



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Ghana Mega

Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials

27th November to 19th December 2015 (23 days)

Trip Report



White-necked Rockfowl by Markus Lilje

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Markus Lilje

Trip Summary

Our private Ghana Mega trip proved yet again to be a resounding success! We notched up a fantastic total that included some wonderful highlights in all of the great variety of habitats that we covered in the time we covered the length and breadth of this West African country.

Our tour started off with a morning visit to Shai Hills. This small but fabulous reserve has a nice variety of habitats including mixed woodland, grassland, wetlands and granite outcrops and therefore supports an interesting array of bird species. During our morning exploring the reserve we recorded Red-necked Buzzard, Grey Kestrel, Senegal Parrot, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, White-shouldered Black Tit, Piapiac, Flappet Lark, stunning Violet Turaco, Western Plantain-eater, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Yellow-rumped and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets, a family group of White-crested Helmetshrike and Yellow-crowned Gonolek, restless Senegal Eremomela and stunning little Orange-cheeked Waxbill. A good number of migrants were also seen, including Willow and Melodious Warblers, European Pied and Spotted Flycatchers.

Well pleased with our morning's introduction to easy West African birding, we left Shai Hills and made our way toward Ho. Using Ho as a base, we made several visits to Kalakpa Resources Reserve. En route to the park we walked through a fairly open grassland area, which held a lot of good species for us. These included Yellow-billed Shrike, Red-headed Quelea, Black-winged Red Bishop, Yellow-mantled Widowbird and Marsh Tchagra, while the trees and



Long-tailed Hawk by Markus Lilje



Red-necked Buzzard by Markus Lilje

bushes here produced Blue-bellied and Broad-billed Rollers, Green Wood Hoopoe, dazzling Splendid and Copper Sunbirds and scarce Brown-necked Parrot. During our 2 days spent in and around the gallery forest of this seldom-visited reserve we were sometimes frustrated, although the area also proved to be rewarding, with sightings of the highly elusive Capuchin Babbler, White-crested Hornbill, Forest Robin, Mottled Spinetail, Narina Trogon, Spotted Honeyguide, Thick-billed Cuckoo, Senegal Batis, West African Wattle-eye, Palmnut Vulture, African Pygmy and Striped Kingfishers, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, a pair of Green-headed Sunbird. Our night excursions were also very productive and yielded cute African Scops Owl and Long-tailed, female Standard-winged and Black-shouldered Nightjars.

From Kalakpa we made our way back towards the capital, Accra, and enjoyed a superb afternoon visit to Sakumono Lagoon. On the way there, we briefly stopped along the edge of the Volta Dam, where we had African Pygmy Goose and African Swampfen after seeing a Little Bittern during the quick ferry crossing. The Sakumono Lagoon is certainly one of the more easily accessible rich wetlands in Ghana and supports a wealth of waders and waterfowl. We were not to be disappointed with numerous good sightings. These included large flocks of White-faced Whistling Ducks, Black and Western Reef Herons



Cape Cross Castle by Markus Lilje



seen fishing among other egrets and herons, Western Marsh Harrier, Senegal Thick-knee, Spur-winged Lapwing, American Golden and Common Ringed Plovers, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Ruff and Collared Pratincole. A fabulous end to the day and the south-eastern portion of the tour, as we headed back to our hotel for dinner and good night's rest.

The following morning we departed early to avoid the traffic and visited Winneba Lagoon. This



Bar-breasted Firefinch
by Markus Lilje

proved very rewarding with a number of species not seen the previous day at Sakumono. We enjoyed good views of Striated Heron, White-fronted Plover, Spotted and Common Redshanks, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Black-winged Stilt, Whimbrel, Sanderling and Royal and Sandwich Terns. Moving onto the Winneba Plains, we found African Hobby, Guinea Turaco, Flappet Lark, Whinchat and Northern Fiscal.

Thereafter we travelled west to Cape Coast, where we enjoyed lunch before taking a tour of the Cape Coast Castle, learning about its history and the role it played in the slave trade in this region. Leaving the coast we headed inland to our comfortable lodge. During a small walk in some farm bush habitat we managed to find a good number of new species, that included Compact and Black-necked Weavers, African and Bar-breasted Firefinches, Red-faced Cisticola, Simple Greenbul, Mosque and Lesser Striped Swallows and Double-spurred Francolin. After this great introduction to the area we called it a day, very much looking forward to our time around the Kakum area!

The next two-and-a-half days were then spent in and around various parts of the famous Kakum National Park and in particular the famous canopy walkway. This area provides access to different parts of the forest, from old-growth, to farm bush with a high degree of human impact. We first covered different parts of the park away from the core area around the walkway itself, getting an easier introduction along the forest edge, where the birding can be very productive. Here we managed to find a huge diversity that included Johanna's Sunbird, Chestnut-winged and



Red-cheeked Wattle-eye
by Markus Lilje



White-browed Forest Flycatcher
by Markus Lilje

Copper-tailed Starlings, Dusky-blue and Ussher's Flycatchers, White-breasted Nigrita, Black-winged Oriole, tiny Tit Hylia, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Violet-backed Hylia, Naked-faced and Bristle-nosed Barbets, Fire-bellied and Melancholy Woodpeckers, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, African Cuckoo-Hawk, spectacular Black and Rosy Bee-eaters. A quick stop at the Pra River produced superb views of White-bibbed Swallow, Rock Pratincole, White-crowned Lapwing and nearby a colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallows.

After this great start to birding in the area, we were excited to see the forest from a different angle as we headed on, to undoubtedly the best canopy walkway in Africa. Soon after our arrival, we were enjoying numerous canopy species at much better angles than usual. Highlights included Blue-throated Roller, Brown-cheeked and White-crested



Hornbills, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Red-fronted Antpecker, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Willcock's Honeyguide, Little Green and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, Sabine's Puffback, sought-after Sharpe's Apalis, European Honey Buzzard, Blue Malkoha, Forest Wood Hoopoe, Grey Parrot, Golden, Honeyguide and Spotted Greenbuls, Fanti Saw-wing, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, numerous Velvet-mantled Drongo, Grey-headed Nigrita, Red-headed Malimbe, Blue-throated Brown, Tiny and Grey-chinned Sunbirds and nesting Yellow-mantled Weaver. In the late afternoon a few participants managed to see Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey as they headed to their night roosts. During our evening walks around the parking area, we managed to find two incredibly sought-after owls: namely Akun and Fraser's Eagle-Owls and also came across a Potto and Gambian Pouched Rat.



Black Dwarf Hornbill by
Markus Lilje

Leaving Kakum we headed towards the next forest: Nsuta, where we again spent 2 nights nearby, making numerous excursions to the forest itself. During the course of our time here, we again found some fantastic birds – despite seeing how the forest is being degraded quickly, as is the case in so many places around the world. On the outskirts of the forest we added Hartlaub's Duck in the scope as they rested in some trees, stunning Black-bellied Seedcracker and a very relaxed and close Black-throated Coucal! Inside the forest we only heard Congo Serpent Eagle, but managed views of Forest Penduline Tit, Black and Red-billed Dwarf Hornbills, Cassin's Spinetail, African Emerald Cuckoo, Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Cassin's Honeybird, African Piculet, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Red-billed Helmetshrike and both Red-vented and Crested Malimbés, Tessmann's Flycatcher, Black-capped Apalis and Yellow-billed Barbet.

Tearing ourselves away from Nsuta we headed to yet another fabulous forest, Ankasa National Park. En route we found a colony of Orange and Vieillot's Black Weavers, Mangrove and Reichenbach's Sunbirds, African Darter and a fantastic White-browed Forest Flycatcher in a small section of mangroves and then settled into our camp, conveniently situated inside the park.



