

## African Golden Cat Expedition

**Destination:** Kibale, QE & Bwindi NPs, Uganda **Duration:** 13 Days **Dates:** 21<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun 2026

-  Two views of **African Golden Cat** and a third sighting from the local guide only
-  Amazing great ape tracking experiences with **Chimps** and **Mountain Gorillas**
-  Seeing 157 species of birds including the dinosaur like **Shoebill Stork!**
-  Safaris through Kibale, Queen Elizabeth and Bwindi National Parks – day and night
-  Finding 14 primate species including **Spectacled Galago & Ashy Red Colobus**
-  Watching a displaying Green-breasted Pitta very close to us in Kibale National Park
-  Nocturnal sightings of **Marsh Mongoose, Servaline Genet & East African Potto**
-  62 species of mammals including **African Golden Cat & Rwenzori Red Duiker**
-  Seeing fantastic **Ruzenzori** endemics, **Horseshoe Bat, Sun Squirrel & Duiker**
-  Hiking through Bwindi and Kibale in the presence of some of our closest cousins

### Tour Leader / Guides

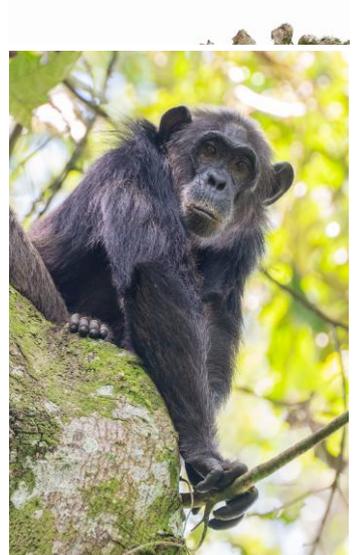
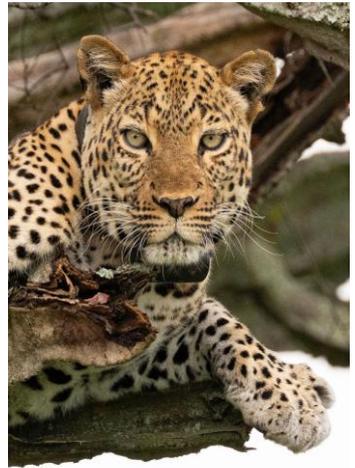
Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)  
 Sam (African Golden Cat Guide)  
 Joel (Driver & Secondary Guide)  
 John (Ex-Poacher turned Guide)  
 Thomas (Main Ranger Escort)

### Participants

Loriane Fletcher  
 Kelly Fletcher  
 Mark Langston  
 Monty Ross

### Overview

<b>Day 1:</b>	Entebbe
<b>Day 2:</b>	Mabamba Swamp / Kibale Forest
<b>Days 3-8:</b>	Kibale Forest
<b>Day 9:</b>	Queen Elizabeth National Park
<b>Days 10-12:</b>	Bwindi NP
<b>Day 13:</b>	Entebbe / Home





# Day by Day Breakdown

## Overview

This fantastic adventure headed into some of the densest, most biodiverse and spectacular forested hillsides and rainforests of East Africa. These forests are home to a wealth of wildlife that includes our closest relatives still sharing the planet with us. But the majority of this trip will not be focused on Uganda's most famous mammals (mountain gorillas and chimps) but instead Africa's most elusive and little known cat species.

The enigmatic and ghostlike African golden cat. We will be searching in a couple of places for this species which until recently was scarcely ever seen and thought of as an impossible species to see. That has begun to change in the last few years as some enterprising mammalwatchers and local guides have been scouring the forests of Uganda and using camera traps and local expertise to pin point some areas which seem to have good densities of this species and are seen here more often than anywhere else.

So we will drive the roads and walk the trails at the peak times of day the cats seem to be active in these locations and hope to have some luck on our side.

In addition to the wonderful African golden cat there are many species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians in these forests and we should see a good range of wildlife throughout the trip.

The trip will visit 3 species locations on the trip, firstly Kibale Forest National Park which is home to elephants, chimps and of course golden cats. We then move on to a brief stop in the savannas of Queen Elizabeth National Park before finishing in the mountainous Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. All of these locations offer different habitats and species and with your tour leader and local guides we aim to see as much as possible.

As extras to this core trip all of our clients had chosen to arrive early and leave late and add in a pre and post trip extension to see the great apes which make wildlife watching trips to Uganda so famous. Thanks to the hard work over many years of researchers and park rangers it is possible to be accepted into the world of some of our primate cousins and share an intimate period of time with them on their terms.

Spending time with both chimps and gorillas is truly a magical experience and in doing so you will most likely have some of your best ever wildlife experiences, such is the amazing time you can have in the presence of these wonderful animals.

To help us in our goals of seeing an African golden cat (among other wildlife) we employed a fantastic local guide with many years of experience as well as local rangers and trackers in the forests who most of their time in these forests, looking for and setting up camera traps to keep records of what is seen.

Boasting over 340 species of mammals and over 1,000 species of birds Uganda is one of the most bio-diverse countries in the world. On this trip we aim to find a good number of different species which inhabit the forests and savannas in the west of Uganda, along the Albertine Rift – with the key species being one of the continent's most seldom seen carnivores.

This was the second African Golden Cat Expedition that Royle Safaris has ran, the first was in Kenya and didn't result in a cat sighting, we had three cats seen on this trip, two of which were seen by the clients and we are confident we have found the place to see this elusive animal. We are running this trip in 2027 if you are interested and you can contact us at [info@royle-safaris.co.uk](mailto:info@royle-safaris.co.uk) for more information.



## Day 1 **Entebbe**

## **Arrival**

Everyone arrived today and met Samuel and Joel who would be with us for the whole trip; which was a day ahead of the original itinerary as everyone had opted to extend the trip with a chimpanzee tracking experience. So on arrival everyone was collected on arrival and transferred to the hotel today, there were no planned activities today and so everyone just rested.

Tomorrow the group will travel to Kibale ahead of a chimp tracking experience before the tour leader Martin would catch up with them the following day.



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## Day 2 Mabamba Swamp / Kibale

## Travelling & Wildlife Watching

Today everyone left the hotel in Entebbe and travelled to the nearby famous birding location of Mabamba swamp on the way to Kibale Forest National Park.

They all saw shoebills, the main birding highlight of everyone's trip to Uganda, they are such awesome and also prehistoric looking birds, so much so they are honorary mammals. Along with the shoebills many other birds common to the papyrus were seen and even our first mammal of the trip as the group had views of a **spot-necked otter** swimming around.

From Mabamba, the group were transferred from east to west across the country and to the iconic forest of Kibale. Checking into the accommodation on the border of the park, and enjoying dinner before the first trip into the park tomorrow and for a morning spent with the resident habituated group of chimps in Kibale.



