



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

GHANA I Picathartes & Upper Guinea Specials

21st November – 9th December 2008 (19 days)



Standard-winged Nightjar by Jan Pienaar

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Jan Pienaar

Trip report

Ghana is diverse nation brimming with special birds and blessed with a vibrant culture and a varied and interesting history. Once known as the Gold Coast by earlier European traders, Ghana now attracts tourists the world over including the likes of birdwatchers!

Our tour started with an early departure from the bustling capital, Accra, as we made for Shai Hills. The reserve protects a mosaic of open savanna and denser thickets and is dominated by the steeply rising hills that are the reserve's namesake and this habitat diversity ensures a wide variety of

species. Highlights of our morning's birding here was an African Hobby and a smart male White-crowned Cliff Chat. We then moved to the nearby Volta River for lunch where we found the uncommon Mangrove Sunbird and one of the more sought-after birds of the trip, White-bibbed (White-throated Blue) Swallow. Our real bonus for this part of the day was several sightings of the very special and striking Pied-winged Swallow; only seen once before on our tours to Ghana!

At Kalakpa Resources Reserve we explored the gallery forest and surrounding woodland and had memorable looks at the striking Blue-bellied Roller, White-crested Helmetshrike and Chestnut Wattle-eye with one of the memorable highlights being the dapper Spotted Honeyguide. We then made another visit to Shai Hills where we met up with Rod (who finally had arrived after flight delays from London) and saw such gems as Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and Yellow-winged Pytilia. With Rod aboard we finished our day at Sakumo Lagoon where we racked up large numbers of Palearctic waders, in addition to Sandwich, Roseate and Black Terns and the scarce Black-backed Cisticola.



The area around Cape Coast and the world-renowned Kakum National Park was our base for the next four nights of the tour. Within the park we explored the famous canopy walkway and strolled the interior forest trails and edges making the most of the cool early mornings - the days heat up rather quickly in these parts! Highlight birds of our stay at Kakum included incredible views of Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, Yellow-billed Turaco, White-crested and the gargantuan Brown-cheeked Hornbills, the uncommon Preuss's Weaver, Red-billed Helmetshrike, noisy Yellow-browed Camaroptera and a busy flock of Rufous-crowned Eremomela. Nocturnal excursions were frustrating so we tried an early morning outing which afforded us great looks at a Fraser's Eagle-Owl. While in the area we visited the impressive Cape Coast Castle, once serving as an important gateway for slaves shipped to various parts of the Western World. This is one of the more impressive of the antiquated edifices found on Ghana's coastline, some dating to the late 15th century!

A quick stop at the Pra River, on our way to Aboabo the next day, yielded a pair of Rock Pratincole as well as a single Cassin's Flycatcher hawking insects over the rapids. Aboabo is arguably one of the best birding sites in Ghana and it certainly rang true during the two days we spent in the area. Some of the specials included the seldom seen Long-tailed Hawk, Black-throated Coucal, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, the uncommon Black Dwarf Hornbill, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, the elusive Western Nicator, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher and Western Bluebill. At dusk on our second day in the area we had an Akun Eagle-Owl (!) respond to playback, but it only materialised as a silhouette as it flew across the road, ouch!

Further north we then made a base in a tiny and rather under-serviced town for our assault on the strange-looking yet sought-after White-necked Picathartes. An hour's walk from the village, which produced a Western Bearded Greenbul, led into the forest and to the huge boulders that these birds use to attach their nests to. The excitement mounted as we took our positions near the nests and the waiting began. We stared into the surrounding forest, hoping to catch a glimpse of these unique birds with our dedicated vigil resulting in sightings of four birds, hopping through the forest undergrowth and boulders. Wow, what an incredible species - certainly one of the most wanted and sought after birds on the continent and we all knew why!

We then had an overnight stop in Ghana's second largest city, Kumasi, and made a visit to the nearby Bobiri Forest and Butterfly Reserve where we were treated to Forest Wood Hoopoe, Thick-



billed Honeyguide, Gabon Woodpecker and the noisy Chestnut-capped Flycatcher. From Kumasi we headed further north, towards the open savanna of Mole National Park.

