Rwanda Trip Report

22nd to 28th June 2007

Trip report compiled by Keith Valentine

Tour Highlights

Our action packed one week tour to this fabulous landlocked country produced numerous highlights from the magnificent Mountain Gorillas in the splendid Volcanoes National Park to chasing down the various Albertine Rift Endemics in the seemingly endless montane forests of Nyungwe.

Our adventure began in the capital Kigali where we spent the morning visiting the Genocide Memorial, a sobering reminder of this tiny country’s horrific past. The memorial has been excellently set out and provides the visitor with outstanding information and facts regarding not only Rwanda’s genocide but also a history of the many other mass atrocities that have taken place around the world.

Our first destination was the vast lakes and savannas of Akagera National Park. Our progress to Akagera was quickly put on hold however as a roadside stop produced a stunning pair of scarce White-collared Oliveback. Other goodies included Bronze Sunbird, Western Citril, Yellow-throated Greenbul, Black-lobed Babbler, Black-crowned Waxbill and Thick-billed Seed-eater. Akagera is home to a wide variety of game and birds and provided an excellent introduction to the many widespread species found in Rwanda. Cruising around the network of roads provided excellent views of a number of specials that included Madagascar Pond-Heron, African and Black Goshawk, splendid Ross’ Turaco, Spot-flanked
Barbet, Tabora Cisticola, Buff-bellied and Pale Wren-Warbler, Greencap Eremomela, Red-faced Crombec, White-winged Black-Tit and African Penduline-Tit, while a short night excursion produced the impressive Verreaux's Eagle-Owl and Freckled Nightjar. Star mammals encountered were Yellow-winged Bat and the very scarce Silver Monkey.

The spectacular Volcanoes National Park is one of the world’s last shelters for the endangered Mountain Gorilla and beautiful Golden Monkey, both of which were encountered at extremely close range where a highly memorable hour was spent with these fantastic creatures in their natural surroundings. A few highlight birds were also noted in these bamboo clad slopes and included Archer’s Robin-Chat, Regal Sunbird and Mountain Yellow Warbler.

In the afternoon we made our way down to the northern edge of Lake Kivu where an ‘extremely adventurous’ boat trip was in store for us as we were to travel the entire length of Lake Kivu. The afternoon part of the journey was very enjoyable and in the early evening we were delighted with a fantastic view of a White-backed Night-Heron feeding at the waters edge of a small island. Our boat trip felt like it would never come to an end and when we eventually arrive at Cyangugu during the small hours of the morning we were all extremely relieved. (Definitely a boat cruise we will never forget)

The verdant montane forests of Nyungwe are an incredible sight, rich in birdlife and also one of the largest forest blocs on the African continent. We were incredibly successful in locating the many cracking targets that this forest has to offer with a total of 20 Albertine Rift Endemics found during our two days in the area. Numerous rift endemics were located during our first day of birding and we were blown away with quality views of Rwenzori and Black-faced Apalis, Grauer’s Warbler, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, Stripe-breasted Tit, Blue-headed Sunbird and Strange Weaver. Other great species included Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Scarce Swift, White-headed Woodhoopoe, White-starred Robin, African Hill Babbler, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Mackinnon’s Shrike, Mountain Sooty Boubou, White-breasted Negrofinch and Kandt’s Waxbill. With great delight we struck out for Nyungwe again and proceeded to explore other zones of this magical area. The forest was once again buzzing and we secured many more top sightings that included Black-billed and Rwenzori Turaco, Barred Long-tailed and the rare Thick-billed Cuckoo, Montane Nightjar, Narina and Bar-tailed Trogon, Red-throated Alethe, Archer’s Robin-Chat, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler, Rwenzori Batis, brilliant Red-collared Babbler, Purple-breasted Sunbird, Dusky Crimsonwing and Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird.

Our last few hours the following morning in Nyungwe saw us obtain some amazing views of the normally skulky Grauer’s Swamp Warbler and enjoyed Gray Parrot, Slender-billed Starling and
Mountain Buzzard.

Rwanda is a remarkable destination where a week packs in a serious variety of highlights and mega specials. Our outstanding success in this country was no doubt attributable to an excellent group of birders and travel companions alike. The various national parks are truly phenomenal and together with its rather infamous history makes this country a must see.

Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to June 2005.
An asterisk (*) indicates an Albertine Rift endemic species.

**Pelicans**

*Pelecanus rufescens*
Pelican

Along the roadside just outside Kigali on our drive to Akagera we came across 5 birds.

**Cormorants & Shags**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Great Cormorant

2 birds were sighted at Lake Kivu.

*Phalacrocorax africanus*

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant

This species is widespread and we found 10 at Akagera NP and a further 5 on Lake Kivu.

**Anhinga & Darter**

*Anhinga melanogaster*

Darter

At least 4 were seen in Akagera NP.

**Heron, Egrets & Bitterns**

*Ardea cinerea*

Gray Heron

We sighted 1 bird at Lake Kivu.

*Ardea melanoccephala*

Black-headed Heron

Common and widespread throughout.

*Ardea alba*

Great (White) Egret

Singles sighted in Akagera and Lake Kivu.

Intermediate Egret

*Egretta intermedia*
A single bird was seen in Akagera NP.  
NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret *E. brachyrhyncha* (which is the form we recorded in Uganda), Plumed Egret *E. plumifera* and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

**Little Egret**  
*Egretta garzetta*

2 birds were sighted in Akagera NP.  
NOTE: Clements lumps Little and Madagascar’s Dimorphic Egret *E. dimorpha* into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

**(Common) Squacco Heron**  
*Ardeola ralloides*

A couple of birds were seen in Akagera NP with a further one seen on our final day near Kigali.

**Madagascar Pond-Heron**  
*Ardeola idea*

An uncommon visitor to the area during the winter months. We found a single bird at the lake edge in Akagera NP.

**Cattle Egret**  
*Bubulcus ibis*

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret *E. coromanda*. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

**Striated Heron**  
*Butoiridas striatus*

A single was found in Akagera NP.

