



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Private Ghana Mega Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials *25th November to 17th December 2013 (22 days)* Trip Report



Akun Eagle-Owl by David Hoddinott

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

Trip Summary

Our private Ghana Mega trip proved yet again to be a resounding success! We notched up a fantastic 530 species in 22 days, setting a new record for the most species ever recorded on a three-week trip to this superb West African country!

Our tour started off with a visit to Shai Hills. This small but fabulous reserve has a nice variety of habitats including mixed woodland, grassland, wetlands and granite outcrops and therefore supports an interesting array of bird species. During our morning exploring the reserve we recorded European Honey Buzzard, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Red-necked Buzzard, stunning Violet Turaco, a surprise Greyish Eagle-Owl, immaculate Blue-bellied Roller, Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets, Lesser and Greater Honeyguides, dashing African Hobby, Lanner Falcon, Brown-crowned Tchagra, beautiful Common Gonolek, family groups of Yellow-billed Shrikes, restless Senegal Eremomelas, striking Mocking Cliff Chat and Yellow-winged (Red-faced) Pytilia. A good number of migrants were seen including Willow, Wood and Garden Warblers and Spotted Flycatcher. We also observed our first vagrant of the trip in the form of a fine Eurasian Hobby.



Sharpe's Apalis by David Hoddinott

Well pleased with our morning's birding, we left Shai Hills and made our way to Ho. En route we stopped near the Volta Dam where we enjoyed most memorable close-up encounters with the beautiful White-bibbed (White-throated Blue) Swallow.

Using Ho as a base, we made several visits to Kalakpa Resources Reserve. Our time spent in and around the gallery forest of this seldom-visited reserve was frustrating at times but also rewarding, with sightings of the highly elusive Capuchin Babbler, rare Baumann's Greenbul, superb Brown-necked Parrot, Blue-headed Coucal, Mottled Spinetail, Narina Trogon, confiding Bearded Barbet, Spotted Honeyguide, West African Wattle-eye, elusive and sought-after Pied-winged Swallow, White-throated Greenbul, Red-winged Prinia singing its heart out, Yellow-bellied Hylia, a pair of Green-headed Sunbird, dazzling Splendid and Copper Sunbirds, scarce Compact Weavers, African Firefinch and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. Our night excursions yielded a cute pair of African Scops Owl and Long-tailed and Black-shouldered Nightjars.

From Kalakpa we made our way back towards the capital, Accra, and enjoyed a superb afternoon visit to Sakumo Lagoon. This wetland is certainly one of the richest in Ghana and supports a wealth of waders and waterfowl. We were not to be disappointed with numerous good sightings. These included large flocks of White-faced Whistling Ducks, Little Grebe, Black Heron seen fishing amongst a host of other egrets and herons, Western Reef Heron, Glossy Ibis, Western Marsh Harrier, Purple Swamphen,



Black Dwarf Hornbill by David Hoddinott



Senegal Thick-knee, Spur-winged Plover, Kittlitz's Plover, Marsh Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Collared Pratincole, Gull-billed, Royal, Black and Whiskered Terns, Peregrine Falcon, Yellow-throated Longclaw and, shortly before boarding our bus, both Blackcap and Brown Babblers. What a fabulous day this had been and we headed back to our hotel for a delicious dinner and good night's rest.



White-bellied Kingfisher by David Hoddinott

The following morning we departed early to avoid the traffic and visited Winneba Lagoon. This proved very rewarding with a number of species not seen the previous day at Sakumo. We enjoyed good views of Striated Heron, a nice surprise in the form of three Eurasian Oystercatchers, White-fronted Plover, Common Redshank, Eurasian Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, a single Red Knot, Sanderling and Sandwich Tern. Moving onto the Winneba Plains we found Guinea Turaco, Black-crowned Tchagra, Flappet Lark, Melodious Warbler, Singing Cisticola, Whinchat and Plain-backed Pipit. Another surprise was a superb Yellow-winged Bat which showed particularly well.

Thereafter we travelled west to Cape Coast and, whilst enjoying lunch, three Pomarine Skuas (Jaeger) were seen flying out at sea. Leaving the coast we headed inland to our comfortable lodge. After enjoying a little rest and relaxation we drove to the nearby forest of Ebekawopa. What an afternoon it turned out to be and we found a calling Black Cuckoo of the *gabonensis* race, delightful male African Emerald Cuckoo, Black-throated Coucal, a pair of confiding Black Bee-eater, Forest Wood Hoopoe, displaying Rufous-sided Broadbill, Ussher's Flycatcher and, at dusk, a splendid Bat Hawk. Delighted we headed back to our lodge for another scrumptious dinner and some well-earned rest.

The next morning after an early breakfast, excitement mounted as we headed off to Kakum National Park and in particular the famous canopy walkway. An eager group of birders made what seemed like record time from the car park to the first platform of the walkway. We were soon enjoying numerous canopy species from a bird's eye view. Highlights included Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Cassin's Spinetail, Blue-throated Roller, Black Dwarf, Brown-cheeked and Black-casqued Hornbills, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Cassin's Honeybird, Little Green and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, rare Forest Penduline Tit, sought-after Sharpe's Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, smart Violet-backed Hyliota, Tiny Sunbird and nesting Yellow-mantled Weaver. During our evening walk back to the bus we came across a Gambian Pouched Rat and a superb roosting White-tailed (Fire-crested) Alethe.



White-crested Tiger Heron by David Hoddinott



At another section of Kakum National Park, Antwikwaa, we recorded Black Goshawk, a splendid pair of White-spotted Flufftail, nesting Yellow-billed Barbet, cracking scope views of Red-fronted Parrot, West African Wattle-eye, Black-winged Oriole, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher and secretive Kemp's Longbill. A quick stop at the Pra River produced superb views of Rock Pratincole and nearby a colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallows.



Red-billed Helmetshrike by David Hoddinott

Leaving Kakum we first enjoyed some morning birding in and around Ebekawopa before making our way to Nsuta Forest. During the morning we found Shining Drongo, the upper guinea endemic Copper-tailed Starling, Red-billed Helmetshrike and both Western Bluebill and Black-bellied Seedcracker.

Our full two days at Nsuta were very rewarding with numerous highlights, including Dwarf Bittern, displaying White-crested Tiger Heron (Bittern), a fantastic pair of Congo Serpent Eagle, another Bat Hawk, sub-adult Long-tailed Hawk, raucous Great

Blue Turaco, stealth-fighter-like Black Spinetail, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, White-crested and Red-billed Dwarf Hornbills, Willcock's Honeyguide, Melancholy Woodpecker, a flock of Grey Parrots, rare Black-collared Lovebird, Large-billed Puffback, Yellow-spotted Nicator, Tit Hylia, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Black-capped Apalis, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Narrow-tailed Starling, Johanna's Sunbird, Maxwell's Weaver and highly sought-after Red-fronted Antpecker. At dusk we observed a superb Brown Nightjar flying overhead.

