

A mammal and bird-watching trip to -

Uganda

10-7-03 to 17-8-03

(with Allan Richards, Barry Virtue, Dave Siems and Steve Anyon-Smith)

“Bushed (verb), - to have holiday plans rescheduled by visiting US president”

Idi Amin was very ill and apologized for not meeting us at the airport on our arrival. Ugandan President Museveni tried to meet us but couldn't find us as we were trapped in the airport car park. He soon gave up and went to the pub with Weed, son of son of Bush.

Outline of Trip

We four young chaps (average age nearly 60) from Sydney travelled to Uganda to frighten as many birds and mammals as we could in a month (if you are the leopard from Lake Mburo reading this, you can ignore the word “frighten” and substitute the words “be frightened by” – more on this later).

We decided on Uganda as it is located at the conjunction of most of the important biogeographic zones in Africa and has a wonderful variety of beautiful cisticolas and greenbuls. The list of possible birds and mammals is vast. We engaged the mega-capable services of Herbert Byaruhanga of Uganda Bird Safaris for 28 days (see also the entry on Uganda Bird Safaris below). Two of us (Barry and I) stayed for an extra week to do a little private exploration and see if the people known as the Karamajong really are that carnivorous.

Our expectations were well and truly exceeded. What follows are some general observations, a diary, and a bird and mammal list. Herbert or one of the many local guides, or both, confirmed all bird sightings.

In this report there is also mention of why you should avoid arriving anywhere on the same day as an American president (so called).

Sites visited:

Kampala area - 4 days

Mabira Forest – 3 days

Budongo Forest – 3 days

Murchison Falls NP (MFNP) – 4 days

Kibale Forest – 4 days

Queen Elizabeth NP (QENP) – 3 days

Bwindi NP – 5 days

Lake Mburo NP – 2 days

Mt Elgon NP – 3 days

Pian-Upe Game Reserve – 2 days

Some observations

Ugandan People

It has been my experience that people in poorer countries are more pleasant, happy and hospitable than those in rich ones. Ugandan people take this belief to new level. It is a curiosity of African history that Ugandans speak English, most speaking it fluently. Ugandans are proud of their country, appear to share a common spirit and outlook (except for a few rascally chaps up north), and couldn't be more natural to us "mzungus" if they tried. They are mostly very poor, some depressingly so.

While the comments above apply to all Ugandans, it should be appreciated just how lucky the shy and gentle Ugandan women are in the greater scheme of things. They achieve a special status. They are so honoured by the men that they get to gaily frolic in the fields and herb gardens, get to work out by carrying heavy loads on their heads and delight in being able to wash and cook for their (large) families undisturbed by

bothersome menfolk. And just for fun they can do all this while being permanently pregnant! What joy!

The men on the other hand lead a dreary life of standing around. There are exceptions of course but these men must have lived in the areas we didn't visit.

Accommodation

We mostly stayed in what are called "bandas". These are detached rooms, sometimes with attached "bathroom" and generally built out of brick with a grass or iron roof. They are all very clean and normally have firm comfortable beds with good mosquito nets. Whatever you do, bring a small inflatable pillow. Some of the pillows supplied are shaped and feel like potato sacks before the potatoes have been removed.

You can use your imagination regarding the toilets but they are kept clean.

Without exception the staff that service the bandas (ie the lazy Ugandan women) will do absolutely anything they can to assist.

Roads / transport

Interesting. Most of the sealed roads are quite well maintained and have little traffic. The others vary as you might expect. Every road marked on a map is trafficable by a 2WD vehicle – when it is dry, although some roads would be a test for some city drivers of my acquaintance. Note that a road that is perfectly good in the morning can be perfectly not good in the afternoon – just add water.

Pretty much all Uganda's drivers are lunatics, especially, all of them come to think of it. If anything bus drivers are the worst. They have schedules that show the arrival time before the departure time. We saw the remains of some interesting driving manoeuvres.

Our man Herbert, however, seemed to take an interest in seeing a few more birds before he goes, so his driving was, by comparison, exemplary.

Personal security

As travel guide writer's always point out - you are never completely safe anywhere. The chances that you will have anything stolen by anyone in Uganda are close to zero. This may sound counter-intuitive in a poor country but that's the way it is. Go there in case it changes.

Weather

Uganda has no weather. It rains a bit sometimes. The temperature is wonderful all the time. There was a windy day in 1933. What this all means is - there is either rain or smoke, or in the case of Kampala, an unlikely goo that hangs in the air. It is probably not a good idea to breathe in Kampala unless you are a marabou stork. If you are a marabou stork, look in a mirror, you may wish to leave town anyway.

We had the idea to travel in the dry season (dry for most of the country anyway) so it only rained most days. Curiously it never rained when we cared. I didn't use a raincoat or umbrella once. It is not very humid or hot, surprisingly.

Insects

Every Ugandan dies of traffic accidents or malaria. It is probably a good idea to take some precautions against both. We saw bugger-all insects. There were a few mozzies at dusk here and there. Now that I come to think of it there was an interesting mass of tsetse flies in MFNP at a couple of spots. Helps you sleep I understand. If you want real insects Australia is the place.

Food

Now here's a surprise. After five weeks only one of us had a "stomach cannot identify incoming as food" experience. That has to be a record. The food is inexpensive, nutritious and well prepared. We ate everything that was put in front of us. The "must eats" are whole fried tilapia fish, fruits that tasted like they used to when you were a kid and beer (see next item).

Chicken and chips seems to be something of a standard meal. When ordering chicken it would be useful to know just what sort of life it had up to the point of being in your plate. Some were really quite inedible. We strongly suspected that there was a bit of coucal substitution going on. Come to think of it the hadaeda ibis were uncommon in some areas.

Beer

All beer seems to come in 500ml bottles. It ranges in price from A\$0.75 to \$A1.50 per bottle depending on the venue. It tastes okay but some are better than others. We tried to avoid Nile Swamp Water (curiously marketed as Nile Special Lager). Others included Pilsner (a lager), Bell, Club, Citizen and wait for it – Chairman's Extra Strong Bitter (as

approved by the chairman of the board). Remarkable. Best of all beer is available everywhere.

Ugandan's make a number of other interesting liquids besides beer. Many of these are based on the ubiquitous banana. We weren't impressed by any of them.

Wildlife (see full list in table at end of report)

Birds

During the 28 days we spent with Herbert we saw, collectively, 521 birds. This exceeded our expectations considerably. Of course we missed a few things but we saw the things we wanted most to see, like shoebills, African grey parrots, a good number of the Albertine Rift endemics and the fabulous turacos. Barry and I undertook a one week extension to Mt Elgon and Pian-Upe and managed a list of 539, including superb starlings, Hartlaub's turaco and Clapperton's francolin.

The bird abundance in forests was patchy. At some sites like Mabira Forest and Ruhija in Bwindi, birds were everywhere. You didn't know where to look. At others like Budongo Forest and Kibale you could walk for hours with out seeing so much as a greenbul.

