



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Private Ghana

Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials

29th January to 9th February 2014 (12 days)



White-necked Rockfowl by David Hoddinott

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

Trip Summary

Our 12-day private Ghana trip was a most memorable and successful tour. We notched up all the families of birds that the clients were searching for, including specialties such as White-necked Rockfowl and Egyptian Plover, plus a number of Upper Guinea Endemics and a fabulous total of 403 species!



Senegal Parrot by David Hoddinott

We started off this fantastic adventure with a visit to Shai Hills, which proved rewarding with great sightings of African Cuckoo-Hawk, Red-necked Buzzard, Senegal Parrot, stunning Blue-bellied Roller, Double-toothed Barbet, Northern Puffback, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, confiding Flappet Lark, splendid male White-crowned Cliff Chat and Yellow-throated Longclaw. En route to Kakum National Park we stopped in at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site, which hosted a nice selection of waders including Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank, White-fronted Plover and a vagrant Eurasian

Oystercatcher. In the early evening we then embarked on a night excursion in search of owls and found a fabulous Fraser's Eagle-Owl. What a way to end our first day!

The following morning excitement mounted as we headed up to the famous Kakum Canopy Walkway. Before reaching the walkway we found a superb male Rufous-sided Broadbill displaying to the nearby female – what a spectacle! Emerging from the gloom of the understory we realised it was going to be a nice cool morning with overcast conditions, just perfect for birding. The walkway lived up to its reputation and soon we were amassing a wonderful array of desirable species. These included European Honey Buzzard, Congo Serpent Eagle (enjoyed hearing its mournful call and soon afterwards it flew in and perched nearby, giving splendid scope views), rare Black-collared Lovebird, Blue Malkoha, stealth-bomber-like Black Spinetail, cracking Rosy Bee-eater, Cassin's Honeybird, Little Green and Gabon Woodpecker, African Shrike-flycatcher, West African Wattle-eye, Sabine's Puffback, Blue Cuckooshrike, Black-winged Oriole, seldom recorded Forest Penduline Tit, Golden Greenbul, Fanti Saw-wing, Tit Hylia (Africa's smallest bird), Black-capped and Sharpe's Apalis, Copper-tailed Starling, Ussher's Flycatcher, tricky Preuss's Weaver, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita and Magpie Mannikin. Whew, what a day! Delighted with our sightings, we finally headed back to our comfortable lodge for a delicious dinner with celebratory drinks and a good night's rest.



Fraser's Eagle-Owl by David Hoddinott



An early morning visit the next day to another section of Kakum National Park yet again produced star birds, and we were soon enjoying the elusive Long-tailed Hawk, a pair of extremely confiding White-spotted Flufftail (which stayed long enough for us to get some photos), highly elusive Black-throated Coucal, magnificent Red-billed Helmetshrike and smart Maxwell's Black Weaver. A quick visit to the Pra River before lunch saw us enjoying notable sightings of Rock Pratincole, beautiful White-bibbed Swallow and a wonderful nesting colony of three hundred Preuss's Cliff Swallow nearby.



White-spotted Flufftail by David Hoddinott

In the afternoon we then explored some lowland rainforest outside the national park and were delighted with sightings of Blue-throated Roller, lovely Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill and cute Red-rumped Tinkerbird.

The following morning we set off very early in order to enjoy the northern section of Kakum National Park. A misty morning meant things started off slowly, but nonetheless we were soon adding new species to our ever-growing total. Highlights of the morning included Cassin's Hawk-Eagle soaring overhead, impressive Cassin's Spinetail, raucous White-headed Wood Hoopoe, and amazing White-crested Hornbill, scope views of Kemp's Longbill, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher and Red-vented Malimbe. Travelling further north we stopped off at Bonkro Forest where we were absolutely delighted to find the rare Yellow-footed



African Blue Flycatcher by David Hoddinott



White-throated Francolin by David Hoddinott

Honeyguide. In the late afternoon we then went in search of our main target for the entire tour, the legendary White-necked Rockfowl. After a lengthy wait until dusk, there was still no sign of the rockfowl and our hopes were all but dashed when the local guide said that we could try another nearby colony where they sometimes roosted. It was quite a walk to get there in the pitch dark barring our small flashlights, but on arriving at the colony we were absolutely thrilled to see two birds roosting. They gave simply outrageous views and after taking a few photos we left them undisturbed. Ecstatic, we returned to the bus for the long drive to Kumasi, getting in well after 10pm but ... wow, it was certainly worth it, and we retired for a good



night's rest.

Leaving the forest zone, the next day we headed north to the vast Mole National Park. Enjoying two full days in the park we covered a nice selection of habitats including the escarpment, guinea savanna, wetlands, bovals and gallery forest. Some of the star sightings included dainty Stone Partridge, most confiding White-throated Francolin, Ruppell's Vulture (rare in Ghana), Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Bateleur, African Fish Eagle (surprisingly rare in Ghana), dozens of Grasshopper Buzzard, African Finfoot, splendid Standard-winged Nightjar, cryptic Northern White-faced Owl, the much wanted Pel's Fishing Owl, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Red-throated and Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Bearded Barbet,



Pel's Fishing Owl by David Hoddinott



Northern White-faced Owl by David Hoddinott

Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Sun Lark, fantastic Oriole Warbler, Blackcap Babbler, African Spotted Creeper, Bronze-tailed Starling, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Black-faced Firefinch, Lavendar Waxbill, Wilson's Indigobird and Togo Paradise Whydah. Shew, what a coup!

