



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Ghana

Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials

1st to 16th September 2010 (16 days)



Trip report compiled by: Keith Valentine

Top 10 Birds (as voted by participants):

- 1) White-necked Rockfowl
- 2) Egyptian Plover
- 3) Fox Kestrel
- 4) African Piculet/Red-fronted Antpecker
- 5) White-crested Hornbill
- 6) Blue-bellied Roller
- 7) Forest Woodhoopoe/Western Bluebill
- 8) Tit Hylia/Fraser's Eagle-Owl
- 9) Rufous-sided Broadbill
- 10) Bearded Barbet



Tour Summary

Ghana is undoubtedly one of the finest birding destinations on offer, not only in West Africa but also on the entire continent. A good selection of easily accessible habitats, ranging from tropical lowland rainforest, guinea savanna woodland and sahelian savanna, offers up an impressive bird list to even the most serious birders; and, when coupled with fine accommodations, good food and friendly people, Ghana stands out as a brilliant birding mecca!

This specific tour was built around one of the world's most incredible bird families, the Picarthartes. This unique family is confined to the remote lowland rainforests of West Africa, and the recent discovery of White-necked Rockfowl in Ghana has placed this country high on the list of most peoples must-visit destinations. We came up trumps with this, the star bird of the tour, and a further 406 species were also recorded in just 16 days. Quite a total!

Our wonderful adventure started at the nearby Shai Hills, an excellent reserve situated on the outskirts of Accra. This is dominated by a low series of hills and, together with the surrounding



broad-leafed woodland, provides an excellent introduction to the remarkable avifauna that Ghana has to offer. Highlights during our short evening and morning forays here produced wonderful views of Stone Partridge, colourful Guinea and Violet Turacos, stunning Blue-bellied Roller, Double-toothed Barbet, African Grey Woodpecker, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, striking Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Piapiac, Flappet Lark, Blackcap Babbler, active White-crowned Cliff Chat and a great sighting of the rare Yellow-winged Pytilia. After a good bout of morning birding the sun slowly began to beat down a little harder, and this was our signal that it was time to

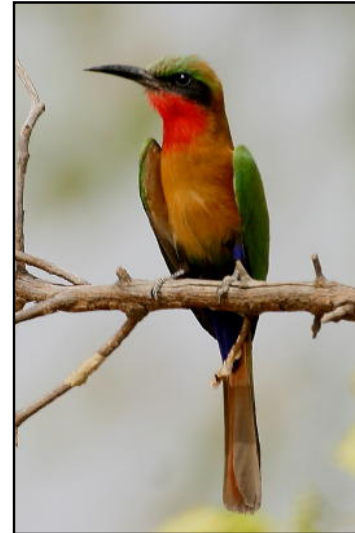
move on. Our next stop was also situated on the outskirts of the capital city, Sakumono Lagoon. This small site provided us with our only real opportunity to do some birding for waders and waterbirds, and a few of the highlights included Western Reef and Black Herons, Collared Pratincole, Senegal Thick-knee and Royal and Little Terns. We then left the capital behind us as we struck out for Kakum National Park.

Kakum National Park is not only famous for its impressive array of special lowland forest birds but also for the magnificent canopy walkway that has been built at the southern edge of the reserve. This structure provides visitors with an impressive view of the canopy trees that can usually only be stared at from the forest floor, opening up a unique opportunity to do some otherwise impossible quality canopy birding. We spent an entire morning and afternoon on the walkway and over the day added a top class selection of species to our ever growing list. Some of the more memorable birds included wonderful flight views of Congo Serpent Eagle, rare Black-collared Lovebird, Brown-necked Parrot, flashy Yellow-billed Turaco, White-headed Woodhoopoe, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Cassin's Honeybird, an exceptional array of hornbills (Black Casqued, Yellow Casqued, Brown-cheeked, Black Dwarf, Piping and White-crested), Little Green, Fire-bellied and Melancholy Woodpeckers, Sabine's Puffback, Blue Cuckooshrike, Buff-throated and Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds, White-breasted Nigrita and an amazing canopy flock that produced the uncommon Preuss's Weaver, Violet-backed Hylia, Tit Hylia, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher,



Ansorge's Greenbul, Black-capped and Sharpe's Apalis, Fraser's Sunbird and Rufous-crowned Eremomela. We also did a little afternoon birding in the forest below the walkway, which also produced a few good species such as Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, displaying Rufous-sided Broadbill, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Finsch's Rufous Thrush and a knockout Long-tailed Pangolin, one of Africa's most seldom seen mammals! A nocturnal excursion also proved successful when we managed to locate the much wanted Fraser's Eagle-Owl, but unfortunately Brown Nightjar could only be added to the heard list.

There are also numerous other areas of Kakum that can be accessed and we made the time to explore these zones. To the north we managed to bird a wonderful track of secondary forest while other areas gave access to good forest edge and productive farm bush. We also visited the Pra River where good views of Rock Pratincole, White-bibbed Swallow, Mottled Spinetail, Giant Kingfisher and Cassin's Flycatcher were enjoyed. Additional forest species in these areas included Bat Hawk, Red-chested Goshawk, Cassin's Hawk Eagle, Grey and Red-fronted Parrots, Blue-headed Coucal, shy White-spotted Flufftail, perched views of the difficult Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, rare Black, Sabine's and Cassin's Spinetails, dazzling Black Bee-eater, Bristle-nosed and Yellow-billed Barbets, the highly sought-after African Piculet, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Western Nicator, Grey-headed Bristlebill, vocal Grey Longbill, White-tailed Alethe, seldom recorded Tessmann's Flycatcher and Red-vented and Blue-billed Malimbos.



Our next destination was the central town of Kumasi and then north to the fabulous guinea savanna woodlands in Mole National Park. This superb park is of high importance in the area as it protects massive tracts of pristine woodland and decent numbers of big game. We enjoyed our time in Mole National Park and managed to get to grips with most of the specials and target species; unfortunately, however, some big, big rains had also joined us in Mole and large scale flooding denied us access to a few key sites. The majority of our birding was done through woodland on higher ground, yet we did try and get lower down towards the rivers on a few occasions. Here we managed to pick up a few specials such as African Cuckoo-Hawk, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, African Cuckoo, Red-throated Bee-eater, bold Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, dainty African Blue Flycatcher, graceful Fanti Saw-wing, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Western Violet-backed Sunbird, delicate Lavender Waxbill and Black-headed Weaver, while also managing to get our bus stuck in some thick mud for the night before a tractor came along to the rescue!



In our efforts to get the specials we walked many kilometers of road through the vast woodlands of this reserve during our three day stay. We tried to locate as many mixed feeding flocks as possible and this hard work resulted in good views of Levaillant's Cuckoo, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Black Scimitarbill, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Fine-spotted and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Senegal Batis, White-crested Helmetshrike, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Singing and Dorst's Cisticolas, Moustached Grass Warbler, Northern Crombec, fabulous Spotted Creeper, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, European Pied Flycatcher, Red-winged Pytilia, Black-faced



Firefinch, Wilson's Indigobird, Exclamatory Paradise Whydah, West African Seedeater and Brown-rumped Bunting, while a nocturnal excursion managed to net us a number of Greyish Eagle-Owls. On our drives in and out of Mole we also located some good species in the form of Dwarf Bittern, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Pearl-spotted Owlet, gorgeous Bearded Barbet and amazing views of the scarce White-throated Francolin. From a mammal viewpoint we located African Elephant on a few occasions and had good looks at Waterbuck, Bushbuck, Kob, a single Red-flanked Duiker, Common Warthog, Patas and Callithrix Monkeys, Green Bush and Striped Ground Squirrels, a brief Panther Genet one night and the distinctive Yellow-winged Bat.

