TROPICAL BIRDING

Ghana

Picathartes & Egyptian Plover

Set departure tour **7th – 20th March, 2016**
Atewa Hills extension **4th – 7th March, 2016**

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Report & photos by Charley Hesse (All photos were taken on this tour)

Visiting the stake-out for the Picathartes was: "… one of the best birding experiences of my life!", one client remarked. (Charley Hesse)

This year's Tropical Birding 'Picathartes & Egyptian Plover' Ghana tour was another resounding success. We had astounding views of Picathartes around their roost site, plus 5 very close Egyptian Plovers on the upper White Volta River in Northern Ghana. Other highlights included watching the incredible Standard-winged Nightjar in flight with it's 'other-worldly' standards in tow, great views of rare forest hornbills, such as White-crested, Red-billed & Black Dwarf-Hornbills; some dazzling gems of Kingfishers, including Shining-blue, White-bellied, Pygmy, Dwarf & Blue-breasted; spectacular raptors, like Congo Serpent-Eagle and Ayre's Hawk-Eagle, Fraser's, Akun & Grayish Eagle-Owls, and other forest denizens like Hartlaub's Duck, Great Blue Turaco & African Finfoot. We visited a range of widely different habitats, spanning the length of Ghana, from lowland rainforest & coastal lagoons, to farmbush and the arid north of the country. In doing so, we saw a huge variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and butterflies. In Ankasa National Park we had surprisingly comfortable camping, which enabled us to stay in the middle of the forest with all its sights and sounds. It was a terrific introduction to the beautiful nature of the West African region, and the colorful culture of the very welcoming Ghanean people.

Atewa Hills Pre-tour extension

4th March – Sakumono Lagoon to Atewa

After an early breakfast, we met in front of the hotel to load bags into the bus. Early arrivals were treated to scope views of **Double-toothed Barbet** and **African Thrush** in a large tree before we set off for some morning birding at Sakumono Lagoon. On the way we had a couple of **Black-shouldered Kites** on a wire and a **Yellow-billed Shrike**. Close to Sakumono, we also saw our first **Green Woodhoopoes** and **Western Plantain-eater** which flew across the road. As soon as we got off the bus we started scoping the large numbers of birds present, including **Lizard Buzzard, Woodland Kingfisher, Brown Babbler**, **Splendid & Purple Starlings, Little Bee-eater** and **African Gray Hornbill**. We also had fly bys of **Mosque & Ethiopian Swallows, Senegal Parrots** and **Shikra**. The main attraction at Sakumono Lagoon though are the water birds, and we saw **White-faced Whistling-Ducks, Long-tailed Cormorant, Gray & Squacco Herons, Intermediate Egret, Western Reef-Heron, Glossy Ibis**, many **African Jacanas, Collared Pratincoles** flying over, a pair of **Eurasian Marsh-Harriers** and **Pied Kingfisher**. We saw good numbers of shorebirds, with **Spur-winged & Wattled Lapwings, Black-winged Stilt, Common Ringed Plover, Common Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper** and **Little Stint**. It was getting quite hot already so we started walking back to the bus. On the way we had a **Zitting Cisticola** in some grass, then in the nearby scrub, **Senegal Coucal**, the very short-tailed **Northern Crombec**, the dinky **Senegal Eremomela,** snazzy male **Scarlet-chested & Copper Sunbirds** and several Senegal Thick-knees which we got good views of.

Long-tailed Nightjar is readily found on quiet roads at night (Charley Hesse)

We drove on to the Atewa Hills a few hours away which if the main focus of the extension. We stopped for lunch, then went to check in to our hotel and rest a little before it cooled down enough to do some birding. This afternoon, we devoted to birding a mixture of agriculture, overgrown areas and remnant trees which in Ghana is referred to as 'farmbush'. Our first stop was incredibly productive, and we picked up **White-throated Bee-eater, Black-necked, Vieillot's, Village & Compact Weavers, Red-headed Quelea, Black-winged Bishop, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Simple & Little Greenbuls**, the attractive **Vieillot's Barbet, Willow Warbler, Blue-headed Coucal, African Pied Hornbill, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** plus **Red-faced & Whistling Cisticolas**. For such trashed looking habitat, the diversity of birds was staggering. We carried on along the entrance road to the forest and at the next stop saw **Velvet-mantled Drongo, Northern Puffback, African Firefinch,** many **Black-and-white Mannikins, Naked-faced Barbet** and **Collared & Splendid Sunbirds**. We also had a flyby of **Blue-spotted Wood-Dove**. One of the best birds of the day was Marsh Tchagra, found for us by our driver. We waited until dusk to try for some night birds. Just nearby we heard the call of some **Demidoff's Galagos** which I located by spotting their eye shine, and just next to them we found a pair of sleeping **Tambourine Doves**. Driving back, we found a **Long-tailed Nightjar** on the road. It stayed put and posed for photos before another car came along and flushed it. What a great first day!

5th March – Atewa Forest

We set off for Atewa Forest and on the way saw **Bar-breasted Firefinch** and **African Pied Wagtail**. We had a brief birding stop in the farmbush and saw **African Cuckoo-Hawk, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Striped- & Mosque Swallows,** a singing **Melodious Warbler, Vieillot's, Village & Grosbeak Weavers** and **Black-winged Bishops**. At a small pond, we had **Collared Pratincole, Malachite Kingfisher, Whinchat** and a few **Bronze Mannikins**. Having birded the farmbush yesterday, we wanted to devote the morning to covering the lower slopes, so we made our way to the bottom of forest trail. It was very active, and we saw **White-throated Bee-eater, Gray Greenbul, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Gray Longbill, Black-necked Weaver** plus **Gray-headed & White-breasted Nigritas**. We made our way slowly up the gentle slope and saw many new birds. We had good views of **Klaas's Cuckoo, Yellowbill, Naked-faced Barbet, Speckled & Red-rumped Tinkerbirds, Melancholy Woodpecker, West African Wattle-eye (split from Chestnut), Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Sharpe's Apalis, African Forest- & Dusky-blue Flycatchers, Seimund's, Collared, Western Olive & Olive-bellied Sunbirds** and **Crested & Red-headed Malimbes**. We were heading back to the hotel for lunch so it was time to turn around, but on the way back down we had great views of a huge **Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher, Chestnut-capped Flycatchers** and a wonderful **Western Nicator**.

Lizard Buzzard scans for its quarry from roadside wires (Charley Hesse)

We had lunch on the way back to the hotel and afterwards had some downtime to rest. The clouds gathered and turned into quite a storm. I feared that we would have to cancel the afternoon birding but the storm moved on, and we decided to try our luck. Before we left we had a **Buff-throated Sunbird** outside the hotel. We drove back to the birding site and on the way did pretty well for raptors, with **Eurasian & Gray Kestrels, African Hobby** and a rather wet **Lizard Buzzard** plus our first **Mottled Spinetails**. It turned out the storm hadn't even reached Atewa. We spent the afternoon in the farmbush and added plenty of birds. On the first stop, we got **African Green-Pigeon, White-throated Bee-eater, Vieillot's Barbet** and **Splendid Starling,** and on the next, **Superb Sunbird, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** and **Grosbeak & Yellow-mantled Weavers**. It was certainly quieter than yesterday but there were still plenty of birds around. We added **Broad-billed Roller, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Tawny-flanked Prinia, African Thrush, Olive-bellied Sunbird, Vieillot's & Compact Weavers**. The sun set and we went to another site to try for **Fraser's Eagle-Owl**. We tried for a while but only heard a distant growling sound once. We were just about to give up when a bird flew in and we had fantastic scope views of this spectacular owl.

6th March – Atewa Forest

Today was the most important day of the extension as we would be walking to the upper reaches of the Atewa forest where there were several species difficult to see elsewhere in Ghana. The reason that we run this section as an extension is that it is a rather long although not particularly steep walk to the top. On the drive we saw another **Eurasian Kestrel** before arriving at the bottom of the trail. We had agreed not to stop too much on the way up but there were so many birds at the start of the trail that it would have been rude not to look at a few. We saw a few common birds that we had seen previously, like **African Pied Hornbill, White-throated Bee-eater, Speckled Tinkerbird** and **Collared Sunbird**, but we had our first views of **Green Hylia**, a female **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** and scope views of a beautiful **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**. We started the long walk up with regular stops for new birds, including **Yellowbill, Levaillant's Cuckoo, Green Crombec** and **Rufous-crowned Eremomela**. Other good birds were **Hairy-breasted, Bristle-nosed & Yellow-spotted Barbets**, but the latter we only heard. The local guide really surpassed himself by locating some **White-crested Hornbills**, which after some chasing he managed to get in the scope and everybody had good views of this unique species with its spikey Mohican and long tail. We had been trying all the way up for the very rare **Yellow-throated Cuckoo** which the local guide had seen here recently. We finally heard a response and after some running backwards and forwards, we finally found a cooperative individual that let us scope it in good light. In the same tree there was a female **African Emerald Cuckoo** and a **Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher**.

The seldom-seen Yellow-throated Cuckoo (Charley Hesse)

It took us about 3 and a half hours to reach the highest point and we sat down to have an early packed lunch, after which the assistant guide found a **Blue-moustached Bee-eater** which unfortunately flew before we could get on it. We called it back for decent views and we were able to see the beautifully deep purplish-blue colour. We took a walk in search of some of the rarities up here, but it was slow birding. We heard **Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Yellow-billed Turaco, Brown-cheeked Hornbill, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Little Flycatcher** and **Fraser's Sunbird** but saw a pair of soaring **Cassin's Hawk-Eagles**, a brief **Tessmann's Flycatcher, Spotted Honeyguide** and a pair of attractive **Black-capped Apalises**. Another one of our main targets was the strangely rare and incredibly secretive **Forest Scrub-Robin**. After some searching, we finally found a responsive bird and went into the forest to try and find it. It gave us the run around, but in the end our persistence paid off and we got views. It was time to start making our way down and on the way, we checked out a side trail down to a stream. Near here we saw the target **Rufous-sided Broadbill** but only heard a pair of **Chocolate-backed Kingfishers**. We carried on down and heard some ominous thunder. About half way down, there was a sprinkle of rain and we all started preparing for a shower, getting all our camera gear in bags and ourselves under umbrellas. The light shower quickly became heavier and we spent the next hour walking in heavy rain. Still, we had seen most of our target birds and had a wonderful day so we couldn't complain.

7th March – Atewa Forest

We had just a couple of hours of birding this morning to try and pick up a few new species before returning to Accra to start the main tour. On the way to the forest, we had some interesting birds such as **Gray Kestrel**, fantastic views of 2 **Blue-headed Coucals**, a pair of **Mosque Swallows** in flight, a surprise **Great Reed-Warbler** plus several other common birds such as **Tawny-flanked Prinia** and **Black-winged Bishop**. We birded a bit in the farmbush and saw **African Pied Hornbill, Woodland Kingfisher, Black & White-throated Bee-eaters, Vieillot's Weaver** and **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**. We tried for the tough **White-spotted Flufftail**, but only heard it. In the same spot though, we did get great views of the awesome **Western Bluebill**. We only had a bit of time inside the forest, where we added **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Dusky-blue Flycatcher** and **Collared Sunbird**. On the edge, we finally saw **Red-faced Cisticola**, and had better views **Rufous-crowned Eremomela, African Yellow White-eye, Olive-bellied Sunbird** and **Black-necked Weaver**. That was the end of the Atewa Hills extension, and all that remained was to return to Accra to meet the rest of the clients and start the main tour. An unfortunate traffic accident left us 'shaken but not stirred' and luckily no one was badly hurt.

Ghana's first tufted duck (Charley Hesse)

MAIN TOUR

7th March – Sakumono Lgoon

After meeting the rest of the clients, we set off for some light birding at Sakumono Lagoon. We had already birded there on the extension, so those clients chose to rest at the hotel instead. On the way, we kicked off our main tour birding with a **Shikra** & **Purple Starling**. We parked and took a short walk around the edge of the reed-fringed lagoon, plus the nearby grasslands and scrub. They were productive as ever, and we saw **Lizard Buzzard, Copper Sunbird, Collared Pratincole** in flight, **Spur-winged Lapwing** and **Wood Sandpiper**. Further on we flushed a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** and **Senegal Coucal**, had a fly over of **Senegal Parrots** and had great scope views of **African Hobby** and **Woodland Kingfisher**. In the reed beds, we saw **Malachite & Pied Kingfishers** and **Little Bee-eater**, and in the open grass, **Zitting Cisticola** and **Plain-backed Pipit**. We walked out to the lagoon, which was heaving with birds, and we saw **White-faced Whistling-Duck, Glossy Ibis**, a pair of **Eurasian Marsh-Harriers**, **African Swamphen, Black-winged Stilt**, dozens of **Common Ringed Plovers** and **African Jacanas, Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank** and **Village Weaver**. The biggest surprise of the day, and probably of the tour so far was a **Tufted Duck**, possibly a new species for the country. Walking back to the bus we saw **Yellow-billed Shrike** and **Senegal Thick-knee** before calling it a day and returning to the hotel.

