



The incomparable Yellow-headed Picathartes –nowadays known as White-necked Rockfowl- (DLV)

GHANA

9 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2022

LEADER: DANI LOPEZ-VELASCO

Ghana, once known as the 'Gold Coast', is situated in the very heart of West Africa and is a vibrant, colourful and friendly country that offers much to visitors. More importantly, for us, Ghana is without doubt the jewel of West Africa in terms of finding and seeing West African bird specialities. As with most of the region, the habitat is severely under threat, both from clearance for other land uses, and exploitation for bush meat, but there are enough pockets of habitat to deliver many of those mouth-watering specialities. And importantly, there is a brilliant infrastructure in Ghana with generally good hotels and roads, decent food and excellent local guides and logistical support. So despite the fact that the birding is still tough, as it is anywhere in West Africa, it is without doubt the place to go to get a big list of desirable birds! In just under three weeks, we recorded 467 species of birds, an excellent total for this tour. But the list of desirable goodies is more impressive! The White-necked Rockfowl (much better known as Yellow-headed Picathartes) was the star of the show, but other mouth-watering goodies included Nkulengu Rail, Akun and Fraser's Eagle Owls, Congo Serpent Eagle, Long-tailed Hawk, Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, Spot-breasted Ibis, White-throated and Ahanta Francolins, stunning Blue-moustached and Rosy Bee-eaters, delightful Blue-bellied and Abyssinian Rollers, Forbes's Plover, Fiery-breasted Bushshrike and the highly-desired Egyptian Plover. More subtle but rarely seen species included Thick-billed Cuckoo, Spotted and Yellow-footed Honeyguides, Forest Penduline Tit, Tessmann's and Olivaceous Flycatchers, West African Seedeater and a number of Upper Guinea endemics included species such as Melancholy and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers and Yellow-bearded, Western Bearded and Baumann's Olive Greenbuls. This is of course only scratching the surface! The butterflies were out of this world and would need another full trip to do them justice, and we found a number of interesting mammals. All in all it was a great adventure and my sincere thanks go to Foster, as well as assistant guide Ibrahim and our driver Anim, for their support and tireless help during the trip.



We had unbeatable views of the stunning Black Bee-eater.

We began in the evening in Accra, the busy capital of Ghana. We were up early the next day and very soon making our way out of the capital, heading towards Winneba plains. New birds came thick and fast,

including Black-winged Kite, Gabar and displaying Red-chested Goshawks, Red-necked Buzzard, smart Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets, prominent Western Grey Plantain-eaters, Double-spurred Francolins, Senegal Coucal, Singing and Croaking Cisticolas, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Northern Puffback, Senegal Eremomela, Yellow-crowned Gonoleks, a singing Red-winged Warbler, a pair of sneaky Blackcap Babblers, Senegal Batis, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Yellow-billed Shrike, Piapiac, Preuss's Cliff Swallow, Garden Warbler, African Thrush, Splendid Sunbird, Yellow-mantled Widowbird and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Afterwards we visited Winneba lagoon. The tide was low and there were lots of shorebirds and terns out in the mudflats. Highlights included a Pectoral Sandpiper and an American Golden Plover, together with lots of Common Ringed and Grey Plovers, Eurasian Whimbrels, Bar-tailed Godwits, Curlew, Wood, Common and Marsh Sandpipers, Little Stints, a single Spotted Redshank, Common Greenshank, Common Redshank, Gull-billed, Black, Caspian, Sandwich and West African Royal Terns, a single Little Tern, Western Reef Herons, etc... Nearby we saw a pair of uncommon Slender-billed Weavers. We then headed inland and in the afternoon we visited an area of farmbrush outside Kakum NP, where we added a few species to our list, including Diederik Cuckoo, Blue-spotted and Tambourine Doves, White-spotted Flufftail, African Harrier Hawk, African Pied and African Grey Hornbills, Black Bee-eater, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, African Hobby, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Violet-backed Starling, Olive-bellied, Johanna's and Superb Sunbirds and Blue-billed Malimbe. It had been a long day, and it was time to head inland to our comfortable hotel and a good night's sleep!



African Emerald Cuckoo.

We then had a day and a half to explore the area around Kakum National Park. Although created in 1932, the park wasn't opened to the public until 1994. Covering an area of 347 square kilometres, it is semi-evergreen rain forest, although much of it has been 'selectively' logged and little of the forest is pristine, though the regenerating forest holds a number of good birds! Kakum is perhaps most famous for its rain forest canopy walkway, the only one in Africa, and very similar to the famous canopy walkway at Iquitos in Peru. Constructed in 1995 it is comprised of about 350 metres of bridges suspended between six tree platforms that reach a height of up to 40 metres above the forest floor. Luckily we were allowed on before the crowds, and were privileged to spend a few hours in the canopy just with the birds and primates. The walkway itself was not everyone's cup of tea as it swayed and creaked, but over the next couple of hours we accumulated a number of species at eye-level that normally reside high above in the canopy. During our vigil

Fanti Drongo, Ussher's Flycatcher and African Pied Hornbill were virtually constant companions. A Red-thighed Sparrowhawk flew over, as did a calling Thick-billed Cuckoo. Green Hyliids piped out their disyllabic calls and early goodies included Blue Malkoha, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Brown-cheeked, White-crested and Black-casqued Hornbills, Blue Cuckooshrike, Sharpe's Apalis, Little Grey Flycatcher, 3 close Forest Penduline Tits, Chestnut-winged Starlings and a pair of nesting Preuss's Weavers. Sunbirds included Little Green, Tiny and Johanna's. White-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas were easy to see, while Red-headed Malimbe showed nicely. Other goodies included Sabine's Spinetail, Speckled Tinkerbird and Willcock's Honeyguide. We also noted a couple of Fanti Saw-wings flitting over the canopy. As it warmed up, and the activity began to drop off, the first regular tourists arrived for their experience with nature! Suffice to say this appeared to involve finding the courage to get on the walkway, race around as quickly as possible whilst making plenty of noise and rocking the whole walkway in large gangs, and then get to the other end as quickly as possible!! It was time to descend ourselves! We made a short walk through the forest, but things were quiet. Best birds were a skulking (Ghana) Forest Robin, some Golden and Spotted Greenbuls and a Yellow-browed Camaroptera. We returned to the hotel for lunch and a short siesta. We then made our way back to Kakum NP for an afternoon on the walkway. Birding was rather slow but we added a couple of new birds including a most-wanted Congo Serpent Eagle well spotted by Dave, some Rosy Bee-eaters overhead, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Yellow-mantled Weaver and Rufous-crowned Eremomela. Monkeys were well represented, including Lowe's and Lesser Spot-nosed. Then, as dusk fell, a couple of Brown Nightjars started singing, and eventually one was seen in flight. Once we got to the parking lot we did a bit of owling, but only heard some African Wood Owls in the distance. Barbara saw a Brown-crowned Tchagra in another spot too.



White-crested Hornbill.

The following morning we birded at Abrafo Forest. It was a successful morning, as we tracked down a number of gaps in our ever-growing lists, including Ayres's Hawk Eagle, Forest Wood Hoopoe, Piping Hornbill, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Yellow-spotted Barbet, West African Wattle-eye, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Sabine's Puffback, Honeyguide and Red-tailed Greenbuls, Tessmann's Flycatcher, Grey Longbill, Whistling Cisticola, Copper-tailed Starling, Buff-throated Sunbird, Thick-billed and Black-necked Weavers, Crested Malimbe and Chestnut-breasted Nigrita. It was then time to move once more, and we headed back to our lodge, packed up and drove towards Ankasa National Park. We made a stop at a rather

lush, lily-covered pool, where we soon found the hoped for Allen's Gallinule and African Pygmy Goose, and we were also pleased to see a colourful male Orange Weaver, a colony of "Chestnut-and black" Vieillot's Black Weavers as well as Little Bee-eater and Black Crake. Another successful stop by the Ebi river gave us five Hartlaub's Ducks, as well as White-bibbed Swallow and Reichenbach's and Mangrove Sunbirds. We eventually made our way into the brand new, luxurious Ankasa lodge. A fantastic improvement over the camping we used to do here in the forest. After dinner we went straight out for some owling –there's never time to lose!-, and it definitely paid off. A superb pair of calling Fraser's Eagle Owls performed at length, followed by a calling Akun Eagle Owl sitting on a tree just outside our accommodation. A great way to begin our visit!