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## Day 3 Kibale Forest National Park

## Wildlife Watching

This morning entered Kibale and met their chimp tracker at the park headquarters and then started their chimp experience. The **chimps** were in good form and they had great views of a 1 year old baby moving around. The resident males were (as usual) one of the big attractions and one was being aggressive and even whacked a tree and Monty on its way through in an display of power. The walk to see them was not even too long, and the views of the troop and different behaviours was great. They all had a fantastic morning, even if Monty was a little sore afterwards.

During this morning Martin drove from Entebbe to meet the group in the late afternoon ahead the first night safari into the forest and the first attempt at African golden cat.

After dinner the group all went out and started to spotlight through the forest. Quickly we had a large bull **elephant** walking ahead of us on the road before noisily entering the forest and disappearing.

Further along both mark and Martin had a **genet** in the thermal only on side of road and then ran across the road, no spotlight view to know the species and then the first time we found a sleeping African pygmy kingfisher above the road, of which we would see in pretty much the same place every night.

We then had an exciting few minutes with a **marsh mongoose** crossing the road and an **eastern blue duiker** posing in thick bush but allowing us to walk to it and having close views, although it was half hidden in the vegetation. Brief arboreal **rat** of some sort, but not seen well enough for an ID.

There were many other roosting birds including a second pygmy kingfisher over road again and a roosting long-crested eagle. We had a couple of large bats flying around and one of them landed on a tree trunk next to the toad and we could see the species, the **Cyclops roundleaf bat** is a nice addition. Towards the end we had a mystery galago or anomalure in the high canopy, couldn't see very well and then after leaving the forest and travelling back to the lodge we found a **side-striped jackal** in the agricultural land near the village.

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## Day 4 Kibale Forest National Park

## Wildlife Watching

This morning we went out for a walk with Sam and John (an ex-poacher who is now a fantastic forest guide when out walking) along the trails in the border of the lodge's grounds and the national park. The morning birding was good with a nice great blue turaco, various sunbirds and a circling gymnogene whilst we had breakfast and then in the forest mixed group of **red-tailed monkeys**, **Ugandan mangabeys** and **blue monkeys** in the trees above us. We also heard some chimpanzee pant hoots from not too far away.

Sam found us some more forest birds including black-hooded oriole and a close fire-crested alethe which he called in and we were treated to some stunning butterflies around (Kibale is well known as a hotspot for butterflies), and two red-bellied paradise flycatchers one with a long tail and one with a short tail.

We then returned to the lodge as the temperatures increased for a rest and lunch. Then just before dinner we had more birds around the lodge, including a perched lizard buzzard showing well, and a pair of black-and-white casqued hornbills flying by, very nice views silhouetted against the sunset. Reptile wise we had many Ugandan blue-headed tree agamas around lodge.

Out after dinner again, sleeping birds (kingfishers) again, some of the same large **cyclops roundleaf bats** hanging over the road. But didn't spend any time on these today. Very quiet compared to yesterday. Sam had very brief



eyeshine from likely **marsh mongoose**. Then Mark had a cat-like animal in the thermal, just in the side of the road but ran into forest and away very fast.

Near lodge a **galago** (distant) and no chance for an ID.



## Day 5 Kibale National Park

## Wildlife Watching

Out at 5am for pre-dawn drive, on the way out there was an **Ethiopian epauletted fruit bat** feeding in the trees just outside a couple of the rooms.

Back in the vehicle and scanning with spotlighting and thermals we very quickly (just passed the entry gate) we found a **praomys** species on the road hopping around (most likely **Jackson's soft-furred rat** but not 100%). Then better views of a **Thomas's galago** on the side of the road jumping around, some nice views of this always energetic prosimian.

Then out of the blue Joel & Sam sped up saying 'cat, cat, cat' at the limits of the spotlight we could make out clearly cat eyeshine. We got it in the bins and it was an **African golden cat** 60-70m away on the left side of the track looking at us, it held the view for a few seconds and turned and ran off up the road. We followed but couldn't find it again, we didn't know if it went in the forest or stayed moving along the road.

Waited in silence and the dark (just using thermals) to see if it would come back down the road, as we waited we heard a male hammerhead fruit bat calling nearby. After waiting for a while we started again, the sun was getting up and we started to hear movement in the canopy around us as dawn broke out in the forest with all the diurnal primates waking up. As the sun came out the birds started to also. On the road nice views of foraging red-capped bush-chat and fire-crested alethe.

We carried on out into the savanna area which dots some of the park and on a hill we had coffee break and watched the swallows and swifts flying around taking early morning insect. A pair of black-and-white casqued hornbills also flew by and a couple of groups of **Ugandan mangabeys** were seen waking up in some trees nearby. Very good lighting when black-headed heron landed close and posed and then underneath in the same tree a female black-and-white casqued hornbill and then male took off from the same tree.

From here we turned around and headed back towards the lodge, along the way we had a nice perched long-crested eagle and good views of a tambourine dove on the road before a **Johnston's duiker** just off the road.

Back at the lodge we rested around the lodge ground and Kelly, Lori and Mark had nice **red-tailed monkeys**, **red-legged sun squirrel** and some excellent birds.

After dinner we went out again, but a storm came in with lots of lightning around and very heavy rain. Drove for a while but rain was persistent and so we turned around. Rain and storm lasted a good while after we returned, thunder shaking the buildings!!

## Day 6 Kibale National Park

## Wildlife Watching

Out this morning at 5am again, the rained had stopped and there was a cooler, fresher feeling in the air. Some **bats** around hanging over the road again. Then brief **blue duiker** on thermal and some movement but no good views and shortly after much better sighting of a **Johnston's duiker**, seen pretty well but always in dense bush. Kingfishers over the road just beginning to wake up as the dawn chorus started at first light. Nice blue-breasted kingfisher.

In open grassland a young adult **forest elephant** walking up a hill and away from us, very typical forest elephant shape and skittish. Pair of black-and-white casqued hornbills landed in a nearby low tree and allowed for great views. Flock of African grey parrots overhead. Lizard buzzard posing well. Birds started to come out, tambourine dove, pin-tailed whydah, white-browed coucal, red-eyed dove and violet-backed starling.

At coffee break a large female **elephant** walking in the grasslands towards us and then around us at a good distance and back into view. We followed her a little way back out of the clearing to the forest. Flock of crested guineafowl crossed road. Waited a while to see if a cat was following them. Nothing showed, then near exit a couple of **chimps** overhead. One large male seen well swinging from one tree to another right over the car.

In agricultural land found some nice birds, openbill, hammerkop and Hadedaba ibis, northern fiscal, Hartlaub's golden weaver, black-headed weaver and bronze manakins. Nice area for birding just before breakfast.



Sam heard babblers alarming and thinking there may be a snake had a close look in a thick roadside bush, no snake but did find a sleeping **grammomys** which we think best fits **shining thicket rat**. Then nearer the lodge found a small group of **guereza** in the canopy sunning themselves.

At lodge many swallows (various species) around the dining room, great blue turacos and some **baboons** sunbathing in bare branched trees.

