

# GHANA TOUR REPORT 2023

23 February - 15 March 2023

by János Oláh

The Ghana tour is one of our classic Africa tours where birders can connect with a good number of Guinea and Upper Guinea forest endemics. Moreover, it does have a major target for almost all birders: the White-headed Rockfowl or as I like the old name better, the Yellow-necked Picathartes! It is a reliable country to see this very special bird indeed and we have seen it on all our tours in the last 10 years. Other countries in the region are less frequently visited by birders due to less tourist facilities and for security reasons. But Ghana is a small and safe country with reasonable roads and a fine selection of birding sites with good infrastructure. It has a wide range of species and many of those are sought-after by birders. In 2023 we have visited the famous Kakum National Park, the mighty Ankasa Reserve on the west, the Bonkro area with Kwabena Sam forest, the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, Mole National Park, the fast-disappearing forests of the Atewa Range and the Kalakpa Resource Reserve on the east. It is a great itinerary, and we regularly see 65% of all the birds recorded in the country.

In 2023 we have recorded 458 bird species with only 12 heard-only (66% of all the birds of Ghana). There are not many countries in the World where you can see such a high percentage of the birds in a three-week tour. But Ghana has a lot more to offer as we also recorded 42 species of mammals (a new Birdquest record for the country) and many wonderful butterflies. There were many highlights on the tour, but as usual Yellow-headed Picathartes was the top bird for everybody. However we managed to see many other iconic or sought-after birds like Hartlaub's Duck, White-throated Francolin, Brown and Standard-winged Nightjars, four species of spinetails, Bates's Swift, Yellow-throated Cuckoo, Grey-throated and Nkulengu Rails, Forbes's Plover, Rock Pratincole, White-crested Tiger Heron, Dwarf Bittern, Congo Serpent Eagle, Long-tailed Hawk, Red-chested Owlet, Akun and Fraser's Eagle Owls, Black and Red-billed Dwarf Hornbills, Blue-bellied and Blue-throated Rollers, Chocolate-backed, African Dwarf and White-bellied Kingfishers, a remarkable ten species of bee-eaters including Rosy and Blue-moustached Bee-eater, Yellow-footed and Spotted Honeyguides, African Piculet, Little Green, Fire-bellied and Melancholy Woodpeckers, Grey Parrot, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Fiery-breasted Bushshrike, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Western-bearded and Yellow-bearded Greenbuls, Kemp's Longbill, Dorst's and Black-backed Cisticolas, Puvel's and Rufous-winged Illadopsises, Capuchin Babbler, Copper-tailed and Narrow-tailed Starlings, White-browed Forest Flycatcher, Nimba and Tessmann's Flycatchers, Buff-throated and Johanna's Sunbirds, Preuss's Weaver, Lavender Waxbill, Red-winged Pytilia, Black-faced and Black-bellied Firefinches as well as Gosling's and Brown-rumped Buntings. Mammals were also great, and we especially enjoyed seeing Benin Tree Hyrax, White-thighed Colobus, Beecroft's, Pel's and Lord Derby's Anomalures, Roan Antelope, Walter's Duiker and Thomas's Dwarf Galago.

Our tour started in Accra Airport and early next morning we were out of town birding on the Winneba Plains on our way towards Kakum National Park. Our body had to adjust to the summer conditions as all of us were coming from winter but there were many birds around and we had our first Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets, Yellow-crowned Gonoleks as well as African Cuckoo, Guinea Turaco and Moustached Grass Warbler. The nearby lagoons were good for list-padding, but we enjoyed seeing Western Reef Herons and West African Crested Terns alongside some familiar wintering waders and terns. We arrived at Kakum National Park but our afternoon birding was hampered by a huge storm and we were forced to the farm bush where we saw Grey Kestrel, Piping Hornbill and a few Rosy Bee-eaters in flight.

Early next morning we were in the famous canopy walkway of Kakum National Park. Wow, it is always amazing to be in such a special place at dawn! A distant Congo Serpent Eagle was calling, and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers were leaving their roosting holes. In the canopy of the huge trees, we quickly picked up some goodies like Melancholy Woodpecker, Fraser's Forest and Ussher's Flycatchers, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Violet-backed Hylia and both Golden and Slender-billed Greenbul. Walking from platform to platform you can appreciate being in the forest canopy and we spent most of the morning looking for other canopy-dwelling birds. It was a great experience and over the next few hours we managed to get superb looks of African Emerald Cuckoo, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, White-crested Hornbill, West African Batis, Sabine's Puffback, Forest Penduline Tit, Spotted Greenbul, Little Grey Flycatcher, Tit-Hylia, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Little Green and Superb Sunbirds as well as White-breasted, Chestnut-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas. We also had Common Swifts and Sabine's Spinetail overhead while a few skulking mammals included Green Bush and Small Squirrels and Spot-nosed and Lowe's Monkeys. It was also great to see several Wood Warblers in their wintering grounds. The afternoon was quiet, but we did get a few goodies like Black Spinetail and Chestnut-winged Starling. For the last hour of the day, we were back to the canopy walkway, and it was just perfect to observe large number of Black Casqued and Brown-cheeked Hornbills on a fruiting tree. A superb day to finish the day. Well, the day was not over yet as we waited until dusk in the canopy of the rainforest and although the calling Brown Nightjar was not cooperative, we had great looks of the huge Pel's Anomalure (or Scaly-tailed Flying Squirrel) and on the walk back to the bus we also had a roosting Forest Robin, Demidoff's Dwarf Galago and Nagtglas's Forest Dormouse. What a day it was!

