



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Worldwide Birding Adventures

## GHANA

*6<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> August 2006*



*Black Bee-eater by David Hoddinott*

**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott**

### **Tour Summary**

Our tour started off at Shai Hills Reserve not far from the vibrant capital of Accra. This savanna reserve holds a number of interesting species and makes for a fun mornings birding. Highlights included a

covey of five Stone Partridge, Senegal Parrot, Guinea and Violet Turaco, Levillant's Cuckoo, Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbet, Oriole Warbler, Mocking Cliff-Chat, Blackcap Babbler, Splendid Sunbird and White Helmetshrike. Our next stop was the Volta river where we managed to find our sought after target, the beautifully elegant White-throated Blue Swallow. We finished the day off birding the Pram-pram area that produced eleven Temminck's Coursers.



On day two we left the capital and made for the Densu Delta where we bumped up our waterbird list with Black Heron, Western Reef-Egret, Little Bittern, Eurasian Curlew, Common Redshank and Royal and Black Tern. Further west, the Winneba Plains produced Flappet Lark, Red-headed Quelea, Black-winged and Orange Bishop and Black-rumped Waxbill. In the late afternoon we arrived at our hotel near Cape Coast, our base for the next six nights.

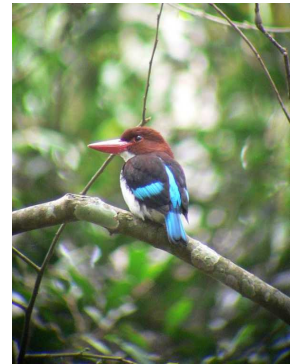
Our full five days in this area were used to explore the wonders of Kakum National Park and the surrounding areas. We spent our time birding the canopy walkway, forest trails, surrounding forest patches and visited the wonderful Cape Coast Castle, a fascinating slave fort and one of the oldest of its kind in Africa. The canopy walkway is the best place to get views of forest canopy species and we spent most of our time on the more productive towers 1,2 and 3. Some of the highlights of our time on the walkway included;

the striking Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, the superb Blue-headed Wood-Dove, Red-fronted Parrot, Yellow-billed Turaco, Cassin's Spinetail, Brown Nightjar, magical Black Bee-eater, impressive White-crested Hornbill, Brown-cheeked Hornbill, the rare Yellow-footed Honeyguide, Blue Cuckooshrike, Spotted Greenbul, Sharpe's Apalis, Gray Longbill, Violet-backed Hyliota, Ussher's Flycatcher, diminutive Tit-hylia, Buff-throated & Tiny Sunbird, Black-winged Oriole, Large-billed Puffback, Chestnut-bellied Helmetshrike and Copper-tailed Starling.

The forest trails were a little challenging at times as interior forest can be but we did manage to bag some real beauties like Rufous-sided Broadbill, Fraser's Eagle-Owl, Red-rumped Tinkerbird and Yellow-bearded Greenbul.

We spent a wonderful day in the Aboabo reserve, a fairly long drive from Kakum but well worth the effort, highlights included; a pair of African Cuckoo-Hawk, magnificent scope views of Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, the rare Yellow-throated Cuckoo, White-headed Woodhoopoe, the smart Yellow-billed Barbet, Little Green Woodpecker, Swamp Greenbul, Black-capped Apalis, Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher, rare Preuss' Weaver and Red-vented Malimbe. The day ended well with a flock of Preuss's Swallows on the ride home. En route to the Antikwaa section the reserve we found a group of Wilson's Indigobirds. Highlights of Antikwaa included White-spotted Flufftail, Bates's Swift and a pair of Western Bluebill.

Additional highlights in this area were Shining-blue Kingfisher found at a nearby reservoir.



An overnight stay in the Kumasi area broke our journey north and we used spare time in this area to visit the lovely Bobiri Butterfly Reserve. Here we had great views of the stunning Narina Trogon, Dusky Tit, Green-backed Woodpecker and Western Bearded Greenbul.



Mole National Park was the first stop for us in the northern region. This reserve has a remarkable diversity of species, highlights included; White-headed Vulture, Banded Snake-Eagle, the elegant Bateleur, Double-spurred Francolin, Bruce's Green-Pigeon, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Red-headed Lovebird, a pair of delightful Northern White-faced Owl, Grayish Eagle-Owl, a magnificent Pel's Fishing-Owl, Pearl-spotted Owllet, Freckled Nightjar, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, beautiful Red-throated Bee-eater, Black Scimitarbill, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Greater Honeyguide, Fine-spotted and Brown-backed Woodpecker, White-breasted and Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Red-winged Prinia, Swamp Flycatcher, Cassin's Flycatcher, White-crowned Robin-Chat, African Blue-Flycatcher, sought after Yellow Penduline-Tit, Western Violet-backed Sunbird, African Golden Oriole, rare Emin's Shrike, Gray-headed Bushshrike, Red-headed and Black-headed Weaver, Red-winged Pytilia, Pale-winged Indigobird, Togo Paradise-Whydah and Brown-rumped Bunting. Patas Monkey was common around the Mole Hotel and the friendliest, wild, African Elephants on the continent, also entertained us.

Continuing north we had a lunch stop at a roadside wetland that produced the elusive Dwarf Bittern, Spur-winged Lapwing and Black Coucal. Another stop found us watching the stunning Northern Carmine Bee-eater.

In the far northern Sahelian Zone we birded areas of mixed bushveld which produced some great birds including; Dark Chanting-Goshawk, a superb Red-necked Falcon, White-bellied Bustard, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Abyssinian and Rufous-crowned Roller, Red-billed Hornbill, the impressive Bearded Barbet, Sun Lark, Northern Crombec, Chestnut-bellied Starling, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, scarce Heuglin's Masked-Weaver, African Silverbill, Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah and White-rumped Seedeater.



It was then time to head south to the town of Nkawkaw. Here we spent a day and a half birding the incredible Atewa Forest. Some of the highlights included a juvenile Long-tailed Hawk, seldom seen Black-throated Coucal, Blue-headed Bee-eater, Thick-billed and Willcock's Honeyguide, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Melancholy and Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Golden Greenbul, Little Gray Flycatcher, Forest Robin, rare Forest Scrub-Robin, West African Batis, Johanna's Sunbird and the gorgeous Many-colored Bushshrike.

On the final day of the tour we made for Sakumo Lagoon and were treated to great views of many waterbirds including the following species which were new for the trip; Kittlitz's Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Marsh Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Little Stint, Ruff and Roseate Tern. The tour ended off at Accra a thoroughly enjoyable and successful trip.

Photos, scenery by Richard White and African Elephant at Mole NP by Robin Procter



# Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist* 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with current updates.

## 399 species

### Grebes *Podicipedidae*

#### **Little Grebe**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We found an adult and juvenile at a roadside wetland during the drive from Cape Coast to Kumasi.

### Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

#### **Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax africanus*

Seen in small numbers at wetlands throughout the country except at the Densu Delta where we recorded in excess of 100.

### Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae*

#### **Gray Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers throughout Ghana.

#### **Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

Small numbers noted in grasslands at Mole NP and en route from Mole to Bolgatanga.

#### **Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea*

Two seen at the Densu Delta.

