



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Ghana

### Rockfowl & Upper Guinea Specials

*6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009 (10 days)*



**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Glen Valentine**



## Tour Summary:

An early morning departure from the busy outskirts of Accra and we were on the road towards a low ridge of hills that protrude from the surrounding Guinea Savannah to the east of the capital. Shai Hills offers good woodland birding and is the perfect introduction to Ghana. Excitement mounted as we entered the boom at the entrance to the park and we were soon picking up a great variety of savannah species such as Yellow-fronted and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds, Short-winged Cisticola, Stone Partridge, Double-toothed Barbet, noisy Senegal Parrot, Blackcap Babbler, confiding Greater Honeyguide, Short-toed Snake-eagle and the main target, White-crowned Cliff-Chat. On the way out we scored with a beautiful pair of Blue-bellied Roller – surely one of Ghana’s star birds! By mid-morning the heat had arrived in earnest and so we departed for the nearby Sakamono Lagoon where we would undertake a spell of wader watching. This was rewarding and we managed good scope views of many species that were not to be seen again on the tour. These included Spotted and Common Redshanks, Kittlitz’s and Common Ringed Plovers, Royal and Sandwich Terns, Spur-winged and African Wattled Lapwings, both morphs of Western Reef Heron and a host of common and more widespread waders. Carrying on further west towards



Cape Coast we stopped at a small restaurant for a latish lunch, which produced a very responsive pair of Red-winged Warbler, Red-faced Cisticola and the resplendent Splendid Sunbird. In the late afternoon we arrived at our accommodation near the famous Kakum National Park with high levels of anticipation for the next two days.

The Kakum Canopy Walkway and surrounding forest patches are everything and more than they’re cut out to be! The birding here is superb and the forest edge produced some of the easiest and most rewarding lowland rainforest birding I have ever done! We began our birding in the area at a site locally named Ebekawopa, which consists of mixed farm bush, forest edge and forest interior all accessible along an old logging track. Stopping in a clearing a few hundred meters before the forest saw the excitement begin with epic West African forest species such as Blue-billed Malimbe, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, White-throated Bee-eaters hawking insects from dead snags, Simple Leaflove, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Gabon and Buff-spotted Woodpeckers, the scarce Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Sabine’s Puffback, Grey-headed and White-breasted Nigritas, the elusive Johanna’s Sunbird, very attractive Yellow-browed Camaroptera and gaudy Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets all showing extremely well. A pair of Chestnut Wattle-eye put in an appearance as did a low-flying flock of Sabine’s Spinetail. As we entered the forest we were indulged with Blue Malkoha and Chestnut-breasted Nigrita and we were soon staring at a pair of Red-



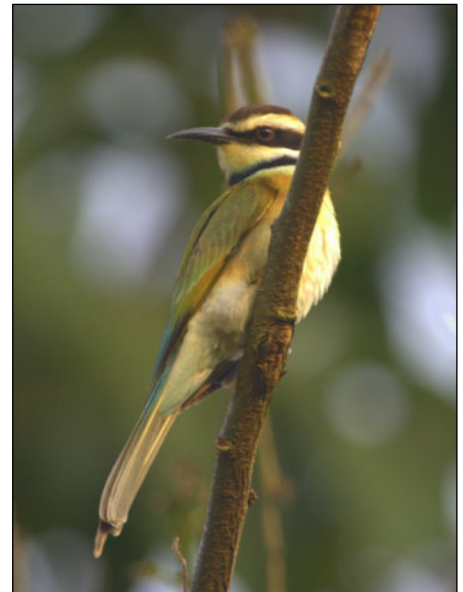
billed Dwarf Hornbill. In a small clearing we found a pair of Copper-tailed Starling and a Blue-throated Roller hawking insects from a large dead tree. On the way out a flock of Rosy Bee-eater flew over our heads, a small flock of Chestnut-capped Flycatchers caught our attention in the canopy and a mixed flock of swallows, which included the sought-after Preuss's Cliff Swallow, were found around some old buildings. What an incredible morning's introduction to Ghanaian forest birding and the trend would continue for our duration in the country! A pre-lunch stop at the Pra River produced two further exciting species, the iridescent White-bibbed Swallow and Rock Pratincole.

After a well-deserved lunch we decided to take a little break from the rainforest birding to visit the cultural site of Cape Coast Castle. This huge structure offers a sobering reminder of the human rights atrocities committed over a staggering period of 400 years during the slave trade along the coastline of west and central Africa. The rest of the afternoon was spent at the nearby Brimsu Reservoir where we added the often tricky-to-find Piping Hornbill as well as Giant Kingfisher and African Hobby.



The much anticipated Kakum Canopy Walkway beckoned! The short walk from the reception to the walkway took us through the undergrowth of the Kakum rainforest, it was still early and the interior was dark and gloomy with the odd greenbul letting out a splutter of tuneful notes. Suddenly a mechanical rattle was uttered from a few hundred meters away, it was a male Rufous-sided broadbill displaying! We crept up closer and soon the call was within vision and there it was! One of the trip highlights for sure! We spent some time absorbing this special bird and then headed off for the walkway, while it

was still the early morning. We were blown away by the sheer volume and diversity of birds just from the first platform and we spent hours there working through the endless waves of rainforest canopy species. Highlights here included the scarce Little Green Woodpecker, flocks of colourful Red-billed Helmetshrike, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Violet-backed Hyliota and African Emerald Cuckoo perched only a few meters away. Shrike Flycatcher and Blue Cuckooshrike entertained us and then a cry of lovebird filled the air! A pair of the rare and highly elusive Black-collared Lovebird were perched right in the open just above eye-level and provided unbeatable scope views as they fed for ages on a fruiting tree – absolutely amazing! The birds kept coming and we kept finding new species: A flock of Spotted Greenbul moved through the canopy in front of us, a pair of Sharpe's Apalis showed well and a party of Ussher's Flycatcher were scoped as well. Red-headed and Crested Malimbos, Maxwell's Black and Yellow-mantled Weavers, Blue-throated Brown, Superb, Buff-throated, Collared, Little Green and Fraser's Sunbirds were all in attendance amongst the continuous bird waves that engulfed the beginning of the walkway. We hesitantly left the first platform and continued along the suspension bridges towards the third platform with an overwhelming feeling of utter birding satisfaction. However, the fun wasn't over just yet as we were rewarded with further avian gems like Finsch's Rufous Thrush at the nest, a pair of brightly-coloured Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-winged



Starling, Western and Black-winged Orioles and Fanti Saw-wing. We decided to return to the walkway in the afternoon to search for hornbills, turacos and any nocturnal species that may be around. The effort did yield a flock of Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill and a spectacular Yellow-billed Turaco as well as White-nosed Monkey and a close and prolonged encounter with the nocturnal Potto.

