

UGANDA: Shoebill, Mountain Gorillas, and Albertine Rift Endemics.

2011

Saturday July 30 - Saturday August 19

With Herbert Byaruhanga and Gary Rosenberg

Price \$7600

Maximum group size of six

Three-week tour to what is considered one of the most-exciting countries in Africa. Straddling the equator, Uganda has an incredible variety of rich habitats, from Papyrus swamps along the edge of Lake Victoria, where the bizarre Shoebill can still be found, to lush montane forest, home to the few surviving Mountain Gorillas, to expanses of rolling savannah covered with Giraffes and antelope. We expect to see more than 500 species of birds, including members of all the typical "African" families. We also will see about 50 species of mammals, including Elephants, Giraffes, Zebras, Lions, and possibly Leopard! The big highlight of the tour will be the opportunity to spend an hour each with both Mountain Gorillas and Chimpanzees - an experience of a lifetime! We visit such incredible areas as Queen Elizabeth National Park, The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, and stunning Murchison Falls along the headwaters of the Nile River. The photographic opportunities on this tour are amazing, and the cost is about 30% less than most companies!

Uganda is a sub-Saharan country in Africa that is about the size of the state of Oregon, yet has an amazingly rich avifauna, with a country list of more than 1000 species! Straddling the equator, a tour of Uganda visits an amazing variety for rich habitats, from lush tropical forest inhabited by Sunbirds and Turacos, to rolling acacia grasslands, covered with large elephants and giraffes. Uganda is, of course, famous for its national parks

protecting the few remaining Mountain Gorillas, and we'll devote part of a day to tracking (and visiting with) a family group - an experience of a lifetime! We'll also devote a morning to visiting a family group of Chimpanzees, another truly amazing experience. Of course our main emphasis will be the birds, and we are likely to see more than 500 species in the twenty days. Our primary leader for the tour, Herbert Byaruhanga, is one of the best and experienced birders in Uganda!

Our tour begins with us being paddled through papyrus swamps along the edge of Lake Victoria where we hope to encounter one of the strangest birds in the world - the Shoebill. Its other name is Whale-billed Stork, and Uganda is "the" place to see this species in the world. We then travel on to Lake Mburo National Park for a two night stay. The national park has excellent mammal watching, and this will be our only chance for seeing zebras. A morning boat trip on the lake will be a highlight of our visit, on which we have a chance for incredible birds such as African Finfoot, White-backed Night-Heron, and Papyrus Gonalek.

Our next destination is extreme southern Uganda close to the Rwandan border, and two national parks, Mgahinga and the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. We'll have seven nights (at three different lodges) in this incredibly rich zone, famous for its high number of Albertine Rift endemics, not to mention most of the remaining world population of Mountain Gorillas. We'll spend our time birding in lush montane rainforest, and look for stunning birds such as Rwenzori Turaco, and the African Green Broadbill, as well as many sunbirds, bee-eaters, wood-hoopoes, and a countless number of greenbuls!. We'll devote one day to gorilla tracking - spending an hour with a family of Mountain Gorillas, within 20 feet, is an indescribable experience!

Leaving the mountains behind, we travel next to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Located on the shores of Lake Albert, our beautiful lodge is well situated to cover both the rich savannah, where we have an excellent chance for tree-climbing Lions and Leopard, and the Kazinga Channel, where we will venture out for an afternoon boat trip among the hippos and plethora of bird life. The high diversity here is exciting, and we have an great chance for African Skimmers. Sunset over the lake while watching storks, lapwings, all the while navigating around hippos is an unforgettable experience.

We next continue north to Kibale National Park. It is here that we will spend a morning tracking Chimpanzees. The forest here is lovely, and the birding is quite fun. We'll make an extra effort to look for Green-breasted Pitta, Kibale being the most-reliable location in Uganda for this rare species. The nearby Budongo Forest Reserve, and the "Golden Mile" is a beautiful location well-known for its excellent birding, and such gems as Chocolate-backed Kingfisher. We'll have two full days to explore the forest and nearby areas, such as a wonderful escarpment overlooking Lake Albert.

The tour will conclude with a visit to famous Murchison Falls National Park. Situated between two major channels of the Nile River, the wonderful expanse of rich savannah will provide a lasting memory. Wonderful mammals such as Giraffes and more Lions, the possibility of Leopard, and amazing birds such as Shoebill (another opportunity), Northern Carmine Bee-eater, and wonderful raptors such as Bateleur, make a visit here memorable. Our afternoon boat trip on the mighty Nile River to view Murchison Falls, as well as Rock Pratincoles and numerous Nile Crocodiles will be a highlight of the trip. Finishing off at the top of the falls looking for Bat Hawk will be exciting!

In total, a tour to Uganda has it all - amazing birds, unforgettable mammals (including Mountain Gorillas!), stunning African landscapes, all made available with a relatively excellent infrastructure of comfortable and safe lodges. Even the amateur photographer will go crazy here!

Day 1: Arrive in Uganda. Night at the Lindsay Cottages in Entebbe.

Day 2: Birding Mabamba Wetlands then travel to Lake Mburo.

We'll leave early after breakfast and travel to nearby Mabamba Wetlands on the shores of Lake Victoria. This is one of the few remaining swamps in the country protected by the local communities - an extensive papyrus swamp with its labyrinth of channels and lagoons, classified as an Important Bird Area, and home to several pairs of Shoebills, Uganda's most famous avian resident. This charismatic monotypic species is certainly amongst the most sought-after birds in Africa, and we'll make special efforts today to find it by paddling through the channels by boat. There will of course be a good selection of classic East African water birds, including the chance for Pink-backed Pelican, Long-tailed

Cormorant, Goliath Heron, African Open-billed, Saddle-billed, and Marabou Storks, Hammerkop, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Yellow-billed Duck, African Fish-Eagle, African Marsh-Harrier, African Water Rail, Purple Swampphen, Allen's Gallinule, African Jacana, and Long-toed Lapwing. Apart from the numerous water birds, we are likely to see a nice variety of open country and water edge species, perhaps including Speckled Pigeon, African Green Pigeon, Eastern Plantain-eater, Malachite, Giant, and Pied Kingfishers, Blue-headed Coucal, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Crowned Hornbill, Angola and Rufous-chested Swallows, Winding Cisticola, Greater and Lesser Swamp-Warblers, Papyrus Yellow Warblers, Swamp Flycatcher, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Papyrus Gonalek, Slender-billed, Northern Brown-throated, and Golden-backed Weavers, and Papyrus Canary.

