

Uganda - In Search of the Shoebill

Naturetrek Tour Report

25th October – 6th November 2025



Shoebill



Palm-nut Vulture



Little Bee-eaters



Mantled Guerezas

Main tour report by Wendy and Siegfried Schmitt
Photos by Wendy Schmitt and Tracey Mantle



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Tour participants: Gerald Tumwekwase (leader) with six Naturetrek clients

Summary

Despite having to change the original itinerary due to the restrictions in Queen Elizabeth National Park, we visited a wide variety of habitats. Uganda is so green and the topography of hill, valleys, pastures, pools, wetlands and forests meant we saw a large range of birds and mammals. We managed a very good view of a Shoebill. Some clients had a very good Chimpanzee trek, followed by a wonderful Gorilla extension. Unfortunately, some activities were curtailed by rain.

Day 1

Saturday 25th October

Four of the group left Heathrow on an Rwandair flight to Kigali, while two others went via Addis Ababa on Ethiopian Airlines

Day 2

Sunday 26th October

Sunny, 34°C

Unfortunately, the connecting flight to Entebbe was delayed by three hours, meaning four of us did not arrive at the Two Friends Hotel until about 2.30pm, the two others having arrived earlier. At least at Entebbe airport we were serenaded by an African Thrush, and a wedding party. After a welcome drink at the hotel, mostly Nile Special Beer, we went to our comfortable rooms and prepared for our visit to the Entebbe Botanic Gardens.

Gerald knew the gardens well, and we had a couple of hours seeing a wonderful variety of birds, including African Pygmy Kingfisher, African Harrier-Hawk, Northern Black Flycatcher, Grey Parrot, Olive-bellied and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, and a wonderful display by several White-throated Bee-eaters. A nesting Bat Hawk was very obliging for us. We also had our first views of Mantled Guereza (Colobus Monkey) and Red-tailed Monkeys.

Having had very little sleep, we were glad to get back to the hotel, have a meal by the side of Lake Victoria, and go to bed.

Day 3

Monday 27th October

Sunny, some cloud and rain, 30°C

Given our 5.00am wake up call, a packed breakfast had been prepared for us. After a drive of one and a half hours and an interesting ferry trip, with a few birding stops for Yellow-billed Ducks, Hamerkop, Hadada Ibis and Pied Kingfisher, we reached the Mabamba Wetlands. There we got into two small boats and set off through the papyrus beds. The boatmen were very good at pointing out birds, including Ross's Turaco, Purple Heron, African Jacana, Western Marsh Harrier, White-faced Whistling Duck and African Swamphen. A local fisherman came paddling towards us, and after a conversation we had the interesting experience of being poled backwards for some distance. We then went down a very narrow channel where the outboard could not be used; it was a delightful experience, in silence. As we rounded a bend, we saw four other canoes and our main objective: a Shoebill! It was a very

obliging bird, which just stood looking at us for at least twenty minutes. At one point it walked right up to the first canoe, giving them what must have been an amazing experience. It wandered about a bit more, and then slowly flew off. We were very happy travellers!

On our return journey we saw, among many others, Malachite Kingfisher, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Swamp Flycatcher, and had a lovely view of an African Swamphen feeding chicks with pieces of Papyrus stem.

We ate our packed breakfast and started our journey south on the four-hour drive to Lake Mburo National Park, crossing the equator as we went. After a very nice lunch, we found that at one point the road had been built through a Papyrus swamp, and to our amazement there, just five metres from the side of road, was another Shoebill, totally ignoring the traffic rumbling by. More photos were taken! We made a longish stop in an area that almost looked like an English meadow; it was verdant green with small pools of water, and an amazing variety of birds. We saw African Openbill, Yellow-billed Stork, Purple Heron and a beautiful pair of Crowned Cranes, Uganda's national bird, plus Winding Cisticola, White-winged Widowbird, Pink-backed Pelican, Meyer's Parrot, Copper Sunbird, Grey-backed Fiscal, Wattled Starling, Grey Kestrel and many more. However, rumblings of thunder and increasing cloud cover led to rain.

As we approached Lake Mburo, the weather improved and we had our first sight of Zebras grazing with the amazingly-horned Ankole cattle. Once we were in the reserve, the roof was raised; unfortunately, unless you were tall you had to climb on the seats to see out. However, the bird count continued to climb: Purple-banded Sunbird, Banded Martin, White-browed Robin-Chat, Blue-naped Mousebird, Pin-tail Whydah, Helmeted Guineafowl, White-browed Coucal, Red-necked Spurfowl and Fork-tailed Drongo were all added. We started to see more mammals, such as Defassa Waterbuck, Impala, Bushbuck, Warthog, Vervet Monkey, both Dwarf and Slender Mongooses, and more Zebra.

