



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Private Ghana Mega Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials *5th to 25th December 2012 (21 days)*



Nkulengu Rail by David Hoddinott

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

Trip Summary

Our private Ghana Mega trip total of 476 species in 21 days reflects the immense birding potential of this friendly African nation. Participants were treated to an astonishing 9 Upper Guinea endemics and an array of near-endemics and rare, elusive, localized and stunning species. These included the secretive and rarely seen White-breasted Guineafowl, magnificent White-necked Rockfowl, Ahanta Francolin, Hartlaub's Duck, White-crested Tiger Heron, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Congo Serpent Eagle, the scarce Long-tailed Hawk, African Finfoot, Nkulengu Rail, Forbes's Plover, 2 vagrants in the form of American Golden Plover and White-rumped Sandpiper, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Black-collared Lovebird, Great Blue Turaco, Black-throated Coucal, accipiter like Thick-billed and splendid Yellow-throated Cuckoos, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo (amongst 15 cuckoo species!), Fraser's and Akun Eagle-Owls, Black-shouldered and Standard-winged Nightjars, Black Spinetail, Blue-bellied Roller, Chocolate-backed and White-bellied Kingfishers, Blue-moustached, Black and Rosy Bee-eaters, Forest Wood Hoopoe, all 11 species of possible hornbills, 12 species of barbet, Yellow-footed Honeyguide,



White-crested Tiger Heron by David Hoddinott

African Piculet, Little Green, Fire-bellied and Gabon Woodpeckers, Rufous-sided Broadbill displaying, Fernando Po Batis, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Forest Penduline Tit, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Baumann's Olive Greenbul, White-bibbed Swallow, Sharpe's Apalis, Oriole Warbler, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Capuchin Babbler, both hylia species, Copper-tailed Starling, White-fronted Black Chat, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Reichenbach's, Buff-throated, Johanna's and Carmelite Sunbirds, Maxwell's and Preuss's Weavers, Red-fronted Antpecker, Yellow-winged Pytilia, Black-bellied Seedcracker, Western Bluebill, Black-faced Firefinch,

Lavender Waxbill, Magpie Mannikin and Exclamatory and Togo Paradise Whydahs, amongst many others. Some of the mammalian highlights included fantastic views of Olive Colobus, Lesser White-nosed Monkey, White-bellied Hedgehog and Beecroft's Anomalure. One lucky participant even observed the shy and elusive Bongo! We also observed some interesting reptiles including the rare African Dwarf Crocodile.

For more highlights and a detailed report, read on.....

Our tour started off with an early morning visit to Shai Hills Resource Reserve. Maximising the cool early hours of the day we quickly found a covey of very vocal Stone Partridge, superb African Cuckoo-Hawk – the first of a fabulous five birds seen during the tour, a splendid Beaudouin's Snake Eagle flying right overhead, Booted Eagle, Grey Kestrel, spectacular Blue-bellied Roller, Black Scimitarbill, Vieillot's Barbet, gaudy Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Flappet Lark, displaying Croaking Cisticola, shy Blackcap Babbler, White-crowned Cliff Chat, migrant Spotted and European Pied Flycatchers, Yellow-



winged Pytilia and Yellow-throated Longclaw. The surprise of the morning was seeing a startled African Scops Owl, which we flushed by chance during our search for African Barred Owlet of the localised sub-species *etchecopari*, recently considered a full species by some authorities. After some patience and perseverance we finally managed to locate the owl, which showed remarkably well.

En route back to Accra for lunch, we stopped at a small pond near the roadside where we noticed two Vitelline Masked Weaver nests and, after a little while, located a male and female (confirming its presence in southern Ghana, not seen here since the 19th Century!). After enjoying a good lunch and a break during the heat of the day, we then headed down to the fabulous Sakamono Lagoon made up of extensive reedbeds, grasslands and nutrient-rich estuary. In no time at all we were enjoying a nice trio of migrant ducks, namely Northern Pintail, Garganey and Eurasian Teal, along with Glossy Ibis (scarce in Ghana), dark morph Western Reef Heron, Western Marsh Harrier quartering over the reedbeds, and a number of waders including Common Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Collared Pratincole and two vagrants – an American Golden Plover and White-rumped Sandpiper! Well chuffed with a great day's birding and a fabulous 128 species recorded, we headed back to our comfortable hotel where we enjoyed dinner and a good night's rest.

Next we were off to Kakum National Park, the most famous reserve in the country, to enjoy our first lowland rainforest birding of the trip. *En route* we stopped at the Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba where we found numerous waders and terns. Highlights here included great views of several Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Knot, White-fronted Plover and a large flock of Royal Terns. At the Winneba plains we found a pair of Grey-headed Bushshrikes making their mournful call and a confiding Melodious Warbler. A quick stop at a nearby pond saw us watching the lovely African Pygmy Goose before reaching Cape Coast for lunch, where we enjoyed some fresh fish & chips. The late afternoon saw us visiting a nearby forest reserve where we watched a dashing African Hobby, Black-collared Lovebirds darting overhead, Black Cuckoo calling constantly, Forest Wood Hoopoe probing along the branches, and a splendid male Rufous-sided Broadbill displaying.



Tessmann's Flycatcher by David Hoddinott

Two full days in Kakum National Park saw us enjoying many highlights, including a good deal of time on the famous 350m (1200 ft) long canopy walkway. Our time on the walkway was particularly memorable as we encountered one bird party after another.

