



White-necked Rockfowl or Yellow-headed Picathartes is THE special bird of Ghana (János Oláh)!

ULTIMATE GHANA

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LEADER: JÁNOS OLÁH

Ghana has a wide range of habitats and special birds as well as being a safe place to visit, where tourism is much encouraged. The combination of these factors makes it the ideal West African birding destination at the moment with a good number of available Upper Guinea specialities. The undisputed highlight of a tour and the main reason why most birders visit nowadays is the possibility to see White-necked Rockfowl (or Yellow-headed Picathartes). It was no different on our tour and we had excellent looks at this superb and enigmatic bird, hence it was voted bird of the trip. However, the other birds that made it into the top five were just as exciting, such as the shy Latham's Forest Francolin in second place then Nkulengu Rail and Red-billed Helmetshrike third and fourth and finally the superb Egyptian Plover also made it into the top five! Our tour was exciting and highly successful, with a wide range of special and range restricted birds. We could not visit the far north owing to unforeseen circumstances - two bridges were closed - so we had to alter the itinerary slightly. This turned out to be fortunate as we saw several rarely encountered species on those extra days elsewhere. We recorded a total of 451 species, which included several sought-after birds like Hartlaub's Duck, White-throated and Ahanta Francolins, Spot-breasted Ibis, Congo Serpent Eagle, Long-tailed Hawk, Bat Hawk, Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, White-spotted Flufftail, African Finfoot, Allen's Gallinule, White-crowned Lapwing, Forbes's Plover, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Yellow-billed Turaco, Black-throated

Coucal, Thick-billed and Yellow-throated Cuckoos, Fraser's and Akun Eagle Owls, Red-chested Owlet, Brown, Standard-winged, and Black-shouldered Nightjars, Black Spinetail, Blue-bellied Roller, Blue-moustached, Black and Rosy Bee-eaters, Black Dwarf, Red-billed Dwarf, White-crested, Brown-cheeked and both Yellow-casqued and Black-casqued Wattled Hornbills, Spotted Honeyguide, African Piculet, Fine-spotted, Melancholy and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, Grey and Brown-necked Parrots, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Many-colored and Fiery-breasted Bushshrikes, White-breasted and Blue Cuckooshrikes, Baumann's Olive Greenbul and both Green-tailed and Grey-headed Bristlebills, White-bibbed and Pied-winged Swallows, Kemp's Longbill, Sharpe's Apalis, Oriole Warbler, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Capuchin Babbler, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, Western Forest Robin, Black-bellied Seedcracker and Black-faced Firefinch. Interesting family totals included 10 species of hornbills, 13 species of barbets, 21 species of modestly clad greenbuls, 11 species of hirundines, a staggering 8 species of *Muscicapa* flycatchers and 21 species of sunbirds including Reichenbach's, Carmelite and the superb Buff-throated Sunbirds. Mammal highlights were African Elephant, Lowe's and Lesser Spot-nosed Monkeys and Common Genet while notable reptiles included African Dwarf Crocodile, Puff Adder, Western Green Mamba and Forest Cobra. It was a fantastic tour indeed!



The secretive Nkulengu Rail was a real bonus in Ankasa NP, surely Ghana is the best place to come across this species (János Oláh).

The tour started in Ghana's capital city of Accra. Our first day in the field started at the scenic Shai Hills reserve where granitic outcrops clothed in shrubby growth towered over stretches of open woodland and savanna. It is a classic 'African' savanna type birding and a great introduction to the region. We had a great morning and recorded an excellent selection of localized species next to a varied assortment of more widespread birds. One of star birds of the morning was a real showy Stone Partridge, which allowed excellent looks at close range. The other major highlight was a pair of White-crowned Cliff Chats as they played hide and seek amongst the boulders with a Slender Mongoose. We also had colourful Vieillot's and Double-toothed Barbets on a fruiting tree alongside with Guinea Turaco, many Western Grey Plantain-eaters and a party of Lesser Spot-nosed Monkeys. Modestly clad Croaking and Short-winged Cisticolas were singing away in the bushy grasslands as well as Yellow-fronted and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird making their repetitive call from the treetops. Several, ever so beautiful Blue-bellied Rollers were overlooking their

territories from higher vantage points, Senegal Parrots were screeching away and a pair of perky Senegal Batises frequented a contorted acacia bush. We also recorded Red-eyed, Laughing and Vinaceous Doves, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, African Grey Hornbill, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Cardinal and African Grey Woodpeckers, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Flappet Lark, Senegal Eremomela, Spotted and European Pied Flycatchers, Splendid Sunbird, African Quailfinch and Violet-backed Starling on our walks around the reserve. After lunch we had a brief stop at the famous Sakumono lagoon, which produced a wealth of waterbirds and waders, many of which we would only see at this venue. We found goodies like Black Heron, Collared Pratincole and Senegal Thick-knee next to well-known species like White-faced Whistling Duck, Squacco Heron, Western Cattle Egret, Grey Heron, Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Reed Cormorant, Western Marsh Harrier, Black-winged Stilt, Spur-winged and Wattled Lapwings, Common Ringed Plover, African Jacana, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank, Marsh, Wood and Common Sandpipers, Curlew Sandpipers, Ruff, Pied Kingfisher and Yellow Wagtail. On the long drive west to the Kakum National Park we made a birding stop at the Winneba plains where Double-spurred Francolins, Shikra, Senegal Coucals and Simple Greenbuls were seen.



Stone Partridge in the Shai Hills (János Oláh).

Our next full day was devoted to the famous canopy walkway at Kakum National Park! This structure was built in 1995 and allows birders to get to grips with the tree crown inhabitants of the West African rainforest. On our short walk to the walkway entrance we saw a fine Black Bee-eater and scoped our first Little Green Sunbird. Not long after dawn we were standing on one of the platforms of this c350m long structure 40m above the forest floor. Although birding started slow – welcome to West African forests – in the first few hours of the day we managed to see a great selection of canopy birds and when a flock was around it was indeed overwhelmingly birdy! Sunbirds were much in evidence for the first hour with great looks of the stunning Buff-throated Sunbird as well as Tiny and Fraser’s Sunbirds plus the common Collared and Grey-chinned Sunbird. A dead treetop was a great location to track down the attractive and localised Preuss’s Weaver and also Yellow-mantled and Maxwell’s Black Weavers were seen there. However, a calling Congo Serpent Eagle did not show, a breeding White-crested Hornbill was finally seen by everybody as it was unobtrusively visiting its breeding hole. We got our first taste of greenbuls as Slender-billed, Golden,

Honeyguide and Spotted Greenbuls wetted our appetite for this difficult group. A party of smart Rufous-crowned Eremomelas flitted about in a bare tree together with a pair of flashy Violet-backed Hyliotas and a White-breasted Nigrita. A tiny Lemon-bellied Crombec, several Green Hylias, Black-capped Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Fraser' Forest Flycatchers and a sneaky and rare Olivaceous Flycatcher favoured the more dense tangles. An active flock passed by the platform we were standing on allowing great looks of stunning Blue Malkohas, several glorious Blue Cuckooshrikes, male and female Sabine's Puffback, a Cassin's Honeybird, Red-headed Malimbos, a male Fernando Po Batis, a party of Forest Penduline Tits and a displaying male Johanna's Sunbird. Other goodies seen from the walkway included Palm-nut Vulture, Ayres's Hawk Eagle, Klaas's Cuckoo, Black and Cassin's Spinetails, Blue-throated Roller, Speckled and Red-rumped Tinkerbirds, African Pied Hornbill, Black-winged Oriole, Fanti Saw-wing, Wood Warblers, Ussher's Flycatcher and Chestnut-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas. In late morning we made our way down to the forest floor and walked quietly through Kakum's primary forest. Patient birding produced good looks of more Black Bee-eaters and after hard work amazing looks of the very shy Green-tailed Bristlebill.



The Green-tailed Bristlebill is a real specialty but usually not easy to see well (János Oláh).

In the afternoon, rain was threatening but we returned to the canopy walkway. As usual for afternoons it was very quiet but the last hour activity picked up again and we had repeated views of the morning birds as well as had great looks of Lowe's and Lesser Spot-nosed Monkeys. We heard the distinctive calls of Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Turaco and Latham's Francolin but we had to leave a few birds for the rest of the trip as well! At dusk a Brown Nightjar started uttering its 'kyup' notes right below us but it refused to show itself. On our return walk James found a Demidoff's Dwarf Galago, while the strange screams of Western Tree Hyraxes echoed through the forest. What a superb day it was!

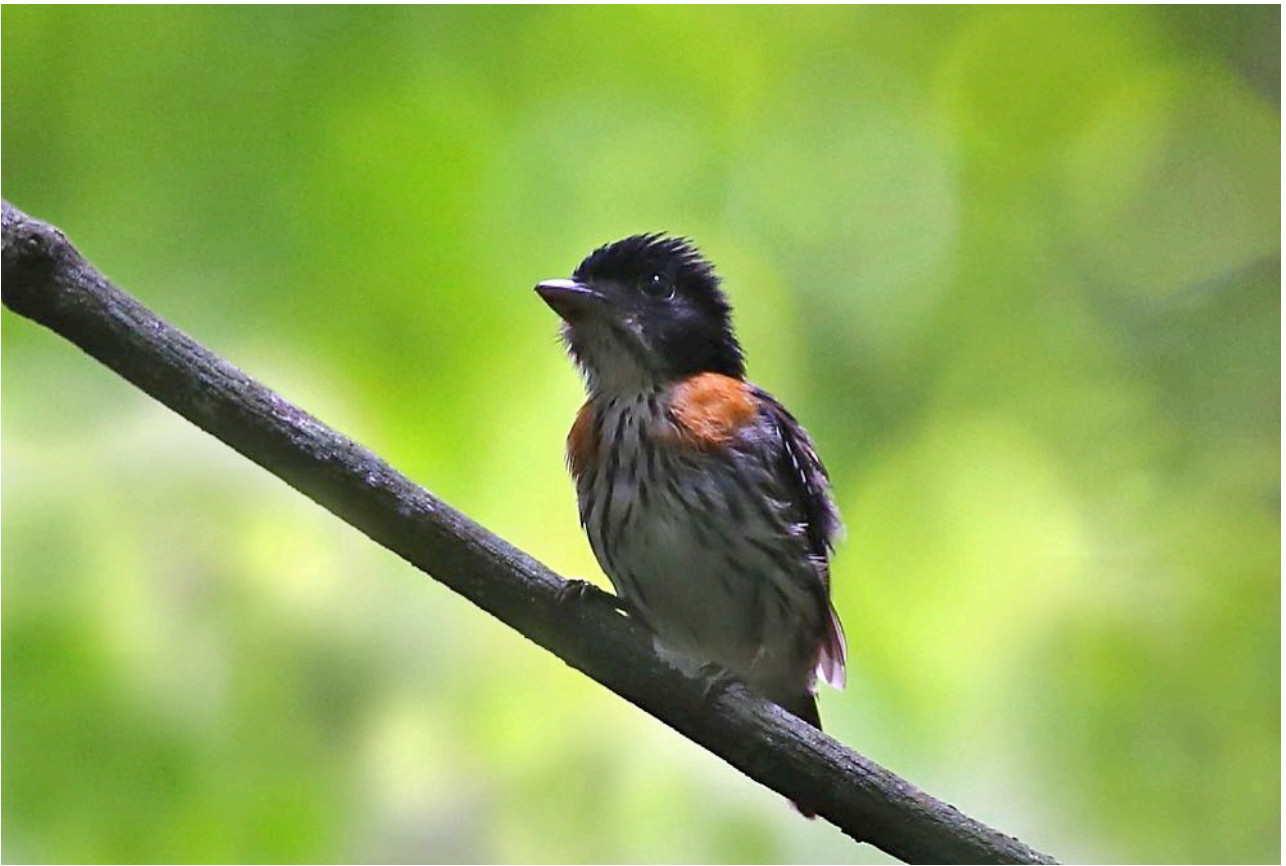
The following morning we explored a stretch of forest edge habitat at the perimeter of the Kakum National Park. Our first stop produced great looks of White-spotted Flufftail and a perched African Cuckoo-Hawk. As we walked through farmbrush amongst plantations of cocoa and manioc, dotted with isolated tall trees we had a very birdy morning. A pair of African Grey Parrot and Rosy Bee-eaters flew overhead and a Black-casqued Hornbill was finally tracked down. Hairy-breasted, Bristle-nosed and Naked-faced Barbets allowed

superb looks and we had a male Fire-bellied Woodpecker as well. Green Crombec and Grey Longbill played about in vine tangles and Little, Little Grey, Plain Greenbuls were frequenting the roadside thickets. We also had Swamp Palm Bulbuls and Red-vented Malimbos but Congo Serpent Eagle was heard-only again! A short drive took us to the Pra River where several Rock Pratincoles and four stunning White-bibbed Blue Swallows showed well while Mottled Spinetails and Lesser Striped Swallows were also present. On the way back to our hotel we have visited an active breeding colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallows and enjoyed watching their busy life as they were nest building.



