



GHANA custom tour

26th Mar – 15th April, 2023

Tour leader & Report - Charley Hesse



This 3-week custom tour visited all the same sites as our set-departure tour and Atewa extension but also included an extra site, Kalakpa Resource Reserve. On this tour, we experienced the very best of the humid lowland forest of the south and the dry arid north. We visited the amazing canopy walkway at Kakum National Park, mangroves by the Ebi River, and the extensive forests of Ankasa Reserve which are a treasure trove of rare species. In the north, we tracked down rare birds in Mole NP, visited the fascinating Tongo Hills and the banks of the Upper Volta River. The highlight of the tour and bird of the trip was the weird and wonderful White-necked Rockfowl which we had extended point blank views of. Other highlights included great views of the Egyptian Plover on the border with Burkina Faso, a male Standard-winged Nightjar in flight in Mole NP, and a sleeping pair of Nkulengu Rails in Ankasa Reserve. The smooth-running and excellence of our local guides along with the West African flavour and friendliness of everyone we met in Ghana help make this a very enjoyable tour.

MAIN TOUR**March 26th – Shai Hills**

Once everybody had arrived in Accra, we transferred to a hotel on the eastern outskirts of Accra, well-positioned for our first birding. After lunch and some welcomed rest, we headed out to the nearby Shai Hills Resource Reserve. We parked at the entrance and started walking our way along the woodland track which had **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, a pair of **Buff-spotted Woodpeckers**, **Splendid Sunbird**, **European Pied Flycatcher**, **Brown Babbler** and a pair of very skulking **Gray-headed Bristlebills**. We reached a rocky area where we found the local white-crowned form of **Mocking Cliff-Chat**, plus **Guinea Turaco**, **Vieillot's Barbet**, **Northern Black Flycatcher**, **Glossy-backed Drongo** and **Double-toothed Barbet**. We also enjoyed several soaring raptors, including **African Cuckoo-Hawk**, **Shikra** and **Lanner Falcon**. We moved into a savanna area, where we found **Flappet Lark**, a few pairs of **Senegal Parrots** flying by and several **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters**. The sun set, and we hung around until after dusk to try for owls and nightjars. We heard **African Scops-Owl** and **Freckled Nightjar** and glimpsed a **Senegal Thick-knees**, before starting our drive back, on which we had many **Long-tailed & Plain Nightjars** and 2 **Grayish Eagle-Owls** in the road. It was a fitting end to a very productive first afternoon.

March 27th – Shai Hills



We were back at the Shai Hills Resource Reserve at sunrise. We walked in from the entrance again and enjoyed some early morning activity with several new species, including **Olive-naped Weaver**, **Western Plantain-eater**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike**, **Northern Puffback**, **Simple & Yellow-throated Greenbuls** (also known as leafloves), more **Brown Babblers**, **African Green-Pigeon** and a pair of **Blue-breasted Kingfishers** doing a high display flight whilst calling loudly. The birding cavalcade continued with a constant stream of birds, including a nice pair of **Violet Turacos**, a fly over **African Cuckoo**, a soaring **African Harrier-Hawk**, a displaying **Striped Kingfisher**, several **White-throated Bee-eaters**, a very close **Gray Kestrel**, plus other great views of **Black-crowned Tchagras**, **Moustached Grass-Warbler**, a noisy pair of **Red-winged Prinias** and a beautiful male **Copper Sunbird**. It was getting hotter, so we got back in the air-conditioned vehicle and took a nice drive around the guinea savanna, birding from the vehicle or jumping out opportunistically to see **Helmeted Guineafowl**, **Black-bellied Bustard**, **Senegal Eremomela**, **Yellow-throated Longclaw**, **Rufous-crowned Roller**, **Lizard Buzzard** and **White Helmetshrike**. It was a very productive morning's birding with over 60 species. We drove back to the lodge where we packed our bags and had an early lunch before loading up and hitting the road. It was a long drive broken up only with a birding stop at Winneba Lagoon. On the entrance road we picked up a **Piapiac**, an unusual long tailed corvid. We parked and walked towards the lagoon, spotting African Palm Swift, Village Weaver and Bronze Mannikins on the way. The tide was up and most of the shorebirds far away, but we saw some nearby **Western Reef-Herons** and **Pied Kingfishers**. We did manage to scope **Black-winged Stilt**, **Black-bellied Plover**, **Spur-winged Lapwing**, **Whimbrel**, **Common & Marsh Sandpipers** and **Common Greenshank**. There were a few terns flying around and we got **Black**, **Common** and **Sandwich Terns**. After a very long drive, we arrived at the Rain Forest Lodge for our 3 night stay.

March 28th – Kakum NP



Today was our day at the famous canopy walkway in Kakum NP. The best way to see canopy rainforest species without straining your neck. We started with an early breakfast and made it up to the entrance at dawn. Just before getting out on the walkway, we heard and glimpsed **Black-casqued & Yellow-casqued Hornbills**. We rushed out onto the first platform but by this point they had already moved further away. We had a fairly productive time on this platform, and saw a good range of species, with flyover **Rosy Bee-eaters** and **Red-fronted Parrots**, scoped **African Green-Pigeon**, preening **Rufous-crowned Eremomelas**, **Little Green & Superb Sunbirds**, **Fire-bellied & Melancholy Woodpeckers**, the drab **Ussher's Flycatcher** and several **Speckled Tinkerbirds**. The tallest platform offered the best panorama, and it was here that we spent the most time and we racked up quite a range of species, including **Blue-throated Roller**, **Fanti Sawwing**, **Naked-faced & Hairy-breasted Barbets**, **White-breasted & Gray-headed Nigritas**, **Red-headed Malimbe** and **Fanti Drongo**. Some noteworthy species here were the bright yellow **Preuss's Weaver**, the elegant **Blue Cuckooshrike**, and brief views of **White-crested Hornbill**, but the highlight of the morning was a perched **Congo Serpent-Eagle** which gave us great views in the scope. Things picked up again on the last platform, with a stack of small birds, including: **Blue-throated Brown & Tiny Sunbirds**, **Golden Greenbul**, **Wood Warbler**, **Maxwell's Black Weaver**, **Lemon-bellied Crombec**, **Tit-hylia**, **West African Batis**, **Little Flycatcher** and **Cassin's Honeyguide**. We called it a morning on the platform and started walking back down the trail to the entrance, but picked up a final few birds, with **Western Nicator**, **Collared Sunbird** and **Gray Longbill**, to finish out a very productive morning. The afternoon was a lot quieter affair as expected. Our main targets were the hornbills and we ended up with good flight views of **Black-casqued Hornbill**, at a point being chased by a **Palmnut Vulture**. We also had some very close **Lowe's Mona Monkeys** and some more distant **Lesser Spot-nosed Monkeys**. We stuck around until dark on the main platform, and heard **Brown Nightjar** but unfortunately it didn't come in.

