

Field Guides Birding Tours

Private tour with Denis Kania and friends to Ghana.

07 – 26 April 2018

Tour manager – Sharon Mackie

Guides - Joe Grosel (South Africa), Williams Apraku (Ghana) and Foster Frimpong (Ghana)

Participants - Denis Kania, Joe Suchecki, Peter Kasper, Ann Haverstock, Donnalyn Quint, Diann Bilderback, Joe Cook, Tom Mulcahy and Bob Stone.



Tour report by Joe Grose

Day -1 (Sun 08 April)

Joe met the group at the hotel in Accra at about 9pm. After a light dinner we had a quick briefing with the participants and the Ashanti Africa guides before retiring to get some much-needed sleep after all the travelling.

Day – 2 (Mon 09 April)

After the first of many pre-dawn breakfasts we did some rapid birding in the hotel's car park picking up **Splendid Starling, Ethiopian Swallow, Double-toothed Barbet** and **African Thrush** before heading out to the Shai Hills Resource Reserve. Situated about 50km north-east of Accra this small reserve comprises a mosaic of wooded rocky inselbergs, dense woodland and tall grassy savannah. On a walk through the woodland near the entrance gate we saw **Western Plantain-eater, Northern Puffback, Green-backed Camaroptera, Spotted Flycatcher, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Splendid Sunbird, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Shikra** and a rather confiding **Bearded Barbet**. Further on in the shrubby grassland there were **Croaking Cisticola, Tree Pipit, White (Long-crested) Helmetshrike, Piapiac, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Blue-bellied Roller, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Yellow-throated Longclaw** and at least two **Black-bellied Bustards**. A scramble up the side of a rocky outcrop gave us our target bird for this area, the white-capped form of Mocking Cliff-Chat often treated as a separate species called **White-crowned Cliff-Chat**. Here we also had good looks at **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** and **Woodland Kingfisher** while some folks in the group were lucky enough to glimpse a **Violet Turaco**. Mammals seen in the reserve included **Olive Baboon, Bushbuck, Green Monkey** and **Kob**. Following a lunch stop near Tema we headed back to Accra and straight to the Sakumono Lagoon. In the scrubby fringes of the wetland there were amongst others **Copper** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, Senegal Eremomela, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Senegal Parrot, Vinaceous Dove** and **Senegal Thick-knee**. A peculiar little **Yellow-winged Bat** entertained us for a while before we headed down to the marshes. Despite the lagoon being rather choked up with reeds, rushes and water hyacinth there were good numbers of water birds and waders to be seen. **African Swamphen, Black-winged Stilt, Purple, Black and Squacco Herons, Spur-winged Lapwing, Common Snipe, Long-tailed Cormorant, Common Greenshank, Wood and Marsh Sandpipers, African Jacana** and **Common Ringed Plover** were just a few of the species seen here. Around the suburbs near the lagoon there were several **Eurasian Kestrel** and a **Wilson's Indigobird** in partial breeding plumage. A slow drive through the Accra rush-hour traffic took us back to the hotel after what was a very productive first day's birding in Ghana.

Day – 3 (Tues 10 April)

During the customary car park birding patrol at dawn **Lesser Blue-eared Starling, Green Woodhoopoe, Black-necked Weaver** and **Grey Parrots** (escapees that have apparently adapted well to city life) were recorded. Leaving Accra we travelled eastward along the coastline to the Cape Coast region. Our first stop of the day at Winneba Lagoon produced a host of good birds including several **Western Reef** and **Striated Herons**, a tern roost with **Royal, Common** and **Sandwich** along with **Common Redshank, Black-bellied Plover, Malachite Kingfisher** and **Collared Pratincole**. In the shrubbery adjacent to the lagoon there were **Singing Cisticola, White-throated Bee-eater, Senegal Coucal, Black-crowned Tchagra, Bar-breasted Firefinch** and a pair of **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** sitting out in the open. The second stop of the morning was a quick one, at a stakeout where the localised **Slender-billed Weaver** have a colony in a reed bed close to the town of Mankessim. An hour or so later we were settling into our hotel on the seafront near the town of Shama. The coastal thickets outside the hotel's gate were quite productive with **Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Vieillot's Weaver, Northern Fiscal, Fanti Sawwing, Red-faced Cisticola** and **Mosque Swallow**. The afternoon and evening was spent at the degraded Nsuta Forest. Walking along the main road passing through the forest we quickly picked up our first true forest species **Ussher's Flycatcher, Grey** and **Swamp Greenbul, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Yellow-billed Turaco, Blue-throated Roller, Piping Hornbill, Green-headed Sunbird, Red-vented and Red-headed Malimbis** and **Grey-headed Nigrita**. Just after sunset an **Akun Eagle-Owl** flew across the road and perched briefly before disappearing into the forest while at least two flocks of raucous **Spot-breasted Ibis** came flying past en-route to their roosting sites.

