



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Private Ghana Mega Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials *7th to 29th January 2014 (23 days)*



Fraser's Eagle-Owl by David Hoddinott

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

Trip Summary

We started off our adventure with a visit to the nearby Shai Hills Resources Reserve. Although small,



Oriole Warbler by David Hoddinott

this reserve supports a nice variety of habitats, with predominant guinea savannah, wetlands, rocky outcrops and thicket. Exploring these areas we found an interesting selection of species including African Cuckoo-Hawk, Long-crested Eagle, Red-necked Buzzard, smart Senegal Parrot, Violet Turaco (confiding for once!), splendid Blue-bellied Roller, Double-toothed Barbet, Piapiac (strange corvid), Croaking Cisticola, Blackcap Babbler, White-crowned Cliff Chat, migrant Spotted Flycatcher and Splendid Sunbird. Mammals were also evident and apart from Olive Baboon and a nice herd of Kob, we enjoyed a good sighting of the seldom-observed Gambian Mongoose.

Leaving Shai Hills we continued northeast to Ho. En route we stopped for two male Northern Red Bishops in full breeding plumage before making our way to the Volta, where we were rewarded with good views of White-bibbed Swallow and, nearby, the elusive Pied-winged Swallow.

From Ho we visited Kalakpa where we enjoyed memorable sightings. The gallery forest was particularly rewarding with great views of both Thick-billed and Yellow-throated Cuckoos, a splendid male Narina Trogon, African Shrike-flycatcher, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Spotted Honeyguide and the highly elusive Capuchin



Long-tailed Hawk by David Hoddinott

Babbler. In the nearby woodlands we recorded African Hobby, Blue-headed Coucal, Long-tailed Nightjar, Mottled Spinetail, European Bee-eater, Bearded Barbet, White Helmetshrike, White-breasted Cuckooshrike and Tree Pipit.



Black Bee-eater by David Hoddinott

From Kalakpa we travelled back to Accra, stopping at Sakumo Lagoon en route. This wetland was superb and we recorded a number of migrant ducks including Northern Pintail, Garganey, Eurasian Teal and a splendid Ferruginous Duck. Amongst a host of waterbird species, notable observations included Glossy Ibis (rare in Ghana), African Swamphen, Spur-winged Lapwing, Common Snipe, Black-



tailed Godwit, Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Collared Pratincole and Black Tern.

Leaving Accra, we next headed west past the ever-expanding metropolis to Winneba. Our first stop was the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site (Winneba Lagoon). This estuary is quite different to Sakumo with far more open river system and extensive sandbars and therefore offers a number of other wetland birds. Species we observed here included Striated Heron, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Royal and Sandwich Terns and two very nice surprises in the form of African Skimmer and Eurasian Oystercatcher. After settling into our hotel we enjoyed a short break before making our way to



Black-capped Apalis by David Hoddinott



White-necked Rockfowl by David Hoddinott

Ebekawopa. This interesting forest, although not protected, still supports a superb variety of birdlife and we enjoyed great sightings here. These include Red-fronted Parrot, Blue-throated Roller, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Little Green Woodpecker, a displaying male Rufous-sided Broadbill, Spotted Greenbul, Ussher's Flycatcher, Forest Wood Hoopoe, Brown-cheeked Hornbill and a fantastic Plain Nightjar.

after another. During the morning a large bird party came through the trees around us and at times we weren't quite sure where to look first. Some of our notable sightings from the walkway included the rare Black Spinetail, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, West African Wattle-eye, smart Blue Cuckooshrike, Black-winged Oriole, tiny Forest Penduline Tit, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Sharpe's Apalis (Upper Guinea Endemic) and Violet-backed Hylia, to mention just a few.

The following morning we visited the western section of Kakum NP where we recorded yet more great birds. These included a splendid adult Long-tailed Hawk, Black Sparrowhawk, a confiding pair of White-spotted Flufftails, dazzling Black Bee-eater, very impressive White-crested Hornbill, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Yellow-billed Barbet,

The following morning we awoke very excited – but also a little anxious – about visiting the canopy walkway. Upon arriving at the first platform along the famous Kakum canopy walkway, any fear of heights was all but lost as we spotted one species

after another. During the morning a large bird party came through the trees around us and at times we weren't quite sure where to look first. Some of our notable sightings from the walkway included the rare Black Spinetail, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, West African Wattle-eye, smart Blue Cuckooshrike, Black-winged Oriole, tiny Forest Penduline Tit, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Sharpe's Apalis (Upper Guinea Endemic) and Violet-backed Hylia, to mention just a few.



Plain Nightjar by David Hoddinott



Willcocks's Honeyguide, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Red-billed Helmetshrike and Kemp's Longbill. Shortly before lunch we then paid a visit to the Pra River where we recorded several confiding Rock Pratincole and the magnificent White-bibbed Swallow.



Tessmann's Flycatcher by David Hoddinott

wing, Tessmann's Flycatcher and Tiny Sunbird. We also observed the strange Potto, a splendid nocturnal, slow moving mammal related to the Lorises and Galagos.

Leaving Nsuta we headed yet further west towards the border with Ivory Coast to the wonderful lowland rainforest of Ankasa National Park. En route we had some superb birding and notched up great sightings of Hartlaub's Duck, Eurasian Hobby, Mangrove and Reichenbach's Sunbirds and Orange Weaver.

Ankasa National Park was unusually quiet, probably due to the very dry conditions. We did however still see a remarkable number of high quality birds including Crested Guinea fowl, African Finfoot, a pair of Grey-throated Rail with juvenile, elusive Akun Eagle-Owl, White-bellied Kingfisher, Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Forest Robin, Red-fronted Antpecker and a most confiding Fraser's Eagle-Owl.