March 29th – Antwikwaa



This morning we were birding the farmbush habitat, a mixture of farmland and remnant trees that is surprisingly birdie. We had a brief stop on the way to take a look at dozens of **Preuss's Swallow** flying in tightly packed flocks in and out of a culvert. We parked the car at a local house and looked at a pair of **Ethiopian Swallows** perched on a wire before setting off on the track. It was still a bit misty, but it soon cleared off. We started off with a nice pair of **Northern Yellow White-eyes** preening, an **Olive Sunbird** feeding on some tubular flowers, an **Olive-bellied Sunbird**, a family of **Red-vented Malimbés**, many **Bristle-nosed Barbets**, **Red-rumped Tinkerbird**, plus **Bronze & Black-and-white Mannikins**. We heard a bird calling from a small remnant forest patch and we spent some time pulling out **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye**, **Puvel's Illadopsis** and also had a **Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher** flying over. We continued along the main track, with **African Harrier-Hawk** and **African Goshawk** flying over and in an open area **Blue-headed Coucal**, **Lesser Striped Swallow** and **Dusky-blue Flycatcher** which all showed well. We added a few more nice birds, including **Tambourine Dove**, great views of **White-spotted Flufftail**, **Black Bee-eater** which was a big crowd-pleaser, **West African Wattle-eye** and **Green Crombec**. We were tired and hot, but the local guides found us several perched **Rosy Bee-eaters** further along the track before we turned back. It was nice to get back in the air-conditioned vehicle to cool down. Before heading back to the lodge for lunch, we stopped in at the Pra River to pick up a couple of special birds. Walking passed the sawmill and the palm oil processing plant, we got to the edge of the river and very quickly found our target **Rock Pratincole** and **White-throated Blue Swallow**. In the afternoon, we birded a track through a new logging concession which gave us access to some beautiful forest. It was pretty quiet, but we did see a few good birds, with **Blue Malkoha**, **Black- & Yellow-casqued Hornbills**, **Red-billed Helmetshrike**, **Copper-tailed Starling**, **Spotted Greenbul** & after a lot of time trying, **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher**. We hung around until dark and were rewarded with **Brown Nightjar**, **Akun Eagle-Owl** and a **Pel's Anomalure**.

March 30th – Kakum to Ankasa



This morning we went back to the same logging track we had visited yesterday afternoon. As soon as we got out we saw the back end of some **Brown-cheeked Hornbills** disappearing over the trees. We spent a few pleasant hours chasing some good birds and had scope views of **Black Dwarf-Hornbill**, a pair of **Blue Cuckooshrikes**, **Western Bearded Greenbill**, a female **Rufous-sided Broadbill**, a flyover **Forest Scimitarbill**, great views of a beautiful **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Yellow-spotted Barbet** and a pair of **Sabine's Puffbacks**. There were also several species of swifts including 3 species of spinetails, namely **Black**, **Mottled** & **Cassin's Spinetails**. We stopped at a marsh on the way back to take some pictures of **Chestnut-and-black Weavers** and **Preuss's Swallows**. After an early lunch back at the lodge, we set off on the long drive to Ankasa reserve. We had a couple of short scheduled birding stops, the first of which was at Boko Marsh, where we saw **Little Bee-eater**, **Allen's Gallinule**, **African Pygmy Goose** and **Orange Weavers** amongst many others. We also had an impromptu stop when Paul spotted an **African Hobby** perched on a roadside wire. We had great views of this and also added **Orange-cheeked Waxbill** and **Bar-breasted Firefinch**. Our last stop was at the Ebi Mangrove where we had a good look for **Hartlaub's Duck**, **Mouse-brown** & **Reichenbach's Sunbirds**. There was no sign of sunbirds as we stared up at the sky filled with hundreds of **Little Swifts**. On the last section of the drive, we spotted some **Piping Hornbills** flying to roost. We were warmly welcomed by the Ankasa Lodge staff and also a **Reichenbach's Sunbird** which had eluded us earlier in the day. A delicious meal rounded off another good day.

March 31st – Ankasa



We were excited to set off and explore the Ankasa Reserve. Straight out the gate, we spotted our first bird which was a looker, **African Pygmy Kingfisher**. We crossed the bridge and drove along the muddy road with water filling the deep ruts in the road. Obviously, this was an attraction for a juvenile **Dwarf Bittern**, which we saw next to one and posed beautifully for photos. We drove all the way along to the powerlines where we saw dozens of **White-throated Bee-eaters**, a distant **Blue-throated Roller** and a pair of huge **Great Blue Turacos** disappearing into the forest canopy. We set off down the trail to the ponds and waited around at the first one for a long time waiting for **White-bellied Kingfisher**. Most of us saw this speeding blue bullet and some even got it briefly in the scope. There was also another key bird here, the **Red-fronted Antpecker**, which had a moss nest next to the pond. It came by a couple of times but never for very long, only offering the briefest of looks. The area also had some good flocking activity with **Shining Drongo**, **Red-headed & Crested Malimb**es and **Western Bearded Greenbul**. We had another few nice birds while we waited, including **Yellow-billed Turaco** and **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**. We walked along to the next pond, but this was pretty quiet with only a **Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** nest. On the drive back to the lodge, we notice a bit of activity next to the road and got out to see a couple of **Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrushes**. On closer inspection, we saw that there were ants swarming in the forest, and they were attracting **White-tailed Alethe**, **Red-tailed Bristlebill**, **Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher** and **Orange-breasted Robin**. Almost back, we got out by the bridge and took a look at a nesting **Cassin's Flycatcher**. We walked back up the hill to the lodge and were greeted by **Black Bee-eater** and **Reichenbach's Sunbird**. We took an afternoon Drive on which we heard **Red-chested Owlet**. We went to first pond where we again heard **White-bellied Kingfisher** and I saw a **White-crested Hornbill** briefly. We drove back in the dark, with the guides walking sections and trying for the **Nkulengu Rail**. They tracked one down and guided the way along a trail inside the forest to give us great views of this mega bird.

