



TRIP REPORT RWANDA 2021

17 DAYS RWANDA BIRDING AND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

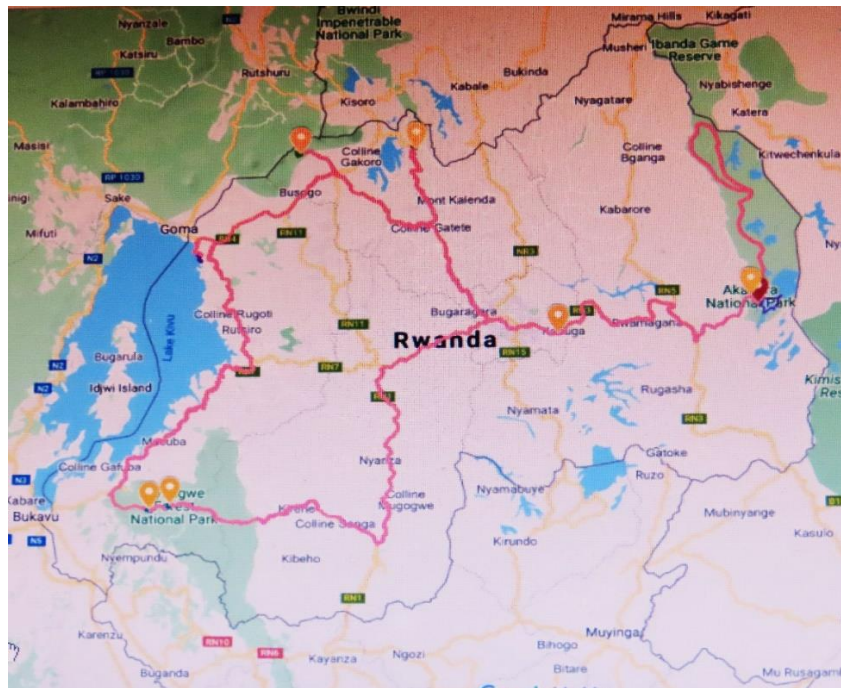
January 13th to 29th, 2021

Tour Leader: *Sserugga Tonny (bird guide)*

Tour driver: *Rutayisire Joe*

Trip Report compiled by: *Sserugga Tonny*

Photos by: *Valsesia Franca and Sserugga Tonny*



Route: map indicating the travel directions

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1rvjZvqxZ6p4n0U86PZpZsU2r5_h7QXwU&usp=sharing

Rwanda is a land locked country bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo. It is also one of the smallest countries on African mainland. Rwanda being among the few blessed three homes of Mountain Gorillas, with its panoramic views of exciting mountain ranges, and the water bodies that baptized her a popular identity of **“The land of thousand hills”**, has made it an eye-catching destination to many world travelers.

The diversity of habitats in Rwanda, hosts birds that most birders will wish to have in their checklist of this continent, especially the Albertine rift ranges that accommodate several regional endemics. Regardless of Covid 19 pandemic, Giacomo, Franca with Joe and myself had the pleasure to enjoy this country. From the home of Grey-crowned Crane (Umusambi Village), to Akagera National Park in the east for savanna birds, switched to the north (Musanze), aiming at the Grauer’s Swamp Warbler at Rugezi wetland and Volcanoes national park to bird with “Gold” (Golden Monkeys). Lazy birding on lake Kivu, warming up for the trip highlight to south west in Nyungwe forest, the unique home to the Albertine Rift endemics, and from Nyungwe birders were looking behind with smiling miserable faces (excited but sad to depart).

The checklists at the end of the notes list 238 birds were photographed and 28 mammals with 4 reptiles, were encountered during the tour.



Grey-caped Warbler

Day 1- Jan, 13th, 2021 Beginning of the tour.

After early morning breakfast, the team was on standby, waiting for communication from Heaven Boutique Hotel, where the guests were quarantined for 24 hours, having done the Covid 19 test on their arrival the previous day. Few hours around 900hr (9am) results were out and negative. David and I met the guests for a short briefing, and after, we proceeded to find a forex bureau in Kigali town, at the MTN center, Franca bought a Rwanda mobile line, and we moved to nearby supermarket for little shopping. The rain in Kigali minimized guests shopping around the city, ending up preferring to go back to the hotel, have lunch and prepare themselves for afternoon birding at Umusambi Village, incase rain stops.

