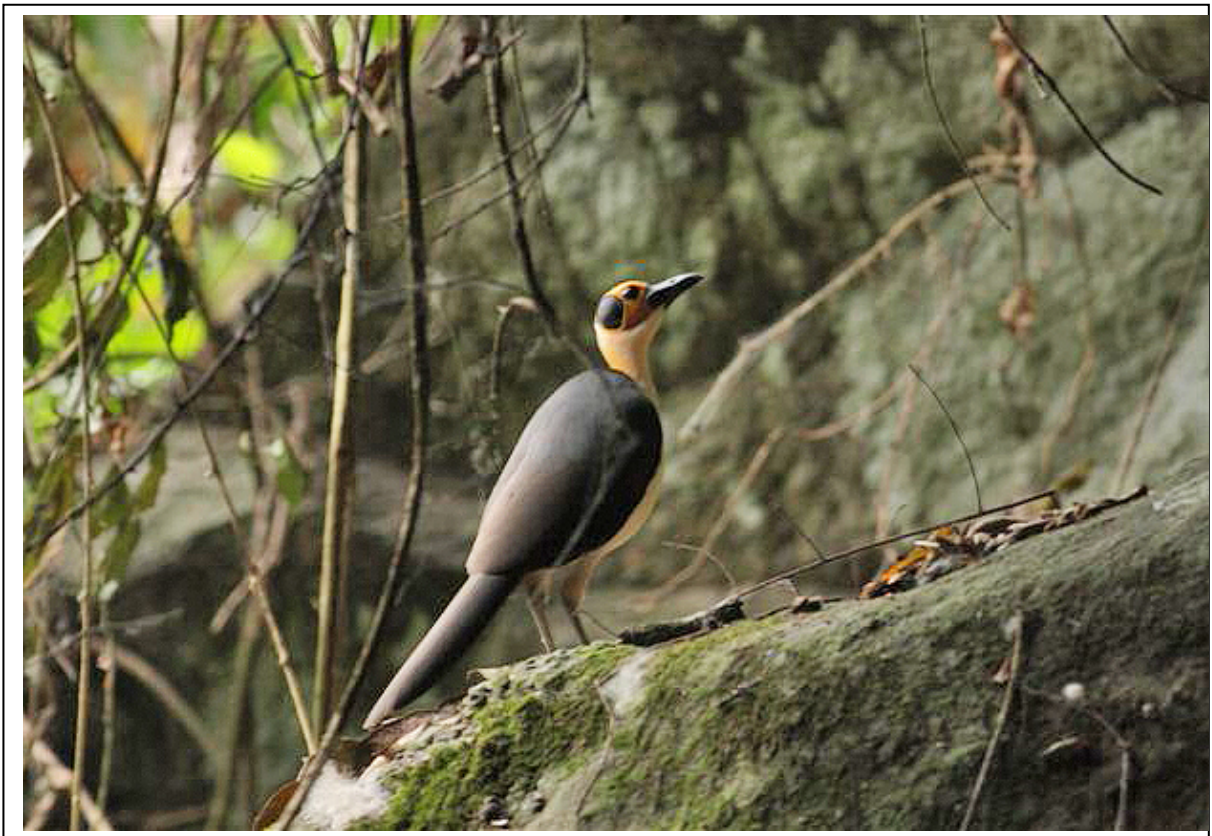


**Birdwatching in  
Southern Ghana  
7<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010**



**Erling Krabbe, Alex Rosendal,  
Hans Wulfsberg and Niels Riis**

**Trip report compiled by Erling Krabbe and Alex Rosendal**

# Contents

## **Introduction**

## **Itinerary**

## **Diary**

**Site description:** Wenneba Plains  
Ankasa National Park  
Brenu Plains  
Kakum NP  
Atewa Forest Reserve  
Bobiri Forest Reserve  
Keta Lagoon and surroundings  
Shai Hills  
Sakumo Lagoon

## **List of bird observations**

## **List of mammal and reptile observations**

## **European migratory birds**

## **Awards of the trip**

## **Contact**

*Photos by Erling Krabbe (EKR), Niels Riis (NSR) and Alex Rosendal (ARO)*  
*Cover photo of Yellow-headed Rockfowl by Erling Krabbe*

# Introduction

**By Alex Rosendal**

Imagine colourful bee-eaters, extremely rare Picathartes, brownish cisticolas, whistling orioles, fantastic sunbirds, soaring raptors, incredible weavers, strange hornbills, fabulous owls, unbelievable skulkers, blackish drongos, difficult greenbulbs and fast spinetails. This and a lot more is what Ghana can offer a birdwatcher.

From the coast and lagoons through rainforest to forest savannah and bush savannah Ghana offers you over 750 different species, but do not expect to see more than 400 on a 2 weeks trip.

Ghana is a safe country with extremely friendly people, fantastic scenery, good infrastructure and English is spoken everywhere. It has a lot of national parks, forest reserves, protected wetlands, lakes and rivers. Unfortunately, the facilities for tourists are not well developed yet. You sometimes have to drive more than one hour, for instance to Ankasa NP, to get to the places.

We were four keen, Danish birdwatchers, who decided to go birdwatching along the coast and explore the rainforest and the coastal wetlands from west to east.

The team consisted of the following:

**Niels Riis**, biologist, vice chairman of Danish Ornithological Society (DOF). Niels is a member of the African bird migrant working group of DOF, that a.o. investigates the presence of European migrants in Ghana. Niels has visited Ghana before, on a research trip in 2008. He started this trip one week earlier than the rest of us, by travelling through Mali and Burkina Faso before we met up in Ghana. Very talkative and entertaining.

**Hans Wulffsberg**, doctor, with a specialty in circus people! Hans has been working in different parts of Africa as a doctor, a.o. with AIDS victims, but this was his first trip to Western Africa. Hans is an allround person, with a great interest in all natural history. A great travel companion.

**Erling Krabbe**: Biologist, working for many years at the Danish Forest and Nature Agency, under the Ministry of Environment. Erling visited Ghana back in 1977 on a private birding tour, as his first of many visits to Africa, and he had seen most of the places we went to. Erling, with his famous birding brother Niels, has visited birding hotspots around the world, and has an impressive world list of 5000+

Erling loves nature, as has a great knowledge of birds, mammals, insects etc. A great travel companion.

**Alex Rosendal**: Architect, with a life long interest in birds. Likewise Niels, Alex had been on a research trip to Ghana in 2009, visiting the Northern Parts with Ghana Wildlife Society, and also spent a couple of days in Kakum NP.

Alex has visited 5 continents, and rounded his World list species no. 2500 during this trip.

**Planning and acknowledgements:** We planned the trip ourselves, more or less in collaboration with Augustus Asamoah from the Ghana Wildlife Society. Augustus gave us good advice on choice of localities, and arranged booking of car, driver, accommodation etc. A great many thanks to Augustus for his invaluable help and big work on this. As our bird guide during the trip we were lucky to have Ghana's "Grand Old Man" within ornithology with us, David Tampori Daramani. David was a quiet, but very competent birder. Probably the best birding guide in Ghana. Also a great thanks to him, who had to listen to so much talking in Danish during 14 days.

Also thanks our excellent driver Tex, who took us safely through the country, and who was a very enjoyable person.

Finally, many thanks to David Hoddinott, Rockjumper Birding Tours, for his generous information before the trip about where to find the difficult species, and good advice about the localities.

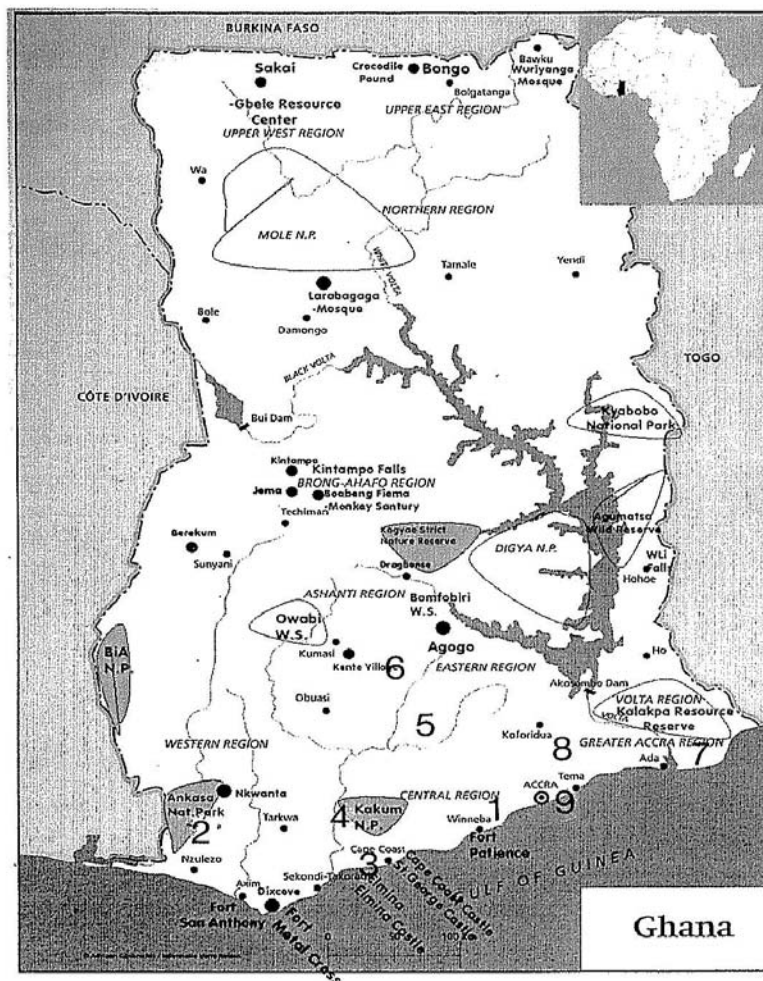
**DOF's Ghana project:** In short, DOF (Danish Ornithological Society) wishes to reveal the reasons for the severe decline of a number of European-African migrants. Therefore, we have initiated cooperation with Ghana Wildlife Society, running bird counts and a bird ringing project during the winter months in the Northern parts of Ghana, around Tono Dam and Damongo Forest Reserve. The project was initiated in December 2008, and has through two seasons so far already given us new and valuable knowledge about the presence of migrating birds. The project will be further developed, and hopefully carried on many years ahead.

**Recommendations:** A number of bird travel agencies arrange trips to Ghana, but in fact it is a rather easy country to travel in. So, you can relatively easy plan your own trip and hire a guide. Contact for instance GWS, Malimbetours with David Tampori Daramani as a guide, or Ashanti Tours or others. Ghana is a big country, so if you are a little short of time you will have to prioritise. Kakum NP and Mole NP are "musts" combined for instance with Sakumo Lagoon, Shai Hills, Picathartes site, Atewa Range, Bobiri FS and Wenneba Plains.