From Mole National Park we continued on north towards the Burkina Faso border where a small strip of the sahelian zone enters Ghana. Over the course of the next two days we birded areas such as Tono Dam, which was also overflowing from floodwaters, flooded rice paddies, the White Volta River and its surrounding woodlands, and the Tongo Hills. We also had a short night excursion near Bolgatanga which produced good views of Western Barn Owl and Long-tailed and Plain Nightjars. The undoubted highlight, however, during our birding here was the fabulous Egyptian Plover, a pair of which was found along the White Volta. On arrival at the river our local guide informed us that the entire White Volta had burst its banks the previous day and immediate lumps began to form in our throats as the Egyptian Plover prefers areas with extensive sand banks, not the habitat currently on show along this impressive river. Luck was nonetheless on our side and upon arrival we noticed that the water level had dropped ever so slightly with a tiny sandbank showing. Within minutes after a quick scan we picked up our target species and enjoyed wonderful views of this mega in the scope!



Our next morning began around Tono Dam where we managed to locate African Hobby, Gull-billed Tern, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Sun Lark, Lesser Blue-eared and Chestnut-bellied Starlings, Vitelline Masked Weaver and African Silverbill. Later on we moved to an area of flooded rice fields that proved rather productive. Here we found some interesting birds in the form of Gabar Goshawk, Lesser Moorhen, Great Snipe, White-crowned Lapwing and Black Coucal. A little time was also spent birding the woodlands near the White Volta, adding Red-necked Falcon, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Speckle-fronted Weaver and White-billed Buffalo Weaver to the list. The following morning we then made a short stop at the Tongo Hills, which produced our target species in fairly quick fashion with Fox Kestrel, Rock-loving Cisticola, White-rumped Seedeater and Red-chested and West African Swallows all giving excellent views.

We then faced the long drive back down to Kumasi where we spent the night. The following morning we were up early and found ourselves birding the nearby butterfly reserve of Bobiri. In the end it proved to be a rather slow morning, adding only a handful of new species such as Fraser's Forest Flycatcher and Western Oriole, while a few old friends in the form of Red-billed Helmetshrike, Melancholy Woodpecker, Tessmann's Flycatcher and Purple-throated Cuckooshrike were also seen. The wonderful forested hills of Atewa were next on the agenda and we arrived in time to spend the last part of the afternoon exploring the productive farm bush on Atewa's lower slopes. Here we enjoyed views of Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Thick-billed Weaver, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita and Magpie Mannikin.



We were up early the next morning as we switched into 4x4 vehicles for the climb up to the top of the Atewa Range. This forest has recently come into the spotlight for holding a number of scarce, range-restricted species and Upper Guinea endemics, and we were hoping to add a few of these to our tally. The day began in misty fashion with a slight drizzle in the air; not a perfect morning. However, after a few hours things brightened up somewhat and we had decent weather for most of



the day. An afternoon rainstorm then brought proceedings to an early end and we departed back down the mountain, following what looked more like a raging river than an actual road! Atewa is always bound to turn up something exciting or a little exotic and we were not to be disappointed. A huge mixed feeding flock at midday produced not only the bird of the day, but also one of the best birds of the tour in the form of a pair of Red-fronted Antpeckers! Interesting birds kept turning up throughout the day, while many other exciting species were unfortunately only added to the heard list. Special and interesting species included flush views of the seldom seen Forest Francolin, superb Blue-headed

Bee-eater, Red-rumped and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Fernando Po Batis, flitty Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Golden, Icterine and Western Bearded Greenbuls, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Olive-green Cameroptera, Little Grey and Ussher's Flycatchers and Johanna's Sunbird.

On our final day in Ghana we ventured back up into the lower slopes of the Atewa Range and birded first through the farm bush and then into the forest proper. Here we finished off in style by locating Forest Woodhoopoe, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Black-throated Coucal, Kemp's Longbill, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Marsh Tchagra, Maxwell's Black Weaver, delightful Green Twinspot and stunning Western Bluebill.

Ghana is certainly a destination well worth considering as it is by far the most comfortable country in West Africa for traveling in. We enjoyed a first class array of special birds, tasty food, comfortable accommodations, incredibly warm and welcoming people, and to top it all off, the logistics worked out very well. In a nutshell, a wonderful tour with good friends!

Photo Credits: White-necked Rockfowl by Paul Ellis, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Red-throated Bee-eater, Northern Red Bishop, Dwarf Bittern and Blue-headed Bee-eater by Keith Valentine.

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.3 List of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. 20/12/2009. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Total species recorded: 407

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

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Large numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Stone Partridge

Ptilopachus petrosus



Initially seen in Shai Hills where we all had super views, additional views were also enjoyed in Mole NP.

Forest Francolin*Peliperdix lathamii*

This shy and elusive species was first heard calling one evening in Kakum NP. We then flushed a single bird which was seen in flight in the higher reaches of Atewa.

White-throated Francolin*Peliperdix albogularis*

A scarce broad-leaved species that is seldom recorded in Ghana. We were extremely fortunate to find a single bird slowly crossing the road in front of our vehicle on the entry/exit road to Mole NP.

Ahanta Francolin (E)*Pternistis ahantensis*

This is a particularly difficult bird to actually see and we only had a group of calling birds on the lower slopes of Atewa.

Double-spurred Francolin*Pternistis bicalcaratus*

We had our best views of this species in Mole NP where it was common, although other sightings were also had at Shai Hills and in the savannas around Bolgatanga.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Francolinus

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**White-faced Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

Large numbers were seen daily in Mole NP in the wetland below camp and in the Bolgatanga area.

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

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This magnificent bird was seen in Mole NP below the camp.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Hadada Ibis***Bostrychia hagedash*

We had daily sightings of small numbers in Mole NP.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae**Dwarf Bittern***Ixobrychus sturmii*

This is a prized species that was seen extremely well when a single bird was flushed from a roadside pool by our vehicle on the drive into Mole NP. The bird then proceeded to land on a nearby bush giving great video and photo opportunities.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

This species was first seen at Sakumono Lagoon, with birds seen daily at various wetlands in the north of the country.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

A few birds were at Sakumono Lagoon and at Brimsu Reservoir.

Western Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Seen almost daily and often in large numbers.

Note: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Western Cattle Egret (which is what we recorded in Ethiopia) and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements but is accepted by the IOC.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

This widespread species was seen daily in Mole NP.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

A single bird was sighted in flight on our drive between Mole NP and Bolgatanga.



Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Only a single bird was seen at Brimsu Reservoir.

Note: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron

Western Great Egret*Ardea alba*

Seen at Sakumono Lagoon.

Note: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements but is accepted by the IOC.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

A single bird was seen at Sakumono Lagoon.

Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

Good views of this interesting species were had at Sakumono, including birds mantling as they hunted prey items in the shallows of the lagoon.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

Seen at Sakumono Lagoon.

Note: Clements lumps Little and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret E. dimorpha into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

Western Reef Heron*Egretta gularis*

A single bird of the dark morph was seen at Sakumono Lagoon with further sightings of two birds at Winneba Lagoon.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

A common species at Mole, where it was seen daily in wetland areas.

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

We found fair numbers at Sakumono Lagoon.

Aningas & Darters Anhingidae**African Darter***Anhinga rufa*

This is a fairly scarce species in Ghana and we had a single bird at Sakumono Lagoon.

Note: The resident African subspecies P. c. rufa is regarded by most authorities to be a distinct species; African Darter.

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

A widespread but generally uncommon bird throughout its range, which we recorded on an amazing four occasions while birding the moist woodlands of Mole NP.

European Honey Buzzard*Pernis apivorus*

A single of this Palaearctic migrant was sighted in flight near our camp in Mole NP.

Bat Hawk*Macheiramphus alcinus*

A rare species in Ghana that we recorded at Abo-abo. This is usually a strictly crepuscular species and what it was doing circling above our heads at 11 in the morning we will never quite know.