After lunch, 45 minutes' drive from the hotel, we reached our first birding spot close to the city. Umusambi Village is a beautifully restored wetland area of over 21 hectares, providing a sanctuary for around 50 endangered **Grey Crown Cranes**. A monger other bird species are many different finches, weavers, Cisticolas, warblers and many others. On the entrance the **Gray-caped Warbler** was busy singing a very nice welcoming song, although it did not give us a chance to look at it. We entered and immediately made payments, while on the first trail (board walk) **Winding Cisticola**, **Black-headed Weavers** showed in good light as Franca was busy with weavers, Giacomo saw a **Purple-crested Turaco**, we rushed for it, unfortunately it didn't give us a chance for a photo. We continued to other trails in Umusambi but since the sun was struggling to come up after a long wash some birds were very lazy to show up. Luckily David spotted a **Black-shouldered Nightjar** well camouflaged on a small tree branch. **Fun-tailed widowbird** was flying around as a flock of **Super-winged Geese** was busy feeding mixed up

with **Cattle Egrets** and some resident **Grey Crowned Cranes**. Lasted a beat and walking back to find the car as it was approaching 500hr.



Hildebrandt's Francolin in Akagera National Park

Day 2. Jan 14th-2021 Birding to Akagera National Park

A nice morning, with amazing weather is a good way to start a birding trip. Joe picked me and drove to meet Giacomo and Franca at Heaven Boutique Hotel. Straightaway we drove to the country's only savanna national park, Akagera National Park. The drive was mixed up with several stops, especially when police was checking for a go-ahead document, trying to stop unnecessary movements of people from one district to another as a measure of controlling the spread of Covid 19. Along the way we manage to get ourselves very good looks at **Little Egrets**, **Sacred Ibis**, **Hadada Ibis**, **Yellow-billed Stork** in the rice fields, a few raptors like the eye-catching Long crested Eagle and, Augur Buzzard.

In the middle of the journey a biological stop at a coffee shop was inevitable, we spent limited time having coffee before we proceeded, few kilometers driving ahead, we encountered our first **Ross's Turaco** well displayed in flight that forced us to stop and try to see if a photo could be possible. Using the speaker, tried to call back and this pair responded unluckily were flying so fast denying the photographer a chance.

We planned on getting to the Ruzizi Tented Lodge in Akagera National Park in good time for Lunch and yes we made it yet with a catch of **Grey-backed Fiscal**, **White-browed Coucal**, **Bare faced Go-away Bird**, **Village Weaver**, **Red-eyed Dove**, **Rufous-bellied Heron** and **Folk Tailed Drongo** once again this time in good lights well patched couple of **Ross's Turaco** was well photographed preening.

After lunch, the boat cruise on Lake Ihema (the biggest lake in Akagera National Park) was our next program unfortunately, interrupted by heavy rainfall that started in the middle of the day shortly after our arrival in the park. We replaced the boat cruise with a night game drive to lookout for nocturnal

birds. The night game drive began at sunset during which we spotted **Hildebrandt's Francolin, European Bee-eater, Cardinal Quelea and Red-necked Francolin**. The night drive wasn't fruitful for the nocturnal birds due to wet weather.



Red-faced Barbet, one of the highlights of Akagera National Park

Day 3. Jan 15th-2021 Morning boat cruise afternoon and evening birding

Early morning weather seemed perfect for boat cruise, driving from the lodge gave us a clear chance of a **Spotted Flycatcher, Rappels Starling, Spot-franked Barbet, Bronze Manikin and Black-headed Gonolek**. Boat cruise on the peaceful Lake Ihema was a success, the one-and-a-half-hour persistent birding produced; **White-faced Whistling Duck, Goliath Heron, Black Crake, Swamp Flycatcher, Holub's, Black-headed, Northern Brown-throated Weavers** were well sighted, in addition to lots of **Spur-winged Geese, African Darter, Greater Cormorants, Barn Sparrows**. After the boat cruise straightway we drove to Akagera Game Lodge to look for one of the park's special birds the Red-faced Barbet, looked around and we couldn't get it, but we luckily got another special **Ruaha Chat** flying around with **White-headed Black Chat**, heading back for lunch, we encountered **Helmeted Guineafowls, Green-capped Eremomera, Red-headed Weaver, Common buzzard, Striped Kingfisher,**

After lunch we believed in trying again for the **Red-faced Barbet** in the same spot around Akagera Game Lodge, few minutes this time a pair showed up and good photos were taken. We continued with our evening game drive that offered us, **Crested Barbet, Meyer's Parrot, African Green-pigeon, Black-bellied Bustard, African Grey Hornbill, Brubru** with many others. **Zebras, warthogs and Impalas** are some of the mammals we found almost all corners.



Coqui Francolin

Day 4. Jan 16th- 2021 Full day birding south and northern part of the park.

