



*White-necked Rockfowl (better known as Yellow-headed Picathartes), our undoubted bird of the trip! (Pete Morris)*

# ULTIMATE GHANA

**19 NOVEMBER – 9 DECEMBER 2019**

**LEADER: PETE MORRIS**

Ghana, once known as the 'Gold Coast' is situated in the very heart of West Africa, and is a vibrant, colourful and friendly country that offers much to visitors. More importantly, for us, Ghana is without doubt the jewel of West Africa in terms of finding and seeing West African bird specialities. As with most of the region, the habitat is severely under threat, both from clearance for other land uses, and exploitation for bush meat, but there are enough pockets of habitat to deliver many of those mouth-watering specialities. And importantly, there is a brilliant infrastructure in Ghana with generally good hotels and roads, decent food and excellent local guides and logistical support. So despite the fact that the birding is still tough, it is anywhere in West Africa, it is without doubt the place to go to get a big list of desirable birds! In just under three weeks, we recorded around 470 species of birds, an excellent total for this tour. But the list of desirable goodies is more impressive! The White-necked Rockfowl (much better known as Yellow-headed Picathartes) was the star of the show, but other mouth-watering goodies included Grey-throated and Nkulengu Rails, Brown Nightjar, Akun Eagle Owl, Congo Serpent Eagle, Long-tailed Hawk, the rarely seen Spot-breasted Ibis, White-throated and Ahanta Francolins, stunning Blue-moustached and Rosy Bee-eaters, delightful Blue-bellied and Abyssinian Rollers, Forbes's Plover, the highly-desired Egyptian Plover, and the rarely seen Rufous-rumped Lark. More subtle but rarely seen species included Spotted and Yellow-footed Honeyguides, Baumann's Olive Greenbul, and Nimba



*The fantastic Akun Eagle Owl ended up popping up rather too often! (Pete Morris)*

and Tessmann's Flycatchers, and a number of Upper Guinea endemics included species such as Melancholy and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers and Yellow-bearded and Western Bearded Greenbuls. This is of course only scratching the surface! The butterflies were out of this world and would need another full trip to do them justice, and we found a number of interesting mammals such as the rarely seen Gambian Mongoose and the fabulous Four-toed Hedgehog. All in all it was a great adventure and my sincere thanks go to James, Ibrahim and Anim for their support and tireless help during the trip.

We began in the evening in Accra, the busy capital of Ghana, where, after a short night's sleep in a comfortable hotel, we were up early the next day at five for breakfast, and very soon making our way out of the capital, heading towards the Shai Hills Reserve. The Shai Hills is an interesting area of open grassland, forest patches and rocky inselbergs. It was a relatively short drive and we were greeted by noisy Olive Baboons as we pulled through the gates of the reserve. We were soon exploring the open savanna woodland, where early successes included smart Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets, both Brown and Blackcap Babblers and prominent Western Grey Plantain-eaters. We made our way to a more rocky area where we soon found one of our main targets, the White-crowned Cliff Chat, a smart male of which perched up on top of the boulders whilst Red-necked Buzzards posed overhead. Further along we found numerous Double-spurred Francolins, a couple of European Honey Buzzards and noisy Senegal Parrots, and through the morning we caught up with a number of widespread species including an African Cuckoo-Hawk in display, African Grey Hornbills, Black-billed Wood Dove, Croaking and Short-winged Cisticolas, Violet-backed Starling and our only Yellow-throated Longclaws of the tour. Sadly we could not tease out the calling Ahanta Francolins or the hoped-for African Barred Owlet.

After an action-packed morning, we headed back south, pausing for what soon became the familiar mini-buffet lunch. We then had to negotiate our way back around the busy capital and its heavy traffic, before pausing at Winneba coastal lagoon for a bit of light relief! Here, we found good numbers of waders, including two Ghanaian rarities in the shape of a Terek Sandpiper and an American Golden Plover. African Royal, Caspian and Sandwich Terns were present, throngs of Western Reef Egrets were everywhere, and other wader highlights included our first Spur-winged Lapwings, White-fronted Plovers and Marsh Sandpipers to name a few. We then



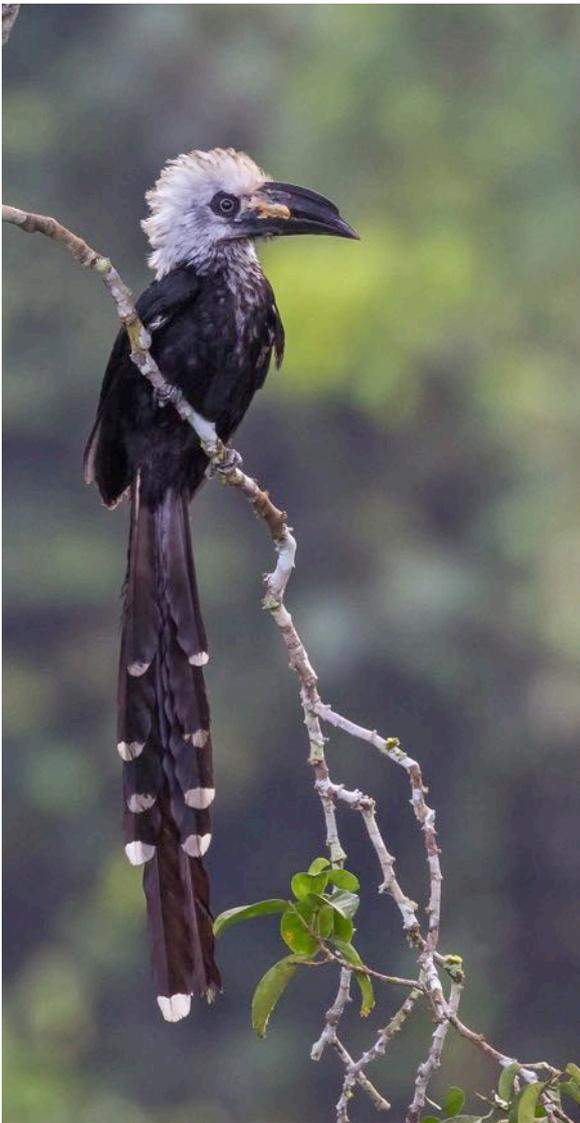
*An American Golden Plover was an early surprise! (Pete Morris)*

just had time for a brief visit to the nearby Winneba Plains, and again we were busy. In no time at all, we found a pair of Fine-spotted Woodpeckers, and colour was added by Orange-breasted Bushshrikes, Yellow-crowned Gonoleks, a smart male Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike and Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, and we were also pleased to find an excitable Red-winged Warbler. It had been a long day, and it was time to head inland to our comfortable hotel and a good night's sleep!

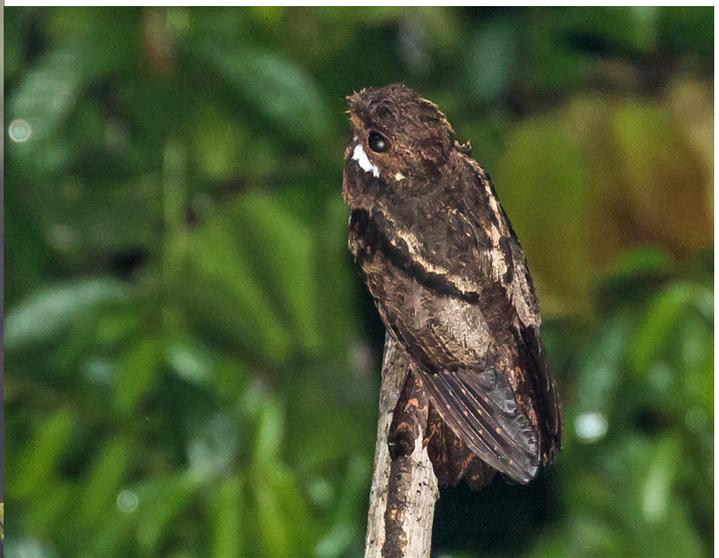
We then had two full days to explore the area around Kakum National Park. Although created in 1932, the park wasn't opened to the public until 1994. Covering an area of 347 square kilometres, it is semi-evergreen rain forest, although much of it has been 'selectively' logged and little of the forest is pristine, though the regenerating forest holds a number of good birds! Kakum is perhaps most famous for its rain forest canopy walkway,



*The famous Kakum walkway gets you right up into the canopy! (Pete Morris)*

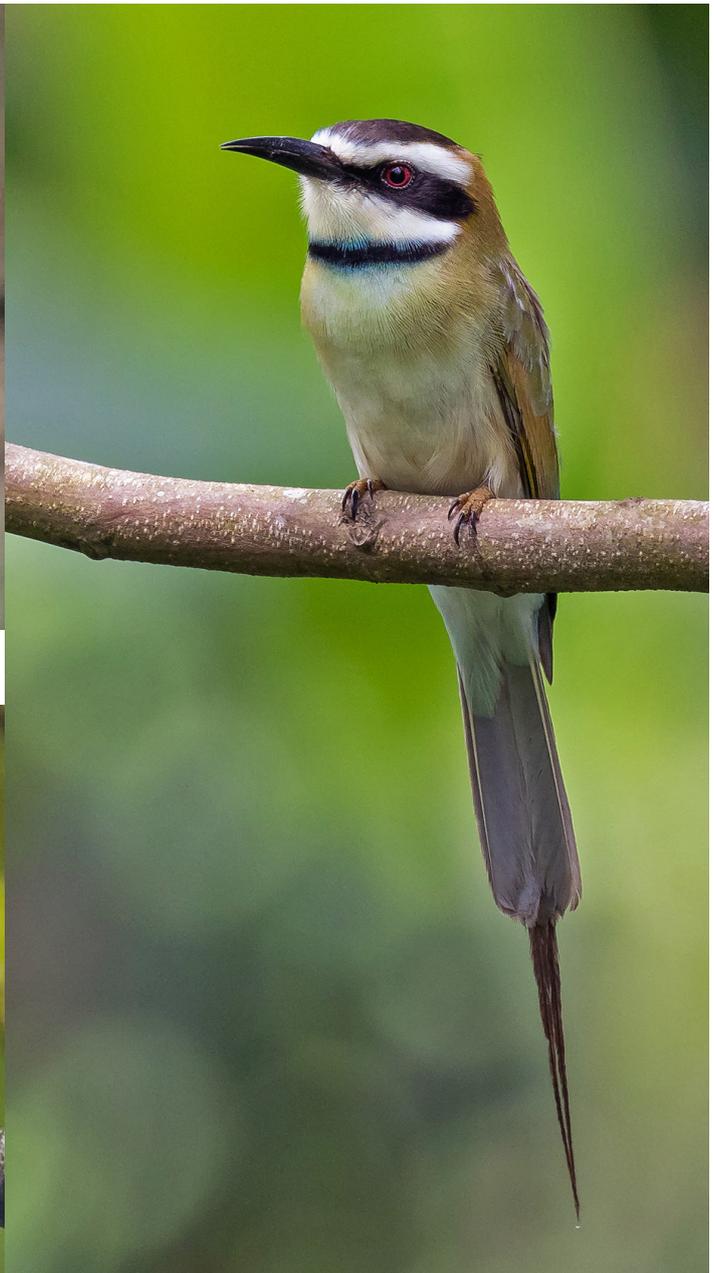


*Three specials from the walkway... White-crested Hornbill, Blue-throated Roller and the much-desired Brown Nightjar (Pete Morris)*



the only one in Africa, and very similar to the famous canopy walkway at Iquitos in Peru. Constructed in 1995 it is comprised of about 350 metres of bridges suspended between six tree platforms that reach a height of up to 40 metres above the forest floor. Luckily we were allowed on before the crowds, and were privileged to spend a few hours in the canopy just with the birds and primates! We were greeted by Ussher's Flycatchers and a smart White-crested Hornbill. The walkway itself was not everyone's cup of tea as it swayed and creaked, but over the next couple of hours we accumulated a number of species at eye-level that normally reside high above in the canopy. During our vigil Fanti Drongo and African Pied Hornbill were virtually constant companions. Green Hylia piped out their disyllabic calls and early goodies included some smart Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-spotted (the very different song of West African birds will lead to this form being split as a separate species) and Hairy-breasted Barbets, the often difficult-to-see Sabine's Puffback, and a male Sharpe's Apalis. Some of the canopy species still proved difficult to see, and stayed on even higher perches, with species such as Violet-backed Hylia, Forest Penduline Tit and Buff-throated Sunbird still proving difficult. White-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas were somewhat easier to see, the stunning Preuss's Golden Weavers crept along limbs, Maxwell's Black Weavers moved from crown to crown, and malimbos were well represented with both Red-headed and Red-vented showing well. Chestnut-winged and Splendid Starlings were often around too, and other goodies included Red-fronted Parrots screeching by, our first Yellow-billed Turacos, Red-chested Goshawk, a Cassin's Honeybird, Spotted Greenbul, a tiny Lemon-bellied Crombec, and smart Tiny Sunbirds. We also noted our only Fanti Saw-wing flitting over the canopy and also spent some time working out the swifts high overhead, many of which appeared to be Pallid Swifts.

As it warmed up, and the activity began to drop off, the first regular tourists arrived for their experience with nature! Suffice to say this appeared to involve finding the courage to get on the walkway, race around as quickly as possible whilst making plenty of noise and rocking the whole walkway in large gangs, and then get



*Rufous-sided Broadbill, White-throated Bee-eater and Chocolate-backed Kingfisher from the Kakum area (Pete Morris)*



to the other end as quickly as possible!! It was time to descend ourselves! We made a short walk through the forest, and here we found a number of forest species. The stunning Red-billed Helmetshrike was a favourite, and other additions included the smart Western Bearded Greenbul, our first West African Wattle-eyes, Fraser's Sunbirds and Icterine Greenbuls. We then found a fantastic Rufous-sided Broadbill before making our way back to the car park, where White-throated Bee-eaters and a male Pin-tailed Whydah entertained.