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

We recorded birds at scattered open country sites throughout the tour.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

Birds of the yellow-billed form *M. m. parasitus* (sometimes split as Yellow-billed Kite) were seen regularly throughout the tour.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

We recorded scattered birds during the tour, with the first sighting at Kakum.



Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

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

White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

We recorded this common vulture in fair numbers in Mole NP.

White-headed Vulture*Trigonoceps occipitalis*

A close flight view of this smart species was enjoyed in Mole NP.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

This classic African savanna raptor was seen daily in Mole NP.

Congo Serpent Eagle*Dryotriorchis spectabilis*

A highly sought after species which was sighted from the Kakum Canopy walkway when a single bird flew directly overhead for great views!

African Harrier-Hawk*Polyboroides typus*

A widespread species that was seen on numerous occasions at Kakum and Atewa forests.

Dark Chanting Goshawk*Melierax metabates*

Small numbers were seen daily in the north around Mole, Tono Dam and Bolgatanga.

Gabar Goshawk*Micronisus gabar*

This species comes in an uncommon melanistic form which is the variety that we recorded while birding in the Tono Dam area.

Red-chested Goshawk*Accipiter toussenelii*

Our only sighting of this species was en route to Aboabo, where we had scope views of a perched bird, which was initially located on call.

Shikra*Accipiter badius*

Our first sightings were at Shai Hills followed by sightings at a lunch stop in Tamale and again at the Tongo Hills.

Long-tailed Hawk*Urotriorchus macrourus*

Unfortunately this scarce species was only heard calling at Atewa and could not be lured in with tape playback.

Lizard Buzzard*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Seen on a couple of occasions in Mole NP.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle*Aquila africana*

A single bird was well seen in flight over forest in the Kakum area.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle*Hieraaetus ayresii*

This woodland and forest species can often be fairly elusive and we were very chuffed with the flight views that we had in Mole NP, while wading through one of many flooded areas!

Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

A single bird was seen briefly in flight at Mole NP.

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

Widespread with scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Note: Some authorities split this species into Eurasian Kestrel, F. tinnunculus which we observed (occurring in East and West Africa and the Palaearctic region) and Rock Kestrel, F. ruficollis which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize this split, the IOC does.

Fox Kestrel*Falco alopex*

This was one of the species that we were really after in the far north of the country. We eventually had a single bird fly directly over our heads after quite a bit of searching at the Tongo Hills.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

A species that was first seen in the Kakum area, with additional sightings of this slate-coloured raptor on a few occasions at scattered sites thereafter.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

This elegant falcon provided superb views in the late evening on the road to the White Volta from Bolgatanga.

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

This agile species was seen near Tono Dam and provided us with excellent scope views at close range.

Bustards Otididae

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

This species was unfortunately only heard in the vicinity of Bolgatanga one evening.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

We had superb views of a total of five birds in flight while driving to Bolgatanga from Mole and again in the vicinity of the White Volta.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

This tricky to spot understorey skulker was seen well by some of the group in the Antwikwaa area of Kakum NP. Certainly more frequently heard than seen!

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

A single bird was well seen at the edge of some rice fields near Tono Dam.

Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata*

One of the undoubted surprises of the tour was the brilliant sighting of this tricky species at some rice paddies near Tono Dam.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

Our first sighting was at Sakumono Lagoon followed by a few at Tono Dam.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

This distinctive, long-legged species was seen at Sakumono Lagoon.

Plovers Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

A handsome bird that we recorded initially at Sakumono Lagoon and again at Tono Dam in the far north of the country.

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*

This can be a rather tricky to find species in Ghana that is usually associated with large rivers and sandbanks. We were fortunate to find a large group of around a dozen birds in some rice fields near Tono Dam.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Recorded at Sakumono Lagoon and later in the vicinity of Tono Dam.

Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae



Egyptian Plover*Pluvianus aegyptius*

One of the most sought-after species on the route. This strikingly plumaged and particularly handsome bird was seen on the White Volta when two birds were scoped on a tiny sandbar. We felt particularly lucky to find this gem as the water levels of all the rivers were exceptionally high (In fact the White Volta had flooded its banks the previous day!). Certainly one of Africa's must see birds!

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

Seen on many waterbodies throughout the tour.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae**Great Snipe***Gallinago media*

While birding some rice fields in the vicinity of Tono Dam we flushed one which flew past us providing good views.

Common Redshank*Tringa totanus*

Two were seen at Sakumono Lagoon.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

This species was seen at Sakumono Lagoon with an additional sighting on the White Volta.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa achropus*

A single bird sighted along the White Volta was the only encounter with this migrant.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

A few birds were seen at Sakumono Lagoon and in some rice fields near Tono Dam.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen at a few wetland sites during the tour.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

A single bird was sighted at Sakumono Lagoon.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

A total of six birds were seen at Sakumono Lagoon.

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

Good numbers were seen at Sakumono Lagoon at close range providing excellent scope views.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis*

Restricted to rocky areas along large, fast flowing, tropical rivers. We found three birds on the Pra River.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Gull-billed Tern***Gelochelidon nilotica*

A single bird was sighted flying up and down the overflow outlet of a flooded Tono Dam.

Royal Tern*Thalasseus maximus*

A large tern that was recorded at Sakumono Lagoon.

Little Tern*Sternula albifrons*

We found a total of four birds, two adults and two juveniles at Sakumono Lagoon.

Black Tern*Chilodoni niger*

We recorded a few birds at Sakumono Lagoon.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

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- Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Seen almost daily around human settlements.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
This species was seen in the far north of Ghana, where it was not uncommon. The birds here belong to the pale rumped *guinea* race.
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*
A few birds were seen near the White Volta.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Quite commonly recorded during our tour.
- Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*
Very common in all areas of Guinea Savanna.
- Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*
Seen on numerous days of the tour, often near human habitation.
- Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*
Peak numbers were seen in Mole NP. A species that is associated with the Guinea Savanna belt.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
This species was seen on a few occasions in moist woodland and secondary growth in the Shai Hills, Kakum and Atewa areas.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
We recorded this species only twice on the route, briefly at Bobiri and again at Atewa.
- Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*
This is a shy forest interior species which was heard calling at Kakum. We later had a single bird flush off the side of the road on the walk up Atewa.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
This smart Guinea Savanna species was seen in Mole NP and up at Tono Dam on a few occasions.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*
We recorded this frugivore in moist woodland and forest throughout the tour.

Parrots Psittacidae

- Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
A beautiful bird, we recorded decent numbers in Mole NP and initially at Shai Hills. Birds in this area of the world belong to the nominate race.
- Black-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis swindernianus*
This lowland forest lovebird is probably the toughest species to locate and we were very fortunate to find a small flock of four in flight from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.
- Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*
A total of three birds were seen very well in flight while at Kakum.
- Brown-necked Parrot** *Poicephalus fuscicollis*
This is a very uncommon species throughout its range, which is confined to West Africa. We had two birds fly beautifully past our heads while up on the canopy walkway at Kakum.
Note: This complex and somewhat confusing species is sometimes split into three distinct species, Brown-necked Parrot P. fuscicollis, confined to West Africa and is the species which we recorded, Cape Parrot P. robustus, which is then endemic to South Africa and the third being Grey-headed Parrot P. suahelicus, which is found in south-east Africa in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and southern Tanzania. Clements only accepts one species the nominate P. robustus, which he calls Brown-necked Parrot! The IOC accepts P. robustus and P. Fuscicollis as distinct species. Only Ryan & Sinclair accept all three splits at this stage.
- Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gularis*
We had a few flight views of this species while at Kakum and Atewa.
- Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*
Seen in Guinea Savanna areas, with peak numbers in Mole NP and Shai Hills.