We were back to Kakum National Park next morning where a newly opened forest track allowed a few hours of great birding. There were more and more familiar birds and sounds for the group, but we did pick up Cassin's Spinetail, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Blue Cuckooshrike, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Copper-tailed Starling and best of all the rare Yellow-footed Honeyguide. After the morning birding we left for the Ankasa Reserve on the far west of the country. We had two great birding stops along the long journey. First, we stopped at a lily covered pond where fantastic African Pygmy Goose and Allen's Gallinule showed really well, and the fantastic male Orange Weavers were nest building! By late afternoon we arrived at a mangrove area where we had great birding with Hartlaub's Ducks, Mangrove Sunbird, Shining Blue Kingfisher and we also got lucky to find the unobtrusive White-browed Forest Flycatcher. It was dusk when we rolled into the fantastic new lodge at the edge of Ankasa Reserve and enjoyed the first of many delicious meals. What a change from the camping in the old days!

We spent the next three days exploring this fantastic forest. It was not easy work, and it was exactly like one of our clients described it on a past tour: 'you have to extract every single special bird one by one in this forest'. But this is what we did, spending as much time on the field as possible, especially at dawn and dusk we managed to see a lot of goodies. There were several

very special moments on this year's tour, such as watching a calling Congo Serpent Eagle through the scope for minutes, finding a roosting party of five Nkulengu Rails, admiring four Blue-moustached Bee-eaters which we did not see any more on the tour, finding Dwarf Bitterns on two different occasions, watching Red-fronted Antpeckers around their nest (where they successfully finished breeding a few days before our visit), tracking down the rare Grey-throated Rail and got walk-away views of a singing Rufous-winged Illadopsis. However apart from these exceptionally memorable encounters we managed to see a lot more like Bates's Swift, Blue-headed Wood Dove, White-crested Tiger Heron, Long-tailed Hawk, Red-chested Owllet, Akun Eagle Owl, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, Chocolate-backed, Blue-breasted, White-bellied and African Dwarf Kingfishers, Spotted Honeyguide, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Dusky-crested Flycatcher, West African Wattle-eye, Western Bearded and Yellow Bearded Greenbuls, Sharpe's Apalis, Pale-breasted and Blackcap Illadopsises, White-tailed Alethe, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, Forest Robin and Reichenbach's Sunbird. Special mention should also go for the mammals we located as we got excellent looks of West African Potto, both Beecroft's and Lord Derby's Anomalures, Hammer-headed Fruit Bat and Forest Giant Pouched Rat.

It was sad to leave this great forest behind, but we were looking forward the ever-approaching P-day so after a final morning we packed up and left for the Kakum area. The usual lily pond on the way back produced a fine female Greater Painted Snipe apart from the usual candidates. We arrived back to Kakum in the late afternoon where we spent some time in a farm bush area seeing a few more widespread species such as magnificent Black Bee-eater, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, African Hobby, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher and a skulking Lowland Sooty Boubou for some. We positioned ourselves at a forest edge habitat by dusk where after some nervous waiting we eventually saw a forest-dwelling Brown Nightjar. He was not very cooperative, but nevertheless we got to see it!

It was P-day! In the morning we started in a farm bush area on the edge of Kakum National Park. It was slow birding with a wide range of more common birds, but we also had some excellent encounters such as watching a fantastic male White-spotted Flufftail singing just a few meters away or a party of Rosy Bee-eaters hawking for insect from their designated perches. Temperature was rising so we moved on towards Bonkro. Our first roadside stop was by a dazzling breeding colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallows while the Pra River area produced the hoped for goodies like several Rock Pratincoles, White-crowned Lapwing and the very smart-looking White-bibbed Swallow. By early afternoon we arrived to Bonkro and settled into the recently built Picathartes Lodge. We were soon off to the forest towards a rocky area where we were hoping to connect with the beautiful and bizarre-looking White-necked Rockfowl. We arrived in time and settled into the viewing platforms. It was thundering in a distance, and we were wondering if the storm will arrive or not. Not much later the first Picathartes arrived, and we had a magical hour with these shy but curious birds. It was an amazing experience just as expected, we could watch them bouncing around, preening and feeding. Definitely a lifetime experience! They remind me to the ground cuckoos of Asia and South America: strong-billed, long-legged, ground-dwelling, fast and shy.

After this overwhelming birding moment, we returned to the lodge and celebrated with a fine dinner and some cold drinks! Next morning, we have visited the Kwabena Sam or Numia forest where we had a wonderful morning seeing some scarce birds like Yellow-throated Cuckoo, Forest Woodhoopoe, Preuss's Weaver and Tessmann's Flycatchers to name but a few. After lunch we continued travelling north and we by the afternoon we were birding in the Bobiriy Butterfly Sanctuary. Well, West African forest birding is not particularly lively in the afternoon (sometimes

not even at dawn) so we had a quiet afternoon. Nevertheless, we saw a fine Long-tailed Hawk, really beautiful Blue-throated Rollers, a flock of ten African Grey Parrots and after dusk a magnificent Fraser's Eagle Owl was also tracked down. On the way out of the reserve we saw yet another Pel's Anomalure and a Cyclops Roundleaf Bat.

It was a travel day towards Mole National Park. Our roadside stop was the old access road to Opro Forest. Well, the forest is gone, agriculture took over. It was a said experience for me as just 5 years ago I was still birding in this amazing patch of forest in the transition zone (between the dry north and the wetter south) seeing many great forest birds. It was the year when we could not reach the far north, so we made some explorations in this area. Ever since Birdquest is returning to this site to look for the beautiful Fiery-breasted Bushshrike which seems to be adapting well to teak plantation and farm bush. On this occasion we were very lucky and got superb looks of this most beautiful bird. In fact, we saw a pair displaying, it was yet another magical birding experience on this tour. As a supporting cast we also observed a male Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, a hard-to-see-well guinea forest endemic. The rest of the day was spent travelling with a distant Beaudouin's Snake Eagle seen along the way. We arrived at the Mole National Park in the late afternoon and we still had time to track down a Bronze-tailed Starling and after sunset a few Long-tailed Nightjars as well as a fine Northern White-faced Owl!