# Itinerary

Date	Lodging Place	Activity	Remarks
<b>Sun, Feb 7</b>	Accra/ Wenneba	<b>Arrive 21.30 and lodge in west of Accra</b>	Meet Hans + Erling+ Alex
Mon, Feb 8	Axim	Wenneba Plains etc. Meet Niels. Bird watch along the way to Axim, (Cape 3 points + rainforest	Niels Seabirds
Tues, Feb 9	Axim	Early morning and afternoon birdwatch in Ankasa Park	Forest Birds
Wed, Feb 10	Hans Cottage	Early Morning Bird watching in Ankasa Park  Travel to Cape Coast in the afternoon. Stops on the way. Visit to Brenu Plains	Forest Birds  Woodland birds and Preuss's Cliff Swallow
Thurs, Feb 11	Hans Cottage	Early Morning bird watching on the Canopy Walkway at Kakum National Park Afternoon Bird watch in the surrounding areas of Kakum Park	Forest Birds
Fri, Feb 12	Hans Cottage	Early Morning bird watching Park at the north of Kakum Park (Aboabo). Afternoon Bird watching at Bonkro	Forest Birds  Yellow-headed Picathartes
Sat, Feb 13	Hans Cottage	Early Morning bird watching in Antwikwaa. Visit to Pra River. Afternoon Bird watching in the surrounding areas of Kakum Park. In the evening we look for nightjars, rails, owls.	Forest Birds Rock Pratincole, w.h.Plover Forest and Woodland birds
Sun, Feb 14	Asiakwa	Early Morning bird watching on the Canopy Walkway at Kakum National Park Travel to Atewa through Accra	Forest Birds  Niels goes back to DK
Mon, Feb 15	Asiakwa	Early Morning and afternoon in Atewa Forest Area	Forest Birds
Tue, Feb 16	Bobiri	Early morning Bird watch at Atewa Forest Travel to Bobiri FR	Forest Birds
Weds, Feb 17	Volya	Bird watching in Bobiri FR Long drive to Keta Lagoon.	Waterbirds
Thur Feb 18	Shai Hills	Bird watching around Keta Lagoon. Afternoon at Shai Hills.	Waterbirds
Fri, Feb 19		Early Morning bird watching at Shai Hills Reserve Afternoon birdwatching at Sakumo Lagoon <b>Depart for Denmark 23.30</b>	Savannah and woodland birds Waterbirds

## Map of Ghana and visited sites



- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Wenneba Plains       | 6. Bobiri Forest Reserve        |
| 2. Ankasa National Park | 7. Keta Lagoon and surroundings |
| 3. Brenu Plains         | 8. Shai Hills                   |
| 4. Kakum NP             | 9. Sakumo Lagoon                |
| 5. Atewa Forest Reserve |                                 |

# Diary

By Erling Krabbe

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Arriving in Ghana

After a delightful breakfast in the VIP-lounge at Alex' treat, we departed in the morning from Kastrup Airport in Copenhagen, Denmark towards Ghana. Participants: Alex Rosendal, Hans Wulffsberg and Erling Krabbe.

After a transit in London, we arrived at Accra airport, Ghana in the evening, at 21.30 pm local time. Compared to the polar winter we came from at home, we bumped into a "sauna" of hot, humid, tropical climate, of app. 25-30 degrees. Welcome to Africa!

Erling changed money in the airport on behalf of all of us, and got an enormous heap of greasy, local currency, Cedi, in his hand, impossible to count. It turned out afterwards, that he was cheated by a value equivalent of 20 euros.

We were met by Alex's contact from Ghana Wildlife Society, Augustus Asamoah, and our driver Tex. They took us in an excellent minibus – our vehicle during the next 12 days - to the office of the Wildlife Society, where we dropped off Augustus.

Our bird guide for the trip was going to be Mr. David Tampori Daramani, a principal programmes assistant from GWS. David would meet us the next morning. It turned out that David is "Grand Old Man" within Ghanian ornithology, and has taught everyone else to watch birds in Ghana, including Augustus. And apart from his great birding skills, David turned out to be a wonderful personality, and we were happily honoured by his company and excellent guiding for the rest of the trip.

We continued to our accommodation for the night, the Atlantic Resort Hotel on the outskirts of Accra, towards the west. A nice but rather expensive place near the sea, placed in open countryside. After our check-in, we enjoyed a cold beer under the starlights, listening to the African night sounds, including a couple of African Scops Owl calling from the trees near the reception, some Senegal Thick-knees flying over, and an unidentified nightjar.

## Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Wenneba Plains, welcome to Niels, and a long drive to Axim

The journey has started.

We got up early, and did an hours birding around the hotel area from 5:30 to 6:30 on a beautiful morning, and saw our first African birds. Among others, a Senegal Parrot and a Grey Hornbill showed well. A Gabar Goshawk perched on a wire patiently let us study it thoroughly through the scope.

We were ready to go, our excellent guide David showed up, and we drove towards Wenneba Plains, a coastal grass and wetland area west of Accra. This turned out to be quite rewarding: Full of weavers, cisticolas, swallows, waxbills, whinchat, but the bird of the morning was a fine Oriole Warbler, calling and showing in a dense ticket along a stream.

We continued towards the coastal lagoon, Wenneba Lagoon, to look for shorebirds until midday.

Meanwhile, our fourth participant during the coming week, Niels Riis, had patiently been waiting for us for one hour at a meeting place along the highway close to the lagoon, and we

eventually met up with him. Niels came directly from a one week daring adventure by his own, starting by exploring the large freshwater deltas of the inner Niger River in central Mali from a fishing canoe, then travelling to the Dogon country and on a strenuous trip by public transport all the way through Burkina Faso, where he almost got killed by a charging elephant in the Nazinga Ranch Reserve. Then all the way down to Northern Ghana, where he visited the Tono Dam, to see the Danish BirdLife-supported bird ringing project. He had just flown into Accra on the same morning from Tamale in the northern Ghana. Niels said it had been the wildest trip of his life, not thinking of it only to continue for another week with the three of us. Could it get any worse?

However, things started quite well, since after only a few kilometres of driving we spotted what looked like a pair of Blue-bellied Rollers on the wires along the highway. We decided to turn back, and right we were: It was a pair of this much wanted bird! A lifer to Erling, and his last roller in Africa. We saw the birds very well, including extended scope views. We were very fortunate about this, since we dipped on this star bird in its well known locality Shai Hills later during the trip, so these birds became our only sighting in Ghana.

Our destination for the day was Axim, where we would stay the next two nights at a beach hotel, only to spend the daytime in the nearby lowland rainforest of Ankasa National Park at the border of Ivory Coast. A long drive. We stopped at Cape Coast for lunch, and decided to see the Cape of Three Points on the way to Axim. This cape is the southernmost point of Western Africa. And the forest area near the lighthouse supposedly offers a slim chance to see the rare Spot-breasted Ibis. However, the drive was much longer than we expected, due to bad roads, so we only reached the lighthouse in the last daylight, but still light enough to enjoy the rocky cliffs and the big waves rolling in from the Atlantic Ocean.

After dark, during our continued journey to Axim, we saw several nightjars sitting on the road. And with a good help from David they were identified as Plain Nightjar and Longtailed Nightjars.

We finally arrived in Axim, and ended a long day with a late meal at the nice beach hotel. Hans fell out from his open, unfenced edge at his cottage veranda in the pitch dark night, falling several meters down and got rather injured, but he did not speak much about it.



*Cape of Three Points, the southernmost point in Western Africa (NSR)*

## **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Ankasa National Park**

We spent the full day in the magnificent jungle area of Ankasa National Park, on the border of Ivory Coast. A great birding area, but unfortunately rather inaccessible. Axim is the closest possible good accommodation, so we had to start out very early to reach the forest in the morning.



We reached the bridge crossing the river at the park gate at 6:30 am, and spent some time there enjoying the first morning activity of the jungle birds, such as Piping Hornbills, almost tailless Sabine's Spinetails, Blueheaded Wood Dove, African Green Pigeons and Yellowbilled Turacos calling from the forest. In the river below us a Shining Blue Kingfisher was darting by. We then started to walk along the forest road towards the headquarters Nkwanta while birding intensively, and were followed by our car. The bird activity seemed surprisingly low. Perhaps this was due to the dry season. However, with the good help of David, we managed to nail goodies such as Blueheaded Crested Flycatcher, Copper-tailed Glossy Starling, gorgeous Buff-throated Sunbird, Little Green Woodpecker, Chestnut Wattleeye and Yellow-spotted Barbet among many others. The road condition worsened further into the forest, so our car had to give it up, and leave us for the further journey. So we walked on by foot. At a stretch, a fine Maxwell Duiker came out on the road to eat fallen fruit together with a family of Dwarf Mongooses, a fine experience. Finally we reached the headquarters, where we spent our lunch break, and saw the giant bamboo thickets, named "the cathedral", at the stream below.

During the walk back to the car, half way to the entrance, we saw the bird of the day: Three guineafowl were flushed in the forest floor next to the road, and they turned out to be the rare White-breasted Guineafowl, formerly considered extinct in Ghana in 1952. What a surprise! Back to Axim to our hotel, where we enjoyed a nice dinner evening and talk with the friendly staff.



*The river at the Ankasa NP gate (NSR)*



*Ankasa NP Gate (ARO)*



*The "Cathedral" at Nkwanta Camp (NSR)*



*Our guide David Tampori Daramani (ARO)*

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Ankasa National Park and Brenu Beach**

We packed our things and left Axim for a second and last morning in Ankasa National Park. This time we arranged with the staff at the gate that we could hire their truck, which could take us all the way to Nkwanta camp. However, this truck had seen its best days, so we had to push it many times to get it started. To make it comfortable for us, they had put big soft sofa chairs in

the trunk. A surprised mouse peeped out to see what was going on! A very funny start of the day, but with help from everyone, we finally bumped along through the forest in the morning. A group of ten, stunning Crested Guineafowl came out on the road, and were admired at close range. We passed the headquarters to start the morning at some little roadside ponds a bit further ahead. No less than six Hartlaub's Ducks and an African Finfoot were enjoyed here, and later, a Dwarf Bittern was flushed. What a fine start of the day!

We birded until 1 p.m., and added many new forest birds to our list, among others remarkable ones like Yellowbearded Greenbul, Great Blue Turaco heard, Cassin's Spinetail and Black and White Flycatcher.

Back at the park gate, our journey proceeded towards Kakum National Park, but on the way we stopped at Takoradi for lunch, and then to the coastal grassland area at Brenu Beach in the late afternoon, to see the famous roosting site of the rare Preuss's Cliff Swallow. Around 6 pm at twilight, app. 200 swallows started to gather high in the air in a dense flock. The flock did some impressive, fast dives down towards a road tunnel, where they roost at night, only to race back high in the air. This was repeated a number of times, but slowly they were getting closer and closer to the roost site. Finally, they all flew into the tunnel. A fine sight by the end of a long birding day, and one of the good memories of the trip.

After dark, we arrived at our next destination, the Hans Botel Cottage north of Cape Coast, close to the famous Kamum National Park.



*Our reliable truck (NSR)*



*Birding in Ankasa NP (NSR)*



*Watching Hartlaub's Ducks (ARO)*



*The Hartlaub's forest pond in Ankasa NP (ARO)*

#### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Kakum National Park, canopy walk and forest**

We spent the whole day - except for a lunch break at the restaurant at the gate - at the famous canopy walk in Kakum National Park – the only of its kind in Africa.



A great morning, arriving at the canopy walk at 6.20 a.m. A Rufous-sided Broadbill was calling constantly just below the start of the canopy walk. We tried to locate this much wanted species, but unfortunately without luck.

The forest was waking, and a bird choir broke out with the morning sun: Secretive Kemp's Longbill, African Whiteeyes, Golden Greenbills, Rufous-crowned Eremomelas, Grey Longbill, Sharpe's Apalis and many more. Above the tree-line chocolate-brown Ussher's Flycatchers were circling in the air for insects – a flycatcher that has turned into a swallow... A Congo Serpent Eagle was calling from the forest, and soon Alex brilliantly spotted it sitting in a fork of a big tree nearby. Everyone had thrilling scope views of this West-African forest speciality. All the time something happened: Two Rosy Bee-eaters high in the air over the jungle, and two Great Blue Turacos appeared in the open, giving prolonged views. One of the highlights of the trip. Other great forest birds appeared such as Blue Cuckoo Shrike, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Red-fronted Parrot, Blue-throated Roller, Narrow-tailed Starling, Red-headed Malimbe, Black-throated Coucal calling deep below us from the thicket and Black Bee-eater. In the afternoon, the highlight were five magnificent Black-casqued Hornbills sitting in an open tree. At dusk a Brown Nightjar started to call, and finally having heard that, we headed back to the hotel after a long and rewarding day.