Turacos Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

This species is becoming increasingly rare in Ghana from over hunting and was only heard in the vicinity of the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Guinea Turaco

Tauraco persa

This species was sighted in the Shai Hills.

Note: Guinea Turaco is part of a large species complex comprising of Livingstone's Turaco T. livingstonii, Knysna Turaco T. corythaix and Schalow's Turaco T. schalowi. All leading authorities now widely accept these as four distinct species within this group.

Yellow-billed Turaco

Tauraco macrorhynchus

This is another stunning species of Turaco, which showed extremely well in the vicinity of the Kakum Canopy Walkway, additional views were also had at Atewa.

Violet Turaco

Musophaga violacea

This species offered great scope views in Mole NP while our initial sightings of this fantastic bird were at Shai Hills.

Western Plantain-eater

Crinifer piscator

Fairly common in Ghana, with birds seen quite regularly throughout.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal

Centropus leucogaster

This is often a very tough species to see and after hearing it call a number of times some of us finally got a view as one flushed out of some rank grass and tangle on our walk up Atewa.

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

A common coucal that was seen regularly during the tour.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

Another species that can regularly be heard calling however we were fortunate to have two good sightings of birds at Abo-abo and Atewa.

Black Coucal

Centropus grillii

One of the bonus birds that we managed to find during this exceptionally wet period. Sightings were enjoyed on the drive from Mole to Bolgatanga and again in the Tono Dam area.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)

Ceuthmochares aereus

A common forest species in Ghana that was seen at Shai Hills, Kakum and Atewa.

Great Spotted Cuckoo

Clamator glandarius

This classy species was seen very well at Tono Dam when an adult bird was located at fairly close range.

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

A striking species which was seen in Mole NP and further north in the Bolgatanga/Tono Dam area.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

Heard on numerous occasions and seen at Abo-abo.

Klaas's Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

Seen at scattered sites throughout Ghana.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

A stunning bird, single males were sighted at Kakum, Abo-abo and Atewa.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx olivinus

This shy bird was brilliantly seen in the Abrafo area of Kakum NP. Sighted flying above our heads on a few occasions and finally we all had unbeatable views of it perched.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

Only heard at a number of localities.



Red-chested Cuckoo*Cuculus solitarius*

A widespread species that was only heard on a number of occasions.

African Cuckoo*Cuculus gularis*

Two birds were seen in Mole NP.

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

While birding an area close to Bolgatanga we found a pair in the evening that had been roosting in a large Baobab tree.

Owls Strigidae**Greyish Eagle-Owl***Bubo cinerascens*

Mole NP produced very good looks in the area of our camp and along the airstrip.

Note: At one stage this species was lumped with the Spotted Eagle-Owl of Southern Africa B. africanus. All leading authorities now accept them both as species in their own right.

Fraser's Eagle-Owl*Bubo poensis*

Ghana is a superb country to find this tricky rainforest owl. After a bit of searching we finally managed to locate a single bird in the Kakum area, providing amazing views.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

We had a good sighting of one on the entrance road to Mole NP.

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

Unfortunately only heard while at Kakum.

Plain Nightjar*Caprimulgus inornatus*

A single bird was seen very well in flight near Bolgatanga on a night walk.

Long-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus climacurus*

We saw a few individuals perched, calling and in flight in the Bolgatanga area while on a night walk.

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

We enjoyed excellent close views over the Pra River and again at Brimsu Reservoir.

Black Spinetail*Telacanthura melanopygia*

A single bird was sighted while watching a few Sabine's Spinetail at Abo-abo. This large spinetail is very uncommon throughout its range.

Sabine's Spinetail*Rhaphidura sabini*

We had numerous good sightings on three days while in the Kakum area.

Cassin's Spinetail*Neafrapus cassini*

Always occurring at lower densities than the previous species however we still managed some superb close views of six birds on two days while in the Kakum area.

African Palm Swift*Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen in association with palms (as the name suggests!), with regular sightings during the tour.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

One of the most common swifts of the tour, seen very regularly and often near bridges where they breed.

White-rumped Swift*Apus caffer*

Pairs were sighted at Shai Hills and a single was later seen on the drive between Mole and Bolgatanga.



Trogons Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*
This good looking species was unfortunately only heard while at Atewa.

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller *Coracias naevius*
A few birds were seen in the Mole area, with further sightings in the far north of the country and near Shai Hills.

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*
This smart species was seen very well at Shai Hills and additional views were had of at least nine birds on the drive between Kumasi and Mole.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*
A rainforest associated species; it was seen on a few occasions in Kakum.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*
The moist woodland counterpart of the previous species, we saw a number of birds in Mole NP.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*
An inhabitant of deep rainforest, some of us got close views of a responsive bird in Kakum Forest.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*
Found in fairly open woodland, we recorded this species in Mole NP.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*
Quite similar in appearance to the next species, we had some great views of this beauty in Mole NP.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*
Seen fairly regularly in moist woodland and secondary scrub.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*
A tiny bird, it was well seen a few times at Kakum Forest and Mole NP.

White-bellied Kingfisher *Alcedo leucogaster*
This shy species was only heard as it whizzed by along a forest stream at Atewa.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*
We recorded this species once in Mole NP and again up at Tono Dam.

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*
This species was unfortunately only heard calling as it flew past us at a flooded area along a river in Mole NP.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*
The world's largest "typical" kingfisher, we saw it along the Pra River and at Brimsu Reservoir.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
Seen at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour. The world's most widespread kingfisher.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Blue-headed Bee-eater *Merops muelleri*
What a beauty! We had great views of this species in Atewa, a total of seven birds!

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*
Another stunning bird that was seen at two separate sites in Kakum Forest.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*
This species of the savanna biome was seen only once in Mole NP.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*



We had good views of this species at Tono Dam, quite dull and washed out in plumage when compared to the races further south and east in the range.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*

Associated with Guinea Savanna, it was particularly common in Mole NP.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

This stunning species was sighted only once when a group of around 30 birds were seen perched on wires alongside the road between Mole and Bolgatanga.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*

We put in a lot of effort for this one and managed to find a pair just in time associating with a large flock at Atewa.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*

A total of five of these impressive birds were seen at Kakum.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Groups were seen at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

Confined to the Guinea Savanna belt and we were fortunate to get great views of at least five birds during our time spent in Mole NP.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*

Seen daily in the rainforest belt, where it was particularly common.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Common in savanna areas, it was first recorded at Shai Hills.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Recorded in Mole NP and around Tono Dam.

Black Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus hartlaubi*

This scarce forest interior species was sighted from the Kakum Canopy Walkway. A lucky sighting that provided great views.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus*

This species was unfortunately only heard at Kakum and could not be lured into view.

White-crested Hornbill *Tropicranus albocristatus*

A stunning hornbill and a personal favourite of mine. We enjoyed a magnificent sighting of one from the canopy walkway before additional views were had at Abrafo and Abo-abo.

Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator*

Another forest associated species that was seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway and again at Abrafo.

Brown-cheeked Hornbill (E) *Bycanistes cylindricus*

We had good luck with this uncommon species getting a number of good views from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*

Four of these huge rainforest hornbills were seen in Kakum.

Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*

We were very lucky to find two of this uncommon species at Kakum.

Ground Hornbills

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*



An enormous bird, and luck was on our side once again as we obtained a good sighting of this savanna species in Mole NP.

African Barbets Lybiidae

Bristle-nosed Barbet

Gymnobucco peli

This species was seen only once when four birds were found at Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.

Naked-faced Barbet

Gymnobucco calvus

Quite similar in appearance to the previous species but always more common and widespread, we recorded this barbet at Kakum and Atewa.

