

GHANA

FEBRUARY 2009

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Group: Rolf Gafvert Andrew Self
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Day 1 Saturday 14th February

Everybody arrived into a pleasantly warm Accra airport where Chris and Attila were waiting. A recent bit of rain had freshened things up a little and after a very short journey we were soon at our hotel on the Atlantic coast in time to enjoy a quick snack before bed, ready for the treats that lay ahead!

Day 2 Sunday 15th February

It was a civilised start for our first morning with a 7am breakfast allowing everyone to recover and feel fresh for a full day's birding. We enjoyed breakfast from the very pleasant restaurant with great views across the Atlantic Ocean where the first birds of the trip were **Laughing Dove, Pied Crow, Common Bulbul** and a **Caspian Tern** all from the breakfast table. The service at the hotel was good despite Andrew's egg and bacon arriving last but by the time it arrived, it tasted all the better! With bellies full, we boarded our air-conditioned coach and met our excellent driver, Kwame and of course our local guide, Robert. Our first stop of the day was **Panbros Lagoons** where we clocked up some



good species. One of the first species was a very obliging **Winding Cisticola** doing exactly what it says on the tin! A good selection of waders awaited us and included, **Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Marsh Sandpiper**, the odd **Ruff** and **Spotted Redshank**. **Little Tern** and **Black Tern** gave some good views, as did no less than three **Malachite Kingfishers** that darted around us and showed very well alongside the very common **Pied Kingfishers**. A **Striated**

Heron and **Purple Heron** performed well along with **Western Reef-Egret, Wattled Jacana, Long-tailed Cormorant** and **Intermediate Egret**. A **Senegal Coucal** then perched out in the open for all to enjoy and Rolf picked up some **White-throated Bee-Eaters** whilst the young lads fishing in the creek caused some entertainment!

A small group of the tiny **Slender-billed Weavers** was a nice addition to the day list as they fed very close to us in the nearby vegetation seeming almost warbler like at times. A few **Collared Pratincoles** hawked high above us and a **Hobby** flew overhead whilst a **Western Marsh Harrier** quartered the reeds and **Spur-winged Plovers** wandered around the edge of the salt pan. The weather got a little warmer and we had to leave, despite Robert's best efforts in keeping the peace with the site manager!



A short drive further along the Cape Coast and we arrived at **Muni Lagoon**. Here we sifted through a large flock of **Sandwich** and **Royal Terns** and found **Whimbrel**, and **Turnstone** to increase our wader tally for the day.

Robert then picked up a **Splendid Sunbird** that performed particularly well in the palm trees that shaded us from the now fairly hot day. This was soon to be joined by an immature male **Copper Sunbird** and then a fantastic **Broad-billed Roller**.

The heat of the day was fast approaching, so we decided to head for our lunch stop, but not before a few more birds were added en-route from the comfort of the cool coach! A **Kestrel** of the race *rufescens*, (darker than our more familiar UK version), three **Piapiacs**, a **Splendid Glossy-Starling** and a group of **Village Weavers**.

Our lunch stop was a very pleasant affair as we sat under the terrace of our restaurant and enjoyed some chicken, fish and beef dishes and some very welcome chips! The birding from the table was pretty good too with **Bronze Manakins**, **Hooded Vulture**, **Shikra** and a **Black-winged Kite** picked up by Sue. We took our time over lunch waiting for the heat of the day to drop and then headed on to the **Winneba Plains**.



It was a fairly quiet start at this dry savannah habitat but before long we were treated to some excellent views of **Red-faced Cisticola** thanks to Mark and then as things began to cool down we had a little flurry of activity with some good views of the very distinctive **Yellow-billed Shrike** bathing in puddle and a bird feeding young before Chris picked out a **Senegal Eremomola** and the strange



squeaking of a **Gambian Sun Squirrel** had us scratching our heads for a while before Robert put us out of our misery! The distinctive call of the **Green Turaco** gave itself away, but would not show itself and then Robert found a stunning **Vieillot's Barbet** that showed very well as it posed on top of a dead tree in the early evening light. **Lesser-striped Swallow**, the comical **Western Plantain-Eater** and lots of **Whinchat** kept our interest going. Then a great spot by Andrew of a

Black-crowned Tchagra sat in a bush was very much welcomed, as were **Double-spurred Francolin** and a brief view of a **Black-winged Bishop** before the widespread, but no less impressive **Common Gonolek** literally lit up the bush! A nearby **Tree Pipit** was a nice addition to the list but slightly ignored due to its less exciting plumage colouration in comparison to the **Common Gonolek**! A **Great Spotted Cuckoo** gave a frustrating view to some of the group, just as we boarded the coach!

We headed further west to our accommodation and managed to squeeze in just one more stop at some lily ponds. It was not ideal viewing by the side of the road, but we still managed to notch up a few new species including **Black Crane**, more **Wattled Jacanas** some good views of our first **African Pied-Hornbills**, **White-faced Whistling Ducks** and some **Viellot's Black Weavers**.

We finally arrived at our accommodation at the infamous and rather quirky Hans Cottage Hotel where we enjoyed a good meal and some live music!

Day 3 Monday 16th February

Today we were up at 6am and we headed off to the **Kakum Forest** an absolute “must visit” site for any trip to Ghana and a wealth of fantastic birds. Only a 30 minute drive and we were soon heading up the relatively steep climb of steps to the world famous Canopy Walkway and before long the whole group were at the top ready to set foot on the rope walkway. Everyone was full of excitement and nervousness about birding from the walkway whilst suspended 30 metres above the forest floor but as we took it in turns to head out to the various viewing platforms, everybody was soon focussed on the wonderful sounds of the forest and eager to find new birds. Our group was too big to stay on one platform so we split the group between platforms 2 and 3 and did our best to communicate for any key birds. Here we spent the next three hours just soaking up the sights and sounds of the forest with exclusive access, undisturbed by the first visiting tourists. The hornbills clearly stole the show as we were treated to both **Yellow-casqued Hornbill** and a group of female **Black-casqued Hornbills**.



These huge hornbills performed just fantastically at eye-level gleaning fruit from the tops of the trees and wafting past with their powerful wing beats. A **Fire-bellied Woodpecker** was a great Upper Guinea Forest Endemic that was much appreciated as a bird showed very well between our two platforms. A very close **Honey Buzzard** put on a great show as it glided by at eye level and 4 **African Grey Parrots** were seen by some as they whizzed over the platforms. We continued to share our

time at the different platforms and group highlights included the common but no less welcome **Velvet-mantled Drongo**. A pair of **Blue-throated Rollers** performed exceptionally, perching in the branches of the trees overhead. A **Yellowbill** gave some great views as it showed to some of us below the platform working its way up through the tangle of vines. A **Red-headed Malimbe** was a nice addition to the list for some, as too was the endemic **Hairy-breasted Barbet**. Next came the first additions to the Greenbul family with both **Slender-billed Greenbul** and **Grey Greenbul** and a **Forest Wood-Hoopoe** was an excellent addition for some of the group as it showed quite well from the 2nd platform. **Red-fronted Parrots** were very common as were the striking **Yellow-mantled Weavers**. Still the list continued and the expectation of new birds was ever growing with **Grey-**

headed **Negrofinch**, the very hirundine-like **Ussher's Flycatcher**, tiny **Lemon-bellied Crombec** and **Green Sunbird** for some, **Black-winged Oriole** and then both **Naked-faced Barbet** and **Bristle-nosed Barbets** gave a good identification challenge as birds often mixed together and were not always close enough to see "bristles". A number of Sunbirds took some sorting out with tricky females as Annabel announced she was fed up with females and wanted some males!

It all seemed too quick and before long we had spent three hours enjoying some very exciting and sometimes frustrating birding on the walkway and it was time to head back down to our coach and to put our feet on *terra firma*! Of course the descent still gave us some new birds, the most notable



highlights being a very shy **White-crested Hornbill** only visible to some of the group before it flew deep into the forest and then some far more showy species that included the tiny **Green Crombec**, an absolutely stunning **Yellow-browed Camaroptera** calling continuously and showing off as it inflated its air sacs, and finally a very beautiful **Yellow-spotted Nicator** that performed well just as we descended the last few steps. So we climbed onto our very welcomed cool coach and headed back for some brunch at our hotel.