We returned to the hotel for lunch and witnessed a thunderstorm of biblical proportions during our siesta period! We then made our way back to Kakum NP for an afternoon on the walkway. The plan was to go on to the walkway after the general visitors had finished, but unfortunately, our plan was scuppered by the rain. As we made it back into the canopy, so did several hundred visitors, and I think it is fair to say that being on the furthest platform was not the most pleasant experience as literally hundreds of folk rocked the walkways, and sang. A tree crashed down near us, sending the monkeys into panic, and a plank fell to the floor... For a moment we wondered why we were there! We were soon reminded when a smart Blue-throated Roller showed well and gorgeous Yellow-mantled Weavers posed in the canopy. Then, as dusk fell, we soon found the much hoped for Brown Nightjar, that was fixed in the beam, and we headed back down, somewhat relieved and happy!

The following day, we tried a few different forest patches and areas of farmbrush in the Kakum area. We began at a small wetland where colourful Village and Vieillot's Black (of the Chestnut-and-black form) Weavers

were busy. Here we also found a male White-spotted Flufftail, Diderick Cuckoos, and a fine Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, though the Lowland Sooty Boubou remained hidden! We then tried a track where we added numerous widespread West African species, though the stars of the show were a very obliging and impressive Black-throated Coucal and a stunning pair of Rosy Bee-eaters. The supporting cast included our first Blue Malkoha, fine Black Bee-eaters, Naked-faced Barbets, Speckled Tinkerbirds, a family of White-headed Woodhoopoes, a Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Tit-Hylia and an obliging Yellow-browed Camaroptera. We then made a longish drive north to the Pra River where, in hot sticky temperatures, we soon found the hoped-for Rock Pratincoles and White-bibbed Swallows. On the drive back to the lodge for lunch, we made a stop at a very impressive roadside Preuss's Cliff Swallow colony. The afternoon saw us in a different forest patch, which proved rather quiet. We did manage to track down a fine Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and saw a couple of Western Black-headed Orioles at eye-level, though the calling Brown-cheeked Hornbills remained just a distant voice.



*The stunning Black-throated Coucal rarely shows this well! (Pete Morris)*

Another day, another forest patch, and this time we found ourselves first watching a Western Nicator, followed by a secretive Puvell's Illadopsis, followed by some sneaky but gorgeous Red-cheeked Wattle-eyes. A Western Bluebill building a nest was another great sighting. We then moved on to another patch where we added our first (seen) Grey-headed Bristlebill and Red-tailed Greenbuls, whilst nearby Black-winged Red Bishops, a fine Red-rumped Tinkerbird and a Brown-crowned Tchagra were also new. It was then time to move once more, and we headed back to our lodge, packed up and drove down to Cape Coast (with a stop along the way) for a fine lunch in a restaurant by the old fort. After our filling meal, we re-boarded our trusty bus and headed for Nsuta Forest, an area of secondary forest with remnant forest giants and swampy patches. As is so often the case in the afternoons, the forest was quiet. We did see 100s of African Pied Hornbills, a few Piping Hornbills and our first Brown-cheeked Hornbill, in flight, but generally not much was happening. As temperatures cooled and the sun began to sink, we did manage a few good views of Red-fronted Parrots, and looked at both Swamp Palm and Honeyguide Greenbuls. As dusk fell, we waited hopefully at our allotted spot, and amazingly, some bugling calls alerted us to the presence of some incoming Spot-breasted Ibises. They proceeded to fly almost right over us before dropping in, and they then had another fly around and perched briefly in a tree before disappearing for good! It had been worth the wait! We then made our way into Shama for dinner and cold beers.

We were soon back in Nsuta Forest, but once more it was slow going and hard work, and few of our hoped-for targets obliged, though thankfully, we had more chances of all of them. We did add some new species, beginning with our only Levillant's Cuckoo of the tour. A juvenile African Emerald Cuckoo, being fed by a female Blue-throated Brown Sunbird was interesting to watch, and other goodies included our first Bristle-nosed Barbet, a singing Fernando Po Batis, Little Grey and Ansorge's Greenbuls, and our only seen Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, and we called in our first Blue-headed Wood Dove.

We were once more back at the hotel for the obligatory mini-buffet, and once I had extricated myself from my room (!! ) we were on the way again, this time heading for Ankasa National Park. We had some stops to make along the way though, and it was a fair drive, so we needed to be efficient. At the first stop, a rather lush, lily-covered pool, we soon found the hoped for African Pygmy Geese, and we were also pleased to see a pair



*The gorgeous Orange Weaver showed superbly! (Pete Morris)*

of Allen's Gallinules sneaking about with the more prevalent African Jacanas. We also found some excellent colourful male Orange Weavers attending their nests. Moving on, the Ebi River produced a couple of Mangrove Sunbirds and the scarce White-browed Forest Flycatcher, but time was cracking on. Nearing Ankasa, we needed to switch to jeeps to make our way the last few kilometres into Ankasa National Park, where we made our way into the campsite.

We were welcomed by another impressive electrical storm, but fortunately the tents are under sturdy shelters and we settled in and waited. As camping goes, it was comfortable, and we were looked after admirably by the camp staff. We also got a sneak preview of the new lodge which will hopefully be completed in 2020 and will await future groups! Once the rain had stopped, we took the opportunity to sneak out with our torches. A roosting Finsch's Rufous Thrush was a surprise, but more impressive was a superb Akun Eagle Owl which gave jaw-dropping views from close range. A nice way to begin our visit.



*The superb White-bellied Kingfisher was an early highlight in Ankasa NP (Pete Morris)*



*Ankasa NP has become THE place to see the rare Nkulengu Rail (Pete Morris)*

We had two and a half days to explore the magnificent and diverse forests at Ankasa. Magnificent and diverse, but you still have to tease every bird out, and it was pretty slow going. Put simply, there are no magic tickets in West African forests. The more time you spend looking, the more you see, and it really is a gradual accumulation, but the list we amassed was certainly pleasing and impressive. We focused much of our attention around a series of small forest pools, and here we found several of our wanted species. As Blue-billed Malimbos attended their nests and Dusky-blue Flycatchers flitted around, noisy Blue-breasted Kingfishers held court, White-bellied Kingfishers flashed across the pools and eventually gave some wonderful perched views, and a family of African Finfoots snook around the margins of the pools. On one evening a White-crested Tiger Heron flew into roost, pausing in a huge tree before moving on again! We spent some time tracking down two elusive forest rails. A trio of Nkulengu Rails at a roost were quite brilliant, but even better was a Grey-throated Rail which gave fantastic views on the track in front of us! It even flashed its amazing black and white wings at us a couple of times, providing one of the champagne moments of the tour. Also on the track we found a smart Ahanta Francolin, a restless group of top-knotted Crested Guineafowl and some fine Blue-headed Wood Doves.

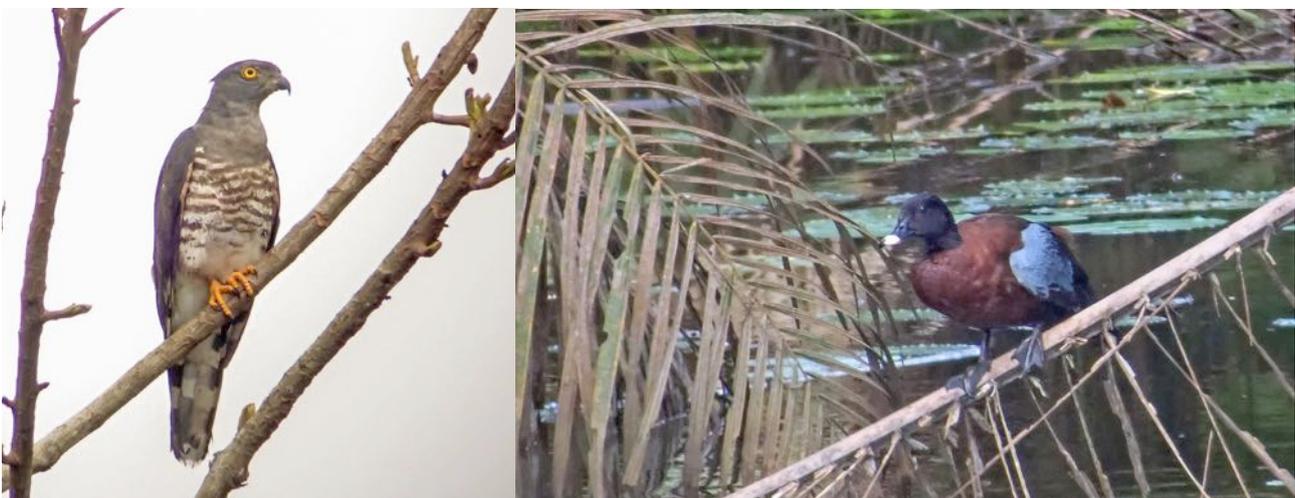


*Finsch's Rufous Thrush and Red-chested Owlet in Ankasa NP (Pete Morris)*



*This Long-tailed Hawk at Ankasa NP was of the rarely-seen grey morph (Pete Morris)*

We spent some time targeting the desirable forest raptors, and this also paid off, with great scope views of a fine Congo Serpent Eagle, and a magnificent Long-tailed Hawk of the rarely seen grey morph. Overhead, Cassin's and Sabine's Spinetails entertained, and a huge Black-casqued Hornbill flapped across the clearing. Inside the forest we sought another group of elusive denizens! Here, sneaky mixed flocks held the much-wanted Yellow-bearded Greenbuls that were outnumbered by fidgety Red-tailed Greenbuls. Black and Red-billed Dwarf Hornbills both put in an appearance, and skulkers that were teased out included a couple of smart Western Forest Robins and the excellent Rufous-winged Illadopsis. We also bumped into a couple of antswarms where the birds were still very shy. Most confiding were some smart White-tailed Alethes, the juveniles being the easiest to see, but also present were White-tailed Ant Thrush, Red-tailed and Grey-headed Bristlebills, and even a Lowland Akalat for some lucky observers. Other great species seen during our visit included Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, a fine Red-chested Owlet peering down at us from the canopy, a smart male Blue Cuckoo-shrike, a sneaky Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher and some smart Crested Malimbos. Around the camp, an African Wood Owl visited us at dinner and a group of confiding Western Bearded Greenbuls foraged around us at lunchtime. On the nearby river we found several Cassin's Flycatchers and, for some Shining Blue Kingfisher and Black-bellied Seedcracker, whilst just outside the gate we found a smart male Reichenbach's Sunbird.



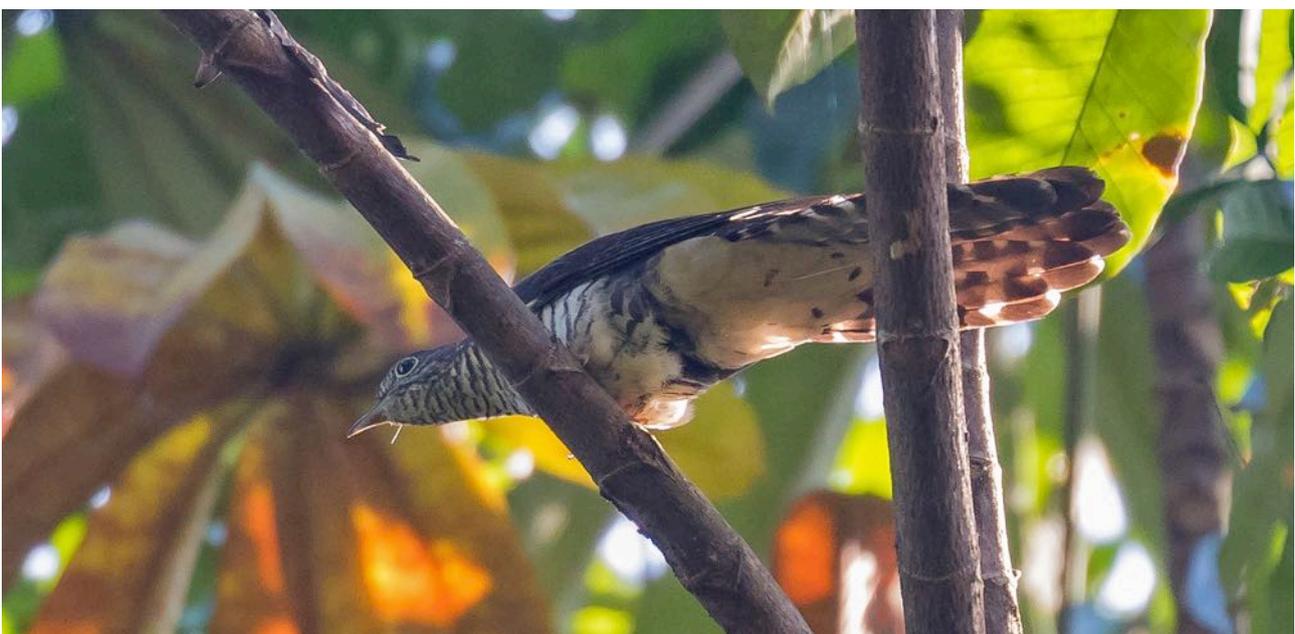
*This African Cuckoo-Hawk and male Hartlaub's Duck were found just outside Ankasa NP (Pete Morris)*



*Our only Little Green Woodpecker of the tour and a fine Red-billed Helmetshrike from Abrafo Forest (Pete Morris)*

It had been a tough, but immensely rewarding few days, and as we thanked the camp staff and jeep drivers, it would be untrue to say that we were not looking forward to the air conditioning on the bus! It was luxury!! We did make some stops just outside the park at a couple of pools, where we first found some White-faced Whistling Ducks and then, the much hoped-for Hartlaub's Duck, a male of which flashed his blue wings at us repeatedly. Also here was a much-appreciated and smart African Cuckoo-Hawk, perched at close range. It was then basically a long and slow haul all the way back to the Rainforest Lodge at Kakum where we arrived in time for a good long shower and a cold beer!