From Mole we travelled yet further north, nearing the Burkina Faso border. En route we stopped first at a small roadside wetland, which produced great views of Greater Painted-snipe, striking Orange-breasted Waxbill and African Quailfinch, and then explored the Tongo Hills where Booted Eagle, Fox Kestrel and Rock-loving Cisticola put on a good show.

Our morning in the far north was spent exploring the White Volta where we enjoyed memorable views of one of the main trip targets, the spectacular Egyptian Plover. Other species seen in the area included Mourning Collared Dove, Spotted Thick-knee, stately Black-headed Lapwing, sought-after Four-banded Sandgrouse, Western Olivaceous Warbler, beautiful Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, and Cut-throat Finch. In the afternoon we ventured out to Tono Dam where we spent time in the dry acacia thickets. Highlights here included a smart Western Bonelli's Warbler, Chestnut-bellied Starling and Speckle-fronted



Oriole Warbler by David Hoddinott



Weaver.

Leaving the far north we travelled south to Tamale, where we boarded a comfortable flight back to Accra. This enabled us a good amount of time at Atewa, which supports the highest diversity of trees in the country. Having already spent a significant amount of time in the rainforests of Ghana meant that we had already seen a good number of the rainforest birds, and thus we could concentrate on finding those forest species not already seen. Some of our notable sightings here included a posing Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, shy Blue-headed Wood Dove, dazzling male African Emerald Cuckoo, Blue-moustached and Black Bee-eaters, beautiful Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, elusive Many-coloured Bushshrike, a pair of nesting Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Yellow-bearded Greenbul (Upper Guinea Endemic), Square-tailed Saw-wing, sneaky Forest Scrub Robin and unobtrusive Red-fronted Antpecker. In nearby farm bush we were delighted to see Marsh Tchagra, Compact Weaver and Red-headed Quelea.



Egyptian Plover by David Hoddinott

We then headed back to our hotel to freshen up before making our way to Accra in order to connect with our departure flights home.

Thanks must go to enthusiastic, skilled and fun participants as well as a superb ground operations team. I am very much looking forward to travelling with you again!

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Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 4.1 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)

Total species recorded: 403 (383 seen and 20 heard)

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

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

We found a nice flock of forty in Shai Hills and saw up to fifty daily in Mole NP.

New World Quail Odontophoridae

Stone Partridge

Ptilopachus petrosus

We had excellent sightings of two in Mole NP.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Latham's (Forest) Francolin

Peliperdix lathamii



We heard one calling at Bonkro Forest and another was heard at Atewa.

White-throated Francolin *Peliperdix albogularis*

We had simply mind-blowing views of a male as it ran towards us, in Mole NP. A further four birds were seen in the reserve the following evening.

Ahanta Francolin (NE) *Pternistis ahantensis*

This is a particularly difficult species to see and we heard it calling near Bonkro Forest.

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus*

Several were seen in Mole NP.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Francolinus

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

One hundred were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and several thousand at Tono Dam.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

A flock of fourteen was seen at Tono Dam.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

This widespread species was seen at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site (Winneba Lagoon).

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

We had good sightings of three in Mole NP.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

One was seen at Sakumo Lagoon, a rare species in Ghana.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

We had good views of three in Mole NP.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

We had good views of one at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site and a further one in Mole NP.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

One was seen in Mole NP and a further ten at the Nasia Wetland.

[Western] Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on almost every day of the tour – especially prevalent in the drier northern parts of Ghana with peak sightings of two hundred during our day at the White Volta and Tono Dam

Note: Cattle Egret has been split into two species by most authorities. Western Cattle Egret, B. ibis occurs in the Americas and African and Eastern Cattle Egret, B. coromandus occurs in Asia and Australasia.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Recorded at most wetland localities on tour – seen daily in small numbers in Mole NP

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

One was seen whilst driving from Kumasi to Mole NP.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One was seen at Sakumo Lagoon and another in Mole NP.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Ten were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.



Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
One was seen well at Sakumo Lagoon.	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
A peak count was three at Tono Dam.	
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
Recorded at Muni-Pomadze where we had good views of ten.	

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
We had good sightings of two in Mole NP and a fabulous flock of 11 at Tono Dam.	

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Small numbers were seen at several wetlands with a peak count of 20 at Tono Dam.	

Kites, Hawks, Eagles Accipitridae

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
We enjoyed good sightings of two at the White Volta near Sapeliga.	
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Common and seen on most 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 two in Mole NP.	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
We enjoyed good views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further two at Antwikwaa.	
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
We had a good sighting of two in Shai Hills, one at Antwikwaa and another at Atewa.	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
Another very common bird, we had daily sightings where they were most commonly encountered in towns and cities.	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Only seen in Mole NP where ten were seen.	
Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>
We had great scope views of one juvenile near a waterhole in Mole NP A rare bird in Ghana.	
Beudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>
We had a great sighting of one whilst en route to Mole NP.	
Congo Serpent Eagle	<i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i>
We had fantastic scope views of this low density raptor from the Kakum canopy walkway.	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
A bird that is mostly seen in larger parks and reserves, we had daily sightings in Mole NP.	
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
One was seen in Shai Hills Resources Reserve.	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
We had superb views of one at Tongo Hills and two more in the far north.	
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila africana</i>
One was seen soaring at Aboabo.	



- Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
Three were seen in Shai Hills with further scattered sightings throughout the trip.
- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*
One was seen in the vicinity of Tono Dam.
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*
One was seen whilst en route to Mole NP and three were seen during a day in the Bolgatanga area.
- Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchus macrourus*
We had a superb sighting of a juvenile at Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius*
We recorded this common species at a few sites including good views of two in Mole NP.
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
We had several sightings including three at the Nasia wetland.
- Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius*
One of the most common birds of the tour, seen on virtually every day
- African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*
We saw two adults flying over Mole NP, a rare bird in Ghana.
- Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*
Seen in and around Mole NP. Peak numbers of thirty were seen during the drive from Bolgatanga to Tamale.
- Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis*
Seen almost daily including at Shai Hills, Antwikwaa and Mole NP. A total of 9 birds were seen throughout the trip.

Falcons Falconidae

- Common (Eurasian) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Two birds were seen in the far north during our day in the Bolgatanga area.
Note: The resident race, F.t. rufescens of West & East Africa is sometimes treated as a separate species, Mountain Kestrel. This is not currently accepted by IOC or Clements.
- Fox Kestrel** *Falco alopex*
We had superb views of three in the Tongo Hills.
- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*
We enjoyed wonderful sightings of one whilst en route from Kumasi to Mole and a further two at Atewa.
- African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*
We had good views of one just south of Mole NP and another at Atewa.
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*
One was seen at Tongo Hills.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

- White-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura pulchra*
We heard many calling throughout the forest zone and enjoyed magnificent views of a pair near Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.

Finfoots Heliornithidae

- African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis*
We had good views of a female in Mole NP.



Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

We enjoyed good views of two in Mole NP.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

One was seen at Sakumo Lagoon and another at the Nasia wetland.

Note: Clements lumps this with Purple Swamphen (P. porphyrio)

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

We had scope views of one in Mole NP.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

We had great views of two near the White Volta at Sapeliga.

Oystercatchers Haematopodidae

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

We had superb views of one at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site (Winneba Lagoon).

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One hundred were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Plovers Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

Twenty were seen at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site and a further twenty at the White Volta near Sapeliga.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*

We had superb views of three near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*

Two birds were seen at the Pra River, sadly a leader only sighting.

[African] Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Six birds were seen at the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Six were seen at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Several were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further fifty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

We had good scope views of one at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site.

Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*

We had splendid views of 7 of these magnificent birds at the White Volta, Sapeliga. A real highlight of the tour!

Painted-snipes Rostratulidae

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*



Two birds were seen very well at the Nasia wetland.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

We saw these 'lily-trotters' at virtually all waterbodies with floating vegetation. Our highest count was of fifteen at Nasia wetland.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Two were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

We had good scope views of three at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Several were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further thirty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Common Redshank

Tringa totanus

At least three were seen at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

We saw twenty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Ten were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further forty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Twenty were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

We had sightings at most wetland localities on tour including three at Tono Dam.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

We found two at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Thirty were seen at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Five were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further twenty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Twenty-five were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further twenty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Coursers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Collared Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

Three were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Rock Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

We found 6 on the Pra River near Twifo Praso.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Royal Tern

Thalasseus maximus

We enjoyed good views of six hundred at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus sandvicensis



We had good views of one hundred at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

A flock of two hundred was seen at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

One was seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*

We enjoyed good views of seven near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

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 ten daily during our time in the far north near Bolgatanga.

[Western] Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*

We had superb scope views of one at Atewa Forest.

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

We enjoyed superb views of four near the White Volta.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

This large dove was seen on most days of the tour.

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*

Our first sighting was at Shai Hills, with more sightings of up to thirty 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*

We had good views of two at Shai Hills and another at Antwikwaa.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

First seen in Kakum, we had further sightings at Atewa. Small numbers seen most days in the forests.

Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri*

A confiding male was seen exceptionally well at Atewa.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

We had good views of one near Tono Dam.

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*

We enjoyed good views of three in Mole NP.

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*

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

Parrots Psittacidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Up to twenty were seen daily in Mole NP.

Black-collared Lovebird *Agapornis swindernianus*

We had good views of three flying over the Kakum canopy walkway.

Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*



Two were seen flying over Antwikwaa. So nice to see in the wild rather than as a cage bird!

Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gulielmi*

We had great sightings in Kakum NP and at Atewa Forest.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*

Recorded at most savanna sites, with our highest count being a dozen on one day at Shai Hills

Turacos Musophagidae

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus*

A noisy species heard all over the forest areas, with brief sightings of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*

This stunning species was seen briefly in Mole NP.

Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*

Seen on many days of the tour, especially in the north

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster*

A tricky species to see in forest tangles. We had superb views of one at Antwikwaa and another at Atewa.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

A common species, seen well in Mole NP

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

One was seen at Antwikwaa and another at Aboabo, the later gave fantastic views.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus*

This is a common species in the forests of Ghana and we saw them in Kakum NP and Atewa.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

One adult was seen very well whilst en route from Koforidua to Atewa.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

We had good views of one at Aboabo and another at Atewa Forest.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Two were seen at Antwikwaa and a further two at Atewa.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

We had great views of a male from the Kakum canopy walkway and another in Opro Forest.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Far more often heard than seen, we had good scope views of a female at Antwikwaa and finally a splendid male at Atewa.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

We had brief views of this shy and elusive species at Atewa Forest.

Barn Owls Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

We had brief views of one as it flew over the road whilst we were driving from Bolgatanga to Tamale.

Owls Strigidae

Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis*

We had fabulous views of an adult during the day in Mole NP.



Fraser's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo poensis</i>
We had a superb sighting of one in Kakum NP and another at Ebekawopa.	
Pel's Fishing Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>
We had superb views of an adult in Mole NP.	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
We enjoyed great views of one in Mole NP.	

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>
We had great views of two in Mole NP.	
Standard-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx longipennis</i>
We had superb views of a female and a male was seen briefly in Mole NP.	

Swifts Apodidae

Black Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura melanopygia</i>
We had great views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further six at Ebekawopa.	
Sabine's Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura sabini</i>
We had great sightings in Kakum NP and at Ebekawopa Forest.	
Cassin's Spinetail	<i>Neafrapus cassini</i>
Small numbers were seen daily in Kakum NP.	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Seen on many days throughout the trip	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Small numbers were seen daily in Kakum NP and at Ebekawopa.	
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
We had good views of six flying over Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Seen at many bridges in the country!	

Trogons Trogonidae

Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
We heard one calling at Atewa.	

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
We observed several near Mole NP.	
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>
We had daily sightings of this stunner in and around Mole NP.	
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>
We had great views of several at Shai Hills.	
Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>
We had several great sightings in Kakum NP and a superb four birds at Ebekawopa.	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
We had good sightings of one in Mole NP.	

Kingfishers Alcedinidae



Chocolate-backed Kingfisher*Halcyon badia*

We had great scope views of one at Ebekawopa.

Grey-headed Kingfisher*Halcyon leucocephala*

Several were seen daily in Mole NP. A stunning species!

Striped Kingfisher*Halcyon chelicuti*

We heard this species calling near Tono Dam.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher*Halcyon malimbica*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Woodland Kingfisher*Halcyon senegalensis*

A common species seen in small numbers almost daily, often around towns

African Pygmy Kingfisher*Ispidina picta*

We had good views of several at Antwikwaa and one at Atewa.

Malachite Kingfisher*Alcedo cristata*

We saw this little gem of a bird in Mole NP.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

This, the world's most widespread kingfisher, was seen at various wetlands on tour including good views of several at the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Blue-moustached (Blue-headed) Bee-eater***Merops mentalis*

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

Note: This is a recent split from Blue-headed Bee-eater, M. muelleri occurring from Southern Cameroon to Western Kenya. Blue-moustached Bee-eater, M. mentalis occurs from Sierra Leone to Western Cameroon. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Black Bee-eater*Merops gularis*

Our first sighting was stunning views of three at Antwikwaa, with further sightings at Ebekawopa and Nsuta Forests. What a jewel!

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Six were seen very well at the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Red-throated Bee-eater*Merops bullocki*

We found good numbers (50+) 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

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

Two were seen and others heard at Shai Hills.

Rosy Bee-eater*Merops malimbicus*

Small numbers were seen from the Kakum canopy walkway, Antwikwaa and finally our best views were at Atewa.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

We enjoyed a wonderful sighting of three in Mole NP and at least six near the White Volta, Sapeliga, including some seen riding on the backs of goats.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae**White-headed Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus bollei*

We observed good views of three at Aboabo.



Green Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus purpureus*

We had sightings of two at Shai Hills and a further two in Mole NP.

Black Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

One was seen in Mole NP, sadly a leader only sighting.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**African Pied Hornbill***Tockus fasciatus*

A common inhabitant of forest and forest edge, recorded on almost every day of the tour.

African Grey Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

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

Northern Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

We saw one in Mole NP and up to five daily in the far north near Bolgatanga.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus camurus*

We enjoyed stunning views of one at Ebekawopa Forest.

White-crested Hornbill*Tropicranus albocristatus*

This funky-looking hornbill was seen very well at Aboabo.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Tockus

Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

This species was heard calling at Ebekawopa.

Brown-cheeked Hornbill (E)*Bycanistes cylindricus*

We heard one calling at Ebekawopa.

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill*Ceratogymna atrata*

A very wary species, we heard one calling in the distance from the Kakum canopy walkway.

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

We enjoyed good views of three at Antwikwaa and a further two at Atewa.

Naked-faced Barbet*Gymnobucco calvus*

Very similar in appearance to the previous species, we had sightings at Ebekawopa and Atewa.