Rock Pratincole by David Hoddinott

we spent time along an open track which has been selectively logged in the past. The birding was still

Heading further west we enjoyed two days at the seldom-visited Nsuta Forest. What a splendid forest this is and, yet again, not protected! Some of the star birds we found here included White-crested Tiger Heron, Brown-necked Parrot, Great Blue and Yellow-billed Turacos, brief Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Brown Nightjar, Bates's Swift, beautiful Rosy Bee-eaters perched, Red-billed Dwarf and Piping Hornbills, Sabine's Puffback, Western Nicator, Ansorge's Greenbul, Square-tailed Saw-



Blue-moustached Bee-eater by David Hoddinott

On the drive back to Kakum we stopped off along the Brenu Beach road and found a surprise in the form of Great Spotted Cuckoo, and also enjoyed Marsh Tchagra. In the evening over a delicious dinner we had some fun with a fancy dress party where the ladies came most elegantly dressed and men donned hats, moustache and those most important medals. We enjoyed celebratory drinks and laughed the evening away.

The following morning we departed very early for the northern section of Kakum National Park, where



good however and we found Fernando Po Batis, enjoyed scope views of a preening Kemp's Longbill, had good views of a male Maxwell's Black Weaver and a nice family group of Red-vented Malimbos. Leaving Kakum National Park excitement mounted as we headed north to Bonkro Forest in search of the mythical White-necked Rockfowl. A fabulous three birds performed well for us, leaping about the vines and rocks and giving us all superb views. We returned elated and celebrated with a cold one at our comfortable hotel in Kumasi, before settling in for a good night's rest.

From Kumasi we headed for the savannah of the great Mole National Park, stopping at Opro Forest along the way. This proved a good decision and we quickly added Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, an unexpected Black Dwarf Hornbill, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, rare Fiery-breasted Bushshrike, Tit Hylia and striking Buff-throated Sunbird.



Ahanta Francolin by David Hoddinott



White-bibbed Swallow by David Hoddinott

Togo Paradise Whydahs.

On our final evening in Mole we enjoyed a superb dinner and perhaps a little too much wine. We were then entertained by the most hilarious stories presented by each member of the group as to why he or she should be awarded an anonymous prize. Margot deservedly scooped the prize, a huge Jeroboam bottle of delicious red wine.

Leaving Mole we continue north, stopping off at the Nasia wetland where we enjoyed superb views of a Bluethroat. Orange-breasted Waxbills and Quailfinch were also seen coming in to drink. Next

Mole National Park is the largest protected area in Ghana and is predominantly Guinea savanna. Some of the great birds we saw here included Stone Partridge, White-throated Francolin, Bateleur, Grasshopper Buzzard, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Greyish Eagle-Owl, Standard-winged Nightjar, Abyssinian Roller, Swallow-tailed, Red-throated and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Black Scimitarbill, Fine-spotted and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, African Blue Flycatcher, White-shouldered Black Tit, Sun Lark, Rufous Cisticola, Oriole Warbler, White-fronted Black Chat, Pygmy and Beautiful Sunbirds, Lavendar Waxbill, Wilson's Indigobird and Exclamatory and



Forest Penduline Tit by David Hoddinott



we headed to the boulder-strewn Tongo Hills and were delighted with great sightings of Booted Eagle, Fox Kestrel and Rock-loving Cisticola. From there we made our way to Bolgatanga for a two-night stay.

The following morning we went in search of one of the key targets for the trip, the beautiful Egyptian Plover. After a lengthy drive we reached the White Volta and, sure enough, were soon enjoying fantastic views of no less than four birds. Egyptian Plover is undoubtedly one of the great waders of the world! In the nearby woodland we found Spotted Thick-knee, stately Black-headed Lapwing, Eurasian Wryneck, Woodchat Shrike, Western Olivaceous Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Long-tailed and Chestnut-bellied Starlings, Common Redstart, White-billed Buffalo Weaver, Cut-throat Finch, White-rumped Seedeater and a species which was first recorded in the country just two years ago, Golden-breasted Bunting.



Red-chested Owlet by David Hoddinott

After enjoying a break in the heat of the day, we then ventured to Tono Dam where we recorded Namaqua Dove, Western Bonelli's and Melodious Warblers, and Dorst's Cisticola.

Leaving the far north, we travelled south to Kumasi where we visited Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. Although only a small forest patch, it nevertheless hosts a good selection of forest birds and we recorded great views of African Hobby, Brown-necked Parrot, Black-throated Coucal, a confiding Red-chested Owlet and Least Honeyguide.

Our final destination was Koforidua where we enjoyed two nights so as to maximise our time at Atewa Forest. We also visited the nearby Bunso Arboretum where we were exceptionally fortunate to have the most amazing views of the highly elusive Ahanta Francolin!

Our time at Atewa Forest was most productive and we scored some wonderful birds here including the lovely Blue-headed Wood Dove, cracking Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, much-wanted Blue-moustached Bee-eater, stunning Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Dusky-crested Flycatcher, Puvell's Illadopsis, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, White-tailed Alethe and Little Grey Flycatcher. 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 an enthusiastic, skilled and fun group of participants and a superb ground operations team. I am very much looking forward to travelling with you again!

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: 475 (457 seen and 18 heard)

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

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

We saw good flocks of up to fifty daily in Mole NP.

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*

We had wonderful views of ten including three juveniles in Ankasa NP.

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

We had excellent sightings in Mole NP.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**White-throated Francolin** *Peliperdix albogularis*

We had simply mind-blowing views of a male as it ran towards us, in Mole NP.

Ahanta Francolin (NE) *Pternistis achantensis*

This is usually a particularly difficult species to see and we were amazingly fortunate to see one for at least ten minutes as it sat crouched in the undergrowth just a few metres from us, at Bunso Arboretum.

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus*

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

*Note: Clements places this in the genus Francolinus***Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae****White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*

We had good views of up to three hundred at Sakumo Lagoon and several thousand at Tono Dam.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

A flock of fourteen was seen at Tono Dam.

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*

We enjoyed wonderful scope views of 11 at a wetland en route from Nsuta to Ankasa NP.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

A flock of ten was seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

We had good scope views of two at Sakumo Lagoon.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

We had great scope views of two at Sakumo Lagoon.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

We had superb views of one at Sakumo Lagoon.

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

We had good views of ten at Sakumo Lagoon.