Covering nearly 5000km², Mole preserves an area of relatively flat savanna, broken only by the 250m high escarpment on which the Mole Motel, our base for the next three nights, is situated. During the course of our explorations of Mole's mosaic of woodland, thickets and watercourses, we managed to find a pair of Denham's (Stanley's) Bustard, stunning Bruce's Green Pigeon, Red-headed Lovebird, Oriole Warbler and Pygmy, Scarlet-chested and the aptly-named Beautiful Sunbirds. On our nocturnal outing we were treated to sightings of a Greyish Eagle-Owl hunting insects on the road as well as one of the most memorable species on the tour - the incredible male Standard-winged Nightjar – certainly a highlight for almost everybody on the tour!

We then left Mole and headed further north to a small town not far from the Burkina Faso border. Here with drier more open habitat we were searching for species typical of the Sahelian savanna belt, species that are not typically seen on tours to Ghana. Salient species during our time here included Fox Kestrel, Sun Lark, Chestnut-bellied Starling, Speckle-fronted Weaver and Cut-throat Finch.

It was then time for us to head back south to the town of Nkawkaw. Here we visited Atewa Forest, which rewarded us with some of the best birding of the tour! During our time here we had sightings of Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, the scarce Willcocks's Honeyguide, a male Rufous-sided Broadbill, Shining Drongo, Red-tailed Greenbul, Fire-crested (White-tailed) Alethe, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike and Finsch's Rufous Thrush.

Our last morning was spent in the nearby Bunso Arboretum. Here we added Tiny Sunbird to our trip list and had good looks at some of the other rainforest species, including Golden Greenbul. After leaving Bunso and negotiating the heavy traffic of Accra North, we arrived in time for all to freshen up before their respective flights home. Thus ended another successful tour of Ghana, but for two of us it was not yet the end.

I accompanied one of the guests on a short extension to Ankasa Forest Reserve, situated in the southwest of the country near the border with Côte d'Ivoire. Although the focus of the extension was to find rainforest mammals we did manage to find some good birds. African Wood Owl, Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Western Forest Robin, Pale-breasted Illadopsis, White-tailed Rufous Thrush and Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill were notable species we recorded here. The mammal portion of the trip was also very successful, with Potto, African Palm Civet and Pel's Anomalure all seen very well. A fitting way to end a tour to this diverse and beautiful country!



Photos, from top to bottom: Violet Turaco (K. Valentine) & Long-tailed Nightjar (J. Pienaar)

BIRD LIST (363 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*

We had excellent sightings in Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Double-spurred Francolin*Pternistis bicalcaratus*

A pair was seen in Shai, with more sightings later in Mole.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Francolinus

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

Our first sighting was on a roadside pond near Winneba and we later had good numbers in Mole and at Tono Dam.

Spur-winged Goose*Plectropterus gambensis*

We had daily sightings at the wetland in Mole.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We had a single bird on a small lake at Cape Coast.

Storks Ciconiidae**African Openbill***Anastomus lamelligerus*

A single bird came in to roost at the ponds near Hans Botel, Cape Coast.

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.

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

We had daily sightings in Mole NP.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

We had good numbers 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 the Densu Delta, we had further sightings at Brimsu Reservoir and in Mole.

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 Brimsu Reservoir, with another seen in Mole NP.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

We had a single bird at Sakumo and two at the Densu Delta.

Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We had one at the Volta River and one at Sakumo Lagoon.

Black Heron*Egretta ardesiaca*

We had ten at Sakumo and a single bird at the Densu Delta.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

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

Western Reef Heron*Egretta gularis*

Recorded at Sakumo, where we had up to twenty, and the Densu Delta.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

We had numerous sightings, first at Sakumo and then in and around Mole NP and Tono Dam.

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

We had sightings at Sakumo, the Densu Delta and Brimsu.

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

First seen in the town of Ho, we had later sightings in Accra and near Assin Foso.

Fox Kestrel*Falco alopex*

A single bird was seen on our way south from Bolgatanga.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

We had one in Ho and another two in Mole.

African Hobby*Falco cuvierii*

A single bird was seen in flight in Shai Hills.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

We had a pair in flight in Shai Hills.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae**European Honey Buzzard***Pernis apivorus*

Our first sighting was of three in flight in Shai Hills, with later sightings in Kakum from the walkway.

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

We had several sightings of this bird in the more open habitats of Ghana.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

One of the most common birds of the tour, seen on virtually every day.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

We had two in Kakum, with more seen in Mole.

