TROPICAL BIRDING

GHANA: Picathartes & Egyptian Plover

Main tour 18th April – 1st May Atewa extension 1st – 4th May, 2022 Report & photos (unless otherwise stated) by tour leader Charley Hesse.



This years Ghana tour was a particularly enjoyable one, with a wonderful group and many memorable sightings, including some real rarities. The Picathartes site has a new viewing location which allows for face-to-face encounters and wonderful photos of these unique birds. Despite the White Volta river having very high water levels, We still had great views of Egyptian Plovers and even used the services of a local boatman to get wonderful photos. The big change this year was the completion of the Ankasa Lodge which means no more camping. Refurbishment of Rainforest Lodge at Kakum and the high quality of the lodge in Bolgatanga now means that the majority of the accommodation on this tour is now of a very high standard, with the rest more than adequate. Some of the other birding highlights included Black-casqued Hornbills at Kakum, Nkulengu & Gray-throated Rails plus Red-fronted Antpecker at Ankasa, Brown-backed Woodpecker, African Spotted Creeper & Red-rumped Lark at Mole and Bluemoustached Bee-eater and Yellow-throated Cuckoo at Atewa. Our guide and driver were outstanding on this tour, giving us a wonderful introduction to the wildlife and culture of this charming country.

April 18th - Arrival in Accra



Chestnut Owlet was recently split from African Barred Owlet.

Once everybody had arrived, settled in, and had a chance to rest, we ventured out. We had a slight change of plan. Sakumono Lagoon was apparently pretty quiet now that most of the migrants had left, so we went to the nearby Shai Hills Resources Reserve instead. It seems that there had been quite a bit of rain recently and the road was pretty muddy, but our excellent driver managed well. We started picking up birds straight away and saw Vinaceous Dove, Lizard Buzzard and Croaking Cisticola. We spotted a large raptor perched up on the ridgeline, which turned out to be Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle, sharing the same tree a pair of Lesser Blue-eared Starlings. We also saw African Cuckoo, several Double-spurred Francolins on the ground, and a pair of Wattled Lapwings eyeing us cautiously. We were to take a short hike up a trail, and when we arrived at the trailhead, we were curtly greeted by troop of unfriendly Olive Baboons, which snorted at us before making themselves scarce. We took a 20-minute walk up the rocky trail past several huge baobabs, calls of Stone Partridge and Brown-throated Wattle-eye echoing through the forest. We arrived at the territory of a pair of Chestnut Owlets and they responded to us immediately and showed well. Back at the base of the hill we scanned the trees to find Levaillant's Cuckoo, Double-toothed Barbet and Northern Black Flycatcher. A bird we really wanted to see, and the one on the front of the bird book was the Violet Turaco. After a while, we located 3, perched up in a large tree next to Blue-breasted Kingfisher which soon flew into another tree with Green Woodhoopoe in. We set off back but didn't get far before I spotted a tiny African Pygmy-Kingfisher which we jumped out and got in the scope. The ranger took us to a small lily pond with Black-backed Night-Heron, African Jacana and Striated Heron on it. On the way out we spotted Black-billed Wood-Dove, Piapiac plus 2 Senegal Parrots and a Shikra sharing a tree. We thought our birding was done but after dusk, our driver screeched a holt on the way back when he spotted a **Grayish Eagle-Owl** perched on the roof of a factory. Not a bad start.

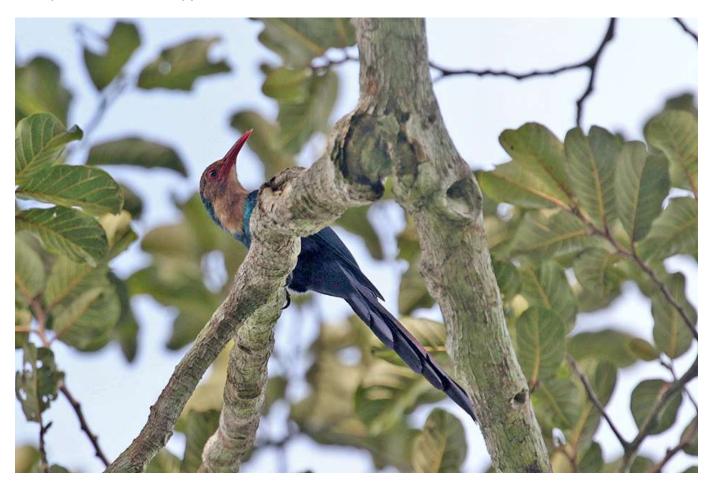
April 19th - Shai Hills to Kakum



Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey is one of several primate species found at Shai Hills.

After an early breakfast we drove back to Shai Hills. We walked from the gate and started picking up birds straight away. We had Northern Crombec, some very active Senegal Eremomelas plus Brown Babbler and several Yellowthroated Greenbuls in a further bush. A black bird perched out turned out to be a Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike with our first Vieillot's Barbet next to it and Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird calling away nearby. Along the road, we saw a covey of **Stone Partridges**, which scurried inside the forest and onto of a rock while calling incessantly. Nearby, we also had Splendid & Copper Sunbirds, the attractive Double-toothed Barbet and another Violet Turaco. We walked along the base of the rocky hills and our guide, Paul, put a Mocking Cliff-Chat in the scope for us. We added Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, had a fly over of Klaas's Cuckoo and glimpsed the very sculking Puvel's Illadopsis on the forest edge. It was getting rather warm, so we drove on to a spot for Guinea Turaco. There was no response, but here we did see Cardinal Woodpecker, Western Plantain-eater and even an African Cuckoo-Hawk being chased by a Glossy-backed Drongo. It was time to start heading back and in the savanna we saw Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, several White-throated Bee-eaters, Red-necked Buzzard perched high up on a rock plus many Kob, a rather attractive antelope. It had also been a good morning for primates with Callithrix, Lesser Spot-nosed Monkeys and many Olive Baboons. We had a short birding stop at the Winneba Lagoon, just before which we found a flock of Piapiacs feeding on a lawn. We walked between some houses and out towards a viewpoint over the mudflats. It was low tide and the birds were quite far away, but in the scope we picked out Black-winged Stilt, Black-bellied, Common Ringed & White-fronted Plovers, Whimbrel, Curlew & Common Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, West African Crested Tern and Western Reef-Heron. We also had a Spurwinged Lapwing on some open ground, a Pied Kingfisher on a wooden stump by a small water channel, plus Senegal Coucal and many Village Weavers on some nearby trees. We continued our long drive, arriving at the Rainforest Lodge by early evening and relaxed in our recently refurbished rooms before dinner.

20th April - Kakum NP Canopy



We had great looks at White-headed Woodhoopoes when they flew into our tree.

After breakfast, we stood outside the Rainforest Lodge scanning for birds and saw some African Green-Pigeons in a distant tree and African Pied Wagtail walking around next to the parking lot. We drove up the short distance to the entrance of Kakum National Park and began our walk up the trail to the famous canopy walkway. At the beginning of the trail, we were lucky enough to see African Hobby and Palm-nut Vulture fly by. In the forest, we saw the tricky Honeyguide Greenbul but only heard the distinctive whirr of wings of our target Rufous-sided Broadbill. We climbed up the hill and then onto the walkway, a series of canopy platforms built on large trees, and joined by suspended walkways. Some found them exhilarating and others challenging, but we enjoyed a full morning's birding. Some of the birds seen, included Klaas's & African Emerald Cuckoos, African Harrier-Hawk, a family of White-headed Woodhoopoes, African Pied Hornbill, Blue-throated Roller, Naked-faced Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Least Honeyguide, Melancholy & Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, Black-winged Oriole, Green & Tit-hylias, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, the Upper Guinea endemic Sharpe's Apalis, Slender-billed, Spotted & Ansorge's Greenbul, Chestnut-capped & Ussher's Flycatchers, Fraser's, Green, Collared, Tiny, Splendid & Superb Sunbirds, Red-headed Malimbe, Gray-headed Nigrita, plus Gambian & Red-legged Sun Squirrels.



We found Akun Eagle-Owl just by the side of the road.