NOTE: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. Clements recognizes three full species, the North American Green Heron *B. virescens*, Galapagos Heron *B. sundevalli* and the most widespread nominate form that we recorded in Uganda. This split is not recognized by *Handbook of Birds of the World* (del Hoyo et al) who lump these forms under the nominate.

**White-backed Night-Heron**  
*Gorsachius leuconotus*

A rare species that is very infrequently recorded. We had a great sighting of one bird feeding at dusk at a small island in the middle of Lake Kivu.

**Hamerkop**  
*Scopus umbretta*

This bizarre bird, forming a monotypic family endemic to the Afrotropics and Madagascar, is pleasantly common in Akagera NP.

**Yellow-billed Stork**  
*Mycteria ibis*

Our first sighting was of 5 en route to Akagera NP with a single bird seen en route to Volcanoes NP.

**African Openbill (~ed Stork)**  
*Anastomus lamelligerus*

A common bird throughout the country.

**Marabou Stork**  
*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

7 birds were sighted in Akagera NP.

**Sacred Ibis**  
*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Common in the east of the country.

NOTE: The Malagasy T. e. bernieri and Aldabran T. e. abbotti are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis T. bernieri

**Hadada Ibis**  
*Bostrychia hagedash*

Very common and widespread throughout.

**Egyptian Goose**  
*Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Only 2 of these usually common birds were found in Akagera NP.

**Spur-winged Goose**  
*Plectropterus gambensis*

We found 3 in Akagera NP.
Hawks, Eagles & Kites

Black Kite  
*Milvus migrans*
This ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor was found in good numbers throughout Rwanda.
*NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite *M. parasitus.*

African Fish-Eagle  
*Haliaeetus vocifer*
A familiar bird whose ringing call is one of the archetypal sounds of Africa, we recorded 10 birds in Akagera NP.

Hooded Vulture  
*Necrosyrtes monachus*
Birds were sighted in Akagera NP and again in Kigali.

Brown Snake-Eagle  
*Circaetus cinereus*
A single bird was sighted in the savannas of Akagera NP.

Bateleur  
*Terathopius ecaudatus*
The “tightrope-walker” of the raptor world is a handsome species that we found in healthy numbers in Akagera NP.

African Marsh-Harrier  
*Circus ranivorus*
This species was only sighted on a single day when one was found quartering over a wetland in Akagera NP.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)  
*Polyboroides typus*
Seen on one occasion in woodland at Akagera NP.

Lizard Buzzard  
*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
An attractive raptor that allowed for some good views in Akagera NP.

African Goshawk  
*Accipiter tachiro*
We enjoyed a great encounter with a single juvenile bird at Akagera NP.
*NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk *A. t. tousseneli.* Clements accepts this controversial split.

Black Goshawk (Great/Black Sparrowhawk)  
*Accipiter melanoleucus*
A seldom recorded raptor in Rwanda, we had views of individuals in Akagera NP and again in the Nyungwe area.

Mountain Buzzard  
*Buteo oreophilus*
An uncommon species of montane areas. We were fortunate to find a single bird on our final day while leaving the Nyungwe Forest.

Augur Buzzard  
*Buteo augur*
A handsome buzzard that is pleasantly common in the mountainous areas of the country.
*NOTE: Some authorities lump the Southern African Jackal Buzzard B. rufouscus and the Somalia Archer’s Buzzard B. archeri within this species. Clements and most other authorities now recognize three full species.*

African Hawk-Eagle  
*Hieraaetus spilogaster*
A single bird was found in Akagera NP.

Martial Eagle  
*Polemaetus bellicosus*
This magnificent species was seen once in Akagera NP.

Long-crested Eagle  
*Lophaetus occipitalis*
A great looking raptor that was found on our drive to Akagera NP and again in Nyungwe Forest.

Crowned Hawk-Eagle  
*Stephanoaetus coronatus*
Africa’s most powerful eagle. We found a pair of these majestic birds cruising above the forest in Nyungwe.

Falcons & Caracaras

Eurasian Kestrel  
*Falco tinnunculus*
While in Akagera NP we found one bird.
*NOTE: Clements has not split the distinctive Rock Kestrel *F. t. rupicolis* of Southern Africa from the nominate Eurasian Kestrel which we observed in Uganda.*
Lanner Falcon  
*Falco biarmicus*
A powerful species which was brilliantly seen at the entrance to Volcanoes NP when a pair was seen acrobatically chasing a Black Kite.

**Pheasants & Partridges**  
*Francolinus afer*
Commonly recorded in the savannas of Akagera NP.

**Cranes**  
*Balearica regulorum*
This handsome bird was seen very well at the Gorillas Nest Hotel near Volcanoes NP when at least 7 were sighted.

**Rails, Gallinules & Coots**  
*Sarothrura rufa*
This species was heard calling at extremely close range in Nyungwe but it would not budge from the thick cover in which it was skulking.

**Black Crake**  
*Amaurornis flavirostra*
Africa’s common wetland crake, a single bird was sighted at Akagera NP.

**Jacanas**  
*Actophilornis africanus*
This widespread and characteristic wader was found at Akagera NP when 2 birds were sighted.

**Plovers & Lapwings**  
*Vanellus spinosus*
The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were common and conspicuous in Akagera NP.

**Senegal (Lesser Black-winged) Lapwing**  
*Vanellus lugubris*
A lapwing of burnt or heavily grazed grassland, we recorded this species in Akagera NP when at least 10 were found.

**Wattled Lapwing (Plover)**  
*Vanellus senegallus*
This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in fair numbers in Akagera NP.

**Sandpipers & Allies**  
*Actitis hypoleucos*
This usually widespread species was only sighted on a single day of the trip.

**Doves & Pigeons**  
*Columba livia*
This species was seen in Kampala.

**Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon**  
*Columba arquatrix*
This widespread African forest pigeon was seen in Nyungwe Forest, at least a dozen birds.

**Dusky Turtle Dove**  
*Streptopelia lugens*
We had great views of one on our drive to Volcanoes NP. A scarce bird in Rwanda.

**Red-eyed Dove**  
*Streptopelia semitorquata*
Rwanda’s commonest dove, inhabiting a wide range of moist woodland and forest habitats, with good numbers recorded almost daily throughout the trip.
Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove
Streptopelia capicola
Common in open savanna in Akagera NP.