Allen's Gallinule.

We had three and a half days to explore the magnificent and diverse forests at Ankasa. Magnificent and diverse, but you still have to tease and, as Dave said, "extract" every bird out, and it was pretty slow going. Put simply, there are no magic tickets in West African forests. The more time you spend looking, the more you see, and it really is a gradual accumulation, but the list we amassed was certainly pleasing and impressive. We focused much of our attention around a series of small forest pools, and here we found most of our wanted species. As Blue-billed Malimbos attended their nests and Dusky-blue Flycatchers flitted around, White-bellied Kingfishers flashed across the pools and eventually gave some wonderful perched views. We spent some time tracking down the elusive Nkulengu Rails. And thanks to the incredible efforts of our local guides, we enjoyed cracking views of a roosting bird. Another bird that made us sweat was Red-chested Owlet, but after some hard work we were also rewarded with good scope views of a calling bird high up in the canopy!

Inside the forest we sought another group of elusive denizens! Here, sneaky mixed flocks held the much wanted Yellow-bearded Greenbuls that were outnumbered by fidgety Red-tailed, Icterine and Western Bearded Greenbuls. A pair of Rufous-sided Broadbills were much appreciated by the group. Red-billed Dwarf Hornbills were found roosting at night, massive Great Blue and colorful Yellow-billed Turacos showed well, cracking Black Bee-eaters obliged in the lodge garden and skulkers that were teased out included Western Forest Robin, White-tailed Alethe and Rufous-winged Illadopsis. Other great species seen during our visit included Spot-breasted Ibis, Crested Guinea fowl, Long-tailed Hawk, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, male African Emerald Cuckoo, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, African Finfoot for Dave and Sue, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Shining Drongo, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Tit Hylia, Black-capped Apalis, Fraser's Sunbird and some smart Red-vented Malimbos.



African Dwarf Kingfisher, Fraser's Eagle Owl and Nkulengu Rail.

It had been a tough, but immensely rewarding few days, and we thanked the lodge staff and particularly Mark Williams, owner of the place and also our excellent ground agent, and jeep drivers. It was then basically a long and slow haul all the way back to the Rainforest Lodge at Kakum, doing a detour to look at some localized Carmelite Sunbirds, which showed well. Another late afternoon stop in some farmbrush gave us the very localized Baumann's Olive Greenbul, as well as Oriole Warbler. After a long day we arrived at the hotel, seeing a Bat Hawk just before getting there, in time for a good long shower and a cold beer!

Next morning we paid another visit to the stingless bee road. Highlights included a calling Black-throated Coucal, Levaillant's Cuckoo, White-spotted Flufftail, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Black-and-white Shrike Flycatcher, White-throated Greenbul, heard-only Puvell's Illadopsis and Blue-shouldered Robin Chat, Red-breasted Swallow, Red-faced Cisticola and Green-headed Sunbird. Although

the birding was good, we could not dwell, for we had appointments to make, and important ones at that, so we returned to the hotel, packed up, and left. We sat back, relaxed, and contemplated what lay ahead. A quick stop at the Pra river gave us some Rock Pratincoles and White-bibbed Swallows. We had lunch, and finally arrived at Bonkro village, left our luggage at the new guesthouse and set off on the rather easy forty five minute walk up to the fabled rock. We perched on the benches and waited. Then suddenly a yellow-head bounded across the track and we were in business! Over the next half an hour or so, we were treated to what has to be one of the most thrilling avian spectacles around, as at least six Yellow-headed Picathartes (now sadly known as White-necked Rockfowl), bounded all around us, even approaching to within a few metres of us. A heavy storm with strong winds and rain forced us to take some shelter underneath the picathartes rock, together with some wet picathartes, which looked a bit surprised! After a while the rain stopped, so we walked back to the village and enjoyed some cold drinks and a nice dinner. The newly built guesthouse, run by the local people, is a great place to stay after visiting the picathartes!



Red-billed Helmetshrike.

Next morning we paid a visit to a nearby forest patch, which resulted in a number of interesting sightings and several new species to our ever-growing list, including Bristle-nosed Barbet, our only Afep Pigeon of the trip, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, a pair of Black Dwarf Hornbills, Cassin's Honeybird and Maxwell's Black and Preuss's Weavers. In the afternoon we went to Bobiri butterfly sanctuary. It was quite birdy, with the highlight being a cracking adult Red-thighed Sparrowhawk that gave wonderful views. Other good birds included Black Dwarf Hornbill, Grey Parrot, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird.

Unsurprisingly we were out reasonably early again and headed for the remnants of Opro Forest. Unfortunately, the forest was gone when we reached what used to be the remnants of it... However, in some degraded habitat we managed to find a pair of rare Fiery-breasted Bushshrikes, which showed well. Other birds included Guinea Turaco, Brown-necked Parrot, Blue-bellied Roller and Marsh Tchagra. We were now heading into the drier north, noting an adult Bedaouin's Snake Eagle on the way. A stop at some very birdy ponds gave us several Grasshopper Buzzards, a Dark-chanting Goshawk, a hunting Lanner Falcon, a pair of Red-necked Falcons, a single Black Kite, Hamerkop, African Wattled Lapwing, Black-headed Heron, Namaqua Dove, Purple and Abyssinian Rollers, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Chestnut-backed Sparrow

Lark, Black-rumped Waxbill, Quailfinch and a Cut-throat Finch seen by Dave. We rolled into Mole National Park just as the sun was setting.



Grasshopper Buzzard and Lanner Falcon.

We had two full days to explore the rich Mole National Park, and new birds came a plenty, and mammals were also much in evidence. Indeed Bushbucks and Kobs were tame and African Elephants were seen a couple of times. The birds were equally impressive. Helmeted Guineafowl were common, the stunning Violet Turaco showed very well and the localized Western Square-tailed Drongo was also found. We spent the morning exploring the waterholes and scrub below the camp, finding a number of new species, including Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Woolly-necked Stork, White-crowned Robin Chat, Grey-headed and Shining-blue Kingfishers, stunning Red-throated Bee-eaters, African Golden Oriole, Fine-spotted and Golden-tailed Woodpeckers, African Blue Flycatcher, White-shouldered Black Tit, Purple and Long-tailed Glossy Starlings,

Swamp Flycatcher, attractive Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, the smart Red-winged Pytilia, fantastic Exclamatory Paradise Whydah, Black-faced Firefinch and Lavender Waxbill. Senegal Parrots and Rose-ringed Parakeets screeched over, and high above we saw the now critically endangered Hooded, White-backed and stunning White-headed Vultures, as well as Bateleur. Around the waterhole we also saw Hadada Ibises and Senegal Thick-knees. We then made our way to a couple of recently burnt areas. We visited them a couple of times, and they were home to a number of great birds, including the smart Forbes's Plover. Other species found around these interesting areas included Stone Partridge, Gambaga Flycatcher, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Senegal Batis, Cabanis's and Brown-rumped Buntings, Sun, Flappet and rare Singing Bush Larks and smart White-fronted Black Chats. On our night drives and night-birding we found confiding Long-tailed Nightjars, a stunning Northern White-faced Owl and numerous impressive Greyish Eagle Owls, and, most important, male and female Standard-winged Nightjars. In the mammal front, Side-striped Jackal, Common Genet and Roan Antelope were the highlights. On our second full day we spent some time birding the periphery of the park. Here, the absolute star of the show was a superb group of very confiding White-throated Francolins. Other good birds included Brown-backed Woodpecker, the rare West African Seedeater, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Senegal Eremomela, Senegal Batis, the localized Rufous Cisticola as well more regular species such as Bruce's Green Pigeon, African Grey Woodpecker and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver. On our final morning in Mole National Park, we stayed just around the camp itself, and it was very birdy. Here we found the amazing Bearded Barbet, Northern Crombec, Red-headed Weaver, the gorgeous Pygmy Sunbird, Familiar Chat, Eurasian Wryneck well spotted by Barbara and a Mediterranean Flycatcher –first for Ghana- that had been discovered by Nik and his group back in November. We left early to fix the air conditioning of the vehicle –a must for our time in the north- in the nearest city. In the end we managed to get it fixed, but we still had a way to go, so pressed on to the Tongo Hills. It was quite late when we finally arrived and the best bird was a pair of White-crowned Cliff Chats.