1st April – Ankasa



We drove into the reserve this morning and our first stop was to try for **Red-billed Dwarf-Hornbill**. Pretty soon we had them responding and coming in closer giving us good views. We also heard **Pale-breasted Illadopsis** but they were less cooperative. At our next birding stop we had saw another **Dwarf Bittern**, and also had some good flocking activity, with **Western Black-headed Oriole**, **Red-tailed**, **Yellow-bearded & Icterine Greenbuls**, **Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush** and **Crested & Red-vented Malimbés**. A while later we heard **Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** and after much effort had it flying over. Next, we all got views of the skulking **Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher** and at the power lines viewpoint, we all finally got on **Cassin's Spinetail**. We drove back to the lodge and before cooling off with the AC in our rooms we got good views of **Reichenbach's Sunbird** and **African Pygmy-Kingfisher**. Again, at lunch we were entertained by the beautiful **Black Bee-eater**, excavating nests. In the mid-afternoon, we set out again, but the forest was very quiet. We did, however, pick up a tiny **Red-chested Owlet**, which was brilliantly spotted by Johnstone. We drove on to the powerlines which had their usual big numbers of **White-throated Bee-eaters** perched on them, plus a single **Ussher's Flycatcher** and we also had several **Square-tailed Sawwing** flying to and fro. We walked down to the first Pond and spent some more time waiting around, and some of us were lucky enough to see a **Red-fronted Antpecker** coming down to its nest. We also had brief views of **Pale-breasted Illadopsis** and better views of **Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher**. We waited around until dusk hoping for Spot-breasted Ibis flying to roost, but we had to make do with a nice sunset.

2nd April – Ankasa



We started the day with a bit of pre-breakfast owling. We were still after the tricky **Fraser's Eagle-Owl**, and we walked a couple of hundred metres away where there was a great vista over the forest. Our local guide played the tape, I managed to locate it using my thermal imager and spotlit the bird, but it quickly flew. Dawn came and we walked to breakfast. We only had a few hours left in Ankasa and we tried a trail into the forest. It wasn't what one would call productive, but with considerable effort, we pulled out **Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo**, **Brown** and the rare **Rufous-winged Illadopsis**. We had an early lunch watching the **Black Bee-eaters** again, after which we checked out and set off back to the Rain Forest Lodge at Kakum. It was a long drive, and we broke it up with a quick birding stop at the Ebi River Mangrove. Last time we had missed **Mouse-brown Sunbird**, but today we had one nest building, along with brief views of **Reichenbach's & Olive-bellied Sunbirds**. We also saw **Buff-spotted Woodpecker** and a some **Olive-naped Weavers**, and gazed up at the hundreds of **Little Swifts** filling the sky. We scanned the flooded areas from the edge of the road looking for the rare Hartlaub's Duck, but the closest we could get was a pair of **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**. We had one last stop at the Brenu Beach grasslands where we racked up quite a list of birds, with the highlights including: **Double-spurred Francolin**, **Guinea Turaco**, **Marsh Tchagra**, and **Yellow-crowned Gonolek**. The local guide saw an **African Crane** and **Pied-winged Swallows**, but we were a little too slow to get on them. While we were waiting for the swallows to reappear, we saw a few other nice birds like, **Green-headed Sunbird**, **Yellow-mantled Widowbird**, **Mottled Spinetail** and **African Hobby**. We finished the last part of the drive back to Rainforest Lodge where we had a one-night stop.

3rd April – Kakum to Bonkro



Our birding day started well, with our first Pale Flycatcher at breakfast plus **Mottled Spinetail** and **Lanner Falcon** just outside the Rain Forest Lodge. This morning we were to spend a couple of hours on the nearby Abrafo-Gyaware road. We had a productive time, seeing many bird species, including **Fanti Sawwing**, **Gray-headed Bristlebill**, **Swamp Greenbul**, **Splendid Starling**, **Collared Sunbird**, **Olive-bellied Sunbird**, **Gray-headed Nigrita** and heard the shy **Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat** singing its beautiful song and imitating other species. Our main target for the morning was the difficult **Lowland Sooty Boubou**. We got it calling quite close and it hopped out very briefly for some, but then showed itself no more. We did add a couple of other new birds for the trip, namely **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** and **Whistling Cisticola**. We went back to the lodge, packed up, grabbed our packed lunches and hit the road. We made our way to the little village of Bonkro, whose nearby forest holds the main target of the trip, the **White-necked Rockfowl**, or *Picathartes*. Tourist money has helped fund a school here and a community run guest house where we were to stay for 2 nights. As the birds came in early some days, we set off in the early afternoon heat, firstly through open areas, and then through forest, spotting our first **Yellow-throated Cuckoo** of the trip on the way. We made it up there by about half past 3 and the birds already seemed to be around and were glimpsed by our guide. We sat down, totally silent and still, and a short while later had our first *Picathartes* hop in to sit on a nearby vine. It then hopped right by us and gave us a great show at close range. From then on, we had multiple birds coming and going and left with incredible views of this amazing species. What a relief!