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.

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

We heard this bird from far off 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.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

We had two birds at the White Volta, Tono Dam and Bolgatanga.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii*

Heard and seen in Kakum.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

We recorded this common species in Shai Hills, Ho, Accra and Mole NP.

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*

We had brief but good view of one from the canopy walkway.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

We had a single bird near Aboabo.

Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchus macrourus*

We had a single bird fly over us and briefly perching at Aboabo.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Seen in Mole NP and on our drive south from Bolgatanga.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

First seen on our way to Mole NP, we had later sightings near Bolgatanga and at Tono Dam.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

Seen in Shai Hills, Winneba Plains, Antwikwaa, Mole NP and Atewa.

Bustards Otidae

Denham's (Stanley's) Bustard *Neotis denhami*

We had a pair in burnt grassland in Mole NP.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

We had a total of six birds in Mole NP.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

A single bird was seen in Mole NP.

Note: Clements lumps this with Purple Swamphen (P. porphyrio)

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

We had a singleton at the Densu Delta.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*



We had numerous sightings at Mole.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Highest count of fifteen at Sakumo, with more at the Densu Delta and Tono.

Plovers Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing

Vanellus spinosus

We had two birds at Sakumo.

African Wattled Lapwing

Vanellus senegalus

Recorded at Sakumo, Mole and Tono Dam.

Note: Clements just calls this Wattled Lapwing

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

We had small numbers at Sakumo and the Densu Delta.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

We had sightings at Sakumo and the Densu River Delta.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

We had a singleton at the Densu Delta.

White-fronted Plover

Charadrius marginatus

We had a single bird at Sakumo Lagoon.

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 three at the Densu delta and one near Tamale in the north.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

We had three at Sakumo.

Common Redshank

Tringa totanus

We had four at Sakumo and more at the Densu Delta.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

We saw this bird at Sakumo and the Densu Delta.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

We had sightings at Sakumo, Densu Delta and Mole.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

We had a single bird at the Densu Delta.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

We had small numbers at Sakumo and the Densu Delta.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

We had sightings at most wetland localities on tour.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpes

We had a total of ten at Sakumo.

Sanderling

Calidris alba



We had a single bird at Sakumo.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

Small numbers were seen at Sakumo with larger numbers at the Densu Delta.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

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

Dunlin*Calidris alpina*

We had a single bird at the Densu Delta.

Red Phalarope*Phalaropus fulicarius*

The same bird was seen on consecutive days in the wetland below the Mole Motel.

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

We had large numbers at Sakumo and one on our way north to Bolgatanga.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis*

We had two birds on the Pra River near Kakum.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Sandwich Tern***Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis*

We had a total of twenty at Sakumo Lagoon, with more at the Densu Delta.

Royal Tern*Sterna (Thalasseus) maxima*

Small numbers at Densu and Cape Coast.

Roseate Tern*Sterna dougallii*

We had a total of six at Sakumo.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

A single bird at the Densu Delta.

Little Tern*Sterna albifrons*

We had upwards of fifty birds at the Densu Delta.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Sternula

Black Tern*Chlidonias niger*

We had good numbers at Sakumo.

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

We had a total of three birds at Anateem Airstrip.

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.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

This large dove was seen on many days of the tour.

Vinaceous Dove*Streptopelia vinacea*

Our first sighting was at Shai Hills, with more sightings at Kalakpa and daily in the north.

Laughing Dove*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Another very common bird, seen again on many days of the tour.



- Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*
First seen at Shai Hills, with more sightings at Mole and Tono Dam.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
We had two at Antwikwaa.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
First seen in Kakum, we had later sightings at Aboabo and Atewa.
- Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*
This species was heard from the canopy walkway.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
We had a single bird at the White Volta, with more at Bolgatanga and Tono Dam.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
Our time spent in Mole produced several sightings of this bird, with another sighting at the White Volta nearer Bolgatanga.
- 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 NP.
- Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius*
We were fortunate to see two birds in flight in Mole.
- Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*
We had a total of three birds fly over us during our time spent on the canopy walkway.
- Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi*
We had sightings in Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa.
- Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*
Recorded at most savannah sites, with our highest count being five on one day in Mole.

