



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Lamb Ghana Mega **Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials** *1st to 23rd November 2015 (23 days)*

Akun Eagle-Owl by Rich Lindie



Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader, Rich Lindie

Trip Summary

October 31st: For most of us, our adventure in Ghana began with a group reunion of sorts, at the airport. Fortunately, that provided the prelude for conversation that was to form most of the entertainment for our ride through an otherwise very dark Accra, all the way to our hotel at the north-eastern edge of the city. Until Steve Urkel checked us into our rooms, that is.

November 1st: Thankfully, breakfast the following morning saw the gathering of the complete group, and the last of the (re)introductions, this time unhindered by a general lack of sleep and the spatial requirements of a mini-bus. Rearing to go however, we soon abandoned our table conversations for a pre-tour birding trip to the Shai Hills Resources Reserve, where several new birds were apparently seen - post-lunch seeing a similar pattern of events, though with more bodies in tow, and before we knew it, our first full day in Ghana as a group was over. More on our sightings later...

November 2nd: The Shai Hills Reserve was to see us one final time (the following morning), ensuring that our combined visits made for a respectable start to our trip list and, more importantly, an easy and relaxed introduction to West African birding. Highlights of these combined visits included **Double-spurred Francolin, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Long-crested Eagle, Lizard Buzzard, Guinea and Violet Turacos, Western Plantain-eater, Klaas's Cuckoo, Blue-bellied Roller, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Vieillot's Barbet, Double-toothed Barbet, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Senegal Parrot, Brubru, Croaking Cisticola, Senegal Eremomela, Violet-backed Starling, White-crowned Cliff Chat, Splendid Sunbirds, Yellow-throated Longclaw** and a handful of **Kob** (mammal) - several great birds and sightings!

Leaving the Shai Hills area behind, our next destination was Ho and the Kalakpa Resources Reserve area. Stopping first at the reserve, we were afforded an early opportunity to get to know the area and its avifauna, where we stuck mostly to the open palm savannas and the edge of the forest, bagging **Swamp Palm Bulbul** and **Vinaceous Dove** with relative ease. We also made our first attempt at seeing **Black-shouldered Nightjar** but that just led to frustration. Evening spent at the Chances Hotel (and supermarket).

November 3rd: The next day was devoted to birding the reserve area again, with a much-appreciated break for lunch at our accommodation. The list looked pretty good after the end of our day, though several species were only seen by one or a few of us. Highlights nonetheless included **Capuchin Babbler, Striped and Woodland Kingfishers, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Senegal Batis, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Grey Longbill, Northern White-faced Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Black-shouldered Nightjar, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Purple Starling, Green-headed Sunbird, Black-winged Red Bishop, Orange-cheeked Waxbill** and **Grey Kestrel**. Our drive home that night was also rewarding in that we were able to save an African Rock Python from certain death, as well as Appiah from a debilitating fear of snakes. Nothing could be done for dear Paul.





Cape Coast

November 4th: A last-ditch attempt at birding inside the forest at the reserve proved to be as tough and frustrating as before but we were glad to say goodbye to the park toilet facilities, AND my luggage was now lighter - following the disappearance of one unused camera. Not to be outdone, however, we had all come away with new birds from our time in the area, on top of a serious appreciation for what West African forest birding can be like!

Following our departure, the journey back to Accra was only punctuated by several fruitless searches for **Pied-winged Swallow** around the Volta Dam and a brief stop at Kpong Wetland, though both exercises did produce new birds. **Blue-headed Coucal** (at Kpong), **Mosque Swallow** (near the Volta Dam) and **African Hobby** (also near the Volta Dam) being the best of these. A night's rest and a hot shower (for some) then followed as our final highlights of the day.

November 5th: Next up was a journey to the south-west of the country, where we were to spend the following ten days almost completely immersed in rainforest birding.

The Kakum area was the first destination set aside as a place to unpack our luggage but we made a couple of stops *en route*, the first of which was at the Winneba Plains. Finding only **Greater Honeyguide** and a couple more **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** there, instead of the desired local race of Black-backed Cisticola, it wasn't a complete bust but it did feel somewhat like a continuation of the birding at Kalakpa. A visit to the Cape Coast Castle a little later was, at least, more successful. What's more is, our spirits were lifted even higher shortly thereafter...

After checking in at the Rainforest Lodge, we popped around the corner to the Abrafo area of Kakum National Park, where an alate emergence provided us with some of the most exciting birding of the tour. Indeed, we scored **Palm-nut Vulture**, **Rosy Bee-eater**, **Speckled Tinkerbird**, **Red-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Yellow-throated Tinkerbird**, **Gabon Woodpecker**, **Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher**, **Slender-billed Greenbul**, **Golden Greenbul**, **Preuss's Cliff Swallow**, **Tit Hylia**, **Splendid Starling**, **Fraser's Sunbird**, **Little Green Sunbird**, **Grey-chinned Sunbird**, **Buff-throated Sunbird**, **Superb Sunbird**, **Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** and **Grey-headed Nigrita**, all in very quick succession!