As always, we were up and out early the following morning, and back in Abrafo Forest. It was a successful morning, as we tracked down a number of gaps in our ever-growing lists. A Gabon Forest Robin and a smart pair of Red-fronted Antpeckers were a bit sneaky, but some blue and purple-glossed Copper-tailed Starlings were scoped in the canopy, a *gabonensis* Black Cuckoo perched in the scope, Brown-cheeked Hornbills gave some great views and a female Little Green Woodpecker finally made an appearance. Numerous smart Red-billed Helmetshrikes posed, a surprise Black-collared Lovebird fluttered over, and we finally teased a Western Yellow-billed Barbet into view. Although the birding was good, we could not dwell, for we had appointments to make, and important ones at that, so we returned to the hotel, packed up, and left.



*Olive Long-tailed Cuckoos were commonly heard, and seen well in Ankasa NP (Pete Morris)*



*Our first view of the fantastic bird of the trip... (Pete Morris)*

We sat back, relaxed, and contemplated what lay ahead. A rapid pause for lunch, as we did not want to waste time, and we were on again. Tension was rising and questions were being asked... We arrived at the village, donned our gear and set off on the rather easy forty five minute walk up to the fabled rock. We perched on the benches and waited... and waited... to a soundscape of Narina Trogons and Afep Pigeons. Then suddenly a yellow-head bounded across the track and we were in business! Over the next half an hour or so, we were treated to what has to be one of the most thrilling avian spectacles around, as four or five Yellow-headed Picathartes (now sadly known as White-necked Rockfowl), bounded all around us, even approaching to within a few metres of us. It's hard to describe the magic as they bound along and almost glow in the dark, but suffice to say that by the time we walked back down, we were all buzzing, and enjoyed a game of chase the laser with the local children around the village. It was fairly late by the time we pulled in to the hotel and washed down our joy with a cold one!



*Ok, it's still a bit hidden, but for a Forest Scrub Robin, it was pretty showy! (Pete Morris)*

Unsurprisingly we were out reasonably early again and headed for the remnants of Opro Forest. We had to walk through a fair amount of plantations in order to reach the decent habitat, notching up a few open country species as we went, as well as a cracking and obliging Forest Scrub Robin. The walk was worthwhile, for as soon as we arrived in suitable habitat we found the rare and seldom seen Baumann's Olive Greenbul, and it showed surprisingly well! A Narina Trogon flew over and a Fiery-breasted Bushshrike eluded nearly all of us, but we had better luck with both Brown and Puvell's Illadopsises, both of which showed well. As we headed north again, we paused first to admire Blue-bellied Rollers, and then for lunch and the obligatory mini-buffet. We were now heading into the drier north, and our couple of afternoon stops, although not overly productive, yielded a few new species such as smart Grasshopper Buzzards, African Wattled Lapwings, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks, African Silverbill, Black-rumped Waxbill and Sahel Bush Sparrows. We rolled into Mole National Park just as the sun was setting!



*The rarely-seen Baumann's Greenbul gave decent views to us! (Pete Morris)*

We had two full days to explore the rich Mole National Park, and new birds came a plenty, and mammals were also much in evidence. Indeed you had to avoid tripping over Warthogs to get to your room, Bushbucks and Kobs were tame and much in evidence, and African Elephants were seen a couple of times. Less commonly seen mammals included Gambian Mongoose and, at night, Common Genet, Marsh Mongoose, Greater Cane Rat, the cutest of cute Four-toed Hedgehogs and even a Spotted Hyena! The birds were equally impressive. Helmeted Guineafowl were common and early favourites included stunning Abyssinian Ground Hornbills, a pair of obliging Oriole Warblers, and the localized Western Square-tailed Drongo. We spent the morning ex-



*The cute Four-toed Hedgehog from Mole NP (Pete Morris)*

ploring the waterholes and scrub below the camp, finding a number of new species. Widespread species found included Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Grey-headed Kingfisher, stunning Red-throated Bee-eaters, African Golden Oriole, White-shouldered Black Tit, Purple and Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, Swamp Flycatcher and attractive Scarlet-chested Sunbirds. Senegal Parrot and Rose-ringed Parakeets screeched over, and high above we saw the now critically endangered Hooded, White-backed and stunning White-headed Vultures, as well as Bateleur, and we were also delighted to find a rarely seen Ovambo Sparrowhawk perched. A couple of other scarce birds seen were the poorly-known West African Seedeater and the interesting Wilson's Indigobird, which was even seen singing! Around the waterhole, we also found Hadeda Ibises, Senegal Thick-knee and Woolly-necked Stork.



*Some highlights from Mole NP: Greyish Eagle Owl, the desirable Forbes's Plover and the localized Sun Lark (Pete Morris)*





*More Mole highlights! White-throated Francolin, Ovambo Sparrowhawk and Stone Partridges! (Pete Morris)*



After a break, we were admiring Senegal Batis and attractive Lavender Waxbills right after lunch. We then made our way to a couple of recently burnt areas, seeing our first Four-banded Sandgrouse as we went. We visited the burnt areas a couple of times, and they were home to a number of great birds, including the highly-desired Rufous-rumped Lark (a pair of which showed very well), and the smart Forbes's Plover. Other species found around these interesting areas included the cracking Abyssinian Roller, our only White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Sun Larks, the subtle Gambaga Flycatcher, smart White-fronted Black Chats, numerous Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starlings and the fantastic Exclamatory Paradise Whydah. On our night drives and night-



*Long-tailed Nightjar, Pearl Spotted Owlet and African Scops Owl from Mole NP (Pete Morris)*



birding we found confiding Long-tailed Nightjars, Spotted Thick-knees, cute African Scops Owls and numerous impressive Greyish Eagle Owls. Sadly, both Standard-winged Nightjars disappeared all too quickly.

On our second full day, as well as revisiting the burnt areas, we also spent some time birding the periphery of the park. Here, the absolute star of the show was a superb White-throated Francolin that entertained and thrilled us. Also here, we found a feisty Pearl-spotted Owlet, the stunning Violet Turaco, the excellent White-crowned Robin Chat, Senegal Eremomela, the localized Rufous Cisticola and the smart Red-winged Pytilia as well as more regular species such as Bruce's Green Pigeon, a smart Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, African Grey Woodpecker, Moustached Grass Warbler, Northern Yellow White-eye, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver and an unexpected Blackcap.

On our final morning in Mole National Park, we stayed close to the camp, but there was still plenty to see! Lovely little Stone Partridges amused us whilst around the camp itself we found the amazing Bearded Barbet, Northern Crombec, the gorgeous Pygmy Sunbird and Familiar Chat, whilst looking down on the waterhole, we scoped a stately Saddle-billed Stork! It was then time once again to move, our first stop being for lunch and Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bats! Following that we stopped at a swamp, where although it was hot, we added just a handful of new species such as Great Egret, Northern Red Bishops and Black-headed Weavers. We still had a way to go though, and pressed on to the Tongo Hills. Here we very swiftly found the smart and localized Fox Kestrel, which we admired at length. Gosling's Buntings were positively common, and we eventually found the hoped-for Rock-loving Cisticola. A large group of Lavender Waxbills were a pleasant surprise, a couple of White-rumped Swifts came in to roost, and for some, there was a brief Eurasian Wryneck.



*Gosling's Bunting and Fox Kestrel from the Tongo Hills (Pete Morris)*

Starting early the next morning we headed northeast almost to the border with neighbouring Burkina Faso. En route, we admired our first West African Swallows and smart Red-necked Falcons, and paused first in some bush country which was surprisingly quiet, though we did find Gabar Goshawks (including a black one), and a few Speckle-fronted Weavers. Further on, we stopped to admire a colony of White-billed Buffalo Weavers at their clumsy stick nests, as Lanners drifted overhead. Yellow-billed Oxpeckers were on the local cattle, and we were pleased to find a smart gang of Chestnut-bellied Starlings feeding in the fields. We then pressed on to the White Volta for one very special bird in particular, the magnificent Egyptian Plover, and we enjoyed some time watching good numbers of these truly special birds. Also here were a fine juvenile Great Spotted Cuckoo, Dark Chanting Goshawks, Mourning Collared Doves, colourful Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Red-chested and more West African Swallows, and some somewhat subtle Black-backed Cisticolas. We then headed back for lunch, a break and a cool down!



*The spectacular Egyptian Plover delighted us at the Burkina Faso border (Pete Morris)*



*A fine juvenile Great Spotted Cuckoo, and below, Red-chested (left) and West African Swallows (Pete Morris)*



In the afternoon we visited Tono Dam, a vast expanse of water that was devoid of birds, other than some extremely skittish whistling ducks being pursued by cunning hunters. At the edge of the lake we found Wood Sandpipers, Western Yellow Wagtails and a male Village Indigobird. The scrub below on the other hand was tough work. We did find a Common Whitethroat and more Four-banded Sandgrouse and Senegal Thick-knees, but not much else.

Our time in the north had come to a close and now the long journey back to Kumasi lay ahead of us. We made an extended stop at Nasia Swamp, but again it was a little quiet. A Malachite Kingfisher posed in the reeds, a Giant Kingfisher powered by, numerous Sedge Warblers popped up, and our first Bar-breasted Firefinches were found, but it was generally fairly quiet. We then spent most of the day travelling south. We stopped for a fine Beaudouin's Snake Eagle and for lunch, but it really was a long haul. We made our way directly to the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary on our eternal and ultimately unsuccessful quest for Fraser's Eagle Owl, and our efforts resulted in another Akun Eagle Owl, but nothing else.

We were soon back at the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, this time in daylight, and enjoyed an excellent morning birding along the wide track there. Our first success was a fine Red-thighed Sparrowhawk perched up in a tree top, posing in the scope. Things then went quiet for a while until we found two more rarities, a fine Yellow-footed Honeyguide and a singing Tessmann's Flycatcher, both species that are easily missed and both of which showed very well. We also added some stunning Grey Parrots, Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds and a sing-

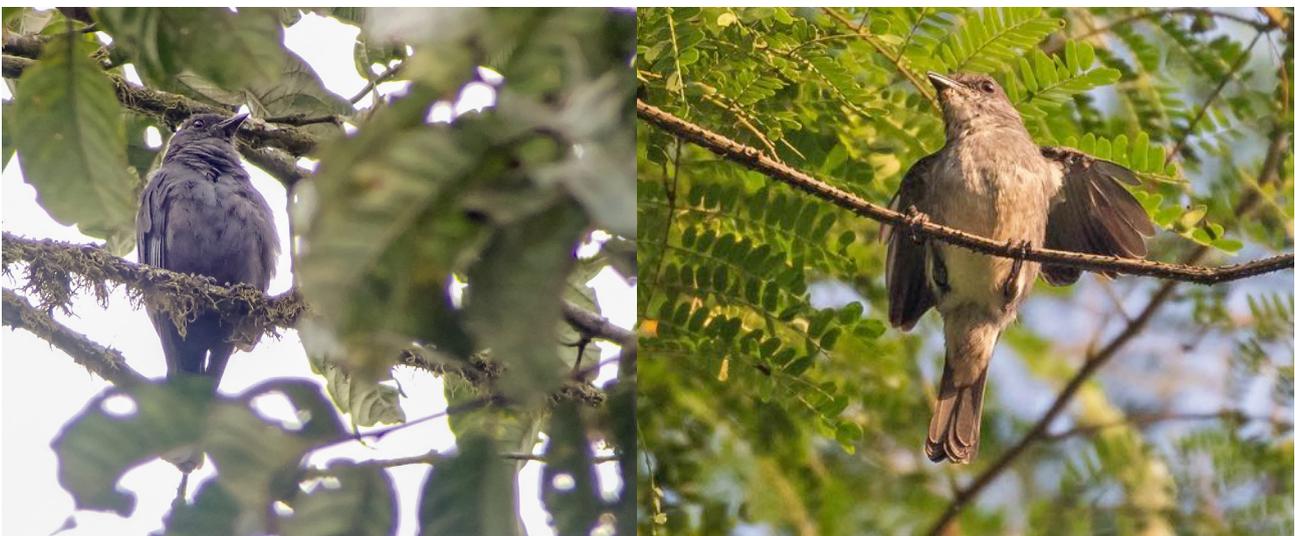


*The bulbul-like Yellow-footed Honeyguide and the seldom seen Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, both at the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Pete Morris)*

ing Thick-billed Honeyguide, and saw more cracking Long-tailed Hawks and another Yellow-mantled Weaver, though sadly the Latham's Forest Francolins were only heard.

Moving on to Atewa, we hit another electrical storm of biblical proportions which somewhat extended our lunch break! We then made a relatively brief visit to the farmbrush and lower slopes at Atewa. Here, Blue-headed Coucals were drying out in the grasslands which were also home to a couple of Compact Weavers, a flock of Thick-billed Weavers and some African (or Blue-billed) Firefinches. After dark, we found little other than a surprise male Plain Nightjar which soon departed!

We then had a full day and a morning to explore Atewa's forests. A bit of a bitter sweet visit as it seems inevitable that these forests will be lost in the very near future to bauxite mining by the Chinese. What this did mean is that the trail to the top and beyond was now a wide dirt road, and although not accessible to vehicles, it did make the forest more easy to reach. On our full day we made a pretty long hike all the way up to the ridge and beyond. We began with excellent views of the often elusive Ghana Forest Robin and gradually added a number of other wanted species. Perhaps most exciting was a Black-bellied Pangolin, and although brilliant, it did not hang around for long, perhaps no great surprise considering the number of bush meat hunters we encountered! Birds were good too, and many of our remaining targets fell with particular highlights including stunning Blue-moustached Bee-eaters and, finally, Melancholy Woodpeckers which showed well. Another pair of Tessmann's Flycatchers showed exceptionally well, and we hunted high and low for, and finally found, the



*Two rare flycatchers from Atewa: Nimba (left) and Tessmann's Flycatchers (Pete Morris)*

little-known Nimba Flycatcher singing from the canopy. We also found Emerald and Klaas's Cuckoos, Forest Woodhoopoes, African and Black-and-white Shrike Flycatchers, Rufous-crowned Eremomelas, obliging Chestnut-capped Flycatchers, Tit Hylia, smart Black-capped Apalises, some cracking Violet-backed Hylia, the tiny Little Grey Flycatcher, and a brilliant black-chested Many-coloured Bushshrike, and we enjoyed watching Ussher's Flycatchers feeding their recently-fledged spotty youngsters! Following another electrical storm of biblical proportions, where the value of a super-sized umbrella (now ordered!!) was ably demonstrated, we found a fine Yellow-throated Cuckoo, as well as brilliant Preuss's Golden Weavers and a Willcocks's Honeyguide. It had been a long and rewarding day, and we paused for smart Johannes's Sunbirds on the way down to the bus. Some of us still had ideas about finding the wretched eagle owl, and again failed. Just another pair of Akun Eagle Owls and at least one million Straw-coloured Fruit Bats!