White-bellied Kingfisher by
Markus Lilje

Our time in Ankasa was very satisfying and we enjoyed many memorable sightings. Exploring the network of forest trails and time around the forest ponds yielded a fine selection of forest species, although we often needed much persistence during long quite spells. Some of the best birds included Sabine's Spinetail, Blue-breasted, White-bellied, Shining-blue and Chocolate-backed Kingfishers, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Shining Drongo, Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Blue-billed Malimbe, White-tailed Alethe, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Green Crombec, Crowned Eagle, Yellow-billed Turaco, African Wood Owl, Grey-throated Tit- and Cassin's Flycatchers, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Yellow-bearded and Red-



Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo
by Markus Lilje



tailed Greenbuls and Fraser's Sunbird. During an evening excursion we enjoyed superb Hammer Bat giving its call overhead.

After enjoying a final morning's birding at Ankasa, we travelled back to our lodge near Kakum National Park where we enjoyed a comfortable overnight stay. On the way a brief stop produced a fantastic perched Pied-winged Swallow, Red-winged Warbler, Black-rumped Waxbill and breeding Black-winged Kite. The morning near the Kakum NP again proved great and had us finding some wonderful species like White-spotted Flufftail, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Lowland Sooty Boubou, Little Grey Greenbul and a few others.

From here we made our way to Bonkro Forest in search of one of the most highly desired birds in the World, White-necked Rockfowl. It is a particularly unusual and mysterious species with its somewhat prehistoric appearance and secretive nature. With adrenalin pumping we set off into the forest in search of our quarry and reached the well-placed viewing area in good time. After a lengthy wait some of us were a bit anxious but, at last, first one, and then another and another appeared. They bounced around the vines and rocks silently, knowing we were there but totally unperturbed by our presence. Shortly before we departed one individual jumped out and fed and then preened only a few metres from us. Absolutely exhilarated we walked back to the bus in record time and made our way to Kumasi, finding Plain Nightjar on the way. After this lengthy drive we celebrated over a nice cold beer and delicious meal!

From Kumasi we travelled north to Mole National Park, stopping at Opro Forest en route. Opro was fairly active that morning, providing a few



Exclamatory Paradise Whydah by Markus Lilje

good sightings. These included Baumann's Olive Greenbul, Levillant's Cuckoo, Red-billed

Helmetshrike and Sabine's Puffback. As we headed further and further north the habitat gradually kept changing, getting more and more dry and open. All along this drive we kept finding birds, some of which had not yet been seen on the tour in the more forested south. These included Purple and Abyssinian Rollers, Long-crested Eagle, Bateleur, the sought-after Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard, Bearded Barbet and Dark Chanting Goshawk.

Mole National Park was superb over the next few days, as we covered the various habitats that were accessible in our area of this huge reserve! Some of our more memorable sightings included Stone Partridge, Oriole Warbler, Saddle-billed Stork, Fine-spotted and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Lavendar Waxbill, the strange Hamerkop and its huge nest, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Forbes's Plover, Violet Turaco, Greyish Eagle-Owl, cute Pearl-spotted Owllet,



Red-throated Bee-eater by Markus Lilje

These included Purple and



Rock-loving Cisticola by Markus Lilje



Malachite Kingfisher, large numbers of the beautiful Red-throated Bee-eater, Wilson's Indigobird, Moustached Grass Warbler, Red-headed Lovebird, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Sun Lark, Red-winged Pytilia, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, African Spotted Creeper, White-fronted Black Chat, Rufous Cisticola, Familiar Chat, Brown-rumped Bunting and Exclamatory Paradise Whydah. We also enjoyed great views of confiding African Elephant, Patas Monkey, Kob, Waterbuck, a fantastic Yellow-winged Bat and several Nile Crocodiles.



Purple Starling by Markus Lilje

Orange-breasted Waxbill. We then continued our drive north, stopping for a final time on this day at the Tongo Hills. Here we were again very successful around these boulder-strewn hills, finding White-crowned Cliff Chat, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Gosling's Bunting, Red-necked Falcon, Booted Eagle, Rock-loving Cisticola and scarce White-rumped Seedeater. We finally arrived in Bolgatanga, our northern-most accommodations after dark.

From Bolgatanga we visited the White Volta on the border of Burkina Faso in search of the stunning Egyptian Plover. We were treated to good views of this unique wader, now placed in its own family. After enjoying our time with this



Red-chested Owlet by Markus Lilje

on the following morning. Having birded considerable forest sites already we were delighted with our bouquet of new species at Bobiri, where we spent the full morning walking among some beautiful tall forest. Some notable

Leaving Mole National Park we continued north, stopping briefly for the old and famous mosque at Larabanga and then finding Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat during our lunch break. At a roadside wetland we recorded Western Marsh Harrier, Red-billed Quelea, African Grey Woodpecker, Black-headed Weaver, Quailfinch and



Bruce's Green Pigeon by Markus Lilje

spectacular species we then explored the surrounding woodland, which produced a nice variety of dry country birds. Highlights included views of Mourning Collared Dove, Northern Wheatear, Chestnut-bellied Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, West African Swallow, White-billed Buffalo Weaver, African Silverbill, Village Indigobird, Woodchat Shrike and Namaqua Dove. In the afternoon we explored the Tono Dam area which held cryptic Four-banded Sandgrouse, Greyish Eagle-Owl, Lavender Waxbill, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Common White-throat and spectacular Purple Starling.

After a very long driving day we arrived back in the city of Kumasi, our base for a lovely visit to the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary



Long-tailed Hawk by Markus Lilje



sightings included Long-tailed Hawk, Purple-throated and stunning Blue Cuckooshrikes, Bat Hawk, Red-chested Owlet, Buff-throated Sunbird, Black Dwarf Hornbill, Grey and Red-fronted Parrots, a very close Little Green Woodpecker, Johanna's Sunbird, the beautiful Preuss's Weaver feeding on large trunks and Magpie Mannikin feeding on seeding Bamboo.

Our final destination was the superb hill forest of Atewa. The Atewa range supports a wonderful diversity of both bird and butterfly species. We spent our time searching for the few remaining forest birds we hadn't seen whilst enjoying further views of a myriad of forest flora and fauna. Some of the key species we observed during our time here included the beautiful Black and Blue-moustached Bee-eaters, Fernando Po Batis, Lemon-bellied Crombec, in-flight Blue-headed Wood Dove, Cassin's Honeybird, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher, Northern Puffback, Western Bearded and Red-tailed Greenbuls, Red-breasted Swallow, Grey Longbill, Black-capped Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Narrow-tailed Starling, Chestnut-breasted and White-breasted Nigritas, Buff-spotted and Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Brown-cheeked Hornbill and Maxwell's Black Weaver.



Blue-moustached Bee-eater
by Markus Lilje



African Hobby by Markus Lilje

Atewa was simply superb and a fantastic way to end off this tour, although we did have one final brief stop up our sleeves after we freshened up at our hotel, as we stopped briefly at a different part of the Sakumono Lagoon. We enjoyed this much more open birding before finally heading to the airport. In addition to the fantastic African Hobby hunting overhead we found scarce Black Coucal, Senegal Thick-knee, Black-tailed Godwit among many other shorebirds, Northern Pintail, Garganey and African Swamphen. Leaving the wetland behind we made our way to Accra in order to connect with our departure flights home.

Thanks must go to a wonderful group of enthusiastic participants, as well as a superb ground operations team. I trust you will all hold many good memories from this tour for a long time into the future!

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 5.3 List of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Generated in 2015. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names.

Total species recorded: 474 (456 seen and 18 heard)

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

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Seen on both occasions in good numbers at Sakumono Lagoon.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

A single bird flew over in Mole NP.



Hartlaub's Duck*Pteronetta hartlaubi*

We enjoyed views of 2 perched birds near Nsuta forest, some glimpsed a bird flying away from a pool in Ankasa NP.