*The famous rainforest canopy walk in Kakum (EKR)    Niels, Hans and Erling at lunch in Kakum (ARO)*

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Aboabo – Northern Kakum National Park, and Rockfowl visit at Bonkro Village**

This morning, we went to the northern part of Kakum National Park. A forest walk along the road at Aboabo was quite rewarding. However, a misty morning after rain quieted things a little down in the beginning, but bird activity soon started. We continued until noon, and had lunch back at the car.

Our first bird was a Cuckoo Hawk, drying its wings in a tree top at the roadside. Two magnificent Whitecrested Hornbills showed up, a Long-tailed Hawk crossed the road, and Cassin's, Black and Sabine's Spinetails were racing over the tree-tops. Best bird of the morning, however, was stunning views of no less than four Tit-Hylas, Africa's smallest bird.

We then continued to Bonkro village further north, close to Edubease, to experience the most attractive and exciting bird of the whole trip – the Yellowheaded Rockfowl, at its nesting colony.

We met with the very kind villagers at around 3 p.m., and a few of them joined us into the forest, heading for the colony at a steep cliff face. We arrived at the nesting site after about ¾ hours walk. In the roof of a big, overhanging rock on a hillside we counted approximately 15 mud-

nests. We sat quietly waiting at the edge of the rock. After about 20 minutes the first rockfowl appeared. It was quite confident, hopping around on the forest floor 5-10 meters away, tossing over leaves like a thrush. More birds turned up, and eventually they started to fly up to the rock towards the nests, to roost for the night. We saw at least four different birds, but perhaps 6 different individuals. The villagers say that there are 8 birds in total. Our encounter with this mythical bird became the ultimate highlight of the trip.

Back at the village, Alex handed out sweets for the children, and immediately became very popular. We headed back to Hans Botel Cottage, after a long and adventurous day.



*Alex handing out candy in Bonkro village (NSR)*



*On our way to the rockfowl nesting colony (NSR)*



*Nest of Yellow-headed Rockfowl (EKR)*



*Hans and Alex waiting for the big moment (NSR)*

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Anwikwaa village, Pra River and Kakum Canopy walk.**

We spent the morning in a different part of Kakum National Park, at a forest edge near the village of Anwikwaa. The area was teeming with birds, also in the gardens at the outskirts of the village. Best birds of the morning was African Dwarf Kingfisher, Pygmy Kingfisher, Bluebill, Grey Parrot, Yellow-casqued Hornbill, Black Bee-eater, Rosy Bee-eater, Lanner Falcon, Short-toed Eagle, Black-and-white Flycatcher, Honeyguide Greenbul and the rare Forest Penduline Tit, seen in prolonged views at close range at the forest edge.

A visit to the bridge crossing Pra River produced the sought after White-throated Blue Swallow, Rock Pratincole, Whiteheaded Lapwing and Preuss' Cliff Swallow.

Back at Hans Botel Cottage already at noon, we enjoyed a nice lunch while watching the weaver colony at the lakeside, including attractive Orange Weavers, Village Weaver and Viellot's Weaver.



During the siesta, Niels discovered that a group of 24 young female nurses were visiting the pool on a picnic excursion, and it did not take him long before he was busy educating them in the pool of how to swim – beginning with holding them one by one, trying how to float in the water on the back. Hmmm...well done, Niels!

The afternoon was spent at the canopy walk, but it did not add much to the list, except for a nice Palm-nut Vulture.



*Rock Pratincole site at Pra River (NSR)*



*Watching at Pra River (NSR)*



*Rosy Bee-eater at Antwikwaa (EKR)*



*White-crested Hornbill at Antwikwaa (EKR)*

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Canopy walk, Hans Botel Cottage, drive to Accra and a farewell to Niels. Heading north for Kibi and Atewa Forest**

Birding this last morning on canopy walk was delayed a bit, due to rain, so we were not in place until 7:40. But it cleared up, and we had a wonderful morning, birding from the different platforms until 11:20 a.m. Platform no. 3 seems to be the most rewarding, giving a good view over the forest. As new forest birds to our list was a flock of Forest Francolins calling from the forest floor, a Shrike Flycatcher and a flock of Forest Wood Hoopoes (heard only). Grey Parrots flying over, a magnificent Congo Serpent Eagle passing by, Blue Cuckoo Shrike, Redfronted Parrots, gorgeous Buff-throated Sunbirds, Redbilled Helmet Shrikes, Slenderbilled Greenbuls, Fraser's Sunbird, Chestnut-capped Flycatchers and a heard Brown Illadopsis all contributed to a rewarding birding morning. Best experience of the morning, however, was a flock of Black and White Colobus Monkey in a tree – definitely one of Africa's most attractive primates.

Back at the hotel we packed our things and had lunch at the restaurant. Apart from watching the captive crocodiles in the lake, there are also good birds to see. Black Crake, Pied Kingfisher, Malachite Kingfisher, Reed Cormorant, Shikra and, not to forget, the presence of a Giant

Kingfisher surprised us. We studied how the Cattle Egrets were robbing the weavers nests by climbing on the thin tip of the nest branches on the small island.

Our journey continued towards Accra, where Augustus met us at a suburb to pick up Niels, who had ended his adventurous trip, only to fly back to Denmark on the following day. After a warm farewell to Niels and his good company, the rest of us headed north and east for more adventure for another week in Ghana.

After a long drive, we reached the town of Kibi after dark, and with some difficulty found our nice hotel named Blue Mint, hidden away. Another birding group was also staying here, Birdseekers, so there was opportunity to exchange experiences over a cold beer.

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Atewa bush farmland and hill forest**

The aim of the day trip was the famous Atewa hill forest – an isolated mountain range in an otherwise low lying part of the country. The mountain range is covered by forest, and is a very rich birding site. We arrived at the foot of the mountain, and did some early morning birding in the bush farmland. Great views of the rare Compact Weaver, and two Cuckoo Hawks, plus a number of waxbills and mannikins along the roadside. Formerly, this was the site of the rare Baumann's Greenbul, but as far as we were told there have been no recent sightings.

We had no four-wheel drive car to take us up the mountain, so we walked half of the way, until Hans and Alex brilliantly arranged a car we met on the road to take us all the way to the top. What a relief. On top, it was cool and a magnificent forest. The star bird here is the Blueheaded Beeeater, which we managed to see several times. A stunning beauty among bee-eaters. This hill forest turned out to be the probably best birding site of our entire trip. Good birds during the day, apart from the bee-eater, was rare Yellowfooted Honeyguide, Tiny Sunbird, stunning Forest Robin, Bates' Sunbird, Narina Trogon, Crowned Eagle, Chocolatebacked Kingfisher, Frasers Forest Flycatcher, Finsch' Flycatcher Thrush, Western Bronzenaped Pigeon, Whitecrested Hornbills and calling Congo Serpent Eagle. The butterfly diversity was outstanding up here.

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Atewa hill forest and Bobiri Forest**

We had decided to spend another morning in the hill forest, and with the good help from our great Ghanesians friends and helpers, it was arranged that the driver from the Ghana Wildlife Society came all the way from Accra up here with his 4-wheel drive car early in the morning, to take us to the top. How grateful we were!

Already from a little past 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., we spent a wonderful time in the cool, fresh, lush green hill forest. Two Longtailed Hawks were calling persistently, but would not show, and so did a Whitespotted Flufftail.

The absolute highlight of the morning was a Nimba Flycatcher – a huge rarity and not supposed to be seen in Ghana at all. However, it was discovered on the day before by the Birdseekers group, so we were a little prepared for the chance. A pair of Johanna's Sunbird, Dusky Tits, a gorgeous flock of Violetbacked Hyliotas, stunning Forest Wood Hoopoes, Willcocks Honeyguide, Cassin's Honeybird, and an incredible Emerald Cuckoo male all blessed us with their presence. At lunch, a Cassins Hawk Eagle soared over.

Back at the foot of the mountain we decided to go to Bobiri Forest instead of heading east – a sudden idea that Alex had, and we all immediately agreed to that. So we changed plans, and continued towards north, in the growing heat of the day.

At 4:15 p.m. we reached the "butterfly forest" of Bobiri, and checked in at the cosy little rest house inside the forest. Despite our showing up without previous notice, the staff welcomed us very warmly, gave us nice accommodation and arranged an evening dinner at the lodge with what they had at hand in the kitchen. How very hospitable.

The forest was completely dried out and steaming hot, about 32 degrees celcius! Very few butterflies, and bird life was very quiet, accordingly, but still we managed to see quite a lot of good species during our afternoon and evening walk. The highlight was a stunning Black Dwarf Hornbill, giving prolonged scope views while sitting quietly in the open forest. African Green Pigeons were everywhere, Whitethroated Bee-eaters, African Pied Hornbills, a breeding pair of Grey Kestrels, Ansorge's Greenbul, Forest Wood Hoopoes and Senegal Parrot. At dusk, a Brown Nightjar was calling, and we heard the shriek of a Potoo in the distance.



*The pleasant lodge in Bobiri Forest (ARO)*

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Bobiri Forest and heading east towards the coast at Sogakofe via Accra**

The butterfly forest of Bobiri at the break of dawn and in the cool, fresh morning was a thrilling experience. We were out at 6:15 and continued until 10:40. Birds were teeming everywhere. A large, mixed colony of Hairybreasted and Nakedfaced Barbets in a dead tree full of nesting holes was fun to watch, full of activity in the morning sun. A Redchested Goshawk flew by, Blue Cuckoo Shrikes, Firebreasted Woodpecker, Forest Chestnutwinged Starlings, Redfronted Parrots crossed over with harsh calls, a fine male of Tiny Sunbird, Redbellied Paradise Flycatchers, Whitecrested Hornbill, Grey Longbills, Narina Trogons heard, Tambourine Doves calling, Sabine's Puffback, 3 kinds of Malimbe, Greycrowned and Chestnutbreasted Negrofinches, Yellowrumped and Speckled Tinkerbirds, Black Spinetails, Great Blue Turacos heard etc etc. In spite of the dry season, it was obvious that Bobiri is an excellent birding place.

After a late breakfast and a farewell to the friendly staff, we headed towards our next destination, the coast at the border of Togo. Via outskirts of Accra we reached the town of Sogakofe at the Densu River at 5 p.m. A long day of driving. We checked in at a very fancy hotel at the riverside, and managed to make a late afternoon drive south towards the coast through open bush landscape. Everything was much drier here, and new savannah birds appeared: Lizard Buzzard, Yellowfronted Canary, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Roseringed Parakeet, Greyheaded Woodpecker and a Blackshouldered Kite. We had left the rainforest zone for good.



**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Freshwater marshes at Atife, Keta Lagoon and Shai Hills**

The morning journey was a round trip around the large Keta Lagoon at the coast – a well known site for wetland birds, and thus appointed as a Ramsar site. We started out on the northern route, but soon discovered a rewarding freshwater marsh at Atife, north of the salty Keta Lagoon. The marsh was full of herons such as Purple, Squacco and Blackheaded, Openbill Storks, Collared Pratincoles, Common Snipe, Ruff, Yellow Wagtails, Marsh Harriers, Stilt, Jacanas, Spurwinged Geese, Vinaceous Dove and Little Beeeater.

We continued towards east and turned south along the east coast of the lagoon. It is huge, and seems rather empty, but in little bays here and there there are good numbers of waders. Surprise of the day was six American Golden Plovers, seen at close range, and good photos were obtained.