Our second morning at Atewa yielded little new, though most of us at least got better views of the sneaky Kemp's Longbill! We then headed back for lunch before making our way towards Kalakpa, our final destination. A stop on the way yielded the smart Pied-winged Swallow and we arrived at Kalakpa in time to bag a fine male Black-shouldered Nightjar and several Long-tailed Nightjars.

Kalakpa was also hard work, but ultimately rewarding! We invested an inordinate amount of time into seeing the localized Black-capped Capuchin Babbler, and just when it looked like brief glimpses were going to have to suffice, and our hopes were fading, a pair paraded in front of us giving stunning views. And it really is a smart bird! Another great triumph was our unbelievable encounter with the brilliant Thick-billed Cuckoo which displayed over our heads! Dahomey Forest Robin and Maloney's Brown Illadopsis were two localized subspecies that obliged and other crowd pleasers were some stunning Guinea Turacos and a fine encounter with Spotted Honeyguide, and we also came across a daytime African Wood Owl.

Out in the open grassland were a few more goodies. Perhaps most surprising was a small group of Heuglin's Masked Weavers, which included a breeding-plumaged male, and here we also found our only Marsh Tchagra, a colourful male Green-headed Sunbird, and some smart Yellow-mantled Widowbirds, as well as another Ahanta Francolin and more Stone Partridges. At night more Black-shouldered and Long-tailed Nightjars obliged, a Plain Nightjar put in a performance, and we spotted a fine but skittish Northern White-faced Owl.

And that was about it. A final lunch and a smooth passage back to Accra concluded our highly successful adventure around this excellent birding destination. Nowhere else in West Africa can such a comprehensive list of specialities be racked up in such a short space of time and in such a small area. There are a few longish drives, but really, Ghana is a compact country with excellent infrastructure and support, and wide variety of habitats from wet rainforest to the Sahel! With so many goodies lurking, I for one cannot wait to return!



*A couple of views of the amazing Thick-billed Cuckoo at Kalakpa! (Pete Morris)*



*The stunning Blue-moustached Bee-eater was another firm favourite (Pete Morris)*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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

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

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

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

Conservation threat categories and are taken from the BirdLife website: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search>

**(EW)** = Extinct in the wild, **(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(EN)** = Endangered, **(VU)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2019. IOC World Bird List (v 9.2)**. This list is updated twice annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra ([www.igoterra.com](http://www.igoterra.com)) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.

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

**Crested Guineafowl (Western C G)** *Guttera [pucherani] verreauxi* Good views of c6 on the track at Ankasa NP.

**Stone Partridge** ◊ *Ptilopachus petrosus* Great views of several groups, especially around Mole NP [nominate].

**Latham's Francolin** ◊ *Peliperdix lathamii* (H) Heard at the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, but no luck to playback [nominate].

**White-throated Francolin** ◊ *Peliperdix albogularis* Stunning views of a male at Mole NP [*buckleyi*].

**Ahanta Francolin** ◊ *Pternistis achantensis* Seen well on the track at Ankasa, and flight views at Kalakpa [nominate].

**Double-spurred Francolin** *Pternistis bicalcaratus* First seen at the Shai Hills, and several elsewhere [nominate].

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* A few on a roadside near Ankasa NP Also seen in Mole NP.

**Hartlaub's Duck** ◊ *Pteronetta hartlaubii* Two, including a fine male, on a roadside pond near to Ankasa NP.

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

**Brown Nightjar** ◊ *Veles binotatus* Excellent spotlight views of one from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.

**Black-shouldered Nightjar** ◊ *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis* Brilliant views of a male and a pair at Kalakpa.

**Plain Nightjar** ◊ *Caprimulgus inornatus* A male in the farmbush at Atewa and one on the entrance road to Kalakpa.

**Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus* Two forms: nominate in Mole NP, *sclateri* at the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Standard-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus longipennis* A male and female seen briefly in Mole NP.

**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* First good views were over the farmbush at Abrafo [nominate].

**Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini* A few seen overhead at Ankasa NP.

**Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini* A few seen overhead at Ankasa NP.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* First seen at the Shai Hills, and fairly common [*brachypterus*].

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* First seen over Abrafo [nominate].

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* Good numbers seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP, and a few elsewhere.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Fairly common, first seen at Abrafo [*aerobates*].

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* Two seen coming in to roost on rocks at the Tongo Hills, near to Bolgatanga.



*Pallid Swifts at Kakum were a write-in! Black-shouldered Nightjar at Kalakpa more expected! (Pete Morris)*

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata* (H) A few heard at Ankasa NP.

**Guinea Turaco** *Tauraco persa* Best views were at the Kalakpa Reserve. Smart bird [*persa*].

**Yellow-billed Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus* First seen at Kakum and seen well elsewhere including Ankasa [nominate].

**Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea* Excellent views at Mole NP. Another stunner!

**Western Plantain-eater** *Crinifer piscator* A few seen at the Shai Hills. Also common in the north.

**Black-throated Coucal** ◊ *Centropus leucogaster* Brilliant views of one at Antwikwaa. Always a good one to see! [nominate].

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* First seen near Kakum. Several seen well in Mole NP [nominate].

**Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus* A couple seen well in the farmbush at Atewa [*occidentalis*].

**Blue Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares aereus* First seen well along the track at Antwikwaa [*flavirostris*].

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* Excellent views of a smart juvenile near to Sapeliga.

**Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii* Good views of one perched at Nsuta Forest.  
**Thick-billed Cuckoo** ◊ *Pachyococyx audeberti* Excellent views of a superb displaying adult at Kalakpa [*brazzae*].  
**Diederik Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius* A few, first seen at the 'swamp stop' on the way to Antwikwaa.  
**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* First seen at Tono Dam, west of Bolgatanga. Also at Atewa and others heard.  
**Yellow-throated Cuckoo** ◊ *Chrysococcyx flavigularis* Great views of one at the clearing at the ridge at Atewa.  
**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus* See note.  
**Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx olivinus* Several heard, and great views of two at Ankasa NP.  
**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus* A red-breasted bird seen well in the scope at Abrafo Forest [*gabonensis*].  
**Four-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles quadricinctus* A few seen, including good views of a female, in Mole NP.  
**Rock Dove (Feral)** *Columba livia 'feral'* Beaman's Pigeon – vermin.  
**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea* First seen in Mole NP and common in the north [nominate].  
**Afep Pigeon** *Columba unicincta* (H) Heard at Bonkro, while waiting for the picathartes.  
**Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques* (H) Heard a couple of times in Ankasa NP.  
**Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* A few seen in the Sapeliga area [*shelleyi*].  
**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common. First seen at the Shai Hills.  
**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea* Very common in the north, and the familiar call from the dry bush.  
**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* Common, first seen at the Shai Hills.  
**Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus* First seen well at the Shai Hills. Common in Mole NP.  
**Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer* First seen well along the track at Antwikwaa.  
**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* First seen well in the farmbush at Abrafo.  
**Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtur brehmeri* Some great views on the tracks at Ankasa NP [*infelix*].  
**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* A few seen well in the north [nominate].  
**Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia* Several seen well in and around Mole NP. Also seen near to Sapeliga.



An excellent Yellow-throated Cuckoo at Atewa and a Bruce's Green Pigeon from Mole NP (Pete Morris)

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* First seen at the Shai Hills. Common for much of the trip [*sharpei*].  
**White-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura pulchra* A male seen well at the 'swamp stop' on the way to Antwikwaa [nominate].  
**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis* A female and two juvs seen well on a pool at Ankasa NP [nominate].  
**Nkulengu Rail** ◊ *Himantornis haematopus* Stunning views of three roosting birds at Ankasa NP. MEGA!!  
**Grey-throated Rail** ◊ *Canirallus oculus* See note.  
**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra* Seen at Nasia Swamp, near to Bolgatanga.  
**Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni* Great views of a pair at the Nor Palm Pond near to Bokro.  
**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* A few, first seen at the Nor Palm Pond near to Bokro [*meridionalis*].  
**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* First seen at the Nor Palm Pond near to Bokro [*capensis*].  
**Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis* A few seen well in Mole NP. Also seen well at Tono Dam.  
**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis* A pair at night in Mole NP, including one spotlight on the ground [*maculosus*].  
**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.



Two fine waders from the north... African Wattled Lapwing and Senegal Thick-knee (Pete Morris)

- Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* 3 at Winneba Lagoon and several later in the tour.
- African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* Common in the north, with many seen well.
- American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* A single 1cy showed well at Winneba Lagoon.
- Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.
- Forbes's Plover** ◊ *Charadrius forbesi* Excellent views of a flock of 12+ in a burnt area in Mole NP.
- White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus* A few seen at Winneba Lagoon [mechowij].
- Egyptian Plover** ◊ *Pluvianus aegyptius* At least 10 seen well along the White Volta at Sapeliga.
- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Two on a small pool at Abrafo were the first.
- Whimbrel (Eurasian W)** *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.
- Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* (NT) A few seen at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* One seen at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* (NT) Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* A few at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
- Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Flushed from a couple of swamps in the far north.
- Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* One seen well at Winneba Lagoon. A surprise and a write-in for the tour.
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Fairly widespread, first seen at Winneba Lagoon.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* A couple seen in Mole NP. A few others in the north.
- Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* A few seen at Winneba Lagoon [nominate].
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* A few seen at Winneba Lagoon.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* Several seen at Tono Dam, west of Bolgatanga.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.
- Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis* At least 3 seen well at the Pra River. The rufous-naped form *liberiae*.
- Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* One seen at Winneba Lagoon.
- Royal Tern (African R T)** *Thalasseus [maximus] albidorsalis* Good numbers distantly at Winneba Lagoon.
- Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* A few at Winneba Lagoon.
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* At least one distantly at Winneba Lagoon.
- Woolly-necked Stork (African Woollyneck)** *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis* One at the waterhole in Mole NP.
- Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* One seen at the waterhole in Mole NP.
- Reed Cormorant** *Microrcarbo africanus* Good numbers at Winneba Lagoon.
- Spot-breasted Ibis** ◊ *Bostrychia rara* Good close silhouette views of a pair coming in to roost calling at Nsuta Forest.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* Most were seen at the waterhole in Mole NP [*brevirostris*].

**White-crested Tiger Heron** *Tigriornis leucolopha* One flew in and perched high in a tree at dusk at Ankasa NP.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* One flushed in Mole NP [nominate].

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* One seen on the first forest pool at Ankasa NP and a few later in the trip [*atricapilla*].

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* One seen in Cape Cost and plenty more in wetlands later in the tour.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Fairly common and widespread. First seen near to Accra.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* One seen in flight on the journey back from Ankasa. Also seen in Mole NP [nominate].

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* A few. First seen on the journey from Opro Forest to Mole NP.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* One seen at the waterhole in Mole NP. Also at Nasia Swamp [nominate].

**Great Egret (African G E)** *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos* One at Nasia Swamp. Surprisingly scarce!

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* A few seen at Winneba Lagoon. One seen in Mole NP. Also surprisingly scarce [nominate].

**Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis* Big numbers at Winneba Lagoon in particular [nominate].

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* A few, the first in Mole NP [nominate].

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* First seen at the Shai Hills [nominate].

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* Common. First seen from the walkway at Kakum NP [*pectoralis*].

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* A few. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* A few, the first at the Shai Hills.

**African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides* A few, the best perched by a roadside pond near Ankasa NP [*batesi*].

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* (CR) Biggest numbers were in Mole NP.



Endangered vultures from Mole NP - Hooded Vulture on the left and the stunning White-headed Vulture (Pete Morris)

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* (CR) Several seen in Mole NP.

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis* (CR) Three, including a circling pair, in Mole NP.

**Beaudouin's Snake Eagle** *Circaetus beaudouini* (VU) Good scope views of one on a pylon on the journey to Kumasi.

**Congo Snake Eagle** *Circaetus spectabilis* Good scope views in Ankasa and one at the Kalakpa Reserve [nominate].

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) A few seen well in Mole NP.

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus* (H) Heard distantly at Ankasa NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* Just one seen over Nsuta Forest.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* A light morph adult on the journey to Bolgatanga, and a couple of others.