Preuss's Cliff Swallow in flight – we had a superb time with these fantastic hirundines (János Oláh)!

In the afternoon we explored another patch of lowland rainforest close to the Kakum NP headquarters. It was a productive afternoon along a nice forest track, where we first tracked down Red-tailed Greenbuls and Chestnut-capped Flycatchers while a huge fruiting tree giant gave us Yellow-billed Turacos and many more barbets and greenbuls. Later we heard the distant calls of the localised Brown-cheeked Hornbill and after some strategic positioning we had great looks of a pair in flight! Meanwhile White-headed Wood Hoopoe and Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher was also seen. On our return walk we managed to get great views of Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and a Brown Nightjar at dusk. We tried again for eagle owls tonight but still not a sniff, just a distant Black-shouldered Nightjar was heard. Early next morning we were back to this forest patch where we played hide and seek with Puvell's and Brown Illadopsis and White-tailed Alethe with various degree of luck and views for most. A pair of Red-cheeked Wattle-eye was seen well and it was a great relief as this is usually one of the trickiest species to get good looks. Our next bird was a perched Red-thighed Sparrowhawk and albeit rather distant we had reasonably good views with scope, which was followed by a party of three Fire-bellied Woodpeckers and a fine Black Bee-eater. A short detour took us to a huge emergent tree in the middle of the cocoa plantation where a large flock of Rosy Bee-eaters took up winter residence and we could watch 78 of them in length. What a stunning bird! Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher or Vanga Flycatcher and feeding Red-fronted Parrots were bonuses here. In the late morning we took the same forest trail as last afternoon and by far our best experience was a displaying male Rufous-sided Broadbill in pointblank range. It did take some time to track him down but finally we could watch him doing his display flight circle with its white back fluffed up.



Male Rufous-sided Broadbill and Brown-cheeked Hornbill in Abrafo Forest (János Oláh).

After this fantastic morning we drove to Cape Coast for a scrumptious lunch at the base of the Cape Coast Castle from the slave-trading days. In the afternoon we drove to Nsuta Forest where we arrived just as the very same time as huge thunderstorm did. After an hour of heavy rain we did a bit of roadside birding which proved to be rather productive see lots of Piping Hornbills, a fine Melancholy Woodpecker, Dusky-blue and Ussher's Flycatchers and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird. The real excitement came at dusk when we had great looks of Spot-breasted ibis as they were coming to roost on the roadside trees of a swampy area. This forest ibis is not easy to see and it was certainly a great experience and perfect final for another action-packed day in the lowland forests of Ghana!



Adult Congo Serpent Eagle was seen in the Nsuta Forest (János Oláh).

The following morning we returned to the Nsuta forest. We walked along a sidetrack and virtually the first bird of the day was an adult Congo Serpent Eagle as it landed right in front of us for a few seconds. It flew off soon but a few minutes later we relocated into a distant huge emergent tree and enjoyed prolonged scope views. After hearing it at three locations it was the high time to see one! The forest was rather silent and birding was slow. West Africa's rain forest birding is amongst the hardest in the world, but patience and perseverance usually and eventually yield results. Some of us managed glimpses of Black-throated Coucal while others seen Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo. The much sought-after African Piculet was heard only but Great Blue Turaco was seen very well. Heat and humidity – following last night's big storm – was quickly building up and we had a long drive ahead of us so we decided to return to our bus. Just as we got back we caught a glimpse of a Long-tailed Hawk crossing the main track and with a bit of cautious playback we persuaded him to come back. It flew in and we all got excellent perched and flight views of this major target. It was amazing to see the two top-target raptors in one morning and getting outstanding looks of both! Our last bird in this superb area was a male Black Dwarf Hornbill. In the afternoon we drove to the Ankasa forest reserve and several stops on the way. A wetland area produced African Pygmy Geese and an active colony of Orange Weavers, while at the Ebi River we had Mangrove and Reichenbach's Sunbirds. A rather long detour take us to Half Assini where we wasted no time in finding a few Carmelite Sunbirds, including some fine males before we made the final leg of the journey to Ankasa. We arrived at the reserve in the early evening and got settled into the spacious walk in tents. The tents were situated at the reserve's headquarters and the jovial

atmosphere and the good food were much appreciated. This camp has been used for a few years now but a new lodge is being built by Ashanti Africa Tours and might already be in operation for 2018. The short walk from the tents to the water block even produced African Wood Owl for some beer drinkers!



Long-tailed Hawk in Nsuta Forest (top) and a male Carmelite Sunbird at Half Assini (János Oláh).



Pink Silk Moth (left) and a forest giant at Ankasa Reserve (János Oláh).

Ankasa Reserve is a big patch of forest, which was only partly logged some 30 years ago. Nowadays it is one of the best birding area on the western part of Ghana with a superb rain forest. Unfortunately somehow the rainy season has not really stopped yet at this location and we experienced huge storms and showers every day. The weather had been rainy recently and the forest was wet, the roads were wet and treefalls were frequent. On our first full day in this beautiful primary forest we experienced the typical slow birding of West Africa's forests again. There were many quiet moments, but hard work always pays off and at the end of the day we came away with lots of nice memories. The day started with several lovely Blue-headed Wood Doves on the main track right after dawn. The first obligatory stop at a recently fallen tree gave us half hour birding and a Finsch's Rufous Thrush, West African Wattle-eye and a few Yellow-bearded Greenbuls were seen. After this short stop we drove into the center of the reserve and continued towards some ponds on foot.



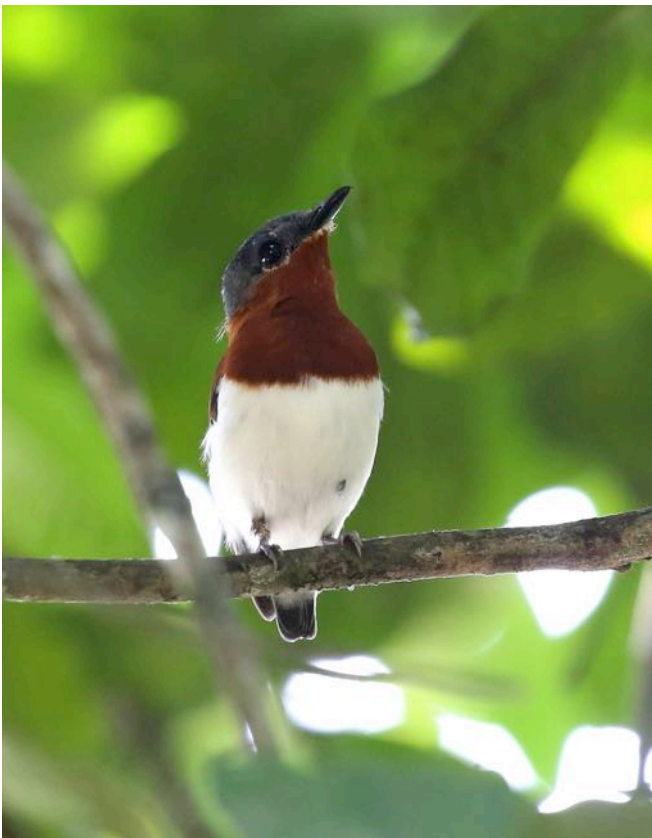
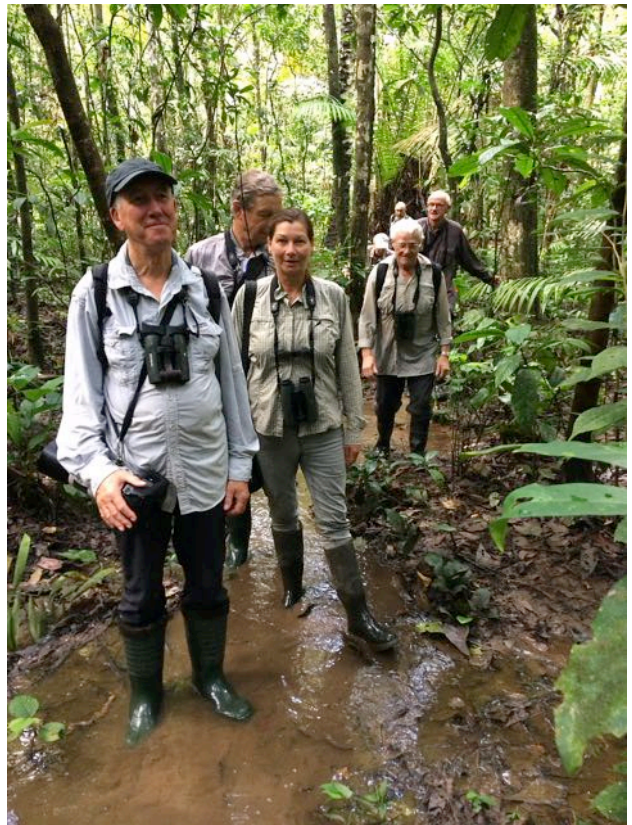
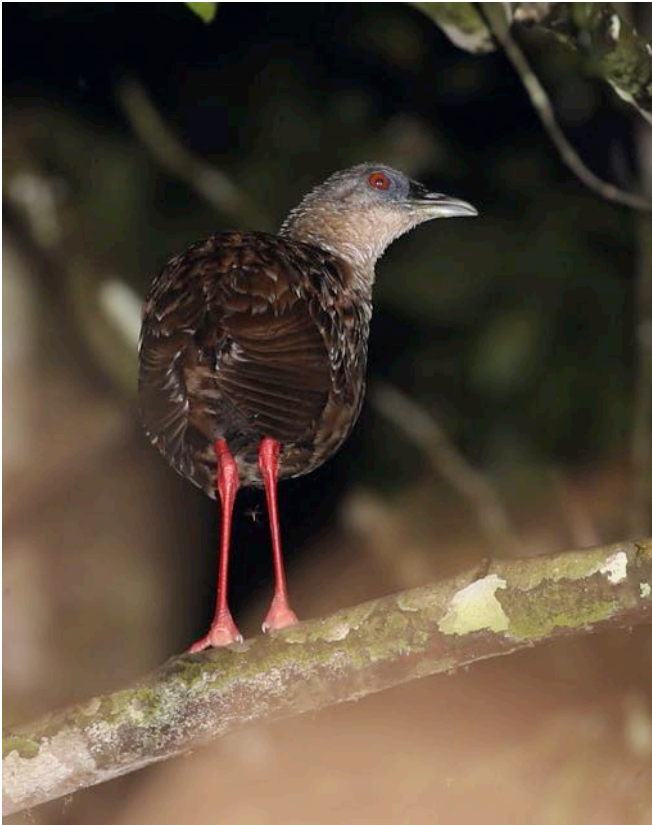
The so-called bamboo cathedral at Ankasa Reserve (János Oláh).



Red-billed Helmetshrike made it into the top five birds of the tour (János Oláh).

As soon as we stepped out of the jeeps we had two Forest Wood Hoopoes in flight and Great Blue Turacos were showing well on a nearby tree. Not much further we had prolonged looks of a family party of Red-billed Helmetshrikes – a much-wanted bird for all! We arrived to the first pool where we flushed African Finfoots away. We spent some time quietly around and our patience was rewarded with a nice White-bellied Kingfisher and much better looks at a female and a fully grown juvenile African Finfoot. Blue-billed Malimbe was nest building and a singing Blackcap Illadopsis was lured into view. On our way to another pool we saw a female Western Bluebill feeding on the path. Our picnic lunch was taken in the old ranger station and a huge storm arrived with substantial rain. Luckily we were under a shelter so we could watch the force of nature from a dry spot. Following the rain we walked the main track until dusk where we connected with a fine Yellow-casqued Hornbill, more Blue-headed Wood Doves, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Shining Drongo, Yellow-bearded, Icternie and Yellow-whiskered Greenbuls, Square-tailed Saw-wing and Pale-breasted Illadopsis. As dusk was approaching James picked a spot and we waited to see if any Nkulengu Rails would be calling. Light was disappearing but only a group of Crested Guineafowls were calling somewhere in the forest but the rails remained silent. Next day we did a pre-breakfast owling but only distantly heard Akun Eagle Owl – still this was the first sign of the species after several attempts now. After breakfast we decided to go deep in the forest on a looptrail. Our main target was Rufous-winged Illadopsis and Latham's Forest Francolin for the morning. We soon arrived to a nice gully where we could hear a Rufous-winged Illadopsis singing but it took us about an hour to get some views for most people. It was frustrating and really hard birding. We also had a nice Finsch's Rufous Thrush, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo and even a Western Forest Robin showed to some. Back on the trail a calling Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill was seen well in the scope while a calling Latham's Forest Francolin did not want to play. Further along we saw Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, both Grey-headed and Green-tailed Bristlebills and best of all a fine Red-chested Owlet was finally found in the high canopy. It was a rather long loop trail and it was well passed lunchtime when we arrived back at camp. After lunch we tried some other ponds for the secretive Hartlaub's Duck as the ponds yesterday only produced brief and rather unsatisfactory flight views. We got really lucky this time as the first location we found a pair feeding on a forest pool. They were slowly feeding and swimming across the pond and we could watch them for five minutes before they disappeared under the overhanging vegetation. It was

late afternoon by now and we spent the remaining of the day by the river near the entrance gate. We have not heard any owls at dusk which was not surprising following yet another storm this afternoon. A few African straw-coloured Fruitbats were flying around.