Mammals

We identified 66 different mammals. The quality and circumstances surrounding the sightings makes this a very impressive number. The mammals in Ugandan national parks are quite secure for the moment. Whilst there is some poaching in some areas it does not appear to be significant enough to stop a general increase in populations of almost all the mammals within protected areas. In some parks the massed displays of mammals was truly impressive.

We went spotlighting on a number of occasions and saw good numbers of mammals each time. We generally spent about 90 minutes spotlighting from the vehicle with an old WWII aircraft landing light. It was nothing to see up to 15 or so bushbabies at some sites plus a range of other rather oblique critters like western tree hyrax, giant Gambian pouched rats, pottos and just about every civet and genet on the country list. At the kitchen behind the office in Kibale NP there were no fewer than four different civets/genets at once.

Nothing compares to the intake of breath when you first see a gorilla at close range. Grit your teeth, pay the \$US275 or whatever, and do it. We were lucky to see a group of "wild" gorillas at Ruhija (Bwindi NP) two days before our gorilla permits were to be used. There was no way we were going to sell our permits (we could have easily done

this) and the excitement of these “people” at close range is incomparable in my experience as an occasional wildlife chaser.

The chimpanzees weren't far behind. We saw them at four different sites. At two of these they were quite unexpected. We were told that after a long decline their population is now increasing at most locations. Other primates, while less spectacular are nevertheless extremely beautiful, particularly Uganda red-tailed monkey and L'hoest's monkey.

Reptiles

The agamids are really spic. There are these ridiculously coloured lizards that change colour scheme dependant (seemingly) on what side of the equator you're on. We saw few snakes but did spotlight a large black mamba in QENP. You'll have no trouble seeing Nile crocodiles of course.

Bird Uganda Safaris

Herbert Byaruhanga is the patriarch of organised birdwatching in his country. He proved to be very friendly, professional and skilled at finding his country's birds and mammals. He didn't have to do it all himself. He has established a network of local birdwatching guides across the nation – both within and outside of the Uganda Wildlife Authority's national parks system.

We travelled in an air-conditioned 4WD Toyota minibus with heaps of legroom, comfortable seats and a large sunroof for game spotting and spotlighting.

Herbert's tour cost us such an embarrassingly small amount compared to conventional tours that I would rather you email Herbert to get a price for your trip rather than paste him to the wall with the tour price he offered us. His email address is: byaruhanga@hotmail.com.

Uganda Wildlife Authority

UWA, as it known, manages all national parks, game reserves and many other significant protected areas. They seem to manage them very well. Often they are assisted by the army in areas where they may be a hint of insecurity like Murchison Falls and Bwindi NPs. They get to compare AK47s with the army guys. They seem not to get in each other's way and in any event it is a bit hard to tell them apart.

UWA charges fees for just about everything – personal entry to parks, vehicle entry, and accommodation, guides etc, but as far as things go in Africa, Uganda's parks are not that expensive.

UWA is very fond of paperwork. Absolutely everything is receipted in quadruplicate and unless you travel with someone persuasive, like Herbert, activities are restricted to within certain hours. If you travel independently you will not be spotlighting at night in national parks.

Diary

Thursday 10th July

Caught a taxi to the airport for our 747-400 Qantas direct flight to Johannesburg. Plane is chocka. Surrounded by babies but no sign of Idi Amin. The babies are starting to scream. We haven't taken off yet. Sitting in a crap seat (note to self: never rely on others to check you in – do it yourself).....Quadraphonic baby screaming now. We still haven't taken off..... The trip to Jo'burg was only 14 hours something long, and uneventful. Only three babies and two mothers lost their lives, hardly a record.

We travelled close enough to Antarctica to see ice flows. Sleep was very not possible. Sir Les Patterson was sitting in my seat judging by the amount of fluids spilt. The beer was spectacular but the red wine was a nice touch. Needless to say there was little wingroom for a stick insect like me..... We arrived at Jo'berg six hours later.

Passage through the airport was glacial. A number of surviving babies reached puberty waiting in the immigration queue. The most exciting thing was a queue jumper who made quite a silly mistake in trying to get in front of Dave and I. We calmly explained basic queuing theory to him. He didn't catch on at first, but the learning curve soon ramped up.

We stayed in the Caesar's Emperor Hotel, an eleven star facility that comprises much of South Africa. South African Airlines paid which was very nice of them I thought.

Friday 11th July

Poison pills induced 6 hours sleep. We had a large boxed brekkie prepared by our hotel. They took us to the airport rather earlier than necessary because upon arrival we were the only ones there. This includes people that "work" there. So-called check-in people turned up some time later and then much later than that, a single immigration person. Three of us boarded the plane with Allan going missing looking in the shops, or so he claims. As it turned out he wasn't the only thing to go missing this day.

The 737-800 SAA flight left three and a half hours early to beat the Shrub curfew. Entebbe was being closed for the arvo because visiting US so-called presidents can do this sort of thing. As it turned out most of the rest of Uganda was closed as well. We arrived okay, got a visa (much cheaper and easier than getting it in your own country) and then delighted in spending most of the rest of the day in the airport. Now here's a

simple question. Wouldn't you think that the pilot and his cobbles would know that not a single piece of checked-in luggage has been loaded onto their large aeroplane? Don't be silly. The other less than grunted people in the lost baggage queue were entertaining.

We were somewhat concerned that our man Herbert would think we were in some other country entirely. When we finally escaped we had a lovely time exploring the airport carpark – for three hours – we weren't allowed out. We actually represented more of a danger in being confined. Worked on the suntan and marvelled at the various levels of security for the shrub visit. My list of serving presidents has now risen to four – with two new ones today – shrub + a proper one in Ugandan President Museveni.

Herbert seems to be a great guy – always laughing. We toured some sites between the airport and Kampala and ticked off 70 birds. There are abundant good quality birds in urban Kampala.

Herbert held a gala dinner for us at the Fang Fang Chinese Restaurant (!) The boss-lady of Nature Uganda was there but the GM of Uganda Tourism was bushed (see earlier definition). We were resplendent throughout this gala dinner in our dirty plane clothes, having no luggage.

Saturday 12th July

Took my slight head cold to Mabira Forest. A great spot for birds that is about an hours drive north east of Kampala. Lots of birds (picked up 43 lifers), semi-tame Uganda red-tailed monkeys (beautiful!) and a number of delightful squirrels. Local guide Ibrahim and Herbert's colleague Emmy joined us.

We took a side-trip to the source of the Nile at Jinja. Had great lunch there.

In the evening I went spotlighting with Ibrahim, Herbert, Emmy and an Israeli. The latter probably still lives but there were concerns for his safety as he never shut up. Saw potto after about 30 seconds, before bagging three Thomas's galagos.

Sunday 13th July

Birded for a couple of hours but the law of diminishing returns starting to take over. Left for Entebbe to see whether we are lucky enough to have our baggage. Had lunch on the way on the shores of Lake Victoria. Whole fried tilapia fish + chips – yum.

The process for collecting our stuff was incredibly convoluted. Our bags were the very last off the plane – this to heighten suspense – not for us so much as the charming young lady I threatened to take as a hostage. She thought I was joking. It was unfortunate that our bags did arrive.

