



**TROPICAL
BIRDING**



UGANDA: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE “PEARL OF AFRICA”

**A Tropical Birding
Custom Tour**

**May 11-21, 2024
Guide: Ken Behrens**

Photos by Ken Behrens

TOUR SUMMARY

Uganda is a relatively small country, but it packs a punch when it comes to Africa’s coolest creatures. This was a short custom trip that started and ended in Entebbe, and focused on five sites in southwest Uganda. In only 11 days, we racked up some remarkable highlights. There were 39 species of mammals, including an amazing 11 species of primates. Two of these primates were two of humans’ closest relatives: Mountain Gorilla and Chimpanzee. We tracked and had amazing experiences with both. The marquee birds were no weaker! The marquee trio was the incredible monotypic Shoebill, the rare and elusive Green-breasted Pitta (see the photo above), and the remarkably range-restricted and scarce Grauer’s Broadbill. Seeing each one of these required the better part of a day, and entailed some memorable adventures! We racked up 421 species of birds overall. Just a few of many other avian highlights included Western Crested Guinea fowl, Great Blue and Black-billed Turacos, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Freckled Nightjar, White-spotted Flufftail, African Finfoot, Small Buttonquail, Goliath Heron, Beadouin’s Snake-Eagle, Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl, Southern White-faced Owl, Narina and Bar-tailed Trogons, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Black Bee-eater, Dwarf Honeyguide, African and Eurasian Hobbies, African

Broadbill, Doherty's Bushshrike, Grauer's and Neumann's Warblers, Regal Sunbird, Dusky Crimsonwing, and Jameson's Antpecker. We enjoyed all of these wonders while staying in generally excellent lodges, eating good food, and using a beautiful safari vehicle complete with charging stations and a working fridge! Without a doubt, Uganda offers a tremendous amount in a small and comfortable package.

For an immersive experience of this trip's highlights, check out the 10-minute video trip report:

[VIDEO TRIP REPORT on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5KiW4w_ZCA) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5KiW4w_ZCA

ITINERARY

May 11	Arrival in Entebbe. Afternoon Entebbe Botanical Garden. Night Entebbe.
May 12	Entebbe to Mabamba Swamp to Lake Mburo NP. Night Mburo.
May 13	Lake Mburo NP to Ruhija, Bwindi NP. Night Ruhija.
May 14	Morning tracking Mountain Gorillas. Afternoon School Trail. Night Ruhija.
May 15	Full day Mabwindi Swamp trek. Night Ruhija.
May 16	Ruhija to "The Neck" to Buhoma. Night Buhoma.
May 17	Full day birding Buhoma. Night Buhoma.
May 18	Buhoma to Queen Elizabeth NP. Night Mweya.
May 19	Full day Queen Elizabeth NP. Night Mweya.
May 20	Queen Elizabeth NP to Kibale. Afternoon Bigodi Swamp. Night Kibale.
May 21	Morning Kibale NP. Drive to Entebbe. Evening departures.

PHOTO GALLERY

A full [Flickr gallery](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720317546758/) of photos from this trip, organized chronologically, is on Ken's Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720317546758/>

BIRD LIST

The full list, including numbers and many other details, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/242436) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/242436>

MAMMAL LIST

Elephants	
African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
African Forest Elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>
Primates	
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Tantalus Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>
Red-tailed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>
L'Hoest's Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus lhoesti</i>
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>
Uganda (Gray-cheeked) Mangabey	<i>Lophocebus ugandae</i>
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>
Mantled Guereza (E. Black-and-white Colobus)	<i>Colobus guereza</i>
Ashy (Ugandan) Red Colobus	<i>Piliocolobus tephrosceles</i>
Eastern Mountain Gorilla*	<i>Gorilla beringei beringei</i>
Common Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>
Rodents	
Carruther's Mountain Squirrel*	<i>Funisciurus carruthersi</i>
Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>
Ruwenzori Sun Squirrel*	<i>Heliosciurus ruwenzorii</i>
Boehm's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus boehmi</i>
Forest Giant Squirrel	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>
Bats	
Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>
Mauritian Tomb bat	<i>Taphozous mauritanus</i>
Carnivores	
African Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
Spotted-necked Otter	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>
Odd-toed Ungulates	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Even-toed Ungulates	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Giant Forest Hog	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>
Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>
Rothschild's Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi</i>
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>
Nile Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Rwenzori Red Duiker*	<i>Cephalophus nigrifrons rubidus</i>

Weyn's Duiker	<i>Cephalophus weynsi</i>
Black-fronted Duiker	<i>Cephalophus nigrifrons</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>
Uganda Kob	<i>Kobus kob thomasi</i>
Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>

REPTILE / AMPHIBIAN LIST

Geckos	
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
Skinks	
Striped Skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i>
Variable Skink	<i>Mabuya varia</i>
Speckle-lipped Skink	<i>Trachylepis maculilabris</i>
Agamas	
Uganda Blue-headed Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>
Black-necked Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus cyanogaster</i>
Finch's Agama	<i>Agama finchei</i>
Chameleons	
Montane Side-Striped Chameleon	<i>Trioceros ellioti</i>
Monitor Lizards	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Crocodiles	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Snakes	
Black Mamba	<i>Python sebae</i>
Black-necked Spitting Cobra	<i>Naja nigricollis</i>
True Toads	
African Toad	<i>Sclerophrys</i> sp.
African Reed Frogs	
Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius</i> sp.



We had a couple good “visits with the relatives” on this trip, including one with Mukiza, the silverback of the Mountain Gorilla group that we tracked in Bwindi National Park.