Fraser's Eagle-Owl

Little did we know that, a short while later, our nocturnal birding excursion would be just as action-packed, beginning with a search for the first of two targets - **Akun Eagle Owl**. Sure, we spent a few minutes playing the call without response but it wasn't long at all until we found one, incredibly, by its eye-shine alone! Unbeatable views and several photos later, we then left the owl in peace, before bumping into our second target owl - the magnificent **Fraser's Eagle Owl**! Unbelievably, the Akun Eagle Owl was still visible from where we were standing, in what must be one of the coolest birding experiences I have ever been a part of! A good night's sleep, well-deserved, was now on offer, sooner than expected.

November 6th: A full day on the famous canopy walkway came next on our agenda, where the birding wasn't too shabby either. In fact, we recorded over 70 species that day, including over 40 that were new for the tour, and many of which were new for every single one of us! Highlight sightings included **Blue Malkoha, African Emerald Cuckoo, Black Bee-eater, Forest Wood Hoopoe, Black Dwarf Hornbill, White-crested Hornbill, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Fernando Po Batis, Sabine's Puffback, Blue Cuckooshrike, Western Oriole, Black-winged Oriole, Congo Serpent Eagle, Plain Greenbul, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Violet-backed Hyliota, Chestnut-winged Starling, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Tiny Sunbird, Johanna's Sunbird, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Maxwell's Black Weaver, Blue-billed Malimbe, Little Green Woodpecker, Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey, Beecroft's Scaly-tailed Squirrel and Pel's Scaly-tailed Squirrel**, whilst the sheer thrill of being up there only added to the overall quality of the experience. Not that I think the school group we encountered went away with the same feeling.

November 7th: The next day was a little longer but also fairly productive. Fully grounded for the entire day, we moved from Gyaware to Antwikwaa, to the Pra River and all the way back to the south of Kakum National Park, stopping briefly to buy some lunch supplies in one of the local street markets. Highlights of the various stops included a very cooperative **White-spotted Flufftail** (much to Marilyn's delight), **Rock Pratincole, Black-throated Coucal, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Red-fronted Parrot, Western Nicator, Little Greenbul, Little Grey Greenbul, Simple Greenbul, White-bibbed Swallow, Green Crombec, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Ussher's Flycatcher** and a gorgeous **Western Bluebill**.





White-necked Rockfowl

November 8th: Our final morning in the area found us back on the road to the Abrafo area of the park, spotting a **Red-chested Goshawk**, soon after our arrival. Nearby, we then heard another **Puvel's Illadopsis**, which we duly tracked down for a few sightings but were less successful with a singing **Blue-shouldered Robin Chat** thereafter. Further along the road and in taller forest, we had brilliant views of **Blue-headed Wood Dove** and **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher**, whilst **Yellow-billed Turaco** and **Rufous-sided Broadbill** showed well to a few of us. Yet, further down the road, **Piping Hornbill**, **Fanti Saw-wing** and **Rosy Bee-eater** were further highlights, before it was time for lunch and the journey to Shama.

En route to Shama, we stopped at Brenu, where **Pied-winged Swallow**, **African Firefinch**, **Black-rumped Waxbill** and (eventually) a **Marsh Tchagra** were much appreciated additions to the list.

November 9th: Abandoning the bus for a Defender, we managed to navigate the poor road to Nsuta with no trouble at all, arriving there soon after dawn. Spaced but regular quality sightings turned out to be the order of the day, meaning we ended up with another pretty respectable list of birds, not including some **Hooded Vultures** seen in the glow of gas station lights. A **Kemp's Longbill**, albeit a restless one, was the first in the line of quality species to show, followed, in no particular order, by **Western Bronze-naped Pigeon**, **Great Blue Turaco**, a very close **Yellow-throated Cuckoo**, **Red-chested Owlet**, **Black Spinetail**, **Sabine's Spinetail**, **Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill**, several **Naked-faced Barbet**, **Red-billed Helmetshrike**, **Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher**, **Square-tailed Saw-wing**, perched **Red-fronted Parrots**, two **Tessmann's Flycatchers** and two **Preuss's Weavers**. We also enjoyed views of an **African Emerald Cuckoo** and a **Klass's Cuckoo** within feet of each other. The evening saw brief glimpses of **African Wood Owl**, **Brown Nightjar** and a **Potto**.





Standard-winged Nightjar

November 10th: Heading further west, a scheduled stop by the side of the road yielded the expected **Orange Weaver** and a bonus sighting of **Black-bellied Seedcrackers** collecting nesting material. Once again, travelling along the coast for a while, we then stopped at some mangroves, where nesting **Mangrove** and **Reichenbach's Sunbirds** were a treat to see, as was as a **White-browed Forest Flycatcher**, for some. Further along the road, **Carmelite Sunbird** proved even easier and more popular, before a short drive took us to the Ankasa Special Reserve. Shortly after arrival at the gate, we laid eyes on our first **Cassin's Flycatchers** and then our first **Shining-blue Kingfisher** before a brief acquaintance with our campsite and attendant army of helpers. Transferring once again to the Defenders, we paid our first visit to the ponds, where we had our first sighting of a **White-crested Tiger Heron** but little else of significance before nightfall.