We adjourned to the Entebbe Botanic Gardens. This was a pleasant surprise. Apparently a Tarzan movie was filmed here. The surprise was the addition of three mammals to our list – guereza colobus, vervet monkey and striped ground squirrel.

Just when we thought the day couldn't get any better we moved to a site in Kampala where we saw grey parrots (hooray), double-toothed barbets and some dreaded cisticolas. We learnt just how much some of the locals loved their cows when Barry was denied permission to photograph some. We were on guard when near farm animals throughout the trip after this incident. Then back to the non-luxury of the Havana Hotel.

Monday 14th July

Off to Mabamba Swamp today to search for shoebill and spot-necked otters. Stopped for papyrus gonolek along the way. On arrival we hopped into a canoe that was paddled by two enthusiastic locals. Pleasing to note that there are no outboard motors in these parts. The spot-necked otters were seen, but the serious part of the day's festivities was interrupted by thunderstorms.

We diverted to an island to seek shelter. We witnessed a surreal scene. A truckload of born-again Christians was moving through the swamp. Now this is no ordinary swamp. The truck was on a barely sufficient barge of uncertain seaworthiness and it was propelled by a couple of long sticks. The gospel music did not threaten the shoebills fortunately, as two were seen, one by the truck people.

I had a bizarre interview with the Christians on the riverbank over lunch. These were to be the most threatening people we were to meet during our holiday.

Tuesday 15th July

At 0420 there was a knock on the door. Oh no, those bloody Christians have tracked me down. But happily that wasn't the case. It was just the hotel burning down. Luckily nobody knew what sort of fire it was so all the fire extinguishers were used just in case. We made very pretty patterns on the floor as we walked in the accumulated gunk.

We left Kampala and all its marabou storks (every building has the odd hundred or so sitting on them) and set forth for Budongo Forest. On arrival had great views of olive baboons and blue monkeys. Birds were a bit hard but managed a few. The afternoon's don't produce all that much.

Wednesday 16th July

The day was spent birding along the Royal Mile. Great forest but the birds for us were a little evasive. Saw some nice things including chocolate-backed kingfishers.

In most of Uganda you don't see much rubbish – the people can't afford it. In this part of the country plastic mineral water bottles are prized! Also of some concern to us was some local women asking our permission to walk past us on the road.

The evening's festivities, apart from consumption of beer, included some spotlighting along the Royal Mile. Very interesting. Disturbed an unidentified cat before jaggging a large family of the ill-adapted western tree hyrax. What a bizarre animal. Screams like an idiot for half the night and clammers about tree braches with a body better designed to live in a hole in ground. Gambian giant pouched rat were also seen. I think these animals eat cats but I'm not certain.

Thursday 17th July

We washed. This is important as now the accommodation has exhausted its supply of water. It seems that any place you stay can only have electricity or water, and never both.

Went to another section of the forest with local guide Vincent. A rather dull chap but he knew his forest. His life has been dulled by having rather too many children. Saw a few birds but not too many.

In the afternoon Barry decided to stay at the lodge, whilst David needed some time to himself, so Allan and I went walking with Herbert and Vincent respectively. At one point Vincent announced very matter-of-factly "chimp in tree". I was at that time looking along the trail where Allan was standing. Except when Allan turned around he had turned into a chimpanzee (sorry Allan). We walked up to where she was but she had gone. I suggested to Vincent that we lurk near the fruit that was lying under a large tree and wait. Eventually a group of chimps wandered by. I sat myself amongst five adults and a very young baby for half an hour at a distance of three metres. Vincent had wandered off to fetch the others. It was very exciting as I didn't know how they would react to me. I didn't take photos as I was a bit reluctant to risk being deconstructed. Many Ugandans don't like their photos being taken.

We walked back to the Royal Mile to see a chequered elephant-shrew bounce past. Nice touch.

Uncle Jack visited that night.

Friday 18th July

Back to the Royal Mile for spotted flufftail, crested eagle and a number of spinetails. Had lunch and checked out of the Forestry College. We went to the Masindi Hotel, a grand old hotel in the English style. It was built to serve the Ugandan railways in 1927. Some of the original waiters still work here (don't do the maths, I'm joking). Chatted with a very pleasant Dutch doctor, Bianca, who has started work in the local hospital as a volunteer.

They had beer and the best coffee in Uganda, although they didn't have to work hard to achieve the latter.

Saturday 19th July

We noticed an interesting sight on the way to Murchison Falls NP. All the schoolchildren going to one of the local schools were carrying three bricks on their heads. There are a number of possible explanations: they had stolen them from the local brickpits, they were attempting to flatten the tops of their heads, or, more likely, they had no school building – at least not one made of bricks anyway.

Stopped at the Kanio Pabide section of MFNP to look for birdies and chimps. Saw a few of the former including Narina's trogon. The chimps were very noisy, aggressive but ultimately gave only very poor views as they gave chest-thumping mock (or real?) charges through the undergrowth.

Had lunch and got bitten by a vervet monkey for my trouble. Spent much of the afternoon convinced I was coming down with rabies but it turned out to be a lack of alcohol. I was much relieved to find a cure for this condition.

The drive to the very comfortable Red Chili Rest Camp near the Victoria Nile was uneventful as the grass is too high to see anything except more grass. A welcoming scrum of warthogs was just fine as was the bushbuck that wandered through the restaurant. A large bird perched in a nearby tree and set a world record for the number of things it might have been before it decided to be an Abyssinian ground hornbill. This was before we started drinking.

We picked up the affable and talented Ranger George and in the late afternoon whilst dodging thunderstorms we watched what must be one of the world's more interesting bats - the yellow-winged variety. A very sharp, not all that nocturnal critter that must put the fear of God into the local insects (so much that insects fear anything – in fact we sensed no fear whatsoever in the local tsetse fly population).

While dropping George home we spotted a Uganda grass hare – George, to his credit wouldn't have a bar of my identification, but it turned out we were both right. Also saw a couple of blotched genets and a few nightjars.

Dr Daniel's brought some medicine.

Sunday 20th July

21 different mammals were seen today as we went across the Nile to the areas of shorter grass near Lake Albert. Highlights were: lions on a dead giraffe, lots of elephants, huge herds of buffalo, Uganda kob, Jackson's hartebeest and live giraffes. Lots of smaller things included patas monkeys and oribi, jackals and banded mongoose. Vast numbers of

birds, especially bee-eaters and ground loving things like lapwings. Sadly there were many cisticolas.

The afternoon was no less eventful as we boarded our boat for the trip up the Victoria Nile to Murchison Falls. As luck would have it a couple of eskies came along for the ride. Saw the odd thousand hippo, buffalo, crocodile etc on what must be one of the more spectacular boat trips I've ever done. Rock pratincoles met us at the falls, which are simply stunning. Someone told us that 7000 cubic metres of water pass a 7 metre gap between two walls of rock every second.