After dinner out again, couple of **elephants** seen just leaving the road, entering the forest and walking away. Mother and younger individual. Sam had a cat like animal in the spotlight but couldn't find it by the time we stopped, we waited a while but couldn't see anything. First he saw the body moving and maybe a duiker and then it turned to look at him and string eye shine and not duiker like head makes him think it was a golden cat. Close for where we saw one the other day also. Mark had a **marsh mongoose** cross the road in thermal. Same kingfisher as always. But quiet in general. **Demidoff's dwarf galago** over the road very active. On edge of forest large male **elephant** walking away from us and then around on the grassy hills several other **elephants** feeding. Maybe 10 different **elephants** all around. Pair feeding near the road, with 2 youngsters, one barely visible over the grass. Crossed the road and gave nice views. And then a pair of **Demidoff's dwarf galagos**.

Amazing **servaline genet** just curled up resting on a low horizontal branch. Several **bats** on tree trunks and hanging over road again. Another nice **Demidoff's dwarf galago** moving quickly in the trees right in front of the road. Then back on the way to the lodge we found a sleeping **mantled guereza** troop in trees next to on road back to lodge.

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## Day 7 Kibale National Park

## Wildlife Watching

This morning followed the same pattern, no golden cat but some interesting other species, including **Thomas's galago**, **elephants**, **Nile bushbuck**, **Forest buffalo** very close but largely hidden in the forest and a few **hammerhead bats** around and a mystery **rodent** curled up in a bush again.

After dawn broke nice views of **L'hoest's monkeys** and **olive baboons** around and finally good views of the emerald cuckoo (which had been eluding us – particularly Mark for many days now), white-chinned prinia, blue-headed coucal and black-necked weavers.

At breakfast in the savanna area we had a gymnogene and another emerald cuckoo seen well, then back at the lodge we had a rest in the middle of the day. Throughout the day the wind picked up and by the afternoon grey skies loomed, maybe there would be some rain later.

Went out to try a road on the other side of the park tonight, so a different area. We quickly found a pair of **Demidoff's dwarf galagos** feeding along large exposed branches. Hanging upside down gauging out pieces of bark to feed on the gum. There were several **bushbucks** around in the grassland patches dotted close to the sides of the roads. Further sightings on this night were some sleeping **l'hoest's monkeys**, then a group of sleepy **ashy red colobus** and a small group of **buffalo** on both sides of the road and the best views of another **bushbuck** before returning to the lodge.



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## Day 8 Kibale Forest National Park

## Wildlife Watching

This morning we tried the same side of the park as last night and it was much cooler today than previous days. Quickly found some female **bushbuck** on the road, feeding in the rich vegetation along the side of the road. Same group of **l'hoests monkeys** sleeping, didn't disturb them. A mystery animal with good eyeshine on the road, but ran off before we could see what it was.

Heard some **buffalo** in the forest just off the side. Quiet this morning, in general there are more ungulates seen on this side but it is quieter all together. At dawn Sam found a couple of **chimps** waking up from their nests, saw one large brown-faced male well as it climbed around the trees for a while. Non habituated and so not giving great views. On the way out some **baboons** on the forest trail.

Green-breasted pitta flew over the road, tried to call it back in. Then found one calling and displaying (jumping up and down on a branch), great views of this awesome bird. Small colony of **Ethiopian epauletted fruit bats** in the rafters of the Kibale forest lodge. Including a mother and baby. Nice female African goshawk also in the lodge grounds.



After breakfast Monty left the group, he was leaving the trip a couple of days early and so had to go ahead of us to QENP and then Bwindi so he could track the gorillas before catching his flight from Kigali to connect to another safari in Botswana.

After dinner we were out again, and as we were waiting to get the ranger escort at the entry gate an **elephant** was on the road in front of us close by. Rain started to come down, but not as heavy as previous days. We went straight to area where we saw the cat the other day and waited quietly in the dark using the thermal only. Shortly after starting the stakeout Sam called 'it's here' we shone the light and it was a **servaline genet** crossing the road. Not quite 'right' but a nice animal all the same. Very quiet except for serval **rats** in the thermal which we were unable to ID as we didn't want to disturb the silence and darkness to get lights on them. But alas no cat came out anyway.

Near lodge Sam found an **African civet** in the plantation, flushed from thick vegetation but ran far too fast away for pics.

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## Day 9      **Kibale NP / Queen Elizabeth NP**      *Wildlife Watching & Travelling*

This was our last morning in Kibale, and on the drive to the park, past some agricultural fields near where Sam had seen a black morph golden cat, we spotted a black morph **African golden cat**. We literally couldn't have timed or planned this better! We had better views than the first one, although still brief and skittish but we all saw it this time and what an amazing animal.

Further along and also before we entered the park we had a troop of sleeping **baboons**. In general it was quiet again this morning, and the road conditions were much worse after the recent rains, it was very muddy and some places would be nigh on impassible with more rain. In the grassy area small herd of **buffalo** (10 or so) crossed road and on side of road, allowed for nice close views in the long grass before moving off, some oxpeckers with them. Some **Ugandan mangabeys** sunning themselves in the canopy and some more **baboons** in the forest. We also had a female **bushbuck** in grassland.

We got back to the lodge and packed up before leaving here and heading south to QENP, on the way through the forest many groups of **baboons** along the roadside foraging – or more likely waiting for people to throw food or trash out of their cars.

As we drove through the fertile landscape we stopped at a small vanilla farm, to see the process of growing the spice, the lovely smell of the vanilla pods hung in the air.

When we entered the park, still on the highway started to see groups of the ubiquitous **Ugandan kob** in the lush grasslands and some **defassa waterbuck**. There were also a few **elephants** and **warthogs** seen too.

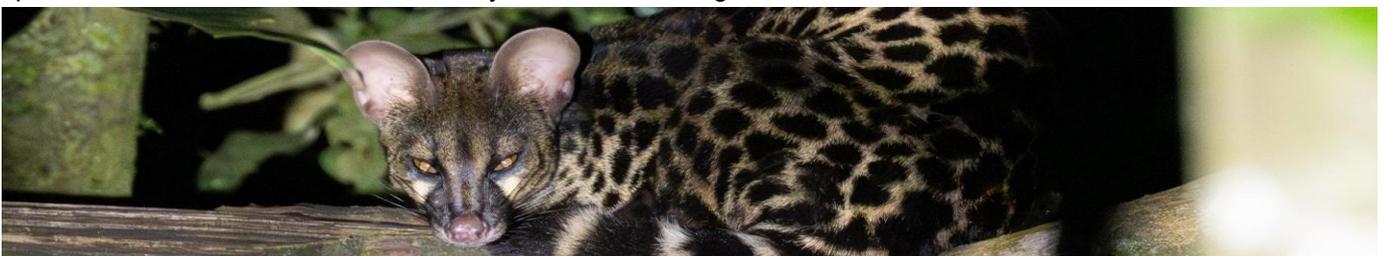
At the lodge in QENP we had lunch and met up with Monty, who had delayed his departure a little to meet up with us. Around the restaurant there were some **tantalus monkeys**. Monty had a **slit-faced bat** of some sort outside his room. We then said bye to Monty again and had a little rest before going out on a safari at 4pm when it was much cooler.