November 11th & 12th: The following two-and-a-half days saw us making regular visits to the same ponds, interspersed with several walks along the well-forested road through the park, patient waiting vigils at a couple of streams and even the odd excursion into some of the understorey - in pursuit of birds, of course. Birding was slow, to say the least, and rain did cancel play on more than a few occasions, but we came away with some new birds and some great sightings nonetheless. Chief among these were **Hartlaub's Duck**, more **African Pygmy Kingfishers** than I have ever seen elsewhere, **Crowned Eagle**, **Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo**, **Cassin's Spinetail**, **Black-casqued Hornbill**, **Shining Drongo**, **Dusky Crested Flycatcher**, **Icterine** and **Yellow-bearded Greenbuls**, **Sharpe's Apalis**, some unusually cooperative **Pale-breasted Illadopses**, **Copper-tailed Starling** and very furtive **Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher**.

November 13th: Following the last birding session in Ankasa and fond farewells to our apparently augmented camp crew, we embarked on a long drive back to the Kakum area for a one night's stay.

November 14th: Stuffed once more with eggs, bread and Milo, we stopped in at the Abrafo section again for our last taste of birding in the Kakum area - a battle with a **Long-tailed Hawk** and sightings of both **Honeyguide** and **Spotted Greenbuls** the reward for our efforts. Lunch, a few hours of driving later, then saw me battling with the lavish decorations and giant chairs of a once serious roadside restaurant - reward that time in the form of some beloved Red-Red.





For the latter part of the day, things heated up however, and it was with much anticipation that we climbed the slopes of a small forested hill nearby for one of the top encounters of the entire tour, a couple of members of the nearby do-good village in tow. Okay, so we had to sit around for a while but the sight of not one but several **White-necked Rockfowl** hopping around, a few feet from us, was well worth it! We even made it out before nightfall.

November 15th: We awoke the following morning in the outskirts of Kumasi and drove the short distance to Bobiri Forest. There, amid some pretty tall forest, we added **White-headed Wood Hoopoe**, **Grey Parrot**, **Bates's Sunbird**, **Magpie Mannikin** and a nest-building **Red-vented Malimbe** to our list of trip sightings before embarking on the long trip to the Atewa region. Just before our arrival there, an enormous colony of **Straw-coloured Fruit Bats** provided us with our only other significant sighting of the day - cold beers notwithstanding.

November 16th: A hike in the Atewa range filled our final full day of birding in the south of the country. Seemingly uphill most of the way, our walk was at least very successful in its endeavour to find **Blue-moustached Bee-eater** - another great reason to visit Ghana! On top of this, we also sighted **Narina Trogon**, **Many-colored Bushshrike**, **Ansorge's Greenbul** and **Black-capped Apalis**, whilst first sightings of **Tambourine Dove** were also enjoyed by some. On the flora front, a **Dutchman's Pipe** (*Aristolochia* sp.) provided some extra diversion.

November 17th: With just a little more time for birding the Atewa area before our journey to Accra, we headed back to the start of the same trail visited the previous day, picking up **African Yellow White-eye** and **White-tailed Alethe** as bonuses.

November 18th: With a sense of renewed interest and excitement over coming changes, we boarded our plane from Accra to the lacklustre town of Tamale, whiled away an hour of flight time and met up with Jackson and Appiah for the second time during the trip. Thereafter, a few short hours of driving took us to the hot, dry savannahs of Mole National Park and some chalets with a view. Birding along park roads followed shortly and we began bagging our first targets, like **Red-throated Bee-eater**, **Bearded Barbet** and **Black-billed Wood Dove**, taking us swiftly into some evening birding where **Red-necked Nightjars** and **Greyish Eagle Owl** were definite highlights.



November 19th & 20th: The course of the following two days followed pretty much the same theme of birding and driving park roads, morning, afternoon and evening, providing us with several great sightings and encounters, both bird and mammal alike. Of these, our sightings of **Standard-winged Nightjar** and **Forbe's Plover** were certain highlights but we also enjoyed seeing **Stone Partridge**, **Beaudouin's Snake Eagle**, **Western Banded Snake Eagle**, **Four-banded Sandgrouse**, **Long-tailed Nightjar**, **Abyssinian Roller**, **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**, **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**, **Fine-spotted Woodpecker**, **Red-headed Lovebird**, **African Blue Flycatcher**, **Sun Lark**, **Oriole Warbler**, **Long-tailed Glossy Starling**, **Swamp Flycatcher**, **White-crowned Robin-Chat**, **White-fronted Black Chat**, **Pygmy Sunbird**, **Lavender Waxbill**, **Exclamatory Paradise Whydah** and numerous up-close **African Elephants**.

November 21st: A final morning walk in the grasslands failed to turn up a cooperative White-throated Francolin but we did get some fantastic views of **White-shouldered Black Tit** and the diminutive **Yellow Penduline Tit**. It also primed us for the long drive to Bolgatanga which lay ahead.

Stops along the way to Bolgatanga included a stop at Larabanga Mosque (Ghana's oldest mosque made of mud and reeds) for **Red-chested Swallow**, a few random roadside stops for a **Montagu's Harrier** and several **Grasshopper Buzzards**, a roadside wetland (where an **Allen's Gallinule**, **Black-headed Weaver**, **Quailfinch** and **African Silverbill** were seen), and an interesting rocky area south of town for **Rock-loving Cisticola**, **Gosling's Bunting** and **Fox Kestrel**. Let's not talk about the check in session that followed.

November 22nd: For the first half of our full day in the far north, we took a long but worthwhile drive to the White Volta River, near the Ghana border with Burkina Faso. Our target there, of course, was the sleek Egyptian Plover and we weren't disappointed. I even took to the river in excitement. Along the way, we can't forget, however, also getting great looks at the comical **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**, a colony of **White-billed Buffalo Weaver**, and some perched **West African Swallows**.

