

GHANA

2012-01-22 - 02-05



The Black Bee-eater – an exquisite forest species we encountered several times!



Participants: Hasse Berglund, Stockholm
 Jörgen Lindberg, Köping
 Micke Rhönstad, Köping
 Torbjörn Hegedüs, Västerås

Guides: Robert Ntakor, Ashanti African Tours
 Francis Ntakor, Ashanti African Tours, 1st week
 Emmanuel Budu Mensah, Ashanti African Tours, 2nd week

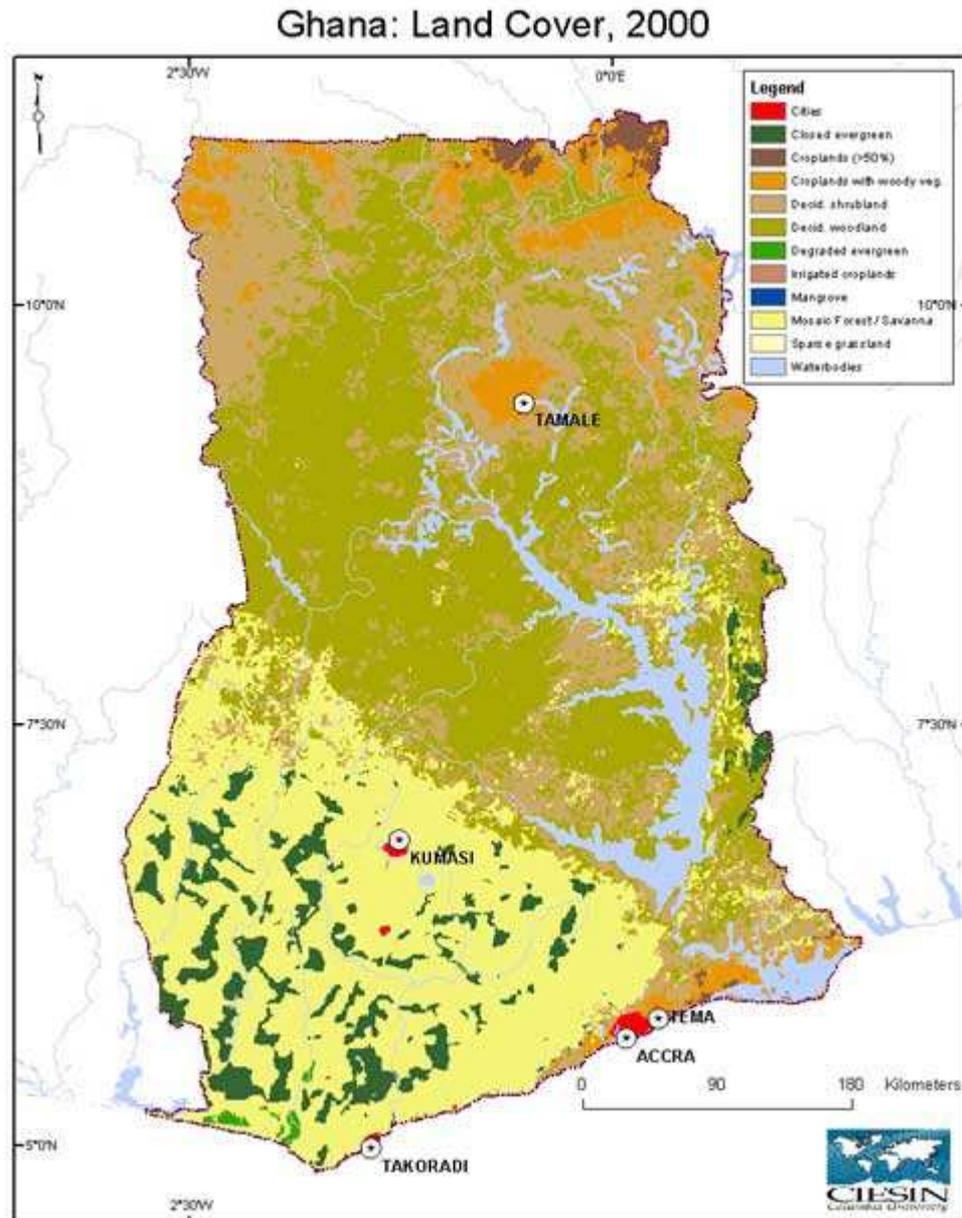
Route

22/1 Köping/Västerås/Stockholm - Arlanda - Amsterdam - Accra - Hotel
 23/1 AM Shai Hills (1), PM Sakumono lagoon (2), Winneba plains (3)
 24/1 Kakum National Park, Canopy Walk (4) AM + PM
 25/1 AM Antwikwaa (Kakum NP) (5), Twifo-Praso/Pra river (6), PM Kakum
 NP West, Abrafu forest (7)
 26/1 AM Abrafu forest, PM Nsuta forest (8)
 27/1 AM Nsuta forest, Ankobra river, PM Ankasa National Park (9)
 28/1 AM Ankasa National Park, PM Brenu beach road (10)
 29/1 AM Aboabo forest (Kakum NP North) (11), PM “Picathartes Site” (12)
 30/1 AM Kumasi - Kintampo, PM Kintampo (via Buipe - Old Buipe -
 Konkomba - Damango - Larabango) - Mole National Park (from 5 PM) (13)
 31/1 AM Mole NP Samoale loop, PM Mole NP, dry north loop + airstrip
 1/2 AM Mole National Park, Mole river, PM Mole NP, Office loop
 2/2 AM Mole National Park - Busunu - Fufulsu junction PM - Kabilpe -
 Kintampo - Kumasi
 3/2 AM Bobiri Forest butterfly reserve (14) - PM Atewa farmlands (15)
 4/2 AM Atewa range (15) - PM Accra -
 5/2 AM Amsterdam - Arlanda - Stockholm/Västerås/Köping

Green numbers in brackets refer to list at the end of the report.

The Akun Eagle Owl on page 11, photographed by Torbjörn Hegedüs, and the Leopard on page 20 by Jörgen Lindberg. All other photos are taken by Hasse Berglund.

If you want to see more great photos from the trip, discover Jörgen Lindbergs homepage: www.pbase.com/lindberg/ghana_2012



Ghana land cover 2000, showing the remnants of primeval Upper Guinean Rainforests in green in the southwest. Furthermore the arid northern Guinean Savannah shows, and the so called Dahomey Gap reaching the coast and Accra in the east.

Prologue

Torbjörn Hegedüs and Hasse Berglund started discussing a longer bird tour already in 2010, and had conversations on whether to go to Africa or South America in the beginning. The shorter trip Torbjörn had made to Ghana in 2003, which showed that Ghana had a lot more to offer, and the contacts we got with Ashanti African Tours, their director/principal bird guide Robert Ntakor and the suggested agenda for a two-week trip they presented, settled the issue, and we decided on trying to go there. Torbjörn talked to his two friends

Jörgen Lindberg and Micke Rhönstad, and they were convinced this trip was a good idea.

Once Ashanti was contacted and we had decided on the rough itinerary, everything just speeded up, and we soon found we were close to leaving, visa, currency (£ or \$), all optical equipment in order. So, off we went!

Diary

22/1

Early morning on the 22nd, we left Sweden from Arlanda airport. The winter, so far a soft, greenish season, turned into a white, snowy X-mas landscape as we departed. We landed in Amsterdam in almost storm conditions and had a rocking experience when we touched ground. After a few hours of waiting at Schiphol (counting as many as four dutch bird species for those of us that had never birded in Netherlands, we left European soil and late the same evening landed in Accra. we were met by Robert Ntakor, his brother Francis and our chauffeur for the length of the trip - Michel. We entered the Toyota minibus which would take us all over Ghana, with the exception of the mud roads in Ankasa, where we would go in a 4x4. We were taken to our first hotel, on the eastern outskirts of Accra, and were introduced to the plan for the intensive 13 days of birding that lay ahead!

23/1

The first morning in Ghana was much like all our following mornings, up at approximately five, breakfast at 5.30, and at six we were in the bus, soon arriving at our first destination, Shai hills. This is a part of the Guinea savannah in the so called Dahomey gap, the part of western Africa where the dry savannah reaches all the way south to the coast. Here there are some limestone cliffs surrounded by a reserve teeming with birds! The surrounding area was, at this season, burnt, and the trees and bushes near the rocks of the Shai hills contrasted to the scorched landscape around. The reserve proved to be a great start to the trip, and we had splendid observations of species such as the only Tawny Eagle of the trip, Lizard Buzzard, Stone Partridge, Helmeted Guineafowl, Black-billed Wood Dove, Senegal Parrot, Violet Turaco, African Pygmy Kingfisher, European Bee-eater, magnificent Blue-bellied Rollers, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Vieillot's Barbet, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, gorgeous Snowy-crowned Robin-chat, Mocking Cliff-chat, Senegal Eremomela, Northern Crombec, Common Wattle-eye, Senegal Batis, a flock of Yellow-billed Shrikes, Northern Puff-back, Black-crowned Tchagra, three fantastic White-crested Helmet-shrikes and Piapiac. In the hills themselves, monkeys hid, but we saw three Olive Baboons, at least six Callithrix Monkeys and 3-5 Lesser Spot-nosed Monkeys. When we came back to our mini-bus, all sweaty and dried-out, we were perfectly happy with a superb start to our Ghana experience.



Our guides Robert and Frances are listening while we are eagerly looking at all the new birds in the Shai Hills.

We headed back towards Accra for lunch, and had our next stop at the Sakumono Lagoon. This is a wetland surrounded by settlements and industries. It is encroached from all sides, but still provides some excellent birding, with great numbers, and lots of species. Our luck continued, and the list of species rapidly increased. In the lagoon we encountered lots of herons and egrets, waders and ducks, and the most interesting were 12 Black Herons, three Openbill Storks flying over, Glossy Ibis, 1000+ White-faced Whistling-ducks, a Common Teal, one male Painted Snipe, Collared Pratincole, Spur-winged Plover, African Wattled Plover, Black Tern and flocks of Pied Kingfishers. Along the shore an Arctic Skua, Royal and Gull-billed Terns were fishing.

The next part of our journey would take us from Sakumono, through Accra to our accommodation near Kakum National Park via Winneba Plains. The flaw in this planning was the traffic... The bigger cities in Ghana suffer from traffic congestion, and the average speed this afternoon did not exceed 5 km per hour. This meant that our afternoon stop at Winneba Plains, dry, rolling farm- and bushland near the coast was shorter than planned, but still produced observations of Black-shouldered Kite, Lizard Buzzard, Double-spurred Francolin, Lesser Black-winged Plover, Double-toothed Barbet, Flappet Lark, Plain-backed Pipit, Yellow-throated Long-claw, Red-winged Prinia, Copper Sunbird, Common Gonolek and Yellow-mantled Widow-bird.



One of the many Pied Kingfishers of Sakumono Lagoon

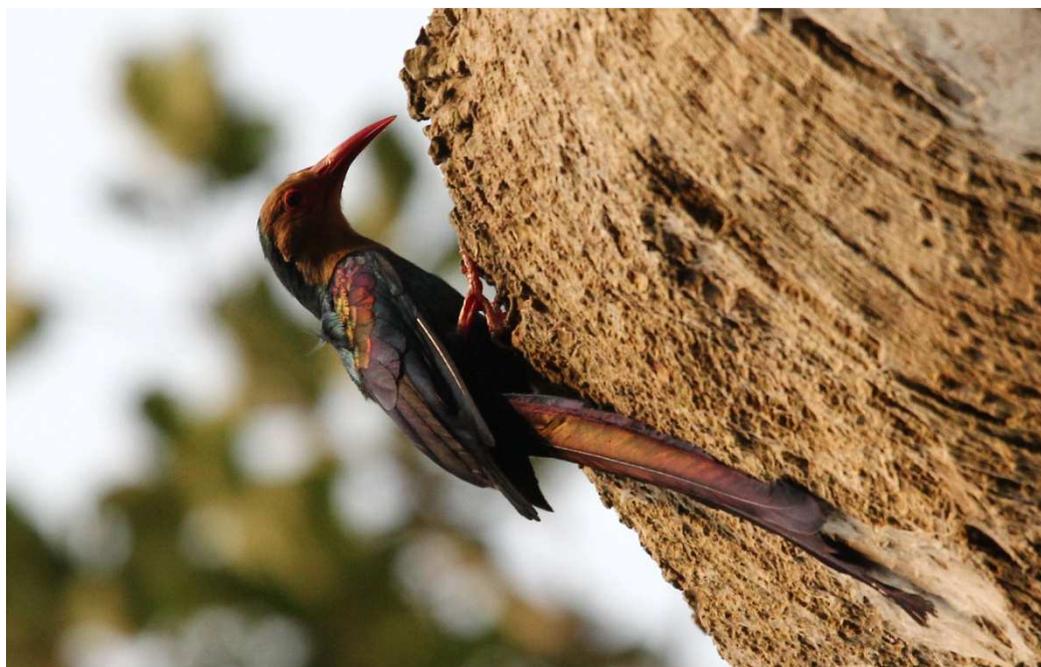
After this, we travelled in darkness towards our hotel, the Rainforest Lodge, Dwokwa, where we had a great dinner, some cold beer and a nice listing of the whooping 117 bird species seen this day!