8th March – Shai Hills

This morning we were spending at the Shai Hills Resource Reserve, a unique area of rocky hills and savanna outside of Accra. After we got through the gates, we set off on a short walk while one of the guides sorted out our tickets. One of the clients spotted a monkey straight away, and he tracked it down to find it was the rarer of the 2 species here, the **Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey**. As we walked along the road, we started picking up several common open country birds, such as **Western Plantain-eater, Senegal Coucal, Senegal Parrot** and **African Gray Hornbill**. We also had scope views of the colourful **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**. Some sections of the road were lined with bushes and trees, and here we saw **Green-backed Camaroptera, Bearded Barbet, Senegal Eremomela, Olive-bellied & Splendid Sunbirds** and **Northern Black- & Spotted Flycatchers** plus **Callithrix Monkeys**. The bus caught us up and we drove on a little, spotting a few birds along the way, like **Helmeted Guineafowl**, **Double-spurred Francolin**, **Vieillot's Barbet** and the rather drab **Siffling Cisticola**.

The Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey (Charley Hesse)

We had several birding stops from here and picked up some great birds, including **Vinaceous Dove, Striped Kingfisher, White-shouldered Black-Tit** and the rather snazzy **White Helmetshrike**. We walked some more stretches of the road, finding **African Paradise-Flycatcher, Gray Tit-Flycatcher** and **Double-toothed Barbet,** before having a longer drive through the grasslands where we saw many **Kob, Olive Baboons**, plus **Plain-backed Pipit, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Gray Kestrel** and **Red-necked Buzzard**. It was getting hot but we were keen to fit in just one more birding stop. Despite the heat, it was still very productive, and we saw **Mocking Cliff-Chat, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** and **Croaking Cisticola**. Unfortunately we only heard our target **Oriole Warbler** and **Blackcap Babbler**. It had been a full morning's birding but now it was time for lunch followed by a long drive to Kakum. We had just a short birding stop in the afternoon at a lovely pond near the town of Mankissim on the coast. Here we found **Black Crake, Allen's Gallinule, Eurasian Moorhen, Purple Heron** and **Malachite Kingfisher**, before continuing on our way. After a nice dinner we we had an early night's rest ahead of our first big day's birding in the rainforest.

9th March – Kakum Forest

Today we would spend inside Kakum National Park and visit the famous canopy walkway. On the trail on the way up we had good views of **Red-headed Malimbe, Green Hylia** and **Lemon-bellied Crombec**. At the first platforms, we saw a **Black Dwarf Hornbill**, a flock of the Upper Guinea endemic **Brown-cheeked Hornbill** and several **African Pied Hornbills**. Using the scope, we picked out **Gray-headed Nigrita, Gray Greenbul, Cassin's Honeyguide, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Ussher's Flycatcher** and **Blue-throated Brown Sunbird**. We had several species in flight, including **Rosy Bee-eater, Red-necked Buzzard** plus **Sabine's & Cassin's Spinetails, Common** and **African Palm-Swifts**. We only heard a **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** but saw a perched **European Honey-buzzard** and had a brief view of **Yellow-billed Turaco**. We worked our way round the loop, with a quick stop at a middle platform where we saw **Blue Cuckooshrike, Black-winged Oriole** and some **Violet-backed Hyliotas** which were a new family for several people. We had plenty of time at the furthest platform of the loop where we had good views of **Yellow-mantled & Preuss's Weavers, Little Green & Melancholy Woodpeckers, Blue-throated Roller, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Speckled Tinkerbird, Slender-billed Greenbul** and **Naked-faced & Hairy-breasted Barbets**. By mid morning, activity dropped right off, so we decended to the forest trail below where we saw **Gray Longbill, Blue-billed Malimbe** and **Wood Warbler** plus a soaring **African Harrier-Hawk**. Before leaving the park we had some very confiding **Pin-tailed Whydahs** and then drove the short distance to the hotel for lunch.

The canopy-dwelling Preuss's Weaver (Charley Hesse)

In the afternoon we went back into Kakum and took a walk along the trails. Despite the mid-afternoon heat, it was pretty active and we saw some great birds, including **African Piculet, Plain & White-throated Greenbuls, Green Crombec, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Fraser's, Olive-bellied & Superb Sunbirds, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** and a soaring pair of **Palm-nut Vultures**. We heard a **Forest Robin** singing from deep inside the forest and it came into the tape although it managed to elude a few members of the group. The main target of the afternoon was to visit a small forest stream where several difficult forest birds came into drink & bathe. The first to arrive was the **Western Bearded-Greenbul** which showed very well followed by an **African Dwarf Kingfisher**. With a bit of shuffling around, most of us got on this tiny little forest gem. This was followed by **Fire-crested Alethe, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher, Red-tailed & Gray-headed Bristlebills** and even a **Tambourine Dove**. We had seen several very tricky species, but it was now time to head back along the trail to the entrance. On the way, we stopped to look at a **Brown Nightjar**, a **Demidoff's Galago** and a sleeping **African Dwarf Kingfisher** which we got in the scope. Back at the parking lot, we managed to find **Akun Eagle-Owl** which was a great way to end a wonderful day. As if we hadn't seen enough, there was even a **Long-tailed Nightjar** along the road.

10th March – Kakum Farmbush & Pra River

This morning we were exploring an area of farmbush close to the village of Antwikwa and we set off in the dark to get there at first light. On the way there we had a pair of **Red-fronted Parrots** in flight, **Gray Kestrel** and **Woodland Kingfisher** perched in trees by the roadside and **Lesser Striped & Rufous-chested Swallows** on wires. On our first birding stop, we heard the distinctive call of a **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye** nearby and saw a **Buff-spotted Woodpecker**. We took a walk along the track and had scope views of **Green-backed Camaroptera, Cassin's Honeyguide, Simple Greenbul, Levaillant's Cuckoo** and a nice pair of **Blue-headed Coucals**. We reached a spot where we tried for **White-spotted Flufftail**. The bird responded weakly at some distance but didn't come in, and we had to be content with a **Blue-billed Malimbe** in the tree above. Further on we saw **Dideric Cuckoo, Melancholy Woodpecker, Gray Tit-Flycatcher, Black Bee-eater, Red-vented Malimbe** and even a **Slender-tailed Squirrel**. We reached a spot at the bottom of the hill where we spent quite a bit of time. It was incredibly productive and we racked up quite the list of birds, including **White-throated Bee-eater, Bristle-nosed, Naked-faced & Hairy-breasted Barbets, Speckled, Red-rumped & Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds,** scope views of 3 **Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, Black-winged Oriole, Slender-billed, Golden & Little Greenbuls, Red-faced & Whistling Cisticolas, Seimund's, Green, Buff-throated & Olive-bellied Sunbirds, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, Orange-cheeked Waxbill** and **Black-and-white Mannikin**.

Preuss's Swallows collecting mud for their nests (Charley Hesse)

In the mid morning we drove to a bridge over the Pra River. On the way, we saw hundreds of **Preuss's Swallows** collecting mud in a puddle by the roadside. The Pra River is a reliable site for the scarce **White-throated Blue Swallow** and **Rock Pratincoles**. We found the pratincoles straight away but it took a while before we found the swallows perched on a rock, downstream. On the way back to lunch we finally found a **Hooded Vulture** in a local town. These birds have have undergone a drastic decline and are now listed as endangered. After a late lunch and some rest in our air-conditioned rooms, we went out to a different area of farmbush near the village of Ebekawopa, where we saw **Woodland Kingfisher, Black & White-throated Bee-eaters, Blue-throated Roller** and several **Ussher's Flycatchers**. We had **African Harrier-Hawk, Tambourine Dove**, many **African Pied Hornbills** and several **Fanti Sawwings** fly over. We scoped distant **Dideric Cuckoo** and **Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher** before arriving at a large clearing. This spot was also very productive and we scoped **Speckled & Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds** and our first **Yellow-spotted Barbet**. There were plenty of small passerines present, with **Wood Warbler, Whistling Cisticola, African Yellow White-eye, Violet-backed Hyliota, White-breasted Nigrita** and **Black-and-white Mannikin**; and it was particularly good for sunbirds, with **Green-headed, Blue-throated Brown, Western Olive, Buff-throated & Superb Sunbirds**. We stuck around until after dark to try for nightjars and **Fraser's Eagle-Owl**, but we had no luck tonight.

11th March – Kakum Farmbush to Ankassa

A couple of members of the group were so taken with the canopy walkway that they decided to go up again. The rest of us drove back along the Ebekawopa road, where our eagle-eyed guide spotted an **African Pygmy-Kingfisher** from the bus which we all got looks at. We arrived at the parking spot and today headed along the forest trail, and a short way down, heard a **Rufous-sided Broadbill** inside the forest. There were lots of **African Green-Pigeons** feeding on fruiting trees and we also had our best views of **Yellow-billed Turaco**. We finally had good views of **West African Wattle-eyes** which zipped to and fro in the canopy, but the calling **Sharpe's Apalis** eluded us. As we walked along, we saw **Fanti Sawwing** which crossed overhead, a pair of **Chestnut-capped Flycatchers** up in the canopy and a **Yellowbill**. The local guide did a brilliant job of spotting a **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** way up in the canopy and we also had fly-overs of several **Rosy Bee-eaters, Blue-throated Roller** plus **African Harrier-Hawk** and **Palm-nut Vulture**. We had a nice mixed flock with **Western Bearded-Greenbul, Fraser's Sunbird** and and **Crested Malimbe**, before getting to a clearing where we saw **African Forest-Flycatcher, Naked-faced Barbet** and **Cassin's Honeyguide**. On the way back, we saw **Red-billed Helmetshrike, Seimund's, Western Olive & Tiny Sunbirds** and a mixed flock with **Shining Drongo, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher and Icterine Greenbul**.The 2 participents who did the canopy again added **Black Dwarf-Hornbill, Melancholy Woodpecker, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Rufous-crowned Eremomela** and **Spotted Greenbul**.

The view of Kakum NP from the canopy walkway (Charley Hesse)

After lunch, we had a long drive to Ankasa but we had several birding stops to break it up. The first was at a small marsh where we had great looks at **Orange Weaver**. The next was at a mangrove fringed mud flat which is a known for Hartlaub's Duck. We scanned the area but there we no ducks evident. There were several shorebirds like **Whimbrel, Common Greenshank, Wood & Common Sandpipers**, plus **Striated** and **Western Reef-Herons**. We were also after **Reichenbach's Sunbird,** which briefly sang from on top of a bush, but flew off before everyone had got on it. We tried the other side of the road and found another bird which we all saw. Our last birding stop was at a small roadside pond where we saw several **African Pygmy-Geese**. We also saw **Purple Heron, Malachite Kingfisher** and our first perched views of **Blue-spotted Wood-Dove**. It was getting towards sunset and we didn't want to arrive in the dark so we drove the rest of the way to Ankassa. A small stream formed the border of the national park and we stopped there to take a look at **Cassin's Flycatcher** which was perched on a branch sticking out of the water. Just then I noticed a larger bird swimming by the edge of the stream. It turned out to be an **African Finfoot**; a much wanted bird by most people in the group. It was a wonderful finish to a great day. After dinner we went to sleep to the wonderful sounds of the forest, incuding the screams of the **Western Tree Hyrax**.