The next day we began our journey north towards the Guinea savannah zone but the forest birding wasn't over yet. Our first stop of this mammoth day was at the northern edge of Kakum National Park. The forest edge habitat at Aboabo can be very productive and several rare species can be found here. Soon after we arrived we located our first Red-vented Malimbos and enjoyed scope views of a calling Yellow-throated Tinkerbird. A huge Fire-bellied Woodpecker was watched drumming on a large, dead tree and soon afterwards we picked up a very special bird, the rare and patchily distributed Tessmann's Flycatcher. One of the highlights of the morning came in the form of a Black Dwarf Hornbill that showed well for an extended period. It was now mid-morning and we still had a lot on the agenda for the day.

Our next stop would provide us with one of our greatest birding moments of our lives! We left the main road for a dirt track that would lead us to the base of a small mountain cloaked in lowland rainforest – one of few accessible sites for the near mythical White-necked Rockfowl. This prehistoric bird adopts a crow-like posture and sports a brilliant yellow head with massive black eyes. Its nest consists of a muddy structure not unlike that of a swallow and is packed against the side of a large boulder deep inside the rainforest. In every way imaginable this has to be one of the world's most sought-after birds! We arrived in the early afternoon and began the hike to the top of the mountain. The



forest here is wonderful and we enjoyed every bit of the walk. Finally we arrived at the base of the rocky outcrop with adrenaline levels at an all time high. Huddled together, waiting patiently we were tuned in on any little rustle or movement. Our first bird came bounding in and perched several meters away and began preening! Over the course of the next hour and a half we were treated to the most incredible views of three rockfowl as they bounded from branch to branch and preened intermittently until it was dusk. As darkness set in we made our way down the mountain with our heads in the clouds and continued the journey to the town of Kumasi. What an incredible experience!

The woodland, wetlands, riverine thickets and gallery forest of Mole National Park was our next destination. The great thing about Mole is that one is allowed to walk anywhere, despite there being elephants. This is because Mole's elephants are possibly the most docile in the world. We spent a good deal of time in all the various habitats taking in the sites and smells of one of West Africa's great parks. The birding here is fantastic and within our first few hours we had notched up a fairly impressive list of exciting species. Large, brightly-coloured Bearded Barbets fed in the fruiting trees bordering the river below camp, immaculate Red-throated Bee-eaters snapped at any insects within reach and both Exclamatory and Togo Paradise Whydahs was seen buoyantly flying between exposed perches. Bar-breasted, Red-billed and Black-faced Firefinches were seen and Pied Flycatcher was in constant presence. We had several great looks at the bizarre Oriole Warbler and the very striking Yellow-crowned Gonolek showed well. Noisy groups of Violet Turacos were seen flying from tree to tree, whilst Red-headed Lovebirds screeched overhead and even perched on one occasion. We also managed to coax in a Pearl-spotted Owlet. The aptly named Beautiful Sunbird and equally exquisite Pygmy,



Green-headed, Copper and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds were picked up at the many flowering trees in the area. A visit to the nearby Mole River was very rewarding and yielded mouth-watering species like Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, the delicate and lively African Blue Flycatcher, Senegal Batis, small family groups of Brown-throated Wattle-eye, noisy flocks of Blackcap and Brown Babbler, Western Plantain-eater, Square-tailed Drongo, Yellow-throated Leaflove and the impressive Blue-breasted Kingfisher. The mixed deciduous woodland teemed with Tsetse Flies and was generally fairly quiet for birds although we did manage to find African Golden Oriole, African Cuckoo, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Lavender Waxbill, ubiquitous Grasshopper Buzzard, Double-spurred Francolin, Grey-headed and Orange-breasted Bushshrikes, scarce White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Wilson's and Village Indigobirds, gregarious Yellow-billed Shrike, spectacular Northern Carmine Bee-eater, African Moustached Warbler, Four-banded Sandgrouse, African Cuckoo-Hawk and a spectacular Long-crested Eagle whilst traversing this habitat. Night drives in the area produced many Long-tailed Nightjars, Greyish Eagle-owl, Marsh Mongoose, Panther Genet and a very memorable encounter with a huge African Elephant! Mole harbours a reasonable number of mammals and we were thrilled to find Striped Ground Squirrel, Olive Baboon, Calithrix and beautiful Patas Monkeys, Warthog, Bushbuck, Kob, Waterbuck and Kintampo Rope Squirrel during our time in the reserve.

Mole provided us with some very memorable experiences and so it was with reluctance that we would make our way south towards the Atewa Mountain Range, our final destination of this ten day birding adventure



around the jewel of West Africa – Ghana. Atewa offers some of the most exciting birding in the country as it boasts an impressive list of rarities that are tricky to find anywhere in Africa. Atewa's list of specialties keeps rising as birders to the area continue to find new and exciting species. Our morning in the forest provided us with a glimpse of what Atewa has to offer and in this short time we still managed to rack up some very interesting birds. These included stunners like Narina Trogon, Many-coloured Bushshrike and Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and difficult-to-see species such as Grey-headed Bristlebill and White-tailed Alethe, the latter of which was seen for a prolonged period as a pair and juvenile bird fed on an ant swarm in the track leading up the mountain. Grey Longbill, Green Crombec, scarce Little Grey Flycatcher, Western Nicator and Skulking Western Bearded Greenbul all showed well and we had many repeat encounters with a host of delightful forest dwellers, which we had become familiar with over the last week in this wonderful country. It was unfortunately time to bid farewell to the riches of Ghana, a fantastic birding destination that no doubt provided us all with a bounty of wonderful memories!