24/1



This would be the day of the famous Kakum national Park canopy walk. An early start ensured us of arrival at Kakum NP before sunrise. We headed for the canopy walk as light softly lifted the night curtain in the secondary rain forest surrounding us. The board walk gave us opportunity to watch an impressive number of bird species at close range, and we stayed until our need for lunch

was too big. After lunch and a short rest in the shade, we set off again, and stayed in the canopy until the sun set over this fascinating day. Among the species we saw were African Cuckoo-hawk, European Honey Buzzard, close-up of Palm-nut Vulture, African Harrier-hawk, Red-thighed Sparrow Hawk, the elusive Congo Serpent Eagle, we heard Nkulengu Rail, saw Blue-headed Wood Dove, Red-fronted Parrot, African Grey Parrot, Yellow-billed Turaco, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher (heard), six Rosy Bee-eaters, both White-headed and Forest Wood-hoopoes, heard White-crested Hornbill, saw lots of Pied Hornbills, as the sun set we saw three majestic Black-casqued Hornbills flying by, Bristle-nosed Barbet, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Square-tailed and Fanti Saw-wings, Ansorge's Greenbul, Sharpe's Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Violet-backed Hylia, the swallow-like Ussher's Flycatcher, the diminutive Tit-hylia, seven sunbird-species, Sabine's Puffback, Copper-tailed Glossy Starling, Red-headed Malimbe and White-breasted Negrofinch.



Forest Wood-hoopoe climbing on a branch in the tree we stood in.

When we walked back to the parking, a young and beautifully coloured Gabon Viper passed our path, and we got really good views of the poisonous snake. We had hoped to see some monkeys while on the walkway, but we mostly just heard them – Olive Colobus and Lowe's Monkey were just heard, while we actually saw a Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey below us. Somewhere in the jungle below, we also heard a Maxwell's Duiker. On our way back to the hotel, we stopped for owl- and nightjar-listening, which produced Brown Nightjar, Demidoff's Galago and Tree Hyrax.

In the evening we also watched the African Football Cup, which 2012 was held in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, and Ghana met, and defeated Botswana 1-0. Excitement and joy all around.

25/1

The morning was an early one, we headed out to an area in the outskirts of the Kakum National Park called Antwikwaa. This was an area where several huge trees had been left after cutting down others, and small fields and plantations of bananas and cocoa were evident. The obtrusive oil-palms could also be seen everywhere, and along the trail we walked, the production of palm-“wine” could be seen – and smelled! – all the time. The area was fairly open, which led to easy-birding, but still quite a lot of interesting species. Our primary target species for the day was the Black Bee-eater, of which we saw four individuals, and could watch them for a long period. Other observations included Black Sparrow-hawk, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, we heard White-spotted Flufftail, saw our first African Emerald Cuckoo, our only Bates’ Swift for the length of the journey, Sabine’s and Cassin’s Spinetails, the elusive Rufous-sided Broadbill was heard but not seen, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Green-headed and the beautiful Buff-throated Sunbird. Shining Drongo, Western Bluebill and Black-bellied Seedcracker were delightful new birds on our list this morning.

After leaving Antwikwaa, we soon made a stop at a small water-course, where a bridge made up nesting-site for both Preuss’ Cliff Swallow and Golden-backed (Preuss’) Weaver. Both species could easily be seen from the side of the stream.

We continued for lunch in the heat of midday, and also took a detour to Twifo Praso, a town on the Praa River, where we went out on the bridge to look for a couple of specialities – White-throated Blue Swallow and Rock Pratincole. We didn’t have to wait for long until we discovered at least three pratincoles on the cliffs out in the stream. Though the distance was a bit much, we could study them well as we were on the lookout for the swallow. And indeed, after some twenty minutes, two swallows could be seen over the water, and we could retreat into the AC-climate in our bus once again.



Rock Pratincoles on a cliff in the Pra River

The lunch (consisting of chicken and fries for some of us most days) made us alert again, and we then set off on our quest to find more hornbills this afternoon. We had, so far, had few hornbill species, and few good observations of these interesting species, needing huge trees for their nesting and survival. We walked a stretch of road in the Abrafu forest on the western side of Kakum NP. Here we noted African (Red-chested) Goshawk, Great Blue Turaco (heard), Black-throated Coucal, Naked-faced Barbet, the loud but skulking Swamp Palm Bulbul and Crested Malimbe. We walked to an open area, with a good view of some big trees, and waited for the sun to set. Here hornbills usually fly by in the evening, on their way from their feeding trees to their preferred roosting trees. In one tall tree with several holes in it, a pair of Fire-bellied Woodpeckers settled for the night. We waited for a long time, and just as darkness made it difficult to clearly see, three huge Brown-cheeked Hornbills landed in the trees in front of us, and we could enjoy them as an appropriate ending to yet another great day in the Ghanan (Guinean) forests. The owl- and nightjar-listening-stops gave nothing, but in the twilight we had a superb observation of a Pel's Anomalure up in a tree.

26/1

We took the same road to Abrafu forest early this morning, and stopped quite early in an agricultural area with brush and thickets. Here we had some amazing nightjar-spotting, when both Black-shouldered and Long-tailed Nightjars responded to playback, and started swarming around us, giving us both auditory and visual close-ups. We continued a thorough scanning of the dense bushes, and in the end found some tough-spotted species. Not all of us got to see all species, but patience and skilful guiding provided us with good views, or at least glances of the interesting species we noted this morning. Among the plethora of species we saw or heard were Forest Francolin, Dideric Cuckoo, a great flock of over 40 Rosy Bee-eaters in a tree by the road we walked on, once again we noted one Brown-cheeked Hornbill, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Melancholy Woodpecker (a subspecies of the Gabon Woodpecker), Grey-headed Bristlebill, Western Nicator, Black-and-white Flycatcher, Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, a flock of four Red-billed (Chestnut-bellied) Helmetshrikes, Violet-backed Starling, Red-vented Malimbe, Blue-billed (African) Firefinch and more than 10 Pin-tailed Whydahs. Early in the morning Robert heard the fantastic imitating song of a Blue-shouldered Robin-chat, and we followed this into the thickets along the road. It sounded more like a Eurovision Song Contest-contribution than a bird-song! We fought with the branches and sticky twigs for hours, but in the end at least two of us got splendid views of the species. We noted three of them, but they will be remembered as the nr 1 skulkers of the trip! Later this morning we came upon the clear nr 2-skulker, which all of us got close views of – Puvél's Illadopsis. Two of them tried in vain to avoid us in the brushy undergrowth. Mission accomplished – two target-species defeated!



Rosy bee-eaters calmly sitting in a big tree above us in Abrafu forest.

We travelled westwards, to lunch and subsequently to Nsuta Forest, north of Sekondi. A long road into secondary forests which not too long ago have been probably marvelous old-growth rain forests, with tall trees and still sustaining large populations of rainforest species. This afternoon the hot and humid air continued, and we sought shadow as much as we could while investigating a stretch of forest. It proved to be worthwhile, and among the gems of the afternoon were two Cassin's Hawk Eagle in the distance, Green (Guinea) Turaco, four additional Black Bee-eaters, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill (much sought after!), over 20 Piping Hornbills and six Tit-hylia in one flock. We had Michel follow with the bus as we walked the dirt road into the forest, and in the end we stopped at a site where Robert tried playback of owls, and with great success! We got close views of both Fraser's and Akun Eagle Owl, and heard African Wood Owl and Brown Nightjar. A tremendous finish to a hot but rewarding day!



Akun Eagle Owl sitting in a tree just beside the road in Nsuta Forest.

27/1

We once again navigated the rough roads to Nsuta forest this morning, the walk today being even hotter and more humid! We slowly worked our way along the dirt road, with Michel following in the bus. We saw a fair amount of birds, met with a few mixed parties of birds, and among the species seen were Rosy Bee-eaters, two Black Bee-eaters, Blue-throated Roller, three White-crested Hornbills (“the mad professor”) giving excellent views, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, at least 40 (!) Piping Hornbills, Blue Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Greenbul, Grey-throated Tit-flycatcher, Forest Penduline Tit, Maxwell’s Black Weaver and Blue-billed Malimbe.

We left Nsuta, and carried on in a south-western direction. Passing over the Ankobra River we made a stop, and watched several interesting birds, foremost some White-throated Blue Swallows nesting under the bridge and in the mangroves and bushes around the estuary we saw three Reichenbach’s and two Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbirds. An ideal short stop, with two new species in just a few minutes!

We eventually reached Half Assini, a town close to the Ivory Coast border. Here we threw in our luggage in a quaint (euphemistically speaking) hotel, having one clear advantage over most hotels – in the garden there was yet another new species of sunbird – Carmelite Sunbird! And along the road to the hotel we found a colony of Orange Weavers in a bush growing on an island in a lagoon.

After a short rest, interrupted by power failures, water shortage, and trying to fix malfunctioning locks on doors, we headed out towards the interesting National Park Ankasa. We were met a short distance away from our hotel by Francis in a 4x4-Landrover. The roads in the National Park are notoriously bad, and flooding and elephants occur as disturbances to the infrastructure in the park. We had to get out of the Landrover once to push, and eventually had to leave it, and continue on foot. The forest along the road is slightly affected by human interference, but just a short distance away, there is really just primary virgin lowland rainforest. As this is extremely rare today, we had high hopes for our two days in the park, but were also aware of the fact that birding in this kind of forest is immensely difficult, but with the help from our guides we managed to get a really good list of birds here. The walk led us over some hills to a number of dams or wetlands in the forest, and in to rainforest with an extremely dense understory.

The start of our trail in the park was great! We were met shortly after entering the park, by 12 Crested Guinea-fowls! They stood on the road, did not seem to know where to go (naturally, as they indeed are wildfowl), but rushed back and forth and eventually disappeared in the forest. We saw Dwarf Bittern standing by the side of a small pool, saw 2 + 2 Hartlaub's Ducks a real target species in the Park! Sadly we did not get perfect views of this rainforest duck, but just glimpses in the water, and flying over us. In the small pool we also saw several Dwarf Crocodiles basking on a log and both White-bellied and Blue-breasted Kingfisher. Other observations this afternoon included Ahanta Francolin, Golden Greenbul and Tiny Sunbird. On the dirt track we walked, several small forest elephants had trodden before us. A Maxwell's Duiker rushed over the road at a point, and some of us were lucky enough to spot the always secretive Demidoff's Galago, and before we left for the night some Hammer Bats flew past.

We travelled back to Gracia Hotel in Half Assini in darkness, had a nice (socially) dinner, and fell fast asleep.



Some Dwarf Crocodiles in an Ankasa pond

28/1

We started early as ever from Half Assini, picked up the same nice guy outside Ankasa National Park as our local guide – he knew our guide Robert from their mutual work in Kakum – and headed into the park. Our hopes for some great views of Hartlaub's Ducks sitting on treestumps in the wetlands were sadly not fulfilled when we met another local guide with two Dutch bicyclists in company! The only other people we saw in Ankasa in the two days we were there were not even interested in birds! We took a long walk partly along the dirt track, partly up some hills in dense forest and saw surprisingly many birds, though it was difficult birding in the forest. It was also to become our warmest day so far with temperatures soaring above 35 degrees Celsius, and a humidity of un-precedented scale! Tough for Jörgen and me, both wearing glasses, which were constantly misty, and made us miss some of the action of the day. The humidity eventually turned into rain, but nothing torrential, but rather more trickling.

We managed to find some of the target species of the day, with close-up views of displaying Rufous-sided Broadbill topping the list. Other observations included Striated Heron, another observation of two Hartlaub's Ducks, which probably had been disturbed by the cyclists, African Hobby, an unbelievable sight of a Nklulengu Rail walking on the road right in front of us! Black crane was seen in the vegetation surrounding one of the ponds in the forest, Western Bronze-naped Pigeon was heard and then sat in the top of a tree, two each of Shining-blue, White-bellied and Blue-breasted Kingfisher were seen, on a powerline in the forest a minimum of 70 White-throated Bee-eaters were sitting, one Mosque Swallow of the *saturiator* ssp was fly-catching, both Yellow-bearded and Western Bearded Greenbul were spotted. We observed White-tailed Ant-thrush, Forest Robin, after a long search saw two Black-capped Apalis, Cassin's Flycatcher was sitting close to the water, Tessman's Flycatcher, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Pale-breasted Illadopsis was seen in the undergrowth and four Chestnut-breasted Negrofinches spotted.