4th April – Kwabena Sam Forest

It rained hard in the night and the track through the Kwabena Sam forest had a lot of puddles we had to walk around. This was a logging concession, but still retained a lot of tall trees. We had a great morning of birding, seeing many birds that we had seen before, although many with better views, including **African Green-Pigeon**, **African Emerald Cuckoo**, **Blue-throated Roller**, **Melancholy Woodpecker**, **Blue Cuckooshrike**, **Yellow-mantled & Maxwell's Black Weavers**. Despite having done so much rainforest birding already on the trip, we saw a surprising number of new species, with **Yellow-throated Tinkerbird**, the Upper Guinea endemic **Sharpe's Apalis**, **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike**, **Tessmann's Flycatcher**, **Olive-green Camaroptera**, **Kemp's Longbill** and brief views of the difficult **Black-throated Coucal**. After a nice lunch back at the lodge and a rest in our rooms during the hottest hours of the day, we went back to the same forest again in the afternoon. It was a lot quieter, but we did see some decent birds, including **Broad-billed Roller**, **African Cuckoo-Hawk** and our long-awaited **Long-tailed Hawk**. We waited in a clearing for dusk, and watched lots of birds going to roost, including large numbers of **Maxwell's Black & Yellow-mantled Weavers** and **Chestnut-breasted Nigritas** into a small tree. When it became dark, we tried for **Fraser's Eagle-Owl**, and succeeded in getting one to fly in for scope views. Another long-awaited target.

April 5th & 6th - Mole NP



After a very long travel day in which we only succeeded in finding a handful of common birds, we were keen to get stuck into birding the north of the country. We spent a short time after breakfast, birding the hotel grounds which produced **African Gray Woodpecker**, **Northern Puffback**, **White-shouldered Black-Tit**, a beautiful male **Violet-backed Starling**, **Northern Black-Flycatcher** and **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver**. Our main birding location of the morning was the Samole Loop which was absolutely packed with birds, including **Violet Turaco**, **African Cuckoo**, **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**, **Red-throated & European Bee-eaters**, **Senegal Batis**, **Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike**, **Northern Yellow White-eye**, **Long-tailed Glossy Starling**, **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**, **Red-billed Firefinch** and some non-breeding **Wilson's Indigobirds**. The road took us to the waterhole which we had been looking down on from the hotel this morning. Here we saw many **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**, **Senegal Thick-knee**, **Wattled Lapwing**, **African Jacana**, **Squacco Heron**, **Striated Heron**, **Hooded Vulture**, **Bateleur**, **Gray-headed Kingfisher** and our first **Western Yellow Wagtail**. It had been a very productive morning, and after lunch and some downtime, we reconvened in the afternoon for some more. There were more flies around in the afternoon, which was a bit of an annoyance, but we still managed to find some good birds, with **Gambaga Flycatcher**, **Pygmy Sunbird**, **Grasshopper Buzzard** and plenty of **Sahel Bush Sparrows**. Two of our main targets for the afternoon were the MEGA **Rufous-rumped Lark** and a rather furtive **Brown-rumped Bunting**. We moved on to another open area where we immediately came across our first **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill** and also its much smaller cousin, **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**. Another target located was **White-throated Francolin** which we got good views of in the scope, and finally our main targets **Forbes's Plover** and **Sun Lark**. The flies subsided towards dusk and we tried for but only heard **African Scops-Owl** and we also picked up a **Grayish Eagle-Owl** on the way back.

April 7th - Mole NP



This morning we drove out the main gate, stopping briefly to photograph a covey of **Stone Partridges** and a **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**. We drove to the Mole Airstrip and took a walk along the road and saw pairs of **African Cuckoos**, **Bearded Barbets**, **Fine-spotted Woodpeckers**, **Brown Babblers**, **Whinchat**, **Pygmy Sunbird** and even **Black-bellied Bustard** flying over. We moved off the runway and birded a couple of spots along the main road which were pretty productive, with several new species for the trip, including **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Abyssinian Roller**, **Dorst's Cisticola**, **Lesser Blue-eared Starling**, and **White-fronted Black-Chat**. We drove along to the Mole River crossing at Mognori where we did some birding in the shade of the riparian forest, which produced **Blue-breasted & Pied Kingfishers**, **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** and **Blackcap Babbler**. We moved to another river viewpoint where we added **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, a pair of **Lanner Falcons**, and finally **Western Square-tailed Drongo**. It was still a bit early to head to lunch, so we did a little drive inside the park on which we saw a beautiful **Blue-bellied Roller**. In the afternoon, we went out and explored some open areas to the north and found **Sun Lark** and **Brown-rumped Bunting**, but the flies were out in force, and we beat a hasty retreat to the cool AC and insect free haven of the vehicle. We moved on to the area around the fancy Zaina Lodge, which was strangely bug free. We saw nice birds here, with **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**, **White Helmetshrikes** and **Bearded Barbet** without having to swat annoying insects away. **Pearl-spotted Owlet** calls, brought in **Northern Crombec**, **Northern Yellow White-eye**, and **Beautiful Sunbird** and we saw our first **Giant Kingfisher** on one of the waterholes there. We also found our target **Rock-loving Cisticola**. It was late afternoon now and we had to get back to the airstrip. Before dusk, we managed more views of **White-throated Francolin** which had been requested, and after dark we walked along to find a pair of **Grayish Eagle-Owls** and had an amazing flyby of a male **Standard-winged Nightjar**. One last treat for the day was a great view of the photogenic **Northern White-faced Owl**.

8th April - Mole to Tongo Hills



After a slightly later than usual breakfast, we had some final birding around the hotel grounds. These are always pretty kicking and today was no exception. In the big trees just in front of the rooms, we had **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike**, **Northern Yellow White-eye**, **Spotted**, **Gray Tit**- & **Northern Black-Flycatchers** and **Yellow-fronted Canary**. In the flowering bushes, **Pygmy**, **Beautiful** & **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds** and feeding on the ground nearby, **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** and **Red-billed Firefinches**. We walked a nice loop around all the various lodging and added **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Familiar Chat**, **Senegal Eremomela**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, plus **Northern Puffback** mobbing our first **Greater Honeyguides** of the trip. We finished packing our bags, checked out and hit the road for another long drive to the far north of the country. We saw various common birds along the way, including **Black-winged Kite**, **Lizzard Buzzard** and **Piapiacs**. We stopped at the Nasia Wetlands, north of our lunch stop in the city of Tamale. It was blazing hot but we saw a few birds including **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **African Jacana** and **Squacco Heron**. It had cooled off by the time we arrived at our main birding city for the afternoon, the Tongo Hills, a boulder-strewn landscape dotted with a few trees. We found our target **Fox Kestrel** in record time and our other target, **Gosling's Bunting** soon afterwards. A few other interesting birds here included **Lanner Falcon**, **Booted Eagle** and **Mocking Cliff-chat**. Having knocked off our targets in such a timely fashion, we decided to knock off for the day early and enjoyed some well-deserved downtime before dinner.