Nkulengu Rail (top left), group along a wet trail (top right), female West African Wattle-eye (left) and Red-chested Owlet in the Ankasa Reserve (János Oláh).



Hartlaub's Ducks on a forest pool in Ankasa Reserve (János Oláh).

Back in the camp we got the news from a fellow birder and a regular Birdquester that he located Nkulengu Rails at dusk. Wow, it was exciting news and the master plan of operation Nkulengu Rail was quickly formed! We were up in a rather unsuitable hours of the day and headed for the roosting rails in our jeeps. We arrived in time and just as we got out of the jeeps Nkulengu Rails started to call from a distance. It was on the other side of the track so we followed James into the jungle towards the spot where they were seen last night. Time was running out as dawn was approaching so we had to get there soon. We arrived to the location and much to our relief one of the rails were still at the same spot where they were left last night. So we got it: Nkulengu Rail! After this amazing start of the day we were back for breakfast and also tracked down Western Forest Robin and Western Bearded Greenbul around camp. After breakfast we took a trail along the river for our final birding in this fantastic reserve. A few Cassin's Flycatchers were seen and yet another Western Forest Robin was seen in the forest and we spent a long time again with a pair of Rufous-winged Illadopsis but this time everybody got to see it. After an early lunch we started the long drive back to Kakum's Rainforest Lodge. We arrived in the very late afternoon and headed straight out to try for eagle owls as we were getting a bit desperate for owls. We drove to James's secret location and though the weather was threatening but finally it did not rain. Despite our hope and high spirit only African Wood Owls were heard but no sign of any eagle owls.

The next day was a highly important day for most people: P-Day! We had time for an early morning birding in the Kakum area and we drove into a frambush area. We immediately heard a Puvel's Illadopsis when getting out of the car and getting satisfactory looks of this skulker took us about one hour! While working on the illadopsis we did see Grey-headed Bristlebill and Red-tailed Greenbuls. Slightly further along the track a breeding colony of Vieillot's Black Weavers mixed with Village Weavers entertained us while we saw a Blue-headed Coucal stealing a young bird out of a nest. A female Black-bellied Seedcracker was briefly seen by some and a pair of Lowland Sooty Boubou showed well in the thicket. Other goodies included Levillant's and Diederik Cuckoos, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Naked-faced Barbet, Melancholy Woodpecker, Marsh Tchagra, Green Crombec, Tit Hylia, Red-faced Cisticola, Dusky-blue Flycatcher and a stunning male Copper Sunbird in the morning sunlight.



White-necked Rockfowl or Yellow-headed Picathartes at Bonkro Forest (János Oláh).

In mid-morning we waved goodbye to Kakum and drove north to the most important venue of the tour. We arrived at the village near the Picathartes spot in early afternoon. After organising guides we started our walk. As soon as we reached the forest edge a fine male Yellow-throated Cuckoo was called in – a much wanted bird for some! Our walk up the hill took us about an hour or so but we did not stop for birding. As soon as we reached the fabled outcrop, we sat down on the provided benches in front of the cliff face and waited for the celebs to come around! We had to wait for over an hour but then the magical moment arrived and one of these strange creatures hopped into view! It was truly a great experience to see this most wanted bird of the tour only a few meters away. The White-necked Rockfowl came closer and then hopped into one of the nests under a rock overhang. Soon a second bird arrived too and they stayed around as long as we were there. We had superb looks while they were preening, dozing and hopping around. These ancient-looking birds really showed well and everyone had a really big smile as we left them in peace and started to walk back to bus. As usual, this special bird was voted as Bird of the Trip. We thought after this magical experience the day is over but it was not! On our drive out of the village a fine male Plain Nightjar allowed exceptional looks and after a short drive we finally scored on eagle owls. First we had a pair of Fraser's Eagle Owls calling and looking down on us from some tree giants and then just about 500 meters away a pair of calling Akun Eagle Owl were lured into view as well. Wow! After many failed attempts we got both species within 20 minutes. We still had a fair distance to cover to our hotel but there were certainly a few beers to celebrate with dinner!

A few days ago we got the news that two bridges are closed to construction work so we would not be able to visit the far north of Ghana as per the itinerary. Even the drive to the Mole National Park must be done on the slower and longer western road this year. So the following day was mainly a travelling day from Kumasi to Mole. As we journeyed further north the habitat was gradually changing, the forest zone was left behind and soon we travelled through bushy savanna. Our rather simple roadside picnic lunch was already in hot and sunny savanna habitat and we got to see five Lesser Blue-eared Starlings – the only ones of the tour. It was late afternoon when we got close to Mole National Park and a roadside pool-stop produced at least 8 Allens's Gallinules. They have obviously been breeding at this location as there were four adults and four

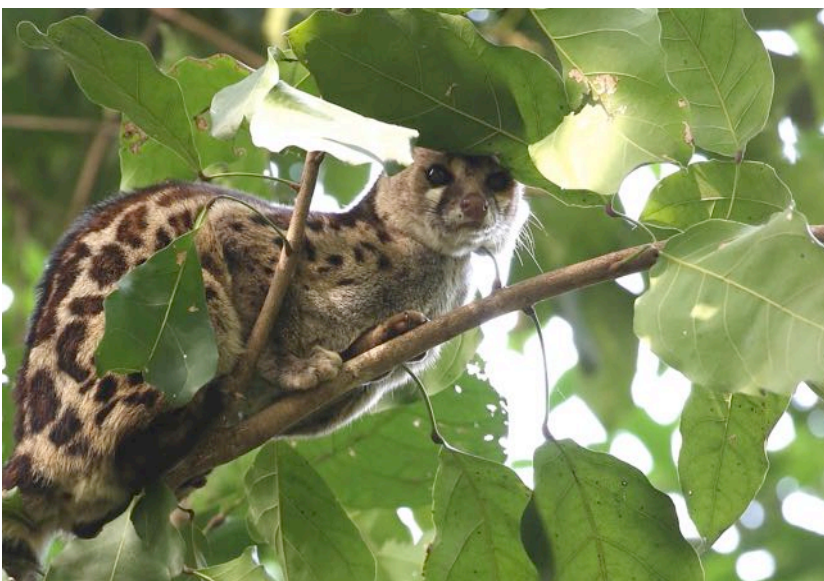
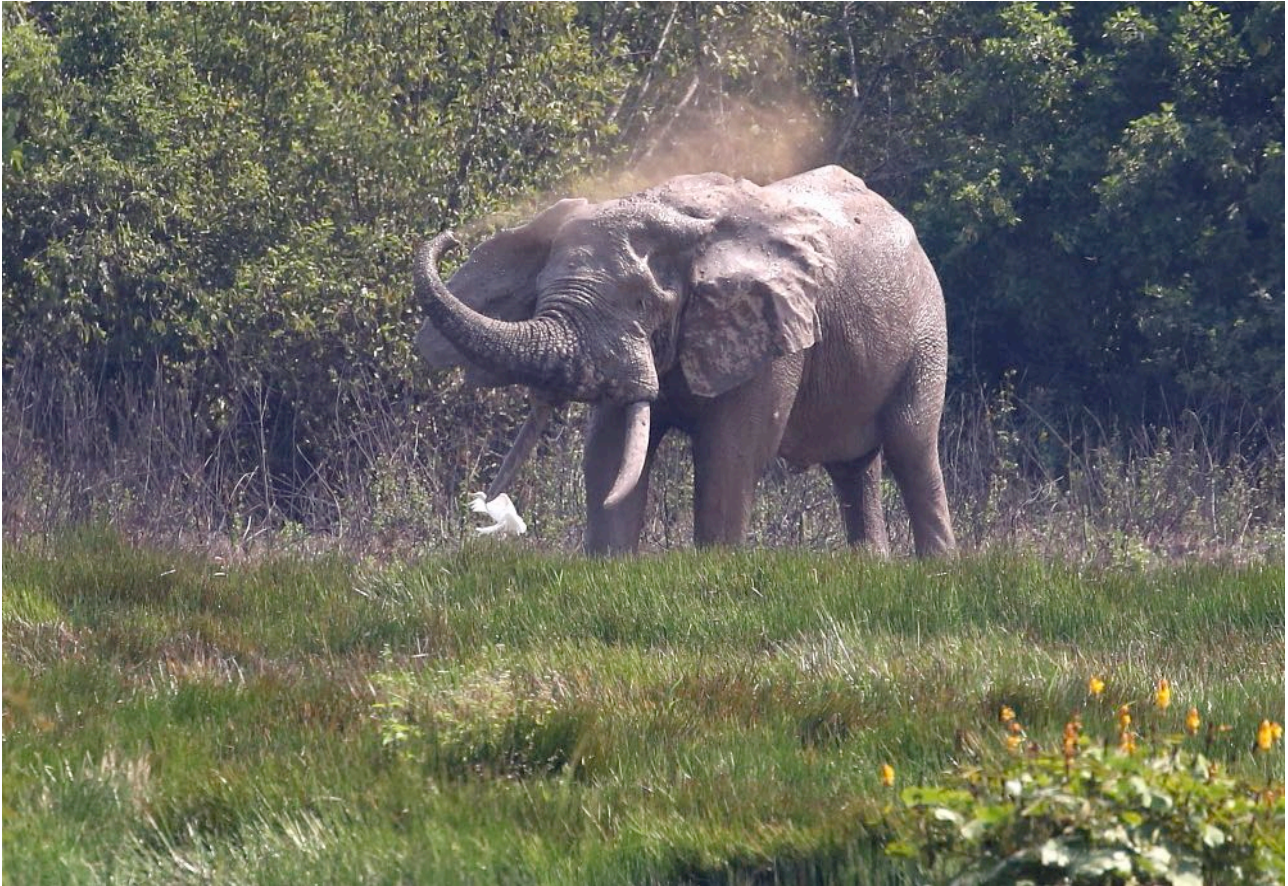
fully grown youngbirds. It was a great pick up as they are somewhat nomadic and not very easy to come across. Another stop produced several starling species and we could study Greater Blue-eared, Bronze-tailed, Purple and Long-tailed Glossy Starling on the same tree. We also had colourful Abyssinian Rollers and a fine male Exclamatory Paradise Whydah in full breeding dress. It was very late afternoon we rolled into the famous Mole National Park, the largest stretch of protected habitat in Ghana. Our accommodation was built on an escarpment overlooking a large waterhole, which was visited by White-faced Whistling Ducks, Helmeted Guineafowl, Hadada Ibis, Black Crakes, Senegal Thick-knee a surprise find of three Greater Painted Snipes and Buffon Kob.



Allen's Gallinule was seen twice in the north (János Oláh).

Our first full day in the open woodland and bush country of the Mole National Park was delightfully birdy. In the morning we walked at the edge of a dense stretch of gallery forest. As we stepped out of the bus a flowering acacia held White-shouldered Black Tits, Senegal Eremomelas and a variety of Sunbirds, including Western Violet-backed, Pygmy and Scarlet-chested. We also heard an Oriole Warbler singing and with a bit of judicious taping we were soon looking at this strange looking bird in the scope. In fact in the next hour we have many repeated sightings of Oriole Warblers vaguely attending some ants and it was constant action around the ant-bush. Both Snowy-crowned and White-crowned Robin-Chats were there as well as African Thrush, Northern Black Flycatcher, Swamp Flycatcher, Yellow-crowned Gonoleks and skulking Black-capped Babblers for some. Several species of seed-eaters were coming to a small pool nearby, which

included Bush Petronia, Red-cheeked Cordon-blue, Red-billed and Bar-breasted Firefinches, Pin-tailed Whydahs and Village Indigobirds. The temperature was rising so we took a walk under the largest trees and found several stunning Red-throated Bee-eaters, nice male Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Square-tailed Drongos Northern Crombecs, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Little and Black-necked Weavers and some migrant Tree Pipits. We also had a long list of interesting mammals such as a bathing African Elephant bull, a roosting Common Genet, Kintampo Rope Squirrel and several Gambian Epauletted Fruit and Yellow-winged Bats!



