



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

GHANA II Picathartes & Upper Guinea Specials

2nd – 20th November 2008 (19 days)



Buff-throated Sunbird by Keith Valentine

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Jan Pienaar

Trip report

Ghana is one of West Africa's more interesting destinations: graced with an interesting assortment of vibrant cultures, a coastline dotted with forts and castles dating from the time of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and a diversity of great birding habitats - from the moist rainforests of Kakum, the broad-leafed savannas of Mole to the dry woodland of the north. We recorded just under 400 bird species in our time here, including many Upper Guinea Endemics, and West African specials.

On our first morning, we left a bustling Accra and headed for the Shai Hills. Highlights of the day included Shikra, Black-billed Wood Dove, the striking Guinea and Violet Turacos, Double-toothed

Barbet and Yellow-crowned Gonolek. At our lunch stop near the bridge over the Volta River we had Mangrove Sunbird, an uncommon bird in Ghana but, alas, failed to find our quarry White-bibbed Swallow. We then made for our over night stop and explorations around our hotel turned up an unexpected Black Dwarf Hornbill (unfortunately seen by only three of the guests), this is a tough bird anywhere in Africa and was a good find, well done Brian!

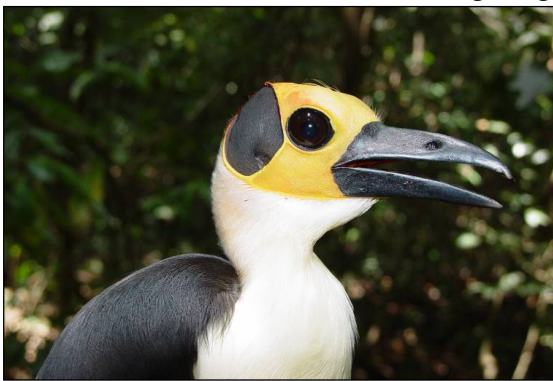
The entrance road to Kalakpa Resources Reserve offered us some excellent birding, including Blue-spotted Wood Dove, stunning Blue-bellied Roller, Compact Weaver, Red-headed Quelea, Yellow-mantled Widowbird in full breeding plumage and Yellow-winged Pytilia. Walking through the dense forest strips in Kalakpa we had Red-billed Helmetshrike, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, noisy Swamp Palm Bulbul, Grey Longbill, Green Hylia and very good looks at the scarce Capuchin Babbler – the latter a very good find indeed! The surrounding open woodland produced Whistling and Short-winged Cisticolas and Double-spurred Francolin. At sunset we had a brief look at a Long-tailed Nightjar on the road out.

We left Ho in the early morning and revisited the Volta River, where we managed to finally locate White-bibbed Swallow, hooray! A second visit to Shai Hills yielded Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Stone Partridge and a smart male White-crowned Cliff Chat. Near the town of Pram-Pram we had Water Thick-knee, Fine-spotted Woodpecker and Mosque Swallow, ending the day's birding at Sakumo Lagoon where we managed to find Whimbrel, Sandwich, Royal and Black Terns, Black Coucal and the range-restricted Black-backed Cisticola.

The mosaic of fresh water channels, saltpans and the delta of the Densu River was the first site of interest the next day, and produced Little Bittern, Great Egret, Black Heron, Sanderling, Winding Cisticola, Slender-billed Weaver and Yellow-throated Longclaw. In the afternoon we made our way towards the world-famous Kakum National Park, where we were based for the next four nights.

Our time spent exploring Kakum and the surrounding area produced many gems; we spent our time birding from the canopy walkway and interior forest trails, as well as other surrounding forest patches. Our time on the walkway was mostly spent around the 2nd and 3rd platforms, which are usually the most productive. From here we had Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, Crowned Eagle, Grey and Red-fronted Parrots, Yellow-billed Turaco, Sabine's Spinetail, huge Yellow-casqued Wattled and Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills, the scarce Willcocks's Honeyguide, Gabon Woodpecker, Sabine's Puffback, stunning Blue Cuckooshrike, Western Oriole, Sharpe's Apalis and Yellow-mantled Weaver. The forest trails were a little challenging because of the heat, but we managed to bag such beauties as White-crested Hornbill, tiny Chestnut Wattle-eye, the elusive Grey-headed Bristlebill and Fire-crested (White-tailed) Alethe. An early morning attempt produced prolonged views of a Fraser's Eagle-Owl, while the forest and farmland mosaic offered the striking Buff-throated Sunbird. While in the area we took some time out to visit the castle at Cape Coast, a chilling reminder of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and man's inhumanity to his fellow man. We also visited a nearby reservoir and water treatment works, where we were treated to sightings of African Jacana, Giant Kingfisher, Green Crombec and Splendid Starling.

Heading north from Kakum, we stopped at the Pra River where we had White-crowned Lapwing, Rock Pratincole and Cassin's Flycatcher, all rather scarce in



Ghana. From here we went to Aboabo and, although it was heating up, we managed to find Red-necked Buzzard, Cassin's Spinetail and African Pygmy Kingfisher. In the afternoon we headed to a site for the mythical White-necked Picathartes, the reason we were in this part of Ghana! Walking through the forest to the site took an hour or so and time was running out. Shortly after arrival we enjoyed the first bird of the afternoon shortly thereafter followed by another two. They bounded through the undergrowth and over nearby boulders, offering us quick views. As dark approached, we decided to leave them in peace and headed back to our lodge.

