



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

GHANA MEGA

Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials

29th November to 21st December 2011 (23 days)



White-necked Rockfowl by Adam Riley

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

Trip Summary

Our record breaking trip total of 505 species in 23 days reflects the immense birding potential of this fabulous African nation. Whilst the focus of the tour was certainly the rich assemblage of Upper



Guinea specialties, we did not neglect the interesting diversity of mammals. 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 Guinea fowl, Ahanta Francolin, Hartlaub's Duck, Black Stork, mantling Black Heron, Dwarf Bittern, Bat Hawk, Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Congo Serpent Eagle, the scarce Long-tailed Hawk, splendid Fox Kestrel, African Finfoot, Nkulengu Rail, African Crake, Forbes's Plover, a vagrant American Golden Plover, the mesmerising Egyptian Plover, vagrant Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Four-banded

Sandgrouse, Black-collared Lovebird, Great Blue Turaco, Black-throated Coucal, accipiter like Thick-billed and splendid Yellow-throated Cuckoos, Olive and Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoos (amongst 16 cuckoo species!), Fraser's and Akun Eagle-Owls, Rufous Fishing Owl, Red-chested Owlet, Black-shouldered, Plain and Standard-winged Nightjars, Black Spinetail, Bates's Swift, Narina Trogon, Blue-bellied Roller, Chocolate-backed and White-bellied Kingfishers, Blue-moustached, Black and Rosy Bee-eaters, Forest Wood Hoopoe, all 11 species of hornbill, all 13 species of barbet, Yellow-footed Honeyguide, African Piculet, Little Green, Fire-bellied and Gabon Woodpeckers, Rufous-sided Broadbill displaying, Fernando Po Batis, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Many-coloured Bushshrike, magnificent White-necked Rockfowl, Forest Penduline Tit, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, White-bibbed Swallow, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Sharpe's Apalis, Oriole Warbler, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Capuchin Babbler, both hylionas, 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 Paradise Whydah, amongst many others. Some of the mammalian highlights included fantastic views of Olive Colobus, Lesser White-nosed Monkey, White-bellied Hedgehog and African Elephant. We also observed the rare African Dwarf Crocodile.

Since Rockjumper became the first company to pioneer



birding tours to Ghana back in 2002, there have been significant changes in the country. The road network has been improved and accommodations have been vastly upgraded and established in areas where there simply weren't any (often closer to the best birding areas). The whole tourism industry is in fact better geared for birding, with many establishments now offering early breakfasts and packed lunches. (You simply couldn't get breakfast before 7am in the past!) There is also a far better standard of food and more choices available. Our ground operations team is fantastic with an excellent group of local guides; and, furthermore, new birding sites are being discovered all the time. Rockjumper have now led over 20 tours to Ghana and thus amassed an incredible knowledge of its diverse avifauna. All these factors combine to make a vastly improved experience for the visiting birdwatcher.



Our most recent trip is the most successful birding tour ever undertaken to Ghana. It is also the most comprehensive and quite simply the best bird watching tour available in the Upper Guinea region. We recorded an astonishing 505 species in 23 days, including a substantial number of Upper Guinea specials and rare and elusive species. This is the first tour to have recorded over 500 species in the country!



Our trip started off with an early morning visit to the fabulous Shai Hills Resources Reserve. Some of the highlights included a covey of very vocal Stone Partridge, migrant European Honey Buzzard, our first of many Red-necked Buzzards, a pair of Lanner Falcon, beautiful Senegal Parrot, smashing Violet Turaco, spectacular Blue-bellied Roller, Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets, smart Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike,

White-shouldered Black Tit, Rock Martin, quaint Oriole Warbler and strangely wary White-crowned Cliff Chats, which simply would not show for more than a couple of seconds. Leaving Shai Hills we travelled north to the Volta River where a White-bibbed Swallow whizzed by.

In the late afternoon we then made our way to Kalakpa where an African Scops Owl showed exceptionally well, as did Black-shouldered and Long-tailed Nightjars, nicely rounding off a wonderful first day!

Our time in Kalakpa was very rewarding, although patience and persistence were needed to seek out the areas' specials. A splendid Thick-billed Cuckoo, which posed atop a large tree giving prolonged scope views, was a real highlight. On the other hand, a startled



Nkulengu Rail that flew up right in front of us and nearly alighted in a tall creeper was frustratingly missed by most (we were to remedy this later in the trip!). Other notable sightings included the highly elusive and retiring Capuchin Babbler, which a good number of the group managed to actually see, the skulking Kemp's Longbill, a Red-chested Goshawk displaying overhead, Bearded Barbet, sexually dimorphic African Shrike-flycatcher, handsome African Golden Oriole, Swamp Palm Bulbul, brief Pied-winged Swallow, migrant Wood Warbler, a confiding Red-winged Warbler, hyperactive Senegal Eremomelas, Moustached Grass Warbler and superb male Yellow-bellied Hyliota.



Leaving the forest it was a pleasant change to bird the fabulous Sakamono Lagoon. As usual it was literally teeming with birds. A careful scan through the melee of waterbirds revealed Garganey, a pair of Eurasian Teal, mantling Black Heron and, amongst numerous waders, we found vagrant American Golden Plover and stunning Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Other sightings included the lovely Collared Pratincole, Royal Tern, a hunting Peregrine Falcon and a Red-throated Pipit. That evening we revisited the Shai Hills for a short night excursion, where we picked up our target Freckled Nightjar.

En route to Kakum National Park we stopped at various sites. Our first stop at the Winneba Plains was very pleasing with great sightings of African Hobby and Senegal Lapwing. A stop at the nearby Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site produced good numbers of terns and Bar-tailed Godwit. Moving on we stopped at a roadside wetland where a delightful pair of African Pygmy Goose was spotted amongst the lily pads. After settling in to our comfortable accommodation we set about birding in the nearby forest and were rewarded with sightings of the tiny Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill and rare Olivaceous Flycatcher. (This is the only known photo that we know of!).



Over the next few days we explored the nearby Kakum National Park, Ghana's primary tourist destination! Exploring various regions of the park, forest trails and the famous canopy walkway enabled us to wrap up an extraordinary number of great birds. These included a splendid Congo Serpent Eagle, elusive Long-tailed Hawk, Grey Parrot (so nice to see outside of a cage), Guinea and Yellow-billed Turaco, Blue Malkoha, iridescent male African Emerald Cuckoo, Fraser's Eagle-Owl, Plain Nightjar, Black Spinetail, Blue-throated Roller, Black and splendid Rosy Bee-eaters, Forest and White-headed Wood Hoopoes, magnificent



White-crested and sought after Brown-cheeked Hornbills, Yellow-billed Barbet, Cassin's Honeybird, rare Yellow-footed Honeyguide, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Cuckooshrike, Forest Penduline Tit, Spotted Greenbul, dainty Fanti Saw-wing, Tit Hylia (the smallest bird in Africa), Sharpe's Apalis, beautiful Violet-backed Hyliota, Finsch's Rufous Thrush and lovely Buff-throated Sunbird. As if this wasn't enough, a final visit to the forest the following morning produced a mouth watering array of great birds, including the rare Black-collared Lovebird, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Rufous-sided Broadbill, cracking Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Golden Greenbul, Puvel's Illadopsis, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Preuss's Weaver, Black-bellied Seedcracker and Western Bluebill. Wow!!

