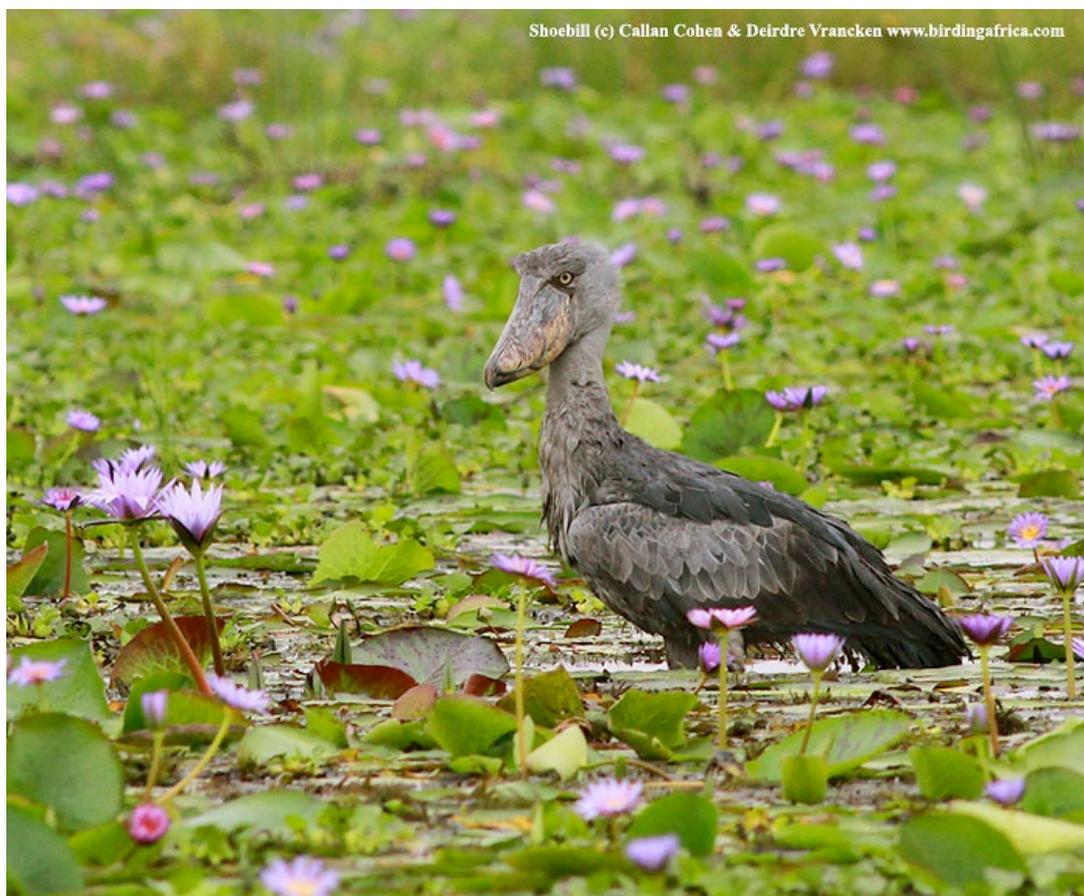


Rwanda & Uganda tour – 9 to 29 July 2011

Trip report by participant Martin Wootton

Tour led and organised by Birding Africa



**Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*) – Lake Victoria, Uganda 29th July 2011
(Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken)**

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 on-board 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 owlets...Karamba 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 Bwindi (Ruhija) via chocolate stop known as Kabale
- 19th July 2011** – walked down to Mubwindi Swamp (not actually too difficult), saw broadbill at/on/making nest, heard elephants nearby, back up hill sharpish. Birded school trail late afternoon – very productive. Night in Ruhija
- 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 Port 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 – yeehah ! 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....
- 27th July 2011** – lots of great birds on Lake Bisina including masses of Lesser Jacanas but no weavers and no Shoebills. Boats very uncomfortable. Night in Soroti
- 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....
- 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 bugging 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 punctual 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 – Rousow & 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 minutas*)