#### **Great (White) Egret**

*Ardea alba*

This familiar species was seen at the Densu Delta, Brimsu Reservoir and Hans Botel.

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

#### **Black Heron**

*Egretta ardesiaca*

This uncommon species, world-famous for its umbrella-feeding technique was observed at Densu Delta where we found a total of 6 birds and later a single bird was seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

#### **Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

Common in wetlands at Densu Delta and Sakumo Lagoon.

#### **Western Reef-Egret**

*Egretta [garzetta] gularis*

Commonly seen at coastal sites in the south, highest count being 30+ at the Densu Delta. Most individuals were of the dark morph. Several were also seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

#### **(Common) Squacco Heron**

*Ardeola ralloides*

A total of 8 were seen at the Densu Delta.

#### **Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and seen on most days of the tour.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.*

#### **Striated (Green-backed) Heron**

*Butorides striatus*

Recorded in small numbers at most wetlands.



NOTE: This species group is treated by Clements as 2 species, the nominate Striated Heron and *B. virescens* Green Heron of North America but he lumped *B. sundevalli* Lava Heron of the Galapagos. Other authorities lump all three forms into a single species, called Green-backed Heron (as per Handbook of Birds of the World.)

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

We had good sightings of 2 at Hans Cottage Botel.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

We had great views of 2 at the Densu Delta.

**Dwarf Bittern** *Ixobrychus sturmii*

During our lunch stop en route from Mole to Bolgatanga we found one of these seldom seen birds in a flooded field. We enjoyed great scope views of this smart bird.

### Hamerkop *Scopidae*

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This bizarre bird, forming a monotypic family endemic to the Afrotropics, was found to be fairly common in the north of Ghana with several seen in Mole NP and the Tono Dam area.

### Storks *Ciconidae*

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

Up to 3 were seen daily at Mole NP.

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

One female of this thoroughly impressive species was seen at Mole NP.

### Ibises & Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

Up to 4 were seen daily in Mole NP.

### Swans, Geese & Ducks *Anatidae*

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

A flock of 15 were seen in Mole NP and up to 80 at a large wetland just south of Bolgatanga.

### Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures *Accipitridae*

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

We enjoyed good views of a pair flying during the drive to Aboabo, Kakum NP. Later one was seen perched in Mole NP.

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

Small numbers recorded occasionally in open habitats throughout.

**Black [Yellow-billed] Kite** *Milvus [migrans] aegyptius*

Some participants only saw this ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor once in Mole NP.

NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite *M. aegyptius*. This was the only form that we recorded in Ghana.

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

We had good views of a juvenile at Kakum NP and later 2 adults were seen near Atewa Forest. **Hooded**

**Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

The common vulture around human habitation, with large numbers recorded almost daily.



- (African) White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*  
The common vulture in savanna areas, we recorded small numbers each day during our stay in Mole NP.
- White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*  
One was seen in Mole NP.
- Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*  
We enjoyed great scope views of one perched during the drive from Kumasi to Mole NP. Our only other sighting was of one in Mole NP.
- Banded Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*  
We had superb scope views of one near Mole NP.
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*  
The “tightrope-walker” of the raptor world is a handsome species that we found in small numbers in Mole NP.
- Western (European) Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*  
We enjoyed a sighting of two of this migrant at a large wetland just south of Bolgatanga.
- African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)** *Polyboroides typus*  
A pair was resident around the Kakum Canopy Walkway, affording superb views, and up to 3 was in sight simultaneously from platform three.
- Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*  
Single individuals of this unusual bird were seen in dry woodlands with a total of ten sightings.
- Dark Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*  
First found near Mole NP and peak numbers of 10 were seen during the drive from Mole to Bolgatanga.
- Red-chested Goshawk** *Accipiter toussenelii*  
This forest *Accipiter* was seen in display on one occasion and a juvenile was seen well at Atewa Forest.  
*NOTE: Most authorities consider this species to be a West African form of African Goshawk A. tachiro.*
- Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)** *Accipiter badius*  
Not an uncommon raptor in dry country sites. We enjoyed sightings of small numbers near Accra and Shai Hills.  
*NOTE: We recorded the Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus, which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Southern Shikra A. b. polyzonoides. These forms may also be split from the Asian nominate A. b. badius and other Asian forms. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.*
- Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)** *Accipiter melanoleucus*  
One was seen at Aboabo.
- Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchis macrourus*  
We heard one calling for an extended period and later saw a juvenile at Atewa Forest. A rare and seldom seen raptor.
- Wahlberg’s Eagle** *Aquila wahlbergi*  
We had good views of one during the drive from Bolgatanga to Nkawkaw.
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*  
We found one during the drive to Aboabo, Kakum NP.
- Cassin’s Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus africanus*  
A pair of this forest-dwelling eagle was seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

### Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae*

- Eurasian (Common/Rock) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*  
One was seen near Cape Coast.
- Gray Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*  
We had our first sighting of a single bird North of Shai Hills and had additional sightings of small numbers at several other sites throughout.
- Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera*  
We had superb scope views of one at Tono Dam.



**African Hobby***Falco cuvierii*

One was seen from our hotel in Accra.

**Pheasants & Partridges Phasianidae****Forest Francolin***Fringillus lathami*

We heard several calling below the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

**Ahanta Francolin***Fringillus ahantensis*

We heard this species calling at Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.

**Double-spurred Francolin***Fringillus bicalcaratus*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

**Stone Partridge***Ptilopachus petrosus*

Our first sighting was of 5 at Shai Hills and later we had a couple of sightings in the Mole area.

**Guineafowl Numididae****Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

Commonly observed in the Mole NP.

*NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) of East Africa, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl – the form we recorded in Ghana) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl.) Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.*

**Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae****White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

This secretive, forest rallid's hooting call was heard in several forests and we had good views of a male in the Antikwaa section of Kakum.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

First observed at a wetland en route from Cape Coast to Kumasi and later in Mole NP.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

A total of 6 were seen at the Densu Delta, 3 at a wetland en route from Cape Coast to Kumasi and finally 2 at Sakumo Lagoon.

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

We had good views of one in the late afternoon at the airstrip near Bolgatanga.

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

A widespread and characteristic wader, conspicuous in wetlands throughout the tour.

**Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

Common on the shores of large water bodies, especially the Densu Delta and Sakumo Lagoon.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae**

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

We found one near Pram-pram estuary and our only other sighting was one at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae****Temminck's Courser***Cursorius temminckii*

We found a wonderful flock of 11 near Pram-pram.

**Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

Our first sighting was brief views of one flying over the road near Pram-pram with a further sighting of 60 at the wetland margins of Sakumo Lagoon.

**Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae****Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)***Vanellus spinosus*

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were seen in small numbers at roadside wetlands en route from Tamale to Bolgatanga. Our final sightings were had at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Wattled Lapwing (Plover)***Vanellus senegallus*

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in small numbers near Shai Hills and later up to 12 seen daily at wetlands North of Mole NP.

**Black-bellied (Gray) Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

We found one at the Densu Delta and a further 6 at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Kittlitz's Plover***Charadrius pecuarius*

Small numbers were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae****Black-tailed Godwit***Limosa limosa*

A flock of 20 of these impressive waders was seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

Small numbers were seen at the Densu Delta and Sakumo Lagoon.