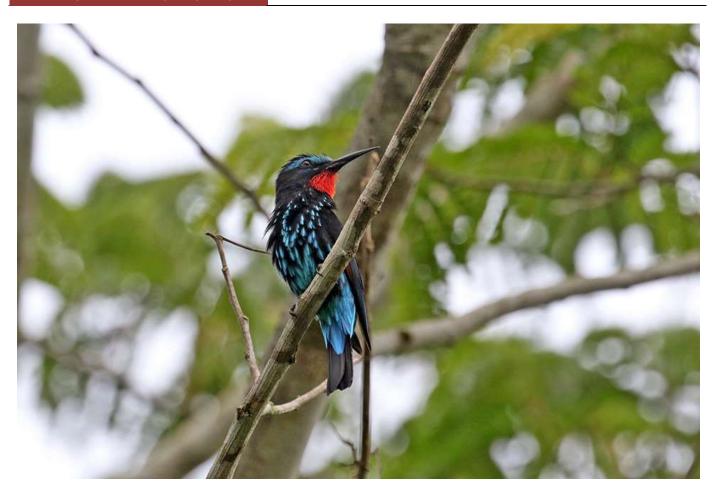
When it heated up and activity died down, we descended to the entrance where we checked out the souvenir shop, and then back for lunch and some downtime during the heat of the day. In the afternoon we returned to the canopy walkway. We added Western Yellow Wagtail in the parking lot and then set off up the trail, where we found a nice pair of African Forest-Flycatchers. As soon as we got up on the canopy, there was a huge group of young people that came by. It took quite a while for them to pass, but when they had finally gone, we could get on with our business. It was certainly a lot quieter than the morning, but we did see some nice birds, like Fanti Drongo, Little Green Sunbird, a female Buff-throated Sunbird, White-breasted & Chestnut-breasted Nigritas plus a group of very agile Lesser Spot-nosed Monkeys which jumped from tree to tree. The highlight of the afternoon though was 4 huge Black-casqued Hornbills that flew to a pre-roost spot, allowing us excellent scope views before they took off for their roost. What a treat! We stuck around the last platform until after dark, trying for Brown Nightjar, which we only heard, distantly. We did however pick up a Lesser Anomalure which is a kind of flying-squirrel. We all made it safely back down the trail in the dark, and on the drive back, Paul found us an awesome Akun Eagle-Owl perched by the roadside, which stuck around long enough for us to get photos. What a great way to finish the day.

21st April – Antwikwaa & Abrafo area.



African Pygmy-Kingfisher is a gorgeous little bird.

After an extra early breakfast we set off to the Antwikwaa area where we would spend the morning. On the way we passed an area of long grass, covered in literally thousands of Vieillot's & Village Weavers. It was an impressive sight indeed. A Woodland Kingfisher on a wire next to us also witnessed the spectacle. We passed some villages before we reached the farm bush where we got out to look for our first target, the White-spotted Flufftail. We gathered at a gap in the flooded scrub and the bird responded immediately. It wasn't so easy, but we all ended up with brief views of this mega-skulker. We drove on and from the vehicle spotted a few birds, including Northern Fiscal, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Rufous-chested Swallow and Red-headed Quelea. We reached a point where the car would wait and started walking. We had good birds right off the bat with Western Bluebill, Red-fronted Parrot, Simple Greenbul and African Paradise-Flycatcher. Farm bush refers to mixed agriculture and patches of remnant trees. In the more open areas, we picked up Red-faced & Whistling Cisticolas, Bronze & Black-and-white Mannikins and Blue-headed Coucal, whereas in the areas with more trees and bushes, we had African Pygmy Kingfisher, Green Crombec, Golden & Swamp Greenbuls and Northern Yellow White-eye. We had a great morning for barbets, with Bristle-nosed, Hairy-breasted & Vieillot's Barbets plus Speckled, Redrumped & Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds. It was also productive for sunbirds, with Olive-bellied, Tiny, Johanna's & Copper Sunbirds. Scanning with skies, we saw Cassin's Spinetail and African Cuckoo-Hawks soaring plus a quick flyby of Black Goshawk.



Black Bee-eater is one of the most distinctive members of its family.

It started getting hot, but on the way back, we picked up **Dusky-blue Flycatcher**, **Yellow-browed Camaroptera**, **Dideric & Klaas's Cuckoos** and **Black Bee-eater**. It had been a great morning of birding and started back with a quick stop for numerous **Preuss's Swallows** by their nesting colony. We took a break after lunch and reconvening in the afternoon, we found a few interesting species outside the hotel, with **Western Plantain-eater**, **Eurasian Kestrel**, **Mosque Swallow** and **Splendid Starling**. We hadn't gone far before our local guide also spotted us a **Great Spotted Cuckoo**. We had to abandon our planned site as it had just rained and the road was too muddy. Instead made it down another, slightly less muddy road, then began another walk birding the farm bush. We started off with great views of **Black Bee-eater**. Of course, it wasn't as birdy as the morning, but we saw plenty of good birds, including a dark morph **Senegal Coucal**, **Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Slender-billed & Gray Greenbuls**, **Collared**, **Olive & Copper Sunbirds**, **Blue-billed Malimbe**, **Black-and-white Mannikin** and **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**. The highlight of the afternoon though was a trio of **Guinea Turacos** which after some coaxing, finally cooperated. We also came across the interesting **Western Nicator** which we had brief views of. Again, we finished our day off with a spot of owling. We revisited a spot we went to yesterday but today with more luck as we found our target **Fraser's Eagle-Owl**. Our fourth owl species in 4 days.

22nd April – Ebekawopa to Ankasa



Long-tailed Hawk has got a lot rarer in the past few years.

Today we were going to the Ebekawopa area that we had planned to visit yesterday. It had dried out some and the driver was confident to get there and not get stuck. We started again in the farm bush habitat, that always holds a lot of birds. Here we saw Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Woodland Kingfisher, African Pied Hornbill, African Pygmy Kingfisher, White-throated Bee-eater, Northern Fiscal, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Red-faced & Whistling Cisticolas, Copper Sunbird, Black-necked Weaver, Tree Pipit, Pin-tailed Whydah and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. We continued through to the forest edge. I recognized the spot from previous tours and it was evident how much forest had been cut down just in the last few years. The forest edge was very productive and we saw plenty of good birds, including brief flight views of African Hobby, African Green Pigeon, Grey Longbill, Sabine's Spinetail, Speckled Tinkerbird, Chestnut-winged Starling, Golden Greenbul, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Bluethroated Brown Sunbird and Crested Malimbe. We found the entrance to the trail and spent some time in the forest. Forest birding is always trickier, but with effort we found a fantastic Long-tailed Hawk, Yellow-spotted & Bristle-nosed Barbets and heard a flock of Brown-cheeked Hornbills. The best sighting though was a fantastic Rufous-sided Broadbill which was doing its display of little sallies from a branch, whirring its wings. It was a real treat, and Ted was particularly happy to get photos of a new family. We went back to Rainforest Lodge where we added a pair of Ethiopian Swallows in the courtyard. We had a long drive to Ankasa so had an early lunch before setting off. We had a couple of stops on the way, the first of which was at the Boko Marsh, where we saw African Pygmy Goose, White-faced Whistling Duck, Allen's Galinule, Eurasian Moorhen, Little Grebe, Orange Weaver and Little Bee-eater. Later on, we stopped at the Ebi River mangroves for Reichenbach's Sunbird, but also added Gray Kestrel, Piping Hornbill and Pied Kingfisher, plus Common Ringed Plover, Common Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper on the exposed mud. After a long day of driving, we arrived at the new Ankasa Rainforest Lodge.

23rd April - Ankasa



These views of Nkulengu Rail were worth getting up early for.