Turacos Musophagidae

- Guinea Turaco** *Tauraco persa*
We had a very brief sighting in Kalakpa.
- Yellow-billed Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus*
A noisy species heard all over the forest areas, with sightings from the canopy walkway.
- Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*
This stunning species was seen in Mole NP, including wonderful scope views.
- Western Plantain-eater** *Crinifer piscator*
Seen on many days of the tour, especially in the north.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

- Black-throated Coucal** *Centropus leucogaster*
A tricky species to see in forest tangles, we located one in Kakum and another at Aboabo.
- Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*
A common species, seen at Shai Hills, Mole and Tono Dam.
- Green Malkoha (Yellowbill)** *Ceuthmochares aereus*
This is a common species in the forests of Ghana and we saw them in Kakum and Atewa.
- Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*



We had a single bird at Aboabo, with more seen in Mole and Nkawkaw.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had sightings at the Pra River and Aboabo.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

We had a singleton at Antwikwaa.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

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

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

This species was heard from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP, at Aboabo and Atewa.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

We heard a pair calling in Atewa forest

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Heard at Aboabo.

Owls Strigidae

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinarescens*

We observed a single bird 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.

Akun Eagle-Owl *Bubo leucostictus*

We had one bird flying over us at dusk at Aboabo.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

We had a single bird in Mole.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Brown Nightjar *Veles binotatus*

This species was heard in Kakum.

Note: Clements places this in the genus Caprimulgus

Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus*

We had a single bird in the early evening in Mole.

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*

We had one bird on the Mole Airstrip.

Standard-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis*

We had a stunning male on the Mole Airstrip and a female roosting at Anateem Airstrip.

Swifts Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*

We had two birds at Antwikwaa, two in Mole and three near Bunso.

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

We had sightings in Aboabo, where we had a total of six birds.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen virtually everywhere where tall palms were present.

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 Kalakpa.

Rollers Coraciidae**Purple Roller***Coracias naevius*

We had two at Shai Hills, on our way to Mole NP and in Mole itself.

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 Mole.

Blue-throated Roller*Eurystomus gularis*

We had a single bird in flight over Kakum, followed by great looks at perched birds at Aboabo.

Broad-billed Roller*Eurystomus glaucurus*

We had sightings at Kalakpa, Shai Hills, Brimsu and Mole.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher***Halcyon badia*

We had great looks at a single bird in Atewa.

Grey-headed Kingfisher*Halcyon leucocephala*

We had daily sightings in Mole NP.

Striped Kingfisher*Halcyon chelicuti*

We had one in Kalakpa, one in Shai Hills and four at Anateem.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher*Halcyon malimbica*

This bird was only seen briefly by me in Mole NP.

Woodland Kingfisher*Halcyon senegalensis*

A common bird seen at various sites.

African Pygmy Kingfisher*Ispidina picta*

We had one in Shai Hills, two on our way to Aboabo and one in Mole.

Malachite Kingfisher*Alcedo cristata*

We saw this little gem of a bird at various wetlands on the tour.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

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

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

We had two birds on our second visit to Shai Hills.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Two birds were seen at Antwikwaa and two on the White Volta.

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.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

We had a flock of about twenty on a burnt field in Mole NP.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus castaneiceps</i>
We had a flock of three in Bobiri.	
White-headed Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus bollei</i>
We had a single bird at Aboabo.	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
We had sightings at Kalakpa, Shai Hills and Mole.	
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>
We had a single bird in Mole NP.	

Hornbills Bucerotidae

African Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>
A common inhabitant of forest and forest edge, recorded on almost every day of the tour.	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
First seen in Shai Hills, with more at Kalakpa and daily sightings later in the north.	
Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
We saw this bird in Mole NP and at Tono Dam.	
Black Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Tockus hartlaubi</i>
We found on at Aboabo and then one flew across the path at Bobiri.	
White-crested Hornbill	<i>Tropicranus albocristatus</i>
This funky-looking hornbill was seen in Kalakpa and Kakum.	
<i>Note: Clements places this in the genus Tockus</i>	
Brown-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes cylindricus</i>
We had two separate sightings in Kakum of four birds each.	

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>
We had three on our first afternoon in Mole NP.	