After a long day, we reached our accommodation, Rwakobo Rock lodge. And what a rock we were on, at the top of a huge escarpment with rolling hills and valleys in front. We went to our lovely cottages, each with a view over the escarpment. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity for a night drive, so we had an excellent meal and went to bed.

Day 4

Tuesday 28th October

Cloudy followed by rain, 24°C

We breakfasted watching the mist rise from the valley, and light entertainment was provided when a Vervet Monkey appeared as if from thin air, a breakfast plantain and was then cheeky enough to sit just a few metres away and devour it. Among the birds we saw as we ate were African Green Pigeon and African Paradise Flycatcher. After breakfast, we set off for the park.

For a while we had blue skies, which allowed good views of Splendid Starlings, Red-headed Weaver, three delightful Red-headed Lovebirds, Spot-flanked and White-headed Barbets, Black-headed Gonolek and Diederik Cuckoo. At the park gate, a large tree was full of Black-headed, Lesser Masked and Village Weavers, and since it was the start of the rainy season they were in full nest-building mode. It was wonderful watching them weave the start of the

nest; those that had completed theirs were busy displaying to females, to show them what an excellent nest they had built. There was also a Klaas's Cuckoo here, as well as White-rumped Swifts.

The birds came thick and fast: a pair of Grey-headed Kingfishers, Black-bellied Bustard, Brown Snake Eagle, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Levaillant's Cuckoo, Flappet Lark, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Spotted Flycatcher, Green Wood Hoopoe and an Emerald-spotted Wood Dove. We had seen Vervet Monkeys, Warthog (with young), Olive Baboon, Impala, Waterbuck and Slender Mongoose, and then we came upon a herd of Rothchild's Giraffes. A small herd has been relocated from Murchison National Park, and now numbers about sixty. They were very relaxed; many sat down, and youngsters wandered about, making a lovely photographic opportunity, and also showing how successful relocation can be.

We then came upon White-backed Vultures on a carcass, with the occasional Lappet-faced Vulture muscling in. A juvenile Bateleur had removed a piece of flesh and was up in a tree with it. A group of Warthogs then found a place for themselves at the table. The only large predators in the park are Leopards.



Rothschild's Giraffes



Defassa Waterbuck



Slender Mongoose



Grey-headed Kingfisher

After Grey Crowned Cranes, Red-necked Spurfowl, Ross's Turaco and Zebras came a small herd of Cape Buffalos, with attendant Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, wallowing in mud. Among them was a newly born calf, umbilical cord still attached; it was having a difficult time as it wanted to feed, but mum was covered in mud. It would take a few steps and then lie down for a few minutes. On the way back to the lodge, we saw Bronze Mannikins, Red-billed Firefinch, Red-chested Cuckoo, Trilling Cisticola, Little Bee-eater, Grey Hornbill, Lizard Buzzard and a Greater Honeyguide, to mention a few, and our first Topi.

After lunch, we loaded the vehicle, because after a boat trip on Lake Mburo we would be driving to our next hotel. However, the sky began to darken and we could hear and see thunder and lightning all around us. As we reached the lake, the heavens opened and we took shelter on the porch of the ticket office; out came our rain gear.

While we waited for others to arrive, we were able to enjoy a view of Lesser Striped Swallows, also perching out of the rain, plus Northern Grey-headed Sparrows, a pair of Water Thick-knees and a Hippo. We boarded the boat, which was thankfully covered, and set off for a two-hour trip around the lake's papyrus beds. We saw a Malachite Kingfisher, dozens of Pied Kingfishers, African Black Crake, Hamerkop, Little Bittern, Wattled Lapwing, Little Heron, White-backed Night Heron and many African Fish Eagles, including several juveniles. A very obliging African Finfoot came out of the reeds and gave us a good view. There were many pods of Hippos, and as the rain stopped, we saw a very large Nile Crocodile lying just under a Pied Kingfisher nesting colony.

We then set off for the hour-and-a-half drive to our hotel, during which we saw Palm-nut Vulture, Grey Kestrel, Black-faced Waxbill, Black-headed Heron, Brown Snake Eagle and White-browed Robin-Chat, among others.

We arrived at the Igongo Cultural Lodge in Mbarara, to find it home to a large colony of Cattle and Little Egrets and Black-headed Herons in the large trees at the front. We were taken to our cottages and met at 7.00pm to do three days' worth of checklist. We were finally served dinner at 9.00pm, and then went straight to bed.