There were times when there was so much activity that one didn't really know quite where to look first! We also visited different sections of the park, which contained a slightly different mix of species due to the varied habitat, and this ensured that we were continually adding to our ever growing list. Some of the highlights during our stay here included Palmnut Vulture, Red-chested Goshawk perched right next to the road, Red-necked Buzzard, rare Tessmann's Flycatcher, Blue-headed Wood Dove, shy Black-throated Coucal, Blue Malkoha, resplendent African Emerald Cuckoo, White-crested Hornbill perched on the canopy walkway showing off his long tail feathers, Brown-cheeked and huge Black-casqued



Wattled Hornbills, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Willcock's Honeyguide, tiny African Piculet, Gabon and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, a pair of Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Fernando Po Batis, splendid male Sabine's Puffback, Blue Cuckooshrike, rare Forest Penduline Tit, Spotted Greenbul, Sharp's Apalis, Yellow-browed and Olive-green Camaropteras, beautiful Violet-backed Hyliota, Tiny and Johanna's Sunbirds, and our only Preuss's Weaver of the trip.

Some time spent in nearby secondary growth saw us finding the highly elusive Ahanta Francolin, two male Puvel's Illadopsis having a dispute at the roadside, the seldom encountered Lowland Sooty Boubou, cracking Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, tiny Tit Hylia (the smallest bird in Africa), a trio of the magnificent Black Bee-eater, and Western Bluebill. A break from the forest saw us stopping at the Pra River where we located several Rock Pratincoles, White-crowned Lapwing, stunning White-bibbed Swallow and a small colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallow nearby.

Before leaving for Nsuta we made an early morning visit to a local forest reserve and were rewarded with stunning views of the very secretive Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, perched Rosy Bee-eaters, confiding Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, striking Red-billed Helmetshrike, Fanti Sawwing, Finsch's Rufous Thrush and another rarely seen species, Olivaceous Flycatcher.



Fraser's Eagle-Owl by David Hoddinott

Travelling south west to the seldom visited Nsuta Forest, we were delighted to find a mouth-watering array of highly sought-after species including Forest Francolin, Spot-breasted Ibis (seen perched), Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, majestic Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, African Crowned Eagle displaying, Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, 8 Black-collared Lovebirds seen perched and scoped for ten minutes, Red-fronted Parrot, Great Blue Turaco, much wanted Yellow-throated Cuckoo, Akun Eagle-Owl, Black Spinetail, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Black Dwarf Hornbill, White-crested Hornbill with outstretched wings much like a darter and thereby trying

to dry its feathers after a thunderstorm, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Spotted Honeyguide, Little Green and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, stunning Black-capped Apalis, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Copper-tailed Starling, White-tailed Alethe, Ussher's Flycatcher and splendid male Buff-throated Sunbird. On a night walk we found a superb Beecroft's Anomalure (large flying squirrel).

From Nsuta we travelled still further west to the fabulous Ankasa National Park situated on the Ivory Coast border. Working the network of trails in this primary lowland rainforest we recorded a great selection of specials including Hartlaub's Duck, a relaxed White-crested Tiger Heron, African Finfoot, Nkulengu Rail at its roost, Fraser's Eagle-Owl during the day (see above photo), a pair of Chocolate-backed Kingfisher carrying food, White-bellied Kingfisher, raucous Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, localised Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Rufous-winged and Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Forest Robin, Cassin's Flycatcher and a splendid pair of Red-fronted Antpecker.



En route back to Kakum we stopped at Brenu Beach where a female Greater Painted Snipe showed particularly well and Marsh Tchagra called from a prominent perch.

From Kakum we travelled to Kumasi and stopped at Bonkro Forest where we enjoyed a memorable sighting of two bizarre looking White-necked Rockfowl. One of the birds was content enough to preen for some time whilst we observed its bizarre head shape, which looks somewhat prehistoric to say the least!

At the nearby Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary we had brief views of Long-tailed Hawk, a lovely pair of Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, a superb Yellow-footed Honeyguide and a flock of Magpie Mannikins that were feeding on seeding bamboo.

Leaving the rainforest for a while we travelled north to the guinea savanna woodland of Mole National Park. Over the next two days we explored the network of roads, trails and habitats including wetlands, rocky escarpment, bovals (natural clearings in the woodland) and extensive Upper Guinea savanna. We enjoyed many memorable sightings here including Saddle-billed Stork, a female White-headed Vulture, soaring Bateleur, a hunting Ovambo Sparrowhawk, African Hawk-Eagle, Spotted Thick-knee, Forbes's Plover, Green Sandpiper, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Red-headed Lovebird, Senegal Parrot, Violet Turaco, African Cuckoo, Northern White-faced Owl, Greyish Eagle-Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Standard-winged Nightjar, Narina Trogon, Abyssinian Roller, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Bearded Barbet, Sun Lark, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, rare Rufous-rumped Lark, elusive Pied-winged Swallow, cryptic Spotted Creeper, White-fronted Black Chat, Pygmy Sunbird, Red-winged Pytilia, Lavender Waxbill and Exclamatory Paradise Whydah in full breeding plumage!



Standard-winged Nightjar by David Hoddinott

As part of the park management they perform block burning in different areas each year, and these fires remove old moribund grasses which no longer contain much nutrition for the animals. With the next rains new growth emerges and this gives the herbivores good grazing and, at the same time, allows some of the smaller plants, which would otherwise be smothered, to flourish. We happened to witness one of these block burns taking place and it was an incredible scene that unfolded. First, at least five Abyssinian Rollers were in attendance at the fire, only a couple of minutes after the initial wafts of smoke hit the air. Next, a mere five minutes later, a Northern Carmine Bee-eater appeared and soon there were a dozen. We'd been in the park for two days at that point and hadn't seen one until this fire. Within twenty minutes, a rare Rufous-rumped Lark was seen displaying near the fire and several Grasshopper Buzzards gathered. There seemed to be birds everywhere and they were all feasting on the insects fleeing from the fire. Another species we had struggled to find was White-fronted Black Chat and we found two pairs in this area just a few hours after the fire.



Having seen virtually all our targets in two days in Mole National Park, we decided to leave a day early so that we could enjoy more time at Atewa Forest. This worked out well as Atewa was quite dry and we needed the extra time to seek out those shy and elusive forest skulkers.