For lunch we stopped at a rather fancy restaurant in the bustling twin-city of Sekondi-Takoradi, which we had stopped at on our way towards Half Assini. Nice with a cold beer in an air-conditioned environment! After lunch we made longer stops along the Brenu Beach Road between Sekondi and Cape Coast. This was an area similar to Winneba Plains, and we had some good birding in this drier, open habitat for the afternoon.

In the undulating landscape, with bush-thickets and burnt areas with some wetlands and ponds we saw African Crane standing on a small pond, Senegal Coucal, a couple of Vieillot's Barbet, over 140 Preuss' Cliff Swallows, we heard an Oriole Warbler nearby but it eluded us, Common Gonolek, Marsh Tchagra, Bar-breasted Firefinch were also seen. As we were departing the area, Michel stopped abruptly since a mother Striped Ground Squirrel with two kids were out on the road. We picked them up, and released them on a safe distance from the traffic.

We returned to the familiar Rainforest Lodge for yet another good nights sleep near the Kakum NP. This time after seeing Ghana beat local antagonist Mali 2-0 in the African Cup.



A young Striped Ground Squirrel feeling at home near Micke.

29/1

Even earlier than usually, we had our breakfast in the hotel – b.t.w. excellently arranged by Ashanti African Tours, all our really early breakfasts were served on time, and no birding time lost in the process – then proceeded to the northeast corner of Kakum NP, birding along a road in the area called Aboabo. Secondary forest once again, but quite a few old and tall trees and some almost unspoilt parts here, on the border of the park. As we left the bus, the fog was thick, and sight restricted. We slowly walked along, relying on Robert's accurate hearing for detecting the birds. After the sun had risen, the fog rapidly disappeared, and birds were getting busy.



Aboabo-sunrise

Torbjörn had our only visual glance of the elusive White-spotted Flufftail, we observed Yellow-throated, Black, and Thick-billed Cuckoo, Blue Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Kemp's Longbill, Bioko's (Fernado Po) Batis, Brown Illadopsis, the rare Bates' Sunbird and Red-billed Helmetshrike.

Over lunch, excitement grew, since we were going to one of the sites where you can see the breeding sites of the superbird Yellow-headed Picathartes, and watch them at close range. In the village, we were met by two local guides, which are undergoing education to learn their trade. This is economically supported by Ashanti African Tours and seems to be working as an incentive to keep locals from disturbing these sites. After 1,5 hours walk, and a short climb, we were sitting on bedrock cliffs (tough as we were immovable) waiting for evening, when the birds check in on their cave-site. On the way we had seen Blue-headed Coucal well. When we almost had lost concentration, a bird suddenly stood in front of us! The Yellow-headed Picathartes had come in without a sound, and was foraging for a minute or so, flying a short distance and then disappearing in the undergrowth. An amazing experience! This was truly one of the highlights of the trip! Ever since I, as a child had read the story of this peculiar bird, breeding in house martin-like nests in a few caves in West Africa, I had dreamt about seeing it. It was now come true, and we smiled all the way back to the village, and were only slightly disturbed by the fact that a twig in front of the bird, as it was at its closest, had disrupted the autofocuses of our cameras (and we didn't even think of trying to adjust it, as we watched this ancient-looking creature). All the way up to the bustling town of Kumasi, capitol of the Ashanti district, we were talking about our success.



The myth of the West African forests, the Yellow-headed Picathartes. And the problematic twig...

The bustling town of Kumasi is a far-spread city, with immense traffic, and presented us with time-consuming travel whenever we had to negotiate it. However, we arrived at our hotel, continued our discussions about the Guinea-savannah to come the next days, and watched the Swedish football-star Zlatan Ibrahimovich playing a game with his Milan on the TV in the hotel-bar.

30/1

This day was one of the days of long transportation – we started in Kumasi and ended in Mole National Park, mostly driving on good roads, but in the beginning in Kumasi there were huge traffic jams since there were big road-building activities around the town. And in the afternoon, we negotiated some dirt tracks in the outback of Ghana, which still were not worse than the main road we drove some days later. The temperature was over 35 degrees, but it was now really dry. Before noon we left the forests that still are present in some areas around Kumasi, and passed through more open land, and had lunch in Kintampu. After lunch we continued in the flat landscape to Buipe, where we crossed the Black Volta river, which is now flooded by the huge dam in Akosombo. After the crossing we left the main road and headed NW. Passing through the Guinean savannah on sandy tracks, we tried to keep a look-out for raptors and new species. We passed through Damango, up to Larabango on washboard-roads, and subsequently into Mole National Park.

Grasshopper Buzzard was one of the more common raptors the next four days, some Lizard Buzzard also seen on the road. Eurasian Hobby was spotted shortly after lunch. Woodland Kingfishers of the ssp. *senegalensis* became common

after Kumasi. Along the road, the raptor populations were, as always dominated by Black (Yellow-billed) Kites with local groups of Hooded Vultures.

We arrived in Mole already at 17 hrs, so we had some time to start birding immediately. The Mole Hotel is beautifully situated on an escarpment in the S part of the NP, overlooking waterholes and Guinea savannah with partially dense stands of trees and bushes. Though we were visiting in the dry season, there was still water in the water holes and rivers, which attracted lots of birds and wildlife.



Other tourists poolside in the Mole Hotel – otherwise good birding

Our bird-watching activities on the escarpment and telescoping of the waterholes this first savannah-day produced Black-crowned Night Heron, Hamerkop, Hadada Ibis, Wahlberg's Eagle, lots of Helmeted Guinea-fowl, Senegal Thick-knee, Bruce's Pigeon, Rose-ringed Parakeet, the first Red-throated Bee-eaters, Abyssinian Roller, Black Scimitarbill, the first African Grey Hornbills since Shai Hills, Bearded barbet, a confiding pair of Grey Woodpecker in the big trees at the escarpment, Mosque Swallow of the subspecies *senegalensis*, Brown Babbler, Beautiful Sunbird and African Golden Oriole. Of the local wildlife we immediately became familiar with the Bushbucks, which were browsing next to us, and the Warthogs and Kobs. It was with anticipation we went to bed waiting for sunrise.



A dangerous beast fenced in

31/1

We took a tour called the Samole Loop this day, SW of the HQ and leading to the waterholes we overlooked from the hotel, and an observation tower by one of them. Early in the morning we were actually almost freezing! It was 16-18° C, which was refreshing, though unexpected. But temperatures soared rapidly, and before 11 o'clock it reached 35. We thoroughly scanned the thickets and small pools by foot accompanied by an armed ranger all morning, and we had some superb observations! What we did not succeed in, was finding the Pel's Fishing Owl that the last years sometimes has been found in these trees. Otherwise our list grew with some speed.

Some egrets and herons were resting or foraging around the watercourses, notably Black-headed Heron and Little Egret, Woolly-necked Stork was seen, in a tree we discovered an adult African Fish Eagle which let us have excellent views of it. Above us, our first Bateleurs started soaring, we saw Red-necked Falcon, Cardinal and Brown-backed Woodpecker, White-fronted Black-chat, Rufous Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis, beautiful views of an Oriole Warbler by a water-hole, Swamp Flycatcher, African Paradise Flycatcher, the first of many Pygmy Sunbirds, Variable Sunbird, Scarlet-chested Sunbird (the most common sunbird of the day), the big Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Little Weaver, Northern Red Bishop, big flocks of Red-headed Quelea, beautiful Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleue and Lavender Waxbill, Red-billed Firefinches, Red-winged Pytilia, Wilson's Indigobird, and both males and females of Exclamatory and Togo Paradise Whydahs.



African Fish eagle showing off

The mammals were equally exciting, with fantastic observations of Olive Baboons, Callithrix' Monkeys, Blotched Genet in trees along a stream, at least ten Elephants, both old bulls and younger animals, even calves, lots of Warthogs, Kob and Bushbuck.



An old elephant bull at close range

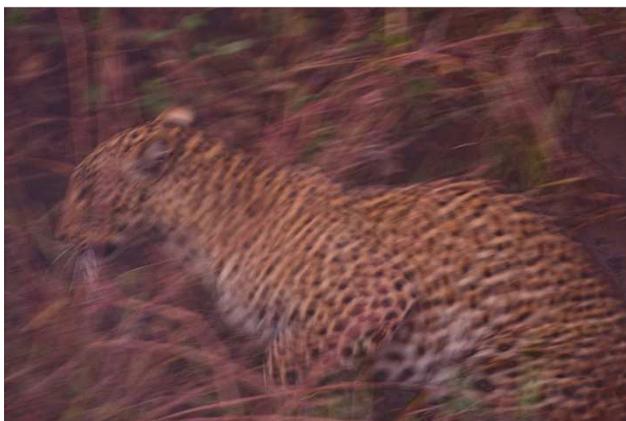
In the afternoon we did a tour which I think was called the Dry Northern Loop, in areas scorched by fires, drier with less tress, but still dense bushland. We stopped at several areas of extensive open sandy ground, where we found more species. White-backed and White-headed Vultures were soaring and landing near the waterholes, we noted White-throated Francolin, lots of Stone Partridges, discovered a well-camouflaged Denham's Bustard, at least six Forbes' Plovers a target species only found in these recently burnt areas, African Wattled plover, two Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, at least six Green Wood-hoopoes, three massive Abyssinian Ground Hornbills, Northern Red Hornbill, many Sun Larks,

at lunch near the hotel we spotted our only Gambaga Flycatcher for the trip, Fork-tailed Drongo and Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting. In the dense, burnt bushes we saw several Waterbucks and a Roan Antelope.



Roan antelope relying on camouflage for protection

As we were heading towards the hotel in the afternoon, Micke suddenly started stuttering, pointing and screaming (really, really loud!!!), le-, le- le-, lep-, leo-.... No-one understood at the time what he meant, but Michel stopped, and we started looking in his rather agitated pointing direction. As Michel started backing the bus, we saw it! A leopard, crouching near a small stream at the roadside! As we backed up, we got within two meters from it! It slowly started to move, with no hurry into the bulrush and tall dry grass along the watercourse, eventually disappearing out of sight! We had all watched it, trying to stop Micke from screaming, got our cameras up, but it was too close, and we were too agitated to get any pictures. A leopard in Mole NP is not a common sight, it was a first for the Ashanti trips, and only the second leopard our armed guide had seen in twelve years in Mole! This was our second highlight of the trip, and probably the most exciting.



The best shot any of us got of the leopard

However, the day didn't end there, we then headed towards the Mole airstrip, famous for the resting Standard-winged Nightjars. We walked the strip up and down, using playback, but sadly no nightjars were seen. However we managed to come close to an African Scops Owl, and saw a Marsh Cane Rat scurrying over the former tarmac.

The cold beer that evening felt great, and we went to bed after a great day and some funny summing up, and fell asleep to Spotted Hyaenas laughter.

1/2

Encouraged by the experiences yesterday, we were eager to start birding today, and we headed directly towards a bridge over the Mole River, on the National Park boundary. We walked around there and in the vicinities all morning, and spotted quite a lot of interesting species. The morning was cool, but now we were prepared for it. There were lots of birds congregating along the river, and we got opportunities for close studies of them, as well as photographing.

After lunch and a short rest at the hotel, when we visited the National Park center, we took another loop mainly heading north again, the Office Loop, which led us to new ground.

The list of interesting observations include even better views of Bateleurs, Wahlberg's Eagles, Grey Kestrel, Lanner Falcon, flocks of Helmeted Guineafowl, good views of four Black Crakes, additional Denham's Bustards, Four-banded Sandgrouse, four Brown-necked Parrots, nice views of Violet Turaco, three mobbed Pearl-spotted Owlets, Striped and Grey-headed Kingfishers, more than 100 Red-throated Bee-eaters, Rufous-crowned Roller, Broad-billed Roller, Greater and Lesser Honeyguides, Yellow-throated Leaflove, White-crowned Robin-chat, discretely beautiful African Blue Flycatchers, loud-singing Brubru, Square-tailed Drongo, Purple Glossy Starling, Red-headed Weaver, 1000+ Red-headed Quelea, Black-faced Firefinch and several Yellow-fronted Canaries.

In the evening, as we returned towards the hotel, we stopped for nightjars and saw two Long-tailed Nightjars, one Freckled and one Standard-winged Nightjar – the last sadly a female (not a sexist commentary, but they lack the immense feathers of the hand of the wing, which are so peculiar). As we drove along a track, we also spotted a calmly crawling big Puffadder! It was in no hurry, and let us look at it – awe-inspiring!

We had some great mammal-spotting also, which included Olive Baboons, Callithrix' Monkeys, over 50 Patas' Monkeys hurrying over the road, a Senegal Galago seen fairly well in the trees, Kintampo Rope Squirrel, six Elephants, Warthog, Bushbuck, Kob, one Waterbuck and 14 Roan Antelopes. All in all, another successful day!