In the afternoon we'll travel to our first of many national parks, Mburo Lake. This park has varied habitats from open Acacia woodlands, to a number of papyrus-lined lakes and swamps. We'll have the afternoon and the following day to cover several different habitats. Some of the many species we'll search for en route to, and within the park, include Black-headed, Squacco, and Rufous-bellied Herons, Hadada Ibis, Yellow-billed (Black) Kite, Spur-winged Goose, Comb Duck, Black-chested Snake-Eagle, Lizard Buzzard, Palm-nut and White-backed Vultures, Wahlberg's and Verreaux's Eagles, Crested Francolin, Gray-crowned Crane, African Finfoot, Black-bellied Bustard, Temminck's and Bronze-winged Coursers, Senegal, Crowned, Wattled, and Brown-chested Lapwings, Emerald Spotted and Blue-spotted Wood Doves, Brown Parrot, Red-eyed Dove, Great Blue Turaco, Bare-faced Go-away Bird, White-browed Coucal, Speckled and Blue-naped Mousebirds, Mottled Spinetail, Little, White-rumped and African Palm Swifts, Woodland Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted and Broad-billed Rollers, Green Wood-Hoopoe, Common Scimitar-Bill, African Grey, Crowned, Black-and-white Casqued, and African Pied Hornbills, Spot-flanked Barbet, Nubian Woodpecker, Angola Swallow, African Pied Wagtail, African and Long-billed Pipits, Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike, Dark-capped Bulbul, African Thrush, Trilling Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Grey-capped Warbler, Red-faced Crombec, Northern (white-winged) Black Tit, Chinspot Batis, Mariqua, Olive-bellied, and Red-chested Sunbirds, Pied Crow, Greater Blue-eared, Splendid, Rüppell's Long-tailed Starlings, Black-headed, Northern Brown-throated, Yellow-backed, Vieillot's Black, and Slender-billed Weavers, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow, Bronze Mannikin,

and Yellow-fronted Canary. If we are lucky, we will even see the nomadic Weyn's Weaver. Night at Mantana Tented Camp.

Day 3: Lake Mbuo National Park. Lake Mbuo National Park contains multiple habitats, and our time will be divided between birding an extensive area of wetland, some forested areas, and open country with numerous mammals. No fewer than 300 different bird species have been recorded in the park, an indication of the high diversity present here. The more open grassland north of the camp, particularly along the Zebra Track, is worth exploring for species such as Coqui Francolin, Red-necked Spurfowl, Black-bellied Bustard, Temminck's Courser, and African Wattled Lapwing, and it is here where small numbers of the migratory Brown-chested Lapwing can be regularly observed. After dusk, we'll have the opportunity to do some spot lighting along the entrance road, which may produce some interesting nocturnal species, such as the African Scops Owl, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, and Black-shouldered, Fiery-necked, and Pennant-winged Nightjars. If it can be arranged, a night game drive may be possible.

Some additional species that we'll search for not mentioned above include, African Darter, Striated Heron, Spur-winged Goose, African Marsh Harrier, African Hawk-Eagle, Common Quail, Water Thick-knee, Red-faced Barbet, Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks, Rufous-chested Swallow, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Black Cuckoo-shrike, Singing, Long-tailed (or Tabora), and Siffling Cisticolas, White-winged Warbler, Lead-colored Flycatcher, African Penduline-tit, Black-headed Oriole, Tropical Boubou, Southern Red Bishop, Brubru, White Helmet-Shrike, and Red-headed, Little, and Holub's Golden-Weavers. We'll check the swamps in the park for secretive papyrus specialties, such as the Papyrus Gonalek.

Mammals will be a large part of our visit to this park, and the many species we might see include the shy Oribi, graceful Impalas, and Common Zebras, all found out in the open, park-like woodland. At night we'll again look for African Scops-Owls and Black-shouldered Nightjar. **Night at Mantana Tented Camp.**

Days 4-5: Birding to Mgahinga National Park. After a final early morning birding in Mbuo National Park searching for anything we may have missed, we'll exit the park via what is known as the "Zebra Track" where we hope to see, you guessed it, Zebras. The rest of the day will be

traveling to Mgahinga National Park near the Rwanda border. We'll make a major birding stop in the Echuya Forest, a relatively small forest reserve right along the highway. This will be our first opportunity for a number of "Albertine Rift" endemics. Along the route we'll watch for raptors, including Wahlberg's and Long-crested Eagles, and our first Augur Buzzards. Gray-crowned Cranes should be numerous along the highway, and we'll stop to watch them dance. Some of the many birds we'll look for along the way include Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Black Saw-wing, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Snowy-headed Robin-Chat, Familiar Chat, Mountain Yellow-Warbler, White-browed Crombec, White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher, White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher, Rwenzori Hill Babbler, Bronze and Regal Sunbirds, Tropical Boubou, and Strange Weaver

Mgahinga National Park is Uganda's smallest and probably most scenic national park situated in the extreme south western corner of the country on the slopes of the Virunga Volcanoes, which rise up to 4000 meters in elevation. To the south of the park is Rwanda, and to the west is the Democratic Republic of Congo. The park has a nice variety of Albertine Rift endemics, and we shall explore the treasures of this park along the excellent Gorge trail, which loops half way up Mt. Sabinyo, traversing a variety of montane habitats. Here we'll look in particular for Rwenzori Turaco, perhaps the fanciest of the endemics, and Mgahinga Park is the best location for this specialty. Also possible are Dusky Turtle-Dove, Cape Robin-chat, Brown-Crowned Tchagra, Bronze Sunbird, Shelly's Crimson-wing, Black-headed Waxbill, and Streaky Seedeater, all of which favor the scrubby early successional habitat in this area. As we climb and enter the bamboo belt at about 2500m, we may encounter the Handsome Francolin, Kivu Ground Thrush, and Cinnamon Bracken Warbler. The flowering Red-hot Pokers attract Malachite, Scarlet-tufted, and Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbirds, as well as Lagden's Bush-Shrike. Many of these are Albertine Rift endemics, which we can see here and at our next location at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The beautiful Golden Monkey, a localized form of the Blue Monkey, occurs in the bamboo zone and Mountain Gorillas are seasonally resident in the park (although we are unlikely to see one). **Night at Travelers Rest hotel in Kisoro.**