A visit to the Pra River produced the desired Rock Pratincole and fabulous scope views of the spectacular White-bibbed Swallow.

Making our way southwest to the seldom visited and remote Nsuta Forest was extremely worthwhile, to put it mildly!!! Few trips have made the effort to visit this area and with the remarkable success we had, we'll certainly be offering this site again. We really enjoyed some top notch birding!



Apalis, Narrow-tailed Starling, Ussher's Flycatcher and Maxwell's Black Weaver.

It was hard to leave this incredible birding site but we knew more lay ahead and so we travelled yet further west to Ankasa National Park. Our time in this superb forest produced a fabulous flock of five White-breasted Guineafowl (this species is extremely difficult to find, particularly away from the only fairly reliable site of Tai Forest in the Ivory Coast), elusive Dwarf Bittern, a pair of Hartlaub's Duck with chicks, white morph Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, splendid male African Finfoot, Nkulengu Rail (very satisfying after having missed it earlier

A number of Africa's francolins resemble the tinamous of South America, not perhaps in appearance but certainly in behaviour. They are very shy and elusive and usually it takes numerous trips to a region to finally catch up with them. Ahanta Francolin certainly rates as one of these and we were exceptionally lucky to find a confiding pair in the forest. Other highlights included a hunting Bat Hawk at dusk, beautiful Blue-headed Wood Dove, rare Yellow-throated Cuckoo singing from an exposed perch, localised and elusive Akun Eagle-Owl, very difficult Rufous Fishing Owl, Cassin's Spinetail, Bates's Swift, Black Dwarf Hornbill (rarest of the African hornbills), colony of Bristle-nosed Barbets, tiny and highly sought after African Piculet, Little Green and Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Red-billed Helmetshrike on its nest, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Black-capped



in the trip), skulking Black-throated Coucal, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo (the upper guinea birds are rare and sound quite different from the eastern birds of Uganda – there certainly remain a few unanswered questions and there could well be more than one species here), African Wood Owl, stunning adult Red-chested Owlet, fantastic White-bellied Kingfisher, Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Shining Drongo, Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Rufous-winged Illadopsis (the latter three species are Upper Guinea endemics), Blackcap Illadopsis, White-tailed Rufous Thrush, White-tailed Alethe, Forest Robin, Cassin's Flycatcher and Blue-billed Malimbe, to name just some of the highlights.



Leaving Ankasa we next made our way back to Kakum National Park via the Brenu Beach area. Here we scored some great birds that included a fabulous pair of the elusive Yellow-winged Pytilia, smart Black-rumped Waxbill and Compact Weaver.

Our next destination was Bonkro and a site for the highly sought-after White-necked Rockfowl, where we were treated to fabulous views of three birds. This must certainly rate as one of Africa's top ten birds!!!

It was a pleasant change to be leaving the forests for a while and heading to the broad-leaved woodland of the impressive Mole National Park. Exploring various sections of the park we covered a great deal of habitats, including the rocky escarpment below our hotel, wetlands, gallery forest, the Mole River, dry woodland that had recently been burnt, bovals, grassland and broad-leaved woodland. This enabled us to rack up a huge list of birds. Some of these included Black (rare in Ghana) and Saddle-billed Storks, a female White-headed Vulture, Bateleur, Grasshopper Buzzard, Red-necked Falcon, African Crake, Spotted Thick-knee, elusive Forbes's Plover, Common Snipe, Red-headed Lovebird, Brown-necked Parrot,



Abyssinian Roller, Grey-headed and Blue-breasted Kingfishers, Red-throated Bee-eater, Black Scimitarbill, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Fine-spotted, Golden-tailed and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, stunning Yellow-crowned Gonolek, small flocks of Yellow-billed Shrike, migrant Woodchat Shrike, Square-tailed Drongo, African Blue Flycatcher, Sun Lark, Melodious Warbler, Blackcap Babbler, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, White-crowned Robin-Chat, low density White-fronted Black Chat, Pygmy Sunbird, Black-faced Firefinch and lovely Exclamatory Paradise Whydah. Our night drives were particularly productive with sightings of spectacular



male Standard-winged Nightjars and a Greyish Eagle-Owl seen eating a Scrub Hare.

A foray into the boulder-strewn Tongo Hills near Bolgatanga produced superb Booted Eagle, handsome Fox Kestrel, White-rumped Swift, migrant Eurasian Wryneck, a confiding Rock-loving Cisticola, Blue Rock Thrush, a magic pair of Red-winged Pytilia and the beautiful Lavender Waxbill.

Exploring the far Northern part of Ghana we visited the Tono Dam area. Here we were excited to find several Ferruginous Ducks and a female Northern Pintail amongst a large flock of White-faced Whistling Ducks, good numbers of Bruce's Green Pigeon, Red-chested Swallow, rare migrant Western Bonelli's Warbler and the lovely Chestnut-bellied Starling.

Moving further northeast we visited an area around the White Volta where we enjoyed superb sightings of a trio of Black-headed Lapwings, the magnificent Egyptian Plover, a pair of cryptic Four-banded Sandgrouse, Eurasian Hoopoe, stunning Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Northern Wheatear, a nesting colony of White-billed Buffalo Weavers, Cut-throat Finch, White-rumped Seedeater, Golden-breasted Bunting (only recorded for the first time in Ghana in 2010) and yet another rare vagrant, White Wagtail.



Leaving the north we travelled to our final destination, the fabulous Atewa Forest. No tour to Ghana is complete without a visit to this amazingly rich forest, harbouring probably the highest diversity of forest species in the country. After twenty days in the country it was astonishing to see how many new species we recorded in the area and some of the highlights included a stunning pair of African Cuckoo-Hawk (an amazing 6 sightings during this tour), the highly sought-after and beautiful Blue-moustached (Blue-headed) Bee-eater, Gabon Woodpecker (great views of a bird that had been eluding us all trip), the butterfly like Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, cute Fernando Po Batis, gorgeous Many-coloured Bushshrike, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Red-tailed Leaflove (a new site record),



Olive-green Camaroptera, tiny Lemon-bellied Crombec, rare migrant Eurasian Blackcap, cracking Johanna's Sunbird and Magpie Mannikin.

Whew!!! What a way to end off a truly remarkable trip.