2/2

We started slightly late this morning, and did some *ad lib* bird-watching near the hotel before it was time to get on the bus. We took a different route back towards the Tamale-Kumasi-road, and stopped for bird observations and photography now and then. We lunched at the same diner as on our previous tour on this road, and ended by sitting in enormous queues into Kumasi. Another hotel, the Silicon Hotel, was our finishing point for the day, and we were rather tired after the arduous journey, and fast fell asleep.



A shining Purple Glossy Starling along the road

The notable observations of the day were two Dark Chanting Goshawks along the road, 30+ Grasshopper Buzzards, two Speckled Pigeons made us stop at Fufulsu Junction. We saw another Rufous-crowned Roller, three Blue-bellied Rollers, Northern Red-billed Hornbills, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Northern Puff-back, six White-crested Helmetshrikes, Long-tailed Glossy Starling and 3+ Purple Glossy Starling,

3/2

It took us a while to get to the first goal for birding this day, the Bobiri Forest butterfly reserve. It was a nice piece of forest, many old, huge trees left, with dense undergrowth. It presented an opportunity to add missing forest species to our list, and so we did. We walked around, specially looking for the Long-tailed Hawk and missing hornbills. When the trees in the reserve were high, it was extremely difficult to see the birds up in the canopy, and we soon heard the hawk from the forest. Robert led us around, and we managed to conclude in which tree at least one Long-tailed Hawk was sitting. It was almost impossible to get a clear view of the top of this tree, and we circled it at different distances several times, before we all got at least a good glimpse of this enigmatic little forest dweller. We saw one adult and one juvenile bird in the tree. In the process, we also managed to spot, and get good views of Red-billed Dwarf Hornbills, so the visit did pay off well. We also saw seven Grey Parrots, at last we saw one Chocolate-backed Kigfisher high up in a tree, and heard more in the trees

around, saw two Forest Wood-hoopoes and three White-crested Hornbills. After an extensive search up in the canopy we found a Least Honeyguide close to the reserve office. We had both Blue and Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, White-throated Greenbul, two Black-and-white Flycatchers, two Dusky tits and Red-billed Helmetshrike.



Dense bamboo-stands in the secondary forests in Bobiri

The weather this day was once again more humid, and we even encountered rainfall! Not heavy, but it rained as we headed for lunch. In the afternoon we stopped at the foot of the Atewa range, in what has been known as the Atewa Farmlands. A mix of small remnants of forest, with extensive bushlands and farmed fields. It has become popular as a good birding spot, where a mix of species can be found. We had no special expectations for this afternoon, the next morning we were going to experience the more forested Atewa range properly, but were surprised at the diversity in this area.

We noted four Cuckoo-hawks, Honey Buzzard, Black Goshawk, four African Hobby (probably nesting), Blue-spotted Wood Dove, an impressive parade of cuckoo-species – Klaas', Jacobin, Common and Black Cuckoo, Blue-headed Coucal, White-throated and Little Bee-eaters, Red-faced and Whistling Cisticola, Grey-throated Flycatcher, a mixed colony of weavers including Black-necked, Grosbeak and Compact Weavers. On the farmlands we also noted 100+ flocks of Black & White and Bronze Mannikins.

We spent our last night in Ghana at the Royal Bleumich Hotel in Tafo.

4/2

The final morning of our trip was an early one (distinguishing it from no other). We went to the Atewa farmlands once again, but this time just walked through them, then started a steep climb up the Atewa hills. We started at 200 m.a.s.l. and finished at more than 850 meters! In a seven kilometer walk, it was hot and once again humid, but at the slightly higher altitude the temperature actually dropped a little bit, which was positive after the rather rapid walk.

Some of the birds from yesterday were once again spotted, but as the hill got steeper, the trees were higher, and the fauna changed. We ended our stay in Ghana with some excellent birding, and among the species we noted on our last quest were Forest Francolin, Bronze-naped Pigeon, Blue-headed Wood Dove, several Yellow-billed Turacoos, Red-chested Cuckoo, Narina's Trogon, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher and six splendid Blue-headed Bee-eaters, one of our last target species for the trip! We had great views as they perched above our heads and made swooping flights to catch insects. Yellow-spotted, Vieillot's and Yellow-billed Barbet, White-tailed Ant-thrush, Forest Scrub-robin, five Black-capped Apalis, Sharpe's Apalis, Little Grey Flycatcher, Blackcap Illadopsis, Many-coloured Bush-shrike, Maxwell's Black Weaver and Crested Malimbe were also seen.



Blue-headed Bee-eater, a gem in the Atewa range

With an early feeling of grief, we went back to our hotel to get a last shower in Ghana, before we drove to the airport for a final summary of the observations of the day, a common toast with Robert, Emmanuel, Michel and Robert's brother James, who was in place to pick up another group of birders. We expressed our gratitude to Ashanti, especially the people, guides, driver, planning staff and all. We had a nice farewell session in the restaurant, and said thanks and goodbye to our friends in Ghana.

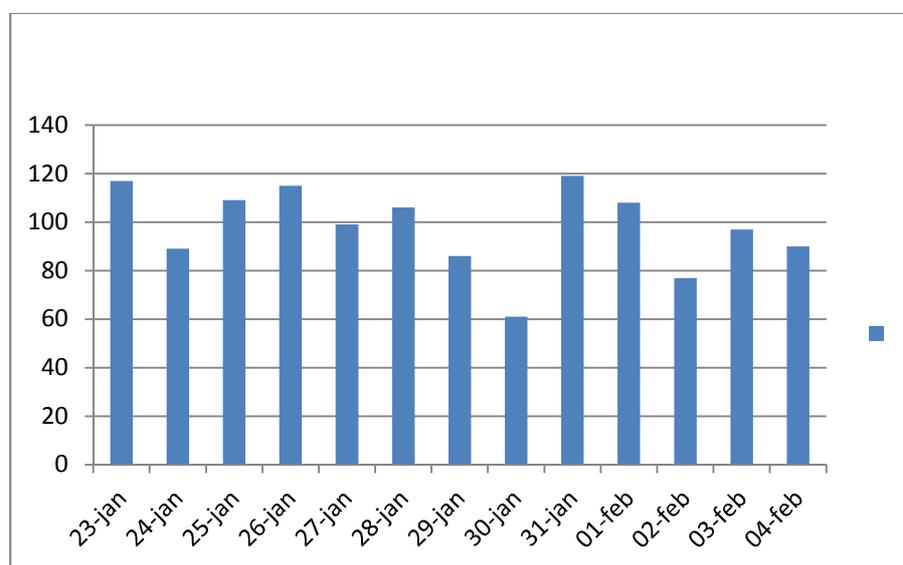
5/2

As we landed in Amsterdam, once again the weather was awful there! The previous day, temperature had fallen to minus 19 degrees(!) which is extreme in the Netherlands. This day, though snow and freezing coldness still prevailed, we

managed to land, and also took off and landed on time in a frosty, icy, terrible Sweden. The trip had been a complete success, hardly any mishaps or failures, not even a flat tire!

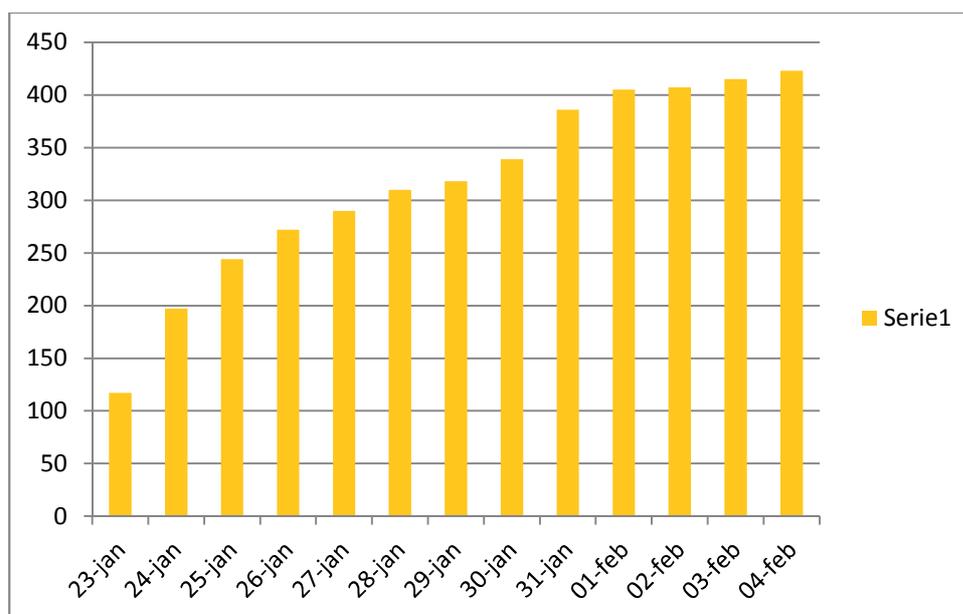
Summary

The trip consisting of thirteen birding-days, managed to reach 423 species of birds! According to Robert a new record for trips of this length! We had good luck with most birding, though particularly the Hornbills were a slight miscalculation, and we had hoped to see more and have better observations of e.g. cuckoo-shrikes and bush-shrikes. The skills of Robert and his brother were immense, and their ability to hear and subsequently find birds for us was truly amazing! Robert is one of the best bird guides we have met on our journeys.



Number of bird species per day, which gives an idea of the species richness and diversity of the country. Observe that Jan 30th and Feb 2nd to a large extent were travel days

The costs for the trip were the following, Ashanti African Tours charged us 1650 £ for the whole package in Ghana, excluding beverages at meals. The air tickets cost us approximately 900 £, from Stockholm Arlanda to Accra and back. We ordered visas through the Ghana consulate in Denmark, but had some problems with them, so our advice is to check thoroughly the exact date when you can order your visa, and check the dates on it, so you don't get conned in the controls at the Accra airport, as Torbjörn and myself did. We had to "pay" a small fine to pass, since the controller claimed the visa were not in order.



Accumulative number of species Jan 23rd – Feb 4th

The way Ashanti is managing these trips is really good, we think. Early start, but still having breakfast before leaving is a time-saving way. Then we had a period of relaxing, slow birding or whatever you wanted after lunch. Birding in the afternoons generally began at approximately 3 PM. Every night after dinner we also had a good de-briefing, going through the lists, and noting everything. We were anxious trying to estimate numbers of birds every day, and the guides were extremely helpful in doing this. We even managed to see the three African Cup-games that coincided with our stay in Ghana! Too bad the Ghana team maybe played their worst game of the tournament in the semi-finals, under-estimating the skills of their opponents Zambia, losing by 1-0. Maybe a slight reconciliation that Zambia then went on to win the Cup, beating the Ivory Coast on penalties (8-7). Since Côte d'Ivoire is Ghana's worst enemies, this was easing the pain.

Bird-watching in tropical forests is notoriously difficult, and we mainly did this along roads and dirt tracks. This was positive for detecting the birds, and together with the hearing of our guides meant a good pay-off. Among the impressive results of the trip, the good sightings of 22 out of Ghana's 23 sunbird species was fantastic. Only the Western Violet-backed Sunbird eluded us, and we'll have to come back to see it too.

BIRD LIST GHANA 2012-01-23 – 2012-02-04

The taxonomy follows Larsson et.al. 2008. Birds of the World ver. 2.0 (BW). Subspecies name is added after species name when possible. When more than one subspecies seen these are separated in the record list. Subspecies mainly identified by geographical distribution. English name in brackets indicate name used in Birds of Ghana by Borrow and Demey.

Species endemic to Upper Guinea forests are highlighted with green colour.