Day 6: Birding to Ruhija section of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park through Echuya Forest. The Echuya Forest Reserve is

highly ranked among the top 10% of sites visited by the Forest Biodiversity Inventory Team. Surrounded by densely populated agricultural land, the Echuya Forest Reserve is considered an Important Bird Area, which also includes the nearby Muchuya Swamp. The forest is not only beautiful, it is quite rich for birds, many of which are Albertine Rift specialties. Some additional possibilities here include Red-chested Owlet, Rwenzori Nightjar, Dusky Turtle Dove, Scarce Swift, Western Green Tinkerbird, Doherty's Bush Shrike, Grey Cuckoo Shrike, Chubb's Cisticola, Rwenzori Apalis, Grauer's Rush Warbler, Regal Sunbird, White-naped Raven, and Montane Oriole. After lunch we will continue on to Ruhija, the southern part of Bwindi National Park. We'll have the afternoon to bird along the road once we pass through the gate of the park. The forest is stunningly beautiful, and it will be evident why Mountain gorillas still inhabit this forest! Some of the fancier birds we have a chance for along the road include Black-billed Turaco, Mountain Masked, and Chestnut-throated Apalis, Stripe-breasted Tit, Luehder's Bushshrike, Mountain Black Boubou, and Dusky Crimsonwing. **Night at Trekkers' Tavern.**

Day 7: Birding Mubwindi Swamp. We spend the entire day birding the trail to the Mubwindi Swamp area. The 4km trail to Mubwindi Swamp is the best place for some of the most difficult to find of all rift endemics including Grauer's (African Green) Broadbill, the beautiful Regal Sunbird, and Archer's Robin-Chat. Mubwindi Swamp is also home to Dwarf Honeyguide, Stripe-breasted Tit, African Hill Babbler (sometimes treated as a separate species from Rwenzori Hill Babbler), the rare and localized Grauer's Scrub-Warbler and Carruther's Cisticola. Some of the many additional species we have a chance of seeing here include Black Goshawk, Augur Buzzard, Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Handsome Francolin, Olive Pigeon, Bronze-winged Pigeon, Black-billed and Ross's Turaco, African, Barred Long-tailed, and African Emerald Cuckoos, Red-chested Owlet, Narina and Bar-tailed Trogons, Black and Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Gray-throated, Double-toothed, and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Western Green and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Rufous-necked Wryneck, Tullberg's, Speckle-breasted, Elliot's, and Olive Woodpeckers, African Broadbill, Rock Martin, Black Saw-wing, Gray and Petit's Cuckoo-Shrike, Ansorge's, Olive-chested, and Cabanis's Greenbuls, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Kivu Ground-Thrush, Olive and Mountain Thrushes, Red-throated Alethe, Chubb's Cisticola, Banded Prinia, Rwenzori and Black-throated Apalis, Olive-green Camaroptera, Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Mountain Yellow

Warbler, White-browed Crombec, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, White-eyed Slaty- Flycatcher, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Sooty Flycatcher, Chapin's Flycatcher, White-starred Robin, White-bellied and Archer's Robin-Chats, Rwenzori Batis, White-tailed, Slaty, and African Blue-Flycatchers, Mountain, and Gray-chested Illadopses, Gray-headed, Western Violet-backed, Green, Green-headed, Blue-headed, Green-throated, Northern Double-collared, and Regal Sunbirds, Mackinnon's Shrike, Luehder's, Gray-green, Many-colored, and Lagden's Bushshrikes, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Slender-billed, Waller's, Narrow-tailed, Stuhlmann's, and Sharpe's Starlings, Black-billed, Strange, and Brown-capped Weavers, Jameson's Ant-peckers, and Dusky Crimson-wings. The list for this trail is enormous! **Night at Trekker's Tavern.**

Day 8: Gorilla Tracking. On this day, we set off early, with packed lunch, to the park headquarters for a briefing prior to our planned Mountain Gorilla tracking. This is one of the more exciting experiences of a lifetime. The gorillas are gentle animals and it is an unforgettable experience to photograph them as they interact with each other. It is a wonderful experience to stare in to the eyes of these gentle giants, or watch them in awe as they play and go about their daily activities. Our visit with a family group is limited to one hour, but we can get to within twenty feet of these amazing animals! It is indeed a "once in a lifetime" experience that you must never miss. Each encounter is different and has its own rewards. Getting to where the gorillas are can be easy or strenuous, and may be a short or long walk! Each person will have their own porter for help! We will also look for other primates like the L' Hoest Monkey, Black and White Colobus; Red tailed, and Blue Monkeys. In the afternoon, if we are up for it, we'll bird again along the road near our accommodations. **Night at Trekker's Tavern.**

Day 9: Birding to Buhoma through "The Neck".

Today we bird our way to the Buhoma section Of Bwindi National Park through what is referred to as "The Neck," a section of excellent forest. Key species that we will look for here include, again, many of the Albertine Rift Endemics that we may not have seen earlier. These might include Handsome Francolin, Rwenzori Nightjar, Dwarf Honeyguide, African Green Broadbill, Archer's Robin-Chat, Red-throated Alethe, Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Red-faced Woodland Warbler, Grauer's Warbler, Mountain Masked Apalis, Rwenzori Collared Apalis, Stripe-breasted Tit,

Rwenzori Batis, Blue-headed Sunbird, Regal Sunbird, Strange Weaver, or Dusky Crimsonwing. A few other species we may encounter as well include Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Fine-banded and Cardinal Woodpeckers, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Shelley's Greenbul, Red-tailed Greenbul, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Mountain Wagtail, Cassin's Flycatcher, Equatorial Akalat, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Dusky Tit, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Red-headed Malimbe, Dusky Twinspot, Cape Wagtail, Brown-backed Scrub Robin, Mackinnon's Fiscal, and Western Citril. Our comfortable tent camp is located right outside the park entrance. In the late afternoon we'll have the opportunity to bird around the park entrance, which can be very birdy. A walk down along a small stream can produce Shining Blue Kingfisher, and some of the many birds we may see include Speckled Tinkerbird, Elliot's Woodpecker, Ansorge's Greenbul, Green Hylia, White-chinned Prinia, Buff-throated and Gray Apalis, African Paradise Flycatcher, several sunbirds, Pink-footed Puffback, Narrow-tailed Starling, Brown-capped Weaver, and White-breasted Negrofinch. **Night at Gorilla Resort.**

Day 10: Birding the Main Trail at Buhoma.