Once finished with our breakfast, grabbed parked lunch and set off for our whole day's birding, from the south heading north, driving slowly enabled us to pick some nice species like, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Black-winged Kite, Lilac-breasted Roller, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Whinchat, while focusing on birds a lioness showed up in the road shortly and entered the bush again, this didn't take much of our attentions but instead continued with our birding. **White-headed Saw-wing** were flying around, Immature **Gabar Goshawk** was well perched on the roadside tree, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, pair of **Sooty Chats**, **Spectacled Weavers**, **Violet-backed Starling**, **Green Wood hoopoes**, **White-crested Helmet-shrikes**, **White-winged Tit**, were among the many we saw before branching to western part of the park through the mountain ridges to search for the rare Francolins, yes getting **Coqui and Red-winged Francolin** after having our lunch was very exciting, heavy mist on Mutumba Hill denied us clear views of the beautiful scenery, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** walking on the road, **Carruther's Cisticola** calling all over, White-headed Barbet surprisingly sighted was not among our expectations in this park, big herd of elephants provided us a chance to see the **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**. We turned back around Nyungwe exit in the north, stopped for washrooms and proceeded through east using lake shore track, since time wasn't on our side, we decided to drive faster and only stopped for short time, **African Fish Eagles**, **Bateleur**, **Palm-nut Vulture**, **African black-headed Oriole**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **African Cuckoo**, were picked while rushing back to the lodge in the south.



White-face Whistling-Ducks

Day 5. Jan 17th-2021 Birding to Kigali for Covid 19 test.

When leaving the lodge to Kigali, we decided to drive slow with the roof open to enjoy the last bit of the woodland and thickets habitat. Scanning around up to the gate enabled us to get, Long-tailed, **Trilling and Winding Cisticola**, **Northern Fiscal**. Even after driving out of the park we still picked some few good birds on roadsides like **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **Village Indigobird** and **Augur Buzzard**, we had a short stop at Muhazi bridge where we ably sighted nesting **Vieillot's and Village Weavers**, on the left of this water body **White-face Whistling-Ducks** were seen swimming on the edges. We made it in Kigali before noon, but accessing the Amahoro stadium for the Covid test wasn't easy, due to the car free day organized every Sunday, (several streets were closed to favor the local who enjoy jogging, walking and running), slowly we managed to drive through with permission of security officers. Covid test was successful done in time, lunch at Pili Pili Restaurant was very nice with a perfect view of Kigali city, and after here checked in at the Heaven Boutique Hotel to rest before another long drive next day.



Cape Robin-chat

Day 6. Jan 18th -2021 driving to northern province of Rwanda (Kinigi)

We left Kigali early morning and started a five-hour drive north to Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge in Kinigi, Musanze District, where we stayed for three nights. The drive is about 108 kilometers, but we had a first quick stop after one hours drive to stretch, Joe and myself grabbed an express cup of coffee. Some **Lesser Striped Swallows** were flying as others were perched on power lines, **Northern Grey-headed Sparrow and Pied Crows** were sighted in the same spot. We got another stop as we were approaching Musanze town at Mukungwa river, took a walk on the edges of the river. Female **Common Stonechat** showed up in good light, **Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** was another catch. Approaching higher altitude, **Streaky Seedeaters** was now all over, **Black-crowned Waxbill**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Wire-tiled Swallow**, **Baglaffeht Weaver**, were all seen though some avoided the camera. We reached Le bamboo Gorilla Lodge close to lunch time and after checking in the clients, Joe and myself, drove to Volcanoes National Park head offices to book a guide for our nature walk to Buhanga Forest after lunch. Driving back to the lodge for our lunch the weather changed and heavy rain started, when the rain reduced, we again tried offices to find out, if we still had a chance for the birding activity, unfortunately, rain was still heavy in Buhanga Forest and we could not go. **Cape Robin-chat**, was added on our list, just in the compound of the lodge.



Grauer's Swamp Warbler photographed by Franca

Day 7. Jan 19th – 2021 Birding in Rugezi Wetland.

Early morning drive from the lodge, picked Joseph the site guide of Rugezi wetland on the way. Few kilometers from Musanze, joined the dirt road and continued slowly while birding on the road sides, **Yellow Bishop, Augur Buzzard Dark morph**, were captured in good light, continuing our drive through mountains, a minute stop at Salama Wetland was a nice spot for, **Common Sandpiper, African Openbill, Gray Heron, Yellow-billed Duck, long-toed Lapwing, Hamerkop**. Driving farther we reached Rusumo where Rugezi wetland begins, on arrival two **Lanner Falcons** were well patched on a long eucalyptus tree, **Common and Fawn-breasted Waxbills, Bronze Mannikin, Swamp Flycatcher**, were sighted at the beginning of our walk of searching for the first Albertine rift endemic, after 1.3 kilometer walk, we got earshot of our target calling deep in the wetland. Went close, and finally got this **Grauer's Swamp Warbler**. Being our first Albertine rift endemic the photo was highly needed though we almost missed it, on the way back we got a pair of **Chubb's Cisticola, Bronze Sunbird, White-eyed Slaty and African Dusky Flycatcher, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Olive-bellied, Red-chested and Bronze Sunbirds** were also birds seen on this healthy birding walk. Driving back for Early lunch, we again scanned Salama wetland claiming the first stop was rushed, at closer range a pair of **African Spoonbill** were walking in shallow and scything water with their bill in search for food, **Purple and Grey Heron, Yellow-billed Stork, Black Crake**, were marked seen. After lunch visited a craft shop for shopping, back to lodge where we did a leisure birding around Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge compound, got closer look at over five **Cinnamom-chested Bee-eaters, Baglaffeht weavers** were seen earlier but this was in good light for the photo, rain interrupted and ended the day.