**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii* One at Kakum for some of the group.



Two views of the attractive Grasshopper Buzzard (Pete Morris)

- Cassin's Hawk-Eagle** *◊ Aquila africana* Good views of a pair, low overhead and calling, at the ridge at Atewa.
- Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* A few, the first seen on the Winneba Plains.
- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* Three, including a melanistic morph, near to Sapeliga [niger].
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* At least three near to Sapeliga [nominat].
- Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchis macrourus* See note.
- Red-chested Goshawk** *Accipiter toussenelii* A few, the first seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum [macroscelides].
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius* A few seen well in Mole NP [sphenurus].
- Red-thighed Sparrowhawk** *◊ Accipiter erythropus* Superb scope studies of a perched adult at Bobiri [nominat].
- Ovambo Sparrowhawk** *◊ Accipiter ovampensis* Excellent views of a perched adult in Mole NP.
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* A few seen, all in the north.
- Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* Very common, especially in the north [parasitus].
- Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis* Several seen well in the north.
- Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis* A pair seen, with nesting material, at the Shai Hills, and a few more later.
- African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis* Excellent views of a pair in Mole NP [nominat].
- Northern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis leucotis* One calling and spotted a couple of times at Kalakpa, but shy.
- Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens* Many seen very well in Mole NP.
- Akun Eagle-Owl** *◊ Bubo leucostictus* Stunning views at Ankasa NP. Also seen at Bobiri and near to Atewa.
- African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii* Heard a few times and seen briefly at Ankasa NP and Kalakpa [nuchalis].
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* A couple seen well on the edge of Mole NP [nominat].
- Red-chested Owlet** *Glaucidium tephronotum* Excellent views of one at Ankasa NP [nominat].
- Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* A few heard and one seen in flight at Opro Forest [constantia].
- Forest Wood Hoopoe** *◊ Phoeniculus castaneiceps* Good views of a pair along the trail to the ridge at Atewa.
- White-headed Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei* Great views of four on a dead tree at Antwikwaa [nominat].
- Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* Seen at a few sites, first at the Shai Hills [senegalensis].
- Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* Seen at the Shai Hills and again in Mole NP [nominat].
- Abyssinian Ground Hornbill** *◊ (Northern G H) Bucorvus abyssinicus (VU)* Great views on 3 occasions in Mole NP.
- Northern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus erythrorhynchus* A few seen well in Mole NP and in the far north.
- African Pied Hornbill (West A P H)** *Lophoceros [fasciatus] semifasciatus* Common in the southern forests.
- African Grey Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus* First seen at the Shai Hills. Also common in the north [nominat].
- Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill** *Lophoceros camurus* A skittish individual seen at Ankasa NP.
- Piping Hornbill (Western P H)** *Bycanistes [fistulator] fistulator* Several seen well at Nsuta Forest and Ankasa NP.



*A superb Greyish Eagle Owl from Mole NP (Pete Morris)*



*The spectacular Abyssinian Ground Hornbill from Mole NP (Pete Morris)*

- Brown-cheeked Hornbill** ◊ *Bycanistes cylindricus* A female in flight at Nsuta Forest, then great views of 3 at Abrafo Forest.
- Black-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna atrata* A male seen in flight at the powerline at Ankasa NP.
- Yellow-casqued Hornbill** ◊ *Ceratogymna elata* (H) Heard distantly at Ankasa NP.
- Black Dwarf Hornbill** ◊ (Western Little H) *Horizocerus [hartlaubi] hartlaubi* Good scope views of one at Ankasa NP.
- White-crested Hornbill** ◊ (Western Long-tailed H) *Horizocerus [albocristatus] macrourus* Great views at Kakum, briefly elsewhere.
- Purple Roller [naevius]** *Coracias naevius* One seen at the Shai Hills, and a few in the north [n nominate].
- Abyssinian Roller** ◊ *Coracias abyssinicus* Several seen well in Mole NP, and in the far north.
- Blue-bellied Roller** ◊ *Coracias cyanogaster* First seen on wires near Opro Forest and brilliant views at Kalakpa.
- Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis* Seen brilliantly from the walkway at Kakum NP and a few elsewhere.
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* First seen at Opro Forest, and common in Mole NP [afer].
- Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia* Great views of one at Abrafo Forest. Also heard elsewhere.
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* A few seen in Mole NP, and at Tono Dam [n nominate].
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* Heard and seen briefly in Mole NP [n nominate].
- Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica* Great views, especially at Ankasa NP and in Mole NP [forbesi].
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* First seen well along the track at Antwikwaa [fuscopileus].
- African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta* Plenty seen well. Smart little birds [ferrugina]!
- White-bellied Kingfisher** ◊ *Corythornis leucogaster* A couple seen brilliantly at the forest pools at Ankasa NP.
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* One seen at Tono Dam and another at Nasia Swamp [galeritus].
- Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadribrachys* (NL) Seen a couple of times at the bridge in Ankasa NP.
- Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* One seen at Nasia Swamp on the journey back from Bolgatanga [n nominate].
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* A few seen at Winneba Lagoon and a few more later in the trip [n nominate].



*Blue-bellied Roller and Violet Turaco... more outrageous colour! (Pete Morris)*





Spectacular colour! Clockwise from top left: Red-throated Bee-eater, Abyssinian Roller, Malachite Kingfisher and Rosy Bee-eater (Pete Morris)



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

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis* Several stunners seen, the first along the track at Antwikwaa [nominate].

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus* One seen well by the old airstrip at Mole NP [*chrysolaimus*].

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* A pair seen at the Pra River by Twifo Praso and a few later in the trip [nominate].

**Red-throated Bee-eater** *Merops bulocki* Common, with many seen well in Mole NP [nominate].

**White-throated Bee-eater** *Merops albicollis* Very common and widespread.

**Rosy Bee-eater** ◇ *Merops malimbicus* A stunning pair seen well along the track at Antwikwaa.

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicus* A few seen, with several at Sapeliga in the north.

**Bristle-nosed Barbet** ◇ *Gymnobucco peli* One seen well at Nsuta Forest, and others seen at Atewa.

**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus* Common, first seen well along the track at Antwikwaa.

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* First seen well at Antwikwaa. Several others seen well.

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atrofasciatus* Seen well in a forest patch in the farmbrush at Abrafo. Others heard.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* Many heard, seen at Bobiri and at Atewa [*chrysopygus*].

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus* One heard and seen briefly in the farmbrush at Abrafo [*leucolaimus*].

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* First at the Shai Hills, more seen, especially in Mole NP [nominate].



*The fabulous Bearded Barbet at Mole NP (Pete Morris)*

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui* See note.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta* Seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum. More heard [nominate]

**Vieillot's Barbet** *Lybius vieilloti* Several seen very well, first at the Shai Hills [*rubescens*].

**Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus* Seen at the Shai Hills and at Opro Forest [nominate].

**Bearded Barbet** ◊ *Lybius dubius* Several seen, with brilliant views of a pair in Mole NP.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** ◊ (Western Y-b B) *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] goffinii* Great views of one at Abrafo Forest.

**Cassin's Honeybird** *Prodotiscus insignis* Seen well at Kakum NP, Nsuta Forest and Ankasa NP [*flavodorsalis*].

**Yellow-footed Honeyguide** ◊ *Melignomon eisentrauti* (NT) Brilliant scope views at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

**Willcocks's Honeyguide** *Indicator willcocksii* Excellent scope views of one at Atewa [nominate].

**Thick-billed Honeyguide** *Indicator conirostris* Scope views of one at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary [*ussheri*].

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor* A couple seen in Mole NP [*senegalensis*].

**Spotted Honeyguide** ◊ *Indicator maculatus* Superb views of two in the forest at the Kalakpa Reserve [nominate].

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* Brief views of one at the Tongo Hills.

**Fine-spotted Woodpecker** ◊ *Campethera punctuligera* Great views of a pair on the Winneba Plains [nominate].



*Fire-bellied Woodpecker and the seldom-seen Spotted Honeyguide (Pete Morris)*

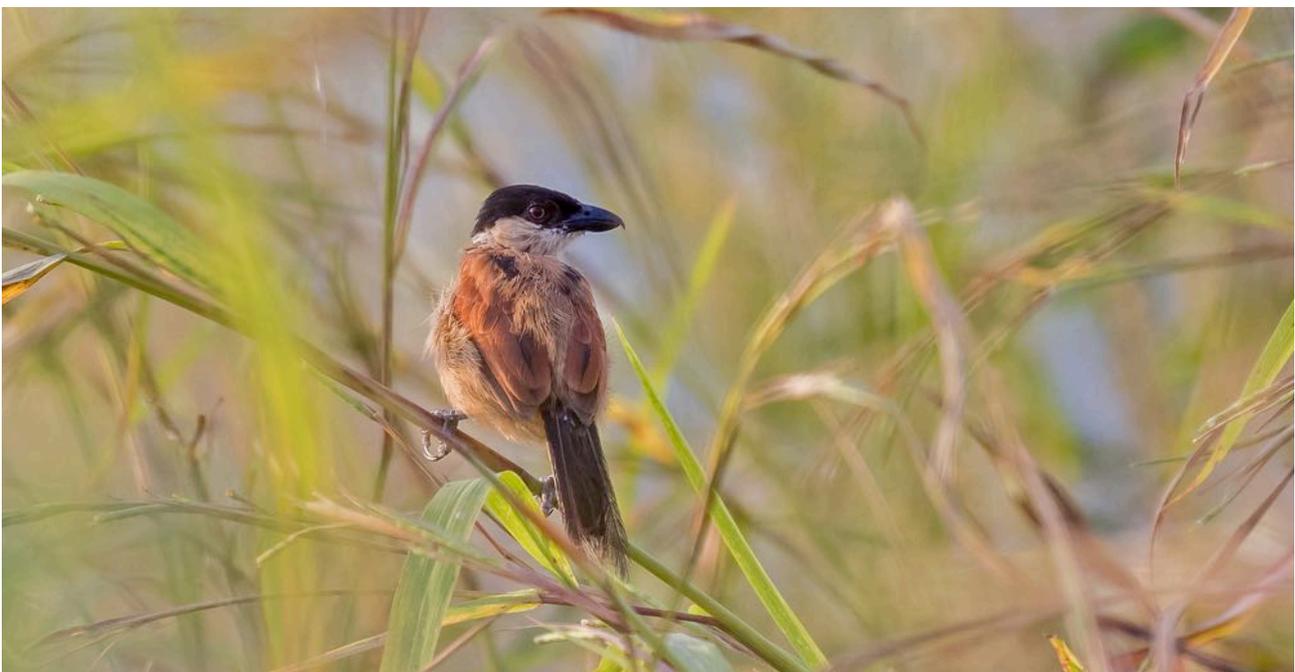


A fine Red-necked Falcon from the far north! (Pete Morris)

- Little Green Woodpecker** ◇ *Campethera maculosa* Great scope views of a female at Abrafo Forest.
- Buff-spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera nivosa* Good views of one at Nsuta Forest and a pair at Opro Forest [nominate].
- Brown-eared Woodpecker** *Campethera caroli* (LO) Seen in Ankasa NP.
- Fire-bellied Woodpecker** ◇ *Chloropicus pyrrhogaster* Great views of 4 from the walkway at Kakum. Also at Nsuta Forest.
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* Just a couple, first seen at the Shai Hills [*lafresnayi*].
- Melancholy Woodpecker** ◇ *Dendropicos lugubris* First heard at Kakum NP. Great views at Atewa in the end.
- African Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae* A few seen well, in and around Mole NP [*centralis*].
- Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* First seen near to Accra [*rufescens*].
- Fox Kestrel** ◇ *Falco alopex* Great views of at least three at the Tongo Hills, near to Bolgatanga.
- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus* A few seen, first scoped at Opro Forest.
- Red-necked Falcon (African R-n F)** *Falco [chicquera] ruficollis* Seen very well near to Sapeliga and at Nasia Swamp.
- African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii* A few including a juv. that dashed by near to the old airstrip on the edge of Mole NP.
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* Several seen well, especially in the far north [*abyssinicus*].
- Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus* (EN) c5 seen at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, including excellent an amorous pair!
- Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gularis* Seen at a few sites including perched at Nsuta Forest [*fantiensis*].
- Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus* Seen well at the Shai Hills, in Mole NP, Sapeliga and at Kalakpa.
- Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri* Seen flying over at the Shai Hills. Quite common in Mole NP [nominate].
- Black-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis swindernianus* Reasonable flight views of one overhead at Abrafo Forest [nominate].
- Rufous-sided Broadbill** *Smithornis rufolateralis* Great views of one at Kakum NP. Heard elsewhere [*versteri*].
- Senegal Batis** ◇ *Batis senegalensis* A few heard and a couple seen very well in Mole NP.
- Fernando Po Batis** ◇ *Batis poensis* A singing male seen well in the scope at Nsuta Forest [*occulta*].
- West African Wattle-eye** ◇ *Platysteira hormophora* Excellent views on several occasions in various forests.
- Brown-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira cyanea* First seen at the Shai Hills. A few seen at other sites too [*occulta*].
- Red-cheeked Wattle-eye** ◇ *Platysteira blissetti* Great views of a stunning pair near to Abrafo. Also heard elsewhere.
- Fiery-breasted Bushshrike** ◇ *Malaconotus cruentus* (LO) Seen briefly at Opro Forest.
- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* (H) Heard, but a fair way off in Mole NP [nominate].
- Many-colored Bushshrike** ◇ *Chlorophoneus multicolor* Great views of a black-chested male at Atewa [nominate].
- Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfuropectus* Great views of a pair on the Winneba Plains. Others heard.
- Marsh Tchagra** *Bocagia minuta* Great views of a singing male along the entrance road at Kalakpa [nominate].
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* A pair seen in the farmbrush at Abrafo and better at Opro Forest [*ussheri*].
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* Common by voice. Best on the Winneba Plains and in Mole NP [nominate].
- Sabine's Puffback** ◇ *Dryoscopus sabini* Great views from the walkway at Kakum and an immature at Nsuta Forest [nominate].
- Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis* Best views were in Mole NP [nominate].