The other group staying at the lodge had seen Nkulengu Rail going to roost last night and their driver kindly offered to drive us there, very early this morning. We gather at 4am and climbed in the land rover for the short drive to the spot. How he recognized it in the dark, we'll never know, and making our way along a barely discernible trail to the exact tree was seriously impressive. Yet there we were, looking up at 3 large rallids with long red legs and scaled, brown plumage. A MEGA bird and a great way to start the day. After breakfast, we drove back into the reserve. Our guide, Paul, told us to watch the road, which turned out to be excellent advice as we saw a Gray-throated Rail running across in from of us, and further on a Blue-spotted Wood-Dove which flushed. We reached the designated spot and started walking along the track. Along here we had brief views of the skulking Western Nicator, then spent rather a long time trying to see Forest Robin. It's tinkling song echoed through the forest, but views were fleeting. We reached the first of 3 ponds, on which we saw Shining Blue & White-bellied Kingfishers, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, Dusky-blue Flycatcher and even had a West African Dwarf Crocodile. We continued on to the second and third ponds which were quiet so came back to the first one. We were delighted to see a male West African Wattle-eye, which was soon followed by a dispersed flock with Yellowbearded & Red-tailed Greenbul, Red-vented Malimbe and best of all the very rare and unusual Red-fronted Antpecker. Another MEGA. Keeping our eyes on the road again on the drive back gave us another MEGA bird, Latham's Francolin, which flushed in a whirr of wings. What a morning it had been. In the afternoon we went back out, but it was very quiet. We had Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Turaco by the pond, but little else. The last hour of the day was spent at the viewpoint along the powerlines. Here we saw Sabine's Spinetail, Square-tailed Saw-wing, many White-throated Bee-eaters perched on the wires and we heard a distant Great Blue Turaco, but no target hornbills as we hoped. As dusk came, we gathered at a spot where the Spot-breasted Ibis had roosted in the past. We heard them calling in the distance, but it seems they had changed their roost site. We returned to the lodge for another delicious meal after a long but good day.

April 24th - Ankasa to Kakum



West African Wattle-eye used to be called Chestnut Wattle-eye after the female's coloration.

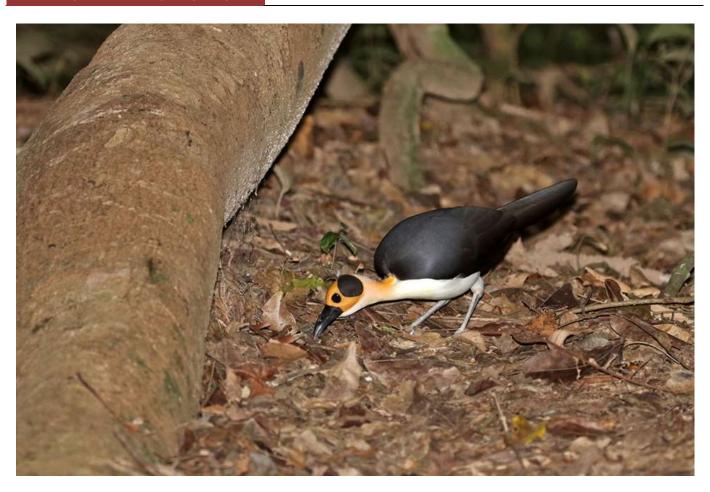
It was our final morning at Ankasa. Everybody was a little tired so we settled on some light road birding. After breakfast, we walked down from our lodge to the bridge by the entrance to the reserve and picked up a pair of Cassin's Flycatchers, perched just over the water. We walked into the reserve, and picked up a few species that we had only heard up until this point, like Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush and Little Greenbul. We drove some stretches, stopping occasionally and tried for a few birds including Blue-moustached Bee-eater which another group had seen but no luck. We heard Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and Blackcap Illadopsis and spent quite a while trying unsuccessfully to lure them in. We did finally get to see Piping Hornbill, and had a spurt of activity with West African Wattle-eye, Red-tailed Greenbul, plus Olive & Johanna's Sunbirds. One final drive along the length of the road hoping for something exciting in the road, like a White-breasted Guineafowl, but all we saw was a nervous-looking Striated Heron. Back at the lodge we did have a lovely Black Bee-eater which posed nicely for photos. Again, another early lunch ahead of our long drive back to Kakum. Shortly after leaving Ankasa, we stopped by a small lily pond that had African Jacana and African Pygmy Goose on. We also stopped again at the Ebi River Mangroves where we finally managed to see the Mouse-brown Sunbird, plus Red-vented Malimbe, Orange & Black-necked Weavers and Swamp Greenbuls plus the fantastic Hartlaub's Duck which we had missed previously. After another long day's driving, we were happy to get back to our comfortable rooms at Kakum.

25th April – Ebekawopa to Bonkro Village & Kumasi



A rare perched view of White-throated Blue Swallow

Today was the big day to visit the Picathartes site. In the morning we still had some time for some local birding and we returned to the Ebekawopa area. We passed a pond with several African Jacanas on it before beginning our walk through the farm bush habitat. We started off with scope views of African Green Pigeon and African Pied Hornbill, before trying for Western Nicator. We had glimpsed it before, but one participant was keen to try to get a photo. It was tricky at first to even get a view of this skulker, but it finally started to play ball and we managed to snap a couple of shots, plus more views of Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher and Olive-bellied Sunbird. We continued on through some farmland where we saw both pale and dark morph Senegal Coucal, plus Bronze & Black-and-white Mannikins, Black-winged Bishop and Yellow-mantled Widowbird. No sign of our target Lowland Sooty Boubou or Marsh Tchagra, but I did get a flyby of Fanti Sawwing on the walk back. We also had soaring Red-necked Buzzard and several Lesser Striped Swallows gathering mud for their nests. Next stop was the Pra River for a couple of special birds. It was rather an odd stakeout, having to walk past saw mills and rather smoky palm oil facility, but we made it to the banks of the river and enjoyed views of Rock Pratincole perched on a nearby rock, along with Common Sandpiper and African Pied Wagtail. Our other target was White-throated Blue Swallow which we soon found perched just over the water nearby.



White-necked Rockfowl, or Picathartes was the undisputed bird of the trip

We stopped to grab a take away which we ate once we arrived in Bonkro Village, the site of the unique **White-necked Rockfowl**, the main target of the whole trip. Our ground agent worked together with the community to protect the forest and the birds, and supported them by constructing a school and a lodge which they will profit from. We gave ourselves plenty of time to get to the nest site, a huge rock inside the forest. Paul gave us very detailed instructions about what we could and could not do. Then all we had to do was wait. It was only about 30 minutes before the first birds came by. They hopped right in front of us and sat on a nearby branch in full view, but we had been told not to take photos for the first few minutes to let them settle and make sure everybody had a good view. The birds quickly disappeared and only reappeared 30 minutes later when one hopped up onto a nearby vine and sat there preening for a while. The only problem for the photographers amongst us was that it had another vine in front of it, blocking its head. Again, it hopped off and disappeared. Now there was a long wait of about an hour and a half during which the photographers among us were very worried they wouldn't get any photos. The birds finally came back and gave us a proper show at close range, and seemed completely unperturbed by our presence. It had been an absolute privilege to witness these special birds at close range for so long, and an unforgettable experience. It was now time to walk back down and drive another 2 and a half hours to the city of Kumasi where we spent the night after a long, but wonderful day.

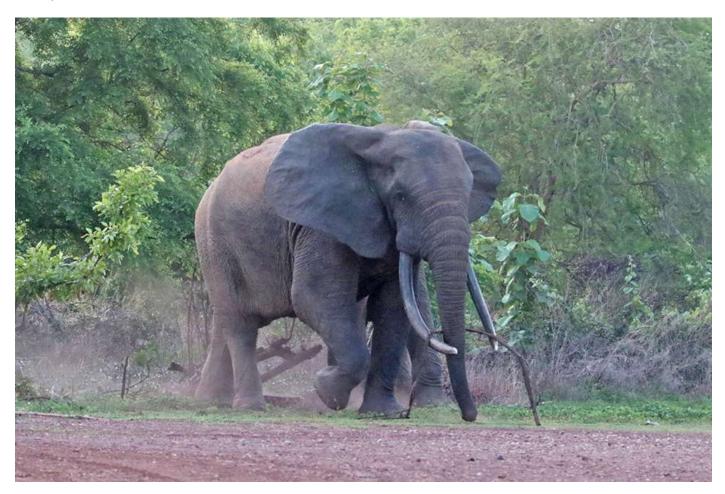
26th April - Kumasi to Mole NP



Strangely, Stone partridges are in the New World Quail family.

Today was a very long drive to Mole National Park in the north of the country. With our long and tiring day yesterday, Paul permitted us a later start with a 6:30 breakfast. It was mainly a travel day, but we did manage a few birding stops. The first was at Opra Forest, a logging concession, which I had visited some years before and clearly had been heavily logged since. It was very sad to see, but there were still a few birds there. We had a few common and widespread birds we had seen before, like **Dideric Cuckoo**, **Red-necked Buzzard**, **African Gray Hornbill**, **Northern Puffback** and **Olive Sunbird**, but also saw our first **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye** and **Marsh Tchagra**, both of which showed rather well. Other than a quick lunch stop, most of the rest of the day was spent driving with brief stops to look at **Eurasian Kestrel**, **Blue-bellied Roller** and **Grasshopper Buzzard**. We turned off the main north-south road towards Mole and stopped at some ponds where we saw several **Spur-winged Lapwings** with chicks, plus our first **Malechite Kingfisher**, **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**, **Black-rumped Waxbills**, **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**, **Quailfinch** and **Purple Starling**. As we neared the park, we added our first **Wire-tailed Swallow**, and passing the park gate, a rather confiding group of **Stone Partridges** with chicks. We checked into our rooms and enjoyed the view down on the large waterhole where there were many **Bushbuck**, **Kob** and **Waterbuck**. There were even **Warthogs** grazing just outside our rooms. We enjoyed a nice sunset, contemplating tomorrow's birding.