**Eurasian Curlew***Numenius arquata*

We enjoyed good scope views of 4 at the Densu Delta.

**Common Redshank***Tringa totanus*

One bird was seen at the Densu Delta and 2 at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

Another Palaearctic wader; a small flock of 6 were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

Encountered in good number at the Densu Delta (50) and Sakumo Lagoon (4).

**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

Small numbers of this species were seen at the Densu Delta and Sakumo Lagoon.

**Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

A common migrant that was seen at most water bodies throughout Ghana.

**Ruddy Turnstone***Arenaria interpres*

Small numbers were seen at Sakumo Lagoon only.

**Sanderling***Calidris alba*

A small flock of 8 were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Little Stint***Calidris minuta*

Small numbers of this species were seen at Sakumo Lagoon (10).



**Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris ferruginea*

A single bird was seen at the Densu Delta and good numbers of this species were seen at Sakumo Lagoon. Some individuals were still in breeding plumage.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

We observed a handful of birds at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Terns *Sternidae*****Sandwich Tern***Sterna sandvicensis*

Small numbers were observed at the Densu Delta and Sakumo lagoon.

**Royal Tern***Sterna maxima*

Small numbers were seen at the Densu Delta, from the Cape Coast Castle and at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Roseate Tern***Sterna dougallii*

We found 2 at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Common Tern***Sterna hirundo*

A total of 6 were seen at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Little Tern***Sterna albifrons*

We saw a flock of 30 of these diminutive birds at the Densu Delta and a further 40 at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Black Tern***Chlidonias niger*

We had small numbers of these birds at the Densu Delta and 20 at Sakumo Lagoon.

**Doves & Pigeons *Collumbidae*****Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)***Columba livia*

Common in Accra and other large towns.

**Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

A common species in the far north of Ghana with our first sightings near the town of Bolgatanga.

**Western Bronze-naped Pigeon***Columba iriditorques*

We enjoyed great scope views of one at Atewa Forest.

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

A fairly common widespread species seen throughout Ghana.

**Vinaceous Dove***Streptopelia vinacea*

This richly marked dove was common in the drier areas with peak numbers in the Mole NP and Tono Dam areas.

**Laughing (Palm) Dove***Streptopelia senegalensis*

A widespread, familiar species recorded in good numbers throughout Ghana and recorded on virtually every day of the tour.

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

The common wood-dove of the dry, northern savanna especially in Mole NP and Tono Dam.

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

We had several sightings of this bird near Kakum NP.

**Tambourine Dove***Turtur tympanistria*

A forest equivalent of the wood-doves, and therefore widespread and common in Ghana, we saw small numbers at Kakum and Atewa Forests.

**Blue-headed Wood-Dove***Turtur brehmeri*

A deep forest species restricted to West Africa, this was one of the star birds we had in Kakum during our morning on the canopy tower. A good find indeed and a great looking bird.

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

We enjoyed views of several flocks in the Mole NP area.

**African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calva*

Another common pigeon in Ghana, their distinctive lime-green bodies were frequently seen perched atop larger trees.

### Parrots, Macaws & Allies *Psittacidae*

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

Small flocks were seen daily in Mole NP.

**Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius*

We found one flying along the Mole River just outside Mole NP.

**(African) Gray Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*

So much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird! We saw 4 flying over the Kakum Walkway.

**Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi*

Seen daily in small numbers in Kakum NP.

**Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland commonly encountered in good numbers at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

### Turacos *Musophagidae*

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*

We heard this species from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

**Guinea (Green) Turaco** *Tauraco persa*

We had superb scope views of 2 at Shai Hills. A forest edge and secondary growth species.

**Yellow-billed (Verreaux's) Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus*

A commonly heard turaco of the interior forests, we had a total of 5 sightings at Kakum NP and one at Atewa.

**Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*

Another stellar turaco, our first sighting was of one near Shai Hills and additional sightings of small numbers at Mole NP.

**Western (Gray) Plantain-eater** *Crinifer piscator*

This floppy-winged bird with a maniacal call was seen throughout Ghana, our first sighting was near Accra.

### Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

**Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*

We had a brief sighting of one at Shai Hills with further sightings in Mole NP.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*

We enjoyed great scope views of one at Tono Dam.

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*

We had good scope views of one in Mole NP.

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

This is an elusive cuckoo, seen at Aboabo and heard at several other forest sights.

**Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx olivinus*

This elusive species was heard on several occasions in Kakum NP and we were afforded incredible scope views of one at Aboabo.

**Yellow-throated Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*

We had good views of one in flight at Aboabo, a rare and seldom seen cuckoo.



**Klaas' Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

This brood parasite favouring the cup nests of woodland birds, was heard several times in the Kakum and Mole areas. We saw a stunning male at Mole.

**African Emerald Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we saw a male at Aboabo, Kakum NP.

**Dideric Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx caprius*

This widespread African bird was seen/heard on several occasions in Kakum and Mole NP's.

**Yellowbill (Green Coucal)***Ceuthmochares aereus*

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was heard on many occasions and seen well at Aboabo.

**Black Coucal***Centropus grillii*

We found 3 in roadside wetlands North of Tamale.

**Black-throated Coucal***Centropus leucogaster*

A huge, reticent West African coucal. Birds were heard at Kakum NP, Bobiri and Atewa Forest and we were very fortunate to see 2 at Atewa.

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

We had superb views of one at a roadside wetland en route from Cape Coast to Kumasi.

**Senegal Coucal***Centropus senegalensis*

The most commonly encountered coucal and seen on virtually every day of the trip.

**Typical Owls *Strigidae*****Northern White-faced Owl***Ptilopsis leucotis*

We had great views of a pair near Mole NP.

**Grayish Eagle-Owl***Bubo cinerascens*

We found one near the Mole Hotel.

**Fraser's Eagle-Owl***Bubo poensis*

We had fantastic views of one in Kakum NP.

**Pel's Fishing-Owl***Scotopelia peli*

We managed to get fantastic views of a single bird at Mole NP. This is a highly sought after and seldom encountered species and was a tour highlight for many.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet***Glaucidium perlatum*

Two birds were seen in Mole NP.

**Chestnut Owlet***Glaucidium castaneum*

We heard this species at Shai Hills.

**Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae*****Brown Nightjar***Caprimulgus binotatus*

This species was heard and finally seen in Kakum NP. This aberrant rainforest nightjar was discovered in Ghana in 1851 and since then, only recorded at one other site in the 1970's. Rockjumper Birding Tours discovered this bird at the site where we saw it in May 2002.

**Freckled Nightjar***Caprimulgus tristigma*

We found a pair at the Mole Hotel.

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

A total of 3 were observed on our nightdrive near the airstrip close to Bolgatanga.

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

One was seen on the drive to the airport en route to Sierra Leone.

**Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini*

We had small numbers of this species at Aboabo and Antikwaa in Kakum NP.

**Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini*

This unstable-looking species, with exceptionally broad wings and short tail was seen at Aboabo and from the canopy in Kakum NP.

**African Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful around palms throughout Ghana.

*NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm-Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form C. p. gracilis by some authorities. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

The common urban swift seen on virtually every day of the tour.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

**Bates' Swift** *Apus batesi*

We had good views of a small flock at Antwikwaa, Kakum NP.