Most numerous waders were Grey Plover, Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Little Stint and Ringed Plover. New waders for the trip were, a.o., Bar-tailed Godwit, Kittlitz' Plover, Red Knot, Whitefronted Plover and American Golden Plover. At a separate lagoon at the river outlet into the sea a number of terns and gulls were gathered: Little Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black, Whitewinged Black, Little, Sandwich and Royal Terns. We checked a small mangrove area on our way back, but did not find anything special.

Back at Sogakope, we packed our gear and headed on for Shai Hills. We got there in the afternoon – the place looked unique. A tall, granite mountain massif, surrounded by woodland savannah. We checked in at the local hotel, and had a very enjoyable afternoon trip to the southern part of the park at Dongumu Junction. It was very hot, but birding was great. A long list of great birds were added to our trip report: Swallowtailed Beeeater, a pair of African Hawk Eagle, Doubletoothed Barbet, Common Wattleeeye, African Rock Martin, Northern Puffback, Whitecrested Helmet Shrike, stunning Violet Turacos, Northern Black Flycatcher, several groups of confident Stone Partridges, White-shouldered Black Tits, Senegal Batis, Blackcapped and Brown Babblers, and an impressive Greyish Eagle Owl, flushed at close range. Several groups of Olive Baboons roamed in the area, but we missed the antelopes.



*American Golden Plover in Keta Lagoon (EKR)*



*Stone Partridges in Shai Hills (EKR)*

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Shai Hills, Sakumo Lagoon, Accra and departure home.**

Our last day in Ghana.

The morning was spent in the northern part of the Shai Hills. We walked to the Cliff Chat rock and back, and then drove on to the Bat Cave. A very nice morning. Splendid Violet Turacos were enjoyed by everyone, Northern Crombec, and at the cliff chat rock we were not let down: A fine pair of White-crowned Cliff Chats, now considered a separate species. Oriole Warbler



showed, Senegal Eremomela, a flock of Greybreasted Helmet Guineafowl was our third Guineafowl species during the trip, and Green Monkeys were enjoyed.

At the Bat Cave the sun was quite high, and it was getting hot. But in the shadow of the rocks, we witnessed an incredible territorial fight between three Oriole Warbler males. They were so excited, that they didn't pay any attention to us. Two more Whitecrowned Cliff Chat males appeared in the gorge. At the parking place, we waited patiently for the Heughlin's Masked Weaver. Eventually, a male in full breeding plumage raced over, but only Erling was lucky to see it. Hans found an impressive Bateleur in the sky – our only during the trip.

We returned to the hotel, packed our things, had lunch, and headed for Accra.

We spent our last afternoon at the Sakumo Lagoon, just east of Accra. A very nice place, and a good birding site. We walked along the western edge, and saw, among others, Wattled Plovers, Collared Pratincoles, hundreds of Whitefaced Tree Ducks, Reef Egrets, Black Heron, a Shoveler, Common Tern and surprisingly another three American Golden Plovers.

Afterwards, we went to the Ghana Wildlife Society headquarters in Accra and met up with Augustus to thank him for a wonderful arrangement, took a hearty and warm farewell with David and our driver Tex and went to the airport to fly home late evening, after a wonderful trip.



*Oriole Warbler in Shai Hills (EKR)*



*Relaxing at Sakumo Lagoon near Accra (EKR)*



*Double-toothed Barbet at Sakumo Lagoon (EKR)*



*Collared Pratincole at Sakumo Lagoon (EKR)*

## Site description

By Alex Rosendal

### Wenneba Plains:

Less than an hour's drive west of Accra there is a sign to the villages of Wenneba. We continued a few kilometres west of that and took a road on your left hand. The area is dry with scrub and small trees. We stopped along the road

Star birds were Mosque Swallow, Oriole Warbler, Black-rumped and Orange-cheeked Waxbill

Interesting European migrators were Whinchat and Spotted Flycatcher.

We also visited Wenneba Lagoon just west of the village at the coast, where a lot of waders roosted.

### Ankasa National Park:

Close to the border of Cote d'Ivoire you find Ankasa NP. It is a large rainforest, 504 km<sup>2</sup>.

The entrance road to the park is located at Sowodadzem on the West side, where you cross the Tano River.

A long sandy road leads you into the park. If it has been raining, you can get into trouble with a normal car. Use a 4 wheel drive. We had to borrow an old truck. Look for birds along the road.

We were extremely lucky to get a glimpse of the White-breasted Guineafowl.

About 8 km inside the park you find the headquarters, Nkwanta Camp. A little further on there are some wet areas, where we found Hartlaubs Duck, Dwarf Bittern and Finfoot.

The staff was very helpful.

About 500 metres from the headquarters there is a long clearing with power lines, which gave us a fine long view through the forest. A fine place for bee-eaters, raptors and hornbills. We were later told that in the dawn and evening there is a chance to see Spot-breasted Ibis flying over!

Unfortunately the nearest hotel is in Axim (Beach Resort) about an hours drive away.

From the bridge at the entrance look down at the river. Good chances for kingfishers, flycatchers, ducks and herons

Star birds were Hartlaubs Duck, Dwarf Bittern, White-breasted Guineafowl, Little green Woodpecker and Finfoot.

### Brenu Plains

A little east of Cape Coast we visited an area with coastal savanna and a small river. The place is famous for Preuss Swallows, that goes to roost under a very small bridge. Just before sunset the swallows get together in a huge flock, before they dive fast to the roosting bridge.

In the area we also saw Yellow-throated Longclaw and Double-spurred Francolin.

### Kakum N.P.

Around 30 km north of Cape Coast you find probably the best rainforest in Ghana. The entrance area has a visitor center and a very good restaurant, where we enjoyed breakfast and lunch after early morning birdwatching.

The NP extends over 360 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to over 40 large mammals and 400 bird species as well as many species of butterflies, flora and fauna.

There are 3 very good places to go birdwatching in Kakum.

First of all, the park has a famous **Canopy walkway**. The only one in Africa. It is 350 m long with 5 platforms around big trees, hanging 30 m (100ft) above the forest floor. On the platforms there is space for 4-5 birdwatchers with telescopes. The view over the canopy is fantastic. And we saw great birds. Hornbills, rollers, weavers, Great Blue Turaco, greenbul, Ussher's flycatcher, raptors (Congo Serpent eagle), Woodpeckers and sunbirds. You name it, we saw it! Almost.

The best time to go there is early morning, but also the evening can be fine.

We started early and were allowed to go on the walkway at 6 am, while normal tourists do not go there before 8.

By the way you also see monkeys up there.

Kakum NP must be one of the world's top 10 hotspots.

Interesting European migrants were two Honey Buzzards

In the north-eastern part of Kakum you find **Aboabo Camp**, which offers a quiet forest track winding through a disturbed, but surprisingly good birding forest. We walked along the road and got a glimpse of a Long-tailed Hawk, good views of Black-throated Coucal, White-crested Hornbill, doves, weavers and a Wood Warbler.

In the north-western part of Kakum you find **Antwkwaa**, which is a forest track through more or less cultivated forest. Star birds were the incomparable Black Bee-eater, Rosy Bee-eater, Dwarf kingfisher and Buff-throated Sunbird. Kemp's Longbills were heard very close, but were hiding in the bushes.

Over the small cottage, where we had parked our car, a fantastic Lanner Falcon soared for more than 10 minutes.

**Hans Cottage Botel.** When you go to Kakum NP, HCB is the place to stay. The hotel itself is set by a small lake, complete with three breeding weavers (including Orange) and crocs. We also found Giant, Malachite and Pied Kingfisher.

## Atewa Range

Atewa is a group of hills about 2 hours drive North-West of Accra: Best access to this area is through the town of Kibi. Atewa reaches elevation of 600 m and supports patches of upland evergreen forest. A very rare habitat in Ghana.

Unfortunately, the road to the top is very bad, so a 4-wheel drive car is necessary to bring you to the top. Or you have to walk for 1½ hour.

Birding was great. Star birds were Blue-headed Bee-eater, Narina Trogon, Yellow-footed Honeyguide, Afr. Cuckoo Hawk, Crowned Eagle, Cassin's Hawk Eagle and Forest Robin.

The forest has never really been properly explored ornithologically. A great surprise was for instance Nimba Flycatcher.

In Kibi you find a small hotel called Alexi. If you are a bigger group you have to go for more than an hour to find a good place.

## Bobiri Forest Reserve

A little south-east of Kumasi you find Bobiri FR, which is a small, rather dry rainforest with over 400 different species of butterflies and a lot of birds.

A long road leads through the forest and in the center you find a small Headquarter, where it is possible to stay for 10 USD in a unique guesthouse. Food is cheap but basic. The beers are cold, but remember that the generator is switched off at 10 p.m.

Star birds were Black Dwarf Hornbill, Brown Nightjark and different barbets.

### **Keta Lagoon and surroundings**

About 170 km east of Accra you find the largest wetland site along the coast of Ghana. The Keta Lagoon is a complex of brackish lagoons with shallow, muddy margins, mudflats and saltpans. The best place we found was along the mainroad near Atife, where a freshwater marsh was cooking with waders, warblers, wagtails, raptors and swallows.

Along the sandy coast of the lagoon terns, gulls and waders were roosting.

Star birds were White-fronted Sandpiper, Collared Pratincoles, Am. Golden Plover, Royal Tern, Spurwinged Goose and Openbilled Stork.

Interesting European migrants were Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat and different shorebirds.

There are different hotels along the Volta River.

### **Shai Hills**

Just one hour north of Accra you find Shai Hills, a dry savanna with trees, bushes and rocky hills. 52 km<sup>2</sup>.

There are two entrances to the park. The price for the tickets is expensive! Drive or walk on the trails.

Star birds were Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Oriole Warbler, Mocking Cliff-Chat and Greyish Eagle Owl.

Interesting European migrants were Tree Pipits, Whinchat, Spotted Flycatcher and Garden Warbler.

There is a fine hotel just outside the Park.

### **Sakumo Lagoon**

The lagoon is just outside Accra to the east. We went to a resort on the westside of the lagoon from where we could overlook the 1,340 ha area.

It is broadly comprised of a coastal brackish-saline lagoon, whose main habitats are open lagoon, surrounding floodplains, freshwater marsh and coastal savanna grassland. The lagoon is separated from the sea by a dike and a main road.

In the lagoon we saw lots of shorebirds, ducks, herons, terns and swallows.

Star birds were Black Heron and Afr. Wattled Lapwing. Interesting European migrants were N. Shoveler, Common Tern, Collared Pratincole and different shorebirds.

# Annotated list of bird species recorded in Southern Ghana 7<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010

By Erling Krabbe

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Nik Borrow & Ron Demey: *A guide to the Birds of Western Africa* by Princeton.

## NON PASSERIFORMES

### CORMORANTS: *Phalacrocoracidae*

#### Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

8/2: 2 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 11/2: 15 migrating along the sea-coast, Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 14/2: 1 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 19/2: 20 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

### HERONS, BITTERNS AND EGRETS: *Ardeidae*

#### Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*

10/2: 1 bird flushed from the middle of the three roadside wetlands behind Nkwanta camp. A much wanted bird by Alex.

#### Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 10 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

#### Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast, 13 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast, 10 between Cape Coast and Cape of Three Points. 13/2: 3 near Pra River. 14/2: 2 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP, predated heavily on weavers' nests. 14/2: 40 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 17/2: 40 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 18/2: 150 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 20 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

#### Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus*

10/2: 1 at a pond in Ankasa National Park. 18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

#### Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

19/2: 1 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

#### Western Reef-Heron *Egretta gularis*

8/2: 10 at Wenneba Lagoon. 14/2: 1 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 18/2: 8 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 10 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

#### Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

8/2: 1 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 18/2: 10 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 60 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 30 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

#### Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

8/2: 1 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 18/2: 3 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 10 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of

Accra.