Speckled Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

Our first sighting was of one at Antwikwaa with further sightings at Atewa.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa and a further one at Atewa.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

We had good scope views of one at Opro Forest.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We had good views of one at Shai Hills.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

One was seen at Shai Hills and another at the Nasia wetland.

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

We had good views of one at Atewa.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

One was seen at Antwikwaa and a further one at Aboabo.

Vieillot's Barbet*Lybius vieilloti*

A fairly common bird of savanna, we had good sightings of four near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

A pair was seen very well at Shai Hills.

Bearded Barbet*Lybius dubius*

Two of these large barbets were seen in Mole NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

We heard this species at Aboabo.

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

We had great views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway and another at Atewa.

Yellow-footed Honeyguide*Melignomon eisentrauti*

We had superb views of one at Bonkro Forest, a rare bird indeed!

Willcock's Honeyguide*Indicator willcocksi*

We had great scope views of one in Mole NP.

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

We heard one calling in Mole NP. This is the only species known to actually guide mammals to a beehive.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Fine-spotted Woodpecker***Campethera punctuligera*

We had good views of two in Mole NP

Little Green Woodpecker (NE)*Campethera maculosa*

We had wonderful views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

Two were seen in Atewa farm bush, sadly a leader only sighting.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

We had superb views of a female in Shai Hills.

Melancholy (Gabon) Woodpecker (E)*Dendropicos lugubris*

We enjoyed a superb sighting of one on the Kakum canopy walkway and another at Aboabo.

Note: Both IOC and Clements now splits Gabon Woodpecker into Gabon (D. gabonensis) and Melancholy (D. lugubris) Woodpeckers. Following this view, Melancholy Woodpecker would become an Upper Guinea Endemic.

Fire-bellied Woodpecker (NE)*Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*

We had a great sighting of two in Kakum NP.

African Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

We enjoyed good views of several in Mole NP.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae**Rufous-sided Broadbill***Smithornis rufolateralis*

This splendid species was seen exceptionally well in Kakum NP where we observed a male displaying.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae**African Shrike-flycatcher***Megabyas flammulatus*

We had wonderful views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Senegal Batis*Batis senegalensis*

First seen at Shai Hills with further sightings in Mole NP

West African (Chestnut) Wattle-eye (E)*Platysteira hormophora*

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



Note: Chestnut Wattle-eye, *P. castanea* has recently been split into two species. Chestnut Wattle-eye occurs from Nigeria to East Africa and the recent split, West African Wattle-eye *P. hormophora*, the one we observed is as the name implies, only found in West Africa and is an Upper Guinea endemic.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye (NE) *Platysteira blissetti*

We had great views of a male at Atewa. What a cracker!

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

We had brief views of two at Shai Hills and later superb views of a flock of six in Mole NP.

Note: Clements calls this species White Helmetshrike. We observed the very distinctive long-crested sub-species *P.p. plumatus* which occurs from Senegal to Northern Cameroon.

Red-billed (Chestnut-bellied) Helmetshrike (NE) *Prionops caniceps*

We enjoyed magnificent views of five at Antwikwaa.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus cruentus*

We heard one calling in Mole NP.

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolour*

We had great views of one at Atewa.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*

We had great views of a male near Atewa.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

We had great views of one in Atewa farm bush.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

We enjoyed several sightings including good views of one at Shai Hills.

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabinus*

After hearing this species on numerous occasions we finally got great views of a male from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

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

Yellow-crowned (Common) Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus*

This outrageously colourful bird was seen very well in Mole NP.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

One was seen in Mole NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis*

We had good views of three in Mole NP.

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*

This stunning species was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

A male was seen at Shai Hills. Another good-looking bird!

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina*

We had superb views of a pair at Atewa. A scarce bird in Ghana!



Shrikes Laniidae**Yellow-billed Shrike***Corvinella corvina*

A common species of open savanna, seen well in Shai Hills and Mole NP

Northern (Common) Fiscal*Lanius humeralis*

Most commonly seen during the drive from Koforidua to Atewa

Note: Common Fiscal has recently been split into 2 species. Northern Fiscal, L. humeralis the one we observed and Southern Fiscal, L. collaris of Southern Africa. Clements does not accept this split.

Woodchat Shrike*Lanius senator*

We enjoyed great views of two near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae**African Golden Oriole***Oriolus auratus*

A splendid five were seen in Mole NP.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had good views of one at Atewa.

Black-winged Oriole*Oriolus nigripennis*

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

Drongos Dicruridae**Shining Drongo***Dicrurus atripennis*

We had good views of three at Atewa.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

Up to six were seen daily in Mole NP.

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*

We heard one calling at Aboabo, Kakum NP.

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

A common bird of the forest interior, including sightings at Aboabo and Atewa Forests

African Paradise Flycatcher*Terpsiphone viridis*

Our first sighting was of one at Shai Hills and later we observed the lovely black and white morph male in Mole NP.

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

We had good views of two at Shai Hills and several in the north.

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 two birds at their roosting site in Bonkro Forest.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*
We had fabulous views of this beauty in Mole NP.