9th April – Sapelliga & Tono Dam



The big target of today was the **Egyptian Plover** at a little village called Sapelliga on the border with Burkina Faso. We set off nice and early and had a few stops for some nice birds including **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Abyssinian & Rufous-crowned Rollers**, **Greater Blue-eared & Chestnut-bellied Starlings**. We also had a quick stop in another little village where we picked up the West African form of **Red-rumped Swallow**, which is a potential split, and **White-billed Buffalo-Weaver** which were busy collecting branches for their huge stick nests. We arrived at the river which formed the border of Burkina Faso, and we looked across and kick-started our new country lists with **Mourning Collared-Dove** and **Western Plantain-eater**. Back on the Ghanaian side we took a walk and very quickly found our target **Egyptian Plover**, including some very close ones which were pretty photogenic. We continued our walk along and scoped some **Senegal Thick-knees**, and Stewart managed to find several **Greater Painted-Snipes**. There was a nice floodplain with **Wattled Lapwing** and **African Jacanas** on it, and we added a few other nice birds with a pair of **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**, plus flyby **Lanner Falcon** and **Rose-ringed Parakeet**. On the way back we also found some **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers** on some cattle by the side of the road. After lunch back at the hotel and some downtime, we ventured out to Tono Dam for some afternoon birding. We had some nice birding and picked up **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**, **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Little & African Green Bee-eaters**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Beautiful Sunbird**, **Wilson's Indigobird** and several **Gosling's Buntings**. One of the top birds at Tono Dam, is the **Four-banded Sandgrouse**, and Paul found us one which we looked at in the scope. We then went up to look over the dam and had a couple of **Black-backed Cisticolas** fly over, with one landing in a bush. After a pretty full day of birding, we set off back to the hotel for an early night ahead of a long driving day tomorrow.

11 April – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary to Atewa



After a long driving day yesterday, we were glad to get stuck back into birding and started off on the entrance road to the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. We started off well with great views of another **Black Dwarf Hornbill** which one person had missed earlier in the trip. Another big target was a tiny bird, the **African Piculet**. We had a good selection of other birds during the morning, with **Red-fronted Parrot**, **Black-winged Oriole**, **Red-billed Helmetshrike**, **Fanti Drongo**, **Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher**, **White-throated Greenbul**, **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher**, **Splendid Starling**, **Collared**, **Olive**, **Buff-throated**, **Tiny & Johanna's Sunbirds**, **Red-headed Malimbe** and **Yellow-mantled Weaver**. Before leaving, we had some nice raptors soaring, with **African Harrier-Hawk** and **African Cuckoo-Hawk** having a dogfight and a pair of **Cassin's Hawk-Eagle** soaring majestically overhead. One last treat before leaving was the rarely seen **Black-throated Coucal** which skuttled off the side of the road. We said goodbye to Bobiri and hit the road for our next site, the Atewa Range. We stopped in at a nearby restaurant before checking in and having some downtime before starting our birding here. The area at the foot of the mountain had some very productive farmbrush habitat which we spent a couple of hours to find **Senegal Coucal**, **Dideric & Klaas's Cuckoos**, **European Honey-buzzard**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Black & Little Bee-eaters**, a very close **Red-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Vieillot's Barbet**, much better views than previously of **Lowland Sooty Boubou**, **Blue-throated Brown**, **Buff-throated & Superb Sunbirds**, **Olive-naped**, **Chestnut-and-black & Compact Weavers** and **Pin-tailed Whydah**. On the way back we stopped in at the Bunso Arboretum in the dark and tried for a couple of owls, but only succeeded in hearing **Akun Eagle-Owl & African Wood-Owl**.

12 April – Atewa Range



As the hike up to the ridge was going to be tough for this group, we decided just to bird our way up the track and see how far we got. We started down in the farmbrush before entering the secondary forest and saw a big flock of **White-throated Bee-eaters** on the move. The track up to the ridge was a steady gradient and passed through secondary forest which had a fair amount of activity in the morning. We had a few birds perch out that we managed to get in the scope, like **African Green-Pigeon**, several **Bristle-nosed Barbets** and a nice **Red-thighed Sparrowhawk**. We had a nice flowering tree full of **Buff-throated Sunbirds**, and a good selection of other birds, including **West African Wattle-eye**, **Golden Honeyguide** and **Gray Greenbul**, **African Forest- & Tessmann's Flycatchers** and a pair of **Red-headed Malimbos** singing to each other and then mating. We worked on some skulkers and finally got scope views of **Puvel's Illadopsis**, but the very difficult **Kemp's Longbill** remained heard only. We reached a clearing before turning round, and here we had a pair of **Square-tailed Sawwings** flying over and some **Black-and-white Mannikins** feeding on grass seeds. It was much quieter on the way back down, but towards the bottom we found a pocket of activity where we found **Red-tailed Greenbul**, **Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher** and all finally got good views of the difficult **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye**. We returned to the farmbrush in the afternoon and saw a few species, including **Blue-headed Coucal**, **White-throated Bee-eater**, **Vieillot's Barbet**, **Northern Fiscal**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Chestnut-and-black Weaver** and a flyover of a group of **Grosbeak Weavers**. The clouds had been building, and soon burst causing us to seek shelter in the van. A rather shorter afternoon birding session than we had planned.