African Elephant bull (top), Common Genet (left) and Yellow-winged Bat in Mole NP (János Oláh).

The sky was also busy with a nice Martial Eagle, several White-backed Vultures, Bateleur and many Grashopper Buzzards. After a break in the middle of the day we drove to a recently burnt stretch of savanna where we found Chestnut-backed Sparrow Larks, a pair of Sun Larks, Gambaga Flycatcher, Exclamatory Paradies Whydah, White-fronted Black Chat and Woodchat Shrike. The surrounding acacia bushes held Abyssinian Roller, Red-winged Warbler, Rufous Cisticola and Black Scimitarbill. Another patch of burnt area finally produced the much-wanted Forbes's Plovers and we had great looks of two pairs! We studied these rarely seen waders in detail although annoying sweatbees and a few tsetse flies plagued us. In the last 20 minutes of daylight we flushed a few Four-banded Sandgrouses and a male Black-bellied Bustard flew over us. We waited until it was properly dark and slowly drove the dirt track, which gave us excellent looks at male and female Standard-winged Nightjars, several Long-tailed Nightjars and a surprise find of a wintering Red-necked Nightjar. The latter is a rare bird in Ghana with only a handful of records. We also found a one metre long scary-looking Puff Adder. This three-nightjar drive ended with superb looks of a posing Greyish Eagle Owl. It was a remarkable day with about 120 recorded species.



Greyish Eagle Owl in Mole NP (János Oláh).



Male Standard-winged Nightjar (top), Red-necked Nightjar (middle) and male Long-tailed Nightjar in Mole NP (János Oláh).

Our second day in the Mole National Park started with Bearded Barbets, Rufous Cisticola, Yellow-billed Shrikes and a party of Brown Babblers in bushy savanna. A little further along the track a patch of gallery forest produced Pearl-spotted Owlet, a stunning Violet Turaco, several Western Plantain-eater, Levallant's Cuckoo, Green Woodhoopoes, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat and Moustached Grass Warbler. Because of the newly altered itinerary this afternoon we drove to the White Volta River a few hours away in search of the most handsome wader in the World, the Egyptian Plover. It took us only a few minutes to find this fantastic bird and we enjoyed prolonged looks at about five birds for as long as we wanted. In this sandy habitat we also had many Speckled Pigeons, a White-crowned Lapwing mixed in with all the Spur-winged and Senegal Lapwings, Red-chested Swallows, Beautiful Sunbird, Black-rumped Waxbills and White-rumped Seedeaters. On our return drive we stopped at a roadside wetland where we got to see more Allen's Gallinules, Grey-headed Kingfisher, a party of Piapiacs, Great Reed Warbler, Winding Cisticola and a pair of Black-faced Firefinch of the *nigricollis* race. Some people even managed to see an African Crake.



Egyptian Plover along the White Volta River (top and left János Oláh, bottom right Terry Laws).

We still had a morning birding in the Mole National Park the following day. Our first target was White-throated Francolin and although it was not easy with a bit of work we nailed pretty good views! This was followed by a visit to the old airfield area which produced a fine male Bruce's Green Pigeon, two Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, Bearded Barbets, Lesser and Greater Honeyguides, Fine-spotted and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Senegal Batises, Black-crowned Tchagra, Brubru, Square-tailed Drongo, Willow Warblers, singing Red-winged Warbler, another Gambaga Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, White-fronted Black Chats, more Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weavers, Exclamatory Paradise Whydah, West African Seedeaters and a male Red-winged Pytilia for some. About mid-morning we left the north and travelled south to the town of Techiman as our plan was to visit the Opro Forest Reserve the following day – which was the extra full day to be used instead of visiting the far north. The journey was uneventful birdwise with a few Grashopper Buzzards and Lanners seen. The major issue was the breakdown of our AC in the bus, which resulted in a change of bus and driver next day.



Levillant's Cuckoo (top left) and Excalamtory Paradise Whydah (top right) by Terry Laws. Yellow-bellied Hyliota (center left), Gambaga Flycatcher (center right) and a Grasshopper Buzzard (János Oláh).

After a very early start from town we drove to the Opro Forest Reserve. This habitat is about 400 meters elevation and similar to the Atewa Range in birds but with a few distinct differences. The forest has sadly deteriorated in recent years and logging is still happening. However, we had some extra chances at this location of some highly sought-after birds. We had a Melodious Warbler and two Double-toothed Barbets where we left the bus and after about 30 minutes walk we arrived to the forest edge. A displaying Red-chested Goshawk was the first bird to be seen but a calling Ahanta Francolin did not respond. Soon after we entered the forest we heard the song of a Fiery-breasted Bushshrike. This is a highly localised bird in Ghana and nowhere easy to see in West Africa. Unfortunately we could not get the bird close enough to see it and after some time it went silent as well. However, as we were standing motionless and quietly at the edge of the track an Ahanta Francolin walked across the track, posing in the middle for a few seconds allowing great looks for all. So it did respond to our tape but much later. How about luck to see this shy specialty so well!? This was a great start and our luck was improving. The next bird was yet another surprise when we heard a Baumann's Greenbul singing. After bit of positioning we got superb looks of this shy and skulking rarity – a true bonus! Brown-necked Parrots flew over and a White-tailed Alethe gave excellent looks in the dark undergrowth. Finally in the late morning we found our first Blue-moustached Bee-eater, which sadly did not linger long enough for perfect views. A few others things were seen such as Yellow-billed and Guinea Turacos, Klaas's and African Emerald Cuckoos, Black Spinetails, Blue-throated Roller, African Shrike-fycatcher, Black-winged Oriole, Western Nicator, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Tit Hylia and Rufous-crowned Eremomela. A Forest Scrub Robin and a Common Nightingale was heard-only. On our walk back however we found two more Blue-moustached Bee-eaters, which allowed superb looks this time and with much work we nailed a pair of Fiery-breasted Bushshrike for all! We were exhausted by the time we got back to bus in the late afternoon but what an amazing day we had! Wow!



Fiery-breasted Bushshrike (left) and Blue-moustached Bee-eater in the Opro Forest Reserve (János Oláh).

We also had a full day birding in the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary because of the itinerary change. The crack of dawn found us in the forest as usual. Compared to the Opra Forest there were more large trees around but we were still seeing logging tracks coming out of the reserve. So most likely only the 'visible' large trees remain close to the main track and the reserve headquarters. It was a misty and overcast, rather gloomy morning but activity was normal for West Africa. A party of White-throated Greenbuls kept us busy for a while

and a canopy flock included Cassin's Honeybird, Slender-billed, Little Grey and Little Greenbuls, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Camaroptera and both Red-vented and Red-headed Malimbos. We also tracked down a singing Sharpe's Apalis which was a very welcome addition to our list. Our search for African Piculet was not successful no matter how hard we tried. In the late morning we heard a Latham's Forest Francolin calling, so we took position and waited. It was slow work but this time our plan was working and finally a male walked into perfect view for all. This was a very special moment of the tour with a superb looking bird and it was voted the second best bird of the trip. We got to see three special francolins on the same tour, which is a rare event! After this fantastic experience we had lengthy scope views of the endangered Grey Parrot as they were singing on the top of an emergent dead treetop. It was a great ending of the morning and after a mid-day break we continued birding in the forest where we had Blue-throated Roller, Black Dwarf Hornbill, both Forest and White-headed Woodhoopoes, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike and Thick-billed Weavers.



Male Latham's Forest Francolin in Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Terry Laws).

We were back for a last morning birding in Bobiri and yet again we had a great session with finally superb looks of Black-throated Coucal, three different African Piculets and a pair of Red-tailed Bristlebills to complete our set of three bristlebills for the tour. We came across several bird flocks with a set of familiar birds but we could not get tired looking at Red-billed Helmetshrike or Black Dwarf Hornbill! Late morning we left for the famous Atewa range. On the drive we saw several stalls that sold bushmeat and were truly amazed by the enormous size of the Marsh Cane Rats on sale. A nice lunch was followed by a couple of hours in the farmbrush at the base of the Atewa hills. We managed to see Vielliot's Barbet, Whistling Cisticola, a migrant Garden Warbler, several Compact Weavers (some still in near breeding plumage), Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Black-and-white Mannikin and finally Black-bellied Seedcracker. A large 23 cm dark scorpion was also seen on the path. Finally we drove to a nearby location at the end of the day where we saw a breeding pair of Bat Hawks on their nesting tree. Both birds were present and they were changing on the nest. It was a great bird as not often one can admire it with prolonged scope views. Normally you see this bird at dusk or dawn when catching bats.



Black-throated Coucal (top) and Black Dwarf Hornbill in Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (János Oláh).

The primary hill forest covering the slopes of the Atewa range holds an excellent selection of rarely seen specialities, so early next morning we started walking up through the farm bush. It took a bit of effort and sweat to reach the forest, but it was definitely worth it. Activity was good and we soon had a nice *gabonensis* Black Cuckoo, which was followed by a pair of Many-coloured Bushshrike. The male was a black-breasted form, which is a rather unusual looking bird and was even new for James. We also tracked down Yellow-bearded and Western Bearded Greenbuls for those who missed them in Ankasa and Blue-headed Wood Dove was also seen well. We found more Blue-moustached Bee-eaters but a furtive Forest Scrub Robin only gave fleeting glimpses for some. Other goodies included African Emerald Cuckoo, Naked-faced, Yellow-spotted and Hairy-breasted Barbets, Speckled, Red-rumped and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Melancholy Woodpecker, Ansorge's Greenbul, Square-tailed Sawwing, Black-capped and Sharpe's Apalises, White-

tailed Alethe, Forest Robin, Little Grey and Ussher's Flycatchers, Fraser's Forest Flycatchers, Grey-throated Tit Flycatcher and our best looks at Copper-tailed and Forest Chestnut-winged Starling. A total of 12 species of greenbuls were recorded on this day!



Black-breasted male Many-coloured Bushshrike (top) and Yellow-bearded Greenbul in Atewa (János Oláh).

A last morning along the forest edge of the Atewa hills finally produced Kemp's Longbill. We have been looking for this specialty for some time and was delighted to track down in its tangly habitat. We also found a Crested Malimbe nest-building and several Chestnut-capped Flycatchers showed well. Later we drove eastwards towards the Togolese border with a short stop along the Volta River to look for Pied-winged Swallow. Unfortunately we had no luck with the swallow so continued to the Kalakpa Resource Reserve where we rolled in just before dusk. As it was getting dark we spotlighted a Black-shouldered Nightjar and an African Scops Owl. On our slow drive out from the reserve we had several Long-tailed Nightjars on the track.



Little Grey Flycatcher in Atewa (left), Black-shouldered Nightjar (right) and Thick-billed Cuckoo in the Kalakpa Reserve (János Oláh).

The Kalakpa Resource Reserve protects an area of 330 km² and contains one of the last unspoiled examples of Guinean bush savanna. Our last full day was spent in this superb area. In the morning we visited an extensive gallery forest area where we got to see a displaying Thick-billed Cuckoo and total of seven Capuchin Babblers in three different parties. These very shy birds were not easy to see but by this time we had accustomed to the difficulties of West African forest birding! We also had more White-throated Greenbuls and had fleeting looks of Baumann's Olive Greenbuls for the second time on the tour! Other birds seen in the forest included Tambourine Dove, Blue-breasted and African Pygmy Kingfishers, a superb Spotted Honeyguide and a Green-backed Woodpecker for some. In the afternoon we worked the bushy savanna dotted with stately Borassus (or Palmyra) Palms. It was delightfully birdy after the forest in the morning and we had superb looks of Double-spurred Francolins, a subtle Whalberg's Eagle, gaudy Violet Turaco, Senegal Coucal and Klaas's Cuckoo, Mottled Spinetail, several Blue-bellied and Broad-billed Rollers, Striped Kingfisher, breeding Senegal Parrots, singing Grey-headed Bushshrikes, Whinchat, Forest Chestnut-winged Starling, Green-headed and Western Violet-backed Sunbirds, non breeding plumaged Yellow-mantled Widowbirds and Yellow-fronted Canary.



Spotted Honeyguide in the Kalakpa Reserve (János Oláh).