Returning to our hotel for a relaxed lunch, we then headed north-west to Tono Dam, where the final new species of the day came in the form of **Bruce's Green Pigeon**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, **Chestnut-bellied Starling** and **Speckle-fronted Weaver**.

November 23rd: The final lengthy drive of the trip took us from Bolgatanga, back to Tamale, for our flight back to Accra. Along the way, a brief walk in a random patch of roadside woodland produced a few repeat sightings, whilst a return to our favourite wetland between both cities gave us our only **Sedge Warbler** and **Eurasian Reed Warbler** of the trip. Back at the mistake hotel in Accra, we enjoyed one last dinner together by the pool and bid farewell for the end of yet another super interesting tour as a group.



Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 5.4 List of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Generated in 2014. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Brackets indicate Clements [omissions] and (changes)

E = Upper Guinea Endemic, NE = Upper Guinea Near Endemic.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*. Sightings near Ankasa, and in Mole NP.
Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*. Two – seen several times in Ankasa.
African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*. At Kpong and near Ankasa.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*. Shai Hills and Mole National Park.

New World Quail Odontophoridae

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*. A couple in Shai Hills, several in Mole NP.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

(H) White-throated Francolin *Peliperdix albogularis*. Heard in Mole NP.
Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus*. Several sites including Kalakpa, Shai Hills and Mole.

Storks Ciconiidae

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*. A few in Mole NP.
Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*. Also seen in Mole.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*. Daily sightings in Mole NP.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

White-crested Tiger Heron *Tigriornis leucolopha*. A few sightings in Ankasa.
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*. At the mangroves and in Mole NP.
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*. At Kpong and in Mole NP.
[Western] Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. Almost daily.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Mole NP only.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*. Almost daily sightings in the north.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*. Volta River region, including Kpong.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles Accipitridae



- Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*. First seen in the Shai Hills area.
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*. Shai Hills, Kalakpa, Nsuta and Mole NP.
- Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*. A handful seen in both Kakum and Mole NPs.
- European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*. Shai Hills only.
- African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides*. Also seen at Shai Hills only.
- Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*. Several, scattered sightings.
- White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*. A few seen in Mole NP.
- White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*. Seen together with the above species in Mole NP.
- Beudouin's Snake Eagle** *Circaetus beudouini*. Two sighting in the Mole area.
- Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*. Good views of one in Mole NP.
- Congo Serpent Eagle** *Circaetus spectabilis*. One seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*. Daily sightings during our time in Mile NP.
- Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*. One sighting in Ankasa.
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*. Great views in Shai Hills Resources Reserve.
- Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*. One seen in flight during our first visit to Shai Hills.
- Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*. Individuals seen around Ho and Shai Hills, and in the north.
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*. Great views in Mole NP and further north.
- Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchus macrourus*. One sighting in the Abrafo area of Kakum.
- Red-chested Goshawk** *Accipiter toussenelii*. One sighting (for Judy) at Kalakpa, followed by another along the road to Abrafo a few days later.
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius*. One sighting in the north.
- Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*. One seen flying over the forest in the Antwikwaa area in Kakum.
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. One, in flight, at a wetland between Tamale and Bolgatanga.
- Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*. One seen flying over grassland, south of Bolgatanga.
- Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius*. Seen almost daily.
- Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*. A handful seen in the north.
- Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis*. One in the Abrafo area (Kakum), several in Mole NP.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

- White-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura pulchra*. Unforgettable views of one in the Kakum area.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

- (H) Nkulengu Rail** *Himantornis haematopus*. Heard in Ankasa.
- Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni*. One, at the wetland between Tamale and Bolgatanga.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

- Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis*. A few at Tono Dam.
- Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*. One, in the road, during a night drive in Mole NP.

Plovers Charadriidae

- Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus*. A few in Mole NP, and in the far north.
- [African] Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*. A few in Mole NP, and in the far north.
- Grey (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*. One sighting at Tono Dam.



Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi*. Eventually found in Mole NP.

Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*. Splendid views of a handful on the White Volta.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*. First sighted at Kpong.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Seen along the White Volta River.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. Also seen along the White Volta, as well as the Pra River.

Coursers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*. Great views of a couple, on the Pra River.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*. A few of us saw this species in Cape Coast.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*. Great views of a couple, in Mole NP.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia*.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*. A few seen during the extension to the north.

(H) Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta*. Heard near the rockfowl cave and in Bobiri Forest.

[Western] Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*. Good scope views of one at Nsuta.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*. Several sightings in the south, a few in the north.

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*. Most numerous in Kalakpa and in Mole NP.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*. Seen throughout the country.

Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*. Great views of a few in Mole NP.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*. Several seen in the Kakum area.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*. A few seen in the Kakum area and in Atewa.

Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri*. Great views in Kakum, several more seen in Ankasa.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*. A few seen in Mole NP.

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*. Great views at Tono Dam.

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*. Seen at all of the forest sites in the south-west.

Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*. Good views in Nsuta and in Ankasa.

Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa*. Great views in Shai Hills RR.

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus*. Sightings in Kakum, Ankasa and Atewa.

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*. First seen well in Shai Hills RR.

Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*. Also first seen in Shai Hills RR.