27th April - Mole NP



One of 3 big tuskers that was just outside the camp.

Today was our first full day in Mole National Park and it started with 3 large bull African Elephants next to the camp. From camp we drove the Samole loop and stopped to take a walk through the bush with our very friendly armed ranger. It was rather birdie and we saw plenty of colorful species typical of the area, like Rose-ringed Parakeet, Senegal Parrot, Violet-backed Starling and Red-throated Bee-eaters. Our guide, Paul, did some owlet calls which brought in Pygmy, Beautiful, Copper & Scarlet-chested Sunbirds. We stopped at the waterhole, which had been visible from the hotel on top of the ridge above, and added more species, with Senegal Thick-knee, Gray-headed Kingfisher, Swamp Flycatcher and Red-chested Swallow. In the nearby woodland, we saw Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Wood Warbler, Long-tailed Glossy Starling and Yellow-crowned Gonolek. We drove on to another site, stopping for a spectacular Abyssinian Roller right next to the vehicle, which posed for photos. Next, we explored some more open areas with a few scattered trees, where we saw Fine-spotted Woodpecker, White-backed Vulture, Dark Chanting-Goshawk and White-fronted Black Chat. Our big target was the MEGA Rufous-rumped Lark, and we had all but given up on it when we spotted it by the side of the road, perched on top of a small termite mound.



Forbes's Plover is very similar to Three-banded Plover but much rarer and more restricted.

We drove on to another spot where we added **Sun Lark** plus a huge **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill** which quickly disappeared into the woodland. It was starting to heat up and we started the drive back and picked up **Striped Kingfisher**, **Black-crowned Tchagra** and a nice sandy-brown **Patas Monkey**. During lunch we had a **Hooded Vulture** soaring in front of the restaurant. This species used to be common in Ghana, even in the middle of Accra, but they are now almost wiped out and considered critically endangered. Over a week into the trip, this was our first one. Very sad indeed. We went back out in the afternoon searching for White-throated Francolin. We had a false alarm where a covey of **Double-spurred Francolins** ran into the road. While looking, we came across several vocal **Black Cuckoos**. It began raining and we tried birding from the car. We revisited the open areas and finally found our target **Forbes's Plover**, had better views of **Sun Lark** and **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**, and had a quick flyby of **Lanner Falcon**. We finished the day at a small pond where we had our first **Black Crake** and **Pearl-spotted Owlet** of the trip. We waited around for dusk, when we tried for **African Scops-Owl**. There were several individuals, but they managed to keep hidden and remained only heard. On the way back, we checked out another open area where we saw several **Long-tailed Nightjars** and **Scrub Hares**, and some spotlighting on the way back also produced a brief **Gambian Mongoose**. It had been a long but very productive day.

28th April - Mole NP



Abyssinian Roller is a very colorful and elegant bird.

A storm passed in the night, and it was still raining heavily by morning. We met at the appointed time for breakfast but it was clear that birding would be postponed. It was 11am by the time that the rain stopped, but we did have a spot of birding around the hotel before lunch. We saw White-faced Whistling-Duck, Woolly-necked Stork and Squacco Heron down on the waterhole below, our first Familiar Chat on the roof of the hotel and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weavers feeding on the ground nearby. In the surrounding trees and bushes, we saw Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, a white morph African Paradise-Flycatcher, Northern Crombec, Singing Cisticola and Red-headed Weaver. We planned to set off straight after lunch as the rain had cooled it right down. We headed first to the old air strip, where we had a good haul of birds, with Bruce's Green-Pigeon, Black-bellied Bustard, a pair of African Cuckoos, Lizard Buzzard, Shikra, African Golden Oriole, Gray-headed Bushshrike, Yellow-billed Shrike and Brown Babbler. We drove on to the next site spotting a perched White-backed Vulture and Abyssinian Rollers by the roadside. Driving through the woodland, we saw some activity at one spot and got out to find a great mixed flock. They appeared to be in the process of mobbing a Pearl-spotted Owlet.



This White-throated Francolin responded very well to playback.

We spend the next while following them around and found Senegal Batis, Senegal Eremomela, Red-winged Prinia, Rufous Cisticola, White-fronted Black-Chat, Red-winged Pytilia and Brown-rumped Bunting. We arrived at another site to look for African Spotted Creeper, but instead found Brown-backed Woodpecker, and even better bird. Our guide, Paul, was in touch with another guide and he got a phone call that they had the African Spotted Creeper. It was just a short walk away, and we got there to find it was still in the scope. We were getting some really good birds today. We still hadn't found White-throated Francolin yet, but we quickly remedied that too with fantastic views. We also added our first Northern Red-billed Hornbill and a Greater Honeyguide that was actually trying to guide us to honey. This was the first time that I had witnessed this behavior. We went back to the same pond as yesterday, but today found White-shouldered Black-Tit, Lesser Blue-eared Starling and Redheaded Weaver. We finished our busy afternoon back at another open area we had visited yesterday. We again saw Forbes's Plover and Sun Lark, but today added Wattled & White-headed Lapwings and a Flappet Lark. We waited for dusk, and straight away heard an African Scops-Owl calling. We had better luck with this today, quickly getting views, and on the way back to the hotel also had great views of Long-tailed Nightjar and Grayish Eagle-Owl along the road. Considering we had lost most of the morning to the rain, we had done remarkably well today.

29th April - Mole NP to Tongo Hills



Red-throated Bee-eater is the commonest bee-eater species in Mole.

After breakfast we had one last bit of birding around the hotel grounds. Scanning down over the waterhole below we got Gray-headed, Giant & Pied Kingfishers in the scope, along with a Yellow-crowned Gonolek and plenty of Red-throated Bee-eaters. The nearby trees had plenty of good birds in too, with Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Senegal Batis, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver and lovely Lavender Waxbill. We had just about finished when I heard another new bird, Gray Tit-Flycatcher which we called in. After packing the vehicle, we added one last bird, a nice Brubru perched out on one of the trees. We left Mole and swung by the Larabanga Mosque for a short cultural stop. Dozens of Little & White-rumped Swifts soared overhead while we learned about the history of one of the oldest mosques in West Africa. We set off and stopped by some ponds where we saw Spur-winged Lapwing, African Jacana and mating Western Plantaineaters. We showed some local boys some birds in the scope and urged them not to kill birds with their slingshots as it appeared they had been doing. We stopped for lunch in the city of Tamale and had our first Speckled Pigeons on the roof. We continued north stopping for our first Yellow-billed Oxpeckers on some cattle. The Nasia wetlands were pretty quiet, with just common birds like White-faced Whistling-Duck, Long-tailed Cormorant, Intermediate Egret, Squacco Heron, Abyssinian Roller and Wire-tailed Swallow. Our main birding site of the afternoon was the Tongo Hills near Bolgatanga. Bolder-strewn hillsides with some interesting birds. We had several birds soaring, including Woolly-necked Stork, European Honey-buzzard and our target Fox Kestrel. We had a distant perched Red-necked Falcon, Senegal Coucal and several Gosling's Buntings. Another target, the Rock-loving Cisticola took a little more effort and just as we were leaving the driver spotted a spectacular Bearded Barbet which we had fantastic scope views of. Another great day in Ghana.