12th March – Ankasa NP

After breakfast we drove deeper into the park in 2 landrovers. On the way we flushed a **Blue-headed Wood-Dove** off the road. We got out of the vehicles at a spot where some huge overhead power cables cut through the park. Here we saw our first **Square-tailed Sawwing** and scoped some **Great Blue Turacos** which were sitting out drying themselves. We walked along a trail with **African Green-Pigeon, Yellow-billed Turaco** and **Crested Malimbe**, towards some ponds that we were going to check for targets. At the first pond, we had a scope view of the stunning **African Pygmy-Kingfisher**, a more sedate **Dusky-blue Flycatcher** and we also heard **Rufous-sided Broadbill**. The local guide took those that hadn't seen it yet into the forest to search for it. At the next pond, we saw **Black Dwarf & Piping Hornbills** and a **Striated Heron**. The guide tried clapping his hands, and 2 **Hartlaub's Ducks** shot up out of the pond-side vegetation. Unfortunately, not everybody was in a position to see them. In the clearing we had fly-overs of **African Harrier-Hawk** and **Palm-nut Vulture** and inside the dark forest, some people glimpsed **Forest Robin**. We had a couple of **White-spotted Flufftails** calling next to the trail, and with a bit of work, we encouranged them to cross a gap.

Hartlaub's Duck in flight (Charley Hesse)

We ended up at a viewpoint further along the power lines where we scanned for hornbills. We saw **African Pied & Brown-cheeked Hornbills** fly by, but we could only hear the distinctive calls of **Black & Yellow-casqued Hornbills**. We went back to the vehicles and did some birding along the road back towards camp. We had some good activity, and saw **Red-rumped Tinkerbird**, **West African Wattle-eye, Western Black-headed Oriole, Shining Drongo, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher** and **Western Nicator** but only heard the rare **Many-colored Bushshrike**. We continued towards camp, but before lunch we went to check the river where we saw a pair of **Cassin's Flycatchers** at the nest. A couple of people also saw **White-bellied Kingfisher**. We had lunch and some people stuck around in the communal area to read and chat, and had a big flock passing through, with **Gray-headed Bristlebill** and **Western Bearded-Greenbul**. In the afternoon we did more birding along the road and picked up **Red-billed Helmetshrike, African Forest-Flycatcher, Western Olive & Johanna's Sunbirds, Blue-billed Malimbe** and **Copper-tailed Starling**. We had some good, greenbul flocks, with **Slender-billed, Icterine, Red-tailed, Ansorge's & Plain Greenbuls** plus **Yellowbill** and **Fraser's Sunbird**. Just at dusk, we also had a pair of **Western Bluebills** chattering noisily in the undergrowth but they wouldn't come out.

13th March – Ankasa National Park

We started earlier today to try and find **Dwarf Bittern** at one of the pools in the road before dawn. We drove for quite a while before one flushed up from in front of the car and dropped down next to the road. I managed to spotlight it as it flew off, showing the small size and coloring. We parked the vehicles in the same place as yesterday and saw several **Square-tailed Sawwings** and many **White-throated Bee-eaters** again. We wanted another chance for **Hartlaub's Duck** and set off down towards the ponds. On the way, we saw **Yellow-billed Turaco, Red-headed Malimbe** and finally, close views of **Forest Robin**. At the first pond we saw **Woodland Kingfisher** and **Dusky-blue Flycatcher**, at the second, great views of **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** and at the last pond, a **Speckled Tinkerbird**. The guides also succeeded in flushing 3 **Hartlaub's Ducks** which circled around and 2 landed in a large dead tree. They stayed put and we had extended views of these impressive birds. Walking back we had our first good views of **Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher**, plus **Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher**, brief fly-overs of **Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush** and a **Western Olive Sunbird**. Back at the vehicles we spotted a perched **Melancholy Woodpecker**. We walked a few stretches of the road where we saw **Yellowbill**, some **Sabine's Spinetails** and heard a surprise **Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo**. We had some good flocks, with **Slender-billed, Icterine** and the rare **Yellow-bearded Greenbul, West African Wattle-eye**, **Shining Drongo** and some uncooperative **Sharpe's Apalises**. We also had a bif surprise when we heard a **Red-chested Owlet**. This flew in, right above our heads and I managed to locate it by watching all the little birds mobbing it.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher is one of many beautiful kingfishers seen on this tour (Charley Hesse)

We drove back to camp and quickly checked out the bridge over the river where the nesting **Cassin's Flycatchers** were in their usual spot. We heard a **Shining-blue Kingfisher** and I located it perched under a dark overhang on the riverbank. Just as the last client had seen it in the scope, the bird took off. After lunch, we packed up and left Ankasa. We had a few birds to catch up with on the way back, and our first stop was at the mangroves where we tracked down the **Mouse-brown Sunbird**. A couple of people missed it, so we tried on the other side of the road we actually spotted another **Hartlaub's Duck** as well as **Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Malachite & Pied Kingfishers** and **Little Bee-eater**. Our next stop was at the **Orange Weaver** pond, where we tried for Black-belied Seedcracker. It didn't show but we did see **African Harrier-Hawk, Blue-spotted Wood-Dove**, most people's first **Western Yellow Wagtail, Orange, Vieillot's, Black-necked & Village Weavers, Orange-cheeked Waxbill** and **Pin-tailed Whydah**. Our last birding of the day was at the Brenu beach road. The place was heaving with birds and we saw **Western Plantain-eater, Senegal Coucal**, a spectacular **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, our long-awaited **Oriole Warbler, Pale Flycatcher, Copper & Splendid Sunbirds**, **Yellow-shouldered Widowbird, Bar-breasted & African Firefinches** and seveal **Pin-tailed Whydahs**. All that remained now was to drive back to the Kakum area where we would spend the night.

14th March – Kakum Farmbush to Picathartes site & Kumasi

We had just one more morning to bird the Kakum area and we decided to return to the Abrafo Forest at Ebekawopa. On the way, we stopped along the road in, and tried again for **Lowland Sooty Boubou** and **Puvel's Illadopsis**, which are 2 very difficult birds to see. Some peope caught glimpses of the illadopsis but we only heard the boubou as well as a **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye**. We did however see a nice pair of **Black Bee-eaters** before we continued on to the forest. We set off along a forest trail and soon heard **Great Blue Turaco** and **Pale-breasted Illadopsis**. Next we heard a **Congo Serpent-Eagle**, which we chased round for a bit before getting good flight views. We also had fly-bys of **Palm-nut Vulture, African Green-Pigeon** and **Blue-headed Wood-Dove**. Things were pretty quiet until a **White-crested Hornbill** showed up and people got decent flight views of this very distinctive bird. Next, we had some **African Pied Hornbills** and also heard **Rufous-sided Broadbill & Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush**. As usual, flocking activity was good, and we saw **Velvet-mantled Drongo, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher, Slender-billed, Golden & Western Bearded-Greenbuls** and **Yellowbill**. We reached the clearing at the end where we saw a **Little Green Woodpecker** and a flock of distant **Violet-backed Starlings** in flight. We started walking back to the bus and on the way saw Africa's smallest bird, the **Tit-hylia**.

Today was arguably the most important day of the trip as we were visiting the Picathartes site. This weird and totally unique bird is usually the biggest reason for any birder to come to this country. We drove for a few hours stopping for lunch at a rather grand if somewhat kitsch restaurant before heading to the small town of Bonkro. We had been watching the weather for most of the day and it was still due to be raining when we arrived. The road was muddy and it took some skilful driving to get the bus to the start of the trail.

We met our local guides, and after readying our rain gear and flashlights, we set off. First, we passed through an open area where we saw **African Cuckoo-Hawk, African Green-Pigeon** and **African Pied Hornbill**, before entering the forest. Walking up the gentle trail through beautiful forest, we heard **Gray-headed Bristlebill** and **Western Bearded-Greenbul** and saw **Western Olive Sunbird**. Just below the observation site, we had a short briefing session about what and what not to do when we got up there. We walked the final steep section of the trail and took our places on the benches provided. We started the wait, listenng to the calls of **African Emerald Cuckoo** and **Red-fronted Parrots** calling in the canopy overhead. After just 45 minutes, the totally unique and weirdly-beautiful **White-necked Rockfowl** showed up. For about 15 minutes we watched them hop in and out of view. It was a magical experience, and to quote one tour participant, 'That was one of the most amazing birding experiences of my life!'. What can you add to that! Happy with our wonderful views, we made our way down, said our goodbyes to the villagers and finished off the 2 and a half hour drive to Kumasi.

15th March – Bobiri forest to Mole NP

Today was a very long travel day, but we did have a bit of time for our last birding in the rainforest. We went to the wonderful Bobiri Forest and we started our birding with a walk along the entrance road. It was a bit misty after yesterday's rains, but we did pick out a powerful **Black Goshawk** as it winged its way by. Other good birds along here were **African Cuckoo-Hawk, African Green-Pigeon** and a pair of **Red-headed Malimbes**. One of our main targets of the morning was the **Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill**. We finally heard one but we were unable to bring it in closer. The forest at first glance looked pretty dense, but we decided our only chance to see this wonderful bird was to walk inside the forest, towards it. One of our local guides took the lead and soon had it located. We had a couple of false alarms with **African Pied Hornbills** and **Velvet-mantled Drongos** flying by, but finally, had great views of a pair hopping around after insects. Back at the entrance road, we found **Little Greenbul** and **Gray Longbill** in a tangle, and in some canopy flocks: **Sharpe's Apalis, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Buff-spotted Woodpecker** and **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher**.

Grasshopper Buzzard was common on our drive to the north (Charley Hesse)

We continued searching for our targets until it was time to start heading back to the bus. On the way back we had more good birds, like **Buff-throated Sunbird, African Emerald Cuckoo, Blue-headed Wood-Dove** but only heard **Black-throated Coucal**. Another highlight of the morning were a pair of **Gray Parrots** which flew in to a nearby tree and allowed the whole group good scope views. On some seeding bamboo, we found a small flock of **Magpie Mannikins** which we also had great scope views of, followed by a **Forest Woodhoopoe** in flight and a small group of **Swamp Greenbuls** which concluded our rainforest birding. From there it was a very long drive to Mole National Park in the north. We had several good raptors on the way, including **Lanner Facon, Red-necked Buzzard,** Several **Grasshopper Buzzards, Dark Chanting-Goshawk** and **Beaudoin's Snake-Eagle**. We also had our first **Blue-bellied & Abyssinian Rollers**, plus **African Golden Oriole** and **Violet Turaco** in roadside trees. As we neared Mole we spotted a pair of **Stone Partridges** that were crossing the road. We arrived at the hotel inside the park before dark and had time to settle in before dinner. Tomorrow would be the start of our 2 full days of birding here.

16th March – Mole NP

It was our first full day of biridng in the Mole National Park and we got off to a good start with a group of **Stone Partridges** right next to the side of the road, followed numerous **Double-spurred Francolins**. We set off on a very productive walk through the park. As elephants and other potentially dangerous animals present, we were accompanied by an armed national park ranger. Birds came in thick and fast, with **Gray-headed Kingfisher, Lesser Honeyguide, Fine-spotted & Cardinal Woodpeckers, Senegal Batis, Black-crowned Tchagra, Pale & Northern Black-Flycatchers, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat**, the impressive **Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Oriole Warbler, Senegal Eremomela** and many sky blue **Red-cheeked Cordonbleus**. We arrived at a place with a few drinking ponds and as it is usually bone dry in this season, they are magnets for birds coming to drink. Unfortunately it had rained considerably in the last few days, but this seemed to have increased bird activity in general. In this area, we saw the stunning **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** and **Red-throated Bee-eater**, plus **Broad-billed Roller, Wire-tailed Swallow,** fly overs of **Fanti Sawwing, Swamp, Gray Tit- & European Pied Flycatchers, Violet-backed, Lesser Blue-eared & Purple Starlings, Western Violet-backed, Scarlet-chested & Beautiful Sunbirds** and **White-shouldered Black-Tit**. It was cloudy and threatened rain, but it never materialised and the clouds kept the baking heat of the day at bay.

Bataleur is one of the world's most spectacular raptors (Charley Hesse)

Next we saw our first **Bateleur** with perched and flying individuals and next scope views of **Banded Snake-Eagle**. A small group of **Bruce's Green-Pigeons** flew by and a **Violet Turaco** hopped around a tangly tree evading us until George spotted a perched bird and we all got good views. The list kept growing, with **African Gray Woodpecker, African Golden Oriole, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Bush Petronia, Bar-breasted Firefinch** and some non-breeding plumage **Wilson's Indigobirds**. We also had great views of **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** which was a real crowd-pleaser. We drove on to a waterhole just below the hotel. Elephants are often seen here, but with all the rain, they seemed to have dispersed. We did see **White-crowned Robin-Chat**, our first **White-backed Vulture, Senegal Thick-knee, Wattled Lapwing, Brown-throated Wattle-eye,** a pair of **Woolly-necked Storks** in flight and the unique **Hamerkop**. On the drive back to the hotel we had another short birding stop where we glimpsed the **Gray-headed Bushshrike**. After lunch we went to explore a different part of the park along the Brugbani road. We encountered a real piece of luck along the way when the tricky **White-throated Francolin** crossed the road in front of us.