From Atewa we then travelled back to Accra in order to catch our return flights home. This had been a most memorable trip and would not have been possible without such a wonderful group of enthusiastic participants and an excellent ground operations team. Thank you very much to everyone! I am greatly looking forward to sharing many more wonderful adventures with all of you!



Photos credits, from top to bottom: Congo Serpent Eagle by Mike Danzenbaker, Red-fronted Antpecker by Adam Riley, White-bellied Hedgehog, African Dwarf Crocodile, Blue-bellied Roller & Thick-billed Cuckoo by Mike Danzenbaker, Olivaceous Flycatcher by Adam Riley, Yellow-footed Honeyguide, Plain Nightjar & Rosy Bee-eater by Mike Danzenbaker, Blue Cuckooshrike by Adam Riley, White-bellied Kingfisher by Mike Danzenbaker, White-crowned Robin-Chat by Adam Riley, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Forbes's Plover, Blue-moustached Bee-eater & Egyptian Plover by Mike Danzenbaker.

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.11 List of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Generated on 2/01/2012. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Brackets indicate Clements [omissions] and (changes)

Total species recorded: 505 (491 seen and 14 heard)

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

Guineafowl Numididae

White-breasted Guineafowl (E) *Agelastes meleagrides*
Some of us had good but brief views of a flock of five in Ankasa National Park.
Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*
We saw up to twenty five daily in Mole NP.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*
We had excellent sightings in Shai Hills and Mole NP with peak sightings of nine birds daily.
Forest Francolin *Peliperdix lathamii*
We heard this species at Ebekawopa, a secretive and seldom seen species.
Ahanta Francolin (NE) *Pternistis ahantensis*
This is usually a particularly difficult species to see. Our first sighting was of a pair at Nsuta Forest and later we all enjoyed good views of one in Mole 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 fifty at Sakamono Lagoon and peak numbers of two thousand at Tono Dam.
Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*
We had distant scope views of two at Tono Dam.
Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
One was seen amongst a large flock of white-faced whistling ducks on Tono Dam.
Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*
A superb pair with ducklings was seen in Ankasa NP.
African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*
We had superb scope views of a pair en route to Kakum NP.



Northern Pintail*Anas acuta*

We had good views of one female amongst a large flock of white-faced whistling ducks on Tono Dam.

Garganey*Anas querquedula*

We had great scope views of one at Sakamono Lagoon.

Eurasian Teal*Anas crecca*

We had superb views of a pair at Sakamono Lagoon.

Ferruginous Duck*Aythya nyroca*

We had great scope views of three on Tono Dam.

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

We had good views of one at Sakamono Lagoon and a further twenty at a river just north of Cape Coast.

Storks Ciconiidae**Black Stork***Ciconia nigra*

We enjoyed great views of one in Mole NP.

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 heard one calling in the distance at Nsuta Forest.

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

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

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae**Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

We had superb views of two behind our hotel near Accra.

Dwarf Bittern*Ixobrychus sturmii*

We had magnificent scope views of one in Ankasa NP.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

We found one in Mole NP.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

One was seen in Ankasa 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 and fifty around Tono Dam

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

Recorded at most wetland localities on tour – highest numbers were thirty five at Sakamono Lagoon.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

Small numbers were seen in the grasslands in the north.



Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Two were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Three were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
We had good scope views of three at Sakamono Lagoon and one in Mole NP.	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
We enjoyed watching these smart birds hunting with their “umbrella wings” at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
We had regular encounters with this bird at most wetlands – highest count was fifty at Sakamono.	
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
Recorded at Sakamono Lagoon, where we had good scope views of four	

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
We had numerous sightings in Mole NP where up to four were seen daily.	

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

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

Kites, Hawks, Eagles Accipitridae

African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
We had a fabulous six sightings during the tour with a lovely pair seen at Atewa farmbush.	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Our first sighting was of three in flight in Shai Hills, with a further sighting from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.	
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
We had good views of one hunting at dusk in Nsuta forest.	
Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Three were seen during our trip to Shai Hills with scattered sightings elsewhere.	
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
One of the most common birds of the tour, seen on virtually every day	
<i>Note: We observed only the Yellow-billed Kite, M. aegyptius. The Black Kite, M. migrans is usually split off and is a palearctic migrant.</i>	
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
We had good views of three in Mole NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
Another very common bird, we had daily sightings where they were most commonly encountered in towns and cities.	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Only seen in Mole NP where our peak count was eight in one day.	
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
We enjoyed good views of a female in Mole NP.	
Beaudouin’s Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>
We had good sightings of one en route from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.	



- Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*
We had great scope views of one en route from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.
- 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 views of one at Antwikwaa in Kakum NP.
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
We had many sightings in the north including peak numbers of three daily near Bolgatanga
- Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*
One male was seen during the drive from Kumasi to Mole NP.
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*
Common and seen well in Kakum NP, including several sightings from the canopy walkway
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*
Small numbers were seen daily in the far north around Tono Dam and Bolgatanga.
- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*
Two were seen near Tono Dam.
- Red-chested Goshawk** *Accipiter toussenelii*
Our first sighting was of one at Kalakpa and a further two were seen at Atewa Forest.
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius*
We recorded this common species at many sites including Shai Hills, Accra and Mole NP. A total of sixteen seen during the tour
- Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*
We had good views of two in Kakum NP and a further one at Atewa farmbrush.
- Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchus macrourus*
We had a good but brief sighting of an adult from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.
- Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
Five were seen during the drive from Shai Hills to Kalakpa with further sightings in Mole NP
- Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*
First seen on our way to Mole NP, with further sightings near Bolgatanga and at Tono Dam. Peak numbers of thirty were seen daily near Mole NP.
- Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis*
Seen in Shai Hills, Winneba Plains, Antwikwaa and Mole NP, we enjoyed a total of nineteen.
- Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
We had good views of one en route from Kumasi to Mole and another in Mole NP.
- Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*
We had superb views of a pair at Tongo Hills.
- Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii*
We had good views of one in Ankasa NP.
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*
We had good views of two during the drive from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.

Falcons Falconidae

- Common (Eurasian) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Small numbers were seen near Shai Hills and Kalakpa.
- Fox Kestrel** *Falco alopex*
We enjoyed fabulous sightings of three in the Tongo Hills.



Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

We enjoyed wonderful sightings throughout the tour with great views of a pair at Ebekawopa.

Red-necked Falcon*Falco chicquera*

We had fantastic views of two in Mole NP.

African Hobby*Falco cuvierii*

We had a wonderful sighting of two flying over the Winneba plains.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

Our first sighting was of a pair at Shai Hills with further sightings near Bolgatanga.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

We found one at Sakamono Lagoon.

Bustards Otididae**White-bellied Bustard***Eupodotis senegalensis*

We heard one to the east of Bolgatanga en route to the White Volta.

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

We heard several calling in Kakum and Ankasa NPs. One was seen in Ankasa, a leader only sighting.