Cuckoos Cuculidae



Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster*. First seen in the Antwikwaa area of Kakum NP.
Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*. First seen in Kalakpa RR.
Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*. Great views of one, at the Kpong wetland.
Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus*. Great views from the canopy walkway.
(H) Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*. Heard in the Kakum area.
Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*. Sightings in Shai Hills, Kakum, Nsuta and Mole.
Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*. Unbeatable views in Nsuta.
African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*. Great views from the canopy walkway.
Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*. A few brief sightings in Ankasa.
Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*. One, in flight, at Nsuta.
(H) Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*. Heard in Atewa.

Owls Strigidae

(H) African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*. Heard in Mole NP.
Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis*. One, in flight, just outside Kalakpa RR.
Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens*. Great views on two of our night drives in Mole NP.
Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis*. Unforgettable views in Kakum NP.
Akun Eagle-Owl *Bubo leucostictus*. As with the above species, and only moments before!
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*. Brief views at Nsuta.
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*. One (being mobbed by other birds) at Kalakpa.
Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*. Great views at Nsuta.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Brown Nightjar *Veles binotatus*. Very brief views (for some of us) at Nsuta. Also heard in Kakum.
Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*. Great views in Mole NP – a very unexpected bonus.
Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*. Pretty good views during our final night at Kalakpa.
Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*. Unbeatable views in Mole NP.
Standard-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis*. As with the above species.

Swifts Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*. Good views above the forest at Abrafo (Kakum).
Black Spinetail *Telacanthura melanopygia*. Two sightings at Nsuta.
Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*. Nsuta and Ankasa.
Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini*. A couple of sightings in Ankasa.
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*. Around the Shai Hills area and in the far north.
Common Swift *Apus apus*. A handful seen on our first day in the Kakum area.
Little Swift *Apus affinis*. First seen at the Cape Coast Castle.

Trogon Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*. Sighted by some in Atewa

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller *Coracias naevius*. Good views in Mole NP.
Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*. Delightfully common in the north.
Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*. Great views in Shai Hills RR and in the Kalakpa area.



Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*. Great views from the canopy walkway.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*. Several in the north, and during our return from Ho.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*. Great views in Abrafo (Kakum) and in Atewa.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*. Great views of one, in Mole NP.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*. Good views in Kalakpa.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*. One sighting in Mole NP. Also heard in Ankasa.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*. Several sightings, throughout the country

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*. More sightings than I have ever had, anywhere!

(LO) White-bellied Kingfisher *Alcedo leucogaster*. Seen by the leaders only.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*. One at Brenu, several in Mole NP.

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*. Good views near our camp in Ankasa.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*. Also seen at Brenu, as well as in the far north.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Blue-moustached Bee-eater *Merops mentalis*. One, along the Atewa Trail.

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*. Great views in the Kakum area, and in Nsuta.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*. Common in Mole NP.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*. Commonly sighted, throughout the tour.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*. One seen during our first drive to Kalakpa

Rosy Bee-eater *Merops malimbicus*. Great views in the Abrafo area of Kakum NP.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*. Good looks from the canopy walkway.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*. One flock in Bobiri Forest.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*. One sighting near Accra, followed by more in Mole.

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*. Two sightings in Mole NP.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*. A handful of sightings in Mole NP.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*. Several seen near Bolgatanga.

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*. Very common at most forest sites that we visited.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*. Common in the Shai Hills area and in the far north.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus*. Great views in Nsuta Forest.

Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator*. Sightings in Kakum, Nsuta and Ankasa.

(H) Brown-cheeked Hornbill (E) *Bycanistes cylindricus*. Heard in the Kakum area.

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*. Seen briefly (by some of us) in Ankasa NP.

Black Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus hartlaubi*. Great views from the canopy walkway, and in Nsuta.

White-crested Hornbill *Tropicranus albocristatus*. A handful of great views.

African Barbets Lybiidae

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli*. Unusually common in some part of Kakum and in Nsuta.



- Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus*. First seen in at Nsuta.
- Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*. First seen well during our first afternoon in Kakum.
- Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atroflavus*. Only seen during our first visit to the Kakum area.
- Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*. A couple of sightings in the Kakum area.
- Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*. Great views in Shai Hills and in the far north.
- Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*. Great views in the Kakum area, and in Nsuta.
- Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsute*. Great views from the canopy walkway and in Nsuta.
- Vieillot's Barbet** *Lybius vieilloti*. Sightings in Shai Hills RR and at Tono Dam.
- Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus*. A few good views in Shai Hills RR.
- Bearded Barbet** *Lybius dubius*. Great views in Mole NP.
- (H) Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus*. Heard in Kakum and in Nsuta.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

- Willcock's Honeyguide** *Indicator willcocksi*. One sighting, from the canopy walkway.
- Spotted Honeyguide** *Indicator maculatus*. Brief views (for some of us) in Kalakpa.
- Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*. One sighting at the Winneba Plains.

Woodpeckers Picidae

- (H) African Piculet** *Sasia africana*. Heard in Bobiri Forest.
- Fine-spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera punctuligera*. Great views in Mole NP.
- Buff-spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera nivosa*. Shai Hills RR and Kakum NP.
- Little Green Woodpecker (NE)** *Campethera maculosa*. Fantastic views from the canopy walkway.
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*. Seen during the first visit to Shai Hills RR.
- Melancholy (Gabon) Woodpecker (E)** *Dendropicos lugubris*. A few sightings in the Kakum area.
- Fire-bellied Woodpecker (NE)** *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*. Great views from the canopy walkway.
- Brown-backed Woodpecker** *Dendropicos obsoletus*. Good views of at least one in Kalakpa.