Malachite Sunbird

Day 8. Jan 20th- 2021 Golden Monkey Tracking in Volcanoes National Park and afternoon birding in Buhanga forest

Early morning breakfast, set off to the park headquarter for the briefing and clearance of our afternoon birding in Buhanga forest. We got the ranger and proceeded for golden monkey tracking in the volcanoes, although we had to first turn-off at Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge, and send the copies of guest's passport to park offices via WhatsApp, we proceeded immediately up to tracking starting point, they picked some bottles of drinking water and started their walk.

Few hours, Franca with Giacomo came back and found us waiting, the experience was worthy it, because they all came back with a smile on their faces, still in the same area I went with Franca to check in the bamboo trees if we could get something and yes we got good views of a **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler and Abyssinian Thrush**. Went to the lodge for lunch together with the ranger since we had to go with him at Buhanga forest.

After lunch as planned earlier, we went to Buhanga forest. 30 minutes' drive from the Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge, we entered the forest, although it was very quiet at the start, it became active as we moved in. **Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** was calling but hidden, **Black Saw-wing**, **Brown-throated Wattle-eye**, **Yellow White-eye**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, and **Cardinal Woodpecker** showed up shortly, the **Double-toothed Barbet** was perched far on a dry tree, making it difficult to get a record shot.

Due to inflexible trails, we considered returning back earlier, taking our time to slope down to the parking, Green-headed Sunbird displayed in good light as soon as we reached parking, took some shoots and went back to Le Bambou lodge.



Yellow-throated Greenbul

Day 9. Jan 21st – 2021 Birding in the Virunga mountains and Transfer to Gisenyi

This morning we picked the ranger from park offices and started a drive up the mountain to access the park for our birding activity, the car parked at a certain point and we had to walk 2 kilometers through gardens to the park. **African Pipit**, with a few we saw earlier showed up at the beginning of the walk, after one kilometer of walking, we noticed that the chemicals used to spray these gardens affected presence of birds and the park was still far another kilometer, we decided to walk back and give a try to another place around the community, a drive to another walk wasn't far Yellow-crowned Canary was the first to show up and new to our list, Malachite Sunbird was also an amusing sighting, Olive-bellied, Bronze, Marico and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds were in the same flowering Mountain beans garden, female Mackinnon's Fiscal was well displayed with clear chestnut flanks, Abyssinian Thrush ended the show and went back to the lodge to have lunch.

After lunch, we checked out then drove to Gisenyi our next destination. Checked-in guests at Paradise Malahide lodge immediately, me with Joe went to look for where we could sleep nearby before curfew hours.

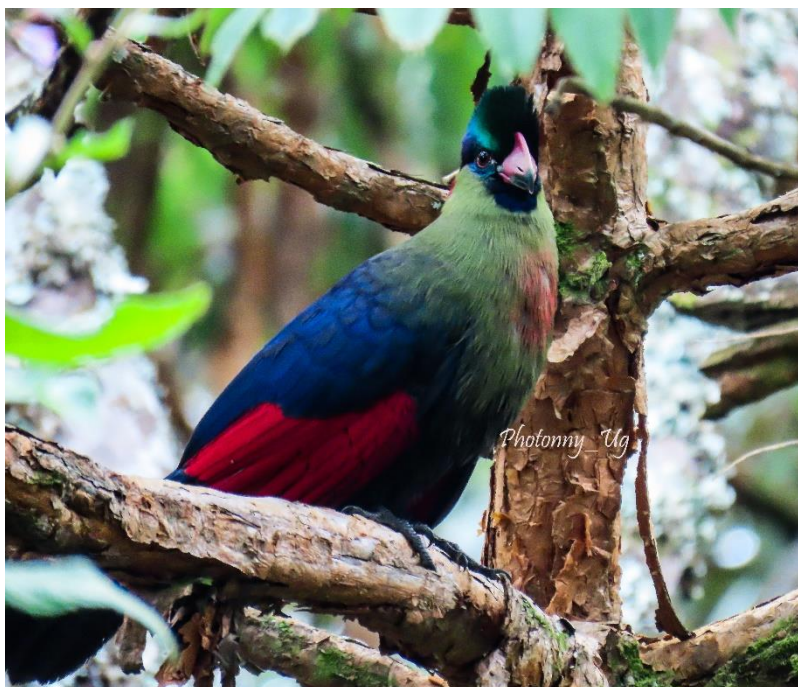


Southern Red Bishop

Day 10. Jan 22nd – 2021 Boat cruise on lake Kivu.