Storks Ciconiidae

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

We had good sightings of one in Mole NP.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Spot-breasted Ibis***Bostrychia rara*

We heard one calling in the distance at Nsuta Forest.

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

We had daily sightings of up to six in Mole NP.

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

We enjoyed great scope views of two at Sakumo Lagoon, although widespread elsewhere this species is not common in Ghana.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae**White-crested Tiger Heron***Tigriornis leucolopha*

We had good views of one flying low overhead at Nsuta Forest. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

We had good views of two at Winneba Lagoon and a further one in Mole NP.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

Our peak count was 20 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 four hundred during the drive from Kumasi to Mole NP

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 – highest numbers were three at Sakumo Lagoon.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

Small numbers were seen in the grasslands in the north.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Our first sighting was of one at the Volta with scattered sightings elsewhere including one at the Nasia Wetland.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

Ten were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We had good scope views of two at Sakumo Lagoon.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

A peak count was ten at Sakumo Lagoon.

Western Reef Heron*Egretta gularis*

Recorded at Sakumo Lagoon, and Muni-Pomadze where we had good views of five.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

We had good sightings of up to three daily in Mole NP.



Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant

Microcarbo africanus

Small numbers were seen at several wetlands with a peak count of six at the Nasia wetland.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles Accipitridae

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite

Elanus caeruleus

Two were seen during our trip to Shai Hills with scattered sightings elsewhere.

African Harrier-Hawk

Polyboroides typus

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

Gypohierax angolensis

We had good views of one from the Kakum Canopy walkway, and daily sightings of small numbers in Kakum NP.

European Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

Our first sightings were at Shai Hills with scattered sightings elsewhere.

African Cuckoo-Hawk

Aviceda cuculoides

We had a fabulous nine sightings during the tour with a splendid adult seen well at Nsuta.

Hooded Vulture

Necrosyrtes monachus

Another very common bird, we had daily sightings where they were most commonly encountered in towns and cities.

White-backed Vulture

Gyps africanus

Only seen in Mole NP where just three were seen.

Rüppell's Vulture

Gyps rueppellii

We had great scope views of one juvenile near a waterhole in Mole NP. A rare bird in Ghana.

White-headed Vulture

Trigonoceps occipitalis

We enjoyed good views of three in Mole NP.

Beudouin's Snake Eagle

Circaetus beudouini

We had a great sighting of one en route to Mole NP and another during the drive from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.

Congo Serpent Eagle

Dryotriorchis spectabilis

We had good scope views of one at Ebekawopa.

Bateleur

Terathopius ecaudatus

A bird that is mostly seen in larger parks and reserves, we had daily sightings in Mole NP.

Crowned Eagle

Stephanoaetus coronatus

We heard one displaying overhead at Bonkro Forest.

Long-crested Eagle

Lophaetus occipitalis

Two were seen in Shai Hills Resources Reserve.

Wahlberg's Eagle

Hieraaetus wahlbergi

One was seen during the drive from Mole NP to the Nasia wetland.

Booted Eagle

Hieraaetus pennatus

We had superb views of one at Tongo Hills.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle

Hieraaetus ayresii

A pale morph individual was seen in Ankasa NP.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle

Aquila africana

One was seen flying high over Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.



Lizard Buzzard*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Eight were seen during the drive from Accra to Ho with scattered sightings elsewhere including in Mole NP.

Gabar Goshawk*Micronisus gabar*

Two were seen in the Tono Dam area including a melanistic individual.

Dark Chanting Goshawk*Melierax metabates*

Several were seen in Mole NP and three were seen during a day in the Bolgatanga area.

Long-tailed Hawk*Urotriorchus macrourus*

We had a superb sighting of an adult at Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.

Red-chested Goshawk*Accipiter toussenelii*

We had brief views of one at Bunso Arboretum.

Note: African Goshawk, A. tachiro, occurring in East and Southern Africa has been split into two species by most authorities. Red-chested Goshawk, A. toussenelii occurs only in West Africa.

Shikra*Accipiter badius*

We recorded this common species at many sites including at Ho and Accra.

Black Sparrowhawk*Accipiter melanoleucus*

We enjoyed a wonderful sighting of one at Aboabo.

Western Marsh Harrier*Circus aeruginosus*

We had several sightings including six en route from Bolgatanga to Kumasi and a further two at Sakumo Lagoon.

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. Peak numbers of forty were seen during the drive from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.

Red-necked Buzzard*Buteo auguralis*

Seen almost daily including at Shai Hills, Antwikwaa and Mole NP. A total of 12 birds were seen throughout the trip.

Falcons Falconidae**Common (Eurasian) Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

Small numbers were seen near Shai Hills and Kalakpa with scattered sightings elsewhere.

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 two in the Tongo Hills.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

We enjoyed wonderful sightings throughout the tour with great views of two near Shai Hills.

Eurasian Hobby*Falco subbuteo*

We had great views of one, whilst en route from Nsuta to Ankasa NP.

African Hobby*Falco cuvierii*

We had good views of two near Kalakpa and another at Bobiri.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

One was seen at Shai Hills with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Flufftails Sarothruridae**White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

We heard many calling throughout the forest zone and enjoyed great views of a pair near Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.

Finfoots Heliornithidae

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

We had brief views of a female in Ankasa NP.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Nkulengu Rail

Himantornis haematopus

We heard two pairs calling at Ankasa NP.

Grey-throated Rail

Canirallus oculeus

We had superb views of a pair with juvenile in Ankasa NP. This is a rarely observed species and was another highlight of the tour.

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

We enjoyed good views of one at Nsuta and another at the Nasia wetland.

African Swamphen

Porphyrio madagascariensis

We had great scope views of four at Sakumo Lagoon.

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

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

We had superb views of eight in Mole NP.

Spotted Thick-knee

Burhinus capensis

We had great views of one 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

Highest count of fifty at Sakumo Lagoon and a further fifty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site

Plovers Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing

Vanellus spinosus

Ten were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further twenty at the White Volta near Sapeliga.

Black-headed Lapwing

Vanellus tectus

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

[African] Wattled Lapwing

Vanellus senegallus

A peak count of 12 was seen en route from Mole to Bolgatanga.