The main trail at Buhoma is one of the delights of the trip – a relatively level trail that seemingly goes forever through stunning tall tropical rainforest. Many of the species we will search for are the same species that we have now become a little accustomed to during the past several days. Some of the many species we will search for include Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Bar-tailed Trogon, Dusky Tit, Kivu Ground-Thrush, White-bellied and Blue-shouldered Robin-Chats, Equatorial Akalat, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Red-throated Alethe, White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher, White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher, Bocage's Bushshrike, Northern Double-collared Sunbird, Black-billed Weaver, and Magpie Mannikin. High exposed perches in the open forest are favored by African Goshawk, the dazzling Black Bee-eater, Blue-throated Roller, Sooty Flycatcher, and forest starlings including Waller's, Stuhlmann's, and Narrow-tailed. One of Bwindi's star avian attractions is the diminutive Neumann's (Short-tailed) Warbler, a vocal yet very secretive bird! Other understory specialties we hope to see include displaying African Broadbill, Banded Prinia, and the handsome Black-faced Rufous-Warbler. The mid-story and canopy supports Elliot's and Tullberg's Woodpeckers, Cabanis's, Shelley's, and Ansorge's Greenbuls, the strange Grauer's Warbler, and White-browed Crombec. The rare Jameson's Antpecker may also be seen probing

under moss on dead branches, or gleaning warbler-like in the canopy. Overhead, Scarce Swifts forage over the forest. Birding at Buhoma is a truly magical experience. Other wildlife that we may be fortunate enough to find here include the huge Yellow-backed Duiker, Guereza Colobus, L'Hoest's, Blue, and Red-tailed Monkeys. It is not unheard of to run into a group of Mountain Gorillas! **Night at Gorilla Resort.**

Day 11-12. Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Today, we shall start early after breakfast and drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Our route to the park will be determined by road conditions, either passing through the Ishasha sector, well-known for its climbing lions, or alternatively drive through the beautiful sceneries of Rukungiri district. The park, which is named after Queen Elizabeth who visited it in 1954, is the second largest national park in Uganda, and ranks highest with respect to overall diversity, with a species list exceeding 500.! The park has a mosaic of habitats that are excellent for mammals, from moist forest to wild savannah, excellent for Lions, Leopards, Elephants, Hyenas, Ugandan Kobs, Side-striped Jackal, Baboons, and Giant Hogs, just to name a few. While at the park we'll partake in a game drive, and one of the big highlights of this area will be the boat ride on the Kazinga Channel, which can be thrilling. This trip is one of the better places to look for African Skimmers, which are usually present in small numbers. Other species possible from the boat include Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Grey, Purple and Goliath Herons, Saddle-billed and Yellow-billed Storks, Sacred and Glossy Ibises, African Spoonbill, Egyptian Goose, Black Crake, African Jacana, Black-winged Stilt, Water Thick-knee, Spur-winged, African Wattled, Kittlitz's, and Three-banded Plovers, Collared Pratincole, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Brown-throated Sand Martin, Greater and Lesser Swamp Warblers, Carruthers's Cisticola, and Papyrus Gonolek.

Other interesting species found in Queen Elizabeth National Park include Black-shouldered Kite, Hooded, African White-backed, Rüppell's Griffon, Lappet-faced and White-headed Vultures, Brown Snake Eagle, Bateleur, Gabar Goshawk, Wahlberg's, Tawny, Martial and Long-crested Eagles, Lanner Falcon, Helmeted Guineafowl, Black-bellied Bustard, Red-necked Spurfowl, Senegal and Crowned Plovers, African Mourning, Ring-necked and Laughing Doves, Dideric Cuckoo, Black and Senegal Coucals, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Blue-naped Mousebird, Grey-headed Kingfisher,

Madagascar and Little Bee-eaters, African Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, White-headed Barbet, Lesser Honeyguide, Grey Woodpecker, Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Plain-backed Pipit, Banded Martin, White-browed Robin-Chat, Sooty Chat, Arrow-marked and Black-lored Babblers, Moustached Grass Warbler, Trilling, Winding, Stout and Zitting Cisticolas, Northern Crombec, Buff-bellied Warbler, Black-headed Batis, Common Wattle-eye, African Paradise Flycatcher, Common Drongo, Common and Grey-backed Fiscals, Black-headed Gonolek, Black-crowned Tchagra, Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, Violet-backed Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Purple-banded and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, Compact, Lesser Masked, and Spectacled Weavers, Red-billed Quelea, Southern Red Bishop, Fan-tailed and White-winged Widowbirds, Green-winged Pytilia, Red-cheeked Cordonbleu, Red-billed Firefinch, Common and Fawn-breasted Waxbills, Pin-tailed Whydah, Brimstone Canary, and Golden-breasted Bunting. **Nights at Mweya Safari Lodge.**

Days 13-14. Birding to Kibale National Park.

We'll slowly work our way out of Queen Elizabeth National Park working our way to Fort Portal, and on to Kibale National Park. Kibale is an extensive block of rainforest that offers both excellent birding, and our main opportunity to see Chimpanzee in the wild. The park probably has the greatest variety and concentration of primates found anywhere in East Africa, and is famous for its Chimpanzees. Superb birds and primates, combined with easy access and excellent infrastructure, makes a visit to Kibale more than worthwhile. Some of the many species we will look for around Kibale include African Crowned-Eagle, White-spotted Flufftail, Afep Pigeon, Red-winged Francolin, African Emerald, Dusky Long-tailed and Red-chested Cuckoos, Yellowbill (or Blue Malkoha), Black-billed Turaco, Narina Trogon, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Black and White-throated Bee-eaters, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Speckled, Yellow-rumped, and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Hairy-breasted, Yellow-billed, and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Grey-winged and Snowy-headed Robin-chats, African Broadbill, Willcock's & Thick-billed Honeyguides, Cassin's Honeybird, White-headed Saw-wing, Mountain Wagtail, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Petit's Cuckoo-Shrike, Joyful and Honeyguide Greenbuls, Brown and Scaly-breasted Illadopses, Banded and White-chinned Prinias, Masked and Buff-throated Apalises, Grey-throated and Black-and-white Flycatchers, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Pink-footed Puff-back,

Chestnut-winged and Purple-headed Starlings, Superb, Green-headed & Green-throated Sunbirds, Dark-backed and Vieillot's Black Weavers, Red-headed Malimbe, Gray-headed Negrofinch, and Black-crowned Waxbill. Although difficult in the forest, we'll make a special effort for Green-breasted Pitta. The morning of Day 14 will be devoted to tracking Chimpanzee – another amazing experience! **Night at Nature Lodges.**

Day 15. Kibale to Fort Portal.