Day – 4 (Wed 11 April)

A quick walk up the road outside our hotel in Shama delivered a bunch of good birds with **Marsh Tchagra, Oriole Warbler, Black-billed Wood-Dove, Simple Greenbul** and **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** being the 'stand-outs'. For the rest of the morning we were back in the Nsuta forest working a logging track through some degraded forest. Some of the speciality birds found here included **African Emerald Cuckoo, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Barbet, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Little Green Woodpecker, Black-winged Oriole, Black-headed (red-bellied) Paradise-Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Slender-billed Greenbul, Green Crombec** and the much sought-after **Tit-Hylia**. After this successful foray we made our way back to the coast where lunch was taken at a quaint beach restaurant near Takoradi while being entertained by some acrobatic kids. Our next birding stop was a very productive one around a water lily pond near the Bokro turnoff. Here we quickly picked up the two target species namely **Orange Weaver** and the lovely **Reichenbach's Sunbird** and also added the likes of **African Dart, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Allen's Gallinule, Eurasian**

Moorhen, African Pygmy Goose and Tambourine Dove. About 30 miles further along our route to Ankasa National Park we made a stop at the Ebi River Mangroves and adjacent marshes. Here we had excellent views of **Hartlaub's Duck, Whimbrel** and several **Western Reef Heron**. Our lodge near the entrance of the Park was reached after sunset with just enough light to see our only resident **Pipit** species of the trip, in the form of **Plain-backed**. Later that evening after dinner an **African Wood-Owl** posed nicely within ten yards of the track.

Day – 5 (Thur 12 April)

After an early breakfast at the Ashanti camp we boarded two land rovers and made our way into the interior of the Ankasa Rainforest along a muddy track. A bizarre sighting along the way came in the form of a stubborn **Dwarf Bittern** who was very reluctant to leave the road ahead of the front vehicle. This resulted in fantastic looks at this usually shy bird which ultimately had to be chased off the road by one of the drivers. At a secluded forest pond we spotted both **White-bellied** and **Blue-breasted Kingfishers** and further along the track at a cleared power line servitude we were entertained by a group of very vocal **Great Blue Turacos**. Other species seen in the clearing were **Square-tailed Sawwing, Shining Drongo, Blue-throated Roller** and **Icterine Greenbul**. After lunch and a siesta (for some) we did another drive into the forest and walked along the main track for a while. **Western-bearded Greenbul, Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush, Forest Robin** and a pair of **White-crowned Hornbills** which were foraging in the company of a troop of **Lowe's Mona Monkeys** were some of the birds seen on the walk. Back at the power line just before sunset we had nine **Great Blue Turacos** and 15 **Brown-cheeked Hornbill** fly over the cleared passage. After dark near a forest pond the call of Nkulengu Rail was played with the odd response echoing from deep in the forest. After several minutes of waiting word came through that one of the drivers had located a roosting rail. A quick shimmy back up the road and a short trek through the dense forest brought us to within about 12 yards of not one but three **Nkulengu Rails** roosting on a horizontal branch about six foot up. A fantastic viewing of this elusive bird.

Day – 6 (Fri 13 April)

At the bridge over a lively stream near the park entrance there were good sightings of **Buff-throated, Superb** and **Olive Sunbirds, Cassin's** and **Dusky-Blue Flycatchers** and **Green Hylia**. A slow morning walk along one of the forest trails produced at least two displaying **Rufous-sided Broadbills**, a fine looking **Dwarf Kingfisher, Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds, Sharpe's Apalis, Western Black-headed Oriole** and fleeting views of **Pale-breasted** and **Blackcap Illadopsis**. After lunch we left Ankasa and headed back to Cape Coast stopping off briefly at the Ebi River mangroves where **Mouse-brown Sunbird** was seen after it was missed at the first attempt. While travelling a few raptors were spotted from the bus including **African Harrier-Hawk, Lanner Falcon, Red-necked Buzzard** and **Grey Kestrel**. The final stop of the day en-route to Kakum was along the Brenu Beach Road where a walk through the coastal savannah and palm thickets delivered a good selection of birds consisting of **Yellow-mantled Widowbird** (unfortunately in non-breeding plumage), **Red-winged Prinia, Double-spurred Francolin, Little Bee-eater, Simple (Greenbul) Leaflove, Black-necked** and **Village Weavers** and a responsive pair of **Great Spotted Cuckoo** who gave us a nice show. Two surprise mammals seen here were **Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey** and **Slender Mongoose**. Our hotel outside the Kakum National Park was reached by early evening.

Day – 7 (Sat 14 April)

An early departure for the Kakum Forest where we were welcomed by an **African Giant Forest Squirrel** sitting on the roof of the visitor centre. Most of the morning was spent birding from Kakum's famous canopy walkway where we had a plethora of forest species. Highlights were excellent views of **Blue Cuckooshrike, Sabine's Puffback, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Crested Malimbe, Tiny, Green,** and **Johanna's Sunbirds, Ansorge's** and **Plain Greenbul, Violet-backed Hylia, Blue Malkoha, Hairy-breasted Barbet** and **Red-fronted Parrot** for some. Stars of the morning's canopy show were a small flock of **African Piculets** who stayed long enough for everyone to 'bond' with them. After lunch and a short rest we were back on the Kakum walkway for an afternoon and evening session. Although bird activity was much quieter than in the morning we did add **Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Palmnut Vulture** and a juvenile **Black Goshawk** that nearly succeeded in catching a **Slender-tailed Squirrel** who was asking for trouble as it sat, teed up on a tall bare snag. At sunset a **Brown Nightjar** called but sadly didn't show. The highlight (for me anyway) of the p.m. session was seeing at least three **Pel's Anomalures** (Flying Squirrels) first emerge from their lofty tree hole and then having one glide right past us and landing on the side of a tree trunk for all to see. Later on near the entrance of the park, while calling up owls we were lucky to see three **Potto** in the spotlights. These slow-moving, nocturnal primates were a real bonus.