Our brunch was served in the restaurant overlooking the lake where having binoculars close to hand was a necessity as **Vieillot's Black Weavers**, **Village Weavers** and the odd **Orange Weaver** performed just metres away. A fine Grey Kestrel perched up on a nearby dead tree was a nice find and an **African Harrier-Hawk** also soared above. After a well-earned and much needed siesta during the heat of the day we headed out to visit another area of more open forest at nearby Antwikwaa. Despite it still being pretty hot we slowly ambled along the wide track and before long we were watching the very attractive **Buff-throated Sunbird** soon to be followed by a soaring **Red-necked Hawk**. A **Grey-headed Negrofinch** did its best to hide in the shade as did two **White-breasted Negrofinches** a little further along the trail. Robert alerted us to a singing **Grey-headed Bristlebill**, but unfortunately, we had no real chance of seeing it as it was deep in cover, but then our attention was diverted by an **African Pygmy Kingfisher** that showed very



well. A **Little Greenbul** teased us as it sang very close-by but just would not show itself, but we did see a brief **Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher**. However, it was Robert who silenced everyone as he calmly pointed out a **Black Bee-Eater**, a real "must see" bird for most of the group! A single bird soon became two birds much to the delight of Sue who was a real fan of this great family. Once everyone was totally happy with the views we drove up the track a little further to a good viewpoint across the forest and Chris found a group of **Piping Hornbills** that showed well in the early evening

light. A **Speckled Tinkerbird** showed well and then Martin did very well to find a female **Black-bellied Seedcracker** sat almost concealed in the centre of a palm tree! As the light began to fade we enjoyed views of **Whistling Cisticola** showed and **Orange-cheeked Waxbills**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and our second **Honey Buzzard** of the day flew over.

Day 4 Tuesday 17th February

Kakum – Canopy Walkway

Today was an early start as we wanted to be sure that we were on the **canopy walkway** as early as possible to maximise bird activity. We swapped our positions on the two platforms so everyone in the group had the same time on the better platform (if there was such a thing!). As we crossed the first walkway some of us heard the distinctive sound of a **Rufous-sided Broadbill** in the forest below, but



Unfortunately we were not going to see it from where we were! As we arrived onto the platforms we were treated to at least 10+ **Black-casqued Hornbills** including some fantastic males with their huge casques. A **Red-thighed Sparrowhawk** performed well from platform 3 with the rest of the group seeing this bird when we swapped positions. The creaking of the platforms was a little unnerving at times(!) but

the birds soon distracted us enough to take away such thoughts as both **Naked-faced Barbets** and a **Bristle-nosed Barbet** gave some excellent views allowing bristles to be clearly seen this time!. A



small group of three **Mona Monkeys** were picked up in the canopy trees beyond platform 3 and gave some good views with a little perseverance.

Chestnut-winged Starling and **Black-winged Orioles** showed well but generally bird activity seemed pretty quiet than the previous morning, but a fantastic **Yellow-billed Turaco** gave some great views as it flashed its brilliant red wing patches flying beneath us. We all moved on a platform and as the sun warmed up things then became very active. A small group of **Rufous-crowned Eremomolas** passed overhead and in with them a

Black-capped Apalis was spotted by sharp-eyed Mark. Then both **Red-headed Malimbe** and **Red-vented Malimbe** showed very well along with the tiny but long-tailed **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher**, **Slender-billed Greenbul** and two **Violet-backed Hyltiota** for some of the group. Then Chris picked up both male and female **Sharpe's Apalis**, a good Upper Guinea Forest endemic, that in hindsight

Mark had seen earlier in the morning. A **Little Grey Greenbul** was seen from Chris's platform and then Robert alerted us to the song of a **Blue Cuckoo-Shrike** that despite being very close, Chris and co. just could not see it, but we could see Attila and co. were clearly enjoying great views! Two **Black-and-White Colobus** monkeys were a great spot from Robert as they sat high in the canopy and we managed to scope them from the platforms. Just before the first tourists began to arrive, we all moved onto our final platforms allowing time for a few more new species! Between us the list included, **Little Green Sunbird**, **Sabine's Spinetail**, two **Rosy Bee-Eaters** that rather frustratingly hawked insects high above us before disappearing and then both **Fanti Saw-Wing** and **Square-tailed Saw-Wing** gave some good views and allowed comparisons to be made to these fairly similar looking species. Finally, the **Blue Cuckoo-Shrike** performed again and everyone was soon rewarded with great views of this really stunning bird.

It was then back for another "Brunch" at the hotel where yet again, binoculars were essential as an **African Harrier-Hawk** really stole the show as it terrorised the Weaver colonies whilst we enjoyed our food! It was then time for some relaxation in the heat of the day before we headed out for an afternoon birding session.



We headed to the Cape Coast where a brief visit to the **Cape Coast Castle** gave us some sobering reminders of the slave trade and we dropped off Martin and Jenny to learn more about the history of this period. A scan of some telegraph wires gave us some good views of **Ethiopian Swallow** and we then headed off to the nearby Ofasu Lagoon. Here a small group of **African Pygmy-Geese** were rather unhelpful as no sooner were they found than they took off and disappeared round the corner out of view. However, we did obtain some good views of **Wood Sandpiper** and a very obliging **Woodland Kingfisher** feeding on the fisherman's scraps just feet away from us. A walk round to the other side of the lagoon revealed **Common Sandpiper** and **Yellow Wagtail** and Robert then

found a rather obliging **Grey Woodpecker** as we headed back to the coach to pick up Jenny and Martin.

Our last destination of the day was Brenu Beach where we spent an hour or so enjoying the very pleasant evening temperatures. Here we also enjoyed some good views of **Double-spurred Francolins**, **Grey Kestrel**, **Piping Hornbill** and **African Pied Hornbill** along with a very showy **Green-backed Camaroptera** of the "grey-backed" form. **Bronze Manakins** whizzed around us and

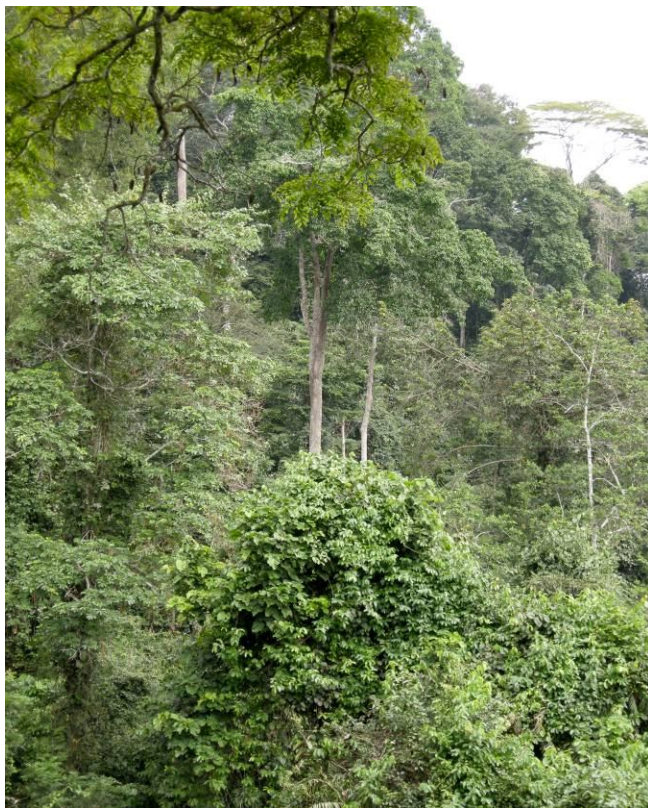
then three **Bar-breasted Firefinches** showed well as they drank from a puddle. A **Green-headed Sunbird** gave some very good views in the early evening light, a **Rufous-chested Swallow** flew overhead and a **Black-crowned Tchagra** was a good spot by Sue. More good views of the distinctive **Red-faced Cisticola** were had along with the tiny **Slender-billed Weaver** and then two **Lanner**



Falcons sat on the top of a dead tree finally showed off their diagnostic buff crowns in better light and we waited for our hoped for spectacle. It wasn't long before we watched a swirling flock of 250+ **Preuss's Cliff Swallows** just above our heads as they swarmed like insects and then dived down into a reedy area to roost and disappeared almost as quickly as they had appeared. A final bird for the day was a very welcome **Barn Owl** as it flew past us walking back to our coach - A very fitting end to another great day.