Today will be spent birding for the morning again in Kibale National Park, either chimp tracking or looking for Green-breasted Pitta. After lunch we'll stop at a lake where Giant Kingfisher is possible, then return to Fort Portal and bird a different section of Kibale along the main road. Here the birding can be surprisingly good. Gray-throated Barbet will be common, and we'll search for both Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets. By now we will have seen many species of Greenbuls, several of which are very confusing, but we'll look for the Joyful Greenbul, a very distinctive, bright yellow species. In the agricultural areas outside Fort Portal, Siffling Cisticola sits up on wires and sings. Several sunbirds are possible, including Green, Collared, Green-headed, Olive, and Scarlet-chested. Other nice birds may include Western Black-headed Oriole, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Yellow-mantled Weaver, and Red-headed Malimbe. We'll be back at our comfortable hotel for dinner. **Night at Fort Portal.**

Days 16-18: Birding the Budongo Forest.

The drive northwards to Budongo may be long, but we'll make numerous stops along the way. Just outside Fort Portal is a private reserve known as the Kihingami Wetlands, and we'll spend a few hours walking a network of trails. The birding here is very interesting. In the patches of papyrus beds, we'll look for the difficult to see White-winged Warbler, and possibly Papyrus Gonalek. In the forest one of the better birds in Jameson's Wattle-eye. Other fun birds may include White-headed Wood-Hoopoe, Black-and-white Casqued Hornbill, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Masked Apalis, Scaly-breasted and Brown Illadopsis, Little Green and Superb Sunbirds, Leuhder's Bushshrike, and Black-winged Bishop. Our destination is Masindi, where we'll spend the next three nights.

From Masindi, we'll have access to birding the "Royal Mile" at Budongo. This is one of Uganda's best birdwatching spots. It is also a historically known leisure spot for the traditional King, hence the name Royal Mile. Here we'll leisurely stroll along a level road that passes through beautiful tall forest. The birding here is excellent, and some of the special birds of the Budongo area that we'll search for include African Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Nahan's Francolin, White-spotted Flufftail, Tambourine Dove, Black-collared Lovebird, Blue-breasted, Chocolate-backed, and African Dwarf Kingfishers, White-throated Bee-eater, Blue-throated Roller, White-thighed and Black-and-white Casqued Hornbills, Speckled and Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Yellow-spotted and Yellow-billed Barbets, Brown-eared Woodpecker, several greenbuls including the distinctive Spotted, Western Nicator, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Fire-crested Alethe, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Yellow and Gray Longbills, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Forest Flycatcher, African Shrike-Flycatcher, Jameson's and Chestnut Wattle-eyes, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Ituri Batis, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Scaly-breasted, Pale-breasted, and Brown Illadopses, Grey-headed, Green, Collared, Western Olive, Blue-throated Brown and Little Green, and Olive-bellied Sunbirds, Western Black-headed Oriole, Red-headed and Crested Malimbos, Vieillot's Black and Yellow-mantled Weavers, and Brown Twinspot.

On one day we'll visit the Busingiro section of the Budongo Forest, and also bird the Butiaba Escarpment above Lake Albert. At Busingiro, we'll have essentially the same possibilities that we had at the Royal Mile, especially additional chances for Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, and the Chocolate-backed Kingfisher. The Butiaba Escarpment is very different habitat, mainly being rocky *acacia* scrub. Here we will see a different assortment of birds, including Western Banded Snake-Eagle, Black-billed Wood-Dove, Senegal Coucal, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, African Pied, and African Gray Hornbills, Black-billed Barbet, Cliff Chat, Green-backed Eremomela, Northern Crombec, Foxy Cisticola, White-shouldered Tit, Beautiful Sunbird, Brubru, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Vitelline Masked-Weaver, Red-headed Weaver, Yellow-mantled Widowbird, Red-winged Pytilia, , and Cinnamon-breasted bunting. **Nights at Masindi Hotel.**

Days 19-20: Birding to Murchison Falls National Park.

After breakfast, we'll leave Masindi and drive northwards towards Murchison Falls National Park birding through the Kaniyo Pabidi section of

Budongo, a newly discovered location for the Puvell's Illadopsis, as well as a good area for Black-billed Turaco, Narina Trogon, Blue-throated Roller, and Fire-crested Alethe. Murchison Falls National Park is Uganda's largest national park (3893sq.km) and protects a large section of untamed savannah bisected by the mighty River Nile. It is named for the dramatic Murchison Falls where the world's longest river explodes violently through a narrow cleft in the Rift Valley escarpment to plunge in a frothing pool 43m below. It is one of Uganda's oldest conservation areas, formed in the early 1900's. The park is perhaps Uganda's premier game park, with no fewer than 76 mammal species, including Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Hippopotamus, Rothschild Giraffe, Cape Buffalo, Hartebeest, Oribi, Warthog, and the Uganda Kob. The park also hosts 360 bird species including the rare Shoebill (in case we somehow have not seen one yet). We'll have the better portion of two days to bird the variety of habitats at Murchison. Some of the many species we'll look for here include African Darter, Goliath Heron, Saddle-billed Stork, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Egyptian Goose, Lappet-faced Vulture, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Black-chested, Brown, and Western Banded Snake-Eagles, Bateleur, Dark-chanting Goshawk, Martial Eagle, Gray Kestrel, Red-necked Falcon, Crested and Heuglin's Francolins, Helmeted Guineafowl, Stanley and Black-bellied Bustards, Senegal and Spotted Thick-knees, Long-toed, Black-headed and African Wattled Lapwings, Vinaceous Dove, Black-billed Wood-dove, Bruce's Green-Pigeon, Red-headed Lovebird, White-crested Turaco, African, Dideric, and Black Cuckoos, Blue-headed, Senegal, and White-browed Coucals, Pel's Fishing-Owl (rare), Spotted and Gray Eagle-Owls, Rwenzori, Long-tailed, Square-tailed, and Pennant-winged Nightjars, Blue-naped Mousebird, Gray-headed and Pied Kingfishers, Red-throated, Blue-breasted, Swallow-tailed, and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Broad-billed Roller, African Gray and Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills, Nubian and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Wire-tailed and Lesser-striped Swallows, African Pipit, Spotted Morning-Thrush, Sooty Chat, Singing, Rattling, Croaking, Siffling, and Zitting Cisticolas, Red-winged and Red-and-gray Warblers, Silverbird, Pale Flycatcher, White-fronted Black-Chat, Black-headed Batis, White-shouldered Tit, Brown Babbler, Green-backed, Beautiful, and Copper Sunbirds, Gray-backed Fiscal, Yellow-billed Shrike, Brubru, Northern Puffback, Sulphur-breasted and Gray-headed Bushshrikes, White-crested Helmet-shrike, Lesser Blue-eared and Violet-backed Starlings, Speckle-fronted, Little, and Vitelline Masked Weavers, White-browed and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weavers, Cardinal, Red-headed, and Red-billed Queleas, Orange and Northern Red Bishops, Yellow-shouldered Widowbird,

Bar-breasted and Black-bellied Firefinches, Black-faced Quailfinch, Pin-tailed Whydah, Brown-rumped and Cabanis's Buntings, and Shelly's Rufous Sparrow.