### **BIRD LIST (337 species recorded)**

*Nomenclature and taxonomy follows IOC Birds of the World v 2.2.*

**UGE** – Upper Guinea Endemic



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### Guineafowl Numididae

**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

We had good numbers daily in Mole NP.

### Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

**Stone Partridge***Ptilopachus petrosus*

Excellent sightings were obtained of these noisy creatures in Shai Hills and Mole NP, where they were especially numerous and obtrusive.

**Forest Francolin***Peliperdix lathamii*

This rare and secretive francolin was only heard from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

**Double-spurred Francolin***Pternistis bicalcaratus*

We enjoyed good numbers in Mole NP, where they showed well in the road during the late afternoon.

*Note: Clements places this in the genus Francolinus*

### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

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

Small numbers were seen in Mole NP.

### Storks Ciconiidae

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

Several birds were encountered in Mole NP.

**Marabou Stork***Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

A single bird was seen in flight in Mole NP.

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**Hadada Ibis***Bostrychia hagedash*

We had daily sightings in Mole NP.

**Spot-breasted Ibis***Bostrychia rara*

The distinctive call of this rare, forest-dwelling ibis was heard at dusk while on the Canopy Walkway.

### Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

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

A few birds were seen during our stay at Mole.

**Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

First seen at our accommodation near Kakum, while later enjoying further sightings in Mole NP.

**Squacco Heron***Ardeola ralloides*

Small numbers were seen at scattered wetland localities throughout the tour.

**Western Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

This widespread and common species was seen on every day of the tour.

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

Recorded at several wetland localities on tour.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

Several birds were encountered during our time in Mole NP.

**Western Great Egret***Ardea alba*

This species was seen at Sakamono Lagoon and at the Black Volta.

**Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret***Egretta intermedia*

This species was recorded at Sakamono Lagoon.

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*

Good numbers were found at Sakamono Lagoon, including several birds canopy-feeding.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

We had encounters with this bird at few wetlands with our highest count being at Sakamono.

**Western Reef Heron** *Egretta gularis*

Good numbers, including many dark morph birds, were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.

### Hamerkop Scopidae

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

We had numerous sightings of this bizarre bird in Mole NP.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

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

We had sightings at Sakamono Lagoon and Brimsu Reservoir.

### Kites, Hawks, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

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

A single adult bird was seen in flight in Mole NP.

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

We had several sightings of this bird in the open habitats on the first day of the tour.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

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

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

A single bird was seen flying along the Mole River.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Another very common bird! We had sightings on every day of the tour.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*

Small numbers were seen in Mole NP.

**Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*

We had good views of this scarce raptor in Mole NP.

*Note: Clements just calls this Banded Snake-Eagle*

**Short-toed Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*

An adult was seen at Shai Hills.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

A bird that is mostly seen in larger parks and reserves, we had daily sightings in Mole NP.

**Congo Serpent Eagle** *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*

A single bird was heard calling for long periods in the distance from the Canopy Walkway.

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A single female was seen on the drive from Accra to Cape Coast.

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*

Small numbers were encountered on several days of the tour.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

Two separate birds were seen in the Mole area.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

A pair was seen in Shai Hills including a melanistic individual.



**Red-chested Goshawk***Accipiter toussenelii*

This scarce forest-dwelling accipiter was seen briefly near the Kakum Headquarters.

**Shikra***Accipiter badius*

We recorded this common species on several days of the tour.

**Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)***Accipiter melanoleucus*

One bird seen at Ebekawopa with a further sighting at Brimsu Reservoir.

**Lizard Buzzard***Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Seen on several occasions in Mole NP and surrounds.

**Grasshopper Buzzard***Butastur rufipennis*

A striking, dry-country raptor that was seen commonly in the Mole area.

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

A fairly common species that was seen on 4 days of the tour.

**Long-crested Eagle***Lophaetus occipitalis*

A dark, bold eagle with a long, floppy crest that was seen on two occasions in the Mole area. One of the highlights of the tour!

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

We had a few sightings of this migratory species at scattered localities.

**Grey Kestrel***Falco ardosiaceus*

A beautiful kestrel that was seen on several occasions.

**African Hobby***Falco cuvierii*

A single juvenile bird was seen in flight over Brimsu Reservoir.

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus*

We found one individual perched atop a dead tree en route to Mole NP.

**Flufftails Sarothruridae****White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

This shy, forest-floor dweller was heard at Ebekawopa and at Aboabo but would not show itself.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae****Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

Good views of this striking crake were enjoyed near Kakum Headquarters.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

A single bird was seen at a small pond near the Kakum Headquarters.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae****Senegal Thick-knee***Burhinus senegalensis*

A pair was seen at Sakamono Lagoon with further sightings in Mole NP.

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

Large numbers were found at Sakamono Lagoon.

**Plovers Charadriidae**

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<b>Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)</b>	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Four birds were seen at Sakamono Lagoon with a further pair being found in Mole NP.	
<b>African Wattled Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus senegalus</i>
A pair was found at Sakamono Lagoon with further encounters in Mole NP.	
<i>Note: Clements just calls this Wattled Lapwing</i>	
<b>Grey (Black-bellied) Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
We had small numbers at Sakumo and the Densu Delta.	
<b>Common Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Large numbers were in evidence at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Kittlitz's Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Several birds were found at Sakamono Lagoon. A rather attractive wader indeed!	

### Jacanas Jacanidae

<b>African Jacana</b>	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
We saw these 'lily-trotters' at most wetlands with floating vegetation.	

### Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

<b>Whimbrel</b>	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Small numbers were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Spotted Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Two birds were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Common Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Two birds were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Marsh Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Several birds seen at Sakamono with a further sighting in Mole NP.	
<b>Common Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Good numbers were found at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
A few birds were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Individuals were found at three localities.	
<b>Little Stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Small numbers were seen at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Curlew Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
We had good numbers at Sakamono Lagoon.	
<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
A couple were found at Sakamono Lagoon.	

### Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

<b>Collared Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
We had large numbers at Sakamono Lagoon, which provided us with great views.	
<b>Rock Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>
A single bird was found at the Pra River.	

### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

<b>Royal Tern</b>	<i>Sterna maximus</i>
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A single bird was seen at sea off Sakamono Lagoon with further individuals being found at sea off Cape Coast Castle.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

We had large numbers at sea off Sakamono Lagoon.

### Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

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

Three birds were seen in flight in Mole NP.

### Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

**Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Recorded at most urban centres throughout the country.

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

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

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

Our first sighting was at Shai Hills, with more sightings in the Mole area.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

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

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

This woodland species was heard at Shai Hills and later seen on several occasions in Mole NP.

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

Good views were obtained of this species at Shai Hills with a further sighting in the Mole area.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

A common but shy forest dove that was seen many times in flight.

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

This species was heard and then seen briefly below the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*

A very common forest-edge species that was seen on many occasions.

### Parrots Psittacidae

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

We had numerous sightings, mostly of birds in flight, in Mole NP.

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

We were fortunate to see a single bird perched with further flight views in Mole.

**Black-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis swindernianus*

An exceptionally elusive bird of lowland rainforest canopy! We were very fortunate to obtain crippling, prolonged scope views of a pair at close range on the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

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

We had flight views in the Kakum area and at Aboabo.

**Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*

A common savannah-dwelling parrot seen at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

### Turacos Musophagidae

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*

This massive turaco was unfortunately only heard at Ebekawopa and on the Canopy Walkway at dusk.

**Yellow-billed Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus*



A noisy species heard all over the forest areas, with brilliant views from the canopy walkway.

**Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*

This stunning species was seen in riverine habitat in Mole NP.

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

Seen on many days of the tour, a noisy and obtrusive species.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

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

A very tricky species to see as it skulks in dense forest tangles. We heard this species at Ebekawopa and at Aboabo.

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

A common species, seen at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

**Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)** *Ceuthmochares aereus*

This is a beautiful but fairly common species in the forests of Ghana and we had our best views on the Canopy Walkway.

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

We had sightings of two separate individuals. One at Kakum and another in Mole NP.

**Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

A common, vocal and beautiful cuckoo that was seen on several occasions at forest edge.

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

This species was seen at Ebekawopa with more heard at forest edge thereafter.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Far more often heard than seen, we had good views at the Canopy Walkway and at Aboabo.

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

This shy, canopy-dwelling cuckoo was heard throughout our time in the Kakum area.

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

A single bird was heard and then seen flying across the road at Aboabo.

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*

Small numbers were seen in Mole NP.

### Owls Strigidae

**Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinarescens*

Several of these large owls were seen at close quarters in Mole NP.

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

A single bird was heard calling at the Kakum Headquarters. Unfortunately the rain came before the bird made an appearance.

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

Several were heard during our time at Mole and we managed to obtain wonderful views of one very responsive individual.

**Red-chested Owlet** *Glaucidium tephronotum*

This species was unfortunately only heard in the evening from the Canopy Walkway.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

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

Small numbers were seen during night drives in Mole NP.



**Swifts Apodidae****Sabine's Spinetail***Rhaphidura sabini*

A small, loose flock was encountered at Ebekawopa, which afforded very good, close views of these attractive swifts. We had further views at Atewa.

**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen at most sites on tour.

**Common Swift***Apus apus*

Small, loose flocks were encountered in the Kakum area.

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

Commonly encountered throughout the trip.

**Trogons Trogonidae****Narina Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

This gorgeous species is difficult to see in Ghana but we were fortunate to obtain wonderful scope views of a male at Atewa. What a great bird!

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

Small numbers were seen in woodland in the Mole area.

**Abyssinian Roller***Coracias abyssinicus*

A very attractive species that was seen on several occasions in the Mole area.

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

One of Ghana's star birds! We enjoyed our first sighting of a pair at Shai Hills with further encounters en route to Mole NP and within the park itself.

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

This gaudy species was seen at forest edge in the Kakum area.

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

Our only encounters with this roller were in Mole NP.

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

Undoubtedly one of the birds of the trip! We enjoyed killer scope views of a pair at Atewa.

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

A very attractive kingfisher that was commonly seen in Mole NP and surrounds.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

A pair showed very well in Mole NP.

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

Another, large and exceptionally beautiful kingfisher that was seen on the Mole River.

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

A common bird seen at various sites. Especially visible on telephone lines in forested areas.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher***Ispidina picta*

A singleton was seen at Shai Hills with a further sighting near the Kakum Headquarters.

**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

This wetland species was first seen at our hotel near Kakum with further sightings in Mole NP.

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

A pair was seen at Brimsu Reservoir with a further sighting along the Mole River.



**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

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

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

We had large numbers of this stunning bird in Mole NP.

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

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

**Rosy Bee-eater***Merops malimbicus*

A small flock was seen flying over the forest at Ebekawopa. This species migrates to West Africa from its breeding grounds in Gabon, the Congo and Nigeria and is very seldom seen perched in the non-breeding season.

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

Two birds were seen in flight and later perched in Mole NP. Another intra-African migrant that breeds in the Sahel and over-winters in Ghana.

**Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae****Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

Small flocks were regularly encountered in Mole NP.

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

A common inhabitant of forest and forest edge seen numerously.

**African Grey Hornbill***Tockus nasutus*

A species of dry woodland, we had many sightings at Shai Hills and in the Mole area.

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

A few individuals were seen in Mole NP.