We walked to the top of the falls to witness the spectacle of hundreds of thousands of microbats emerging at dusk over the falls. They emerge all at the same time to find out who will get eaten by the local population of appropriately named bat hawks. All bat hawks were successful at their first attempts. A pretty easy life for them here. We spotted along the road all the way back to camp from the falls. Didn't see all that much as we were going too fast and the grass was too high. The best thing was a white-tailed mongoose 200m from camp.

Monday 21st July

We got into another boat and travelled the 28km to Lake Albert. From here you can see the so-called Democratic Republic of Congo. Steve Willis, the friendly and capable manager of the Red Chili advised us that DRC is rapidly becoming a wildlife free zone. Sad. Anyway on the Ugandan side of the lake it's all happening. We saw the 5000 hippos we missed yesterday (this is not much exaggeration) and our man George conjured a shoebill every time he put his mind to it – come on George, no more shoebills. The trip back to Paraa was very Sandra-K style for those that have tasted the delights of time and space dilation aboard the returning Wollongong pelagic boat.

The afternoon offered birds, storms, food, alcohol and the company of the great staff of the Red Chili (hi Joyce!)

Tuesday 22nd July

After a leisurely breakfast we “relocated”, using a term of which Herbert was very fond. This time to Fort Portal near Kibale NP. It was a 10 hour drive that included a few good birding stops. Along the way I loved the sign on a building “Ma's Ordinary Hotel”. We wonder. The open-air in-session courtroom was a nice touch too.

We arrived in Fort Portal to find it raining steadily. We stayed in the rapidly decaying Mountains of the Moon Hotel. The name refers to some alleged mountains that you will never see because there is always too much smoke between you and them. Nobody actually knows whether they are still there.

Wednesday 23rd July

We went to place named Kisingami Swamp (or something like that). Local guide Benson joined us and took us through a tea plantation to a nice wet swamp. Great. Very pretty birds though, including three different robin-chats. Somewhat unexpectedly we saw a couple of chimps sunning themselves on top of a tree.

We had lunch and did a bit of shopping in Fort Portal before heading to Kibale NP. The forest here is grand indeed. On arrival we got the typical Ugandan hugs and smiles and settled into our bandas and a few cleansing ales. The diversity of primates here is the highest in the world. Happily the area around the restaurant had just about everything – Uganda red-tails, grey-cheeked mangabey, Central African red colobus, guereza colobus, L’Hoest’s monkey and olive baboon. There are also about 1400 chimps in the forest.

Spotlighting the main road produced a total of 15 Thomas’s and a spectacled galago, three giant servaline genets and an African civet.

Thursday 24th July

Chimp day. Off we went with Ranger Ronald and trainee Stella. A real military operation as several groups of “mzungus” (western white monkeys) set off in different directions, all in radio contact. “alpha patrol, Charlie on hill 35, I repeat....., send in air support”. In any event we saw 20 chimps including 17 in one fruiting fig. It also had its share of hornbills, barbets, starlings and other birds. I thought I’d died and gone to heaven.

After lunch we split up and did our own thing. I was rapt to get close to L’Hoest’s monkeys. These guys are really attractive mostly ground-dwelling beasties. Finished up the day with nine different primates, as well as African giant squirrel and black-fronted duiker.

Spotlighting was awesome with two African palm civets, 12 galagos, a flying fox that we didn’t identify, servaline and giant servaline genets and giant African civet.

Friday 25th July

Today we hit the wall for birds. We searched for pittas without luck and the rest of the forest critters bunged on one of their little “you can’t see me” days. Did manage very good close views of blue duiker but that was it.

The food here is quite good. Nothing makes us sick. After bathing with our afternoon hot water delivery we dined on chicken curry and rice. We then went to nearby Bigodi to see some freckled nightjars. I spent some time having a spirited conversation with JB (the boss-man here) and another gent on the matter of children, that is, whether they are good things to have or not. We disagreed amicably. Ugandans believe you must have lots of kids to retain relative tribal strength. This belief certainly produces results. You see very few old people (thanks Idi) but there is the odd kid or twenty million.

The kitchen dump produced every kind of local civet / genet all at once but they eventually got replaced by a very tame but clearly dominant marsh mongoose.

Saturday 26th July

We walked around the Bigodi Swamp adding a few birds to the list. We then bid farewell to Kibale and to Stella, our mathematically challenged canteen hostess.

The drive to Queen Elizabeth NP was uneventful. This park is much drier than MFNP. Our accommodation is adequate but hardly luxurious. Today's special is a lack of electricity. This is no surprise as it would be a shame to get more than one utility to function at the same time and place.

The banded mongoose saved the day with a late charge. Thirty odd of the little buggers surrounded the camp warthogs and us. The marabou storks didn't get a look in. I like banded mongoose. They are so methodical.

Sunday 27th July

The punch-up between two sisters in the canteen was far more interesting than the morning game drive, which slowly turned into the morning car endurance rally. The only game we sighted was each other. Had to admit, though, the scenery was spectacular in a smoky sort of way.

We had lunch with the usual assortment of mongeese, warthogs, storks and for today only about a hundred university students. Barry, although being the oldest of us (I mean in all Africa), almost twisted his head off trying to follow some of the girls without getting out of his seat first. Naturally, being happily married, I took photos of the mongeese (stupid spell-checker is trying to tell me that mongoose is the plural of mongoose – how silly).

The afternoon fun started with a boat trip up some river or something. There were vast numbers of birds and fat animals. Outside the boat there were vast numbers of birds and fat animals as well. The former were Dutch I think.

We then ventured to the other side of the highway to the Uganda kob mating ground. An awesome amount of meat on the hoof. Some thousands of kob, buffalo and waterbuck + a couple of lions with five small cubs. Also lots of birds – why weren't we here this morning? Rounded off the daylight part of the afternoon with a pair of ichneumon mongoose. We returned slowly by another route and saw a black mamba, three more lions, a hyaena, umpteen nightjars, a couple of scrub hares and a genet.

Monday 28th July

We stopped on the way to Maramagambo Forest to get the front tyre on the vehicle pumped up by hand pump. This involved removing the valve, pumping for half an hour then quickly putting the valve back in as most of the air falls out. This was less

interesting than the local police with their foot washing ceremony. They declined to be photographed. The forest was attractive. We walked around a crater lake noting the absence of birds. We did see shining blue kingfisher.

We had lunch at Jacana Lodge Resort. We had our boxed lunch, not anything that the resort provided. I doubt we could have afforded it, although it's hard to say, as there was nobody whatsoever staying there.

In the afternoon we visited Chambara Gorge, seeing a few nice birds there as well. Then back at my request to the Uganda kob mating ground. We had a bit of excitement on the way back as an aged unmarked police Corolla pushed a similar vehicle off the road right behind us. It turned out they were dastardly fish poachers!! Bastards!! I don't believe they got a warning and told not to do it again.

Tuesday 29th July

Hog-man Joel took us on an early morning "nature walk". I couldn't give a rat's bum about the rest of the local nature. I wanted hogs. Of the giant forest variety. Joel was our man. He produced hog. Big ones. Onya Joel.