13 April – Atewa to Kalakpa



We felt that there was little to gain from more birding around Atewa, so we set off towards the last site of the trip, Kalakpa Resource Reserve. We stopped in on the way at Lake Volta where we picked up a few birds in the riparian vegetation near the water. We found **Guinea Turaco**, **Western Plantain-eater**, **Dideric Cuckoo**, **White-throated Bee-eater**, **Simple Greenbul**, **Splendid Sunbird**, **Copper Sunbird** and several **Bronze Mannikins**. Our main targets though were the **Pied-winged Swallow** which we saw perched on a wire along the road, but quickly flew, and also the interesting **Leaf-love** which for a large, boisterous bird in what looked like pretty trashy habitat, has a remarkably limited distribution here in Ghana. We had lunch at a nice restaurant by the water and afterwards continued on to the town of Ho which was to be our base for the next 2 nights. We checked in and had some downtime before venturing out in the afternoon for some birding. We started off by exploring the more open areas along the entrance road to the reserve, where we saw **Senegal Coucal**, **African Cuckoo**, **Blue-bellied Roller**, **Double-toothed Barbet**, **Yellow-billed Shrike**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Purple Starling**, **African Thrush**, **Splendid Sunbird**, **Bronze Mannikin** and **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**. In the late afternoon, we drove to the ranger station and took a short walk out into the Guinea Savanna habitat. We saw **African Cuckoo-Hawk**, **Moustached Grass-Warbler**, **Whistling Cisticola** and **Olive Sunbird**, but not much else. We waited around until dusk after which we managed to track down **Fiery-necked Nightjar** and a rather shy **African Scops-Owl** which kept itself well hidden for the longest time. We enjoyed some good hearty African food back at the lodge and rested up ahead of our last full day of birding tomorrow.

14th & 15th April – Kalakpa Resource Reserve



Our first birding stop in the morning was along the entrance road where the guides spotted our first **African Crake** preening by the roadside. It stood there, bold as brass, for about 10 minutes while we snapped away. We parked at the entrance and continued in on foot. It was a pretty slow morning with the same species we had seen before, including **Guinea Turaco**, **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **West African Wattle-eye**, **Senegal Batis**, **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Whistling Cisticola**, **Orange-breasted Forest Robin** and **Gray-headed Nigrita**. We did actually add one bird, the **Yellow-whiskered Greenbul**, but mainly flyovers. After lunch and a rest, we met to go out again and found a **Eurasian Kestrel** on the roof of our hotel and a pair of **Lanner Falcons** flying over. Also, on the drive back to the reserve we found a nice pair of **Pied-winged Swallows** on a roadside wire. This afternoon, we concentrated on the entrance road which was quite a bit more active than the forest had been this morning. We saw **Double-spurred Spurfowl**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, many **White-throated Bee-eaters**, **Glossy-backed Drongo**, **Yellow-billed Shrike**, **Moustached Grass-Warbler**, **Red-faced & Whistling Cisticolas** and **Purple Starling**. We heard some **Ahanta Spurfowl** calling off in the distance and we bushwhacked to get closer. We started to try and call them out, and in the meantime saw close **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** and **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat**. The spurfowl didn't come in but they flushed and gave very brief views. Back on the road, we added **Splendid & Copper Sunbirds**, **Yellow-mantled Widowbird** and **African Firefinch** which was also new, before heading back to the hotel for dinner. The final morning was a last farewell to the reserve and to our birding in Ghana, after a truly memorable trip.

BIRDS OF THE TRIP

- 1 WHITE-NECKED ROCKFOWL
- 2 NKUKULENGU RAIL
- 3 YELLOW-THROATED CUCKOO
- 4 AFRICAN PICULET
- 5 STANDARD-WINGED NIGHTJAR

BIRD LIST

View the eBird trip report here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/115746>

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl (Anatidae)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*
African Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus auritus*

Guineafowl (Numididae)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

New World Quail (Odontophoridae)

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies (Phasianidae)

White-throated Francolin *Campocolinus albogularis*
Ahanta Francolin *Pternistis achantensis*
Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus*

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*
Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*
Mourning Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*
Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*
Black-billed Wood-Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur afer*
Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*
Bruce's Green-Pigeon *Treron waalia*
African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus*

Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)

Four-banded Sandgrouse

*Pterocles quadricinctus***Bustards (Otididae)**

Black-bellied Bustard

*Lissotis melanogaster***Turacos (Musophagidae)**

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

Guinea Turaco

Tauraco persa

Yellow-billed Turaco

Tauraco macrorhynchus

Violet Turaco

Musophaga violacea

Western Plantain-eater

*Crinifer piscator***Cuckoos (Cuculidae)**

Black-throated Coucal

Centropus leucogaster

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

Blue Malkoha

Ceuthmochares aereus

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

Klaas's Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

Yellow-throated Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx flavigularis

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx olivinus

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

African Cuckoo

*Cuculus gularis***Nightjars and Allies (Caprimulgidae)**

Brown Nightjar

Veles binotatus

Standard-winged Nightjar

Caprimulgus longipennis

Fiery-necked Nightjar

C. pectoralis nigriscapularis

Plain Nightjar

Caprimulgus inornatus

Freckled Nightjar

Caprimulgus tristigma

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Long-tailed Nightjar

*Caprimulgus climacurus***Swifts (Apodidae)**

Mottled Spinetail

Telacanthura ussheri

Black Spinetail

Telacanthura melanopygia

Cassin's Spinetail

Neafrapus cassini

Common Swift

Apus apus

Little Swift

Apus affinis

White-rumped Swift

Apus caffer

African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Flufftails (Scolopacidae)	
White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)	
African Crake	<i>Crex egregia</i>
Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>
African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Nkulengu Rail	<i>Himantornis haematopus</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
Egyptian Plover (Pluvianidae)	
Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>
Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)	
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Forbes's Plover	<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>
Painted-Snipes (Rostratulidae)	
Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers and Allies (Scolopacidae)	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Pratincoles and Coursers (Glareolidae)	
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)

Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	
West African Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus albididorsalis</i>	NG

Storks (Ciconiidae)

African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>	NG
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Cormorants and Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)

Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	
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Hamerkop (Scopidae)

Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	
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Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>	
Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
Western Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	

Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	
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Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (Accipitridae)

Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	
European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	
Congo Serpent-Eagle	<i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i>	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>	
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>	

Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila africana</i>
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
African (Red-chested) Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro toussenelii</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter erythropus</i>
Long-tailed Hawk	<i>Urotriorchis macrourus</i>
Black (Yellow-billed) Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>

Owls (Strigidae)

African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>
Grayish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>
Fraser's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo poensis</i>
Akun Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo leucostictus</i>
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
Red-chested Owlet	<i>Glaucidium tephronotum</i>
African Wood-Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>

Trogons (Trogonidae)

Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
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Woodhoopoes and Scimitarbills (Phoeniculidae)

Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Forest Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus castaneiceps</i>
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>

Ground-Hornbills (Bucorvidae)

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>
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Hornbills (Bucerotidae)

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros camurus</i>
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>
African Gray Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
White-crested Hornbill	<i>Horizocerus albocristatus</i>
Black Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Horizocerus hartlaubi</i>
Black-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna atrata</i>

Yellow-casqued Hornbill
Brown-cheeked Hornbill
Piping Hornbill

Ceratogymna elata
Bycanistes cylindricus
Bycanistes fistulator

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

Malachite Kingfisher
White-bellied Kingfisher
African Pygmy Kingfisher
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher
Gray-headed Kingfisher
Woodland Kingfisher
Blue-breasted Kingfisher
Striped Kingfisher
Giant Kingfisher
Pied Kingfisher

Corythornis cristatus
Corythornis leucogaster
Ispidina picta
Halcyon badia
Halcyon leucocephala
Halcyon senegalensis
Halcyon malimbica
Halcyon chelicuti
Megaceryle maxima
Ceryle rudis

Bee-eaters (Meropidae)

Black Bee-eater
Blue-moustached Bee-eater
Red-throated Bee-eater
Little Bee-eater
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater
White-throated Bee-eater
African Green Bee-eater
European Bee-eater
Rosy Bee-eater
Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops gularis
Merops mentalis
Merops bulocki
Merops pusillus
Merops hirundineus
Merops albicollis
Merops viridissimus
Merops apiaster
Merops malimbicus
Merops nubicus

Rollers (Coraciidae)

Abyssinian Roller
Rufous-crowned Roller
Blue-bellied Roller
Broad-billed Roller
Blue-throated Roller

Coracias abyssinicus
Coracias naevius
Coracias cyanogaster
Eurystomus glaucurus
Eurystomus gularis

African Barbets (Lybiidae)

Yellow-billed Barbet
Bristle-nosed Barbet
Naked-faced Barbet
Speckled Tinkerbird
Red-rumped Tinkerbird
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird

Trachyphonus purpuratus
Gymnobucco peli
Gymnobucco calvus
Pogoniulus scolopaceus
Pogoniulus atroflavus
Pogoniulus subsulphureus
Pogoniulus bilineatus

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>
Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>
Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>

Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)

Cassin's Honeyguide	<i>Prodotiscus insignis</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

African Piculet	<i>Verreauxia africana</i>
Melancholy Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus lugubris</i>
Fire-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus pyrrhogaster</i>
African Gray Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus goertae</i>
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>

Falcons and Caracaras (Falconidae)

Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>
Gray Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>

Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
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New World and African Parrots (Psittacidae)

Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gularis</i>
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>

African and Green Broadbills (Calyptomenidae)

Rufous-sided Broadbill	<i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i>
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Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga quiscalina</i>
Blue Cuckooshrike	<i>Cyanograucalus azureus</i>

Old World Orioles (Oriolidae)

Western Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus brachyrynchus

Black-winged Oriole

*Oriolus nigripennis***Wattle-eyes and Batises (Platysteiridae)**

Brown-throated Wattle-eye

Platysteira cyanea

West African Wattle-eye

Platysteira hormophora

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye

Platysteira blissetti

Senegal Batis

Batis senegalensis

West African Batis

*Batis occulta***Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies (Vangidae)**

White Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatus

Red-billed Helmetshrike

Prionops caniceps

African Shrike-flycatcher

Megabyas flammulatus

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher

*Bias musicus***Bushshrikes and Allies (Malaconotidae)**

Brubru

Nilaus afer

Northern Puffback

Dryoscopus gambensis

Sabine's Puffback

Dryoscopus sabini

Marsh Tchagra

Tchagra minutus

Black-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra senegalus

Yellow-crowned Gonolek

Laniarius barbarus

Lowland Sooty Boubou

Laniarius leucorhynchus

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike

*Telophorus sulfureopectus***Drongos (Dicruridae)**

Western Square-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus occidentalis

Shining Drongo

Dicrurus atripennis

Glossy-backed Drongo

Dicrurus divaricatus

Fanti Drongo

*Dicrurus aactus***Monarch Flycatchers (Monarchidae)**

Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher

Trochocercus nitens

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 gymnocephalus***Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)**

African Blue Flycatcher

*Elminia longicauda***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

Moustached Grass-Warbler

Melocichla mentalis

Kemp's Longbill

Macrosphenus kempii

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

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

Sharpe's Apalis

Apalis sharpii

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

Red-winged Prinia

Prinia erythroptera

Oriole Warbler

Hypergerus atriceps

Red-faced Cisticola

Cisticola erythrops

Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>
Rock-loving Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>
Dorst's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola guinea</i>
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
Siffling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>
Rufous Cisticola	<i>Cisticola rufus</i>
Black-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola eximius</i>

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>
White-throated Blue Swallow	<i>Hirundo nigrita</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Preuss's Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon preussi</i>
Square-tailed Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne nitens</i>
Fanti Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>

Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)

Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Stelgidillas gracilirostris</i>
Golden Greenbul	<i>Calyptocichla serinus</i>
Red-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda syndactylus</i>
Gray-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>
Simple Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla simplex</i>
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>
Yellow-throated Greenbul	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>
Spotted Greenbul	<i>Ixonotus guttatus</i>
Swamp Greenbul	<i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i>
Red-tailed Greenbul	<i>Criniger calurus</i>
Western Bearded-Greenbul	<i>Criniger barbatus</i>
Yellow-bearded Greenbul	<i>Criniger olivaceus</i>
Gray Greenbul	<i>Eurillas gracilis</i>
Ansorge's Greenbul	<i>Eurillas ansorgei</i>
Plain Greenbul	<i>Eurillas curvirostris</i>
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>
Leaf-love	<i>Phyllastrephus scandens</i>