African Pygmy Goose*Nettapus auritus*

3 birds were seen on the Volta River near our ferry crossing.

Northern Pintail*Anas acuta*

Around 15 birds were recorded on Sakumono Lagoon.

Garganey*Anas querquedula*

A few distant birds were seen at Sakumono Lagoon.

Guineafowl Numididae**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

We saw flocks daily in Mole NP.

New World Quail Odontophoridae**Stone Partridge***Ptilopachus petrosus*

We had excellent sightings in Mole NP.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**Latham's Francolin***Peliperdix lathamii*

We heard this species from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

White-throated Francolin*Peliperdix albogularis*

We had a number of birds calling in Mole NP, none showed unfortunately.

Ahanta Francolin (NE)*Pternistis achantensis*

Also heard only: in Kalakpa and Opro forests.

Double-spurred Francolin*Pternistis bicalcaratus*

Several were seen at Kalakpa however our best sightings were in Mole NP where small numbers were seen daily.

Common Quail*Coturnix coturnix*

A single bird was seen briefly in flight in the Winneba grasslands.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We had views of distant birds at Sakumono Lagoon.

Storks Ciconiidae**Woolly-necked Stork***Ciconia episcopus*

Seen well in Mole NP.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This magnificent bird was seen in Mole NP, where we had great views of a bird on 2 days.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Hadada Ibis***Bostrychia hagedash*

We had daily sightings of many in Mole NP.

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

At least 6 were seen on the final day at Sakumono Lagoon, although widespread elsewhere this species is not common in Ghana.

Heron, Bitterns Ardeidae

- Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*
Some participants had good but brief views from the ferry as we crossed the Volta.
- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
We had good views in Mole NP.
- Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*
We had multiple sightings on 5 days of the tour.
- Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*
Seen in small numbers at several waterside sites including in Mole NP
- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
Seen on almost every day of the tour – especially prevalent in the drier northern parts of Ghana.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Recorded at most wetland localities on tour.
- Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*
4 were seen on a single day in Mole NP.
- Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
Seen near Ankasa and later in northern Ghana a few times.
- Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
A few seen at Sakumono Lagoon.
- Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*
We had good views at Sakumono Lagoon.
- Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*
We enjoyed watching three of these smart birds at Sakumono Lagoon.
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
A few were seen at Winneba Lagoon and later at Sapeliga in the north.
- Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*
Recorded at Sakumono Lagoon and Winneba Lagoon, where we had good scope views of six

Hamerkop Scopidae

- Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*
We had good sightings of these special birds in northern Ghana, including in Mole NP.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

- Reed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus*
Small numbers were seen at several wetlands in southern Ghana, including Sakumono Lagoon.

Anhingas Anhingidae

- African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*
A very scarce bird in Ghana; we had good views of one at the Ebi mangroves.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles Accipitridae

- Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
We had scattered sightings throughout much of the tour's more open areas.



African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Common and seen on around half the days of the trip, including good sightings in Kakum NP, where several sightings from the canopy walkway.	
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
We had good views of one from the Kakum Canopy walkway, with scattered sightings elsewhere.	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
We enjoyed single birds on 4 days in the southern forests.	
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
Seen on 3 days, including near Kakum and in Bobiri Forest.	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
Another very common bird, we had many sightings where they were most commonly encountered in towns and cities.	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Only seen in Mole NP where we had 6 in one day.	
Beudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>
A single distant bird was seen on the drive to Mole NP.	
Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
A superb adult was seen in Mole NP.	
Congo Serpent Eagle	<i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i>
We heard this species at close range in Nsuta and Ankasa Forests.	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
A bird that is mostly seen in larger parks and reserves, we had daily sightings in Mole NP.	
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
A single bird was seen well as it flew overhead in Bobiri Forest.	
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
A single majestic adult was seen well, perched in Ankasa NP.	
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Scarce in Ghana, where we had one near Mole NP.	
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
We had 3 birds on the first full day in Shai Hills and near Kalakpa NP.	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
We had good views on 2 days in the north – one dark and one light morph bird.	
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
A common bird in the moister parts of Ghana in particular – seen on 9 days of the tour, including some great views!	
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
A single bird was seen briefly in Mole NP.	
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Several were seen in Mole NP further north, where some were seen very well!	
Long-tailed Hawk	<i>Urotriorchus macrourus</i>
We had a superb sighting of 2 adults in Bobiri Forest – a fantastic forest raptor!	
Red-chested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter toussenelii</i>
Seen by some participants in Ankasa NP.	
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
We recorded this common species at many sites including in Accra and Mole NP.	
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter erythropus</i>



A single bird was seen flying over in Nsuta Forest.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

We enjoyed a wonderful sighting from the canopy walkway and then again in Nsuta forest.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

We had several sightings on 8 days of the tour around various wetlands!

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

One of the most common birds of the tour, seen on virtually every day.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

Seen in and around Mole NP, where they were quite regularly encountered.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

Seen regularly at scattered locations throughout the trip.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

With much patience, everyone secured views of this skulking species that showed on the edge of a small wetland in the Abrafo area near Kakum NP.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

We enjoyed good views of this species at Nasia pool in the north.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had great scope views at Sakumo Lagoon after initial views along the Volta near the ferry.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

A single bird was seen on the edge of Cape Coast.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

Our first sighting was at Sakumono Lagoon and later several more were seen in Mole NP.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

We had great views of 4 near Sapeliga.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Highest count Sakumono Lagoon with a few elsewhere.

Plovers Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

Seen at Sakumono and Winneba Lagoons, with further birds at the White Volta near Sapeliga.

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*

Scarce in Ghana, with a single bird at the Pra River site.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Seen at scattered sites on 5 days of the tour.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

A single vagrant was seen at the Sakumono Lagoon.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A few were seen at Sakumono Lagoon and many more at the lagoon near Winneba.



Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

We had superb sightings at Sakumono Lagoon and the Winneba wetland.

Forbes's Plover*Charadrius forbesi*

We were particularly fortunate to find 5 of these highly sought-after birds in Mole NP.

White-fronted Plover*Charadrius marginatus*

A single bird was scoped at the lagoon near Winneba.

Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae**Egyptian Plover***Pluvianus aegyptius*

We had splendid views of at least 4 of these magnificent birds at the White Volta. A real highlight of the tour and new family for most participants!

Jacanas Jacanidae**African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

We saw these 'lily-trotters' at virtually all waterbodies with floating vegetation. Our highest count was of thirty at Sakumono Lagoon.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae**Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago*

We had good views on the final afternoon at the Sakumono Lagoon.

Black-tailed Godwit*Limosa limosa*

Around 100 birds were seen on the final afternoon at Sakumono Lagoon.

Bar-tailed Godwit*Limosa lapponica*

A single bird was seen well at the lagoon near Winneba.

Whimbrel*Numenius phaeopus*

Small numbers were seen at the lagoons near Accra and Winneba.

Spotted Redshank*Tringa erythropus*

A single bird was seen at Tono Dam.

Common Redshank*Tringa totanus*

At least 6 were seen on the final afternoon at the Sakumono Lagoon.

Marsh Sandpiper*Tringa stagnatilis*

We saw birds at Sakumono Lagoon after first views near Winneba.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

We found birds at Sakumono Lagoon, with more sightings at scattered locations later during the tour.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

A single bird was seen in flight at the Sakumono Lagoon.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

Seen on 4 days, with greatest numbers at the Sakumono Lagoon.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

We had sightings at a few wetland localities on tour including at Sakumono Lagoon.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

We found 5 at the wetland site near Winneba.

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

Around 40 were seen at the wetland near Winneba.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

A few were seen at Sakumono and the wetland near Winneba.



Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

Good numbers showed at Sakumono Lagoon and the wetland near Winneba.

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

One was seen on our first visit to the Sakumono Lagoon, with many on our second visit there.