Day – 8 (Sun 15 April)

A very early start as another 'jam-packed' birding program lay ahead. Our first port of call was the Antwikwaa farm bush habitats near the northern boundary of the Kakum Park. No sooner had we arrived in the area when the 'new birds' started showing up. **Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Black-winged Bishop, Blue-headed Coucal, Vieillot's Barbet** were quickly seen while the **Red-cheeked Wattle-eyes** were much more of a challenge as they flitted through the undergrowth. Along a track leading through cocoa plantations and secondary forest thickets we got **Whistling Cisticola, Bare-faced and Bristle-nosed barbets, Blue-spotted Wood-Dove, Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher, Copper-tailed Starling, African Forest Flycatcher** along with the much sought-after **Black Bee-eater** and **Long-tailed Hawk**.

At a soggy thicket a cautious **White-spotted Flufftail** was twice lured across an open patch. After this thrill we headed further north to the Pra River near the town of Twifo Praso stopping briefly to view two colonies of the localised **Preuss's Swallows** breeding under road culverts. At the Pra River there were good scope views of **White-throated Blue Swallow**, **Rock Pratincole** and **White-headed Lapwing** while we were the source of much amusement for some small kids at the neighbouring palm oil extraction plant. A downpour delayed our afternoon birding session but when we did eventually get to walk along the Abrafo Forest access road with its farmbrush habitat bird activity was good as we collected **Guinea Turaco**, **Black-and-white Mannikin**, **Diderick Cuckoo**, **African Firefinch**, **Plain Greenbul**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia** and **Klaas's Cuckoo**. After dark we were very lucky to pick up **Plain Nightjar** sitting in the road ahead of the bus and later on driving past the Kakum Park headquarters Williams expertly spotlighted an **Akun Eagle Owl** sitting close to the road.

Day – 9 (Mon 16 April)

The day's birding program started with a walk along a trail through the Abrafo Forest where **Buff-spotted Woodpecker**, **Blue-billed Malimbe**, **Spotted Greenbul**, **Fraser's Sunbird**, **Yellow-spotted Barbet**, **Golden Greenbul** and **West-African Wattle-eye** were seen. Frustratingly both **Yellow-casqued** and **Black-casqued Hornbill** were heard close by but not close enough for a look! We reluctantly left the Kakum forest area but were buoyed by the fact that our next birding stop would be to find the bird that everyone had come to see, the Picathartes! So heading back south to Cape Coast and then north again we reached Bokro Village by mid-afternoon. On the walk into the forest we were fortunate to see a small group of **Black Spinetails** flying overhead. As the rainclouds gathered we entered the forest a little concerned that our quest would be ruined by another downpour. However the rain held off and by the time the leading group had clambered up the steep slope and reached the viewing area a lone **White-necked Picathartes** was there to greet them but then silently slipped back into the forest. After everyone in the group had scaled the final gradient and got into position on the wooden benches a short vigil was rewarded with views of at least three birds intermittently appearing at the site. One even hopped up and sat in its mud nest for a while. What a euphoric birding experience! A bunch of exhausted birders got back to the bus an hour or so later and soon the contented souls were nodding off as we took the long journey north to the city of Kumasi.

Day – 10 (Tues 17 April)

After leaving our hotel at the crack of dawn we battled through the morning traffic of Kumasi and started heading north on a long journey to Mole National Park in the Northern Region of Ghana. A leg stretch was taken about two hours into the trip at the access road to the Opra Forest. Despite the area being badly degraded we managed to pick some nice birds in the form of **Broad-billed Roller**, **Red-tailed Greenbul**, **Grey-headed Bristlebill**, **Wood and Willow Warblers** and **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**. Lunch was taken at a restaurant in Kintampo in the presence of some high-ranking chiefs judging by their outfits and bodyguards. After swinging westward towards Mole we had a quick break near the Fufulso junction where **Northern Red Bishop**, **Black-rumped Waxbill**, **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**, **Dark Chanting-Goshawk** and a female **Western Marsh Harrier** were picked up. Mole National Park was reached in the early evening but before checking into the motel we stopped off at the local airstrip just in time to watch a family of **Stone Partridges** crossing the runway. A short while later a male **Standard-winged Nightjar** came flying in complete with his two black wing ornaments in tow. What an outlandish display! He did the right thing and landed a few feet away for everyone to have a good look. Further down the airstrip another **nightjar** species was found, this time a **long-tailed**. We weren't done with the 'nocturnals' as on the way to the motel a **Greyish Eagle-Owl**, **African Civet** and **Common Genet** were picked up in the spotlights.