Day 5 Wednesday 18th February

It was another early start today and no sooner had everyone met at the coach than Chris and Attila had everyone out and walking a short distance to an area where they had both just heard a **Long-tailed Nightjar** whilst walking to the coach. Everyone managed to hear it but unfortunately, it did not show so we quickly headed back to the coach and headed off to **Kakum Forest** again. This time we kept our feet on solid ground and decided to take one of the many forest trails. Within five minutes of walking the trail, Attila stopped abruptly as a **Forest Robin** was no more than a few metres from us



sitting on the gloomy forest floor. After a quick bit of re-organising our positions, we all stood very quietly and with a little help with directions, we were all soon watching this really fabulous bird. This species is sometimes split into as many as 4 different species and this particular form is then considered an Upper Guinea Forest endemic, so an excellent start to the day! As we continued along the trail, Robert alerted us to some bird activity ahead and we were soon onto the end of a flock. Some rather frustrating views of

Grey-headed Bristlebill started us off before Attila diverted our attention to a **Buff-spotted Woodpecker** and we also enjoyed some excellent views of a male **Chestnut Wattle-eye** and a **Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher**. Next we headed into an area of forest where we hoped to find a very special bird and a species much wanted

by the group. As we continued our trail down a slight slope, we could hear our target species and before long we were all treated to some pretty good views of a male **Rufous-sided Broadbill** as it sat quietly on a low branch. Happy with ourselves, we continued onward and did our best to avoid the odd ant trail! The forest seemed pretty quiet but Robert's ears were invaluable and he alerted us to a number of species along the trail but many would just not show themselves. **Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher** was one of those species only heard and then another **White-crested Hornbill** became the focus, as some of the group had some brief views of this real stunner! We soon found ourselves back on the main trail and we were all feeling a little cheated after putting in a lot of effort but not gaining much in the way of species – so often the case with forest birding! However, things picked up as a **Grey Longbill** performed very well indeed as it flitted between the tangles of vine showing off its “long bill” and short-tailed jizz. **Rosy Bee-Eaters** frustrated us as we heard birds above us but the forest canopy was too thick to see. As we continued on our loop, back towards our coach we had some overdue luck and hit a busy bird flock. Here we had a fast and furious 20 minutes or so where

everyone enjoyed some really close views of **Gray's Malimbe**, the rufous flanked **Kemp's Longbill**, **Little Greenbul**, **Yellowbill**, **Rufous-crowned Eremomela**, **Naked-faced** and **Bristle-nosed Barbets**,



Western Olive Sunbird, **Red-headed Malimbe** and a very good spot by Andrew and Chris of a **Green Twinspot**. Feeling happy with our morning, we then headed back to our coach and enjoyed a late breakfast. Some people then took the opportunity to cool down in the hotel swimming pool or to catch up with some of the commoner species around the hotel including the **Vieillot's Black Weavers** and **Village Weavers**, **African Pied Wagtail**, **Agama Lizards** and of course the **Crocodiles!**



The afternoon was spent exploring the Antwikwaa area. Our first stop produced some good views of **Pale Flycatcher**, **Little Bee-Eater** and some excellent views of **White-throated Bee-Eater**, very common but always a joy to see. Our second **African Pygmy-Kingfisher** of the trip showed well also



and then our attention turned to raptors as **Red-necked Buzzard** and two **African Harrier-Hawks** (adult and juvenile) soared above us. **Red-headed Quelea** and **Blue-spotted Wood Dove** were nice additions to the trip list, as were the spiky headed **Levaillant's Cuckoo** and a good spot by Annabel of two **Black-necked Weavers**. With a few new birds under the belt, it was time to head back to Kakum Forest for the brave souls that were up for the canopy walkway in darkness!

Once at the forest, we quickly headed up the steps and were soon in position on the platforms with an hour to go before dusk fell. It was great

to be back just taking in the sounds of the forest. **Blue-throated Rollers** performed well again and a **Honey Buzzard** gave a brief view as it silently flew past the platforms and just before dusk a very noisy and frustrating **Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** began to call very close to us and despite our best efforts we could just not locate it. It was however re-named by Mark as the more appropriate “ambulance bird!” due to its siren-like call. As dusk fell we heard the very distinctive call of the rhythmic **Nkulengu Rail** below us and as the light faded further we hoped to hear our target species, **Brown Nightjar**. After a short while Chris alerted everyone to a bird calling from the end platform, so we headed out into the darkness and out to the end platform. From here, the bird could still be heard but very distantly and it just did not want to be coaxed into view. It was great to hear this species albeit disappointing not to see it and we had to leave. We headed slowly down the steps and back to the coach as Chris tried to lure in some owl species and within a few minutes we were treated to absolutely fantastic views of the often difficult to see **Fraser's Eagle Owl!** This bird certainly made up for not seeing the nightjar and the next five minutes were spent enjoying excellent scope views of this beautiful owl – what a great end to the day!

Day 6 Thursday 19th February

Today was a day of pressure and one that would end in either tears or triumph!



It was, as usual, another early start as we set out to explore another area of Antwikwaa. We walked long an open forest trail where we finally caught up with decent views of **Swamp Palm Bulbul** and heard the distinctive hooting of a **White-spotted Flufftail**. Then, careful study of a nearby flycatcher showed all the features for **Tessman's Flycatcher**, a bird with a seemingly uncertain status in this area. A **Red-chested Goshawk** diverted our attention as it performed a display flight above us and landed in a tree giving good scope views. Two **Black Bee-Eaters** performed very well in a nearby tree along with a **Bristle-nosed Barbet** in the same tree, complete with bristles! A **Sabine's Spinetail** gave brief views overhead and we enjoyed good views of sunbirds including **Collared**, **Olive-bellied**, **Johanna's** and a new one for the trip

a cracking male **Superb Sunbird**. We then had a flurry of activity in a fruiting tree where we found no less than four cuckoo species. The very distinctive **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, no less than three of the



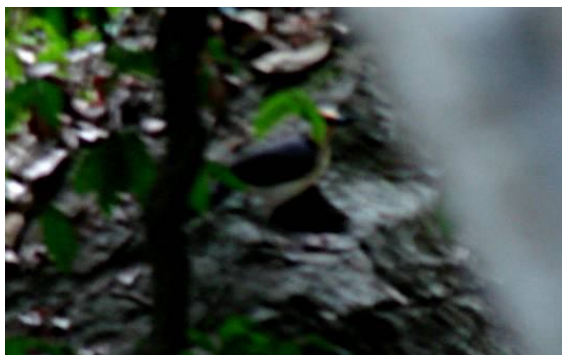
very attractive **Didric Cuckoos**, a very obliging female **African Emerald Cuckoo** and we heard the familiar sound of the **Klaas's Cuckoo**. A **Red-rumped Tinkerbird** also gave some excellent views in the same tree and both **Yellow-rumped** and **Speckled Tinkerbird** also gave some good views. However, time was pressing and we had a long journey ahead of us, so we slowly headed back towards our coach where three non-breeding **Black-winged Bishops** sat up on a tree and **Orange-checked Waxbills** whizzed around before dropping into cover.

We headed to the small town of Assin Fosu, passing through the biggest Gold Mine in Ghana at the town of Obuasi. Once at Assin Fosu, we arrived in good time to have lunch, our now familiar meal of chicken and rice! We then checked into our accommodation before we headed off to the forest.

After a short drive we arrived in a small village community where we met with two local guides who



have been studying the **White-necked Picathartes**. The villagers were very happy to see Robert. It was quite an emotional few minutes as the local people with huge grins thanked Robert for the freshly baked bread that Robert had brought with him. A local guide Samson and his assistant escorted us to the Picathartes roost area and we headed off



into the hot sweaty forest with the familiar sound of **Klaas's Cuckoos** all around us. The walk was fairly flat apart from the very last few metres and before too long everyone had made it onto the rock overlooking the **nesting area** where the birds regularly come to roost. As we sat on the rocky terrain it was certainly not the most comfortable site, but the thought of just glimpsing these fantastic birds soon numbed the discomfort. Within just a few

minutes, the whispers from Chris and Andrew alerted everyone that a bird had arrived! It bounced into view as if by magic and after a quick look at us it nimbly disappeared through the nearby tangle of vines. There were a few nervous moments as not everyone had managed to get a view, so we waited patiently in silence and over the next 30 minutes we were all treated to some excellent views (despite the very poor photo!) of a total of three beautiful **White-necked Picathartes** or the more appropriate name of **Yellow-headed Picathartes**.

These birds rather inquisitively appeared and disappeared right in front of us, one bird tilting its head as if to have a second look at us and wiping its bill clean against a branch – Truly fantastic. Everyone worked together to manoeuvre into new positions every now and again we all had some great views.

Everyone agreed it was a pretty magical moment and after a very quick look at the old nests on the side of the rock face; we left quietly to allow the birds plenty of time to roost before darkness. We said farewell to our local guides and signed the guest book before heading back to Assin Fosu. It was now dark and a nightjar species flying across the coach headlights soon led us to a bird on the ground in the headlights. Here, we all enjoyed some excellent views of a **Plain Nightjar** with its diagnostic black spotted scapulars. Once back at Assin Fosu we headed straight for an evening meal and a few celebratory beers. Everyone was buzzing from our excellent views and Andrew in particular, as he had now seen the two species of Picathartes in the world! Once back at the hotel, we soon found ourselves in darkness, due to a power cut, but no-one really cared, as hey, we had seen **White-necked Picathartes!**

Day 7 Friday 20th February

Today we were all packed and ready to depart at 05.30hrs and we headed down the road for our early breakfast and coffee before arriving at the Aboabo Forest.