30th April - Sapelliga & Tono Dam



A special river crossing was needed to photograph this Egyptian Plover (Ted Center)

Today was another very important day of the trip as we went in search of another headliner bird, the Egyptian Plover. We had about an hour's drive but our local guide allowed us some birding stops along the way. On the first stretch of road, we saw Bruce's Green-Pigeon, African Cuckoo, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, the beautiful red Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Bearded Barbet, Piapiac, Long-tailed Glossy Starling and White-billed Buffalo-Weaver. The latter only found in the very far north of the country. As we got close to the site, we picked out the West African resident Red-rumped Swallow from a small group of Ethiopian Swallows perched on an overhead wire. This has been split already by some authorities. We reached the White Volta and met our local guide. We saw our target Egyptian Plover straight away, but the hard part was going to be to get good photos of one. Around the river we saw Mourning Collared-Doves coming down to drink, Senegal Thick-knee, Striated Heron and Pied Kingfisher. In the nearby trees, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Abyssinian & Broad-billed Rollers, Lesser Honeyguide and Rose-ringed Parakeet. The section of land between the 2 tributaries was Burkina Faso and I managed to spot an African Palm-Swift for my new country list. We walked along river, but with it being so high, all the mud banks on our side of the river had been covered with water. Paul did manage to coax the Egyptian Plovers across the river, but with nowhere to land, they turned around and landed on a small island in the middle of the river. There were some locals who were being ferried across on a small boat and our guide went to try and secure his services.



Barn Owl was an unexpected surprise.

Ted, who is trying to photograph all the world's bird families, was promptly loaded onto the boat and ferried across to the birds. He got nice and close and got some great shots before being brought back across for a muddy landing on our side. Mission accomplished we thanked the local guide and boat man, and set off back, with a brief stop to see Yellow-billed Shrike, Red-billed Firefinch and Yellow-fronted Canary. In the afternoon, some of us drove to Tono Dam for some afternoon birding. We had a brief stop on the way to see a Barn Owl that flew across the road and landed. We also had some Hooded Vultures which have all but been wiped out from much of the country. When we reached the birding site, the first birds we saw were a pair of Pied Cuckoos, which are quite a rare bird in Ghana. We then stopped at a water channel next to the road where there was a close Malachite Kingfisher perched. We took a walk along the huge slipway of the dam and up a dry creek that had a lot of birds. We were searching for Green Bee-eater which was absent, but we saw plenty of other good stuff, including Grasshopper Buzzard, African Gray & Northern Red-billed Hornbills, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, African Gray Woodpecker, Northern Yellow White-eye, African Thrush, Beautiful Sunbird and tons of Red-billed Queleas. Before setting off back, we had one last look for Four-banded Sandgrouse which our guide hadn't seen for a while. With luck, we came across 4 individuals and had nice views. On the walk back to the vehicle, we admired a flock of Bruce's Green-Pigeons in the trees, before we set off for the hotel.

1st May - Nasia Dam to Accra



Grasshopper Buzzard is a very attractive raptor.

Today was another travel day. We had a later start and left Bolgatanga heading south. The only birding we had was another brief stop at the Nasia wetland. It was mainly the same common water birds, like Squacco Heron, African Jacana, Long-tailed Cormorant & Spur-winged Lapwings, plus a few other birds like Senegal Coucal, Wire-tailed Swallow, Grasshopper Buzzard and only our second Dark Chanting Goshawk perched high up on a pylon. We did still have a couple of new additions, with Black-winged Kite and a pair of Winding Cisticolas by the water's edge. After lunch in the city of Tamale, we were dropped at the airport for our flight back to Accra. Our wonderful driver, Prince, was going to drive all the way back and meet those joining the extension tomorrow morning. Two participants were leaving and from the Airport in Accra, we took them to have their pre-flight Covid tests at a lab nearby. It had been a wonderful main tour and the rest of us had some rest ahead of the extension starting tomorrow. We decided that we should work out the birds of the trip, based just on the main tour and the results are as follows:

BIRD OF THE MAIN TOUR

1st place – White-necked Rockfowl (Picathartes)

2nd place – Egyptian Plover

3rd place – Nkulengu Rail

4th place – Greater Honeyguide

5th place – Beautiful Sunbird

ATEWA EXTENSION

2nd May - Accra to Atewa



Marsh Tchagra is a strangely uncommon bird.

We didn't have any birding planned for the morning, but we arrived earlier than planned after our drive from Accra and decided to squeeze in a bit of extra birding before lunch. We drove to the farm bush habitat at the base of the Atewa range. It was cloudy and not as hot as some mid-mornings. We started our walk and in the more open areas saw Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Northern Fiscal, our first Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, plus Black-winged Bishop, Bronze & Black-and-white Mannikins. On the edge of the forest, we had some flocking activity and we found Blue Malkoha, African Forest-Flycatcher, Blue-billed Malimbe and Buff-spotted Woodpecker. A little further into the forest, we added some other good birds, including Lemon-bellied Crombec, Gray Longbill and Buff-throated Sunbird. The bird of the morning though was the rare Yellow-throated Cuckoo which our local guide expertly located and we had great scope views. We turned back to the vehicle, picking up Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher on the way. After lunch. We went to check in at the hotel, and after resting for a couple of hours, headed back out for our afternoon session. We had a solid couple of hours birding, not only getting good views of some of the commoner birds, including Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Woodland Kingfisher, Black, Little & White-throated Bee-eaters, Simple & Swamp Greenbuls, Northern Yellow White-eye, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Blue-throated Brown & Johanna's Sunbird, White-breasted & Gray-headed Nigritas and Pin-tailed Whydah, but also adding several species. We had a Red-chested Goshawk flying high overhead, scope views of Little Green Woodpecker and Marsh Tchagra, plus the difficult Lowland Sooty Boubous which gave us some brief views. The local illegal gold mining and logging was having visible effects on the forest and left a bitter taste in our mouths. We hoped the quality birds would still be present when we climbed up to the ridge tomorrow.

3rd May - Atewa Range



This Red-billed Helmetshrike was very obliging and sat still for a long while.

It was our last full day of the tour and we were heading up to the Atewa Ridge, a fairly strenuous hike that required we leave early. We bypassed the farm bush habitat and made very sparing stops on the lower sections of the road. We picked up Speckled & Red-rumped Tinkerbirds, several species of swifts, including Sabine's Spinetail, plus some other interesting species like Cassin's Honeyguide and Square-tailed Sawwing. We also had good flocking activity with Gray Longbill, Olive-green Camaroptera, Black-capped & Sharpe's Apalis, Golden Greenbul, Gray-headed Bristlebill and Yellow-mantled Weaver. The best bird on the lower slope was a brief flight view of White-crested Hornbill, a very distinctive hornbill with a snazzy crest and long tail. As we went higher, we heard the distinctive call of the Chocolate-backed Kingfisher which we found after some effort. We had further flocks, with Melancholy & Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, Shining Drongo, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Fraser's Sunbird, Red-headed Malimbe, Maxwell's Black Weaver, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Gray, Ansorge's & Icterine Greenbul. We glimpsed a Green-backed Twinspot feeding on roadside grass seeds and had several Bristle-nosed Barbets feeding on a fruiting tree. We had several other flycatchers and sunbirds, with African Forest-Flycatcher, Little, Ussher's Flycatcher & Tessmann's Flycatchers and Blue-throated Brown, Olive, Johanna's & Superb Sunbirds.



Blue-moustached Bee-eater was recently split from Blue-headed Bee-eater.

The main target up here was the **Blue-moustached Bee-eater** and we had great views of 2 pairs including some very close. We turned around and started back down, passing a large ant swarm which had attending **White-tailed Alethe** and **Red-tailed Bristlebill** which showed uncharacteristically well. One last bird was the tiny **Tit-hylia**, the smallest bird in Africa. It had been a great day, soured somewhat by the logging trucks going up and down. The forest was already a shadow of its former glory, but it seems to be on the path to being completely cleared in the next few years. It remains to be seen how long these wonderful forest birds will continue to be seen. It was a long walk to the bottom and driving back to the hotel in our airconditioned vehicle felt like luxury.

4th May - Atewa Range

It was our final morning of the extension and we had a short time to see if we could find any new birds in the farm bush habitat. Paul took us to a new area for us where he had seen Compact Weaver before. This new spot had loads of birds and we saw African Green-Pigeon, Blue-headed Coucal, Western Plantain-eater, Bristle-nosed and Naked-faced Barbets, Tit-Hylia, Swamp Greenbul, Red-headed Quelea, breeding-plumage male Black-winged Bishop and Western Bluebill, before we finally saw a few Compact Weavers which were new for the trip. We also had brief views of 2 other new species, Black-bellied Seedcracker and African Firefinch. Our final birding was at the base of the Atewa trail, and here we picked up African Pygmy Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater, Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Red-tailed Greenbul and Blue-throated Brown-Sunbird. We spent quite a bit of time inside a dense thicket and finally got views of the mega skulker, White-throated Greenbul before heading back to the hotel. It was nice to have enough time to take a shower and put on some clean clothes before checking out and driving back to Accra for our flights home.