The next morning we went back to Aboabo and, the cooler, cloudy weather this day made for excellent birding. We had sightings of Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, White-spotted Flufftail, Blue-headed Wood Dove, African Emerald Cuckoo, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-billed Barbets, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Dusky-blue and Tessmann's Flycatchers, Red-vented Malimbe and White-breasted Nigrita. That afternoon we visited a different site for the Picathartes where we had sightings of another two birds.

As we left the town of Assin Foso behind, we headed north towards Ghana's second largest city, Kumasi. On the way we had Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, and a visit to Bobiri Forest and Butterfly Reserve yielded Green Malkoha, Lemon-bellied Crombec and Crested Malimbe.

The drive from Kumasi to Mole is a long one, so we had an early start to also avoid the traffic that Kumasi is notorious for. As we moved north the vegetation became lower and sparser and we then entered the Guinea Savanna, a broad-leafed woodland type. Our time spent in the Mole area produced Western Banded Snake-Eagle, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Bruce's Green Pigeon, White-breasted and Red-shouldered Cuckooshrikes, African Golden Oriole, Yellow-throated Leaflove, brilliant African Blue Flycatcher, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, a pair of White-crowned Robin-Chat, White-fronted Black Chat, Pygmy, Scarlet-chested and Beautiful Sunbirds, the smart Red-headed Weaver, Lavender Waxbill and the outrageous Togo Paradise Whydah.

Mole is also the only park in Ghana where it is possible to see some of the larger mammals and of these we had Olive Baboon, Callithrix and Patas Monkeys, Common Warthog, Bushbuck, large numbers of Kob, Waterbuck, Red-flanked Duiker and Spotted Hyaena. Smaller mammals we saw included Slender and Banded Mongoose, Striped Ground Squirrel and Yellow-winged Bat.

In the far north of the country, near the Burkina Faso border, the drier Sahelian zone extends a finger into northeast Ghana, and this area was our next destination. Some of the birds here are not very commonly recorded in Ghana and the species we had included Fox Kestrel, Dark Chanting Goshawk, European Turtle Dove, Mottled Swift, Sun Lark, Rufous Cisticola, Chestnut-bellied Starling, Variable Sunbird, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Cut-throat Finch and White-rumped Seed eater.

It was then time for us to head back south on the long drive to the town of Nkawkaw, our base for the last two nights of the tour. The site of interest here was the forest that cloaks the hills of the Atewa range and, at around 770m above sea level, is one of the few higher lying areas in Ghana. We had a full day's birding here and what a day it was! Specials here included Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Thick-billed Cuckoo, Blue-throated Roller, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, the exquisite Blue-headed Bee-eater, Forest Wood Hoopoe, elusive Brown-eared Woodpecker, Shrike Flycatcher, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Black-



capped Apalis, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Western Nicator, smart Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher and Bates's Sunbird. We headed back to our hotel in the afternoon, just in time to miss the first shower of rain on the tour.

On our last morning we visited was the Bunso Arboretum, part of an ongoing study into the growing of exotic and indigenous trees for agricultural purposes. There is still a small patch of forest left and here we added the last four new birds for the tour: Plain Greenbul, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, Ashy Flycatcher and the uncommon Johanna's Sunbird. After negotiating the heavy traffic of Accra North, we arrived at our hotel in time for lunch and to freshen up before being taken to the airport.

Photos, from top to bottom: Cape Coast Castle (J. Pienaar), White-necked Picathartes (NCRC) and Chocolate-backed Kingfisher (J. Pienaar).

BIRD LIST (380 species)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Frank Gill & Minturn Wright Birds of the World: Recommended English Names (2006) Princeton University Press, with updates to October 2007. With notes where Clements differs or Clements names in parenthesis.

UGE – Upper Guinea Endemic

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

We had good numbers daily in Mole NP.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Stone Partridge

Ptilopachus petrosus

First heard on our first visit to Shai Hills, we found them the second time around and had excellent sightings in Mole NP.

Ahanta Francolin

Pternistis ahantensis

We heard this species while birding in the Aboabo area.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Francolinus

Double-spurred Francolin

Pternistis bicalcaratus

A pair was seen in Kalakpa, with daily sightings later in Mole.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Francolinus

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Seen in good numbers in Mole and at Tono Dam.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

A single bird was seen in the company of other waterfowl in Mole NP.

Knob-billed Duck (Comb) Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

We had two birds on Tono Dam.

Note: Clements lumps this species with Comb Duck S. sylvicola of South America calling it Comb Duck

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

We had a total of ten on a small lake at Cape Coast.

Storks Ciconiidae



Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

We had daily sightings at the wetland below our accommodations in Mole NP.

Saddle-billed Stork*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Also seen at the wetland in Mole, where we had a single individual on two consecutive days.

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

We had daily sightings in Mole NP.

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

We had a singleton in the wetlands near the Densu River Delta.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

We had a single bird in the wetland below the Mole Motel.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

First seen at wetlands near Kakum, we later enjoyed daily sightings in Mole NP.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

First seen at Sakumo Lagoon, we had further sightings at wetlands near Kakum and on the White Volta.

Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Seen on almost everyday of the tour – especially prevalent in the drier northern parts of Ghana.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

Recorded at most wetland localities on tour – highest numbers were in Mole NP.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

The grasslands of the north produced sightings of this bird, including ten at a heronry on the White Volta.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Our first sighting was at the Densu Delta, with more at Brimsu Reservoir and mole NP.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

A single bird seen at the Densu Delta.

Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret*Egretta intermedia*

Highest count of six at Sakumo Lagoon.

Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

We had a single bird at the Densu Delta.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

We had regular encounters with this bird at most wetlands – highest count was twelve at Sakumo.

Western Reef Heron*Egretta gularis*

Recorded at Sakumo, Densu Delta and Cape Coast.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

We had numerous sightings in and around Mole NP and Tono Dam.

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

Regularly seen at wetlands throughout the tour, with the highest numbers at Sakumo Lagoon.



Falcons Falconidae

- Common (Eurasian) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
First seen in the town of Ho, we had later sightings in Accra and near Bolgatanga.
- Fox Kestrel** *Falco alopex*
A single bird was seen near our accommodation in Bolgatanga.
- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*
Regularly seen on the tour. This bird often sits on the roadside telephone lines and readily enters towns and villages.
- African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*
A single bird was seen in flight in Mole NP.
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*
A single bird in Shai Hills, with two immature birds over the White Volta.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

- African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides*
We had a single bird on our morning walk in Mole NP.
- Bat Hawk** *Macheiramphus alcinus*
We had one at dusk as we were leaving the Picathartes site at Dotom.
- Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
Two birds were seen at Tono Dam.
- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
One of the most common birds of the tour, seen on every day.
- Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*
First seen at Kalakpa, we had later sightings at the Volta River, Kakum, Mole and Nkawkaw.
- Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*
Another very common bird. We had sightings in almost every town and city.
- White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*
We had a total of five in Mole NP.
- White-headed Vulture** *Aegyptius (Trigonoceps) occipitalis*
A single, immature bird was seen below our accommodation at Mole.
- Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*
We saw a total of three birds during our time in Mole NP.
Note: Clements just calls this Banded Snake-Eagle
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*
A bird that is mostly seen in larger parks and reserves, we had daily sightings in Mole NP.
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
First seen at the Densu Delta, we had later sightings at several localities in the north.
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*
Seen well in Kakum NP, including several sightings from the canopy walkway. Also seen in Mole.
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*
We had two birds at Tono Dam.
- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*
We had a single bird in Mole NP.
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius*
We recorded this common species in Shai Hills, Ho, Accra and Mole NP.
- Red-thighed Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter erythropus*
We had good scope views of a single bird in the Antwikwaa area of Kakum.



Ovambo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>
We had a single bird in Shai Hills Resources Reserve.	
Long-tailed Hawk	<i>Urotriorchus macrourus</i>
We heard this bird while waiting at the Picathartes site near Dotom.	
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Regularly recorded at all open woodland localities, especially Mole NP.	
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>
First seen on our way to Mole NP, we had later sightings near Bolgatanga.	
Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>
Seen at Aboabo and Mole NP.	
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>
We had a single bird in the forest at Aboabo.	
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus africanus</i>
We had a single bird in flight on our drive north to Kumasi.	
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
A single bird was seen from the Kakum canopy walkway.	

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>
A male responded well to playback and was seen at Aboabo.	

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

African Crake	<i>Crex egregia</i>
A surprise find for the tour. We had a single bird on the road entering Kalakpa.	
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
Seen first near Kakum, with later sightings in Mole NP.	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
We had a singleton at the Densu Delta.	

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
We had numerous sightings at Mole and Tono Dam.	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
A total of five birds were seen on a small stream near Pram-Pram.	

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Highest count of fifteen at Sakumo, with more at the Densu Delta and Tono.	

Plovers Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Seen in good numbers at Sakumo, with smaller numbers at Mole and Tono Dam.	
White-crowned (-headed) Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
We had one bird on the Pra River near Kakum.	
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegalus</i>
Recorded at Sakumo, Mole and Tono Dam.	
<i>Note: Clements just calls this Wattled Lapwing</i>	



Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

We had a total of five at the Densu River Delta.

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

We saw these 'lily-trotters' at most waterbodies with floating vegetation. Our highest count was around Cape Coast.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae**Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago*

We had flight views of several in Mole NP and at Tono Dam.

Whimbrel*Numenius phaeopus*

One at Sakumo and five at the Densu Delta.

Marsh Sandpiper*Tringa stagnatilis*

We saw this bird at Sakumo, Densu Delta and Mole.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

We had sightings at Sakumo, Densu Delta and Tono Dam.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

We had small numbers at Sakumo, Densu and Tono Dam.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

We had sightings at most wetland localities on tour.

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

We had a total of five at the Densu Delta

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

Small numbers were seen at the Densu Delta

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

We had good numbers at Sakumo, with smaller numbers at Densu Delta.

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

We had a flock numbering at least thirty at Tono Dam.

Couriers & Pratincoles Glareolidae**Rock Pratincole***Glareola nuchalis*

We had two birds on the Pra River near Kakum.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Caspian Tern***Sterna (Hydroprone) caspia*

One bird was seen by some participants at Cape Coast.

Sandwich Tern*Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis*

We had a total of ten at Sakumo Lagoon.

Royal Tern*Sterna (Thalasseus) maxima*

Small numbers at Sakumo and Cape Coast.

Black Tern*Chlidonias niger*

We had good numbers at Sakumo and Densu Delta.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae**Four-banded Sandgrouse***Pterocles quadricinctus*

We had a total of three birds during our stay in Mole.



Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

- Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Recorded at many urban centres throughout the country.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
Commonly recorded in the far north of the country.
- Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*
A single bird was seen by two participants in Atewa.
Note: Clements just calls this Bronze-naped Pigeon
- European (Eurasian) Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
We had a single bird at Tono Dam.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
This large dove was seen on almost every day of the tour.
- Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*
Our first sighting was at Kalakpa, with daily sightings in the north later on.
- Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Another very common bird, seen on virtually every day of the tour.
- Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*
First seen at Shai Hills, with more sightings at Kalakpa and Tono Dam.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
Four at Kalakpa and one in Mole.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
First seen in Kakum, we had later sightings in Mole and Atewa.
- Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*
After brief sightings by some participants in Kakum and Aboabo, we all had great looks in Atewa.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
On our way north to Mole we had a single bird, with another seen at Tono Dam.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
Our time spent in Mole produced several sightings of this bird.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*
This was a common bird at all the forested sites in Ghana.

Cockatoos and Parrots Psittacidae

- Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
We had numerous sightings in Mole and at Tono Dam.
- Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*
We had two birds fly over us during our time spent on the canopy walkway.
- Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi*
We had sightings in Kakum, Antwikwaa and Aboabo.
- Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*
Recorded at most savannah sites, with our highest count being fifteen on our first visit to Shai Hills.

Turacos Musophagidae

- Guinea Turaco** *Tauraco persa*
We had one in Shai Hills and one in Kalakpa.
- Yellow-billed Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus*
A noisy species heard all over the forest areas, with sightings on the canopy walkway and in Atewa.



Violet Turaco*Musophaga violacea*

This stunning species was seen in Shai Hills, Kalakpa and Mole.

Western Plantain-eater*Crinifer piscator*

Seen on virtually every day of the tour.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Black-throated Coucal***Centropus leucogaster*

A tricky species to see in forest tangles, we heard them while birding the forests at Aboabo.

Senegal Coucal*Centropus senegalensis*

A common species seen at most sites, except the extreme north of Ghana.

Black Coucal*Centropus grillii*

We had two birds at Sakumo Lagoon.

Green Malkoha (Yellowbill)*Ceuthmochares aereus*

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

Great Spotted Cuckoo*Clamator glandarius*

We had two birds at the White Volta River just south of Bolgatanga.

Levaillant's Cuckoo*Clamator levaillantii*

We had two birds on our way north to Mole, with more seen in Mole and Nkawkaw.

Thick-billed Cuckoo*Pachycoccyx audeberti*

We had incredible scope views of this scarce bird in Atewa.

Dideric Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had sightings at the Pra River, Aboabo, Mole and Bolgatanga.

Klaas's Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx klaas*

Our first sighting was at Aboabo, with a later one in Atewa.

African Emerald Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Far more often heard than seen, we had good views at Aboabo and Atewa.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo*Cercococcyx olivinus*

This species was heard at dusk from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

Red-chested Cuckoo*Cuculus solitarius*

Heard at Aboabo and the Picathartes site near Dotom.

Owls Strigidae**African Scops Owl***Otus senegalensis*

We heard this species calling from our hotel in Mole.

Greyish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinarescens*

We observed two birds hunting for insects on the Mole Airstrip.

Fraser's Eagle-Owl*Bubo poensis*

We had a great view of one in the early morning at Kakum.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

We had sightings on two consecutive days in Mole.

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

This species was heard twice in Kakum.

Note: Clements places this in the genus *Caprimulgus*

Long-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus climacurus*

We had one bird on our return from Kalakpa to Ho.



Swifts Apodidae

- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*
We had two birds at the Densu River Delta.
- Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini*
We had sightings in Kakum, Aboabo and Bobiri.
- Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini*
This was seen in the company of the previous species at Aboabo.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
Seen virtually everywhere where tall palms were present.
- Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*
We had two birds at the bridge over the White Volta.
- Common Swift** *Apus apus*
A small flock was seen over the forest at Kakum.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Seen at almost every bridge in the country! Our sightings included some really large flocks.

Trogons Trogonidae

- Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*
We briefly heard this species in Atewa forest.

Rollers Coraciidae

- Purple Roller** *Coracias naevius*
We had one bird at Kalakpa, another at Shai Hills and the last on our way to Mole NP.
- Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*
We had daily sightings of this stunner in the north of the country.
- Blue-bellied Roller** *Coracias cyanogaster*
We had great looks at Kalakpa, followed by sightings in Shai Hills and Mole.
- Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis*
We had a single bird in flight over Atewa.
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*
We had sightings at Kalakpa, Shai Hills and Mole.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*
First heard in Kakum, we had great looks at two birds later in Atewa.
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*
We had daily sightings in Mole NP.
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*
We had one in Mole and one at Tono Dam.
- Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*
We had a great view of this bird on the Mole River.
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*
A common bird seen on most days of the tour.
- African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*
We had three on our way to Aboabo, one in Mole and two in Atewa.
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*
We saw this little gem of a bird at various wetlands on the tour.



Giant Kingfisher*Megaceryle maxima*

First glimpsed at Brimsu Reservoir, we later had a pair below our motel in Mole.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

This, the world's most widespread kingfisher, was seen at various wetlands on tour.

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

We had two birds in the forests of Atewa.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Three birds were seen at our lunch stop in the town of Assin Foso.

Red-throated Bee-eater*Merops bullocki*

We had large numbers of this stunning bird in Mole.

White-throated Bee-eater*Merops albicollis*

An intra-African migrant, prevalent only during the dry season in Ghana, seen at most forested sites on tour.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

We had a small flock at Kalakpa.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

This species was only seen by me on our drive south from Bolgatanga.