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

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

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

We heard two pairs calling at Kalakpa and one was seen briefly by the leader. However, in Ankasa NP we all saw one flying up to its evening roost site.

African Crake*Crex egregia*

We had outstanding views of one on the road in front of us, in Mole NP.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

Our first sightings were of three at a small wetland behind our hotel near Accra. Later we found a further three at a wetland just below Tono Dam.

African Swamphen*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had great scope views of two at Sakamono Lagoon.

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

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

We found six at a wetland en route to Kakum NP and a further five at a pan near the White Volta during the drive from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.

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

A flock of six was seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further ten in Mole NP.

Spotted Thick-knee*Burhinus capensis*

We had great views of a pair in Mole NP.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt*Himantopus himantopus*

Highest count of eighty at Sakamono Lagoon and a further one seen on the White Volta east of Bolgatanga

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

Five were seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further five in Mole NP.

Black-headed Lapwing*Vanellus tectus*

We had superb views of three east of Bolgatanga.

Senegal Lapwing*Vanellus lugubris*

We had fantastic views of two pairs on the Winneba plains.

[African] Wattled Lapwing*Vanellus senegallus*

Recorded in small numbers at Sakamono Lagoon and up to twenty in Mole NP

American Golden Plover*Pluvialis dominica*

We had great scope views of two at Sakamono Lagoon. A rare vagrant

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover*Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

We had superb sightings at Sakamono Lagoon where up to two hundred were seen and a further handful at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.

Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

We found a dozen at Sakamono Lagoon.

Forbes's Plover*Charadrius forbesi*

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

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

This magnificent bird was seen very well on the White Volta where we found a total of four.

Jacanas Jacanidae**African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

We saw these 'lily-trotters' at most waterbodies with floating vegetation. Our highest count was of forty at Sakamono Lagoon.

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

We had good views of two at Sakamono Lagoon and a further eight in Mole NP.

Black-tailed Godwit*Limosa limosa*

We had distant scope views of a flock of twenty at Sakamono Lagoon.

Bar-tailed Godwit*Limosa lapponica*

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

Whimbrel*Numenius phaeopus*

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

Common Redshank*Tringa totanus*

At least two were seen at Sakamono Lagoon



Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
We saw one bird at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
We found ten at Sakamono Lagoon, two in Mole NP and fifteen at the White Volta east of Bolgatanga.	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Two were seen in Mole NP.	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
We found thirty at Sakamono Lagoon and fifteen in Mole NP.	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
We had sightings at most wetland localities on tour including six at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
We found six along the rocky shoreline north of Cape Coast.	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
One was seen at Sakamono Lagoon and a further two north of Cape Coast.	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
At least one hundred and fifty were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Up to sixty were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>
We had superb scope views of one at Sakamono Lagoon.	

Courasers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
We had good flight views of two during the drive from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
We found sixty at Sakamono Lagoon.	
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>
We found seven on the Pra River near Twifo Praso.	

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>
We enjoyed good views of a couple at Sakamono Lagoon and a further fifty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
We had good views of forty at Muni-Pormadzi Ramsar site near Winneba.	

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>
Our first sighting was brief views of two in Mole NP. After a great deal of effort we finally managed to see a lovely pair east of Bolgatanga en route to the White Volta.	

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Common (Rock) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Recorded at many urban centres throughout the country	
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Were commonly recorded in the far north of the country of the distinctive pale-rumped race <i>guinea</i>	



Afep Pigeon	<i>Columba unicolor</i>
We heard two calling at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.	
[Western] Bronze-naped Pigeon	<i>Columba iriditorques</i>
We heard one calling in Atewa Forest.	
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
We had good views of two near Tono Dam.	
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
This large dove was seen on many days of the tour.	
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
Our first sighting was at Shai Hills, with more sightings at Kalakpa and daily in the north.	
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Another very common bird, seen on many days of the tour	
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
Daily sightings in Mole NP and near Tono Dam	
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
We had good views of one walking on the road at Kalakpa with scattered sightings elsewhere.	
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
First seen in Kakum, we had further sightings at Atewa.	
Blue-headed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur brehmeri</i>
We had stunning scope views of a pair in Nsuta Forest.	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
One was seen in Mole NP and several near Tono Dam.	
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
Small numbers were seen in Mole NP and a further forty near Tono Dam.	
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
This was a common bird at all the forested sites in Ghana.	

Parrots Psittacidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Up to fifty were seen daily in Mole NP.	
Red-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>
We were fortunate to see a pair briefly in Mole NP.	
Black-collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis swindernianus</i>
We had good flight views of three at Ebekawopa.	
Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>
Small numbers were seen in Kakum NP, Ankasa NP and finally three in Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.	
[Brown-necked Parrot]	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>
We had good views of three in Mole NP and a further three at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.	
Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>
We had great sightings in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.	
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>
Recorded at most savanna sites, with our highest count being twenty on one day in Mole NP	

Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>
We had wonderful views of two in Nsuta Forest.	



Guinea Turaco*Tauraco persa*

We had a great sighting of one from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

Yellow-billed Turaco*Tauraco macrorhynchus*

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

Violet Turaco*Musophaga violacea*

This stunning species was seen at Shai Hills 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. One was seen briefly flying across the road in Nsuta Forest and another seen well in Ankasa NP.

Senegal Coucal*Centropus senegalensis*

A common species, seen at Shai Hills, Mole and Tono Dam

Blue-headed Coucal*Centropus monachus*

Two were seen exceptionally well at Aboabo.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)*Ceuthmochares aereus*

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

Great Spotted Cuckoo*Clamator glandarius*

We had magnificent views of one at Winneba Plains.

Levaillant's Cuckoo*Clamator levaillantii*

We had a single bird at Kalakpa with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Thick-billed Cuckoo*Pachycoccyx audeberti*

We enjoyed a magnificent sighting of this elusive species at Kalakpa.

Dideric Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had superb sightings at Shai Hills, Aboabo and Atewa.

Klaas's Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx klaas*

We had great views of a male at Kalakpa and several more at Atewa.

Yellow-throated Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx flavigularis*

We had absolutely stunning scope views of this beauty in Nsuta Forest.

African Emerald Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Far more often heard than seen, we had good scope views of a splendid male at Antwikwaa and several more in Nsuta Forest.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo*Cercococcyx mechowi*

This is a seldom encountered species in the Upper Guinea region. We enjoyed superb views of one in Ankasa NP.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo*Cercococcyx olivinus*

Our first sighting was of brief views of one in Nsuta Forest and another was seen in Atewa Forest.

Black Cuckoo*Cuculus clamosus*

We had great views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Red-chested Cuckoo*Cuculus solitarius*

We had great scope views of one in Atewa Forest.

African Cuckoo*Cuculus gularis*

We found one in Mole NP.