Our final morning of the tour was spent again in the Kalakpa Resource Reserve and even in the last stage we could add new birds to our list. We had three White-crested Helemtshrikes and a female Golden-tailed Woodpecker in the savanna area. Back in the gallery forest we had much less activity than the previous day and not recorded Capuchin Babbler at all. However we managed to track down a Forest Robin for great views. It was time to drive back to Accra but we did stop again along the Volta River and this time we had superb looks of the Pied-winged Swallows. First we found two distant birds but after more search a flock of 18 was seen perched on the wires and flying around. A great bird to finish this super tour. All was left for us to complete the journey to Accra passing by the Shai Hills where we started three weeks ago and have a last dinner at the airport before we all departed to different directions! It was a great group of Birdquesters and a really action-packed tour. Our local leader James and his helper Ibrahim did a great job escorting us through their home country!



Egyptian Plover is one of the star birds of Ghana (János Oláh).

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.3). This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra (www.igoterra.com) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Ghana's most common duck was seen near Ankasa and at Mole.

Hartlaub's Duck ◊ *Pteronetta hartlaubii* A superb sighting of a pair near the Ankasa Reserve.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* Nine were seen amongst water lilies on a lake near Cape Cost.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Regularly seen in Mole National park.

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani* (H) A party was heard calling at dusk in the Ankasa Reserve.

Stone Partridge ◊ *Ptilopachus petrosus* Great looks of three in the Shai Hills and one in Mole NP.

Latham's Francolin ◊ *Peliperdix lathamii* Heard at Kakum and Ankasa and a superb male seen at Bobiri.

White-throated Francolin ◊ *Peliperdix albogularis* Three were seen in the Mole National Park.

Ahanta Francolin ◊ *Pternistis achantensis* Excellent looks at one in the Opro Fprest. See note.

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus* Many excellent encounters at several locations.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A few were seen on roadside ponds in the south.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* A few observations at Mole NP.

Spot-breasted Ibis ◊ *Bostrychia rara* We saw two of these secretive birds in Nsuta Forest.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Many encounters at Mole NP. A highly distinctive voice.

Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata* Two observations at Nsuta and Ankasa [*atricapillus*].

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Small numbers were seen all along our route.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Very common outside the forests.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* A handful of sightings throughout.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Just two birds were seen in Mole NP.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* A single bird was seen near Cape Cost and several in Mole NP.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Two were seen at the Sakumono lagoon and one in the north.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* Three were seen at the Sakumono lagoon and a few elsewhere.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* Three were seen at the Sakumono lagoons, doing there wing-shading.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A few encounters with this well-known species.

Western Reef Heron (W R Egret) *Egretta gularis* Three dark morph birds were seen near Cape Cost.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Small numbers were found in the north.

Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* Small numbers were noted along our route.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* One was seen at the Sakumono lagoon.

Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus* A handful of sightings of this lovely bird of prey.

African Harrier-hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus* Many observations of this interesting species.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* Several sightings in Kakum and in Mole NP.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* Several observations at Nsuta and Ankasa of this northern migrant.

African Cuckoo-hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* Perched bird seen in Kakum but also seen at Mole NP and Kalakpa.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* A regular species all along our itinerary. See note. **CR**

White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus* A few birds were found at Mole NP. See note. **CR**

Congo Serpent Eagle ◊ *Dryotriorchis spectabilis* Great looks of this exquisite bird of prey at Nsuta Forest.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* A couple of observations of this spectacular bird of prey. **NT**

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* A breeding pair was seen at Atewa.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* Two sightings in the Mole NP. **VU**

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* A single bird was identified in Kalakpa Reserve. See note.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* One was seen from the canopy-walkway in Kakum.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* One was seen distantly at Mole NP.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* It was fairly common in the north.

Long-tailed Hawk ◊ *Urotriorchis macrourus* Superb sighting in Nsuta Forest, others heard.

Red-chested Goshawk ◊ *Accipiter toussenelii* A displaying bird was seen at Opro Forest.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* Several encounters with this widespread bird of prey.

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk ◊ *Accipiter erythropus* Just one was seen at Abrafo Forest near Kakum.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* One was seen briefly in Opro Forest.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Three encounters with this northern migrant. See note.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* This common species was noted on almost every day of the tour.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis* Regular at savannah fires in the north.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis* About eight were seen on the tour.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* One was seen in Mole NP in flight and also heard at Kalakpa Reserve.

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* Good looks of a pair in the Kakum farmbrush, also heard at Atewa.

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* Good scope views of a skulking female and juvenile at Ankasa Reserve.
Nkulengu Rail ◊ *Himantornis haematopus* Great views of a roosting bird in the Ankasa Reserve.
African Crake *Crex egregia* (NL) One was seen by some at a wetland near Daboya.
Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Several sightings of this endearing species in the Mole area.
Allen's Gallinule ◊ *Porphyrio alleni* We saw eight birds (adults and juveniles) at Sawla and 2 juveniles near Daboya.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Just a couple of encounters with this well-known bird.
Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* Three sightings on the tour.



Senegal Thick-knee (left) by Terry Laws and female Forbes's Plover (János Oláh).

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* (LO) One was flushed while looking for Forbes's Plover in Mole NP.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* It was seen at Sakumono lagoon and in Mole NP.
Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover) *Vanellus spinosus* Biggest numbers were seen at Sakumono lagoon.
White-crowned Lapwing (W-headed L) *Vanellus albiceps* One was seen on the White Volta River near Daboya.
African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Regular encounters on the tour with this handsome species.
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* About six were noted at the Sakumono lagoon.
Forbes's Plover ◊ *Charadrius forbesi* Perfect scope views of several on recently burned terrain at Mole. See note.
Egyptian Plover ◊ *Pluvianus aegyptius* Fantastic looks of this most handsome wader on the White Volta River.
Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* Three were seen in Mole NP around the waterhole.
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Regular sightings throughout the tour.
Whimbrel (Eurasian W) *Numenius phaeopus* Two were seen near Cape Coast.
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* About 50 were seen at the Sakumono lagoon. **NT**
Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* About 25 birds in winter plumage showed well at the Sakumono lagoon.
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* About 80 showed nicely at the Sakumono lagoon. **NT**
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Regular sightings especially along rivers.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* A few seen at the Sakumono lagoon and in Mole NP.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* About ten were seen at the Sakumono lagoon.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* A few encounters at the Sakumono lagoon and in Mole NP.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* About 30 showed nicely at the Sakumono lagoon.
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* A few were seen at the Sakumono lagoon.
Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* Six birds performed well on a rocky section of the Pra River [*liberiae*].
Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* A juvenile was found at the Sakumono lagoon.
Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* A few were flying over the ocean at Cape Coast.
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* Just three were seen along the coast.
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucoptera* One in non-breeding plumage was found at the Sakumono lagoon.
Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus* About ten were seen in flight at Mole NP.
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* Common.
Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* It was only seen near Daboya.
Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta* (H) We heard the distinctive voice at the Bobiri Reserve.
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques* (H) Another heard only at Atewa.
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common all along our route.
Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* Regular in open habitat.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Very common all over Ghana.

Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* It was seen a few times in the Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* Small numbers were regularly noted in farmbrush habitat.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* Common by voice and seen regularly in flight.

Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri* Several excellent views of this forest species at Ankasa, Bobiri and Atewa.

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia* Great looks at a male, and others seen in flight in Mole NP

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* Very common and attractive in forest habitat.

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata* Regularly heard and five seen at Nsuta and two at Ankasa Reserve.

Guinea Turaco (Green T) *Tauraco persa* Just a few sightings of this attractive species. See Note.

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus* Several excellent observations in proper forest habitat. A real cracker.

Violet Turaco ◊ *Musophaga violacea* Nice scope looks at this showy species at Mole NP and seen in Kalakpa too.

Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator* Commonly seen all along our route.

Black-throated Coucal ◊ *Centropus leucogaster* Regularly heard. Finally, fantastic looks of one at Bobiri Sanctuary.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* Regularly encountered on the tour.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* Three sightings. One was observed to take a young bird out of a nest.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus* Many excellent looks of this handsome bird [*flavirostris*].

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* Five sightings on the tour. See note.

Thick-billed Cuckoo ◊ *Pachycoccyx audeberti* Fantastic encounter with a singing, displaying bird at Kalakpa.

Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius* Regularly heard and two sightings of this smart bird.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Regularly heard and seen all along the tour.

Yellow-throated Cuckoo ◊ *Chrysococcyx flavigularis* This much wanted bird was seen at Bonkro Forest.



Yellow-throated Cuckoo is an easily overlooked localised bird (János Oláh).

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* This magnificent species showed well on several occasions.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus* Regularly heard and seen on a couple of occasions.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* This noisy species showed well at Atewa [gabonensis].

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* (H) We heard the distinctive three note song at Atewa.

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* We heard the characteristic call at Mole NP and seen one at Kalakpa.

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens* Excellent views at Mole NP.
Fraser's Eagle-Owl ◊ *Bubo poensis* Finally one was seen well near Bonkro Forest. See note.
Akun Eagle-Owl ◊ *Bubo leucostictus* A pair was seen a few hundred meters from the previous species. See note.
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* Seen briefly at Nsuta Forest and some of us seen one at Ankasa.
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* Two were seen at Mole National Park.
Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum* Excellent scope views of this handsome bird at the Ankasa Reserve.
Brown Nightjar ◊ *Veles binotatus* Excellent perched looks at Kakum. The only member of the genus *Veles*.



Brown Nightjar is a forest understorey-dwelling species and often tricky to see (János Oláh).

Red-necked Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus ruficollis* A wintering bird was found at Mole NP. Very few records from Ghana!
Black-shouldered Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis* Perfect views of several at the Kalakpa Reserve.
Plain Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus inornatus* One showed well after dusk at Bonkoro Forest.
Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus* Many superb sightings at Mole NP and at the Kalakpa Reserve.
Standard-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus longipennis* Good looks of both sexes at the Mole NP.
Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* It was seen at the Pra River and also at Kalakpa Reserve.
Black Spinetail ◊ *Telacanthura melanopygia* Great tour for this species! We had four encounters of about 18 birds.
Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini* We saw five birds in the Ankasa Reserve. See note.
Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini* Three encounters of about 13 birds over forest habitat.
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Regularly seen throughout the tour.
Common Swift *Apus apus* This northern migrant was fairly common.
Little Swift *Apus affinis* Commonly encountered throughout.
Narina Trogon (Narina's T) *Apaloderma narina* (H) It remained heard only in Bobiri and Atewa.
Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) *Coracias naevius* It was first seen in the Shai Hills and common in the north.
Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus* Regularly encountered in the northern savannas. Handsome!
Blue-bellied Roller ◊ *Coracias cyanogaster* Great looks at this beautiful species at several locations!
Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* Many excellent sightings in forest habitat.
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Regularly seen but we had the best looks at the Kalakpa Reserve.
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* It was seen well in the Abrafo Forest and heard at Ankasa.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* A few sightings at Mole NP and Kalakpa.
Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* A few seen at Kalakpa, very thin and indistinct streaking [*nominata*].
Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* We had several great looks at Mole NP. A bit secretive [*forbesi*].
Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* This vociferous species was commonly encountered.
African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* Several splendid observations throughout the tour.



African Pygmy Kingfisher (left) and Blue-breasted Kingfisher (János Oláh).

White-bellied Kingfisher ◊ *Corythornis leucogaster* Excellent prolonged looks in the Ankasa Reserve [*bowdleri*].
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* Four encounters with this widespread beauty [*galeritus*].
Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys* One showed very well in the Ankasa Reserve.
Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* Just two brief sightings.
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Several encounters throughout the tour.
Blue-moustached Bee-eater ◊ *Merops mentalis* Great looks at this gorgeous species at Opro and Atewa. **NT**
Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* Several superb observations of this exquisite species.
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* Two showed well at Mole NP [*chrysolemus*].
Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Just two sightings of this lovely species.
Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bullocki* These beauties were fairly common in Mole NP.
White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* Common bird with roosting flocks up to 100 individuals were seen.
European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (H) Heard on both days at the Kalakpa Reserve.
Rosy Bee-eater ◊ *Merops malimbicus* A flock of 78 were seen at Kakum. A glorious species!
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* One was seen briefly in Mole NP [*senegalensis*].
Forest Wood Hoopoe ◊ *Phoeniculus castaneiceps* A brief sighting at Ankasa forest and better looks at Bobiri.
White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei* It was seen at Abrafo forest and Bobiri Sanctuary.
Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Just a few sightings in open habitats [*senegalensis*].
Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* One showed well in the Mole NP.
Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* Just three were seen in Mole NP.
African Pied Hornbill *Lophoceros fasciatus* Common and showy [*semifasciatus*].
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* This savanna species was regularly observed.
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill ◊ *Lophoceros camurus* Great looks of a noisy male in the Ankasa Reserve.
Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator* The second most commonly seen hornbill on the tour.