Falcons Falconidae

- Common (Eurasian) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*. Some of us saw one of these at our hotel in Accra.
- Fox Kestrel** *Falco alopex*. At least two seen during a stop between Tamale and Bolgatanga.
- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*. A couple of sightings in the Kakum area.
- African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*. A pair seen near Lake Volta.

Parrots Psittacidae

- Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*. A few seen in Mole NP.
- Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius*. One sighting in Mole NP.
- Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*. Great views of one, in Bobiri Forest.
- Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi*. Great views in Nsuta. Also seen in the Kakum area.
- Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*. Common during the first four days and in the north.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

- Rufous-sided Broadbill** *Smithornis rufolateralis*. Several really great sightings!

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

- Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher** *Bias musicus*. A pair seen really well during our first afternoon in the Kakum area, followed by another sighting two days later.



Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*. Great views in Kalakpa.

Fernando Po Batis *Batis poensis*. A couple of sightings from the canopy walkway.

West African (Chestnut) Wattle-eye (E) *Platysteira hormophora*. A few great sightings, including one at Antwikwaa (Kakum).

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*. Best views in Mole NP.

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye (NE) *Platysteira blissetti*. Sightings in Kalakpa and Atewa.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*. Brief sightings in Shall Hills and Mole.

Red-billed Helmetshrike (NE) *Prionops caniceps*. Great views in Nsuta.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*. Glimpsed by a couple of us at Tono Dam.

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolour*. One sighting in Atewa.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*. Eventually found at Brenu.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*. One sighting during our morning in Shai Hills RR.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*. Shai Hills and Tono Dam.

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabinii*. Great views from the canopy walkway.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*. Shai Hills, Kalakpa and Mole.

(H) Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*. Heard in the Gyaware area (Kakum).

Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus*. Sightings at Shai Hills RR, Winneba Plains and Mole NP.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*. Two sightings in Shai Hills RR.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis*. One sighting in Kalakpa RR, another in Mole.

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*. First seen well from the canopy walkway.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*. One sighting in Mole NP.

Shrikes Laniidae

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*. A few groups seen in the Kakum area, and in the north.

Northern (Common) Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*. Several sightings, scattered throughout the tour.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*. One sighting near Kalakpa and two in Mole NP.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*. First seen from the canopy walkway.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*. Also first seen from the canopy walkway.

Drongos Dicruridae

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*. Two sightings in Ankasa, more in Atewa.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*. Most common in Mole NP.

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*. First seen from (on!) the canopy walkway.

Monarchs Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens*. Sightings in Nsuta and in Ankasa.



Red-bellied (Black-headed) Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*. Several great encounters.
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*. Great views in Kalakpa, another in Mole.

Crows, Jays Corvidae

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*. First seen during our drive from Ho to Accra.
Pied Crow *Corvus albus*. Too many sightings.

Rockfowl Picathartidae

White-necked Rockfowl (E) *Picathartes gymnocephalus*. An unforgettable encounter!

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*. One seen in riparian forest in Mole NP.
Dusky Crested Flycatcher *Elminia nigromitrata*. Decent views of one in Ankasa.

Tits, Chickadees Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit *Parus guineensis*. Great views in Mole NP. Also seen at Shai Hills and in Kalakpa.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Yellow Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*. Also seen really well in Mole NP.

Nicators Nicatoridae

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*. A few great sightings, from Kalakpa, Kakum and Nsuta.

Larks Alaudidae

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*. Several encounters in Mole NP.
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*. Also seen in Mole NP – in the dry plains.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*. Commonly encountered.
Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*. Sightings at all of the south-western forest sites.
Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens*. Good views in the Kakum area and in Atewa.
Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis*. Sightings in Kalakpa, Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa.
Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*. One sighting in Atewa.
Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris*. Good views from the canopy walkway.
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris*. Glimpsed (by some) in Kalakpa and Ankasa.
Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*. Some great views during our time in the Kakum area.
Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*. Eventually seen in the Abrafo area (Kakum).
Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*. Distant but good views of a pair at Abrafo.
Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*. A couple of good views in the Kakum area.
Swamp [Palm] Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*. First seen in Kalakpa.
Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*. Sightings in Ankasa and Atewa.
(LO) White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*. Kalakpa - seen by the leaders only?
Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*. One sighting in the Abrafo section of Kakum.
Green-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda eximius*. One glimpsed flying over our heads near 'Pond 1', Ankasa.



Western Bearded Greenbul (NE) *Criniger barbatus*. Good views on a trail near the canopy walkway.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*. Several sightings, shared between Kakum and Ankasa.

Yellow-bearded Greenbul (E) *Criniger olivaceus*. One encounter at Ankasa.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens*. First sighted at Nsuta.

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*. Great views during our final visit to the Abfrao area.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. Commonly encountered in the south-west. Also seen in Atewa.

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*. Seen well near the Larabanga Mosque.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*. First sighted along the Kalakpa access road.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*. Daily sightings in Mole NP.

White-bibbed Swallow *Hirundo nigrita*. Great views of a couple on the Pra River.

Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*. One at Brenu.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*. A couple of sightings in the Kakum area.