Coursers, Pratincoles Glareolidae**Collared Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

We found around 150 birds at Sakumono Lagoon.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis*

We found 2 on the Pra River near Twifo Praso.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Royal Tern***Thalasseus maximus*

We enjoyed good views of around 50 birds at the wetland site near Winneba.

Sandwich Tern*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

With the above species we had a similar number of these smaller birds in a resting flock.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae**Four-banded Sandgrouse***Pterocles quadricinctus*

We enjoyed great views of several near Tono Dam after night views in Mole NP.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**Rock Dove***Columba livia*

Recorded at many urban centres throughout the country

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

We had great views of up to thirty daily during our time in the far north near Bolgatanga.

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon*Columba iriditorques*

We had brief views of a single bird in Nsuta Forest, before 2 flew over near Atewa forest; others were heard on 2 days.

Mourning Collared Dove*Streptopelia decipiens*

We enjoyed superb views of a few birds in the far north.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

This large dove was seen on virtually every day of the tour.

Vinaceous Dove*Streptopelia vinacea*

Our first sighting was at Shai Hills, with more sightings of up to fifty daily in Mole NP.

Laughing Dove*Spilopelia senegalensis*

Another very common bird, seen on many days of the tour

Black-billed Wood Dove*Turtur abyssinicus*

We enjoyed daily sightings in Mole NP.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove*Turtur afer*

Common during much of the tour, where they are common in forest edge habitat.

Tambourine Dove*Turtur tympanistria*

Many were seen in flight, with a few perched in many southern forests.

Blue-headed Wood Dove*Turtur brehmeri*

Many were heard calling in good forests in the south, before we enjoyed good flight views in Atewa, right overhead.



Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

We had good views of 3 near the White Volta in the far north.

Bruce's Green Pigeon*Treron waalia*

Seen on 2 days in the north, with one at Tonga Hills and a great flock at the Tono Dam.

African Green Pigeon*Treron calvus*

This was a common bird at all the forested sites in Ghana.

Turacos Musophagidae**Great Blue Turaco***Corythaeola cristata*

Seen by just a few participants, where we heard it in Ankasa NP.

Guinea Turaco*Tauraco persa*

Regularly heard in various forest edge areas; we had sightings in different parts of the Kakum area.

Yellow-billed Turaco*Tauraco macrorhynchus*

A noisy species heard all over the forest areas, with good sightings in Kakum NP and Nsuta among others.

Violet Turaco*Musophaga violacea*

This stunning species was seen briefly at Shai Hills, with further great views in Mole NP.

Western Plantain-eater*Crinifer piscator*

Seen on many days of the tour, especially in the north, where it is common.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Black-throated Coucal***Centropus leucogaster*

A tricky species to see in forest tangles. Our first sighting was of a bird on the roadside near Nsuta, with another later in Atewa Forest.

Senegal Coucal*Centropus senegalensis*

A common species, seen at Shai Hills and many other days later.

Blue-headed Coucal*Centropus monachus*

Seen at Kalakpa and later in the Atewa farm bush; regularly heard.

Black Coucal*Centropus grillii*

The first ever record on Rockjumper tours to Ghana – one seen in grass and the Sakumono Lagoon.

Blue Malkoha*Ceuthmochares aereus*

This is a common species in the forests of Ghana, where it was seen regularly.

Levaillant's Cuckoo*Clamator levaillantii*

Seen well on 3 days of the tour, in Shai Hills and forests later.

Thick-billed Cuckoo*Pachycoccyx audeberti*

We had a brief view as a calling bird flew directly overhead in Kalakpa.

Diederik Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx caprius*

A very widespread bird that was seen on 3 days of the tour.

Klaas's Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx klaas*

We had great on a few occasions, including in Nsuta Forest.

African Emerald Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Far more often heard than seen, although we did end up with sighting on 5 days, including around Kakum NP and Nsuta Forest.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo*Cercococcyx mechowi*

Despite much searching effort this bird was only heard in dense canopy in Ankasa NP.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo*Cercococcyx olivinus*

We had fantastic scope views of this shy and elusive species at Ankasa NP.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

We had good views of one in Nsuta Forest.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

A single bird was scoped in Bobiri Forest.

Owls Strigidae

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

We had superb views of two at Kalakpa.

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens*

We saw one at Shai Hills and another very well in Mole NP.

Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis*

We had a few sightings in Mole NP, including at the lodge for some participants.

Akun Eagle-Owl *Bubo leucostictus*

We had cracking views of one near the Kakum entrance; another rarely seen species.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*

A single bird was seen by some participants at our campsite in Ankasa.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

We enjoyed scope views of a single bird in Mole NP.

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*

Seen beautifully well in Bobiri Forest.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Brown Nightjar *Veles binotatus*

Heard only from the canopy walkway in Kakum.

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

We had views of one at Kalakpa on consecutive evenings.

Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus*

We had brief views of one as we left Bonkro Forest.

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*

We had many great views on the road near Kalakpa.

Standard-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis*

3 females were recorded at Kalakpa and Mole NP.

Swifts Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*

We had a superb sighting of three at Kalakpa.

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

We had great sightings on 3 days, including at Nsuta and Ankasa NP.

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini*

Small numbers were seen over Nsuta and on the final day over Atewa.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen almost daily throughout the trip

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Large numbers were seen daily over the forest in Kakum NP.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*



Seen at many bridges in the country! Our sightings included some really large flocks.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

We had great views at Kalakpa and Mole NP.

Bates's Swift *Apus batesi*

Seen in the late afternoon from the canopy walkway.

Trogons Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

We had good scope views of 2 birds in Kalakpa.

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius*

We observed two near Shai Hills and good numbers in the far north near Bolgatanga.

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*

We had daily sightings of this stunner in and around Mole NP and further north.

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*

We had great views in the Kalakpa area and a further five during the drive from Kumasi to Mole NP.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*

We had several great sightings in forests in the south, including a fantastic bird from the canopy walkway in Kakum.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

We had a few in Shai Hills and two in Mole NP.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*

After much time and effort looking for calling birds in the canopy, we finally managed great scope views in Ankasa Forest.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

A few were seen in Mole NP. A stunning species!

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

We enjoyed good views in Shai Hills and at Kalakpa – a woodland species.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*

One was seen in Shai Hills before we had phenomenal views of one in Ankasa NP.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

A common species seen in small numbers throughout.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

Great view in Kalakpa, before we had more at various sites later.

White-bellied Kingfisher *Alcedo leucogaster*

We had incredible views of an adult at a small pool in Ankasa NP.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

We saw this little gem of a bird at various wetlands on the tour including good views in Mole NP.

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*

We had magnificent scope views of one in Ankasa NP.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maximus*

We had good views of three in Mole NP.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*



This, the world's most widespread kingfisher, was seen at various wetlands on tour.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Blue-moustached Bee-eater

Merops mentalis

We had cracking views of this beauty in the Atewa Forest. What a gem!!!

Black Bee-eater

Merops gularis

Another jewel of forest and forest edge that was seen very well at various locations, including in Ankasa and around the Kakum area.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

Merops hirundineus

2 birds were seen well on the first morning in Shai Hills.

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

A single distant bird was seen distantly at the Ebi mangroves.

Red-throated Bee-eater

Merops bulocki

We found good numbers of this stunning bird in Mole NP.

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

An intra-African migrant, prevalent only during the dry season in Ghana, seen at most forested sites on tour and in good numbers

Rosy Bee-eater

Merops malimbicus

Small numbers were seen, with best views near the Pra Suhien Forest.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicus

We enjoyed a wonderful sightings of at least 40 near the White Volta in the far north.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus castaneiceps

A single bird was seen well when it came in to one of the trees above the Canopy walkway in Kakum.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus bollei

We had good views of a few of these bird at different forest sites around the edges of Kakum.