Day 5

Wednesday 29th October

Overcast, storms and heavy rain, 26°C

After a 6.30am breakfast while the vehicle was loaded, we saw African Thrush, Black-headed Gonolek, Yellow-fronted Canary, African Palm Swift, Green-winged Pytilia, Variable Sunbird and of course the egrets and herons, and then started the five-hour drive to Semliki Wildlife Reserve. Our first spots were a Long-crested Eagle, which was certainly having a bad hair day, Pin-tailed Whydah, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, Black-lored Babbler and Little Heron. By 9.30am the rain started, but after a while it eased off. We made several stops on the way, trying to persuade a Greater Swamp Warbler to show itself, which it finally did, and likewise a Papyrus Gonolek; we also saw Grey-backed and Northern Fiscals, Cassin's Honeybird, Bronze Sunbird and Augur Buzzard.

We stopped for lunch at a lovely house, The Grey Parrot, in Bigodi; while preparations were made for us to eat in a summer house, we were able to enjoy the beautiful flowers in the gardens and to get close looks at several bird species we had seen before. The clouds started to build again and thunder rumbled, and within minutes the heavens had opened again and we helped staff take everything into the main house. As they battened down the hatches, a member of staff performed a Ugandan greeting involving each taking a coffee bean, cracking the shell in your teeth and then eating the bean. A traditional Ugandan lunch was then served, including corn bread, *matoke* (steamed green bananas), *posho* (maize flour porridge) and various beef and bean dishes. It was very tasty. As we were eating, the door opened and a family of soaking French people came in; we were at their table as we should have been in the summer house. They were very nice about it and in any event, it gave them time to dry out; the rain was so heavy that they had got soaked just running from their vehicle.

We set off again. I had thought it strange that, despite the ferocity of the rain, Gerald was not using the windscreen wipers. But he stopped and made a phone call; they had indeed stopped working! When we reached Fort Portal,

he drove to a garage where the poor mechanic got soaked while looking under the bonnet. For those who have read Alexander McCall Smith's No.1 Ladies Detective Agency books, Mr J.L.B. Matekoni's Speedy Garage came to mind. A new wiper motor was required, and in just under an hour we were on our way again.

The rain finally eased, and on the way we saw Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Eastern Plantain-eater, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Red-necked Falcon and the strange sight of an African Crake jumping up and down in the grass, plus several other species. We knew that we had been at an altitude of 1200m, but the drive was down a very long hillside, and we dropped to 730m. It would have been an amazing sight, but due to the mist and gloom we did not see much, other than hairpin bends and the huge lorries on their way to and from the Democratic Republic of the Congo via Lake Albert.

As we approached Semliki, we could see the massive Mountains of the Moon through gaps in the clouds. It was a great relief to arrive at Semliki Safari Lodge, where we were greeted with drinks, hot flannels and a Striped Kingfisher. Our rooms were very large tents with thatched roofs and large verandas, with comfortable settees overlooking the forest; they were beautiful, and to top it all, the sun appeared just before it set.

We did the checklist at 7.00pm and enjoyed an excellent meal; we were the only guests and were very well looked after by the attentive and delightful staff.

Day 6

Thursday 30th October

Heavy rain, followed by an hour of drizzle, then dry but cloudy, 26°C

We had elected to have a packed breakfast, so we were woken at 6.15am for tea and coffee and hot muffins; one could get quite used to this. We had an early start as we were driving to Lake Albert's Papyrus beds, for the chance of another Shoebill. We were in the lodge's open-sided vehicle, but the rain became so heavy that we had to stop and roll the sides down; it was like being in a warm plastic bag, with very little visibility. Due to the inclement weather, we didn't stop for our first Ugandan Kob, but saw Abdim's Stork, Steppe Eagle, Southern Red Bishop and Red-throated Bee-eaters once the rain stopped.

When we reached the lake, we were put into two small motor launches with local guides. We headed towards the black skies over the DRC, which shares the lake with Uganda. We saw White-winged and Gull-billed Terns, White-faced Whistling Ducks, Squacco Heron, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater and Reed Cormorant, among others, but no Shoebill. The local guide said that the local fishermen see the Shoebill as competitors, despite the fact they are not. He talked to different fishermen, and one parked his canoe in the reeds and showed us the way to where he had seen one earlier, but with no luck. At this point, we decided that because there was so little to see on such a vast lake, and because we had already had excellent views of Shoebills, our time could be better spent on land. When we returned the local fisherman to his canoe Siegfried gave him a tip, and asked the guide to tell him it was to make up for the time he had spent with us away from his fishing. The guide agreed that this could be a way of making the locals friendlier to the Shoebill. On the way back, we stopped at another canoe; bargaining was done, three large Tilapia were put in a cool box, and money changed hands. This was the first time we had seen the Tilapia other than on our plates: they are delicious.