Ankasa = Ankasa National Park, Kakum NP = Kakum National Park and Kakum Game Reserve, Mole NP= Mole Natinal Park, Bobiri = Bobiri Butterfly Reserve, Bonko = Picathartes site, Sakumono = Sakumono Lagoon Protected Site, Shai Hills = Shai Hills Production Reserve

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

One seen in Sakumono lagoon 23/1

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Seen 5 days, Sakumono lagoon 1000+ and 50+ in Mole NP

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*

4 seen one pair each in two different ponds in Ankasa NP 27/1, one pair seen 28/1

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris galeatus*

Seen 5 days, common in Mole NP – over 100 seen 1/2, and about 5 seen in Shai Hills 23/1



Most of the 12 Crested Guineafowl on the westward dirtroad in Ankasa 27/1

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani verreauxi*

12 welcomed us in Ankasa NP 27/1

White-throated Francolin *Peliperdix albogularis buckleyi*

One heard in Mole NP 31/1

Forest Francolin *Peliperdix l. lathamii* (Latham's Forest Francolin)

1 heard Antwikwaa 25/1, two heard in Abrafu forest 26/1 and one seen in Atewa range 4/2

Ahanta Francolin *Pternistis achantensis*

1 along the road in Ankasa NP 27/1

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis b. bicalcaratus*

Heard in Shai Hills 23/1, 4 seen Brenu beach road 28/1, and several seen every day in Mole NP 30/1 – 1/2

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus p. petrosus*

1 in Shai Hills 23/1, 8+2+7 seen in Mole NP 31/1, 1 and 2/2

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

1 in Sakumono lagoon 23/1 and 15 in river estuary on the coast 26/1



Woolly-necked Stork in Mole 31/1

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus microscelis*

2 + 5 + 2 in Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

African Openbill Stork *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Three flying over Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash brevirostris*

Between 3 and 5 seen in Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

5 seen in Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Grey Heron *Ardea c. cinerea*

Seen 6 days, Sakumono lagoon, riverine estuary near Sekondi and in Mole NP

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

1 in Mole NP 31/1 and one in a wetland 100 km E Mole 2/2

Purple Heron *Ardea p. purpurea*

1 Sakumono lagoon 23/1 and 2 Brenu beach road 28/1

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

12 in one flock Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia brachyrhyncha*

25 Sakumono lagoon 23/1, one Ankobra river 27/1, 6 near Sekondi 28/1 and one in Mole NP 30/1

Little Egret *Egretta g. garzetta*

5 Sakumono lagoon 23/1 and single in Mole NP 31/1

Western Reef Heron *Egretta g. gularis* (Western Reef Egret)

5 Sakumono lagoon 23/1, 2 Ankobra river 27/1 and one near Sekondi 28/1

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus i. ibis*

Common, seen every day, most numerous Sakumono lagoon 23/1 (several hundred)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Seen six days (Sakumono, near Sekondi and Mole NP), highest number; 10 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Striated Heron *Butorides striata atricapilla* (Green-backed Heron)

1 at the entrance to Ankasa NP 28/1, single birds seen in Mole NP 31/1 and 1/2



Flying Black-crowned Night Heron in Mole 31/1

Black-crowned Night Heron *N. n. nycticorax*

1 + 4 Mole NP 30 and 31/1

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*

One standing at a pond in Ankasa NP 27/1

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta minor*

Fairly common Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

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

3 Sakumono lagoon 23/1 and 4 in riverine estuary 26/1

Osprey *Pandion h. haliaetus*

1 Abrafu forest 25/1

Black-winged Kite *Elanus c. caeruleus*

Two Shai Hills 23/1 and one N Kumasi 30/1

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus pectoralis*

Eight individuals (minimum) seen on six days, spread from Kakum and Ankasa to Mole



An adult Palm-nut Vulture over the canopy in Kakum NP 24/1

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 + 1 Mole NP 31/1 and 1/2 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides batesi*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 4 Atewa farmland 3/2 and 2 Atewa range 4/2

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Totally ten seen, Kakum NP, Abrafu, Ankasa NP, Mole NP and Bobiri

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

2 Mole NP 31/1

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Very common, in the south often +100 per day. Seen all days

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

6 + 10 in Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

10 + 15 + 3 seen in Mole NP 31/1 - 2/2

Congo Serpent Eagle *Dryotriorchis s. spectabilis*

1 seen Kakum NP 24/1 and one Antwikwaa 25/1

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax m. metabates*

2 seen between Damango and Busunu 2/2

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii macroscelides* (African Goshawk)

1 heard Abrafu 25/1, 1 seen Ankasa 28/1, 1 heard Bobiri and 2 seen Atewa range

Shikra *Accipiter badius sphenurus*

Totally 14 seen in six days

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter e. erythropus*

1 Kakum NP 24/1

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus temminckii*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 1 Nsuta forest 26/1

Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus*

After a long search, one adult (red) and one juv seen in Bobiri

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus a. aeruginosus*

One male Sakumono lagoon 23/1, 1 near Nsuta forest 26/1, one N Kumasi 30/1 and one in Mole NP 31/1

Black (Yellow-billed Kite) *Milvus migrans (m. parasitus)*

Very common, seen all days, slightly fewer in Mole NP

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

1 Mole NP 31/1



A small buzzard – Grasshopper N Kintampo 2/2

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

10 Kumasi – Mole 30/1, 5 + 8 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2 more than 30 Mole-Kumasi 2/2 and 1 near Atewa range 4/2

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco m. monogrammicus*

4 Shai Hills 23/1, 2 + 1 Mole NP 30-31/1 and 1 near Fufulsu junction 2/2

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

Totally 12 seen, in 7 days, from Kakum to Mole

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus africanus*

2 Nsuta forest 26/1

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax belisarius*

1 Shai Hills 23/1

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi*

1 Mole NP 30/1 and 2 1/2

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

1 Accra 23/1, 2 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 1 near Atewa 4/2

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

10 seen in 7 days

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

1 in Mole 31/1

Eurasian Hobby *Falco s. subbuteo*

1 N Kintampo 30/1, 2 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

1 Ankasa NP and 4 (probable breeders) Atewa farmland 3/2

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus abyssinicus*

2 seen in Mole NP 31/1

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura p. pulchra*

Heard six days in southern wet forests, seen in Aboabo 29/1

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

1 Ankasa NP 28/1 and 4 seen in a wetland near Mole river 1/2

African Crake *Crex egregia*

1 seen Brenu beach road, standing by a small waterhole 28/1

Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus*

1-2 heard below the canopy boardwalk Kakum NP 24/1 and one seen well on the road in Ankasa NP 28/1



In the burnt areas of Mole NP, a Denham's Bustard is trying to hide 31/1

Denham's Bustard *Neotis d. denhami*

1 + 2 seen in Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

More than 10 seen four days in Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*

5 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris*

At least 8 seen Winneba Plains 23/1

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus s. senegallus*

1 Sakumono lagoon 23/1 and 4 Mole NP 31/1

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

2-3 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius h. hiaticula*

10 Sakumono lagoon 23/1 and 1 W Cape Coast 26/1

Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi*

6 Mole NP 31/1

*An African Jacana in Mole NP 31/1***African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

Seen 10 days (all in all >75)

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

3 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Whimbrel *Numenius p. phaeopus*

3 Sakumono lagoon and 6 in estuary W Cape Coast 26/1

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata orientalis*

1 estuary W Cape Coast 26/1

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

1 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Common Redshank *Tringa t. totanus*

5 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

15 Sakumono lagoon 23/1



Marsh Sandpiper in Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Totally 9 seen in 5 days

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

2 Mole NP 31/1

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

5 Sakumono lagoon 23/1 and 1 in estuary E Half Assini 28/1

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

1 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria i. interpres*

8 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

+20 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

2 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

2 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

1 male Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

50 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola fuelleborni*

>50 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis liberiae*

3 Pra river in Twifo Praso

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Arctic Skua)

1 off the beach at Sakumono 23/1

Black Tern *Chlidonias n. niger*

1 Sakumono lagoon 23/1

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus albidioralis*

5 off the Sakumono coast

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon n. nilotica*

3 off the Sakumono coast 23/1

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*

1 Mole NP 1/2

Common Pigeon *Columba livia* (Rock Dove) 'Feral pigeon'

Fairly common, seen 9 days

Speckled Pigeon *Columba g. guinea*

2 in Fufulsu junction 2/2

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*

1 in Ankasa 28/1 and 1 Atewa hills 4/2

Laughing Dove *Stigmatopelia s. senegalensis*

Common, seen every day, but never numerous

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Common, seen 12 days, in Mole >50 seen some days

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*

1 in Shai Hills 23/1 and common Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2, sometimes in high numbers

Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*

3 Shai Hills 23/1 and 5-10 in Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 2 Abrafu 26/1, 2 Ankasa 28/1, 5 Bobiri 3/2 and 3 Atewa Hills 4/2

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris*

14 seen in 8 days

Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri infelix*

Heard Kakum, Abrafu and Ankasa, one seen in Aboabo 29/1 and in Atewa hills 4/2

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*

4 + 2 Mole NP 30/1 and 1/2

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus sharpei*

Common, seen 11 days

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula k. krameri*

12 + 10 + 5 Mole NP 30/1 – 1/2

Grey Parrot *Psittacus e. erithacus*

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Ankasa 28/1 and 7 Bobiri 3/2

Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus fuscicollis*

4 Mole NP 1/2

Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gulielmi fantiensis*

3 Kakum NP 24/1, 3 Antwikwaa 25/1, 8 Abrafu 26/1 and 9 Nsuta 27/1

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*

20 Shai Hills 23/1 and 1 + 10 in Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*

Heard in Abrafu forest 25/1, Nsuta forest 27/1 and really close in Ankasa 28/1

Guinea Turaco *Tauraco p. persa* (Green Turaco)

2 Nsuta forest 27/1

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco m. macrorhynchus*

Seen and/or heard 7 days

*Violet Turaco at Mole river 1/2***Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*

2 Shai hills 23/1, 3 + 2 Mole NP 1 and 2/2

Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*

Seen 7 days, highest numbers in Mole NP

Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus pica*

1 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

2 Shai Hills 23/1, 2 Nsuta forest 26/1 and 1 Ankasa 28/1

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachycoccyx audeberti brazzae*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 1 Aboabo 29/1

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

1 Atewa hills 4/2

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus gabonensis*

1 Aboabo 29/1, 1 Atewa farmland 3/2 and 1 Atewa hills 4/2

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

1 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

1 Kakum NP 24/1 and 1 Antwikwaa 25/1

Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*

1 heard Aboabo 29/1

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

11 noted in 7 days

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 3 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Ankasa 28/1 and 2 Aboabo 29/1

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

2 Abrafu forest 26/1

Blue Malkoha *Ceuthmochares aereus flavirostris* (Yellowbill)

3-4 Kakum NP 24/1, heard Antwikwaa 25/1 and Atewa farmlands 3/2

Black-throated Coucal *Centropus l. leucogaster*

3 heard Antwikwaa 25/1, 2 (h) Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 seen Nsuta forest 27/1 and again heard in Bobiri 3/2

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus fischeri*

2 seen well at Picathartes-site 29/1, 1 Atewa farmlands 3/2 and 1 Atewa hills 4/2

Senegal Coucal *Centropus s. senegalensis*

11 seen in 7 days, mainly in drier areas – Mole NP, Shai Hills and Atewa farmland

African Scops Owl *Otus s. senegalensis*

2 at the Mole airstrip 31/1 and heard in Mole NP 1/2

Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis*

One seen well in the evening in Nsuta forest 26/1

Akun Eagle-Owl *Bubo leucostictus*

One seen very well across the road from a Fraser's Eagle Owl, in Nsuta forest 26/1

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii nuchalis*

1 heard in Nsuta forest 26/1

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium p. perlatum*

3 seen, being very mobbed by especially sunbirds in Mole NP 1/2



Pearl-spotted Owlet near Mole river 1/2

Brown Nightjar *Veles binotatus*

1 Kakum NP 24/1 and one heard in the morning in Abrafu forest 26/1

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

1 seen and heard excellently in Abrafu forest 26/1

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma sharpei*

1 sitting on the road at night in Mole NP 1/2

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus c. climacurus*

1 Abrafu forest, seen and heard 26/1 and 2 in Mole NP 1/2 sitting on the road at night

Standard-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis*

1 female in the headlights of the bus Mole NP 1/2

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 2 Abrafu 26/1 and 1 Aboabo 29/1

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini*

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 2 Ankasa 28/1

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Fairly common, seen 8 days, but never large numbers (rarely >10)

Common Swift *A. a. apus*

Very common, seen all days, often substantial numbers

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

5 Mole NP 1/2

Little Swift *Apus affinis aerobates*

Fairly common, 10 days, generally 10 or less

Bates's Swift *Apus batesi*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina constantia*

2 heard Atewa hills 4/2

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*

1 heard Kakum NP 24/1, 1 seen in Bobiri 3/2, and 2 heard in Atewa hills 4/2

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon l. leucocephala*

1 Mole NP 1/2



A Grey-headed Kingfisher in the fire-scorched northern parts of Mole NP 1/2

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon c. chelicuti*

1 Mole NP 1/2

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica forbesi*

1 + 2 Ankasa 27-28/1, 1 + 2 + 2 in Mole NP 30/1 – 1/2

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

ssp. *senegalensis* Fairly common in the north, 17 seen in 4 days

ssp. *fuscopileus* Fairly common in the south, 21 seen in 6 days

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta ferrugineus*

2 Shai hills 23/1

White-bellied Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster bowdleri*

1 + 2 Ankasa 27-28/1

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus galerita*

3 Brenu beach road 28/1, 1 + 2 + 4 Mole NP 30/1 – 1/2

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo q. quadribrachys*

2 Ankasa 28/1

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle r. rudis*

Almost 30 Sakumono lagoon 23/1 (16 sitting in one dead tree!), 10 Abrafu - Nsuta 26/1, 3-4 Cape Coast 26/1, 2 Ankobra river 27/1, 2 Brenu beach road 28/1 and 1 near Bonkro 29/1