And so we left for Bwindi NP and the potential highlight of our holiday / life. We stopped about two hundred times along the way, mainly so Herbert could press the flesh with all his rellos, this being his ancestral patch.

However Herbie's day went a bit downhill from here. This was the problem – Pommies. For those of you who have not encountered Pommie birders, they come in two varieties – keen and obsessed. Guides from Herbert's company were towing one of each around for a couple of weeks. They were inexplicably married to one another and they were not at all happy. It seems they hadn't seen all the birds they expected and they wanted their money back. Words fail me. Apparently I hadn't helped matters by showing them some pictures of things they missed when we met them during their trip. Take note – beware of Pommie birders.

After we picked up local bird expert Emmy in Kabale town (not to be confused with Kibale) we wound our way up a bit of the Ruwenzori Mountains to Ruhija. I spotlit the last hour and saw many galagos and nice views of a servaline genet. Our accommodation at the Forest Institute was excellent. A log fire was burning and we were served a three course dinner starting with avacado vinaigrette.

Wednesday 30th July

Didn't expect too much from the day but the great uncertainty of travel delivered one of the best days of the trip. As we walked down to the swamps below Ruhija to search for Albertine Rift endemic birds we spied three forest elephants quite a long way off walking across a swamp. We then saw 30 birds for our life lists. There were birds everywhere. You didn't know where to look. And just when you thought the day couldn't get any

better, a party of gorillas wandered by. Riddle me this: a tree is shaking twenty feet away. You don't know what is causing it to shake but it isn't a squirrel. What do you do? Walk towards it? Stand still and scratch your head? I walked towards it, stopped, walked back, walked towards it again, then just pointed hoping for someone else to tell me what to do. Then the fine furry black guys walked into view about 50 metres away! Hard not to smile!

The walk back up the mountain was character building.

We tipped our ranger Jehosephat, local guide Joseph (who showed us the African green broadbill at its nest), and spent some time on the day's post mortem whilst re-learning why it was that beer tasted so good. Now, why was it that I wanted to come to Uganda? Sydney, yes, I remember that place.

Thursday 31st July

Herbert got on the turps last night. It will be interesting to see when (if) he gets up.

He did. We went up the ridge to the bamboo zone where the birding was very rewarding. There were also lots of confusing squirrels but my highlight was an obliging Ruwenzori red duiker. We got ticked off by a ranger for opening a gate without permission (I did it) so we all feel rather the same as we did before. He didn't have a gun.

After lunch we travelled down the "road" that goes to Buhoma, the lowland part of Bwindi. On the way we stopped to see black bee-eaters and a few other local treats.

We were greeted at our digs at the Bwindi View Lodge by the charming young Sharon and some bloke with a tray of cool drinks. You may have guessed I took a greater interest in Sharon, a rather shy but nevertheless engaging orphan. Unusual behavior for me.

Friday 1st August 2003

Woke up with a runny nose. This little journal has not recorded my state of health to this point because who cares? But today is gorilla day and any sign of a bit of hayfever or whatever is a no-no with gorilla on the menu. Took a handful of Sudafed tablets – that did the trick.

We all marshalled at the visitor center and eyed off potential companions for the "gorilla tracking". We hoped to get really old people with us so that they would feel sorry for us and we would get the group of gorillas nearest the road. We got a charming young Canadian couple (good) + Frank the Yank from Florida (not nearly as good as good as it turned out) + his son. The briefing lasted so long I was exhausted from paying attention. I was also worried that the gorillas may have all died in the meantime.

The expedition set off in a UWA 4WD. We stopped after 10km or so and headed into the forest. Then the two-way crackled into life and we were told the people we wanted to see

had wandered off, as gorillas do, in the other direction. So back to the vehicle and drove further down the road. This time we were told the forest guys were walking in our direction. This sounds promising. Barry and I kept putting pressure on the guides to walk faster so we could make Frank look foolish as he couldn't keep up – this after he questioned our fitness.

I can't really describe what it is like to be with 21 gorillas at distances down to three metres. Barry just said "Oh Steve", leading me to think that he had met an old friend. It is one of those experiences where you are torn between trying to take photos and just soaking up the experience.

And then there was Frank. You see, you are not to use camera flash on gorillas. It's not polite plus there is the very real chance of having your head easily removed from the rest of your miserable body. The rangers have guns for this sort of thing but they don't use them on the gorillas. So what does Frank do – he repeatedly uses his camera flash ignoring repeated warnings. Now this started to wind me up so I had a little chat with Frank. This kind of ruined his day but had no impact in mine. Frank now thinks that I believe he is a bit of an idiot. This was because I told him "Frank, you're a bit of an idiot".

We didn't drink alcohol this day. If you believe that you're as silly as Frank.

Saturday 2nd August

Nothing compares to yesterday.

Sunday 3rd August

Tried to walk the self-guided walk in the forest behind the park office. I was told in no uncertain terms that it is compulsory to take a guide on the self-guided walk. Not surprisingly I questioned this only to be confronted by a number of rangers / guides who explained very slowly and clearly what "self-guided" meant – you must have a guide! I gave up and drank beer instead.

Monday 4th August

A very long day. Drove to Lake Mburo NP via Kabale. The highlight was passing a facility signposted as the "Rugerwe Sub-district Maternity Ward and Placenta Pit". Doesn't bear thinking about really does it? "Excuse me, could tell me where the nearest placenta pit is?" "No worries, there's one just down the road, follow the signs."

Lake Mburo was a pile of ash. Reminded me of national parks in Australia. There are an amazing number of animals here though. This park is the only one in Uganda with vast herds of southern Africa savannah animals like zebra, eland and impala. With the park being largely burnt the animals were concentrated around the back of unburnt swamps where there were almost biblical numbers of them.

After dinner at a very nicely sited restaurant at the edge of the lake we went spotlighting for nightjars, a Verreaux's eagle owl and untold numbers of antelope.

Tuesday 5th August

Went on an early morning boat trip on Lake Mburo. Saw six African finfoot and the usual run of shorebirds. We were back at 0930 for brekkie and then a walk with our guide Moses. We got picked up by a taxi (a Corolla). Picture this: seven adults plus packs, AK47s etc in a Corolla. We were shortly afterward intercepted by a returning Herbert, so my body slowly expanded to its original size and shape. We drove across a burnt landscape to the back of a swamp. These were all in view at once: eland, olive baboon, bohor reedbuck, waterbuck, impala, buffalo, warthog, zebra, topi and bushbuck. Incredible!!

Back for lunch and then a walk in search of the rufous-bellied heron (nice). In perhaps the greatest understatement ever made Moses calmly and quietly announced "leopard, don't point". I didn't point at the snarling slavering beast in open view less than five metres away (later estimates put it anywhere between three and seven metres – you had to be there). I managed to "calmly" take my camera out of its bag and take a walking away shot. I didn't much care what it did. It was only after our guide stopped shaking did I realize that we may have been in some danger. Moses said that he had never been so close to an adult leopard on foot. Apparently we had a real chance of staying at Lake Mburo as part of the food chain.

On return to camp we did a bit of tired old male buffalo dodging and generally had an exciting time walking around. It's not like this at home, except for the odd enraged bandicoot.