Golden Plover sp.

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

NOTE: We thought at the time of viewing that it was most likely an American Golden Plover, P. dominica however Adam Riley was with a tour group at the site the following day and took great photos of a Pacific Golden Plover, P. fulva so I think our sighting should be best left as Golden Plover sp since it was too distant to confirm its identification at the time.

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover

Pluvialis squatarola



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

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

We had superb sightings at Sakumo Lagoon where up to two hundred were seen and a further one hundred at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

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

We had splendid views of 4 of these magnificent birds at the White Volta, Sapeliga. A real highlight of the tour!

Painted-snipes Rostratulidae**Greater Painted-snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

One was 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 thirty at Sakumo Lagoon.

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

We had good views of two at Sakumo Lagoon and a further three at the Nasia wetland.

Black-tailed Godwit*Limosa limosa*

We had great views of seven at Sakumo Lagoon.

Bar-tailed Godwit*Limosa lapponica*

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

Whimbrel*Numenius phaeopus*

We found three at Sakumo Lagoon and a further ten 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 one bird at Sakumo Lagoon and a further twenty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

We found twenty at Sakumo Lagoon and a further thirty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

We found forty at Sakumo Lagoon and ten at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

We had sightings at most wetland localities on tour including six at Sakumo Lagoon.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

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

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

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

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

At least fifty were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further one hundred at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Thirty were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and up to fifty were seen at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

We had good views of two at Sakumo Lagoon.

Couriers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

We found one at Sakumo Lagoon.

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*

We found 2 on the Pra River near Twifo Praso.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*

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

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

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

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

We enjoyed good views of a couple at Sakumo Lagoon and a further one hundred and fifty at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar site near Winneba.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

We enjoyed great views of four at Sakumo Lagoon.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*

We enjoyed good views of four 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 fifteen daily during our time in the far north near Bolgatanga.

[Western] Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*

We had superb scope views of one at Opro Forest.

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

We enjoyed superb views of three 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	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
We enjoyed daily sightings in Mole NP.	
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
We had good views of two at Kalakpa and another just outside the entrance to Ankasa.	
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
First seen in Kakum, we had further sightings at Atewa. Small numbers seen most days in the forests.	
Blue-headed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur brehmeri</i>
One was seen exceptionally well at Atewa.	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
We had good views of several near the White Volta, Sapeliga.	
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
Up to fifteen were seen in the far north around the White Volta near Sapeliga and at Tono Dam.	
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
This was a common bird at all the forested sites in Ghana.	

Parrots Psittacidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Up to fifteen were seen daily in Mole NP.	
Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>
Two were seen flying over Nsuta Forest with scattered sightings elsewhere. So nice to see in the wild rather than as a cage bird!	
[Brown-necked Parrot]	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>
We had superb sightings of a three at Nsuta Forest.	
<i>Note: IOC splits Brown-necked Parrot, P. fuscicollis of West Africa from Cape Parrot, P. robustus of South Africa. Clements does not accept this split.</i>	
Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>
We had great sightings in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.	
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>
Recorded at most savanna sites, with our highest count being ten on one day at Shai Hills	

Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>
We had wonderful views of two in Nsuta Forest.	
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>
We had great sightings of one en route to Kalakpa.	
Yellow-billed Turaco	<i>Tauraco macrorhynchus</i>
A noisy species heard all over the forest areas, with good sightings in Nsuta Forest.	
Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>
This stunning species was seen superbly well at Shai Hills with further great views in Mole NP.	
Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>
Seen on many days of the tour, especially in the north	

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal	<i>Centropus leucogaster</i>
A tricky species to see in forest tangles. We had brief views of one in Bobiri Forest.	
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>



A common species, seen at Shai Hills, Antwikwaa and Mole NP

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

Two were seen near Kalakpa and a further two at Aboabo.

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*

We had superb views of an adult near Brenu Beach.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

One was seen near Kalakpa and another at Atewa Forest.

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti*

We had very good views of one at Kalakpa and amazingly another at Opro Forest.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

One was seen at Shai Hills and a further one at Winneba Plains.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

We had great views of males in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.

Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*

We had superb views of one at Kalakpa.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

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

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

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

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

One was seen at Nsuta Forest and another in Ankasa NP.

Note: The birds we observed are of the distinctive rufous-chested, West African, gabonensis subspecies.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

One was seen quite well in Ankasa NP.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

We found three near Kalakpa.

Owls Strigidae

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

We heard several at Kalakpa.

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens*

We had superb views of one in Mole NP.

Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis*

We had a great sighting of one in the early evening at Ankasa NP.

Akun Eagle-Owl *Bubo leucostictus*

We had fair views of two in Ankasa NP.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*

We heard this species calling at Kalakpa.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

We enjoyed several sightings in Mole NP.

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*

We had superb views of one at Bobiri.

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense*



We heard one calling at Shai Hills.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

- Brown Nightjar** *Veles binotatus*
We had great views of one perched at Nsuta Forest.
- Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*
We heard one at Kalakpa.
- Plain Nightjar** *Caprimulgus inornatus*
We had superb views of three at Ebekawopa.
- Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus*
We had great views of several at Kalakpa and three in Mole NP.
- Standard-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx longipennis*
We had stunning views of a male in Mole NP and a female near the White Volta, Sapeliga. This was certainly another highlight of the trip.

Swifts Apodidae

- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*
We had good views of one at Kalakpa.
- Black Spinetail** *Telacanthura melanopygia*
We had great views of two at Ebekawopa and a further two at Aboabo.
- Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini*
We had great sightings at Ebekawopa Forest and up to four daily at Nsuta.
- Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini*
Small numbers were seen in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
Seen on many days throughout the trip
- Common Swift** *Apus apus*
At least ten were seen flying over Ebekawopa.
- Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*
We had good views of two flying over Aboabo, Kakum NP.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Seen at many bridges in the country! Our sightings included some large flocks.
- White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*
We had great views of one at Nsuta.
- Bates's Swift** *Apus batesi*
We had good views of a flock of at least thirty at Nsuta Forest.