Toucans & Barbets Ramphastidae

Bristle-nosed Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco peli</i>
We had four at a fruiting tree in Kakum, four more at Antwikwaa and two more at Bunso.	
Naked-faced Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco calvus</i>
Very similar in appearance to the previous species, we had sightings in Kakum, Aboabo, Atewa and Bunso Arboretum.	
Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>
Our first sighting was in Kakum, followed by more at Antwikwaa, Bobiri and Bunso Arboretum.	
Red-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus atroflavus</i>
We heard this species from the canopy walkway.	
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>
We had two birds at Aboabo.	
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
We had a single bird in the forest at Atewa.	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>



Three in Shai Hills and one in Mole.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

We first had a single bird at Antwikwaa, followed by one at Atewa.

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti*

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

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

We had two in Accra.

Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius*

We had a total of five birds during our stay in Mole NP, with two more seen on the White Volta.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

We had great views of two at their nest-hole at Aboabo.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*

We had a single bird while birding the road at Aboabo.

Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii*

We had scope views of one in Atewa, calling from the canopy.

Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris*

After a lot of searching and sore necks, we managed views of a bird calling from the canopy at Bobiri.

Spotted Honeyguide *Indicator maculatus*

We had one bird in Kalakpa.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We had three in Mole and an immature at Anateem.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa*

We had a great sighting of this elusive forest woodpecker at Aboabo.

Gabon (Melancholy) Woodpecker *Dendropicus gabonensis*

We had a single bird at Aboabo and another in Bobiri.

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 *Dendropicus pyrrhogaster*

We had quite a few sightings: two in Kakum and a total of five at Aboabo over two days.

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicus goertae*

We had four in Mole and another one on our way south from Bolgatanga.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis*

We heard it twice, once in Kakum and once at the Picathartes site at Breaku, before having a male respond well to playback in Atewa, offering us great close-up views.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya castanea*

We had three in Kalakpa, one in Kakum and six 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 three birds in Shai Hills and a total of four in Mole.

Helmetsrikes, Bushshrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

We had eight birds in Kalakpa.

Note: Clements just calls this White Helmetshrike

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

We had five birds at Antwikwaa and two flocks on consecutive days at Aboabo.

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

We saw one briefly in Mole.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

After teasing us with their calling at Winneba, we had good sightings in Mole.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

First seen in Shai Hills, we had later sightings in Bobiri and Mole.

Yellow-crowned (Common) Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus*

This outrageously colourful bird was seen at various savannah localities on tour.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

We had a pair in the Motel grounds at Mole.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis*

We had three birds in Mole.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicia*

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

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina*

We had a pair in a bird party in Atewa. A scarce bird in Ghana!

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 Palaearctic migrant was seen near Tono Dam and Anateem.

Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

We had a total of eight birds in Mole.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

We had one in Kakum.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*

Very similar in appearance to the previous species, it was seen more regularly in Kakum with other sightings at Aboabo and Atewa.



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

We had two birds in the forest on the Atewa Range.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

We had two birds on our first day in Shai Hills, followed by later sightings in Kalakpa and Mole.

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 two birds in Kalakpa and a couple of sightings in Mole NP.

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

We had four birds near Kalakpa and another four on our way out from Mole NP.

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 of four birds bounding through the undergrowth and over boulders near the village of Breaku.

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

We had two birds in Kalakpa, four in Shai Hills and a total of ten in Mole.

*Note: Clements places this in the genus Melaniparus***Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae****Square-tailed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*

We had two birds in a clearing in Atewa forest.

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*

We had a total of three 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 four birds on the Volta River followed by two in Assin Foso.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

We had sightings in Mole and over the two crossings of the White Volta.

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

We had four in total on the Volta River and another two on the Pra River.

Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*

We had three birds over a plantation near the Volta River and another one over a dam in Kalakpa.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

We had ten on our first visit to Shai Hills and three on the second visit.

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 near Kakum.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

We had two birds in Mole NP.

West African Swallow *Cecropis domicella*

We had a single bird in the company of the previous species in Mole.

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 near Aboabo.

Note: Clements just calls this Preuss' Swallow

Larks Alaudidae

Flappet Lark *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

We had one in display in Mole.

Rufous-rumped Lark *Pinarocorys erythropygia*

We had a total of three individuals of this large lark species in Mole.