Wednesday 6th August

Yesterday's New Vision, the Ugandan daily paper, carried a long illustrated story about how masturbation in men reduces the risk of developing prostate cancer. This story has the potential to change my life.

Today we leave for Kampala, thus completing a circuit of much of the country. Along the way we stopped at a swamp that had ~300 crowned cranes sitting on it. We boycotted our first lunch stop for keeping a caged grey parrot. Not much else happened of note.

Back to the Havana Hotel where we sat in the oddly named Grasshopper Bar out on the street and watched Kampala go by. Had a few beers as well.

Tonight was our last night together so Herbert bought his family to the very good hotel restaurant for a gala farewell dinner. Good fun! His boys had bow ties and looked really smart. We said our goodbyes. If I had my way I'd start the same trip all over again starting tomorrow!

Thursday 7th August

We leave Allan and David today. Barry and I now set off with a forgettable driver, Ivan, in a Pajero for Mt Elgon NP. We travelled via several hundred thousand straw-headed flying foxes, Mbale and Sipi Falls to the Kapkwai Discovery Centre in Mt Elgon. The last 6km was pure slippery mud. It is the rainy season here, and raining, so we were forced to drink beer with our new friend Flavia. She made us a lovely chicken stew with rice. We then retired to our luxury banda (40,000 ush / night). A very satisfying day. Feels like a totally different holiday.

Friday 8th August

The forest near the accommodation is mainly regrowth with the odd tall tree in between. The edge of the national park is so well defined that you can cut yourself on it if you walk too near. Quite good for birds but this park is fairly new so not so many animals here. The locals used to hunt them quite heavily. It is very pretty though because the rain has cleared the air. In fact I think that insanity in Ugandans, assuming there is any, would be caused by the lack of weather. Every day is the same length etc.

The evening was spent chatting to the locals about the lot of women in Africa. Not all that surprisingly Barry and I took the side of Flavia against Ivan, a Christian who believes women have no rights at all. I have no idea why he stayed in the discussion at all. It was brutal. It was enough to drive a man to Jack.

Saturday 9th August

Walked up into the hills. Saw lots of great birds especially a number of Hartlaub's turaco, the local specialty for me. As today is Saturday the local people are allowed, under permit, to collect firewood or other materials, so there is much disturbance. The women seem to carry most of the heavy loads with a few notable exceptions. Everyone smiles and says hello here just like they do everywhere else in the country.

Went for walk through the village to the Kapkwai Primary School with Barry + Peter, a "guide" that followed us around explaining anything and everything.

Sunday 10th August

Today we go to the Pian-Upe Game Reserve with high hopes of seeing lots of new things, but there is high mystery factor as we know of nobody who has ever been there. I've changed into an alternative set of dirty clothes for the occasion. We said a sad goodbye to our mate Flavia and set off at no speed whatsoever. If Ivan doesn't learn how to drive soon there may be a mutiny.

The day turned out to be one of those wonderfully confusing days that only happen when you travel. We arrived at Pian-Upe to discover they have no food (despite what we were

promised). The bandas are very nice, the people very welcoming (they get few visitors), but there appears to be very little wildlife to be reserved. It has all been eaten or it is hiding. Where it is hiding is another matter. Everyone you speak to points in a different direction. I must admit though, that the tame patas monkeys are fantastic.

The highlight of the day by far, and as I type this a month later, one of the most memorable parts of my holiday, was the shopping excursion to the Karamoja village to the north of the reserve. We were accompanied by a guide (with AK47), Ivan and someone good at bargaining for live chickens. The afternoon was memorable for a number of things: the incredible scenery – some of the best in the country by all accounts, the poverty of the Karamajong, the colourful clothes they wear, their friendliness (amazing the calming effect of a machine gun), and the scrum that soon formed so they could see their photos on a digital camera. They belied their reputation as violent cattle rustlers and murderers with gentle handshakes and big, if a little sad, smiles. We noted, to our horror, that the only decent building in town is the catholic (with a small “c”) church.

We took our rooster and other comestibles back to our camp, enjoyed a late lunch, then walked with our new friend and guide Vincent up and down the road looking at birds and chatting about Ugandan life and life in general. Vincent was about the most well informed person we met in Uganda and never stopped smiling. The salary of a ranger in the UWA is \$US65 per month. This is considered to be a good job in Uganda.

We ate our rooster for dinner, “cooked” by our hostess Teddy. We then enjoyed warm beer, Jack and bed. An amazing day and one I’ll never forget.

Monday 11th August

Vincent, Martin, Barry, Ivan, a couple of big guns and I went for a game drive, or as it turns out, a no game drive. We did see lots of nightjars perched on a rocky hill but otherwise the biggest gig in town was who was going to lose their temper with our driver first. It turned out to be Barry-Sean.

There are not too many people in Uganda who have a driver’s license. Ivan thought it amusing that either of us could drive. Barry returned us to our camp. I was very happy about this.

We decided to leave tomorrow for Mabira Forest for a couple of nights.

Tuesday 12th August

Found out that it is an offence in Uganda not to greet your neighbour in the morning. If there is a crime and you are a neighbour that didn’t greet for some reason then you will be arrested as a prime suspect. This explains why Ugandans are so welcoming and happy – it’s the law! We also confirmed what I had read – that street criminals are mobbed by bystanders and stripped naked. If this is embarrassing for Ugandans, how would us

whiteys feel? Given that we saw a chap having to use both hands to “siphon the python” I wouldn’t think they would need to be embarrassed at all!

The afternoon’s action included Ivan getting pulled over by the police. He could show no license (after all) so was fined. The officer apologized to Barry and I for ripping the crap out of “this boy”. He needn’t have worried.

Mabira felt like home. We lurked around the bus stop on the highway where several dozen food vendors form a scrum around every stopping vehicle. We drank beers at the local where many large women seem to be based. Most appear to be on some sort of medicine not normally available over the counter.

Wednesday 13th August

A morning walk produced great views of black-bellied seedcrackers, Nahan’s francolins and what I suspect was a Thomas’s rope squirrel, even though it seems slightly out of range. Spent most of the rest of the day wandering about enjoying the wildlife on offer and saying goodbye to things.

Sad that our holiday is coming to an end. Barry and I agree that we could start again tomorrow and enjoy it just as much.

Thursday 14th August

Last full day in Uganda. We left Mabira after breakfast on the basis that we could go to Kampala and get rid of our “driver”. We checked into the Red Chili Hideaway.

Spent most of the day writing, relaxing and enjoying other tourists. The last of our 16 litres of Jack Daniels was consumed, amazing really that it lasted this long. Did I write 16, I meant two.

Friday 15th August

Off to the airport. Incredibly the number of presidents on offer is zero. I spent all my shillings on gifts at a shop there, breaking the rule that you should never buy anything at airport shops. The things I bought, mainly ebony stuff, was nevertheless about 25% of the prices charged for identical items in Soweto, South Africa.