One of first birds to greet us was the familiar song of the **Green Crombec** and the **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**. However, it was the great find by Jenny of a **Black Dwarf Hornbill** that soon had everyone's attention! It sat quietly in the tangle of vines for a few minutes for all to see and then chased a butterfly and disappeared back into the forest! This is probably the hardest of all the



hornbills to see in Ghana and a very welcome addition to the trip list. Then a fly over **Black Sparrowhawk** was a good shout before we headed a little further down the track. A shout from Chris revealed a party of five **Chestnut-bellied Helmet Shrikes** that showed very well as they noisily flew from tree to tree and then things seemed to go quiet. Despite the lull, we soldiered on and managed to extract a few more species including **African (Fraser's) Forest- Flycatcher** building a nest, **Willow Warbler**, **White-bellied Negrofinches** and the now all too familiar **Velvet-mantled Drongos**. A group of **Red-headed** and **Red-vented Malimbés** brightened up the day and a **White-crested Hornbill** called continuously but just would not show itself. A few of the group had some good views of **Tit-Hylia** and then an **Olive-green**

Cameroptera sang its very distinctive and repetitive descending high pitched bleeping, but did not show! Another mix of sunbirds was appreciated as **Olive-bellied**, **Western Olive** and **Collared Sunbirds** showed well. A group of **Swamp (Palm) Greenbuls** noisily gurgled and laughed at us high in the trees above and the heat of the day began to slow activity. A **Gray's Malimbe** gave some frustrating views as it flitted around a wet pool beside the track. We then decided to head towards Kumasi, in what was becoming a very hot day.

Once in the busy city of Kumasi we took time to relax and have some lunch before our driver Kwame, coolly negotiated us back through the very busy traffic of Kumasi and to our final destination for the

day, Owabi Dam. Here we were met by a local guide and we ventured into the nearby woodland where, other than a singing **Yellow-Whiskered Greenbul** that was just too deep in cover to see, it was pretty quiet. Once out of the forest we spent the last hour or so of daylight birding from the dam where en route, we picked up a very nice **Blue-throated Brown Sunbird**. At the dam itself there was plenty to see. Two **Hamerkops** performed well, as did a group of 10 or so **African Pygmy-Geese** and numerous **White-faced Whistling Ducks**. A **Giant Kingfisher** gave a fly-by and as the evening temperatures dropped groups of **Mona Monkeys** began to appear in the tops of the trees. **Purple Heron** and **Lesser-striped Swallow** added to the list along with a **Blue-Breasted Kingfisher** at dusk for some of the group, but sadly no **African Finfoot**.

Just a short drive later and we were checked into our very nice accommodation on the edge of Kumasi where we enjoyed some good food before a good night's sleep.

Day 8 Saturday 21st February

It was a fairly leisurely start this morning as we birded the University gardens before breakfast. Here we enjoyed some good views of **Green-backed Camaroptera**, **African Thrush** a couple of perched **Grey Kestrels**, **Shikra** and the very common **Hooded Vultures**. A short stroll produced some good views of **Woodland Kingfisher**, and **Buff-throated Sunbird** and new birds for the trip included some excellent views of male and female **Northern Puffback**, a **Simple Greenbul** or **Leaflove** and after some tantalising views at first, we were later treated to a great pair of **Black-and-White Flycatcher-Shrikes** with the male giving a display flight. Another new species put on a good show as both male and female **Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrikes** performed in a tree directly above us before we headed back to enjoy some breakfast.

After breakfast, Attila and Robert left Chris birding with the group enjoying views of some of the commoner species around the gardens whilst they both went to get some money and fuel. Before too



long we were on our way and heading on our long journey north and stocking up on bananas and pineapples bought from street vendors.

As we headed north the habitat slowly changed from forest pockets to a more arid and more open habit. Our lunch stop was at Kintampo and it was here that we enjoyed our first views of **Grasshopper Buzzard** along with a good lunch and Chris helped the locals with some **Cassava root bashing!**

We continued with the long journey north and

crossed the Black Volta River as a Marsh Harrier glided over the coach and we soon found ourselves travelling on a dirt road. We were now in a very different habitat of true savannah and this meant new birds! A brief 30 minute stop gave us the very stunning **Bearded Barbet**, **Rufous-crowned Roller** and then a group of **Green Wood- Hoopoes** were very much welcomed as they gave their amusing laughing calls. A cracking **African Golden Oriole** was unmistakable and a perched **Grasshopper Buzzard** gave some good views allowing everyone to familiarise themselves with this very common raptor. Other birds included the now common **Vinaceous Dove**, a very showy **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** and an **African Grey Hornbill** before we were forced back onto the coach as we still had a fair way to go! However, whilst travelling, new birds just kept appearing so we made the odd stop to

enjoy our first views of **Abyssinian Roller** and a small party of **White-crested Helmet Shrikes**. We finally arrived at our accommodation in Mole National Park at around 19.15hrs. A Common Warthog was the first new mammal to greet us as we left the coach and we were soon checked into our comfortable rooms and had dinner outside in the very warm evening temperature. After dinner, most of the group decided to hit the sack, but Chris ventured out spotlighting with Jenny and Martin and added the first **Elephant** to the list just outside the car park!

Day 9 Sunday 22nd February

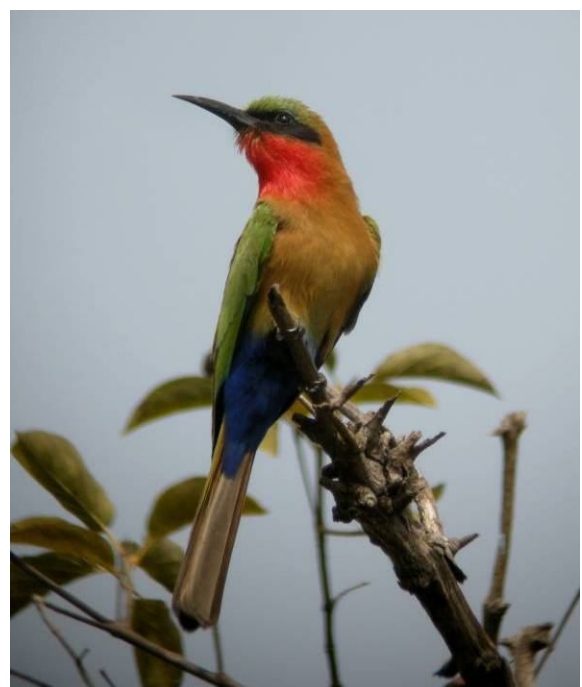
Today was our first day of exploring the wonderful Mole National Park and what better way to start than just a few paces away from our rooms as the **viewpoint** overlooking a waterhole. We met just before dawn as numerous bees were attracted to the floodlights. Within a few minutes, the light slowly got better, the bees departed and we were soon enjoying our first views of **Senegal Thick-**



knee and **Spur-winged Goose** and our first new mammals with **Waterbuck**, **Bushbuck** and **Kob** all visiting the waterhole. Although Jim was not happy until a Kob appeared bearing horns and his wish was soon granted! Other birds kept us busy and included **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Bush Petronia** and **Senegal Eremomola**. The tiny **Little Weaver** and **Pygmy Sunbird** gave some excellent views along with **Melodious Warbler** and **Northern Black Flycatcher** and all this from

just one spot! As the morning temperatures quickly began to rise it was then the turn of the birds of prey to put on a show as our first **African White-backed Vultures** soared overhead along with **Palm Nut Vulture**, **Lanner** and a great **African Hobby** whizzed over the viewpoint. A short walk to the edge of the rocky outcrop produced a drinking group of **Yellow-fronted Canary** and **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** as well as **Double-spurred Francolin** and **Stone Partridge** for some and finally a fantastic **Red-throated Bee-Eater** gave excellent views along with the very attractive **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**, in contrast to a rather distant **Long-tailed Glossy Starling**. We then dragged ourselves away to the nearby outside terrace where we enjoyed some much needed coffee and breakfast and where the baboons entertained us snatching the ketchup!

Before the morning heat became too hot, we headed out to the Plains and took a walk to see what we could find. More good views of **Red-throated Bee-Eater** were enjoyed and then a **White-shouldered Tit** appeared in full view, but our attention was quickly drawn to the very obliging **Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle** hanging just above us. **Bar-breasted**



Firefinches showed very well as they drank from a nearby puddle and were then joined by a pair of **Red-billed Firefinch**. A stop just beyond the area of water produced a lot of bird activity with a fantastic **Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike**, **Senegal Batis**, **African Yellow White-eye** and **Lead-coloured Flycatcher**. Then a **Beautiful Sunbird** gave some good views as we stood in the shade of the trees and then the distinctive whistling of a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** could be heard. Before too long it had been coaxed into view and was staring back at us as the smaller birds in the near vicinity began to mob it. It was the huge **Saddle-billed Stork** really stole the show as its diagnostic black and white wing pattern soared overhead.

The temperature became very intense so we headed back towards our accommodation and managed to add our second Bush-Shrike to the day's tally, this time in the form of the monstrous **Grey-headed Bush-shrike**. Before too long, we had negotiated the trail up to the accommodation and viewing area and everyone took time out to relax in the heat of the day.