Bachelor group of **elephants** feeding on the side of the road and a large male **waterbuck** just posing next to the road. Large flock of village weavers around the park gate and a very nice relaxed and posing martial eagle early on. In general the birdlife was very good this afternoon, with wattled lapwings, hammerkops, pin-tailed whydahs and others all seen in large numbers. Mammal wise we had more **kob**, **warthogs** and **waterbuck** around in groups, and a large male **buffalo** in a wallow up to his neck in the muddy water.

We found a small group of **elephants** with a playful youngster, and a lone **hippo** in a perfect hippo sized wallow miles away from any main water sources.

We then found a **leopard** up a euphorbia tree resting. As the sun began to get lower we saw a **hippo** out and walking through the grassland, glistening from a day in a wallow, probably feeling cool enough to start his evening / night foraging early. We then found a small flock of Temmnick's coursers on the road, nice to watch these very elegant birds close by.

We then returned to the **leopard** and had great views of her, getting much closer now, she was one of the research **leopards** and had a collar on. She was awake when we arrived and looking around, very aware and possibly assessing the hunting opportunities tonight. What a beautiful animal. We then left the park and started to head back to the lodge and on the way out, a large group of **elephants** of all different ages showing, including a couple of babies which were very young (around 1 month at the most) and barley visible above the grass. The last sighting of note being a dwarf bittern flying and landing on the top of a candelabra tree and then Sam somehow spotted a **savanna hare** which was nearly invisible in the vegetation.





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## Day 10      **Queen Elizabeth NP / Bwindi NP**      *Wildlife Watching & Travelling*

Up and out of the lodge by 7am and drove towards the Ishasha sector on the way to Bwindi. Before leaving we saw 3 adult **giant forest hogs** near a known wallow site and then nearby the entrance to the lode we went to a papyrus swamp to look for papyrus gonolek. Found a pair of these stunning birds showing very well and calling loudly, excellent views. Also nice slender-billed & little weavers and broad-billed roller around.

A large colony of little weavers with a large flock of Diederick's cuckoos too, some northern grey-headed sparrows and viellott's black weavers too.

Driving through park to Ishasha sector all the normal ungulates from the park. Small group of foraging **tantalus monkeys** on the road and **Egyptian mongoose** crossed ahead. Pair of nest building crested barbets flying back and forth across the road. **Elephants** were periodically seen just off the road to Ishasha and we had a troop of **olive baboons** on the road including a young baby taking comfort with a large male. Nice western banded snake-eagle perched alongside the road and allowed for very good views. There was a group of **blue monkeys** on the side of the road, some youngsters climbing and jumping through trees and the first we had seen close. Couple of **red-tailed monkeys** as well. We then had an African fish eagle posing well in a dead tree. We then heard and eventually found a couple of crowned hornbills which then flew over road, but not good views and nearby we had a small group of **red-tailed monkeys** inquisitively looking at us. Further along we found a couple of **guereza colobus** and a very nice yellow-billed barbet. There were so many **baboons** on the road, most likely part of many groups all socialising close by. At small pool there were many water birds including African jacanas, black crakes, long-toed lapwings and Egyptian goose as well as a solitary **hippo**.

We entered the Ishasha sector around 11am and immediately had a large herd of **buffalo** and some **warthogs** in open grasslands, but we were focused on the famous tree climbing lions of this area. And we found four **lions** all in one tree. Two adult females and 2 large cubs. One of the females was very hard to see. Nice views of the others, resting and showing well. Small group of **elephants** nearby the **lions** and just as we left the tree we found a mixed herd of **warthogs** (with 10 babies), **kob** and **waterbuck**.

Large male **giant forest hog** feeding near road and a pair of **topi**. Another distant **topi** on the way out and a small bachelor group of **buffalo** grazing as we left Ishasha and QENP as a whole and continued southwards to Bwindi National Park.

Arrived in Ruhija after the twisting turning mountain road around 4pm and along the way we saw **olive pigeons** and a **African black duck** and a lone **blue monkey**. We then rested before heading out after dark for some more spotlighting.

Out after dinner for some spotlighting. Brief **galago** and followed by a second one seen quickly after, likely spectacled but not seen well. Pair of **African civets** on road, one came out onto road a couple of times and gave nice views.

Then a **spectacled galago** showing very well for prolonged time on exposed branch followed by an **Emin's giant pouched rat** on side of the road. Brief unidentified **rodent** crossed the road and then another cooperative **spectacled galago**. In fact there were so many **galagos** around tonight. We also had a few **straw-coloured fruit bats** feeding in and flying around a fruiting tree. We also found a group of sleeping **colobus** which we left in peace and then had a nice rodent crossing road and then ran up the side of the slope, and gave us good views, very possibly **Charming thicket rat**.

We then turned around and on the way back up, nice African wood owl close to the road before we found an **East African potto**, in a tree above the road, moving around closely. Then another very cooperative **spectacled galago**. Then then in the village **African palm civet** moving along a power line over the road was the last sightings of the night.

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## Day 11      **Bwindi National Park**      *Wildlife Watching*

Out before dawn this morning for the last time and quickly found a **rusty-spotted genet** on the road. Brief **Demidoff's dwarf galago**. Fewer than last night but still a good number of **galagos** this morning, most of which were not seen well enough to ID. Then had very brief **side-striped jackal** on a hillside near some farmland.

Just before dawn we found an endemic Ruwenzori nightjar flying around our vehicle and then near the village another **side-striped jackal**, this one near the road.

Back at the lodge we had a rest for most of the morning and then after lunch we went to see a tiny bat cave next to the side of the road, and on the way some resting **guereza colobus monkeys** in the trees. To get to the cave we had to enter Bwindi national park proper and immediately after entering we spotted a **Ruwenzori red duiker** off the road, poor views then one on the road giving excellent views for a long time and then whilst watching it noticed one just on the side of the road next to us feeding. Great views.

Then some **blue monkeys** around, and a fourth **duiker** and then at the small cave on side of the road we found 3-4 endemic **Ruwenzori horseshoe bats** roosting.

Further on a **L'hoests monkey** posing beautifully on the side of the road and another on the road. Pair of **Ruwenzori sun squirrels** in dense vines, waited and after a few minutes one came out and showed well. It was a great day, with all of the targeted Ruwenzori speciality species seen.



Carrying on we had views of the elusive black-billed turaco before nice views of a pair of speedy **Boehm's bush squirrels** scurrying around a tree. We then found a **blue monkey** feeding on a bird's nest, looking for something such as eggs or chicks and a family of **guereza** just on the side of the road outside the park gate.