Tearing ourselves away from Nsuta we headed to yet another fabulous forest, Ankasa National Park. En route we found Mouse-brown and Reichenbach's Sunbirds and then settled into our camp, conveniently situated inside the park. Our time in Ankasa was very satisfying and we enjoyed many memorable sightings. Exploring the network of forest trails and time around the forest ponds yielded a fine selection of forest species including Forest Francolin, African Finfoot with two young, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Sabine's Spinetail, Blue-breasted, White-bellied and Dwarf Kingfishers, Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Square-tailed Sawwing, Dusky Crested-Flycatcher, Cassin's Flycatcher, Yellow-bearded Greenbul and Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush. During an evening excursion we enjoyed outstanding views of Fraser's Eagle-Owl and superb Hammer Bats and Beecroft's Anomalure (Flying Squirrel).



Gambaga Flycatcher by David Hoddinott

After enjoying a final morning's birding at Ankasa, where highlights included superb scope views of the very tricky Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo and fantastic views of White-bellied Kingfisher, we travelled back to our lodge near Kakum National Park where we enjoyed a comfortable overnight stay. The next morning we headed for the northern part of Kakum National Park. This produced some splendid birds



including Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, a pair of displaying Black Goshawk, Black Spinetail, Bates's Swift, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, scope views of West African Batis, Blue Cuckooshrike, a pair of Lemon-bellied Crombec, Tit Hylia, Chestnut-winged Starling and Chestnut-breasted Nigrita nest building.



Standard-winged Nightjar by David Hoddinott

From here we made our way to Bonkro Forest in search of one of the most highly desired birds in the World, White-necked Rockfowl. It is a particularly unusual and mysterious species with its somewhat prehistoric appearance and secretive nature. With adrenalin pumping we set off into the forest in search of our quarry and reached the well placed viewing area in good time. After a lengthy wait some of us were a bit anxious but, at last, first one, and then another and another appeared. They bounced about the vines and rocks silently, knowing we were there but totally unperturbed by our presence. Shortly before we departed one inquisitive individual jumped out onto a vine only a few metres from us, peering intently at us for several minutes. You could hear the gasp of air as

everyone was startled by the boldness of this individual. Absolutely exhilarated we walked back to the bus in record time and made our way to Kumasi, where we celebrated over a nice cold beer and delicious meal!

From Kumasi we travelled north to Mole National Park, stopping at Opro Forest en route. Opro was particularly active that morning and we enjoyed some great sightings. These included Western Bronzetailed Pigeon, Guinea Turaco, fabulous Cassin's Spinetail flying low overhead, stunning Bluemoustached Bee-eater, African and Black-and-white Shrike-flycatchers, Large-billed Puffback, White-throated Greenbul, elusive Capuchin Babbler and stunning male Buff-throated Sunbird.

Mole National Park was superb with over one hundred and forty species seen in a single day! Some of our more memorable sightings included Stone Partridge, White-throated Francolin, Saddle-billed Stork, the strange Hamerkop and its huge nest, White-headed and vagrant Ruppell's Vulture, soaring Bateleur, Banded Snake-Eagle, stately Martial Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzards attending bush fires, African Fish Eagle – strangely rare in Ghana, Spotted Thick-knee, Forbes's Plover, several Greater Painted-snipe, Violet Turaco, African Cuckoo, Greyish Eagle-Owl, cute Pearl-spotted Owlet, outrageous Standard-winged Nightjar, shimmering Shining-blue Kingfisher, large numbers of the beautiful Red-throated Bee-eater, Swallow-tailed and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Abyssinian Roller, huge Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Fine-spotted and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Red-headed Lovebird, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Sun Lark, African Spotted Creeper, superb Oriole Warbler, Gambaga Flycatcher, White-fronted Black Chat, Brown-rumped Bunting, Lavendar Waxbill, Black-faced Firefinch and both Togo and Exclamatory Paradise Whydahs. We also



African Elephant by David Hoddinott



enjoyed great views of confiding African Elephant, Patas Monkey, a lone Roan Antelope, Kob, Waterbuck and several Nile Crocodiles.

Leaving Mole National Park we continued north, stopping briefly at a roadside wetland where we recorded Montagu's Harrier, African Pygmy Goose, Lesser Moorhen, Black-headed Weaver and Orange-breasted (Zebra) Waxbill before making our way to the Tongo Hills, where we notched up some great birds amongst the boulder-strewn hills. These included the sought-after Red-winged Pytilia, Fox Kestrel, Red-necked Falcon, Rock-loving Cisticola and a fleeting Freckled Nightjar.



White-necked Rockfowl by David Hoddinott

of dry country birds. Highlights included great views of Black-headed Lapwing, several flocks of European Turtle Dove, Mourning Collared Dove, Common Redstart, Chestnut-bellied Starling, White-rumped Seedeater, White-billed Buffalo Weaver, African Silverbill, well named Cut-throat, Namaqua Dove and Black-bellied Bustard. In the afternoon we explored the Tono Dam area which held Comb Duck, Spur-winged Goose, a surprise Black-headed Gull, cryptic Four-banded Sandgrouse, Levillant's Cuckoo, tiny Yellow Penduline Tit and Western Bonelli's Warbler.

From Bolgatanga we visited the White Volta in search of the stunning Egyptian Plover. We were treated to superb views of this unique wader, now placed in its own family. After enjoying our time with this spectacular species we then explored the surrounding woodland, which produced a nice variety

From Bolgatanga we travelled back to Kumasi, paying a visit to Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. Having birded considerable forest sites already we were delighted with our bouquet of new species at Bobiri. Some notable sightings included Afep Pigeon, displaying Thick-billed Cuckoo, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Bristle-nosed Barbet, scope views of Least Honeyguide, nice perched views of Grey Parrot, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, the beautiful Preuss's Weaver and Magpie Mannikin feeding on seeding Bamboo.

Our final destination was the superb hill forest of Atewa. The Atewa range supports a wonderful diversity of both bird and butterfly species. We spent our time searching for the few remaining forest birds we hadn't seen whilst enjoying further views of a myriad of forest flora and fauna. Some of the key species we observed during our time here included the elusive Forest Francolin, skulking Black-throated Coucal, Black and Blue-moustached Bee-eaters, Sooty Boubou, Dusky Tit, Green-tailed and Grey-headed Bristlebills attending an ant swarm, very shy Forest Scrub Robin and Maxwell's Black Weaver.