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*

We had four birds at Anateem.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

We had a total of twenty birds around Tono Dam.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

We had one at Antwikwaa, another four at the Pra River and two near Assin Foso.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

We had two birds in the rank grass at Winneba.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

We had a single bird at Kalakpa and another at Aboabo.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

We had one at the Volta River and two at the Densu Delta.

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 two at Winneba.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*

We had a total of three in Shai Hills.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

We had total of six birds in Shai Hills.

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 four birds near Kakum.

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus*

We had two birds in Kalakpa.



Black-capped Apalis*Apalis nigriceps*

We had a single bird in the canopy in Atewa forest.

Oriole Warbler*Hypergerus atriceps*

This bird was heard during our second visit to Shai Hills and seen very well on the Mole River.

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 at Antwikwaa and Aboabo.

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 almost every day.

Little Greenbul*Andropadus virens*

This master skulker was seen at Aboabo.

Little Grey Greenbul*Andropadus gracilis*

We had a single bird in Atewa.

Note: Clements calls this Gray Greenbul

Ansorge's Greenbul*Andropadus ansorgei*

We had one bird while birding Atewa forest.

Plain Greenbul*Andropadus curvirostris*

We had two birds in Kakum.

Slender-billed Greenbul*Andropadus gracilirostris*

We had four in Kakum.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (Bulbul)*Andropadus latirostris*

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

Golden Greenbul*Calyptocichla serina*

We had two birds in Kakum from the walkway and two birds in Bunso Arboretum.

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 two sightings on the forest edge near Kakum NP.

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)*Chlorocichla flavicollis*

We had two birds on our second visit to the Volta River.

Swamp Palm Bulbul*Thescelocichla leucopleura*

This noisy species was seen in Kalakpa, Kakum, Antwikwaa and Aboabo.

Note: Clements calls this Swamp Greenbul

Icterine Greenbul*Phyllastrephus icterinus*

We had three in Atewa.

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill*Bleda syndactylus*

This species was only heard from the canopy walkway.

Grey-headed Bristlebill*Bleda canicapillus*

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

Western Bearded Greenbul (UGE)*Criniger barbatus*

We had one brief sighting of a bird calling as we made our way to the Picathartes nesting site.



Red-tailed Greenbul*Criniger calurus*

Two birds were seen in Atewa.

Family Uncertain**Western (Yellow-spotted) Nicator***Nicator chloris*

Heard in Kalakpa, we later had good sightings in Aboabo and Atewa.

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher*Erythrocerus mccallii*

We had six birds in Bobiri, one in Atewa forest and eight at Bobiri.

African Blue Flycatcher*Elminia longicauda*

We had a total of five birds in Mole NP.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae**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 saw a single bird in the riverine vegetation on our way south from Bolgatanga.

Western Olivaceous Warbler*Hippolais opaca*

We had a single bird in Mole NP.

Melodious Warbler*Hippolais polyglotta*

We had a single bird on our last morning in Mole.

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 four in Atewa.

Green Hylia*Hylia prasina*

A fairly common species in the forests, we had sightings in Kakum, Aboabo and Atewa.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

We had a total of two birds in Mole.

Wood Warbler*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

We had one in Shai Hills and two 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 ten in Kakum, four at Aboabo and three in Atewa.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

We had two birds in Mole.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

We had four at the Brimsu Reservoir.

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

We had a total of ten birds in Mole NP.

Brown Babbler*Turdoides plebejus*

We had four birds in scrubby farmland just before the village of Larabanga.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*
We had four in Mole and more on our way south from Bolgatanga.

Starlings Sturnidae

Lesser Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
We had two in Kalakpa and a total of fifteen in Mole.

Bronze-tailed (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
We had a single bird in Mole NP.

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, Mole and near Tono Dam.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*
Commonly seen in Mole and around Bolgatanga and Tono.

Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*
We had six birds at Tono Dam.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
We 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 in Atewa.

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

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*
First seen in Shai Hills, with another two on our way south from Bolgatanga.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*
We had one bird in the forest at Atewa.

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

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*
A single bird was heard on our second visit to Shai hills.

Winchat *Saxicola rubetra*
We had a total of three birds on the plains near Winneba.

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 two in Shai Hills, five in Mole NP and two at the White Volta.



Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Seen in Shai Hills, where we had a total of six birds.	
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
We had a single bird in Atewa forest.	
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
We had a family group of three in Mole NP.	
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>
We had a single bird hawking insects over the Pra River.	
Little Grey Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa epulata</i>
We had one at Aboabo and one at Atewa.	
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa comitata</i>
We had a single bird in the forest at Aboabo.	
Ussher's Flycatcher (UGE)	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>
We had good numbers in Kakum, at Antwikwaa, Aboabo and in Atewa.	
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus griseigularis</i>
We had a single bird at Aboabo.	
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
We had a single bird on our final morning at Mole.	
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
We had a few sightings in Mole and one at Atewa.	

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>
The pair that was nest-building at our lunch stop on the Volta River during the previous tour was fortunately still around.	
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
We had two birds in Kakum NP.	
Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
We had two birds in Kakum and two at Bunso.	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Common in all the forests, where we had numerous sightings.	
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
We had daily sightings of stunning males in Mole.	
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
We had a single bird on our first afternoon in the Kakum area, with a later sighting from the canopy walkway.	
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, Antwikwaa and Aboabo.	
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 Kakum, Aboabo and Atewa.	



Tiny Sunbird We had two birds at Bunso.	<i>Cinnyris minullus</i>
Beautiful Sunbird We had a single bird on our way north towards Bolgatanga.	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
Splendid Sunbird We had a total of three in Shai Hills.	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>
Superb Sunbird We had sightings in Kakum, Antwikwaa, Aboabo and Atewa.	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>
Variable Sunbird We had a single bird at Tono Dam.	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
Bates's Sunbird We had two birds in Atewa.	<i>Cinnyris batesi</i>
Copper Sunbird We had a total of ten birds in the Kakum area.	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver We had six in Mole NP and two at Anateem.	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow A common bird which is often seen in towns. We had almost daily sightings. <i>Note: Clements just calls this Gray-headed Sparrow</i>	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Bush Petronia A common bird in and around Mole, where we had many sightings.	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

Speckle-fronted Weaver We had four birds at Tono Dam.	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>
Slender-billed Weaver We had three females at the Densu River delta.	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>
Little Weaver A number of individuals were seen in Mole.	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Black-necked Weaver We had sightings at the Volta River, Kakum, Bobiri and Mole.	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Orange Weaver We had a colony at our accommodations near Kakum.	<i>Ploceus aurantius</i>
Village Weaver A common weaver, seen on most days in the south of the country.	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Vieillot's Black Weaver A striking bird, seen in and around Kakum.	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
Yellow-mantled Weaver This tri-coloured weaver was seen well in Kakum, Aboabo, Bobiri and Bunso.	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>
Preuss's Weaver We had two from the canopy walkway, two at Aboabo and one in Atewa.	<i>Ploceus preussi</i>
Red-vented Malimbe We had four birds in the forest at Aboabo and three at Bunso.	<i>Malimbicus scutatus</i>
Blue-billed (Gray's) Malimbe	<i>Malimbicus nitens</i>



We had two birds in Kakum.

Red-headed Malimbe

Malimbicus rubricollis

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

Crested Malimbe

Malimbicus malimbicus

We had three at Aboabo, two in Atewa and two at Bunso.

Black-winged Red Bishop

Euplectes hordeaceus

We had a single bird in Mole.

Note: Clements just calls this Black-winged Bishop

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop

Euplectes franciscanus

We had several birds in Mole.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)

Nigrita fusconotus

We had two birds at each of Kakum, Antwikwaa and Atewa.

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)

Nigrita bicolor

We had a single bird at Kakum, followed by sightings at Atewa and Bunso.

Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch)

Nigrita canicapillus

We had sightings from the canopy walkway, at Aboabo and Bunso.

Yellow-winged (Red-faced) Pytilia

Pytilia hypogrammica

We had four birds in Shai Hills.

Western Bluebill

Spermophaga haematina

A single bird was seen in flight at Aboabo.

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, our accommodations near Kakum and Mole NP.

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

We had a number of sightings in Mole and at Bolgatanga.

African Firefinch

Lagonosticta rubricata

We had two 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 at Aboabo and Mole.

Black-rumped Waxbill

Estrilda troglodytes

We had a flock of about eight at Tono Dam.

Black-faced Quail-Finch

Ortygospiza atricollis

We had three in Shai Hills, four at Winneba and two at Anateem.