We then left the vehicle and had a short walk to see if we could see some birds. We had some nice birds including yellow-rumped tinkerbird, black-faced apalis, northern double-collared sunbird, regal sunbird, green whiteeye, olive-bellied sunbird, heard pair of Carruther's mountain squirrels calling but couldn't see them. Some excellent birding here. Some **l'hoest's monkeys** around too and a very cooperative **Boehm's bush squirrel** and another pair of **Ruwenzori Sun squirrels**.

Out after dinner for our final spotlighting session. Didn't spend any time looking for galagos today. Still found a fair few **galagos**, but didn't spend any time on identifying them.

Very quiet tonight, particularly compared to last night. **Long-haired rousette** seen resting, hanging from a branch near the road, best (only non-galago) sighting of the night.



## Day 12 **Bwindi National Park**

### *Wildlife Watching*

Today Martin left at dawn for Entebbe to make his night flight home whilst the rest of the group went with Sam and Joel to the park headquarters to be briefed ahead of their gorilla tracking.

It was a short walk but with some tough steep sections to get to the group and it was very much worth it. Beautiful weather and a group of **gorillas** in good spirits. The group was the Mukiza group, which is 10 strong usually; but a few hours earlier possibly the newest mountain gorilla in the world was born, making the group 11 strong. It is a newly habituated group and everyone was very privileged to see this new born baby.

After the gorillas the group returned to the lodge and rested before the final night drive which had **African palm civet**, African wood owl, **Thomas's galago**, many unidentified **galagos** as normal here and a flying **Lord Derby's anomalure**, so a nice way to finish the trip.

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## Day 13 **Entebbe / Home**

### *Travelling / Departure*

This morning the group left Bwindi and drove across the country back to Entebbe, having lunch en-route and then getting to the airport in time to catch their return flights home.

# Species List

African Golden Cat Expedition

May-Jun 2025

## *Mammals* (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	L'Hoest's monkey	<i>Allochrocebus lhoesti</i>
2	Lord Derby's anomalure	<i>Anomalurus derbianus</i>
3	Marsh mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>
4	African golden cat	<i>Caracal aurata</i>
5	Johnston's duiker	<i>Cephalophus johnstoni</i>
6	Ruwenzori red duiker	<i>Cephalophus rubidus</i>
7	Red-tailed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>
8	Blue monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>
9	Tantalus monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>
10	African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
11	Mantled guereza	<i>Colobus guereza</i>
12	Emin's giant pouched rat	<i>Cricetomys emini</i>
13	Uganda topi	<i>Damaliscus ugandae</i>
14	Cyclops roundleaf bat	<i>Doryrhina cyclops</i>
15	African straw-coloured fruit bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>
16	Ethiopian epauletted fruit bat	<i>Epomophorus labiatus</i>
17	Minor epauletted fruit bat	<i>Epomophorus minor</i>
18	Carruther's mountain squirrel	<i>Funisciurus carruthersi</i>
19	Spectacled galago	<i>Galago matschiei</i>
20	Demidoff's dwarf galago	<i>Galagoides demidovii</i>
21	Galago species.	<i>Galagoides sp.</i>
22	Thomas's dwarf galago	<i>Galagoides thomasi</i>
23	Rusty-spotted genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>
24	Servaline genet	<i>Genetta servalina</i>
25	Genet species.	<i>Gennetta sp.</i>
26	Mountain gorilla	<i>Gorilla beringei</i>
27	Shining thicket rat	<i>Grammomys poensis</i>
28	Red-legged sun squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>
29	Ruwenzori sun squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus ruwenzorii</i>

May											June		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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30	Egyptian mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>
31	Common slender mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
32	Common hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
33	Sundevall's roundleaf bat	<i>Hipposideros caffer</i>
34	Spot-necked otter	<i>Hydrictis maculicollis</i>
35	Giant forest hog	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>
36	Hammer-headed fruit bat	<i>Hypsignathus monstrosus</i>
37	Defassa waterbuck	<i>Kobus defassa</i>
38	Ugandan kob	<i>Kobus thomasi</i>
39	African savanna hare	<i>Lepus victoriae</i>
40	Ugandan mangabey	<i>Lophocebus ugandae</i>
41	African bush elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
42	African forest elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>
43	Side-striped jackal	<i>Lupulella adusta</i>
44	Slit-faced bat species	<i>Nycteris</i> sp.
45	Common chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>
46	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
47	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
48	Olive baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>
49	African palm civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>
50	Boehm's bush squirrel	<i>Paraxerus boehmi</i>
51	East African potto	<i>Perodicticus ibeanus</i>
52	Common warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
53	Eastern blue duiker	<i>Philantomba aequatorialis</i>
54	Ashy red colobus	<i>Piliocolobus tephrosceles</i>
55	<i>Praomys</i> species	<i>Praomys</i> sp.
56	Ruwenzori horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus ruwenzorii</i>
57	Nut-coloured house bat	<i>Scotophilus nux</i>
58	Long-haired rousette	<i>Stenonycteris lanosa</i>
59	Cape buffalo	<i>Synceros caffer</i>
60	Forest buffalo	<i>Synceros nanus</i>
61	Charming thicket rat	<i>Thamnomys venustus</i>
62	Nile bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus bor</i>

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<sup>59</sup>  
\*Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

# Birds (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	African jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
2	African goshawk	<i>Aerospiza tachiro</i>
3	Red-headed lovebird	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>
4	Fire-crested alethe	<i>Alethe castanea</i>
5	Egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
6	African black duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
7	Yellow-billed duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
8	African openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
9	Black-faced apalis	<i>Apalis personata</i>
10	Little swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
11	White-rumped swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
12	Eastern cattle egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>
13	Goliath heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
14	Intermediate egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
15	Black-headed heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
16	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
17	Common squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
18	Eastern mountain greenbul	<i>Arizelocichla nigriceps</i>
19	Shoebill	<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>
20	Ruwenzori batis	<i>Batis diops</i>
21	Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
22	Hadada ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
23	Dwarf bittern	<i>Botaurus sturmii</i>
24	Yellow-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
25	Red-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorynchus</i>
26	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
27	Black-and-white casqued hornbill	<i>Bycanistes subcylindricus</i>
28	Ruwenzori nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruwenzorii</i>
29	Lesser striped swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
30	Red-rumped swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>
31	Rufous-chested swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
32	Mosque swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>