Blue-headed Bee-eater *Merops muelleri mentalis*

6 beautiful, hawking bee-eaters in Atewa hills 4/2

Black Bee-eater *Merops g. gularis*

4 Antwikwaa 25/1, 4 + 2 Nsuta forest 26-27/1

Little Bee-eater *Merops p. pusillus*

16 seen in 9 days, both in the south and north

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops b. bulocki*

Common Mole NP 30/1 - 1/2 colonies with >100 ind. seen

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

Seen 8 days, one flock in Ankasa >70

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

10 Shai hills 23/1, 1 near Bonkro 29/1 and 4 Mole NP 1/2

Rosy Bee-eater *Merops malimbicus*

6 Kakum 24/1, 5 Antwikwaa 25/1, 40+ in one tree Abrafu forest 26/1 and 4 Nsuta forest 27/1

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

2 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Purple Roller *Coracias n. naevius* (Rufous-crowned Roller)

1 Mole NP 1/2 and 1 N Kintampo 2/2

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*

6 + 10 + 4 + 1 Mole NP and vicinities 30/1 – 2/2



The strikingly beautiful Blue-bellied Roller, N Kintampo 2/2

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*

3 Shai hills 23/1 and 3 between Fufulsu junction and Kintampo 2/2

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus g. gularis*

13 seen in 5 days, Kakum, Abrafu, Nsuta, Ankasa and Bobiri

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus afer*

1 Accra at our first hotel 23/1, 3 Mole NP 1/2 and 1 between Bobiri and Atewa 3/2

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus c. castaneiceps*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Bobiri 3/2 and 1 Atewa hills 4/2

White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus b. bollei*

2 Kakum NP 24/1

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus guineensis*

6 + 8 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus a. aterrimus*

2 + 1 Mole NP 30/1 and 1/2

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

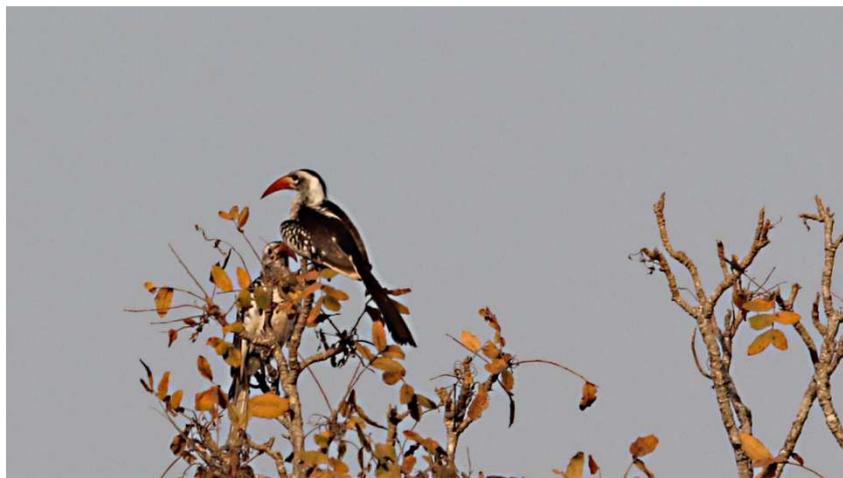
3 Mole NP 31/1

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus semifasciatus*

Common in the south, seen 7 days

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus n. nasutus*

1 Shai hills 23/1, 10 + 3 4 + 20 in Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2 and a few seen Mole-Kumasi 2/2 and also Bobiri-Atewa 3/2



The Red-billed Hornbill in northern parts of Mole NP 31/1

Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

2 Mole NP 31/1 and 3 Mole-Kintampo 2/2

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus*

1 heard Nsuta forest 26/1, 1 Ankasa 27/1 and 1 seen well in Bobiri 3/2

White-crested Hornbill *Tropicranus albocristatus macrourus*

1 heard Kakum NP 24/1, also Abrafu forest 25/1 and Nsuta forest 26/1. 3 seen Nsuta forest 27/1 and again 3 seen in Bobiri 3/2

Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes f. fistulator*

20 seen Nsuta forest 26/1 and 40 in the same forest 27/1

Brown-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes cylindricus*

3 seen Abrafu forest 25/1 and 1 there again 26/1

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*

3 Kakum NP in the evening twilight 24/1

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 1 heard Atewa hills 4/2

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli*

3 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 2 Bobiri 3/2

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco c. calvus*

2 Abrafu forest 25/1, 7 + 10 Nsuta forest 26-27/1

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus s. scolopaceus*

4 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 2 Aboabo 29/1

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1, 1 Bobiri 3/2 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus chrysopygus*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Aboabo 29/1, 1 Mole NP 31/1, 1 Bobiri 3/2 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus c. chrysoconus*

2 Shai hills 23/1, 1 + 1 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

4 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

Heard Abrafu forest 25/1, 1 seen Ankasa 27/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Bobiri 3/2



A pair of Vieillot's Barbets, Brenu beach road 28/1

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti rubescens*

1 Shai hills 23/1, 2 Brenu beach road 28/1 and 1 Atewa farmlands 4/2

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius b. bidentatus*

2 Shai hills 23/1

Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius*

1 + 1 Mole NP 30/1 and 1/2

Least Honeyguide *Indicator e. exilis*

1 heard and 1 seen in Bobiri 3/2

Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris ussheri*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor senegalensis*

1 Mole river 1/2

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

3 Mole river and NP 1/2

Little Green Woodpecker *Campethera maculosa*

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 2 Nsuta forest 27/1

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera n. nivosa*

1 Shai hills 23/1, 2 Aboabo 29/1, 2 Mole NP 31/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli arizela*

1 Abrafu forest 26/1

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens lafresnayi*

1 Mole NP 31/1

Melancholy Woodpecker *Dendropicos lugubris* (Gabon Woodpecker)
2 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Ankasa 28/1 and 1 Bobiri 3/2

Fire-bellied Woodpecker *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*
1 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 heard Abrafu forest 26/1, 2 at nightfall in a big tree in Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 3 Atewa range 4/2

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos g. goertae*
1 + 3 + 2 + 1 Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos o. obsoletus*
2 Mole NP 31/1

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis r. rufolateralis*
1 heard Antwikwaa 25/1 and a couple displaying Ankasa 28/1

West African Batis *Batis occulta* (Bioko Batis, Fernando Po Batis)
1 Aboabo 29/1

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*
2 Shai hills 23/1 and 1 Mole NP 1/2

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya blissetti*
1 Abrafu forest 26/1

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya castanea hormophora*
20 seen in 6 days (Kakum, Antwikwaa, Nsuta forest, Ankasa, Aboabo, Bonkro, Atewa farmlands and range)

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira c. cyanea* (Common Wattle-eye)
2 Shai hills 23/1 and 2 Mole NP 31/1

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus s. sabini*
2 Kakum NP 24/1

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus g. gambensis*
4 Shai hills 23/1, 1 Mole NP 2/2 and 3 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*
1 Abrafu forest 26/1

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Malaconotus m. multicolor*
1 seen and heard Atewa range 4/2



Singing Brubru in Mole NP 1/2

Brubru *Nilaus a. afer*

2 singing Mole NP 1/2

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*

3 Brenu beach road 28/1

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra s. senegalus*

1 Shai hills 23/1 and 4 Mole NP 31/1

Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius b. barbarus* (Common Gonolek)

Heard Winneba Plains 23/1, 2 seen Brenu beach road 28/1, 2 + 3 + 1 seen Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops p. plumatus*

3 Shai hills 23/1 and 6 Mole NP 2/2

Red-billed Helmetshrike *Prionops c. caniceps*

4 Abrafu forest 26/1, heard Bonkro 29/1, and 4 in Bobiri 3/2

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

1 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 2 Bobiri 3/2

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*

1 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Bonkro 29/1 and 1 Bobiri 3/2

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga q. quiscalina*

2 Bobiri forest 3/2

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*

A flock of 9 Shai hills 23/1

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris smithii*

Seen 7 days (totally c 100), mainly drier areas in S-C parts. During long bus drives we competed between the sides of the bus, which could see more Fiscals.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus a. auratus*

3 + 2 + 5 + 4 Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

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

1 Kakum 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 3-5 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

*A Black-winged Oriole in Kakum NP 24/1***Black-winged Oriole** *Oriolus nigripennis*

15 seen and/or heard in 7 days (Kakum, Antwikwaa, Abrafu, Nsuta, Ankasa, Aboabo and Bobiri)

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii sharpei*

4 Mole river 1/2

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 2 Ankasa 28/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis divaricatus*

4 + 10 + 3 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus coracinus atactus*

Seen 8 days in southern, wet forest

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens reichenowi*

1 Ankasa 28/1 and 3 Bonkro 29/1

Red-bellied Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer nigriceps*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Nsuta forest 26/1, 2 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 2 Atewa range 4/2

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis ferreti*
1 Mole NP 31/1

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia l. longicauda*
2 Mole river 1/2

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocercus mcallii nigeriae*
5 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 1 Bobiri 3/2

Piapiac *Ptilostomus afer*
2 Shai hills 23/1

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
Very common, in great numbers esp. in the south. Seen all days

Yellow-headed Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus* (White-necked Picathartes)
1 at the nestsite N Kakum NP 29/1, seen well and for a long while

Dusky Tit *Parus f. funereus*
2 Bobiri forest 3/2

White-shouldered Black Tit *Parus guineensis*
2 Shai hills 23/1 and 2 + 2 Mole NP 1 – 2/2

Tit-Hylia *Pholidornis rushiae ussheri*
1 Kakum NP 24/1, 6 Nsuta forest 26/1 and 2 Aboabo 29/1

Forest Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons waldroni*
6 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 2 Aboabo 29/1

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne n. nitens*
1 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 3 Ankasa 28/1

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*
1 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 2 Atewa range 4/2

House Martin *Delichon u. urbica*
1 Mole NP 30/1

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Common, seen 12 days

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo a. aethiopica*
3 shai hills 23/1, 2 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 1 Atewa 4/2

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo s. smithii*
5 + 5 + 1 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

White-bibbed Swallow *Hirundo nigrita* (White-throated Blue Swallow)
2 Pra river in Twifo Praso 25/1 and 4 (breeding under the bridge) Ankobra river
27/1

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica puella*
1 Kakum NP 24/1, 5 Nsuta forest 26/1, 3 near Ankasa 27/1 and 10 Aboabo-
Bonkro 29/1

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*
Ssp. *senegalensis* 1 Mole NP 30/1 and near Fufulsu junction 2/2
Ssp. *saturator* 1 Ankasa 28/1

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*
Ca 20 seen breeding in a culvert W of Kakum 25/1, 140 in one flock Brenu
beach road 28/1 and a few W Aboabo 29/1

Sun Lark *Galerida m. modesta*
10 Mole NP 31/1

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea buckleyi*
1 Winneba Plains 23/1 ?

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava melanorhyncha*
2 Shai hills 23/1, 3 Antwikwaa 25/1 and at least 1 Abrafu 26/1

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais e. erythropterus*
2 Winneba Plains 23/1

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola e. erythropterus*
1 at Rainforest Lodge 24/1, 1 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans swanzii*
1 Brenu beach road 28/1

Rufous Cisticola *Cisticola rufus*
2 Mole NP 31/1

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
1 Winneba Plains 23/1

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola l. lateralis*
3 Nsuta forest 26/1 and 1 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis strangei*
1 Winneba Plains 23/1 and 2 Brenu beach road 28/1

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola b.brachypterus* (Siffling Cisticola)
1 Shai hills 23/1

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*

1 heard Brenu beach road 28/1 and 1 seen well at a waterhole Mole NP 31/1

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida caniceps*

2 Mole NP 31/1

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis n. nigriceps*

2 Ankasa 28/1 and 5 Atewa range 4/2



Sharpe's Apalis in Kakum NP 24/1

Sharpe's Apalis *Apalis sharpii*

1 Kakum NP 24/1 heard Ankasa and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata tincta*

4 Shai hills 23/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Ankasa 28/1, 2 + 1 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1, 1 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota kelsalli*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus inornatus*

Very common, seen every day and everywhere!