- *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 gabar*)

- *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: Jacanidae

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: Scolopacidae

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae

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*

[Afep Pigeon (*Columba uncinata*) – heard at Kibale]

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 (*Poicephalus 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 Twin-spot 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 its day roost in QENP

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

****Montane Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*)** – these are Ruwenzori 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 (*Tachymartia melba*)

African Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*)

COLIIFORMES: Coliidae

Speckled 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 vaillantii*)

- *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 scolopaceus*)

- *ssp flavisquamatus* – Kibale

Western Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*)

- *ssp hildamariae* – 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 mfumbri ?)
- *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 kavirondensis* – one seen well in Akagera by Lake Ihema

Buff-spotted Woodpecker (*Campethera nivosa*)

- *ssp herberti* – a pair gave cracking views in the lodge grounds at Kibale

Grey Woodpecker (*Dendropicus 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.



**African Green Broadbill – Bwindi, Uganda 19th July 2011
(Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken)**

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



**Green-breasted Pitta – about to display.....
Kibale, Uganda 25th July 2011 (Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken)**



**.....Green-breasted Pitta – top of display jump
Kibale, Uganda 25th July 2011 (Callan Cohen & Deirdre Vrancken)**

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*)

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)

- *ssp emini* – birds at Bwindi assumed to be this race. Some birds with very pale (almost all-white) rumps

Lesser Striped-Swallow (*Cecropis abyssinica*)

- *ssp unitatis* – ones at Bwindi assumed to be this race

Rufous-chested Swallow (*Cecropis semirufa*)

- *ssp gordonii* - QENP

White-headed Sawwing (*Psalidoprocne albiceps*)

- *ssp albiceps* – fantastic birds seen in the lowlands in both Uganda and Rwanda

Black Sawwing (*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*)

- *ssp ruwenzori* – loads in Nyungwe.

Grey-rumped Swallow (*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*) – great views of these ground nesting birds in Akagera

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 kikuyuensis* – 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 (*Chlorocichla flavicollis*)

- *ssp flavigula* – aka Yellow-throated Leaflove. Several showed very well at a bridge stop between Akagera and Kigali

Yellow-streaked Bulbul (*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*)

- *ssp olivaceogriseus* – seen well in Nyungwe. Yes – it does flick one wing

White-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

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*)

Tawny-flanked Prinia (*Prinia subflava*)

- *ssp graueri* – in Kigali

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 (*Schistolais 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 argenteus* – 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

Cinnamom Bracken-Warbler (*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*)

- *ssp mildbreadi* - one virtually sat on the iPod at the start of the Uwinka trail in Nyungwe. Fantastic performance

Moustached Grass-Warbler (*Melocichla mentalis*)

- *ssp amauroura* – one in QENP

African Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus baeticatus*)

- *ssp* ??? – one at the edge of papyrus near Kigali and then another near QENP

Greater Swamp-Warbler (*Acrocephalus rufescens*)

- *ssp ansorgei* – great views one at least one occasion in Rwandan papyrus

African Yellow Warbler (*Chloropeta natalensis*)

- *ssp massaica* – somewhere between Kigali and Akagera

Mountain Yellow Warbler (*Chloropeta similes*) – just one seen (others heard) in Bwindi on the walk to Mubwindi swamp

Buff-bellied Warbler (*Phyllolais pulchella*) – Akagera

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

Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*)

Greencap 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 pammelaina*)

- *ssp tropicalis* – the first was near Butare. Once we had satisfied ourselves that we had seen a Southern and a Northern version we gave up on identifying these !

****Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis ardesiacus*)** – a few at Kamiranzovu Swamp in Nyungwe and then one at the broadbill site near Mbwinda swamp

Sooty Flycatcher (*Muscicapa infuscata*)

- *ssp minuscule* - Kibale

Swamp Flycatcher (*Muscicapa aquatica*)

- *ssp infulata*

African Dusky Flycatcher (*Muscicapa adusta*)

- *ssp pumila*

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

White-starred Robin (*Pogonochila stellata*)

- *ssp ruwenzorii* – several of these gorgeous creatures finally seen well in Bwindi

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

- *ssp rufescentior*

****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 (*Thamnodaea cinnamomeiventris*)

- *ssp subrufipennis* – one at the lodge in Akagera

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

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

PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae

African Shrike-Flycatcher (*Megabyas flammulatus*)

- *ssp aequatorialis* – great views of these 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"

Chin-spot Batis (*Batis molitor*)

- *ssp puella* – popped up occasionally throughout Rwanda and Uganda

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

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

[Brown Illadopsis (*Illadopsis fulvescens*) – heard at Kibale]

[Mountain Illadopsis (*Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*) - heard at Bwindi. A small flock was in the undergrowth below us but they just refused to show]

Grey-chested Illadopsis (*Kakamega poliothorax*) – I was fortunate enough to be low enough to get great views of this skulker in Nyungwe

African Hill Babbler (*Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*)

- *ssp atriceps*. Brilliant views at Nyungwe and then two more along the school trail at Bwindi. These are the black headed birds aka Rwenzori Hill-Babbler

Black-lored Babbler (*Turdoides sharpie*)

- *ssp sharpie* – Akagera & 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 tanganjicae* – brilliant birds with some stunning views at Nyungwe

Western Olive Sunbird (*Cyanomitra olivacea*)

- *ssp ragazzii* – the rest of the world seems to be lumping Eastern & Western Olive Sunbirds – but not Clements yet

Scarlet-chested Sunbird (*Chalcomitra 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 kilimensis*)

- *ssp kilimensis* – 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 mariquensis*)

- *ssp osiris* – in theory, the ones at Soroti could have been these
- *ssp suahelicus* – lots of these in Akagera

Red-chested Sunbird (*Cinnyris erythrocerus*) – 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 holomelas* – 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 (*Telophorus bocagei*)

- *ssp jacksoni* – just one, very wet, individual near Lake Victoria

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*)

- *ssp sulfureopectus / similes* – the ones in Akagera were one of these races

Doherty's Bushshrike (*Telophorus 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 blanchoti*)

- *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 purpuroptera*)

- *ssp purpuroptera*

Violet-backed Starling (*Cinnyricinclus 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 (*Poeoptera lugubris*) – only noted in Kibale. Lots of fly-overs until one perched giving prolonged 'scope views

Stuhlmann's Starling (*Poeoptera stuhlmanni*) – good perched views, eventually, at Bwindi

Sharpe's Starling (*Pholia sharpie*) – 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 wellsi* – 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 Riwankavu (?)

Streaky Seedeater (*Serinus striolatus*)

- *ssp graueri* – Nyungwe & Bwindi inc one on a nest at the latter site

Thick-billed Seedeater (*Serinus burtoni*)

- *ssp tanganyicae* - 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

Baglafaecht Weaver (*Ploceus baglafaecht*)

- *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 interscapularis* – one in Kibale

Forest Weaver (*Ploceus bicolour*)

- *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*)

- *ssp melanota*

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 (*Coccyzygia quartina*)

- *ssp kilimensis/nyanzae* – a pair at Bwindi were very closely associating with a juvenile Pin-tailed Whydah. Stevenson & Fanshaw do not name Yellow-bellied Waxbill as a host species.

****Dusky Crimson-wing (*Cryptospiza jacksoni*)** – we were very fortunate with these. Cracking views on numerous occasions in Nyungwe

Crimson-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda rhodopyga*)

- *ssp centralis*

Common 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 farmbrush 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 (*Ortygospiza atricollis*)

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 schmidtii*)

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 (*Funisciurus 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 maculicollis*)

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Martin Wootton, Cheshire, UK. August 2011



Lion at Queen Elizabeth National Park © Lyn Hunt

Grass & Lion (*Panthera leo*) – QENP, Uganda July 2011 (Lyn Hunt)