Brown-cheeked Hornbill ◊ *Bycanistes cylindricus* A pair was seen in the Abrafo forest. **VU**

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata* It was seen at Kakum and Ankasa.

Yellow-casqued Hornbill ◊ *Ceratogymna elata* A male was seen in the Ankasa Reserve. **VU**

Black Dwarf Hornbill ◊ *Horizocerus hartlaubi* Several excellent sightings of this unobtrusive forest denizen.

White-crested Hornbill ◊ *Horizocerus albocristatus* Two sightings at this unusual-looking bird [*macrourus*].

Bristle-nosed Barbet ◊ *Gymnobucco peli* Several showed nicely in the Kakum area and Nsuta forest.

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus* More common and often together with the previous species.

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* Several nice encounters.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus* Regularly heard. Several great looks.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* Just two sightings on the tour [*chrysopygus*].

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* It was only seen at the Shai Hills [*leucolaimus*].

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Regular in more open habitat, especially in Mole NP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* A couple of nice observations in Ankasa and Atewa.

Hairy-breasted Barbet ◊ *Tricholaema hirsuta* We has several excellent looks.

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti* Regular observations.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* Several excellent sightings of this peculiar species.

Bearded Barbet ◊ *Lybius dubius* Seen very well in the north and at Kalakpa.

Yellow-billed Barbet ◊ *Trachyphonus purpuratus* Regularly heard, one was seen by some at Opro forest [*goffinii*].

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* One was seen at the canopy-walkway and one at Bobiri [*flavodorsalis*].

Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris* (H) It was only heard at Bobiri Sanctuary [*ussherii*].

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* A single bird showed briefly in the Mole NP [*senegalensis*].

Spotted Honeyguide ◊ *Indicator maculatus* Great looks of this distinctive bird at Kalakpa.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* A female was seen in the Mole NP.

African Piculet ◊ *Sasia africana* Frustratinhly heard-only in Nsuta forest but later three were seen at Bobiri.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker ◊ *Campethera punctuligera* Great looks at a pair at Mole NP.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker ◊ *Campethera abingoni* A female was seen in Kalakpa on our last morning [*chrysura*].



Golden-tailed Woodpecker in the kalakpa Reserve (János Oláh).

Green-backed Woodpecker ◊ *Campethera cailliautii* (LO) One was seen at Kalakpa in a mixed flock [*permista*].
Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivos* Several fleeting views in the southern forests – the best in Kalakpa.
Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli* (LO) A single bird was seen in a mixed flock at Ankasa [*arizela*].
Fire-bellied Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster* We had several excellent looks in the Kakum area.
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* A single bird was seen in the Shai Hills [*lafresnay*].
Melancholy Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos lugubris* Several encounters with this specialty in the southern forests.
African Grey Woodpecker (G W) *Dendropicos goertae* Just two were seen in the Shai Hills.
Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus* Fantastic looks at one in Mole NP.
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Several observations of this widespread species.
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* Regular encounters with this appealing bird of prey.
African Hobby *Falco cuvierii* A pair was seen at the Volta bridge on our way to Kalakpa.
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* Many sightings throughout. Seen taking a chicken from a village at Kalakpa.



Lanner in action on our drive back from Mole NP (János Oláh).

Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* Two were seen in flight in Kakum and two perched at Bobiri. **EN**
Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis* We had small numbers in flight at various locations.
Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus fuscicollis* Two were seen well at Opro forest and heard at Kalakpa.
Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus* Many encounters with this one. Best perched views were at Kalakpa.
Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* Regularly seen in Mole NP.
Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius* (H) It was heard in Mole but our visibility was restricted.
Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis* Fabulous display was witnessed at Abrafo forest. Others heard.
African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* A party of three were seen at Opro forest.
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher (Vanga F, B-a-W F) *Bias musicus* A pair was seen in kakum and others heard.
Senegal Batis ◊ *Batis senegalensis* Several nice encounters with this smart bird.
Fernando Po Batis ◊ *Batis poensis* A male was seen from the canopy-walkway at Kakum [*occulta*].
West African Wattle-eye ◊ *Platysteira hormophora* Several observations in Ankasa, Bobiri and Kalakpa.
Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea* A few encounters in more open woodland.
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye ◊ *Platysteira blissetti* Great views, of this ace skulker in Abrafo forest. A gorgeous species!

White-crested Helmetshrike (W H-s) *Prionops plumatus* Just a brief encounter with three birds in Kalakpa.

Red-billed Helmetshrike ◊ (Chestnut-bellied H-s) *Prionops caniceps* Amazing views at Ankasa and Bobiri! Superb!

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* Excellent looks of singing birds in Kalakpa.

Fiery-breasted Bushshrike ◊ *Malaconotus cruentus* A pair was seen in Opro forest. What a stunning bird!

Many-coloured Bushshrike ◊ *Chlorophoneus multicolor* A pair showed well in Atewa. A black-breasted male!

Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B-s) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Seen by some at Mole NP.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta* Just a female seen in the kakum farmbrush.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* (H) Just one was heard at the Shai Hills.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* A few great sightings, mainly in the north.

Sabine's Puffback (Large-billed P) *Dryoscopus sabini* It showed well from the canopy-walkway at Kakum NP.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* Regular observations of this widespread species.

Lowland Sooty Boubou ◊ *Laniarius leucorhynchus* A pair was seen in the Kakum farmbrush.

Yellow-crowned Gonolek ◊ *Laniarius barbarus* Several excellent sightings of this strikingly-patterned species.

Brubru *Nilaus afer* (LO) It was heard and seen by Janos in Mole NP.

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis* A pair showed well in open woodland at Mole NP.



White-breasted Cuckooshrike in Mole NP (János Oláh).

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea* Great looks from the canopy-walkway at Kakum NP. Also seen in Bobiri.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* It was first seen in the Shai Hills and a few in the Mole NP.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina* Great looks of a pair in Bobiri forest.

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina* Several encounters on the tour. Usually in parties of several birds together.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Regular observations throughout the tour.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Just one was seen in the Mole NP.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* Two brief sightings of males in the Mole NP.

Western Oriole (W Black-headed O) *Oriolus brachyryncus* Regularly seen in forest habitat.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* Regularly seen in forest habitat.

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* Two pairs were observed in Mole NP [*sharpei*].

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis* It was seen well in Abrafo forest, Ankasa reserve and Atewa.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Regular observations in more open habitat [*divaricatus*].
Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus [modestus] coracinus* The common drongo of the southern forests [*atactus*].
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* Regularly heard in dense undergrowth, about four seen.
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher (Black-headed P F) *Terpsiphone rufiventer* Several observations [*nigriceps*].
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Regular in open woodland in the north but also in forest [*ferret*].
Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer* It was seen near Daboya and a few on the way to Kalakpa.
Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Very common in open habitat.
White-necked Rockfowl ◊ (Yellow-headed Picathartes) *Picathartes gymnocephalus* The bird of the tour! **VU**
African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* (H) It was heard in the gallery forest in Mole NP.
White-shouldered Black Tit *Parus guineensis* Just two were seen in Mole NP.
Forest Penduline Tit ◊ *Anthoscopus flavifrons* It was seen from the canopy-walkway in Kakum [*waldronae*].
Western Nicator (Yellow-spotted N) *Nicator chloris* An often heard voice in the forests. Best views were at Nsuta.
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark *Eremopterix leucotis* Several were seen in the Mole NP [*melanocephalus*].
Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Singletons were seen in the Shai Hills and in the Mole NP [*buckleyi*].
Sun Lark ◊ *Galerida modesta* We saw a pair in the Mole NP.



Sun Lark (left) and Red-tailed Greenbul (János Oláh).

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* This very vocal species was everywhere.
Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* Regular observations of this often showy species.
Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* This skulker was often heard, and showed well on a few occasions [*erythroptera*].
Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis* A regularly seen forest species [*extrema*].
Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei* Our only sighting was at Atewa.
Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G) *Eurillas curvirostris* Several encounters with this inconspicuous species.
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* It was very common in Ankasa [*congener*].
Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serinus* A couple of nice sightings of this striking canopy-dwelling species.
Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* Three sightings of this eye-catching greenbul [*leucurus*].
Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus* Excellent looks of this canopy bird in Kakum and Abrafo forest.
Simple Greenbul (S Leaflove) *Chlorocichla simplex* Just two sightings on the tour.
Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis* (H) We heard the loud, arresting vocalizations in the Mole NP.
Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura* Two sightings of this neatly patterned species.
Baumann's Olive Greenbul ◊ (B's G) *Phyllastrephus baumanni* Excellent looks in Opro forest. Rare bird! See note.
Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus* Several sightings of this distinctive species in Ankasa and Atewa.
White-throated Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus albigularis* Several seen in Bobiri and Kalakpa.
Red-tailed Bristlebill (Common B) *Bleda syndactylus* We only saw this well-marked bird in Bobiri Sanctuary.
Green-tailed Bristlebill ◊ *Bleda eximius* This mega-skulker was seen well in the Kakum NP! **NT**
Grey-headed Bristlebill ◊ *Bleda canicapillus* Several sightings on the tour.
Western Bearded Greenbul ◊ *Criniger barbatus* It was seen well in Ankasa and Atewa.
Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* Regular heard and few seen [*verreauxi*].
Yellow-bearded Greenbul ◊ (Y-throated Olive G) *Criniger olivaceus* Good looks in Ankasa and Atewa. **VU**
Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens* Nice looks at Ankasa and Atewa. Forest species.

Fanti Saw-wing ◊ *Psalidoprocne obscura* We only had two sightings in the Kakum area. See note.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A very common northern migrant.
Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida* A few were seen around Daboya in the north.
Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* Regular sightings throughout the tour.
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Regular observations at northern ponds and rivers.
White-bibbed Swallow (W-throated Blue S) *Hirundo nigrita* Super views of this gorgeous species at the Pra River.
Pied-winged Swallow ◊ *Hirundo leucosoma* A group of 20 were seen along the Volta River!



Pied-winged Swallow at the Volta River (János Oláh).

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* A flock of 40 were seen in the Mole NP.
Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Regular encounters with this charming species [*puella*].
Preuss's Cliff Swallow ◊ *Petrochelidon preussi* Great looks at 200+ birds at a very active colony. See note.
Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W) *Melocichla mentalis* One was seen in the Mole NP.
Kemp's Longbill ◊ *Macrosphenus kempii* Finally two birds were tracked down in Atewa. A tangle specialist.
Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor* A few sightings of this other tangle specialist.
Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* A few encounters in Mole NP.
Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* More often heard but two sightings at forest edges [*flaviventris*].
Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti* This canopy species was seen at Kakum and Opro forest [*hardy*].
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii* Our best looks were obtained in Bobiri and Atewa [*nigeriae*].
Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* One of the most distinctive forest voices, several seen.
Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rufiae* Excellent close views of Africa's smallest bird at various locations [*ussheri*].
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* This northern migrant was regularly seen at Mole NP and at Opro forest.
Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Several observations in Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa. Mainly in forest habitat.
Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* One was seen near Daboya in a wetland area.
Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* A single bird was seen at Opro forest – excellent views.
Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* A few seen in lush farmbush.
Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* This widespread species was often heard, two were seen in Mole NP [*swanzii*].
Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* Nice views in the Atewa farmbush.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus* One was seen in marshy habitat in the north, near Daboya [*amphilectus*].

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* Several showed well in the Shai Hills bush [*strangei*].

Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling C) *Cisticola brachypterus* Several were seen together with the previous species.

Rufous Cisticola *Cisticola rufus* Several great look sin the Mole NP.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* A regularly recorded, well-known and widespread bird.

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus* Two were seen in the Mole NP. We had scope views of a singing bird!

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* Just two were seen in the Mole NP [*caniceps*].

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps* Excellent views from the canopy-walkway in Kakum and also seen in Atewa.

Sharpe's Apalis ◊ *Apalis sharpii* Great looks of this special bird in Bobiri and Atewa.

Oriole Warbler (Moho) *Hypergerus atriceps* Excellent looks of his striking bird in the Mole NP.



Oriole Warbler in Mole NP (János Oláh).

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* A commonly recorded species.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris* We had two great looks of this smart species.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota* We had seen this skulker in Bobiri and Atewa.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla* Regularly seen in open woodland, especially in the north and Kalakpa.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* Several seen well from the canopy-walkway in Kakum.

Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri* It was seen well in Ankasa and heard elsewhere.

Rufous-winged Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis rufescens* Two pairs were seen in Ankasa – a mega skulker!

Puvel's Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis puveli* Yet another skulker which was seen well at the Kakum farmbush. See note.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis* Several showed well in the Ankasa forest undergrowth.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* Good looks at Abrafo forest in the Kakum area.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis [fulvescens] moloneyana* (H) Remained heard-only at Kalakpa. See note.