We had a few other brief birding stops along the way with some **Hooded Vultures** in flight, a stunning **Abyssinian Roller, Bearded Barbet, Fine-spotted Woodpecker** and **White-fronted Black-Chat**. We reached a clearing where we got out and took a walk around. We soon came across some **Sun Larks**, had our first good views of **Black-billed Wood-Dove**, had a fly by of **Shikra** and scoped **Yellow-fronted Canary** and **Pygmy Sunbird**. Our main target here was the rare **Forbes's Plover** which we failed to see, but just a few minutes after getting back in the bus, the assistant guide spotted a pair by the side of the road. Next we went on to a pond surrounded by open woodland, where we saw a flock of **White-faced Whistling-Ducks, Black Crake, African Jacana, Yellow-shouldered Widowbird, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Red-billed Firefinch, Swamp, European Pied & Gray Tit-Flycatchers.** We also had flight views of **Red-chested Swallow, Rose-ringed Parakeet** and **Senegal Parrot**. We walked along the road and then waited until dusk for our main target, the **Standard-winged Nightjar**. We had great views of one flying across the road and more views on the way back, including a male perched on the road. We also heard **African Scops-Owl** before setting off back to the hotel, spot-lighting as we went. We saw many **Senegal Galagos** including one very close to the bus. We also saw 2 **White-tailed Mongooses** and **Scrub Hare** before arriving back for a late dinner.

Standard-winged Nightjar in flight has to be seen to be believed (Charley Hesse)

17th March – Mole NP

Our breakfast was interrupted when the local guide tracked down a **Greyish Eagle-Owl** nearby, which we quickly got in the scope. At first light, we exited the park and went to the old air strip, which is no longer used for anything other than birding. We had already seen the **White-throated Francolin** crossing the road yesterday, and it was the first bird we saw again today. It is normally a tricky bird that requires a lot of time and effort and we had seen it easily twice now. We started walking along the runway and found many interesting birds. We spotted a perched raptor which was a rather confusing juvenile **Lizard Buzzard**. Next we had scope views of **Bearded Barbet, Bruce's Green-Pigeon, African Golden Oriole, Bush Petronia, Senegal Coucal** and even a **Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle**. We walked some way along before turning back. Other good birds we saw included **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Yellow-billed Shrike**, scope views of a **Moustached Grass-Warbler, Whinchat, Pygmy & Scarlet-chested Sunbirds**, the northern migrant **Tree Pipit** and some **Yellow-fronted Canaries**. Just before making our way back to the bus, we found **Black-crowned Tchagra**, a perched **Grasshopper Buzzard**, and our first **Brown-rumped Bunting, Rufous Cisticola** and **Red-winged Prinias** of the trip. Just before getting on the bus, we had great scope views of **Fine-spotted Woodpecker**, before driving on to our next site. We passed the town of Mognori where we saw **Purple Starling** and **White-breasted Cuckooshrike**, then on to a bridge over a small river.

In the woodland nearby we saw **Gray-headed Kingfisher, African Thrush,** a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** being mobbed, and an **African Harrier-Hawk**. We walked down and along the river through some nice riparian forest where we saw **Brown-throated Wattle-eye**, our target **Square-tailed Drongo**, a pair of **Black Crakes** and a **Malachite Kingfisher**. Next, we walked out into some savanna habitat with dotted trees. Here, we finally got views of the **Singing Cisticola**, plus **Black-billed Wood-Dove, Red-throated Bee-eater, Black-crowned Tchagra**, **African Harrier-Hawk** and **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**. We also had some **Hooded & White-backed Vultures** circling overhead. Back on the road we found a pair of uncommon **Pied-winged Swallows** before setting off back to the hotel for lunch and some time off in the heat of the day. After a mid-day break, we set off for our afternoon birding. Before long, we good views of the distinctive race of **Helmeted Guineafowl**, plus **African Harrier-Hawk** and **Bateleur**. On the way to the birding site, we spotted a **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** from the window so we got off for better views. We caught the tail end of a mixed flock which had **Yellow-bellied Hyliota** and **Senegal Batis**. We also saw **Beautiful Sunbird, Black Scimitar-bill** and some **Long-tailed Glossy Starlings**. As it had been raining a lot recently, Mole's elephants where not coming into the waterholes, so our local guide took us to a place where they come to eat salty earth. When we arrived, we saw a batchelor herd of 4 male **African Elephants**.

There are around 400 elephants in Mole NP (Charley Hesse)

After watching them for some time, we set of on a walk. It was a great area, and we saw **Little Weaver, Red-billed & Black-faced Firefinches, Bronze Mannikin, Wilson's Indigobird, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, African Blue-Flycatcher, Senegal Eremomela** and **Red-throated Bee-eater**. On the way out we saw 2 incredibly glossy **Greater Blue-eared Starlings** and great views and photo opportunities for **Stone Partridge** and **Double-spurred Francolin**. Next we went to an area of scrub close to a waterhole in search of **Lavender Waxbill**. We saw them without too much difficulty and also had our first **African Cuckoo**. The last birding of the day was a spot of owling at the airstrip. As soon as we arrived, we saw the amazing **Standard-winged Nightjar** catching insects off the road, then finally we chased a **Northern White-faced Owl**. Succesful, we made our way back to the hotel and thanked our friendly ranger Robert, who had accompanied us for the past 2 days.

18th March – Mole NP to Bolgatanga, via Tongo Hills

After breakfast we checked out and while we were waiting for everybody to come to the bus, we observed a **Beautiful Sunbird** in a flowering bush and a pair of **African Gray Woodpeckers** in nearby tree. We set off and went to the airstrip one more time for a last bit of birding at Mole. It was pretty active, and we saw **Pygmy Sunbird, African Golden Oriole, Senegal Coucal, Brubru, Vieillot's Barbet, Bearded Barbet, Northern Black-Flycatcher, Scarlet-chested Sunbird** and **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**. Many of these birds we had excellent views of in the scope. Further on, we added **White-rumped Swift, Green Woodhoopoe, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Shrike, Willow Warbler, Senegal Eremomela** and some **Brown Babblers**. Some of the highlights were scope views of a male **Violet-backed Starling** and a pair of **Red-cheeked Cordonbleus** building a nest. We saw our first **Gabar Goshawk** of the trip and after setting off, we also spotted some **Piapiacs** hanging around some cows. We began our drive, scanning the roadside wires and trees and soon found a **Rufous-crowned Roller**. Next we stopped at a lake where there were a large number of birds coming in to drink. We saw our first **Red-billed Quelea, Black-rumped Waxbill** and **Namaqua Dove** plus **Common Sandpiper, Bush Petronia** and **Black-billed Wood-Dove**. We drove on to Tamale where we had lunch and saw **Speckled Pigeons** on the roof of the restaurant.

The well-named Bearded Barbet (Charley Hesse)

After lunch, we continued our drive before stopping at the Nasia wetand where we spent some time scanning the water and found good nubers of **African Pygmy Geese** as well as **Purple & Squacco Herons, Intermediate Egret, Long-tailed Cormorant, African Jacana** and **Wattled Lapwing**. We saw some **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers** on some cows and good numbers of **Black-faced Quail-Finches** flying over the grass. There were several raptors soaring, including **Grasshoper Buzzard, Black-shouldered Kite** and **Eurasian Marsh-Harrier,** and in the nearby trees we had **African Silverbill, Red-cheeked Cordonbleau** and non-breeding plumage **Black-headed Weavers**. It was time to move on to our final birding site for the day, which was the Tongo Hils. These low, boulder-strewn hills are the best place in Ghana to see several target species. We only had an hour there, so we lost no time in starting to explore the area. We found the recently-split **Gosling's Bunting** straight away and what we thought was a Fox Kestrel turned out to be a soaring **Lanner Falcon** instead. The **Fox Kestrel** came soon afterwards. We walked around looking for our final major target, the charismatic **Rock-loving Cisticola**. In the meantime we saw **Red-biled Firefinch, Black-rumped Waxbill** and **Speckled Pigeon**. The sun went down behind the hills and it started to cool down a bit and finally the cisticola decided to show itself on top of a rock. It was a relief to get it and we even added the potential 'West African' split of **Red-rumped Swallow** before we boarded the bus and drove to our hotel in Bolgatanga, our base for the next 2 nights.

19th March – Upper White Volta & Tono Dam

Today was our big morning to go in search of the **Egyptian Plover** on a quite stretch of the upper White Volta River on the border with Burkina Faso. It was a 2 hour drive to the site along a bumpy road, but we had a few birding stops along the way. The first was to look at the huge **White-billed Buffalo-Weavers** busy building nests in a village. Next we stopped at an area of scrub where we birded for about an hour. We saw **Long-tailed Glossy, Lesser & Greater Blue-eared** and our first **Chestnut-bellied Starlings** of the trip. We had perched **Grasshopper Buzzard, Abyssinian & Rufous-crowned Rollers** and **Vieillot's Barbet,** plus **Namaqua Doves** and **Northern Red-billed Hornbills** flying by. We found a very productive area for small finches, with **Yellow-fronted Canary, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** and **Green-winged Pytilia,** the latter which was a very good record. There was also a **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** getting in on the action. Just before we left, George flushed up some **Four-banded Sandgrouse** and we walked towards where he had seen them come down. We flushed them again and got great flight views. Next it was on to the main birding site of the morning. We got off the bus and walked along the river bank for about 100 yards before we were shown a group of awesome little **Egyptian Plovers**. It couldn't have been easier. These unique birds were recently moved from the coursers and pratincoles, to their own family. We watched them at our leisure and got closer for great photo opps.

Egyptian Plover is now in its own, monotypic family (Charley Hesse)

Also on the river were **Long-tailed Cormorant, Hamerkop, Spur-winged Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank** plus **Malachite & Pied Kingfishers**. In the nearby trees were **Speckled Pigeon,** our first **Mourning Collared-Doves, Chestnut-bellied & Purple Starlings, Little Bee-eater** and flying around were **Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle** and lots of **Red-chested Swallows.** It was getting hotter and hotter, so we retreated to the air-conditioned bus until we got to a small lake where we had one final birding stop which produced **Great Spotted Cuckoo, Little Swift, White-rumped Seedeater** and **Vitelline Masked-Weaver.** In the afternoon, we did a bit of causal birding at Tono Dam closer to Bolgatanga. We started walking round the site and straight away saw a pair of **Northern Red-billed Hornbills, Double-spurred Francolin**, the rare **Black-backed Cisticola**, and a **Spotted Thick-knee** in the scope. **Wattled Lapwings** were mobbing a **Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** and then later on a pair of **Dark Chanting-Goshawks.** As we wondered around, we also saw the beautiful **Abyssinian Roller, Vieillot's Barbet, Gosling's Bunting** and **Red-necked Falcon** in the scope, **Long-tailed Glossy, Chestnut-bellied Starling** and **Purple Starlings**, and we also flushed several **Black-faced Quailfinches** and good numbers of **Four-banded Sandgrouse**, which later we managed to get views of on the ground, and we also added a **Melodious Warbler**. Finally we saw about 50 **Bruce's Green-Pigeons** coming to roost in a tree. It had been a fun afternoon and we went back to our hotel for our final dinner together as a group.

20th March – Bolgatanga to Accra

It was the last day of the tour and mainly a travel day. We did jump out at the Nasia wetland again for our last spot of birding. We saw many of the same water birds as on our last visit, including **African Pygmy-Goose, Long-tailed Cormorant, Black-headed & Squacco Herons, Great Egret, Wattled Lapwing, African Jacana** and **Malachite Kingfisher**. We had a **Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** winging its way around at the back of the pond, terrifying the jacanas, an **Abyssinian Roller** was elegantly perched on top of a tree and **Red-chested Swallows** were their usual omnipresent selves. We added our first **Northern Crombec** of the main tour, flitting about in the top of a tree with **Senegal Eremomelas**, and many people also saw their first **Winding Cisticola** of the trip. As before, the place was alive with small birds, and we saw **Bush Petronia, Black-headed Weaver, Red-billed Quelea, Black-winged Bishop, Black-rumped Waxbill,** the gaudy **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu, Red-billed Firefinch, Black-faced Quailfinch** and **African Silverbill**. Our birding drew to a close and we drove on to the airport for our flight back to Accra connecting to our international flights. It had been a terrific tour with great views of our head-line birds, the *Picathartes* and Egyptian plover, but the highlights were many more than just those. Learning about the West African rain forest, from understory to canopy and enjoying the Ghanean hospitality were very memorable experiences indeed.