Owls Strigidae

- African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*
We had superb views of one at Kalakpa.
- Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*
We observed one eating a Scrub Hare in Mole NP.
- Fraser's Eagle-Owl** *Bubo poensis*
We had a magnificent sighting of one in the early evening in Kakum NP.
- Akun Eagle-Owl** *Bubo leucostictus*
We had cracking views of two in Nsuta Forest, another rarely seen species.
- Rufous Fishing Owl (E)** *Scotopelia ussheri*
We had very brief but good views of one as it flew in perched in a large tree and then took off almost immediately in Nsuta Forest. This was yet another highlight of the trip.
- African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii*
One was seen briefly in Ankasa NP.
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*
We enjoyed several sightings in Mole NP.
- Red-chested Owlet** *Glaucidium tephronotum*
We had magnificent scope views of one in Ankasa NP.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

- Brown Nightjar** *Veles binotatus*
We heard it calling at Ebekawopa and in Kakum NP.
- Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*
We had good views of one at Kalakpa.
- Plain Nightjar** *Caprimulgus inornatus*
We had superb views of a male at Ebekawopa and a further two at Bonkro Forest.
- Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*
We had good but brief views of one at Shai Hills.
- Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus*
We had great views of at least two males at Kalakpa and a further three in Mole NP.
- Standard-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx longipennis*
We had a stunning male and two females, in Mole NP.

Swifts Apodidae

- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*
We had a superb sighting of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.
- Black Spinetail** *Telacanthura melanopygia*
We had great views of three at Antwikwaa and a further eight at Bonkro Forest.
- Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini*
We had great sightings of four in Nsuta Forest.
- Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini*
Small numbers were seen in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
Seen almost daily throughout the trip
- Common Swift** *Apus apus*
Up to fifty were seen daily over the forest in Kakum NP.



Pallid Swift*Apus pallidus*

A couple were seen in Kakum NP and a further two in Nsuta Forest.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

Seen at many bridges in the country! Our sightings included some really large flocks.

White-rumped Swift*Apus caffer*

We had good views of one in the Tongo Hills.

Bates's Swift*Apus batesi*

We had superb views of a couple in Nsuta Forest.

Trogons Trogonidae**Narina Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

We had magnificent scope views of a male in Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Rollers Coraciidae**Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller***Coracias naevius*

We observed two near Shai Hills and several more in northern Ghana.

Abyssinian Roller*Coracias abyssinicus*

We had daily sightings of this stunner in the north of the country.

Blue-bellied Roller*Coracias cyanogaster*

We had great looks at Shai Hills and Kalakpa.

Blue-throated Roller*Eurystomus gularis*

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

Broad-billed Roller*Eurystomus glaucurus*

We had sightings at Kalakpa, Shai Hills and Mole.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher***Halcyon badia*

We had great looks of one at Ebekawopa and another in Ankasa NP with our final sighting of one at Atewa Forest.

Grey-headed Kingfisher*Halcyon leucocephala*

We had daily sightings of small numbers in Mole NP.

Striped Kingfisher*Halcyon chelicuti*

One was seen en route to the Winneba plains.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher*Halcyon malimbica*

We had wonderful views of several in Mole NP.

Woodland Kingfisher*Halcyon senegalensis*

A common species seen in small numbers almost daily

African Pygmy Kingfisher*Ispidina picta*

We scoped one at Kalakpa and several more at Nsuta Forest.

White-bellied Kingfisher*Alcedo leucogaster*

We had awesome scope views of two 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.

Shining-blue Kingfisher*Alcedo quadribrachys*

One was seen near Brenu Beach, a leader only sighting.

Giant Kingfisher*Megaceryle maxima*

We enjoyed wonderful views of one flying alongside our bus near Ankasa NP and another was seen 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. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

Black Bee-eater*Merops gularis*

Another stunning species and we had magnificent views of a pair at Antwikwaa.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

A pair was seen very well near Brenu Beach.

Red-throated Bee-eater*Merops bullocki*

We found large numbers (100+ at a nesting colony) 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*

Up to twenty were seen daily at Kalakpa

Rosy Bee-eater*Merops malimbicus*

Small numbers were seen at Antwikwaa and a further fifty perched in some dead trees at Ebekawopa.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

Our first sighting was of three in Mole NP. Later we had a wonderful sighting of ten east of Bolgatanga.

Hoopoes Upupidae**Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

We had superb views of one east of Bolgatanga.

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

We had great scope views of one on the Kakum canopy walkway and another in Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus bollei*

We had a lovely pair in Kakum NP.

Green Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus purpureus*

We had sightings at Kalakpa and in Mole NP.

Black Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

We enjoyed good views 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 the north



Northern Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

We saw this bird in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.

Black Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus hartlaubi*

We had great views of one in Nsuta Forest and another of this rare species in Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus camurus*

We enjoyed good views of two at Ebekawopa.

White-crested Hornbill*Tropicranus albocristatus*

This funky-looking hornbill was seen in Kalakpa and even better views were obtained in Kakum NP and 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 heard this species in Kakum NP and distant views were had of one in Ankasa NP.

Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill*Ceratogymna elata*

A very wary species, we saw several 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*

A nesting colony was observed in Nsuta Forest.

Naked-faced Barbet*Gymnobucco calvus*

Very similar in appearance to the previous species, we had sightings in Kakum NP and Atewa.

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 magnificent views of another at Ebekawopa.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

We had good scope views of one at Nsuta Forest.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We had good views of one at Kalakpa.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Three were seen very well in Shai Hills and a further six at Tono Dam.

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa, another at Nsuta Forest and a further one at Atewa Forest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

Small numbers were seen at Antwikwaa, a further two at Nsuta Forest and one in Ankasa NP.

Vieillot's Barbet*Lybius vieilloti*

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

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

We had great views of four in Shai Hills.

Bearded Barbet*Lybius dubius*

Our first sighting was of two at Kalakpa, with further sightings daily in Mole NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

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

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

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

Yellow-footed Honeyguide*Melignomon eisentrauti*

We had superb views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway. A rare bird indeed!

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

First seen in Mole NP with further sightings near Tono Dam

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

We had good views of one near Tono Dam. This is the only species known to actually guide mammals to a beehive.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

We had superb views of one in Mole NP and a further two in the Tongo Hills.

African Piculet*Sasia africana*

We enjoyed cracking views of this cute bird at Nsuta Forest.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera punctuligera*

We had good views of two in Mole NP

Golden-tailed Woodpecker*Campethera abingoni*

We had great scope views of one in Mole NP.

Little Green Woodpecker (NE)*Campethera maculosa*

We had superb scope views of one at Nsuta Forest and another in Atewa Forest.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

We had a great sighting of this elusive forest woodpecker in Nsuta Forest.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicus fuscescens*

We found one in Shai Hills.