Tits, Chickadees Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit *Parus guineensis*
We had good sightings of two at Shai Hills and three in Mole NP.
Note: Clements places this in the genus Melaniparus

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Forest Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons*
We had good views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Nicators Nicatoridae

Western (Yellow-spotted) Nicator *Nicator chloris*
We had good views of one at Opro Forest and heard it at many other forest sites.

Larks Alaudidae

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*
We had good views of one in Shai Hills.
Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*
We had great views of three in Mole NP.
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*
At least twenty were seen in the far north near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

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, Ebekawopa and Opro Forests.
Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens*
Far more often heard than seen, this skulker was seen very well at Aboabo.
Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis*
We had good views of two at Opro Forest.
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (Bulbul) *Eurillas latirostris*
We heard several but only had glimpses of one at Atewa.
Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*
We had great views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway.
Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*
A good-looking greenbul with a beautiful call, we had good sightings of one at Ebekawopa and another at Opro Forest.
Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*



A flock of eight was seen at Ebekawopa Forest.

Simple Greenbul*Chlorocichla simplex*

We had great sightings of two at Aboabo.

Yellow-throated Leaflove*Atimastillas flavicollis*

We had brief views of one in Mole NP.

Swamp [Palm] Bulbul*Thescelocichla leucopleura*

This noisy species was seen well at Antwikwaa Forest.

Icterine Greenbul*Phyllastrephus icterinus*

We had superb views of two at Bonkro Forest and a further two at Atewa.

White-throated Greenbul*Phyllastrephus albigularis*

We had good views of one in Kakum NP.

Green-tailed Bristlebill*Bleda eximius*

We heard this species at Atewa Forest.

Grey-headed Bristlebill*Bleda canicapillus*

We heard this species at Ebekawopa and Bonkro Forests.

Western Bearded Greenbul (NE)*Criniger barbatus*

One was heard calling below the Kakum canopy walkway and another heard at Atewa Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul*Criniger calurus*

One was heard from the Kakum canopy walkway and two seen by the leader only at Atewa Forest.

Yellow-bearded Greenbul (E)*Criniger olivaceus*

We had fantastic views of one in Atewa Forest.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing*Psalidoprocne nitens*

Three were seen at Atewa Forest.

Fanti Saw-wing*Psalidoprocne obscura*

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

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

A common migrant, up to fifty were seen daily in Kakum NP.

Red-chested Swallow*Hirundo lucida*

A couple were recorded en route from Kumasi to Mole NP with scattered sightings of small numbers elsewhere in the far north.

Ethiopian Swallow*Hirundo aethiopica*

We found one at the Pra River and a further two near Atewa Forest.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

We had good sightings of several daily in Mole NP.

White-bibbed (White-throated Blue) Swallow*Hirundo nigrita*

We found six at the Pra River, Twifo Praso.

Lesser Striped Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

We observed good views of four at the Pra River and a further two at Atewa Farm Bush.

Red-breasted Swallow*Cecropis semirufa*

One was seen at Atewa.

West African Swallow*Cecropis domicella*

One was seen at Aboabo.

Preuss's [Cliff] Swallow*Petrochelidon preussi*

We had good views of three hundred near the Pra River.



Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae**Moustached Grass Warbler***Melocichla mentalis*

We had splendid views of two in Mole NP.

Kemp's Longbill (NE)*Macrosphenus kempii*

We enjoyed scope views of one at Aboabo. It was very nice to observe this highly elusive skulker whilst it was preening.

Grey Longbill*Macrosphenus concolor*

We had superb views of a pair building a nest above the Kakum canopy walkway.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

We heard this species in Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

One was seen in Kakum NP and another at Atewa.

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

We had good views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and several more at Atewa.

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis**Green Hylia***Hylia prasina*

Small numbers were seen almost daily in Kakum NP which included great sightings from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Tit Hylia*Pholidornis rushiae*

We had good views of three from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further two at Aboabo Forest.

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

One was seen at Shai Hills and another in Mole NP.

Western Bonelli's Warbler*Phylloscopus bonelli*

We had good views of one near Tono Dam.

Wood Warbler*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

We had good views of several from the Kakum canopy walkway and a few at Bonkro Forest.

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

We enjoyed good views of one near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

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

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Whistling Cisticola*Cisticola lateralis*

We had great views of one at Atewa.

Rock-loving Cisticola*Cisticola emini*

We had great views of three in the Tongo Hills.

Winding Cisticola*Cisticola marginatus*

We had good views of two at the Nasia wetland.

Note: This species complex has been split into five species by the IOC, while Clements has it as one species, Winding Cisticola (C. galactotes)

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

We enjoyed great views of two at Shai Hills.

Dorst's Cisticola *Cisticola guinea*

Three were seen well in Mole NP.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*

We had good views of four at Shai Hills.

Rufous Cisticola *Cisticola rufus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Three were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Fairly common in rank vegetation, we had good sightings of several daily in the far north and in particular near Tono Dam.

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus*

We enjoyed good views of two in Mole NP.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*

We had superb views of a stunning male from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Sharpe's Apalis (E) *Apalis sharpii*

We had great views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further female at Opro Forest.

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*

We had magnificent sightings of three in Mole NP.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicauda*

A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had good sightings at Aboabo.