Our full day at Murchison will be spent on a wonderful game drive that is fantastic for all the mammals and will really give one the feeling of being in Africa!, It is equally wonderful for a high diversity of birds, and we'll look for Shoebill again. In the afternoon, we'll take a boat trip up the Nile River to the base of Murchison Falls. The trip is excellent for wildlife – lots of hippos again, and huge Nile Crocodiles. On the rocks at the base of the falls we can expect to find Rock Pratincole. In 2010 we found a vagrant White-crowned Lapwing, which is more common south in Tanzania! In the very late afternoon we'll drive up to the top of Murchison Falls and watch for Bat Hawk. If it can be arranged, there might be the chance for a night drive! All in all an amazing day! **Night at Para Safari Lodge.**

Day 21: Murchison Falls National Park to Entebbe. After breakfast, we will have a short game drive to the rolling plains where you will have chances of viewing lots of mammals for one last time. Some of the incredible mammals possible include Hartebeest, Lions, Buffalo, Giraffe, and Elephants. In the mid-morning we will have to depart for our relatively long drive back to Entebbe. We'll make a few stops along the way, and if there is time, make a short visit to the botanical Gardens near the airport. We'll have a nice farewell dinner and then be transferred to the airport for our flights home.

Maximum size of group: The maximum group size for our Uganda tour is six – this is because the Toyota Land Cruiser vehicle we use has room to fit six comfortably. The vehicle has a pop-up top roof for excellent game watching.

Tour Leaders for your Peru Tour: Herbert Byaruhanga and Gary Rosenberg

Herbert Byaruhanga is Ugandan and lives in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Herbert owns and operates a birding and safari company in Uganda called Bird Safaris Uganda. Herbert is one of the most experienced birders and guides in the country, and has led tours for many years for many of the large bird tour companies. Herbert has an excellent knowledge of Ugandan birds, particularly the songs and calls, and enjoys

sharing his knowledge with anyone. Additionally, Herbert is heavily involved in the training of birding guides and park guards, which will be evident when we travel around the country and are helped by numerous local guides.

Gary Rosenberg lives in Tucson, where he has designed and led more than 300 birding tours to North, Central, and South America during the past 25 years. Gary Co-led a tour to Uganda in 2010. He has been birding since early childhood, studied Ornithology for a Master's degree at Louisiana State University, where he participated in four research expeditions to Peru, and is the author or co-author of numerous scientific and popular articles on bird identification and behavior. Gary is also a passionate photographer, and has had numerous bird photos published in magazines and books. He is currently the secretary of the Arizona Bird Committee, which evaluates rare bird reports within Arizona. His current areas of expertise, apart from Peru, include most areas in North America, in particular Arizona, Florida, and Alaska, as well as Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador.

Pace of the tour: The pace of this tour is Easy to Moderate. Most of the birding will be done from roads, and along reasonably level forest trails. The trails are generally well-maintained. On a couple of days, the trails will be in hilly areas (Mgahinga and Bwindi), but our pace will be very slow. There is considerable travel by vehicle as we travel from park to park, but we will factor in many birding stops during the longest travel days. The best birding (anywhere) is done in the early mornings, so one should expect relatively early breakfasts (5:30). We will try and schedule mid-day siestas when we can. On at least a few nights, there will be before, or after dinner owling excursions that may prevent our normal break between birding and dinner.

Mountain Gorillas: The cost for the Mountain Gorilla permit is \$500/person and is included in the price of the tour. One morning/day will be devoted "tracking" the gorillas, and spending an hour with these incredible beasts! It is truly one of the best wildlife experiences available. Although the time with the gorillas is short, we are allowed to get within 20 feet of them, which makes both viewing and photographic opportunities excellent. The tracking can be relatively easy, or moderately difficult, depending on where they are. Each person will be assigned a "porter" who has the responsibility of making sure you get to the gorillas,

and back! If they have to carry you they will! Please note that the purchase of gorilla permits needs to be done well in advance, and may be non-refundable.

Chimpanzee: similar to the Mountain gorillas, we need to purchase permits and schedule Chimpanzee tracking at Kibale National Park. The cost of this is \$100, and is also included in the cost of the tour. the tracking of Chimpanzee is much easier, as the trails at Kibale are flat! One morning of the tour will be devoted to this activity.

Tour Price: \$7600. The cost of the tour includes all accommodations, food, within-tour transportation, baggage handling (when needed), entrance fees, water during the day's tour activities, and guide services, as indicated by the itinerary. **Note that the cost of both the Mountain Gorilla and Chimpanzee permits ARE included in the cost of the tour.** In general the hotels and lodges we use on the tours are nice and comfortable. Some of the places we stay are called "Tent Camps," but it is not really camping. The "rooms" are actually large walk-in tents that are very similar to a regular hotel/lodge room, but with canvas walls! They all have beds and private bathroom/showers. This is very common in Africa! The service at the lodges is excellent!

The following items are not included in the tour price: travel to and from Uganda (2010 prices from the East Coast ranged from \$1500 - \$2000), laundry, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, and other items of a personal nature.

The price is based on double occupancy. If you require a single, the Single Supplement charge = \$600

Deposit policy: At the time of booking a tour, a \$600 deposit is required to secure a space on the tour. This deposit may be **non-refundable** because it will be used to purchase Gorilla and Chimpanzee permits. **The deposit will be refundable if another person signs up to replace you, or if Bird Safari Uganda can "sell" the permit. This may not be known until after the trip runs. If the trip is cancelled, the deposit will be refunded.** The deposit must be received within 14 days of booking, or the reserved space will be released.