Blue-moustached Bee-eater by David Hoddinott



Atewa was simply superb and a fantastic way to end off our record breaking tour! 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 a wonderful group of enthusiastic, skilled and fun participants, as well as a superb ground operations team. I am very much looking forward to travelling with you all again!

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 4.1 List of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Generated in February 2014. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Brackets indicate Clements [omissions] and (changes)

Total species recorded: 530 (518 seen and 12 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.

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.

Forest Francolin *Peliperdix lathamii*

We heard this species on several occasions and were rewarded with amazingly two separate sightings. The first was brief sightings in Ankasa NP and another was seen very well but briefly at Atewa Forest, a secretive and seldom seen species.

Ahanta Francolin (NE) *Pternistis achantensis*

This is usually a particularly difficult species to see and was very elusive once again, we heard several calling near Ebekawopa.

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 two hundred at Sakumo Lagoon and several thousand at Tono Dam.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

We had good scope views of two at Tono Dam.

Knob-billed (Comb) Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*



We enjoyed good scope views of three at Tono Dam.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*

We had superb scope views of four at Nasia wetland.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We had good views of a dozen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Storks Ciconiidae

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

We had good sightings of three in Mole NP.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This magnificent bird was seen in Mole NP, where we had great scope views of a female.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

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

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

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

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

White-crested Tiger Heron *Tigriornis leucolopha*

We had simply outrageous views of a male displaying to a female at Nsuta Forest. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*

We had great views of one at a small roadside pond in Nsuta Forest.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

We had good views of three in Mole NP.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

We had multiple sightings including one at Shai Hills and another at Winneba Lagoon.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Seen in small numbers at several sites including in Mole NP

[Western] Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on almost every day of the tour – especially prevalent in the drier northern parts of Ghana with peak sightings of one 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 six at Sakumo Lagoon.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Small numbers were seen in the grasslands in the north.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Two were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Twenty were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.



Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

We had good scope views of two at Sakumo Lagoon.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

We enjoyed watching ten of these smart birds at Sakumo Lagoon.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A peak count was twenty at Sakumo Lagoon.

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*

Recorded at Sakumo Lagoon, where we had good scope views of six

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

We had good sightings of three in Mole NP.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus*

Small numbers were seen at several wetlands with a peak count of thirty at Sakumo Lagoon.

Ospreys Pandionidae**(Western) Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

We had good views of one near the Volta Dam.

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, two in Mole NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.

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 thirteen 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 our peak count was fifteen in one day.

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppellii*

We had great scope views of two juveniles 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.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

A few birds were seen in Mole NP and again en route north to Bolgatanga.

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus beaudouini*

We had a great sighting of one in Mole NP.

Brown Snake-Eagle*Circaetus cinereus*

A superb pair was seen near Kalakpa.

(Western) Banded Snake Eagle*Circaetus cinerascens*

A superb adult was seen on consecutive days in Mole NP.

Congo Serpent Eagle*Dryotriorchis spectabilis*

We had magnificent prolonged scope views of two at Nsuta.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

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

Bat Hawk*Macheiramphus alcinus*

Our first encounter was one flying low overhead at Ebekawopa with a further sighting of one at Nsuta Forest.

Crowned Eagle*Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We heard one displaying overhead in Ankasa NP.

Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

An adult was seen flying high overhead on consecutive days in Mole NP.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

One was seen in Shai Hills Resources Reserve.

Wahlberg's Eagle*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

Our first sighting was of one at Shai Hills with further sightings in Mole NP.

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*

We had brief views of an adult at Aboabo Forest.

African Hawk-Eagle*Aquila spilogaster*

We had splendid views of one in Mole NP.

Lizard Buzzard*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

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

Gabar Goshawk*Micronisus gabar*

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

Dark Chanting Goshawk*Melierax metabates*

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

Long-tailed Hawk*Urotriorchus macrourus*

We had a superb sighting of a sub-adult at Nsuta Forest.

Red-chested Goshawk*Accipiter toussenelii*

We had good views of one from the Kakum Canopy Walkway with other sightings at Nsuta Forest and Ankasa NP.

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 a pair displaying over Aboabo.

Western Marsh Harrier*Circus aeruginosus*

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

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

We had good views of a female near the Nasia River.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

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

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Note: The Black Kite, M. migrans is usually split off from Yellow-billed Kite, M. aegyptius and is a palearctic migrant.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

We had superb views of a sub-adult in Mole NP. This is a rare species in Ghana.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

Seen in and around Mole NP. Peak numbers of one hundred were seen during the drive from Kumasi to Mole.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

Seen almost daily including at Shai Hills, Antwkwaa and Mole NP. A total of thirty seven 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 four in the Tongo Hills.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

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

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

We had simply amazing scope views of one at the Tongo Hills and another flying nearby at the White Volta River.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

We had great views of one flying overhead at Shai Hills.

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

We had good views of one at Shai Hills, a further two near Kalakpa and another at Sakumo Lagoon.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Our first sighting was of a pair at Shai Hills with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One was seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

Bustards Otididae

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

We enjoyed great views of a pair near Tono Dam.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

We had great scope views of a female near the White Volta.

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 enjoyed superb views of a female with two young in Ankasa NP.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Nkulengu Rail***Himantornis haematopus*

We heard two pairs calling at Ankasa NP.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

We enjoyed good views of three at a wetland in Ankasa NP.

African Swamphen*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had great scope views of four at Sakumo Lagoon.

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

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

We found two at Sakumo Lagoon.

Lesser Moorhen*Gallinula angulate*

We had good scope views of one at the Nasia wetland.

Thick-knees Burhinidae**Senegal Thick-knee***Burhinus senegalensis*

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

Spotted Thick-knee*Burhinus capensis*

We had great views of six in Mole NP.

Oystercatchers Haematopodidae**Eurasian Oystercatcher***Haematopus ostralegus*

We had superb views of three at Winneba Lagoon.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae**Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

Highest count of one hundred at Sakumo Lagoon with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Plovers Charadriidae**Spur-winged Lapwing***Vanellus spinosus*

Eight were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further twenty at the White Volta.

Black-headed Lapwing*Vanellus tectus*

We had superb views of three en route to the White Volta.

[African] Wattled Lapwing*Vanellus senegallus*

A peak count of 61 was had at a small roadside wetland near the Nasia River and a further 10 at the White Volta.

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover*Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

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

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

We found four at Sakumo Lagoon.

Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi*

We were particularly fortunate to find six at a boval in Mole NP.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

A splendid three birds were seen at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*

We had splendid views of 14 of these magnificent birds at the White Volta. A real highlight of the tour!