Northern White-faced Owl.



Red-necked Falcon.

Starting early the next morning we headed northeast almost to the border with neighbouring Burkina Faso. We paused first in some bush country where we saw Greater Spotted Cuckoo, Temminck's Courser, a pair of Four-banded Sandgrouse, Black-headed Lapwing, African Silverbill, Common Redstart, Northern Wheatear and Bronze-tailed Starling. Further on, we stopped to see a couple of White-billed Buffalo Weavers at their clumsy stick nests. Yellow-billed Oxpeckers were on the local cattle, and we were pleased to find a smart gang of Chestnut-bellied Starlings feeding in the fields as well as our first West African Swallows and some White-rumped Seedeaters. We then pressed on to the White Volta for one very special bird in particular, the magnificent Egyptian Plover, and we enjoyed some quality time watching a few of these truly special birds. Also here we saw a pair of Greater Painted-snipes. Nearby we saw a male Wilson's Indigobird and a couple of Black-backed Cisticolas. We then headed back for lunch, a break and a cool down! In the afternoon we visited Tongo Hills again. This time we found our targets quickly, as both Fox Kestrel and Rock-loving Cisticola obliged. A single Booted Eagle soared overhead.



Egyptian Plover.

Our time in the north had come to a close and now the long journey back to Kumasi lay ahead of us. We made a stop at Nasia Swamp, but again it was a little quiet, noting Spur-winged Goose, Winding Cisticola and many Squacco Herons. We then spent most of the day travelling south. We stopped for lunch, but it really was a long haul.



Bearded Barbet and Scarlet-chested Sunbird.

We were soon back at the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, this time in the early morning, and enjoyed a very successful morning birding along the wide track there. The rare Yellow-footed Honeyguide showed nicely, a single African Piculet was found, a skulking Black-throated Coucal performed at length bathing on the track, and we finally managed to see Melancholy Woodpecker! Moving on to Atewa, we made a visit to the farmbush. Here a sneaky Kemp's Longbill played hide and seek and we also saw Blue-headed Coucal, some confident Little Bee-eaters and Magpie Mannikin. As dusk fell, we saw Plain, Black-shouldered and Long-tailed Nightjars.



The uncommon Red-thighed Sparrowhawk.

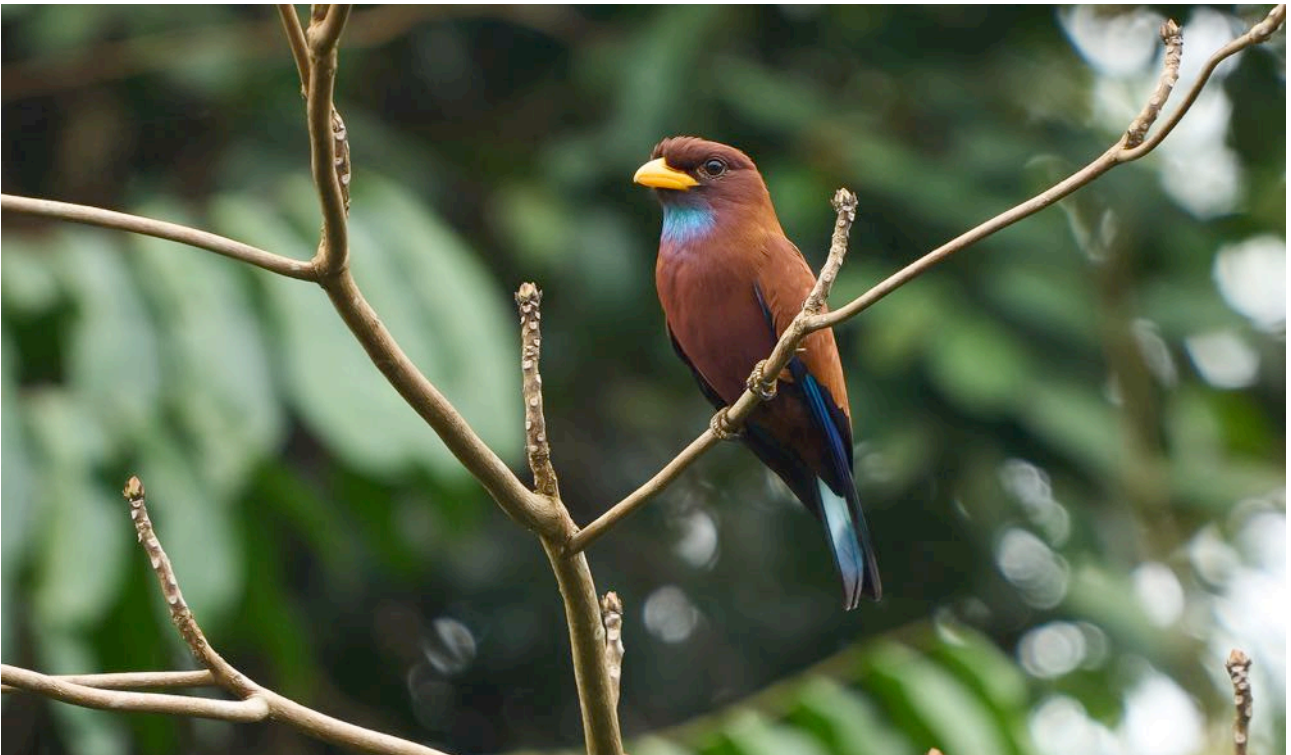
We then had a full day and a morning to explore Atewa's forests. A bit of a bitter sweet visit as it seems inevitable that these forests will be lost in the very near future to bauxite mining by the Chinese. What this did mean is that the trail to the top and beyond was now a wide dirt road, and although not accessible to vehicles, it did make the forest more easy to reach. On our full day we made a pretty long hike all the way up to the ridge and beyond. We began with excellent views of three stunning Blue-moustached Bee-eaters. We also found Black Sparrowhawk, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Dusky Crested Flycatcher, smart Black-capped Apalises, Chestnut-winged Starling, heard only Forest Scrub Robin in spite of all of our efforts and Yellow-chinned Sunbird. It had been a long day!

Our second morning at Atewa farmbush produced a few things. Large numbers of swifts held a very striking Mottled Swift, as well as White-rumped and Alpine. We also found Marsh Tchagra, Red-headed Quelea, Tit Hylia and Compact Weaver. We then headed back for lunch before making our way towards Kalakpa, our final destination. However, once we got close to the forest a major storm made us turn back to the bus. Kalakpa was also hard work, with very few birds to be seen...Maloney's Brown Illadopsis was a localized subspecies that showed well and other crowd pleasers included a fine encounter with a Spotted Honeyguide and a Grey-headed Bristlebill. We spent many hours searching for Capuchin Babblers, but unfortunately only a couple of us glimpsed them. Out in the open grassland we saw some Ahanta Francolins on the side of the track, singing Moustached Grass Warblers and a Northern White-faced Owl hunting from a wire. A final lunch and a smooth passage back to Accra, noting Pied-winged Swallows and a Western Osprey on the way, concluded our highly successful adventure around this excellent birding destination. Nowhere else in

West Africa can such a comprehensive list of specialities be racked up in such a short space of time and in such a small area. There are a few longish drives, but really, Ghana is a compact country with excellent infrastructure and support, and wide variety of habitats from wet rainforest to the Sahel! With so many goodies lurking, I for one cannot wait to return!