Icterine Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus icterinus</i>
White-throated Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus albigularis</i>
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Bush Warblers and Allies (Scotocercidae)	
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocerus mccallii</i>
White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies (Zosteropidae)	
Northern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Ground Babblers and Allies (Pellorneidae)	
Brown Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>
Pale-breasted Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis rufipennis</i>
Puvel's Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis puveli</i>
Rufous-winged Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis rufescens</i>
Laughingthrushes and Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Starlings (Sturnidae)	
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Chestnut-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>
Copper-tailed Starling	<i>Hylopsar cupreocauda</i>
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>
Chestnut-bellied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis pulcher</i>
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>
Thrushes and Allies (Turdidae)	
Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus finschi</i>
White-tailed Ant-Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>

Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

Little Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa epulata</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Gambaga Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa gambagae</i>
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>
Ussher's Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis ussheri</i>
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis comitatus</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>
African Forest-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>
Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria griseigularis</i>
Gray Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria plumbea</i>
Tessmann's Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria tessmanni</i>
Northern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
White-tailed Alethe	<i>Alethe diademata</i>
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i>
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>
Orange-breasted Forest Robin	<i>Stiphornis erythrothorax</i>
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
White-fronted Black-Chat	<i>Oenanthe albifrons</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters (Nectariniidae)

Fraser's Sunbird	<i>Deleornis fraseri</i>
Mouse-brown Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
Reichenbach's Sunbird	<i>Anabathmis reichenbachii</i>
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Buff-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>
Tiny Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris minullus</i>
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinogastrus</i>
Johanna's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris johannae</i>
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>

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

Crested Malimbe

Malimbus malimbicus

Red-headed Malimbe

Malimbus rubricollis

Little Weaver

Ploceus luteolus

Olive-naped Weaver

Ploceus (nigricollis) brachypterus

Orange Weaver

Ploceus aurantius

Chestnut-and-black Weaver

Ploceus castaneofuscus

Village Weaver

Ploceus cucullatus

Yellow-mantled Weaver

Ploceus tricolor

Maxwell's Black Weaver

Ploceus albinucha

Preuss's Weaver

Ploceus preussi

Compact Weaver

Pachyphantes superciliosus

Red-headed Quelea

Quelea erythrops

Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea

Northern Red Bishop

Euplectes franciscanus

Black-winged Bishop

Euplectes hordeaceus

Yellow-mantled Widowbird

Euplectes macroura

Grosbeak Weaver

Amblyospiza albifrons

Waxbills and Allies (Estrildidae)

Bronze Mannikin

Spermestes cucullata

Black-and-white Mannikin

Spermestes bicolor

African Silverbill

Euodice cantans

Red-fronted Antpecker

Parmoptila rubrifrons

White-breasted Nigrita

Nigrita fusconotus

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita

Nigrita bicolor

Gray-headed Nigrita

Nigrita canicapillus

Lavender Waxbill

Glaucostrepera caerulea

Orange-cheeked Waxbill

Estrilda melpoda

Black-rumped Waxbill

Estrilda troglodytes

(Black-faced) Quailfinch

Ortygospiza atricollis

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu

Uraeginthus bengalus

Western Bluebill

Spermophaga haematina

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

African Firefinch

Lagonosticta rubricata

Bar-breasted Firefinch

Lagonosticta rufopicta

Indigobirds (Viduidae)

Pin-tailed Whydah
Wilson's Indigobird

Vidua macroura
Vidua wilsoni

Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow
Sahel Bush Sparrow

Passer griseus
Gymnoris dentata

Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)

Western Yellow Wagtail
African Pied Wagtail
Yellow-throated Longclaw

Motacilla flava
Motacilla aguimp
Macronyx croceus

Finches, Euphonias, and Allies (Fringillidae)

Yellow-fronted Canary

Crithagra mozambica

Old World Buntings (Emberizidae)

Brown-rumped Bunting
Gosling's Bunting

Emberiza affinis
Emberiza goslingi

iNaturalist

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?d1=2023-03-25&d2=2023-04-15&place_id=7228&subview=map&user_id=charleyhesse&verifiable=any

Please check iNaturalist for photos & locations for photos of other species

MAMMAL LIST

Taxonomy follows iNaturalist

PRIMATES: Cercopithecidae

Olive Baboon
Green Monkey
Patas Monkey
Lowe's Mona Monkey
Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey

Papio anubis
Cercopithecus sabaesus
Cercopithecus patas
Cercopithecus lowei
Cercopithecus petaurista

PRIMATES: Galagidae

Demidoff's Galago

Galagoides demidoff

CHIROPTERA: Pteropodidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat

Eidolon helvum

CHIROPTERA: Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat

*Lavia frons***RODENTIA: Sciuridae**

Striped Ground Squirrel

Xerus erythropus

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel

Funisciurus pyrropus

Green Bush Squirrel

Paraxerus poensis

Gambian Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus gambianus

African Giant Squirrel

*Protoxerus stangeri***RODENTIA: Anomaluridae**

Pel's Anomalure

*Anomalurus pelii***CARNIVORA: Viverridae**

Common Genet

*Genetta genetta***CARNIVORA: Herpestidae**

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguinea

Gambian Mongoose

*Mungos gambianus***HYRACOIDEA: Procaviidae**

Western Tree Hyrax

*Dendrohyrax dorsalis***PROBOSCIDEA: Elephantidae**

African Elephant

*Loxodonta africana***ARTIODACTYLA: Bovidae**

Red-flanked Duiker

Cephalophus rufilatus

Kob

Kobus kob

Waterbuck

*Kobus ellipsiprymnus***REPTILE LIST**

Common Agama

Agama agama

Tropical House Gecko

Hemidactylus mabouia

Five-lined Skink

Mabuya quiquetaeniata

Nile Monitor

Varanus niloticus

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus