

9 days Birdwatching and Wildlife Game drive –Rwanda-2019,

Trip Report

DAY 1: Tuesday, 3rd September 2019

Early morning on Tuesday, 3rd September, I have met my 2 client, Mr Michael and Andy, and we immediately head to Bugesera. The first stop was at Kamatana Valley and we were welcomed by **Lesser Jacana**, one of the rare species in Rwanda and most wanted species by client. Other species recorded include African Fish Eagle, Red-knobbed Coot, Long-tailed Cormorant, White-faced Whistling Duck, Yellow-billed Duck, Common Moorhen, African Jacana, etc. The second stop was at Mwogo wetland trying Papyrus Gonolek. We failed to see this spectacular species but we have seen Ruhuaha and Sooty Chat and Black-headed Gonolek at Bugesera Lodge.



After lunch at Africa Bite, we proceeded to Akagera NP with a quick coffee stop at Imigongo Center and we have seen Common Fiscal. We reached the park at 4.40 and we were welcomed by a couple of Bohor Reedbuck and Bushbuck. Bird species seen at the entrance of the park include Bare-faced Go-away bird, Klaas's Cuckoo, Grey-backed Fiscal, Ring-necked Dove and Hamerkop. As park rules and regulation, the park activities start at 6am and close at 6pm. After registration at the park reception we head directly to the Akagera Game Lodge, where we stayed for 3 nights.

DAY 2: Wednesday 4th September 2019

On Wednesday, 4th September, we started birding in the garden of Akagera Game Lodge where were lucky to see the spectacular species of the East Africa, the **Red-faced Barbet**. Other species sighted include Brubru, Laughing Dove, Green-capped Eremomela, African Grey Hornbill, Black-headed Weaver, Greater Blue-eared, Violet-backed and Ruppel's Long-tailed Starlings, Spot-flanked Barbet, Meyer's Parrot, African Black-headed Oriole, African Thrush, African Golden-breasted Bunting, etc. We continued our birding along Nyamwashama loop and we have seen Slate-colored Boubou, Zitting Cisticola, Tabora Cisticola, Trilling Cisticola, Temminck's Courser, Senegal Lapwing (Covering eggs), Crested Barbet, Crowned Lapwing, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Green Woodhopoe, Greenw-inged Pytilia, etc.



We continued birding on hills side, at Muyumbu campsite, we sighted the rare Miombo Wren Warbler, Bateleur, Black-chested Snake Eagle and Red-headed Weaver. We continued on the loop of the campsite and we saw Flapped Lark, Red-capped Lark, Northern Puffin and Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting. Additional to birds we have seen many ungulates grazing on the new shoots of the burnt grasses mainly Impalas, Defassa Waterbuck and Warthog.



After lunch we continued birding on lake circuit before heading to Lake Ihema for a sunset boat. On the circuit, we have seen Croaking Cisticola and Hildebrandt's Francolin, White-chinned Prinia, Red-chested Sunbird and a big population of reintroduced Grey-crowned Crane.

DAY 3: Thursday 5th September 2019

On Thursday, 5th September, we had a day and evening night game drive. During the day, we sighted Ross's Turaco, Common Scimitarbill, Chin-spot Batis, Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, Red-faced Crombec. On night game drive we have seen Square-tailed Nightjar and herds of Buffaloes (about 200 individuals).

DAY 4: Friday 6th September 2019

On Friday, 6th September, we left Akagera NP to try different birds at Mashoza Relict Forest. The target was Gray-headed Bushshrike (*Malaconotus blanchoti*), unfortunately we failed this one and luckily we have seen **Lesser Honeyguide**, one of the wanted species by our clients. Other species spotted include among other a flock of White-headed Saw-wing, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Holub's Golden Weaver, Mackinnon's Fiscal, etc. We drove back to Kigali around 11am with a refreshment drink stop in Kayonza Center. After lunch at Africa Bite Restaurant, we drive to Nyabarongo-Ruliba ste and we have spotted Slender-billed Weaver, Mackinnon's Fiscal, Great Egret, Bronze Sunbird and among other.