On arrival in Jo’burg we were convinced by a Nepalese tout that his hotel was good and cheap. He was partly right but he is a poor example of a Nepalese in that he dealt only loosely with the truth. Barry wanted to perform scientific experiments on him, but my more relaxed attitude prevailed.

Saturday 16th August

After a long theological discussion with a Moslem Syrian, our Zulu driver, Douglas, took us on a tour of Soweto and Jo'burg. It was interesting. The most significant thing we noticed was the lack of people. Being a Saturday most of the locals were at funerals. You see a clear majority of the people here have aids – Saturday is funeral day. The standard of housing is far and away better in Soweto than most of Uganda.

Went home.

Sunday 17th August

Got home. Note to self: never trust what Australian Customs tell you about heat treating wooden items. They lie.

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7th September 2003

Below are the bird and mammal lists!!

*NOTE! **Birds** are VERY under-recorded after first sighting – sightings are in numerical order of sites visited*

All mammals are recorded

BIRD		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Great White Pelican			■				■					
2	Pink-backed Pelican		■					■					
3	Little Grebe						■						
4	Great Cormorant		■					■					
5	Long-tailed Cormorant		■										
6	African Darter					■							
7	African Finfoot					■							
8	Little Bittern					■							
9	Cattle Egret		■										
10	Common Squacco Heron	■				■		■					
11	Striated (Green-backed) Heron			■				■					
12	Rufous-bellied Heron										■		
13	Little Egret			■				■					
14	Black Egret (Heron)							■					
15	Intermediate (Yell-b) Egret	■				■							
16	Great Egret							■					
17	Goliath Heron			■				■					
18	Purple Heron		■					■					
19	Gray Heron		■					■					
20	Black-headed Heron		■	■									
21	Hamerkop			c	o	m	m	o	n				
22	Yellow-billed Stork		■					■					
23	Woolly-necked Stork						■						
24	African Openbill		■	■				■					
25	Saddle-billed Stork			■				■			■		
26	Marabou Stork			c	o	m	m	o	n				
27	Shoebill	■		■		■							
28	Sacred Ibis							■					
29	Hadada Ibis			c	o	m	m	o	n				
30	Glossy Ibis			■				■					
31	African Spoonbill							■					
32	Egyptian Goose					■		■					
33	Spur-winged Goose			■							■		
34	African Pygmy-goose			■									
35	White-faced Whistling-Duck					■							
36	Hottentot Teal										■		
37	Yellow-billed Duck			■							■		
38	Black Kite			c	o	m	m	o	n				
39	Black-shouldered Kite			c	o	m	m	o	n				

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	BIRD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
40	African Fish-Eagle			c	o	m	m	o	n				
41	Palm-nut Vulture		■			■		■					
42	Osprey			■									
43	Hooded Vulture		■										
44	White-backed Vulture					■		■					
45	Rueppell's Griffon							■					
46	Lappet-faced Vulture							■			■		
47	Brown Snake-Eagle					■		■					
48	Western Banded Snake-Eagle			■									
49	African Marsh-Harrier		■	■									
50	Eastern Chanting-Goshawk					■							■
51	Dark Chanting-Goshawk					■							
52	Gabar Goshawk		■	■									
53	Lizard Buzzard		■		■								
54	Shikra		■	■									
55	African Goshawk								■				
56	Great Sparrowhawk			■	■								
57	Bat Hawk	■			■	■							
58	African Harrier-Hawk			■									
59	Augur Buzzard								■				
60	Wahlberg's Eagle			c	o	m	m	o	n				
61	Ayres' Hawk-Eagle				■							■	
62	Cassin's Hawk-Eagle									■			
63	Bateleur					■		■					
64	Long-crested Eagle			c	o	m	m	o	n				
65	Martial Eagle											■	
66	Booted Eagle										■		
67	African Crowned Eagle					■							
68	Gray Kestrel					■							
69	African Hobby		■										
70	Red-necked Falcon					■							
71	Lanner Falcon											■	
72	Helmeted Guineafowl				■								
73	Scaly Francolin	■									■		
74	Nahan's Francolin											■	
75	Clapperton's Francolin											■	
76	Heuglin's Francolin				■								
77	Crested Francolin					■							
78	Red-necked Spurfowl							■			■		
79	Common Quail							■					
80	Blue Quail	■						■					
81	White-spotted Flufftail				■		■						

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	BIRD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
125	Ring-necked Dove			c	o	m	m	o	n				
126	Red-eyed Dove			c	o	m	m	o	n				
127	African Mourning Dove												
128	Vinaceous Dove												
129	Laughing Dove												
130	Dusky Turtle-Dove												
131	Lemon Dove												
132	Brown (Meyer's) Parrot												
133	Gray Parrot												
134	Red-headed Lovebird												
135	Great Blue Turaco			c	o	m	m	o	n				
136	Ross' Turaco												
137	White-crested Turaco												
138	Black-billed Turaco												
139	Hartlaub's Turaco												
140	Bare-faced Go-away-bird												
141	Eastern Gray Plantain-eater			c	o	m	m	o	n				
142	Levaillant's Cuckoo												
143	Black and White Cuckoo												
144	African Cuckoo												
145	Red-chested Cuckoo												
146	Black Cuckoo												
147	Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo												
148	Diederick Cuckoo												
149	Klaas' Cuckoo												
150	African Emerald Cuckoo												
151	Yellowbill												
152	White-browed Coucal			c	o	m	m	o	n				
153	Blue-headed Coucal												
154	Senegal Coucal												
155	Black Coucal												
156	African Wood-Owl												
157	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl												
158	Spotted Eagle-Owl												
159	Square-tailed Nightjar												
160	Slender-tailed Nightjar												
161	Long-tailed Nightjar												
162	Swamp Nightjar												
163	Montane Nightjar												
164	Black-shouldered Nightjar												
165	Freckled Nightjar												
166	Pennant-winged Nightjar			c	o	m	m	o	n				

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	BIRD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
209	African Pied Hornbill			■									
210	Piping Hornbill				■								
211	B&W-casqued Hornbill			c	o	m	m	o	n				
212	White-thighed Hornbill				■								
213	Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill					■							
214	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird				■		■			■			
215	Yellow-throated Tinkerbird				■								
216	Western Green-Tinkerbird	■								■			
217	Speckled Tinkerbird				■								
218	Gray-throated Barbet						■			■			
219	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird				■			■					
220	Spot-flanked Barbet	■				■							
221	Hairy-breasted Barbet												
222	Yellow-spotted Barbet				■								
223	White-headed Barbet							■					
224	Black-billed Barbet					■							
225	Double-toothed Barbet			■			■			■			
226	Yellow-billed Barbet				■		■					■	
227	Greater Honeyguide					■							
228	Scaly-throated Honeyguide									■			
229	Thick-billed Honeyguide						■						
230	Least Honeyguide								■				
231	Dwarf Honeyguide									■			
232	Cassin's Honeyguide								■				
233	Tullberg's Woodpecker									■			
234	Buff-spotted Woodpecker	■					■						
235	Brown-eared Woodpecker				■		■						
236	Nubian Woodpecker			■		■							■
237	Green-backed Woodpecker										■		
238	Cardinal Woodpecker			c	o	m	m	o	n				
239	Brown-backed Woodpecker						■						
240	Elliot's Woodpecker	■					■						
241	Yellow-crested Woodpecker				■								
242	Gabon Woodpecker						■						
243	Olive Woodpecker									■			
244	African Broadbill								■				
245	Af Green (Grauer's) Broadbill									■			
246	Rufous-naped Lark							■					
247	Flappet Lark					■							
248	White-tailed Lark							■					
249	Rock Martin									■			
250	Plain Martin							■					