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

We saw one bird near Tono Dam.

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

We had a flock of four in Atewa forest.

Green Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus purpureus*

We had sightings at Shai Hills, Tema and Mole.

Black Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

We had two birds in Mole NP.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**African Pied Hornbill***Tockus fasciatus*

A common inhabitant of forest and forest edge, recorded on almost every day of the tour.

African Grey Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

First seen in Shai Hills, with daily sightings later in Mole NP.

Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

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

Black Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus hartlaubi*

Three of the participants saw a single bird outside our accommodation in Ho.

White-crested Hornbill*Tropicranus albocristatus*

This funky-looking hornbill was seen in Kakum and Atewa.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Tockus

Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

We had two separate sightings in Kakum.

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill*Bycanistes subcylindricus*

We had two birds in the company of the next species from the canopy walkway.

Note: Clements places this in the genus *Ceratogymna*

Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*

We first had a sighting from the canopy walkway, followed by a brief sighting at Antwikwaa.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We only heard this species calling far away in Mole NP.

Toucans & Barbets Ramphastidae

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli*

We had six at a fruiting tree in Kakum, with more at Aboabo.

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus*

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

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

Our first sighting was in kakum, followed by more at Aboabo, Atewa and Bunso Arboretum.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We had a single sighting at Antwikwaa.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

We had a single bird at Antwikwaa.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We had a single bird in the forest at Atewa.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Two in Shai Hills and one near Tono Dam.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

A very elusive forest barbet, only heard in Kakum.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

We first had two birds at Antwikwaa, followed by one at Aboabo.

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti*

A fairly common bird of savannah, we had sightings at Shai Hills, on our way to Bolgatanga and Tono.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

We had four in Shai Hills and two outside our hotel in Accra.

Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius*

We had a total of four birds during our stay in Mole NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

After hearing it in Kakum, Antwikwaa and Aboabo, we had prolonged scope views of this elusive barbet at Aboabo.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii*

We had a single bird on the canopy walkway.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

We had one bird in Shai Hills.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We had good scope views of a male in Shai Hills.



Woodpeckers Picidae

- Fine-spotted Woodpecker** *Campethera punctuligera*
We had a single bird near the town of Pram-Pram.
- Brown-eared Woodpecker** *Campethera caroli*
After hearing it at Aboabo, we were rewarded with a good sighting of this elusive forest woodpecker in Atewa.
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*
We had two birds in Mole NP.
- Gabon (Melancholy) Woodpecker** *Dendropicos gabonensis*
We had a single bird from the canopy walkway in Kakum.
Note: Clements splits Gabon Woodpecker into Gabon (D. gabonensis) and Melancholy (D. lugubris) Woodpeckers. Following this view, Melancholy Woodpecker would become an Upper Guine Endemic.
- Fire-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*
We had one at Aboabo and two in Atewa.
- African Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae*
We had two in Mole and another two on our way north to Bolgatanga.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

- Shrike-Flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus*
We had a male in Atewa.
- Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya castanea*
We had four in Kakum and four in Atewa.
- Senegal Batis** *Batis senegalensis*
After a brief view in Shai Hills, we had sightings later in Mole NP.
- Brown-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira cyanea*
We had two birds in each of the following locations: Shai Hills, Antwikwaa and Mole NP.

Helmetshrikes, Bushshrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

- White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*
We had six birds in Shai Hills, followed by a similar number in Kalakpa and our final sighting was in Mole.
Note: Clements just calls this White Helmetshrike
- Red-billed (Chestnut-bellied) Helmetshrike** *Prionops caniceps*
We had six birds in Kalakpa and two in Atewa.
- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*
We heard one in Kalakpa and saw one briefly in Mole.
- Orange (Sulphur) -breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus (Telophorus) sulphureopectus*
We had a single bird on our final morning in Mole.
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*
After teasing us with their calling in Shai Hills and Kalakpa, we had an excellent sighting in Mole.
- Sabine's Puffback** *Dryoscopus sabini*
We had a pair from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.
- Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*
First seen in the Kakum area, we had later sightings in Mole and Bunso Arboretum.
- Yellow-crowned (Common) Gonolek** *Laniarius barbarus*
This outrageously colourful bird was seen at various savannah localities on tour.



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

We had two birds on an early morning walk in Mole.

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*

This beautiful bird was seen on three occasions in Kakum and Bobiri.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicia*

We had a male on the Mole River. Another good-looking bird!

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

A common species of open savannah, seen on various days during the tour.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Another common species, seen on many days during the tour.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

This Palearctic migrant was seen near Tono Dam.

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

We had two birds on consecutive days in Mole.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had one in Kakum and two in Atewa.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*

Very similar in appearance to the previous species, it was seen more regularly in Kakum with another sighting in the Bunso Arboretum.

Drongos Dicruridae**Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii*

We had a single bird in the gallery forest on the Mole River.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

We had five birds on our first day in Shai Hills, followed by later sightings in Mole and at Tono Dam.

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*

This bird was commonly seen in all forested localities on tour.

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

A common bird of the forest interior, with sightings at Kalakpa, Kakum and Atewa.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

We had a couple of sightings in Mole NP.

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

We had six birds in a field in Bolgatanga.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Definitely the most common bird of the tour, with large numbers on most days.

Bald Crows Picathartidae

White-necked Picathartes (Rockfowl) (UGE) *Picathartes gymnocephalus*

THE highlight of the tour. We had very good sightings at two different sites on consecutive days.