Day 5: Saturday 7th September 2019

On Saturday, 7th September, the team left Kigali at 7am to Nyungwe National park with the target to see the maximum number of Endemics to the Albertine Rift Region out of 29 so far confirmed in this mountain Forest. Kigali to Nyungwe is a travel of 5 to 6 hours and we had a refresher stop at Huye before we head to Gisakura Guest House where we spent 4 nights. With well maintained trails, knowledgeable guide, Nyungwe NP is the best and easiest site to see birds endemic to the Albertine Rift in the region.

DAY 6: Sunday 8th September 2019

On Sunday, 8th September, we started at Uwinka interpretation center and we spent the whole morning in Umuyove trail and Rangiro road. We were lucky to see many endemics including Regal Sunbird, Mountain-masked Apalis, Purple-breasted Sunbird, Strange Weaver, Rwenzori. Other species seen include Great-blue Turaco. After lunch we went to Bweyeye road and we have seen Mountain Babbler, Rwenzori Turaco, Blue-headed Sunbird and Olive Woodpecker. We stopped birding at 5pm, when we drove back to Gisakura Guest.



DAY 7: Monday 9th September 2019

Umuyove Trail was very productive with an easy walk and many endemic birds. On Monday, 9th September we came back the same trail in the morning and we have seen Kungwe Apalis, Red-throated Owllet, Red-collared Mountain Babbler, White-headed Woodhopoe and Cabanis's Greenbul.

After a brief break at the Cantine at Uwinka reception, we had our afternoon at Gisakura and we have seen Willard's Sooty Boubou, White-tailed Crested-flycatcher, White-bellied Robinchat, Red-throated Alethe, Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher.

DAY 8: Tuesday 10th September 2019

Tuesday, 10th September we went to Pindure trail and we saw Handsome Francolin, one of the endemics to the Albertine Rift and we immediately drove back to Waterfall trail in Gisakura and we have seen Newman's Warbler, Black-faced Rufous Warbler and another Red-collared Mountain Babbler, Red-throated Alethe, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Equatorial Akalat and we heard Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye. We had a break lunch at Gisakura Guest House and at 2pm we drove to Kamiranzovu wetland to see Grauer's Swamp Warbler and have also seen Stripe-breasted Tit, Mountain Illadopsis and Dusky Crimsonwing.



DAY 9: Wednesday 11th September 2019

Wednesday, 11th September, was the last day of this 9 days birding tour. The morning day was spent looking for the endemics we missed during the previous days. As the team had an evening flight, we had. We started at Gisakura and we saw Yellowbill, Dusky Tit and heard Narina Trogon. We continued at Uwinka and we saw briefly Dwarf Honeyguide. And finally we went at Bweyeye road and the last endemic seen was Albertine Boubou.

As a conclusion, the 9 days trip was very enjoyable and successful. The accommodation was basic but clean, the transport and guiding were well organized. The main target of this trip was to see maximum of Albertine Rift Endemics and we saw 25 out of 29 found in Nyungwe NP. We missed Kivu ground Thrush, Albertine Owllet, Shelley's Crimsowing, Rockefeller's Sunbird.

Checklist

No	COMMON NAME	SEEN/HEARD
1	Abyssinian Thrush	YES
2	Afep Pigeon	YES
3	African Black-headed Oriole	YES
4	African Darter	YES
5	African Fish-Eagle	YES
6	African Green Pigeon	YES
7	African Grey Hornbill	YES
8	African Harrier-Hawk	YES
9	African Jacana	YES
10	African Marsh Harrier	YES
11	African Openbill	YES
12	African Paradise-Flycatcher	YES
13	African Pied Wagtail	YES
14	African Pipit	YES
15	African Spoonbill	YES
16	African Stonechat	YES
17	African Swamphen	YES
18	African Thrush	YES
19	African Yellow White-eye	YES
20	Albertine Sooty Boubou	YES
21	Angola Swallow	YES
22	Archer's Robin-Chat	YES
23	Arrow-marked Babbler	YES
24	Augur Buzzard	YES
25	Baglafecht Weaver	YES
26	Banded Prinia	YES
27	Bare-faced Go-Away-Bird	YES
28	Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo	HEARD
29	Bar-tailed Trogon	HEARD
30	Bateleur	YES