Red-rumped Tinkerbird and Blue-throated Roller.



SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

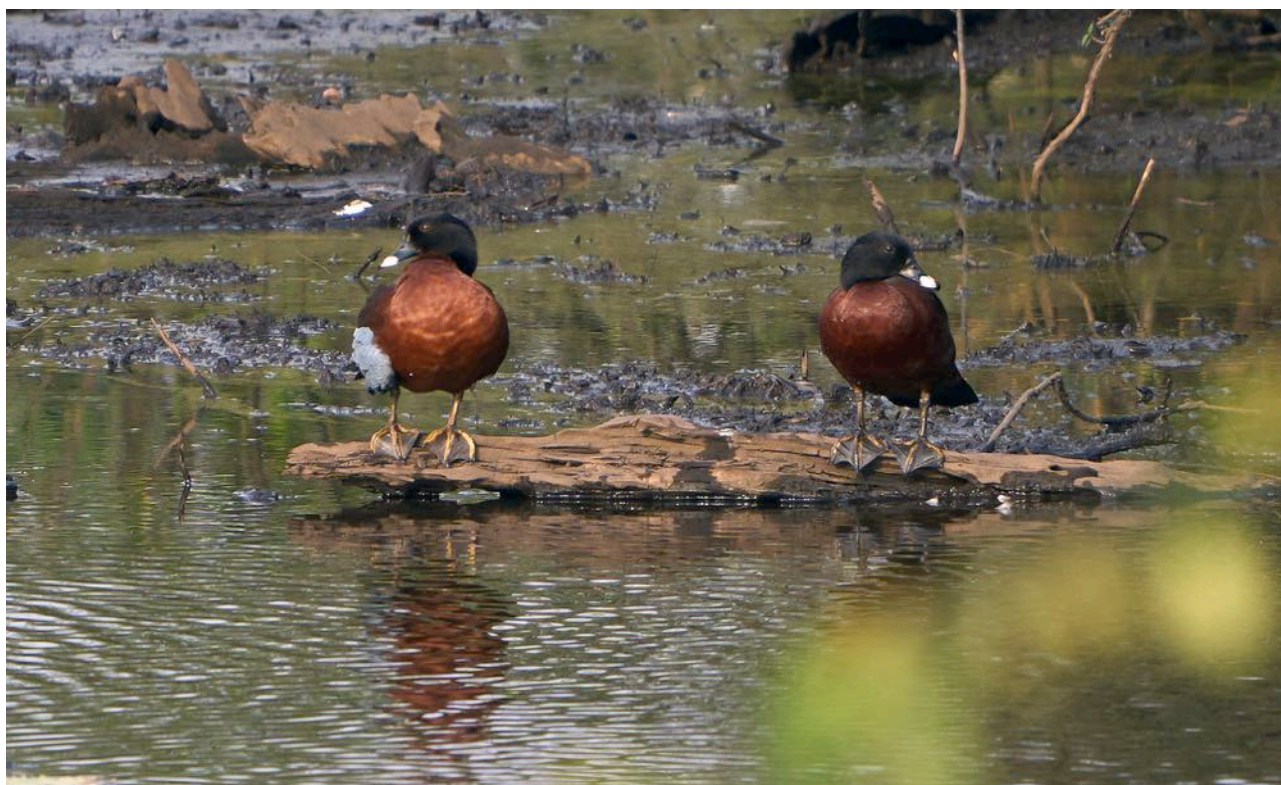
CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

BIRDS

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Widespread.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectroperus gambensis* A flock seen at Nasia swamp.

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii* Excellent views of 5 in some ponds outside Ankasa.



Hartlaub's Duck.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* Several seen well at the Nor Palm Pond near to Bokro.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Plenty in Mole NP. Distinctive West African form *galeatus*

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera verreauxi* A group seen at Ankasa.

Stone Partridge ◊ *Ptilopachus petrosus* Great views at Mole [nominated].

White-throated Francolin ◊ *Peliperdix albogularis* Mega views of five at Mole NP [Buckley].



White-throated Francolin.

- Ahanta Francolin** *Pternistis achantensis* Seen at Kalakpa [nominate].
- Double-spurred Francolin** *Pternistis bicalcaratus* Seen a few times [nominate].
- Brown Nightjar** *Veles binotatus* One from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.
- Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis* Brilliant views at Atewa and Kalakpa.
- Plain Nightjar** *Caprimulgus inornatus* Seen well at Atewa farmbush.
- Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus* Seen well in Mole NP.
- Standard-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus longipennis* A male and a female seen well in Mole NP.
- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* A few sightings [nominate].
- Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini* A few seen overhead at Ankasa NP.
- Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini* One sighting.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* Fairly common [*brachypterus*].
- Common Swift** *Apus apus* Common. [nominate].
- Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* Seen at Kakum.
- Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* Seen at Atewa.
- Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* Seen at Atewa farmbush.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Fairly common [*aerobates*].
- White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* 2 photographed with other swifts at Atewa farmbush.
- Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata* Seen at Ankasa NP.
- Guinea Turaco** *Tauraco persa* Seen in farmbush a couple of times. Smart bird [*persa*].
- Yellow-billed Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus* First seen at Anksasa [nominate].
- Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea* Excellent views at Mole NP. Another stunner!
- Western Plantain-eater** *Crinifer piscator* Fairly common.
- Black-throated Coucal** *Centropus leucogaster* Mega views of one at Borifri. A real skulker![nominate].
- Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* A few seen. [nominate].
- Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus* Seen at Atewa farmbush [*occidentalis*].
- Blue Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares aereus* First seen at Kakum [*flaviostris*].
- Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* Seen in the far north.
- Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillanti* Seen at Kalakpa.
- Thick-billed Cuckoo** *Pachycoccyx audeberti* Great views at Kakum.

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* A few.
 Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* A few.
 African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* A few great views.
 Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus* Several heard, and great views at Ankasa NP.
 Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo \diamond *Cercococcyx mechowi* (H) Heard in Ankasa NP.
 Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* Recorded a couple of times [*gabonensis*].
 African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* One, presumably this species, at Kalakpa.
 Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus* A few seen in Mole NP and in the far north.
 Rock Dove (Feral) *Columba livia 'feral'* – vermin.



Mottled Swift.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* First seen in Mole NP and common in the north [nominate].
 Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta* Seen well in the forest near Bonkro.
 Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* A few seen in the Sapeliga area [*shelleyi*].
 Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common. First seen at the Shai Hills.
 Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* Very common in the north, and the familiar call from the dry bush.
 Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Common, first seen at the Shai Hills.
 Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* Common in Mole NP.
 Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* A few seen.
 Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris* A few seen.
 Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri* Seen well at Ankasa. [*infelix*].
 Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* A few seen well in the north [nominate].
 Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia* Several seen well in and around Mole NP.
 African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* Common for much of the trip [*sharpei*].
 White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* A male seen well near Kakum [nominate].
 African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* One for some at Ankasa river [nominate].
 Nkulengu Rail \diamond *Himantornis haematopus* Stunning views of 1 roosting bird at Ankasa NP. MEGA!!
 Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* One seen.
 Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* Seen well at Nor Palm pond.
 Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Seen at the Nor Palm Pond near to Bokro [*meridionalis*].

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Seen at the Nor Palm Pond near to Bokro [*capensis*].
Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* A few seen well in Mole NP.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.
Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* Seen in the north.
Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* First at Winneba Lagoon and several later in the tour.
Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* Seen in the far north.
African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Common in the north, with many seen well.
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* One at Winneba lagoon.
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Seen at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Seen at Winneba Lagoon.
Forbes's Plover \diamond *Charadrius forbesi* Excellent views of one in a burnt area in Mole NP.
Egyptian Plover \diamond *Pluvianus aegyptius* At least 8 seen well along the White Volta at Sapeliga.
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* A few seen.
Whimbrel (Eurasian W) *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (NT) Seen at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Seen at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
Sanderling *Calidris alba* A few at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* A few at Winneba.
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* One found at Winneba lagoon.