Painted-snipes Rostratulidae

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

A superb six birds were seen in Mole NP.

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 eight in Mole NP.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

We had great views of forty at Sakumo Lagoon.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

We had good scope views of ten at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

We found one at Sakumo Lagoon and a further ten at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

We had great views of one at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A single bird was seen at Tono Dam.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

At least two were seen at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

We saw forty birds at Sakumo Lagoon and a further twenty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One was seen en route from Accra to Kakum NP and another in Mole NP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

We found twenty at Sakumo Lagoon and three in Mole NP.



Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

We found three at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Red Knot*Calidris canutus*

We had good scope views of one bird at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

Two hundred were seen at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

At least thirty were seen at Sakumo Lagoon and a further ten at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

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

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

We had good views of five at Sakumo Lagoon.

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

We found ten at Sakumo Lagoon.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis*

We found 12 on the Pra River near Twifo Praso.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Black-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

We had great views of one at Tono Dam.

Gull-billed Tern*Gelochelidon nilotica*

We had great views of one at Sakumo Lagoon.

Royal Tern*Thalasseus maximus*

We enjoyed good views of a couple at Sakumo Lagoon and a further ten at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Sandwich Tern*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

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

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybrida*

We had great views of one at Sakumo Lagoon.

Black Tern*Chlidonias niger*

We enjoyed great scope views of two at Sakumo Lagoon.

Skuas Stercorariidae**Pomarine Skua***Stercorarius pomarinus*

At least three were seen flying off Cape Coast.

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

We enjoyed great views of several near Tono Dam.



Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

- Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
Recorded at many urban centres throughout the country
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
We had great views of up to thirty daily during our time in the far north near Bolgatanga.
- Afep Pigeon** *Columba unicincta*
We had superb scope views of one at Bobiri Forest.
- [Western] Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*
We had superb scope views of one at Opro Forest.
- European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
We had good views of several flocks totalling about 25, near the White Volta.
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*
We enjoyed superb views of five near the White Volta.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
This large dove was seen on virtually every day of the tour.
- Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*
Our first sighting was at Shai Hills, with more sightings of up to fifty daily in Mole NP.
- Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*
Another very common bird, seen on many days of the tour
- Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*
We enjoyed daily sightings in Mole NP.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
We had good views of three at Antwikwaa with scattered sightings elsewhere.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
First seen in Kakum, we had further sightings at Atewa.
- Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*
One was seen exceptionally well at Aboabo, Kakum NP.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
We had good views of eight near the White Volta.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
A flock of seven was seen near the White Volta.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*
This was a common bird at all the forested sites in Ghana.

Parrots Psittacidae

- Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
Up to fifty were seen daily in Mole NP.
- Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius*
A flock of five was seen very well in Mole NP.
- Black-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis swindernianus*
We had good flight views of two at Nsuta Forest.
- Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*
A flock of 17 was 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]** *Poicephalus fuscicollis*
We had superb sightings of a pair at Kalakpa.



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.

Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis*

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

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*

Recorded at most savanna sites, with our highest count being fifteen on one day in Mole NP

Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*

We had wonderful views of one in Nsuta Forest and another two in Ankasa NP.

Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa*

We had great sightings of one at the Winneba Plains and two more at Opro Forest.

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus*

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

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*

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

Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*

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

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster*

A tricky species to see in forest tangles. Our first sighting was of one at Ebekawopa and a final sighting of one at Atewa Forest.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

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

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

Two were seen en route to Kalakpa.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus*

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

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

One was seen in Shai Hills and another near Tono Dam.

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti*

We had very brief views of one at Kalakpa and a further two were seen exceptionally well at Bobiri.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Two were seen at Shai Hills and a further two in Atewa Forest.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

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

Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*

We heard once calling at Atewa Forest.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Far more often heard than seen, we had good scope views of a splendid male from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP and four males in Nsuta Forest.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

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

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

We had great views of one at Ebekawopa Forest.

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



African Cuckoo*Cuculus gularis*

We found one in Mole NP.

Barn Owls Tytonidae**Barn Owl***Tyto alba*

One was seen near Kakum NP.

Owls Strigidae**African Scops Owl***Otus senegalensis*

We had superb views of two at Kalakpa.

Greyish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinerascens*

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

Fraser's Eagle-Owl*Bubo poensis*

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

Akun Eagle-Owl*Bubo leucostictus*

We had cracking views of one near Nsuta Forest, another rarely seen species.

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 heard one calling at Bobiri.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Brown Nightjar***Veles binotatus*

We had good views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Black-shouldered Nightjar*Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

We had very brief views of one at Kalakpa.

Plain Nightjar*Caprimulgus inornatus*

We had brief views of one at Ebekawopa.

Freckled Nightjar*Caprimulgus tristigma*

We had brief views of one at Tongo Hills.

Long-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus climacurus*

We had great views of at least ten in Mole NP and a further four at Kalakpa.

Standard-winged Nightjar*Macrodipteryx longipennis*

We had stunning views of two males and several females, in Mole NP. This was certainly another highlight of the trip.

Swifts Apodidae**Mottled Spinetail***Telacanthura ussheri*

We had a superb sighting of one at Kalakpa with scattered sightings elsewhere including three birds seen very well at Tono Dam.

Black Spinetail*Telacanthura melanopygia*

We had great views of two at Nsuta and eight at Aboabo.

Sabine's Spinetail*Rhaphidura sabini*

We had great sightings at Ebekawopa Forest and up to six daily at Nsuta.



Cassin's Spinetail	<i>Neafrapus cassini</i>
Small numbers were seen in Kakum NP and at Opro Forest.	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Seen almost daily throughout the trip	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Up to eighty were seen daily over the forest in Kakum NP.	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Seen at many bridges in the country! Our sightings included some really large flocks.	
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
We had great views of one at Nsuta.	
Bates's Swift	<i>Apus batesi</i>
We had good views of one at Aboabo.	

Trogon Trogonidae

Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
We had good scope views of a male at Kalakpa.	

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
We observed one near Shai Hills and up to three daily in the far north near Bolgatanga.	
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>
We had daily sightings of this stunner in and around Mole NP.	
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>
We had great views of four at both Shai Hills and Kalakpa and a further five during the drive from Kumasi to Mole NP.	
Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>
We had several great sightings in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.	
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
We had good sightings of two in Mole NP.	