Trogons Trogonidae

- Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*
We had good views of a male at Kalakpa.

Rollers Coraciidae

- Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller** *Coracias naevius*
We observed several in the far north near the White Volta, Sapeliga and near Tono Dam.
- Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*



Our first sighting was of one near Kalakpa and later we had daily sightings of this stunner in and around Mole NP.

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*

We had great views of several at both Shai Hills and Kalakpa.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*

We had several great sightings in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

We had good sightings of three near Kalakpa and another in Mole NP.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*

We had great scope views of one at Atewa.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

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

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

We enjoyed good views of one at Kalakpa.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*

We had good views of one at Kalakpa and another in Mole NP.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

A common species seen in small numbers almost daily

African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei*

Some of us had superb views of one at Kalakpa.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

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

White-bellied Kingfisher *Alcedo leucogaster*

We had fantastic scope views of an adult in Ankasa NP.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

We saw this little gem of a bird at various wetlands on the tour including good views en route from Ankasa to Kakum.

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys*

Some of us had good views of one at a wetland en route from Nsuta to Ankasa.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maximus*

One was seen during the drive from Nsuta to Ankasa.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

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

Bee-eaters Meropidae

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

We had cracking views of this beauty, 2 at Opro Forest and two 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!

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*

We had wonderful views of two birds in Mole NP.



Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Three were seen very well at Kalakpa with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Red-throated Bee-eater*Merops bulocki*

We found good numbers (70+) 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*

Six were seen at Kalakpa

Rosy Bee-eater*Merops malimbicus*

Small numbers were seen at Antwikwaa and Ebekawopa and several seen perched at Nsuta.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

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

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae**Forest Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus castaneiceps*

We had great views of one at Ebekawopa and a further two at Bobiri Forest.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus bollei*

We observed good views of two from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and three at Atewa Forest.

Green Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus purpureus*

We had sightings at Shai Hills, Kalakpa and Mole NP.

Black Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

We enjoyed good sightings of several in Mole NP.

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 at Kalakpa and daily sightings in Mole NP

Northern Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

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

Black Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus hartlaubi*

We had great views of one at Opro Forest.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus camurus*

We enjoyed stunning views of two at Nsuta Forest.

White-crested Hornbill*Tropicranus albocristatus*

This funky-looking hornbill was seen very well at Antwikwaa with a further great sighting of one at Ankasa NP.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Tockus

Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

Up to thirty seen daily at Nsuta Forest.

Brown-cheeked Hornbill (E)*Bycanistes cylindricus*

We enjoyed good views of three at Ebekawopa.

Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill*Ceratogymna elata*

A very wary species, we were lucky to see one briefly in Ankasa NP.



African Barbets Lybiidae

- Bristle-nosed Barbet** *Gymnobucco peli*
Fifteen birds were seen at Antwikwaa.
- Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus*
Very similar in appearance to the previous species, we had sightings in Kakum NP and Bonkro Forest.
- Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*
Our first sighting was of three in Kakum NP with further sightings at Atewa.
- Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atroflavus*
We had good views of one at Ebekawopa and a further two at Atewa.
- Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*
We had good scope views of one at Ebekawopa with further sightings at Atewa Forest.
- Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*
We had good views of one at Kalakpa and another at Atewa.
- Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*
Two were seen very well in Mole NP.
- Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*
We had good views of one at Ebekawopa.
- Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta*
One was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway, a further one at Nsuta Forest and two at Atewa.
- Vieillot's Barbet** *Lybius vieilloti*
A fairly common bird of savanna, we had good sightings of one at Shai Hills and two near the White Volta, Sapeliga.
- Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus*
One was seen very well at Shai Hills and another near Brenu Beach.
- Bearded Barbet** *Lybius dubius*
Two of these large barbets were seen at Kalakpa and several daily in Mole NP.
- Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus*
We had magnificent views of this rather shy species at Antwikwaa and again at Opro Forest.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

- Willcock's Honeyguide** *Indicator willcocksi*
We had good views of one at Antwikwaa.
- Least Honeyguide** *Indicator exilis*
We had good scope views of one at Bobiri Forest.
- Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*
We had good views of one in Mole NP.
- Spotted Honeyguide** *Indicator maculatus*
We had superb scope views of one at Kalakpa.
- Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*
We had good views of one in Mole NP. This is the only species known to actually guide mammals to a beehive.

Woodpeckers Picidae

- Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
We had great views of two near the White Volta, Sapeliga.



African Piculet	<i>Sasia africana</i>
We heard this species calling at Bobiri Forest.	
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>
We had good views of two in Mole NP	
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
We heard one at Kalakpa.	
Little Green Woodpecker (NE)	<i>Campethera maculosa</i>
We had brief views of one at Ebekawopa.	
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus fuscescens</i>
We had superb views of a pair in Shai Hills.	
Melancholy (Gabon) Woodpecker (E)	<i>Dendropicus lugubris</i>
We enjoyed a superb sighting of one on the Kakum Canopy Walkway and another at Atewa.	
<i>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.</i>	
Fire-bellied Woodpecker (NE)	<i>Dendropicus pyrrhogaster</i>
We had a great sighting of several at Antwikwaa and a further pair at Nsuta Forest.	
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus goertae</i>
We enjoyed good views of two in Mole NP.	
Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus obsoletus</i>
We had great views of one in Mole NP.	

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Rufous-sided Broadbill	<i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i>
This splendid species was seen exceptionally well at Ebekawopa where we observed a male displaying.	

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

African Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Megabyas flammulatus</i>
We had wonderful views of a female at Kalakpa.	
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
We found a splendid pair at Opro Forest.	
Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>
First seen at Shai Hills with further sightings in Mole NP	
Fernando Po Batis	<i>Batis poensis</i>
We had superb views of one at Aboabo.	
<i>Note: IOC lumps Fernando Po Batis, B. poensis occurring on the island of Bioko with West African Batis, B. occulta. Clements accepts this split.</i>	
West African (Chestnut) Wattle-eye (E)	<i>Platysteira hormophora</i>
Seen in small numbers at most forest sites including great views from the Kakum canopy walkway	
<i>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.</i>	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
We had good views of two in Mole NP.	
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye (NE)	<i>Platysteira blissetti</i>
We had brief views of one at Kalakpa and good views of another at Atewa.	