The 'showy' Red-cheeked Cordonbleau is certainly a crowd-pleaser (Charley Hesse)

BIRD OF THE TRIP

1st place	White-necked Rockfowl or '*Picathartes*'
2nd place	Standard-winged Nightjar
3rd place	Hartlaub's Duck
4th place	White-crested Hornbill
5th place	Egyptian Plover

Bird list

Taxonomy follows ebird/Clements online checklist v2016

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck ***Dendrocygna viduata***
Seen at Sakumono & Mole.

Hartlaub's Duck ***Pteronetta hartlaubii***
Seen at Ankasa & mangroves on the way to Ankasa.

African Pygmy-Goose ***Nettapus auritus***
Seen at a pond on the way to Ankasa & at Nasia.

Tufted Duck ***Aythya fuligula***
A female seen at Sakumono Lagoon was possibly the first record for the country.

GALLIFORMES: Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl ***Numida meleagris***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.

GALLIFORMES: Odontophoridae

Stone Partridge ***Ptilopachus petrosus***
Seen at Mole & heard at Shai Hills.

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Double-spurred Francolin ***Francolinus bicalcaratus***
Seen at Shai Hills, Mole & Tono Dam.

White-throated Francolin ***Francolinus albogularis***
Seen at Mole.

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicepidae

Little Grebe ***Tachybaptus ruficollis***
Seen at Mankessim.

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Woolly-necked Stork ***Ciconia episcopus***
Seen at Mole.

Saddle-billed Stork ***Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis***
Seen at Mole.

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Long-tailed Cormorant ***Phalacrocorax africanus***
Seen at Sakumono, Accra, Cape Coast, on the way to Ankasa, Nasia & Sapeliga.

PELICANIFORMES: Scopidae

Hamerkop ***Scopus umbretta***
Seen at Mole, Tongo Hills & Sapeliga.

PELICANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Dwarf Bittern ***Ixobrychus sturmii***
Seen at Ankasa.

Gray Heron ***Ardea cinerea***
Seen at Sakumono, Mole & Nasia.

Black-headed Heron ***Ardea melanocephala***
Seen at Sakumono, Mole & Nasia.

Purple Heron ***Ardea purpurea***
Seen at Sakumono, Mankessim, on the way to Ankasa & Nasia.

Great Egret ***Ardea alba***
Seen at Sakumono, mangroves on the way to Ankasa, Mole, & Nasia.

Intermediate Egret ***Mesophoyx intermedia***
Seen at Sakumono & Nasia.

Little Egret ***Egretta garzetta***
Seen at Sakumono & at mangroves on the way to Ankasa.

Western Reef-Heron ***Egretta gularis***
Seen at Sakumono & at mangroves on the way to Ankasa.

Cattle Egret ***Bubulcus ibis***
Commonly seen throughout.
Squacco Heron ***Ardeola ralloides***
Seen at Sakumono, Mankessim, Mole, Tono Dam & Nasia.
Striated Heron ***Butorides striata***
Heard at Atewa. Seen at mangroves on the way to Ankasa, Ankasa, Mole & Tono Dam.
Black-crowned Night-Heron ***Nycticorax nycticorax***
Seen at Sakumono & heard at Mole.

PELICANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae
Glossy Ibis ***Plegadis facinellus***
Seen at Sakumono.
Hadada Ibis ***Bostrychia hagedash***
Seen at Mole.

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae
Black-shouldered Kite ***Elanus caeruleus***
Seen in Accra, Sakumono & Nasia.
African Harrier-Hawk ***Polyboroides typus***
Seen at Kakum, Ebekawopa, Ankasa & Mole.
Palm-nut Vulture ***Gypohierax angolensis***
Seen at Kakum, Ebekawopa, Ankasa & Mole.
European Honey-buzzard ***Pernis apivorus***
Seen at Kakum.
African Cuckoo-Hawk ***Aviceda cuculoides***
Seen at Atewa, Picathartes site & Bobiri.
Hooded Vulture ***Necrosyrtes monachus***
Endangered. Seen at Pra River, Mole & around some towns in the north. This species has declined dramatically.
White-backed Vulture ***Gyps africanus***
Endangered. Seen at Mole.
Bateleur ***Terathopius ecaudatus***
Near-threatened. Seen at Mole.
Congo Serpent-Eagle ***Dryotriorchis spectabilis***
Seen well in flight at Ebekawopa.
Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle ***Circaetus beaudouini***
Seen on the way to Mole, at Mole & Sapliga.
Banded Snake-Eagle ***Circaetus cinerascens***
Seen on the way to Mole, at Mole & Sapliga.
Crowned Hawk-Eagle** ***Stephanoaetus coronatus
Seen at Atewa.
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle ***Hieraetus ayresii***
Seen at Mole.
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle** ***Aquila africana
Seen at Atewa.
Lizard Buzzard ***Kaupifalco monogrammicus***
Seen at Sakumono, Atewa, on the drive to Mole & at Mole.
Dark Chanting-Goshawk ***Melierax metabates***
Seen on the drive to Mole & Tono Dam.
Gabar Goshawk ***Micronisus gabar***
Seen at Mole.
Grasshopper Buzzard ***Butastur rufipennis***
Seen at on the way to Mole, Mole, Nasia & Sapeliga.
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier ***Circus aeruginosus***
Seen at Sakumono, Nasia & Tono Dam.
Shikra ***Accipiter badius***
Seen at Sakumono & Mole.
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk ***Accipiter erythropus***
Seen at Ankasa.
Black Goshawk ***Accipiter melanoleucus***
Seen at Bobiri.
Black Kite ***Milvus migrans***
Commonly seen throughout.
Red-necked Buzzard ***Buteo auguralis***
Seen at Shai Hills, Kakum, Ebekawopa, on the way to Mole & at Mole.

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae
Black Crake ***Amaurornis flavirostra***
Seen at Mankessim & Mole.
Allen's Gallinule ***Porphyrio alleni***
Seen at Mankessim
African Swamphen ***Porphyrio madagascariensis***
Seen at Sakumono & Mankessim.
Eurasian Moorhen ***Gallinula chloropus***
Seen at Mankessim.

GRUIFORMES: Sarothruridae
White-spotted Flufftail ***Sarothrura pulchra***
Seen at Ankasa. Heard at Atewa, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.

GRUIFORMES: Heliornithidae
African Finfoot ***Podica senegalensis***
Seen at Ankasa.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae
Senegal Thick-knee ***Burhinus senegalensis***
Seen at Sakumono & Mole.
Spotted Thick-knee ***Burhinus capensis***
Seen at Tono Dam.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Pluvianidae
Egyptian Plover ***Pluvianus aegyptius***
Seen at Sapeliga.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae
Black-winged Stilt ***Himantopus himantopus***
Seen at Sakumono.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae
Spur-winged Plover ***Vanellus spinosus***
Seen at Sakumono, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Wattled Lapwing ***Vanellus senegallus***
Seen at Sakumono, Mole, Nasia, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Common Ringed Plover ***Charadrius hiaticula***
Many seen at Sakumono.
Forbes's Plover ***Charadrius forbesi***
Seen at Mole.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae
African Jacana ***Actophilornis africanus***
Seen at Sakumono, Mankessim, Mole & Nasia.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae
Common Sandpiper ***Actitis hypoleucos***
Seen at Sakumono, Pra River, at mangroves on the way to Ankasa & Sapeliga.
Green Sandpiper ***Tringa ochropus***
Seen at Sakumono.
Common Greenshank ***Tringa nebularia***
Seen at Sakumono, mangroves on the way to Ankasa & Sapeliga.
Wood Sandpiper ***Tringa glareola***
Seen at Sakumono & at mangroves on the way to Ankasa,
Whimbrel ***Numenius phaeopus***
Seen at mangroves on the way to Ankasa.
Little Stint ***Calidris minuta***
Seen at Sakamono.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae
Collared Pratincole ***Glareola pratincola***
Seen at Sakamono & Atewa.

Rock Pratincole ***Glareola nuchalis***
Seen at Pra River.

PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclidae
Four-banded Sandgrouse ***Pterocles quadricinctus***
Seen near Sapeliga & at Tono Dam.

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae
Rock Pigeon ***Columba livia***
Seen in some towns.
Speckled Pigeon ***Columba guinea***
Seen at Tamale, Tongo Hills, Tono Dam, Bolgatanga & Sapeliga.
Mourning Collared-Dove ***Streptopelia decipiens***
Seen at Sapeliga.
Red-eyed Dove ***Streptopelia semitorquata***
Seen at many sites.
Vinaceous Dove ***Streptopelia vinacea***
Seen at Shai Hills, Mole, Tongo Hills, Tono Dam, Sapeliga & Nasia.
Laughing Dove ***Streptopelia senegalensis***
Commonly seen throughout.
Black-billed Wood-Dove ***Turtur abyssinicus***
Seen at Shai Hills,Mole, Tongo Hills, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove ***Turtur afer***
Seen at Atewa, Shai Hills, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa. Heard at Kakum.
Tambourine Dove ***Turtur tympanistria***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Bobiri.
Blue-headed Wood-Dove ***Turtur brehmeri***
Seen at the Ankasa, Ebekawopa & Bobiri.
Namaqua Dove ***Oena capensis***
Seen near Mole & at Sapeliga.
Bruce's Green-Pigeon ***Treron waalia***
Seen at Mole & Tono Dam.
African Green-Pigeon ***Treron calvus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Ebekawopa, Ankasa & Bobiri.

CUCULIFORMES: Musophagidae
Great Blue Turaco ***Corythaeola cristata***
Seen at Ankasa & heard at Ebekaopa.
Yellow-billed Turaco ***Tauraco macrorhynchus***
Seen at Kakum, Ebekawopa & Ankasa. Heard at Atewa.
Violet Turaco ***Musophaga violacea***
Seen at Mole.
Western Plantain-eater ***Crinifer piscator***
Seen in Accra, Sakumono, Shai Hills, Brenu, Mole & Tono Dam.

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae
Levaillant's Cuckoo ***Clamator levaillantii***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.
Great Spotted Cuckoo ***Clamator glandarius***
Seen at Sapeliga.
Red-chested Cuckoo ***Cuculus solitarius***
Heard at Mole.
Black Cuckoo** ***Cuculus clamosus
Heard at Atewa.
African Cuckoo ***Cuculus gularis***
Seen at Mole.
Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo ***Cercococcyx mechowi***
Heard at Ankasa.
Yellow-throated Cuckoo** ***Chrysococcyx flavigularis
Seen at Atewa.
Klaas's Cuckoo ***Chrysococcyx klaas***
Commonly seen or heard throughout.
African Emerald Cuckoo ***Chrysococcyx cupreus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Bobiri. Heard at Picathartes site.

Dideric Cuckoo ***Chrysococcyx caprius***
Seen at Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.
Yellowbill ***Ceuthmochares aereus***
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Black-throated Coucal ***Centropus leucogaster***
Heard at Ebekawopa & Bobiri.
Blue-headed Coucal ***Centropus monachus***
Seen at Atewa & Antwikwa. Heard at Ebekawopa.
Senegal Coucal ***Centropus senegalensis***
Seen at Sakumono, Shai Hills, Brenu, Picathartes site & Mole.

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae
African Scops-Owl ***Otus senegalensis***
Heard at Mole.
Northern White-faced Owl ***Ptilopsis leucotis***
Seen at Mole.
Grayish Eagle-Owl ***Bubo cinerascens***
Seen at Mole.
Fraser's Eagle-Owl** ***Bubo poensis
Seen at Atewa.
Akun Eagle-Owl ***Bubo leucostictus***
Seen at Kakum.
Pearl-spotted Owlet ***Glaucidium perlatum***
Seen at Mole.
Red-chested Owlet ***Glaucidium tephronotum***
Seen at Ankasa
African Wood-Owl ***Strix woodfordii***
Heard at Ankasa.

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae
Standard-winged Nightjar ***Caprimulgus longipennis***
Seen at Mole.
Brown Nightjar ***Caprimulgus binotatus***
Seen at Kakum.
Long-tailed Nightjar ***Caprimulgus climacurus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Mole.