We had the best part of three days in this birdy national park and made several excursions into various habitats of the park. It was hot, very hot indeed, the mid-day temperature was around 40C, so we maximized our time in the early and late parts of the day. This time of the year the area is rather dry so a lot of birds concentrating around the waterholes. Not only birds but also mammals and we saw African Elephants every day at the waterhole the lodge was overlooking. Most memorable experiences were finding Forbes's Plover, seeing good number of Black-faced Firefinches as well as a pair of Black-bellied Firefinch, tracking down the localised Dorst's and Rufous Cisticolas, watching a singing Brown-rumped Buntings, Western Square-tailed Drongo and Red-winged Pytilia along the Mole River gallery forest and our last morning raptor experience! Many years passed now since I saw as many raptors on a single morning like we did in Mole. While having our breakfast we had raptors circling up which included 140 Bateleurs, 115 African White-backed Vultures, 30 Hooded Vultures, 4 White-headed Vultures, 45 Yellow-billed Kites, Grasshopper Buzzard, Ayres Hawk Eagle and Lanner Falcon. Night excursions were also superb with great looks of Red-necked and male Standard-winged Nightjars as well as Roan Antelope and 'black-tailed' White-tailed Mongooses. Other goodies included Stone Partridge, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Black-bellied Bustard, Abyssinian Roller, Northern Carmine, Red-throated and Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, Oriole Warbler, Blackcap Babbler, Grey-headed Bushshrike, African Blue Flycatcher, Sun Lark, White-crowned Robin Chat and Lavender Waxbill.

After Mole we were still heading north towards the Burkina Faso border to track down a few special birds. After a longish drive we arrived to the Tongo Hills. It was an interesting area with some great stone formations. A late afternoon birding here produced Fox Kestrels, White-rumped Swifts, White-crowned Cliff Chats, Rock-loving Cisticola, Gosling's Bunting and more Lavender Waxbills. Early next morning we drove to the Sapeliga area where we had Greater Spotted Cuckoo, Black-headed Lapwing, Yellow Penduline Tit, West African Swallow, Chestnut-bellied Starling, Speckle-fronted Weaver, African Silverbill, White-rumped Seedeater and Golder-breasted Bunting. The key target was Egyptian Plover along the White Volta River, and it did not disappoint us. Amazing birds and we could watch a pair as long as we wanted feeding along the river shoreline. An afternoon visit to Tono Dam also gave up the hoped for specialties, and we got great looks of the localised Black-backed Cisticola, African Green Bee-eater, Four-banded

Sandgrouse and Quail Finch. The following day we had to go back all the way to Kumasi, the longest travelling day of the tour with not much birding. A short stop at the Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary gave us two different troops of the much-localised White-thighed Colobuses. Next morning, we were back for a morning visit to the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary and this time we tracked down the most wanted birds in the reserve! We had a breeding Black Dwarf Hornbill almost side by side with a breeding White-crowned Hornbill and African Piculet as well as a surprise Little Green Woodpecker also gave superb looks. Our next port of call was the mighty Atewa Range. Unfortunately, this area is not officially protected and whereas it is classified as an Important Bird Area is somehow not incorporated into the protected areas. There has been plenty of logging in the last few years and apparently there are talks about a bauxite mine too. Hunting pressure is also very obvious as we saw both Maxwell's Duiker and Royale Antelope being sold as bushmeat and we could experience it too. We saw many gun shells in the forest, virtually no mammals – not even a squirrel – on a 17km long round journey and just as we left the forest at dusk a hunter was entering it. Anyway, on our first afternoon we spent some time in the farm bush area and saw Lowland Sooty Boubou and Blue-shouldered Robin Chat. The following day we had the longest walk of the tour and we climbed from 300 meter to 800 meter in search of some rare birds. We were very lucky with the weather and it was not as difficult walk then expected, birding all day in forest habitat was very pleasant. We saw a wide range of forest birds and although lots of them were already familiar we admired Yellow-billed Turacos, Blue Malkoha, African Emerald Cuckoo, Long-tailed Hawk, Yellow-spotted, Hairy-breasted Barbets, Yellow-throated and Red-rumped Tinkerbirds, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, West African Wattle-eye, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Honeyguide Greenbul, Kempf's Longbill, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Black-capped Apalis, Narrow-tailed Starling, Forest Scrub Robin, Ussher's and Little Grey Flycatchers as well as Johanna's Sunbird. Icing on the cake was eventually finding the rare Nimba Flycatcher and we all got great looks of this difficult and very localised bird! The following morning, we concentrated on some remaining birds in the area and tracked down Puvell's Illadopsis, Black-bellied Seedcracker, Western Bluebill, African Firefinch and also got excellent looks of male Buff-throated Sunbirds eventually.

After visiting the Atewa Range we drove further east and crossed the Volta River on our way to the Kalakpa Resource Reserve. This was the final destination on our tour and we were looking for a few special birds at the reserves' riverine habitat. Our first afternoon was rather frustrating and the shy Capuchin Babblers remained leader-only but after dusk we had a fantastic African Scops Owl and started our nightjar quest with a singing Fiery-necked Nightjar (this *nigriscapularis* race used to be called Black-shouldered Nightjar but now has been lumped) and continued with as many as 11 Long-tailed Nightjars, a Plain Nightjar and three Standard-winged Nightjars of which two were full breeding plumaged males with full 'standards' growing out of the middle of their wings. It was a remarkable evening! The following day was hard work, slow birding but finally our hard work and persistence paid off and we managed to see the notoriously difficult-to-see Capuchin Babblers. We had a party of six birds as they were mobbing something and we could stay with them for over 20 minutes. If anybody has been looking for this bird at this location it will appreciate how difficult to see them. We also had other interesting birds like Stone Partridge, Guinea Turacos, Nkulengu Rail, Blue-bellied Roller, Marsh Tchagra, White-breasted Cuckooshrike and moloneyana race of the Brown Illadopsis. It was also a superb day for mammals and after dusk we saw Thomas's Dwarf Galago, Mona Monkey and Benin Tree Hyrax. Our final morning was spent in more open habitat where we added Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Melodious and Eurasian Reed Warbler to our list and also could admire Blue-bellied Rollers in the morning light. On our way back to Accra airport we made a detour along the Volta River in search of the Pied-

winged Swallow but unfortunately, we had no luck with these rather nomadic birds. They were regular in this area for a few years but recently were not seen. Scanning all the swallows and martins we picked up Rock Martin as the last new bird for our list. Finally, we got back to Accra airport by the evening where our tour ended and we departed to various destinations or some lucky participants stayed on for more touring in this remarkable region! All in all, it was an action-packed tour to Ghana which is undoubtedly a key destination for birders who want to see the Upper Guinea endemic birds including the incomparable Yellow-headed Picathartes or as it is called nowadays the White-necked Rockfowl.