31	Bennett's Woodpecker	YES
32	Black Crake	YES
33	Black Cuckooshrike	YES
34	Black Kite	YES
35	Black Sawwing	YES
36	Black-and-White Casqued Hornbill	YES
37	Black-and-White Mannikin	YES
38	Black-billed Turaco	YES
39	Black-crowned Tchagra	YES
40	Black-crowned Waxbill	YES
41	Black-faced Apalis	YES
42	Black-faced Rufous Warbler	YES
43	Black-headed Gonolek	YES
44	Black-headed Heron	YES
45	Black-headed Weaver	YES
46	Black-lored Babbler	YES
47	Black-tailed Oriole	YES
48	Black-throated Apalis	YES
49	Blue Malkoha	YES
50	Blue-headed Sunbird	YES
51	Blue-naped Mousebird	YES
52	Broad-billed Roller	YES
53	Bronze Mannikin	YES
54	Bronze Sunbird	YES
55	Brown-crowned Tchagra	YES
56	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	YES
57	Brubru	YES
58	Cabanis' Greenbul	YES
59	Cape Wagtail	YES
60	Cardinal Woodpecker	YES
61	Cattle Egret	YES
62	Chestnut-throated Apalis	YES
63	Chinspot Batis	YES
64	Chubb's Cisticola	YES
65	Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler	YES
66	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	YES
67	Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	YES
68	Collared Sunbird	YES
69	Common Bulbul	YES
70	Common Kestrel	YES
71	Common Moorhen	YES

72	Common Scimitarbill	YES
73	Common Waxbill	YES
74	Crested Barbet	YES
75	Croaking Cisticola	YES
76	Crowned Hornbill	YES
77	Crowned Lapwing	YES
78	Doherty's Bushshrike	YES
79	Double-toothed Barbet	YES
80	Dusky Brown Flycatcher	YES
81	Dusky Crimsonwing	YES
82	Dusky Tit	YES
83	Dwarf Honeyguide	YES
84	Eastern Mountain Greenbul	YES
85	Egyptian Goose	YES
86	Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	YES
87	Equatorial Akalat	YES
88	European Bee-eater	YES
89	Fan-tailed Widowbird	YES
90	Flappet Lark	YES
91	Fork-tailed Drongo	YES
92	Golden-breasted Bunting	YES
93	Goliath Heron	YES
94	Grauer's Swamp Warbler	YES
95	Grauer's Warbler	YES
96	Great Blue Turaco	YES
97	Great White Egret	YES
98	Greater Blue-eared Starling	YES
99	Green Woodhoopoe	YES
100	Green-backed Camaroptera	YES
101	Green-headed Sunbird	YES
102	Green-winged Pytilia	YES
103	Grey Apalis	YES
104	Grey Crowned-Crane	YES
105	Grey Cuckooshrike	YES
106	Grey Heron	YES
107	Grey-backed Fiscal	YES
108	Grey-chested Babbler	HEARD
109	Grey-headed Kingfisher	YES
110	Grey-headed Nigrita	YES
111	Hadada Ibis	YES
112	Hamerkop	YES

113	Handsome Francolin	YES
114	Hildebrandt's Francolin	YES
115	Holub's Golden Weaver	YES
116	Intermediate Egret	YES
117	Klaas's Cuckoo	YES
118	Kungwe Apalis	YES
119	Laughing Dove	YES
120	Lesser Honeyguide	YES
121	Lesser Jacana	YES
122	Lesser-striped Swallow	YES
123	Levaillant's Cuckoo	YES
124	Lilac-breasted Roller	YES
125	Little Bee-eater	YES
126	Little Egret	YES
127	Little Swift	YES
128	Lizard Buzzard	YES
129	Long-crested Eagle	YES
130	Long-tailed Cormorant	YES
131	Long-toed Lapwing	YES
132	Luhder's Bushshrike	YES
133	Mackinnon's Shrike	YES
134	Malachite Kingfisher	YES
135	Many-coloured Bushshrike	HEARD
136	Marabou Stork	YES
137	Mariqua Sunbird	YES
138	Meyer's Parrot	YES
139	Miombo Wren-Warbler	YES
140	Mountain Buzzard	YES
141	Mountain Illadopsis	YES
142	Narina Trogon	HEARD
143	Neumann's Warbler	YES
144	Northern Double-collared Sunbird	YES
145	Northern Fiscal	YES
146	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	YES
147	Northern Puffback	YES
148	Olive Sunbird	YES
149	Olive Woodpecker	YES
150	Pale Flycatcher	YES
151	Palm-nut Vulture	YES
152	Pied Crow	YES
153	Pied Kingfisher	YES