Note: Clements lumps this species with Green-backed Camaroptera (C. brachyura)

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*

Far more often heard than seen, we had good views at Ebekawopa and Aboabo.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

We heard this species on several occasions and finally saw one at Atewa Forest.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*

Common in the savanna areas, many were seen at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*

We had good views of several from the Kakum canopy walkway and one at Antwikwaa.

Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens*

We heard several calling in Atewa Forest.

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*

One was seen briefly at Atewa Farm Bush.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

One was seen briefly at Atewa

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*

We had great views of two in Mole NP.



Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

Common (Greater) Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*
We had good views of one near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*
Three were seen very well at Aboabo.

Hyliotas Hyliotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*
We had fabulous views of four in Mole NP.

Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea*
We had stunning views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Treecreepers Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori*
Two were seen exceptionally well in Mole NP.

Note: IOC has accepted the proposed split of the African Spotted Creeper S. spilonotus from the Asian Spotted Creeper.

Starlings Sturnidae

Copper-tailed (Glossy) Starling (E) *Hylopsar cupreocauda*
We had good views of four from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further two at Ebekawopa.

Lesser Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
We had good views of four at Shai Hills and a further three in Mole NP.

Bronze-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
We had great scope views of one in Mole NP.

Splendid (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*
This large glossy starling was seen at all the forested sites, with highest numbers of 10 en route from Kumasi to Mole.

Purple (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*
Two were seen near Shai Hills and a further twenty near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*
Six were seen near the White Volta, Sapeliga. A splendid bird indeed!

Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*
We had wonderful views of twenty near the White Volta at Sapeliga and around Tono Dam.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*
We had great views of two at Antwikwaa.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*
We had great views of two near the White Volta at Sapeliga.

Thrushes Turdidae

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*



We heard one calling at Atewa.

Finsch's Rufous Thrush (NE)

Stizorhina finschii

We heard several calling in Kakum NP and one was finally seen at Atewa.

Note: Clements calls this Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush (Neocossyphus finschii)

African Thrush

Turdus pelios

We had brief views of one near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Forest Scrub Robin

Erythropygia leucosticta

We heard this shy and retiring species and after persevering we managed to see it at Atewa Forest.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher

Fraseria ocreata

We had good views of two at Aboabo.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus griseigularis

One was heard and glimpsed from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus plumbeus

We heard one in Mole NP.

Northern Black Flycatcher

Melaenornis edolioides

We enjoyed superb views of two in Mole NP.

Pale Flycatcher

Bradornis pallidus

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

We had great views of two in Shai Hills.

Swamp Flycatcher

Muscicapa aquatica

We had great views of three in Mole NP.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher

Muscicapa comitata

We had good views of two at Aboabo and another at Atewa.

Ussher's Flycatcher (E)

Muscicapa ussheri

We had good views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway and one at Atewa.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat

Cossypha niveicapilla

Two were seen very well in Mole NP.

White-crowned Robin-Chat

Cossypha albicapillus

We had wonderful views of four in Mole NP.

Forest Robin

Stiphronis erythrothorax

We heard this species near the Kakum canopy walkway.

Note: This species has been split into as many as four species in the past but is currently treated as one by most authorities including IOC and Clements.

European Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Up to five were seen daily in Mole NP.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

We had great views of three in Shai Hills.

White-crowned Cliff Chat

Thamnolaea coronata

We had good views of a male in Shai Hills.

Note: Clements lumps this with Mocking Cliff Chat (T. cinnamomeiventris), calling it as such

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Fraser's (Scarlet-tufted) Sunbird

Deleornis fraseri

This warbler-like sunbird was seen very well in Kakum NP and at Atewa.



Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
We had good sightings of several from the Kakum canopy walkway and several at Atewa.	
Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
We found one at Opro Forest and another at 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 superb sightings of up to ten near Tono Dam. What a beauty!	
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanoaema</i>
We had good views of three at Antwikwaa.	
(Western) Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
We had several sightings in Kakum NP and at Atewa.	
<i>Note: Some authorities including Clements split this species into two species. This split is not widely recognized.</i>	
Buff-throated Sunbird (NE)	<i>Chalcomitra adalberti</i>
We saw several stunning males at Ebekawopa, Opro and Atewa Forests.	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
We found this species to be common in Mole NP.	
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>
This species of forest edge was seen at Shai Hills, Antwikwaa and at Aboabo.	
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
We had wonderful views of several daily in Mole NP.	
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>
We had great views of four males at Shai Hills.	
Johanna's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris johannae</i>
We enjoyed great views of three at Aboabo.	
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>
We had good views of a male and female at Antwikwaa and another male at Atewa.	
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>
We had good views of one in Mole NP and a further two near Atewa.	