### Trogon Trogonidae

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

One of these spectacular birds was seen on our walk in Bobiri Forest.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

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

We had brief views of one at Brimsu Reservoir.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

The common, small kingfisher of aquatic habitats, we found small numbers at Hans Botel.

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher** *Ispidina (Ceyx) picta*

This beautiful little bird was scoped at Hans Botel.

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

One bird was seen exceptionally well from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP, a lucky find indeed. In addition we were treated to scope views of a single bird in Atewa Forest.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

One of the characteristic sounds of moist African savanna, this bird was encountered in all areas save those in the extreme north. They are especially common in secondary growth and cultivated areas.

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

This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was first seen in Mole NP with a further great sighting of one at the Mole River just outside Mole NP.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small, terrestrial kingfisher was seen exceptionally well near Bolgatanga.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

The goliath of the kingfisher world, we had a pair at Brimsu Reservoir.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

The world's commonest kingfisher was seen in large numbers in wetlands throughout Ghana.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis*



This truly magnificent forest bee-eater, surely one of the world's finest, was seen once from the Kakum canopy walkway.

**Blue-headed Bee-eater** *Merops muelleri*

We enjoyed fantastic views of a pair in Atewa Forest.

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

The northern equivalent of the more familiar White-fronted Bee-eater and every bit as beautiful, up to 30 were seen daily in Mole NP.

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

We had good scope views of one near Atewa Forest.

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

Another magnificent bee-eater, we found an adult and juvenile near Bolgatanga.

*NOTE: Some authorities lump this form with Southern Carmine Bee-eater M. nubicoides and use the name Carmine Bee-eater M. nubicus.*

### Rollers *Coraciidae*

**Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinica*

We found one near Tono Dam.

**Rufous-crowned Roller** *Coracias naevia*

A total of 4 were seen near Shai Hills with further sightings of up to 8 daily in the Tono Dam area.

**Blue-bellied Roller** *Coracias cyanogaster*

This stunning roller was seen in open woodland en route from Kumasi to Mole NP.

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

We had encounters with a small number of this species in Mole NP.

**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis*

Replaces Broad-billed Roller in closed forest environments and recorded in Kakum NP on all of our days in that area. Our best views were of 4 scoped at Antwikwaa.

### Woodhoopoes *Phoeniculidae*

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

A single bird was seen in Mole NP.

**White-headed Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus bollei*

A characterful forest bird, 4 were seen well at Aboabo and a further pair at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

**Forest Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*

This is a relatively scarce bird in Ghana. We heard it calling from the canopy walkway.

**Black Scimitar-bill (Woodhoopoe)** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

This species was seen in Mole NP and the Tono Dam area.

### Hornbills *Bucerotidae*

**White-crested Hornbill** *Tockus albocristatus*

We had several great encounters with this odd looking hornbill in Kakum NP. Our best views were from the canopy walkway.

**Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill** *Tockus camurus*

This elusive forest interior species was heard in Bobiri.

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

Small numbers of this species were seen at Mole NP and around Tono Dam.

**African Pied Hornbill** *Tockus fasciatus*



This species is very common throughout forested and farmbush areas in southern Ghana.

**African Gray Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Ghana, with small numbers seen in Shai Hills and the drier northern part of the country.

**Piping Hornbill** *Ceratogymna fistulator*

We had several sightings of small numbers daily in Kakum NP.

**Brown-cheeked Hornbill** *Ceratogymna cylindricus*

One was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway and 2 at Atewa Forest.

**Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We had good views of a pair crossing the road in Mole NP.

### Barbets *Capitonidae*

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

We had several encounters of small numbers in the Kakum and Atewa areas.

**Bristle-nosed Barbet** *Gymnobucco peli*

Generally a scarcer bird than the preceding species, this was however not the case on this tour. Encounters were had at most sites visited in the Kakum area with an additional sighting of large nesting colony in a dead tree at Atewa Forest.

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A scruffy, ubiquitous bird in forests and forest edge in Ghana, where its purring call is one of the common background sounds. We obtained great views on many occasions at Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We enjoyed unsurpassable views of an extremely confiding individual that was seen at eye-level in Kakum NP.

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

This bird was heard fairly often in Kakum NP and Atewa where we managed to obtain good views of several birds.

**Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A common forest-edge species. Small numbers were heard in farmbush near Kakum NP.

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

A savanna species seen at Shai Hills where we had 2 birds with similar numbers seen at Mole NP and the Tono Dam area.

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

We enjoyed good scope views of one on the canopy walkway.

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

This forest barbet was seen well in Kakum NP and at Atewa.

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

A bird of more open woodland recorded on numerous occasions after our first sighting at Shai Hills.

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

We managed to get views of 3 at Shai Hills and then a good sighting of a further 2 at a roadside wetland en route from Kumasi to Mole NP.

**Bearded Barbet** *Lybius dubius*

We enjoyed great sightings of several in Mole NP and in the Tono Dam area.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

This is an elusive forest barbet and we were lucky to get views of one at Aboabo and another at Antwikwaa.

### Honeyguides *Indicatoridae*

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

We obtained great views of this species on several occasions in Mole NP.



**Thick-billed Honeyguide***Indicator conirostris*

We enjoyed wonderful scope views of 2 near a Bristle-nosed Barbet colony at Atewa Forest.

**Willcock's Honeyguide***Indicator willcocksi*

Good scope views of one were had at Atewa Forest.

**Yellow-footed Honeyguide***Melignomon eisentrauti*

We had great views of 1 on consecutive days from the Kakum canopy walkway.

**Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae****Fine-spotted Woodpecker***Campethera punctuligera*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

**Little Green Woodpecker***Campethera maculosa*

This is also an uncommon species and we did well to get scope views of 2 at Aboabo.

**Green-backed Woodpecker***Campethera cailliautii*

We enjoyed good scope views of a pair at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary and later another at Atewa Forest.

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker***Campethera nivosa*

We had good but brief views of this good-looking species on a forest trail in Kakum NP.

**Brown-eared Woodpecker***Campethera caroli*

We enjoyed good but brief views of one at Atewa Forest.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

We found a female in Shai Hills.

**Melancholy Woodpecker***Dendropicos lugubris*

A single bird was scoped and seen exceptionally well by all at Atewa Forest.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped in Gabon Woodpecker D.gabonensis.*

**Fire-bellied Woodpecker***Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*

We had fair views of a single bird on the Kakum canopy walkway. All at Atewa Forest enjoyed a much better sighting of a pair.

**Gray Woodpecker***Dendropicos goertae*

One was seen well in woodland at Mole NP.

**Brown-backed Woodpecker***Dendropicos obsoletus*

Several of these diminutive, dry country woodpeckers was seen well at Mole NP.

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

Another trip highlight was excellent views of a displaying individual on the interior trails of Kakum NP. Its noisy, circular display flight was marvelous indeed.

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

We had good views of several at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.

**Sun Lark***Galerida modesta*

We enjoyed several sightings of these birds near at the airstrip near Bolgatanga.

**Swallows Hirundinidae****Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

We found a small flock of 6 near Pram-pram on our first day.