154	Pink-backed Pelican	YES
155	Pin-tailed Whydah	YES
156	Plain-backed Pipit	YES
157	Purple Heron	YES
158	Purple-banded Sunbird	YES
159	Purple-breasted Sunbird	YES
160	Red-billed Firefinch	YES
161	Red-billed Quelea	YES
162	Red-capped Lark	YES
163	Red-capped Robin-Chat	YES
164	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	YES
165	Red-chested Owlet	YES
166	Red-chested Sunbird	YES
167	Red-collared Mountain Babbler	YES
168	Red-eyed Dove	YES
169	Red-faced Barbet	YES
170	Red-faced Crombec	YES
171	Red-faced Woodland-Warbler	YES
172	Red-knobbed Coot	YES
173	Red-necked Francolin	YES
174	Red-rumped Swallow	YES
175	Red-throated Alethe	YES
176	Regal Sunbird	YES
177	Ring-necked Dove	YES
178	Ross's Turaco	YES
179	Ruaha Chat	YES
180	Ruppell's Starling	YES
181	Ruwenzori Turaco	YES
182	Rwenzori Apalis	YES
183	Rwenzori Batis	YES
184	Rwenzori Hill Babbler	YES
185	Rwenzori Nightjar	YES
186	Sacred Ibis	YES
187	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	YES
188	Senegal Lapwing	YES
189	Shelley's Greenbul	YES
190	Siffling Cisticola	YES
191	Singing Cisticola	YES
192	Slate-coloured Boubou	YES
193	Slender-billed Greenbul	YES
194	Slender-billed Weaver	YES

195	Sooty Chat	YES
196	Southern Red Bishop	YES
197	Speckled Mousebird	YES
198	Speckled Pigeon	YES
199	Spectacled Weaver	YES
200	Spot-flanked Barbet	YES
201	Spur-winged Goose	YES
202	Spur-winged Lapwing	YES
203	Squacco Heron	YES
204	Square-tailed Nightjar	YES
205	Stout Cisticola	YES
206	Strange Weaver	YES
207	Streaky Seedeater	YES
208	Stripe-breasted Tit	YES
209	Striped Kingfisher	YES
210	Stuhlmann's Sunbird	YES
211	Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	YES
212	Swamp Flycatcher	YES
213	Tabora Cisticola	YES
214	Tambourine Dove	YES
215	Tawny-flanked Prinia	YES
216	Temminck's Courser	YES
217	Thick-billed Seedeater	YES
218	Three-banded Plover	YES
219	Trilling Cisticola	YES
220	Tropical Boubou	YES
221	Tullberg's Woodpecker	YES
222	Variable Sunbird	YES
223	Village Weaver	YES
224	Violet-backed Starling	YES
225	Waller's Starling	YES
226	Water Thick-knee	YES
227	Wattled lapwing	YES
228	White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher	YES
229	White-bellied Robin-Chat	YES
230	White-breasted Cormorant	YES
231	White-browed Coucal	YES
232	White-browed Crombec	YES
233	White-browed Robin-Chat	YES
234	White-chinned Prinia	YES
235	White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	YES

236	White-faced Whistling Duck	YES
237	White-headed Sawwing	YES
238	White-headed Woodhoopoe	YES
239	White-necked Raven	YES
240	White-starred Robin	YES
241	White-tailed Blue Flycatcher	YES
242	White-winged Black Tit	YES
243	Willard's Sooty Boubou	YES
244	Winding Cisticola	YES
245	Woodland Kingfisher	YES
246	Woodland Kingfisher	YES
247	Yellow-bellied Waxbill	YES
248	Yellow-billed Duck	YES
249	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	YES
250	Yellow-billed Stork	YES
251	Yellow-breasted Apalis	YES
252	Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher	YES
253	Yellow-fronted Canary	YES
254	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	YES
255	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	YES
256	Yellow-streaked Greenbul	YES
257	Yellow-throated Greenbul	YES
258	Yellow-throated Longclaw	YES
259	Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	YES