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*. A few seen (perched) along to the Kalakpa access road.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*. Several seen near the Volta Dam.

West African Swallow *Cecropis domicella*. Great views during our drive to the White Volta River.

Preuss's [Cliff] Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*. One flock at Abrafo (Kakum), another near the Pra River.

Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*. Glimpses, for some, just outside Kalakpa.

Kemp's Longbill (NE) *Macrosphenus kempii*. A couple of encounters at Nsuta, one in Atewa.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*. Good views at Nsuta. Also sighted in Kalakpa and Atewa.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*. A couple of sightings in Shai Hills RR.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*. Great (scope!) views on our third day in the Kakum area.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*. A pair, high up in the canopy, in Ankasa.

Yellow Flycatchers Erythrocercidae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocercus mccallii*. Great views from the canopy walkway.

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*. Several sightings during our time in the south-west.

Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rufia*. Great views during our first afternoon in the Kakum area.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. A handful seen in Shai Hills RR.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. One, at the wetland between Bolgatanga and Tamale.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Heard at the wetland between Bolgatanga and Tamale.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae



- (H) Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*. Heard in the Kakum area.
Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*. A few at Kalakpa and one in the Kakum area.
Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*. Several in Kalakpa, followed by more in Kakum and Atewa.
Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola emini*. One sighting, south of Bolgatanga.
Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*. One, at the wetland between Bolgatanga and Tamale.
Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*. Good views in Shai Hills RR.
Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*. Several seen during the first week.
Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*. Sightings in Shai Hills RR and Mole NP only.
Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus*. Good views near the Volta Dam.
Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*. Mole NP only.
Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*. Great looks in Atewa.
Sharpe's Apalis (E) *Apalis sharpii*. Good views of one in Ankasa.
Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*. Two good views, in Mole NP.
Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicauda*. Several in Shai Hills RR, a few in Mole NP.
Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*. Great views in Kakum NP and at Nsuta.
(H) Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*. Heard at Nsuta and in Atewa.
Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*. First seen well in Shai Hills RR.
Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*. Great views from the canopy walkway.

Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

- (H) Blackcap Illadopsis** *Illadopsis cleaveri*. Heard in the Abrafo section of Kakum NP.
Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*. One decent sighting, along the road to Abrafo (Kakum).
Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis*. Great views of a small group in Ankasa.
(H) Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*. Heard in Atewa.

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

- Capuchin Babbler** *Phyllanthus atripennis*. Brief sightings, for some, in Kalakpa.
Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*. One flock, during our second full day in Mole NP.
Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*. One sighting in Mole NP, another in some woodland south of Bolgatanga.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

- African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*. Atewa and Mole NP.

Hyliotas Hylotiidae

- Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota*. Great views in Kalakpa RR.
Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea*. Great views from the canopy walkway.

Starlings Sturnidae

- Copper-tailed (Glossy) Starling (E)** *Hylopsar cupreocauda*. One scoped near Pond 3 in Ankasa.
Splendid (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*. Several sightings in the south-west.
Purple (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*. A few sightings in Kalakpa and in the far north.
Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*. Great views in Mole NP.
Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*. A small flock at Tono Dam.
Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*. A handful of sightings during the first week.
Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*. Great views from the canopy walkway.



Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*. Two sightings during our drive to Bolgatanga.

Thrushes Turdidae

Finsch's Rufous Thrush (NE) *Stizorhina finschii*. One sighting from the canopy walkway, another (through the scope) in the Abrafo area of Kakum.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*. First seen in the grounds of the Chances Hotel in Ho.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

White-tailed Alethe *Alethe diademata*. One restless individual in Atewa.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*. Great views from the canopy walkway.

White-browed Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens*. One, at the mangroves.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*. Great close-ups of one in Ankasa.

(H) Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*. Heard in Shai Hills RR.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*. A few in the Shai Hills area.

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*. One in the Abrafo area (Kakum), a few in Atewa.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. Several seen in the Shai Hills area.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*. Daily sightings in Mole NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*. Great looks at a couple, at the stream in Ankasa.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*. First seen in the Kakum area.

Tessmann's Flycatcher *Muscicapa tessmanni*. Great looks at a pair in Nsuta.

Ussher's Flycatcher (E) *Muscicapa ussheri*. A few groups seen in the Kakum area and in Nsuta.

(H) Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter*. Heard in the Kakum area.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*. Glimpsed (by some) in Shai Hills RR.

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapillus*. One sighting, in riverine forest, in Mole.

Forest Robin *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*. A few sightings in Ankasa, one in Atewa.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. A few individuals in Mole NP.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. One, in Mole NP.

White-crowned Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea coronata*. Eventually seen by all, in Shai Hills RR.

White-fronted Black Chat *Pentholaea albifrons*. A couple of good views in Mole NP.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Fraser's Sunbird *Deleornis fraseri*. Several sightings – in Kakum, Ankasa and Atewa.

Mangrove Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus*. Great views during a stop between Shama and Ankasa.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*. A few sightings in the Kakum area, and in Atewa.

Grey-chinned Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*. Good views during our first outing to Abrafo.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*. Common in the Kakum area and in Atewa.

Pygmy Sunbird *Hedydipna platura*. Several great encounters in Mole NP.

Reichenbach's Sunbird *Anabathmis reichenbachii*. Great views of a couple in some coastal mangroves.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*. First seen in Kalakpa.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*. Great views from the canopy walkway.