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon badia</i>
We had great looks of one at Nsuta Forest.	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
A couple were seen daily in Mole NP. A stunning species!	
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
We enjoyed good views of one at Kalakpa and several in Mole NP.	
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>
We had wonderful scope views of one in Ankasa NP and another in Mole NP.	
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
A common species seen in small numbers almost daily	
African Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina lecontei</i>
We had superb views of one in Ankasa NP.	
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
We had good views of two in Shai Hills.	
White-bellied Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo leucogaster</i>



We had good views of an adult and later superb views of a juvenile in Ankasa NP.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

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

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys*

We had magnificent scope views of one in Mole NP.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

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

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maximus*

We had great views of two in Mole NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

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

We had cracking views of this beauty, 2 at Opro Forest and four 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 Ebekawopa with further sightings at Nsuta Forest and finally three at Atewa. What a jewel!

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*

We had wonderful views of one bird in Mole NP.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

A pair was seen very well near the Pra River with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*

We found good numbers (100+) 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*

Several were heard calling 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 at least ten near the White Volta, including some seen riding on the back of a donkey.

Hoopoes Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*

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

White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*

We observed good views of three at Bobiri Forest.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*



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

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 fifteen daily in the far north near Bolgatanga.

Black Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus hartlaubi*

We had great views of one on the Kakum Canopy Walkway and a further four of this rare species in Nsuta Forest.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus*

We enjoyed stunning views of one at Ebekawopa and another at Nsuta.

White-crested Hornbill *Tropicranus albocristatus*

This funky-looking hornbill was seen very well from the Kakum canopy walkway with a further great sighting of one at Nsuta Forest.

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 two from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and several more at Nsuta Forest.

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*

We had great views of eight of this impressive species in Kakum NP.

Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*

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

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We had fantastic views of three in Mole NP.

African Barbets Lybiidae

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli*

Three birds were scoped in Nsuta Forest.

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

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

We had good scope views of one at Antwikwaa with further sightings at Atewa Forest.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We had good views of one at Kalakpa.



Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Two were seen very well in Shai Hills.

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa, another at Ankasa NP and a few at Atewa Forest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

One was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway, a further one at Nsuta Forest and several at Bonkro.

Vieillot's Barbet*Lybius vieilloti*

A fairly common bird of savanna, we had good sightings of two at Shai Hills and two in Mole NP.

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

Four birds were seen very well at Shai Hills.

Bearded Barbet*Lybius dubius*

Three of this large species were seen at Kalakpa and up to four daily in Mole NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

We had magnificent views of this rather shy species at Antwikwaa.

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

We had great views of one from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and another at Bobiri Forest.

Yellow-footed Honeyguide*Melignomon eisentrauti*

Niels was fortunate to see one at Atewa. A rare bird indeed!

Willcock's Honeyguide*Indicator willcocksi*

We had superb views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and another at Nsuta Forest.

Least Honeyguide*Indicator exilis*

We had good scope views of one at Bobiri Forest.

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

We had good views of two in Shai Hills.

Spotted Honeyguide*Indicator maculatus*

We had good but brief views of one at Kalakpa.

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

We had great scope views of one in Shai Hills. This is the only species known to actually guide mammals to a beehive.

Woodpeckers Picidae**African Piculet***Sasia africana*

We heard this species calling at Bobiri Forest.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera punctuligera*

We had good views of two daily in Mole NP

Golden-tailed Woodpecker*Campethera abingoni*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Little Green Woodpecker (NE)*Campethera maculosa*

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

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

We had great sightings of this elusive forest woodpecker at Antwikwaa and another at Atewa.

Brown-eared Woodpecker*Campethera caroli*

We had good views of one in Ankasa NP.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

We had superb views of a pair in Shai Hills.

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

We enjoyed a superb sighting of three at Nsuta Forest and several more at Atewa.

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

Fire-bellied Woodpecker (NE) *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*

We had a great sighting of several at Antwikwaa and a further pair at Nsuta Forest.

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

We enjoyed good views of one at Kalakpa and a couple in Mole NP.

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus*

We had great views of two pairs in Mole NP.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis*

This splendid species was seen exceptionally well at Ebekawopa where we observed a male displaying and another was seen in Ankasa NP.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

We had wonderful views of three at Opro Forest and two at Bobiri.

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus*

We found a splendid female at Opro Forest.

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*

First seen at Shai Hills with further sightings in Mole NP

Fernando Po Batis *Batis poensis*

We had brief views of one from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and a further one seen very well at Aboabo.

Note: IOC lumps Fernando Po Batis, B. poensis occurring on the island of Bioko with West African Batis, B. occulta. Clements accepts this split.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

We had good views of four in Mole NP.

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

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

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

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

We had fair views of three at Kalakpa.

Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

We had great views of sixteen in Mole NP.

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

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

We enjoyed magnificent views of eight at Ebekawopa and a further ten in Nsuta Forest



Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*
We heard one calling in Mole NP.
- Many-coloured Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus multicolour*
We heard one calling at Opro Forest and another was heard at Atewa.
- Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*
We had good views of one at Kalakpa and a further two in Mole NP.
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*
We had excellent views of one in Shai Hills and another at Atewa.
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*
We enjoyed several sightings including four 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 several in Opro Forest.
- Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*
We had good views of six at Shai Hills with further sightings in Mole NP.
- [Lowland] Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius leucorhynchus*
We had good but brief views of one in Atewa.
- Yellow-crowned (Common) Gonolek** *Laniarius barbarus*
This outrageously colourful bird was seen exceptionally well near Shai Hills and again in Mole NP.
- Brubru** *Nilaus afer*
Four were seen in Mole NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

- White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Coracina pectoralis*
We had wonderful views of several in Mole NP.
- Blue Cuckooshrike** *Coracina azurea*
This stunning species was first seen at Ebekawopa and later seen particularly well at Aboabo Forest.
- Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga phoenicea*
A pair was seen near Kalakpa and a further two splendid males in Mole NP. Another good-looking bird!
- Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga quiscalina*
We found three at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary and another 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 in Mole NP and a further two near Tono Dam.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole*Oriolus auratus*

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

Western (Black-headed) Oriole*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had good views of two at Nsuta Forest and further sightings in Ankasa, Bonkro and at Atewa.

Black-winged Oriole*Oriolus nigripennis*

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

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

We had great views of one in Mole NP.

Shining Drongo*Dicrurus atripennis*

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa and another at Nsuta Forest with our final and best sightings at Atewa.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

Up to ten were seen daily in Mole NP.

Velvet-mantled Drongo*Dicrurus modestus*

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

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

We had good views of two at Ebekawopa and another two at Ankasa NP.

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 in Mole NP.

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

We saw a splendid flock of twelve near Kalakpa and small numbers daily in the far North around Bolgatanga.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

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

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

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

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

We saw several in Mole NP.

Dusky Crested Flycatcher*Elminia nigromitrata*

We enjoyed superb but brief views of one in Ankasa NP.