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

We had two birds in Mole.

Note: Clements places this in the genus *Melaniparus*

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

We had four birds in a clearing in Atewa forest.

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*

We had a total of seven birds during our time in Kakum.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A common bird that was seen in most habitats on tour.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

We had six birds on the Volta River followed by half-a-dozen in Cape Coast.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

This bird was seen over all the major rivers in Ghana.

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

We had two on the Volta River and another two on the Pra River.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

We had a large flock of around fifty in Mole NP.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Commonly found in the forested areas of Ghana.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

We had six birds near the town of Pram-Pram.

West African Swallow *Cecropis domicella*

We had a single bird in the company of the next species north of Kakum.

Note: Clements lumps this with Red-rumped Swallow (*C. daurica*), calling it as such

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussii*

We had a flock of about twenty north of Kakum.

Note: Clements just calls this Preuss' Swallow

Larks Alaudidae**Flappet Lark** *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

We had one in display in Mole.

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*

We had two birds at Tono Dam.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

We had a total of six birds around Tono Dam.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

We had four birds near our accommodation at Kakum, with another three at the Pra River.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

We had a single bird at Kalakpa.



Winding Cisticola*Cisticola marginatus*

We had six birds at the Densu Delta and more at Cape Coast and Tono Dam.

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

Croaking Cisticola*Cisticola natalensis*

We had two at Shai Hills and one at Kalakpa.

Dorst's Cisticola*Cisticola dorsti*

We heard this species near the White Volta on our way south to Nkawkaw.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola*Cisticola brachypterus*

We had a total of eight in Shai Hills, with another one in the farmland close to Aboabo.

Rufous Cisticola*Cisticola rufus*

We had two in the Tono Dam area.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

We had a single bird at Pram-Pram, with another at Tono Dam.

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

This range-restricted bird was seen well at the Sakumo Lagoon.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

We had a total of three birds near Kakum, with more sightings at Tono and Bolgatanga.

Yellow-breasted Apalis*Apalis flavida*

We had two birds on the Mole River.

Black-capped Apalis*Apalis nigriceps*

We had a single bird singing from the canopy in Atewa forest, offering us prolonged scope views.

Sharpe's Apalis (UGE)*Apalis sharpii*

We had a total of eight birds during our time in Kakum.

Oriole Warbler*Hypergerus atriceps*

This bird was heard during our last morning's birding at Mole.

Grey-backed Camaroptera*Camaroptera brevicauda*

A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had sightings in Shai Hills, Kakum and Mole.

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

Yellow-browed Camaroptera*Camaroptera superciliaris*

Far more often heard than seen, we had good views from the canopy walkway.

Olive-green Camaroptera*Camaroptera chloronota*

Very difficult to see and we only heard it in Atewa.

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

As its name applies, this species was common throughout and seen on every day.

Little Greenbul*Andropadus virens*

This master skulker was seen in Kakum and Atewa.

Little Grey Greenbul*Andropadus gracilis*

We had a single bird in Kakum NP.

Note: Clements calls this Gray Greenbul

Plain Greenbul*Andropadus curvirostris*

The first one at Kakum was not seen by everyone; however, we all had a sighting in the Bunso Arboretum.

Slender-billed Greenbul*Andropadus gracilirostris*

We had six in Kakum and four in Atewa.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (Bulbul)*Andropadus latirostris*

A canopy species which can be difficult to see. We had a single bird in Kakum.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*

A good-looking greenbul with a beautiful call, we had sightings in Kakum and Atewa.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*

We had several sightings on the forest edge near Kakum NP.

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

We had a single bird on the Mole River.

Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

This noisy species was seen in Kalakpa and Antwikwaa.

Note: Clements calls this Swamp Greenbul

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

We had two in Kakum and one in Atewa.

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

This species was only heard from the canopy walkway.

Green-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda eximius*

Another species which is difficult to see, we heard it in Kakum.

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus*

First heard in Kalakpa, we had a brief sighting in Kakum.

Western Bearded Greenbul (UGE) *Criniger barbatus*

Only heard in Atewa.

Yellow-bearded Greenbul (UGE) *Criniger olivaceus*

Two birds were seen in Atewa.

Family Uncertain

Western (Yellow-spotted) Nicator *Nicator chloris*

Heard on a couple of occasions in Kakum, Aboabo and Bobiri, we had a good sighting in Atewa.

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocercus mccallii*

We had six birds feeding uncharacteristically low in Atewa forest.

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

We had a total of five birds in Mole NP.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

We had a single bird in Shai Hills.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

We had a single bird at a stream crossing on our way north toward Bolgatanga.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

We heard them on two occasions in the Bolgatanga area.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

We had a single bird at Tono Dam.

Kemp's Longbill (UGE) *Macrosphenus kempii*

We heard this species in the forest at Antwikwaa.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

We had two birds in Kalakpa and one in Atewa.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

A fairly common species in the forests, we had sightings in Kalakpa, Kakum and Bobiri.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*



We had a total of eight birds in Mole.

Wood Warbler*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

We had one in Mole and one in Atewa.

Senegal Eremomela*Eremomela pusilla*

Common in the savannah areas, we had sightings in Shai Hills, Kalakpa, Mole and Tono.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela*Eremomela badiceps*

We had three in Kakum and two in Atewa.