Pectoral Sandpiper.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* A few at Winneba.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Fairly widespread, first seen at Winneba Lagoon.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* A few seen.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* A few seen.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* A few seen.
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* One at Winneba.
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* Seen at Winneba.
Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* Seen at the Para river.
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Seen at Winneba lagoon.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* A few at Winneba.

West African Royal Tern *Thalasseus albididorsalis* A few at Winneba.
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* A few at Winneba.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A few at Winneba.
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* Seen at Winneba.
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* Some at Winneba lagoon.
Woolly-necked Stork (African Woollyneck) *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis* A few in Mole.
Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* A few seen.
African Darter *Anhinga rufa* Seen on the pond near Bonkro.
Spot-breasted Ibis \diamond *Bostrychia rara* Seen briefly in flight at Ankasa.
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Most were seen at the waterhole in Mole NP [brevirostris].
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* A few seen [atricapilla].
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* A few, mostly in Mole NP.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Fairly common and widespread. First seen near to Accra.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Mostly seen in Mole NP [nominate].
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* A few.
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* A few seen.
Great Egret (African G E) *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos* One at Nasia Swamp. Surprisingly scarce!
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A few seen. Also surprisingly scarce [nominate].
Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* Seen at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* A few, the first in Mole NP [nominate].
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* A couple seen.
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* A few seen. [nominate].
African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* Common [pectoralis].
Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* A few. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.
European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* A few.
African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* A few. [batesi].
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* (CR) Biggest numbers were in Mole NP.
White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* (CR) Several seen in Mole NP.
White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (CR) 2 in Mole NP.
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle \diamond *Circaetus beaudouini* (VU) Great views of one in the north.



Beaudouin's Snake Eagle.

Congo Serpent Eagle \diamond *Circaetus spectabilis* Good views in Kakum [nominate].
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) A few seen well in Mole NP.
African Fish Eagle *Haliaetus vocifer* Seen at Mole.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* One seen.
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* One in the north.
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* One in the north.
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* 2 sightings
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* A few.
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* One seen [niger].
Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* Seen in the north [nominate].
Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus* Seen at Ankasa.
Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii* First seen near Bonkro. [macroscelides].
Shikra *Accipiter badius* A few seen well [sphenurus].
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk \diamond *Accipiter erythropus* Great views at Bobiri. One immature at Kakum too. [nominate].
Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* 2 birds seen.
Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* A few seen.
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Very common, especially in the north [parasitus].
Black Kite *Milvus migrans* Seen near Mole.
Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis* Several seen well in the north.



Abyssinian Roller.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis* A few seen.
African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* (H) Heard in Mole NP [nominate].
Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum* One seen well at Ankasa.
Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis* Excellent views of one at Mole.
Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens* A few seen very well in Mole NP.
Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis* Stunning views in Ankasa NP.
Akun Eagle-Owl \diamond *Bubo leucostictus* Good views at Ankasa NP.
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* (H) Heard at Ankasa NP [nuchalis].
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* (H) Heard at Mole NP [nominate].
Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* (H) Heard at Atewa [constantia].
Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Seen at a few sites [senegalensis].
White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei* Seen at Kakum.

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps* Seen well at Abrafo.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* A few seen well in Mole NP and in the far north.

African Pied Hornbill (West A P H) *Lophoceros [fasciatus] semifasciatus* Common in the southern forests.

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Common in the north [nominated].

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Lophoceros camurus* 2 roosting at night seen well at Ankasa NP.

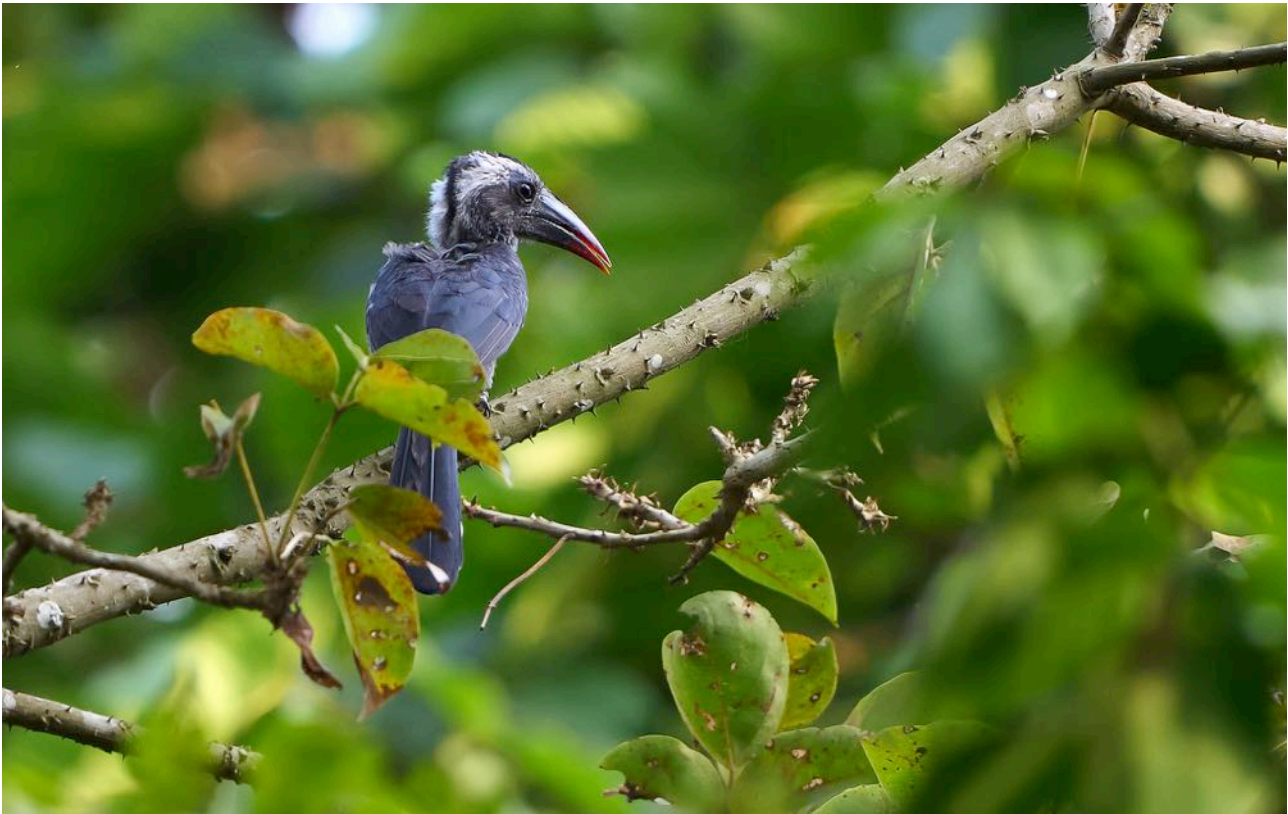
Piping Hornbill (Western P H) *Bycanistes [fistulator] fistulator* Several seen well at Ankasa NP.

Brown-cheeked Hornbill ◊ *Bycanistes cylindricus* Seen well at Kakum and Ankasa NP.

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata* Seen well at Kakum and Ankasa NP.

Yellow-casqued Hornbill ◊ *Ceratogymna elata* (NL) Seen by Richard at Ankasa NP.

Black Dwarf Hornbill ◊ *Horizocerus hartlaubi* Seen well near Bonkro, and also at Bobiri and Atewa.



Black Dwarf Hornbill.

White-crested Hornbill ◊ (Western Long-tailed H) *Horizocerus [albocristatus] macrourus* First seen at Kakum.