Laughing (Palm) Dove
Streptopelia senegalensis
A widespread, familiar species recorded in small numbers at Akagera NP.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove
Turtur chalcospilos
A common background call of the savannas, we had some good views in Akagera NP.

African Green-Pigeon
Treron calva
3 birds were sighted in Akagera NP.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies

(African) Gray Parrot
Psittacus erithacus
A pair of birds was well celebrated on our final morning when departing Nyungwe!

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot
Poicephalus meyeri
A parrot of moister savanna and woodland. We found many in Akagera NP.

Great Blue Turaco
Corythaëola cristata
Arguably one of Africa’s most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore was well seen in Nyungwe Forest.

Black-billed Turaco
Tauraco schuettii
Fairly common in Nyungwe Forest where we found at least 5 birds on one of the days.

Rwenzori Turaco
Tauraco leucolophus
This spectacular species is a highly localized bird confined to the higher Albertine rift. We had cracking views of 3 birds near Uwinka in Nyungwe Forest.

Ross’ Turaco
Musophaga rossae
Another stellar turaco, 1 was seen exceptionally well at Akagera NP.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird
Corythaixoides personatus
A bizarre bird, we had great views of several in Akagera NP.

Eastern (Gray) Plantain-eater
Crinifer zonurus
This floppy-winged bird with its’ maniacal call was seen once in Akagera NP.

Thick-billed Cuckoo
Pachyccocyx audeberti
This is a very rare bird in Rwanda and we were very fortunate to see this species in Nyungwe Forest.

African Cuckoo
Cuculus gularis
We had good views of one in Akagera NP.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo
Cercococcyx montanus
We had a single bird in Nyungwe Forest that continuously flew over our heads and perched in some nearby pine trees.

Klaas' Cuckoo
Chrysococcyx klaas
A brood parasite favouring the cup nests of woodland birds, one bird was seen by some of the group on their Gorilla trek in Volcanoes NP.

African Emerald Cuckoo
Chrysococcyx cupreus
Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we found 1 bird in Nyungwe Forest.

Blue-headed Coucal
Centropus monachus
This large coucal was heard in Nyungwe Forest.

White-browed Coucal
Centropus superciliosus
The commonest coucal in Rwanda and across much of East Africa. We found a couple of birds in Akagera NP.
NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell’s Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus which we recorded in Uganda.

**Typical Owls**

*Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl*  
*Bubo lacteus*  
We had a single bird that was seen at extremely close range on a late evening excursion in Akagera NP.

**Nightjars & Allies**

*Black-shouldered Nightjar*  
*Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*  
This species was heard at close range in Akagera NP on an evening excursion.  

*Montane (Ruwenzori) Nightjar*  
*Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*  
A single bird was found on the road just outside the entrance to Nyungwe.  

*Freckled Nightjar*  
*Caprimulgus tristigma*  
We enjoyed a fantastic viewing of a pair while on an evening excursion in Akagera NP.

**Swifts**

*Scarce Swift*  
*Schoutedenapus myoptilus*  
4 birds were seen at Akagera NP.  

*African Palm-Swift*  
*Cypsiurus parvus*  
Plentiful around palms throughout, we observed large numbers at Murchison Falls with as many as 20 being seen on a day in the park.  

*NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm-Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

*African Swift*  
*Apus barbatus*  
A single bird was found near Kigali.  

*Little Swift*  
*Apus affinis*  
Commonly encountered at Akagera NP.  

*White-rumped Swift*  
*Apus caffer*  
Fork-tailed and with a sickle-shaped (rather than square) white rump, we had a single near Kigali and a further 6 in Nyungwe forest at close range.

**Mousebirds**

*Speckled Mousebird*  
*Colius striatus*  
Very common with small numbers recorded daily.  

*Blue-naped Mousebird*  
*Urocolius macrourus*  
The fast-flying, savanna cousin of Speckled Mousebird and sporting a most unlikely blue patch on its nape. We found this species in Akagera NP.

**Trogons**

*Narina Trogon*  
*Apaloderma narina*  
A fantastic species that was brilliantly seen with a total of 5 birds recorded.  

*Bar-tailed Trogon*  
*Apaloderma vittatum*  
We enjoyed a superb sighting of this beautiful bird in Nyungwe Forest.

**Kingfishers**

*Malachite Kingfisher*  
*Alcedo cristata*
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The common, small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, we found a single bird in Akagera NP.

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher**  
Ispidina (Ceyx) picta

This beautiful, little bird was seen once at Akagera NP.

**Gray-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher**  
Halcyon leucocephala

Singles were sighted at Akagera and Nyungwe.

**Woodland Kingfisher**  
Halcyon senegalensis

One of the characteristic sounds of moist African savanna, this beautiful bird was seen a couple of times in Akagera NP.

**Striped Kingfisher**  
Halcyon chelicuti

Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small, terrestrial kingfisher was seen in Akagera NP.

**Giant Kingfisher**  
Megaceryle maxima

A single bird was observed at some roadside ponds on our drive back to Kigali from Nyungwe.

**Pied Kingfisher**  
Ceryle rudis

The world’s commonest kingfisher was seen at Akagera NP and again at Lake Kivu.

**Bee-eaters**  
Merops pusillus

Little Bee-eater

This beautiful species was seen very well at Akagera NP.

**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater**  
Merops oreobates

The largest of the three small look-alike bee-eaters and favouring forest fringes at higher altitudes. This species was fairly common in Nyungwe Forest.

**Rollers**  
Coracias caudata

Lilac-breasted Roller

A stunning species that was fairly regularly seen in Akagera NP.

*NOTE: The Ethiopian, C. c. lorti might be split as Blue-breasted Roller.*

**Eurasian Hoopoe**  
Upupa epops

This species was only heard at Akagera NP.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar U. marginalis and Eurasian U. epops. The white-winged African form which we encountered in Uganda is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe U. senegalensis with the fourth species being African Hoopoe U. africana. However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African. Further confusion arises in the placement of the senegalensis form within this grouping with most authorities placing it with the dark-winged africana group, however, Stevenson & Fanshawe place it with the white-winged Eurasian nominate grouping.*

**Green Woodhoopoe**  
Phoeniculus purpureus

We found 2 birds at Akagera NP.