After a very relaxing lunch, we headed back out at around 15.30hrs and returned to the Plains where



we had spent the morning. Highlights included two **Red-billed Hornbills** playing hide and seek with us, much better views of the very impressive **Long-tailed Glossy Starling** and then we literally almost walked straight past a fantastic view of a perched **Western-banded Snake-Eagle** as it regally sat on top of a dead tree in the fantastic early evening light. It was then time to head back to the coach and take a slow drive up to the airport, taking in **Purple Glossy Starling** and **Brown Babblers** on the way! Once at the airport strip it was time for “jocks away” and to see if Kwame could break the land speed record! But, seriously, we had birds to see and a very special one at that! We sat quietly at the end of the runway and waited for the light to fade, and as it did, we were rewarded with some absolutely wonderful views of both male and female **Standard-winged Nightjars**. The male really did give an awesome display as it fluttered along, landing on the ground,

and then doing the same again every few seconds, showing off those ridiculous standards as two females looked on – It was just one of those treasured moments!

Once back at our accommodation we enjoyed another open-air meal and then Chris and Attila went off in search of nocturnal wildlife and were well rewarded with **Greyish Eagle Owl** and **Blotched (Large Spotted) Genet**. A quick dash back to a few people's rooms resulted in most of the group seeing both these great beasts.

Day 10 Monday 23rd February

It was a 6am start today and we headed off to explore Brugbani Camp and the Abisey loop. Here, our first stop was at a burnt area where **Sun Lark** showed well thanks to Rolf's sharp eyes and then a **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** caused a slight bit of confusion as to its id. Sue picked up some long slender looking Bee-Eaters in flight that turned out to be **Northern Carmine Bee-Eater**

but rather disappointingly they flew over in poor light and were a bit of a disappointment for such a great bird. However, a pair of **White-fronted Black-Chats** was a welcome sight.

Our next stop was at a dry river bed. No sooner were we out of the coach than Chris had picked up a fantastic male **Black-faced Firefinch** and a nearby female that allowed very good views of both



birds. Other good sightings here included **Black Cuckoo**, the humbug striped **Brubru** and two very obliging **Bearded Barbets** sat up in dead tree. A fly over **Red-headed Weaver** was a great spot by the ever vigilant Mark. It was a very busy area for birds as we continued to get some really good views of **Northern Black Flycatcher**, another **Pearl-spotted Owlet** being harassed by **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds**, at least two **Common Gonoleks** showed very well, a single **Heuglin's Masked-Weaver** and a number of **Black-capped Babblers** finally gave themselves up. The usual groups of **Red-throated Bee-Eaters** continued to impress, despite them being very common and we headed on to the Haraba Pool. Here we were

greeted by a fine **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** and a rather less stunning, but interesting, **Swamp Flycatcher** as it flicked from branch to branch remaining quite close to the water. A group of noisy **Senegal Parrots** and **Ring-necked Parakeets** flew overhead and we decided to move on. Birding from the coach was quite productive as a shout from the back of the bus revealed an adult **Palm-Nut Vulture** sat on the ground very close to the coach and then an **African Cuckoo** sat perched up allowing the yellower bill to be seen in comparison to the **European Cuckoo** that we are most familiar with. Attila then alerted everyone to a **Pied-winged Swallow** over one of the Abisey Pools and Chris picked up a **Croaking Cisticola** that very obligingly sat up in a tree right beside the coach. Other highlights of the morning included our second **Saddle-billed Stork**, **African Grey Hornbills**, **Black-headed Heron** and two wonderful adult **Bateleurs** and a juvenile bird. Raptors continued the theme with a **Lanner Falcon** high in sky and a **Shikra**.

After another afternoon spent relaxing during the heat of the day we headed out after a late lunch at around 3.30pm and explored the Samole loop trail. A small group of **Red-billed Firefinches** coming



down to drink from a small pool was a good sight along with our first **Lavender Waxbills** and a brief couple of the very stunning **Red-winged Pytilias**. We walked along beside the few remaining areas of water and Robert picked up a **Beautiful Sunbird** and **Green-headed Sunbird**. Our attention was then diverted by some **Yellow-winged Bats** that we disturbed from the waterside vegetation and allowed us some good views as they hung in the trees overhanging the pools. A

Grey-headed Bush Shrike showed well in same tree and then Chris picked up an **African Blue Flycatcher** that showed very well and a brief view of a suspected **Long-tailed (Exclamatory) Paradise Whydah**, without full regalia, showed nearby! As we headed back towards the coach a **Grey Woodpecker** gave some nice views to the continual sound of **Senegal Parrots**. Mammal highlights included the usual **Warthogs, Kob** and a **Bushbuck**. As we boarded the coach **Double Spurred Francolin** and **Stone Partridge** showed very well and we returned to the Plains below the accommodation hoping for owls. As dusk began to fall, we could hear the distinctive call of an **African Scops Owl** and before too long we were watching this bird in torchlight through Chris's scope. No other owls showed but a **Blotched (Large Spotted) Genet** from the coach on the way back was a real treat!

After another open-air dinner, Chris went in search of the **Greyish Eagle Owl** with those that missed it the previous evening and before too long we located a bird calling very close-by within the grounds of the accommodation. Despite Chris's torch running out, we all managed some great views as it called into the night.

Day 11 Tuesday 24th February

Another 6am start today and our first bird was another **Greyish Eagle Owl** sat on top of a tree close to the reception area made a very good start to the day. We headed on to explore the Brugbani Camp



again and Rolf, the cool Swede, calmly picked out two **Spotted Thick-knees** stood under the shade of a bush right next to the coach. Next we headed back to the dry river area of woodland and things were very busy as both **Grey Woodpecker** and **Fine-spotted Woodpecker** showed extremely well along with what was our first view (despite having heard lots) of the handsome **Klass's Cuckoo**. Other good birds included **African Yellow White-eye**, two showy **Violet Turacos**, **African Blue Flycatcher** and an **Icterine Warbler** jumping from branch to branch and being typically elusive. However, it was Mark's casual comment that he had seen an

oversized Treecreeper that sent Chris and Attila into focussed mode! Before too long a fantastic

Spotted Creeper appeared directly in front of us and everyone enjoyed great views of this often tricky to find species. Then an **Oriole Warbler** sang nearby and with a little patience we were all having great scope views of this intriguing bird. It all seemed to be happening this morning as we were racking up plenty of new birds. **Singing Cisticola** showed well along with **Brown-rumped Bunting** and then Andrew found the large but elusive **Moustached Grass-Warbler** as it moved



low in the grass beside a wet area. We headed on to check out the Haraba Pool area and en route we had a real surprise in the form of a cracking **Fox Kestrel**. This species is usually much commoner further north so to find one here was a real bonus. The day seemed to be heating up very quickly this morning and the only other bird of note was a much welcomed **Brown-backed Woodpecker** that sat at the top of a tree in full view as everyone suffered the annoying flies and the now baking heat! It was time to return to our accommodation and to rest in the heat of the day.

Chris, Attila and Robert spent the afternoon trying another site for the **Pel's Fishing Owl** in the hope of finding a day roosting bird to show the group, but had no joy! So after a good lunch we headed out again into the very hot and humid conditions and decided to explore the Office loop. It was a pretty quiet afternoon with little bird activity but we still managed to find a few new species including the very distinctive **Yellow-breasted Apalis** and a very obliging **African Cuckoo Hawk** that circled low directly over our heads and a rather more elusive **Square-tailed Drongo** seen by some of the group. However, it was probably the **Python** that we found along the edge of a small river that many will remember the afternoon for as we watched it constricting a fish!

Day 12 Wednesday 25th February

Today was our last day in Mole and we headed to the **Mole River**. Two **Black Crakes** were the first birds to greet us along with some nice views of **Senegal Parrots**. A walk into the forest almost



immediately produced the hoped for **White-crowned Robin Chats** that with a little perseverance gave some good views in the end. A **Yellow-throated Leaflove** showed briefly above us in the tangle of vegetation along with another **Yellow-breasted Apalis**. We then took another path alongside another section of river where there were lots of **Orange-cheeked Waxbills** coming to drink and as the **local ladies** collected water. **Blackcap Babblers** giggled at us from the nearby vegetation and **Red-billed Firefinch** and a **Blue Breasted Kingfisher** also fought for our attention. As we headed back out of the forest and into the open Attila picked up a **Martial Eagle** that showed very well as it glided overhead. Finally, as we headed back to the accommodation for breakfast a **Blue-bellied Roller** showed from the coach in not the best of lights, but allowed reasonable views.



After breakfast, we had enough time to pack our bags and enjoy our last views of the **Elephants** coming to the waterhole and it was then time for our long journey south with a stop for lunch at the same place as on our journey up. En route, we had time to make a brief stop at the village of

Larabanga and to visit the **Stick Mosque** believed to be the oldest of its type in West Africa where we also added **Red-chested Swallow**. A couple of other stops at roadside pools produced the hoped for **Black-rumped Waxbills** and a second stop at another water hole was very busy, despite the very hot temperatures. Here we were treated to **Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater**, **Namaqua Doves**, **African Silverbill**, **Red-winged Pytilia**, some non-breeding **Bishop sp** not seen well



enough to identify and a **Cinamon-breasted Bunting**. The rest of the day was spent travelling and we arrived into Kumasi in darkness and after a good meal everyone had an early night.