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* A few in the north [nominated].

Abyssinian Roller ◊ *Coracias abyssinicus* Several seen in Mole NP and in the far north.

Blue-bellied Roller ◊ *Coracias cyanogaster* A few seen in the north.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* A few seen.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* A few in Mole NP [after].

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* Great views of one at Kakum. Also heard elsewhere.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* A few seen in Mole NP [nominated].

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* Seen well a few times [forbesi].

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* A few seen [fuscopileus].

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* Plenty seen well. Smart birds [ferrugina].

African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei* One gave great views at Ankasa.

White-bellied Kingfisher ◊ *Corythornis leucogaster* Seen brilliantly at the forest pools at Ankasa NP.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* A few seen [galeritus].

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys* A couple of sightings, best in Mole.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* A few seen at Winneba Lagoon and a few more later in the trip [nominated].

Blue-moustached Bee-eater ◊ *Merops mentalis* (NT) Great views of at least three at the ridge at Atewa.

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* Several stunners seen, particularly well at the new Ankasa lodge [nominated].

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* A few [nominate].
Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki* Common, with many seen well in Mole NP [nominate].
White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* Very common and widespread.
Rosy Bee-eater ◊ *Merops malimbicus* Seen well in flight at Kakum and Kalakpa.
Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* Seen at Sapeliga and near Mole.
Bristle-nosed Barbet ◊ *Gymnobucco peli* First seen near Bonkro.
Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus* Common, first seen well along the track at Antwikwaa.
Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* A few seen.
Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus* A couple seen.
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* Many heard, a few seen [chrysopygus].
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Seen a few times [leucolaimus].
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Common in Mole NP [nominate].
Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* See note.
Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta* First seen at Ankasa. More heard [nominate].
Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieillotii* Several seen very well [rubescens].
Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* Seen at the Shai Hills [nominate].
Bearded Barbet ◊ *Lybius dubius* Several seen, with brilliant views of one in Mole NP.
Yellow-billed Barbet ◊ (Western Y-b B) *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] goffinii* (H)
Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* A couple of birds seen. [flavodorsalis].
Yellow-footed Honeyguide ◊ *Melignomon eisentrauti* (NT) Brilliant views at Bobiri.



Red-cheeked Wattle-eye.

Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii* Excellent views of one at Kakum [nominate].
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* A couple seen in Mole NP [senegalensis].
Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris* One seen.
Spotted Honeyguide ◊ *Indicator maculatus* Superb views in the forest at the Kalakpa Reserve [nominate].
Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Seen well at Mole.
African Piculet ◊ *Sasia africana* Seen well at Bobiri.
Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa* Good views near Atewa [nominate].
Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli* Seen at Ankasa NP.
Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera* Good views in Mole.
Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera maculosa* Seen at Mole.

Fire-bellied Woodpecker ◊ *Chloropicus pyrrhogaster* First seen at Kakum.
Melancholy Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos lugubris* Seen well at Bobiri.
African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae* A few seen well, in and around Mole NP [centralis].
Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus* Seen at Mole NP.
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* A few seen [rufescens].
Fox Kestrel ◊ *Falco alopex* Good views of two at the Tongo Hills, near to Bolgatanga.
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* A few seen.
Red-necked Falcon (African R-n F) *Falco [chicquera] ruficollis* Seen very well in the north.
African Hobby *Falco cuvierii* A few seen.
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* Several seen well, especially in the far north [abyssinicus].
Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* (EN) Seen at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.
Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis* Seen at a few sites including perched [fantiensis].
Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus* One sighting near Opro.
Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus* Seen well a few times.
Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* Quite common in Mole NP [nominate].
Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis* Great views at Ankasa. Heard elsewhere [versteri].
Senegal Batis ◊ *Batis senegalensis* A few heard and a couple seen very well in Mole NP.
West African Wattle-eye ◊ *Platysteira hormophora* Seen a few times.
Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea* A few seen. [occulta].
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye ◊ *Platysteira blissetti* Great views of a stunning pair near Kakum.
Fiery-breasted Bushshrike ◊ *Malaconotus cruentus* Seen well at Opro Forest.
Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* (H) Heard near Kalakpa [nominate].
Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* A couple seen.
Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta* Good views near Atewa [nominate].
Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* One seen.
Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Common by voice. Best in Mole NP [nominate].
Sabine's Puffback ◊ *Dryoscopus sabini* Good views near Kakum.
Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* Best views were in Mole NP [nominate].
Yellow-crowned Gonolek ◊ *Laniarius barbarus* Seen well on the Winneba Plains and great views in Mole NP.
Brubru *Nilaus afer* Seen in Mole.
White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* A nice flock in Mole.
Red-billed Helmetshrike ◊ *Prionops caniceps* Great views in the southern forests.[nominate].
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher (Vanga F) *Bias musicus* Seen well [nominate].
White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Cebilepyris pectoralis* Seen well in Mole.
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* (LO) Seen in Mole.
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina* Seen in Atewa.
Blue Cuckooshrike *Cyanograucalus azureus* Several good views in the forest, first at Kakum. Stunner!
Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina* A few seen [togoensis].
Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* A few seen [smithii].
Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Seen in Mole NP.
African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* A few seen well in Mole NP [nominate].
Western Oriole (W Black-headed O) *Oriolus brachyrynchus* Plenty seen [nominate].
Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* First seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.
Western Square-tailed Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus occidentalis* Good views in some gallery forest in Mole NP.
Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis* A couple of sightings.
Glossy-backed Drongo *Dicrurus divaricatus* First seen at the Shai Hills. Also in the north and Kalakpa [nominate].
Fanti Drongo *Dicrurus auctus* First seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum. Plenty more!
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* (LO) Seen briefly [reichenowi].
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer* Fairly common, and several seen well [nigriceps].
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Several seen [ferreti].
African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* Seen at Mole.
Dusky Crested Flycatcher *Elminia nigromitrata* Seen at Atewa.
Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer* A few seen.
Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Very common and widespread.

White-necked Rockfowl *Picathartes gymnocephalus* (VU) 5 at Bonkro. Mega!
White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis* Several seen well in Mole NP.
Forest Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons* Great views at Kakum NP [waldronae].
Western Nicator *Nicator chloris* A few seen and heard.
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* Fairly common in the north [melanocephalus].
Sun Lark *Galerida modesta* Seen well in Mole NP and at the Tongo Hills [nominatae].
Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* One seen at Mole.
Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans* One photographed at Mole.
Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* Common. First seen at the Shai Hills [inornatus].
Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* First seen at Kakum NP [nominatae].
Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* First seen well in Kakum NP. The common sound of the forest [erythroptera].
Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis* A couple of sightings [extrema].
Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei* A couple of sightings [nominatae].
Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris* One sighting [leonina].
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* First seen at Ankasa. [congener].



Baumann's Olive and White-throated Greenbuls.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serinus* A couple of sightings.
Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* Frequently heard and a few seen well at various forests [leucurus].
Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus* Seen well at Nsuta Forest.
Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex* First seen in Kakum NP. A few others noted.
Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura* Several good looks.
Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus* Seen at Ankasa.
White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis* Seen well near Kakum [nominate].
Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* A couple seen well but briefly in Ankasa NP [nominate].
Green-tailed Bristlebill ◊ *Bleda eximius* (NT) (H).
Grey-headed Bristlebill ◊ *Bleda canicapillus* Excellent views. [nominate].
Western Bearded Greenbul ◊ *Criniger barbatus* Excellent views at Ankasa NP.
Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* Many in Ankasa NP [verreauxi].
Yellow-bearded Greenbul ◊ *Criniger olivaceus* (VU) Skulking, but a few seen well in flocks in Ankasa NP.
Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens* A few seen at Ankasa NP [nominate].
Fanti Saw-wing ◊ *Psalidoprocne obscura* A few at Kakum NP.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Common. First seen around Kakum NP [nominate].
Red-chested Swallow ◊ *Hirundo lucida* Great views of several around Sapeliga [nominate].
Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* A few. First seen on wires near to Kakum NP [nominate].
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* First seen around Mole NP [nominate].
Pied-winged Swallow ◊ *Hirundo leucosoma* Great views flying around near the Volta River.
Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa* Seen well near Kakum.