BIRD LIST

View the eBird trip report here:

https://ebird.org/tripreport/48969

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl (Anatidae)

White-faced Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna viduata

Hartlaub's Duck Pteronetta hartlaubii

African Pygmy-Goose Nettapus auritus

Guineafowl (Numididae)

Helmeted Guineafowl Numida meleagris

New World Quail (Odontophoridae)

Stone Partridge Ptilopachus petrosus

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies (Phasianidae)

Latham's (Forest) Francolin Peliperdix lathami

White-throated Francolin Campocolinus albogularis

Double-spurred Francolin Pternistis bicalcaratus

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon Columba livia Introduced

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Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea

Mourning Collared-Dove Streptopelia decipiens

Red-eyed Dove Streptopelia semitorquata

Vinaceous Dove Streptopelia vinacea

Laughing Dove Streptopelia senegalensis

Black-billed Wood-Dove Turtur abyssinicus

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove Turtur afer

Tambourine Dove Turtur tympanistria

Blue-headed Wood-Dove Turtur brehmeri

Bruce's Green-Pigeon Treron waalia

African Green-Pigeon Treron calvus

Sandgrouse (Pteroclidae)

Four-banded Sandgrouse Pterocles quadricinctus

Bustards (Otididae)

Black-bellied Bustard Lissotis melanogaster

Turacos (Musophagidae)

Great Blue Turaco Corythaeola cristata HO

Guinea Turaco persa

Yellow-billed Turaco Tauraco macrorhynchus

Violet Turaco Musophaga violacea

Western Plantain-eater Crinifer piscator

Cuckoos (Cuculidae)

Black-throated Coucal Centropus leucogaster HO

Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis

Blue-headed Coucal Centropus monachus

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) Ceuthmochares aereus

Great Spotted Cuckoo Clamator glandarius HO

Levaillant's Cuckoo Clamator levaillantii

Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo Clamator jacobinus

Dideric Cuckoo Chrysococcyx caprius

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Yellow-throated Cuckoo Chrysococcyx flavigularis

African Emerald Cuckoo Chrysococcyx cupreus

Black Cuckoo Cuculus clamosus

Red-chested Cuckoo Cuculus solitarius

African Cuckoo Cuculus gularis

Nightjars and Allies (Caprimulgidae)

Brown Nightjar Caprimulgus binotatus

Long-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus climacurus

Swifts (Apodidae)

Mottled Spinetail Telacanthura ussheri

Sabine's Spinetail Rhaphidura sabini

Cassin's Spinetail Neafrapus cassini

Common Swift Apus apus

Little Swift Apus affinis

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White-rumped Swift Apus caffer

African Palm-Swift Cypsiurus parvus

Flufftails (Sarothruridae)

White-spotted Flufftail Sarothrura pulchra

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)

Gray-throated Rail Cannirallus oculeus

Eurasian Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

Allen's Gallinule Porphyrio alleni

Nkulengu Rail Himantornis haematopus

Black Crake Zapornia flavirostra

Thick-knees (Burhinidae)

Senegal Thick-knee Burhinus senegalensis

Egyptian Plover (Pluvianidae)

Egyptian Plover Pluvianus aegyptius

Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus

Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)

Black-bellied (Grey) Plover Pluvialis squatarola

Spur-winged Lapwing Vanellus spinosus

White-headed Lapwing Vanellus albiceps

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Wattled Lapwing Vanellus senegallus

Common Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula

Forbes's Plover Charadrius forbesi

White-fronted Plover Charadrius marginatus

Jacanas (Jacanidae)

African Jacana Actophilornis africanus

Sandpipers and Allies (Scolopacidae)

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus

Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres

Ruff Calidris pugnax

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea Near-threatened

Sanderling Calidris alba

Little Stint Calidris minuta

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus

Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

Common Redshank Tringa totanus

Pratincoles and Coursers (Glareolidae)

Rock Pratincole Glareola nuchalis

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Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)

Common Tern Sterna hirundo

West African Crested (Royal) Tern Thalasseus albididorsalis

Storks (Ciconiidae)

Woolly-necked Stork Ciconia episcopus

Cormorants and Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)

Long-tailed Cormorant Microcarbo africanus

Hamerkop (Scopidae)

Hamerkop Scopus umbretta

Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Gray Heron Ardea cinerea

Great Egret Ardea alba

Intermediate Egret Ardea intermedia

Little Egret Egretta garzetta

Western Reef-Heron Egretta gularis

Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides

Striated (Green-backed) Heron Butorides striata

Black-crowned Night-Heron Nycticorax nycticorax

Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

Spot-breasted Ibis Bostrychia rara

Hadada Ibis Bostrychia hagedash

Osprey (Pandionidae)

Osprey Pandion haliaetus

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (Accipitridae)

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite Elanus caeruleus

African Harrier-Hawk Polyboroides typus

Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis

European Honey-buzzard Pernis apivorus

African Cuckoo-Hawk Aviceda cuculoides

Hooded Vulture Necrosyrtes monachus Critically Endangered

White-backed Vulture Gyps africanus Critically Endangered

Bateleur Terathopius ecaudatus Endangered

Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle Circaetus beaudouini Vulnerable

Crowned Eagle Stephanoaetus coronatus Near-threatened HO

Lizard Buzzard Kaupifalco monogrammicus

Dark Chanting-Goshawk Melierax metabates

Grasshopper Buzzard Butastur rufipennis

Shikra Accipiter badius

Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk) Accipiter melanoleucus

Long-tailed Hawk Urotriorchis macrourus

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite Milvus migrans

Red-necked Buzzard Buteo auguralis

Barn-Owls (Tytonidae)

Barn Owl Tyto alba

Owls (Strigidae)

African Scops-Owl Otus senegalensis

Grayish Eagle-Owl Bubo cinerascens

Fraser's Eagle-Owl Bubo poensis

Akun Eagle-Owl Bubo leucostictus

Pearl-spotted Owlet Glaucidium perlatum

Chestnut (African Barred) Owlet Glaucidium castaneum

Woodhoopoes and Scimitarbills (Phoeniculidae)

Green Woodhoopoe Phoeniculus purpureus

White-headed Woodhoopoe Phoeniculus bollei

Ground-Hornbills (Bucorvidae)

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill Bucorvus abyssinicus Vulnerable

Hornbills (Bucerotidae)

African Pied Hornbill Lophoceros fasciatus

African Gray Hornbill Lophoceros nasutus

Northern Red-billed Hornbill Tockus erythrorhynchus

White-crested Hornbill Horizocerus albocristatus

Black-casqued Hornbill Ceratogymna atrata

Brown-cheeked Hornbill Bycanistes cylindricus Vulnerable Upper Guinea endemic HO

Piping Hornbill Bycanistes fistulator

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Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

Shining-blue Kingfisher Alcedo quadribrachys

Malachite Kingfisher Corythornis cristatus

White-bellied Kingfisher Corythornis leucogaster

African Pygmy Kingfisher Ispidina picta

African Dwarf Kingfisher Ispidina lecontei HO

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher Halcyon badia

Gray-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala

Woodland Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis

Blue-breasted Kingfisher Halcyon malimbica

Striped Kingfisher Halcyon chelicuti

Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis

Bee-eaters (Meropidae)

Black Bee-eater Merops gularis

Blue-moustached Bee-eater Merops mentalis Near-threatened

Red-throated Bee-eater Merops bulocki

Little Bee-eater Merops pusillus

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater Merops hirundineus

White-throated Bee-eater Merops albicollis

Northern Carmine Bee-eater Merops nubicus

Rollers (Coraciidae)

Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinicus

Rufous-crowned Roller Coracias naevius

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Blue-bellied Roller Coracias cyanogaster

Broad-billed Roller Eurystomus glaucurus

Blue-throated Roller Eurystomus gularis

African Barbets (Lybiidae)

Yellow-billed Barbet Trachyphonus purpuratus HO

Bristle-nosed Barbet Gymnobucco peli

Naked-faced Barbet Gymnobucco calvus

Speckled Tinkerbird Pogoniulus scolopaceus

Red-rumped Tinkerbird Pogoniulus atroflavus

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird Pogoniulus subsulphureus