## **BIRDS OF THE TOUR**

1st: **Yellow-headed Picathartes**

2nd: **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye**

3rd: **Forbes's Plover**

4th: **Nkulengu Rail**

5th: **Rosy Bee-eater & Standard-winged Nightjar**

## **SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED**

### **BIRDS**

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*

**Hartlaub's Duck** ♦ *Pteronetta hartlaubii* Two sightings in the Ankasa area. Great birds!

**African Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus auritus*

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*

**Stone Partridge** ♦ *Ptilopachus petrosus* We had good looks in the Mole NP. Also seen in Kalakpa Reserve.

**Latham's Francolin** ♦ (Forest F) *Peliperdix lathamii* Heard only.

**White-throated Francolin** ♦ *Campocolinus albogularis* Despite much effort it was only seen by the leader.

**Ahanta Spurfowl** ♦ *Pternistis ahantensis* Heard only.

**Double-spurred Spurfowl** *Pternistis bicalcaratus*

**Brown Nightjar** ♦ *Veles binotatus* One was seen in Kakum National Park.

**Red-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus ruficollis* Great looks of this one in Mole NP. Near threatened.

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** ♦ *Caprimulgus pectoralis* It was seen at Kalakpa Reserve. Used to be called Black-shouldered Nightjar but it has been recently lumped.

**Plain Nightjar** ♦ *Caprimulgus inornatus* Great looks in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus*

**Standard-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus longipennis* We saw three different males with full wing ornaments. Magical!

**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* It was seen at Kakum NP and Kalakpa Reserve.

**Black Spinetail** ♦ *Telacanthura melanopygia* A singleton was seen in Kakum NP.

**Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini* A flock of 10 ween at Ankasa gave the best looks!

**Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini* Two sightings: one in Kakum and one in Bonkro.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* Six were seen at the Tongo Hills.

**Bates's Swift** ♦ *Apus batesi* Two of these rarely seen swifts were seen over the Ankasa forest.

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata* Heard only..

**Western Plantain-eater** *Crinifer piscator*

**Violet Turaco** ♦ *Tauraco violaceus* It was seen in the Mole NP area and Kalakpa Reserve.

**Yellow-billed Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus* Common in forested habitat.

**Guinea Turaco (Green T)** *Tauraco persa* Common in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* One was seen in Mole NP.

**Black-throated Coucal** ♦ *Centropus leucogaster* This secretive bird was seen by some at Bobiri Sanctuary.

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* The all black morph was also seen in the Kakum NP area.

**Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus*

**Blue Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares aereus* Fairly common in Atewa and Kalakpa.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* One in the Sapeliga area.

**Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii* A total of eight were seen.

**Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius*** Three were seen on the tour.

**Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*** Many sightings.

**Yellow-throated Cuckoo ♦ *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*** Great looks of this scarce bird in the Bonkro area.

**African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*** Common bird on this tour.

**Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo ♦ (Whistling L-t C) *Cercococcyx mechowi*** Heard only.

**Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*** Best looks in the Kakum NP area.

**Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*** Two sightings.

**Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*** Heard only.

**African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*** Three sightings.

**Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*** A few were seen at Tono Dam.

**Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba [livia] domestica***

**Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea***

**Mourning Collared Dove (African M D) *Streptopelia decipiens***

**Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata***

**Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea***

**Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis***

**Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus***

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer***

**Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris***

**Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri*** Fantastic bird and we had great look sin Ankasa.

**Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis***

**Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia***

**African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus***

**White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*** Superb looks of a male in the Kakum farmbrush.

**Grey-throated Rail ♦ *Canirallus oculus*** A party of three were seen by some at Ankasa. Rare bird.

**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***



**Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni* We counted as many as seven birds on the lily ponds near Takoradi.

**Black Crake** *Zapornia flavirostra*

**Nkulengu Rail** ♦ *Himantornis haematopus* A party of five were seen roosting at Ankasa. Also flushed at daytime in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis*

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

**Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover)** *Vanellus spinosus*

**Black-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus tectus*

**White-crowned Lapwing (W-headed L)** *Vanellus albiceps*

**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*

**Grey Plover (Black-bellied P)** *Pluvialis squatarola*

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

**Forbes's Plover** ♦ *Charadrius forbesi* One of the real specialties of Mole NP and we had good looks!

**Egyptian Plover** ♦ *Pluvianus aegyptius* We had amazing looks on the Volta River! Special bird indeed!

**Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* A female was seen on the lily pond near Takoradi.

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

**Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* Near threatened.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* Near threatened.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* Just one was seen near Tono Dam.

**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis* A total of 14 were counted on the Pra River rocks.

**West African Crested Tern (A Royal T)** *Thalasseus albidorsalis*

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

**Woolly-necked Stork (African Woollyneck)** *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis*

**Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C)** *Microcarbo africanus*

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

**White-crested Tiger Heron** ♦ *Tigriornis leucolopha* We had brief looks on the ponds in the Ankasa forest.

**Dwarf Bittern** *Ixobrychus sturmii* Two were seen in Ankasa.

**Striated Heron (Green-backed H)** *Butorides striata*

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**Great Egret (African G E)** *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos*

**Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E)** *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha*

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**Western Reef Heron (W R Egret)** *Egretta gularis*

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

**African Harrier-Hawk (A Gymnogone)** *Polyboroides typus*

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

**African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides*

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* Up to 20 were seen together in Mole NP. Critically endangered.