Speckled Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus scolopaceus

We recorded small numbers daily in Kakum.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus atroflavus

This species was seen at Atewa. Always seeming to favour the canopy of the tallest trees.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus subsulphureus

We obtained brief views of this species at Bobiri and later on better looks at Atewa when a bird was seen in the scope.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus bilineatus

We had a single sighting in the Abrafo area of Kakum.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus

We had good views of this savanna inhabitant at Shai Hills, Mole NP and quite oddly at the base of the Atewa range.

Yellow-spotted Barbet

Buccanodon duchaillui

A forest canopy species that was well seen from the Canopy Walkway. Its call was a fairly common background sound in the rainforest.

Hairy-breasted Barbet

Tricholaema hirsuta

Singles were sighted at Kakum and Bobiri.

Note: Ryan & Sinclair split the eastern form of this species as Streaky-throated Barbet (T. flavipunctata). This is however not widely accepted by other authorities.

Vieillot's Barbet

Lybius vieilloti

A savanna species, it was seen at Shai Hills, Mole, Tono Dam and strangely in the farm bush at Atewa.

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

Great views were had of this striking species at Shai Hills.

Bearded Barbet

Lybius dubius

We had lovely views of this Guinea Savanna special in Mole NP and around Tono Dam.

Yellow-billed Barbet

Trachyphonus purpuratus

A canopy species that was seen twice on the route, initially at Kakum and again at Atewa.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird

Prodotiscus insignis

We had some decent views of this elusive species at Kakum.

Lesser Honeyguide

Indicator minor

A single bird found in woodland at Mole NP was our only encounter with this widespread honeyguide.

Greater Honeyguide

Indicator indicator

Birds were seen very well at Mole NP, both adult males and juveniles encountered. The only honeyguide known to "lead humans to honey".

Woodpeckers Picidae



African Piculet*Sasia africana*

A very sought-after species, we managed to find a pair at Abo-abo between short rain bursts, which gave excellent close views.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera punctuligera*

An uncommon species of the Guinea Savanna and often associated with mixed flocks. We encountered two pairs in Mole NP.

Little Green Woodpecker (E)*Campethera maculosa*

Confined to the Upper Guinea forests where it is quite an uncommon denizen of the rainforest belt. We enjoyed excellent scope views of a single bird from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

Singles were seen briefly in Kakum Forest and at Atewa.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

We sighted this widespread species at Mole NP.

Melancholy Woodpecker (E)*Dendropicos lugubris*

This upper guinea endemic was well seen a few occasions in Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa Forests.

Note: This species was previously considered to be merely a race of Gabon Woodpecker (D. gabonensis). At present both Clements and the IOC accept the split thus making Melancholy Woodpecker (D. lugubris) an upper guinea endemic.

Fire-bellied Woodpecker (NE)*Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*

We got decent views of this species at Kakum. Its loud drumming can often be heard at quite a distance.

African Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

This savanna species was seen at Shai Hills, Mole NP and at Tono Dam.

NOTE: This species is lumped by some authorities with Gray-headed Woodpecker D. spodocephalus to be a distinct species. Both the IOC and Clements accept this split however.

Brown-backed Woodpecker*Picoides obsoletus*

A great find indeed when after much effort we located a pair of these uncommon woodpeckers, which sat up for good photos and views in Mole NP.

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

A certain tour highlight was being treated to a single bird displaying just before sunset in Kakum Forest.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae**African Shrike-flycatcher***Megabyas flammulatus*

This species was only heard at Atewa.

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

We found a single female of this interesting species in the Atewa Farmbush.

Chestnut Wattle-eye*Dyaphorophya castanea*

This forest species was seen very well at Kakum.

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

Unfortunately only heard in the farm bush at the base of the Atewa Range. This is a very scarce species, which was almost unknown on our particular route until just a few years ago.

Senegal Batis*Batis senegalensis*

Recorded a few times in Mole NP.

Fernando Po Batis*Batis poensis*

Generally a rather uncommon species throughout its narrow range and we were fortunate to find a single bird in a massive mixed flock at the top of Atewa.



Note: Some authorities split this species in which case the form we saw becomes West African Batis *B. occulta*, with Fernando Po Batis then being restricted to Bioko Island. IOC does not accept this split.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye*Platysteira cyanea*

We had great views at Shai Hills, in the Kakum area and again in Mole NP.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae**White-crested Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

A few flocks were seen in Mole NP. The birds here sport ridiculous long crests, very different in appearance to birds in Southern Africa.

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

A smart species of lowland rainforest and we managed to find two groups initially at Kakum and again Bobiri, both providing great views.

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

A rare bird throughout its range that was heard calling on top of Atewa.

Grey-headed Bushshrike*Malaconotus blanchoti*

This broad-leafed woodland species was only heard during our time in Mole NP.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A few birds were seen in Mole NP.

Marsh Tchagra*Bocagia minuta*

An inhabitant of marshland and rank grass and bush and is generally quite an uncommon throughout its range. We were lucky to find a female that showed very well while birding the farm bush at Atewa.

Brown-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra australis*

Seen on a few occasions at Kakum and again at Atewa, preferring areas of secondary growth in the forest zone.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegalus*

The common Ghanaian Tchagra, which was recorded on many occasions in savanna and drier woodland situations from Shai Hills to Mole and again in the far north.

Sabine's Puffback*Dryoscopus sabini*

This rainforest species was seen very well from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Northern Puffback*Dryoscopus gambensis*

Initially recorded at Shai Hills, it was seen daily in Mole NP.

Lowland Sooty Boubou*Laniarius leucorhynchus*

A very tough bird to see! We heard this species in the farm bush at Atewa.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius aethiopicus*

A widespread African species that was heard at Kakum.

Yellow-crowned (Common) Gonolek*Laniarius barbarus*

A stunning bushshrike that showed very well at Shai Hills and later daily in Mole NP and further north at Tono Dam.

Brubru*Nilaus afer*

We recorded two birds in Mole NP.

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

Singles were seen on two occasions of this uncommon species in Mole NP.

Blue Cuckooshrike*Coracina azurea*

The Kakum Canopy Walkway is arguably the best site in the world to find this bird and we were not let down with good views of a pair.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike*Campephaga phoenicea*

Striking and often quite showy, males and females were sighted regularly at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike*Campephaga quiscalina*

This bird has quite a disjointed range through Africa and although quite widespread never common. We found two pairs on the route, first at Kakum and finally at Bobiri.

Shrikes Laniidae**Yellow-billed Shrike***Corvinella corvina*

This savanna species was seen on many occasions at Mole NP and in the Bolgatanga area.

Common Fiscal*Lanius collaris*

Small numbers were seen at scattered localities, beginning with a sighting near Kakum Forest.

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

A glowing, bright yellow bird which was seen on a few occasions in Mole NP.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Our first views were enjoyed at Bobiri while subsequently we had sightings up at Atewa.

Black-winged Oriole*Oriolus nigripennis*

Common and easily seen at Kakum.

Drongos Dicruridae**Shining Drongo***Dicrurus atripennis*

We saw this noisy rainforest species at Atewa, which prefers the forest interior and understorey.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

Very common in savanna environs, it was first seen at Mole NP.

Velvet-mantled Drongo*Dicrurus modestus*

A common species that was seen at most rainforest sites during the tour.

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

A skittish species that is rather shy and hides in thickets in the understorey. Unfortunately only heard.

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

A good looking species that was seen at a number of forest sites during the tour.

African Paradise Flycatcher*Terpsiphone viridis*

We recorded this species in Mole NP.

Crows & Jays Corvidae**Piapiac***Ptilostomus afer*

We found decent numbers of this interesting corvid at Shai Hills and to the north of Mole NP.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

Very common and seen almost daily.

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

Certainly the highlight of the trip! We had superb views of at least three birds, with some confiding individuals allowing for extended and close up views, an unforgettable experience indeed! This was the big one that the tour was built around the experience could not have been scripted better! A number of folks also managed to get some excellent videos and photographs.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

We enjoyed great views of this dainty species in Mole NP.