Gabon (Melancholy) Woodpecker*Dendropicus gabonensis*

We enjoyed a superb sighting of one at Atewa Forest.

Note: Clements 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)*Dendropicus pyrrhogaster*

We had a great sighting of one from the Kakum canopy walkway and a pair at Ebekawopa.

African Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicus goertae*

We enjoyed good views of a pair in Mole NP and a further pair in the Tongo Hills.

Brown-backed Woodpecker*Picoides obsoletus*

We had fantastic views of one of this low density species in Mole NP.

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

This splendid species was seen exceptionally well at Ebekawopa and in Ankasa NP.



Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

- African Shrike-flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus*
We had wonderful views of a pair at Kalakpa.
- Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher** *Bias musicus*
We found a female at Atewa Forest.
- Senegal Batis** *Batis senegalensis*
First seen at Kalakpa, with further sightings in Mole NP
- Fernando Po Batis** *Batis poensis*
We had superb views of one in Atewa Forest.
- Brown-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira cyanea*
We had good views of several in Shai Hills and in Mole NP.
- Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Platysteira castanea*
Seen in small numbers at most forest sites including great views from the Kakum canopy walkway
- Red-cheeked Wattle-eye (NE)** *Platysteira blissetti*
We had good views of two at Ebekawopa.

Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

- White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*
We had good views of a flock at Kalakpa and another flock in Mole NP.
Note: Clements calls this species White Helmetshrike
- Red-billed (Chestnut-bellied) Helmetshrike (NE)** *Prionops caniceps*
We enjoyed magnificent scope views of one on its nest in Nsuta Forest and further sightings of a flock of three also in Nsuta Forest

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

- Fiery-breasted Bushshrike** *Malaconotus cruentus*
We heard one calling in Ankasa Forest.
- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*
We heard one at Kalakpa and another was heard in Mole NP.
- Lagden's Bushshrike** *Malaconotus lagdeni*
We heard one calling at Nsuta Forest.
- Many-coloured Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus multicolour*
This spectacular bird was seen very well in Atewa Forest after a great deal of searching.
- 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 at Ebekawopa.
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*
We enjoyed numerous sightings including three in Mole NP.
- Sabine's Puffback** *Dryoscopus sabinii*
After hearing this species and getting brief views in Kakum NP we were rewarded with a fabulous sighting of a male in Nsuta Forest.
- Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*
We had good views of two at Kalakpa with further sightings in Mole NP.
- Yellow-crowned (Common) Gonolek** *Laniarius barbarus*



This outrageously colourful bird was seen exceptionally well 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 sightings were in Shai Hills where we enjoyed a wonderful pair. Thereafter we had good views at Kalakpa and in Mole NP. Another good-looking bird!

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike*Campephaga quiscalina*

We found a female at Atewa Forest. 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

Common Fiscal*Lanius collaris*

Most common during the drive from Ankasa NP to Kakum NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Woodchat Shrike*Lanius senator*

This Palaearctic migrant was seen very well in Mole NP and at Tongo Hills.

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

We observed several at Kalakpa and a further five in Mole NP.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had good views of two at Nsuta Forest and another 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**Square-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus ludwigii*

We had fantastic views of three in gallery forest in Mole NP.

Shining Drongo*Dicrurus atripennis*

We had good views of several daily in Ankasa NP.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

One was seen in Shai Hills, followed by daily sightings 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 brief views of one at Kalakpa and later enjoyed superb views of a pair in Nsuta 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 one flock near Kalakpa and similar numbers nearly daily in the north.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

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

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

Undoubtedly the highlight of the tour! We had very good sightings of three birds bounding through the undergrowth and over boulders in Bonkro Forest.

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

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

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

We had brief sightings of a pair in Shai Hills and up to four daily in Mole NP.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Melaniparus

Dusky Tit*Parus funereus*

We heard it at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

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

We had fair views of a group of three from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

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

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

Larks Alaudidae**Flappet Lark***Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

We had good views of one at the Winneba Plains.

Sun Lark*Galerida modesta*

We had good views of six in Mole NP and another two near Tono Dam.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

A few were seen in Mole NP and several more near Tono Dam.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**Common Bulbul***Pycnonotus barbatus*

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

Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis*

We had good views in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.

Note: Clements calls this Gray Greenbul

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*

Surprisingly we only heard this species in Kakum NP.

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris*

We found two birds in Kakum NP and another in Nsuta Forest.

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, another at Bonkro Forest and a final sighting at Atewa.

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*

Up to twenty were seen from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further two in Nsuta Forest.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*

We had good sightings at Kalakpa, Nsuta and Atewa Forests.

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

We had good views of a pair in gallery forest in Mole NP.

Swamp [Palm] Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

This noisy species was seen in Kalakpa, Nsuta Forest and Ankasa NP.

Red-tailed Leaflove *Pyrrhurus scandens*

We had outstanding views of one of these normally shy birds in Atewa farmbrush.

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

We had superb views of six in Ankasa NP.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

We had good views of two at Bonkro Forest.

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

This species was seen in Ankasa NP and at Atewa Forest.

Green-tailed Bristlebill (E) *Bleda eximius*

We had superb views of two in Ankasa NP and another at Atewa Forest.

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus*

One was heard in Kakum NP and another heard at Atewa Forest.

Western Bearded Greenbul (NE) *Criniger barbatus*

One was seen briefly at Nsuta Forest and later we had a good but brief sighting of one in Atewa Forest.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

Several were seen in Kakum NP and a few more in Ankasa NP.

Yellow-bearded Greenbul (E) *Criniger olivaceus*

We enjoyed fantastic views of a couple daily in Ankasa NP with a final sighting of one at Atewa Forest

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae



Square-tailed Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne nitens</i>
We had fantastic views of six at Nsuta Forest.	
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>
We had superb views of several from the Kakum canopy walkway and several at Ebekawopa.	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
A common migrant, up to fifty were seen daily in Kakum NP.	
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>
Up to ten were recorded daily in the far North, near Bolgatanga.	
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>
We found small numbers in the Accra area and scattered sightings in the south.	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
We had good sightings in Mole NP.	
White-bibbed (White-throated Blue) Swallow	<i>Hirundo nigrita</i>
We found two on the Volta River and a further three at Twifo Praso.	
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>
We had very brief views of one at Kalakpa.	
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
We had good scope views of two at Shai Hills.	
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
We observed just six near Kakum NP.	
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
We had good views of one at Aboabo.	
West African Swallow	<i>Cecropis domicella</i>
Small numbers were seen around some houses near Bolgatanga. A pair was also seen at Kalakpa.	
<i>Note: Clements lumps this with Red-rumped Swallow (C. daurica), calling it as such</i>	
Preuss's [Cliff] Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon preussi</i>
We had good views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.	

Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettiidae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocercus mccallii</i>
We had good views of three on the canopy walkway and a further three 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 superb views of a pair on the canopy walkway, a further two at Antwikwaa and six at Atewa.	