(Western) Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea*. Also seen well from the canopy walkway.

Buff-throated Sunbird (NE) *Chalcomitra adelberti*. Great views in the Kakum area.



Carmelite Sunbird *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*. Successfully 'twitched' in Half Assini.
Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*. A couple seen in the north.
Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius*. A handful seen in the Kakum area.
Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus*. Great views from the canopy walkway.
Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*. Great looks in Mole NP.
Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*. A few great views in the Kalakpa-Ho area.
Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae*. Splendid views from the canopy walkway.
Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*. First seen well in a banana flower in the Abrafo area (Kakum).
Bate's Sunbird *Cinnyris batesi*. One sighting (for some) in Bobiri.
Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*. First seen well in the Shai Hills RR.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*. Commonly encountered, throughout the trip.
Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*. Common in Mole NP.

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*. We stopped at a colony of these while *en route* to the White Volta River.
Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*. One small group seen at Tono Dam.
Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*. A couple seen in Mole NP.
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*. A few sightings in the Kakum area, and in Atewa.
Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*. A few seen at a small colony near the village of Abra.
Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*. One individual at the wetland north of Tamale.
Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*. Several scattered sightings.
Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*. Several colonies seen, including one at the Kakum NP entrance gate.
Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*. A few at the wetland north of Tamale.
Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*. Great views from the canopy walkway and in Atewa.
Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha*. As with the above species.
Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*. One pair, in Atewa.
Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*. Great views of a male, building a nest, in Bobiri.
Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens*. Several sightings – in the Kakum area and in Ankasa.
Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*. Common in the Kakum area, a few seen in Atewa.
Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*. Sightings in Kakum, Ankasa and Atewa.
Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*. Two sightings in Mole NP.
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*. A handful of sightings in the Mole area.
Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*. A few at the wetland north of Tamale.
Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceu*. Sighted from Kalakpa and the north.
Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*. Good views of two in Mole NP.
Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*. First sighted near Kalakpa.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*. A few sightings in Kakum NP and Nsuta.
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor*. Several sightings in the south-west and in Atewa.
Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus*. Also only sighted in the Kakum area and Nsuta.
Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*. Briefly seen during our final morning walk.



- Black-bellied Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes ostrinus*. Great views, near the Orange Weaver colony.
Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*. A pair, near the wetland on the edge of Kakum NP.
Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*. A handful of scattered sightings, including one at the Chances Hotel in Ho.
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*. Several seen in the Mole area.
African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*. A few at Brenu and in Atewa.
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*. Common in the north.
Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda caerulescens*. A couple of sightings in Mole NP.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*. Several sightings, mostly in the south.
Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*. A handful seen at Brenu.
Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*. A handful spotted at the wetland north of Tamale.
African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*. Sighted at the wetland north of Tamale, and in Mole NP.
Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*. Numerous sightings.
Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor*. Also seen on several occasions, throughout the south.

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

- Wilson's Indigobird** *Vidua wilsoni*. One male, near Kalakpa RR.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*. Two sightings in the south-west – the first near Kakum NP.
Exclamatory Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*. A few sightings in Mole NP.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*. In the grounds of Rainforest Lodge (Kakum).
Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*. One flushed in Shai Hills RR.

Finches Fringillidae

- Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*. One sighting in Kalakpa RR.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

- Gosling's Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*. Great views of several during our stop south of Bolgatanga.
Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis*. A couple of sightings in Mole NP.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded

Horned Ungulates Bovidae

- Defassa Waterbuck** *Kobus defassa*. Several sightings in Mole NP.
Kob *Kobus kob*. Numerous sightings - in Shai Hills RR and in Mole NP.
Bushuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*. A few sightings in Mole NP.

Pigs Suidae

- Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*. Also seen in Mole NP only.

Mongoose Herpestidae

- Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguinea*. One sighting during our drive from Shama to Ankasa.
Gambian Mongoose *Mungos gambianus*. One brief sighting in Mole NP.



Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*. A sighting by some, in Shai Hills RR.

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*. A large colony near Atewa.

Cheek-pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Lesser White-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus petaurista*. Great views from the canopy tower.

Green Monkey *Cercopithecus sabaues*. Shai Hills RR.

Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*. Mole NP.

Olive Baboon *Papio papio*. Shai Hills RR and Mole NP.

Lorises Lorisidae

Potto *Perodicticus potto*. Nsuta.

Hares Leporidae

African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae (saxatilis)*. Successfully chased in Mole NP.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*. Several great encounters in Mole NP.

Scaly-tailed Squirrels Anomaluridae

Beecroft's Scaly-tailed Squirrel *Anomalurus beecrofti*. Kakum canopy walkway.

Pel's Scaly-tailed Squirrel *Anomalurus pelii*. Kakum canopy walkway.

Nesomyidae

Gambian Pouched Rat *Cricetomys gambianus*. Kakum and Ankasa.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Ebien (Temminck's Giant) Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*. Kalakpa

Kintampo Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus substriatus*. Mole NP.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*. Kalakpa and Kakum.

African Palm Civet Nandiniidae

(LO?) **African Palm Civet** *Nandinia binotata*. Nsuta.



Annotated List of Snakes recorded

Vipers Viperidae

Western Bush Viper *Atheris chlorechis*. One almost trampled at Ankasa.

Pythons Pythonidae

African Rock Python *Python sebae*. One caught between Ho and Kalakpa.

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