Dusky Crested Flycatcher *Elminia nigromitratus*

This scarce and rather active species was seen briefly on two occasions on top of Atewa.

Tits & Chickadees Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit *Parus guineensis*

These noisy savanna denizens were seen well in Mole NP.

Note: Clements and the IOC now recognize 2 full species. The nominate dark-eyed M. l. leucomelas in East Africa remains White-winged Black-Tit and the western yellow-eyed M. l. guineensis becomes White-shouldered Black-Tit, which is the species we recorded.

Nicators Nicatoridae

Western (Yellow-spotted) Nicator *Nicator chloris*

The liquid call of this species was heard on a number of occasions, with sightings good sightings in Kakum.

Larks Alaudidae

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

A single bird seen in the road at Shai Hills was our only encounter with this savanna species on the route.

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*

We enjoyed good looks at birds in the scope near Tono Dam and in full display at Tongo Hills.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Seen on every single day of the tour. What a successful bird indeed!

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

Seen at Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa, but certainly more often heard than seen.

Little Grey Greenbul *Andropadus gracilis*

A single bird was seen well at the Abrafo section of Kakum.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*

Good views were had when a group of at least four birds were sighted from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

Singles were seen at Kakum Forest and again at Atewa.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*

Small numbers were seen at most forest sites. Has a tendency to perch conspicuously on the outer edges of trees and vegetation.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris*

Can be a very skulky bird at times, we enjoyed good views at Kakum and again at Bobiri.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*

Good views were had of this distinctive greenbul with the pink bill at Antwikwaa, Kakum and at Atewa.



Honeyguide Greenbul*Baeopogon indicator*

Quite a striking greenbul with a lovely call, it was seen well at Kakum and later at Atewa.

Simple Greenbul*Chlorocichla simplex*

Seen in moist secondary scrub near Kakum Forest and again in farm bush at Atewa.

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)*Chlorocichla flavicollis*

A single bird was seen by some of the group below our lodge in Mole NP.

Swamp Palm Bulbul*Thescelocichla leucopleura*

A large, noisy species that was seen extremely well at Abo-abo, when a group of six birds were located.

Icterine Greenbul*Phyllastrephus icterinus*

Excellent views were had of this species at Atewa.

White-throated Greenbul*Phyllastrephus albigularis*

An extremely localized species in Ghana and we were very fortunate to find a single bird vocalizing in Kakum Forest.

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill*Bleda syndactylus*

A generally common species but shy and elusive unless seen in association with ant swarms. We only heard them on the tour.

Green-tailed Bristlebill (E)*Bleda eximius*

A top-class upper guinea endemic that was sighted at Atewa.

Grey-headed Bristlebill (NE)*Bleda canicapillus*

Prefers dense areas of secondary growth in the rainforest zone and we recorded a single bird at Kakum.

Western Bearded Greenbul (NE)*Criniger barbatus*

A species of the understorey which was first seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway when a single bird was sighted through a small gap in the forest growth, we then had further views at the top of Atewa.

Red-tailed Greenbul*Criniger calurus*

This species was seen well in Kakum Forest and Atewa.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae**Square-tailed Saw-wing***Psalidoprocne nitens*

Good views were had of at least four birds at the Abrafo section of Kakum Forest with additional views at Atewa.

Fanti Saw-wing*Psalidoprocne obscura*

This graceful and extremely distinctive species with long swallow-like tail streamers was sighted at the Elmina grasslands and again in Mole NP.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

A few birds were seen in the Kakum area and in the Mole area.

*Note: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow *H. rustica* and the New World Barn Swallow *H. erythrogaster*. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive *H. r. savignii* which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palaearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits and neither does the IOC.*

Red-chested Swallow*Hirundo lucida*

We enjoyed good close studies of perched and flying birds at the Tongo Hills.

Ethiopian Swallow*Hirundo aethiopica*

Small numbers were seen in and around Kakum and Atewa.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

Seen in Mole NP and Sakumono Lagoon. A very agile swallow usually seen near water.



Note: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form that would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow that would be *H. filifera*. Clements nor the IOC recognize this split.

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

A total of four were seen on the Pra River. A dazzling, dark blue swallow associated entirely with large rainforest rivers!

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*

Two birds were sighted at Shai Hills.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

This species was seen well at Shai Hills, often associated with large Baobabs.

West African Swallow *Cecropis domicella*

We had good views of this species at Tongo Hills while our initial sightings came from the Elmina grasslands.

Note: Clements lumps this with Red-rumped Swallow *C. daurica*.

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*

Small numbers were seen in the general area around Kakum.

Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettidae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii*

A charming species of the rainforest canopy that was very well seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway, and again at Bobiri and Atewa. Always associated with mixed feeding flocks.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

First sighted at Kakum where an individual was seen in the open for an extended period of time. Further views were had at Atewa and it was frequently heard in and around forest patches throughout the tour.

Tit-Hylia *Pholidornis rushiae*

We had great luck with this species when we had great views of three birds from the Kakum Canopy Walkway, more looks at Antwikwaa and then a further pair at Atewa. Africa's smallest bird!

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

This noisy species was seen at the Pra River, Winneba Plains and in the Atewa farm bush.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

Good views were enjoyed of a small group at Mole NP.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

Common and highly conspicuous at this time of the year when their calls are a common sound in secondary forest and woodland areas.

Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola emini*

Quite smart as far as cisticolas are concerned, we recorded four birds at the Tongo Hills.

Note: This species is lumped by Clements with Lazy Cisticola (*C. aberrans*). The IOC and most other authorities recognize two species, Rock-loving Cisticola and Lazy Cisticola as species in their own right.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

Sighted at a wetland between Mole and Tono Dam, with additional views at Tono Dam.

Note: Several authorities have split this widespread African species into 5 full species. Races include *marginatus*, *haematocephala*, *luapula*, *nominate galactotes* and *lugubris*. The race occurring in Ghana is *marginatus* and is split as Winding Cisticola. Clements does not recognize any of these races as full species however the IOC accepts them all.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

A large cisticola that was seen well at Shai Hills.

Dorst's Cisticola *Cisticola dorsti*



Some members of the group had scope views of this poorly known and rather scarce woodland species in Mole NP. Initially locate calling.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*

This species becomes extremely conspicuous during the wet season and we recorded many at Shai Hills, Mole NP and Tono Dam.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

We recorded this, the world's most widespread cisticola at Shai Hills and again at Sakumono Lagoon.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Quite a common species seen in rank vegetation on a number of occasions during the tour.

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus*

Seen very well at the Elmina Grasslands and again in Mole NP.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

We enjoyed good views of this species in Mole NP when a single bird was located.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*

A localized species of the rainforest zone that frequents the canopy. We enjoyed awesome looks from the Kakum Canopy Walkway with further views at Atewa.

Sharpe's Apalis (E) *Apalis sharpii*

We had great views of this species from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*

What a story this bird turned into. Hard work and perseverance unfortunately did not pay off for this one as a combination of bad luck and for the most part heavy flooding in Mole NP found us never really getting into any habitat for this species. This was a sad miss indeed with the bird being heard on few occasions.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicauda*

Quite common in dense vegetation and thickets, it was seen at scattered locales throughout the tour.

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

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*

Definitely the smartest Camaroptera, we enjoyed lovely views of this species and its twin blue inflatable throat sacks at Kakum and Atewa.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

Quite a skulky bird, we finally had views of them at Atewa.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*

Initially seen at Shai Hills, it was later seen on a number of occasions in Mole NP.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*

We had good views of this forest denizen at Kakum Forest and Atewa.

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

Seen well when we had scope views in Mole NP and Tono Dam.