Green Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

We had sightings at Shai Hills, Kalakpa and Mole NP – a widespread woodland bird.

Black Scimitarbill

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

We enjoyed good sightings of 2 birds in Mole NP.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus

Heard only in Mole NP in the early morning.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Northern Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus

We saw a couple daily in Mole NP and up to fifteen daily in the far north near Bolgatanga.

African Pied Hornbill

Lophoceros fasciatus

A common inhabitant of forest and forest edge, recorded on almost every day we had in the forested areas of the tour.

African Grey Hornbill

Lophoceros nasutus

First seen in Shai Hills, with more at Kalakpa and daily sightings in Mole NP

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill

Lophoceros camurus

We enjoyed stunning views of one in Nsuta Forest.



Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

Up to 40 seen in Nsuta Forest, with smaller numbers at a few other sites.

Brown-cheeked Hornbill (E)*Bycanistes cylindricus*

2 distant birds were seen in flight from the canopy walkway, another was seen briefly in Atewa forest.

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill*Ceratogymna atrata*

Heard only in the Pra Suhien Forest.

Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill*Ceratogymna elata*

A very wary species, we heard it in Ankasa NP.

Black Dwarf Hornbill*Horizocerus hartlaubi*

We had great views of one of this rare species in Nsuta Forest with another in Bobiri later.

White-crested Hornbill*Horizocerus albocristatus*

This funky-looking hornbill was seen very well in Kalakpa and from the Kakum canopy walkway with a further sighting in Nsuta Forest.

African Barbets Lybiidae**Bristle-nosed Barbet***Gymnobucco peli*

Most birds were seen in Nsuta Forest, a few elsewhere.

Naked-faced Barbet*Gymnobucco calvus*

Very similar in appearance to the previous species, we had sightings in Kakum NP, Nsuta and Atewa.

Speckled Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

Our first sighting was of three in Kakum NP with further sightings at many other forests.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We had fair views of one from the canopy walkway and scattered sightings elsewhere.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Most sightings were had in the Atewa Forest.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We had good views of a few birds in Shai Hills.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Three were seen very well in Shai Hills, others around Mole NP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

We had good views near Kakum NP and at Ankasa NP and one at Atewa Forest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

Greatest numbers were seen in Nsuta Forest, with a few other sightings in forest.

Vieillot's Barbet*Lybius vieilloti*

A fairly common bird of savanna, we had good sightings at Shai Hills and further north.

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

Birds were seen very well at Shai Hills and near Kalakpa.

Bearded Barbet*Lybius dubius*

After a first sighting in Shai Hills, we enjoyed great views in Mole NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

We had magnificent views of this rather shy species at Nsuta Forest.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae**Cassin's Honeybird***Prodotiscus insignis*

The best of our 3 sightings was during our walk up in the forest in Atewa, where we had a long sighting at close range.



Willcock's Honeyguide	<i>Indicator willcocksi</i>
We had views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.	
Thick-billed Honeyguide	<i>Indicator conirostris</i>
We had good scope views of one at Bobiri Forest.	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
We had good views of one in Kalakpa and another later in Mole NP.	
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>
We had great and extended views of one at Kalakpa.	
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
We had great scope views of a number of birds in Mole NP.	

Woodpeckers Picidae

African Piculet	<i>Sasia africana</i>
We had this species calling and showing very well in Nsuta Forest.	
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>
We had good views of one in Mole NP	
Little Green Woodpecker (NE)	<i>Campethera maculosa</i>
We had good views of one from the Kakum Walkway and another at close range in Bobiri Forest.	
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>
The best views of this distinctive bird were enjoyed in Atewa Forest.	
Brown-eared Woodpecker	<i>Campethera caroli</i>
We had brief views of one in Ankasa NP and another in Atewa Forest.	
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus fuscescens</i>
A single bird showed briefly in Winneba grasslands.	
Melancholy Woodpecker (E)	<i>Dendropicus lugubris</i>
We enjoyed a superb sighting of this Upper Guinea species at various forests, including Nsuta and Atewa.	
Fire-bellied Woodpecker (NE)	<i>Dendropicus pyrrhogaster</i>
We had a great sighting of several around Kakum, Nsuta and Atewa Forests.	
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus goertae</i>
We enjoyed good views in Mole NP and nearby.	
Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus obsoletus</i>
We had great views of three birds in Mole NP.	

Falcons Falconidae

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Small numbers were seen, mainly near Accra.	
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
We enjoyed wonderful sightings throughout the tour.	
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
We had flight views on consecutive days in the north, near Tonga Hills and Bolgatanga respectively.	
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
We enjoyed scope views in the Winneba grasslands and amazing close flight views of hunting birds over the Sakumono Lagoon.	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Our first sighting was of a pair at Shai Hills with scattered sightings elsewhere.	



Parrots Psittacidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Numerous birds were seen daily in Mole NP.

Red-headed Lovebird

Agapornis pullarius

2 birds were seen well when they briefly perched on a tree in Mole NP.

Grey Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

Small flocks over Nsuta and Bobiri forests probably provided the best sightings of the tour. So nice to see in the wild rather than as a cage bird!

Brown-necked Parrot

Poicephalus fuscicollis

A scarce bird – we had great views of 4 birds on the edge of Kalakpa Forest.

Red-fronted Parrot

Poicephalus gulielmi

We had great sightings in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest, with others at Bobiri Forest later.

Senegal Parrot

Poicephalus senegalus

Recorded at most savanna sites, with our highest count being over 30 birds in Shai Hills and many in Mole NP

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Rufous-sided Broadbill

Smithornis rufolateralis

This splendid species was seen in Nsuta, before we enjoyed a better sighting in Ankasa Forest.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher

Bias musicus

We found a pair near Pra Suhien Forest and another female later in Atewa farmbush.

Senegal Batis

Batis senegalensis

First seen at Shai Hills with further great sightings in Mole NP

Fernando Po Batis

Batis poensis

A single male was seen well but distantly high in the canopy in Atewa Forest.

West African Wattle-eye (E)

Platysteira hormophora

Seen in small numbers at most forest sites including great views from the Kakum canopy walkway

Brown-throated Wattle-eye

Platysteira cyanea

We had good views, mainly in Mole NP as well as in the Brenu area.

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye (NE)

Platysteira blissetti

We finally enjoyed phenomenal views of this lovely species in farmbush in the Abrafo area after brief views in Kalakpa.

Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatus

We had good views of 8 in Shai Hills reserve.

Red-billed Helmetshrike (NE)

Prionops caniceps

We enjoyed magnificent views of these birds at various sites, including in Nsuta and Opro Forests.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike

Malaconotus blanchoti

We heard one calling in Mole NP.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike

Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus



We had great views of one in Mole NP.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*

We had excellent views of one just outside Kalakpa in the tall grass.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

Heard only in Abrafo farmbush.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

We enjoyed several sightings including many daily in Mole NP.

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabinii*

After hearing this species near Kakum, we had some great views from the Canopy Walkway and in Nsuta and Opro Forests later.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

We had good views at Shai Hills with further sightings mainly in Mole NP.

Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

We had good but brief views of 2 in the Abrafo farmbush area.

Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus*

This outrageously colourful bird was seen exceptionally well near Shai Hills and again in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

A single bird was seen in Mole NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis*

We had wonderful views of 2 in Kalakpa.

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*

This stunning species was seen in Bobiri Forest.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

We enjoyed brief views of a distinctive male in Mole NP. Another good-looking bird!

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quisqualina*

We found a female in Bobiri Forest and a male on the next day in Atewa. A scarce bird in Ghana!

Shrikes Laniidae

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*

A common species of open savanna, seen well in and near Kalakpa and Shai Hills.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

Most commonly seen during various drives around more open country.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

3 birds were seen during the full day we had in the far north of Ghana.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

Our first sighting was of one near Kalakpa and several more were seen in Mole NP.