May											June		
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			~10	~10			7						
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33	Blue-headed coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>
34	White-browed coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
35	Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
36	Blue malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>
37	Green-throated sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra rubescens</i>
38	Scarlet-chested sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
39	Grey-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
40	Diedrick cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
41	African emerald cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
42	Violet-backed starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
43	Olive-bellied sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>
44	Copper sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>
45	Red-chested sunbird	<i>Cinnyris erythrocerus</i>
46	Regal sunbird	<i>Cinnyris regius</i>
47	Northern double-collared sunbird	<i>Cinnyris reichenowi</i>
48	Western banded snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
49	African marsh harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
50	Chubb's cisticola	<i>Cisticola chubbi</i>
51	Winding cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>
52	Yellow-bellied waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia quartinia</i>
53	Speckled mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
54	African olive pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
55	Speckled pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
56	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
57	Pied crow	<i>Corvus alba</i>
58	White-necked raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
59	Great blue turaco	<i>Corythaëola cristata</i>
60	Malachite kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
61	Red-capped robin-chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
62	Eastern plantain eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>
63	Temminck's courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
64	White-faced whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
65	Elliott's woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops elliotii</i>
66	Fork-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
67	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
68	White-tailed blue flycatcher	<i>Elminia albicauda</i>
69	African blue flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>
70	Fan-tailed widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>

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147	Black-lored babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>
148	African thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
149	Blue-spotted wood-dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
150	Tambourine dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
151	Blue-naped mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>
152	Long-toed lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
153	Senegal lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>
154	African wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
155	Pin-tailed whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
156	Black crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
157	Green white-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>

					4					6			
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	2									4			
											2		

### Reptiles (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Ugandan blue-headed tree agama	<i>Acanthocercus ugandaensis</i>
2	Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
3	Tropical house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
4	Speckled lipped skink	<i>Trachylepis maculilabris</i>
5	Jackson's three-horned chameleon	<i>Trioceros jacksoni</i>

May											June		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
		4	4	2	2	2	1						
								12					
	1	2	1	2	4	4	4						
							2						
											1		

### Amphibians (\* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Common reed frog	<i>Hyperolius viridiflavus</i>
2	Guttural toad	<i>Sclerophrys gutturalis</i>

May											June		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
										1			
										1			

Pictures below are taken by a combination of Martin Royle, Mark Langston & Kelly Fletcher



Leopard



Lion



African Civet



Servaline Genet



African Palm Civet



Mountain Gorilla (new born baby)



Mountain Gorilla



Common Chimpanzee



L'Hoest's Monkey



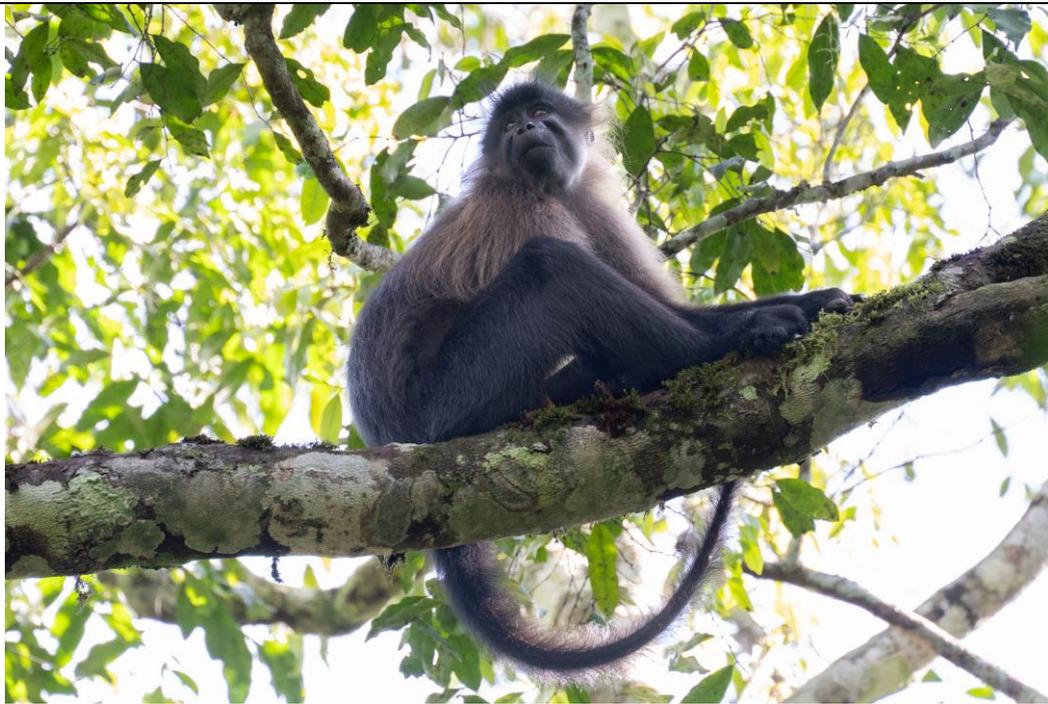
Blue Monkey



Red-tailed Monkey



Mantled Guereza



Ugandan Mangabey



Ashy Red Colobus



Tantalus Monkey



Olive Baboon



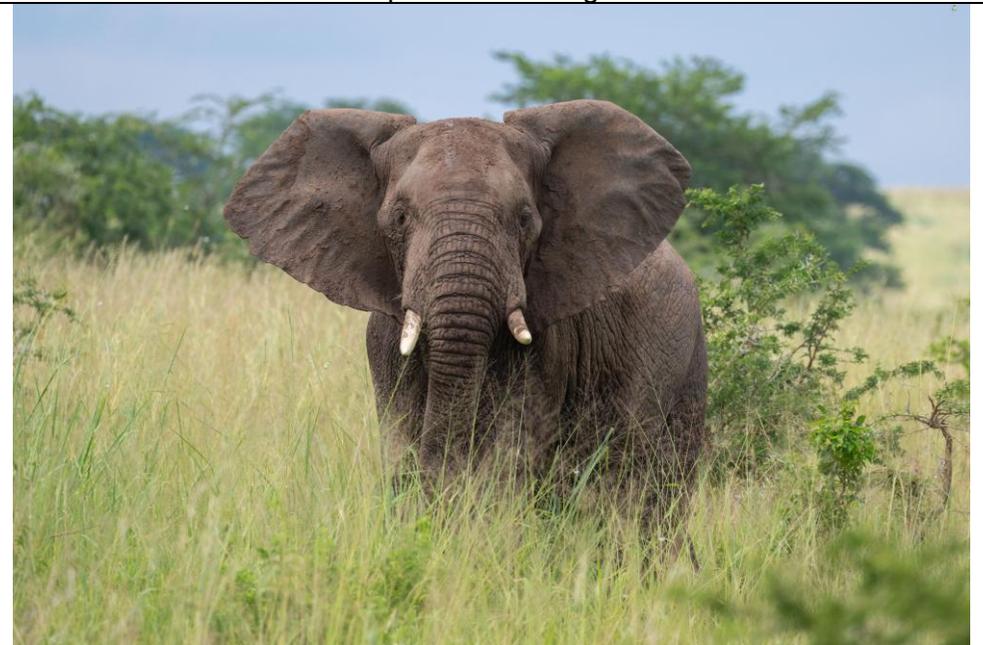
East African Potto



Spectacled Galago



Thomas's Dwarf Galago



African Savanna Elephant



African Forest Elephant (possible hybrid)