At Atewa we enjoyed a number of great sightings including a migrant European Honey Buzzard flying over, Levaillant's Cuckoo, several stunning Blue-moustached Bee-eaters, Yellow-billed Barbet at its nest, a family group of Dusky Tit, Green-tailed Bristlebill attending an ant swarm, Western Bearded Greenbul, a flock of Square-tailed Saw-wings, a confiding Blackcap Illadopsis, Copper-tailed Starling, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher, Little Grey Flycatcher, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Maxwell's Black Weaver and a splendid male Black-winged Red Bishop in the farmbush.

From Atewa we then travelled to the gallery forest of Kalakpa Resources Reserve. *En route* we stopped at a small but very productive roadside wetland where we were treated to some superb sightings. These included two striking male Little Bitterns, a Eurasian Hobby flying overhead, sought-after Allen's Gallinule, a lovely adult Great-spotted Cuckoo and dozens of Thick-billed Weavers.

That evening at Kalakpa we did a night walk and enjoyed superb views of Black-shouldered



Rufous-rumped Lark by David Hoddinott

Nightjar. Birding in the gallery forest and surrounding woodland at Kalakpa can be very slow and frustrating at times and so I was rather anxious as to what we may see. You can imagine our excitement as, shortly after arriving, we quickly picked up a pair of Brown-necked Parrots that gave great scope views; next was an adult Thick-billed Cuckoo displaying nearby. Wow – what a start! And then, shortly afterwards a Congo Serpent Eagle began to call in the gallery forest and, after trekking through the forest to get closer, we happened to stop in the perfect spot where it was sighted eyeing us from the sub-canopy, allowing all of us to enjoy fantastic scope views. On our way out we then heard Baumann's Olive Greenbul, a particularly low density species which is also

shy and retiring. After manoeuvring our way into a good position we managed to finally obtain fabulous views. What a day it had been, with the only target we had not managed to find here being the highly elusive Capuchin Babbler. The next day happened to be Christmas Day and so we were all hoping for a nice present in the form of this secretive species. After a lengthy walk we had all but given up when suddenly we heard the faint whistles of this skulker. Finding a suitable place from where to view them we managed to entice a pair out and they gave good views for all. Delighted with our success, we then made our way back to Accra, stopping at Sakamono Lagoon one last time. It was interesting to see the changes after having visited the estuary three weeks earlier. There was a notable increase in the number of waders and migrants and we found several Black Herons and a large flock of twenty five Pied Avocets (rare in Ghana).



This ended our fabulous adventure, after which we headed to our hotel near the airport to freshen up before enjoying a nice final dinner. Thereafter we made our way to the airport to catch our International flights home.

Thanks must go to a wonderful group of enthusiastic 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 3.1 List of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Generated in 2012. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Brackets indicate Clements [omissions] and (changes)

Total species recorded: 476 (461 seen and 15 heard)

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

Guineafowl Numididae

White-breasted Guineafowl (E) *Agelastes meleagrides*

John was very lucky to see three birds scuttle across the road in Ankasa National Park.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

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

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*

We had excellent sightings near Shai Hills and 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 at Nsuta Forest and again in Ankasa NP, 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 but after a great deal of effort and perseverance we were rewarded with good views of one near Kakum NP.

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 Sakamono Lagoon.

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*

A superb adult was seen in Ankasa NP.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*

We had superb scope views of four at a small wetland en route to Kakum NP.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

We had good views of three females and a male at Sakamono Lagoon.



Garganey*Anas querquedula*

We had great scope views of two at Sakamono Lagoon.

Eurasian Teal*Anas crecca*

We had superb views of one at Sakamono Lagoon.

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

We had good views of four at a river just north of Cape Coast.

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

We had good sightings of two 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**Spot-breasted Ibis***Bostrychia rara*

We had splendid views of a pair at Nsuta Forest.

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

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

Glossy Ibis*Plegadis falcinellus*

We enjoyed great scope views of two at Sakamono 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 an adult in Ankasa NP. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

Little Bittern*Ixobrychus minutus*

We had superb views of two adults at a small wetland en route to Ho.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

We had multiple sightings including several at a small wetland en route to Ho and several more in Mole NP.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

Seen in small numbers at several sites including in Mole NP

[Western] Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on almost everyday 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 thirty at Sakamono Lagoon.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

Small numbers were seen in the grasslands in the north and a single adult bird at Sakamono Lagoon.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Two were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.



Great Egret*Ardea alba*

Three were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We had good scope views of two at Sakamono Lagoon and one at the Black Volta River.

Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

We enjoyed watching eight of these smart birds at Sakamono Lagoon.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

A peak count was twenty at Sakamono Lagoon.

Western Reef Heron*Egretta gularis*

Recorded at Sakamono Lagoon, where we had good scope views of two

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 six at Sakamono Lagoon.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles Accipitridae**African Cuckoo-Hawk***Aviceda cuculoides*

We had a fabulous four sightings during the tour with a splendid adult scoped at Atewa farmbrush.

European Honey Buzzard*Pernis apivorus*

Our first sighting was of one from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP, another seen at Nsuta Forest and two over Atewa Forest.

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite*Elanus caeruleus*

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

Yellow-billed Kite*Milvus aegyptius*

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

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

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

We had good views of one from the Kakum Canopy walkway, two in Mole NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.

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 three 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 a female in Mole NP.

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle*Circaetus beaudouini*

We had a great sighting of one at Shai Hills NP; it is an unusual record in the southern part of the country.



- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*
A bird that is mostly seen in larger parks and reserves, we had daily sightings in Mole NP.
- Congo Serpent Eagle** *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*
We had magnificent prolonged scope views of one at Kalakpa.
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
We had several sightings including three during the drive from Mole to Koforidua and a further two at Sakamono Lagoon.
- 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
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*
Two were seen en route to Mole NP.
- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*
One seen in Shai Hills NP and another en route from Kumasi to Mole NP.
- Red-chested Goshawk** *Accipiter toussenelii*
Our first sighting was of a superb adult perched next to the road, near Antwikwaa and several further sightings including one displaying above Atewa Forest.
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 Shai Hills, Accra and Mole NP.
- Red-thighed Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter erythropus*
We had good views of two at Nsuta Forest including one perched and our final sighting was of one at Aboabo in Kakum NP.
- Ovambo Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter ovampensis*
We had superb scope views of one in Mole NP. It was later seen hunting passerines near a waterhole. This is a low density species throughout its range and always a pleasure to see.
- Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchus macrourus*
We had a brief sighting of one at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.
- Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
Six were seen during the drive from Ho to Accra with scattered sightings elsewhere including in Mole NP.
- Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*
Seen in and around Mole NP. Peak numbers of forty were seen during the drive from Kumasi to Mole.
- Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis*
Seen in Shai Hills, Antwikwaa and Mole NP with scattered sightings elsewhere. A total of twenty three birds were seen throughout the trip.
- Cassin's Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila africana*
We had magnificent scope views of an adult at Nsuta Forest.
- African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*
We had splendid views of one in Mole NP and another at Kalakpa.
- Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*
We had superb views of one at Shai Hills.
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*
We had good views of one during the drive from Kumasi to Mole.
- Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
We had a good sighting of a pair displaying over Nsuta Forest and one displaying over Atewa Forest.



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

Small numbers were seen near Shai Hills and Kalakpa.

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.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

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

Eurasian Hobby*Falco subbuteo*

We had great views of one flying near a small wetland, during the drive from Atewa to Ho.

African Hobby*Falco cuvierii*

We had good scope views of one during the drive from Accra to Kakum and another flying over the forest at Ebekawopa.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

Our first sighting was of a pair en route from Accra to Kakum with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

Two were seen at Shai Hills.

Bustards Otididae**Black-bellied Bustard***Lissotis melanogaster*

We had great views of a male at Kalakpa.

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

We heard many calling throughout the forest zone and especially in Kakum NP.

Finfoots Heliornithidae**African Finfoot***Podica senegalensis*

Some of us were fortunate to have good views of a male and female in Ankasa NP.

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

We heard two pairs calling at Ankasa NP and were extremely fortunate to find a pair with juvenile at their roost site.

Black Crane*Amaurornis flavirostra*

Our first sightings were of two at a small wetland near Shai Hills. Later we found a further three at a wetland near Kakum NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.

African Swamphen*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had great scope views of an adult with chick at Sakamono Lagoon.

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

Allen's Gallinule*Porphyrio alleni*

We had wonderful views of two at a small wetland en route from Atewa to Ho.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

We found four at a wetland near Cape Coast and a further three at a wetland during the drive from Atewa to Ho.



Thick-knees Burhinidae

- Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis*
A pair was seen at Brenu Beach and a further four in Mole NP.
- Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*
We had great views of four in Mole NP.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae

- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
Highest count of three hundred at Sakamono Lagoon and a further fifty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba

Plovers Charadriidae

- Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus*
Eight were seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further one in Mole NP.
- White-crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus albiceps*
One of these smart waders was seen at the Pra River.
- [African] Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*
Our first sighting was of three en route from Accra to Kakum and peak numbers of eighteen in Mole.
- American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*
We had great scope views of one at Sakamono Lagoon. A rare vagrant
- Grey (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
Three were seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further fifty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*
We had superb sightings at Sakamono Lagoon where up to eighty were seen and a further fifty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*
We found twenty at Sakamono Lagoon.
- Forbes's Plover** *Charadrius forbesi*
We were particularly fortunate to find seven at a boval in Mole NP.
- White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*
A splendid five birds were seen at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Painted Snipes Rostratulidae

- Greater Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*
A magnificent female was seen very well near Brenu Beach.

Jacanas Jacanidae

- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*
We saw these 'lily-trotters' at virtually all waterbodies with floating vegetation. Our highest count was of six at a small wetland near Cape Coast.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

- Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
We had good views of three at Sakamono Lagoon and a further three in Mole NP.
- Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*



We had great views of ten at Sakamono 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 Sakamono Lagoon and a further fifty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

We had great views of one at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba and another at Sakamono Lagoon.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A splendid eight birds were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

At least two were seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further four at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

We saw six birds at Sakamono Lagoon and a further two at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

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

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Two were seen in Mole NP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

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

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

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

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Four were seen at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

At least eighty were seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further forty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

We had great scope views of one at Sakamono Lagoon. A rare vagrant to Ghana

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Up to fifty were seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further one hundred at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

We had good views of two at Sakamono Lagoon.

Coursers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

We found twenty at Sakamono Lagoon.

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*

We found four on the Pra River near Twifo Praso.



Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

One was seen at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

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

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

We had good views of two at Sakamono Lagoon and twenty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Skuas Stercorariidae

Pomarine Skua/Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus or S.parasiticus*

At least two “skuas” were seen flying off Cape Coast, they were too distant to identify to species level but certainly one of these two species.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*

We enjoyed great views of six in Mole NP.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Recorded at many urban centres throughout the country

Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta*

We heard two calling at Bonkro Forest and enjoyed great scope views of one.

[Western] Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*

We had superb scope views of two at Nsuta Forest and heard others in Ankasa NP and at Atewa Forest.

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 Shai Hills and 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 from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP and another at Atewa.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

One was seen during the drive from Kumasi to Mole.

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*

Up to twenty seen daily in Mole NP.

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*



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

Parrots Psittacidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Our first sighting was of one in Shai Hills and later up to twenty were seen daily in Mole NP.

Red-headed Lovebird

Agapornis pullarius

Two were seen briefly flying over and another perched in Mole NP.

Black-collared Lovebird

Agapornis swindernianus

We had good flight views of two at Ebekawopa and later fabulous scope views of eight at Nsuta Forest.