Tour Registration: To register for this Uganda tour, please first contact Avian Journeys by email or phone to check on availability. Once we have confirmed that there is space on the tour, please fill out the registration form, which is available on the “Register for a tour” page, and mail it to Avian Journeys. It is very important that you read all the information in this document, and then make sure you sign and date the waiver at the end of the registration form. A \$600 deposit is necessary to secure a space on this trip. Full payment for the tour will be invoiced 100 days prior to the departure date, and must be received within 90 days of departure.

Cancellation policy: Cancellation by a tour participant greater than or equal to 90 days prior to the departure date will result in full refund of payments to Avian Journeys (minus the deposit – see above). After payment is invoiced and received, cancellation by a tour participant within 90 days of a tour will result in a refund of amounts we are able to recover from our hotels and ground agents. Fixed cost amounts can not be refunded. In general, the amount we can potentially refund may be as low as 50% or 25% of the cost of the tour.

Trip insurance. At the time of payment of your deposit for the tour, we highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. The following companies offer trip insurance, and/or emergency medical insurance:
<http://www.travelinsured.com>, <http://www.accessamerica.com>, www.aaa.com. One never knows when personal illness, or an illness in the family is going to strike. Given that a cancellation by a participant within 90 days of departure might result in a loss of most, if not all of the cost of a tour, trip insurance is a good idea. Furthermore, insurance is recommended in case of an illness on a tour, and in a worse case scenario, the need for an emergency medical evacuation, which can be prohibitively expensive. Purchasing insurance is a personal choice, and Avian Journeys does not recommend one company over another.

Travel to Uganda

Once the tour is confirmed, you will need to purchase your airline ticket to Uganda. Several major airlines, such as Delta/KLM, United, and British Airways service Entebbe, Uganda, usually through either London or Amsterdam. The cost of a round-trip ticket from the U.S. varied in 2010 from \$1500 - \$2000. We strongly suggest planning your arrival in time

for the Introductory Meeting on Day 1. If you are unable to arrive early on Day 1, please be aware that we will be departing very early on Day 2 and there is the possibility that you will get very little sleep. If you decide to arrive a day early, we would be happy to arrange for an extra night's hotel in Entebbe.

IMPORTANT. You will need a valid passport to enter Uganda. The passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your date of entry. A **VISA** is also needed to enter Uganda, and will need to be purchased from the Ugandan embassy ahead of time. Once the tour is confirmed, and your airline tickets have been purchased, we suggest that you take care of this. the process is painless and quick through the Uganda Embassy in Washington D.C. Instructions can be downloaded from their web site – you will need to fill out an application and express mail it to the embassy along with your passport, photos, and payment. **Please note that documentation of YELLOW FEVER inoculation is required.** Your passport with the visa attached will be express mailed back to you. the entire process takes less than a week. When the time comes, I will be happy to help you with the process.

Entering Uganda

Entering Uganda is easy and should be stress free. When you deplane, follow the crowd to immigration. Hopefully your line will not be long, although there is a chance that multiple planes arrive simultaneously, and the immigration line can be long. Patience is a virtue! The immigration process is quick and professional. **Make sure you get in the correct lane for those already with a VISA.** Once through immigration you will arrive at the baggage claim area. Locate your carousel and retrieve your bags. You will next pass through customs which is typically easy and fast. This is just a formality, and it is unlikely that they will ask you to open any bags.

Once through immigration and customs, you will pass through a door and be engulfed by a crowd of agents and loved ones meeting the flight. There will be a person with a sign with YOUR NAME on it, and/or AVIAN JOURNEYS. Our ground agent in Uganda is Bird Safari Uganda. One, two, or all three of these should be on the sign. The person making the transfer will likely be Herbert himself, who speaks perfect English (as does just about everyone in Uganda) and he will help you with your luggage. He

will transfer you to the hotel, which is only about 30 minutes from the airport.

The language of Uganda is English. While many Ugandans speak a local language, please be aware that English is usually a second language.

The currency of Uganda is the Shilling. It is easy to change some money upon arrival at the airport, and we definitely recommend this. Most hotels and lodges on the tour will NOT accept U.S. cash, and major credit cards are rarely accepted in the country. We do not recommend bringing Travelers Checks – these have become more difficult to cash in recent years. ATM machines are usually available in the major cities. **Please note that banks and money exchange offices only accept U.S. bills printed after the year 2000! Better rates are gotten for larger bills.**

Health Issues

We recommend checking with the CDC at www.cdc.com for recent warnings and recommendations for preventive medications and/or inoculations required (or suggested) for the areas you will be visiting in Uganda. Be prepared that they will likely suggest a preventative for both Yellow Fever and Malaria. **Proof of Yellow Fever inoculation is required to obtain a Visa.**

In general we believe you will probably be surprised by the general lack of biting insects. While some areas might have some mosquitoes, and small biting flies (no-see-ums), they usually don't present much of a problem, but it is always wise to be prepared. Chiggers are also occasionally present. We do recommend a relatively strong insect repellent that contains "deet".

Hotels and Food

Avian Journeys and, in particular, Bird Safaris Uganda (our ground agent in Uganda) have many years experience organizing tours in Uganda. The hotels and lodges they have selected are both comfortable and well-situated for the birding. All of the lodges have private bath and shower, and most of the hotels and lodges provide laundry service.

Lindsay Cottages – the hotel we use in Entebbe. It is about 30 minutes from the airport, and has fine, standard hotel rooms with private bath. There is good birding within walking distance for those arriving a day early.

Mantana Tented Camp – Lake Mburo – This is a tented camp, as opposed to a standard lodge or hotel. The walk-in tents are quite comfortable, with beds and private bath. The service here is excellent. Very well-situated for covering Lake Mburo National Park.

Traveler's Rest Hotel in Kisoro – this is a small, yet comfortable Hotel in the small city of Kisoro. Kisoro is the gateway to visiting Mgahinga National Park. All the rooms have private bath, and the food was served as a buffet, which included several typical African dishes. Standard electricity in the rooms.

Trekker's Tavern at Ruhija – Small comfortable lodge five minutes from where we start our Gorilla tracking. Individual bungalows with private bath. Meals are taken in a large dining tent. Excellent service – they even put hot water bottles in your bed when it is cool! Lights, but no charging in the rooms.

Gorilla Resort – Located at the entrance to Bwindi National Park. Comfortable tented camp, with a large communal dining building. Lights, but no outlets in the tents/rooms, but charging can be done upon request.

Mweya Safari Lodge – Beautiful, exclusive lodge, with lovely rooms, and excellent facilities. Large dining room with buffet. Electricity in the rooms. Internet for purchase in the lobby.