West African Wattle-eyes (female on the left) showed well a number of times. Below, our only Marsh Tchagra of the trip! (Pete Morris)



- Lowland Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius leucorhynchus* (H) Heard at the 'swamp stop' on the way to Antwikwaa.
- Yellow-crowned Gonolek** ◊ *Laniarius barbarus* Seen well on the Winneba Plains and great views in Mole NP.
- Red-billed Helmetshrike** ◊ *Prionops caniceps* Great views on several occasions in the southern forests. Stunner [nominate].
- African Shrike-flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus* Great views of males and females at Atewa [nominate].
- Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher (Vanga F)** *Bias musicus* A female seen well at Atewa [nominate].
- White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Ceblepyris pectoralis* Just one seen in Mole NP.
- Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga phoenicea* A fine male seen on the Winneba Plains.
- Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga quiscalina* Best was the female along the track at Antwikwaa [nominate].
- Blue Cuckooshrike** *Cyanograucalus azureus* Great views of a male in Ankasa NP. Also seen at Bobiri.
- Yellow-billed Shrike** *Corvinella corvina* First seen at the Shai Hills. Also seen around Mole NP [*togoensis*].
- Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis* First seen along the road near to Kakum NP. Several later in the tour [*smithii*].
- African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus* A few seen well in Mole NP [nominate].
- Western Oriole (W Black-headed O)** *Oriolus brachyrhynchus* Plenty seen, the first at eye-level at Abrafo Forest [nominate].
- Black-winged Oriole** *Oriolus nigripennis* First seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP. A few elsewhere.
- Western Square-tailed Drongo** ◊ *Dicrurus occidentalis* Excellent views of a pair in some gallery forest in Mole NP.
- Shining Drongo** *Dicrurus atripennis* A singing pair seen well at Abrafo Forest. Also a few in Ankasa NP.
- Glossy-backed Drongo** *Dicrurus divaricatus* First seen at the Shai Hills. Also in the north and at Kalakpa [nominate].
- Fanti Drongo** *Dicrurus auctus* First seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum. Plenty more!
- Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus nitens* Eventually, great views of one in Ankasa NP [*reichenowii*].
- Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone rufiventer* Fairly common, and several seen well [*nigriceps*].



*Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher and the scarce White-browed Forest Flycatcher (Pete Morris)*

- African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* Several in and around Mole NP [ferreti].
- Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer* First seen at the Tongo Hills, near to Bolgatanga. Also seen around the Kalakpa Reserve.
- Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* Very common and widespread.
- White-necked Rockfowl** ◊ *Picathartes gymnocephalus* (VU) An amazing experience watching 3 or 4 at Bonkro.
- White-shouldered Black Tit** *Melaniparus guineensis* Several seen well in Mole NP.
- Dusky Tit** *Melaniparus funereus* A couple, including one scoped, along the ridge trail at Atewa [nominate].
- Forest Penduline Tit** ◊ *Anthoscopus flavifrons* Heard and seen flying over the walkway at Kakum NP [waldronae].
- Western Nicator** *Nicator chloris* One seen well in the farmbush at Abrafo. Many seen and heard later.
- Rufous-rumped Lark** ◊ *Pinarocorys erythropygia* Excellent scope views of a pair in a recently burnt area in Mole NP.
- Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucotis* Fairly common in the north with many seen well [melanocephalus].
- Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* One seen briefly at the Shai Hills [buckleyi].
- Sun Lark** ◊ *Galerida modesta* A couple of groups seen in Mole NP and seen at the Tongo Hills [nominate].
- Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus* Common. First seen at the Shai Hills [inornatus].
- Slender-billed Greenbul** *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [nominate].
- Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens* First seen well in Kakum NP. The common sound of the forest [erythroptera].
- Little Grey Greenbul** *Eurillas gracilis* First heard in Kakum NP. First seen well at Nsuta Forest [extrema].
- Ansorge's Greenbul** *Eurillas ansorgei* First seen well at Nsuta Forest. Also seen at Abrafo Forest and Atewa [nominate].
- Plain Greenbul** *Eurillas curvirostris* First heard in Kakum NP. Heard and seen briefly at Atewa [leonina].
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Eurillas latirostris* First seen at Abrafo Forest. Also seen at Atewa [congener].
- Golden Greenbul** *Calyptocichla serinus* (H) Heard at Nsuta Forest and at Atewa.
- Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator* Frequently heard and a few seen well at various forests [leucurus].
- Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus* A flock seen from the walkway at Kakum NP. Also seen well at Nsuta Forest.
- Simple Greenbul** *Chlorocichla simplex* First seen in Kakum NP. A few others noted.
- Yellow-throated Leaflove** *Atimastillas flavicollis* (H) Heard in Mole NP, but not responsive [nominate].
- Swamp Palm Bulbul** *Thescelocichla leucopleura* First seen well at Nsuta Forest. Several good looks.
- Baumann's Olive Greenbul** ◊ *Phyllastrephus baumanni* Brilliant views of a pair at Opro Forest. Subtle!
- Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus* First seen well, in a small flock, in Kakum NP. A few others noted.
- White-throated Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus albigularis* A single in Kakum NP and heard and glimpsed at Kalakpa [nominate].
- Red-tailed Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus* A couple seen well but briefly in Ankasa NP [nominate].

**Green-tailed Bristlebill** ◊ *Bleda eximius* (NT) (H) First heard in Kakum NP. Also heard at Ankasa NP. Sadly, no luck.  
**Grey-headed Bristlebill** ◊ *Bleda canicapillus* Excellent views at Abrafo. Also at Ankasa NP and Kalakpa [nominate].  
**Western Bearded Greenbul** ◊ *Criniger barbatus* Excellent views of showy birds in Kakum NP and at Ankasa NP.  
**Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus* First seen in the forest patch at Abrafo. Also many in Ankasa NP [verreauxij].  
**Yellow-bearded Greenbul** ◊ *Criniger olivaceus* (VU) Skulking, but a few seen well in flocks in Ankasa NP.  
**Square-tailed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne nitens* A few seen at Ankasa NP, and one perched at Atewa [nominate].  
**Fanti Saw-wing** ◊ *Psalidoprocne obscura* One seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Common. First seen around Kakum NP [nominate].  
**Red-chested Swallow** ◊ *Hirundo lucida* Great views of several around Sapeliga [nominate].  
**Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica* A few. First seen on wires near to Kakum NP [nominate].  
**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* First seen around Mole NP [nominate].  
**White-bibbed Swallow** *Hirundo nigrita* Brilliant views of four at the Pra River by Twifo Praso.  
**Pied-winged Swallow** ◊ *Hirundo leucosoma* Great views of 2+ on wires and flying around near the Volta River.  
**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Seen well at the Shai Hills [bansoensis].  
**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* A few seen over Mole NP [urbicum/meridionale].  
**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* First seen around Kakum NP [puella].  
**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* Best views were near our lodge at Kakum [saturator].  
**West African Swallow** ◊ *Cecropis domicella* Great views of a handful in the Sapeliga area.  
**Preuss's Cliff Swallow** ◊ *Petrochelidon preussi* An excellent colony at a bridge near the Praa River.  
**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* Seen well on the edge of Mole NP and at Kalakpa.  
**Kemp's Longbill** ◊ *Macrosphenus kempii* Gave us the run around but seen at Atewa in the end [nominate].  
**Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor* Seen well in the forest patch in the farmbrush at Abrafo. Others heard.  
**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura* A few seen well around Mole NP, including by the motel [nominate].  
**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens* Common by voice. First seen along the track at Antwikwaa [flaviventris].  
**Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti* One seen well just above us from the walkway at Kakum NP [hardyij].  
**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus mcallii* Seen from the walkway at Kakum and well at Atewa [nigeriae].  
**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina* Fairly common. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [nominate].  
**Tit Hylia** *Pholidornis rufiae* Seen at Antwikwaa, Bobiri and at Atewa. Tiny and high up! [ussherij].  
**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* One seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP. Also common at Atewa.  
**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Especially common in and around Mole NP.  
**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Several seen at Nasia Swamp on the journey back from Bolgatanga.  
**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta* A few seen well in Mole NP and the far north.  
**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops* Common by voice. First seen well at Opro Forest.  
**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans* First heard on the Winneba Plains. First seen well at the Tongo Hills [swanzii].  
**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis* First seen well at Opro Forest. Also common at Kalakpa [nominate].  
**Rock-loving Cisticola** *Cisticola emini* See note.  
**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* First seen at the Shai Hills, also on the Winneba Plains [strangeij].  
**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus* Seen at the Shai Hills, also on the Winneba Plains [nominate].  
**Rufous Cisticola** ◊ *Cisticola rufus* Excellent views of a few by the old airstrip on the edge of Mole NP.  
**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* Heard and seen in the north [uropygialis].  
**Black-backed Cisticola** *Cisticola eximius* See note.  
**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* Common in open country. First seen in the farmbrush at Abrafo [melanorhyncha].  
**Red-winged Warbler** *Heliolais erythropterus* Great views of a pair on the Winneba Plains. Also seen in Mole NP [nominate].  
**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* One seen well and others heard in Mole NP [caniceps].  
**Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps* First heard at Ankasa. Good views of a few at Atewa [nominate].  
**Sharpe's Apalis** ◊ *Apalis sharpii* Males seen well from the walkway at Kakum and at Nsuta Forest. Others heard.  
**Oriole Warbler** ◊ *Hypergerus atriceps* Excellent views of a pair in Mole NP. Others heard.  
**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Fairly common. First noted at the Shai Hills [tincta].  
**Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris* First seen well at Antwikwaa. Also seen at Nsuta Forest etc  
**Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota* First seen well the farmbrush at Abrafo. A few others later [nominate].  
**Senegal Eremomela** *Eremomela pusilla* Great views of small groups around Mole NP, and at Kalakpa.  
**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps* Good views of a few at Atewa [fantiensis].  
**Blackcap Illadopsis** *Illadopsis cleaveri* (H) Heard briefly at Ankasa and heard at Atewa [nominate].  
**Rufous-winged Illadopsis** ◊ *Illadopsis rufescens* (NT) Stunning views at Ankasa NP. A striking bird  
**Puvel's Illadopsis** ◊ *Illadopsis puveli* Great views of one at Abrafo and seen well at Opro Forest [nominate].  
**Pale-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis rufipennis* Several heard, and seen poorly, at Ankasa NP [extrema].

**Brown Illadopsis** ◊ (Moloney's I) *Illadopsis [fulvescens] moloneyana* Good views of a pair at Kalakpa.

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens* A few heard. Best views were at Opro Forest [*gularis*].

**Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus* A flock seen at the Shai Hills [*platycirca*].

**Blackcap Babbler** *Turdoides reinwardtii* Good scope views of one at the Shai Hills [*stictilaema*].

**Capuchin Babbler (Black-crowned C B)** *Turdoides [atrypennis] rubiginosus* (NT) See note.

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* A female seen by Mole NP, and a pair seen at Atewa [nominate].

**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* One seen briefly at Tono Dam, west of Bolgatanga [nominate].

**Northern Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* A few seen, the first on the edge of Mole NP [nominate].

**Violet-backed Hyliota** *Hyliota violacea* Briefly from the walkway at Kakum, then excellent views of a pair at Atewa [*nehrkornii*].

**Copper-tailed Starling** ◊ *Hylopsar cupreocauda* (NT) Great scope views of a pair with fledged juvs at Abrafo Forest.

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus* Big flocks in the burnt area in Mole NP.

**Splendid Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus* Widespread. First seen well from the walkway at Kakum NP [*chrysonotis*].

**Purple Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureus* A few smart individuals seen very well in Mole NP [nominate].



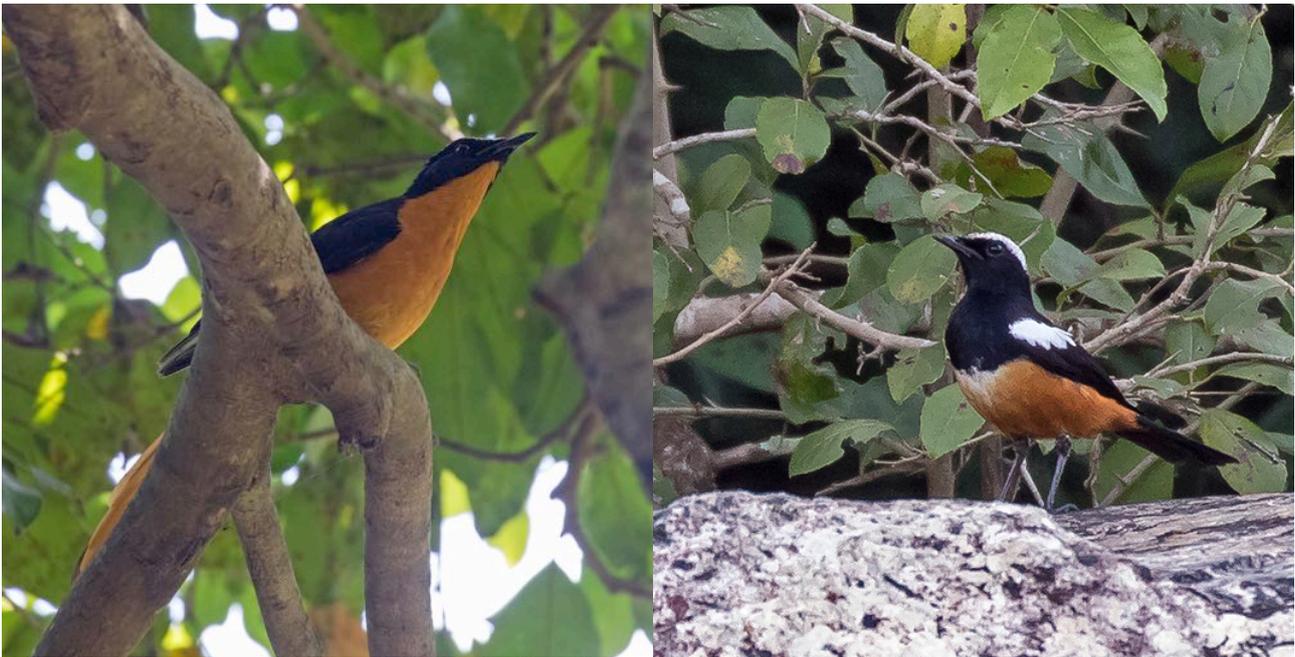
*The localized and attractive Chestnut-bellied Starling (Pete Morris)*

**Long-tailed Glossy Starling** *Lamprotornis caudatus* Excellent views of several in Mole NP.  
**Chestnut-bellied Starling** ◇ *Lamprotornis pulcher* Great views of a flock of c10 near to Sapeliga.  
**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* First seen at the Shai Hills. Best numbers at Nsuta Forest [nominate].  
**Chestnut-winged Starling (Forest C-w S)** *Onychognathus [fulgidus] hartlaubii* Several seen well, first at Kakum.  
**Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptera lugubris* Two seen briefly at Nsuta Forest.  
**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* Four seen on cattle in Sapeliga, northwest of Bolgatanga [nominate].  
**White-tailed Ant Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis* Heard plenty and seen briefly a few times at Ankasa NP [nominate].  
**Finsch's Rufous Thrush** ◇ *Stizorhina finschi* Great views of one roosting by the camp at Ankasa, also seen at Atewa.  
**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios* First seen well in Mole NP. Very drab [*chiguancooides*]!  
**White-tailed Alethe** ◇ *Alethe diademata* A couple of adults and several spotty juveniles seen well at Ankasa NP.  
**Forest Scrub Robin** ◇ *Cercotrichas leucosticta* Brilliant views of a singing bird at Opro Forest [nominate].  
**Fraser's Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria ocreata* Excellent views at Antwikwaa, at Ankasa NP and at Atewa [*prospora*].  
**White-browed Forest Flycatcher** ◇ *Fraseria cinerascens* Excellent views of a smart bird at the Ebi River.  
**Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis* Excellent views of one at Nsuta Forest [*parelij*].  
**Grey Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus* Seen well in Mole NP and at Atewa [nominate].  
**Nimba Flycatcher** *Melaenornis annamarulae* (VU) Excellent views of a singing male and then a pair at Atewa.  
**Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides* First seen at the Shai Hills. Common in Mole NP [nominate].  
**Pale Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pallidus* A pair seen by the old airstrip on the edge of Mole NP [nominate].  
**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* First seen at the Shai Hills. Several others noted.  
**Gambaga Flycatcher** *Muscicapa gambagae* Excellent views of a pair in the main burnt area in Mole NP.  
**Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica* A few seen in Mole NP [nominate].  
**Cassin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini* Good views of a few along the river at Ankasa NP.  
**Little Grey Flycatcher** ◇ *Muscicapa epulata* Excellent views of at least three at Atewa.