Grey Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

One was seen flying over Ebekawopa Forest and another in Ankasa NP. So nice to see in the wild rather than as a cage bird!

[Brown-necked Parrot]

Poicephalus fuscicollis

We had very brief sightings of five at Nsuta Forest and later enjoyed fantastic scope views 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 gulielmi

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 six on one day in Mole NP

Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

We had wonderful views of two in Nsuta Forest.

Guinea Turaco

Tauraco persa

We had great sightings of one at each of the following sites; Winneba Plains, Antwikwaa and Nsuta Forest.

Yellow-billed Turaco

Tauraco macrorhynchus

A noisy species heard all over the forest areas, with good sightings from the canopy walkway.

Violet Turaco

Musophaga violacea

This stunning species was seen en route to and in Mole NP, including wonderful scope views.

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 near Antwikwaa and another seen at Nsuta Forest.

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

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

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

A pair was seen exceptionally well near Abrafo, Kakum NP and another near the Volta Dam en route to Ho.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)

Ceuthmochares aereus

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



- Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*
We had magnificent views of an adult near a small wetland en route from Atewa to Ho.
- Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*
One was seen near Bonkro Forest and a further two at Atewa Forest.
- Thick-billed Cuckoo** *Pachycoccyx audeberti*
We enjoyed a magnificent sighting of this elusive species flying over Atewa farmbush and two superb sightings at Kalakpa.
- Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*
We had superb sightings at Antwikwaa and Aboabo.
- Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*
We had great views of males from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.
- Yellow-throated Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*
We had absolutely stunning scope views of this rare beauty in Nsuta 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 another at Bonkro Forest.
- Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx olivinus*
We had fantastic views of this shy and elusive species at Ebekawopa Forest.
- Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*
We had great views of two at Ebekawopa Forest.
Note: The birds we observed are of the distinctive rufous-chested, West African, gabonensis subspecies.
- Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*
We heard this species calling in Atewa Forest.
- African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*
We found two in Mole NP.

Owls Strigidae

- African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*
We had superb views of one at Shai Hills.
- Northern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis leucotis*
We enjoyed stunning views of one in Mole NP.
- Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*
We saw one briefly in Mole NP.
- Fraser's Eagle-Owl** *Bubo poensis*
We had a great sighting of one in the early evening at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.
- Akun Eagle-Owl** *Bubo leucostictus*
We had cracking views of one in Nsuta Forest, another rarely seen species.
- African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii*
We heard this species calling in Ankasa NP and again at Kalakpa.
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*
We enjoyed several sightings in Mole NP.
- Red-chested Owlet** *Glaucidium tephronotum*
We heard one calling at Atewa Forest.
- African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium capense*
We had great views of one at Shai Hills.



Nightjars Caprimulgidae

- Brown Nightjar** *Veles binotatus*
We heard it calling in Kakum NP and at Atewa Forest.
- Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*
We had good views of one at Kalakpa.
- Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus*
We had great views of at least ten in Mole NP and a further two at Kalakpa.
- Standard-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx longipennis*
We had stunning views of six males and two 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 Nsuta Forest.
- Black Spinetail** *Telacanthura melanopygia*
We had great views of two at Antwikwaa.
- Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini*
We had great sightings of four at Ebekawopa Forest and up to six daily at Ankasa NP.
- Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini*
Small numbers were seen in Kakum NP and at Bonkro Forest. Our best sighting was of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
Seen almost daily throughout the trip
- Common Swift** *Apus apus*
Up to eighty were seen daily over the forest in Kakum NP.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Seen at many bridges in the country! Our sightings included some really large flocks.

Trogon Trogonidae

- Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*
We had good scope views of a male at Bonkro Forest and another in Mole NP. We also heard this species at Atewa and Kalakpa.

Rollers Coraciidae

- Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller** *Coracias naevius*
We observed two near Shai Hills.
- Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*
We had daily sightings of this stunner in and around Mole NP.
- Blue-bellied Roller** *Coracias cyanogaster*
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** *Eurystomus gularis*
We had several great sightings in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*
We had good sightings of two in Mole NP.



Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*
We had great looks of one at Nsuta Forest and a further pair carrying food in Ankasa NP.
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*
Up to four were seen daily in Mole NP. A stunning species!
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*
We enjoyed good views of several in Mole NP.
- Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*
We had wonderful scope views of one in Ankasa NP.
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*
A common species seen in small numbers almost daily
- African Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ispidina lecontei*
We had superb views of one in Ankasa NP.
- African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*
We had good views of one at Antwikwaa and another at Ebekawopa with a final sighting of one in Mole NP.
- White-bellied Kingfisher** *Alcedo leucogaster*
We had awesome scope views of one at a forest pond 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.
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
This, the world's most widespread kingfisher, was seen at various wetlands on tour.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

- Blue-moustached (Blue-headed) Bee-eater** *Merops mentalis*
We had cracking views of this beauty 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 near Kakum NP with further sightings of one at Nsuta Forest and finally a pair in Ankasa NP. What a jewel!
- Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*
We had wonderful views of three birds in Mole NP.
- Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*
A pair was seen very well near the Pra River.
- Red-throated Bee-eater** *Merops bulocki*
We found good numbers (40+) 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 a further thirty perched in some dead trees at Ebekawopa.
- Northern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicus*
We enjoyed a wonderful sighting of at least sixteen catching insects around a fire in Mole NP.



Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

- Forest Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*
We had great scope views of one at Ebekawopa and a further three at Bonkro Forest.
- White-headed Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei*
We observed a lovely pair at Nsuta Forest.
- Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*
We had sightings at Shai Hills, Mole NP and Kalakpa.
- Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*
Our first sighting was of one at Shai Hills with further 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 up to four daily in Mole NP.
- Black Dwarf Hornbill** *Tockus hartlaubi*
We had great views of three of this rare species in Nsuta Forest.
- Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill** *Tockus camurus*
We enjoyed stunning views of one at Ebekawopa.
- White-crested Hornbill** *Tropicranus albocristatus*
This funky-looking hornbill was seen very well from the Kakum canopy walkway with a further sighting of one drying itself after a torrential downpour at Nsuta Forest.
Note: Clements places this in the genus Tockus
- Piping Hornbill** *Bycanistes fistulator*
Seen at Ebekawopa, Kakum and at Nsuta Forest.
- Brown-cheeked Hornbill (E)** *Bycanistes cylindricus*
We enjoyed good views in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.
- Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill** *Ceratogymna atrata*
We had great views of three of this impressive species in Kakum NP and a further female at Nsuta Forest.
- 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 six 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.

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 two at Winneba Plains.

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 three at Shai Hills and two in Mole NP.

Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius*

Up to four of this large species were seen in Mole NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

We had magnificent views of this rather shy species at Bonkro Forest and another at Atewa.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*

We had great views of one at Nsuta Forest and another at Bonkro Forest.

Yellow-footed Honeyguide *Melignomon eisentrauti*

We had superb views of one at Aboabo and amazingly another at Bobiri. A rare bird indeed!

Willcock's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksi*

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

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

We heard this species calling in Mole NP.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We had good views of an adult and juvenile in Mole NP. This is the only species known to actually guide mammals to a beehive.

Woodpeckers Picidae

African Piculet *Sasia africana*

We enjoyed cracking views of this cute bird from the Kakum canopy walkway and another at Aboabo.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera*

We had good views of three in Mole NP

Little Green Woodpecker (NE) *Campethera maculosa*

We had superb scope views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa*

We had a brief sighting of this elusive forest woodpecker in Nsuta Forest and later enjoyed good views of two at Bonkro Forest and another at Atewa.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

We heard one in Shai Hills.

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



We enjoyed a superb sighting of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and another in Ankasa NP.

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 one at Antwikwaa and a further pair at Nsuta Forest.

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

We enjoyed good views of one 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.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

We had wonderful views of two at Bonkro Forest.

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

We found a splendid pair at Atwikwaa Forest.

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*

First seen at Shai Hills with a further sighting in Mole NP

Fernando Po Batis *Batis poensis*

We had superb views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further one in Bonkro Forest.

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 a pair in Shai Hills and another pair in Mole NP.

West African (Chestnut) Wattle-eye *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 good views of a male near Kakum NP.

Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

We had great views of two at Kalakpa.

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

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

We enjoyed magnificent views of two at Ebekawopa and a further three in Nsuta Forest

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

We had great views of a pair at Winneba Plains.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

We had good views of one en route from Accra to Cape Coast.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*



We had superb scope views of a female near Brenu Beach.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

We had excellent views of two near Kakum NP.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

We enjoyed several sightings including two in Mole NP.

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabini*

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

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

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

[Lowland] Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*

We had good but brief views of one near Abrafo, Kakum NP.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

We had superb views of one near Ho.

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*

Two were seen in Mole NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*

This stunning species was seen particularly well on the canopy walkway and further sightings at Bonkro Forest.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

Our first sighting was of a splendid male in Mole NP. A further pair was seen near Ho. Another good-looking bird!

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina*

We found a pair at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. 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

Emin's Shrike *Lanius gubernator*

John was very lucky to see one of these very rare birds in 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.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

We observed two in Mole NP and another at Kalakpa.

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 Forest.

Drongos Dicruridae

Shining Drongo

Dicrurus atripennis

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa and another at Nsuta Forest with our final and best sighting of one on a nest at Atewa.

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

Up to six were seen daily in Mole NP.

Velvet-mantled Drongo

Dicrurus modestus

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

Monarchs Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher

Trochocercus nitens

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

Red-bellied (Black-headed) Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone rufiventer

A common bird of the forest interior, with 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 sixteen at Shai Hills.

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 the many highlights of the tour! We had very good sightings of two birds bounding through the undergrowth and over boulders in Bonkro Forest. One even sat preening for several minutes giving outstanding views.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher

Elminia longicauda

We heard one in Mole NP.

Tits, Chickadees Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit

Parus guineensis

We had brief sightings of one in Shai Hills 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

Forest Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons*
We had good views of one from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Nicator Nicatoridae

Western (Yellow-spotted) Nicator *Nicator chloris*
We had good views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Larks Alaudidae

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*
We had good views of two at Shai Hills, another at the Winneba Plains and one en route to Mole NP.

Rufous-rumped Lark *Pinarocorys erythropygia*
We had fantastic views of a pair, including a male displaying south of Mole NP and another pair in Mole NP. This is a rare species and was another major highlight of the trip!

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*
We had good views of eight in Mole NP.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*
Two were seen south of Mole NP.

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 and at Atewa.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*
We had good views of two from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris*
We found one bird in Kakum NP.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (Bulbul) *Eurillas latirostris*
A species which can be difficult to see, we saw a single bird in Kakum NP and another at Atewa.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*
We had great views of one at Ebekawopa and a further two at Bonkro 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*
Two were seen from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further two in Nsuta Forest and finally three in Ankasa NP.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*
We had good sightings of one at Winneba Plains and another at Antwikwaa.

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*
We heard this species in Shai Hills.

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 one 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.

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

This species was seen in Atewa Forest.

Green-tailed Bristlebill (E) *Bleda eximius*

We had superb views of one at Atewa Forest.

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus*

Many heard in Kakum NP and one seen in Ankasa Forest.

Western Bearded Greenbul (NE) *Criniger barbatus*

One was seen briefly in Ankasa Forest and later we enjoyed superb views of one in Atewa Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

One seen at Ebekawopa and a few in Ankasa NP and at Atewa

Yellow-bearded Greenbul (E) *Criniger olivaceus*

We enjoyed fantastic views of one in Ankasa NP

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens*

One was seen in Ankasa NP and later we had fantastic views of seven at Atewa Forest.