Little Grey Greenbul *Andropadus gracilis extremus*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Nsuta forest 26/1, 1 Bonkro 29/1, 2 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 2 Atewa range 4/2

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus a. ansorgei*

2 Kakum NP 24/1

Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostri leoninus* (Cameroon Sombre Greenbul)

1 Antwikwaa 25/1

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus g. gracilirostris*

4 Kakum NP 24/1, 4 Antwikwaa 25/1, 4 Nsuta forest 27/1, 2 Ankasa 28/1 and 5 Aboabo 29/1

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris congener*

1 Kakum NP 24/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens erythropterus*

Over 30 seen in 6 days in the southern forests

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*

1 Ankasa 27/1

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator leucurus*

3 Kakum NP 24/1, Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Ankasa 28/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Bobiri forest 3/2

Yellow-throated Greenbul *Chlorocichla f. flavicollis* (Yellow-throated Leaflove)

3 Mole NP 1/2

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex* (Simple Leaflove)

1 Shai hills 23/1, 2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 4 Abrafu forest 26/1 Aboabo 29/1 and 2 Atewa farmlands

Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 4 Nsuta forest 27/1, 4 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Bobiri forest 3/2

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 4 Antwikwaa 25/1, 2 Ankasa 28/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus a. albigularis*

1 Kakum NP 24/1 and 1 Bobiri 3/2

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda s. syndactylus*

1 Kakum NP 24/1 and 1 Ankasa 28/1

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda c. canicapillus*

1 Abrafu forest 26/1

Western Bearded Greenbul *Criniger b. barbatus*

1 Ankasa NP 28/1

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus verreauxi*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 3 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Ankasa 28/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Yellow-bearded Greenbul *Criniger olivaceus*

1 Ankasa 28/1

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*

1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 2 Atewa range 4/2

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

1 Mole NP 31/1

Kemp's Longbill *Macrosphenus k. kempii*

1 Aboabo 29/1

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus c. concolor*

4 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 1 heard Ankasa 28/1

Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea nehrkorni*

2 Kakum NP 24/1 and 2 Nsuta forest 27/1

Green Hylia *Hylia p. prasina*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

2 Shai hills 23/1 and 1 Mole NP 31/1

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Mole NP 31/1, 1 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Garden Warbler *Sylvia b. borin*

1 Shai hills 23/1, 2 + 1 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2, 1 Atewa farmlands 3/2 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*

2 Shai hills 23/1 and 10 + 7 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps fantiensis*

5 Kakum NP 24/1

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla m. mentalis*

1 Mole NP 31/1

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens flaviventris*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 2 Abrafu forest 26/1, 2 Nsuta forest 27/1, 2 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 2 Atewa range 4/2

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti hardyi*

2 Kakum NP 24/1

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta b. brachyura*

2 Shai hills 23/1

Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis c. cleaveri*

1 heard Atewa range 4/2

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis p. puveli*

2 Abrafu forest 26/1

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis extrema*

1 Ankasa 28/1

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens gularis*

1 Aboabo 29/1

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii stictilaema*

2 Shai hills 23/1 and 4 + 4 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus platycirca*

4 + 3 Mole NP 30/1 – 1/2

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops s. senegalensis*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 4 Mole NP 1/2, 7 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 3 Atewa range 4/2

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus chrysonotis*

Seen 11 days in the south often 20-40 per day

Purple Starling *Lamprotornis p. purpureus*

2 Mole NP 1/2 and 30+ between Fufulsu junction and Kintampo 2/2

*Long-tailed Glossy Starling just outside the Mole NP 2/2***Long-tailed Glossy Starling** *Lamprotornis caudatus*

3 + 5 Mole NP and just outside 31/1 and 2/2

Copper-tailed Starling *Hylopsar cupreocauda*

18 seen in 6 days (Kakum, Antwikwaa, Abrafu, Nsuta, Ankasa and Aboabo)

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus l. leucogaster*

2 Abrafu forest 26/1

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus h. hartlaubii* (Forest Chestnut-winged Starling)

20 Kakum NP 24/1, 5 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1, 2 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Finsch's Rufous Thrush *Stizorhina finschi* (Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush)

Heard Kakum NP 24/1 and Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 seen Aboabo 29/1 and 2 heard Atewa range 4/2

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

Ssp. *saturatus* 1 Shai hills 23/1

Ssp. *chiguancoides* 2 Mole NP 31/1

White-tailed Alethe *Alethe diademata* (Fire-crested Alethe)

2 Antwikwaa 25/1

White-tailed Rufous Thrush *Neocossyphus p. poensis* (White-tailed Ant-thrush)

1 Ankasa 28/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris coronata*

3 Shai hills 23/1

Western Forest Robin *Stiphornis erythrothorax* (Forest Robin)

1 heard Ankasa 28/1

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat *Cossypha c. cyanocampter*

3 Abrafu forest 26/1, seen well by half the group

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha n. niveicapilla*

4 Shai hills 23/1 and 2 Mole NP 31/1

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapillus giffardi*

4 Mole river 1/2

Forest Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas l. leucosticta*

2 Atewa range 4/2

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

2 Winneba Plains 23/1

White-fronted Black Chat *Pentholaea albifrons frontalis*

1 pair Mole NP 31/1

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata prosphorus*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 2 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 1 Aboabo 29/1

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis e. edolioides*

2 Shai hills 23/1 1 + 2 + 2 + 1 Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus modestus*

3 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 2 + 6 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

22 seen in 5 days (Shai hills, Brenu beach road, Mole NP and Atewa farmlands)

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa a. aquatica*

2 Mole NP 31/1

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

1 Ankasa 28/1

Little Grey Flycatcher *Muscicapa epulata*

1 Atewa range 4/2

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata aximensis*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 4 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Ankasa 28/1 and 4 Bobiri forest 3/2

Tessmann's Flycatcher *Muscicapa tessmanni*

1 Ankasa 28/1 and 3 Aboabo 29/1

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae*

1 at close range at the Mole Hotel lookout 31/1

Ussher's Flycatcher *Muscicapa ussheri*

4 Kakum NP 24/1, 15 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 5 Aboabo 29/1

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis parelii* (Grey-throated Flycatcher)

Heard Nsuta forest 27/1, 4 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 4 Atewa range 4/2

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus p. plumbeus* (Lead-coloured Flycatcher)

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 + 1 Mole NP 30 – 31/1 and 4 Atewa range 4/2

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

5 Shai hills 23/1 and 2 + 6 + 5 Mole NP 30/1 – 1/2

Fraser's Sunbird *Deleornis fraseri idius*

2 Kakum NP 24/1, 3 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 4 Atewa range 4/2

Mangrove Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus* (Brown Sunbird)

2 Ankobra river 27/1

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi kruensis*

10 Kakum NP 24/1 and 1 Bonkro 29/1

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

3 Kakum NP 24/1 and 2 Antwikwaa 25/1

Collared Sunbird *Anthodiaeta collaris subcollaris*

Seen 7 days in southern forests

Pygmy Sunbird *Anthodiaeta platara*

2 + 4 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris v. venustus*

2 Mole NP 31/1

Reichenbach's Sunbird *Anabathmis reichenbachii*

3 Ankobra river 27/1

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra v. verticalis*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 3 Ankasa 28/1

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema magnirostrata*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 4 Abrafu forest 26/1, 4 Nsuta forest 27/1, 2 Ankasa 28/1 and 3 Aboabo 29/1

Western Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra obscura* (Olive Sunbird)

1 Kakum NP 24/1, >4 Antwikwaa 25/1, 4 Abrafu forest 26/1, 3 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Bobiri forest 3/2

Buff-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra a. adelberti*

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 1 Bobiri forest 3/2

Carmelite Sunbird *Chalcomitra fuliginosa aurea*

3 Half Assini 27/1

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra s. senegalensis*

10 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris c. chloropygius*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 3 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 2 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris m. minullus*

2 Nsuta forest 27/1, 3 Ankasa 28/1, 5 Aboabo 29/1 and 4 Bobiri forest 3/2

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris p. pulchellus*

1 + 2 + 5 Mole NP 30/1 – 1/2

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigaster*

>1 Shai hills 23/1, 1 near Nsuta forest 27/1, 3 Brenu beach road 28/1 and 1 + 1 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae fasciatus*

1 Kakum NP 24/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1,
2 Ankasa 28/1, 2 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus ashantiensis*

2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1, 5 Aboabo 29/1 and
2 Bobiri forest 3/2

Bates' Sunbird *Cinnyris batesi*

3 Aboabo 29/1

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris c. cupreus*

1 Shai hills 23/1, 2 Ankasa 28/1 and 1 Mole NP 1/2

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

2 + >25 + 3 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer g. griseus*

Seen 12 days in small numbers

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*

Fairly common Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons capitalba* (Grosbeak Weaver)

3 Kakum NP 24/1, 4 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 3 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Little Weaver *Ploceus l. luteolus*

1 Mole NP 31/1

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis brachypterus*

>30 seen 6 days in the south

Orange Weaver *Ploceus a. aurantius*

At least 8 in small colony near Half Assini 27/1, and another 8 near river estuary
W Sekondi.

Village Weaver *Ploceus c. cucullatus*

Fairly common seen 7 days in most parts visited



Vieillot's Black Weaver near nest W Kakum 25/1

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus castaneofuscus*

Seen 7 days in the south

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus t. tricolor*

10 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Antwikwaa 25/1, 3 Nsuta forest 27/1, 2 Aboabo 29/1
10+ Bobiri

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus a. albinucha*

2 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 6 Atewa range 4/2

Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi* (Golden-backed Weaver)

2 Antwikwaa 25/1

Compact Weaver *Pachyphantes superciliosus*

5 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus s. scutatus*

4 Abrafu forest 26/1, 3 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 5 Aboabo 29/1

Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens* (Grey's Malimbe)

6 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 4 Ankasa 28/1

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis bartletti*

6 seen Kakum NP 24/1, 4 Antwikwaa 25/1, at least 4 Nsuta forest 27/1, 2 Bobiri forest 3/2 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus nigrifrons*

1 Abrafu forest 25/1 and 1 Atewa range 4/2

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps leuconotos*

2 Mole river 1/2

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*

Large flocks in Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2, more than 1000 1/2

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes h. hordeaceus*

1 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 2 Atewa farmlands 3/2

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes f. franciscanus*

34 Mole NP 31/1

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes m. macroura*

20 Winneba Plains 23/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1 and 5 Brenu beach road 28/1

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus uropygialis* (White-breasted Negrofinch)

4 Kakum NP 24/1, 2 Abrafu forest 25/1, 1 Nsuta forest 27/1 and 2 Atewa range 4/2

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita b. bicolor* (Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch)

1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 4 Ankasa 28/1, 1 Aboabo 29/1 and 1 Atewa farmland 3/2

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus emiliae* (Grey-headed Negrofinch)

Seen 8 days, totally 24 ind. All in southern forests/bushlands

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia p. pphoenicoptera*

>10 + 3 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus rothschildi*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga h. haematina*

1 Antwikwaa 25/1 and 1 Abrafu forest 26/1

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta r. rufopicta*

6 Brenu beach road 28/1, 4 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta s. senegala*

6 Mole NP 31/1

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricate poionota* (Blue-billed Firefinch)

2 Abrafu forest 26/1

Black-throated Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata togoensis* (Black-faced Firefinch)

2 Mole NP 1/2

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

3 + 4 + 20 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2, best viewed close to Mole Hotel, breeding in bushes close to the pool and foraging near the lookout

Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda caerulescens*

3 of this sublimely coloured species Mole NP 31/1

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda m. melpoda*

6 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 6 + 6 Mole np 31/1 – 1/2 and >20
Atewa farmland 4/2

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes c. cucullata*

Seen 10 days, in hundreds in Atewa farmlands 3 – 4/2

Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes b. bicolor*

Seen 6 days in the south, often as many or more than Bronze Mannikins

Wilson's Indigobird *Vidua wilsoni*

2 (one pair) Mole NP 31/1

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

>10 Abrafu forest 26/1 and >20 Mole NP 31/1

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*

4 males Mole NP 31/1 + several females this or next species

Togo Paradise Whydah *Vidua togoensis*

2 males Mole NP 31/1

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

1 in N part of Mole NP 31/1

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys zenkeri*

2 Winneba Plains 23/1 and 4 Brenu beach road 28/1

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

2 Winneba Plains 23/1

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp vidua*

Seen 8 days, in total 14 ind.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

3 Sakumono lagoon 23/1, 1 Antwikwaa 25/1, 1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 4 Brenu
beach road 28/1 and 1 Atewa farmland 4/2

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus caniceps*

7 + 12 + 1 Mole NP 31/1 – 2/2

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi goslingi*

1 Mole NP 31/1

Mammal List Ghana 2012-01-23 – 02-04

The taxonomy follows Don E. Wilson & DeeAnn M. Reeder (editors). 2005. Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference (3rd ed), Johns Hopkins University Press. Accessed at <http://www.bucknell.edu/msw3/>.