6:30am was breakfast and 7:00am found us boarding the boat to look out for the water fowls', **Black Kites** were all over, **Fan-tailed Widowbird**, **Southern Red Bishops**, **Pied**, **African Pygmy** and **Malachite Kingfishers**, showed up well, on another side of lake Kivu, we docked, and walked in the gardens of Paradise Malahide's new sister lodge called Paradise Kivu, **White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher**, **Yellow-fronted Canary**, **Spot-franked Barbet**, **Collared**, **Variable** and **Copper Sunbirds**, **Red-billed Firefinch** were busy feeding in the gardens. **African Harrier Hawk** flew in and took a nice position for a snap, went back at the lodge and got into our car, straight to hospital in Rubavu town, took a PCR covid test and turned to the lodge for lunch.

After lunch we arranged and drove to the nearby island to check on the hot springs then do some bidding around up to evening, unfortunately the rain started few minute after arriving at the place and choose to go back to the lodge and relax for a long drive next day.



Rwenzori Turaco

Day 11. Jan 23rd – 2021 Transfer to Nyungwe Forest National Park and Afternoon birding.

Checked out from Paradise Maladise lodge, early morning after breakfast and started our six hours drive towards south west. On our way through Gishwati forest, we agreed to have a quick stop in this forest and scan, **Purple-breasted Sunbird** was our second Albertine rift endemic on our checklist, making a quick stop worth. Driving a head as we were approaching Nyungwe forest, we had a second stop in a big wetland to try out for the **Papyrus Gonolek** and **White-winged Warbler**, both responded well to illustrate their existence but didn't show up, on the other side of this wetland was rice fields, **Hadada** and **Sacred Ibis**, **Little**, **Intermediate** and **Cattle Egrets**, **Fan-tailed Widowbirds** were all busy feeding. Noon found us checking-in guests at Nyungwe Top View Hill Lodge, to have their lunch and prepare for the afternoon birding.

After lunch, weather was perfect, we drove to Gisakura park offices to present our valid covid test results and continued to meet our site guide at Uwinka park Headquarters, after confirming our payments, Claude (site guide) joined us, **Chestnut-throated Apalis** was busy calling and finally showed-up in good light making our first endemic in Nyungwe and third on the list so far. Trying to scan around, our favorite **Rwenzori Turaco** called from a closer distance, all the attention was now put on searching for it, luckily it was sighted but in totally poor light, flew off after some time, **Northern Double-collared** and **Rwenzori Sunbirds** were added on our growing list, in small number of minutes, the **Rwenzori Turaco** showed up in more clear views but very far, took some record shots and started driving back to the lodge, on the roadside the **Handsome Francolin** was sighted, before long, it entered the bush, rejecting us a chance for the photo. As it was getting dark we decided to give Karamba trail a try for Rwenzori nightjar, this wasn't a success but Claude suggested we try another area for the nocturnal birds before we go back to the lodge, on our last stop of the day, African Wood Owl calling in a close range though we could not see it.



Strange Weaver

Day 12. Jan 24th – 2021 Full day birding in Nyungwe Forest National Park

We started our full day birding very well with good light in the morning, a kilometer to Uwinka park offices, we decided to walk while birding on the waysides, most of the birds were busy enjoying the rising sun, pruning, calling and flying a round, **Rwenzori Batis, Northern Puffback, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Red-faced Woodland-Warbler, Rwenzori Hill Babbler, African Yellow White-eye, Strange Weaver, Blue-headed and Regal Sunbird**, were photographed in the morning, we continued birding, but since a clear look at Rwenzori Turaco was high on the agenda, Claude recommended the camp site trail, on the first trial of calling it, Rwenzori Turaco showed up quickly in perfect light, nice photos were taken and the cheerfulness took us for a short break in the car. **Chinspot Batis** showed up and ended our short break, birding on the roadside continued, **Thick-billed Seedeater, Northern Double-collared and Variable Sunbird, Abyssinian Ground-Thrush, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, Chubb's Cisticola**, where all captured.

After having our parked lunch, birding was resumed, **White-starred Robin**, was a new add on the list with others we had ticked before lunch, we started driving back to the lodge in the evening.



Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher. Photographed by Franca

Day 13. Jan 25th – 2021 Full day birding in Nyungwe Forest National Park.

This morning the weather was foggy in some parts of the park, while trying to look for a clearer area in park, we bumped into the **Red-throated Alethe**, which was busy feeding on the ground, we stopped a few meters ahead and walked back to take some photos of this rare bird. After securing a photo, we immediately drove to another spot. Here light was rising up and many birds were active, however many of these birds were already marked seen on our checklist, we managed to get chances to catch better photos. **Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher, Grey Cuckoo-shrike, Black-tailed Oriole, Black Saw-wing and Mountain Illadopsis** were added on our checklist. From here we proceeded to Rangiro road in search for a clear eyesight of the **Handsome Francolin**, unfortunately the fog here was too much and we decided to drive back. We also luckily found a pair of **Mountain Wagtails** in the middle of the road feeding on small insects, **Black-billed Turaco** was calling but in a distance, **Black-faced Apalis, Chinspot Batis, Green Hylia**, were sighted before breaking off for lunch.