APODIFORMES: Apodidae
Mottled Spinetail** ***Telacanthura ussheri
Seen at Atewa.
Sabine's Spinetail ***Rhaphidura sabini***
Seen at Kakum & Ankasa
Cassin's Spinetail ***Neafrapus cassini***
Seen at Kakum.
Common Swift ***Apus apus***
Seen at Atewa & Kakum.
Little Swift ***Apus affinis***
Seen at most sites.
White-rumped Swift ***Apus caffer***
Seen on the way to Ankasa & at Mole.
African Palm-Swift ***Cypsiurus parvus***
Seen at most sites.

BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae
Green Woodhoopoe ***Phoeniculus purpureus***
Seen at Sakamono, Accra & Mole.
Forest Woodhoopoe ***Phoeniculus castaneiceps***
Seen at Bobiri.
Black Scimitar-bill ***Rhinopomastus aterrimus***
Seen at Mole.

BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill ***Lophoceros camurus***
Seen at Bobiri.

African Pied Hornbill ***Lophoceros fasciatus***
Seen at most sites in the south.
African Gray Hornbill ***Lophoceros nasutus***
Seen at Sakamono. Shai Hills, Mole & Tono Dam.
Northern Red-billed Hornbill ***Tockus erythrorhychus***
Seen at Mole, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
White-crested Hornbill ***Horizocerus albocristatus***
Seen at Atewa & Ebekawopa.
Black Dwarf Hornbill ***Horizocerus hartlaubi***
Seen at Kakum, Ankasa & Bobiri.
Black-casqued Hornbill ***Ceratogymna atrata***
Heard at Ankasa.
Yellow-casqued Hornbill ***Ceratogymna elata***
Vulnerable. Heard at Ankasa.
Brown-cheeked Hornbill ***Bycanistes cylindricus***
Seen at Kakum & Ankasa. Heard at Atewa.
Piping Hornbill ***Bycanistes fistulator***
Seen at Ankasa.

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae
Shining-blue Kingfisher ***Alcedo quadribrachys***
Seen at Ankasa.
Malachite Kingfisher ***Corythornis cristatus***
Seen at Atewa, Sakumono, Mankessim, on the way to Ankasa, Mole, Sapeliga & Nasia.
White-bellied Kingfisher ***Corythornis leucogaster***
Seen at Ankasa.
African Pygmy-Kingfisher ***Ispidina picta***
Seen at Ebekawopa, Ankasa & Mole.
Dwarf Kingfisher ***Ispidina lecontei***
Seen at Kakum.
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher ***Halcyon badia***
Seen at Ebekawopa. Heard at Atewa, Kakum & Ankasa. .
Gray-headed Kingfisher ***Halcyon leucocephala***
Seen at Mole.
Woodland Kingfisher ***Halcyon senegalensis***
Seen at Sakumono, Atewa, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankassa.
Blue-breasted Kingfisher ***Halcyon malimbica***
Seen at Atewa, Ankasa & Mole. Heard at Kakum.
Striped Kingfisher ***Halcyon chelicuti***
Seen at Shai Hills.
Pied Kingfisher ***Ceryle rudis***
Seen at Sakamono, on the way to Ankasa & Sapeliga.

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae
Black Bee-eater ***Merops gularis***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Picathartes site.
Blue-moustached Bee-eater** ***Merops mentalis
Seen at Atewa.
Red-throated Bee-eater ***Merops bulocki***
Seen at Mole.
Little Bee-eater ***Merops pusillus***
Seen at Sakamono & on the way to Ankasa.
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater ***Merops hirundineus***
Seen at Shai Hills.
White-throated Bee-eater ***Merops albicollis***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Rosy Bee-eater ***Merops malimbicus***
Seen at Kakum, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae
Abyssinian Roller ***Coracias abyssinicus***
Seen at Mole, Nasia, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Rufous-crowned Roller ***Coracias naevius***
Seen at Tongo Hills & Sapeliga.

Blue-bellied Roller ***Coracias cyanogaster***
Seen briefly on the drive to Mole.
Broad-billed Roller ***Eurystomus glaucurus***
Seen at Atewa & Mole.
Blue-throated Roller ***Eurystomus gularis***
Seen at Kakum & Ebekawopa. Heard at Ankasa & Bobiri.

PICIFORMES: Lybiidae
Yellow-billed Barbet ***Trachyphonus purpuratus***
Heard at Atewa.
Bristle-nosed Barbet ***Gymnobucco peli***
Seen at Atewa & Antwikwa.
Naked-faced Barbet ***Gymnobucco calvus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa**.**
Speckled Tinkerbird ***Pogoniulus scolopaceus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa & Ankasa.
Red-rumped Tinkerbird ***Pogoniulus atroflavus***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa & Ankasa. Heard at Kakum & Ebekawopa.
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird ***Pogoniulus subsulphureus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Antwikwa. Heard at Ebekawopa & Bobiri.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird ***Pogoniulus bilineatus***
Seen at Shai Hills.
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird ***Pogoniulus chrysoconus***
Seen at Shai Hills, Mole, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Yellow-spotted Barbet ***Buccanodon duchaillui***
Seen at Ebekawopa. Heard at Atewa & Ankasa.
Hairy-breasted Barbet ***Tricholaema hirsuta***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa. Heard at Bobiri.
Vieillot's Barbet ***Lybius vieilloti***
Seen at Atewa, Shai Hills, Mole, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Double-toothed Barbet ***Lybius bidentatus***
Seen at Sakumono, Accra & Shai Hills
Bearded Barbet ***Lybius dubius***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae
Cassin's Honeyguide ***Prodotiscus insignis***
Seen at Kakum, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.
Lesser Honeyguide ***Indicator minor***
Seen at Mole.
Spotted Honeyguide ***Indicator maculatus***
Seen at Atewa.
Greater Honeyguide ***Indicator indicator***
Heard at Sapeliga,

PICIFORMES: Picidae
African Piculet ***Sasia africana***
Seen at Kakum.
Fine-spotted Woodpecker ***Campethera punctuligera***
Seen at Mole.
Little Green Woodpecker ***Campethera maculosa***
Seen at Kakum & Ebekawopa,
Buff-spotted Woodpecker ***Campethera nivosa***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa & Bobiri.
Cardinal Woodpecker ***Dendropicos fuscescens***
Seen at Mole.
Melancholy Woodpecker ***Dendropicos lugubris***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Picathartes & Ankasa.
Fire-bellied Woodpecker ***Dendropicos pyrrhogaster***
Seen at Antwikwa & heard at Kakum.
African Gray Woodpecker ***Dendropicos goertae***
Seen at Mole.

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae
Eurasian Kestrel ***Falco tinnunculus***
Seen at Atewa & Shai Hills.
Fox Kestrel ***Falco alopex***
Seen at Tongo Hills.
Gray Kestrel ***Falco ardosiaceus***
Seen at Atewa, Shai Hills & Antwikwa.
Red-necked Falcon **Falco chicquera**
Seen at Tono Dam.
African Hobby ***Falco cuvierii***
Seen at Atewa & Sakumono.
Lanner Falcon ***Falco biarmicus***
Seen at Mole & Tongo Hills.

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae
Rose-ringed Parakeet ***Psittacula krameri***
Seen at Mole.

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae
Gray Parrot ***Psittacus erithacus***
Vulnerable. Seen at Ankasa & Bobiri.
Red-fronted Parrot ***Poicephalus gulielmi***
Seen at Antwikwa & heard at the Picathartes site.
Senegal Parrot ***Poicephalus senegalus***
Seen at Sakumono, Shai Hills & Mole. Heard at Tono Dam.

PASSERIFORMES: Calyptomenidae
Rufous-sided Broadbill ***Smithornis rufolateralis***
Seen at Atewa & Kakum. Heard at Ebekawopa.

PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae
Brown-throated Wattle-eye ***Platysteira cyanea***
Seen at Mole & heard at Shai Hills.
West African Wattle-eye ***Platysteira hormophora***
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye ***Platysteira blissetti***
Seen at Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.
Senegal Batis ***Batis senegalensis***
Seen at Mole.
West African Batis ***Batis occulta***
Heard at Kakum.

PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae
White Helmetshrike ***Prionops plumatus***
Seen at Shai Hills.
Red-billed Helmetshrike ***Prionops caniceps***
Seen at Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
African Shrike-flycatcher** ***Megabyas flammulatus
Seen by the guide at Atewa.
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher ***Bias musicus***
Seen at Atewa & Ebekawopa.

PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae
Brubru ***Nilaus afer***
Seen at Mole.
Northern Puffback ***Dryoscopus gambensis***
Seen at Atewa & Mole.
Large-billed Puffback ***Dryoscopus sabini***
Heard at Atewa, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.
Marsh Tchagra** ***Tchagra minutus
Seen at Atewa.
Black-crowned Tchagra ***Tchagra senegalus***
Seen at Mole. Heard at Shai Hills, Bobiri & Tono.

Yellow-crowned Gonolek ***Laniarius barbarus***
Seen at Brenu & Mole. Heard at Sakumono & Sapeliga.
Lowland Sooty Boubou ***Laniarius leucorhynchus***
Heard at Ebekawopa.
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike ***Telophorus sulfureopectus***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.
Many-colored Bushshrike ***Telophorus multicolor***
Heard at Atewa & Ankasa.
Gray-headed Bushshrike ***Telophorus sulfureopectus***
Seen at Mole.

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae
White-breasted Cuckooshrike ***Coracina pectoralis***
Seen at Mole.
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike ***Campephaga phoenicea***
Seen at Mole.
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike ***Campephaga quiscalina***
Seen at Atewa & heard at Kakum.
Blue Cuckooshrike ***Cyanograucalus azureus***
Seen at Kakum & heard at Ebekawopa.

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae
Northern Fiscal ***Lanius humeralis***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa, Brenu & on the way to Mole.
Yellow-billed Shrike ***Corvinella corvina***
Seen at Sakumono & Mole.

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae
African Golden Oriole ***Oriolus auratus***
Seen at Mole.
Western Black-headed Oriole ***Oriolus brachyrhynchus***
Seen at Ankasa. Heard at Atewa, Ebekawopa & Bobiri.
Black-winged Oriole ***Oriolus nigripennis***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae
Square-tailed Drongo ***Dicrurus ludwigii***
Seen at Mole.
Shining Drongo ***Dicrurus atripennis***
Seen at Ebekawopa & Ankasa. Heard at Atewa
Fork-tailed Drongo ***Dicrurus adsimilis***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.
Velvet-mantled Drongo ***Dicrurus modestus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Ebekawopa, Ankasa & Bobiri..

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae
Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher ***Trochocercus nitens***
Seen at Ankasa.
Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher ***Terpsiphone rufiventer***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Ebekawopa & Ankasa. Heard at Antwikwa & Bobiri.
African Paradise-Flycatcher ***Terpsiphone viridis***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae
Piapiac ***Ptilostomus afer***
Seen at Shai Hills, Mole & Tono Dam.
Pied Crow ***Corvus albus***
Commonly seen throughout.

PASSERIFORMES: Picathartidae
White-necked Rockfowl ***Picathartes gymnocephalus*** Upper Guinea endemic.
Vulnerable. Seen at Picathartes site.

PASSERIFORMES: Nicatoridae

Western Nicator ***Nicator chloris***
Seen at Atewa & Ankasa. Heard at Antwikwa & Ebekawopa,

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Sun Lark ***Galerida modesta***
Seen at Mole.

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow ***Hirundo rustica***
Seen Antwikwa & Mole.
Red-chested Swallow ***Hirundo lucida***
Seen at Mole, Nasia, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Ethiopian Swallow ***Hirundo aethiopica***
Seen at Sakumono, Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Mole.
White-throated Blue Swallow ***Hirundo nigrita***
Seen at Pra River.
Wire-tailed Swallow ***Hirundo smithii***
Seen at Mole.
Pied-winged Swallow ***Hirundo leucosoma***
Seen at Mole.
Red-rumped Swallow ***Cecropis daurica***
Seen at Tongo Hills.
Lesser Striped-Swallow ***Cecropis abyssinica***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Mole.
Rufous-chested Swallow ***Cecropis semirufa***
Seen at Antwikwa.
Mosque Swallow ***Cecropis senegalensis***
Seen at Sakumono, Atewa & Shai Hills.
Preuss's Swallow ***Petrochelidon preussi***
Seen on the way to the Pra River.
Common House Martin ***Delichon urbicum***
Seen in Accra by some participents.
Square-tailed Sawwing ***Psalidoprocne nitens***
Seen at Ankasa.
Fanti Sawwing ***Psalidoprocne obscura***
Seen at Ebekawopa & Mole,

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

African Blue-Flycatcher ***Elminia longicauda***
Seen at Mole.