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird Pogoniulus bilineatus

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird Pogoniulus chrysoconus

Yellow-spotted Barbet Buccanodon duchaillui

Hairy-breasted Barbet Tricholaema hirsuta

Vieillot's Barbet Lybius vieilloti

Double-toothed Barbet Lybius bidentatus

Bearded Barbet Lybius dubius

Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)

Cassin's Honeyguide (Honeybird) Prodotiscus insignis

Least Honeyguide Indicator exilis

Lesser Honeyguide Indicator minor

Greater Honeyguide Indicator indicator

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Woodpeckers (Picidae)

Melancholy Woodpecker Chloropicus lugubris

Cardinal Woodpecker Chloropicus fuscescens

Fire-bellied Woodpecker Chloropicus pyrrhogaster

Brown-backed Woodpecker Chloropicus obsoletus

African Gray Woodpecker Chloropicus goertae

Buff-spotted Woodpecker Campethera nivosa

Little Green Woodpecker Campethera maculosa

Fine-spotted Woodpecker Campethera punctuligera

Falcons and Caracaras (Falconidae)

Eurasian (Common) Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

Fox Kestrel Falco alopex

Gray Kestrel Falco ardosiaceus

Red-necked Falcon Falco chicquera

African Hobby Falco cuvierii

Lanner Falcon Falco biarmicus

Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

Rose-ringed Parakeet Psittacula krameri

New World and African Parrots (Psittacidae)

Red-fronted Parrot Poicephalus gulielmi

Senegal Parrot Poicephalus senegalus

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African and Green Broadbills (Calyptomenidae)

Rufous-sided Broadbill Smithornis rufolateralis

Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike Campephaga phoenicea

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike Campephaga quiscalina HO

Old World Orioles (Oriolidae)

African Golden Oriole Oriolus auratus

Western Black-headed Oriole Oriolus brachyrynchus

Black-winged Oriole Oriolus nigripennis

Wattle-eyes and Batises (Platysteiridae)

Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye Platysteira cyanea

West African (Chestnut) Wattle-eye Platysteira hormophora

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye Platysteira blissetti

Senegal Batis Batis senegalensis

Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies (Vangidae)

Red-billed Helmetshrike Prionops caniceps

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher Bias musicus

Bushshrikes and Allies (Malaconotidae)

Brubru Nilaus afer

Northern Puffback Dryoscopus gambensis

Sabine's Puffback Dryoscopus sabini

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Marsh Tchagra Tchagra minutus

Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegalus

Brown-crowned Tchagra Tchagra australis HO

Yellow-crowned Gonolek Laniarius barbarus

Lowland Sooty Boubou Laniarius leucorhynchus

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike Telophorus sulfureopectus

Gray-headed Bushshrike Malaconotus blanchoti

Drongos (Dicruridae)

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*

Glossy-backed (Fork-tailed) Drongo Dicrurus divaricatus

Fanti (Velvet-mantled) Drongo Dicrurus atactus

Monarch Flycatchers (Monarchidae)

Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher Terpsiphone rufiventer

African Paradise-Flycatcher Terpsiphone viridis

Shrikes (Laniidae)

Yellow-billed Shrike Lanius corvinus

Northern Fiscal Lanius humeralis

Crows, Jays, and Magpies (Corvidae)

Piapiac Ptilostomus afer

Pied Crow Corvus albus

Rockfowl (Picathartidae)

White-necked Rockfowl (Picathartes) Picathartes gymnocephalus Vulnerable Upper Guinea endemic

Hyliotas (Hyliotidae)

Yellow-bellied Hyliota Hyliota flavigaster GO

Violet-backed Hyliota Hyliota violacea

Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice (Paridae)

White-shouldered Black-Tit Melaniparus guineensis

Larks (Alaudidae)

Rufous-rumped Lark Pinarocorys erythropygia

Flappet Lark Mirafra rufocinnamomea

Sun Lark Galerida modesta

Nicators (Nicatoridae)

Western Nicator Nicator chloris

African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)

Green Crombec Sylvietta virens

Lemon-bellied Crombec Sylvietta denti

Northern Crombec Sylvietta brachyura

Kemp's Longbill Macrosphenus kempi HO

Gray Longbill Macrosphenus concolor

Green Hylia Hylia prasina

Tit-hylia Pholidornis rushiae

Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)

Senegal Eremomela Eremomela pusilla

Rufous-crowned Eremomela Eremomela badiceps

Green-backed Camaroptera Camaroptera brachyura

Yellow-browed Camaroptera Camaroptera superciliaris

Olive-green Camaroptera Camaroptera chloronota

Black-capped Apalis Apalis nigriceps

Yellow-breasted Apalis Apalis flavida

Sharpe's Apalis Apalis Apalis sharpii Upper Guinea endemic

Tawny-flanked Prinia Prinia subflava

Red-winged Prinia (Warbler) Prinia erythroptera

Oriole Warbler Hypergerus atriceps HO

Red-faced Cisticola Cisticola erythrops

Singing Cisticola Cisticola cantans

Whistling Cisticola Cisticola lateralis

Rock-loving Cisticola Cisticola aberrans

Winding Cisticola Cisticola marginatus

Croaking Cisticola Cisticola natalensis

Rufous Cisticola Cisticola rufus

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica

Red-chested Swallow Hirundo lucida

Ethiopian Swallow Hirundo aethiopica

White-throated Blue Swallow Hirundo nigrita

Wire-tailed Swallow Hirundo smithii

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Red-rumped (West African) Swallow Cecropis daurica

Lesser Striped Swallow Cecropis abyssinica

Rufous-chested Swallow Cecropis semirufa

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Preuss's Swallow Petrochelidon preussi

Square-tailed Sawwing Psalidoprocne nitens

Fanti Sawwing Psalidoprocne obscura GO

Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)

Slender-billed Greenbul Stelgidillas gracilirostris

Golden Greenbul Calyptocichla serinus

Red-tailed Bristlebill Bleda syndactylus

Gray-headed Bristlebill Bleda canicapillus

Simple Greenbul (Leaflove) Chlorocichla simplex

Honeyguide Greenbul Baeopogon indicator

Yellow-throated Greenbul (Leaflove) Atimastillas flavicollis

Spotted Greenbul Ixonotus guttatus

Swamp Greenbul Thescelocichla leucopleura

Red-tailed Greenbul Criniger calurus

Yellow-bearded Greenbul Criniger olivaceus Vulnerable Upper Guinea endemic

(Little) Gray Greenbul Eurillas gracilis

Ansorge's Greenbul Eurillas ansorgei

Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul Eurillas curvirostris HO

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul Eurillas latirostris

Little Greenbul Eurillas virens

Icterine Greenbul Phyllastrephus icterinus

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White-throated Greenbul Phyllastrephus albigularis

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)

Wood Warbler Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus GO

Bush Warblers and Allies (Scotocercidae)

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher Erythrocercus mccallii

White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies (Zosteropidae)

Northern Yellow White-eye Zosterops senegalensis

Ground Babblers and Allies (Pellorneidae)

Pale-breasted Illadopsis Illadopsis rufipennis

Blackcap Illadopsis Illadopsis cleaver

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*

Laughingthrushes and Allies (Leiothrichidae)

Brown Babbler Turdoides plebejus

Treecreepers (Certhiidae)

African Spotted Creeper Salpornis salvadori

Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)

Yellow-billed Oxpecker Buphagus africanus

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Starlings (Sturnidae)

Violet-backed Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

Chestnut-winged Starling Onychognathus fulgidus

Copper-tailed Starling Hylopsar cupreocauda Near-threatened Upper Guinea endemic HO

Long-tailed Glossy Starling Lamprotornis caudatus

Splendid Starling Lamprotornis splendidus

Chestnut-bellied Starling Lamprotornis pulcher

Lesser Blue-eared Starling Lamprotornis chloropterus

Purple Starling Lamprotornis purpureus

Thrushes and Allies (Turdidae)

Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush Neocossyphus finschi

White-tailed Ant-Thrush Neocossyphus poensis

African Thrush Turdus pelios

Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

Little Flycatcher Muscicapa epulata

Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata

Swamp Flycatcher Muscicapa aquatica

Cassin's Flycatcher Muscicapa cassini

Ussher's Flycatcher Bradornis ussheri

Dusky-blue Flycatcher Bradornis comitatus

Pale Flycatcher Agricola pallidus

African Forest-Flycatcher Fraseria ocreata

Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher Fraseria griseigularis

Gray (Lead-coloured) Tit-Flycatcher Fraseria plumbea

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Tessmann's Flycatcher Fraseria tessmanni