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
Two were seen in Mole NP.	
[Northern] Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
A common species which is often seen in towns, we had numerous sightings.	
Bush Petronia	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>
A common species in and around Mole, where we had many sightings of up to fifty daily	

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>
We had good views of four near Tono Dam.	
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
One was seen well in Mole NP.	
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Small numbers were seen at Antwikwaa and Aboabo.	
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>



A common weaver, seen on most days in the south of the country	
Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
A striking bird, seen near Kakum NP and Atewa	
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
We had great views of five at the Nasia wetland.	
Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>
This tri-coloured weaver was seen well in Kakum NP.	
Maxwell's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus albinucha</i>
We had good views of three males at Antwikwaa.	
Compact Weaver	<i>Ploceus superciliosus</i>
We enjoyed great views of two birds in farm bush not too far from Atewa.	
Preuss's Weaver	<i>Ploceus preussi</i>
We had superb views of two birds from the Kakum canopy walkway.	
Red-vented Malimbe	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>
We had good sightings of five at Aboabo.	
Blue-billed (Gray's) Malimbe	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>
One was seen at Antwikwaa, sadly a leader only sighting.	
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
The most common of the malimbes, seen regularly in Kakum (including Antwikwaa and Aboabo)	
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>
We had great views of two at Antwikwaa and several at Atewa.	
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
We had good views of three including a splendid male in Mole NP.	
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>
A flock of five was seen in farm bush near Atewa.	
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
A few were seen at the Nasia wetland and over one hundred near Tono Dam.	
Black-winged [Red] Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
We saw a male in partial breeding plumage in farm bush near Atewa.	
Northern Red (Orange) Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>
One female was seen near Shai Hills.	
Yellow-mantled (-shouldered) Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macrourus</i>
Up to thirty were seen daily in Mole NP.	

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker	<i>Parmoptila rubrifrons</i>
We had great views of a female of this rare species at Atewa.	
White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>
We observed two from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further two were seen at Antwikwaa.	
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>
We enjoyed superb views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.	
Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch)	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>
We had sightings from the canopy walkway and at Aboabo.	
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
We had good views of four near the White Volta at Sapeliga.	
Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>



We had good but brief views of one at Antwikwaa.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We found this species in small numbers in Mole NP.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

We enjoyed daily sightings 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

Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda caerulescens*

We had good views of six in Mole NP.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*

This stunning waxbill was seen on several occasions with peak numbers of thirty in Mole NP.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

Fairly common in the far north, we had superb views of twenty at the Nasia wetland.

Orange-breasted Waxbill *Sporaeginthus subflavus*

We found eight birds at the Nasia River wetland.

Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

At least six birds were seen drinking at the Nasia River wetland.

Note: This species is sometimes split into 3 species; Black-faced Quailfinch, O. atricollis, African Quailfinch, O. fuscocrissa and Black-chinned Quailfinch, O. gabonensis. IOC has recently lumped all three species into Quailfinch, O. atricollis.

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*

Up to eight were seen at the Nasia River wetland with further sightings near the White Volta at Sapeliga.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

A common species in woodland and forest edge alike, seen on most days of the tour

Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor*

Six birds were seen very well at Ebekawopa

Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes

Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides*

We had great scope views of four from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

Wilson's Indigobird *Vidua wilsoni*

We had great views of a male in Mole NP.

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*

We had good views of a male in full breeding plumage in Mole NP.

Togo Paradise Whydah *Vidua togoensis*

We had good views of three males in Mole NP.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

One was seen at Sakumo Lagoon and one at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the trip.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

We enjoyed great scope views of five at Shai Hills.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*



We had good views of four in Shai Hills.

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Finches Fringillidae**Yellow-fronted Canary***Crithagra mozambica*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae**Gosling's (Cinnamon-breasted) Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

We found two at Tongo Hills.

NOTE: Gosling's Bunting, E.goslingi of West Africa, has recently been split from Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, E.tahapisi. IOC accepts this split.

Brown-rumped Bunting*Emberiza affinis*

A male was seen superbly well in Mole NP.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded (26 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.

Cheek-pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae**Olive Baboon***Papio papio*

We had great views of ten in Shai Hills and up to twenty daily in Mole NP.

Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey*Cercopithecus sabaeus*

We had great views of up to fifteen daily in Mole NP.

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

A large roost of thousands was seen near Tanoboase.

Hammer-headed Fruit Bat*Hypsignathus monstrosus*

At least two were seen flying in Ankasa NP.

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

We had good sightings of two in Mole NP.

Squirrels Sciuridae**Striped Ground Squirrel***Xerus erythropus*

We had great views of one in Mole NP and scattered sightings elsewhere.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel*Funisciurus pyrropus*

We had good but brief views of one in Atewa.

Kintampo Rope Squirrel*Funisciurus substriatus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Gambian Sun Squirrel*Heliosciurus gambianus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.



Red-legged Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus rufobrachium

We had good views of one at Antwikwaa.

Slender-tailed Squirrel

Protoxerus aubinnii

We had great views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Hedgehogs Erinaceidae

White-bellied Hedgehog

Erinaceus albiventris

We had amazing views of one, shortly after leaving Bolgatanga on our way south.

Large-winged Bats Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat

Lavia frons

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Galagos Galagidae

Senegal Galago

Galago senegalensis

We enjoyed wonderful views of five in Mole NP, where they were seen leaping several meters from tree to tree, a most impressive sight.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

We had wonderful views of up to fifteen daily in Mole NP.

Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

Up to ten were seen daily in Mole NP.

Kob

Kobus kob

Thirty were seen in Shai Hills and ten in Mole NP.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

We had great views of seven including several large males in Mole NP.

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