Lunch was nice, rain was still drizzling after a heavy shower, most part of the forest was still dropping with less activity, after driving some kilometers in the forest some parts were totally dry but threatening to rain, on the road side we saw a pair of **Dusky Twinspot** but we did not get a photo, **Black-billed Turaco, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Great blue Turaco, Purple-breasted Sunbird, Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird**, were good catch this evening.



Colored Apalis

Day 14. Jan 26th – 2021 Full day birding in Nyungwe Forest National Park

Early morning breakfast, picked our ranger guide, and drove straight to Kindura trail, trying to look for the Doherty's Bushshrike, the trail was very cold and less active, walking out on the main road Doherty's Bushshrike responded with call just on the roadside, we traced the call direction very fast and got good photos of this beautiful bird, walking back, Great Blue Turacos in close range were hanging on the big tree, Blue Monkeys and Mantled Guereza were also a good catch. **Black-throated Apalis, Brown-caped Weaver, White-starred Robin, Mountain Illadopsis, Albertine Boubou, White-headed woodhoopoes,** were keen-sighted. **Many-collared Bushshrike** was busy calling but as we were busy tracing for it, the famous, rare, Rwanda endemic, **Red-collared Mountain-Babbler** called on the opposite side of the road, crossed very fast and took a record shot, tried to follow them for better photos but in vain. In the same area Franca photographed a **Dusky Tit**. We retired back to the lodge for our lunch.

After lunch the weather was nice, we drove to the same spot where we found the Dusky Crimsonwing previous day but we were not lucky to see it, **White-browed Crombec, Chubb's cisticola, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Thick-billed Seedeater, Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler,** were photographed this afternoon, Neumann's Warbler was heard calling but seeing it wasn't possible. We left the forest early back to the lodge for the preparations of the long drive back to Kigali next day.

Day 15. Jan 27th – 2021 Checkout and drive back to Kigali.

After breakfast, we checked out and loaded all our belongings to the car, setting to begin our 6 hours' drive to Kigali. Driving through Nyungwe forest this day, we found some Black-fronted duikers in different corners of the forest, reached Kigali around noon and went straight to the stadium for guest's Covid 19 test before lunch, the test took few minutes and checked in at the lodge for lunch.

After lunch we drove a round Kigali for some shopping and later went back to the lodge.



White-colored Oliveback

Day 16. Jan 28th – 2021 birding at Umusambi Village Kigali.

Early morning breakfast, we reached Umusambi village for the second time on this trip, this time our main target was the **White-collared Oliveback**, that we missed the first time due to unfavorable weather. In the hunt for the Oliveback, we encountered, **Grossbeak Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia and Common Waxbill**. As we were almost giving up, the male **White-collared Oliveback** called and female responded immediately, it was a blissful moment when Franca was taking quick photos of these tiny pretty special birds. We there and then started walking out of this wetland.

Went back to the lodge, this day Joe and I, were invited for lunch by the clients at hotel of our choice, Joe choose to have our lunch at the historical **hotel des Mille Collines**, where over 1,268 people took refuge inside during Rwanda genocide of 1994. Lunch was really very unforgettable, it is here clients requested to visit the Genocide memorial next day, took them back their lodge and ended the day.



Kigali Genocide Memorial

Day 17. Jan 29th- 2021 visited Genocide memorial and departure.

This morning, we visited the Genocide Memorial, warmly welcomed, we watched a short heart touching movie, and later moved around the museum, by the time we completed our visit, everyone was almost crying, feeling very sorry about what happened. We took the clients back to the lodge and waited to take them to the airport around 10pm at night for their check-in. We met them at the agreed time and departed to the airport.

We just completed a very successful trip. A successful trip is a result of team work, many thanks to Nature trails East Africa for systematically organizing the trip, Giacomo and Franca for being very cooperative, very helpful site guides – Claude, Joseph. Not forgetting Joe for the delightful job of tireless driving and providing information about Rwanda.



The team, from left to right: Franca, Tonny, Joe, Giacomo

<https://www.eastafricantrails.com/>



info@eastafricantrails.com

Bird list

NSERIFORMES: Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata

GALLIFORMES: Numidiidae

Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
---------------------	------------------

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Hildebrandt's Francolin	Pternistis hildebrandti
Red-necked Francolin	Pternistis afer
Coqui Francolin	Peliperdix coqui

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea
Mourning Collared-Dove	Streptopelia decipiens
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	Turtur chalcospilos
Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria
African Green-Pigeon	Treron calvus

OTIDIFORMES: Otidae

Black-bellied Bustard	Lissotis melanogaster
-----------------------	-----------------------

MUSOPHAGIFORMES: Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco	Corythaeola cristata
Black-billed Turaco	Tauraco schuettii
Rwenzori Turaco	Ruwenzorornis johnstoni
Ross's Turaco	Musophaga personatus
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides personatus