Day 13 Thursday 26th February

This morning we headed out to the Bobiri Forest. The first bird to greet us here was a very nice view of a **Hairy-breasted Barbet** and then Attila drew our attention to a **Cassin's Honeyguide** somewhat distant but in the scope we were able to make out the obvious white outer tail, fine bill and warbler like jizz. A **Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill** got our pulses racing as it called nearby and a **White-crested Hornbill** joined in the chorus too, but neither showed. **Yellow-mantled Weavers** and **Red-headed Malimbos** showed on the edge of the forest and then a **Dusky Tit** put in an appearance as a new bird for the trip. Then the **Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill** sounded much closer and it finally showed well, albeit briefly, in a tree close to the trail before disappearing and leaving some of the group rather

frustrated! The **White-crested Hornbill** then finally gave itself away and showed probably the best of the entire trip but still keeping quite low and close to cover. However, it was the **Long-tailed Hawk** spotted by Sue that really stole the show, as this “must see” raptor gave us a couple of fly-bys



showing off its ridiculous tail and reddish underparts. Feeling happy with ourselves, we continued along the trail where we found a pair of very obliging **Sabine's Puffback** and then those that did not get to grips with **Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill** the first time were treated to some excellent views of a second bird.

We then headed back to the reception area and toilets and tried a different part of the forest. Here a **Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** showed exceptionally well as it sat motionless in a tangle of vines and then things went a little quiet and typically, just as we were about to leave, we hit a small flock. Highlights here included a group of five **Chestnut-bellied Helmet-Shrikes**, **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher**, two **White-headed Wood-Hoopoes**, a very obliging male **Sharpe's Apalis** and another **Hairy-breasted Barbet**.

Our lunch stop was very pleasant as we all enjoyed chicken club sandwiches with chips (!) before heading on to the Atewa Forest. We spent the afternoon on the lower slopes at the edge of the forest where we picked up **Whistling Cisticola** and **Red-faced Cisticola** as well as some good views of **Black-and-White Manakin** and **Chestnut-bellied Nigrofinch**. As we walked up the trail to the start of the main forest we enjoyed some great views of **Yellow-browed Camaroptera**, but yet again the **Olive-green Camaroptera** continued to elude us other than hearing its song. Sunbirds were also in abundance with **Collared**, **Olive-bellied** and **Buff-throated** showing very well. **Simple Greenbul (Leafove)** was heard and then we had a very near miss with the Western form endemic **White-tailed Alethe** as it sang incredibly close but would not show. Sadly we were witness to some illegal logging and Robert duly took down the vehicle's details to pass onto the relevant authorities. As we headed back down the trail to our coach we added **Grosbeak Weaver** to the list.

At the comfortable hotel, we enjoyed a few drinks and some rather tough meat and Rolf amused us all as he was eager for tomorrow and to try and find some more Greenbuls or “List Fillers” as they were now to be referred to!

Day 14 Friday 27th February

Today we were up at 05.30am for an early coffee (what luxury!) before our departure in our 4X4 vehicle. After a little time spent sorting out logistics with keys we finally made it up the steep forest trail as our driver shuttled us up to the high point. Those who remained waiting for the next shuttle had **Yellow-spotted Nicator**, **Crested Malimbe** and **Bristle-nosed Barbet** whilst the first group caught up with some good views of **Red-chested Cuckoo**. It was a bit of a rally to the top for the first group as the ground was a little slippery, so Chris and the remaining group walked the last part of the trail picking up **Chestnut Wattle Eye** and **Grey-throated Tit Flycatcher** along the way and a calling **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** continued to frustrate!

Before too long, the whole group were together again and we were all enjoying some really first class views of a family party of **Blue-headed Bee-Eaters**. This is a really sought after species and Atewa is the only site in Ghana for this species and it was one that was much appreciated by the whole group as the birds sat in full view flicking out from their perches every now and again. Then two **Rufous-sided**



Broadbills showed incredibly well right beside us on the trail allowing everyone to get crippling views before we continued along the trail. A bit further along the path Robert alerted us to **Red-tailed Bristlebill** calling but our attention was immediately diverted to two young **White-tailed Alethes** right next to the path thanks to Robert's sharp eyes. The birds stayed low but with perseverance everyone got some good views of this endemic form of the nominate **Fire-crested Alethe**. Further along the trail a **Green Hylia** finally

made it onto the "seen" list despite numerous "heards" throughout the trip! A **Western Olive Sunbird** was a welcome addition for Sue who had previously not connected with this species and we started to work our way back along the same trail. Two **Red-tailed Bristlebills** remained right at the back of the forest allowing just a few of the group to connect with this difficult species and then a



Golden Greenbul sat up at the top of a tree, but typically partly obscured. However, it was Jim who really pulled the stops out as he very calmly and very coolly announced that he was watching a "brown-backed" Kingfisher very close to the trail! Chris and Attila soon locked onto the bird and everyone was getting great scope views of **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher**. It was a real relief to finally see this bird, after hearing its call all morning! The final excitement came in the form of no less than two **Olive-long Tailed Cuckoos**.

We returned to a restaurant for an excellent brunch, whilst James our driver,

Robert and Chris returned to the hotel to sort out the re-packing of our somewhat smaller vehicle! Before long we were back in the hustle and bustle of Accra where our trip began and everyone enjoyed some time to relax before dinner. The food was very good too, with some really good soup, great beef and chocolate ice cream!

Day 15 Saturday 28th February

I guess today had to come at some point and sadly it was our last day, but we still had plenty of birding to do! We headed out of Accra taking in the huge colony of **Straw-coloured Fruit Bats** on our way out as they flapped around the city and before too long we arrived at **Shai Hills** where we



met our local guide who was to escort us around this interesting reserve. We had some good views of the commoner species such as **Yellow-billed Shrike**, **Common Fiscal** and the beautiful **Violet-backed Starlings** and a **White-shouldered Tit** showed well. However, today was all about new additions to the trip list! A **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** flew out and back into cover allowing just a



few of the group to see it, but luckily, the **Double-toothed Barbets** were a lot more confiding as they really performed out in the open with a nearby **Vieillot's Barbet** for good measure! We then added a rather elusive **Red-winged Warbler** that sang at us and showed only for a minute and a **Northern Crombec** also played a little hard to get! We continued on to a large rocky outcrop where we enjoyed some good views of **Callithrix (Vervet) Monkeys** and we waited for our hoped for target species to appear. We had almost given up when the **Mocking Cliff-Chat** flew into view and landed on the top of a rock to give great scope views. We then headed round to the other side of the park, passing the

odd **Guinea Baboon** and we then stretched our legs. Here we had some excellent views of a **Northern Crombec** and a real show off **African Grey Hornbill** as it mournfully whistled away. **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Senegal Coucal**, **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** and **Klaas's Cuckoo** all joined the morning's tally and a rather brief **White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike** was a good spot by Andrew but sadly it failed to re-appear. The hoped for **Green Turaco** failed to

show, so we headed out of the park, but taking time to look at the odd **Red-necked Buzzard** and a couple of **Yellow-throated Longlaws**. We headed into a nearby town where we enjoyed a much welcomed pizza lunch and took time to reminisce about the last two weeks.



We then headed to our final destination, Sukomono Lagoon where we added a good selection of waders, herons and egrets. Here, highlights and new birds included **Black Heron**, **Western Reef-Egret**, **Collared Pratincole**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Spur-winged Plover**, **Curlew Sandpiper** and **Royal Terns** out to sea. A final visit to the other side of the lagoon produced a few more new birds as we headed to the shade of the hide which certainly cleared the nasal passages due to the presence of bats in the roof and plenty of bat droppings! A small group of **Glossy Ibis** foraged on

the water's edge and a small group of **Garganey** swam on the water including a couple of fine drakes as well as some **Northern Shoveler** and new waders were also obvious with a lone **Avocet** and a group of **Black-tailed Godwits**. Rather reluctantly, we had to pull ourselves away as we headed back to our hotel for a shower and time to re-pack before dinner, whilst the hardened seawatchers (Rolf and Andrew) added **Arctic Skua** to the day list.



We then all enjoyed a last meal together and the wine flowed with stories of the past two weeks. It was then time to say goodbye to Attila as we all headed back to Accra airport for our comfortable flight back to London arriving early on a chilly Sunday morning!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the tour for being a pleasure to guide and for making the trip really good fun. I would also like to thank Attila for sharing his knowledge of Ghana's birds and for his sharp field skills. Most importantly, on behalf of myself and the whole group, I would like to thank Robert for being an excellent local guide full of knowledge, bird calls and good humour. My thanks also goes to Kwame our excellent driver.