**White-backed Vulture (African W-b V)** *Gyps africanus* Up to 115 were seen together in Mole NP. Critically endangered.

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis* Four were seen in Mole NP. Critically endangered.

**Beaudouin's Snake Eagle** ♦ *Circaetus beaudouini* A juvenile bird was seen on our way to Mole NP. Vulnerable.

**Congo Serpent Eagle** ♦ *Dryotrionchis spectabilis* We could watch this great bird calling from its morning perch in Ankasa. A pair was seen.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* A total of 140 were seen on our last morning in Mole NP. Amazing raptor morning it was! Endangered.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus*

**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraetus ayresii* Great looks on our raptor morning at Mole NP.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

**Long-tailed Hawk** ♦ *Urotrionchis macrourus* We had three encounters with this forest skulker but our best views were at Bobiri Sanctuary.

**Red-chested Goshawk** ♦ *Accipiter toussenelii* Best looks in the Kakum farmbush.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius*

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*

**Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*

**Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis*

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* One was seen in the Mole NP.

**Red-chested Owlet** *Glaucidium tephronotum* One was seen in the Ankasa forest.

**Sandy Scops Owl** ♦ *Otus icterorhynchus* Heard only. in the Ankasa forest. If the well-known call on the CD is this bird at all.

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis* Great looks in Kalakpa Reserve.

**Northern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis leucotis* Two were seen in the Mole NP.

**Fraser's Eagle-Owl** ♦ *Bubo poensis* Eventually a calling bird was seen well in the Bobiri Sanctuary.

**Akun Eagle-Owl** ♦ *Bubo leucostictus* A pair was seen in the Ankasa forest.

**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii* Several sightings.

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* Ot remained leader only in Kalakpa Reserve.

**Forest Wood Hoopoe** ♦ (F Scimitarbill) *Phoeniculus castaneiceps* One was seen near Bonkro.

**White-headed Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei*

**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

**Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

**Abyssinian Ground Hornbill (Northern G H)** *Bucorvus abyssinicus* One was seen in Mole NP. Vulnerable.

**Northern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

**African Pied Hornbill** ♦ (West A P H) *Lophoceros [fasciatus] semifasciatus* Common throughout.

**African Grey Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus*

**Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill (D H)** *Lophoceros camurus* A pair was tracked down in the Ankasa forest.

**Piping Hornbill** ♦ (Western P H) *Bycanistes [fistulator] fistulator* It was seen in the Kakum farmbrush.

**Brown-cheeked Hornbill** ♦ *Bycanistes cylindricus* Excellent looks from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP. Vulnerable.

**Black-casqued Hornbill (B-c Wattled H)** *Ceratogymna atrata*

**Black Dwarf Hornbill** ♦ (Western Little H) *Horizocerus [hartlaubi] hartlaubi* Great looks in the Bobiri Sanctuary.

**White-crested Hornbill** ♦ (Western Long-tailed H) *Horizocerus [albocristatus] macrourus* We had good looks in Kakum, Bonkro and Bobiri.

**Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R)** *Coracias naevius*

**Abyssinian Roller** ♦ *Coracias abyssinicus* Common in the north.

**Blue-bellied Roller** ♦ *Coracias cyanogaster* Excellent looks in the Kalakpa area.

**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis* Best looks were in Bobiri Sanctuary.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*

**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

**Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

**African Dwarf Kingfisher** ♦ *Ispidina lecontei* Great looks in the Ankasa forest.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

**White-bellied Kingfisher** ♦ *Corythornis leucogaster* Great looks in the Ankasa forest and at Atewa.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus*

**Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadribrachys*

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

**Blue-moustached Bee-eater** ♦ *Merops mentalis* A lucky observation of four birds in the Ankasa forest. Near threatened.

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis* Stunning bird, many sightings.

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*

**Red-throated Bee-eater** *Merops bulocki*

**White-throated Bee-eater** *Merops albicollis*

**African Green Bee-eater** *Merops viridissimus*

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

**Rosy Bee-eater** ♦ *Merops malimbicus* Excellent perched views in the Kakum farmbush.

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicus*

**Bristle-nosed Barbet** ♦ *Gymnobucco peli* A single bird was seen in the Kakum area.

**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus*

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atrolavus*

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchailui*

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta*

**Vieillot's Barbet** *Lybius vieilloti*

**Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus*

**Bearded Barbet** ♦ *Lybius dubius* Many great looks in the north, especially in Mole NP.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** ♦ (Western Y-b B) *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] goffinii* Just one was seen in the Kakum area.

**Cassin's Honeybird** *Prodotiscus insignis*

**Yellow-footed Honeyguide** ♦ *Melignomon eisentrauti* Excellent looks of this rare bird in the Kakum area. Near threatened.

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*

**Spotted Honeyguide** ♦ *Indicator maculatus* One was seen in the Ankasa forest and one heard at Kalakpa.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator* Heard only.

**African Piculet** ♦ *Sasia africana* Superb looks of this tiny bird in Bobiri Sanctuary. Three were seen.

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker** *Pardipicus nivosus*

**Brown-eared Woodpecker** *Pardipicus caroli*

**Fine-spotted Woodpecker** ♦ *Campethera punctuligera* A male was seen in Mole NP.

**Little Green Woodpecker** ♦ *Campethera maculosa* One was seen well in the Bobiri Sanctuary.

**Fire-bellied Woodpecker** ♦ *Chloropicus pyrrhogaster* Several excellent looks in various forests.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

**Melancholy Woodpecker** ♦ *Dendropicos lugubris* Our best looks were obtained in the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

**African Grey Woodpecker (Grey W)** *Dendropicos goertae*

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

**Fox Kestrel** ♦ *Falco alopex* About six birds were seen in the Tongo Hills.

**Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*

**Red-necked Falcon (African R-n F) *Falco [chicquera] ruficollis*** A leader only sightings along the Volta River.

**African Hobby *Falco cuvierii***

**Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*** Fantastic sighting as one was dive bombing an Ayre's Hawk Eagle.

**Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*** Fantastic birds, ten were seen coming to roost in the Bobiri Sanctuary. Endangered.

**Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis***

**Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus***

**Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri***

**Rufous-sided Broadbill ♦ *Smithornis rufolateralis*** Great looks of this special bird in the Ankasa forest.

**Senegal Batis ♦ *Batis senegalensis*** Several were seen in the Mole NP and Kalakpa Reserve.

**West African Batis ♦ *Batis occulta*** Superb looks of a pair from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

**West African Wattle-eye ♦ *Platysteira hormophora*** Regular sightings of both sexes.

**Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea***

**Red-cheeked Wattle-eye ♦ *Platysteira blissetti*** Fantastic looks of this shy species!

**Fiery-breasted Bushshrike ♦ *Malaconotus cruentus*** Magical looks of a singing pair.

**Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*** We could witness a party of 5 displaying birds in Mole NP.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B-s) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus***

**Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta***

**Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis***

**Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus***

**Sabine's Puffback ♦ (Large-billed P) *Dryoscopus sabini*** A few were seen in forest habitats, the first one at Kakum NP.

**Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis***

**Lowland Sooty Boubou ♦ *Laniarius leucorhynchus*** Another notorious skulker seen in the Kakum and Atewa farmbush.

**Yellow-crowned Gonolek ♦ *Laniarius barbarus***

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

**White-crested Helmetshrike (White H)** *Prionops plumatus*

**Red-billed Helmetshrike** ♦ (Chestnut-bellied H-s) *Prionops caniceps* Beautiful bird, many great looks!

**Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher (Vanga F, B-a-W F)** *Bias musicus*

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Ceblepyris pectoralis*

**Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga phoenicea*

**Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga quiscalina*

**Blue Cuckooshrike** *Cyanograucalus azureus*

**Yellow-billed Shrike** *Corvinella corvina*

**Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis*

**Western Oriole (W Black-headed O)** *Oriolus brachyrynchus*

**Black-winged Oriole** *Oriolus nigripennis*

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus*

**Fanti Drongo** ♦ *Dicrurus atactus* Commonly seen in appropriate habitat.

**Glossy-backed Drongo** *Dicrurus divaricatus*

**Shining Drongo** *Dicrurus atripennis*

**Western Square-tailed Drongo** ♦ *Dicrurus occidentalis* Tricky to see and shy bird. A pair was seen in Mole NP.

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

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

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

**Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer*

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

**White-necked Rockfowl** ♦ (Yellow-headed Picathartes) *Picathartes gymnocephalus* Bird of the trip as usual! We got fantastic performance from four birds at Bonkro. A true specialty, THE bird to see on this tour. Vulnerable.

**African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*

**Dusky Crested Flycatcher** ♦ *Elminia nigromitrata* One was seen at Ankasa forest.

**White-shouldered Black Tit** *Melaniparus guineensis*



**Forest Penduline Tit** ♦ *Anthoscopus flavifrons* Two were seen from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP and one in the Ankasa forest.

**Yellow Penduline Tit** ♦ *Anthoscopus parvulus* Great looks near Sapeliga in the north.

**Western Nicator (Yellow-spotted N)** *Nicator chloris*

**Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Heard only.

**Sun Lark** ♦ *Galerida modesta* It was seen in Mole NP.

**Slender-billed Greenbul** *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

**Golden Greenbul** *Calyptocichla serinus*

**Red-tailed Bristlebill (Common B)** *Bleda syndactylus* Heard only.

**Green-tailed Bristlebill** ♦ *Bleda eximius* A very shy bird if you don't come across ants. It was only seen by some at Atewa. Near threatened.

**Grey-headed Bristlebill** ♦ *Bleda canicapillus* We had several good looks.

**Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus*

**Swamp Palm Bulbul** *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

**Simple Greenbul (S Leaflove)** *Chlorocichla simplex*

**Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*

**Western Bearded Greenbul** ♦ *Criniger barbatus* Excellent looks in the Ankasa forest.

**Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*

**Yellow-bearded Greenbul** ♦ (Y-throated Olive G) *Criniger olivaceus* Excellent looks in the Ankasa forest. Vulnerable.

**Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens*

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Eurillas latirostris*

**Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G)** *Eurillas curvirostris*

**Little Grey Greenbul (Grey G)** *Eurillas gracilis*

**Ansorge's Greenbul** *Eurillas ansorgei*

**White-throated Greenbul** ♦ *Phyllastrephus albigularis* Roosting bird seen at Bonkro and other in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

**Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus*

**Square-tailed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

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

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-chested Swallow ♦ *Hirundo lucida* Regular sightings in the north.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

West African Swallow ♦ *Cecropis domicella* A single one was seen near Sapeliga.

Preuss's Cliff Swallow ♦ *Petrochelidon preussi* Superb looks at a breeding colony near the Pra River.

Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W) *Melocichla mentalis*

Kemp's Longbill ♦ *Macrosphenus kempii* Two sightings in Atewa.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mcallii*

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rushiae*

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Rare bird in Ghana, one was seen in the Kalakpa Reserve.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*

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

**Dorst's Cisticola** ♦ *Cisticola guinea* A singing male was tracked down in Mole NP. Localised bird!

**Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling C)** *Cisticola brachypterus*

**Rufous Cisticola** ♦ *Cisticola rufus* Great looks in Mole NP.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

**Black-backed Cisticola** ♦ *Cisticola eximius* Three birds were seen near Tono Dam.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

**Red-winged Prinia** *Prinia erythroptera*

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

**Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*

**Sharpe's Apalis** ♦ *Apalis sharpii* Our best sighting was at Ankasa forest. Near threatened.

**Oriole Warbler** ♦ *Hypergerus atriceps* One was seen in Mole NP, a rather skulking individual.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

**Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris*

**Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota*

**Senegal Eremomela** *Eremomela pusilla*

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*

**Common Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

**Northern Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens* Heard only.

**Brown Illadopsis** ♦ (Moloney's I) *Illadopsis [fulvescens] moloneyana* Three birds were seen very well in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Pale-breasted Illadopsis** *Illadopsis rufipennis*

**Blackcap Illadopsis** *Illadopsis cleaveri*

**Puvel's Illadopsis** ♦ *Illadopsis puveli* Fantastic looks of a singing bird at Atewa.

**Rufous-winged Illadopsis** ♦ *Illadopsis rufescens* Fantastic looks of a singing bird at Ankasa. Near threatened.

**Capuchin Babbler** ◊ (Black-capped C B) *Turdoides [atripennis] rubiginosus* Difficult as usual but eventually a party of six birds were tracked down and we stayed with them for over 20 minutes. Near threatened.

**Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus*

**Blackcap Babbler** *Turdoides reinwardtii*

**Violet-backed Hyliota** ◊ *Hyliota violacea* A single one was seen from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

**Copper-tailed Starling** ◊ (C-t Glossy S) *Hylopsar cupreocauda* We got perched views in Kakum and Ankasa. Near threatened.

**Bronze-tailed Starling** (B-t Glossy S) *Lamprotornis chalcurus*

**Splendid Starling** (S Glossy S) *Lamprotornis splendidus*

**Purple Starling** (P Glossy S) *Lamprotornis purpureus*

**Long-tailed Glossy Starling** *Lamprotornis caudatus*

**Chestnut-bellied Starling** ◊ *Lamprotornis pulcher* About 20 were seen near Sapeliga in the north.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

**Chestnut-winged Starling** (Forest C-w S) *Onychognathus [fulgidus] hartlaubii*

**Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptera lugubris* Superb looks on a fruiting tree at Atewa.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

**Finsch's Rufous Thrush** ◊ *Stizorhina finschi* First seen at Ankasa forest.

**White-tailed Ant Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis* Heard only..

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

**White-tailed Alethe** ◊ *Alethe diademata* First seen at Kakum NP and also good looks in Ankasa.

**Forest Scrub Robin** ◊ *Cercotrichas leucosticta* One was seen by some at Atewa.

**Fraser's Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria ocreata*

**White-browed Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria cinerascens*

**Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher** (G-t F) *Myioparus griseigularis*

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher** (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* Heard only.

**Nimba Flycatcher** ◊ *Melaenornis annamarulae* One was seen well in the forest of Atewa. Tour highlight! Vulnerable.

**Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides*

**Pale Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pallidus*

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

**Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica*

**Cassin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini*

**Little Grey Flycatcher** ♦ *Muscicapa epulata* It was first seen from the walkway in Kakum NP and also got good looks in Atewa.

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata*

**Tessmann's Flycatcher** ♦ *Muscicapa tessmanni* Superb looks of two different birds in the Bonkro area. Rare!

**Ussher's Flycatcher** ♦ *Muscicapa ussheri* Several were seen, the first one from the canopy walkway at Kakum NP.

**Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat** *Cossypha cyanocampter* One was seen in the Atewa farmbush.

**Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla*

**White-crowned Robin-Chat** ♦ *Cossypha albicapillus* Several great looks in Mole NP.

**Forest Robin** ♦ (Western F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] erythrothorax* Seen well in Ankasa.

**Forest Robin** ♦ (Dahomey F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] dahomeyensis* Heard only.

**Forest Robin** ♦ (Ghana F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] inexpectatus* One was spotlit in Kakum NP.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**White-crowned Cliff Chat** ♦ *Thamnolaea coronata* Three were seen at the Tongo Hills.

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

**Mangrove Sunbird** ♦ (Brown S) *Anthreptes gabonicus* Finally we had good looks at the Ebi River.

**Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*

**Yellow-chinned Sunbird** ♦ *Anthreptes rectirostris* First seen in Kakum NP but also in Atewa.

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*

**Pygmy Sunbird** ♦ *Hedydipna platura* Several excellent looks in the north.

**Reichenbach's Sunbird** ♦ *Anabathmis reichenbachii* Fairly common around Ankasa.

**Green-headed Sunbird (Olive-backed S) *Cyanomitra verticalis*** It was seen in Mole NP and Kalakpa Reserve.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema***

**Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea***

**Buff-throated Sunbird** ♦ *Chalcomitra adelberti* What a beauty! Best looks of males were in Atewa!

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis***

**Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius***

**Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus***

**Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus***

**Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus***

**Johanna's Sunbird** ♦ *Cinnyris johannae* Several sightings throughout, first in Kakum NP.

**Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus***

**Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus***

**Sahel Bush Sparrow (Sahel Bush-sparrow) *Gymnoris dentata***

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus***

**House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus***

**White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*** One was seen near Sapeliga by some.

**Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus***

**Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis***

**Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons***

**Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus***

**Olive-naped Weaver *Ploceus brachypterus*** Many great sightings. A recent split from Black-necked Weaver *P. nigricollis*.

**Orange Weaver** ♦ *Ploceus aurantius* Fine breeding dressed males were seen on the lily ponds near Takoradi.

**Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus***

**Chestnut-and-black Weaver** ♦ *Ploceus castaneofuscus* Many good looks! Officially split now from Vieillot's Black Weaver.

**Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed W) *Ploceus melanocephalus***

**Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*

**Maxwell's Black Weaver** ♦ *Ploceus albinucha* Several were seen in forest habitat. Especially common in the Atewa area.