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	BIRD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
293	Spotted Greenbul				■								
294	White-starred Robin									■		■	
295	Equatorial Akalat								■				
296	Forest Robin				■								
297	Brown-chested Alethe											■	
298	Red-throated Alethe	■							■				
299	Fire-crested Alethe				■								
300	White-browed Robin-Chat							■					
301	Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	■					■						
302	Snowy-headed Robin-Chat												
303	Red-capped Robin-Chat						■						
304	Gray-winged Robin-Chat						■						
305	Archer's Ground Robin									■			
306	Olive Thrush	■								■			
307	African Thrush		■										
308	White-tailed Ant-Thrush						■						
309	Red-tailed Ant-Thrush					■							
310	Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush				■								
311	Sooty Chat			■									
312	White-browed Scrub-Robin					■							
313	Brown-backed Scrub-Robin				■								
314	Spotted Morning-Thrush					■							■
315	Dark-capped(Afr)Yellow Warb						■						
316	Mountain Yellow Warbler								■				
317	Lesser Swamp-Warbler					■							
318	African Reed-Warbler							■					
319	Sedge Warbler										■		
320	White-winged (Scrub-)Warbler				■								
321	Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler									■			
322	Little Rush Warbler								■				
323	Grauer's Rush-Warbler									■			
324	Buff-bellied Warbler										■		
325	Brown Woodland-Warbler											■	
326	Red-faced Woodland-Warbler	■								■			
327	Green Hylia												
328	Short-tailed(Neumann's)Warb								■				
329	White-browed Crombec	■								■			
330	Green Crombec												
331	Yellow Longbill	■			■								
332	Gray Longbill				■								
333	Red-faced Crombec					■							
334	Green-backed Eremomela					■							

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	BIRD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
335	Rufous-crowned Eremomela				■								
336	Black-faced Rufous Warbler						■			■			
337	African Moustached Warbler			■		■							
338	Zitting Cisticola					■							
339	Wing-snapping Cisticola							■					
340	Stout Cisticola							■					
341	Croaking Cisticola			■									
342	Winding Cisticola		■	■									
343	Carruthers' Cisticola					■							
344	Singing Cisticola					■							
345	Red-faced Cisticola			■									
346	Chubb's Cisticola						■			■			
347	Trilling Cisticola								■				
348	Whistling Cisticola				■			■					
349	Foxy Cisticola												■
350	Long-tailed Cisticola										■		
351	Red-winged Gray Warbler					■							
352	Tawny-flanked Prinia	■	■										
353	White-chinned Prinia						■						
354	Banded Prinia									■			
355	Gray-capped Warbler	■							■				
356	Gray-backed Camaroptera		■										
357	Olive-green Camaroptera				■								
358	Yellow-browed Camaroptera				■								
359	Yellow-breasted Apalis				■								
360	Gray Apalis						■						
361	Chestnut-throated Apalis	■								■			
362	Buff-throated Apalis												
363	Collared Apalis	■								■			
364	Black-throated Apalis						■			■			
365	Mountain Masked Apalis									■			
366	White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	■								■			■
367	Northern Black-Flycatcher		■										
368	Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher									■			
369	Pale Flycatcher	■				■							
370	African Dusky Flycatcher												
371	Lead-coloured Flycatcher	■			■								
372	Gray-throated Flycatcher												
373	Swamp Flycatcher			■		■		■					
374	Cassin's (Grey) Flycatcher									■			
375	Dusky-blue Flycatcher						■						
376	Chapins' Flycatcher								■				

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	BIRD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
461	White-naped Raven												
462	Montane (Black-tailed) Oriole												
463	Western Black-headed Oriole												
464	Yellow-billed Oxpecker												
465	Stuhlmann's Starling												
466	Narrow-tailed Starling												
467	Chestnut-winged Starling												
468	Waller's Starling												
469	Slender-billed Starling												
470	Greater Blue-eared Starling												
471	Lesser Blue-eared Starling												
472	Bronze-tailed Starling												
473	Rueppell's Long-tailed S'ling			c	o	m	m	o	n				
474	Purple Starling												
475	Purple-headed Starling												
476	Splendid Starling												
477	Violet-backed Starling												
478	Superb Starling												
479	Wattled Starling												
480	Rufous Sparrow												
481	Speckle-fronted Weaver												
482	Gray-headed Sparrow			c	o	m	m	o	n				
483	Black-headed Weaver												
484	Spectacled Weaver												
485	Black-necked Weaver												
486	Baglafaecht Weaver												
487	Grosbeak Weaver												
488	Little Weaver												
489	Slender-billed Weaver												
490	Golden-backed Weaver												
491	Yellow-backed Weaver												
492	Northern Brown-throated W												
493	Compact Weaver												
494	Holub's Golden-Weaver												
495	Orange Weaver												
496	Weyns' Weaver												
497	Strange Weaver												
498	Brown-capped Weaver												
499	Yellow-mantled Weaver												
500	Black-billed Weaver												
501	Vieillot's Black Weaver												
502	Red-billed Quelea			c	o	m	m	o	n				

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	BIRD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
545	Black-throated Seedeater												
546	White-rumped Seedeater												
547	Streaky Seedeater												
548	Yellow-rumped Seedeater												
549	African Golden-breasted Bunt												

Sites

1 Mabira Forest

2 Entebbe / Kampala

3 Mabamba Swamp

4 Budongo Forest

5 Murchison Falls NP

6 Kibale NP

7 QE NP

8 Bwindi NP (Buhoma)

9 Bwindi NP (Ruhija)

10 Lake Mburo NP

11 Mt Elgon NP

12 Pian-Upe GR



Seen by me

Seen by AR but not me!

		MF	Kam	MS	Bud	MF	Kib	QE	Bu	Ru	LM	MtE	P-U
	Mammal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
44	Western Tree Hyrax				■								
45	Forest Elephant									■			
46	African Elephant					■		■					
47	Zebra										■		
48	Hippopotamus					■		■			■		
49	Giant Forest Hog							■					
50	Warthog					■		■			■		
51	Giraffe					■							
52	African Buffalo					■		■			■		
53	Bushbuck					■		■			■		
54	Eland										■		
55	Bush Duiker					■							
56	Blue Duiker						■						
57	Ruwenzori Red Duiker									■	■		
58	Black-fronted Duiker						■						
59	Oribi					■							■
60	Bohor Reedbuck										■		
61	Uganda Kob					■		■					
62	Waterbuck					■		■			■		
63	Impala										■		
64	Tsessebe										■		
65	Kongoni					■							

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