Capuchin Babbler ◊ *Phyllanthus atripennis* Seven of this mega secretive species seen at Kalakpa. See note. **NT**

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii* (NL) Most of us only had glimpses but some had good looks in Mole NP.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus* A noisy party was observed in the Mole NP.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* One was seen in the Atewa farmbush.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* (LO) One was seen in Mole NP by the leaders.

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* A handful of sightings, mainly in the north.

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* A pair was seen in Mole NP. A rather scarce bird in Ghana.

Violet-backed Hyliota ◊ *Hyliota violacea* Two pairs were seen from the canopy-walkway in Kakum [*nehrkorni*].

Copper-tailed Starling ◊ (C-t Glossy S) *Hylopsar cupreocauda* It was seen at Ankasa and Atewa. **NT**

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* About 25 were seen in Mole NP.

Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* A flock of 5 were seen on our way to Mole NP.

Bronze-tailed Starling (B-t Glossy S) *Lamprotornis chalcurus* One was seen with other starlings near Mole NP.

Splendid Starling (S Glossy S) *Lamprotornis splendidus* Commonly encountered throughout.

Purple Starling (P Glossy S) *Lamprotornis purpureus* A few sightings of this beautiful bird in the northern savannas.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus* Several observations in the Mole NP.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Regular observations of small groups in the south.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus [fulgidus] hartlaubi* Pairs were seen in Atewa and Kalakpa.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris* (LO) Three were seen in flight at Nsuta forest.

White-tailed Rufous Thrush (W-t Ant T) *Neocossyphus poensis* (H) It was heard at Atewa.

Finsch's Rufous Thrush ◊ (F's Flycatcher T) *Stizorhina finschi* About five were seen in Ankasa. See note.



Finsch's Rufous Thrush in Ankasa Reserve (János Oláh).

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* Regularly seen throughout the tour [*saturatus*].

White-tailed Alethe ◊ *Alethe diademata* Seen at several forest venues. Finally excellent looks for all.

Forest Scrub Robin ◊ *Erythropygia leucosticta* (LO) This extreme skulker was only seen by the leader at Atewa.

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata* Great looks of this canopy bird at Kakum and Atewa [*prospora*].

Grey-throated Tit-flycatcher (G-t F) *Myioparus griseigularis* Nice looks at Ankasa and Atewa [*parelii*].

Grey Tit-flycatcher (Lead-colored F) *Myioparus plumbeus* Two were seen in the Mole NP.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* Three were seen in open woodland at Mole NP.

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus* Two birds were seen in the Mole NP.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* A few of these northern migrants were seen in bushy savanna. See note.

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae* Two sightings in Mole NP. It was a write-in for this tour.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* (H) One was heard at Atewa.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* Several were seen at the Mole NP ponds.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini* About five were seen along the river at Ankasa. See note.

Olivaceous Flycatcher *Muscicapa olivascens* This scarce bird was seen from the canopy-walkway at Kakum.

Little Grey Flycatcher *Muscicapa epulata* A pair was seen very well at Atewa.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata* Regular encounters in farmbush [*aximensis*].

Ussher's Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa ussheri* This swallow-like bird was seen at Kakum, Nsuta and Atewa.

Brown-chested Alethe *Pseudaethe poliocephala* (H) One was heard in Ankasa.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla* Two sightings in Mole NP.

White-crowned Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha albicapillus* A pair was seen in the Mole gallery forest.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (H) One was heard at Opro forest.

Ghana Forest Robin ◊ *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] inexpectatus* One in Atewa was most likely this form. See note.

Western Forest Robin ◊ *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] erythrothorax* We all had great looks in Ankasa. See note.

Dahomey Forest Robin ◊ *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] dahomeyensis* Excellent looks at Kalakpa. See note.



'Dahomey' Forest Robin at the Kalakpa Reserve (János Oláh).

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Best looks in the Shai Hills but also seen in the Mole NP.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* One was seen in the Mole NP and one at Kalakpa.

White-crowned Cliff Chat ◊ *Thamnolaea coronata* Excellent looks of a pair amongst the Shai Hills boulders.

White-fronted Black Chat ◊ *Oenanthe albifrons* A male and a pair was seen in Mole NP.

Fraser's Sunbird (Scarlet-tufted S) *Deleornis fraseri* Several were seen at Kakum, Ankasa and Atewa [*idius*].

Mangrove Sunbird ◊ (Brown S) *Anthreptes gabonicus* Two were active near a nest along the Ebi river.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei* It was seen well in Mole NP and Kalakpa.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* Commonly encountered in forest habitats [*kruensis*].

Grey-chinned Sunbird (Green S) *Anthreptes rectirostris* Regular sightings in the southern forests.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* Regularly seen in all sort of habitats [*subcollaris*].

Pygmy Sunbird ◊ *Hedydipna platura* Several, including fine males were seen in the Mole NP.

Reichenbach's Sunbird ◊ *Anabathmis reichenbachii* A male was seen at the Ebi river and one at Ankasa.

Green-headed Sunbird (Olive-backed S) *Cyanomitra verticalis* Just one was seen in the Mole bush country.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* Several excellent sightings in forest habitat [*magnirostrata*].

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common and quite noisy in the southern forests undergrowth [*guineensis*].

Buff-throated Sunbird ◊ *Chalcomitra adelberti* This most stunning bird was seen regularly in the south.

Carmelite Sunbird ◊ *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* About five were seen at Half Assini [*aurea*]. Great bird!

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Common and so beautiful in the northern bush.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* Fairly common in farmbush habitat [*kempfi*].

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus* Very nice looks at several from the Kakum canopy walkway.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* A few seen in the Mole NP and Daboya.

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus* Fairly common in open woodland and farmbush.

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae* A male was seen displaying to two females in Kakum [*fasciatus*]. See note.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* Ghana's largest sunbird showed very well in the Kakum area [*ashantiensis*].

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* A male seen in good light in Kakum farmbush. Superb looking!

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Just two were seen at half Assini.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* Common near human habitation.

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata* Very common in the northern bush.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* Good looks of about ten in the Mole NP.

Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons* A party of eight were seen in Bobiri Sanctuary [*capitalba*].

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* A few were noted at Mole NP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* Regularly recorded in farmbush habitat [*brachypterus*].

Orange Weaver ◊ *Ploceus aurantius* A small, active colony was found at a pond in the southwest.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* Regularly seen all along our route.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus* Common in farmbush [*castaneofuscus*]. See note



Vieillot's Black Weaver (left) and Crested Malimbe (János Oláh).

Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed W) *Ploceus melanocephalus* A few were seen in Mole NP.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* Regular sightings of this handsome bird in the southern forests.

Maxwell's Black Weaver ◊ *Ploceus albinucha* Great looks in Kakum, Nsuta and Atewa. See note.

Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus* Several were seen in the Atewa farmbush.

Preuss's Weaver (P's Golden-backed W) *Ploceus preussi* Just two were seen from the Kakum canopy-walkway.

Red-vented Malimbe ◊ *Malimbus scutatus* Several sightings of this smart species in Kakum, Nsuta and Bobiri

Blue-billed Malimbe (Gray's M) *Malimbus nitens* Several sightings in the south, best looks at Ankasa by the pools.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* Many were seen in the southern forests [*bartlett*]. Nuthatch like habits.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* Regular sightings of this smart species in the southern forests.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops* Our only encounter was in the Atewa farmbrush.

Black-winged Red Bishop (B-w B) *Euplectes hordeaceus* Regular encounters, some males in breeding plumage.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* Non-breeding plumaged birds were seen in Kalakpa.

White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus* One was seen in Kakum [*uropygialis*].

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (C-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita bicolor* A few encounters in the south.

Grey-headed Nigrita (G-crowned Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus* Common in the south [*emiliae*].

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera* A male was seen by some at Mole NP.

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus* One in the Kakum farmbrush and two in the Atewa farmbrush.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina* Three sightings at this sneaky species in Ankasa and Opro forest.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta* A few seen on the tour.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Regularly seen at Mole NP.

African Firefinch (Blue-billed F) *Lagonosticta rubricata* About three seen in the Opro forest [*polionota*].

Black-faced Firefinch ◊ *Lagonosticta larvata* A pair was seen near Daboya [*nigricollis*]. See note.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* This beauty was common in the northern bush.



Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu in Mole NP (János Oláh).

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* Regular in the southern farmbrush. Beautiful bird if seen well!

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes* Six were seen near the White Volta River at Daboya.

Black-faced Quailfinch (African Q) *Ortygospiza atricollis* Two were seen in the Shai Hills [*ansorge*].

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Common along our route.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor* It was seen in the Kakum and Atewa farmbrush.

Magpie Mannikin ◊ *Lonchura fringilloides* Great look sin the Kakum farmbrush and at the Opro forest.

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* Males in breeding plumage showed well in the north.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Mainly non-breeding plumage birds were noted in the north.

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah ◊ *Vidua interjecta* Four superb males were seen in the Mole NP.

Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava* It was common in the Sakumono lagoon.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Small numbers of this elegant species were noted all along our route.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* Two sightings in open habitat.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Wintering birds were regularly seen in Mole NP.

White-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra leucopygia* Two were seen in the far north [*riggenbach*].

West African Seedeater *Crithagra canicapilla* We had three sightings in Mole NP – it was a write-in for this tour!

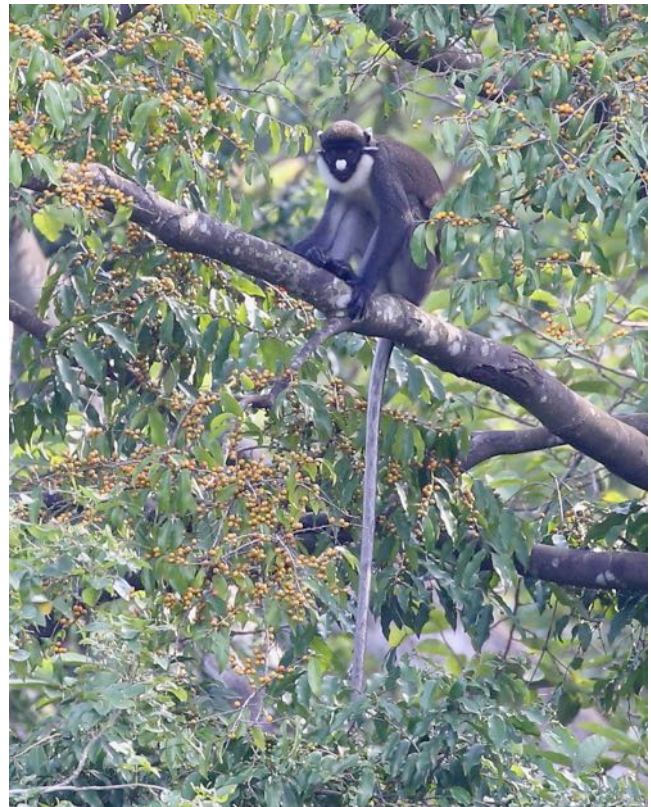
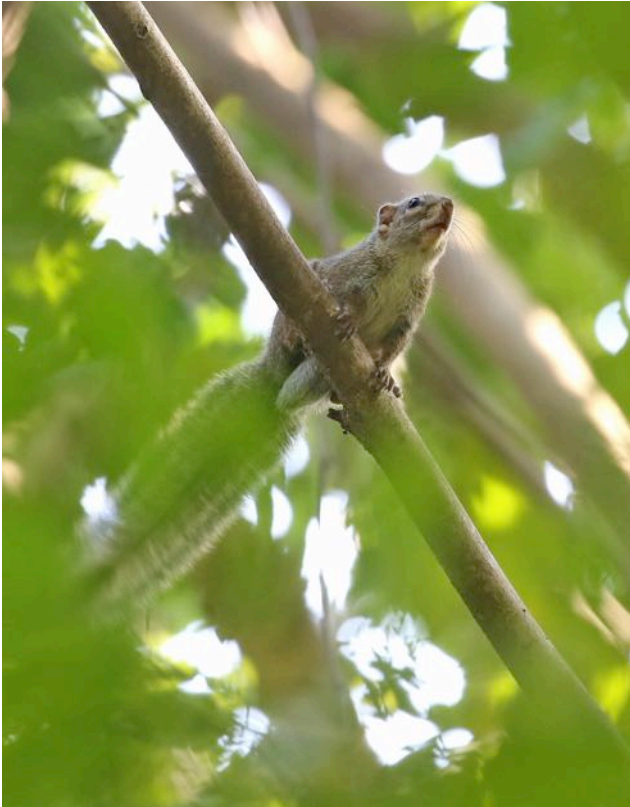
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Regular in the Mole NP area and seen at Kalakpa too.