Ussher's Flycatcher feeding young and a confiding Little Grey Flycatcher, both at Atewa (Pete Morris)





The smart White-crowned Robin-Chat (left) and a White-crowned Cliff Chat (Pete Morris)

- Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata* Several seen, the first at Nsuta Forest [aximensis].
- Tessmann's Flycatcher** ◊ *Muscicapa tessmanni* Superb views of a singing birds at Bobiri and at Atewa.
- Ussher's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ussheri* Excellent views, especially at Kakum and at the ridge at Atewa.
- Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla* A few, the first seen on the Winneba Plains [nominata].
- White-crowned Robin-Chat** ◊ *Cossypha albicapillus* Excellent views of 1-2 pairs on the edge of Mole NP [giffardi].
- Forest Robin** ◊ (Western F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] erythrothorax* Two seen well at Ankasa NP, others heard.
- Forest Robin** ◊ (Dahomey F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] dahomeyensis* Superb views at Kalakpa.
- Forest Robin** ◊ (Ghana F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] inexpectatus* Briefly at Abrafo and excellent views at Atewa.
- Lowland Akalat** ◊ *Sheppardia cyornithopsis* A surprise one for some at an antswarm at Ankasa [houghtoni].
- European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* First seen at Opro Forest. A few others in Mole NP.
- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* First seen at the Shai Hills. A few others noted.
- White-crowned Cliff Chat** ◊ *Thamnolaea coronata* Good views of a pair at the Shai Hills [nominata].
- White-fronted Black Chat** ◊ *Oenanthe albifrons* A couple of pairs seen well in Mole NP [frontalis].
- Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris* A pair seen around the hotel in Mole NP [falkensteini].



Two more from Mole NP: Familiar Chat and Rufous Cisticola (Pete Morris)



Pygmy Sunbird (above), Reichenbach's Sunbird and a poor photo of an Oriole Warbler (Pete Morris)



- Fraser's Sunbird** *Deleornis fraseri* First seen well at Kakum NP, and several seen well at Ankasa NP [*idius*].
- Mangrove Sunbird** *Anthreptes gabonicus* A couple seen at the Ebi River, including one at a nest.
- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi* A few, from the walkway at Kakum, and scoped at Atewa [*kruensis*].
- Grey-chinned Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes rectirostris* A few, the first from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [nominate].
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* Common. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [*subcollaris*].
- Pygmy Sunbird** ◊ *Hedydipna platyura* Excellent views of a pair at the hotel in Mole NP. Several more in the north.
- Reichenbach's Sunbird** ◊ *Anabathmis reichenbachii* A male seen very well by the gate at Ankasa NP.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis* A male seen well along the entrance road to Kalakpa [nominate].
- Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanoaema* A few, the first in a small flock, in Kakum NP [*magnirostrata*].
- Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common, first seen in Kakum NP [*cephaelis*].
- Buff-throated Sunbird** ◊ *Chalcomitra adalberti* A real cracker, seen well several times, the first at Kakum [nominate].
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Several seen in and around Mole NP [nominate].
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius* First seen in the farmbush at Abrafo [*kempji*].
- Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus* Excellent views from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP. Also seen at Ankasa NP.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus* Elusive this time, only seen in flight a couple of times in Mole NP [nominate].
- Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus* A few, first seen at the Shai Hills.
- Johanna's Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris johannae* A few unsatisfactory encounters before brilliant views at Atewa [*fasciatus*].
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus* A few, first seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [*ashantiensis*].
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus* Several seen well, first seen on the Winneba Plains [nominate].
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus* Common, first seen at the lunch stop south of the Shai Hills [nominate].

**Sahel Bush Sparrow** *Gymnoris dentata* Very common in the north, especially in Mole NP.

**White-billed Buffalo Weaver** ◊ *Bubalornis albirostris* A few seen at their colony in Sapeliga.

**Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus* A couple seen on the edge of Mole NP.

**Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis* Several seen well, near to Sapeliga and at Tono Dam [nominate].

**Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons* A flock of non-breeding plumaged birds in the farmbush at Atewa [*capitalba*].

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus* A few seen in Mole NP. Small numbers seen at other sites in the north [nominate].

**Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis* First at Antwikwaa, also at Opro Forest and Atewa. Interesting race *capitalba*.

**Orange Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus aurantius* Great views at the pond near to Bokro, and later by a fuel station [nominate].

**Heuglin's Masked Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus heuglini* Great views of a small flock, including a fine male, at Kalakpa.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* First good colony was at the 'swamp stop' on the way to Antwikwaa [nominate].

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

**Yellow-collared Weaver** *Ploceus melanocephalus* Best were the breeding plumaged males at Nasia Swamp [*capitalis*].

**Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor* Great views from the walkway at Kakum and at Bobiri. Great bird [nominate].

**Maxwell's Black Weaver** *Ploceus albinucha* A few seen well from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [nominate].

**Compact Weaver** *Ploceus superciliosus* A couple in non-breeding plumage seen well in the farmbush at Atewa.

**Preuss's Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus preussi* Great views from the walkway at Kakum and at Atewa. A cracking weaver!

**Red-vented Malimbe** *Malimbus scutatus* Good views from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [nominate].

**Blue-billed Malimbe** *Malimbus nitens* Several seen well, especially at nests at Ankasa NP. Also at Atewa etc

**Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis* First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.

**Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus* A couple seen well at Ankasa NP. Also a few seen at Atewa [*nigrifrons*].



Heuglin's Masked Weaver was a nice surprise. Also here, Sahel Bush Sparrow and the superb Exclamatory Paradise Wychah (Pete Morris)





More finch fun! Clockwise from top left: Red-winged Pytilia; Lavendar Waxbill; Bar-breasted Firefinch; Wilson's Indigobird; West African Seedeater and Blue-billed Malimbe (Pete Morris)



**Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops* A male seen perched on top of a tree at Opro Forest.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* 100s coming to drink at Nasia Swamp including some quite burnt orange ones [nominate].

**Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus* First seen at Abrafo. Also seen well at Opro Forest and Atewa.

**Northern Red Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus* Several, including some transitional males, at Nasia Swamp.

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura* A few seen well at Kalakpa.

**Red-fronted Antpecker** ◊ *Parmoptila rubrifrons* (NT) A sneaky pair at Abrafo Forest did their best to hide.

**White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus* See note.

**Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita bicolor* First seen well near Antwikwaa, and another at Nsuta Forest.

**Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus* Common. First seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP [emiliae].

**Red-winged Pytilia** ◊ *Pytilia phoenicoptera* Three males seen well in Mole NP [nominate].

**Black-bellied Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes ostrinus* (NL) Seen coming to a nest at Ankasa NP for some.

**Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina* Great views of a male nest building in the farmbush at Abrafo.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta* A pair seen at Nasia Swamp and seen again at Kalakpa.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* Seen well in Mole NP, Nasia Swamp and other sites in the north [nominate].

**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata* A few seen well in the farmbush at Atewa [polionota].

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* Common in the north, especially in Mole NP [nominate].

**Lavender Waxbill** ◊ *Estrilda caerulescens* Brilliant scope views of several in Mole NP, and at Tongo Hills.

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda* Seen at a few sites, the first at the Nor Palm Pond near to Bokro.

**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes* A few seen at various sites in the north.

**Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis* Singles seen flying over on both visits to Nasia Swamp [ansorgei].

**African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans* Several in the north. Great looks at birds coming to drink at Nasia Swamp [nominate].

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata* Common. First seen at the Shai Hills [nominate].

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor* First seen in the spotlight at Kakum NP. Also a few at Atewa [nominate].

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata* A male seen well at Tono Dam. No wing panel and reddish legs [neumannii].

**Wilson's Indigobird** ◊ *Vidua wilsoni* A couple seen well in Mole NP. Plumage and vocalizations seemed spot on.

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* A male seen in the car park in Kakum NP.

**Exclamatory Paradise Whydah** ◊ *Vidua interjecta* Great views of several males in Mole NP. Stunners!

**Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow W)** *Motacilla [flava] flavissima* Several at Tono Dam. Most appeared to be this form.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* First seen on the tour at the Pra River by Twifo Praso [vidua].

**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus* A couple seen at the Shai Hills [nominate].

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* Several seen in Mole NP [nominate].

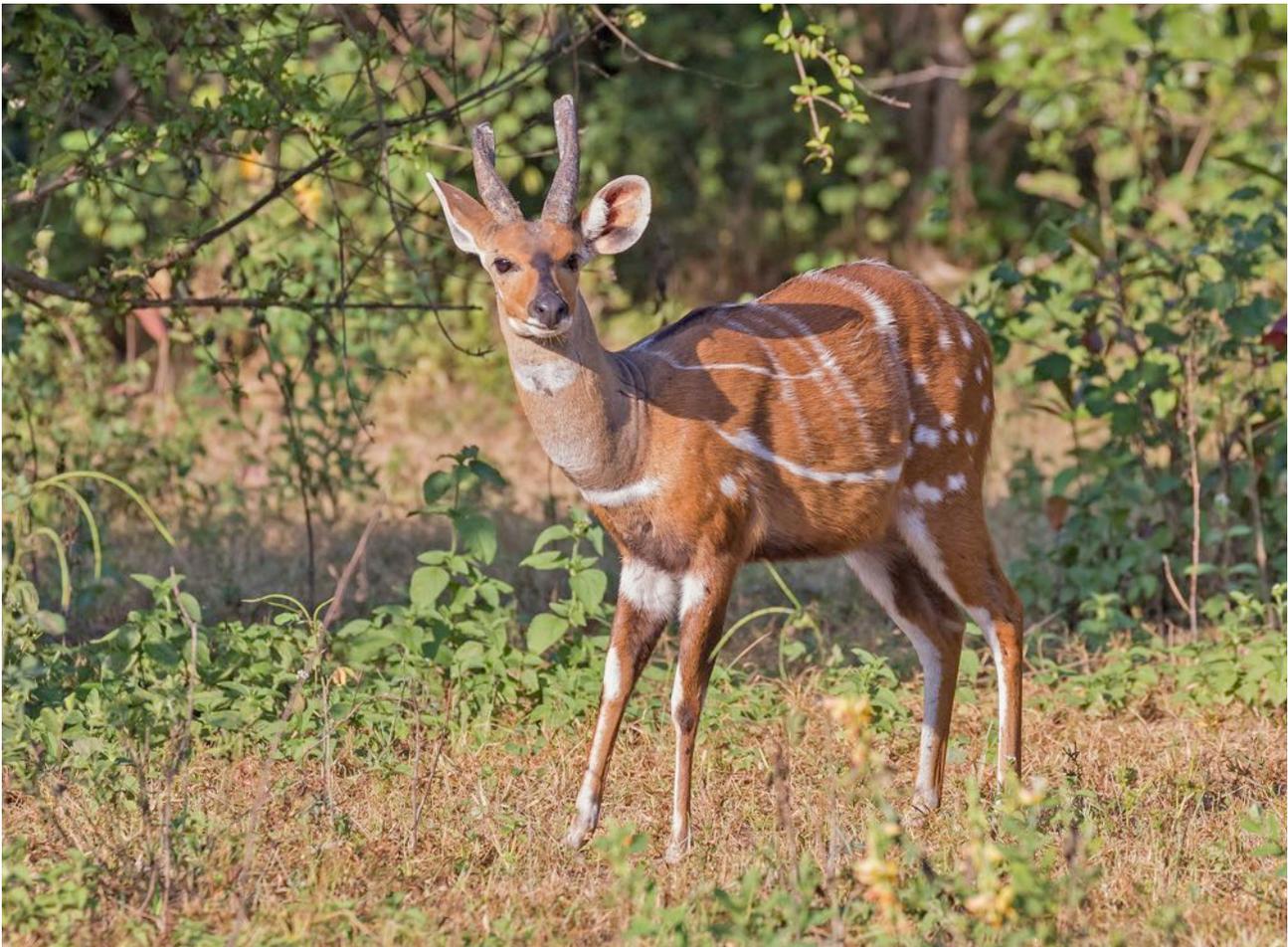
**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* A few seen on the Winneba Plains and more in the north [caniceps].