When we landed, we set off back to Semliki for lunch. On the way, we saw Ugandan Kob on their lekking grounds. It was fascinating to see a buck chasing a female, and then suddenly stop at a line invisible to us, as she joined up with another buck. We saw Winding Cisticola, Beautiful Sunbird, Marsh Harrier, Nile Monitor Lizard, Cardinal Woodpecker and African Harrier-Hawk too.

After a tasty lunch, enlivened by the appearance of a beautiful Black-lined Tree Snake working its way through the thatch of the roof, we had a couple of hours on our lovely verandas watching birds and, in some cases, Guerezas. At 4.30pm we drove back to the park.



Grey Crowned Crane



Red-headed Lovebirds

We did a lot of driving and saw a few bird species: Pin-tailed Whydah, Black-billed Barbet, Pale Flycatcher, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Meyer's Parrot, White-throated Bee-eater and Red-backed Shrike. The only mammals seen were a number of Ugandan Kob, Mantled Guerezas, Olive Baboons and a single Warthog. Suddenly, we could see a fire, and found that the lodge staff had set a bar up for us in the bush; they provided any drinks that we fancied, and tasty nibbles. As we sat by the fire, the lodge guide told us that the Semliki Wildlife Reserve had very recently been upgraded to a National Park. This meant that Lions, which had either been hunted or poached, and had therefore been missing for ten years, should be replaced. Giraffes would be introduced, as at Lake Mburo, as well as other wildlife, as at present there are only approximately 250 Elephants in this huge area. We then drove off in the dark, but other than one Warthog, we had no luck with any other mammals, or nocturnal birds.

Day 7

Friday 31st October

Cloudy, humid and heavy rain, 30°C

We had breakfast at 7.30am and were treated five Ross's Turacos in one tree and five Great Blue Turacos in the next. A walk in the area surrounding the lodge had been planned, but due to drizzle it was decided to have a walk round the grounds instead, where we were treated to a friendly Pin-tailed Wydah, various waxbills, some Red-tailed Monkeys and a very nice toad. Then we set off on our way to Kibale.

It stopped drizzling and we were treated to a good view of a Mantled Guereza family. We started the amazing climb back up to the highlands, and although it was very overcast we had a better view of the Ruwenzoris, and the way that the locals made use of every piece of the hillsides, no matter how steep.

On the journey, some new birds included Black-headed and Western Orioles, several species of greenbul, Crowned Hornbill, Blue-throated Roller, African Shrike-flycatcher, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, White-headed Barbet, Collared and Green-headed Sunbirds, and Shining-blue Kingfisher. We drove through miles of tea and banana plantations, stopped at Fort Portal for fuel, and then the skies darkened and the rain started again. As we entered the Kibale area, the rain had turned to drizzle, so we stopped to look for Purple-headed Starling, but the light was very bad.

We arrived at Primates Lodge to be greeted by Grey-cheeked Mangabeys and Black-casqued Hornbill, and were shown to our very nice cottages; the downside was the long walk over very sharp stones, which at least ensured that the paths were not muddy. We were shown a muddy shortcut through some bushes from our cottage. Thunder was rumbling, and as we finished a nice lunch the heavens opened, which put a stop to any thoughts of exploring the nearby visitor centre. The rain was so heavy: we have nothing like it in Britain.

By 4.30am it had eased off, but as it was far too wet to go into the forest we drove along the main road to have another look for the Purple-headed Starlings. We did find them, but unfortunately the light was not good, as they were high in the trees. We also saw Yellow-spotted Barbet, Dusky Tit, Green Crombec, White-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas, and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird

The checklist was done, followed by a good dinner and early bed, due to the 5.30am start next day, to look for the elusive Green-breasted Pitta and Chimpanzees. Welcome hot water bottles were in our beds.