Western Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had good views of this bird on all days we had in Nsuta Forest, a few others later.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*

Very similar in appearance to the previous species, it was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway and at Bobiri Forest.



Drongos Dicruridae**Square-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus ludwigii*

Finally seen well by all in Mole NP.

Shining Drongo*Dicrurus atripennis*

We had good views of a few in Ankasa Forest with our final and best sightings at Atewa.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

Smallish numbers were seen on days we birded in more open and drier habitats.

Velvet-mantled Drongo*Dicrurus modestus*

This bird was commonly seen in all forested localities on tour with peak numbers on the Kakum canopy walkway.

Monarchs Monarchidae**Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher***Trochocercus nitens*

One bird was seen well by most participants on its nest in the Kakum area.

Red-bellied (Black-headed) Paradise Flycatcher*Terpsiphone rufiventer*

A common bird of the forest interior, including sightings at Nsuta, Ankasa and Atewa Forests.

African Paradise Flycatcher*Terpsiphone viridis*

We had sightings in Kalakpa and a few around Bobiri Forest.

Crows, Jays Corvidae**Piapiac***Ptilostomus afer*

We saw many bird in Shai Hills, around Kalakpa and small numbers daily in the far North around Bolgatanga.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

One of the most common birds of the tour, with large numbers on most days

Rockfowl Picathartidae**White-necked Rockfowl (E)***Picathartes gymnocephalus*

One of undoubted highlights of the tour! We had exceptionally good sightings of around 4 birds bounding through the undergrowth and over boulders in Bonkro Forest. One even flew in and sat just a few metres from us for a minute giving outstanding views and photo opportunities.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**African Blue Flycatcher***Elminia longicauda*

We saw 2 in Mole NP.

Dusky Crested Flycatcher*Elminia nigromitrata*

A single bird showed very well briefly in Ankasa NP.

Tits, Chickadees Paridae**White-shouldered Black Tit***Parus guineensis*

We had good sightings of two at Shai Hills and a further 2 birds in the Kalakpa woodland.

Penduline Tits Remizidae**Forest Penduline Tit***Anthoscopus flavifrons*

We had good views of a single bird in Nsuta Forest, where this scarce species sat up on a tree top.

Nicators Nicatoridae

Western Nicator

Nicator chloris

We had good views of three at Nsuta Forest and heard many others at various forest sites.

Larks Alaudidae

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix leucotis

Several were seen in Mole NP and again in the far north near the White Volta.

Flappet Lark

Mirafraga rufocinnamomea

We had good views of one in tall grass in Shai Hills and again at the Winneba Plains.

Sun Lark

Galerida modesta

We had good views of birds in Mole NP and 2 further north.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul

Pycnonotus barbatus

As its name implies, this species was common throughout and seen virtually every day.

Slender-billed Greenbul

Stelgidillas gracilirostris

We found small numbers daily in Kakum NP, Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Little Greenbul

Eurillas virens

Far more often heard than seen, this skulker was seen on a few occasions.

Little Grey Greenbul

Eurillas gracilis

We had good views of one at Antwikwaa.

Ansorge's Greenbul

Eurillas ansorgei

Seen by some in Nsuta Forest.

Plain Greenbul

Eurillas curvirostris

We found this bird on 5 days of the tour in various forests.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Eurillas latirostris

A species which can be difficult to see, we saw a few birds around Ankasa NP.

Golden Greenbul

Calyptocichla serina

We had great views of from the canopy walkway and later scoped it again in Nsuta Forest.

Honeyguide Greenbul

Baeopogon indicator

Best views were had from the Kakum canopy walkway, another was seen later in Opro Forest.

Spotted Greenbul

Ixonotus guttatus

2 were seen briefly from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Simple Greenbul

Chlorocichla simplex

We had good sightings of two near Kakum and a few others around farmbush later.

Yellow-throated Leaflove

Chlorocichla flavicollis

Heard only in Mole NP.

Swamp Palm Bulbul

Thescelocichla leucopleura

This noisy species was seen on 6 days, including good views in Nsuta Forest.

Baumann's Olive Greenbul

Phyllastrephus baumanni

We had great views of at least 2 birds in Opro Forest.

Icterine Greenbul

Phyllastrephus icterinus

We had superb views of a few at Nsuta, Ankasa and Atewa.

White-throated Greenbul

Phyllastrephus albigularis



Heard only in Kalakpa.

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

Heard only in Ankasa Forest.

Green-tailed Bristlebill (E) *Bleda eximius*

Heard only in Ankasa and Atewa Forests.

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus*

Many heard throughout the tour on 6 different days. Never seen, probably due in part to the lack of any ant swarms throughout the tour.

Western Bearded Greenbul (NE) *Criniger barbatus*

We finally found a few birds that showed for some on the day in Atewa Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

Seen well at various sites on 6 days of the tour – a common flock member.

Yellow-bearded Greenbul (E) *Criniger olivaceus*

After hearing it for 2 frustrating days in Ankasa, we finally managed great views on the final day there.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens*

Good numbers were seen daily at Nsuta Forest and Ankasa NP, while first views were near Pra Suhien Forest.

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*

We had distant views from the canopy walkway and later near Pra Suhien Forest.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A common migrant for much of the tour.

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*

We saw good numbers on our day around Bolgatanga in the far north.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

We found small numbers in the Kakum area and scattered sightings in other parts of the south.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

We had good sightings of several daily in Mole NP.

White-bibbed Swallow *Hirundo nigrita*

We found superb birds at the Pra River, which we could watch in flight and perched.

Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*

Recorded on 3 days, with perched views at Brenu and flight views near Kalakpa and Mole NPs.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

2 birds were seen in Mole NP.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

We observed a few daily near Kakum NP.

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*

One was scoped at Pra Suhien Forest, another on the final day near Atewa Forest.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

We had fabulous views of 2 just south of Kakum during a short walk.

West African Swallow *Cecropis domicella*

Seen on two days in the far north, with best views near the Egyptian Plover site.

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*

Seen on 3 days, with best views of a colony south of the Pra River.



Crombecs, Africa Warblers Macrospenidae**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

We had great views of one in Mole NP's tall grass.

Kemp's Longbill *Macrosphenus kempii*

Heard only on a number of different days.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

We had great views of this small bird on a number of occasions, including around the Kakum area and Atewa Forest.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

A few were seen in Mole NP's woodland.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

We had an amazing bird from a bridge on the edge of Ankasa NP, which came very close to us. A few others were seen well in the Kakum area.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*

One was seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and a further close bird on the Atewa Forest walk.

Yellow Flycatchers Erythroceridae**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus mccallii*

We had good views of these birds in farm bush areas near Kakum and later in Bobiri Forest.

Uncertain Incertidae cedis**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina*

Small numbers were seen on at least 8 days, with the distinctive 2-note call being a very familiar one in the southern forests.

Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rushiae*

We had good views in Antwikwaa and later on 2 day at Nsuta.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Just a few of these migrants were seen, including near Kalakpa.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

We had good views of several, particularly in a single tree near the Pra Suhien Forest and in Atewa.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae**Western Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna opaca*

We enjoyed good views in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

We had good views of one in Shai Hills and later on in Mole NP.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

We had good views of two near Jukwa during a short walk.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

We had views at Brena and in the far north.



Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>
We had views near Kalakpa and in farm bush near Kakum.	
Rock-loving Cisticola	<i>Cisticola emini</i>
We had great views of one at the Tongo Hills.	
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>
A single bird was seen at a small wetland near Cape Coast.	
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
We enjoyed great views of at least five at Shai Hills.	
Short-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>
We had good views at Shai Hills and others at Winneba Plains.	
Rufous Cisticola	<i>Cisticola rufus</i>
We had good views of several in Mole NP and the far north.	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
We found several near Tono Dam and Nasia pool.	
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Fairly common in rank vegetation, we had good sightings of several at scattered locations throughout.	
Red-winged Warbler	<i>Heliolais erythropterus</i>
We enjoyed good views of 3 at the Brenu area.	
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
We enjoyed sightings of three in Mole NP.	
Black-capped Apalis	<i>Apalis nigriceps</i>
We had superb scope views of 3 at Nsuta Forest and later at Atewa Forest.	
Sharpe's Apalis (E)	<i>Apalis sharpii</i>
We had great views from the Kakum canopy walkway.	
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>
We had good views of a bird in thick vines overhead in Mole NP.	
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicauda</i>
A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had good sightings in Mole NP.	
Yellow-browed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>
Far more often heard than seen, we had good views from the canopy walkway.	
Olive-green Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>
We had good views of one in the Bobiri Forest.	
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>
Common in the savanna areas, many were seen at Shai Hills, Kalakpa and in Mole NP as well as the far north.	
Rufous-crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>
We had good views of several on the last full day in Atewa; also in Kakum farmbush.	

Fulvettas & Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

Blackcap Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis cleaveri</i>
We heard this species at Ankasa.	
Puvel's Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis puveli</i>
Heard only in Shai Hills and at Kalakpa.	
Pale-breasted Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis rufipennis</i>
We had good views of a few drinking in Ankasa NP.	
Brown Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>



We heard this bird only in Kalakpa and later again in Atewa.

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

Capuchin Babbler *Phyllanthus atripennis*
Some had good but brief views of around 3 of these ultra skulkers in Kalakpa Forest.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*
After really struggling with this shy bird at a few sites, they really showed incredibly well at 2 locations in Mole NP.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*
We had superb views at Tema and later in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Greater Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*
A single bird was seen fairly well in the dry woodland near Tono Dam.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*
After first views in our Jukwa Hotel, we had a few in the north of the country.

Hyliotas Hylotiidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*
A pair was seen in open savannah in Kalakpa Reserve.

Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea*
We had stunning views of two in the Antwikwaa area.

Treecreepers Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*
We had great scope views in Mole NP.

Starlings Sturnidae

Copper-tailed Starling (E) *Hylopsar cupreocauda*
We had mostly flight views in most of the southern forests; some managed brief s perched views on a few occasions.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
One was seen in Mole NP.

Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
We had good views in a fruiting tree near Tono Dam.

Bronze-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
2 birds were seen in Mole NP, another in the Tono Dam area.

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*
This large glossy starling was easily most common of the starlings and seen on most days in the south.

Purple Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*
We enjoyed best views of birds feeding in a fruiting tree at Tono Dam at close range.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*
A few birds were seen well in woodland in Mole NP and the far north; very impressive!



Chestnut-bellied Starling*Lamprotornis pulcher*

We had a distant flock near Sapeliga and a single close bird near Tono Dam.

Violet-backed Starling*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

We saw a number of large flocks and single birds and groups at scattered locations in the south.

Chestnut-winged Starling*Onychognathus fulgidus*

Seen well at Antwikwaa and later in Bobiri and Atewa Forests.

Narrow-tailed Starling*Poeoptera lugubris*

We had good views of a flock of 4 birds in the Atewa farm bush.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae**Yellow-billed Oxpecker***Buphagus africanus*

We had great views of 5 near the White Volta at Sapeliga on a herd of cattle.

Thrushes & allies Turdidae**White-tailed Ant Thrush***Neocossyphus poensis*

Briefly seen by some in Atewa Forest.

Finsch's Rufous Thrush (NE)*Stizorhina finschii*

We had good views of one at Ankasa NP, after initial views from the canopy walkway.

African Thrush*Turdus pelios*

First seen in Shai Hills and Kalakpa, with further sightings in Mole NP and the far north.

Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**White-tailed Alethe***Alethe diademata*

We had great views of one that came in to call in Ankasa Forest and showed well.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher*Fraseria ocreata*

We had some great views on the three final days of the tour, in Bobiri and Atewa Forests.

White-browed Forest Flycatcher*Fraseria cinerascens*

We had amazing views of one at the Ebi Mangroves, where we all enjoyed scope views.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus griseigularis*

We heard this species at Kakum and enjoyed good scope views on the edge of Ankasa Forest.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus plumbeus*

We had good views of one at Shai Hills and more in the Mole area.

Northern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis edolioides*

We enjoyed a number of good sightings in Mole NP.

Pale Flycatcher*Bradornis pallidus*

We had good views of 2 pairs in Mole NP woodland.

Spotted Flycatcher*Muscicapa striata*

We had great views of 3 in Shai Hills and a few later on during the tour.

Swamp Flycatcher*Muscicapa aquatica*

We had great views of these waterside birds in Mole NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher*Muscicapa cassini*

Another bird always associated with water - we had superb views on the edge of Ankasa NP.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher*Muscicapa comitata*

We had good views of several at scattered forest locations in the south - seen on 7 days.

Tessmann's Flycatcher (E)*Muscicapa tessmanni*

We had great views of 3 birds at very close range at Nsuta Forest.



Ussher's Flycatcher (E)	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>
We had good views of several around Kakum, at Nsuta Forest and a pair at Atewa.	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
We enjoyed good views of this species in Mole NP.	
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>
A very large robin-chat that was seen a few times in Mole NP.	
Forest Robin	<i>Stiphronis erythrothorax</i>
We had good views of one in Kalakpa forest and another later in Ankasa NP.	
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Seen at Shai Hills and Kalakpa and later many were seen daily in Mole NP.	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Seen on 4 days at fairly scattered sites with most seen in Mole NP.	
White-crowned Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea coronata</i>
We had great scope views of one male at Tongo Hills.	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
A single scarce migrant was seen during our drive to Sapeliga from Bolgatanga	
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Oenanthe albifrons</i>
We had fantastic views of around 8 birds over 2 days in Mole NP. A scarce bird!	
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
A single bird was seen well on the rocky slope below our hotel in Mole NP.	

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Fraser's Sunbird	<i>Deleornis fraseri</i>
This warbler-like sunbird was seen very well in Kakum NP, where it is a common flock member.	
Mangrove Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>
We had good scope views of three at the Ebi mangroves.	
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
We had good sightings of several in the Kakum area, at Nsuta, at Opro, Bobiri and finally daily sightings at Atewa.	
Grey-chinned Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
We found a few, including breeding birds, around the Kakum Canopy Walkway and in Bobiri and Atewa.	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Common in all the forests, where we had numerous sightings	
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
We had several sightings in Mole NP and near Tono Dam. What a beauty!	
Reichenbach's Sunbird	<i>Anabathmis reichenbachii</i>
About 5 birds showed very well in the Ebi mangroves. A localised bird in Ghana.	
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
We had great views of a few at Kalakpa, with another later on the drive to Bolgatanga.	
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>
A very large sunbird that was seen on 5 days in scattered sites, including good looks in some flowering trees in Atewa.	
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
We had several sightings in Kakum NP and other forests.	
Buff-throated Sunbird (NE)	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>



We saw several stunning males, with most sightings around Kakum NP.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

We found this species to be common in Mole NP.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius*

This species of forest edge was seen at various locations on almost half of the days of the tour.

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus*

We had stunning views of several birds at various locations, including in Nsuta Forest.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

We enjoyed great views of this beauty in Mole NP and around Tono Dam.

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*

We had great views of several at Shai Hills and at Kalakpa as well as 2 in the far north.

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae*

We enjoyed magnificent views of several at Antwikwaa and Bobiri Forest.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*

We had good views of several at Nsuta, Abrafo and Opro.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*

We had good views of a number of birds near Kalakpa and a number of other forest edge sites.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

Seen well on a few occasions in Mole NP.

House Sparrow *Passer griseus*

A fairly recent arrival in Ghana, we saw this bird in Shama.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

A common species which is often seen in towns, we had almost daily sightings.