**West African Seedeater** *Crithagra canicapilla* Great views of one or two coming to the salt lick in Mole NP [nominate].

**Gosling's Bunting** ◊ *Emberiza goslingi* Common at the Tongo Hills, and a few elsewhere in the north.



The gorgeous White-bellied Kingfisher (Pete Morris)



*Bushbucks were very showy around the lodge at Mole NP. (Pete Morris)*

## MAMMALS

- African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* Seen a couple of times by the waterhole in Mole NP.
- Western Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* (H) Frequently heard at night in the forests.
- Demidoff's Dwarf Galago** *Galagoides demidovii* A few sightings, the first at Kakum.
- Campbell's Monkey (Lowe's M)** *Cercopithecus [campbelli] lowei* Seen from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.
- Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey** *Cercopithecus petaurista* A smart monkey, seen at several sites, first at Shai Hills.
- Green Monkey (Callithrix M)** *Chlorocebus sabaeus* Seen at several sites, first at Shai Hills.
- Patas Monkey** *Erythrocebus patas* Seen well in Mole NP.
- Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* Noisy animals welcomed us at our first site, the Shai Hills!
- Olive Colobus** *Procolobus verus* Seen by some from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.
- African Savanna Hare (Scrub H)** *Lepus microtis* Briefly from the bus one evening.
- Four-toed Hedgehog** *Atelerix albiventris* Great views of an endearing individual in Mole NP.
- Derby's Flying Squirrel (L D Scaly-tailed S)** *Anomalurus derbianus* One at Ankasa NP, initially identified as Lesser A.
- Greater Cane Rat** *Thryonomys swinderianus* A small group on the track at Mole NP were a surprise.
- Typical Lemniscomys** *Lemniscomys striatus* A stripey mouse seen at Abrafo is thought to be this species.
- Fire-footed Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus pyrropus* A few of these smart squirrels seen in the forests.
- Kintampo Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus substriatus* A couple noted in Mole NP.
- Gambian Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus gambianus* A couple noted.
- Green Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus poensis* A few seen in drier areas.
- African Giant Squirrel (African G S)** *Protoxerus stangeri* The odd one seen at Ankasa NP.
- Striped Ground Squirrel** *Xerus erythropus* A few running along the tracks in Ankasa NP.
- Marsh Mongoose** *Atilax paludinosus* One seen well at night in Mole NP.
- Common Cusimanse** *Crossarchus obscurus* One for the front bus in Ankasa NP.
- Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguineus* One along the track at Kalakpa.
- Gambian Mongoose** *Mungos gambianus* A group crossing the track in Mole NP were a pleasant surprise.

**Spotted Hyaena** *Crocuta crocuta* One on the track at Mole NP was a great surprise!

**African Palm Civet** *Nandinia binotata* One for the front bus in Ankasa NP.

**Common Genet** *Genetta genetta* A couple seen very well indeed in Mole NP.

**Black-bellied Pangolin (Long-tailed P)** *Uromanis tetradactyla* Mega, though sadly the one we saw at Atewa slipped off.

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* Common in Mole NP.

**Kob** *Kobus kob* Common at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus* Some very confiding individuals in Mole NP.

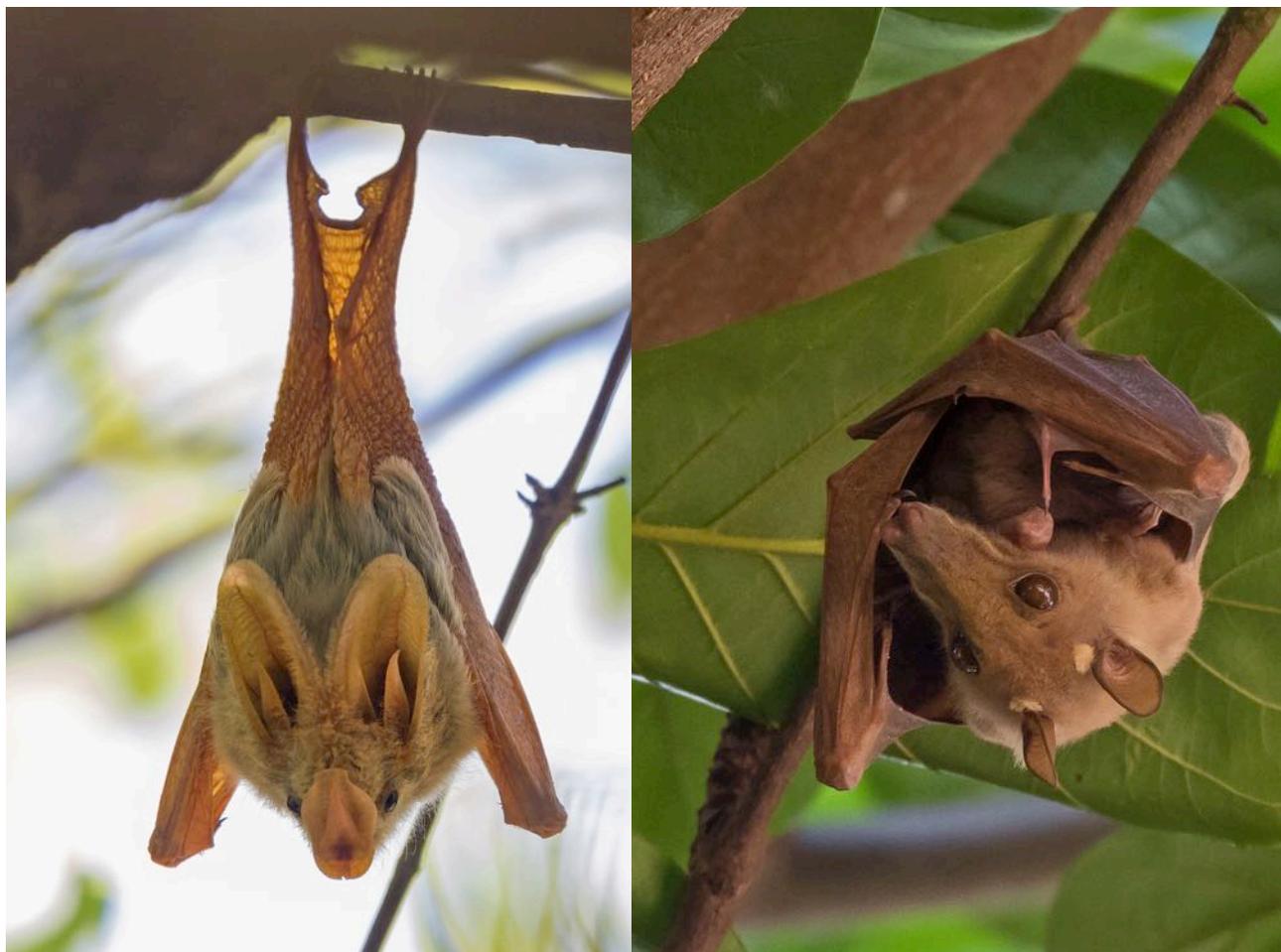
**Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons* Some cute individuals in Mole NP.

**African Straw-coloured Fruit Bat** *Eidolon helvum* Incredible numbers flying over in the Atewa area.

**Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat** *Epomophorus gambianus* Nice views hanging from the tree at the lunch stop.



Olive Colobus (above), Yellow-winged Bat (left) and Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat (Pete Morris)





Some more of the weird and wonderful wildlife we encountered... An unidentified snake and frog from Atewa, and a dragonfly, an amazing caterpillar and a fancy moth from Ankasa! (Pete Morris)





*A Long-tailed Hawk in a seldom seen immature plumage! (Pete Morris)*

## NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2019. IOC World Bird Names v9.2. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

### **African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

First heard from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP. We went on to see several, including some dazzling adults, and, interestingly, a fledged juvenile being fed by a female Blue-throated Brown Sunbird!

### **Grey-throated Rail** *Canirallus oculus*

Brilliant views of one out in the open on the road at Ankasa NP. A really rare and seldom seen species. Amazingly, when it crossed the road one time, it raised its wings twice, revealing black and white barred wings, reminiscent of a sunbittern or a Hoopoe!! Incredible, and behaviour that may not have been documented before.

### **Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchis macrourus*

First heard distantly from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP, then great views of a grey individual at Ankasa NP and then a rufous adult and an immature seen well, and another glimpsed, at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. The grey 'morph' is rarely seen!

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*

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

**Rock-loving Cisticola** *Cisticola emini*

One seen well, clambering over the rocks, at the Tongo Hills, near to Bolgatanga. The form here was *admiralis* which is quite distinctive, and has a different voice!

**Black-backed Cisticola** *Cisticola eximius*

Birds identified as this species were seen well at the swamp along the White Volta at Sapeliga. Somewhat confusing, and not as obvious as hoped for, but plainish rufous nape would indicate this species. May be they are not so distinct in fresh non-breeding plumage? The form concerned is *occidens*.

**(Black-crowned) Capuchin Babbler** *Turdoides [atripennis] rubiginosus*

Nearly drove us mad, with just brief views at the Kalakpa Reserve on the first few attempts and then finally we found an obliging pair on the second morning which gave stunning views. A cracking bird, the black crown was rather narrow, and the dark mask and chin very conspicuous. BirdLife split this species into three!

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

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

**White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus*

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



An amazing pitcher-type plant from Atewa (Pete Morris)

## APPENDIX 1

### TOP 10 BIRDS OF THE TOUR

- 1<sup>st</sup> **WHITE-NECKED ROCKFOWL**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **GREY-THROATED RAIL**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **NKULENGU RAIL**
- 4<sup>th</sup> **White-bellied Kingfisher**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Nimba Flycatcher**
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Spot-breasted Ibis**
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Egyptian Plover**
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Blue-bellied Roller**
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Congo Serpent Eagle**
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye**

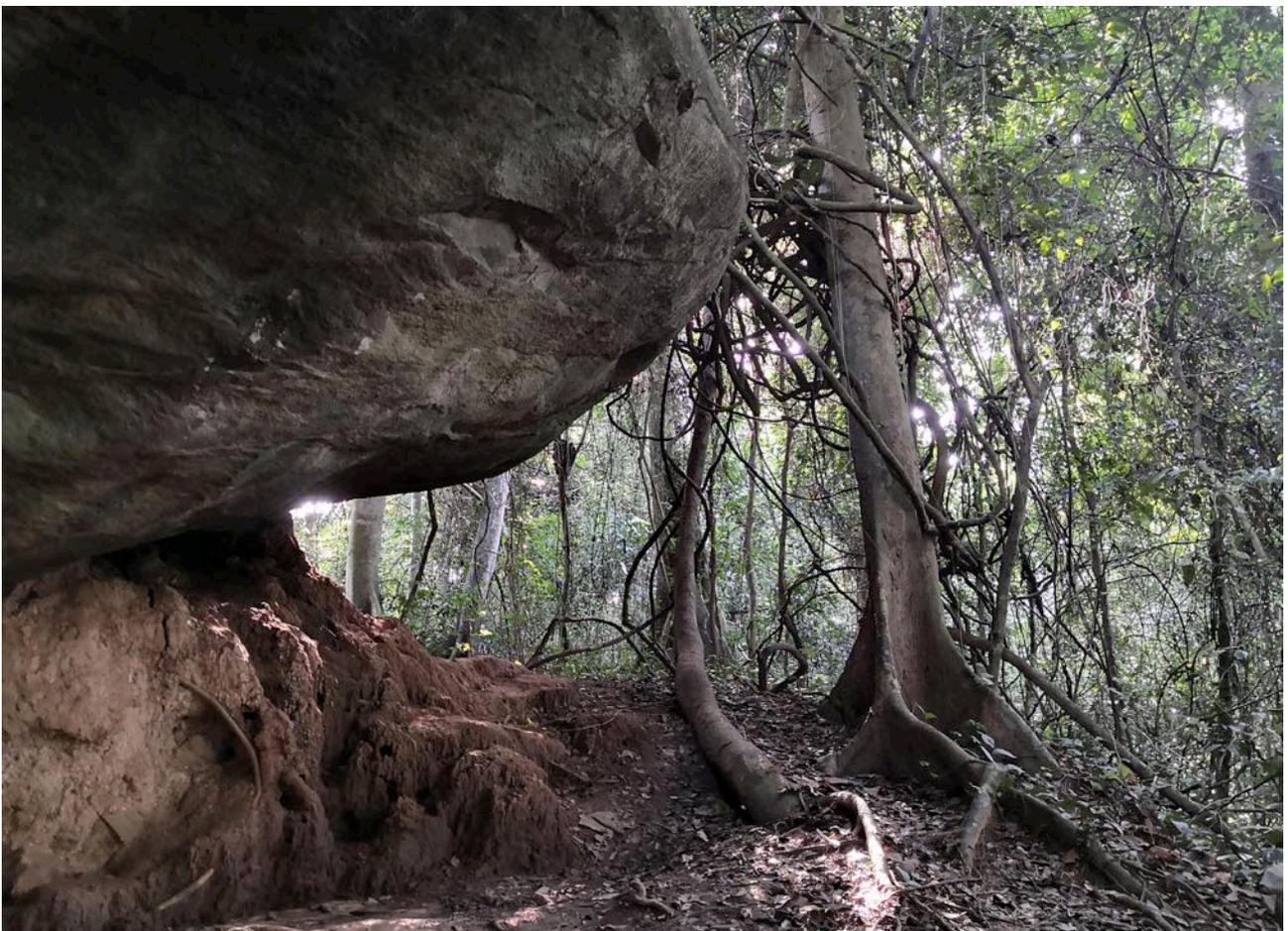
**A total of 37 species received at least one vote!**



*A fine trio of Nkulengu Rails in Ankasa NP (Pete Morris)*



*Our bird of the trip and its home! (Pete Morris)*





*Akun Eagle Owl... another of our favourites! (Pete Morris), and below, two video grabs of the amazing Grey-throated Rail (Johan Claesen)*





*A spectacular bus heading for Burkina Faso, and a beautiful sunset in Mole NP (Pete Morris)*