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

White-shouldered Black-Tit ***Melaniparus guineensis***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Slender-billed Greenbul ***Stelgidillas gracilirostris***
Seen at Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Golden Greenbul ***Calyptocichla serinus***
Seen at Antwikwa & heard at Ebekawopa,
Red-tailed Bristlebill ***Bleda syndactylus***
Seen at Kakum. Heard at Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Gray-headed Bristlebill ***Bleda canicapillus***
Seen at Kakum. Heard at Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Simple Greenbul ***Chlorocichla simplex***
Seen at Atewa & Antwikwa. Heard at Shai Hills.
Honeyguide Greenbul ***Baeopogon indicator***
Heard at Atewa, Kakum & Antwikwa.
Spotted Greenbul ***Ixonotus guttatus***
Seen at Kakum & heard at Ebekawopa.
Swamp Greenbul ***Thescelocichla leucopleura***
Seen at Bobiri.

Red-tailed Greenbul ***Criniger calurus***
Seen at Ankasa & Ebekawopa.
Western Bearded-Greenbul ***Criniger barbatus***
Seen at Kakum & Ebekawopa. Heard at Atewa & Ankasa.
Yellow-bearded Greenbul ***Criniger olivaceus*** **Upper Guinea endemic.**
Vulnerable. Seen at Ankasa.
Gray Greenbul ***Eurillas gracilis***
Seen at Atewa & Kakum.
Ansorge's Greenbul ***Eurillas ansorgei***
Seen at Ankasa & heard at Ebekawopa,
Plain Greenbul ***Eurillas curvirostris***
Seen at Kakum, Ebekawopa & Ankasa. Heard at Bobiri.
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul ***Eurillas latirostris***
Seen at Kakum & Ebekawopa.
Little Greenbul ***Eurillas virens***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa & Bobiri. Heard at Ebekawopa.
Icterine Greenbul ***Phyllastrephus icterinus***
Seen at Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
White-throated Greenbul ***Phyllastrephus albigularis***
Seen at Kakum
Common Bulbul ***Pycnonotus barbatus***
Commonly seen throughout.

PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae
Green Crombec ***Sylvietta virens***
Seen at Atewa & Kakum.
Lemon-bellied Crombec ***Sylvietta denti***
Seen at Atewa & Kakum.
Northern Crombec ***Sylvietta brachyura***
Seen at Sakumono & Nasia.
Moustached Grass-Warbler ***Melocichla mentalis***
Seen at Mole.
Gray Longbill ***Macrosphenus concolor***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Ankasa & Bobiri. Heard at Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.
Green Hylia ***Hylia prasina***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Ebekawopa & Ankasa. Heard at Bobiri.
Tit Hylia ***Pholidornis rushiae***
Seen at Ebekawopa & Bobiri. Heard at Kakum.

PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher ***Erythrocercus mccallii***
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa & Bobiri.

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae
Willow Warbler ***Phylloscopus trochilus***
Seen at Mole & Sapeliga.
Wood Warbler ***Phylloscopus sibilatrix***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.

PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae
Melodious Warbler ***Hippolais polyglotta***
Seen at Atewa & Tono Hills.
Great Reed-Warbler** ***Acrocephalus arundinaceus
Seen at Atewa.

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae
Black-capped Apalis ***Apalis nigriceps***
Seen at Atewa.
Yellow-breasted Apalis ***Apalis flavida***
Seen at Mole.
Sharpe's Apalis ***Apalis sharpii*** **Upper Guinea endemic**
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa, Ankasa & Bobiri.
Green-backed Camaroptera ***Camaroptera brachyura***
Seen at Shai Hills, Antwikwa & Mole. Heard at Atewa & Ebekawopa.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera ***Camaroptera superciliaris***
Seen at Kakum. Heard at Atewa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa,
Olive-green Camaroptera ***Camaroptera chloronota***
Seen at Atewa. Heard at Ankasa & Ebekawopa.
Red-faced Cisticola ***Cisticola erythrops***
Seen at Atewa & Antwikwa. Heard at Ebekawopa & Brenu.
Singing Cisticola ***Cisticola cantans***
Seen at Mole & heard at Brenu.
Whistling Cisticola ***Cisticola lateralis***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa & Ebekawopa.
Rock-loving Cisticola ***Cisticola aberrans***
Seen at Tongo Hills.
Winding Cisticola ***Cisticola galactotes***
Seen at Sakumono & Nasia.
Croaking Cisticola ***Cisticola natalensis***
Seen at Shai Hills.
Siffling Cisticola ***Cisticola brachypterus***
Seen at Shai Hills.
Rufous Cisticola ***Cisticola rufus***
Seen at Mole.
Zitting Cisticola ***Cisticola juncidis***
Seen at Sakumono.
Black-backed Cisticola ***Cisticola juncidis***
Seen at Sakumono.
Oriole Warbler ***Hypergerus atriceps***
Seen at Mole & Shai Hills.
Tawny-flanked Prinia ***Prinia subflava***
Seen at Mole. Tongo Hills & Tono Dam.
Red-winged Prinia ***Prinia erythroptera***
Seen at Mole.
Senegal Eremomela ***Eremomela pusilla***
Seen at Sakumono, Shai Hills, Mole & Tono Dam.
Rufous-crowned Eremomela ***Eremomela badiceps***
Seen at Atewa & Kakum.

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae
African Yellow White-eye ***Zosterops senegalensis***
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa, Mole & Tongo Hills.

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae
Brown Illadopsis ***Illadopsis fulvescens***
Heaard at Kakum.
Pale-breasted Illadopsis ***Illadopsis rufipennis***
Heard at Ebekawopa.
Puvel's Illadopsis ***Illadopsis puveli***
Seen by some at Ebekawopa.

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae
Blackcap Babbler ***Turdoides reinwardtii***
Heard at Shai Hills & Mole.
Brown Babbler ***Turdoides plebejus***
Seen at Sakamono & Mole.

PASSERIFORMES: Hyliotidae
Yellow-bellied Hyliota ***Hyliota flavigaster***
Seen by the TL at Mole.
Violet-backed Hyliota ***Hyliota violacea***
Seen at Kakum & Ebekawopa.

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae
Pale Flycatcher ***Bradornis pallidus***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.
Northern Black-Flycatcher ***Melaenornis edolioides***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.

African Forest-Flycatcher ***Fraseria ocreata***
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa & Akasa.
Spotted Flycatcher ***Muscicapa striata***
Seen at Shai Hills,
Ussher's Flycatcher ***Muscicapa ussheri***
Seen at Kakum & Ebekawopa.
Swamp Flycatcher ***Muscicapa aquatica***
Seen at Mole.
Little Flycatcher** ***Muscicapa epulata
Heard at Atewa.
Dusky-blue Flycatcher ***Muscicapa comitata***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Ankasa.
Tessmann's Flycatcher** ***Muscicapa tessmanni
Near-threatened. Seen at Atewa.
Cassin's Flycatcher ***Muscicapa cassini***
A pair seen at a nest at Ankasa.
Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher ***Myioparus griseigularis***
Seen at Kakum & heard at Ebekawopa & Picathartes site.
Gray Tit-Flycatcher ***Myioparus plumbeus***
Seen at Shai Hills, Antwikwa & Mole. Heard at Ebekawopa.
Fire-crested Alethe ***Alethe diademata***
Seen at Kakum & heard at Ebekawopa.
Forest Scrub-Robin** ***Cercotrichas leucosticta
Seen at Atewa.
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat ***Cossypha niveicapilla***
Seen at Mole & heard Shai Hills.
White-crowned Robin-Chat ***Cossypha albicapilla***
Seen at Mole.
Forest Robin ***Stiphrornis erythrothorax***
Seen at Kakum & Ankasa.
European Pied Flycatcher ***Ficedula hypoleuca***
Seen at Mole.
Whinchat ***Saxicola rubetra***
Seen at Atewa & Shai Hills.
White-fronted Black-Chat ***Myrmecocichla albifrons***
Seen at Mole.
Mocking Cliff-Chat ***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris***
Seen at Shai Hills & Tongo Hills.

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae
Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush ***Neocossyphus finschii***
Seen at Atewa & Ankasa. Heard at Kakum & Ebekawopa.
White-tailed Ant-Thrush ***Neocossyphus poensis***
Heard at Ankasa.
African Thrush ***Turdus pelios***
Seen in Accra, Atewa & Mole. Heard at Sakumono.

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
Violet-backed Starling ***Cinnyricinclus leucogaster***
Seen at Ebekawopa & Mole.
Chestnut-winged Starling** ***Onychognathus fulgidus
Seen at Atewa.
Copper-tailed Glossy-Starling ***Lamprotornis cupreocauda*** **Upper Guinea endemic**
Near-threatened. Seen at Ankasa.
Long-tailed Glossy-Starling ***Lamprotornis caudatus***
Seen at Mole, Sapeliga & Tono Dam.
Splendid Glossy-Starling ***Lamprotornis splendidus***
Seen at Sakumono, Atewa & on the way to Ankasa.
Chestnut-bellied Starling ***Lamprotornis pulcher***
Seen at Sapeliga.
Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling ***Lamprotornis chloropterus***
Seen at Mole & Sapeliga
Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling ***Lamprotornis chalybaeus***
Seen at Mole & Sapeliga.

Purple Glossy-Starling ***Lamprotornis purpureus***
Seen at Sakamono, Mole & Sapeliga.

PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae
Yellow-billed Oxpecker ***Buphagus africanus***
Seen at Nasia & Sapeliga.

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae
Fraser's Sunbird ***Deleornis fraseri***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Western Violet-backed Sunbird ***Anthreptes longuemarei***
Seen at Mole.
Mouse-brown Sunbird ***Anthreptes gabonicus***
Seen at mangroves on the way back from Ankasa.
Seimund's Sunbird ***Anthreptes seimundi***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Green Sunbird ***Anthreptes rectirostris***
Seen at Antwikwa & Ankasa.
Collared Sunbird ***Hedydipna collaris***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Pygmy Sunbird ***Hedydipna platura***
Seen at Mole.
Reichenbach's Sunbird ***Anabathmis reichenbachii***
Seen at mangroves on the way to Ankasa.
Green-headed Sunbird ***Cyanomitra verticalis***
Seen at Ebekawopa & Mole.
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird ***Cyanomitra cyanolaema***
Seen at Kakum, Ebekawopa. Heard at Atewa.
Western Olive Sunbird ***Cyanomitra obscura***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Buff-throated Sunbird ***Chalcomitra adelberti***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & Bobiri.
Scarlet-chested Sunbird ***Chalcomitra senegalensis***
Seen at Sakumono, Shai Hills & Mole.
Olive-bellied Sunbird ***Cinnyris chloropygius***
Seen at Atewa, Shai Hills, Atwikwa, Kakum & Ebekawopa.
Tiny Sunbird ***Cinnyris minullus***
Seen at Ebekawopa.
Beautiful Sunbird ***Cinnyris pulchellus***
Seen at Mole.
Splendid Sunbird ***Cinnyris coccinigastrus***
Seen at Atewa, Erata, Shai Hills & Brenu.
Johanna's Sunbird ***Cinnyris johannae***
Seen at Ankasa & heard at Atewa.
Superb Sunbird ***Cinnyris superbus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Ebekawopa.
Copper Sunbird ***Cinnyris cupreus***
Seen at Sakumono, Kakum & Brenu.

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
Western Yellow Wagtail ***Motacilla flava***
Seen on the way back from Ankasa & at Brenu.
African Pied Wagtail ***Motacilla aguimp***
Seen at many sites. Often as gas stations.
Plain-backed Pipit ***Anthus leucophrys***
Seen at Sakamono & Shai Hils.
Tree Pipit ***Anthus trivialis***
Seen at Mole,

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae
Gosling's Bunting ***Emberiza goslingi***
Seen at Tongo Hills & Tono Dam.
Brown-rumped Bunting ***Emberiza affinis***
Seen at Mole.

Golden-breasted Bunting ***Emberiza flaviventris***
Seen near Sapeliga.

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae
White-rumped Seedeater ***Serinus leucopygius***
Seen near Sapeliga.
Yellow-fronted Canary ***Serinus mozambicus***
Seen at Mole, Sapeliga & Nasia.