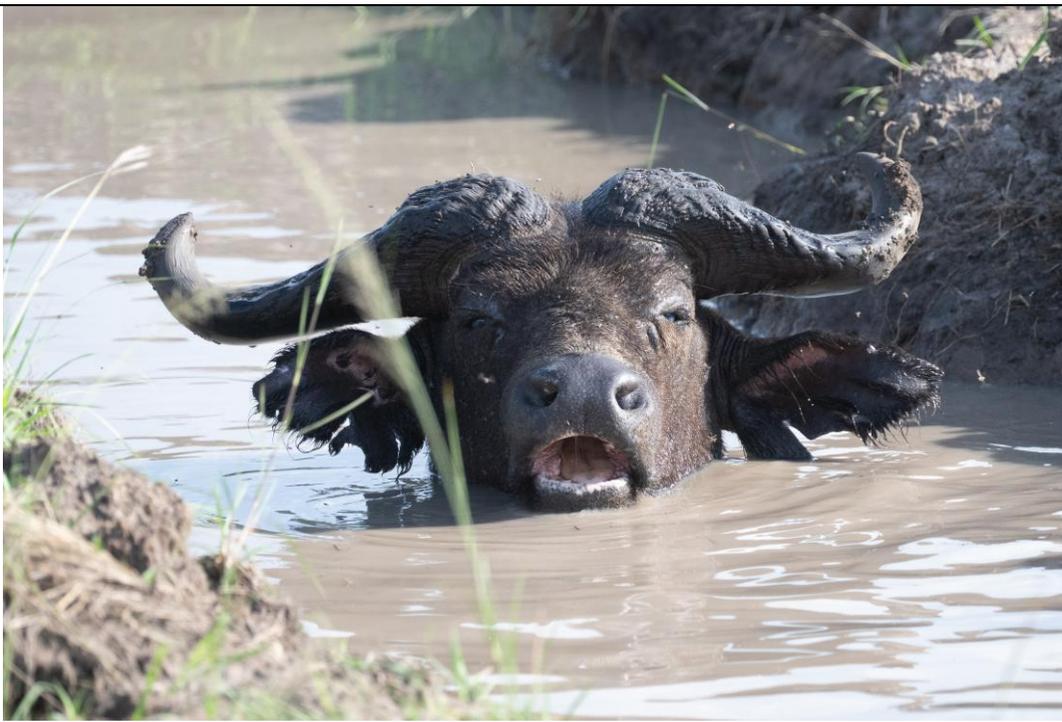
Common Hippopotamus



Common Warthog



Giant Forest Hog



Cape Buffalo



Nile Bushbuck



Uganda Kob



Defassa Waterbuck



Uganda Topi



Ruwenzori Red Duiker



Eastern Blue Duiker



Lord Derby's Anomalure



Boehm's Bush Squirrel



Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel



Red-legged Sun Squirrel



Shining Thicket Rat (likely)



Charming Thicket Rat (very likely)