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
We had good views of several in Mole NP.	
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
We had superb views of one near Tono Dam.	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
We had good views of one at Kalakpa and several more at Atewa.	

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
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We found two at a stream crossing on our way north toward Bolgatanga.

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*

We had great views of two near Tono Dam.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

We found several in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

We found two at Antwikwaa and another at Atewa.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

We had good views of one in rank vegetation at Kalakpa.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

We had great scope views of a single bird at Kalakpa and a further one at Atewa.

Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola emini*

We had fantastic views of one in the Tongo Hills.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

We had brief views of two at Sakamono Lagoon.

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

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

We enjoyed good scope views of one on the Winneba Plains.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*

We had good views of one at Winneba Plains.

Rufous Cisticola *Cisticola rufus*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

We found one at Sakamono Lagoon.

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

This range-restricted bird was seen at the Sakamono Lagoon.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Fairly common in rank vegetation, we had numerous sightings throughout the tour.

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus*

We enjoyed superb views of one at Kalakpa and two at Ebekawopa.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

A scarce species in Ghana, we had good views of three in Mole NP.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*

We had superb scope views of one at Nsuta Forest and another 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*

After an extensive search we were rewarded with great views of two at Shai Hills and a further four in Mole NP.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicauda*

A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had sightings at most forest sites.

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

We had good views of one at Atewa Forest.

Camaroptera chloronota

Senegal Eremomela

Common in the savanna areas, we had many sightings at Kalakpa, Mole NP and Tono Dam area.

Eremomela pusilla

Rufous-crowned Eremomela

We had good views of several from the Kakum canopy walkway, at Ebekawopa and Atewa.

Eremomela badiceps

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis**Moustached Grass Warbler**

We had good views of one at Kalakpa.

Melocichla mentalis

Kemp's Longbill (NE)

One was seen briefly at Kalakpa and heard at Aboabo.

Macrosphenus kempii

Grey Longbill

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

Macrosphenus concolor

Northern Crombec

We had good views of one at Shai Hills and a further three near Tono Dam.

Sylvietta brachyura

Green Crombec

First seen at Kalakpa, with further sightings at Antwikwaa and Nsuta Forest

Sylvietta virens

Lemon-bellied Crombec

We had good views of two at Atewa.

Sylvietta denti

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae**Blackcap Illadopsis**

We had good views of one in Ankasa NP.

Illadopsis cleaveri

Rufous-winged Illadopsis (E)

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

Illadopsis rufescens

Puvel's Illadopsis

We had cracking views of one at Ebekawopa.

Illadopsis puveli

Pale-breasted Illadopsis

We heard several in Ankasa NP.

Illadopsis rufipennis

Brown Illadopsis

We had good but brief views of one at Atewa.

Illadopsis fulvescens

Blackcap Babbler

We had superb views of three in Mole NP.

Turdoides reinwardtii

Brown Babbler

We had superb views of six at our hotel near Accra and further sightings in Mole NP.

Turdoides plebejus

Capuchin Babbler

We had brief views of four of this ultra skulker at Kalakpa.

Phyllanthus atripennis

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae**Eurasian Blackcap**

We had superb views of two males and a female in the Atewa farmbush.

Sylvia atricapilla

Garden Warbler

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

Sylvia borin

Common (Greater) Whitethroat

We had good views of one in Mole NP and several more near Tono Dam.

Sylvia communis



White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*
 Small numbers were seen in Mole NP and at Atewa.

Hyliotas Hyliotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*
 We had excellent views of a male in a mixed species flock at Kalakpa.

Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea*
 We had stunning views of three from the Kakum canopy walkway with a further sighting of two at Atewa.

Starlings Sturnidae

Copper-tailed (Glossy) Starling (E) *Hylopsar cupreocauda*
 We had fantastic views of several daily in Kakum NP, at Ebekawopa and Nsuta Forests.

Greater Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
 We had great views of a pair east of Bolgatanga, en route to the White Volta.

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

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

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

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

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*
 Commonly seen in Mole and around Bolgatanga and Tono Dam

Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*
 We found a few in the north en route from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
 We saw a large flock of one hundred and fifty from the canopy walkway with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*
 We had great views of ten at Antwikwaa and a further six in Ankasa NP.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*
 We had good but brief views of four in Nsuta Forest.

Thrushes Turdidae

White-tailed Rufous Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*
 We had brief views of two in Ankasa NP and a further one at Atewa.

Finsch's Rufous Thrush (NE) *Stizorhina finschii*
 We had good views of one in Kakum NP and another 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

White-tailed Alethe *Alethe diademata*



We had good views of two in Ankasa NP and a further four at Atewa.

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

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Forest Robin	<i>Stiphornis erythrothorax</i>
We had good but brief views of one in Ankasa NP.	
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>
One was seen briefly by some participants at Ebekawopa.	
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
One was seen behind our hotel near Accra.	
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapilla</i>
We had cracking views of a pair in Mole NP.	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
We had great views of two on the plains near Winneba and a further three in Mole NP.	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
We had superb views of one east of Bolgatanga en route to the White Volta.	
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Pentholaea albifrons</i>
We had fantastic views of a pair daily in Mole NP. A scarce bird!	
White-crowned Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea coronata</i>
We had fair views of a pair in Shai Hills and later great views of another pair in the Tongo Hills.	
<i>Note: Clements lumps this with Mocking Cliff Chat (T. cinnamomeiventris), calling it as such</i>	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
We had superb views of a male in the Tongo Hills.	
Fraser's Forest Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>
We had great scope views of one at Antwikwaa, a further two at Nsuta Forest and good views of one at Atewa Forest.	
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
We enjoyed several sightings in Mole NP.	
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>
We had good views of two in Mole NP.	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
We had good views of one in Shai Hills and another at Kalakpa.	
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>
We had superb views of one in Ankasa NP.	
Olivaceous Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa olivascens</i>
We had great views of one at Ebekawopa.	
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa comitata</i>
We had good views of three at Nsuta Forest.	
Ussher's Flycatcher (E)	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>
We had good views of several at Nsuta Forest.	
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus griseigularis</i>
After struggling to see one at Nsuta Forest we were rewarded with great views of one at Bonkro Forest.	
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
We had good views of one in Shai Hills and another at Kalakpa.	
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Up to ten 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 Sunbird** *Anthreptes gabonicus*
We had superb views of two en route from Nsuta Forest to Half-Assini.
- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*
We had superb sightings of a pair at Kalakpa and several in Mole NP.
- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*
We had several sightings in Kakum NP and at Atewa Forest.
- 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 Mole NP with further sightings around Tono Dam.
- Reichenbach's Sunbird** *Anabathmis reichenbachii*
One male was seen en route from Nsuta Forest to Half-Assini.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*
Some of us saw two in Kakum NP and another was seen at Half-Assini.
- 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 a male at Half-Assini.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
We had several sightings in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*
This species of forest edge was seen in Kakum NP and at Atewa.
- Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus*
We had good views of a female from the Kakum canopy walkway.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*
A couple were seen in Mole NP.
- Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*
We had great views of up to twenty at Kalakpa.
- Johanna's Sunbird** *Cinnyris johannae*
We enjoyed magnificent views of several from the canopy walkway and four at Atewa.
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*
We had good views of several at Ebekawopa, Nsuta and Atewa Forests.
- Bates's Sunbird** *Cinnyris batesi*
We had great views of one from the Kakum canopy walkway.
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*