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 Aboabo.



Note: Clements places this in the genus *Spermestes*

Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*
We had a couple of sightings in Mole NP and at Anateem.
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*
We had sightings at Winneba, Kakum and Mole NP.
- Togo Paradise Whydah** *Vidua togoensis*
A single male sporting his breeding plumage was seen in Mole NP.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

- Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
We had two at Sakumo and one near Kumasi.
Note: Clements just calls this Yellow Wagtail
- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*
First seen in the town of Ho, followed by more at the Volta River and Hans Botel.
- Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*
We had a single bird at Sakumo.
- Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
We had a single bird 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 one in Shai hills and a total of six 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 had two sightings in Mole.

Squirrels Sciuridae

- Striped Ground Squirrel** *Xerus erythropus*
We had three individuals in Mole NP.
- Kintampo Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus substriatus*
We had one at our accommodations near Kakum.
- Gambian Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus gambianus*



We had a single animal in Mole, even sitting still to allow scope views!

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

Seen in Kakum and Antwikwaa.

Western Palm Squirrel *Epixerus ebi*

One was seen from the canopy walkway.

Slender-tailed Squirrel *Protoxerus aubinnii*

We saw this animal in Kakum, Aboabo, Bobiri, Atewa and Bunso.

Forest Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*

We had one in Kalakpa.

Green Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus poensis*

One animal was seen in Kakum.

Murid Rats & Mice Muridae

Narrow-footed Woodland Mouse *Grammomys sp.*

This rather striking mouse was seen on our night walk in Kakum.

Sheath-tailed Bats Emballonuridae

Tomb Bat Sp. *Taphozous sp.*

Hundreds of these bats, which we were told were Sudan Tomb Bats, were seen at a cave in Shai Hills.

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*

We had thousands on the first morning at a roost in Accra, with another roost in Kumasi.

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 four animals from the canopy walkway.

Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus petaurista*

We had a total of five from the canopy walkway.

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

We had several large troops in Mole NP.

Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*

We had five 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 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 daily sightings during our stay in Mole.

Hyaxes Procavidae**Western Tree Hyrax***Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

We heard this species on an evening walk in Kakum.

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

We had a total of five below the Mole Motel.

Ankasa Forest – Bird list

The following are species that were only recorded in Ankasa and, as such, is not the full range of species recorded there. Family names are omitted.

Crested Guineafowl*Guttera pucherani*

We had a flock of twenty on our first afternoon in the forest.

Great Blue Turaco*Corythaeola cristata*

Heard daily, especially in the early mornings.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo*Cercococcyx mechowi*

Only heard on two consecutive days.

African Wood Owl*Strix woodfordii*

We had two sightings, on consecutive nights.

Red-chested Owlet*Glaucidium tephronotum*

We had two calling on a night walk.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus camurus*

One bird responded well to playback on our second day.

Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

We had a total of six on our morning walks.

Dusky Crested Flycatcher*Trochocercus nigromitratus*

We had one on a morning walk.

Rufous-winged Illadopsis*Illadopsis rufescens*

We heard one on our first morning in the forest.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis*Illadopsis rufipennis*

We had a total of three birds on our second day in Ankasa.

White-tailed Rufous (Ant-) Thrush*Neocossyphus poensis*

Three birds on our second day, including two calling and chasing one another.

Western Forest Robin*Stiphrornis erythrothorax*

A single bird responded well to playback and gave us superb looks.

Mammals

The following are species that were only recorded in Ankasa and, as such, is not the full range of species recorded there. Family names are omitted.

Potto*Perodicticus potto*

We had three sightings on different nights.



Demidoff's Galago

Galagoides demidoff

We had two in the forest tangles on our first night walk.

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel

Funisciurus pyrropus

We had two at a small stream on an afternoon walk.

Pel's Anomalure

Anomalurus peli

Certainly the highlight of the extension! We had great views of one as it made its way up a tall tree-trunk.

Marsh Mongoose

Atilax paludinosus

We had one on the road on our first evening.

African Palm Civet

Nandinia binotata

We had one on our second nocturnal excursion.

Maxwell's Duiker

Cephalophus maxwelli

We had one in the dense forest undergrowth on our third night.

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumper.co.za
Alternative Email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumper.co.za