Eatern Plantain-eater

Crinifer zonurus

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcy caprius

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitaries

African Cuckoo

Cuculus gularis

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Black-shouldered Nightjar

Caprimulgus nigriscapularis

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae

Little Swift

Apus affinis

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Black Crane

Zapornia flavirostra

GRUIFORMES: Heliornithidae

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

Gray Crowned-Crane

Balearica regulorum

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Long-toed Lapwing

Vanellus crassirostris

Spur-winged Lapwing

Vanellus spinosus

Wattled Lapwing

Vanellus senegallus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

African Skimmer

Rynchops flavirostris

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

African Openbill
Saddle-billed Stork
Marabou Stork
Yellow-billed Stork

Anastomus lamelligerus
Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
Leptoptilos Crumenifer
Mycteria ibis

SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

African Darter

Anhinga rufa

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Long-tailed cormorant

Microcarbo africanus

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

PELECANIFORMES: Balaenicipitidae

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Intermediate Egret

Ardea intermedia

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides

Rufous-bellied Heron

Ardeola rufiventris

Striated Heron

Butorides striata

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite
African Harrier-Hawk
Palm-nut Vulture
Bateleur
Brown Snake-Eagle
Long-crested Eagle
Lesser Spotted Eagle
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle
Lizard Buzzard
Gabar Goshawk
Black Kite
African Fish-Eagle
Common Buzzard
Augur Buzzard

Elanus caeruleus
Polyboroides typus
Gypohierax angolensis
Terathopius ecaudatus
Circaetus cinereus
Lophaetus occipitalis
Clanga pomarina
Aquila Africana
Kaupifalco monogrammicus
Micronisus gabar
Milvus migrans
Haliaeetus vocifer
Buteo oreophilus
Buteo augur

COLIIFORMES: Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird Colius striatus

BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae

Green Woodhoopoe Phoeniculus purpureus
White-headed Woodhoopoe Phoeniculus bollei

BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae

African Gray Hornbill Lophoceros nasutus

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Malachite Kingfisher Corythornis cristatus
African Pygmy-Kingfisher Ispidina picta
Woodland Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis
Striped Kingfisher Halcyon chelicuti
Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima
Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	Merops oreobates
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus
-----------------------	-------------------

PICIFORMES: Lybiidae

Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii
Gray-throated Barbet	Gymnobucco bonapartei
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus
Spot-flanked Barbet	Tricholaema lacrymosa
White-headed Barbet	Lybius leucocephalus
Red-faced Barbet	Lybius rubrifacies

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae

Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor
Greater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Cardinal Woodpecker	Chloropicus fuscescens
Tullberg's Woodpecker	Campethera tullbergi

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus
---------------	-----------------

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae

Meyer's Parrot	Poicephalus meyeri
----------------	--------------------

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Gray Cuckooshrike	Coracina caesia
-------------------	-----------------

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

African Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus
Black-tailed Oriole	Oriolus percivali

PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae

Brown-throated Wattle-eye	Platysteira cyanea
Rwenzori Batis	Batis diops
Chinspot Batis	Batis molitor

PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae

Northern Puffback	Dryoscopus gambensis
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus
Brown-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra australis
Tropical Boubou	Laniarius major
Black-headed Gonolek	Laniarius erythrogaster
Albertine Boubou	Laniarius holomelas
Doherty's Bushshrike	Telophorus dohertyi

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis
--------------------	--------------------

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

African Paradise-Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis
-----------------------------	---------------------

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Gray-backed Fiscal	Lanius excubitoroides
Mackinnon's Shrike	Lanius mackinnoni
Northern Fiscal	Lanius humeralis

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Pied Crow	Corvus albus
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher	Elminia longicauda
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher	Elminia albicauda

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

White-winged Black-Tit	Melaniparus leucomelas
Dusky Tit	Melaniparus funereus

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Rufous-naped Lark

*Mirafraga africana***PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae**

White-browed Crombec

Sylvietta leucophrys

Red-faced Crombec

Sylvietta whytii

Moustached Grass-Warbler

Melocichla mentalis

Green Hylia

*Hylia prasina***PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

Yellow-bellied Eremomela

Eremomela icteropygialis

Green-backed Eremomela

Eremomela canescens

Rwenzori Apalis

Oreolais ruwenzorii

Black-throated Apalis

Apalis jacksoni

Masked Apalis

Apalis binotata

Black-faced Apalis

Apalis personata

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

Banded Prinia

Prinia bairdii

Gray-capped Warbler

Eminia lepida

Trilling Cisticola

Cisticola woosnami

Chubb's Cisticola

Cisticola chubbi

Winding Cisticola

Cisticola marginatus

Carruthers's Cisticola

Cisticola carruthersi

Croaking Cisticola

Cisticola natalensis

Tabora Cisticola

*Cisticola angusticauda***PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Eurasian Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus***PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler

Bradypterus cinnamomeus

Grauer's Swamp Warbler

Bradypterus graueri<https://www.eastafricantrails.com/>info@eastafricantrails.com

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
White-headed Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne albiceps</i>
Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristopectera</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Eastern Mountain	<i>Greenbul Arizelocichla nigriceps</i>
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Red-faced Woodland-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus laetus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

African Hill Babbler	<i>Sylvia abyssinica</i>
----------------------	--------------------------

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
--------------------------	-------------------------------

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

Mountain Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis pyrrhoptera</i>
---------------------	-------------------------------

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae

Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Red-collared Mountain-Babbler	<i>Turdoides rufocincta</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
------------------------	---------------------------

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Abyssinian Thrush	<i>Turdus abyssinicus</i>
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>
Yellow-eyed Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis ardesiacus</i>
White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
Gray-winged Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha polioptera</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellate</i>
Red-throated Alethe	<i>Chamaetylas poliophrys</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Sooty Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla nigra</i>
Ruaha Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla collaris</i>
White-headed Black Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnoti</i>
Rufous Bush Chat	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
Blue-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra alinae</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Purple-breasted Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia purpureiventris</i>
Bronze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>
Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris reichenowi</i>

Northern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris reichenowi

Regal Sunbird

Cinnyris regius

Mariqua Sunbird

Cinnyris mariquensis

Red-chested Sunbird

Cinnyris erythrocerus

Variable Sunbird

Cinnyris venustus

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

Red-headed Weaver

Anaplectes rubriceps

Baglafaecht Weaver

Ploceus baglafaecht

Spectacled Weaver

Ploceus ocularis

Strange Weaver

Ploceus alienus

Holub's Golden-Weaver

Ploceus xanthops

Northern Brown-throated Weaver

Ploceus castanops

Vieillot's Weaver

Ploceus nigerrimus

Village Weaver

Ploceus cucullatus

Black-headed Weaver

Ploceus melanocephalus

Brown-capped Weaver

Ploceus insignis

Cardinal Quelea

Quelea cardinalis

Red-headed Quelea

Quelea erythrops

Yellow Bishop

Euplectes capensis

Fan-tailed Widowbird

Euplectes axillaris

Grosbeak Weaver

Amblyospiza albifrons

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

White-collared Oliveback

Nesocharis ansorgei

Yellow-bellied Waxbill

Coccygus quartinia

Fawn-breasted Waxbill

Estrilda paludicola

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

Black-crowned Waxbill

Estrilda nonnula

Green-winged Pytilia

Pytilia melba

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

Bronze Mannikin	Spermestes cucullata
Black-and-white Mannikin	Spermestes bicolor

PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae

Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura
-------------------	----------------

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow	Passer griseus
------------------------------	----------------

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Cape Wagtail	Motacilla capensis
Mountain Wagtail	Motacilla clara
Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus
Yellow-throated Longclaw	Macronyx croceus

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra mozambica
Streaky Seedeater	Crithagra striolata
Thick-billed Seedeater	Crithagra burtoni
Yellow-crowned Canary	Serinus flavivertex

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi

Mammal list.

PROBOSCIDEA: Elephantidae

African bush elephant	Loxodonta Africana
-----------------------	--------------------

PRIMATES

SIMIIFORMES: Cercopithecoidea

Patas monkey	Erythrocebus patas
Vervet monkey	Chlorocebus pygerythrus
Red-tailed monkey	Cercopithecus ascanius

L'Hoest's monkey	Cercopithecus lhoesti
Blue monkey	Cercopithecus mitis
Olive baboon	Papio anubis
Mantled guereza	Colobus guereza
Golden Monkey	Cercopithecus kandti

RODENTIA

SCIUROGNATHI: Hystricidae

Striped ground squirrel	Xerus erythropus
Red-legged sun squirrel	Heliosciurus rufobrachium
Boehm's bush squirrel	Paraxerus boehmi

CARNIVORA: Felidae

Lion	Panthera leo
------	--------------

PERISSODACTYLA: Equidae Maneless

zebra Equus	quagga borensis
-------------	-----------------

ARTIODACTYLA: Suidae

Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus
----------------	------------------------

ARTIODACTYLA: Giraffidae

Masai Giraffa	Giraffa tippelskirchi
---------------	-----------------------

ARTIODACTYLA: Bovidae

Topi Damaliscus lunatus	
Oribi	Ourebia ourebi
African buffalo	Syncerus caffer
Bushbuck	Tragelaphus scriptus
Black-fronted duiker	Cephalophus nigrifrons
Impala	Aepyceros melampus
Waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus
Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus
Roan antelope	Hippotragus equinus
Mountain reedbuck	Redunca fulvorufula

Reptile List

GECKOS

Tropical house gecko

Hemidactylus mabouia

SKINKS

Stripped skink

Trachylepis Striata

AGAMA

Blue headed tree agama

Acanthocercus atricollis

CROCODILES

Nile crocodiles

Crocodylus niloticus