Day 8

Saturday 1st November

Cooler, overcast, then rain

The birders reported that they had reached the pitta display area after a half hour walk, and while walking they had heard the calls of Chimpanzees close by, so once the pitta had been seen, they set off in the direction of the calls. All members of the group saw the first Chimp on the ground, and several high up in the trees. The birding group then went with Gerald to look for more birds, while others stayed for an hour with the Chimp troop, where they had wonderful views of Gin, the alpha male, calling his troop from the forest floor, a youngster along with four females high in the trees, and a further three males grooming on the forest floor. Both groups then met up for an hour's birding on the roadside back to the lodge, where we regrouped for lunch. Some of the birds seen included Albertine (Red-chested) Owlet, Yellow-billed and Hairy-breasted Barbets, White-throated Greenbul, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Narrow-tailed and Stuhlmann's Starlings, Sooty Flycatcher, Little Green Sunbird, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Red-headed Malimbe, Red-billed Quelea, Black Bishop and Brimstone Canary. Muddy boots were returned immaculately cleaned by the staff.

During lunch there was thunder all around and the sky became darker; however, at 3.30pm we set off for the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary walk. As we arrived at the office, the rain started and everyone donned their rain gear. It wasn't too bad to start with, as we were under trees, but we were then told that we could not go into the swamp

itself, as it was flooded. So we climbed up a steep hill to see three very bedraggled Compact Weavers. As it was so wet and gloomy, two clients elected to return to the vehicle and had an informative walk with young Dereck through plantations of coffee plants, with the beans at different stages of development, and saw papaya and cassava plants. The rest of the group returned shortly after, as nothing further was seen due to the rain. We met with a troop of Olive Baboons at our cottages, and spent the rest of the afternoon sitting on the veranda, drinking hot chocolate and beer, and watching the rain.

Day 9

Sunday 2nd November

Overcast, then rain, then dry

Unfortunately, the advertised walk in the forest did not occur. The two clients who were doing the Mountain Gorilla extension left with Gerald in the large vehicle. The remaining four squeezed into a smaller vehicle to return to Entebbe at 8.30am. Ten minutes into the journey, we found that Gerald's vehicle had stopped where Splendid Starlings had been seen the day before, and we saw them again in slightly better light. The two vehicles then continued on their way.

The vehicle was elderly and struggled on the hills; when we reached the very bad road that we had been warned about, the tall ones in the back kept hitting their head on the roof! A shorter and very kind colleague offered to swap places, but his kindness was not rewarded, as when we went into another heavy storm the vehicle leaked and he got wet! The planned five-hour journey became six-and-a-half!

In the short time we had before being collected at 7.00pm to go to the airport, we walked along the edge of Lake Victoria, watching fish being landed and prepared, and managed to see a few birds to add to the day's sightings. The flight left on time, as did the next flight from Kigali.

Day 10

Monday 3rd November

We landed at 6.30am at Heathrow after very good service with Rwandair.

Bwindi Gorilla Extension

Day 1

Sunday 2nd November

After an early breakfast, we said our goodbyes to the rest of the group, wishing them all a safe journey home. Then we set off for the last leg of our trip, to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, where we would be staying at Mahogany Springs Lodge in Buhoma. We had only driven a short distance from our lodge when Gerald stopped the truck. He had, amazingly, spotted a Black Bee-eater high in the treetops, a bird which had evaded us on previous days. Luckily, the group going back to Entebbe were still behind us and we all managed good views of this beautiful bird.

The journey took the best part of the day; we continued to watch birds from the truck windows. Eventually, in the mid-afternoon, we arrived at Mahogany Springs, and were warmly welcomed with hot towels and a refreshing drink. The lodge had lovely gardens and a wonderful view of the forest. As we walked to our apartment, aptly

named 'Bird View', we were delighted to see lots of birds flitting from the shrubs to the trees. We dropped our bags in our room and relaxed on our balcony for the last few hours of daylight, watching the birds in our garden. To our amazement, a Red-throated Alethe made a brief appearance, a target bird which we had hoped to see. It made a perfect end to a long day of travelling.

Day 2

Monday 3rd November

Gorilla trekking day! After breakfast, we excitedly set off to the Gorilla trekking centre, where we sat down with others who would be trekking that morning. We were warmly welcomed by the Ride 4 Women Group, who sang a lovely welcome and good luck song for a successful trek to see the Gorillas. They then went on to perform some traditional songs and dances, encouraging us to join in. A representative for the group then explained that these self-empowered women had formed a group which hired out bicycles to tourists. They also carried out repairs to the bicycles, and also made clothing and baskets which they sold to help fund their community.

We were given a briefing by Sam, a head ranger, with regards to safety, after which we were put into our trekking groups. There were six people in our group, and we were told that we would be trekking in search of the Binyindo troop, which comprises eight individuals, including a silverback, a young male, and six females. This group had no babies, as the troop's alpha male had died, and a new male had taken over, killing any babies there had been. We were told that since he had been leading the troop, a female had given birth, but that unfortunately the baby had been stillborn.