African Savanna Hare



Long-haired Rousette



Ethiopian Epauletted Fruit Bat



Ruwenzori Horseshoe Bat



Cyclops Roundleaf Bat



Lizard Buzzard



Martial Eagle



Western Banded Snake-Eagle



African Fish Eagle



Long-crested Eagle



Gymnogone



African Goshawk



African Wood Owl



Striated Heron



Black-headed Heron



Goliath Heron



Shoebill



Hammerkop



African Openbill



African Jacana



Temminck's courser



Reed Cormorant



Pied Kingfisher



Malachite Kingfisher



Blue-breasted Kingfisher



Woodland Kingfisher



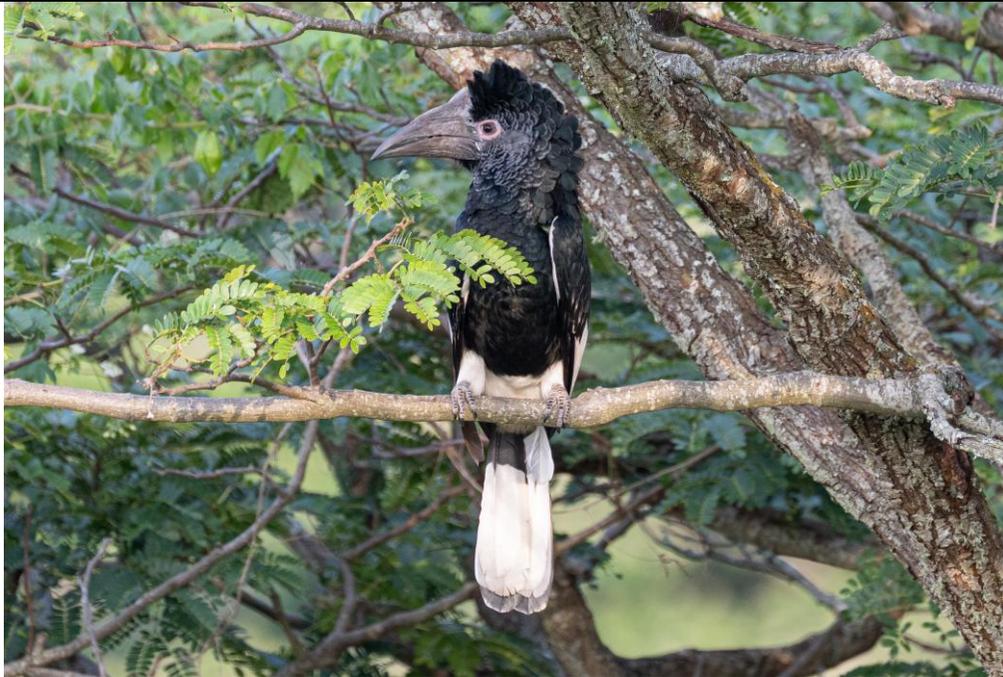
African Grey-crowned Crane



Red-necked Spurfowl



Green-bellied Pitta



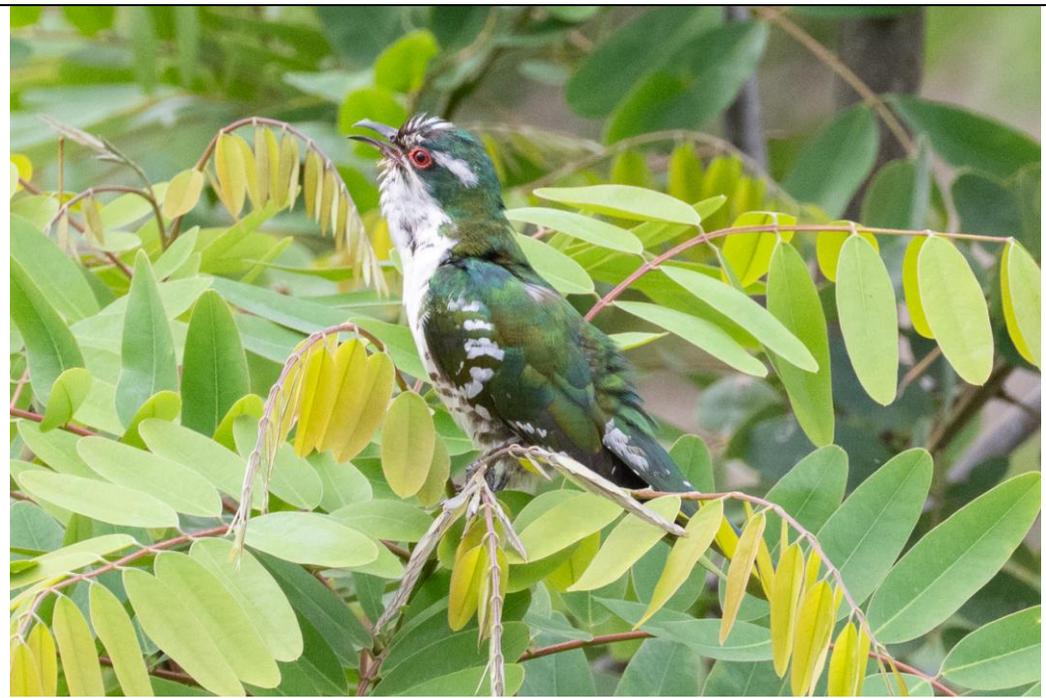
Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill



Great Blue Turaco



Emerald Cuckoo



Diederich's Cuckoo



Crested Barbet



Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet



Northern Fiscal



Speckle-breasted Woodpecker



Speckled Mousebird



Black-headed Weaver



African golden weaver



Village Weaver



Black-necked Weaver



Sociable Weaver



Slender-billed Weaver



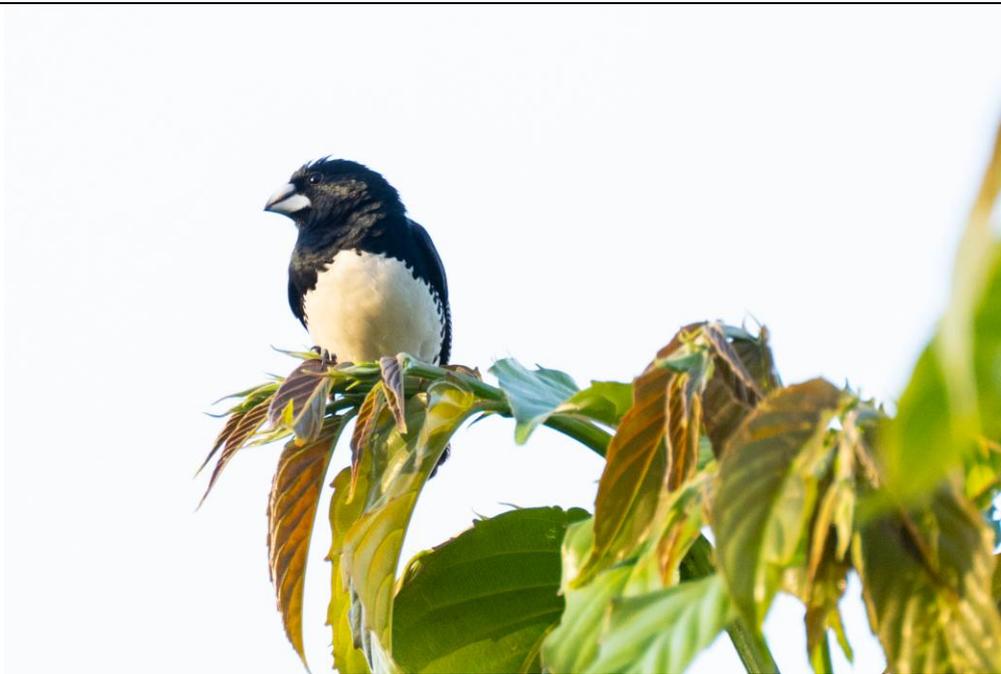
Veilott's Black Weaver



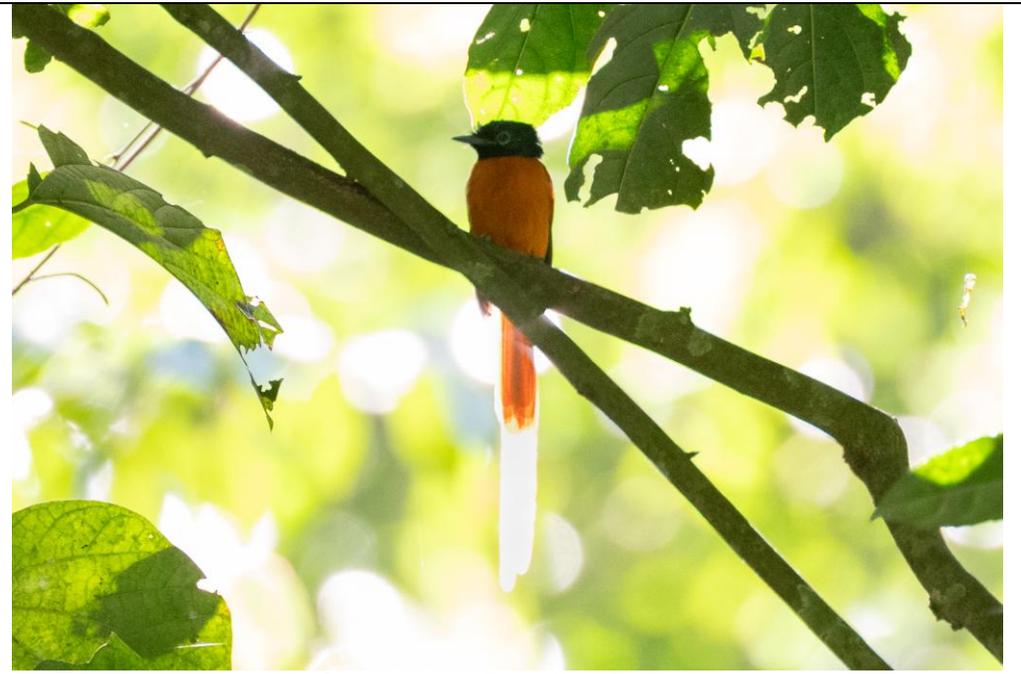
Pin-tailed Whydah



Bronze Mannikin



Black-and-white Mannikin



Rufous-vented Paradise-flycatcher



White-tailed Blue Flycatcher



African Blue Flycatcher



Snow-crowned Robin-chat



White-browed Robin-chat



Red-capped Robin-chat



Black-headed Oriole



Papyrus Gonolek



Black-lored Babbler



Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher



White-chinned Prinia



Chubb's Cisticola



Coppery Sunbird



Northern Double-collared Sunbird



Variable Sunbird



Blue-spotted Wood-dove



Green White-eye



Jackson's Three-horned Chameleon



Ugandan Blue-headed Tree Agama