We had good views of two at Kalakpa and a further two near Brenu Beach.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*
Small numbers were 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 great views of twenty at a nesting colony near Bolgatanga.
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*
We had good views of two near Tono Dam.
- Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*
We had good views of two at Atewa Forest.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*
A number of individuals were seen daily 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 ten at their nesting colony en route to Half-Assini.
- 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 Atewa.
- Maxwell's Black Weaver** *Ploceus albinucha*
We had good views of several daily in Nsuta Forest and up to ten at Atewa.
- Compact Weaver** *Ploceus superciliosus*
Some of us had good views of two near Brenu Beach.
- Preuss's Weaver** *Ploceus preussi*
We had great views of one at Ebekawopa and another at Nsuta Forest.
- Red-vented Malimbe** *Malimbus scutatus*
We had several sightings in Nsuta Forest and a further six at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.
- 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 Bonkro Forest.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes melanotis*
We had good views of a male in Mole NP.



Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
We found up to twenty en route to Bolgatanga.	
Black-winged [Red] Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
We saw two birds at Atewa.	
Northern Red (Orange) Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>
Up to twenty were seen near Tono Dam.	
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macrourus</i>
One was seen around the Winneba Plains and a further three near Brenu Beach.	

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker	<i>Parmoptila rubrifrons</i>
We had magnificent views of a pair at their nest in Kakum NP.	
White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>
We had several sightings in Kakum NP.	
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>
Small numbers were seen daily in Kakum NP and at Atewa.	
Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch)	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>
We had sightings from the canopy walkway, at Aboabo and Nsuta Forests.	
Red-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>
We had great views of a pair in the Tongo Hills.	
Yellow-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia hypogrammica</i>
We had wonderful views of a pair near Brenu Beach.	
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
We had wonderful views of four east of Bolgatanga en route to the White Volta.	
Black-bellied Seedcracker	<i>Pyrenestes ostrinus</i>
We had superb scope views of a female at Ebekawopa and another at Aboabo.	
Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>
A single stunning male was seen exceptionally well at Ebekawopa and a few more at Atewa.	
Black-bellied Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rara</i>
Two females were seen very well in Mole NP.	
Bar-breasted Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rufopicta</i>
We found this species in small numbers near Accra and Brenu Beach.	
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
We had a number of sightings in Mole NP and at the Tongo Hills.	
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
We had great views of a male at Kalakpa and several more at Atewa.	
Black-faced Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta vinacea</i>
A splendid male was seen very well in Mole NP.	
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
A common bird in the north of the country, where we had daily sightings	
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>
We had good views of four in the Tongo Hills.	
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>
This stunning waxbill was seen at on several occasions in Kakum NP and peak numbers of forty near Brenu Beach.	
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>



Up to twenty five were seen near Brenu Beach.

Black-faced Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

Two birds were seen flying over near Tono Dam.

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*

We enjoyed great views of six en route to the White Volta.

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 three at Atewa.

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Wilson's Indigobird *Vidua wilsoni*

We had good views of twenty near Accra and a further four in Mole NP.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Up to forty were seen in Mole NP.

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*

We had good views of two males in full breeding plumage in Mole NP.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

We had good views of ten at Sakamono Lagoon at a further six at the White Volta.

Note: Clements just calls this Yellow Wagtail

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

We had superb views of one east of Bolgatanga at the White Volta. This is a vagrant to Ghana.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

First seen near Kalakpa and a further three were seen during the drive from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.

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 a pair on the Winneba Plains.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

We had good views of one at Sakamono Lagoon and another at Mole NP.

Finches Fringillidae

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia*

Eight of these rather non-descript birds were seen near Tono Dam.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.



Buntings & Allies Emberizidae**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*

We found thirty in the Tongo Hills.

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*

We had good but brief views of one east of Bolgatanga en route to the White Volta.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded (20 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 two in Kakum NP.

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

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

Lesser White-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus petaurista*

We had great views of three in Kakum NP.

Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey *Cercopithecus sabaesus*

We had great views of several in Shai Hills.

Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*

Some of us saw three in Mole NP.

Galagos Galagonidae**Senegal Galago** *Galago senegalensis*

We had great views of one jumping through the trees right alongside us in Mole NP.

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

At least twenty were seen near Kalakpa.

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 five in Mole NP.

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

We had great views of one in Mole NP.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus anerythrus*

One was seen well in Ankasa NP.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*

We had good views of one at Ebekawopa.

Green Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus poensis*

We saw one in gallery forest in Mole NP and another at Bobiri.

Pouched Rats Cricetomyinae

Gambian Giant Pouched Rat *Cricetomys gambianus*

We had good views of two in Mole NP.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea*

One was seen in Mole NP.

Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*

We had great views of one in Mole NP.

Genets and Civets Viverridae

Panther (Blotched) Genet *Genetta maculata (tigrina)*

We saw one briefly on a night drive in Mole NP.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

We had wonderful views of several daily in Mole NP.

Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*

Up to four were seen daily in Mole NP.

Kob *Kobus kob*

Up to fifty were seen daily in Mole NP.

Maxwell's Duiker *Cephalophus maxwelli*

We had good views of one in Ankasa NP.

Red-flanked Duiker *Cephalophus rufilatus*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

Bay Duiker *Cephalophus dorsalis*

Some of us were lucky to see one in Ankasa NP.

Hyraxes Procavidae

(Black-headed) Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis*

We had great scope views of one in Tongo Hills.

Western Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

We heard this species in Kakum NP and at Nsuta Forest.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

We had great views of one large bull in Mole NP.



Forest Elephant

Loxodonta cyclotis

Whilst walking a forest trail in Ankasa NP we came across one. A seldom seen mammal in Ghana.

REPTILES

Rainbow Skink

Mabuya margaritifer

We had good views of a male in Mole NP.

Red-headed Rock Agama

Agama agama

We had good views of several at Shai Hills.

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

Several were seen in Mole NP.

African Dwarf Crocodile

Osteolaemus tetraspis

We had amazing views of an adult at a forest pond in Ankasa NP.

Gaboon Viper

Bitis gabonica

During our night drive out of Ankasa NP we came across a splendid adult lying in the road.

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