Western Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

Heard Kakum NP 24/1, Abrafu forest 25/1, Nsuta forest 26/1 and Ankasa 27/1

Bush Elephant *Loxodonta a. africana*

10 + 6 seen at close range (22 meters) in Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2, 4 old bulls and 2 calves

Forest Elephant *Loxodonta africana cyclotus*

Tracks from this tiny elephant seen in Ankasa NP 27 - 28/1

Prince Demidoff's Bushbaby *Galago demidoff*

Heard Kakum NP 24/1, Abrafu forest 25/1, Nsuta forest 26/1, 1 seen 3 heard Ankasa 27/1

Senegal Galago *Galago senegalensis*

1 seen in bushes in N Mole NP 1/2

Lowe's Mona Monkey *Cercopithecus lowei*

Heard Kakum NP 24/1 and Ankasa 27/1

Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus petaurista*

3-5 Shai hills 23/1 and >1 Kakum NP 24/1



Green Monkey in Mole NP 31/1

Green (Callithrix) Monkey *Chlorocebus sabaesus*
6-8 Shai hills 23/1 and 10 + 10 + 5 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Patras Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*
>50 Mole NP 1/2, travelling through the bushland at high speed

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*
3 Shai hills 23/1 and 50-100 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Olive Colobus *Procolobus verus*
Heard Kakum NP 24/1

Striped Ground Squirrel *Euxeres erythropus*
1 Abrafu forest 26/1, 1 female and two young crossing the Brenu beach road 27/1 and 1 + 2 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Kintampo Rope Squirrel *Funisciururs substriatus*
1 Mole NP 1/2

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus pyrropus*
Heard Antwikwaa 25/1, >1 Nsuta forest 27/1, 1 Atewa farmland 3/2 and 6 Atewa range 4/2

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*
1 Antwikwaa 25/1

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciururs gambianus*
2 seen Abrafu forest 25/1

Green Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus poensis*
Heard Abrafu forest 26/1, Nsuta forest 27/1 and 1 seen Ankasa 28/1

Forest Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*
1 heard Kakum NP 24/1 and 1 seen Abrafu forest 25/1

Pel's Anomalure *Anomalururs peli*
1 sitting still in a high tree Abrafu forest 25/1

Greater Cane Rat *Thryonomys swinderianus* (Marsh Cane Rat)
1 Mole airstrip 31/1

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*
1 at Mole Hotel 30/1

Hammer Bat *Hypsignathus monstrosus*
This big bat was seen 1 in Nsuta forest 26/1 and 2 Ankasa 27/1

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinae*
1 Ankasa 28/1

Common Cusimanse *Crossarchus obscurus*

1 uncertain Abrafu forest 26/1 and 4 along the path Atewa range 4/2

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*

Heard over the Savannah at night 1/2

Blotched Genet *Genetta tigrina*

Seen fairly well in dense trees in Mole NP 3-5 31/1 and 1 1/2, while looking for Pel's Fishing Owl without success

Leopard *Panthera pardus*

The discovery of it described in the diary, seen at very close range 31/1. One of the highlights of the trip!

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

8 + 50 + >50 + 10 Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2



Bushbuck with huge ears Mole NP 30/1

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*

4 + 15 + 15 + 5 Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

Maxwell's Duiker *Cephalophus maxwelli*

1 heard Kakum 24/1 and 1 seen Ankasa 27/1

Roan Antelope *Hippotragus equinus*

1 + 14 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

7 + 1 Mole NP 31/1 – 1/2

Kob *Kobus kob*

>10 + 100 + >50 + 50 Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2



A male kob guarding his territory in Mole NP 31/1

Reptile List Ghana 2012-01-23 – 02-04

Dwarf Crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis*

At least 4 Ankasa 27 – 28/1

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

Between 5 and 25 seen in Mole NP 30/1 – 2/2

Gaboon Viper *Bitis gabonica*

1 juvenile on the track from the canopy boardwalk in Kakum NP 24/1

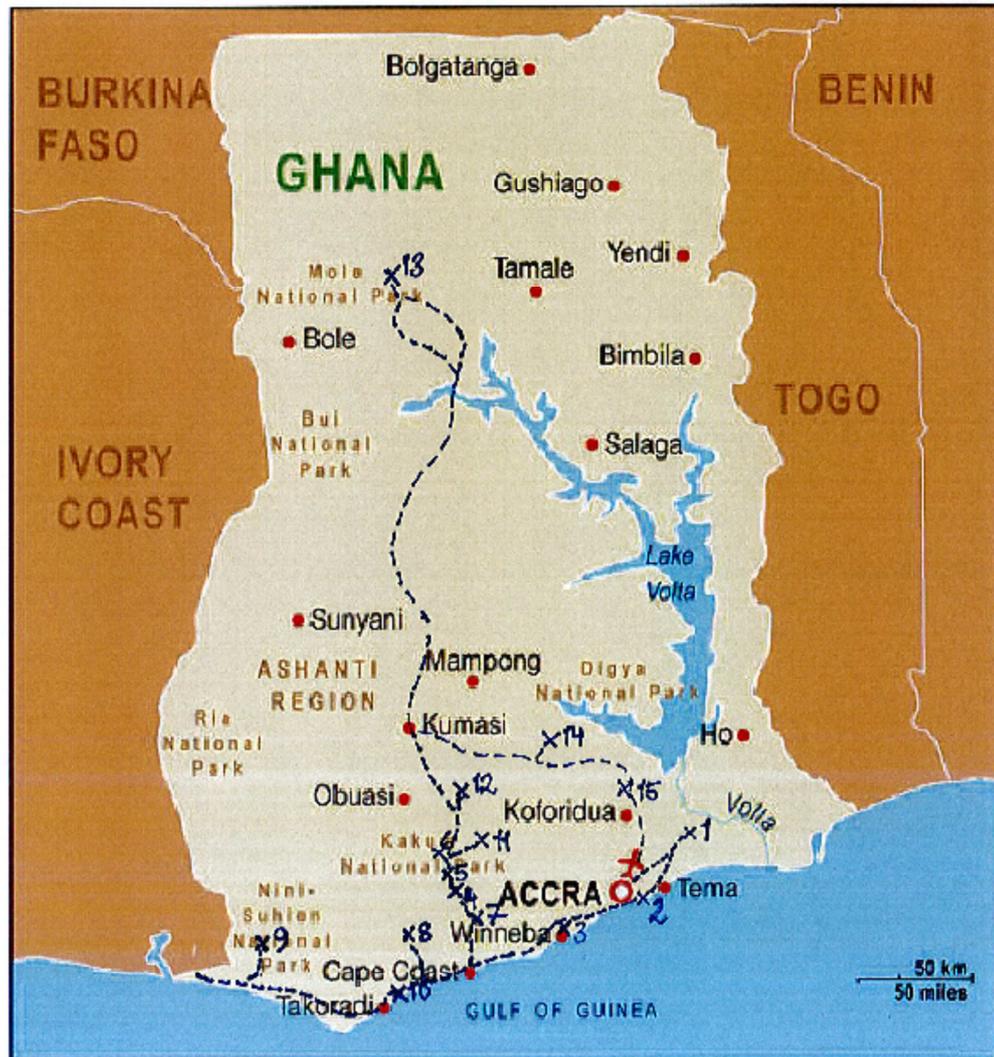
Puffadder *Bitis arietans*

One big specimen slowly crawling over the track at nightfall 1/2, in Mole NP



A Nile Crocodile waiting for prey, Mole NP 31/1

Where we watched birds in Ghana 2012



Map of approximate bird tour of Ghana, with numbers corresponding to the itinerary on page 2.

1. **Shai Hills Production Reserve.** Easily accessible reserve close to Accra. Lying on the main road NE of the capital, it consists of dry areas in the Dahomey Gap, and contains some hills, with dense bushlands below. Around these bushes, the land is usually burnt in the dry season, and few trees surround the reserve. The open areas produce raptors, wildfowl, rollers etc., while the bushlands hold lots of passerines, and monkeys live in the hillsides.
2. **Sakumono Lagoon.** Squeezed in between Accra and the bustling port of Tema, the lagoon is very good for watching wintering waders, storks, herons and more. The road is a good vantage point to overlook the site.
3. **Winneba Plains.** An area of dry coastal plains, with scattered bushes and burnt grasslands. We did not have a lot of time in the area, so the result wasn't impressive, but some species like Senegal Lapwing. Yellow-throated Longclaw and Yellow-crowned Gonolek are probably always possible to see.
4. **Kakum Canopy Walk.** A tremendous experience to walk almost 40 meters up in the very productive secondary rainforest of Kakum. After a short walk through the forest you enter the boardwalk, which travels between the ground and six big trees, with platforms at most of these. You can easily stand 4-6 birdwatchers with cameras and a couple of scopes and enjoy the birdlife in the canopy and below. Make sure you get the possibility to climb it at dawn and dusk, with more birds and less other people. You will see lots of raptors, hornbills, bee-eaters, barbets, apalis and greenbuls.
5. **Antwikwaa.** This spot of secondary forest, with a few huge trees left in an otherwise cultivated part outside the Kakum NP, can produce several memorable sightings. Black Bee-eaters are almost certainly seen, and raptors, hornbill, cuckoos and small finches abounded.
6. **Praa river.** At the small town of Twifo Praso, the Praa river is crossed by a bridge. It presents good opportunities to see the otherwise difficult Rock Pratincole well, and can also show White-throated Blue Swallows.
7. **Abrafu forest.** Further south, but still on the western verge of the Kakum national park, the Abrafu forest also houses lots of birds, among them hornbills, e.g. Brown-cheeked, as well as nightjars and bee-eaters. A couple of tricky skulking birds were the highlights of our visit, the marvelous imitator, the Blue-shouldered Robin-chat and the ground-dwelling Puvél's Illadopsis. The gravel road provides good vantage points for observing the birds.
8. **Nsuta forest.** Going down to the coast road, slightly to the west, then northwards again, navigating some terrible dirt roads, there is an area with lots of old trees still remaining, though there seem to be some heavy logging going on. There are still good populations of rainforest species in

the area, and we saw hornbills (Piping, White-crested and Red-billed Dwarf among those), Black Bee-eaters, Blue Cuckoo-shrike and more.

9. Ankasa National Park. This big national park lies close to the Ivory Coast border, and consists of an undulating landscape of virgin rainforest – very rare lowland pristine Upper Guinean rainforest – with ponds and wetlands. The bird-watching was difficult in the mostly dense undergrowth, but the former road and the ponds created good spots for bird-watching. Birds include Hartlaub's Duck, Crested Guinea fowl, Ahanta Francolin, Nkulengu Rail, Dwarf Bittern, Rufous-sided Broadbill, kingfishers et cetera.

10. Brenu Beach road. Between Sekondi and Cape Coast, there is a road stretching down to Brenu Beach from the main road. This area holds dryland species and also has some wetlands and watercourses. The birds that can be found include Oriole Warbler, cisticolas, herons, barbets and swallows.

11. Aboabo Forest. North of the Kakum NP, there is a road, along which you can find the Aboabo forest. The birding is good, and among others Bates' Sunbird, Red-billed Helmetshrike, cuckoos and White-spotted Flufftail can be seen. The secondary rainforest in the area is among the better you can see, and some parts of forest were almost in pristine condition.

12. Yellow-headed Picathartes nestsite. North of Kakum NP, one of the few known breeding places for the Yellow-headed Picathartes lies close to a small village. The villagers are working as guides, showing this spectacular bird to people like us. Just an hour's walk, and a steep climb up, you find a cave in which the peculiar nests of the Picathartes are fitted to the ceiling. Following the guidelines from the local guides, you can with certainty get a good view of the species.

13. Mole National Park. The park, which is almost 5 000 km² and the biggest protected area in Ghana, is mainly flat Guinea savannah. This type of savannah is often burnt, but has quite a lot of trees. At the park headquarters, in the south, there is a sharp escarpment on top of which there is a hotel with an amazing view of the park. Beneath the escarpment lies an area of waterholes and watercourses with riverine forests. The birdwatching can be spectacular, and vultures, eagles and hawks abound, and rollers, kingfishers, bee-eaters, sunbirds, larks, small finches and waxbills can be seen. Without competition the best place to watch the savannah species, the park also boasts good populations of Elephants, Kob and Roan antelopes, Bushbucks, Waterbucks and Warthogs, with even chances of seeing Leopard (as we did) and Buffalo. There are several trails and roads in the park, and armed guides to guide you on these.

14. Bobiri butterfly sanctuary. A fairly small protected area of dense secondary forest with some big trees still standing. With a bit of luck, the

area can produce Long-tailed Hawk, hornbills, parrots, malimbés, honeyguides and wood-hoopoes. There is also a chance of spotting Narina's Trogon and several other species along the narrow trails.

15. Atewa Range and adjacent farmlands. The steep slopes of the Atewa range, are surrounded by variable farmland, with an interesting mix of species, lying on the edge of the Dahomey gap, between the dry savannah and the wet forest. On the top of the ridge, there is some forest remaining, and from a vantage point to the east, there is a trail leading up to the top. Along this you can see cuckoos, raptors, barbets, Narina's Trogon, Blue-headed Bee-eater and Chocolate-backed Kingfisher. We did not see one special species, the Nimba Flycatcher on our tour, but it can be seen here at its only locality in Ghana. The climb up the hill can be fairly arduous, especially if the weather is hot and humid, so lot of water, and a slow pace is recommended.