

# Uganda Highlights: Fabulous Birds & Mammals | Species List November 22 – December 5, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



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Our Naturalist Journeys trip visited Uganda. Often called the “Pearl of Africa,” it is among the most biodiverse countries in East Africa, well known for birding as well as its culture, landscapes and warm, friendly people. Uganda’s unique protected areas including Lake Mburo National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kibale National Park and Murchison Falls National Park host diverse habitats including immense savannahs, pristine rainforests and deep jungles that support many primates, in particular more than half of the world’s mountain gorillas, plus wild game and amazing avian richness year-round.

Our bird list for the trip includes 316 species. For details on where and when each was seen, please visit the following eBird link:

[Uganda Highlights: Fabulous Birds and Mammals | November 22 – December 5, 2023 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Below are details for the mammals, reptiles and amphibians we saw on our trip.

## **MAMMALS (1):**

### **Elephants**

**Bush (Savanna) Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* — Memorable views on Kazinga Channel where our boat trip took us extremely close to a group. Later we had several other encounters with these magnificent creatures.

### **Primates (9):**

**Common Patas Monkey** *Erythrocebus patas* — The only savanna monkey, was very well camouflaged on a tree on our last game drive in Murchison Falls National Park in the Purongo area. We were very fortunate to see it right in the open!

**Vervet Monkey** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* — The most common monkey seen on our trip, we found them along gravel roads moving in small groups.

**Red-tailed Monkey** *Cercopithecus ascanius* — Found by the group on the trail by the Ranger Station in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park while we were birding.

**L’Hoest’s Monkey** *Cercopithecus lhoesti* — This terrestrial monkey is a highly elusive, typically staying out of sight in thick vegetation. We found it on the Bigodi Wetlands Trail, where part of the group was lucky enough to see it crossing the road.

**Blue Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis* — Seen once in a tall tree while we were walking on the Royal Mile Trail.

**Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* — Very well distributed, first seen at Lake Mburo National Park. Not shy at all, on Kibale they were confident enough to travel by a truck behind us.

**Mantled Guereza** (Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza* — Known previously as Black-and-white colobus, we had good looks between Bhoma and Katara Lodge. Our best view was at the end of the Royal Mile Trail where they remained still on a tree.

**Eastern Mountain Gorilla** *Gorilla beringei beringei* — Some in the group participated in a successful outing to track the gorillas, finding the Binyindo Group with its nine members, and getting extremely close to them!

**Common Chimpanzee** *Pan troglodytes* — Another special excursion to see this wonderful species, the whole group was involved in tracking the troop in Kibale National Park. After two hours of searching, we had impressive views of a group first seen in a tree and later on the ground.

### **Rodentia (rodents) (3):**

**Striped Ground Squirrel** *Xerus erythropus* — Seen on a tree while we stopped for lunch at Paraa Lodge.

**Red-legged Sun squirrel** *Heliosciurus rufrobrachium* - We had a great view allowing us to see the red on the Royal Mile Trail.

**Bohem's Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus boehmi* - Seen quickly on the road as we were driving to our boat trip in Lake Albert.

### **Carnivora (4):**

**African Lion** *Panthera leo* — Two females were seen resting on a tree in Queen Elizabeth's game drive, and later two young males were spotted by Peg laying on a cliff.

**Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta crocuta* — Two seen during the nocturnal game drive from Pakuba Lodge, and later that night one came out to the road.

**White-tailed Mongoose** *Ichneumia albicauda* — We glimpsed one on the nocturnal game drive in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Side-striped Jackal** *Canus adustus*-- During our game drive one was camouflaged in the grasses, but on our last drive towards the airport, one came on the road.

### **Perissodactyla (odd-toed ungulates) (1):**

**Common (Bohemi) Zebra** *Equus quagga* — Seen often in large groups on the savanna, the first view was at Lake Mburo National Park.

### **Artiodactyla (even-toed ungulates) (11):**

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* — Seen in different locations, starting with Lake Mburo National Park, and later in groups along the road.

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibious* — Our first sighting was at Mburo Lake, but we had closer views at Queen Elizabeth National Park.

**Rothschild's Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi* — A quick view on zebra track on our way to the Tented Camp Lodge in Mburo Lake National Park, but we had several views along the trip.

**Leibel (Jackson's) Hartebeest** *Alcelaphus buselaphus* — Seen along the road on our way to Pakuba Lodge at Murchison Falls.

**Topi** *Damaliscus korrigum* — Found along the savanna in Lake Mburo National Park.

**Oribi** *Ourebia ourebi* — Found on our last drive towards Pakuba Lodge on the side of the road.

**African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer* — This smallest antelope was seen in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Black-fronted Duiker** *Cephalophus nigrifons* — Very well distributed and seen in large groups along the savanna, first seen in Lake Mburo National Park.

**Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* — First seen on our drive through zebra track in Lake Mbuoro National Park.

**Kob** *Kobus kob* — Seen in Queen Elizabeth National Park on our game drive in the morning.

**Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca* — Seen on our game drive to Lake Albert, identified by the black markings on the legs.

#### **REPTILES & ANPHIBIANS (7):**

**Common House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* — Seen near the bathrooms around Lake Mbuoro National Park.

**Blue-headed Agama** *Acanthocercus ugandaensis* — Seen at the entrance of Katara Lodge cooperatively posing on a tree.

**Red-headed Agama** *Agama agama* — Seen at Boma Hotel and later in Lake Mbuoro National Park.

**Finch's Agama** *Agama finchi* — Seen at Pakuba Lodge in Murchison Falls National Park.

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus* — Found along the shore of Lake Mbuoro and seen from the boat. Later we saw them in the Kazinga Channel.

**Common Reed Frog** *Hyperolius viridiflavus* — Seen in the swamps in Mbamba and Bigodi Wetlands.

**Striped Skink** *Mayuba striata* — Seen at Bigodi Wetlands on the trail.