Kibale Nature Lodges – this is another tented camp, and again comfortable. Lights but no charging in the rooms. Meals are taken in a communal dining building. Excellent birding and mammals right on the grounds.

Mountains of the Moon Hotel in Fort Portal – Excellent, standard (for Africa) hotel. Electricity in the rooms.

Masindi Hotel – The best hotel available in Masindi. Some of the rooms are large (doubles), while others (singles) were small and basic. Comfortable and clean, with a good restaurant. The place to stay if you want to bird the Budongo Forest. Earnest Hemmingway stayed here!

Paraa Safari Lodge at Murchison Falls – Very comfortable, beautiful lodge. Excellent location for experiencing Murchison Falls.

Electricity

Uganda does **NOT** have the same electric current as the United States – the entire country is on 240 volts. Most chargers today have a voltage range of 100-240 volts. Please make sure you are aware of this, check your charger (s) and plan accordingly. Most of the lodges we stay at have some sort of electricity (generator) to recharge batteries. Another **very important** issue is that the plugs are different from the U.S. You **MUST** bring the correct adaptor – it is Type G that is also used in the United Kingdom. You can view what this plug looks like her:

<http://electricaloutlet.org/type-g>. If you have any questions about electricity, please contact Avian Journeys.

Meeting the Group

There will be a meeting in the lobby of the hotel at 7:00 pm on Day 1. This meeting is designed to “get acquainted” with the other participants on the tour, and to meet the leader. Immediately following the meeting we will have dinner. Again, we recommend trying very hard to arrive in time for this meeting.

What to Bring

Clothing – Over the years we have discovered that “everyone” has their own tastes regarding clothes. We will suggest that you consider quick-drying pants and shirts, particularly if you plan on doing your own laundry. Many of the higher quality field clothes available from companies such as “Ex Oficio” or “REI” also offer protection from UV rays. We also recommend clothes with “neutral” colors, such as browns, tans, and greens that blend with the natural environment, which is less threatening to forest birds. Bright reds and pinks should please be avoided – they attract the Lions.

Much of the tour is at relatively low elevations, yet there are a few places (namely Ruhija) that are higher and cooler. Some warm clothing is advised – we find it best to dress in layers, as opposed to bringing a very warm coat.

Footwear – Comfortable footwear is perhaps the most important item to consider. We suggest lightweight hiking boots, preferably waterproof to a certain degree. “Goretex” type boots are an excellent choice. Rubber boots are not recommended, although there may be some mud on the roads and trails if it has rained recently. If you are considering rubber boots, we recommend a particular brand called “Extra Tuff,” available online at <http://www.xtratuffboots.com/>. We have found these very comfortable.

The following items are important:

Binoculars (waterproof)
Camera (optional)
Hat
Rain Jacket (lightweight)
Small Umbrella (ESSENTIAL!!)
Small Flashlight w/ replacement batteries
Small LED Headlamp (essential at poorly lit lodges)
Alarm Clock
Plastic Bags (to protect equipment)
Insect Repellant
Sunscreen
Water Bottle
Small backpack
Ear Plugs (optional)

Photography: Our leaders are typically very interested in photography, in particular “digiscoping”, and within the context of the tour, photography is encouraged. **Uganda is an amazing destination for photography!** Certain sensible guidelines will be adhered to, such as not approaching a bird or mammal for photos until all in the group has had a satisfying look, and we will avoid unnecessary disturbance of a bird, particularly if it is nesting. At the end of the tour the leader will share his or her photo highlights, making them available on CD, or downloadable

from a social network web site. Please keep in mind that this is Africa and there will be times that one will not be able to leave the road (or vehicle) because of risk from wild animals.

Field Guides and References. All books listed below are available from Amazon.com.

Stevenson, Terry and John Fanshawe. *A Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi*. Academic Press, 2001. **This is the recommended field guide.**

Other books worth considering

Birds

Byaruhanga, A., P. Kasoma and D. Pomeroy. *Important Bird Areas in Uganda*. Nature Uganda, 2001. An important addition to Bird Life International's IBA series.

Rossouw, J.D. and M. Sacchi. *Where to Watch Birds in Uganda* Uganda Tourist Board, 1998. This highly recommended and superbly illustrated book provides detailed information on the birds and birding sites of Uganda.

Sinclair, I and P. Ryan. (2003) *Birds of Africa south of the Sahara*, Struik Publishers. A monumental achievement covering most of Africa, well illustrated with good maps, and easily carried in the field. There are many newly described and split species illustrated here.

Van Perlo, Ber. *Birds of Eastern Africa*. Princeton University Press, 2001. The compact size of this book is now its only advantage as it is greatly surpassed in every other respect by the previous tome.

Zimmerman, Dale A., Donald A. Turner and David J. Pearson. *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. This well illustrated and informative book covers 85% of Uganda's bird species. This book is no longer as useful since the publication of the Stevenson and Fanshawe book. It has also been published in a smaller, paperback edition.

Mammals

Estes, Richard D. (1993) *The Safari Companion, a Guide to Watching African Mammals*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company. A fascinating book if you are interested in learning more about mammal behavior.

Kingdon, Jonathan. *The Kingdon Fieldguide to African Mammals* Academic Press, 1999. This excellent book covers all of Africa's mammals. Larger mammals (squirrel size and larger) are covered to species level and smaller mammals to genus level. **This is the recommended mammal book.** It is also available in a pocket version.

Stuard, Chris and Tilde Stuard *Southern, Central and East African Mammals: A Photographic Guide*. Chelsea Green, 1998. A useful and compact field guide to most of the mammals we are likely to encounter.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Channing, Alan. *Amphibians of Central and Southern Africa*. Comstock, 2001. A useful field guide which illustrates many species likely to be encountered in Uganda, although its coverage does not extend to Uganda.

Spawls, Stephen, Kim Howell, Robert C. Drewes and James Ashe. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa* Academic Press, 2001. A superb and comprehensive but rather bulky guide to all the species of reptiles occurring in Uganda.

Plants

Blundell, M. *Wild Flowers of East Africa* (Collins Photo Guide). HarperCollins, 1999. A recommended photographic field guide.

Dharani N. *Field Guide to the Common Trees and Shrubs of East Africa* Struik, 2002. A newly published guide to the more common trees and shrubs found in East Africa.

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boat, and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Avian Journeys and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect August 2009 and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. Prior to acceptance on any tour, the participant must read and sign a liability waiver included in the registration form.