**Great Egret** *Egretta alba*

18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 5 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 4 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 1 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

18/2: 6 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 25 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*

18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 1 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**STORKS: Ciconiidae**

**African Openbill Stork** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

18/2: 65 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**DUCKS AND GEESE: Anatidae**

**White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*

8/2: 30 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 160 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*

18/2: 18 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**Hartlaub's Duck** *Pteronetta hartlaubii*

10/2: 6 Ankasa National park. One of the star birds of the trip. Just a kilometre further along the forest road from Nkwanta Camp, there are three waterholes, one after the other, along the left side of the road. In the first small pond there was a pair of this scarce and shy forest duck, and in the last, and larger wetland, no less than 4 birds showed well, among these a pair that flew up and perched in a tree. Make sure to approach these wetlands slowly and quietly, and stay close together, so that everybody will see the ducks before or when they take off.



*Hartlaub's Duck in Ankasa NP (EKR)*

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

19/2: 1 female at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**VULTURES, EAGLES, HAWKS AND ALLIES: Accipitridae****African Cuckoo Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides*

12/2: Great views of a perched bird, drying its feathers after early morning rain, Aboabo Rd., northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 2 perched birds at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

11/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 over the hill forest at Atewa Range.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains. 17/2: 2 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra, 1 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans parasiticus*

8/2: 2 between Accra and Wenneba Plains, 12 at Wenneba Plains, 1 at Wenneba Lagoon, 1 near a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 10/2: 1 along the road between Ankasa NP and Kakum NP., 10 at Brenu Beach. 13/2: 40 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 14/2: 10 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 17/2: 3 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 10 at Hotel garden in Sogakope, 2 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 6 at Shai Hills south.

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*

13/2: A perched bird in a distant tree, Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains, 40 between Cape Coast and Cape of Three Points. 13/2: 2 near Pra River. 14/2: 10 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 17/2: 1 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 18/2: 2 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 at Shai Hills south, 1 at Shai Hills Bat Cave.

**Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*

13/2: 1 flying over at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

19/2: 1 excellently spotted by Hans at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**Congo Serpent Eagle** *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*

11/2: 1 heard calling persistently close by from platform 3, Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. Shortly after, it was brilliantly found by Alex. The eagle was perched in a large tree, just in front and below us. Excellent, prolonged scope views through the tangle of this rare and attractive rainforest species. 14/2: We were lucky to see one flying by, at close range at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. Probably the same bird. 15/2: 1 heard calling persistently for almost 20 minutes from 9:20 a.m. at rather close range, in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)** *Polyboroides typus*

8/2: 1 at roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast, 1 in the forested areas near Cape of Three Points. 11/2: No less than 7 different birds at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 2 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park, 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum NP. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest. 19/2: 1 at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.



**Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

17/2: 2 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 18/2: 3 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 6 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

8/2: 1 adult bird perched on a wire for a while at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra. Excellent scope studies.

**Red-chested Goshawk** *Accipiter toussenelii*

11/2: Good scope views of a perched, immature bird at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

14/2: 1 adult male at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP.

**Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

11/2: Excellent views of a soaring bird at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchis macrourus*

12/2: 1 swiftly flying across at Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. The very long, banded tail was remarkable. 16/2: 2 birds were calling persistently in the morning at the hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, but we did not manage to locate them.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

8/2: 1 between Accra and Wenneba Plains. 17/2: 1 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon.

**Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains, 2 near a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 18/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**African Hawk Eagle** *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

18/2: A pair soaring over the southern part of the cliffs in Shai Hills, in the late afternoon.

**Cassin's Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus africanus*

16/2: 1 gliding over the hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

15/2: 4 birds together in prolonged display in the sky, low down above our picnic site at the top of Atewa Range in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. What a spectacular sight! 16/2: Another bird in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**FALCONS: Falconidae****Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

17/2: 1 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra.

**Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*

8/2: 2 between Accra and Wenneba Plains, 1 at dusk at the lighthouse of Cape of Three Points. 16/2: 1 at Bobiri Forest. 17/2: A breeding pair in Bobiri Forest. Mating happened. 18/2: 1 during drive between Sogakofe and Shai Hills, 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 1 at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*

9/2: 1 at the powerlines clearing, Ankasa National Park. 15/2: 1 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge. 18/2: 3 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

13/2: 1 circling low at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: Excellent views of a single bird, Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP:



**PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae****Stone Partridge** *Ptilopachus petrosus*

18/2: A flock was heard at Shai Hills south. 19/2: Excellent views of a single bird and of a confident flock of 7 birds, feeding on the trail at Shai Hills south. The birds were heard calling a number of times.

**Latham's Forest Francolin** *Francolinus lathamii*

14/2: A flock was heard in the morning, calling loudly from the forest floor below the Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Double-spurred Francolin** *Francolinus bicalcaratus*

10/2: 3 seen and heard late afternoon at Brenu Beach coastal grassland. 17/2: 1 heard south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 2 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 1 seen at Shai Hills south and another one heard.

**GUINEAFOWL: Numididae****White-breasted Guineafowl** *Agelastes meleagrides*

9/2: The big surprise of the trip! In the afternoon, we walked from Nkwanta Camp in Ankasa National Park along the forest road back towards the park entrance. After about 1 km, we heard a loud noise in the forest floor just next to the road, and a small group of 2-3 guineafowl rushed away, obviously surprised by our presence. The forest was quite open at this place, creating a small valley that we could look into. Alex just had the chance to get a good look at the birds, and could clearly see the all black bodies, and the pure white necks. An unmistakable bird!! David, Hans and Erling saw them less well, standing a little bit away from Alex, and they could just get the impression of dark looking guineafowl running fast through the forest away from us, making a lot of noise. Unfortunately, Niels was back in the car by then, missing this rare bird.

According to the books, this extremely range-restricted, West-African, endemic rainforest bird was considered extinct in Ghana in 1952. However, since then it has been rediscovered in five forest areas in the western part of Ghana (Bia, Mini-Suhien NP, Boin-Tano FR, Tano-Anwia FR and Enchi). Ankasa NP is not mentioned in the literature, but we were told by a guide in Ankasa that it is now also being seen occasionally here by the staff, confirming our observation. Certainly a bird to look for in the future!

**Crested Guineafowl** *Guttera pucherani*

10/2: Great views of a group of 10-12 birds, appearing on the forest road during our drive through Ankasa National Park in the morning. We stopped the car, and enjoyed this remarkable, funny looking, inquisitive bird.

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*

19/2: A flock of 5 birds at Shai Hills south. The grey-breasted subspecies of West Africa: *galeata*.

**RAILS, FLUFFTAILS, CRAKES, GALLINULES, MOORHENS AND COOTS:****Rallidae****White-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura pulchra*

16/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Black Crane** *Amaurornis flavirostris*

10/2: 2 at wetlands in Ankasa National Park. 14/2: 1 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**Purple Swampphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

8/2: 1 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

8/2: 1 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast.

**FINFOOTS: Heliornithidae**

**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis*

10/2: 1 adult female at a roadside pond at Ankasa National Park.



*A shy and wary African Finfoot at Ankasa NP (EKR)*

**JACANAS: Jacanidae**

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africana*

8/2: 2 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 10/2: 4 at wetlands in Ankasa National Park. 14/2: 1 along the route between Cape Coast and Kakum NP: A long but rewarding trip. 17/2: 1 Densu River, during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra.

17/2: 1 at a lake south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 40 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 1 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**AVOCETS AND STILTS: Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

18/2: 30 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 51 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 80 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae**

**Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis*

7/2: 2 heard calling in the night at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra

**COURSERS AND PRATINCOLES: GLAREOLIDAE**

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

18/2: 35 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 45 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis*

13/2: A singleton sitting on a rock in Pra River. Seen from the bridge.

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae****Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

8/2: Numerous, with over 300 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 20 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 45 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 80 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*

18/2: 2 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 15 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*

18/2: 1 at Keta Lagoon.

**American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*

18/2: 6 at Keta Lagoon. A scarce vagrant to West Africa. Excellent observation. Photos obtained. 19/2: 3 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

8/2: 40 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 33 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 38 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*

19/2: 2 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**White-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus albiceps*

13/2: A singleton on a sandy island in Pra River. Seen from the bridge.

**Spur-winged Plover** *Vanellus spinosus*

18/2: 15 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 10 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae****Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*

18/2: 3 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 3 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

8/2: 100 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 28 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 6 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

18/2: 70 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 75 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

8/2: 150 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 50 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 1 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

18/2: 10 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Lagoon. 19/2: 4 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

18/2: 1 at Keta Lagoon.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

8/2: 50 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 32 at Keta Lagoon.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

18/2: 4 at Keta Lagoon.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

8/2: 4 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 2 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 1 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

18/2: 15 at Keta Lagoon.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

8/2: 2 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 6 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 130 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 20 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

18/2: 40 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 10 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

8/2: 3 at Wenneba Lagoon. 13/2: 1 at Pra River. 14/2: 1 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 18/2: 6 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 30 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 1 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

8/2: 2 at Wenneba Lagoon. 19/2: 20 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**SKUAS: Stercorariidae****Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

11/2: 1 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex.

**GULLS: LARIDAE****Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

18/2: 1 at Keta Lagoon.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

18/2: 18 at Keta Lagoon.

**TERNs: Sternidae****Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima*

11/2: 3 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 13/2: 20 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 18/2: 8 at Keta Lagoon.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

18/2: 150 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 9 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Common tern** *Sterna hirundo*

19/2: 3 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

18/2: 140 at Keta Lagoon.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

18/2: 3 at Keta Lagoon.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

18/2: 1 at Keta Lagoon.

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae****African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calvus*

9/2: 2 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 8 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 10 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 4 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 20 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 20 at Canopy

Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 2 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 2 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, 51 in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

9/2: 3 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 6 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 2 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 6 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 6 at Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 6 in Bobiri Forest.

**Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtue brehmeri*

9/2: 2 heard calling in Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 2 heard calling in Ankasa NP. 11/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 5 heard calling along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 4 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 2 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, and actually Alex was lucky to see one of them. The only observation of this shy beauty during the whole trip.

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park.

**Black-billed Wood-Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*

19/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south. Probably this species, rather than Bluespotted.

**Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*

9/2: 2 Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Feral Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*

8/2: 10 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

1 along the road between Cape Coast and Cape of Three Points. 12/2: 1 near Adebias. 15/2: 1 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge. 16/2: 1 at Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 5 in Bobiri Forest, 1 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon.

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

8/2: 20 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra. 12/2: 3 at Hans Botel Cottage, near Cape Coast. 17/2: 1 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra, 2 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon.

**PARROTS: Psittacidae**

**Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*

13/2: 2 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 2 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi*

11/2: Great views of 2 birds at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 4 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 10 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 13/2: 2 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 6 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 17/2: 2 in Bobiri Forest.

**Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*

8/2: 1 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra. 16/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest. 18/2: 3 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

17/2: 5 flying swiftly by, south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon.

**TURACOS: Musophagidae****Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*

10/2: A flock heard calling from the forest of Ankasa National Park. 11/2: Incredible, prolonged views of 2 perching birds of this stately species, at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. One of the trip highlights. 13/2: 2 seen even better, Canopy Walk, Kakum NP. 17/2: Heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Yellow-billed Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus*

9/2: 1 seen (briefly, by Erling) and 4 heard at Ankasa National Park. 10/2: A flock heard in Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 2 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 heard at Kakum NP Canopy Walk. 14/2: A flock heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 4 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: A flock heard and excellent views of 1 bird, in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. A characteristic call in the rainforest in most places, but hardly ever seen.

**Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*

18/2: A flock heard at Shai Hills south. 19/2: Great views of 5 birds in total at Shai Hills south and north. A magnificent turaco.