*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow *H. rustica* and the New World Barn Swallow *H. erythrogaster*. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive *H. r. savignii*, which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palaearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.*

**Red-chested Swallow** *Hirundo lucida*

This swallow was first seen around the ancient mosque at Laribanga and later in small numbers near Bolgatanga.

**Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica*

We had sightings of up to 20 daily in the south of the country especially near settlements and coastal areas.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

Several birds were seen over a water body near Mole NP.

*NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form which would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow which would be *H. filifera*. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

**White-throated Blue Swallow** *Hirundo nigrita*

This is a very beautiful and sought-after species. We were blessed with views of two birds over the Volta River north of Shai Hills.

**Lesser Striped-Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow that was seen in small numbers.

**Rufous-chested Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*

We found one pair in Kakum NP and another in the Tono Dam area.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*

We had a good sighting of a pair near Pram-pram.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

We found one during the drive from Accra to Hans Botel.

**Preuss' (Cliff-) Swallow** *Hirundo preussi*

We enjoyed a great sighting of 30 near a culvert at Ntafriwaso on our way back from Aboabo.

**Square-tailed Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*

Small numbers were seen daily at Atewa Forest.

**Fanti Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne obscura*

We enjoyed good views of 4 at the Mole River just outside Mole NP.

### Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird that we found on many days.

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

We found small numbers at Shai Hills, Densu Delta and Sakumo Lagoon.

**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*

We found 2 on the field with the coursers near Pram-pram.

*NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ghanaian races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Clements does not recognize this split.*

### Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

**White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina pectoralis*

We found a wonderful pair in a mixed species flock in Mole NP.

**Blue Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina azurea*

We enjoyed good views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway. One of West Africa's most beautiful forest birds.

**Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike** *Campephaga phoenicea*

Our first sighting was of one at Shai Hills and later we had good views of several in Mole NP.



## Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

### **Common Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus barbatus*

A ubiquitous species and one of the few birds to be recorded on almost every day of the trip, with high daily tallies.

*NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognized as distinct species within the super-species. The form that we saw in Ghana, P. b. inornatus may be split as White-vented Bulbul, Clements does not recognize this split.*

### **Little Greenbul**

*Andropadus virens*

This, the commonest forest edge greenbul was heard/seen on numerous occasions at all forest sites.

### **(Little) Gray Greenbul**

*Andropadus gracilis*

We had good views of 2 on the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

### **Ansorge's Greenbul**

*Andropadus ansorgei*

We saw one in Kakum NP and heard its distinctive rattle-like call on several occasions.

### **Slender-billed Greenbul**

*Andropadus gracilirostris*

This common greenbul of forest canopy was regularly seen in Kakum NP and at Atewa Forest.

### **Yellow-whiskered Greenbul**

*Andropadus latirostris*

Two birds were seen on separate occasions from the canopy walkway, Kakum NP.

### **Golden (Serine) Greenbul**

*Calyptocichla serina*

We had four birds during our time in the Kakum area and two at Atewa. An uncommon and unique greenbul, the only one sporting a pink bill.

### **Honeyguide Greenbul**

*Baeopogon indicator*

We had several encounters in the Kakum area and its distinctive call was also heard at Atewa.

### **Spotted Greenbul**

*Ixonotus guttatus*

We had wonderful views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway, a rare bird in Ghana.

### **Simple Greenbul**

*Chlorochicla simplex*

A secondary growth species; seen in small numbers at Aboabo and Antwikwaa in Kakum NP.

### **Yellow-throated Greenbul**

*Chlorochicla flavicollis*

We found one during the drive from Accra to Hans Botel.

### **Swamp (~Palm) Greenbul**

*Thescelocichla leucopleura*

This large noisy greenbul was seen at both Kakum NP and Atewa Forests.

### **Icterine Greenbul**

*Phyllastrephus icterinus*

We had several parties of these birds in the understorey in Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

### **Common Bristlebill**

*Bleda syndactyla*

We heard this species on several occasions in Kakum NP and at Atewa Forest.

### **Green-tailed Bristlebill**

*Bleda eximia*

We had very brief views of 2 flying across the road at Atewa Forest.

### **Yellow-spotted (Western/Common) Nicator**

*Nicator chloris*

This vociferous songster was seen briefly at Aboabo - Kakum NP. We all however finally got great views of one at Atewa Forest.

### **Western Bearded-Greenbul**

*Criniger barbatus*

This is another difficult forest understorey species, which we had great views of at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary and at Atewa Forest.

### **Yellow-bearded Greenbul**

*Criniger olivaceus*

We found one in a mixed species flock during a walk on an interior forest trail at Kakum NP.

## Thrushes & Allies *Turdidae*

### **Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush**

*Neocossyphus finschii*



We found one on the Kakum canopy walkway and another was seen at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

**White-tailed Ant-Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis*

We had brief views of one at Atewa Forest.

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

We obtained a sighting of this species at Shai Hills.

**Fire-crested Alethe** *Alethe diademata*

This elusive, ant-swarm attending species was seen very well by the group in Kakum NP.

*NOTE: The East African form is sometimes split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe of West Africa (which we recorded in Ghana), becoming A. castanea.*

### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

This moist grassland and swamp dwelling cisticola was heard and seen at the Winneba plains.

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*

We had good views of one in Mole NP.

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*

A secondary growth and cultivation species, we had good views of several in Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes*

At least 4 of these wetland cisticolas were seen at the Densu Delta.

*NOTE: This widespread African species complex has been proposed for multi-species splitting and the Ghanaian form C. g. amphilecta is likely to remain within the nominate grouping.*

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

We found one of these large Cisticolas at Shai Hills.

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

Small numbers were seen daily at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.

**Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

The world's most widespread Cisticola, small numbers were seen near Pram-pram and Bolgatanga.

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

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we recorded this species in small numbers at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

**Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)** *Heliolais erythroptera*

This attractive species was seen well in scrubby vegetation in Mole NP.

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

A beautifully marked, canopy Apalis. Our first sighting was of great views of one at Aboabo and a further one was seen at Atewa Forest.

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

This is a strangely rare bird in Ghana. We were lucky to get two birds at close range in Mole NP.

**Sharpe's Apalis** *Apalis sharpii*

A forest species that was seen very well on the Kakum canopy walkway. This good-looking bird is an Upper Guinea endemic.

**Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*

Three of these unusual creatures were located at Shai Hills.

**Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in moist wooded habitat throughout Ghana, with sightings from Shai Hills and Mole NP.

*NOTE: Most authorities now recognize the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms C. brevicaudata. We encountered the grey-backed form in Ghana. Clements still lumps these two groups.*

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

This handsome warbler was seen at Aboabo and Kakum NP and heard at most other forest sites.

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



Another skulking camaroptera, its piercing calls were heard at all forest sites and it was seen briefly on several occasions in Kakum NP. We were finally treated to good views of one at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

### Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

**Moustached Grass-Warbler**

*Melocichla mentalis*

Heard on several occasions and finally seen well during the drive from Kumasi to Mole NP.

**Senegal Eremomela**

*Eremomela pusilla*

A common species recorded in woodlands throughout Ghana. We first recorded this species at Shai Hills and had additional sightings in Mole NP and Tono Dam area.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into the East African E. pusilla (Green-backed Eremomela.) The enlarged species is called Green-backed Eremomela.*

**Rufous- (Brown-) crowned Eremomela**

*Eremomela badiceps*

A common forest canopy species, we enjoyed close views from the canopy walkway, with further sightings from Atewa Forest.