Tits, Chickadees Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit *Parus guineensis*

We had good sightings of one near Kalakpa and a couple daily in Mole NP.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Melaniparus

Dusky Tit *Parus funereus*

We found at least six in Atewa Forest.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Yellow Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*

We had stunning views of a pair near Tono Dam.

Forest Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons*

We had good views of three from the Kakum Canopy Walkway, a further three at Antwikwaa where they were seen singing – a fantastic site and finally a further two at Nsuta Forest. This was an extraordinary number of sightings of this rarely seen species.

Nicators Nicatoridae

Western (Yellow-spotted) Nicator *Nicator chloris*

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

Larks Alaudidae

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

We had good views of one displaying at the Winneba Plains.

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*

We had good views of eight 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.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

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

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

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

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens*

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

Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis*

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*

We had good views of two at Nsuta Forest.

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris*

We found one bird at Atewa.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (Bulbul) *Eurillas latirostris*

A species which can be difficult to see, we saw a couple birds in Kakum NP.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*

We had great views of one at Ebekawopa and a further two at Atewa 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*
One was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further three in Nsuta Forest and finally three in Ankasa NP.
- Simple Greenbul** *Chlorocichla simplex*
We had good sightings of two at Kalakpa and another at Antwikwaa.
- Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)** *Chlorocichla flavicollis*
We had good views of two in Mole NP.
- Swamp [Palm] Bulbul** *Thescelocichla leucopleura*
This noisy species was seen in Nsuta Forest, Bonkro Forest and Atewa.
- Baumann's Olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus baumanni*
We had great views of a pair at Kalakpa. A rare and seldom observed species due to its retiring nature
- Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*
We had superb views of a few at Ankasa, Bonkro and 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*
Two were seen in Atewa Forest.
- Green-tailed Bristlebill (E)** *Bleda eximius*
We had superb views of one at Atewa Forest and another at Ankasa NP.
- Grey-headed Bristlebill** *Bleda canicapillus*
Many heard in Kakum NP and one seen at Ebekawopa Forest and another at Atewa.
- Western Bearded Greenbul (NE)** *Criniger barbatus*
One was seen below the Kakum Canopy Walkway and another in Ankasa NP.
- Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*
Four were seen at Nsuta Forest and several more in Ankasa NP.
- Yellow-bearded Greenbul (E)** *Criniger olivaceus*
We enjoyed fantastic views of a pair at Nsuta and several in Ankasa NP

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

- Square-tailed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*
Small numbers were seen daily at Nsuta Forest and up to twenty daily in Ankasa NP and later we had fantastic views of one at Atewa Forest.
- Fanti Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne obscura*
We had superb views of thirty 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 thirty 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 a superb ten at the Volta River north of Shai Hills and two at the Pra River, Twifo Praso.



Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>
We had stunning views of four birds near Kalakpa.	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Three birds were seen in Mole NP.	
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
We observed six daily near Kakum NP.	
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
We had good views of one near Nsuta Forest.	
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
We had fabulous views of eight near Kalakpa.	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Up to twenty were seen daily in the far north.	
Preuss's [Cliff] Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon preussi</i>
We had good views of three hundred near the Pra River.	

Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettiidae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocerus mccallii</i>
We had good views of three at Nsuta Forest and a further six at Atewa.	
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>
Small numbers were seen almost daily in Kakum NP.	
Tit Hylia	<i>Pholidornis rushiae</i>
We had good views of a pair at Nsuta and another at Aboabo Forest.	

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
A good number were seen in Shai Hills.	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Nils saw one near Tono Dam.	
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
We had good views of two near Tono Dam.	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
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

Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
We had good views of one at the Nasia wetland.	
Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>
We enjoyed good views of two in Mole NP.	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
We had great views of one on the Winneba Plains and two in Mole NP.	

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
We had good views of two near Ebekawopa.	



Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>
We had good views of three at Winneba Plains.	
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>
We had great views of two near Ebekawopa.	
Rock-loving Cisticola	<i>Cisticola emini</i>
We had great views of two at the Tongo Hills.	
Dorst's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola guinea</i>
One was seen near Tono Dam.	
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>
We had good views of two near the Volta Dam.	
<i>Note: This species complex has been split into five species by the IOC, while Clements has it as one species, Winding Cisticola (C. galactotes)</i>	
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
We enjoyed great views of five at Shai Hills and a further one on the Winneba Plains.	
Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>
We had good views of two at Shai Hills and another at Winneba Plains.	
Rufous Cisticola	<i>Cisticola rufus</i>
We had good views of several in Mole NP.	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
We found several at Tono Dam.	
Black-backed (-necked) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola eximius</i>
One of these range-restricted birds was seen at Sakumo Lagoon.	
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Fairly common in rank vegetation, we had a good sightings of several daily in the far north.	
Red-winged Warbler	<i>Heliolais erythropterus</i>
We enjoyed good views of a pair at Kalakpa and two in Mole NP.	
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
We enjoyed wonderful sightings of three in Mole NP.	
Black-capped Apalis	<i>Apalis nigriceps</i>
We had superb scope views of one at Nsuta Forest, another at Ankasa NP and several at Atewa Forest.	
Sharpe's Apalis (E)	<i>Apalis sharpii</i>
We had great views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further one at Atewa Forest.	
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>
We had magnificent sightings of two in Mole NP.	
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicauda</i>
A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had good sightings in Mole NP.	
<i>Note: Clements lumps this species with Green-backed Camaroptera (C. brachyura)</i>	
Yellow-browed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>
Far more often heard than seen, we had good views at Nsuta and Ankasa NP.	
Olive-green Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>
We had good views of one at Nsuta Forest.	
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>
Common in the savanna areas, many were seen at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.	
Rufous-crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>
We had good views of several from the Kakum canopy walkway, at Ebekawopa and Atewa.	

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis



Moustached Grass Warbler*Melocichla mentalis*

We had good views of one at Kalakpa.

Kemp's Longbill (NE)*Macrosphenus kempii*

Our first sighting was of one at Kalakpa and later we enjoyed another at Antwikwaa.

Grey Longbill*Macrosphenus concolor*

We had great views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and another at Nsuta Forest with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

A couple were seen in Mole NP.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

Single birds were seen at Nsuta Forest and at Aboabo.

Lemon-bellied Crombec*Sylvietta denti*

One was seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and a further pair at Aboabo.

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae**Blackcap Illadopsis***Illadopsis cleaveri*

We heard this species at Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Rufous-winged Illadopsis (E)*Illadopsis rufescens*

We heard this species at Ankasa NP and Atewa Forest.

Puvel's Illadopsis*Illadopsis puveli*

One was seen briefly at Kalakpa and heard near Kakum NP and at Opro Forest.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis*Illadopsis rufipennis*

We had good views of a couple in Ankasa NP.