**White-headed Woodhoopoe**  
Phoeniculus bollei

This uncommon forest bird is always a real treat to observe and we were lucky to find 2 groups in Nyungwe.

**Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill**  
Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

A widespread and familiar African bird that was seen regularly at Akagera NP.

**Hornbills**  
Tockus alboterminatus

Crowned Hornbill

A single bird was sighted in Akagera NP.

**African Gray Hornbill**  
Tockus nasutus
The common savanna hornbill. Small numbers were seen in the drier savanna of Akagera NP.

**Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill**  
*Ceratogymna subcylindricus*

Another spectacular bird that was seen in Nyungwe.

**Barbets**

**Yellow (Golden)-rumped Tinkerbird**  
*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Usually common and widespread, occurring in savanna and forest throughout. We found a single bird in Nyungwe Forest.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**  
*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

A savanna species that was encountered once in Akagera NP.

**Spot-flanked Barbet**  
*Tricholaema lacrymosa*

We had excellent views of this savanna barbet in Akagera NP.

**Double-toothed Barbet**  
*Lybius bidentatus*

A spectacular barbet that is widespread in savanna type habitat and we saw 4 birds in Akagera NP.

**Black-collared Barbet**  
*Lybius torquatus*

This species was easily found in Akagera NP, here it the northern limit of its distribution.

**Crested Barbet**  
*Trachyphonus vaillantii*

Also here at its northern limit, we found 2 birds in Akagera NP.

**Woodpeckers & Allies**

**Bennett’s Woodpecker**  
*Campethera bennetti*

A single bird was observed at close range in Akagera NP.

**Olive Woodpecker**  
*Dendropicos griseocephalus*

This species was heard in Nyungwe Forest.

**African Broadbill**  
*Smithornis capensis*

This species was heard calling at fairly close range in Nyungwe Forest.

**Larks**

**Rufous-naped Lark**  
*Mirafra africana*

A single bird was sighted in Akagera NP.

**Swallows**

**Plain (Brown-throated) Martin**  
*Riparia paludicola*

Singles were sighted around Kigali.

**Gray-rumped Swallow**  
*Hirundo griseopyga*

At least 10 birds were well seen flying over moist grassland at the edge of a lake in Akagera NP.

**Rock Martin**  
*Ptyonoprogen fuligula*

This dark hirundine was only seen once at Akagera NP.

*NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form *H. f. fuligula* would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin *H. pusilla* which is resident in Uganda. Palaeartic birds would become Pale Crag Martin *H. obsolete*. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**Angola Swallow**  
*Hirundo angolensis*

A fairly common hirundine in Rwanda, seen at Akagera NP.

**Lesser Striped-Swallow**  
*Cecropis abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow that is common in Rwanda, many seen at Akagera NP.
Red-rumped Swallow  
*Cecropis daurica*

Seen daily in Akagera NP where the birds were observed breeding around the lodge.  
*NOTE:* This species complex may be a candidate for multi-species splitting, the Ugandan form remaining within the nominate group but *H. d. melanocrissus* of Ethiopia becoming Black-vented Swallow and *H. d. domicella* becoming West African Swallow.

White-headed Sawwing  
*Psalidoprocne albiceps*

This elegant bird was seen foraging over moist grassland in Akagera NP.

Black Sawwing  
*Psalidoprocne holomelas*

Outnumbers the above species in the higher altitude sites in Rwanda, with up to 20 daily in Nyungwe.  
*NOTE:* The Black Saw-wing complex is sometimes split into eight full species with the Ugandan form being retained in *P. holomelas*.

**Wagtails & Pipits**

African Pied Wagtail  
*Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird that we found in good numbers daily.

Yellow-throated Longclaw  
*Macronyx croceus*

This meadowlark-like bird was well seen at Akagera NP.

Plain-backed Pipit  
*Anthus leucophrys*

We obtained excellent views of 5 birds over 2 days in Akagera NP.  
*NOTE:* A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ugandan races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Clements does not recognise this split.

**Cuckoo-shrikes**

Gray Cuckoo-shrike  
*Coracina caesia*

A total of 6 birds were seen in Nyungwe Forest.

Black Cuckoo-shrike  
*Campephaga flavica
da*

Birds were sighted at Akagera NP and again in Nyungwe.

**Bulbuls**

Common Bulbul  
*Pycnonotus barbatus*

A ubiquitous species and one of the few birds to be recorded on every day of the trip, with numerous daily tallies in excess of 20 individuals.  
*NOTE:* Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species. The form that we saw in Uganda, *P. b. tricolor* may be split as Dark-capped Bulbul, Clements does not recognize this split.

*NOTE:* The form encountered in Uganda is often treated as a distinct species, Kakamega Greenbul *A. kakamegae*.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul  
*Andropadus latirostris*

A common greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had good sightings at Nyungwe.

Eastern Mountain-Greenbul  
*Andropadus nigriceps*

This is a conspicuous and attractive bird of highland forests that we found in good numbers in Nyungwe.  
*NOTE:* Clements splits the form concerned as Eastern Mountain Greenbul, as opposed to Western Mountain Greenbul *A. tephrolaemus* of West Africa. Stevenson & Fanshawe and other authorities do not as yet accept this split and refer to the complex simply as Mountain Greenbul *A. nigriceps*.

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove)  
*Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Seen in small numbers at Akagera NP and also en route to Akagera.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul  
*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

We observed this wing-flicking species in small numbers at Nyungwe.
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**Thrushes & Allies**

*Olive Thrush*  
*Turdus olivaceus*

We enjoyed some great views of 5 birds in Nyungwe.

*NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split off as Mountain Thrush, Turdus abyssinicus. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

*African Thrush*  
*Turdus pelios*

Singles were sighted outside Kigali and at Nyungwe.

*Red-throated Alethe*  
*Alethe poliophrys*

This fantastic species was seen at close range in Nyungwe Forest.

**Cisticolas & Allies**

*Red-faced Cisticola*  
*Cisticola erythrops*

A very vocal species, a single bird was seen in tall, moist grass at a lake edge in Akagera NP.

*Trilling Cisticola*  
*Cisticola woosnami*

The strange, quavering call of this common woodland cisticola was heard many times, we also enjoyed plenty of sightings in the woodland at Akagera NP.

*Chubb's Cisticola*  
*Cisticola chubbi*

Another noisy cisticola with wonderful duetting songs, we found small numbers at Nyungwe.

*Winding Cisticola*  
*Cisticola galactotes*

The wetland cisticola in Rwanda, its winding song was heard on a few occasions with a single bird observed in Akagera NP.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this widespread African species into five species. Winding Cisticola C. galactotes that we observed, would become C. marginatus and occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola C. haematocephala that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola C. luapula occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola C. galactotes of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola C. lugubris endemic to Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

*Croaking (Striped) Cisticola*  
*Cisticola natalensis*

This species was located in grassland at Akagera NP.

*Tabora Cisticola*  
*Cisticola angusticaudus*

This scarce species was well seen when 2 birds were found in acacia woodland in Akagera NP.

*Banded Prinia*  
*Prinia bairdii*

This snappy-looking, but at times skulking prinia, was seen in Nyungwe Forest where we obtained superb views of several.

*NOTE: The Ugandan form is sometimes split off as Black-faced Prinia P. melanops.*

*Ruwenzori (Collared) Apalis*  
*Apalis ruwenzori*

A beautiful Albertine Rift endemic that we found in the montane forest around Nyungwe.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into Black-collared Apalis A. pulchra.*

*Black-throated Apalis*  
*Apalis jacksoni*

This species was only heard during our time at Nyungwe.

*Black-faced (Mountain Masked) Apalis*  
*Apalis personata*

Another Albertine Rift endemic restricted to Nyungwe Forest. We found good numbers throughout the area.

*Yellow-breasted Apalis*  
*Apalis flavida*

This widespread, woodland apalis was seen in Akagera NP.

*NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into two or more species, with the central Ugandan form becoming Green-tailed Apalis A. caniceps. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

*Chestnut-throated Apalis*  
*Apalis porphyroplaema*

This species was heard calling on many occasions in Nyungwe forest and we eventually managed to see 2 birds in the canopy.

*NOTE: The more southerly form (occurring in Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi) is sometimes split off as Chapin’s Apalis A. chapini.*

*Gray Apalis*  
*Apalis cinerea*

A single bird was found by some of the group near Uwinka in Nyungwe Forest.
Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in moist wooded habitat throughout Akagera NP where the species was also seen.

*NOTE:* Most authorities now recognise the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms *C. brevicaudata*. We encountered the grey-backed form in Uganda. Clements still lumps these two groups.

**Pale Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes undosus*

A rather scarce species throughout its range and we were fortunate to have some fantastic looks in Akagera NP.

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**Old World Warblers**

**Grauer’s Scrub-Warbler** *Bradypterus graueri*

This is a notoriously difficult species to see and we had the most amazing sightings of 3 birds at a marsh in Nyungwe.

**Cameroon Scrub-Warbler (Evergreen Forest Warbler)** *Bradypterus lopezi*

This elusive forest skulker was heard at Nyungwe.

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinamomeus*

This can be a very skulking species however we enjoyed a very special encounter with 2 birds in Nyungwe Forest.

**African Moustached Grass-Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was encountered once in Akagera NP.

**Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta similis*

This beautiful songster was found in the montane bamboo forest at Volcanoes NP where 4 birds were seen.

**Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*

This Acacia-inhabiting species was found in Akagera NP where a pair was observed.

**Grauer's Warbler** *Graueria vittata*

This unusual, barred warbler (with a Scaly-throated Honeyguide-like call), was seen very well on two occasions in Nyungwe Forest.

**Greencap Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops*

This species is rather localized in Rwanda and we were fortunate to obtain some excellent views of a single individual at close range in Akagera NP.

**Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii*

We enjoyed good views of 3 in Akagera NP.

**Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler** *Hemitesia neumanni*

This elusive Albertine rift endemic was only heard in Nyungwe Forest.

**Red-faced Woodland-Warbler** *Phylloscopus laetus*

This is another Albertine Rift endemic, which we encountered in good numbers at Nyungwe.

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**Old World Flycatchers**

**Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*

A couple of pairs were noted in the dry woodlands of Akagera NP.

**White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis fischeri*

Birds of the race toruensis, which LACKS a white eye-ring (!), were common in Nyungwe Forest.

**Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis ardesiacus*

We had brilliant views of a pair of birds on our walk down to Kamiranzovu marsh in Nyungwe Forest. A scarce, Albertine Rift endemic.

**Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatic a*

A common denizen of swamp edges throughout, we found a pair at the lake edge in Akagera NP.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

A common forest-edge species first recorded on numerous occasions in Nyungwe.
Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*
This is a quiet, inconspicuous bird that was well seen at Gorillas Nest Hotel, Volcanoes NP.

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata*
We found this beautiful Afro-montane forest robin at Nyungwe Forest. We managed to obtain excellent views on several occasions.

**Archer's Robin-Chat (~ Ground-Robin) *Cossypha archeri***
An Albertine Rift Endemic that occurs at fairly high altitudes. Our first sighting was of one bird in the bamboo zone in Volcanoes NP, another bird was also seen in Nyungwe forest. Shy and always difficult to observe although often heard calling.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*
3 birds were found at the edge of Nyungwe Forest.

**White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat Cossypha heuglini***
2 birds were located on our drive from Kigali to Akagera NP.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis*
A pair of birds was seen well at Akagera NP.

**Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin Cercotrichas leucophrys***
This widespread African scrub-robin was seen in Akagera NP.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would become White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African C. l. zambesiana (the Ugandan form) would remain as Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African C. l. leucoptera would become White-winged Scrub-Robin. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

**African (Common) Stonechat Saxicola torquata***
This widespread and familiar bird was common around Kigali, Volcanoes NP and Nyungwe.

NOTE: Clements recognizes the split of African S. torquata and Common S. rubicola Stonechats (the latter a Palaearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form S. t. albofasciata that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.