**Western Grey Plantain-eater** *Crinifer piscator*

8/2: 1 between Accra and Wenneba Plains. 17/2: 1 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**CUCKOOS AND COUCALS: Cuculidae****Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Oxylophus levaillantii*

12/2: 1 seen well along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 19/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

12/2: 1 heard calling along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, 1 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx olivinus*

11/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

16/2: Excellent scope views of 1 male in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. Africa's most stunning cuckoo!

**Klaas' Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

12/2: 2 heard calling along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 heard calling in Bobiri Forest. 19/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south.

**Didric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

13/2: 2 seen and another heard calling at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Yellowbill** *Ceuthmochares aereus*

9/2: 1 heard calling in Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 3 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum NP. 17/2: 5 in Bobiri Forest.

**Black-throated Coucal** *Centropus leucogaster*

11/2: 2 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 2 seen along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: Great views of 2 of this elusive bird in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*

8/2: 1 immature at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast.

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

8/2: 3 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. (1 immature and 2 adults). 1 at Wenneba Lagoon. 15/2: 1 heard calling at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge. 17/2: 1 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 2 at Shai Hills south.

**OWLS: Strigidae****African Scops-Owl** *Otus senegalensis*

7/2: Two heard calling in the hotel garden of Atlantic Resort Hotel, Accra

**Greyish Eagle Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*

18/2: 1 flushed in the late afternoon at Shai Hills south. It landed in a tree, and we had excellent views of this impressive owl. It was heavily mobbed by a group of babblers.

**NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae****Brown Nightjar** *Caprimulgus binotatus*

11/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. We stayed at canopy walk until almost total darkness, and managed to hear the bird calling clearly a number of times, but we never saw it. 16/2: 1 heard calling in Bobiri Forest in the clearing behind the lodge.

**Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus*

8/2: 3 sitting in the road after dark in the forested area near the Cape of Three Points.

**Plain Nightjar** *Caprimulgus inornatus*

8/2: 1 sitting in the road after dark in a forested area near the Cape of Three Points. A dry season visitor to south Ghana from the breeding grounds in the Sahel zone in the north.

**SWIFTS: Apodidae****Sabine's Spinetail** *Rhaphidura sabini*

9/2: 2 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 2 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 6 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park.

**Black Spinetail** *Telacanthura melanopygia*

12/2: 2 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 17/2: 4 in Bobiri Forest.

**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*

8/2: 1 over a sea-coast village near Wenneba Lagoon, 2 in a forested area near the Cape of Three Points.

**Cassin's Spinetail** *Neafrapus cassini*

9/2: 2 Ankasa National Park. A weird silhouette of an almost tailless bird. 10/2: 1 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 4 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park.

**African Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

9/2: 2 at entrance gate, Ankasa National Park. 13/2: 10 at Pra River, seen from the bridge. 18/2: 1 during drive between Sogakope and Shai Hills.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*

12/2: 20 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 over forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

8/2: 4 at Wenneba Plains. 13/2: 1 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park, 40 at Pra River seen from the bridge, 30 at Cape Coast seen by Alex. 17/2: 10 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 18/2: 10 at Hotel garden in Sogakope.

**TROGONS: Trogonidae****Narina's Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

15/2: We heard a calling male from the hill forest at Atewa Range, and shortly after we managed to get great views of the perched bird. What a stunning creature. Another male was calling in the distance. 17/2: 2 heard calling in Bobiri Forest.

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae****Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*

15/2: 2 birds heard calling at several occasions in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, Erling managed to catch a glimpse of one of the birds darting across the forest road.

**Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*

9/2: 1 heard calling in Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 seen and 2 heard calling at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 1 heard calling along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 17/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

8/2: 1 at a coastal highway roadside lake between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 9/2: 3 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 3 at Ankasa National Park. 13/2: 1 heard calling at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**African Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ceyx lecontei*

13/2: 1 seen well at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

13/2: 1 seen at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

8/2: 1 at a coastal highway roadside lake between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 13/2: A singleton at Pra River, seen from the bridge, 1 at the garden lake, Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and

Kakum NP 14/2: 1 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage. 18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.





*Malachite Kingfisher at Hans Cottage Botel pond (EKR)*

**Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadribrachys*

9/2: 1 at the river at the entrance of Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 same place.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maximus*

14/2: 1 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Lagoon. 14/2: 1 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 18/2: 15 at Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 17 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**BEE-EATERS: Meropidae**

**Blue-headed Bee-eater** *Merops muelleri*

15/2: 5 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 3 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. The only locality in Ghana to see this remarkable rainforest bee-eater. One of the top birds of the trip.



*Blueheaded Bee-eater at Atewa Forest (EKR)*

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis*

11/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: Excellent views of 2 perched birds at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*

18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*

18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 4 at Shai Hills south.

**White-throated Bee-eater** *Merops albicollis*

8/2: 4 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast, 2 at a roadside lake along the coastal highway between Wenneba and Cape Coast. 14/2: 6 at Visitor Centre, Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 6 at Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Rosy Bee-eater** *Merops malimbicus*

11/2: 2 birds circling high in the air above Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 2 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 4 in the sky at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. An intra-African migrant, not breeding in Ghana.

**ROLLERS: Coraciidae****Rufous-crowned Roller** *Coracias naevius*

18/2: 1 near Shai Hills, during drive between Sogakope and Shai Hills.

**Blue-bellied Roller** *Coracias cyanogaster*

8/2: A beautiful pair was spotted on wires along the coastal highway not far from Wenneba towards Cape Coast. We decided to turn back, and right we were: It was a pair of the much wanted Blue-bellied Roller! We saw them very well, including extended scope views. We were very fortunate about this, since we dipped on this star bird in Shai Hills later during the trip, so they became our only sighting.

**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis*

10/2: 2 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

10/2: 4 at Ankasa National Park.

**WOODHOOPES AND SCIMITAR-BILLS: Phoeniculidae****Forest Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*

14/2: 2-3 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: Excellent views of a flock of 6 birds in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 2 in Bobiri Forest.

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

8/2: 1 spotted by Alex during the drive between Accra and Wenneba Plains

**HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae****White-crested Hornbill** *Tropicranus albocristatus*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 2 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 4 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Black Dwarf Hornbill** *Tockus hartlaubi*

16/2: Extended excellent scope views of a perched bird at Bobiri Forest was our only record of this much wanted species. One of the trip highlights.

**African Pied Hornbill** *Tockus fasciatus*

Widespread and common in forested areas. 9/2: 3 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 20 at Ankasa National Park, 1 along the road between Ankasa NP and Kakum NP. 11/2: 12 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 4 at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast

and Kakum NP. 15/2: 6 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 3 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, 5 in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 12 in Bobiri Forest..

**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*

8/2: 1 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra, 1 between Cape Coast and Cape of Three Points. 18/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**Piping Hornbill** *Bycanistes fistulator*

8/2: 10 in a forested areas near the lighthouse area of Cape of Three Points. 9/2: 4 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 6 at Ankasa National Park.

**Black-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna atrata*

9/2: 1 heard calling Ankasa National Park. 11/2: Magnificent views of 5 perched birds at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park, was one of the highlights of the trip.

**Yellow-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna elata*

13/2: 3 flying at some distance at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**BARBETS: Capitonidae**

**Bristle-nosed Barbet** *Gymnobucco peli*

12/2: 6 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 4 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 17/2: 40 in a nesting colony in a large dead tree in Bobiri Forest.

**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus*

11/2: 6 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 52 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park, obviously a common bird. 16/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: A large, dead tree in Bobiri Forest was full of holes, housing a large, mixed colony of Naked-faced and Bristle-nosed Barbets. Approximately 30 Naked-faced were counted.

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

10/2: 1 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 3 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 heard calling in Bobiri Forest.

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

9/2: 2 heard calling Ankasa National Park. 16/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

9/2: 1 heard calling Ankasa National Park. 15/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

9/2: 1 seen Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 heard at Ankasa National Park. 15/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 heard calling in Bobiri Forest. 18/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

17/2: 1 heard calling south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon. 19/2: 2 seen and heard at Shai Hills south.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*

9/2: 1 heard calling Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 heard calling at Ankasa National Park. 16/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 1 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Vieillot's Barbet** *Lybius vieilloti*

8/2: Excellent views of one of this handsome barbet species at Wenneba Plains. 15/2: 1 heard calling at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge. 18/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south.

**Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus*

18/2: 1 of this magnificent barbet at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 3 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus margaritatus*

12/2: 1 heard and seen well along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae****Cassin's Honeyguide** *Prodotiscus insignis*

16/2: Good views of a singleton in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Yellow-footed Honeyguide** *Melignomon eisentrauti*

15/2: Great, prolonged scope views of this rarity, perched above us on a branch at close range in a forest clearing in the hill forest of Atewa Range. All details were studied, including the yellow feet, until we were positive about the identification. A very good bird to see anywhere within its range in West Africa.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

18/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south.

**Willcock's Honeyguide** *Indicator willcocksi*

16/2: Good views of a singleton in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**WOODPECKERS: Picidae****Little Green Woodpecker** *Campethera maculosa*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 14/2: Great views of 2 birds at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Brown-eared Woodpecker** *Campethera caroli*

12/2 1 at Bonkro Village near Edubease.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**Fire-bellied Woodpecker** *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*

9/2: 3 together in a tall, dead tree near Nkwanta Camp, Ankasa National Park. 13/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 5 in hill forest at Atewa Range. 17/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae*

17/2: 1 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon.

**BROADBILLS: Eurylaimidae****Rufous-sided Broadbill** *Smithornis rufolateralis*

11/2: A bird was calling eagerly and prolonged in the early morning, just below the first part of the canopy walk in Kakum National Park. Despite it being very close, we never managed to locate the bird, though roaming around in the forest behind the building. A miss to see, since this was our only record during the trip.

## PASSERIFORMES

### SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: *Hirundinidae*

#### **Square-tailed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*

9/2: 3 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 4 at Ankasa National Park.

#### **Fanti Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne obscura*

11/2: 10 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

#### **Mosque Swallow** *Hirundo senegalensis*

8/2: 4 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast..

#### **Lesser Striped Swallow** *Hirundo abyssinica*

8/2: 2 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 10/2: 2 just outside Ankasa National Park.

#### **Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

8/2: 2 at Wenneba Plains. 10/2: 10 just outside Ankasa National Park. 13/2: 1 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 15 at Pra River, seen from the bridge.

#### **Preuss's Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon preussi*

10/2: We went to the coastal grassland area at Brenu Beach in the late afternoon, to see the famous roosting site of the rare Preuss's Cliff Swallow. Around 6 pm at twilight, app. 200 swallows started to gather high in the air in a dense flock. The flock did some impressive, fast dives down towards a road tunnel, where they roost at night, only to race back high in the air. This was repeated a number of times, but slowly they were getting closer and closer to the roost site. Finally, they all flew into the tunnel. A fine sight by the end of a long birding day, and one of the good memories of the trip.

13/2: A singleton was seen at Pra River, from the bridge.

#### **African Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula*

18/2: 4 at Shai Hills south.

#### **White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo nigrita*

13/2: 3 of this beautiful rainforest river swallow were seen at Pra River, from the bridge.

#### **Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica*

11/2: 4 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 18/2: 30 at Keta Lagoon.

#### **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

8/2: 3 at Wenneba Plains. 10/2: 2 just outside Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 20 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park, 30 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 12/2: 25 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 20 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 10 at Pra River, seen from the bridge. 17/2: 20 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra, 2 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon.

### WAGTAILS, PIPITS AND LONGCLAWS: *Motacillidae*

#### **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Lagoon. 18/2: 4 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

#### **African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains. 13/2: 2 at Pra River. Seen from the bridge.

#### **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

18/2: 5 at Shai Hills south.

#### **Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*

10/2: 2 at Brenu Beach coastal grassland. 18/2: 1 at Keta Lagoon.

**CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae****Blue Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina azurea*

11/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 17/2: 4 in Bobiri Forest.  
One of West Africa's great birds.

**BULBULS: Pycnonotidae****Little Greenbul** *Andropadus virens*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 13/2: 7 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.  
15/2: 1 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**Little Grey Greenbul** *Andropadus gracilis*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 1 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Anson's Greenbul** *Andropadus ansoni*

16/2: 1 at Bobiri Forest.

**Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul** *Andropadus curvirostris*

12/2: 3 heard calling along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park.

**Slender-billed Greenbul** *Andropadus gracilirostris*

10/2: 4 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 4 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 at Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 6 in Bobiri Forest..

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Andropadus latirostris*

10/2: 1 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 3 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 2 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Golden Greenbul** *Calyptocichla serina*

11/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 2 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*

11/2: 4-5 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 seen well at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park, 1 heard at canopywalk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 4 seen at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Simple Leaflove** *Chlorocichla simplex*

8/2: Great views of 2 birds in Wenneba Plains. 12/2 1 at Bonkro Village near Edubease.

**Swamp Palm Bulbul** *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

9/2: Good views of a group of 8 birds at Nkwanta Camp, Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 1 heard along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 3 heard calling at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

9/2: 1 seen Ankasa National Park.

**White-throated Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

9/2: 4 seen Ankasa National Park.

**Grey-headed Bristlebill** *Bleda canicapilla*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 2 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2 1 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 13/2: 1 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*

15/2: 4 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Yellow-bearded Greenbul** *Criniger olivaceus*

10/2: This vulnerable species, endemic to Upper Guinea rainforests, was encountered by 2 birds at Ankasa National Park. In Ghana, it is only distributed in the extreme south western corner of the country, including Ankasa NP. Thus, a speciality to see in Ghana.

**Western Bearded-Greenbul** *Criniger barbatus*

14/2: 4 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus*

8/2: 4 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra, 20 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 12/2 1 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 13/2: 20 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 17/2: 2 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon. 18/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**Western Nicator** *Nicator chloris*

9/2: 2 heard calling in Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 2 heard in Bobiri Forest..

**THRUSHES, CHATS AND ALLIES: Turdidae****Forest Robin** *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*

15/2: A fine male was seen at close range and heard singing in the hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. A quiet and shy jewel of the forest! The encounter with this stunning bird was one of the highlights of the trip.

**White-tailed Alethe** *Pseudalethe diademata*

9/2: 1 heard calling at Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 heard at Ankasa National Park.

**Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush** *Neocossyphus finschii*

9/2: 2 seen well at Ankasa National Park. 15/2: 2 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 3 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

8/2: 2 at Wenneba Plains. 18/2: 2 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**White-crowned Cliff-Chat** *Thamnolaea coronata*

19/2: 2 males at Shai Hills south, and 2 males at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north. This remarkable, whitecapped subspecies of Mocking Cliff Chat in West Africa is now considered a distinct species: White-crowned Cliff Chat. A pale belly, and a white crown.

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 18/2: 1 at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon, 3 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 3 at Shai Hills south, 3 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**OLD WORLD WARBLERS: Sylviidae****Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*

18/2: 1 at the hotel garden at the riverside in Sogakope.

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

8/2: 14 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 15/2: 1 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge. A character bird of the open grass plains.

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*

8/2: 1 heard calling at Wenneba Plains. 19/2: 1 seen and heard at Shai Hills south.

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*

15/2: 1 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes*

18/2: 2 singing at freshwater marsh at Atife, north of Keta Lagoon.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

8/2: 1 heard calling (and seen by Alex) at Wenneba Plains. 19/2: 3 seen and heard at Shai Hills south.

**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

19/2: 1 heard calling at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

8/2: 1 bird calling at Wenneba Plains. 13/2: 1 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*

16/2: 1 seen in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Sharpe's Apalis** *Apalis sharpii*

11/2: 3 seen well and another one heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 3 seen and heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 2 seen in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 2 heard and seen in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest. An Upper Guinea forest endemic.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura*

12/2: 1 heard calling at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 13/2: 2 heard calling at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 18/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 heard calling at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris*

11/2: 2 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 2 in Bobiri Forest.

**Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronata*

13/2: 1 heard calling at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 3 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 2 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Kemp's Longbill** *Macrosphenus kempii*

11/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 heard calling at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. A notorious skulker, very difficult to see.

**Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*

11/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 1 heard calling along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 heard calling at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 4 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 3 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 3 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Senegal Eremomela** *Eremomela pusilla*

18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*

11/2: 10 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 4 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. A common rainforest species.

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

19/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south.



**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*

12/2: 1 heard calling along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 seen at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 3 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 2 at Bobiri Forest.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

12/2: 3 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

One of the few wintering passerine species from Europe that reaches the rainforest belt of southern Ghana

**Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*

8/2: 1 male of this attractive, West-African warbler – also named Moho - was seen and heard at Wenneba Plains. A very loud, distinct and musical song. 19/2: 1 male was seen and heard in the early morning at Shai Hills south, and later we witnessed an incredible, long-lasting, territorial fight of three males together at very close range, at the entrance of Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**Violet-backed Hyliota** *Hyliota violacea*

16/2: We were lucky to find a flock of 6 of this remarkable bird in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. One of the trip highlights.

**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina*

9/2: 2 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 4 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 3 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 1 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 4 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae****Fraser's Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria ocreata*

15/2: 1 heard calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Nimba Flycatcher** *Melaenornis annamarulae*

16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. The bird was found by a British bird team (Birdseekers) on the preceding day. This vulnerable species is only known from a few mountain forests in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Ivory Coast, and is not known from Ghana. We had good scope views of the bird, and could only confirm the identification. Probably our rarest observation during the trip.

**Northern Black-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides*

18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains. 18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**Cassin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini*

10/2: 1 at the river at the entrance of Ankasa National Park.

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 do. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park.

**Ussher's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ussheri*

11/2: 4 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 4 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis*

15/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Lead-coloured Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*

18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south.

**MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae****Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocercus mccallii*

11/2: 1 heard calling at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 3 seen well at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 4 in Bobiri Forest.

**Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus nitens*

9/2: 1 male seen well at Ankasa National Park. 10/2: Another one at Ankasa National Park.

16/2: 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**African Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

16/2: 1 male in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 19/2: 1 male at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**Red-bellied Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

9/2: 1 male Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 3 same place. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 1 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 15/2: 2 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 male in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**BATISES, WATTLE-EYES AND ALLIES: Platysteiridae****Shrike Flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus*

14/2: Close up views of a nice female at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

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

10/2: 1 male at Ankasa National Park. 13/2: A fine pair at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: A male at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya castanea*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 15/2: 3 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye** *Platysteira cyanea*

18/2: 4 heard calling at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 seen at Shai Hills south, 2 seen at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**Senegal Batis** *Batis senegalensis*

18/2: 1 male at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 1 at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**ROCKFOWL: Picathartidae****Yellow-headed Rockfowl** *Picathartes gymnocephalus*

12/2: 4-6 at the nesting colony at Bonkro Village near Edubease. We arrived at the nesting site in the late afternoon, about ¾ hours walk into the jungle from Bonkro Village. In the roof of a big, overhanging rock on a hillside we counted approximately 15 mud-nests. We sat quietly waiting at the edge of the rock. After about 20 minutes the first rockfowl appeared. It was quite confident, hopping around on the forest floor 5-10 meters away, tossing over leaves like a thrush. More birds turned up, and eventually they started to fly up to the rock towards the nests, to roost for the night. We saw at least four different birds, but perhaps 6 different individuals. The villagers say that there are 8 birds in total. Our encounter with this mythical bird became the ultimate highlight of the trip. (see also cover photo).



*Yellow-headed Rockfowl (EKR)*

**BABBLERS: Timaliidae**

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens*

14/2: 1 heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 17/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest.

**Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus*

18/2: 5 at Shai Hills south.

**Blackcap Babbler** *Turdoides reinwardtii*

18/2: 8 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: A flock seen at Shai Hills south.

**TITS: Paridae**

**Dusky Tit** *Parus funereus*

16/2: 6 in hill forest at Atewa Range

**White-shouldered Black-Tit** *Parus guineensis*

18/2: 3 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**PENDULINE TITS: Remizidae**

**Forest Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus flavifrons*

13/2: Prolonged scope views of a single bird at a forest edge near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. One of the rare and much wanted birds during the trip.

**Tit-hylia** *Pholidornis rushiae*

12/2: Great, close views of 4 birds along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. The smallest bird of Africa, and a much wanted species for the trip.

**SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae**

**Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*

11/2: 11 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Fraser's Sunbird** *Deleornis fraseri*

11/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 2 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 1 male along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 1 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 15/2: 2 (a pair) in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Western Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra obscura*

9/2: 6 Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Buff-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra adelberti*

9/2: 2 Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 1 splendid male at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 3 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*

10/2: 1 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 6 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 2 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 2 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 13/2: 1 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 4 at Visitor Centre, Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, 2 at Bobiri Forest. 18/2: 4 at hotel garden in Sogakope.

**Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*

12/2: 1 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 1 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 14/2: 1 at Visitor Centre, Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus*

15/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: Excellent views of a male in Bobiri Forest.

**Johanna's Sunbird** *Cinnyris johannae*

16/2: Great views of a pair in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*

12/2 1 male at Bonkro Village near Edubease.

**Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*

8/2: 1 male at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 18/2: 1 male at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 3 at Shai Hills south.

**Bates's Sunbird** *Cinnyris batesi*

15/2: This rare and indistinct sunbird was identified at Atewa Forest, where we found 4 birds in a mixed birdwave.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*

8/2: 2 at Wenneba Plains. 10/2: 2 (a pair) at Brenu Beach coastal grassland. 18/2: 1 male at Shai Hills.

**WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae****African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*

11/2: 3-4 heard calling at the entrance of Kakum NP canopy walk. 15/2: 1 calling at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**SHRIKES: Laniidae****Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*

8/2 1 along the road at Kojokrom between Cape Coast and Cape of Three Points was our only sighting during the trip. Apparently a scarce bird in the southern Ghana.

**Yellow-billed Shrike** *Corvinella corvina*

8/2: 1 at Wenneba Plains. 17/2: 2 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 19/2: 15 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**BUSHSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Malaconotidae**

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*

8/2: Excellent views of a singleton of this skulking species at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 at Shai Hills south.

**Sabine's Puffback** *Dryoscopus sabini*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: A pair at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 17/2: 1 male in Bobiri Forest.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

15/2: 2 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 18/2: 1 heard calling at Shai Hills south.

**Yellow-crowned Gonolek** *Laniarius barbarus*

8/2: 3 heard at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 10/2: 1 heard at Brenu Beach coastal grassland. 18/2: 1 heard at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 2 heard at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**HELMET-SHRIKES: Prionopidae**

**White Helmet-shrike** *Prionops plumatus*

18/2: 1 at Shai Hills south. 19/2: 6 at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**Red-billed Helmet-shrike** *Prionops caniceps*

9/2: A group of 10 of this attractive species in Ankasa National Park, at Nkwanta Camp. 14/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**ORIOLES: Oriolidae**

**Black-winged Oriole** *Oriolus nigripennis*

12/2: Good views of 1 male along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Western Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

9/2: 1 heard calling in Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 6 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 3 males calling in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 3 in Bobiri Forest.

**DRONGOS: Dicruridae**

**Shining Drongo** *Dicrurus atripennis*

9/2: 3 Ankasa National Park. 15/2: 14 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Velvet-mantled Drongo** *Dicrurus modestus*

11/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 4 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 13/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum NP. 14/2: 6 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 2 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve, 4 in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 12 in Bobiri Forest.