Brown Illadopsis*Illadopsis fulvescens*

We had good but brief views of one at Kalakpa.

Blackcap Babbler*Turdoides reinwardtii*

We had superb views of two near Sakumo Lagoon and three at the Winneba Plains.

Brown Babbler*Turdoides plebejus*

We had superb views of three near Sakumo Lagoon and several more in Mole NP.

Capuchin Babbler*Phyllanthus atripennis*

We had good but brief views of a pair of this ultra skulker at Kalakpa and later a further three at Opro Forest. Certainly another great trip highlight!

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae**Garden Warbler***Sylvia borin*

Three were seen at Shai Hills.

Greater Whitethroat*Sylvia communis*

We had good views of two near Tono Dam.

White-eyes Zosteropidae**African Yellow White-eye***Zosterops senegalensis*

Three were seen in Mole NP and a further three at Atewa.

Hyliotas Hyliotidae**Yellow-bellied Hyliota***Hyliota flavigaster*

A pair was seen in a mixed species flock at Kalakpa and another in Mole NP.



Violet-backed Hyliota*Hyliota violacea*

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

Treecreepers Certhiidae**Spotted Creeper***Salpornis spilonotus*

We had magnificent views of two in Mole NP.

Note: IOC is likely to accept the proposed split of the African Spotted Creeper S.spilonotus from the Asian Spotted Creeper in the next update in 2013.

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 five at Kalakpa and six in Mole NP.

Bronze-tailed Starling*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had great views of seven in Mole NP.

Splendid (Glossy) Starling*Lamprotornis splendidus*

This large glossy starling was seen at all the forested sites, with highest numbers of twenty at Nsuta Forest.

Purple (Glossy) Starling*Lamprotornis purpureus*

Small numbers were seen in Shai Hills and Kalakpa.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling*Lamprotornis caudatus*

Up to eight seen daily in Mole NP.

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 a large flock of one hundred at Ebekawopa and scattered sightings in Kakum NP.

Chestnut-winged Starling*Onychognathus fulgidus*

We had great views of a pair on the Kakum canopy walkway and several at Bonkro Forest.

Narrow-tailed Starling*Poeoptera lugubris*

We had good views of a flock of eight at Nsuta Forest.

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

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

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

We had brief views of two at Nsuta Forest and good views of one at Atewa.

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

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

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

African Thrush*Turdus pelios*

First seen in Shai Hills and further sightings in Mole NP



White-tailed Alethe*Alethe diademata*

We had great views of one on a night roost in Kakum NP and two more were seen at Atewa Forest.

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

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**Forest Robin***Stiphrornis erythrothorax*

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

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.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat*Cossypha niveicapilla*

One was seen briefly near Shai Hills.

White-crowned Robin-Chat*Cossypha albicapillus*

One was seen by some in Mole NP.

Forest Scrub Robin*Erythropygia leucosticte*

We had great views of this shy and retiring species at Atewa Forest.

Common Redstart*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

Whinchat*Saxicola rubetra*

We had great views of one at the Winneba Plains and several more in Mole NP.

White-fronted Black Chat*Pentholaea albifrons*

We had fantastic views of four in Mole NP. A scarce bird!

White-crowned Cliff Chat*Thamnolaea coronata*

We had good views of three in Shai Hills and another at Tongo Hills.

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

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher*Fraseria ocreata*

We had good views of one at the Kakum canopy walkway, another at Nsuta Forest and good views of four at Atewa Forest.

Northern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis edolioides*

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

Pale Flycatcher*Bradornis pallidus*

We had good views of one near Bonkro Forest and several in Mole NP.

Spotted Flycatcher*Muscicapa striata*

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

Gambaga Flycatcher*Muscicapa gambagae*

We had superb views of one in Mole NP, a rare bird indeed, yet another highlight of the trip!

Swamp Flycatcher*Muscicapa aquatica*

We had great views of ten in Mole NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher*Muscicapa cassini*

We had superb views of two in Ankasa NP.

Little Grey Flycatcher*Muscicapa epulata*

We had superb views of two at Atewa Forest.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher*Muscicapa comitata*

We had good views of several at Antwikwaa and Nsuta Forests.

Ussher's Flycatcher (E)*Muscicapa ussheri*

We had good views of several at Nsuta Forest and a pair at Atewa.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus griseigularis*

We heard this species at Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*

We had good views of one at Shai Hills.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One was seen at Kalakpa and up to twenty were seen daily in Mole NP.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Fraser's (Scarlet-tufted) Sunbird *Deleornis fraseri*

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

Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus*

We had superb views of two en route from Nsuta Forest to Half-Assini.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*

We had good sightings of several from the Kakum canopy walkway and daily sightings at Atewa.

Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*

We found one at Antwikwaa and another at Aboabo.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*

Common in all the forests, where we had numerous sightings

Pygmy Sunbird *Hedydipna platura*

We had several sightings near and in Mole NP. What a beauty!

Reichenbach's Sunbird *Anabathmis reichenbachii*

Two males were seen en route from Nsuta Forest to Half-Assini. A localised bird in Ghana

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*

We had great views of a pair at Kalakpa.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanoaema*

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 adalberti*

We saw several stunning males in Kakum NP.

Carmelite Sunbird *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*

We had cracking views of three males at Half-Assini. Although fairly common elsewhere this species is extremely localised in Ghana.

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 in Kakum NP and at Bonkro Forest.

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus*

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

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

We enjoyed great views of up to fifteen 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 magnificent views of several at Antwikwaa.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*



We had good views of several at Ebekawopa, Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

We had fantastic views of a male in Shai Hills.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*

We had good views of three at Kalakpa and another at Half Assini.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

Up to eight seen daily in Mole NP.

[Northern] Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

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

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*

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

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

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

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

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

Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

We had fair flight views of ten near Atewa Forest.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

Six were seen in Mole NP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Small numbers were seen at Kalakpa and ten at Ebekawopa.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

We had fantastic views of three near Kakum NP and twenty en route 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 several birds at the Nasia wetland.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*

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

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha*

We had good views of several in Kakum NP, at in Nsuta Forest and up to forty at Atewa Forest.

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantus superciliosus*

We had superb views of two near Kalakpa.

Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*

We had great views of two at Nsuta and several more in Atewa Forest.

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

We had good sightings of several in Nsuta Forest.

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



We had great views of several in Kakum NP and a up to a dozen daily in Ankasa NP.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

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

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

We had great views of two at Nsuta Forest, a further pair at Ankasa NP and several at Atewa.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes melanotis*

We had good views of a male in Mole NP.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythropis*

A small group of six was seen at the Nasia wetland.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Several were seen at the Nasia wetland and many more around Tono Dam.