**Sooty Chat Myrmecocichla nigra***
Distinctive and ubiquitous, many were sighted in Akagera NP where they typically perched at the top of bare bushes.

**White-headed Black (Arnot's) Chat Myrmecocichla arnotti***
We enjoyed great views of 5 birds in secondary scrub around homesteads, this is rather different habitat to what it regularly occurs in further south in its range.

**Wattle-eyes Batis diops***
This attractive species was seen in Nyungwe Forest where 3 birds were found.

**Chinspot Batis Batis molitor***
This widespread African batis was only observed at Akagera NP.

**Ruwenzori Batis *Batis diops***
This widespread African batis was only observed at Akagera NP.

**Monarch Flycatchers***

**White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher Elminia albicauda***
A flashy and showy species that was well seen at the forest edge in Nyungwe.

**White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch) Elminia albonotata***
A single bird was well seen in Nyungwe Forest.

**African Paradise-Flycatcher Terpsiphone viridis***
A handsome bird that was easily found in Akagera NP.

NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which include the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Grey-headed Paradise-Flycatcher T. plumbeiceps. The subspecies which we recorded in Uganda T. v. ferreti in the central areas and T. v. kivuensis in the south-west will fall within the northern African Paradise-Flycatcher complex T. viridis if the group were to be split. Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males and we observed an example of this phenomenon in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.
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Babblers

African Hill Babbler

*Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

A skulking forest babbler that was seen very well in Nyungwe Forest. This form is endemic to the Albertine Rift and is almost certainly specifically distinct from eastern birds.

**NOTE:** The Rwenzori form in south-western Uganda, *I. a. atriceps* is usually split off as Rwenzori Hill Babbler and the subspecies occurring in East Africa from Zambia to Eritrea remain with the nominate grouping *I. a. abyssinica* African Hill Babbler. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Black-lored Babbler

*Turdoides sharpei*

Small numbers were recorded daily in Akagera NP.

**NOTE:** The Ugandan form is sometimes lumped within the White-rumped Babbler *T. leucopygius* complex which would then include the nominate *T. l. leucopygius* White-rumped Babbler - an Ethiopian near-endemic, *T. l. sharpei* Black-lored Babbler of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and neighboring countries and *T. l. hartlaubii* Hartlaub’s Babbler of Namibia, Botswana, Angola, Zambia and neighboring countries. Clements accepts this as a full species.

Arrow-marked Babbler

*Turdoides jardineii*

This widespread African woodland babbler was observed in small numbers in Akagera NP.

Red-collared Babbler *

*Kupeornis rufocinctus*

One of the star attractions of Nyungwe Forest and Rwanda, our efforts were eventually rewarded when a fabulous group of 4 birds were seen in the nick of time, just before the sun set, on our final day in this memorable forest.

Chickadees & Tits

White-winged Black Tit

*Melaniparus leucomelas*

5 birds were encountered in Akagera NP.

**NOTE:** The nominate dark-eyed White-winged Black Tit *M. leucomelas* which we recorded in Uganda used to be lumped with White-shouldered Black Tit *M. guineensis*. Clements recognizes this recent split.

Stripe-breasted Tit *

*Melaniparus fasciiventer*

This is a handsome Albertine Rift endemic that was observed in small numbers at Nyungwe.

Penduline Tits

African Penduline-Tit

*Anthoscopus caroli*

A rather uncommon and tiny species that prefers acacia woodlands. We enjoyed good views of 4 birds in Akagera NP.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters

Collared Sunbird

*Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*

This widespread species was observed in Akagera NP and also in Nyungwe forest.

(Rwenzori ~) Blue-headed Sunbird *

*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) alinae*

A single bird was seen by some of the group in the Kamiranzovu area in Nyungwe Forest.

Western Olive-Sunbird

*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

A single bird was sighted in Nyungwe.

**NOTE:** The Olive-Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and some other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird *C. olivacea* and the form which we recorded in Uganda, Western Olive-Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack there-of, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various forms within the complex.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

*Chalcomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

Often sighted in open woodland habitats. We found 1 bird, a brilliant male in Akagera NP

Purple-breasted Sunbird *

*Nectarinia purpureiventris*

Relatively scarce and difficult to find unless it’s favoured Symphonia tree is flowering. We had brilliant views of this outrageous sunbird when at least 5 individuals were found around a flowering Symphonia in Nyungwe.

Bronze Sunbird

*Nectarinia kilimensis*
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This attractive long-tailed sunbird was seen outside Kigali and at Volcanoes NP.

Olive-bellied Sunbird  
*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

A single bird was sighted at a roadside stop on our first day while traveling from Kigali to Akagera NP.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird  
*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) preussi*

The common sunbird of forest edge at Buhoma and Ruhizha in Bwindi Impenetrable NP, where we found small numbers daily.

Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird  
*Cinnyris stahlmanni*

We had good views of 2 birds in Nyungwe Forest.

Regal Sunbird  
*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) regia*

This was one of the highlights of Nyungwe, a total of 7 seen, including a number of stunning cooperative males.

Mariqua Sunbird  
*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) mariquensis*

This dry country species was found regularly at Akagera NP.

NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. suahelicus which we recorded in Uganda would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Mariqua Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Red-chested Sunbird  
*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) erythrocerca*

The common, long-tailed sunbird of wetland edges, we found many at Akagera NP.

Variable Sunbird  
*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) venusta*

The beautiful orange-bellied form of this sunbird, was seen exceptionally well outside Kigali and also Nyungwe Forest.

NOTE: This complex may be split into 3 full species based on belly colour, although at this stage the details are rather vague.

White-eyes

African Yellow White-eye  
*Zosterops senegalensis*

The only white-eye in Rwanda, and common throughout Nyungwe Forest.

Old World Orioles

African Black-headed Oriole  
*Oriolus larvatus*

Seen frequently in the wooded areas of Akagera NP.

Black-tailed (Montane) Oriole  
*Oriolus percivali*

A montane forest species. We found 4 at Nyungwe.

Shrikes

Gray-backed Fiscal  
*Lanius excubitoroides*

Rwanda’s commonest fiscal, occupying a variety of moist woodland habitats. Common on the route from Kigali to Akagera and in the NP itself.