**Preuss's Weaver** ♦ *Ploceus preussi* Breeding birds were tracked down near Bonkro.

**Blue-billed Malimbe** *Malimbus nitens*

**Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*

**Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*

**Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

**Black-winged Red Bishop (B-w Bishop)** *Euplectes hordeaceus*

**Northern Red Bishop (Orange B)** *Euplectes franciscanus*

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird (Y-shouldered W)** *Euplectes [macroura] macroura*

**Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullata*

**Magpie Mannikin** ♦ *Spermestes fringilloides* One was seen by some in the hotel garden near Kakum NP.

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Spermestes bicolor*

**African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*

**Red-fronted Antpecker** ♦ *Parmoptila rubrifrons* A pair and a juvenile was seen in the Ankasa forest. Definitely a hard-to-come by bird and a tour highlight. Near threatened.

**White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch)** *Nigrita fusconotus*

**Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (C-b Negrofinch)** *Nigrita bicolor*

**Grey-headed Nigrita (G-crowned Negrofinch)** *Nigrita canicapillus*

**Lavender Waxbill** ♦ *Glaucostrelda caerulea* Many and easily seen in the north. Very smart looking bird!

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*

**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*

**Quailfinch (African Q)** *Ortygospiza atricollis*

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

**Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*

**Black-bellied Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

**Red-winged Pytilia** ◊ *Pytilia phoenicoptera* We were lucky to get multiple views of different sexes in the Mole NP.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

**African Firefinch (Blue-billed F)** *Lagonosticta rubricata*

**Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara* A pair was seen very well in the Mole NP.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

**Black-faced Firefinch** ◊ *Lagonosticta larvata* It was a surprise to see good numbers of these usually scarce birds in Mole NP.

**Indigobird sp** *Vidua chalybeate / wilsoni* Cannot tell to species level in non-breeding plumage. Several were seen in Mole NP.

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*

**Exclamatory Paradise Whydah** ◊ *Vidua interjecta* A few were seen in the Mole NP. Males too but none in full breeding dress.

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

**White-rumped Seedeater** ◊ *Crithagra leucopygia* We saw a small party near Sapeliga.

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*

**Gosling's Bunting** ◊ *Emberiza goslingi* About five were seen in the Tongo Hills.

**Brown-rumped Bunting** *Emberiza affinis* Excellent looks of a singing male in Mole NP.

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris*

## MAMMALS

**Western Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* Heard only.

**Benin Tree Hyrax** ◊ *Dendrohyrax interfluvialis* Two were seen in the Kalakpa Reserve. This is a recently described species.

**African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* As many as 11 were seen together in Mole NP. Giants!

**Common Cusimanse** *Crossarchus obscurus* It was seen in the Ankasa forest.

**White-tailed Mongoose** *Ichneumia albicauda* About three were seen in Mole NP.



**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*

**Roan Antelope** ♦ *Hippotragus equinus* Two adults and two young ones were seen in Mole NP.

**Kob** *Kobus kob*

**Walter's Duiker** *Philantomba walteri* Two were seen in the Kalakpa Reserve. East of the Volta River this species replaces Maxwell's Duiker *P. maxwellii*.

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus*

**African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat** *Eidolon helvum*

**Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat** *Epomophorus gambianus*

**Hammer-headed Fruit Bat** ♦ *Hypsignathus monstrosus* Two sightings in the Ankasa forest.

**Cyclops Roundleaf Bat** *Doryrhina cyclops* One was photographed in Bobiri Sanctuary.

**Northern Lesser Galago (Senegal G)** *Galago senegalensis* It was seen in Mole NP and in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Demidoff's Dwarf Galago** ♦ *Galagoides demidoff* Regularly heard and seen a few times in forest.

**Thomas's Dwarf Galago** ♦ *Galagoides thomasi* A pair was seen in the Kalakpa Reserve. They were identified by their call.

**West African Potto** ♦ *Perodicticus potto* Amazingly good looks in Ankasa this year!

**Lowe's Monkey** *Cercopithecus lowei* Great looks from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

**Mona Monkey** *Cercopithecus mona* East of the Volta River, one was seen in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey** *Cercopithecus petaurista* Great looks from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

**Green Monkey (Callithrix M)** *Chlorocebus sabaeus* Common in Mole NP.

**Tantalus Monkey** *Chlorocebus tantallus* East of the Volta River, we saw them in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**White-thighed Colobus** ♦ *Colobus vellerosus* Two parties were seen in the Boabeng-Fiema Reserve.

**Patras Monkey** *Erythrocebus patas* A few were seen in Mole NP.

**Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* Common in Mole NP.

**African Savanna Hare (Scrub H)** *Lepus victoriae*

**Nagtglass's African Dormouse** ♦ *Graphiurus nagtglasii* Two were seen in Kakum NP.

**Fire-footed Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus pyrropus*

**Kintampo Rope Squirrel** ◊ *Funisciurus substriatus* Heard only.

**Gambian Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus gambianus*

**Small Sun Squirrel** ◊ *Heliosciurus punctatus*

**Red-legged Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

**Green Bush Squirrel** ◊ *Paraxerus poensis*

**Giant Forest Squirrel (African G S)** *Protoxerus stangeri* Just one was seen in the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Striped Ground Squirrel** *Xerus erythropus*

**Beecroft's Flying Squirrel** ◊ (B Scaly-tailed Squirrel) *Anomalurus beecrofti* A total of eight sightings!

**Derby's Flying Squirrel (Lord D Scaly-tailed Squirrel)** *Anomalurus derbianus* Two sightings in Ankasa.

**Pel's Flying Squirrel** ◊ (P's Anamalure, P's Scaly-tailed Squirrel) *Anomalurus pelii* This beauty was seen twice, in Kakum NP and in the Bobiri Sanctuary.

**Forest Giant Pouched Rat (E Giant P R)** *Cricetomys emini* One was seen in the Ankasa forest.

**Gambian Rat (G Giant P R)** *Cricetomys gambianus* One was seen near the Kalakpa Reserve.

**Gracile Tateril** *Taterillus gracilis* Several were seen in the Mole NP.