Black Spinetail (left), Cassin's Spinetail (right) and Little Swift (János Oláh).

MAMMALS

- African Savanna Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* Four different animal showed well at the Mole waterhole.
- Western Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* (H) We regularly heard their strange calls at night in the southern forests.
- Northern Lesser Galago** *Galago senegalensis* One distantly seen in Mole NP.
- Demidoff's Dwarf Galago** *Galagoides demidovii* It was heard a few times and one was seen at Kakum.
- Campbell's Monkey (Lowe's M)** *Cercopithecus [campbelli] lowei* Excellent looks at Kakum and at Ankasa too.
- Mona Monkey** *Cercopithecus mona* (LO) Four were seen briefly in Kalakpa.
- Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey (lesser S-n M)** *Cercopithecus petaurista* Three sightings, best in the Shai Hills.



Kintampo Rope Squirrel (left) in Mole NP and Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey in the Shai Hills (János Oláh).

- Green Monkey (Callithrix M)** *Cercopithecus sabaesus* Regularly seen in Mole NP.
- Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* Common in Mole NP and in the Shai Hills.
- African Savanna Hare (Scrub H)** *Lepus microtis* A single animal was noted during a Mole NP night drive.
- Fire-footed Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus pyrropus* One seen at Ankasa and one at Atewa.
- Kintampo Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus substriatus* Several were seen in the Mole NP.
- Gambian Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus gambianus* A couple of encounters with this widespread species.
- Red-legged Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus rufobrachium* Several were seen in Ankasa and one in Kakum.
- African Giant Squirrel** *Protoxerus stangeri* Excellent looks of two from the canopy-walkway in Kakum.
- Striped Ground Squirrel** *Euxerus erythropus* Regular encounters in the north.
- Marsh Mongoose** *Atilax paludinosus* (NL) One was seen at Ankasa by some.
- Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguinea* Three sightings of this widespread species.
- Common Genet** *Genetta genetta* Superb looks in the Mole NP.
- Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* Common and often very tame at Mole NP.
- Kob (Buffon's K)** *Kobus kob* The common antelope at Mole NP but first seen in the Shai Hills.
- Bushbuck (Central B)** *Tragelaphus phaleratus* It was seen in the Shai Hills and at Mole NP.
- African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat** *Eidolon helvum* Great looks in Ankasa and many seen at dusk at several locations.
- Gambian Fruit Bat** *Epomophorus gambianus* Great looks at roosting animals in the Mole NP.
- Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons* Four were seen roosting in the Mole NP.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird List (v3.1). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/ioc-lists/master-list/>

Ahanta Francolin *Pternistis achantensis*

The Ahanta land has been historically known as one of the richest areas on the coast of what is now Ghana.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* and **White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*

In a very worrying development these species have been up-graded to 'Critically Endangered' by BirdLife International. These species have experienced a very rapid decline due to hunting, persecution and indiscriminate poisoning a.o. by the infamous Diclofenac drug.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

Johan August Wahlberg (1810-1856) was a Swedish naturalist and collector in South Africa. He financed his expeditions by hunting elephants and selling the ivory. A wounded elephant killed him in the Okavango. Five new birds have been described by him and he has two birds, a mammal and a frog named after him.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Some authors lump this form in Western Marsh Harrier *C. aeruginosus* using the name Marsh Harrier for the enlarged species.

Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi*

William Alexander Forbes (1855-1883) was a British zoologist and collector in tropical Africa and Brazil.

Guinea Turaco (Green T) *Tauraco persa*

The 23 species of turacos, go-away birds and plantain-eaters form a truly remarkable family, restricted to sub-Saharan Africa. A unique feature of the family is the presence of two copper pigments, red turacin and green turacoverdin, which are unknown in any other birds, or indeed anywhere else in the Animal Kingdom. Bright colours in birds are usually produced by melanins and lipochromes, or by diffraction of light from the feather surface, but not so with turacos. The long-perpetuated fallacy that turacin is washed out of the birds' plumage during rainstorms is of course totally wrong: The pigment is soluble only in alkali and in no other solution.

Levaillant's Cuckoo (African Striped C) *Clamator levaillantii*

François Levaillant (1753-1824) was a famous French taxidermist, collector and ornithologist who had a specialist interest in the birds of southern Africa. Levaillant was among the first to consider the use of coloured plates of birds in his descriptions. Levaillant's reputation is somewhat marred as he was proved to be something of a 'stringer' inventing not only new species but even the journeys on which he claimed to have found them! An analysis of Levaillant's collections made by Carl Sundevall in 1857 identified ten birds that could not be assigned definitely to any species, ten that were fabricated from multiple species and fifty species that could not have come from the Cape region as claimed...

Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis*

Louis Fraser (1819-1883) was a British museum man, natural history dealer, naturalist, explorer, author and member of the infamous ill-fated Niger River Expedition of 1841-42. He also collected specimens from Fernando Po (Bioko). The scientific epithet refers to this island.

Akun Eagle-Owl *Bubo leucostictus*

Originally spelt 'Akung', this is a word for the bird in the Cameroonian Bulu language.

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

Edward Sabine (1788-1883) was an English astronomer, physicist, Arctic explorer and officer. He collected the spinetail and the puffback; both named after him, in Sierra Leone and donated them to the British Museum where J. E. Gray officially described the specimens. Sabine's Gull is also named after him.

Baumann's Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus baumanni*

Eugen Baumann (1865-1895) was a German botanist and collector in Togo.



The rarely seen (and photographed) Baumann's Olive Greenbul in Opro Forest (János Oláh).

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*

The Fanti are an ethnical group living in southern Ghana.

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*

Paul Preuss (1861-1926) was a Polish-born German naturalist who collected in West Africa between 1886-98. He was responsible for constructing the botanical gardens at Limbe (Cameroon) in 1901.

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*

Pierre Puvel was Swiss and lived in Guinea-Bissau but little else is known about him.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis [fulvescens] moloneyana*

The distinct brown-throated form used to be regarded as a separate species. We only heard it in the Kalakpa Reserve.

Capuchin Babbler *Phyllanthus atripennis*

HBW suggesting a three-way split of the species to Grey-capped Capuchin Babbler *P. bohndorffi* in the east, Black-crowned Capuchin Babbler *P. rubiginosus* from Ivory Coast to Cameroon and the Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler *P. atripennis* on the far west of the distribution range. We saw the Black-crowned Capuchin babbler in Kalakpa.

Finsch's Flycatcher Thrush *Stizorhina finschi*

Friedrich Hermann Otto Finsch (1839-1917) was a German ethnographer and naturalist who travelled widely. He was appointed Imperial Commissioner for the German colony known as 'Kaiser-Wilhelmland' that is now PNG. He was also co-author of *Die Vogel Ost Afrika* with Gustav Hartlaub.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The exact wintering ground of Mediterranean Flycatcher is not known.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

John Cassin (1813-1869) was an US ornithologist, who has several birds on different continents named after him.

Forest Robin *Stiphronis [erythrothorax] erythrothorax*

Taxonomy of Forest Robins is a complicated subject of much debate. IOC currently not following (yet) the three-way split which has been published by Gary Voelker et al in 2016. They published a paper where three species been described from Ghana. Western Forest Robin *S. erythrothorax* to be expected at Ankasa, Ghana Forest Robin *S. inexpectatus* from the Kakum region and Dahomey Forest Robin *S. dahomeyensis* possible in the east. Alternatively, the extralimital Eastern forms are split off as two separate species, Olive-backed Forest-robin *S. pyrrholaemus* and Yellow-breasted Forest-robin *S. xanthogaster* with the western birds being renamed Orange-breasted Forest-robin *S. erythrothorax*. We included the forms in the list for future references. IOC considers it as a proposed split.

Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata*

HBW suggesting a three-way split of the species to Ethiopian Firefinch *L. larvata* in the east, Grey Firefinch *L. nigricollis* in the center of the distribution range and Vinaceous Firefinch *L. vinacea* on the far west. The form we saw in northern Ghana is the 'Grey' Firefinch.

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae*

Johanna Verreaux was the wife of famous collector Jules P. Verreaux.

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

HBW suggest the separation of the *castaneofuscus* western race as a separate species: Chestnut-and-black Weaver.

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha*

Sir Hubert Eustace Maxwell (1845-1937) was a Scot, important statesman. It was Boyd Alexander who named the species after him.

APPENDIX: Overall results of the 'Bird of the tour' contest

Species	Points	Nominations
1st White-necked Rockfowl	58	6
2nd Latham's Forest Francolin	24	5
3rd Nkulengu Rail	22	3
3rd Red-billed Helmetshrike	22	3
5th Egyptian Plover	20	3

APPENDIX 2 - Other fauna & flora recorded

HERPTILES

West African Crocodile *Crocodylus suchus* A few seen at the Mole waterhole!

African Dwarf Crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis* An adult individual was seen in the Ankasa forest.

Nile Monitor *Varanus niloticus* Several observations.

Puff Adder *Bitis arietans* This impressive creature was seen very well during a Mole NP night drive.

Forest Cobra (Black C) *Naja melanoleuca* Three brief sightings in Atewa.

Jameson's Mamba *Dendroaspis jamesoni* One was seen at Antwikwaa in Kakum.

Togo Toad *Bufo togoensis* Several were found in the Atewa forest.

Boutry River Frog *Phrynobatrachus calcaratus* Just one was seen in the Atewa forest.



Puff Adder in Mole NP (János Oláh).

BUTTERFLIES

Widespread Forester *Euphaedra medon*

Jenatta Themis Forester *Euphaedra janetta*

Common Orange Forester *Euphaedra ruspina*

Crocker's Forester *Euphaedra crockeri*

Forest Pied Pierrot *Tuxentius carana*

African Snout *Lybithea labdaca*

Forest Mother of Pearl *Protogoniomorpha parhassus*

Blue Diadem *Hypolimnas salmacis*

Mocker Swallowtail *Papilio dardanus*

Mimetic Swallowtail *Papilio cynorta*

Broadly Green-banded Swallowtail *Papilio chrapkowskoide nurettini*

Fox's Pathfinder *Catuna niji*

Bright Bush Blue *Cacyreus audeoudi*

Common Hairstreak *Hypolycaena philippis*

Violate-spotted Ciliate Blue *Anthene lysicles*

Lowland Branded Blue *Uranotauma falkensteini*

Round-winged Vagrant *Nepheronia thalassonia*

Friar *Amauris niavius*

Angular Glider *Harma theobene*

Common Red Glider *Cymothoe coccinata*

African Leaf Butterfly *Kalimodes rumia*

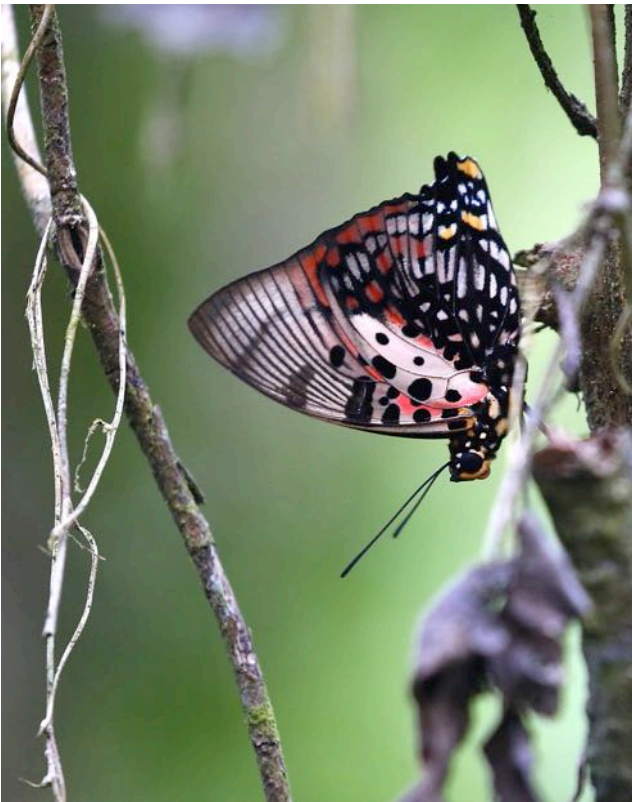
Shining Red Charaxes *Charaxes zingha*

Dark Blue Pansy *Junonia oenone*

Soldier Pansy *Junonia terea*



Common Orange Forester (top) and Hairstreak Butterfly (János Oláh).



Forest Mother of Pearl (top), Shining Red Charaxes (left) and African Leaf Butterfly (János Oláh).



Friar (top), Crocker's Forester (left) and Jenatta Themis Forester (János Oláh).