Tit-Hylia*Pholidornis rushiae*

We had a single bird in Kakum NP.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

We had two birds on our morning walk in Mole.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

We had two at the Brimsu Reservoir and one in Kakum.

Lemmon-bellied Crombec*Sylvietta denti*

We had a single bird in Bobiri, with more heard in Atewa.

Garden Warbler*Sylvia borin*

We had a single bird in Shai Hills.

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae**Blackcap Babbler***Turdoides reinwardtii*

We had two birds flying in Mole NP.

Capuchin Babbler*Phyllanthus atripennis*

We had several sightings of two birds as they bounded through the forest in Kalakpa.

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

We had five near Kakum and a further six in Mole.

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

We had a total of six in Mole.

Splendid (Glossy) Starling*Lamprotornis splendidus*

This large glossy starling was seen at all the forested sites, with highest numbers in Kakum.

Purple (Glossy) Starling*Lamprotornis purpureus*

This species was seen in Accra and Mole.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling*Lamprotornis caudatus*

Commonly seen in Mole and around Bolgatanga and Tono.

Chestnut-bellied Starling*Lamprotornis pulcher*

We had two adults in the late afternoon at Tono.

Violet-backed Starling*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

First seen in Shai Hills, we later had large flocks over Kakum.

Chestnut-winged Starling*Onychognathus fulgidus*

We had great views of several in the tree above us on the canopy walkway, with good numbers again on the last day in the Bunso Arboretum.

Thrushes Turdidae**Finsch's Rufous Thrush (UGE)***Stizorhina finschii*

We had a single bird respond well to playback in the Bunso Arboretum, giving us prolonged views.

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

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

First seen in the town of Ho, with another three in Mole NP.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*

We had one bird in the forest at Kakum.

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

Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscipidae

Western Forest Robin *Stiphornis erythrothorax*

We heard this species very early in the morning in Kakum NP.

Note: The Forest Robin-complex is lumped by Clements under Forest Robin (S. erythrothorax)

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

A single bird was seen on our second visit to Shai hills.

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapilla*

After a lot of searching for a pair of calling birds, we were rewarded with sightings on the Mole River.

Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris*

We had a single bird behind our accommodations at Mole.

White-fronted Black Chat *Myrmecocichla albifrons*

We had five birds during our time in Mole.

White-crowned Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea coronata*

We had a pair of these birds in Shai Hills. A scarce bird in Ghana!

Note: Clements lumps this with Mocking Cliff Chat (T. cinnamomeiventris), calling it as such

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

We had numerous sightings in and around Mole NP.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

First seen in Shai Hills, with further sightings near Kakum and in Mole.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*

We had a single bird on the last day at the Bunso Arboretum.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

We had a family group of three in Mole NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassinii*

We had a pair hawking insects over the Pra River.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

We had a single bird in the forest at Aboabo.

Tessmann's Flycatcher *Muscicapa tessmanni*

We had a single bird at Aboabo.

Ussher's Flycatcher (UGE) *Muscicapa ussheri*

We had good numbers in Kakum, at Antwikwaa and in Atewa.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

We had two birds in Atewa.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*

Heard in Shai Hills and Kalakpa, with two sightings later in Mole.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

We had a few sightings in Mole and one at Tono Dam.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae



Fraser's (Scarlet-tufted) Sunbird	<i>Deleornis fraseri</i>
This warbler-like sunbird was seen twice in Kakum.	
Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>
We were fortunate to discover a pair nest-building at our lunch stop on the Volta River.	
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>
We had a male on our morning walk in Mole.	
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
We had good numbers in Kakum NP.	
Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
We had two birds in Kakum and one in Atewa.	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Common in all the forests, where we had numerous sightings.	
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
We had three sighting of stunning males in Mole.	
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanoaema</i>
We had sightings on our first afternoon in the Kakum area.	
Western Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra obscura</i>
We had regular sightings at forest sites on the tour.	
Buff-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>
We had several stunning males in Kakum and Antwikwaa, with more seen at Aboabo and Atewa.	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
We had several sightings in Mole and Tono Dam.	
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>
This species of forest edge was seen in Shai Hills, Kakum and Aboabo.	
Tiny Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris minullus</i>
We had a single bird in Kakum followed by two in Atewa.	
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
We had two birds near our accommodation in Mole.	
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>
We had five in Shai Hills and another four on our way from Accra to Kakum.	
Johanna's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris johannae</i>
We had a single female on our last morning in the Bunso Arboretum.	
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>
We had sightings in Kakum, Antwikwaa and Aboabo.	
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
We had a single bird at Mole and another at Tono Dam.	
Bates's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris batesi</i>
We had two birds in Atewa.	
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>
One of the more common sunbirds, seen in Shai Hills, Kalakpa, the Cape Coast area and Kumasi.	

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
We had two separate sightings in Mole NP.	
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
A common bird which is often seen in towns. We had almost daily sightings.	
<i>Note: Clements just calls this Gray-headed Sparrow</i>	



Bush Petronia*Gymnoris dentata*

A common bird in and around Mole, where we had many sightings.

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae**Speckle-fronted Weaver***Sporopipes frontalis*

We had a single bird at Tono Dam.

Slender-billed Weaver*Ploceus pelzelni*

We had one female at the Densu River delta.

Little Weaver*Ploceus luteolus*

A number of individuals were seen in Mole and around Tono Dam.

Black-necked Weaver*Ploceus nigricollis*

We had sightings at Kakum and Bunso Arboretum.