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae



White-crested Helmetshrike*Prionops plumatus*

We had great views of fifteen at Kalakpa.

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 two at Antwikwaa.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae**Fiery-breasted Bushshrike***Malaconotus cruentus*

One was seen briefly at Opro Forest.

Many-coloured Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus multicolour*

We had great views of one at Atewa.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Marsh Tchagra*Bocagia minuta*

We had great views of a male near Brenu Beach.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegalus*

We enjoyed several sightings including two daily in Mole NP.

Sabine's Puffback*Dryoscopus sabinii*

After hearing this species on numerous occasions we finally got great views of a male at Nsuta and another in Opro Forest.

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 at Winneba Plains and again in Mole NP.

Brubru*Nilaus afer*

One was seen in Mole NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**White-breasted Cuckooshrike***Coracina pectoralis*

We had good views of two near Kalakpa and wonderful views of three in Mole NP.

Blue Cuckooshrike*Coracina azurea*

This stunning species was first seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and later seen particularly well at Bobiri Forest.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike*Campephaga phoenicea*

A male was seen in the gallery forest at Kalakpa and a further two at Opro Forest. 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 Ankasa NP to Kakum NP with scattered sightings elsewhere



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 one male near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

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

Western (Black-headed) Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had good views of one at Nsuta Forest and further sightings at Aboabo and Opro Forests.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*

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

Drongos Dicruridae

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*

We had good views of one 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*

One was seen briefly at Kalakpa.

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

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

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

We had daily sightings in Kalakpa where we observed the lovely black and white morph male and small numbers at Atewa.

Crows, Jays Corvidae

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*

We had good views of fifteen at Shai Hills and several daily 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 three birds bounding through the undergrowth and over boulders in Bonkro Forest.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

We saw two in Mole NP.



Dusky Crested Flycatcher*Elminia nigromitrata*

We enjoyed superb but brief views of one at Atewa.

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

We had good sightings of one at Shai Hills and a couple daily in Mole NP.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Melaniparus

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

We had good views of three from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Nicators Nicatoridae**Western (Yellow-spotted) Nicator***Nicator chloris*

We had good views of one at Kalakpa and another at Nsuta Forest.

Larks Alaudidae**Flappet Lark***Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

We had good views of one at Shai Hills and two near the White Volta at Sapeliga.

Sun Lark*Galerida modesta*

We had good views of up to six daily in Mole NP.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

Several were seen in Mole NP and again 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, Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Little Greenbul*Eurillas virens*

Far more often heard than seen, this skulker was seen at Ebekawopa.

Little Grey Greenbul*Eurillas gracilis*

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa and another at Opro Forest.

Ansorge's Greenbul*Eurillas ansorgei*

We had good views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Plain Greenbul*Eurillas curvirostris*

One was seen in Ankasa NP.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (Bulbul)*Eurillas latirostris*

One was seen at Kalakpa and another in Ankasa NP.

Golden Greenbul*Calyptocichla serina*

We had great views of two at Ebekawopa and a further two at Nsuta Forest.

Honeyguide Greenbul*Baeopogon indicator*

A good-looking greenbul with a beautiful call, we had good sightings in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest

Spotted Greenbul*Ixonotus guttatus*

Several were seen from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further eight in Nsuta Forest.

Simple Greenbul*Chlorocichla simplex*

We had good sightings of one at Kalakpa and another at Antwikwaa.

Swamp [Palm] Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

This noisy species was seen in Kakum NP, Nsuta Forest and Bonkro Forest.

Baumann's Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus baumanni*

We had brief views of one at Kalakpa. A rare and seldom observed species due to its retiring nature

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

We had superb views of one at Nsuta Forest and three at Atewa.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

We had good views of two at Kalakpa and a further two at Opro Forest.

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

One was heard calling at Atewa Forest.

Western Bearded Greenbul (NE) *Criniger barbatus*

Several were heard calling at Atewa Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

Two were seen in Ankasa NP and a further two at Atewa Forest.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens*

Two were seen at Nsuta Forest and six in Ankasa NP and later we had fantastic views of several at Atewa Forest.

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*

We had good but brief views of one at Ebekawopa.

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 up to fifteen daily in the far north.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

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

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 two at the Volta River north of Shai Hills and two at the Pra River, Twifo Praso.

Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*

We had stunning scope views of one near the Volta Dam.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Two birds were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

We observed one near Antwikwaa, Kakum NP and a further three at Atewa Farm Bush.

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*

We had good views of two at Aboabo.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

We had good views of one near Kalakpa.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

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

West African Swallow *Cecropis domicella*

One was seen at the Atewa Farm Bush.



Preuss's [Cliff] Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*
We had good views of ten at Sakumo Lagoon.

Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*
We had good views of two at the Nasia wetland.

Kemp's Longbill (NE) *Macrosphenus kempii*
Our first sighting was brief views of one at Antwikwaa and later 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 brief views of several at Kalakpa but enjoyed great views of one at Nsuta Forest with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*
We had good views of three during the drive from Mole NP to the Tongo Hills.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*
One was seen well at Aboabo.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*
A pair was seen very well at Opro Forest.

Yellow Flycatchers Erythroceridae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii*
We had good views of two 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.

Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rushiae*
We had good views of one at Nsuta and a further three at Opro Forest.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Several were seen 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, a few at Bonkro Forest and several more at Atewa.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*
We enjoyed good views of one near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*
We had good views of one near Tono Dam.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae



- Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*
We had good views of one near Brenu Beach and a further two in Mole NP.
- Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*
We heard this species near Kalakpa and Brenu Beach.
- Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*
We had great views of one at Kalakpa and another at Antwikwaa.
- Rock-loving Cisticola** *Cisticola emini*
We had great views of three in the Tongo Hills.
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus*
We had good views of one near the Volta Dam and a further two at Sakumo Lagoon.
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 six at Shai Hills and a further two on the Winneba Plains.
- Dorst's Cisticola** *Cisticola guinea*
Two were seen near Tono Dam.
- Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*
We had good views of two at Shai Hills, another near Brenu Beach and two near Tono Dam.
- Rufous Cisticola** *Cisticola rufus*
We had good views of several in Mole NP.
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
We had good views of four 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 one in Mole NP.
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
We enjoyed wonderful sightings of two in Mole NP.
- Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*
We had superb views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway, and another at Nsuta Forest.
- Sharpe's Apalis (E)** *Apalis sharpii*
We had great views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further one at Atewa Forest.
- Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*
We had magnificent sightings of one in Mole NP.
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicauda*
A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had good sightings in Mole NP.
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 Nsuta and Ankasa NP.
- Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota*
We had good views of one at Antwikwaa 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, at Nsuta and Atewa.



Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*

One was seen at Atewa Farm Bush.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

We heard a few at Kalakpa, Nsuta and Atewa

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

Capuchin Babbler *Phyllanthus atripennis*

We had good but brief views of three of these ultra skulkers at Kalakpa.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*

We had good views of three at Shai Hills.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*

We had superb views of six at Shai Hills and several more in Mole NP.

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One was seen near Brenu Beach.

Common (Greater) Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

We had good views of two near Tono Dam.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*

One was seen at Aboabo and another at Opro Forest.

Hyliotas Hylotiidae

Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea*

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

Treecreepers Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori*

We heard once calling 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 fantastic views of several daily in Kakum NP, at Ebekawopa, Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Greater Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

One was seen near Tono Dam.

Lesser Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

We had good views of three at Kalakpa and one in Mole NP.

Splendid (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

This large glossy starling was seen at all the forested sites, with highest numbers of 30 en route from Kumasi to Koforidua.

Purple (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*



Small numbers were seen near Shai Hills and Kalakpa and we later enjoyed good views of several en route from Mole NP to Tongo Hills and at least ten near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*

Three were seen in Mole NP and peak numbers of six near the White Volta, Sapeliga.

Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*

We had wonderful views of fifteen near the White Volta at Sapeliga and around Tono Dam.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

We saw two at Ebekawopa.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*

We had great views of a pair at Ebekawopa and again at Antwikwaa with further sightings at Bobiri and Atewa.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*

We had good views of a flock of fourteen at Bonkro Forest.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

We had great views of eight 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 had good views of one at Ebekawopa and another at Atewa.

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

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

First seen in Shai Hills and a further sighting in Mole NP

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

White-tailed Alethe *Alethe diademata*

We had good views of one in Ankasa NP and another at Atewa.

Note: Some authors split Fire-crested Alethe into Fire-crested (A. castanea) and White-tailed (A. diademata) Alethes. Clements does not follow this view.

Forest Scrub Robin *Erythropygia leucosticta*

We heard this shy and retiring species at Atewa Forest.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*

We had good views of one at Antwikwaa, another at Nsuta Forest and two at Ankasa NP.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

One was seen at Kalakpa and another very briefly at Bobiri.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Our first sightings were of one in Shai Hills and up to four daily in Mole NP.

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

We had good views of several in Mole NP.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

We had great views of two in Shai Hills and one at Kalakpa.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*

We had good views of two at Atewa Forest.



Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
We had great views of three in Mole NP.	
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>
We had superb views of four in Ankasa NP.	
Little Grey Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa epulata</i>
We had superb views of two at Nsuta Forest and another at Atewa Forest.	
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa comitata</i>
We had good views of several at Antwikwaa and Nsuta Forests.	
Tessmann's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa tessmanni</i>
We had stunning scope views of one at Nsuta Forest.	
Ussher's Flycatcher (E)	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>
We had good views of several at Ebekawopa and at Nsuta Forest.	
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>
One was heard calling incessantly at Ebekawopa and unfortunately only seen by the leader	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
One was seen briefly at Shai Hills.	
Forest Robin	<i>Stiphornis erythrothorax</i>
We had good views of one in Ankasa NP and another at Opro Forest.	
<i>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.</i>	
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
We had awesome views of one at the Nasia River wetland.	
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Up to six were seen daily in Mole NP.	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
We had great views of three near the White Volta at Sapeliga.	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
We had great views of two at Kalakpa, three near Brenu Beach and one in Mole NP.	
White-crowned Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea coronata</i>
We had good views of two in Shai Hills.	
<i>Note: Clements lumps this with Mocking Cliff Chat (T. cinnamomeiventris), calling it as such</i>	
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Pentholaea albifrons</i>
We had fantastic views of two in Mole NP. A scarce bird!	
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
One was seen in the Tongo Hills.	

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Fraser's (Scarlet-tufted) Sunbird	<i>Deleornis fraseri</i>
This warbler-like sunbird was seen very well in Kakum NP.	
Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>
We had superb views of one en route from Nsuta Forest to Ankasa NP.	
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>
We had great views of two males in Mole NP.	
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
We had good sightings of several from the Kakum canopy walkway and daily sightings at Atewa.	
Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
We found one at Nsuta and another at Atewa.	



- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
Common in all the forests, where we had numerous sightings
- Pygmy Sunbird** *Hedydipna platura*
We had daily sightings of up to eight in Mole NP. What a beauty!
- Reichenbach's Sunbird** *Anabathmis reichenbachii*
One male was seen en route from Nsuta Forest to Ankasa NP. A localised bird in Ghana
- Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*
We enjoyed several sightings in Kakum NP and at Atewa Forest.
- (Western) Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*
We had several sightings in Kakum NP and at Atewa.
Note: Some authorities including Clements split this species into two species. This split is not widely recognized.
- Buff-throated Sunbird (NE)** *Chalcomitra adelberti*
We saw several stunning males at Ebekawopa, Opro and Atewa Forests.
- 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 Ebekawopa, Antwikwaa in Kakum NP and at Opro Forest.
- Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus*
We had stunning views of one at Nsuta Forest.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*
We had wonderful views of several daily in Mole NP.
- Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*
We had great views of several at Shai Hills and at Kalakpa.
- Johanna's Sunbird** *Cinnyris johannae*
We enjoyed great views of a male at Antwikwaa and several more at Ankasa and Opro.
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*
We had good views of one at Ebekawopa and another at Opro Forest.
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*
We had good views of one at Kalakpa and two at Winneba Plains.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

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

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

- White-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis albirostris*
We had good views of four near the White Volta at Sapeliga.
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*
We had good views of six near the White Volta at Sapeliga.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*
Eight were seen in Mole NP.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*



Small numbers were seen at Antwikwaa, Ebekawopa and Atewa.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

We had fantastic views of four whilst en route from Nsuta to Ankasa.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

We had good views of six near the White Volta at Sapeliga.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

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

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

A striking bird, seen near Kakum NP and Atewa

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

We had great views of twenty birds near Tono Dam.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*

This tri-coloured weaver was seen well in Kakum NP, Nsuta, Opro and Atewa Forests.