**Green Crombec**

*Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We heard and/or saw this species almost daily in the Kakum area.

**Lemon-bellied Crombec**

*Sylvietta denti*

We had a great sighting of this bird at Atewa Forest.

**Northern Crombec**

*Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, seen briefly in Mole NP and then very well near Tono Dam.

**Kemp's Longbill**

*Macrosphenus kempii*

This rare and highly elusive warbler was heard on several occasions at Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

**Gray Longbill**

*Macrosphenus concolor*

This is another secretive species, seen exceptionally well on several occasions in Kakum NP and again at Atewa Forest.

**Green Hylia**

*Hylia prasina*

Its "HEE-lia!" call was one of the common background sounds at all the forest sites on the tour, with most of our sightings had in the Kakum NP area.

**Violet-backed Hyliota**

*Hyliota violacea*

A beautiful canopy dweller usually found in mixed species flocks and restricted to West Africa. A pair was seen well from the canopy walkway.

### Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

**Pale Flycatcher**

*Bradornis pallidus*

Several were seen daily in Mole NP.

**Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher**

*Melaenornis edolioides*

This is a common species in Mole NP (up to 8 daily) but first seen in Shai Hills.

**African Forest-Flycatcher**

*Fraseria ocreata*

We had a total of 5 birds in the Kakum area, including good sightings from the Kakum canopy walkway.

**Ussher's Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa ussheri*

A swallow-like bird often seen perched in groups on dead snags high above the forest canopy, small numbers seen daily at Kakum NP and Atewa.

**Swamp Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa aquatica*

We had superb scope views of one at a waterhole in Mole NP.

**Little Gray Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa epulata*

We had superb scope views of one at Atewa Forest, another rare species.

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa comitata*



We found a pair near Aboabo, Kakum NP.

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

We enjoyed good views of one at the Mole River just outside Mole NP.

**Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis*

This species was heard at Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

**Gray Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*

Small numbers were seen in Mole NP.

**Forest Robin** *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*

After much trying we all got superb views of this stunning little bird at Atewa Forest.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into 4 species Western Forest Robin, S.erythrothorax is the one we observed.*

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

We had sightings at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

**White-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla*

A pair was seen briefly in gallery forest in Mole NP.

**Forest Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucosticta*

We enjoyed stunning views of this highly secretive forest skulker. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

We had superb views of one on the escarpment below Mole Hotel.

**Mocking Cliff-Chat** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

We had superb scope views of several near Shai Hills.

### Wattle-eyes *Platysteiridae*

**African Shrike-flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus*

We had good views of 2 from the Kakum canopy walkway and a further one at Atewa Forest.

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

One was seen very briefly in Kakum NP and another at Atewa Forest.

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

This is a fairly commonly heard bird in much of Ghana, we had good views of one at Shai Hills.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Platysteira castanea*

We had great views of a pair from the Kakum canopy walkway and further sightings in Atewa Forest.

**Senegal Batis** *Batis senegalensis*

This attractive species was seen in small numbers daily in Mole NP.

**West African Batis** *Batis occulta*

We were lucky to see this seldom observed canopy species, in Atewa Forest.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into the Bioko Batis B. poensis*

### Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus mcallii*

A snappy-looking, sprightly flycatcher recorded in small groups at Kakum NP, with superb close encounters from the canopy walkway.

**African Blue-Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*

Another lively bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail, we had sightings of several in Mole NP.

**Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch)** *Trochocercus nitens*

Another shy forest flycatcher, but with a strange *Glaucidium* owl-like call. We had brief views of one at Aboabo and then great views of a stunning male at Atewa Forest.

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

Common in all forests but none-the-less a wonderful-looking bird.



**African Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

A handsome bird recorded on several occasions in Mole NP with a notable sighting of a white-phase male.

*NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which include the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Gray-headed Paradise-Flycatcher T. plumbeiceps. The subspecies, which we recorded in Ghana, T. v. ferreti, will fall within the northern African Paradise-Flycatcher complex T. viridis if the group were to be split. Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males and we observed an example of this phenomenon in Ghana. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

**Babblers Timaliidae****Blackcap Illadopsis***Illadopsis cleaveri*

We heard one calling in Atewa Forest.

**Puvel's Illadopsis***Illadopsis puveli*

We heard one calling in Shai Hills.

**Brown Illadopsis***Illadopsis fulvescens*

We heard several in Kakum NP and at Atewa Forest.

**Blackcap Babbler***Turdoides reinwardtii*

We had wonderful views of 2 hopping along a road at Shai Hills.

**Brown Babbler***Turdoides plebejus*

A family group was seen at Shai Hills and we had an additional sighting in Mole NP.

**Chickadees & Tits Paridae****White-shouldered Black Tit***Melaniparus guineensis*

We had good daily sightings in Mole NP. It was initially thought that we also found White-winged Black-Tit but these were in fact juvenile White-shouldered Black Tits.

**Dusky Tit***Melaniparus funereus*

We had superb views of 3 at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

**Penduline Tits Remizidae****Yellow Penduline-Tit***Anthoscopus parvulus*

We had superb views of 3 of these sought-after birds in a mixed species flock in Mole NP.

**Tit-hylia***Pholidornis rushiae*

This delightful little bird was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway. Africa's smallest bird!

**Sunbirds & Spiderhunters Nectariniidae****Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird***Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri*

Uncommon in forests in the south favouring tangled vines. We had a good view of one on a forest trail in Kakum NP.

*NOTE: The species is sometimes lumped with the East African Gray-headed Sunbird D. axillaris.*

**Western Violet-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes longuemarei*

We had stunning views of a male in Mole NP.

**Little Green Sunbird***Anthreptes seimundi*

Small numbers were recorded on several occasions in Kakum NP.

**Green Sunbird***Anthreptes rectirostris*

We found small numbers in Kakum NP and one of these attractive birds in Atewa.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two forms, the Eastern Gray-chinned Sunbird A. tephrolaemus and the nominate Western Yellow-chinned Sunbird (we recorded the latter form in Ghana.)*



**Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*

The commonest forest sunbird in Ghana, recorded on all forest excursions.

**Green-headed Sunbird***Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis*

We found one at Shai Hills.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird***Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) cyanolaema*

We had two sightings in Kakum NP and an unusual sighting of one in the Tono Dam area.

**Western Olive-Sunbird***Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

Several birds were seen or heard at Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa.

*NOTE: The Olive-Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird *C. olivacea* and the form which we recorded in Ghana, Western Olive-Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack there-of, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various subspecies within the complex.*

**Buff-throated Sunbird***Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) adelberti*

This stunning sunbird, restricted to West Africa, was not as common as we usually experience on this tour. We had superb views of several in Kakum NP.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird***Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

This is a common bird in northern Ghana where we recorded up to 20 daily in Mole NP.

**Olive-bellied Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

A forest edge species seen on several occasions in Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

**Tiny Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) minulla*

A diminutive canopy-dwelling double-collared sunbird that was seen from the canopy walkway, Kakum NP. We enjoyed a great sighting of a pair.