Everyone set off from the centre, and we travelled by truck for an hour along mountain roads, taking in the wondrous scenery surrounding us. Suddenly, we stopped at the side of the road, where we were greeted by a group of people which included our guide, armed guards and porters. Everyone was introduced, and a lovely man called Justice came forward and took our rucksack: he would be our porter for the adventure ahead.

To our astonishment, there was no flat route through the forest. We just started descending the steep mountainside: thank goodness for Justice and the sturdy walking pole with which we had been issued back at Mahogany Springs Lodge. After a forty-minute descent, we regrouped and were told to put on our facemasks. Doing so, we noticed movement a little way below us; it was the Gorillas we had so eagerly anticipated seeing!

We spent a magical hour with these fantastic animals. It was astonishing how close we were, in the dense undergrowth of the forest; the trackers cut away some of the vegetation so we could see the group a little better. First, we saw a female relaxing, pulling ferns over herself and lounging on her back, completely unfazed by our intrusion into her day, just giving everyone a look over every now and again. Then we spotted the impressive silverback, sat up above us, being groomed by another female. Eventually, other Gorillas appeared in the treetops and descended. We stood watching in awe. Then the silverback started to move; he made his way from his grooming position to just below us, where we stood and pulled a large plant down to eat the succulent sprout at the top, showing his extreme strength. We all stood still, just taking in this incredible moment. We saw seven of the eight Gorillas in the troop before we made our way back up the mountainside, leaving these wonderful creatures to rest in their day beds.

Once at the top, we received our trekking certificates and journeyed back to the Mahogany Springs Lodge for lunch, where we reflected on the magical events we had just experienced. In the afternoon, Gerald took us to look

for birds in a couple of good spots in Buhoma, where we saw some new birds for our trip, including Bocage's Bushshrike and Buff-spotted Woodpecker, along with more excellent views of birds we had seen previously.

Day 3

Tuesday 4th November

This morning's activity was a walk with Gerald and another local guide named Solomon, into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Park . We had a scan in the area just outside the entrance to the park, where we saw Purple-breasted Sunbird and Levaillant's Cuckoo. Once in the forest itself, we saw more new birds for our trip, including Grey-winged Robin-chat, and Lühdorff's Bushshrike.

As we were scouring the trees, a group of people came towards us. One man was carrying a small animal basket, and as the group approached, I asked them what was in the basket. Amazingly, it was a Pangolin that had been treated at the nearby rescue centre, and was being taken for release. We were allowed a closer look at him in the cage. After ten minutes the group returned, with happy faces and an empty basket.

After another great morning birding, we returned to our lodge for a late lunch. We had a free afternoon and spent it in the grounds of Mahagony Springs watching the resident birds, where once again we spotted another new bird for our trip, Black-crowned Waxbill. A pair was nest building in one of the hedges by our lodge, and we watched in delight as the male went back and forth with long streamers of grasses.

Day 4

Wednesday 5th November

We left Mahogany Springs Lodge early in the morning to catch our flight from Kihiihi Airstrip, on a small eleven-seater plane back to Entebbe. At the airstrip, Gerald suggested a quick scan of the trees and we spotted the last new bird of the trip, Pale-throated Greenbul.

Our flight left at 9.15am and we bade a very fond farewell to Gerald, who had been such a brilliant guide and companion throughout our entire trip in Uganda. Our flight took just over an hour, and we looked out from the window over the route which would have taken around nine hours had we travelled by road. On the approach to Entebbe Airport, we watched as Lake Victoria came into view. We were met and taken to the Two Friends Hotel, where our Ugandan adventure had begun. We had lunch in the hotel's beachside restaurant, and watched as kites, herons, egrets, pelicans and kingfishers all passed us by, before returning to the hotel to freshen up for the flights home. We were picked up at 4.30pm and taken to the airport, where we left this beautiful country, with so many great memories of the wonderful birds and mammals we had seen, and tales to tell of our adventures when we got home. We saw a total of 127 species of birds, and added 39 new birds to our trip during the Gorilla Extension to Bwindi.

Day 5

Thursday 6th November

We landed at Heathrow at 6.30am.