Day – 11 (Wed 18 April)

A full day of birding in the Mole started at the motel's lookout point where we had **Northern Black Flycatcher**, **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, **African Grey Woodpecker**, **Lesser-striped Swallow** and **White-shouldered Black-Tit**. This was followed by a drive and walk along the Samole Loop where a good variety of species were added to the trip list. These included **Beautiful Sunbird**, **Yellow-throated Leaflove**, **Violet-backed** and **Purple Starlings**, **Bateleur**, **Red-throated Bee-eater**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **Rose-ringed Parakeet**, **Swamp Flycatcher**, **White-crowned Robin-Chat**, **Little Weaver** and **Senegal Batis**. In the dense woodlands we picked up a few Palearctic migrants in the form of **Willow**, **Wood** and **Melodious Warblers** and **European Pied** and **Spotted Flycatchers** along with a few locals such as **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis** and **Northern Crombec**. After lunch and a siesta we headed out along the Brugbani Road. In the open woodland we had **Rufous Cisticola**, **Greater Honeyguide**, **Brubru**, **Moustached Grass-Warbler**, **African Golden Oriole** and **Fine Spotted Woodpecker**. Further along the road the woodland is broken by open laterite areas with short grass and the odd muddy pan. At one such patch we had fleeting views of an unlikely species in **Denham's Bustard** along with **Forbes's Plover**, **Sun Lark** and **Abyssinian Roller**. Just before sunset a walk around a waterhole further along Brugbani Road got us **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, **Hadada Ibis**, **Red-chested Cuckoo** and another **Standard-winged Nightjar**.

Day – 12 (Thur 19 April)

The day's birding started off at the Mole airstrip where although White-throated Francolin refused to show a few others did, including **Lizard Buzzard**, **Bush Petronia**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Yellow-fronted Canary** and **Northern Puffback**. The Mognori River bridge

area on the border of the park proved to be a very productive birding site. Here we notched some excellent 'new' species in the form of **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**, **Pygmy Sunbird**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Whinchat**, **Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle**, **Pied-winged Swallow**, a soaring **Peregrine Falcon**, a family of striking little **Red-headed Lovebirds** feeding on wild figs and a very showy **African Blue Flycatcher**. Foster was also very relieved when **Violet Turacos** finally showed for everyone in the group to see. On the way back to the park we had **Yellow-billed Shrikes** and **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** and at a waterhole near the motel there were a group of **Elephant** bulls taking a dip while **White-rumped Swifts**, **White-backed** and **Hooded Vultures** and a **Tawny Eagle** (dark morph) circled overhead. The afternoon session saw us return to the broad-leaved woodland and laterite patches along the Brugbani Road. A walk through a woodland patch produced some real gems in **Brown-backed Woodpecker**, **African Spotted Creeper** and **Brown-rumped Bunting** while out on the bare areas there where **White-fronted Black-Chat**, **African Cuckoo**, **Woodchat Shrike** and a odd-looking, scruffy, juvenile **lark** that turned out to be **Rufous Rumped**! Further on down the road an **Oriole Warbler** was tending to its hanging nest built above a pool of water. At sunset we did well to track down and spotlight an **African Scops-Owl** and on the way back to the motel a seldom-seen **Marsh Mongoose** crossed the road in front of the bus.

Day – 13 (Fri 20 April)

An early morning walk around the motel grounds produced some nice looks at **Red-billed Firefinch**, **Familiar Chat** (for some) and some 'old friends' in the form of **Bearded Barbet**, **Little Swift** and **Red Cheeked Cordonbleu**. A few mammals also made an appearance on our last morning in Mole with **Elephant** Bulls wallowing in the waterhole below the motel as **Kob** and **Defassa Waterbuck** looked on. **Patas** and **Tantalus Monkeys** frolicked in the car park and a **Striped Ground Squirrel** looked on inquisitively as a family of **Warthog** strolled by. Then it was time to bid Mole farewell. Not far from the exit gate there was a quick cultural interlude with a birding touch as we visited the 14th century Larabanga (Sudanese-style) Mosque with its resident **Red-chested Swallows**. En-route to Tamale we stopped at a waterhole and had a short walk picking up **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Black-rumped Waxbill**, **Diderick Cuckoo**, **Black Scimitarbill** and male **Vitelline Weavers** constructing their onion-shaped nests above the water. In the courtyard of a Tamale hotel we watched roosting **Gambian Fruit Bats** hanging in some tall shady trees before enjoying a good lunch, ice-cream and all. From here we headed north to the town of Bolgatanga. The long drive was broken by a birding stop at the Nasia Wetland where in 38°C we found large numbers of **African Wattled Lapwing** and **African Jacana** along with other nice birds including **Speckled Pigeon**, **African Quailfinch** (the black-faced subspecies), **Purple Squacco** and **Black-headed Herons**, **African Swampphen**, **Winding Cisticola**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Long-crested Eagle** and good numbers of **Grasshopper Buzzards**. As we approached Bolgatanga in the late afternoon we made a quick detour to the Tongo Hills, a rather picturesque area with its towering granite boulders. After alighting from the bus we were greeted by a group of small boys displaying an injured Gosling's Bunting (one of our target birds for the area) that they had trapped. After being told off by Williams they reluctantly let it go for what that was worth. Ironically it was a bit of a struggle finding a 'tickable' Gosling's after that. We did however find some other nice species such as **Lanner Falcon** and **Fox Kestrel** flying overhead, a small flock of gorgeous little **Lavender Waxbills** showing well in the late afternoon light and a distant **Red-necked Falcon** seen through the scope. Some of the group did manage to get onto a few **Gosling's Buntings** just before we left. The hotel in Bolgatanga was reached by about 20h00.