**Beautiful Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella*

This exquisite sunbird is common only in the drier northern savanna and was seen regularly in Mole NP and the Tono Dam area.

**Splendid Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) coccinigaster*

This stunning bird was seen well at Shai Hills.

**Johanna's Sunbird***Cinnyris johannae*

We had great views of a pair on the Kakum canopy walkway and another pair at Atewa Forest.

**Superb Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus*

This is another stunning sunbird, seen well in Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

**Copper Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea*

We obtained excellent views of several birds especially in Mole NP.

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

The only white-eye in Ghana, small numbers were seen at the tourist center in Kakum and again in Mole NP and Bolgatanga area.

**Old World Orioles Oriolidae****African Golden Oriole***Oriolus auratus*

We had superb views of 2 near Mole NP.

**Western Black-headed Oriole***Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Seen in small numbers at Kakum NP and Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

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

Commoner than the above species; small numbers of this forest edge species were seen on most days at Kakum NP.



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## Shrikes *Laniidae*

**Emin's Shrike***Lanius gubernator*

We were extremely lucky to find this rare species in Mole NP. We had good views of an adult and juvenile.

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

A widespread species of scrub and farmlands in southern Ghana, we first recorded it en route to Hans Cottage Hotel. Also seen in small numbers near Atewa Forest.

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

Our first sighting was of several near Shai Hills. Thereafter we found small numbers daily in Mole NP.

## Bushshrikes & Allies *Malaconotidae*

**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

This is a widespread African bird, seen in dry savanna in Mole NP on several occasions.

*NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru *N. afer*, Black-browed Brubru *N. nigritemporalis*, Angola Brubru *N. affinis* and Southern Brubru *N. brubru*. Only the Northern Brubru occurs in Ghana. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.*

**Northern Puffback***Dryoscopus gambensis*

We had a pair at Shai Hills and a further 3 in Mole NP.

**Large-billed (Sabine's) Puffback***Dryoscopus sabini*

We had several memorable encounters from the Kakum canopy walkway.

**Black-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra, seen at several sites throughout.

*NOTE: Moroccan Tchagra *T. s. cucullata* of north-west Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Ghana. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

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

We heard it en route from Kakum to Kumasi and near Atewa Forest.

**Tropical Boubou***Laniarius aethiopicus*

We unfortunately only heard this species en route from Kumasi to Mole NP.

**Common (Yellow-crowned) Gonolek (Barbary Shrike)***Laniarius barbarus*

A brilliantly coloured bush-shrike that was first seen near Shai Hills and later we enjoyed excellent views of a pair near Navrango.

**Sooty Boubou***Laniarius leucorhynchus*

We heard one calling near Atewa Forest.

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike***Telophorus sulfureopectus*

This is another widespread African savanna species, heard on several occasions in Mole NP.

**Many-colored Bushshrike***Telophorus multicolor*

We had brief views of one at Atewa Forest.

**Gray-headed Bushshrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

After a real search we finally had good views of one near Mole NP.

## Helmetshrikes & Allies *Prionopidae*

**White Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

We were lucky to get a flock of 8 of these stunning birds at Shai Hills and later several more were seen daily in Mole NP.

**Chestnut-bellied Helmetshrike***Prionops caniceps*

We had really good views of several flocks in Kakum NP and a further 4 were seen at Atewa Forest.

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## Drongos *Dicruridae*



**Shining Drongo***Dicrurus atripennis*

We found 3 of these noisy critters in an understory flock in Kakum NP.

**Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

Seen daily in small numbers in Mole NP.

**Velvet-mantled Drongo***Dicrurus modestus*

This recently split forest equivalent of the Fork-tailed Drongo was found to be common at all forest sites. Birds were conspicuous around the canopy walkway.

*NOTE: Older versions of Clements lump this species within Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis but the split has been recognized in recent Clements updates.*

## Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae*

**Piapiac***Ptilostomus afer*

A flock of 30 of this aberrant corvid were seen near Shai Hills. We had additional sightings in the Bolgatanga area.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers on our first day and seen daily thereafter.

## Starlings *Sturnidae*

**Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling***Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

We found a flock of 10 near Tono Dam.

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

A small flock was seen at the airstrip near Bolgatanga.

**Splendid Glossy-Starling***Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling was seen in small numbers on a daily basis in the Kakum area. **Purple Glossy-Starling**

*Lamprotornis purpureus*

Our first sighting was of a pair near Mole NP and later small numbers were seen daily in the Bolgatanga area.

**(Northern) Long-tailed Glossy-Starling***Lamprotornis caudatus*

Small numbers located at Mole NP, the most impressive of Africa's long tailed starlings. We enjoyed further encounters in the far North.

**Chestnut-bellied Starling***Lamprotornis pulcher*

We enjoyed sightings of up to 30 daily in the far North near Tono Dam.

**Copper-tailed Starling***Lamprotornis cupreocauda*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.

**Violet-backed (Plum-coloured/Amethyst) Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This stunning bird was seen during the drive from Kumasi to Mole NP.

**(Forest) Chestnut-winged Starling***Onychognathus fulgidus*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kakum NP and one at Atewa Forest.

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

We had superb views of 3 seen on local cattle near Tono Dam.

## Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

**(Northern) Gray-headed Sparrow***Passer griseus*

Ghana's commonest sparrow and plentiful throughout the country.

*NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the Ghanaian form being retaining in the nominate grouping with the same nomenclature.*

**Bush Petronia***Petronia dentata*

Usually very common in the north of the country, we managed to find two at the airstrip near Bolgatanga.

### Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*

- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*  
We enjoyed several sightings of this wonderful species in the Tono Dam area, an attractive Sahelian bird at the very edge of its range.
- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*  
We had regular encounters with this species at Mole NP and Tono Dam.
- Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*  
A single bird was seen in riverine vegetation at the Densu Delta.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*  
This is a dry-country woodland weaver seen on several occasions in Mole NP and near Tono Dam.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*  
Small numbers in forest edges and moist scrub in the south of the country and Mole River.
- Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius*  
This beautiful bird was seen nesting near Hans Cottage Botel.
- Heuglin's Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus heuglini*  
We saw several en route from Mole to Bolgatanga and later several at a nesting colony near Tono Dam.
- Vitelline Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus*  
We found one male at Shai Hills and a further 3 males near Tono Dam.
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*  
One of Ghana's most conspicuous birds, with large colonies found in many places.  
*NOTE: This widespread African complex is also a candidate for multi-species splitting and the nominate subspecies which we recorded in Ghana will remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by Clements.*
- Vieillot's (Black) Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*  
Flocks of this beautiful species were noted at many localities in the south of Ghana.  
*NOTE: The distinctive West African form of this weaver is sometimes split off as Black-and-chestnut Weaver P. castaneofuscus.*
- Black-headed Weaver** *Ploceus melanocephalus*  
We had great views of several males near the waterholes in Mole NP. A rare bird in Ghana.
- Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*  
This forest canopy species was encountered in small numbers daily in Kakum NP and also seen at Atewa Forest.
- Preuss' (Golden-backed) Weaver** *Ploceus preussi*  
This stunning weaver was seen well at Aboabo.
- Red-vented Malimbe** *Malimbus scutatus*  
We had excellent views of 4 of these beautiful weavers at Aboabo.
- Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*  
We found one in Kakum NP and a further 3 at Atewa Forest.
- Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*  
This numerous and conspicuous malimbe was recorded daily at Kakum NP and Atewa Forest.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*  
We had a total of 5 of these stunning birds during our walks in Mole NP.
- Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*  
We found a flock of 30 at the Winneba plains and 20 in Mole NP.
- Yellow-crowned Bishop** *Euplectes afer*  
We had superb sightings of displaying males near Pram-pram and further sightings of small numbers daily in Mole NP.
- Black-winged (Red) Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*  
This species was found to be common throughout Ghana, we found many males in full breeding plumage.
- Orange Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*



We enjoyed good sightings of several male in Mole NP and the far North.