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*

We had superb views of six at Ebekawopa.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

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

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*

A dozen were recorded en route from Kumasi to Mole NP.

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 six in Mole NP.

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

We found one at Twifo Praso.

Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*

We had stunning views of three birds in Mole NP.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

We observed fifteen near Kakum NP.

Preuss's [Cliff] Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*

We had good views of twenty five near the Pra River.

Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettiidae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocercus mccallii*

We had good views of four on the Kakum canopy walkway, a couple in Bonkro Forest and a further one at Atewa.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Small numbers were seen almost daily in Kakum NP.



Tit Hylia*Pholidornis rushiae*

We had good views of a pair near Kakum NP, a further two were seen at Nsuta Forest.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**Wood Warbler***Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

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

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae**Melodious Warbler***Hippolais polyglotta*

We had great views of one on the Winneba Plains and another in Mole NP.

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

Our first sighting was of one near Kakum NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Singing Cisticola*Cisticola cantans*

We had good views of one at Shai Hills.

Whistling Cisticola*Cisticola lateralis*

We had great views of a single bird at Atewa.

Winding Cisticola*Cisticola marginatus*

We had good views of three at a small wetland near Cape Coast.

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

Croaking Cisticola*Cisticola natalensis*

We enjoyed great views of six at Shai Hills and a further two on the Winneba Plains.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola*Cisticola brachypterus*

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

Rufous Cisticola*Cisticola rufus*

We had good views of several in Mole NP.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

We found several at Sakamono Lagoon.

Black-backed (-necked) Cisticola*Cisticola eximius*

One of these range-restricted birds was seen at Sakamono Lagoon.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

Fairly common in rank vegetation, we had a good sighting of one near Kakum NP.

Red-winged Warbler*Heliolais erythropterus*

We enjoyed good views of a male at Kalakpa.

Black-capped Apalis*Apalis nigriceps*

We had superb scope views of one at Nsuta Forest, another at Ankasa NP and several at Atewa Forest.

Sharpe's Apalis (E)*Apalis sharpii*

We had great views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further one at Atewa Forest.

Oriole Warbler*Hypergerus atriceps*

We had brief sightings of one at Shai Hills and another in Mole NP.

Grey-backed Camaroptera*Camaroptera brevicauda*

A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had good sightings in Mole NP.

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



Yellow-browed Camaroptera*Camaroptera superciliaris*

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

Olive-green Camaroptera*Camaroptera chloronota*

We had good views of one at Atwikwaa and another near Kakum NP.

Senegal Eremomela*Eremomela pusilla*

Common in the savanna areas, two were seen at Shai Hills and a further six in Mole NP.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela*Eremomela badiceps*

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 in Mole NP.

Kemp's Longbill (NE)*Macrosphenus kempii*

Our first sighting was of a juvenile at Nsuta Forest and later we enjoyed superb views of an adult at Aboabo.

Grey Longbill*Macrosphenus concolor*

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

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

We had fair views of one at Shai Hills.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

Single birds were seen daily in Ankasa NP.

Lemon-bellied Crombec*Sylvietta denti*

We had good views of one at Nsuta Forest.

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

After patience and persistence we were rewarded with great views of one at Atewa Forest.

Rufous-winged Illadopsis (E)*Illadopsis rufescens*

We had amazing views of one of these upper guinea endemics in Ankasa NP.

Puvel's Illadopsis*Illadopsis puveli*

A confiding pair gave cracking views near Kakum NP.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis*Illadopsis rufipennis*

We had good views of a couple on two occasions 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 three at Shai Hills.

Brown Babbler*Turdoides plebejus*

We had superb views of five in Mole NP.

Capuchin Babbler*Phyllanthus atripennis*

We had splendid views of a pair of this ultra skulker at Kalakpa. This was a great Christmas present! It was extremely satisfying that every participant got to see this species and see it well. Certainly another great trip highlight!

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

One was seen at Shai Hills and a further three at a small wetland en route from Atewa to Ho.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*
A pair was seen at Antwikwaa and a further pair in Mole NP.

Hyliotas Hyliotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*
One was seen in Mole NP and later we had excellent views of a pair in a mixed species flock at Kalakpa.

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

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*
We had good views of a pair in Mole NP.

Lesser Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
We had good views of three in Mole NP.

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

Splendid (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*
This large glossy starling was seen at all the forested sites, with highest numbers of twenty at Nsuta Forest.

Purple (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*
Small numbers were seen in Mole NP.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*
Up to five seen daily in Mole NP.

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 a further two at Bonkro Forest.

Thrushes Turdidae

White-tailed Rufous Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*
We had great views of one at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Finsch's Rufous Thrush (NE) *Stizorhina finschii*
We had good views of one at Ebekawopa, another in Ankasa NP and two at Atewa.
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

Brown-chested Alethe*Pseudalethe poliocephala*

We had good views of one at Atewa Forest.

White-tailed Alethe*Alethe diademata*

We had great views of one at Nsuta 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***Stiphornis erythrothorax*

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

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.

Lowland Akalat*Sheppardia cyornithopsis*

We heard one calling nearby at Atewa and unfortunately it refused to show itself.

Common Nightingale*Luscinia megarhynchos*

We heard one calling from a dense thicket just south of Shai Hills.

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat*Cossypha cyanocampter*

One was seen very briefly by some participants near Kakum NP.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat*Cossypha niveicapilla*

One was seen very well in Mole NP.

Forest Scrub Robin*Erythropygia leucosticte*

We heard this species calling at Atewa Forest.

Whinchat*Saxicola rubetra*

We had great views of three in Shai Hills and a further two in Mole NP.

White-fronted Black Chat*Pentholaea albifrons*

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

White-crowned Cliff Chat*Thamnolaea coronata*

We had fair views of a pair near Shai 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*

We enjoyed good sightings of up to eight daily in Mole NP.