Mackinnon’s Shrike (Fiscal)  
*Lanius mackinnoni*

A forest-edge species that was well seen at Kamiranzovu marsh in Nyungwe Forest when a pair was found.

Common Fiscal  
*Lanius collaris*

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa, recorded outside Kigali and at Volcanoes NP.

Bushshrikes & Allies

Brubru  
*Nilaus afer*

This species was seen in Akagera NP.

Northern Puffback  
*Dryoscopus gambensis*

Occupies a wide variety of habitats and was easily seen at Akagera NP and in Nyungwe Forest.
Black-crowned Tchagra  
*Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra, we saw (and especially heard) small numbers daily in savanna at Akagera NP.

*NOTE:* Moroccan Tchagra *T. s. cucullata* of north-west Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Uganda. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Tropical Boubou  
*Laniarius aethiopicus*

A widespread shrike commonly heard and significantly less often seen. 5 were seen well in Akagera NP.

Black-headed Gonolek  
*Laniarius erythrogaster*

A brilliantly coloured bush-shrike that was brilliantly found in Akagera NP.

Slate-colored Boubou  
*Laniarius funebris*

2 birds were seen in Akagera NP.

Mountain Sooty Boubou  
*Laniarius poensis*

We obtained good views of at least 5 birds while at Nyungwe.

*NOTE:* This species is sometimes lumped into Fuelleborn’s Black Boubou *L. fuelleborni*.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike  
*Telophorus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species that was seen in Akagera NP.

Doherty’s Bushshrike  
*Telophorus dohertyi*

Excellent views of this stunning creature were had at Nyungwe. This was one of the highlights of our birding.

Gray-headed Bushshrike  
*Malaconotus blanchoti*

A brilliant pair was watched for an extended period in Akagera NP.

Helmetshrikes  
*Prionops plumatus*

A single group of 6 birds were seen in Akagera NP.

Fork-tailed Drongo  
*Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird, which was seen during our time in Akagera NP.

Crows, Jays & Magpies  
*Corvus albus*

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers on our first day and on all the road trips thereafter.

White-necked Raven  
*Corvus albicollis*

Great views were had of 2 perched birds on our drive to Volcanoes NP.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling  
*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Commonly encountered in Akagera NP

*NOTE:* This species complex is widely treated as two distinct species, the nominate group which we recorded in Uganda, remains as Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling and the southern broad-leafed woodland form becomes Southern Blue-eared or Miombo Glossy-Starling *L. elisabeth*. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Rueppell’s (Long-tailed) Glossy-Starling  
*Lamprotornis purpuropterus*

This ubiquitous bird is Rwanda’s commonest starling. Good numbers were observed in Akagera NP.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured/Amethyst) Starling  
*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This exquisite bird was seen in Akagera NP.

Slender-billed Starling  
*Onychognathus tenuirostris*

This large starling is infrequently recorded in Rwanda and we observed 3 birds at the roadside in Nyungwe Forest.
Waller’s Starling
*Onychognathus walleri*
We enjoyed good views of several in Nyungwe.

**Old World Sparrows**
*Passer griseus*
Very common and plentiful throughout and was recorded on an almost daily basis.

*NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the central and southern Ugandan form being retaining in the nominate grouping with the same nomenclature.*

**Weavers & Allies**

*Ploceus baglafecht*
A common weaver of moister, open habitats, we found several at a roadside stop outside Kigali and also in Nyungwe.

*NOTE: This polytypic species complex has been considered for multi-species splitting. Two distinct forms occur in Uganda, the widespread P. b. stuhlmanni (Stuhlmann’s Weaver) and in the north, P. b. emini (Emin’s Weaver). We only recorded the former during our tour.*

**Slender-billed Weaver**
*Ploceus pelzelni*
This tiny species was easily seen in Akagera NP.

**Lesser Masked Weaver**
*Ploceus ocularis*
4 birds were located in Akagera NP.

**Strange Weaver**
*Ploceus alienus*
This elusive Albertine Rift endemic was seen on several occasions in the brilliant Nyungwe Forest.

**Holub’s (Large) Golden-Weaver**
*Ploceus xanthops*
A large, richly coloured weaver of moist grassland and reedbeds, we found one outside our hotel at Cyangugu.

**Village Weaver**
*Ploceus cucullatus*
This common species was easily seen outside Kigali and in Akagera NP.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is also a candidate for multi-species splitting and the subspecies P. c. bohndorffi which we recorded in Uganda will probably remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by Clements.*

**Black-headed (Yellow-backed) Weaver**
*Ploceus melanocephalus*
We had great views of a number of males in full breeding dress at a roadside stop outside Kigali.

**Forest (Dark-backed) Weaver**
*Ploceus bicolor*
We had good views of 4 birds while in Nyungwe Forest.

**Red-headed Weaver**
*Anaplectes rubriceps*
We enjoyed good views of at least 7 birds while in Akagera NP.

**Red-billed Quelea**
*Quelea quelea*
Only 2 birds were seen in Akagera NP. This species often occurs in huge numbers and is regularly referred to as the ‘Avian Locust’.

**Black-winged (Red) Bishop**
*Euplectes hordeaceus*
This common species was observed outside Kigali.

**Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird**
*Euplectes axillaris*
This is the most widespread Rwandan widowbird, which we observed at a roadside stop outside Kigali.

**Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver**
*Amblyospiza albifrons*
This is a fairly common bird in Rwanda, which we recorded in Akagera NP.

**Waxbills & Allies**

**White-breasted Negrofinch**
*Nigrita fusconota*
We observed a single bird at close range in the Kamiranzovu section of Nyungwe.

**Gray-headed Negrofinch**
*Nigrita canicapilla*
Usually more common than its congener, we found only a single bird at Nyungwe.
White-collared Oliveback
*Nesocharis ansorgei*
This species is a very scarce bird throughout its tiny range. We were extremely fortunate to find 2 birds at a roadside stop between Kigali and Akagera NP, the birds put on a great show and this was surely one of the highlights of our birding in the country.