374 bird species recorded

SPECIES		<i>Scientific Name</i>	No of days out of 14 recorded	Highest daily count H = Heard only LC = Locally Common C = Common N/C = No Count UGFE = Upper Guinea Forest Endemic
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2	N/C
2.	Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	4	N/C
3.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	8	C
4.	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	2	N/C
5.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2	3
6.	Great (White) Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	4	C
7.	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	1	7+
8.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	7	C
9.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5	C
10.	Western Reef-Egret	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	5	N/C
11.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	14	C
12.	Striated (Green-backed) Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	5	C
13.	(Common) Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	5	C
14.	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5	C
15.	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta minor</i>	5	3
16.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	3	N/C
17.	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	2	1
18.	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	3	N/C
19.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1	10+

20.	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	2	5
21.	African Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	2	10
22.	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	6	C
23.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	1	N/C
24.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	1	5
25.	African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	1	1
26.	European Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	2	2
27.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1	1
28.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	2	N/C
29.	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus parasitus</i>	14	C
30.	Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	5	2
31.	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	14	C
32.	(African) White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	4	LC
33.	Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	1	1
34.	Banded Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>	1	1
35.	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	5	3+
36.	Western (European) Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	7	LC
37.	African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogone)	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	6	N/C
38.	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	5	1
39.	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Melierax gabar</i>	1	2
40.	Red-chested (African) Goshawk	<i>Accipiter toussenelii</i>	1	2
41.	Shikra (Little-banded Goshawk)	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	5	C
42.	Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter erythropus</i>	1	1 Great views from the canopy walkway
43.	Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	1	1

44.	Long-tailed Hawk	<i>Urotriorchis macrourus</i>	1	1 Excellent views at Bobiri
45.	Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	5	LC
46.	Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	5	LC
47.	Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila ayresii</i>	1	1
48.	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	2	1
49.	Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>	1	1 An unexpected bird at Mole NP
50.	Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>	4	LC
51.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	1
52.	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2	1
53.	African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	2	1
54.	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	4	2
55.	Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>	7	LC
56.	Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>	5	LC
57.	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	4	LC
	White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>	4H	H
58.	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>	2	2
	Nkulengu Rail	<i>Himantornis haematopus</i>	1	1 H Exceedingly difficult to see, but a real treat to hear from the canopy walkway
59.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	1
60.	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	9	C
61.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	1
62.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	3	N/C

63.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	1	1
64.	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	1	2
65.	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	2	LC
66.	Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	2	2
67.	Wattled Lapwing (Plover)	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	4	N/C
68.	Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	2	N/C
69.	Black-bellied (Grey) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	2	N/C
70.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1	1
71.	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2	C
72.	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	2	N/C
73.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	2	C
74.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	2	C
75.	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	2	N/C
76.	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	1	N/C
77.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	2	N/C
78.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2	N/C
79.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	3	C
80.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	9	C
81.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1	N/C
82.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	2	N/C
83.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	2	C
84.	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1	N/C
85.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	1	N/C
86.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	1
87.	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	2	N/C
88.	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	2	4

89.	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons guineae</i>	2	N/C
90.	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	1	8+
91.	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	2	C
92.	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1	1
93.	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	2	N/C
	Afep Pigeon	<i>Columba unicincta</i>	1H	H
94.	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia feral</i>	10	C
95.	African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>	7	LC
96.	Bruce's Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>	1	2
97.	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis capensis</i>	2	3
98.	Black-billed Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	4	LC
99.	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	1+1H	1
100.	Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>	2+1H	N/C
101.	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	9	C
102.	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	5	LC
103.	Laughing (Palm) Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	14	C
104.	Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	1	1
105.	Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>	5	4+
106.	Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	5	LC
107.	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	2	LC
108.	Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>	4+1H	3
109.	Yellow-billed (Verreaux's) Turaco	<i>Tauraco macrorhynchus</i>	1+2H	1
	Guinea (Green) Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>	1H	H
110.	Western (Grey) Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	12	C
111.	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>	3	1
112.	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	1	1

113.	Didric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	1	3
114.	African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	3	1
115.	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	2+3H	2+
116.	Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	1+2H	1
117.	Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cercococcyx olivinus</i>	1+1H	2 Excellent views of 2 of these tricky birds
118.	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	1	1
119.	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	1	1
120.	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	10+2H	C
121.	Yellowbill (Green Coucal)	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>	6	2
122.	African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	1+1H	1
123.	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	2	1
124.	Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>	3	1
125.	Fraser's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo poensis</i>	1	1 Excellent views at Kakum in the night
126.	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	3	1
127.	Plain Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>	1	1+
	Brown Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus binotatus</i>	1H	H Despite hearing a bird from our night trip to the canopy walkway, the bird just would not show!
	Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>	1H	H
128.	Standard-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx longipennis</i>	1	3 One of the highlights of the trip seeing the male's display
129.	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>	1	1
130.	Sabine's Spinetail	<i>Rhapidura sabini</i>	4	2

131.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	12	C
132.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	7	C
133.	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	11	C
134.	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>	7	C
135.	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	6	C
136.	Chocolate-backed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon badia</i>	1	1 An immature bird showed exceptionally well at Atewa
137.	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	3	2
138.	Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	4	1
139.	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	6	C
140.	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	5	LC
141.	African Dwarf-Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx lecontei</i>	1	1
142.	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	4	1+
143.	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	9	C
144.	Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>	2	3
145.	Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullocki</i>	4	LC
146.	Black Bee-eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>	3	2 A must see bird and we were not disappointed
147.	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	1	1
148.	Rosy Bee-eater	<i>Merops malimbicus</i>	1	2
149.	Blue-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops muelleri</i>	1	4 Great views of a family of 4 at the only place to see them in Ghana - Atewa
150.	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	1	2

151.	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinica</i>	5	C
152.	Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>	1	1
153.	Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevia</i>	2	1
154.	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	5	2+
155.	Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>	4	3
156.	Forest Wood-Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus castaneiceps</i>	1	1
157.	Green Wood-Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	5	6
158.	White-headed Wood-Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus bollei</i>	1	2 Good views at Bobiri just before leaving the site
159.	Yellow-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna elata</i>	1	2+
160.	Black-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna atrata</i>	2	10+ Fantastic views of males and females from the canopy walkway
161.	Piping Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna fistulator</i>	2	5
162.	Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Tockus camurus</i>	1	2
163.	Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	1	2
164.	African Pied-Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>	10	C
165.	Black Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Tockus hartlaubi</i>	1	1 Probably the hardest hornbill to find and excellent views thanks to Jenny
166.	African Grey-Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	6	LC
167.	White-crested Hornbill	<i>Tropicranus albocristatus</i>	4+1H	1
168.	Red-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus atroflavus</i>	1	1
169.	Yellow- (Golden-) rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>	1+1H	1
170.	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	3+1H	2

	Yellow-throated Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>	3H	H
171.	Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>	4	3+
172.	Naked-faced Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco calvus</i>	4	LC
173.	Bristle-nosed Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco peli</i>	5	LC
174.	Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>	1	5+
175.	Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>	5	3+
176.	Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>	3	1
	Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>	1H	H
177.	Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>	3	1 UGFE
178.	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	1	1
179.	Cassin's Honeyguide	<i>Prodotiscus insignis</i>	1	1
180.	Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>	1	1 Seen by 4 of the group at Atewa
181.	Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>	2	1
182.	Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>	1	1
183.	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	2	1+
184.	Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>	3	3
185.	Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos obsoletus</i>	1	1
186.	Fire-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos pyrrhogaster</i>	2	1 UGFE Excellent views from the canopy walkway
187.	Rufous-sided Broadbill	<i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i>	2	2 We were treated to 3 birds in total within feet of us
188.	Sun Lark	<i>Galerida modesta</i>	1	2
189.	Lesser Striped-Swallow	<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>	7	C
190.	Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>	2	2

191.	Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>	1	3+
192.	Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>	1	1
193.	Preuss' (Cliff-) Swallow	<i>Hirundo preussi</i>	1	250+
194.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	11	C
195.	Rufous-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo semirufa</i>	3	1
196.	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	4	N/C
197.	Square-tailed Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne nitens</i>	1	1
198.	Fanti Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>	1	1
199.	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2	2
200.	Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>	2	4
201.	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	6	C
202.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2+1H	N/C
203.	Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>	1	2
204.	Blue Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina azurea</i>	2+1H	2 Supposedly the most beautiful bird in Ghana – great views
205.	White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina pectoralis</i>	1	1 Briefly at Shai Hills
206.	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	14	C
207.	Simple (Leaflove) Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla simplex</i>	2	1
	Leaflove	<i>Pyrrhurus scandens</i>	1H	H
208.	Yellow-throated Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flavicollis</i>	1	1
209.	Swamp (Palm) Greenbul	<i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i>	2+1H	N/C
210.	Golden (Serine) Greenbul	<i>Calyptocichla serina</i>	2	2
211.	Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Andropadus gracilirostris</i>	4	1+
212.	Grey (Little Grey) Greenbul	<i>Andropadus gracilis</i>	3	2
213.	Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Andropadus latirostris</i>	2+2H	1