Pale Flycatcher*Bradornis pallidus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP and another at Atewa farmbush.

Spotted Flycatcher*Muscicapa striata*

We had great views of three in Shai Hills.

Ashy Flycatcher*Muscicapa caerulescens*

A pair was seen at Bonkro Forest and another at Atewa.

Swamp Flycatcher*Muscicapa aquatica*

We had great scope views of three in Mole NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher*Muscicapa cassini*

We had superb views of two in Ankasa NP.

Olivaceous Flycatcher*Muscicapa olivascens*

We had great views of a pair at Ebekawopa. Another unobtrusive and rarely seen species!

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

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

Tessmann's Flycatcher *Muscicapa tessmanni*

We had magnificent scope views of three birds at Aboabo, Kakum NP.

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 had good but brief views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*

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

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One was seen at Shai Hills and up to six 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 and at Atewa.

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 four from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*

We found one from the Kakum canopy walkway.

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

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 adelberti*

We saw several stunning males in Kakum NP.

Carmelite Sunbird *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*

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

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

We had several sightings 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 two males and a female from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*



We had great views of two at Shai Hills and a further six at Kalakpa.

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johanna*

We enjoyed magnificent views of several at Antwikwaa.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*

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

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*

We had good views of two near Kakum NP.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

One was seen 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

Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

We had good views of forty at a small wetland en route from Atewa Forest to Ho.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

One was seen in Mole NP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Small numbers were seen at Kalakpa and we had good views of several in Mole NP.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

We had fantastic views of one near Kakum NP.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

We had good views of two at a small wetland south of Shai Hills. Their nests were also photographed, this species has not been recorded in southern Ghana before.

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

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*

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

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha*

We had good views of three in Nsuta Forest and up to thirty at Bonkro Forest.

Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*

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

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

Our first sighting was of one at Antwikwaa and we had two sightings in Nsuta Forest.

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

We had great views of three from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further few 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 and female in Mole NP.

Black-winged [Red] Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

We saw a stunning male in breeding plumage at Atewa.

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Two were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

One male in breeding plumage was seen in Shai Hills and a further ten at Kalakpa.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons*

We had magnificent views of this rare species on amazingly three occasions in Ankasa NP.

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 one in Mole NP.

Yellow-winged Pytilia *Pytilia hypogrammica*

We had good views of a pair in Shai Hills and later wonderful views of a pair near Ho.

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

We had reasonable views of a male flying over calling at Antwikwaa.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*

Three birds were seen very well near Kakum NP.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We found this species in small numbers near Accra and Mole NP.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Three were seen just south of Shai Hills and another at Atewa farmbush

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

We had great views of a pair near Kakum NP.

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 five in Mole NP.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*

This stunning waxbill was seen at on several occasions in Kakum NP and peak numbers of twenty in Mole NP.

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

Up to twenty were seen near Brenu Beach.

Black-faced Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza atricollis*



One bird was seen flying away whilst calling during our drive from Accra to Cape Coast, a leader only sighting.

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

Wilson's Indigobird *Vidua wilsoni*

We had good views of a male in Mole NP.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

A flock of eighty 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 south of Mole NP.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

We had good views of four at Sakamono Lagoon at a further three at Brenu Beach.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Three were seen during the drive from Accra to Cape Coast.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

We enjoyed good scope views of one at Sakamono Lagoon.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

We had good views of four in Shai Hills.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

We had good views of a few in Mole NP

Finches Fringillidae

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

We found one 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 had superb views of ten in Kakum NP.

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

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

Lowe's [Mona] Monkey*Cercopithecus lowei*

We had splendid views of a troop of twenty from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Lesser White-nosed Monkey*Cercopithecus petaurista*

We had great views of six in Kakum NP.

Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey*Cercopithecus sabaesus*

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

Patas Monkey*Erythrocebus patas*

We saw up to eight daily in Mole NP.

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

A large roost of thousands was seen near Atewa Forest.

Hammer-headed Fruit Bat*Hypsignathus monstrosus*

Several were seen flying and heard calling at dusk in Ankasa NP.

Hedgehogs Erinaceidae**White-bellied Hedgehog***Atelerix albiventris*

We enjoyed magnificent views of one in Mole NP.

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

We had good sightings of two in Mole NP.

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

We had great views of two in Mole NP.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

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

Slender-tailed Squirrel*Protoxerus aubinnii*

We had great views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and another two in Ankasa NP.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel*Funisciurus anerythrus*

One was seen well in Ankasa NP.

African Giant Squirrel*Protoxerus stangeri*

One was heard calling in Kakum NP.

Green Bush Squirrel*Paraxerus poensis*

We saw two in Kakum NP and another in Mole NP.

Anomalures Anomaluridae

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

Genets and Civets Viverridae

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

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*
We had wonderful views of up to twenty daily in Mole NP.

Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*
Up to ten were seen daily in Mole NP.

Bongo *Tragelaphus euryceros*
Izak was very fortunate to have great views of one in Ankasa NP.

Kob *Kobus kob*
Up to forty were seen daily 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.

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS

Red-headed Rock Agama *Agama agama*
We had good views of several at Shai Hills.

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*
Seven were seen in Mole NP.

African Dwarf Crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis*
We had amazing scope views of one at a forest pond in Ankasa NP. A total of four were seen.

African Tigrine Frog *Hoplobatrachus occipitalis*
We enjoyed good views of one in a small pond near Kakum NP. This is a fairly widespread West and Central African species.

African Spotted Bush Snake *Philothamnus semivariegatus*
We had great views of one of what is most likely this species in Ankasa NP.

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa



Tel: +27 33 394 0225

Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225

Tel (USA & Canada) toll free: 1-888-990-5552

Email: info@rockjumper.co.za

Alternative Email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com

Website: www.rockjumper.co.za