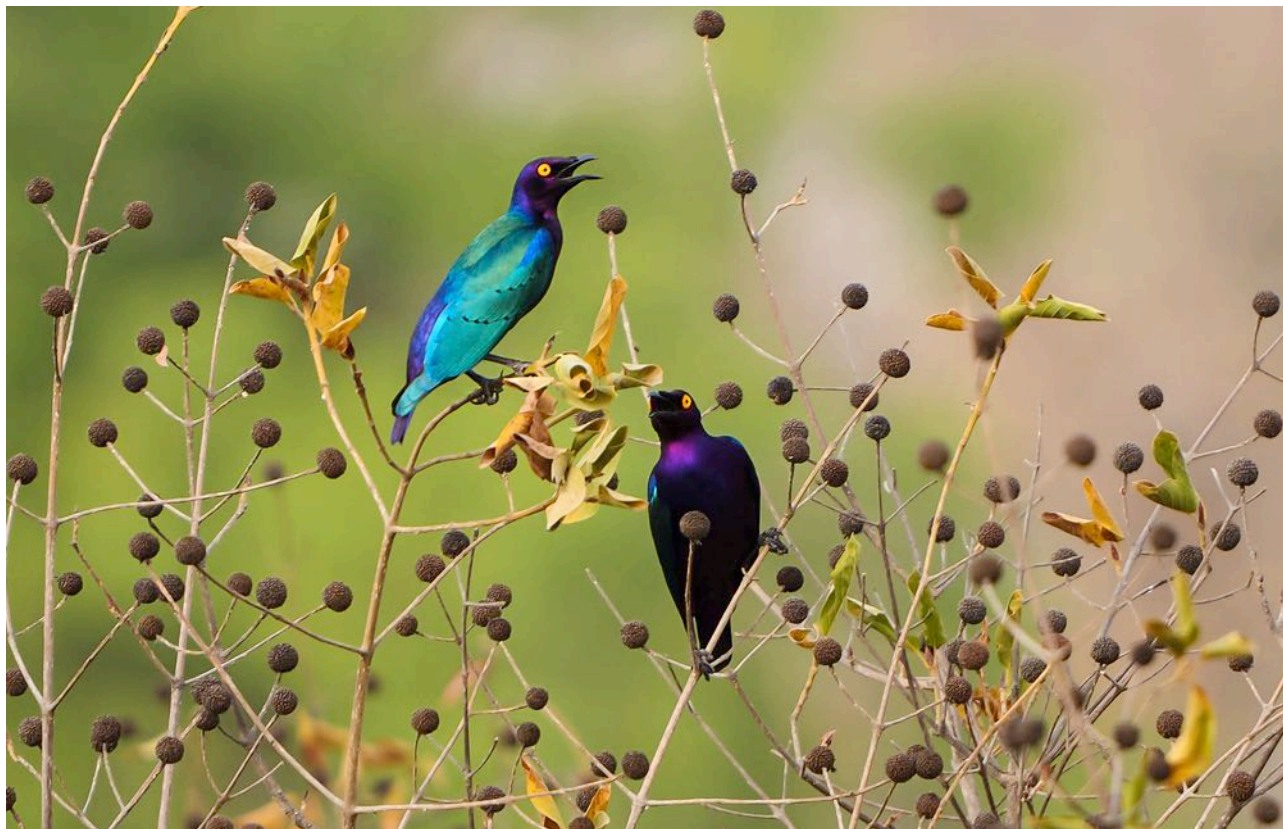


Rock-loving Cisticola.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* A few seen [urbicum/meridionale].
Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* First seen around Kakum NP [puella].
Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* Seen a few times [saturator].
West African Swallow ◊ *Cecropis domicella* Great views of a handful in the Sapeliga area.
Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi* Seen well a few times.
Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* Seen a few times.
Kemp's Longbill ◊ *Macrosphenus kempii* Brief views for some of us at Atewa [nominate].
Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor* A few sightings.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* A few seen well around Mole NP, including by the hotel [nominate].
Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* Common by voice. First seen along the track at Antwikwaa [flaviventris].
Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti* A couple of good sightings, first near Kakum [hardyi].
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii* Seen near Bonkro.
Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* Fairly common. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [nominate].
Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rufiae* Seen at Ankasa and Atewa [ussheri].
Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* A few seen.
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Especially common in and around Mole NP.
Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* A couple seen.
Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* Common by voice.
Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* First seen on the Winneba Plains. Seen later a few times [swanzii].
Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* A couple of birds seen, more heard [nominate].
Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola emini* Seen well at the Tongo hills.
Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* A couple seen [strangei].
Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* (LO) One sighting. [nominate].
Rufous Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola rufus* Excellent views at Mole NP.
Black-backed Cisticola *Cisticola eximius* Seen in the north.
Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Common in open country [melanorhyncha].
Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus* Great views on the Winneba Plains. Also seen in Mole NP [nominate].
Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* (H) [caniceps].
Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps* Good views at Ankasa and at Atewa [nominate].
Sharpe's Apalis ◊ *Apalis sharpii* A couple seen well, first at Kakum.
Oriole Warbler ◊ *Hypergerus atriceps* Excellent views at a couple of sites.
Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Fairly common. [tincta].
Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris* First seen well at Kakum.
Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota* Seen well at Kakum [nominate].
Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla* Great views of small groups around Mole NP, and at Kalakpa.
Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* First seen at Kakum [fantiensis].
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Seen 2 times.
Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri* (H) Heard at Ankasa [nominate].
Rufous-winged Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis rufescens* Seen well at Ankasa.
Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis* One sighting.
Puvel's Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis puveli* (H) Heard only [nominate].
Brown Illadopsis ◊ (Moloney's I) *Illadopsis [fulvescens] moloneyana* Seen at Kalakpa.
Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii* Seen at Winneba plains [stictilaema].
Capuchin Babbler (Black-crowned C B) *Turdoides [atripennis] rubiginosus* (NT) (LO)
Northern Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* A few seen [nominate].
Copper-tailed Starling ◊ *Hylopsar cupreocauda* (NT) Good scope perched views near Kakum.
Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* Seen in Mole NP.
Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Seen in the north.
Bronze-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus* Seen in the north.
Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus* Widespread.[chrysonotis].
Purple Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus* A few smart individuals seen very well near Mole NP [nominate]
Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus* Excellent views of several in Mole NP.
Chestnut-bellied Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis pulcher* Great views near to Sapeliga.
Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Large numbers at Ankasa. [nominate].
Chestnut-winged Starling (Forest C-w S) *Onychognathus [fulgidus] hartlaubii* First seen at Kakum.
Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* A few in the north [nominate].
Finsch's Rufous Thrush ◊ *Stizorhina finschi* Great views at Ankasa.
African Thrush *Turdus pelios* A few seen. [chiguancoides]!
White-tailed Alethe ◊ *Alethe diademata* Seen well at Ankasa NP.
Forest Scrub Robin ◊ *Cercotrichas leucosticta* (H) Heard only at Atewa [nominate].
Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata* Excellent views at Bobiri and Atewa [prospora].
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis* (H)

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* Seen well [nominated].
Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* Common in Mole NP [nominated].
Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* A couple of birds seen [nominated].
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* A few noted.
Mediterranean Flycatcher *Muscicapa tyrrenica* One photographed at our hotel in Mole.
Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* (H) Heard.
Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae* Seen well at Mole.



Purple Starling.