**Yellow-shouldered Widowbird** *Euplectes macrourus*

We had 8 of these attractive birds at the Winneba Plains and additional sighting in Mole NP.

*NOTE: This species is an excellent candidate for a two-way split, the Ghanaian nominate E. m. macrourus would be called Yellow-mantled Widowbird and the eastern E. m. macrocercus would acquire the common name of Yellow-shouldered Widowbird.*

**Grosbeak Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*

We had superb views of 3 near Atewa Forest.

### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

**White-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita fusconota*

We had several encounters with this species from the walkway in Kakum NP and at Atewa.

**Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita bicolor*

This attractive seedeater was seen in small numbers in Kakum NP and at Atewa.

**Gray-headed (-crowned) Negrofinch** *Nigrita canicapilla*

The commonest negrofinch and seen in all forests visited. Its sad whistled song was a constant background sound.

**Red-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia phoenicoptera*

We enjoyed several sighting of this stunning seedeater.

**Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*

We had good views of a pair deep in the forest at Antwikwaa, Kakum NP. A seldom observed forest seedeater.

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

Seen well near the Volta Dam and again in Mole NP.

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

We had several sightings in Mole NP.

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

We found one near Atewa Forest.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

This common bird of savanna was seen throughout northern Ghana.

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

This common and widespread species was seen in scrubby habitat throughout.

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

Our first sighting was of 5 at the Winneba Plains and later small numbers were seen at the airstrip near Bolgatanga.

**Black-faced Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis*

We found one near Tono Dam and another at Sakumo Lagoon.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the Ghanaian form would remain African Quailfinch and the highland Ethiopian isolate would become Ethiopian Quailfinch O. fuscocrissa.*

**African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*

We had great views of 3 near Tono Dam.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*

This is a ubiquitous species in scrub throughout Ghana. We found them almost daily.

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*

Small numbers were seen at Aboabo and Antwikwaa and later up to 20 near Atewa Forest.

*NOTE: This complex may be split two-ways, the southern and eastern Brown-backed Mannikin L. nigriceps and the northern and western nominate group, which would remain as Black-and-white Mannikin. The latter is the form we recorded in Ghana. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

### Indigobirds Viduidae

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*



We found up to 5 daily in Mole NP.

**Pale-winged Indigobird** *Vidua wilsoni*

We had superb views of several males in full breeding plumage near Kakum NP.

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

This familiar bird, which parasitises small seedeaters, was seen on many occasions throughout the country.

**Togo Paradise-Whydah** *Vidua togoensis*

We had superb views of 6 males in full breeding plumage in Mole NP. A rare bird indeed.

**Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah** *Vidua interjecta*

Several males in full breeding plumage were seen in the Bolgatanga area.

### Siskins, Crossbills & Allies *Fringillidae*

**White-rumped Seedeater** *Serinus leucopygius*

We had good views of one near Tono Dam.

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Serinus mozambicus*

This species was common in the dry north at Mole NP and Tono Dam.

**Streaky-headed Seedeater** *Serinus gularis*

We had superb views of 5 birds during our stay in Mole NP.

### Buntings *Emberizidae*

**Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*

Found in small numbers at the airstrip near Bolgatanga.

**Brown-rumped Bunting** *Emberiza affinis*

We had superb scope views of one in Mole NP.

## Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows that of BirdArea/BirdBase software with taxonomic differences to ‘The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals’ by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997 highlighted.

### Squirrels *Sciuridae*

**Striped Ground Squirrel** *Xerus erythropus*

We found 2 at the Winneba Plains and several more in Mole NP.

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

We had good views of 2 of these attractive mammals in Kakum NP and another in Atewa Forest.

**Forest Giant Squirrel** *Protoxerus aubinnii*

We had good views of one in Kakum NP.

**Green Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus poensis*

We found small numbers daily in Kakum NP and also seen at Atewa.

### Anomalures *Anomaluridae*

**Pel’s Scaly-tailed Squirrel** *Atherurus africanus*

Roger was fortunate to see one from the Kakum canopy walkway.

### Mongoose *Herpestidae*



**Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguinea*

One of these cute creatures dashed across the trail near Atewa Forest.

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

At least 20 were seen near Brimsu Reservoir and later we watched 30 flying over the airstrip near Bolgatanga.

**Hammer-headed Fruit Bat***Hypsignathus monstrosus*

One was seen near the Kakum canopy walkway.

**Lorisids *Loridae*****Senegal Galago***Galago senegalensis*

One was seen on our nightdrive in Mole NP.

**Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*****King (Western Pied) Colobus***Colobus polykomos*

We heard several calling at Atewa Forest.

**Olive Colobus***Colobus verus*

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

**Guinea (Olive) Baboon***Papio papio*

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

**Lowé's [Mona] Monkey***Cercopithecus [mona] lowei*

A troop of 10 was seen from the Canopy Walkway, Kakum NP.

**Lesser White-nosed (Spot-nosed) Monkey***Cercopithecus petaurista*

A troop of 10 was observed in the forest canopy around the canopy walkway, Kakum NP.

**Callithrix [Vervet] Monkey***Cercopithecus [aethiops] sabaesus*

These

Savanna Monkeys are, with the *Papio* baboons, the most widely distributed primates in Africa, inhabiting woodland and savanna habitats throughout the continent. We observed small numbers daily in Mole NP.

**Patas Monkey***Erythrocebus patas*

Several of these were seen on consecutive days in Mole NP. This colourful monkey is largely terrestrial.

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

Another familiar savanna animal that we found in Mole NP. A particularly tame family group remained close to the hotel.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates *Bovidae*****Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

We had several encounters of this species in Mole NP.

**Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

Several seen in Mole NP.

**Kob***Kobus kob*

We found one stunning male at Shai Hills and later we had good numbers of this species in Mole NP.



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**Elephants *Elephantidae***

**African Elephant**

*Loxodonta africana*

Up to twelve seen daily in Mole NP, these are the “tamest” wild elephants in Africa.

**Annotated List of Reptile Species recorded**

**Nile Crocodile**

*Crocodylus niloticus*

We had good views of several at Hans Botel.

**Rock (White-throated) Monitor**

*Varanus albigularis*

We found one on the road during the drive from Bolgatanga to Kumasi.

**Red-headed Rock Agama**

*Agama agama*

We had wonderful views of several at Mole Hotel.

**Rainbow Skink**

*Mabuya margaritifera*

Small numbers were seen at Mole Hotel.

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