Day – 14 (Sat 21 April)

We were up bright and early for a pre-dawn departure to the Sapeling area near the White Volta River and Ghana's famous Egyptian Plover site. At a spot less than a hundred yards from the border with neighbouring Burkina Faso we stopped for a walk in some arid thorny woodland. Here we picked up **Chestnut-bellied Starling**, **White-billed Buffalo-Weaver**, **Four-banded Sandgrouse**, **Pied Cuckoo** and a **Gabar Goshawk**. A **Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin** caused great excitement with the Ashanti guides as it was a lifer for Williams and his 700th bird for Ghana. I'm glad we could share the milestone with him. Further down the road we found a pair of dapper **Black-headed Lapwings** before we started a walk to the banks of the White Volta River. On the way there we spotted **Namaqua Doves**, **Mourning Collared-Doves** many **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** and cattle adorned with **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**. In fact at one point there were oxpeckers, bee-eaters and **Piapiacs** all hitching rides on the domestic animals around us. Once at the river it didn't take very long to spot our quarry, the elegantly marked **Egyptian Plovers** running on the sand banks. We had excellent views of at least two pairs. On our return journey to Bolgatanga we stopped off at a waterhole near Zebilla where **Cut-throat Finches** and **African Silverbills** showed well. Back at the Hotel we had lunch and some downtime before heading out to Tono Dam near the town of Navrongo. On a walk through the dry farm bush habitats near the dam we bumped into a mixed feeding flock which contained **Red-headed Weaver**, **African Yellow White-eye**, **Western Olivaceous Warbler**, **Speckle-fronted Weaver**, **Red-billed Quelea** and a flock of **Yellow Penduline Tits** (unfortunately only seen by one participant). In the tall 'dry' marshy grass closer to the dam there were small flocks of **Zebra Waxbill**, a pair of **Black-backed Cisticolas**, dozens of **Four-banded Sandgrouse** and a **Long-tailed Nightjar** which we flushed. After dark we spotlighted a fine-looking little **Northern White-faced Owl**.

Day – 15 (Sun 22 April)

With this essentially being a travelling day there wasn't too much time for birding however we did have a few leg stretch stops in good birding areas as we made our way south to Kumasi. The first such stop was at a stony ridge south of Bolgatanga where we found **Gosling's Bunting** (a catch-up bird for some), **Bush Petronia**, **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, **African Thrush** and **Dark Chanting Goshawk**. The Nasia wetland had all the regulars and at the Opra Forest access road we had a new addition to the list in the form of **Rufous-chested Swallow** and nice looks at **Grey Kestrel** and **Speckled Tinkerbird**. We arrived at our hotel later than expected due to heavily congested Kumasi traffic.

Day – 16 (Mon 23 April)

Before heading out of Kumasi we had good looks at a pair of **African Hobby** flying over the wooded suburbs, presumably hunting small bats. They moved off as a much larger **Peregrine Falcon** swooped in to have a look what was on the menu. Then it was on to Bobiri Butterfly and Forest Sanctuary. The morning's raptor theme continued as our first two birds in the forest were **Red-chested Goshawk** and **Red-thighed Sparrowhawk**. Other forest specials seen on the morning walk in Bobiri included **Black Dwarf Hornbill**, **Blue-headed Wood-Dove**, **Narina Trogon**, **Melancholy Woodpecker**, **Yellow-mantled Weaver**, **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** and **Red-billed Helmet Shrike**. As we walked along the main track leading through the forest it was clear to see why Bobiri is regarded as one of Ghana's top butterfly spots. The wet road came alive with butterflies as we walked along and there was a time when even the most hardened birders had to stop and admire these exquisite 'papilions'. After a very successful morning in Bobiri we headed on to the town of Bunso and checked into our hotel there before heading out again in the late afternoon. In the farmbrush habitats not far from Bunso we picked up **Tit-Hylia**, **Black-and-white Shrike Flycatcher** and **Green Crombec** while at a grass-fringed stream there were **Compact**, **Vieillot's** and **Thick-billed** (Grosbeak) **Weavers**, **Magpie Mannikin**, **Red-headed Quelea** and a partially concealed but identifiable **Black-bellied Seedcracker**. A heavy thunderstorm unfortunately cut short our afternoon's birding.