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Species lists

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2025									Gorilla extension
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2		
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		✓			✓					
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>					✓					
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		✓								
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	✓	✓								
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>		✓								
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>		✓	✓				✓			
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>		✓	✓							
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	✓			✓	✓					
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		✓								
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>				✓						
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>			✓					✓		
Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>	✓				✓	5	✓			
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer personatus</i>		✓	✓							
Eastern Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Ross's Turaco	<i>Tauraco rossae</i>		✓	✓				5			
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>			✓	✓	✓					
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Blue Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>							✓	✓		
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>			✓							
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>			✓							
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>			✓							
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>							✓			
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>			✓							
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		✓		✓						
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>			✓							
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>			✓							
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>							✓			
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>			✓				✓			
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>			✓							
African Crake	<i>Crecopsis egregia</i>					✓					
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓									
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			
Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓				
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						✓				
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>					✓	✓				
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>				✓		✓				
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>	✓									
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>						✓				
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>				✓						
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		✓	✓			✓				
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓		✓				

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Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓						
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓						
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					✓				
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					✓				
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	✓	✓	✓						
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		✓							
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>					✓				
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>					✓				
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>		✓							
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓	✓		✓				
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		✓	✓		✓				
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>			✓		✓				
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓							✓	
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Calherodius leuconotus</i>			✓						
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>			✓	✓	✓				
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓			✓				
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓						
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓						
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓				✓			
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>			✓				✓		
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Shoebill	<i>Balaeniceps rex</i>		2							
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>		✓				✓			
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	✓	✓				✓			
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>			✓						
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>				✓					
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>			✓						
Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>					✓				
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>				✓		✓			
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>	✓								
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>					✓				
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>					✓				
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>						✓			
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>						✓			
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>		✓	✓						
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyphiza minulla</i>	✓								
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓						
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	
African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>			✓	✓					
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>				✓	✓				
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓							
Albertine (Red-chested) Owlet	<i>Glaucidium albentinum</i>							✓		

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2025								
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Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>		✓	✓						
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓							
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>			✓						
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros albicularis</i>							✓		
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>			✓						
Black-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna atrata</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>		✓	✓						
Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>							✓		
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	✓			✓					
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>		✓			✓				
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>		✓	✓		✓				
Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadribrachys</i>							✓		
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>								✓	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Black Bee-eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>								✓	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓	✓			✓			
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>					✓				
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>							✓		
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	✓				✓	✓			
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>						✓			
Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachylaemus purpuratus</i>								✓	
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>			✓						
Grey-throated Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco bonapartei</i>								✓	
Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>					✓		✓		
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>					✓		✓		
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>			✓						
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	✓				✓				
Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>							✓	✓	
Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>								✓	
Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lacrymosa</i>		✓							
White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>		✓				✓			
Black-billed Barbet	<i>Lybius guifsobalito</i>				✓	✓				
Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Pogonornis bidentatus</i>	✓		✓						
Cassin's Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus insignis</i>					✓				
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>			✓						
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Pardipicus nivosus</i>									✓
Yellow-crested Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus xantholophus</i>							✓	✓	
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>						✓			
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>	✓				✓	✓			
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>				✓					
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓								
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	✓								
Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>		✓					✓		
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>		✓		✓				✓	
Red-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>			✓	✓					

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		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2		
Green-breasted Pitta	<i>Pitta reichenowi</i>							✓			
Chestnut Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira castanea</i>									✓	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>			✓							
Bocage's Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus bocagei</i>									✓	
Pink-footed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus angolensis</i>									✓	
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	✓			✓			✓			
Lühder's Bushshrike	<i>Laniarius luehderi</i>									✓	
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>		✓	✓							
Papyrus Gonolek	<i>Laniarius mufumbiri</i>				✓						
Black-headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>			✓							
African Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Megabyas flammulatus</i>							✓			
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓		
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>				✓	✓					
Petit's Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga petiti</i>									✓	
Western Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrynchus</i>							✓			
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>							✓			
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>			✓							
Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>				✓						
Mackinnon's Shrike	<i>Lanius mackinnoni</i>									✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>							✓			
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>		✓		✓						
White-winged Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus leucomelas</i>						✓				
Dusky Tit	<i>Melaniparus funereus</i>							✓	✓		
Flappet Lark	<i>Amirafr a rufocinnamomea</i>			✓		✓					
Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Stelgidillas gracilirostris</i>							✓			
Red-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda syndactylus</i>									✓	
Pale-throated Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavigula</i>									✓	
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>						✓				
Red-tailed Greenbul	<i>Criniger calurus</i>									✓	
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>									✓	
Plain Greenbul	<i>Eurillas curvirostris</i>							✓			
White-throated Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus albicularis</i>								✓		
Xavier's Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus xavieri</i>									✓	
Toro Olive Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus hypochloris</i>							✓			
Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
White-headed Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne albiceps</i>				✓						
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>									✓	
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>		✓						✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓			✓				
Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>		✓								
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>		✓							✓	
Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>							✓	✓		
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>										✓