Kemp's Longbill (NE) *Macrosphenus kempii*

A very shy and secretive little bird whose loud call easily gives its presence away. Eventually after our sixth odd effort everyone finally managed to see enough to count it. Recorded at Kakum and Atewa.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

A non-descriptive species with an extremely distinctive call. We enjoyed great views at Kakum and Atewa.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

We recorded this species on just two occasions in Mole NP.



Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

Seen well in Kakum Forest, and heard quite frequently at a number of forest sites.

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

This species was heard at close range at Atewa.

Puvel's Illadopsis*Illadopsis puveli*

Only heard at Shai Hills.

Brown Illadopsis*Illadopsis fulvescens*

This species was also only heard at Kakum and Bobiri.

Blackcap Babbler*Turdoides reinwardtii*

This species was seen at Shai Hills and later at a roadside stop between Mole NP and Bolgatanga.

Brown Babbler*Turdoides plebejus*

A noisy species which associates in small groups, we had good views of this one at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

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

Small numbers were seen at Kakum, Mole NP and at Tono Dam.

Hyliotas Hyliotidae**Violet-backed Hyliota***Hyliota violacea*

This canopy species was seen very well from the Kakum Canopy Walkway with further looks at Atewa.

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

We were very lucky to obtain excellent views of this species in Mole NP.

Starlings Sturnidae**Copper-tailed (Glossy) Starling (E)***Hylopsar cupreocauda*

Two of these Upper Guinea Endemic starlings were found while on the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

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

A single bird was seen well in a mixed flock of starlings just before Bolgatanga.

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

We recorded two birds at Tono Dam, which showed very well.

Bronze-tailed (Glossy) Starling*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

Excellent scope views were enjoyed of this species just before reaching Bolgatanga. It sports an orange-red eye when compared to the yellow-orange eyes of the previous two species.

Splendid (Glossy) Starling*Lamprotornis splendidus*

A large, noisy starling, it was seen on a number of occasions in the Kakum area and Bobiri.

Purple (Glossy) Starling*Lamprotornis purpureus*

Good numbers were seen and enjoyed in Mole NP. A striking species indeed!

Long-tailed Glossy Starling*Lamprotornis caudatus*

Sporting an impressive tail, we recorded this species in the area around and in Mole NP as well as in the far northern areas of Ghana.

Chestnut-bellied Starling*Lamprotornis pulcher*

This species was seen well near the White Volta and Tono Dam.

Violet-backed Starling*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

While birding at Shai Hills we bumped into three of these birds.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*

A large forest starling of which we obtained close-ups views at Kakum and again at Bobiri.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

This species was seen associating with herds of cattle just before Mole NP and again near the White Volta.

Thrushes Turdidae

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

Commonly heard in Ghana's rainforests but only seen a few times at Kakum.

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

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

We saw this species in Mole NP and at the base of Atewa in the farm bush.

White-tailed Alethe (E) *Alethe diademata*

This is a shy species and can be difficult to see well unless in association with ant swarms. We enjoyed a fantastic sighting in exactly this situation while birding the Abrafo section of Kakum NP.

Note: Some authorities like the IOC and Ryan & Sinclair 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*

Heard only once while at Atewa.

Note: A large species complex in where five possible species occur. Clements and the IOC accept the view of only one species the nominate S. erythrothorax. Ryan & Sinclair and a number of others split four more species Gabon Forest Robin S. gabonensis, Sangha Forest Robin S. sanghensis, Eastern Forest Robin S. xanthogaster and the newly described form Olive-backed Forest Robin S. pyrrholaemus.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

This species was seen very well in Mole NP while our first looks were rather brief at the Elmina Plains.

Forest Scrub Robin *Erythropygia leucosticta*

An extremely shy and retiring species that was only heard on the top of Atewa.

Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris*

A total of four birds were seen in Mole NP.

White-crowned Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea coronata*

Four very active birds were seen at Shai Hills while a single was picked up at Tongo Hills.

Note: Clements still lumps this species with Mocking Cliff Chat T. cinnamomeiventris, calling it as such. Most other leading authorities split these as two distinct species.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*

This was one the few new birds we managed to find at Bobiri when a group of three showed well.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

This species was seen in Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

We had good views in Mole NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

Always associated with rivers and streams where it hunts above the water. We located one bird on the Pra River.

Little Grey Flycatcher *Muscicapa epulata*



Four birds were enjoyed at the top of Atewa where they perched out conspicuously on open branches in the canopy.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

We enjoyed great views of this species at Atewa with an initial sighting coming from Kakum.

Tessmann's Flycatcher *Muscicapa tessmanni*

This is a very tough bird to find and is exceedingly scarce throughout its small fragmented range. We were fortunate on our tour to get superb views of pairs at Abo-abo and Bobiri.

Ussher's Flycatcher (E) *Muscicapa ussheri*

A single bird was seen rather poorly at Kakum while we later enjoyed excellent close views at Atewa.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

This forest inhabitant was seen very well at Atewa.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*

The savanna equivalent of the previous species, we had lovely views of this one at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

This common migrant was seen only once in Mole NP.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

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

This atypical, warbler like sunbird was seen very well in Kakum and Atewa Forests.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*

A broad-leafed woodland special that was found in Mole NP.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*

This small species was seen in Kakum and later in Atewa Forest. Shows paleness around the eye, resembling an eye-ring.

Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*

We recorded this species at Kakum.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*

A very common sunbird in forest and forest edge; seen at numerous such sites on the tour.

Pygmy Sunbird *Hedydipna platura*

We were slightly too early for the major influx of this species, which had probably been halted by the intense amount of rain in the area. Unfortunately only seen by a few people at Tono Dam when a single male was located.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*

This species was recorded only once at Brimsu Reservoir.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

Seen on a few occasions in Kakum Forest and later at Bobiri and Atewa.

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea*

A drab, but vocal and common forest inhabitant recorded at many forest sites.

Note: Some authorities including Clements split this species into two species (Eastern and the form we saw, Western Olive Sunbird). This split is not widely recognized and is not accepted by the IOC.

Buff-throated Sunbird (NE) *Chalcomitra adelberti*

We were treated to several sightings of this beautiful species, beginning with a smart male on the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

A very common species that was seen well in Mole NP. Usually always the first to respond to a Pearl-spotted Owl imitation.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius*



This forest edge species was seen at Kakum and later at Atewa.

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus*

This small species was seen well from the walkway at Kakum.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

This good looking species was sighted at a roadside stop before Mole NP and again at Tono Dam.

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*

First seen at Shai Hills, with further sightings at the Elmina Plains.

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae*

We had very good views of this uncommon species in Atewa Forest.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*

This large sunbird was seen on a few occasions in and around Kakum and Atewa Forests.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*

Seen on numerous occasions at Shai Hills, forest edge around Kakum and in Mole NP.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

We recorded small numbers daily in Mole NP.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Very common and seen on every single day of the tour!

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*

This rather plain species was fairly common in Mole NP.

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

We had good views of around 10 birds near the White Volta.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

A small group was found while birding the woodlands near the White Volta

Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Both males and females were seen well in rank grass at the base of the Atewa range where birds were breeding.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

Small numbers were seen in Mole NP and at Tono Dam.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

First recorded at Shai Hills, with further birds seen in and around Kakum Forest.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

Close-ups of this smart weaver were had at the Elmina Lagoon.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Seen well nest building on our drive from Mole NP to Bolgatanga and again at Tono Dam.

NOTE: This widespread African Masked Weaver complex has been a candidate for 4-way splitting. The subspecies P. v. vitellinus is now recognized by Clements and the IOC as a full species, Vitelline Masked Weaver.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Seen on a number of occasions throughout the country. Very different in appearance to birds in the south and east of the range!

Viillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

The striking black and chestnut form of this bird was seen near Kakum and Atewa.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

We had good views of this species in Mole NP and at Tono Dam.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*

A smart rainforest species that was very well seen in Kakum NP and at Bobiri.