Orange Weaver*Ploceus aurantius*

We had a colony at our accommodations near Kakum.

Village Weaver*Ploceus cucullatus*

A common weaver, seen on most days in the south of the country.

Vieillot's Black Weaver*Ploceus nigerrimus*

A striking bird, seen in and around Kakum.

Black-headed Weaver*Ploceus melanocephalus*

Seen twice: on our way north to Bolgatanga and crossing the White Volta, going south.

Yellow-mantled Weaver*Ploceus tricolor*

As its specific name suggests, this tri-coloured weaver was seen well in Kakum and Aboabo.

Maxwell's Black Weaver*Ploceus albinucha*

We had three birds from the canopy walkway.

Compact Weaver*Ploceus superciliosus*

We had three birds on the way into Kalakpa Resources Reserve.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Pachyphantus

Red-vented Malimbe*Malimbicus scutatus*

We had four birds in the forest at Aboabo.

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

We had two birds in Kakum and another one in Atewa.

Red-headed Malimbe*Malimbicus rubricollis*

The most common of the malimbies, seen regularly in Kakum (including Antwikwaa and Aboabo) and Atewa.

Crested Malimbe*Malimbicus malimbicus*

We had one in Bobiri and two in Atewa.

Red-headed Weaver*Anaplectes melanotis (rubriceps)*

We had four birds in Mole NP, including a couple of males in their smart breeding dress.

Red-headed Quelea*Quelea erythrops*

We had a single bird on our way into Kalakpa.

Black-winged Red Bishop*Euplectes hordeaceus*

First seen near Antwikwaa, with later sightings in Mole.

Note: Clements just calls this Black-winged Bishop

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop*Euplectes franciscanus*

We had numerous birds in Mole and at Tono Dam.

Yellow-mantled (-shouldered) Widowbird*Euplectes macrourus*

We had three birds in the grassland near Kalakpa.



Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

- White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)** *Nigrita fusconotus*
We had one bird at each of Aboabo, Atewa and Bunso Arboretum.
- Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)** *Nigrita bicolor*
We had a single bird at Kakum, followed by sightings at Antwikwaa, Aboabo, Atewa and Bunso.
- Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch)** *Nigrita canicapillus*
Seen at all the same localities as the previous species, only in greater numbers.
- Yellow-winged (Red-faced) Pytilia** *Pytilia hypogrammica*
We had two birds on the road leading to Kalakpa.
- Cut-throat Finch** *Amadina fasciata*
Four birds were seen near Tono Dam, including a couple of striking males.
Note: Clements just calls this Cut-throat
- Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*
Seen at Shai Hills and our accommodations near Kakum.
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*
We had a number of sightings in Mole and at Tono.
- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*
We had four birds in Shai Hills.
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*
A common bird in the north of the country, where we had daily sightings.
- Lavender Waxbill** *Estrilda caerulescens*
We had a pair in Mole NP.
- Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*
This stunning waxbill was seen in Shai Hills, Kalakpa and Mole.
- Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*
We first had two birds in Mole, followed by a flock of about eight at Tono Dam.
- Black-faced Quail-Finch** *Ortygospiza atricollis*
This species was only seen well by me, with the participants seeing it in flight.
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*
A common species in woodland and forest edge alike, seen on most days of the tour.
Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes
- Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*
Seen in good numbers at Kakum and Antwikwaa.
Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes

Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*
We had a couple of sightings in Mole NP.
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*
Seen on most days during the first half of the tour.
- Togo Paradise Whydah** *Vidua togoensis*
Several males sporting their long tails were seen in Mole NP.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

- Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*



We had one bird at the Densu Delta, followed by more at Tono Dam.

Note: Clements just calls this Yellow Wagtail

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

First seen in the town of Ho, followed by more at Hans Botel.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

We had a single bird in the grasslands surrounding the Densu River delta.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

We had two birds in Mole NP.

Finches Fringillidae

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia*

This rather non-descript bird was seen at Tono Dam.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

We had sightings in Kalakpa and Mole NP.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

We had a total of three birds during our time in Mole.

MAMMAL LIST (18 species)

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals'; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.

Hares Leporidae

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

We flushed one in Shai Hills and saw another in Mole.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

One was flushed whilst birding in Mole NP.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

First seen in Kalakpa, with further sightings in Kakum.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea*

We had a single animal in Mole NP.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*

We had a small group of six in Mole NP.

Hyaenas Hyenidae

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*

We saw one run across the road in the early evening in Mole.

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*

We had thousands on the first morning at a roost in Accra.

Large-winged Bats Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

We had a singleton roosting in a tree below the escarpment in Mole.



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

We had large troops on several occasions in Shai Hills and Mole.

Lowe's (Mona) Monkey*Cercopithecus (mona) lowei*

We had two large troops from the canopy walkway.

Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey*Cercopithecus petaurista*

We had a total of six from the canopy walkway.

Callithrix (Vervet) Monkey*Cercopithecus (aethiops) sabaesus*

We had several large troops in Mole NP.

Patas Monkey*Erythrocebus patas*

We had four in Mole NP.

Pigs Suidae**(Common) Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

We had numerous sightings, including three very habituated individuals, in Mole NP.

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

Seen on a couple of times below our Motel in Mole.

Kob*Kobus kob*

These antelope were very common in Mole, where we had daily sightings.

Waterbuck*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

We had a total of twenty during our stay in Mole.

Red-flanked Duiker*Cephalophus rufilatus*

We had a singleton crossing the road as we were leaving Mole.

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