214.	Little Greenbul	<i>Andropadus virens</i>	2+2H	1
215.	Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapilla</i>	1+1H	1UGFE
216.	Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill	<i>Bleda syndactyla</i>	1	2
217.	Yellow-spotted (Western/C'mon) Nicator	<i>Nicator chloris</i>	2	1
218.	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	4	2
	Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus finschii</i>	1H	(H) UGFE
219.	Fire-crested Alethe	<i>Alethe diademata</i>	1+1H	2 UGFE Very close views of 2 young birds
220.	Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>	1	2
221.	Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>	2	1
222.	Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>	1+1H	2
223.	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrope</i>	2+2H	2
224.	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>	1	1
225.	Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)	<i>Heliolais erythroptera</i>	1	1
226.	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	5	LC
227.	Sharpe's Apalis	<i>Apalis sharpii</i>	2	2 UGFE
228.	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>	2	2
229.	Black-capped Apalis	<i>Apalis nigriceps</i>	1	1
230.	Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>	2	2
231.	Green-backed (Grey-backed) Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	7+1H	C
	Olive-green Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>	3H	H
232.	Yellow-browed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>	2	2 Excellent views of this real corker
233.	Moustached Grass-Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>	1	1
234.	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	3	1
235.	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	3	1

236.	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	1	1
237.	Eurasian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1	1
238.	Rufous- (Brown-) crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>	3	3+
239.	Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>	6	3+
240.	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	1	1
241.	Lemon-bellied Crombec	<i>Sylvietta denti</i>	2	2
242.	Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>	4	2
243.	Grey Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus concolor</i>	3+2H	2
244.	Kemp's Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus kempii</i>	1	1 UGFE Good views in the end of this often tricky species
245.	Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>	1+5H	3
246.	Violet-backed Hylia	<i>Hylia violacea</i>	1	2
247.	African (Fraser's) Forest-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>	1	2
248.	Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>	4	LC
249.	Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>	2	2
250.	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	1
251.	Tessmann's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa tessmanni</i>	1	1 A bird at Antwikwaa fitted all the id features despite known potential confusion with Dusky-blue Flycatcher
252.	Ussher's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>	2	2
253.	Lead-coloured Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>	1	1
254.	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>	1	1
255.	Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus griseigularis</i>	1	1
256.	European Pied-Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	4	2

257.	Forest Robin	<i>Stiphornis erythrorax</i>	1	1 UGFE Excellent views in the early morning at Kakum Forest Trail
258.	White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapilla</i>	1	3
259.	Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	1	1
260.	Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>	1	1
261.	White-fronted Black-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla albifrons</i>	1	2
262.	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	2	7+
263.	Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>	1	2 A real show off male gave a display flight to the nearby female at Kumasi
264.	Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>	1	1
265.	Chestnut Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira castanea</i>	2	2
266.	Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	2	2
267.	African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	3	2
268.	African Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>	3	2
269.	Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocercus mccallii</i>	2	2
270.	Black-headed (Red-bellied) Paradise-Fly.	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>	3+1H	1+
	Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus nitens</i>	2H	H
	Blackcap Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis cleaveri</i>	1H	H
	Brown Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>	1H	H
271.	Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>	1	2
272.	Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardii</i>	3	6
273.	White-necked (Y'low-headed) Picathartes	<i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i>	1	3 UGFE Bird of the trip. Three birds and excellent views.
274.	Dusky Tit	<i>Parus funereus</i>	1	1

275.	White-shouldered Tit	<i>Parus guineensis</i>	4	2
276.	Spotted Creeper	<i>Salpornis spilonotus emini</i>	1	1 A real show off at Mole NP
277.	Tit-hylia	<i>Pholidornis rushiae</i>	2	3
278.	Collared Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes collaris</i>	8	C
279.	Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird	<i>Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri</i>	1	1
280.	Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes platurus</i>	4	3
281.	Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>	1	1
282.	Buff-throated Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) adelberti</i>	6	LC
283.	Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia chloropygia</i>	4	2
284.	Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) coccinigaster</i>	3	1
285.	Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus</i>	4	LC
286.	Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) cyanolaema</i>	1	1
287.	Western Olive Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia obscura</i>	5	LC
288.	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella</i>	4	2
289.	Little Green Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia seimundi</i>	2	1
290.	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis</i>	5	LC
291.	Superb Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia superba</i>	3	1
292.	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis</i>	4	1
293.	Johanna's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris (Nectarinia) johannae</i>	2	1
294.	African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	2	2
295.	African Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>	4	5+
296.	Western Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>	1	1
297.	Black-winged Oriole	<i>Oriolus nigripennis</i>	6	2+
298.	Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>	5	C
299.	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	8	C

300.	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	1	1
301.	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	1	1
302.	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	6	2
303.	Large-billed (Sabine's) Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus sabini</i>	1	2 Good views of male and female at Bobiri
304.	Black-crowned (-headed) Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>	4	2
305.	Common (Yellow-crowned) Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	4+1H	2
306.	Grey-headed Bush-Shrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>	3	1
307.	Sulphur-breasted Bush-Shrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>	2	1
308.	White Helmet-Shrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	4	5
309.	Chestnut-bellied (Red-billed) Helmet-Shrike	<i>Prionops caniceps</i>	2	5
310.	Fork-tailed (Glosy-backed) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	5	LC
311.	Velvet-mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>	7	LC
312.	Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>	2	1
313.	Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	2	2
314.	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	13	C
315.	Violet-backed (Amethyst) Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	6	LC
316.	(Northern) Long-tailed Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	3	2
317.	Purple Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	5	LC
318.	Splendid Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>	3	N/C
319.	(Forest) Chestnut-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>	3	2
320.	(Northern) Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	10	C
321.	Bush Petronia	<i>Petronia dentata</i>	4	LC
322.	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	2	1
323.	Slender-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>	3	2
324.	Orange Weaver	<i>Ploceus aurantius</i>	3	1

325.	Heuglin's Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus heuglini</i>	1	1
326.	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	5	LC
327.	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	3	2
328.	Vieillot's (Black) Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>	5	LC Great Views of the colony at Hans Cottage
329.	Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>	5	LC
330.	Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	2	2
331.	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	2	3
332.	Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>	1	1
333.	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Ploceopasser superciliosus</i>	1	1
334.	Gray's (Blue-billed) Malimbe	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>	3	1
335.	Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>	2	2
336.	Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>	5	1
337.	Red-vented Malimbe	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>	2	2
338.	Black-winged (Red) Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>	2	1
339.	Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>	2+1H	2
340.	Grey-headed (-crowned) Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita canicapilla</i>	8	2+
341.	White-breasted Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita fusconota</i>	2	2+
342.	Red-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>	2	2
343.	Black-bellied Seedcracker	<i>Pyrenestes sanguineus</i>	1	1 An excellent find by Martin
344.	Black-faced Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta larvata</i>	1	3
345.	Black-bellied Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rara</i>	1	1
346.	Bar-breasted Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rufopicta</i>	3	3
347.	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	3	N/C

348.	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	4	3+
349.	Green Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>	1	1 A lucky find for Chris and Mark
350.	Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>	1	N/C
351.	Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	6	C
352.	Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	1	4+
353.	Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>	1	4
354.	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>	12	C
355.	African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>	1	1
356.	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	3	1
357.	Paradise-Whydah sp.	<i>Vidua togoensis/interjecta</i>	2	1 Two brief sightings did not allow a 100% positive id for either Togo or Long-tailed
358.	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	4	LC
359.	Brown-rumped Bunting	<i>Emberiza affinis</i>	1	2
360.	Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	3+1H	2

OTHER ANIMALS

African Elephant	Recorded on 4 days in Mole NP
Striped Ground Squirrel	Recorded on 1 day at Winneba Plains
Gambian Sun Squirrel	Recorded on 2 days
Red-legged Sun Squirrel	Heard on day 3
Yellow-winged Bat	Seen in Mole NP on one day
Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	Seen on 2 days – Large numbers around Accra City
Guinea (Olive) Baboon	Recorded on 4 days in Mole NP and Shai Hills
Callithrix (Vervet) Monkey	Recorded on 5 days in Mole NP and Shai Hills

Mona Monkey	Recorded on 3 days (once heard only) around Kakum
Ursine(Black and White) Colobus	A great spot by Robert of 2 in Kakum Forest
Bushbuck	Recorded on 3 days in Mole NP
Kob	Recorded on 5 days
Waterbuck	Recorded on 3 days in Mole NP
Common Warthog	Recorded on 5 days
Nile Crocodile	Recorded on 3 days around Hans Cottage!
Tree Hyrax	Heard only on 1 day
Blotched Genet	Recorded on 2 nights at Mole NP
Red-flanked Duiker	One animal seen well in Mole NP
Agama Lizard	A very common reptile recorded on 8 days
Python sp.	Seen in Mole constricting a fish!
Cobra sp.	One seen briefly at Shai Hills