of one in Kibale
Red-headed Weaver (Anaplectes rubriceps)  
• ssp leuconotus - Akagera
Baglafecht Weaver (Ploceus baglafecht)  
• ssp stuhlmanni – Nyungwe and Bwindi. Historically split as Stuhlmann’s Weaver
Slender-billed Weaver (Ploceus pelzelni)  
• ssp pelzelni – common in papyrus swamps
Black-necked Weaver (Ploceus nigricollis)  
• ssp nigricollis
Spectacled Weaver (Ploceus ocularis)  
• ssp nigricollis
**Strange Weaver (Ploceus alienus) – great birds. First seen in Nyungwe
Northern Brown-throated Weaver (Ploceus castanops) – first male seen at Lake Ihema. Lots seen in subsequent reed or papyrus swamps
Vieillot's Weaver (Ploceus nigerrimus)  
• ssp nigerrimus – common. Large colony by the chicken stalls at Mabira
Village Weaver (Ploceus cucullatus)
- ssp bohndorffi – Uganda
- ssp graueri – Rwanda
Weyn’s Weaver (Ploceus weynsi) – brilliant views of these in Mabira. A very attractive weaver
Black-headed Weaver (Ploceus melanocephalus) – Yellow-backed Weaver
- ssp dimidiatus – better known as Yellow-backed Weaver. Seen in papyrus somewhere between Kampala and Soroti
Jackson’s Golden-backed Weaver (Ploceus jacksoni) – stunningly attractive birds seen at point blank range at Lake Bisina
Yellow-mantled Weaver (Ploceus tricolour)
- ssp intercapularis – one in Kibale
Forest Weaver (Ploceus bicolor)
- ssp mentalis – Nyungwe only
Brown-capped Weaver (Ploceus insignis) – Nyungwe & Bwindi
Cardinal Quelea (Quelea cardinalis) – nice flock perched up during the Lake Bisina boat trip
Red-billed Quelea (Quelea quelea)
- ssp aethiopica
Southern Red Bishop (Euplectes orix) – one male between Kigali & Akagera
Black-winged Bishop (Euplectes hordeaceus)
Fan-tailed Widowbird (Euplectes axillaries)
- ssp phoeniceus – one glorious red shouldered male near Soroti (and a few scabby others elsewhere)
Grosbeak Weaver (Amblyospiza albifrons)
Passeriformes: Estrildidae
Grey-headed Negrofinch (Nigrita canicapillus)
- ssp schistaceus – Nyungwe, & Mabira
White-breasted Negrofinch (Nigrita fusconotus)
- ssp fusconotus – one at Nyungwe was the first of several
Yellow-bellied Waxbill (Estrilda astrild)
- ssp niansae
Black-crowned Waxbill (Estrilda nonnula)
- ssp nonnula
Black-faced Waxbill (Estrilda erythronotos)
- ssp delamerei – a couple of these were seen along the access road to Akagera
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu (Uraeginthus bengalus)
Dusky Twinspot (Euschistospiza cinereovinacea)
- ssp graueri – brilliant views of two gorgeous birds were achieved after a scramble through steep farmbush at the known Twinspot site at Bwindi
Green-winged Pytilia (Pytilia melba)
- ssp belli
Red-billed Firefinch (Lagonosticta senegala)
- ssp ruberrima
Zebra Waxbill (Sporaeginthus subflavus)
- ssp subflavus (possibly clarkei ?) - great views of 4 (2 males & 2 females) in the papyrus at Lake Bisina
Black-faced Quailfinch (Orthogopsis atricolor)
Bronze Mannikin (Spermestes cucullatus)
Passeriformes: Viduidae
Pin-tailed Whydah (Vidua macroura)
Mammals
Eastern Mountain Gorilla (Gorilla gorilla berengii)
Chimpanzee (Pan paniscus)
Guereza Pied Colobus (Colobus guereza)
Olive Baboon (Papio anubis)
Vervet Monkey (Cercopithecus pygerythrus)
Doggett’s Blue Monkey (Cercopithecus mitis stuhlmanni)
Silver Monkey (Cercopithecus mitis doggetti)
Red-tailed Monkey (Cercopithecus ascanius schmidti)
L’Hoest’s Monkey (Cercopithecus lhoesti)
Ugandan Red Colobus (Piliocolobus tephrosceles)
Grey-cheeked Mangabey (Lophocebus albigena)
Black-fronted Duiker (Cephalophus nigrifrons)
Striped Ground Squirrel (Euxerus erythropus)
Carruther’s Mountain Squirrel (Funiscirrus carruthersi)
Boehm’s Bush Squirrel (Paraxerus boehmi)
African Elephant (Loxodonta africana)
Hippopotamus (Hippopotamus amphibious)
Common Warthog (Phacochoerus africanus)
Buffalo (Syncerus caffer)
Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*)
Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*)
Kob (*Kobus kob*)
Defassa Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*)
Slender Mongoose (*Herpestes sanguinea*)
Topi (*Damaliscus korrigum*)
Lion (*Panthera leo*)
Burchell’s Zebra (*Equus burchelli*)
Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)
Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*)
Spotted Hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*)
Spotted-necked Otter (*Hydrictis maculicolis*)

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**Martin Wootton, Cheshire, UK. August 2011**