Green-winged Pytilia
*Pytilia melba*
A pair was found at a roadside stop outside Kigali while another single was seen in Akagera NP.

Dusky Crimson-wing *
*Cryptospiza jacksoni*
An uncommon rift endemic and a very shy species, we found a single bird in Nyungwe forest.

Red-billed Firefinch
*Lagonosticta senegala*
By far Rwanda’s most regularly recorded firefinch, and often common around rural homesteads, we found it frequently in open habitats throughout the east.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu
*Uraeginthus bengalus*
This widespread species was commonly recorded in Akagera NP.

Common Waxbill
*Estrilda astrild*
Africa’s most widespread waxbill was seen in Akagera NP.

Black-crowned Waxbill
*Estrilda nonnula*
This attractive species was seen on the outskirts of Kigali.

Kandt’s Waxbill
*Estrilda kandti*
This is an uncommon species that we found in Nyungwe Forest when a single bird was seen at Kamiranzovu.

NOTE: Clements has recently accepted this as a separate species from Black-headed Waxbill. *E. atricapilla*

Bronze Mannikin
*Spermestes cucullata*
This is a ubiquitous species in moist habitats throughout the east.

Pin-tailed Whydah
*Vidua macroura*
This species, which usually parasitizes Common Waxbill, was observed in good numbers in Akagera NP.

Indigobirds

Yellow-fronted Canary
*Serinus mozambicus*
This widespread African species was seen on several occasions in the open savanna areas of Akagera NP.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies

Western Citril
*Serinus frontalis*
A single bird was sighted at a roadside stop between Kigali and Akagera NP.

NOTE: This complex is treated by some authorities as 3 distinct species, the eastern Southern Citril *S. hypostictus*, the western Western Citril *S. frontalis* (which is the form occurring in Uganda) and the nominate African Citril *S. citrinelloides*. Clements does recognize these splits.

Streaky Seedeater
*Serinus striolatus*
This is a common bird of highland forest edges, which we found in good numbers in Nyungwe.

Thick-billed Seedeater
*Serinus burtoni*
Generally uncommon, we had good views in Nyungwe of a single bird although our first sighting was outside Kigali.

NOTE: The Tanzanian endemic *S. b. melanochrous* is sometimes split off a Kipengere Seed-eater.

(African) Golden-breasted Bunting
*Emberiza flaviventris*
This widespread species was seen on a few occasions in Akagera NP.
Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded
(23 species)


**Apes**

**Chimpanzee**  *Pan troglodytes*
We heard a group calling while birding in Nyungwe Forest.

**(Mountain) Gorilla**  *Gorilla gorilla*
After a fairly short trek we arrived where the group was feeding and we thoroughly enjoyed our hour with these great forest apes. Certainly one of the world’s greatest wildlife experiences!

**Cheek-Pouch Monkeys**

**Olive (Anubis) Baboon**  *Papio anubis*
This familiar primate occurs widely in Rwanda, preferring woodland and forest edge. Easily seen in Akagera NP.

**Vervet Monkey**  *Cercopithecus pygerythrus*
A group of 10 was found in Akagera NP.

**L’Hoest’s Monkey**  *Cercopithecus lhoesti*
This handsome, mainly terrestrial guenon was brilliantly observed in Nyungwe forest. It is a scarce species throughout its rather small range.

**Blue (Gentle) Monkey**  *Cercopithecus mitis*
A single was sighted in Nyungwe Forest.

**Golden Monkey**  *Cercopithecus kandti*
A beautiful monkey that was seen exceptionally well in Volcanoes NP when a group was tracked and an hour was spent with this highly localized species.

**Silver Monkey**  *Cercopithecus dogetti*
In many references this species is referred to as ‘extinct in Akagera NP’. We recorded at least 8 of these obviously rare monkeys in Akagera NP.

**Flying-Foxes**

**Straw-colored Fruit Bat**  *Eidolon helvum*
Huge numbers of 1000+ were sighted.

**Yellow-winged Bat**  *Lavia frons*
This beautiful animal was found in Akagera NP when a single was seen flying about and at its roost during the day.

**Hares & Rabbits**

**Scrub Hare**  *Lepus saxatilis*
3 were seen at Akagera NP.

**Striped Ground Squirrel**
We found 1 in Akagera NP.

**Squirrels**

*This page contains a detailed list of mammal species observed during a trip to Rwanda in 2007, including the taxonomy and detailed observations of various species such as chimpanzees, gorillas, various species of baboons, vervet monkeys, L’Hoest’s monkeys, blue monkeys, golden monkeys, silver monkeys, straw-colored fruit bats, yellow-winged bats, scrub hares, and striped ground squirrels.*
Carruthers Mountain Squirrel  
*Funisciurus carruthersi*
Small numbers were seen in Nyungwe Forest.

Boehm's Squirrel  
*Paraxerus boehmi*
This tiny forest squirrel was seen in Nyungwe Forest.

Mongooses  
*Herpestes sanguinea*

Slender Mongoose  
*Herpestes sanguinea*
2 were seen in Akagera NP.

Horses  
*Equus burchelli*

Common (Burchell’s) Zebra  
*Equus burchelli*
Only 2 were seen in Akagera NP.

Hippopotamuses  
*Hippopotamus amphibius*
10 individuals were sighted at a lake in Akagera NP.

Pigs  
*Phacochoerus africanus*
This species was fairly regularly seen in Akagera NP.

Giraffes  
*Giraffa camelopardalis*
A total of 10 of these well-marked “Maasai” race, were found in Akagera NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates  
*Tragelaphus scriptus*
This elegant and attractively marked, mainly nocturnal antelope, was seen in small numbers in Akagera NP.

Defassa Waterbuck  
*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*
This species was sighted in Akagera NP.

Impala  
*Aepyceros melampus*
This most familiar of antelope is typical of the southern savannas. We found them regularly in Akagera NP.

Topi  
*Damaliscus lunatus*
A total of 10 were seen in Akagera NP.

Photo credits: Doherty’s Bushshrike, Red-billed Firefinch, Golden Monkey, Northern Double-collared Sunbird & Grauer’s Swamp Warbler all by Keith Valentine

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