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae
Northern Gray-headed Sparrow ***Passer griseus***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa, on the way back from Ankasa, Mole & Tongo Hills.
Bush Petronia ***Petronia dentata***
Seen at Mole & Nasia

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae
White-billed Buffalo-Weaver ***Bubalornis albirostris***
Seen on the way to Sapeliga.
Speckle-fronted Weaver ***Sporopipes frontalis***
Seen near Sapeliga.
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver ***Plocepasser superciliosus***
Seen at Mole.
Red-vented Malimbe ***Malimbus scutatus***
Seen at Antwikwa & Ankasa.
Gray's Malimbe ***Malimbus nitens***
Seen at Kakum, Antwikwa & Ankasa.
Crested Malimbe ***Malimbus malimbicus***
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.
Red-headed Malimbe ***Malimbus rubricollis***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Ankasa.
Little Weaver ***Ploceus luteolus***
Seen at Mole & Nasia.
Black-necked Weaver ***Ploceus nigricollis***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa & on the way back from Ankasa.
Orange Weaver ***Ploceus aurantius***
Seen on the way to Ankasa.
Vitelline Masked-Weaver ***Ploceus vitellinus***
Seen near Sapeliga.
Heuglin's Masked-Weaver ***Ploceus heuglini***
Seen by some at Mole.
Vieillot's Weaver ***Ploceus nigerrimus***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa, Ebekaopa, on the way to Ankasa.
Village Weaver ***Ploceus cucullatus***
Seen at Sakamono, Atewa, Ebekawopa and on the way to Ankasa.
Black-headed Weaver ***Ploceus melanocephalus***
Seen at Nasia.
Yellow-mantled Weaver ***Ploceus tricolor***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Ebekawopa & Bobiri.
Maxwell's Black Weaver ***Ploceus albinucha***
Seen at Kakum.
Preuss's Weaver ***Ploceus preussi***
Seen at Kakum.
Compact Weaver** ***Pachyphantes superciliosus
Seen at Atewa.
Red-headed Quelea** ***Quelea erythrops
Seen at Atewa.
Red-billed Quelea ***Quelea quelea***
Seen near Mole, Tono Dam & Nasia.
Northern Red Bishop ***Euplectes franciscanus***
Seen at Mole.
Black-winged Bishop ***Euplectes hordeaceus***
Seen at Atewa, Ebekawopa, Brenu & Nasia.
Yellow-shouldered Widowbird ***Euplectes macroura***
Seen at Brenu, Mole & Sapeliga.

Grosbeak Weaver** ***Amblyospiza albifrons
Seen at Atewa.

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae
Gray-headed Nigrita ***Nigrita canicapillus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa, Ebekawopa & heard at Ankasa.
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita ***Nigrita bicolor***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum, Antwikwa & Ankasa.
White-breasted Nigrita ***Nigrita fusconotus***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Ebekawopa.
Lavender Waxbill ***Estrilda caerulescens***
Seen at Mole.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill ***Estrilda melpoda***
Seen at Atewa, Antwikwa & on the way back from Ankasa.
Black-rumped Waxbill ***Estrilda troglodytes***
Seen at Mole, Tongo Hills & Nasia.
Western Bluebill ***Spermophaga haematina***
Seen at Atewa & heard at Ankasa.
Red-cheeked Cordonbleu ***Uraeginthus bengalus***
Seen at Mole, Tongo Hills, Sapeliga, Tono Dam & Nasia.
Green-winged Pytilia **Pytilia melba**
Seen near Sapeliga.
Red-billed Firefinch ***Lagonosticta senegala***
Seen at Mole & Tongo Hills.
Bar-breasted Firefinch ***Lagonosticta rufopicta***
Seen at Atewa, Brenu & Mole.
Black-faced Firefinch ***Lagonosticta larvata***
Seen at Mole.
African Firefinch ***Lagonosticta rubricata***
Seen at Atewa & Brenu.
Black-faced Quailfinch ***Ortygospiza atricollis***
Seen at Nasia.
Bronze Mannikin ***Spermestes cucullatus***
Commonly seen throughout.
Black-and-white Mannikin ***Spermestes bicolor***
Seen at Atewaa & Antwikwa.
Magpie Mannikin ***Spermestes fringilloides***
Seen at Bobiri.
African Silverbill ***Euodice cantans***
Seen at Nasia & Sapeliga.

PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae
Pin-tailed Whydah ***Vidua macroura***
Seen at Sakumono, Kakum, Antwikwa, on the way back from Ankasa & Mole.
Pale-winged Indigobird ***Vidua wilsoni***
Seen at Mole.

MAMMAL LIST
Taxonomy follows Wikipedia.org
PRIMATES: Cercopithecidae
Olive Baboon ***Papio anubis***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.
Callithrix Monkey ***Cercopithecus sabaeus***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.
Lowe's Mona Monkey ***Cercopithecus lowei***
Seen at Ankasa & heard at Kakum.
Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey ***Cercopithecus petaurista***
Seen at Shai Hills.

PRIMATES: Galagidae
Senegal Galago ***Galago senegalensis***
Seen at Mole.
Demidoff's Galago ***Galagoides demidoff***
Seen at Atewa, Kakum & Ankasa.

FRUIT-BATS: Pteropodidae
Straw-colored Fruit Bat** ***Eidolon helvum
Seen near Atewa.
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat ***Epomophorus gambianus***
Seen at a restaurant in Tamale.
Hammer Bat** ***Hypsignathus monstrosus
Seen at Atewa.

FALSE VAMPIRE BATS: Megadermatidae
Yellow-winged Bat ***Lavia frons***
Seen at Mole.

RABBITS: Leporidae
Scrub Hare ***Lepus saxatilis***
Seen at Mole.

SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae
Kintampo Rope Squirrel ***Funisciurus substriatus***
Seen at Mole & heard at Bobiri.
Green Bush Squirrel** ***Paraxerus poensis
Seen at Atewa.
Red-legged Sun-Squirrel ***Heliosciurus rufobrachium***
Seen at Ankasa.
African Giant Squirrel ***Protoxerus stangeri***
Heard at Kakum.
Slender-tailed Squirrel ***Protoxerus aubinnii***
Seen at Anwikwa & Ankasa.

MONGOOSES: Herpestidae
Slender Mongoose** ***Galerella sanguinea
Seen at Atewa
White-tailed Mongoose ***Ichneumia albicauda***
Seen at Mole.

HYRAXES: Procaviidae
Western Tree Hyrax ***Dendrohyrax dorsalis***
Heard at Kakum, Ebekawopa & Ankasa.

ELEPHANTS: Elephantidae
African Elephant ***Loxodonta africana***
Seen at Mole.

PIGS: Suidae
Common Warthog ***Phacochoerus africanus***
Seen at Mole.

BOVIDS: Bovidae
Bushbuck ***Tragelaphus scriptus***
Seen at Mole.
Kob ***Kobus kob***
Seen at Shai Hills & Mole.

REPTILE LIST

Taxonomy follows Wikipedia.org

Snakes: Colubridae

Black-necked Spitting Cobra** ***Naja nigricollis
The tail of this species was seen sticking out the base of a tree at Atewa.

AGAMAS: Agamidae

Common Agama ***Agama agama***
Commonly seen throughout.

GECKOS: Gekkonidae

Tropical House Gecko ***Hemidactylus mabouia***
Seen at Kakum,

SKINKS: Scincidae

Rainbow Skink ***Mabuya margaritifer***
Seen at Tono Dam.
Five-lined Skink ***Mabuya quinquetaeniata***
Seen at Mole.

MONITORS: Varanidae

Nile Monitor ***Varanus niloticus***
Seen in Accra by 2 clients before the start of the tour..

CROCODILES: Crocodylidae

Nile Crocodile ***Crocodylus niloticus***
Seen at Mole.

* - only seen on the extension

BUTTERFLY LIST

Taxonomy follows Wikipedia.org

NYMPHALIDAE

African Monarch ***Danaus chrysippus***
Seen at Atewa.
African Leaf Butterfly ***Kallimoides rumia***
Seen at Bobiri.
Brown Pansy ***Junonia stygia***
Seen at Atewa.
Dark Blue Pansy ***Junonia oenone***
Seen at Atewa.
Common Diadem ***Hypolimnas misippus***
Seen at Atewa.
Common White Glider ***Cymothoe caenis***
Seen at Ankasa.
Dark Palm Forester ***Bebearia mardania***
Seen at Ankasa.
Dark Vulgar Bush Brown **Bicyclus sandace**
Seen at Atewa.
Fashion Commodore ***Precis pelarga***
Seen at Atewa.

Green Charaxes ***Charaxes eupale***
Seen at Ankasa.
Mabille's Red Glider ***Cymothoe mabillei***
Seen at Atewa.
Mother of Pearl ***Protogoniomorpha parhassus***
Seen at Ankasa.
Oberthur's Pathfinder ***Catuna oberthueri***
Seen at Ankassa.
Soldier Commodore ***Junonia terea***
Seen at Ebekawopa.
Tentyris Forester ***Bebearia tentyris***
Seen at Kakum.
Ussher's Palla ***Palla ussheri***
Seen at Atewa.
Widespread Forester ***Euphaedra medon***
Seen at Atewa.
Yellow Glider ***Cymothoe egesta***
Seen at Ankasa.

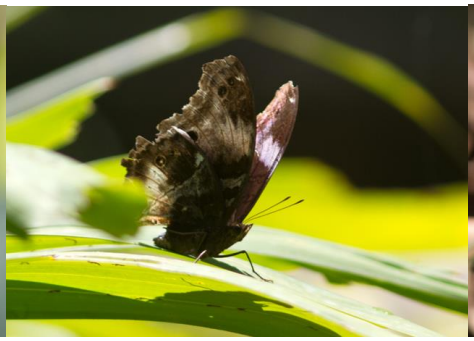
LYCAENIDAE
Common Zebra Blue ***Leptotes pirithous***
Seen at Bobiri.
Indigo Ciliate Blue ***Anthene rubricinctus***
Seen at Ankasa.
Large Fairy Hairstreak ***Hypolycaena antifaunus***
Seen at Ankasa.
Mirza Blue ***Azanus mirza***
Seen at Ankasa.
Spotted Ciliate Blue ***Anthene larydas***
Seen at Ebekawopa.

PIERIDAE
Caper White ***Belenois aurota***
Seen at Atewa.
Common Albatross ***Appias sylvia***
Seen at Ankasa.
Flip Flop ***Leptosia alcesta***
Seen at Ankasa.
Sabine Albatross ***Appias sabina***
Seen at Atewa.
Western Dotted Border ***Mylothris poppea***
Seen at Atewa.

PAPILIONIDAE
Broad-banded Green Swallowtail ***Papilio chrapowskoides***
Seen at Atewa.
Citrus Swallowtail ***Papilio demodocus***
Seen at Bobiri.
Common Wihte-banded Swallowtail ***Pailio cyproeofila***
Seen at Ankasa.
Turquoise-spotted Swordtail ***Graphium policenes***
Seen at Ebekawopa.

BUTTERFLY GALLERY

African Monarch

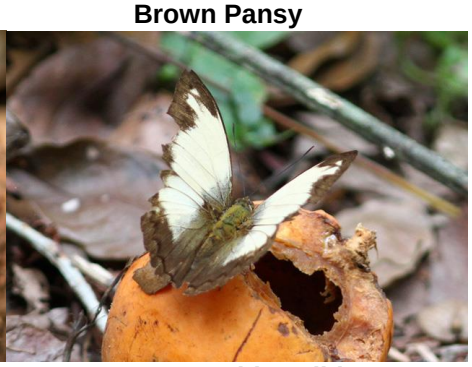


African Leaf Butterfly

Brown Pansy

Dark Blue Pansy

Common Diadem



Common White Glider

Dark Palm Forester

Dark Vulgar Bush Brown

Fashion Commodore

Green Charaxes

Mabille's Red Glider

Mother of Pearl

Oberthur's Pathfinder

Soldier Commodore

Tentyris Forester

Ussher's Palla

Widespread Forester

Yellow Glider

Common Zebra Blue

Indigo Ciliate Blue

Large Fairy Hairstreak

Mirza Blue

Spotted Ciliate Blue

Caper White

Common Albatross

Sabine Albatross

Western Dotted Border

Citrus Swallowtail

Common White-banded Swallowtail

Turquoise-spotted Swordtail