Olivaceous Flycatcher *Muscicapa olivascens* Seen at Ankasa.
Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini* Seen at Ankasa.
Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* A few seen in Mole NP [nominated].
Little Grey Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa epulata* Excellent views at Kakum and Atewa.
Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata* A couple seen [aximensis].
Tessmann's Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa tessmanni* Superb views of a singing bird at Abrafo forest.
Ussher's Flycatcher *Muscicapa ussheri* Excellent views, especially at Kakum and at the ridge at Atewa.
Blue-shouldered Robin Chat *Cossypha cyanocampter* (H)
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla* A few, the first seen on the Winneba Plains [nominated].
White-crowned Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha albicapillus* Good views at Mole NP [giffardi].
Forest Robin ◊ (Western F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] erythrothorax* Two seen well at Ankasa NP.
Forest Robin (Ghana F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] inexpectatus* Presumably this form at Kakum.
European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* A few in Mole NP.
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* A few in Mole.
White-crowned Cliff Chat ◊ *Thamnolaea coronata* Good views of a pair at Tongo hills [nominated].
White-fronted Black Chat ◊ *Oenanthe albifrons* Seen well in Mole NP [frontalis].
Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* A pair seen around the hotel in Mole NP [falkensteini].
Fraser's Sunbird *Deleornis fraseri* Seen at Ankasa [idius].
Mangrove Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus* A couple seen at the Ebi River.
Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei* Seen at Kalakpa.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* First from the walkway at Kakum [kruensis].
Yellow-chinned Sunbird ◊ *Anthreptes rectirostris* Seen well at Atewa [nominate].
Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* Common. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [subcollaris].
Pygmy Sunbird ◊ *Hedydipna platara* Excellent views in Mole NP. Several more in the north.
Reichenbach's Sunbird ◊ *Anabathmis reichenbachii* Seen very well at Ebi river and by the gate at Ankasa NP.
Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* Seen near Kakum [nominate].
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* Seen well at Bobiri [magnirostrata].
Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common, first seen in Kakum NP [cephaelis].
Buff-throated Sunbird ◊ *Chalcomitra adelberti* A real cracker, seen well several times, the first near Kakum.
Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Several seen in and around Mole NP [nominate].
Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* First seen in the farmbush at Abrafo [kempi].
Carmelite Sunbird ◊ *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* Seen well.
Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus* Seen at Kakum and Bobiri.
Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* Seen well in Mole NP [nominate].
Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus* A few seen.
Johanna's Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris johannae* Seen well at Kakum [fasciatus].
Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* A few. [ashantiensis].
Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* Several seen well, first seen on the Winneba Plains [nominate].
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* Common [nominate].
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Sahel Bush Sparrow *Gymnoris dentata* Very common in the north, especially in Mole NP.
White-billed Buffalo Weaver ◊ *Bubalornis albirostris* Seen in the north.
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* Seen at Mole NP.
Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* Seen a few times [capitalba].
Slender-billed Weaver *Ploceus pelceni* Seen near the coast.
Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* A few seen in Mole NP. [nominate].
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* A few sightings. Interesting race *capitalba*.
Orange Weaver ◊ *Ploceus aurantius* Great views at the pond near to Bokro [nominate].
Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* Common [nominate].
Vieillot's Black Weaver (Chestnut-and-black W) *Ploceus [nigerrimus] castaneofuscus* See note.
Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* a couple of sightings. Great bird [nominate].
Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha* Seen near Bonkro [nominate].
Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus* A couple seen well in the farmbush at Atewa.
Preuss's Weaver ◊ *Ploceus preussi* Great views at Kakum and near Bonkro. A cracking weaver!
Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus* Good views at Ankasa [nominate].
Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens* Several seen well, especially at nests at Ankasa NP.
Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.
Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* A few seen well in the forest on 3 dates [nigrifrons].
Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* Seen well at Mole.
Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops* Seen near Atewa.
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* 1000s near Mole [nominate].
Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* Seen in the north.
Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* A few seen.
White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus* See note.
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor* A few seen.
Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus* Common. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [emiliae].
Red-winged Pytilia ◊ *Pytilia phoenicoptera* 2 birds seen well in Mole NP [nominate].
Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina* Seen at Atewa farmbush.
Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta* A couple of sightings.
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Seen well in Mole NP and other sites in the north [nominate].
Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata* Seen well at Mole..
African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* One sighting [polionota].
Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* Seen near to Sapeliga.
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* Common in the north, especially in Mole NP [nominate].

Lavender Waxbill ◊ *Estrilda caerulescens* Brilliant scope views of several in Mole NP.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* Seen at a few sites.
Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes* Seen near Mole.
Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis* Seen well near Mole [ansorgei].
African Silverbill *Euodice cantans* Several in the north.
Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Common. [nominate].
Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor* A few seen. [nominate].
Magpie Mannikin *Spermestes fringilloides* Seen very well near Atewa.
Wilson's Indigobird ◊ *Vidua wilsoni* Seen in Mole and near Sapeliga.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* A few seen.
Exclamatory Paradise Whydah ◊ *Vidua interjecta* Great views in Mole NP. Stunners!
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* A few seen [vidua].
Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* A couple seen [nominate].
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* Seen in farmbush near Kakum.
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Several seen in Mole NP [nominate].
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* A few seen [caniceps)
White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia* Seen near Sapeliga.
West African Seedeater *Crithagra canicapilla* A pair at Mole.



West African Seedeater.

Gosling's Bunting ◊ *Emberiza goslingi* Seen at Mole and in the far north.
Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis* Seen in Mole.
Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* Seen at Mole.

MAMMALS

- African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* Seen in Mole NP.
- Western Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* (H) Heard at Ankasa.
- Demidoff's Dwarf Galago** *Galagoides demidovii* Seen at Ankasa.
- Northern Lesser Galago** *Galago senegalensis* Seen at Mole.
- Campbell's Monkey (Lowe's M)** *Cercopithecus [campbelli] lowei* Seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.
- Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey** *Cercopithecus petaurista* A smart monkey, seen at several sites.
- Green Monkey (Callithrix M)** *Chlorocebus sabaeus* Seen at Mole NP.
- Patas Monkey** *Erythrocebus patas* Seen at Mole.
- Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* A few.
- Red-flanked Duiker** *Cephalophus rufilatus* Seen at Mole.
- Roan Antelope** *Hippotragus equinus* Seen at Mole.
- Kok** *Kobus kob* Seen at Mole.
- Waterbuck** *Kobus defassa* Seen at Mole.
- Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus* Seen at Mole.
- Common Warthog** *Phacocerus africanus* Seen at Mole.
- African Savanna Hare (Scrub H)** *Lepus microtis* Seen in Mole NP.
- Gambian Rat** *Critecomys gambianus* Seen once.
- Fire-footed Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus pyrropus* Seen once.
- Kintampo Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus substratus* Seen at Tongo.
- Red-legged Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus rufobrachium* Seen once.
- Green Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus poensis* A couple seen.
- African Giant Squirrel** *Protoxerus stangeri* A couple seen.
- Striped Ground Squirrel** *Xerus erythropus* Seen a couple of times.
- Beecroft's Flying Squirrel** *Anomalurus beecrofti* Seen at ANKasa at night.
- Marsh Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguineus* Seen at Mole.
- Common Cusimanse** *Crossarchus obscurus* Seen at Ankasa.
- Common Genet** *Genetta genetta* Seen at Mole.
- Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons* Seen at Mole.
- African Straw-coloured Bat** *Eidolon helvum* Thousands at several sites.
- Mauritian Tomb Bat** *Taphozus mauritanus* Seen at ANKasa.
- Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat** Seen on the north.
- West African Potoo** *Perodicticus potto* Seen at Ankasa.
- Side-striped Jackal** *Lupulella adusta* Seen at Mole.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird Names v7.1. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

Seen at Abrafo. The song is totally different from birds further east, though currently only one subspecies is recognised. However, the IOC have recently proposed a new species and this is likely to be accepted soon, so watch this space

Vieillot's Black Weaver (Chestnut-and-black W) *Ploceus [nigerrimus] castaneofuscus*

First good colony was at the 'swamp stop' on the way to Antwikwaa, and many more thereafter. A really attractive form, which is perhaps better treated as a separate species.

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*

First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP, and a few others. The song of the form concerned, *uropygialis*, is radically different to birds further east!