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha*

We had good views of a male at Ebekawopa, two at Aboabo in Kakum NP and six at Atewa Forest.

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

We had good sightings of several in Nsuta Forest, at Aboabo and Atewa Forests.

Blue-billed (Gray's) Malimbe *Malimbus nitens*

We had brief views of one in Ankasa NP and another at Atewa.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

The most common of the malimbés, seen regularly in Kakum (including Antwikwaa and Aboabo) and Bobiri

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

We had great views of one at Nsuta Forest, another at Ankasa NP, two at Opro Forest and several at Atewa.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

A few were seen at the Nasia wetland.

Black-winged [Red] Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

We saw a male in partial breeding plumage at Ebekawopa.

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Two superb males in breeding plumage were seen near Shai Hills.

Yellow-mantled (-shouldered) Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

Two males were seen in breeding plumage near Kalakpa and a further ten in Mole NP.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons*

We had great views of a male and female with three juveniles of this rare species at Ankasa NP.

White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus*

We had several sightings in Kakum NP and a further two at Atewa.

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita bicolor*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakum NP and at Atewa.

Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*

We had sightings from the canopy walkway, at Aboabo and Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*

One was seen by some in Mole NP.

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*



We had good views of six near the White Volta at Sapeliga.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*

We heard a male calling at Opro Forest.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We found this species in small numbers at Ebekawopa, along the Brenu Beach road and in Mole NP.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

We enjoyed daily sightings in Mole NP.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

We had great views of one near Kalakpa, another at Ebekawopa and two along the Brenu Beach road.

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 three in Mole NP and four in the Tongo Hills.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*

This stunning waxbill was seen on several occasions in Kakum NP and peak numbers of ten along the Brenu Beach Road.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

Six were seen along the Brenu Beach Road and a further six in the Tongo Hills.

Orange-breasted Waxbill *Sporaeginthus subflavus*

We found two birds at the Nasia River wetland.

Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

At least eight 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 fifteen 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*

Seen in small numbers at Ebekawopa, Nsuta and in Atewa farmbush

Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

A male was seen in the far north near the White Volta at Sapeliga.

Wilson's Indigobird *Vidua wilsoni*

We had good views of a male and female in Mole NP.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Small numbers were seen near Kalakpa and fifteen along the Brenu Beach Road.

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 and several females in Mole NP.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae



Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
We had good views of ten at Sakumo Lagoon and a further two along the Brenu Beach Road.	
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the trip.	
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
We enjoyed good scope views of three at Sakumo Lagoon.	
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
We had good views of two near Kalakpa and a further two at Winneba Plains.	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
We had good views of at least ten at Kalakpa.	

Finches Fringillidae

White-rumped Seedeater	<i>Serinus leucopygius</i>
We had great views of four near the White Volta at Sapeliga.	
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.	

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

Gosling's (Cinnamon-breasted) Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
We found twenty at Tongo Hills.	
<i>NOTE: Gosling's Bunting, E.goslingi of West Africa, has recently been split from Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, E.tahapisi. IOC accepts this split.</i>	
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
We had great views of two near the White Volta at Sapeliga. A rare bird in Ghana.	
Brown-rumped Bunting	<i>Emberiza affinis</i>
A male was seen briefly in Mole NP, a leader only sighting.	

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	<i>Papio papio</i>
We had great views of several in Shai Hills and up to ten daily in Mole NP.	
Lowe's [Mona] Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus lowei</i>
A few were seen at Kalakpa.	
Lesser White-nosed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus petaurista</i>
One was seen at Shai Hills.	
Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus sabaesus</i>
We had great views of up to ten daily in Mole NP.	
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>
We saw up to twenty in Mole NP.	

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>
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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 one in Mole NP.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

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

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus pyrropus*

We had good views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Kintampo Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus substriatus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Slender-tailed Squirrel *Protoxerus aubinnii*

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

Lorises Lorisidae

Potto *Perodicticus potto*

We had superb views of one in Nsuta Forest.

Galagos Galagidae

Demidoff's Galago *Galago demidovii*

We heard this species at Ebekawopa, Nsuta and Ankasa NP.

Genets and Civets Viverridae

Blotched (Panther) Genet *Genetta tigrina*

We had great views of one on a night drive in Mole NP.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Gambian Mongoose *Mungos gambianus*

We had wonderful views of four at Shai Hills, and six and three on consecutive days in Mole NP. This is a rarely seen species and we were very lucky to see it.

Common Cusimanse *Crossarchus obscurus*

Two were seen fairly well in Ankasa NP.

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea*

We had good views of one on the Brenu Beach Road.

Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

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



Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Up to fifteen were seen daily in Mole NP.	
Red-flanked Duiker	<i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i>
We had superb views of two in Mole NP.	
Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>
Twenty were seen in Shai Hills and similar numbers daily in Mole NP.	
Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus defassa</i>
We had fantastic views of two in Mole NP.	

Hyraxes Procavidae

Western Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>
We heard this species in Kakum NP.	

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
We had great views of six including several large males in Mole NP.	

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS

Nile (Water) Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
We had good views of one in Ankasa NP.	
African Dwarf Crocodile	<i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i>
We had amazing scope views of seven at a forest pond in Ankasa NP.	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
One was seen in Mole NP.	
Skaapsteeker	
One was seen very well at Kalakpa.	

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