**Black Dwarf Hornbill***Tockus hartlaubi*

A fairly rare and unobtrusive hornbill of rainforest interior! We enjoyed good scope views of a single bird near its nest at Aboabo.

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

Another very good hornbill to see! After a fairly lengthy search we were rewarded with good, close views of a pair at Ebekawopa.

**White-crested Hornbill***Tropicranus albocristatus*

This funky-looking hornbill with the most bizarre call was seen at Kakum and Aboabo.

*Note: Clements places this in the genus Tockus*

**Piping Hornbill***Bycanistes fistulator*

A couple were seen at Brimsu Reservoir with a further sighting at our accommodation near Kakum.

**Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill***Ceratogymna atrata*

A huge hornbill of rainforest canopy, of which we saw at least 8 birds during our afternoon on the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

**Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae****Abyssinian Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We were very lucky to encounter two separate groups totalling eight birds in Mole NP.



### Toucans & Barbets Ramphastidae

**Bristle-nosed Barbet**

*Gymnobucco peli*

Small breeding colonies were encountered throughout the Kakum area.

**Naked-faced Barbet**

*Gymnobucco calvus*

We had good scope views of this species at the Canopy walkway and at Aboabo.

**Speckled Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A commonly seen barbet at forest edge.

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We enjoyed great scope views of this species at fairly close range at forest edge at Ebekawopa.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Good scope views were finally obtained at Aboabo after hearing it regularly at most forests.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Our first sighting was of a single calling bird at Shai Hills with more heard on nearly every day in the rainforest.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Several birds were seen well at Shai Hills. This species was also heard regularly in Mole NP.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet**

*Buccanodon duchaillui*

This attractive barbet was commonly heard throughout the forested zone with great scope views obtained at Ebekawopa.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet**

*Tricholaema hirsuta*

We had a few sightings in the Kakum area with another sighting at Atewa.

**Vieillot's Barbet**

*Lybius vieilloti*

Our first sighting of this vocal, obtrusive and gaudy barbet was at our hotel in Kumasi. We enjoyed a further view of a pair in Mole NP.

**Double-toothed Barbet**

*Lybius bidentatus*

Two birds were seen briefly at Shai Hills.

**Bearded Barbet**

*Lybius dubius*

We were thrilled to have several very good sightings of this scarce West African endemic in Mole NP.

**Yellow-billed Barbet**

*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

Unfortunately this species was only heard at most rainforest sites during the tour.

### Honeyguides Indicatoridae

**Lesser Honeyguide**

*Indicator minor*

A singleton was seen briefly at Shai Hills.

**Greater Honeyguide**

*Indicator indicator*

Good views were obtained of this large, savannah-dwelling honeyguide at Shai Hills.

**Brown-backed Honeybird**

*Prodotiscus regulus*

This is an exceptionally rare bird in Ghana, in fact the first confirmed record for the country! We had very good albeit brief views of a single bird in Mole NP.

### Woodpeckers Picidae

**Fine-spotted Woodpecker**

*Campethera punctuligera*

A single bird was seen well in Mole NP.

**Little Green Woodpecker**

*Campethera maculosa*



This is a scarce West African endemic! We enjoyed prolonged scope views of a pair on the Kakum Canopy Walkway.

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

A woodpecker of forest understory – we had good views of this species at Ebekawopa.

**Gabon Woodpecker***Dendropicus gabonensis*

Sightings were had at Ebekawopa, from the Canopy Walkway and at Atewa.

*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*

A large forest woodpecker that was seen from the Canopy Walkway and at Aboabo.

**African Grey Woodpecker***Dendropicus goertae*

A few pairs were seen during our time in Mole NP.

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

We were thrilled to hear and then see this charismatic little broadbill in the forest understory below the Canopy Walkway. A fantastic sighting and bird of the trip for most of the group!

**Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae****Shrike-Flycatcher***Megabyas flammulatus*

A male was seen from the Canopy Walkway.

**Black-and-white Flycatcher***Bias musicus*

This forest edge species was seen at our accommodation near Kakum and at the Kakum entrance.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye***Dyaphorophya castanea*

A beautiful and flighty little bird of thickets in rainforest – we had several sightings during the tour.

**Senegal Batis***Batis senegalensis*

We found a single pair at the Mole River.

**Brown-throated Wattle-eye***Platysteira cyanea*

A common wattle-eye of moist woodland and riverine habitat – we had many close sightings during the tour.

**Helmetshrikes Prionopidae****White-crested (White) Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

A noisy and boldly-patterned species that roams around in small flocks! We were thrilled to encounter a single group in the woodland outside Mole NP.

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

These very smart and attractive forest shrikes were seen throughout our morning on the Canopy Walkway with a further sighting at Atewa.

**Bushshrikes Malaconotidae****Grey-headed Bushshrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

This large, attractive savannah species was seen well in Mole NP on one occasion.

**Many-coloured Bushshrike***Chlorophoneus multicolour*

This beauty was heard and then seen fairly well in the canopy at Atewa. A stunning and elusive species!

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike***Chlorophoneus sulphureopectus*

We enjoyed several views of this beautiful species in Mole NP.

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

Several individuals were seen in Mole NP.

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

This species was only heard on one occasion in Mole NP.

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

This large, robust, forest-dwelling dryoscopus was seen at Ebekawopa.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

A common bushveld species that was seen on several occasions with peak numbers in Mole NP.

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

This outrageously colourful bird was seen extremely well on several occasions in Mole NP.

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Coracina pectoralis*

A single bird showed briefly in Mole NP.

**Blue Cuckooshrike** *Coracina azurea*

We were rewarded with repeat views of this good-looking species at the Canopy Walkway during our morning there.

**Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga phoenicia*

We found a pair on the Mole River. Another attractive species!

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

We were very lucky to watch a pair for an extensive period at Ebekawopa. A scarce bird in Ghana!

### Shrikes Laniidae

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

A small flock of these gregarious shrikes were seen in Mole NP.

**Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*

This common, open-country species was commonly seen throughout the trip.

### Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus*

Several individuals were seen briefly in and around Mole NP.

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

Good views were obtained at the Canopy Walkway.

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

Seen on several occasions at Kakum and Atewa.

### Drongos Dicruridae

**Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii*

A pair was seen at the Mole River.

**Shining Drongo** *Dicrurus atripennis*

This species of the forest interior was heard during our morning at Atewa.

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

Commonly seen in Mole NP.

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

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



### Monarchs Monarchidae

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

This species was heard in thickets at Ebekawopa and Aboabo.

**Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

A bird of the forest interior, we heard this species in the Kakum area and finally saw a pair at Atewa.

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

We had outstanding views of many striking individuals in Mole NP.

### Crows & Jays Corvidae

**Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer*

Two birds were seen briefly on our way to Shai Hills on our first morning.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

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

### Rockfowl Picathartidae

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

THE highlight of the tour! We had incredible views of three birds bounding through the undergrowth and over boulders near their nesting colony. This Upper Guinea Endemic shares a unique family with its close relative, the Grey-necked Rockfowl of West-Central Africa. Both species are mind-blowing in every way imaginable and appear on most birders' lists of the top 50 birds to see in the world!

### Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

**African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*

Brilliantly views were had of this showy and very attractive species at the Mole River.

### Tits & Chickadees Paridae

**White-shouldered Black Tit** *Parus guineensis*

Several groups were encountered during our stay in Mole NP.

*Note: Clements places this in the genus Melaniparus*

### Nicators Nicatoridae

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

We had a brief view of this species at Ebekawopa with a further, longer view at Atewa.

### Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

**Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus*

As its name applies, this species was common and seen on every day of the tour.

**Little Greenbul** *Andropadus virens*

This master skulker was heard at every forest site.

**Little Grey Greenbul** *Andropadus gracilis*

We had good views of this canopy species at the Canopy Walkway.

*Note: Clements calls this Gray Greenbul*

**Plain Greenbul** *Andropadus curvirostris*

Heard on a few occasions in the Kakum area.



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- Slender-billed Greenbul** *Andropadus gracilirostris*  
This obtrusive forest-edge species was seen on many occasions.
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Andropadus latirostris*  
Another secretive greenbul that was seen at Kakum and Atewa.
- Golden Greenbul** *Calyptocichla serina*  
We had sightings of this species at Ebekawopa and from the Canopy Walkway.
- Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*  
A good-looking greenbul with a beautiful call, we had sightings from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.
- Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus*  
We were lucky to encounter a flock of these gregarious canopy greenbuls from the Canopy Walkway. This is a relatively scarce bird in Ghana.
- Simple Greenbul** *Chlorocichla simplex*  
This forest-edge species was seen on a few occasions in the Kakum area.
- Yellow-throated Leaflove** *Chlorocichla flavicollis*  
A small family group was heard and seen briefly at the Mole River.
- Swamp Palm Bulbul** *Thescelocichla leucopleura*  
Good views were had of this large, noisy species at Aboabo.  
*Note: Clements calls this Swamp Greenbul*
- Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*  
Groups were encountered at Ebekawopa, at the Picathartes site and at Atewa.
- Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus*  
This species was only heard from the canopy walkway with a brief sighting at Atewa. A very shy forest interior species!
- Green-tailed Bristlebill (UGE)** *Bleda eximius*  
This exceptionally shy and elusive species was heard from the Canopy Walkway and at Atewa.
- Grey-headed Bristlebill** *Bleda canicapillus*  
Good views were had of this very shy species attending an ant swarm at Atewa.
- Western Bearded Greenbul** *Criniger barbatus*  
After hearing this species at Kakum we finally obtained good views at Atewa.
- Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*  
This species was seen briefly at Ebekawopa.

### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

- Fanti Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne obscura*  
A pair was seen from the Kakum Canopy Walkway.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
A common migrant that was seen every day of the tour.
- Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica*  
Small numbers were seen in the south of the country with our best views at Ebekawopa.
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*  
Brilliant views were had in Mole NP.
- White-bibbed Swallow** *Hirundo nigrita*  
This electric blue swallow was seen perched and in flight at the Pra River.
- Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
We had small numbers on our visit to Shai Hills.
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*



Commonly found in the forested areas near Kakum and at Atewa.

**Preuss's Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon preussii*

We had a flock of about ten near Ebekawopa.

Note: Clements just calls this Preuss' Swallow

### Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus mccallii*

A small group was seen at Ebekawopa.

**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina*

A common species heard on many occasions and seen at Aboabo and Atewa.

### Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A common migrant seen in small numbers at most sites.

### Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

**Western Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais opaca*

A singleton was seen briefly in Mole NP.

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*

A single bird was seen well in Mole NP.

### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythropus*

This commonly encountered species was found at forest edge throughout the tour.

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

A small loose flock was seen at Shai Hills with a further encounter in Mole NP.

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

Small groups were found at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.

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

Brilliant views were had of a pair of these extremely attractive birds at our lunch stop near Winneba.

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

This widespread savannah species was seen on several occasions in Mole NP.

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

This species was heard at Aboabo and Atewa.

**Sharpe's Apalis (UGE)** *Apalis sharpie*

We had good views of this species at eye level on the Canopy Walkway.

**Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*

Our first sighting of this spectacular warbler was in Mole NP. We had another view later at the Mole River.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicauda*

A common species of dense shrubbery everywhere, we had very close views of several birds at Shai Hills.

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

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

An exquisite little bird that was seen very well at Ebekawopa with further views at Atewa.

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



A difficult species to see and we only heard it at Atewa.

**Senegal Eremomela** *Eremomela pusilla*

Small groups were encountered at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

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

Small flocks were seen at the Canopy Walkway, Aboabo and Atewa.

### Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

A single bird was heard and then seen briefly in Mole NP.

**Kemp's Longbill** *Macrosphenus kempii*

This species was seen by some at Ebekawopa. We also heard its distinctive call at Aboabo and Atewa.

**Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*

A fairly common species of thickets that was heard in the Kakum area and finally seen at Atewa.

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*

This species was seen very well at Ebekawopa and Atewa.

**Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti*

Fantastic eye-level views were had of this brightly-coloured crombec at the Canopy Walkway with a further sighting at Aboabo.

### Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

**Blackcap Illadopsis** *Illadopsis cleaveri*

Several birds were heard at Atewa, unfortunately this exceptionally shy and secretive species could not be lured into view.

**Blackcap Babbler** *Turdoides reinwardtii*

First seen at Shai Hills, we later had great views of a small group at the Mole River.

**Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus*

Small, noisy flocks were encountered in Mole NP.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

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

We had small groups of these lively birds on several occasions.

### Hyliotas Hyliotidae

**Violet-backed Hyliota** *Hyliota violacea*

A pair of these attractive little canopy-dwellers was seen from the Canopy Walkway.

### Starlings Sturnidae

**Copper-tailed (Glossy) Starling (UGE)** *Hylopsar cupreocauda*

A pair was seen perched in a dead tree in the forest at Ebekawopa.

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

Small numbers were seen daily in Mole NP.

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

This large glossy starling was seen at all the forested sites on tour.

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

This extremely attractive starling was seen en route to Shai Hills and in the Mole area.



**Long-tailed Glossy Starling**

A single bird was encountered in Mole NP.

*Lamprotornis caudatus*

**Violet-backed Starling**

Large numbers were seen throughout the tour.

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

**Chestnut-winged Starling**

A pair was seen perched above our heads on the Canopy Walkway.

*Onychognathus fulgidus*

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

Fantastic views of this Upper Guinea specialty were had from the Canopy Walkway.

*Stizorhina finschii*

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

**African Thrush**

First seen in Shai Hills, with further sightings in Mole NP.

*Turdus pelios*

**White-tailed Alethe**

After hearing this species at Kakum we were rewarded with unbeatable views of a pair and a juvenile feeding at an ant swarm at Atewa.

*Alethe diademata*

*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 Muscicapidae****Western Forest Robin**

This shy forest undergrowth species was heard but only seen by some of the group at Atewa.

*Stiphronis erythrothorax*

**White-crowned Robin-Chat**

This shy robin was only heard at the Mole River.

*Cossypha albicapilla*

**Forest Scrub Robin**

This is one of Africa's shyest birds! We heard a single bird call briefly at Atewa.

*Erythropygia leucosticta*

**White-crowned Cliff Chat**

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

*Thamnolaea coronata*

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

**Fraser's Forest Flycatcher**

We had good views of a pair in the canopy at Aboabo.

*Fraseria ocreata*

**Northern Black Flycatcher**

A common bushveld species that was seen on several occasions.

*Melaenornis edolioides*

**Pale Flycatcher**

A singleton was seen in the woodland outside Mole NP.

*Bradornis pallidus*

**Ashy Flycatcher**

A single bird was seen at Atewa.

*Muscicapa caerulescens*

**Swamp Flycatcher**

We encountered a single bird in Mole NP.

*Muscicapa aquatica*

**Little Grey Flycatcher**

Great views were had of this tiny flycatcher at Atewa. A scarce bird throughout its range!

*Muscicapa epulata*

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher**

Good views of this species at Ebekawopa.

*Muscicapa comitata*

**Tessmann's Flycatcher**

This rare and patchily-distributed flycatcher was seen at Aboabo.

*Muscicapa tessmanni*

**Ussher's Flycatcher (UGE)**

We had good views of this martin-like flycatcher from the Canopy Walkway.

*Muscicapa ussheri*



**Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus griseigularis*

Unfortunately this species was only heard at Aboabo.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus plumbeus*

This lively, savannah species was first heard at Shai Hills and later seen at the Mole River.

**European Pied Flycatcher***Ficedula hypoleuca*

Good numbers were recorded daily in Mole NP.

**Sunbirds Nectariniidae****Fraser's Sunbird***Deleornis fraseri*

This warbler-like sunbird was seen at Kakum.

**Mangrove Sunbird***Anthreptes gabonicus*

A single bird was seen at the Mole River. A very good and unexpected find!

**Little Green Sunbird***Anthreptes seimundi*

Several individuals were seen during our morning on the Canopy Walkway.

**Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird***Anthreptes rectirostris*

This species was heard high up in the canopy at Atewa.

**Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna collaris*

Seen in small numbers in the Kakum area.

**Pygmy Sunbird***Hedydipna platura*

A spectacular sunbird that was seen very well on several occasions in Mole NP.

**Green-headed Sunbird***Cyanomitra verticalis*

Seen at our accommodation near Kakum and along the Mole River.

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

A large sunbird that was seen on a few occasions in the Kakum area.

**Western Olive Sunbird***Cyanomitra obscura*

This commonly seen sunbird was found throughout the forest zone.

**Buff-throated Sunbird***Chalcomitra adalberti*

Another exquisite sunbird that was seen in the Kakum area and at Aboabo.

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

Wonderful views were had of this stunner in Mole NP.

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

A forest-edge species that was seen regularly at most forest sites.

**Beautiful Sunbird***Cinnyris pulchellus*

One of Africa's best looking sunbirds! We encountered this species fairly regularly in Mole NP.

**Splendid Sunbird***Cinnyris coccinigastrus*

Its name says it all! We found this species at Shai Hills.

**Superb Sunbird***Cinnyris superbus*

Another cracker that was seen in the Kakum area and at Atewa.

**Copper Sunbird***Cinnyris cupreus*

Small numbers were found at scattered localities in the Kakum area and in Mole NP.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae****Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser superciliosus*

A fairly common species in Mole NP - we had several birds daily in the area.

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

A common bird which is often seen in towns. Seen every day of the tour.



Note: Clements just calls this Gray-headed Sparrow

**Bush Petronia***Gymnoris dentata*

The most abundant species in Mole NP!

**Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae****Little Weaver***Ploceus luteolus*

A number of individuals in winter plumage were seen in Mole NP.

**Black-necked Weaver***Ploceus nigricollis*

A good-looking weaver that was seen at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

**Orange Weaver***Ploceus aurantius*

A breeding colony at our accommodation near Kakum provided us with good views of this species.

**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 black and chestnut bird that was seen at its breeding colony near the Kakum headquarters.

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

This tri-coloured weaver was seen well from the Canopy Walkway.

**Maxwell's Black Weaver***Ploceus albinucha*

Small numbers were seen in the canopy at Kakum and Atewa.

**Red-vented Malimbe***Malimbicus scutatus*

We had several birds at Aboabo.

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

A single male was watched as it preened in a thicket at eye level at Ebekawopa.

**Red-headed Malimbe***Malimbicus rubricollis*

The most common of the malimbes, seen regularly in the Kakum area.

**Crested Malimbe***Malimbicus malimbicus*

Good views were had of this very striking weaver at Ebekawopa, Kakum and Atewa.

**Black-winged Red Bishop***Euplectes hordeaceus*

A single bird in transitional plumage was seen in Mole NP.

Note: Clements just calls this Black-winged Bishop

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

A small flock in winter plumage was seen in Mole NP.

**Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae****Red-fronted Antpecker (UGE)***Parmoptila rubrifrons*

I was blown away to find this rare and highly elusive species in a mixed flock at Atewa. Unfortunately this was a leader only sighting as the bird disappeared very quickly.

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

Small numbers were encountered daily in the Kakum area.

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

A pair was seen at Ebekawopa.

**Grey-headed Nigrita***Nigrita canicapillus*

One of the most commonly heard forest sounds! We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive species.

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

A single bird was seen briefly in Mole NP.

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

Seen at our accommodations near Kakum and in Mole NP.

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

We had a few sightings in Mole NP.

**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*

A small flock was heard and seen briefly in Shai Hills.

**Black-faced Firefinch** *Lagonosticta vinacea*

A rare and elusive firefinch that was seen on one occasion in Mole NP.

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

A common bird in the north of the country, where we had sightings daily in Mole NP.

**Lavender Waxbill** *Estrilda caerulescens*

A single bird was seen in Mole NP.

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

This stunning waxbill was seen daily in Mole.

**African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*

A singleton was seen briefly in Mole NP.

**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*

A pair was seen at Ebekawopa.

*Note: Clements places this in the genus Spermestes*

### Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*

We had a couple of sightings in Mole NP.

**Wilson's Indigobird** *Vidua wilsoni*

We had repeated sightings of this species in Mole NP.

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

A fairly large flock in winter plumage was seen in Mole NP.

**Exclamatory Paradise Whydah** *Vidua interjecta*

This extravagant species was seen on a number of occasions in full breeding plumage in Mole NP.

**Togo Paradise Whydah** *Vidua togoensis*

A single male sporting his breeding plumage was seen in Mole NP.

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

Several sightings were had of this widespread species.

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

A single bird was seen at Sakamono Lagoon.

### Finches Fringillidae

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

We had several sightings in Mole NP.

### Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*



This attractive species was seen daily in Mole NP.

### MAMMAL LIST (19 species recorded)

*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 during night drives in Mole NP with a further sighting at Atewa.

#### Squirrels Sciuridae

##### **Striped Ground Squirrel**

*Xerus erythropus*

Several individuals were seen in Mole NP.

##### **Kintampo Rope Squirrel**

*Funisciurus substriatus*

We had one at the Mole River.

##### **Forest Giant Squirrel**

*Protoxerus stangeri*

One of these large, attractive squirrels was seen at Kakum.

#### Genets & Civets Viverridae

##### **Panther (Blotched) Genet**

*Genetta maculate (tigrina)*

This boldly-patterned nocturnal species was seen briefly on a night drive in Mole NP.

#### Mongoose Herpestidae

##### **Marsh Mongoose**

*Atilax paludinosus*

This crepuscular species was seen briefly during our one of our night drives in Mole NP.

#### Bats Megadermatidae

##### **Bat sp.**

We had several sightings of unidentifiable bats in Mole NP. The individuals hunting around the accommodation probably refer to Yellow-winged Bat (*Lavia frons*).

#### Colobid 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 heard this species on several occasions from the Canopy Walkway.

##### **Lesser White-nosed (Spot-nosed) Monkey**

*Cercopithecus petaurista*

We were very surprised to find this beautiful monkey at Shai Hills. We had a further sighting of three at the Canopy Walkway.

##### **Callithrix (Vervet) Monkey**

*Cercopithecus (aethiops) sabaues*

We had several troops at Shai Hills and in Mole NP.

##### **Patras Monkey**

*Erythrocebus patas*

A few individuals were seen in Mole NP.



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**strepsirrhine primates Lorisidae**

**Potto**

*Perodicticus potto*

We were rewarded with great views of this stub-tailed nocturnal primate during our nocturnal excursion at Kakum.

**Pigs Suidae**

**(Common) Warthog**

*Phacochoerus africanus*

We had numerous sightings in Mole NP.

**Horned Ungulates Bovidae**

**Bushbuck**

*Tragelaphus scriptus*

This handsome antelope was seen a couple of times below our Hotel in Mole.

**Kob**

*Kobus kob*

These antelope were very common in Mole.

**Waterbuck**

*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

We had daily sightings during our stay in Mole.

**Hyraxes Procavidae**

**Western Tree Hyrax**

*Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

We heard the harsh screams of this nocturnal forest species during our night excursion on the Kakum Canopy Walkway..

**Elephants Elephantidae**

**African Elephant**

*Loxodonta africana*

A few individuals were encountered during our stay at Mole NP.

**Photo Credits:** (In order of appearance) – Grasshopper Buzzard; Red-winged Warbler; Orange Weaver; Cape Coast Castle; White-throated Bee-eater; White-necked Rockfowl and Long-tailed Nightjar. All photos taken by Glen Valentine.

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