Northern Black-Flycatcher Melaenornis edolioides

White-tailed Alethe Alethe diademata

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat Cossypha niveicapilla

White-crowned Robin-Chat Cossypha albicapillus

Forest Robin Stiphrornis erythrothorax

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra

Mocking Cliff-Chat Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

White-fronted Black-Chat Oenanthe albifrons

Familiar Chat Oenanthe familiaris

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters (Nectariniidae)

Fraser's Sunbird Deleornis fraseri

Mouse-brown Sunbird Anthreptes gabonicus

Little Green Sunbird Anthreptes seimundi

Green Sunbird Anthreptes rectirostris

Collared Sunbird Hedydipna collaris

Pygmy Sunbird Hedydipna platura

Reichenbach's Sunbird Anabathmis reichenbachii

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird Cyanomitra cyanolaema

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea*

Buff-throated Sunbird Chalcomitra adelberti

Scarlet-chested Sunbird Chalcomitra senegalensis

Olive-bellied Sunbird Cinnyris chloropygius

Tiny Sunbird Cinnyris minullus

Beautiful Sunbird Cinnyris pulchellus

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Splendid Sunbird Cinnyris coccinigastrus

Johanna's Sunbird Cinnyris johannae

Superb Sunbird Cinnyris superbus

Copper Sunbird Cinnyris cupreus

Weavers and Allies (Ploceidae)

White-billed Buffalo-Weaver Bubalornis albirostris

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver Plocepasser superciliosus

Red-vented Malimbe Malimbus scutatus

Blue-billed Malimbe Malimbus nitens

Crested Malimbe Malimbus malimbicus

Red-headed Malimbe Malimbus rubricollis

Red-headed Weaver Anaplectes rubriceps

Little Weaver Ploceus luteolus

Black-necked Weaver Ploceus nigricollis

Orange Weaver Ploceus aurantius

Vieillot's Weaver Ploceus nigerrimus

Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus

Yellow-mantled Weaver Ploceus tricolor

Maxwell's Black Weaver Ploceus albinucha

Compact Weaver Pachyphantes superciliosus

Red-billed Quelea Quelea quelea

Northern Red Bishop Euplectes franciscanus

Black-winged Bishop Euplectes hordeaceus

Yellow-mantled Widowbird Euplectes macroura

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Waxbills and Allies (Estrildidae)

Bronze Mannikin Spermestes cucullata

Black-and-white Mannikin Spermestes bicolor

Red-fronted Antpecker Parmoptila rubrifrons Near-threatened

White-breasted Nigrita Nigrita fusconotus

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita Nigrita bicolor

Gray-headed Nigrita Nigrita canicapillus

Lavender Waxbill Glaucestrilda caerulescens

Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melpoda

Black-rumped Waxbill Estrilda troglodytes

(Black-faced) Quailfinch Ortygospiza atricollis

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu Uraeginthus bengalus

Western Bluebill Spermophaga haematina

Black-bellied Seedcracker Pyrenestes ostrinus

Red-winged Pytilia Pytilia phoenicoptera

Red-billed Firefinch Lagonosticta senegala

African Firefinch Lagonosticta rubricata

Indigobirds (Viduidae)

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow Passer griseus

Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)

Western Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava

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African Pied Wagtail Motacilla aguimp

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

Finches, Euphonias, and Allies (Fringillidae)

Yellow-fronted Canary Crithagra mozambica

Old World Buntings (Emberizidae)

Brown-rumped Bunting Emberiza affinis

Gosling's Bunting Emberiza goslingi

iNaturalist

Please check iNaturalist for photos & locations for the following species

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?d1=2022-04-18&d2=2022-05-04&place_id=any&subview=map&user_id=charleyhesse&verifiable=any&view=species

MAMMALS

CERCOPITHECIDAE

Olive Baboon Papio anubis

Green (Callithrix) Monkey Cercopithecus sabaeus

Patas Monkey Cercopithecus patas

Lowe's Mona Monkey Cercopithecus lowei HO

Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey Cercopithecus petaurista

GALAGIDAE

Demidoff's Galago Galagoides demidoff HO

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PTEROPODIDAE

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat Eidolon helvum Near-threatened

MEGADERMATIDAE

Yellow-winged Bat Lavia frons

LEPORIDAE

Scrub Hare Lepus saxatilis

SCIURIDAE

Striped Ground Squirrel Xerus erythropus

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel Funisciurus pyrropus

Green Bush Squirrel Paraxerus poensis

Gambian Sun Squirrel Heliosciurus gambianus

Red-legged Sun Squirrel Heliosciurus rufobrachium

African Giant Squirrel Protoxerus stangeri

ANOMALURIDAE

Lesser Anomalure Anomalurus pusillus

HERPESTIDAE

Gambian Mongoose Mungos gambianus

White-tailed Mongoose Ichneumia albicauda

PROCAVIIDAE

Western Tree Hyrax Dendrohyrax dorsalis

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ELEPHANTIDAE

African Forest Elephant Loxodonta cyclotis Endangered

SUIDAE

Common Warthog Phacochoerus africanus

BOVIDAE

Bushbuck Tragelaphus scriptus

Kobus kob

Waterbuck Kobus ellipsiprymnus

Oribi Ourebia ourebi

African Buffalo Syncerus caffer

REPTILES

AGAMIDAE

Common Agama Agama agama

GEKKONIDAE

Tropical House Gecko Hemidactylus mabouia

SCINCIDAE

Five-lined Skink Trachylepis quiquetaeniata

VARANIDAE

West African Nile Monitor Varanus niloticus stellatus

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LAMPROPHIIDAE

Rukwa sand racer Psammophis rukwae

CROCODYLIDAE

West African Crocodile Crocodylus suchus

Dwarf Crocodile Osteolaemus tetraspis

AMPHIBIANS

DICROGLOSSIDAE

Crowned Bullfrog Hoplobatrachus occipitalis

PHRYNOBATRACHUS

Puddle Frog sp Phrynobatrachus sp

BUTTERFLIES

PAPILIONIDAE

Small Striped Swordtail Graphium policenes

Citrus Swallowtail Papilio demodocus

NYMPHALIDAE

Blue Monarch Tirumala petiverana

Plain Tiger Butterfly Danaus chrysippus

Incipient False Acraea Pseudacraea warburgi

Common Glider Cymothoe caenis

Scalloped Yellow Glider Cymothoe fumana

Common Red Glider Cymothoe coccinata

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Angular Glider Harma theobene

Common Pathfinder Catuna crithea

Widespread Forester Euphaedra medon

Soldier Pansy Junonia terea

Golden Pansy Junonia chorimene

Soldier Pansy Junonia terea

Yellow Pansy Junonia hierta

Blue Pansy Junonia oenone

Common Leopard Phalanta phalantha

Western Joker Byblia anvatara

Yellow-base Sailer Neptis metella

Common Commander Euryphura chalcis

Blue Diadem Butterfly Hypolimnas salmacis

Western Blue Mother-of-Pearl Protogoniomorpha cytora

Acraea sp Acraea vestalis

African Map Butterfly Cyrestis camillus

Light Bush Brown Bicyclus dorothea

Common Ringlet *Ypthima doleta*

PIERIDAE

Forest Grass Yellow Eurema senegalensis

Forest Caper White Belenois theora

LYCAENIDAE

Large Fairy Hairstreak Hypolycaena antifaunus

Common False Head Oxylides faunus

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Spotted Hairtail Anthene larydas

African Giant Skipper Pyrrhochalcia iphis

Common Blue Leptotes pirithous

HESPERIIDAE

Dusky Elf Eretis Melania

Brigid's Elfin Sarangesa Brigida

Clouded Flat Tagiades flesus

DRAGONFLIES

LIBELLULIDAE

Bold Skimmer Orthetrum stemmale

Red Basker Urothemis assignata

DAMSELFLIES

CALOPTERIGIDAE

Western Bluewing Sapho ciliata

Broad-winged Sparklewing Umma cincta

GRASSHOPPERS

PYRGOMORPHIDAE

Variegated Grasshopper Zonocerus variegatus

MOLLUSCS

ACHATINIDAE

African Giant Snail Lissachatina fulica