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*

A common species in and around Mole and further north, where we had many sightings.

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

We had good views of a few near the Sapeliga region.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

We had good views of about 4 birds near the Tono Dam.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

A few birds were seen in Mole NP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Small numbers were seen on around half of the tour days.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

We had fantastic views of around twenty en route to Ankasa.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

A common weaver, seen on many days in the south of the country.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

A striking bird, seen near Kakum NP, Nsuta and Atewa for example.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

Non-breeding birds were seen on 2 days in Mole NP.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*



This tri-coloured weaver was seen well in Kakum NP, Bobiri and at Atewa Forest.

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha*

We had good views of several in Kakum NP and a few in Atewa Forest.

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantes superciliosus*

We had superb views of two near Kakum in some farm bush habitat.

Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*

A single bird was seen well in Bobiri Forest.

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

Best views were enjoyed in Nsuta Forest where we had 2 birds around their nest.

Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens*

We had best views of several in Ankasa NP.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

The most common of the malimbes, seen regularly in the Kakum area, Nsuta, Bobiri and Atewa.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

We had a number of views at scattered sites including scope views in Nsuta Forest.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*

A fantastic male bird was seen in the tall grass near Kalakpa Forest.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

A group of around 50 were seen at the Nasia wetland.

Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

We saw a few stunning males in breeding plumage near Kalakpa and near Kakum.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Largest numbers were seen in the north around various waterbodies – all in non-breeding plumage.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

Two males were seen in breeding plumage near Kalakpa, with scattered sightings of non-breeding birds elsewhere.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons*

We had great views of a male of this rare species from the Kakum Canopy Walkway!

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*

We had several sightings in Kakum NP and in other forests later on.

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor*

Fairly good numbers were seen, mainly around waterholes in Kakum NP.

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus*

We had sightings from the canopy walkway and many other locations in the southern forest zone.

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*

We had great views of a few in the woodland in Mole NP.

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

We had fantastic views of one on the edge of Nsuta Forest.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*

Heard only in the Abrafo farm bush.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We found this species in small numbers at farm bush around Kakum and even at our hotel here.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Seen well at a small farm bush site we visited on the way to Kakum.



- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*
We had great views of one near Kalakpa and another at Ebekawopa.
- Black-faced Firefinch** *Lagonosticta vinacea*
A few were seen briefly in Mole NP.
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*
A common bird in the north of the country, where we had daily sightings in Mole NP and around Bolgatanga.
- Lavender Waxbill** *Estrilda caerulescens*
We had good views of several in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.
- Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*
This stunning waxbill was seen at on several occasions in Kakum NP and peak numbers of a dozen in Mole NP.
- Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*
First views in the Brenu area, with more later in the far north at Nasia and near Tono Dam.
- Orange-breasted Waxbill** *Sporaeginthus subflavus*
We had superb views of at least two birds drinking at the Nasia wetland, more in flight here.
- Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis*
A few of the many birds seen at the Nasia wetland were even seen drinking! A great bird to see this well on the ground!
- African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*
We enjoyed some good views of these dry-zone birds at a few different sites around water in the north of Ghana.
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*
A common species in woodland and forest edge alike, seen on most days of the tour
- Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*
Seen in small numbers at a few scattered sites in the south – seen mainly in farmbush on 6 days.
- Magpie Mannikin** *Lonchura fringilloides*
We had views of around 8 feeding on seeding bamboo at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*
Small numbers were seen in the far north, mainly around the sites in the Bolgatanga area.
- Wilson's Indigobird** *Vidua wilsoni*
We had good views of a male in Mole NP.
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*
Small numbers were seen in Mole NP after views in the Kakum area.
- Exclamatory Paradise Whydah** *Vidua interjecta*
We had phenomenal views of males in full breeding plumage in Mole NP.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

- Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
Scattered sightings on the first day, at Sakumo Lagoon and Nasia pool.
- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*
We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the trip.
- Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*
We had good views of a pair in Shai Hills reserve.



Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

We had good views of a few in Mole NP and in Atewa farmbush.

Finches Fringillidae**White-rumped Seedeater***Serinus leucopygius*

We had fairly good views of one in the Tonga Hills.

Yellow-fronted Canary*Crithagra mozambica*

Good numbers were seen daily in Mole NP with a few others elsewhere.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae**Gosling's Bunting***Emberiza goslingi*

We found twenty at Tonga Hills; others at Tono Dam.

Brown-rumped Bunting*Emberiza affinis*

We had good views of four in Mole NP.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded (24 species)

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals'; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.

Vivets, Genets Viverridae**Common Genet***Genetta genetta*

One was seen during a night drive in Mole NP.

Horned Ungulates Bovidae**Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprimnus*

We had good views of a few in Mole NP.

Kob*Kobus kob*

Many were seen on all days in Mole NP.

Bushbuck*Tragelaphus scriptus*

Up to a dozen were seen daily in Mole NP.

Pigs Suidae**Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

We had wonderful views of these at close range in Mole NP.

False Vampire Bats Megadermatidae**Yellow-winged Bat***Lavia frons*

We had great views of one in bushes in Mole NP, where it was scoped.

Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae**Straw-coloured Fruit Bat***Eidolon helvum*

A large roost of thousands was seen near New Tafo.

Hammer-headed Fruit Bat*Hypsignathus monstrosus*

Heard and seen hanging overhead in Ankasa NP.



Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat*Hypsignathus monstrosus*

A number of these were seen hanging around at our Tamale Restaurant.

Hyraxes Procavidae**Western Tree Hyrax***Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

We heard this species in Kalakpa and Kakum forests.

Hares Leporidae**African Savanna (Scrub) Hare***Lepus victoriae (saxatilis)*

We had good sightings of two in Mole NP.

Cheek-pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae**Mona Monkey***Cercopithecus mona*

A few were seen at Kalakpa.

Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey*Cercopithecus petaurista*

A few were seen in Kakum NP, from the canopy walkway.

Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey*Cercopithecus sabaesus*

We had great views in Shai Hills and later in Mole NP.

Patas Monkey*Erythrocebus patas*

We saw up to twenty in Mole NP.

Olive Baboon*Papio papio*

We had great views in Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Galagos Galagidae**Demidoff's Galago***Galago demidovii*

We heard this species a few times in Kakum and Ankasa NPs.

Lorises Lorisidae**Potto***Perodicticus potto*

We had superb views of one in Kakum NP.

Elephants Elephantidae**African Elephant***Loxodonta africana*

We had great views of three males coming to the waterholes in Mole NP.

Climbing Mice, Rock Mice, Malagasy Rats and Mice Nesomyidae**Zebra Mouse***Lemniscomys barbarus*

One was seen briefly running in the tall grass at the Nasia pool.

Gambian Pouched Rat*Cricetomys gambianus*

One was seen briefly in Kakum NP, during a night walk.

Squirrels Sciuridae**Fire-footed Rope Squirrel***Funisciurus anerythrus*

Seen briefly on a few occasions in Ankasa NP.

Kintampo Rope Squirrel*Funisciurus substriatus*

We had good views of three on 2 consecutive days in Mole NP.

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus*

We had good views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

A number of these small mammals were seen well, mainly around Kakum forest.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*

Seen briefly in Bobiri Forest.

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

2 were seen briefly on the edge of Opro Forest, where they disappeared quickly.

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS

Puffadder

We had fantastic views of one during a night drive in Mole NP.

Calabar Ground Python *Calabaria reinhardti*

This bizarre snake was seen near the Kakum entrance, where we had close-up views.

Nile Monitor *Varanus niloticus*

One was seen very well at one of the small waterholes in Mole NP.

African Dwarf Crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis*

3 were seen at a small forest pool in Ankasa NP, including some at night.

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

Several were seen in Mole NP.

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