**CROWS: Corvidae**

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

8/2: 12 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra, 40 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 10/2: 1 along the road between Ankasa NP and Kakum NP. 17/2: 3 in Bobiri Forest.

### **STARLINGS: Sturnidae**

#### **Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptera lugubris*

11/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 15/2: 12 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

#### **Forest Chestnut-winged Starling** *Onychognathus fulgidus*

11/2: 3 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 5 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 4 in Bobiri Forest.

#### **Copper-tailed Glossy Starling** *Lamprotornis cupreocauda*

9/2: 1 heard calling Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 2 seen Ankasa NP. An endemic to Upper Guinea forests.

#### **Purple Glossy Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureus*

8/2: 2 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra, 1 at Wenneba Plains

#### **Splendid Glossy Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus*

10/2: 2 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 2 at Bonkro Village near Edubease. 13/2: 4 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park. 16/2: 2 in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 2 in Bobiri Forest.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

#### **Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*

8/2: 2 at the Atlantic Resort Hotel, western outskirts of Accra. 11/2: 5 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 12/2: 5 near Adebias. 17/2: 2 during drive from Bobiri Forest to Sogakofe via Accra. 18/2: 2 at hotel garden in Sogakope.

### **WEAVERS: Ploceidae**

#### **Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzeni*

18/2: 1 male at hotel garden in Sogakope.

#### **Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius*

13/2: Three pairs of this beautiful weaver were nesting at the garden lake, Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 14/2: do.



*The beautiful Orange Weaver (EKR)*

**African (Vitelline) Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*

8/2: 3 at Wenneba Plains. 13/2: 20 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.  
15/2: 20 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**Heuglin's Masked Weaver** *Ploceus heuglini*

19/2: 1 male flying by at Bat Cave, Shai Hills north.

**Vieillot's (Black) Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*

12/2: 1 near Adebias. 13/2: 20 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park, 4 in a mixed colony on the small island in the garden lake, Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 14/2: 60 in the breeding colony at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*

8/2: 30 at Wenneba Plains. 10/2: 20 at Brenu Beach coastal grassland. 13/2: 30 nesting in a colony on the small island in the garden lake, Hans Botel Cottage, between Cape Coast and Kakum NP. 14/2: 80 in the colony at the lake at Hans Botel Cottage. The colony was heavily predated by Cattle Egrets. 18/2: 4 at Keta Lagoon. Nests in the mangrove.

**Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*

11/2: 12 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 14/2: 10 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 6 at Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 16 in Bobiri Forest. A fine rainforest weaver.

**Maxwell's Black Weaver** *Ploceus albinucha*

15/2: 30 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Compact Weaver** *Ploceus superciliosus*

15/2: Excellent views of 10 birds of this rare species at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*

10/2: 4 at Ankasa National Park. 12/2: 12 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 14/2: 6 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 17/2: 2 in Bobiri Forest.

**Red-vented Malimbe** *Malimbus scutatus*

17/2: 1 seen by David in Bobiri Forest.

**Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*

10/2: 2 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 4 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 16/2: 4 at Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macrourus*

8/2: 36 in non-breeding plumage at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast. 10/2: 25 at Brenu Beach coastal grassland.

**WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae****Grey-crowned Negrofinch** *Nigrita canicapillus*

9/2: 1 Ankasa National Park. 10/2: 1 at Ankasa National Park. 11/2: 2 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 13/2: 4 at forested areas near Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park, 3 at Kakum Canopy Walk. 15/2: 8 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge. 16/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 heard in Bobiri Forest. 17/2: 3 in Bobiri Forest.

**Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita bicolor*

11/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park. 12/2: 3 along Aboabo Road, northern Kakum National Park. 15/2: 1 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve. 17/2: 1 in Bobiri Forest.

**White-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita fusconotus*

11/2: 1 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*

13/2: 4 at Anwikwaa Village, northern Kakum National Park.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

18/2: 10 at Hotel garden in Sogakope. 19/2: 2 at Sakumo Lagoon, east of Accra.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

8/2: 7 at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast.

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*

8/2: 5 at Wenneba Plains. 15/2: 4 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*

8/2: 8 at Wenneba Plains

**Bronze Mannikin** *Spermestes cucullatus*

8/2: 10, some carrying nest material, at Wenneba Plains, between Accra and Cape Coast.

17/2: 12 in Bobiri Forest.

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

15/2: 20 at Atewa bush farmland below the Atewa mountain ridge.

**INDIGOBIRDS: Viduidae****Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*

14/2: 5 at Visitor Centre, Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park.

**TRUE FINCHES: Fringillidae****Yellow-fronted Canary** *Serinus mozambicus*

17/2: 1 south of Sogakofe, along the road towards the coast and Keta Lagoon. Seen by Hans.

## Mammal list

**Straw-coloured Fruit Bat** *Eidolon helvum*

1 at dusk, Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park 11/2.

**Small Fruit- Bat sp.**

6 at Cape Coast, seen by Alex. 13/2: 2 do.

**Bat sp.** *Myotis*

1 at dusk in Bobiri Forest 16/2.

**Striped Ground Squirrel** *Euxerus erythropus*

1 nestbuilding at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park 11/2.

**Squirrel sp.**

2 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve 15/2. 1 heard in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve 16/2.

**Bosman's Potto** *Perodicticus potto*

1 heard calling after dark in Bobiri Forest 16/2

**Anubis Baboon** *Papio anubis*

Flock of app. 20 in Shai Hills south 18/2. 19/2: 3 at Shai Hills south.

**Mona Monkey** *Cercopithecus mona*

10/2: 1 at Ankasa National Park 10/2. Heard at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park 13/2.

**Vervet Monkey** *Cercopithecus aethiops*

2 at Shai Hills south, 4 at north 19/2

**Western Black and White Colobus Monkey** *Colobus polykomos*

6 at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park 14/2



**Monkey sp.**

1 heard 15/2 in hill forest at Atewa Forest Reserve.

**Marsh Mongoose** *Atilax paludinosus*

**Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguineus*

1 Ankasa NP 10/2

**Dwarf Mongoose** *Herpestes parvula*

3 Ankasa NP 9/2

**Tree Dassie** *Dendrohyrax arboreus*

2 heard calling after darkness at Canopy Walk, Kakum National Park 11/2

**[African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana*

Droppings and tracks seen in Ankasa NP 9/2]

**Maxwell's Duiker** *Cephalophus maxwelli*

1 Ankasa NP 9/2, 2 at Ankasa NP 10/2

## Reptiles

**Monitor Lizard** 1 at Ankasa NP in swamp 10/2

**Snake sp.** 1 9/2 at a swamp in Ankasa NP

**Forest Gecko sp.** 1 at Kakum NP



*A forest gecko at Kakum National Park (EKR)*

## European migratory birds

### **Northern Shoveler**

19.2 1 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

### **European Marsh Harrier**

17.2. 2 at coastal savanna between Tema og Sogakope

18.2 4 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon

19.2 6 around Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

### **Honey Buzzard**

11.2 3 Kakum NP

13.2 1 Antwikwaa, Kakum NP

16.2 1 Atewa Forest Reserve

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**

18.2 18 at Keta Lagoon

**Little Gull**

18.2 1 Keta Lagoon

**Pomarine Skua**

13.2 1 Cape Coast

**Common Tern**

19.2 3 around Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Little Tern**

18.2 140 at Keta Lagoon. Migrants or local breeders.

**Black Tern**

18.2 3 Keta Lagoon

**White-winged Black Tern**

18.2 1 Keta Lagoon

**Sandwich Tern**

18.2 160 at Keta Lagoon

19.2 9 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Whimbrel**

8.2 50 Wenneba Lagoon

18.2 32 Keta Lagoon

**Curlew**

18.2 4 Keta Lagoon

**Turnstone**

8.2 2 Wenneba Lagoon

19.2 6 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Curlew Sandpiper**

8.2 150 Wenneba Lagoon

18.2 50 Keta Lagoon

19.2 1 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Sanderling**

8.2 100 Wenneba Lagoon

18.2 28 Keta Lagoon

19.2 6 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Little Stint**

18.2 70 Keta Lagoon

19.2 75 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Red Knot**

18.2 3 Keta Lagoon

19.2 3 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Common Sandpiper**

8.2 3 Wenneba Lagoon

13.2 1 Pra River

14.2 1 Hans Botel Cottage, Cape Coast

18.2 6 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon, 30 Keta Lagoon

19.2 1 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Wood Sandpiper**

18.2 40 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon

19.2 10 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Redshank**

8.2 4 Wenneba Lagoon

18.2 2 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon, 2 Keta Lagoon

19.2 1 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Greenshank**

8.2 2 Wenneba Lagoon

18.2 6 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon, 130 Keta Lagoon

19.2 20 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Marsh Sandpiper**

18.2 15 Keta Lagoon

**Ringed Plover**

8.2 300 Wenneba Lagoon

18.2 20 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon, 45 Keta Lagoon

19.2 80 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Blacktailed Godwit**

8.2 1 Wenneba Lagoon

19.2 4 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

18.2 1 Keta Lagoon

**Grey Plover**

8.2 40 Wenneba Lagoon

18.2 33 Keta Lagoon

19.2 38 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Collared Pratincole**

18.2 35 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon

19.2 45 Sakumo Lagoon, Tema

**Common Snipe**

18.2 10 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon

**Ruff**

18.2 2 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon

**Common Swift**

12.2 20 seen high over Aboabo, Kakum NP

**Tree Pipit**

18.2 5 at Shai Hills

**Yellow Wagtail**

8.2 1 at Wenneba Plains

18.2 4 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon

**Barn Swallow**

Common winter migrant, seen daily in small numbers in the open countryside, especially near water. The most common swallow seen on the trip.

**Garden Warbler**

18.2 1 at Shai Hills

**Melodious Warbler**

18.2 1 at hotel garden in Sogakope

**Wood Warbler**

12.2 3 at Aboabo, Kakum NP

13.2 1 at Antwikwaa, Kakum NP

16.2 1 Atewa Forest Reserve

**Whinchat**

8.2. 2 at Wenneba Plains

18.2 2 at freshwater lagoon at Afife, north of Keta Lagoon, 1 at Shai Hills

**Spotted Flycatcher**

8.2 1 at Wenneba Plains

18.2 1 at Shai Hills

## **AWARDS OF THE TRIP**

**Bird of the trip (voted by all):**

Yellow-headed Rockfowl

**Second and third bird of the trip (voted by all):**

Great Blue Turaco and

Blueheaded Bee-eater

**Top 5 birds, voted by Alex:**

Blueheaded Bee-eater

Great Blue Turaco

Rock Pratincole

Hartlaub's Duck

Buff-throated Sunbird

**Top 5 birds, voted by Hans:**

Great Blue Turaco

Black-casqued Hornbill

Blueheaded Bee-eater

Forest Robin

Forest Wood Hoopoe

**Top 5 birds, voted by Niels:**

White-necked (Yellow-headed) Picathartes

Blue-bellied Roller

Hartlaub's Duck

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill

Black Bee-eater

**Top 5 birds, voted by Erling:**

Yellow-headed Rockfowl

Black Dwarf Hornbill

Congo Serpent Eagle

Bluebellied Roller

Hartlaub's Duck

**Best mammal experience of the trip:**

Maxwell's Duiker coming out on the forest track for fallen fruit, Ankasa NP

**Best reptile of the trip:**

Monitor Lizard in a tree in forest swamp, Ankasa NP

**Best show off of the trip:**

Niels teaching 24 young female nurse students how to swim, in the Hans Botel cottage swimming pool

## Contact

You are welcome to get further information about the trip from email:

Erling Krabbe: [ekr@sns.dk](mailto:ekr@sns.dk) or

Alex Rosendal: [alex.rosendal@mail.tele.dk](mailto:alex.rosendal@mail.tele.dk)