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Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			✓							
Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>				✓	✓					
Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Catriscus brevirostris</i>	✓									
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>						✓				
Trilling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>	✓	✓								
Chubb's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chubbi</i>									✓	
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>	✓				✓					
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>					✓					
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>						✓				
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	✓		✓	✓						
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>			✓							
Black-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis jacksoni</i>									✓	
Buff-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis rufigularis</i>							✓			
Grey-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>	✓									
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	✓						✓			
Black-faced Rufous Warbler	<i>Bathmocercus rufus</i>									✓	
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>					✓					
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>			✓							
Black-lored Babbler	<i>Turdoides sharpei</i>	✓		✓							
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	✓									
Purple-headed Starling	<i>Hylopsar purpureiceps</i>							✓			
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	✓									
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>			✓					✓	✓	
Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Stuhlmann's Starling	<i>Poeoptera stuhlmanni</i>									✓	
Narrow-tailed Starling	<i>Poeoptera lugubris</i>									✓	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>				✓						
Fraser's Rufous Thrush	<i>Stizorhina fraseri</i>									✓	
White-tailed Ant Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>									✓	
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Brown-backed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas hartlaubi</i>			✓					✓		
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>							✓	✓		
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria griseigularis</i>								✓		
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured Flycatcher)	<i>Fraseria plumbea</i>				✓						
Chapin's Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria lenu</i>									✓	
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria caerulescens</i>							✓			
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>									✓	
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edollioides</i>			✓							
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis comitatus</i>									✓	
Sooty Flycatcher	<i>Artomyias fuliginosa</i>								✓		
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>									✓	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓								
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>			✓							
Red-throated Alethe	<i>Chamaetylas poliophrys</i>									✓	
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>								✓		
Grey-winged Robin-chat	<i>Sheppardia polioptera</i>									✓	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>							✓			
Grey-headed Sunbird	<i>Deleornis axillaris</i>									✓	

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Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>							✓		
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	✓					✓			
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>						✓			
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>						✓	✓		
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>							✓		
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Purple-breasted Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia purpureiventris</i>									✓
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>					✓		✓		
Northern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris reichenowi</i>									✓
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	✓								
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>		✓	✓						
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		✓			✓				
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>		✓							
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>						✓			
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>						✓			
Baglafecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafecht</i>									✓
Slender-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>		✓							
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	✓								
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>									✓
Black-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanogaster</i>									✓
Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>					✓				
Orange Weaver	<i>Ploceus aurantius</i>	✓								
Northern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus castanops</i>		✓							
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>				✓					
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓							
Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>		✓		✓			✓		
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>		✓	✓						
Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>		✓							
Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>							✓		
Compact Weaver	<i>Ploceus superciliosus</i>							✓		
Brown-capped Weaver	<i>Ploceus insignis</i>								✓	
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>							✓		
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>			✓						
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>							✓		
Black Bishop	<i>Euplectes gierowii</i>							✓		
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>					✓		✓		
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>		✓		✓	✓				
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>		✓	✓						
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
White-breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>							✓	✓	
Grey-headed Nigrita	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>							✓	✓	
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>			✓						
Black-crowned Waxbill	<i>Estrilda nonnula</i>									✓
Fawn-breasted Waxbill	<i>Estrilda paludicola</i>					✓				
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>					✓				
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2025									
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Gorilla extension	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	✓		✓							
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>			✓		✓					
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>			✓		✓					
Western Citril	<i>Crithagra frontalis</i>			✓	✓						
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>								✓		

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2025									
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Gorilla extension	
Grey-cheeked Mangabey	<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>							✓	✓		
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-tailed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mantled Guereza	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ashy Red Colobus	<i>Piliocolobus tephrosceles</i>							✓	✓		
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>								✓		
Mountain Gorilla	<i>Gorilla beringei beringei</i>									✓	
Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>							✓	✓		
African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	✓									
Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>				✓						
Northern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>				✓						
Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>			✓							
Nile Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus bor</i>		✓	✓							
Common Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>		✓	✓							
Uganda Topi	<i>Damaliscus ugandae</i>			✓							
Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>		✓	✓							
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		✓	✓			✓				
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		✓	✓							
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>				✓				✓		
Slender Mongoose	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>		✓	✓							

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	October - November 2025									
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Gorilla extension	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>							✓			
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>			✓							
Black-lined Tree Snake	<i>Hapsidophrys lineatus</i>						✓				