Black-winged [Red] Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

We saw a stunning male in breeding plumage near Atewa.

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 female of this rare species at Nsuta Forest.

White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus*

We had several sightings in Kakum NP.

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 Forests.

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*

We had great views of two in the Tongo Hills.

Yellow-winged Pytilia *Pytilia hypogrammica*

We had good views of a male in Shai Hills.

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*

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

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

We had reasonable views of two near Ebekawopa.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*

Two birds were seen well at Ebekawopa.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We found this species in small numbers at Ebekawopa 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 and another at Ebekawopa.

Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta vinacea*

A few were seen very well in Mole NP.



- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*
A common bird in the north of the country, where we had daily sightings in Mole NP
- Lavender Waxbill** *Estrilda caerulescens*
We had good views of several in Mole NP.
- Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*
This stunning waxbill was seen at on several occasions in Kakum NP and peak numbers of a dozen in Mole NP.
- Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*
Up to twenty were seen near Tono Dam.
- Orange-breasted Waxbill** *Sporaeginthus subflavus*
We had superb views of two birds at the Nasia River wetland.
- (Black-faced) Quail-Finch** *Ortygospiza atricollis*
At least six birds were seen drinking at the Nasia River wetland.
Note: This species has recently been lumped by IOC from three species into one now called Quail-Finch, O. atricollis
- African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*
Up to ten were seen 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 daily in Kakum NP and in Atewa farmbush
Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes
- Magpie Mannikin** *Lonchura fringilloides*
We had great views of ten feeding on seeding bamboo at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*
Small numbers were seen in the far north near the White Volta at Sapeliga.
- Wilson's Indigobird** *Vidua wilsoni*
We had good views of a male in Mole NP.
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*
Small numbers were seen in Mole NP.
- Exclamatory Paradise Whydah** *Vidua interjecta*
We had good views of two males in full breeding plumage in Mole NP.
- Togo Paradise Whydah** *Vidua togoensis*
We had good views of one male in Mole NP.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

- Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
We had good views of many at Sakumo Lagoon and several at Tono Dam.
- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*
We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the trip.
- Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*
We enjoyed good scope views of several at Sakumo Lagoon and Winneba Plains.
- Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*
We had good views of four at Winneba Plains.
- Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*



We had good views of a few at Kalakpa.

Finches Fringillidae

White-rumped Seedeater *Serinus leucopygius*

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

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

Gosling's (Cinnamon-breasted) Bunting *Emberiza goslingi*

We found twenty five at Tongo Hills.

Note: IOC has recently split Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, E.tahapisi into two species and the one we observed is called Gosling's Bunting, E.goslingi.

Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi*

We had great views of a few in Mole NP.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded (24 species)

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

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

Olive Colobus *Colobus verus*

We heard a couple calling in Kakum NP.

Cheek-pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Olive Baboon *Papio papio*

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

Lowe's [Mona] Monkey *Cercopithecus lowei*

A few were seen at Kalakpa and several more from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Lesser White-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus petaurista*

One was seen at Shai Hills and five in Kakum NP.

Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey *Cercopithecus sabaesus*

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

Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*

We saw up to twenty in Mole NP.

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*

A large roost of thousands was seen near Tanoboase.

Hammer-headed Fruit Bat *Hypsignathus monstrosus*

At least six were seen flying and awesome views perched at dusk in Ankasa NP.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

We had great views of one on the Winneba Plains.



Hares Leporidae

African Savanna (Scrub) Hare *Lepus victoriae (saxatilis)*
We had good sightings of two in Mole NP.

Gambian Pouched Rat *Cricetomys gambianus*
One was seen at Kalakpa and another in Kakum NP.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*
We had great views of three in Mole NP.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*
We had good views of two at Kalakpa.

Slender-tailed Squirrel *Protoxerus aubinnii*
We had great views of several in Kakum NP.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus anerythrus*
One was seen well in Ankasa NP.

Kintampo Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus substriatus*
We had good views of one in Mole NP.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*
One was seen at Ebekawopa.

Green Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus poensis*
We saw two in Kakum NP and another in Mole NP.

Lorises Lorisidae

Potto *Perodicticus potto*
We had superb views of one in Nsuta Forest.

Galagos Galagidae

Senegal Galago *Galago senegalensis*
We had great views of three on consecutive night drives in Mole NP.

Demidoff's Galago *Galago demidovii*
We had brief views of one at Nsuta Forest where we heard several calling.

Anomalures Anomaluridae

Beecroft's Anomalure *Anomalurus beecrofti*
We had superb views of one during a night walk at Ankasa NP.

Genets and Civets Viverridae

Panther (Blotched) Genet *Genetta maculata (tigrina)*
We saw two on a night drive in Mole NP.

African Palm Civet *Nandinia binotata*
We heard one at Ebekawopa and another at Ankasa NP.

African Clawless Otter *Aonyx capensis*
One was seen swimming in the White Volta near Sapeliga.



Mongoose Herpestidae**Cusimanse***Crossarchus obscurus*

Three were seen fairly well in Ankasa NP.

Hyaenas Hyaenidae**Spotted Hyaena***Crocuta crocuta*

We heard one calling one evening in Mole NP.

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

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

Horned Ungulates Bovidae**Common Duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Bushbuck*Tragelaphus scriptus*

Up to a dozen were seen daily in Mole NP.

Kob*Kobus kob*

Five were seen in Shai Hills and up to thirty were seen daily in Mole NP.

Roan Antelope*Hippotragus equinus*

We had superb looks at a male in Mole NP.

Defassa Waterbuck*Kobus defassa*

We had fantastic views of three in Mole NP.

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

We heard this species in Kakum NP.

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

We had great views of two males in Mole NP.

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS**Red-headed Rock Agama***Agama agama*

We had good views of several at Shai Hills.

Tropical House Gecko*Hemidactylus mabouia*

We had good views of one at Ankasa NP.

Rainbow Skink*Mabuya margaritifer*

We had good views of two at Kalakpa.

Savanna Monitor*Varanus albigularis*

We had good views of two in Shai Hills.



Nile (Water) Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
We had good views of several in Ankasa NP.	
African Dwarf Crocodile	<i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i>
We had amazing scope views of one at a forest pond in Ankasa NP. A total of four were seen.	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Several were seen in Mole NP.	
West African Green Mamba	<i>Dendroaspis viridis</i>
We had good views of one at Ebekawopa.	
Boomslang	<i>Dispholidus typus</i>
We had good views of one in Ankasa NP.	
Green Bush Viper	<i>Atheris squamiger</i>
One was seen very well in Ankasa NP.	

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