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha*



A rainforest species that prefers the canopy of tall trees. Our first views were very brief at Abo-abo however we all enjoyed great views on our final day at Atewa.

Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*

An uncommon rainforest weaver that showed extremely well on the Kakum Canopy Walkway, we saw at least three different birds.

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

Three of these smart birds were seen well in the scope while birding along the Abrafo road in Kakum NP.

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

We had great views of this understorey species in Kakum Forest.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

Seen on numerous occasions in Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa Forests, it is the most common of the malimbés in Ghana.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

This malimbe was seen very well from the Kakum Canopy Walkway, two birds in total.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes melanotis*

A woodland species and four birds were seen in Mole NP.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*

An obvious species during the rains when large groups of them can be seen wheeling over wet, grassy areas. We recorded good numbers on our drive to Mole NP, from Mole to Bolgatanga and again in the region of Bolga.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

A striking species in breeding plumage that was seen displaying above flooded grasslands on the drive to Mole NP, from Mole to Bolgatanga and in the vicinity of Tono Dam.

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Numerous sightings were enjoyed of this glowing species in woodland areas throughout the country.

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Another obvious and widespread *euplectes* during the rains that was sighted countrywide in suitable habitat.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

We recorded this beautiful species at a number of sites, beginning with good looks at Shai Hills.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker (E) *Parmoptila rubrifrons*

Undoubtedly one of the birds of the tour and a species that most visitors have only ever dreamed about finding! This extremely rare and seldom viewed bird provided crippling views when a pair were located feeding at eye level together with a huge mixed flock at the top of Atewa. The male showed particularly well for a number of seconds as he perched in the open on a couple of occasions.

White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus*

This species was sighted at the Kakum Canopy Walkway and again at Atewa.

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita bicolor*

While birding at Atewa we found two of these good looking finches in the farm bush and in the deep forest.

Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*

This is the most common and widespread *nigrita* and was well seen at Kakum and Atewa Forests.

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*



This species can often be tricky to find however during the breeding season they to become a little more conspicuous and we enjoyed fine views of at least 8 birds during our time at Mole NP.

Yellow-winged Pytilia*Pytilia hypogrammica*

A rare bird that is associated with the guinea savannas and is seldom recorded, we were lucky to bump into a single bird at Shai Hills, which sat for quite a while offering good views.

Green (-backed) Twinspot*Mandingoa nitidula*

Another surprise at Atewa was locating this scarce species on the lower slopes of the range. Two males and a female gave us superb views on our walk down.

Black-bellied Seedcracker*Pyrenestes ostrinus*

Unfortunately only recorded in flight on two occasions. This species has the habit of flying very high overhead from area to area.

Western Bluebill*Spermophaga haematina*

This beauty was seen extremely well in the Atewa farm bush.

Bar-breasted Firefinch*Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We had great views of this species in secondary growth areas near Kakum Forest.

Red-billed Firefinch*Lagonosticta senegala*

This widespread species was seen well in Mole NP and at the Tongo Hills.

Black-faced Firefinch*Lagonosticta vinacea*

One of the more uncommon species of firefinch, which is best searched for in Mole NP. We had top class views of males and females on a couple of occasions in this reserve.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu*Uraeginthus bengalus*

Commonly recorded at Mole NP and in the north of Ghana.

Lavender Waxbill*Estrilda caerulescens*

Quite a shy waxbill that is quite nervous and restless. After a string of leader only sightings we finally found three birds that cooperated nicely allowing everyone the opportunity to enjoy this lovely species.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill*Estrilda melpoda*

We recorded this species on a few occasions in secondary habitats, with birds seen at Kakum, Mole and Atewa.

Black-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda troglodytes*

This species was seen well at Tono Dam and a few other scattered sites in the north.

Black-faced Quail-Finch*Ortygospiza atricollis*

While at a site near Bolgatanga we first heard and then saw this species a number of times in flight overhead.

African Silverbill*Euodice cantans*

Good views were enjoyed of a pair while birding at Tono Dam.

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura cucullata*

Seen quite frequently during the tour at various wooded sites.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes.

Black-and-white Mannikin*Lonchura bicolor*

We saw this species initially at Kakum Forest and later at Bobiri and Atewa Forests. As its name suggests a strongly contrasting species.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes.

Magpie Mannikin*Lonchura fringilloides*

Uncommon throughout its range, which is fairly widespread across Africa. We were lucky to find a single bird feeding on grasses in the farm bush at the base of the Atewa range.

Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae**Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeata*

This species was seen in Mole NP and later at the Tongo Hills.

Wilson's Indigobird *Vidua wilsoni*

A few males in full breeding plumage were seen in Mole NP.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Common and conspicuous and seen at numerous sites countrywide.

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*

We had excellent views of around a dozen males in Mole NP.

Togo Paradise Whydah *Vidua togoensis*

A single male was probably sighted in Mole NP. Not seen well enough to be 100% sure of the id however the features certainly leaned towards this species.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

A single bird was sighted at Sakumono Lagoon.

Finches Fringillidae

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia*

We enjoyed a sighting of five birds in the Tongo Hills.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

Commonly found in small numbers in Mole NP.

West African Seedeater *Crithagra canicapilla*

This scarce resident was found in Mole NP, where a single bird provided good scope views.

Note: Clements still lumps this West African form with Streaky-headed Seedeater C. gularis of Southern Africa.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

Common around Tono Dam and the Tongo Hills.

Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis*

This uncommon woodland special was seen very well in a small mixed flock in Mole NP.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded (18 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.

False Vampire Bats Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

A highly distinctive species that was sighted at Mole NP. This species is confined to the broad-leaved savannas across west and central Africa.

Cheek-pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Olive Baboon *Papio papio*

We saw this communal species in good numbers at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.

Lesser White-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus petaurista*

A final stop at Shai Hills on our way to Accra gave us good looks at this species.

Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey *Cercopithecus sabaeus*

Seen daily in Mole NP.



Patas Monkey*Erythrocebus patas*

Spends far more time on the ground than other monkeys, we found them daily in Mole NP.

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

Several were seen in Mole NP.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel*Funisciurus*

This species was briefly sighted on the forest floor in Kakum NP.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

We saw this species at Kakum and Bobiri.

Green Bush Squirrel*Paraxerus poensis*

Seen well in Mole NP.

Pangolins Manidae**Long-tailed Pangolin***Manis tetradactyla*

This was one of the undoubted highlights of our time in Ghana. This extremely rare and seldom recorded mammal was brilliantly seen during the day while walking on one of the interior forest trails in Kakum NP.

Mongoose Herpestidae**Common Cusimanse***Crossarchus obscurus*

This species is confined to the rainforests of West Africa, where they are seldom recorded. Some members of the group managed to get onto two crossing the trail briefly at Bobiri.

Genets and Civets Viverridae**Panther (Blotched) Genet***Genetta maculata (tigrina)*

We saw one briefly at our accommodations in Mole NP.

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

These characterful creatures were seen daily in Mole NP.

Horned Ungulates Bovidae**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

We saw these colourful antelope daily in Mole NP.

Kob*Kobus kob*

Good numbers were seen on a daily basis in Mole NP.

Waterbuck*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

A few animals were seen daily in Mole NP.

Red-flanked Duiker*Cephalophus rufilatus*

We had a single brief but good sighting of this small, shy species in Mole NP.

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

Two bulls were seen in Mole NP.

Reptiles

Tropical House Gecko

Hemidactylus mabouia

Seen on our accommodations at various sites on the tour.

Rainbow Skink

Mabuya margaritifer

Small numbers were seen daily in camp in Mole NP.

Red-headed Rock Agama

Agama agama

Quite common and seen all over Ghana!

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