Day – 17 (Tues 24 April)

Today's goal was find as many new forest birds as possible with particular focus on the very localised and unobtrusive Blue Moustached (blue-headed) Bee-eater. This meant that we had to climb to the top of the 1500ft (500m) Atewa Ridge along a fairly difficult trail. We started off pretty early picking up some good birds along the way. **Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher**, **Maxwell's Black Weaver**, **Grey Longbill**, **Yellow-whiskered Greenbul**, **Black-capped Apalis**, **Copper-tailed Starling** and **Rufous-crowned Eremomela** were all seen on the lower slopes while **Chestnut-winged Starling**, **Fire-bellied** and **Brown-eared Woodpeckers** and **White-breasted Nigrita** were picked up a little higher. One of the birds of the trip, a **Red-chested Owlet** was first heard and then well spotted by Williams as it sat on an open branch affording us excellent views. After a 5-hour hike we finally got to the plateau but once there we still had to put in some more hard work to get the **Blue Moustached Bee-eater** which was eventually found and scoped by Williams and Foster. The journey down to the base was a slow affair as there were some very slippery sections to negotiate. Thankfully everyone got down safely and enjoyed a much-needed shower and a drink back at the hotel

Day – 18 (Wed 25 April)

With a couple of hours to kill before we had to start heading back to Accra we returned to the farmbrush areas of Bunso and Atewa. Some good birds were seen with the highlight of the morning being three **Red-necked Buzzards** giving a thrilling aerial display directly above us. After freshening up back at the hotel we completed the full circle a few hours later as we were returned to the Accra Airport in time for an evening meal and to say our goodbyes.

Summary:

A total of 441 bird species comprising 84 bird families were recorded on this 17-day tour. This total includes 27 that were heard but not seen.

32 mammal species were recorded.
(see lists below).

Birding highlights and favourite birds of the tour as nominated by the participants were wide-ranging but the White-necked Picathartes and Standard-winged Nightjar were tied for first followed by Nkulengu Rail, Egyptian Plover and Northern Carmine Bee-eater. Other species and sightings that were put forward as contenders were Great Blue Turaco, Red-Chested Owlet, Bearded Barbet, African Blue Flycatcher, White-crested Hornbill, Great-spotted Cuckoo, Dwarf Bittern, displaying Red-necked Buzzards and the full suite of Malimbos.

The success of this trip can be attributed to the following:

- Sharon Mackie and her colleagues from the Field Guides office whose meticulous planning and management was invaluable.
- The ground agents in Ghana - Ashanti Africa who ensured that the tour ran efficiently from start to finish.
- Phil Gregory who shared some valuable birding information with me prior to the tour.
- Our Ashanti guides - Williams Apraku for being a master at finding the birds and smoothing out rough edges at the lodges and Foster Frimpong, purveyor of cookies and astute sound engineer for ably assisting Williams and spotting many great birds. You both did an excellent guiding job.
- Our outstanding driver Anim who not only got us to all our destinations safely despite some insane traffic situations, rain, potholes, slippery roads etc but also kept the bus spotless and the windows clean at all times.

... and lastly a fantastic, good-natured group of participants that did very well under some difficult challenges including Ghana's searing and humid climate, early mornings and late nights, a few tough walks and lots of birds that tried their best not to be seen!

My thanks go to you all,

Joe Grosel

Field Guides - Kania Private tour to Ghana - April 2018 - Birds recorded on tour

The species names and taxonomy used in the list follows Gill & Donsker - **IOC World Bird Names**

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by yellow shading

Species which were only recorded by the leader and guides are not included in the list

Ducks, Geese & Swans	Family Anatidae	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	seen in several wetlands
Hartlaub's Duck	<i>Pteronetta hartlaubii</i>	a pair seen at the Ebi River marsh
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	several birds seen at the 'water lily pond' near the Bokro turnoff
Guineafowl	Family Numididae	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	fairly common in the north
New World Quail	Family Odontophoridae	
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>	seen on two occasions in Mole National Park
Pheasants, Fowl & Allies	Family Phasianidae	
Latham's Francolin	<i>Peliperdix lathamii</i>	heard only in Kakum Forest
Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>	seen at Sakumono, Brenu Beach road and Mole
Grebes	Family Podicipedidae	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	seen at the 'lily pond' near the Bokro turnoff
Storks	Family Ciconiidae	
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	seen from the Mole Motel viewing deck
Cormorants, shags	Family Phalacrocoracidae	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	Regularly seen
Anhingas, darters	Family Anhingidae	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	seen at the 'lily pond' near the Bokro turnoff
Hamerkop	Family Scopidae	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	seen in Mole national Park
Hérons, Bitterns	Family Ardeidae	
Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>	seen 'very well' in Ankasa Forest
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	seen flying over Kumasi at dawn
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	seen in several locations on tour
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	seen in several locations on tour
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	seen on most days

Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	widespread, often seen
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	seen in the north on the White Volta River
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	seen at Sakumono lagoon and at Nasia wetland
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	good views at Sakumono wetland
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	seen in several localities
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	good views at Sakumono wetland
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	fairly common in the southern wetlands
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	good sightings at Winneba Lagoon and Ebi River marshes
Ibises, Spoonbills	Family Threskiornithidae	
Spot-breasted Ibis	<i>Bostrychia rara</i>	seen in Nsuta and Ankasa Forests
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	heard and briefly seen in Mole Nat Park
Kites, Hawks & Eagles	Family Accipitridae	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	regular sightings
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	seen on a number of occasions
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	sightings at Kakum and Mole
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	scattered sightings in farmbush habitats
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	seen around several towns in the south and in Mole in the north
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	a few sightings with good looks in Mole
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	seen in Mole by some
Beaudouin's Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus beaudouini</i>	good flight views near Mognori River and within Mole Nat Park
Congo Serpent Eagle	<i>Circaetus spectabilis</i>	heard in the Nsuta Forest
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	several sightings around Mole
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	good flight views with vocalisation in Nsuta and Ankasa Forests
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	a single sighting at Nasia wetland
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i> <i>Kaupifalco</i>	a single bird soaring with vultures in Mole
Lizard Buzzard	<i>monogrammicus</i>	a few sightings in the northern woodlands
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	seen very well near Sapelinga
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	seen en route to Mole and in the park itself
Long-tailed Hawk	<i>Urotriorchis macrourus</i>	a single sighting in the Antwikwaa farmbush
Red-chested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter toussenelii</i>	seen in Kumasi and again in Bobiri Forest
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	the most common Accipiter in Ghana
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter erythropus</i>	a good sighting in Bobiri Forest
		an unexpected sighting in Shai Hills and then again near the Mognori River
Ovambo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>	a great sighting of a juvenile attempting to catch a squirrel in Kakum Forest
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	good looks at male, female and juvenile birds in Nasia wetland and Fufulso junction
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	by far the most commonly encountered raptor
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	good numbers in the north, particularly around Nasia wetland
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>	seen on a number of days throughout the country
Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	
Bustards	Family Otidae	
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>	a single sighting in an open grassy area along the Brugbani Road in Mole Nat Park
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>	good views of this grasslands species in the Shai Hills Reserve
Flufftails	Family Sarothruridae	
White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>	seen well in a moist thicket in the Antikwaa region of the Kakum square
Rails, Crakes & Coots	Family Rallidae	
Nkulengu Rail	<i>Himantornis haematopus</i>	a fantastic sighting of three birds at their roost after dark in the Ankasa Forest
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i> <i>Porphyrio</i>	seen well at the Bokro 'water lily pond' and again in Mole National Park
African Swamphen	<i>madagascariensis</i>	good looks at Sakumono Lagoon and at Nasia wetland
Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>	seen well at the Bokro 'water lily pond'
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	good looks at Sakumono Lagoon and at Nasia wetland
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees	Family Burhinidae	
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	seen at Sakumono lagoon and around the waterholes of Mole
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	a small group seen along the Brugbani Road in Mole
Egyptian Plover	Family Pluvianidae	
Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>	a few birds seen well on the banks of the White Volta River near

Sapelinga

Stilts, Avocets	Family Recurvirostridae	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	seen well at Sakumono lagoon
Plovers	Family Charadriidae	
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	first seen at Sakumono Lagoon and then again at most other wetlands
Black-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>	good views near Sapelinga
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>	scope views on the Pra River near Twifo Prasa
		common around most wetlands visited with more than 100 birds at the
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	Nasia wetland in the north
Grey (Black-bellied) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	a single bird seen at Winneba Lagoon
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	seen at Sakumono and Winneba Lagoons
Forbes's Plover	<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>	a pair seen well at a laterite pan on the Brugbani Rd in Mole Nat Park
Jacanas	Family Jacanidae	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	many sightings at wetlands throughout
Sandpipers, Snipes	Family Scolopacidae	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	seen at Sakumono and Nasia wetland
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	one sighting at the Ebi River wetland
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	seen at the Winneba Lagoon
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	good views of at least three birds at the Sakumono Lagoon
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Seen on a few occasions
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	most commonly encountered Tringa
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Several sightings throughout
Coursers, Pratincoles	Family Glareolidae	
		two birds briefly seen as they flew off the (Brugbani) road at sunset in
Bronze-winged Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>	Mole Nat Park
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	seen by some at Winneba Lagoon
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>	good scope views of at least two pairs on the Pra River near Twifo Praso
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	Family Laridae	
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	good scope views at Winneba Lagoon
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandwicensis</i>	very common around Winneba Lagoon
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	a single bird seen by some at Winneba Lagoon
Sandgrouse	Family Pteroclididae	
Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>	seen at Sapelinga and many around Tono Dam
Pigeons, Doves	Family Columbidae	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Abundant in towns and cities
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	often seen in the far north
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon	<i>Columba iriditorques</i>	heard only at Nsuta and Kakum forests
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	seen on the banks of the White Volta near Sapelinga
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	very common throughout
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>	common in the far south and again in the north
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	common, particularly in villages and towns
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	seen at Winneba Lagoon in the south and Mole in the north
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	good views in the Antwikwaa region of the Kakum square
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>	several fly-by sightings with one good perched bird in Atewa farm bush
Blue-headed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur brehmeri</i>	good views in Bobiri Forest
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	several seen in the Sapelinga region and around Tono Dam
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>	good sightings in Mole Nat Park and along the Mognori River
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>	Seen in several locations throughout
Turacos	Family Musophagidae	
Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>	good views in Ankasa
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>	seen along the Abrafo Forest access road
Yellow-billed Turaco	<i>Tauraco macrorhynchus</i>	seen in the Nsuta, Ankasa and Abrafo Forests
		first seen in Shai Hills by a few and then eventually by all on the Mognori
Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>	River, also at Mole Motel
Western Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	very common throughout
Cuckoos	Family Cuculidae	
Black-throated Coucal	<i>Centropus leucogaster</i>	heard only, in Bobiri and Atewa Forests
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	fairly common throughout
Blue-headed Coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>	seen well in Antwikwaa farm bush and again in the Atewa region
Blue Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>	brief but good sightings from the Kakum canopy walkway

Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	a pair seen very well on the Brenu Beach Road
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>	good looks along the Abrafo Forest access road
Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	an excellent sighting in the dry thorny woodland near Sapelinga
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	several sightings throughout
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	a number of good sightings
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	seen well in Nsuta and Kakum Forests
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	heard only - in Mole Nat Park
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	seen at sunset at a waterhole along the Brugbani Road, Mole Nat Park
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	heard and then seen flying by near the Brugbani Road, Mole Nat Park
Barn Owls	Family Tytonidae	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	heard by some at Tono Dam after sunset
Owls	Family Strigidae	
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	seen well after sunset along the Brugbani Road, Mole Nat Park
Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>	great sighting near Tono Dam after sunset
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>	two excellent sightings in Mole National Park
		a brief sighting in Nsuta Forest and then wonderful views outside Kakum Forest
Akun Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo leucostictus</i>	seen very well at close range outside the Ankasa Forest Ashanti Africa Camp
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>	often heard' and seen near the Fufulso Junction en route to Mole
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	a great day-time sighting in the Atewa Forest
Red-chested Owlet	<i>Glaucidium tephronotum</i>	
Nightjars	Family Caprimulgidae	
Brown Nightjar	<i>Veles binotatus</i>	heard only, from the Kakum canopy walkway
Plain Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>	seen well on the Abrafo Forest access road
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>	great views at the Mole airstrip and again near Tono Dam
		superb males in full breeding plumage at the Mole airstrip and at a Brugbani waterhole
Standard-winged Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus longipennis</i>	
Swifts	Family Apodidae	
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>	seen on several occasions
Black Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura melanopygia</i>	good views outside the Bonkro Forest
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	common throughout
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	common throughout, particularly over forests
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	common throughout, recorded on most days
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	only seen once, below Zinia Lodge, Mole Nat Park
Trogons	Family Trogonidae	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>	Excellent looks in the Bobiri Forest
Wood Hoopoes	Family Phoeniculidae	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	seen in Accra and near the Mole Motel
		after a lengthy search got one east of Larabanga and then with far less effort near Tono Dam
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>	
Ground Hornbills	Family Bucorvidae	
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>	unfortunately only heard near the Samole Loop in Mole Nat Park
Hornbills	Family Bucerotidae	
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	seen in Mole Nat Park and then quite common in the far-north
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasciatus</i>	the most commonly recorded hornbill of the trip
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	quite common throughout except for the densely forested areas
Piping Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes fistulator</i>	seen in Nsuta and Abrafo Forests
		at least 15 individuals flying across the open power line servitude in Atewa Forest
Brown-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes cylindricus</i>	
Black-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna atrata</i>	a frustrating 'heard only' in the Ankasa and Abrafo Forests
Yellow-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna elata</i>	frustratingly heard only! in the Ankasa and Abrafo Forests
Black Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Horizocerus hartlaubi</i>	great looks in the Bobiri Forest
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Horizocerus camurus</i>	heard only in Bobiri Forest
		always brief looks in several forests - Ankasa, Abrafo, Bonkroisa and Bobiri
White-crested Hornbill	<i>Horizocerus albocristatus</i>	
Kingfishers	Family Alcedinidae	
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon badia</i>	seen well in Nsuta Forest
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	quite common in Mole Nat Park and also seen in the Sapelinga area
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	seen well in the woodlands east of Damango
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	seen in Ankasa Forest, also in Kumasi and along the Mognori River
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	seen and heard often, throughout the tour

African Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina lecontei</i>	a single, but good sighting in the Ankasa Forest
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	quite common and scattered sightings throughout
White-bellied Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis leucogaster</i>	seen at a pond in Ankasa Forest
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	several sightings at wetland habitats throughout
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	frequent sightings at waterholes and rivers throughout
Bee-eaters	Family Meropidae	
Blue-moustached Bee-eater	<i>Merops mentalis</i>	after a long, hard walk were rewarded with good scope views above the Atewa Forest
Black Bee-eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>	seen well in Antwikwaa farmbush and again outside Abrafo Forest
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	seen in Shai Hills Reserve and near the Mognori River
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	several sightings throughout
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullocki</i>	quite common around Mole
White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	the most frequently encountered Bee-eater species
Rosy Bee-eater	<i>Merops malimbicus</i>	only seen soaring above Nsuta Forest
Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>	great views in Mole Nat Park and again near the White Volta near Sapelinga
Rollers	Family Coraciidae	
Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>	seen well on three consecutive days around Mole and Bolgatanga
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>	seen well in Mole and around Bolgatanga
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>	first seen in Shai Hills Reserve and then again near Fufulso junction in the north
Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>	seen in Nsuta, Ankasa and Atewa Forests
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	good views in Shai Hills Reserve and Mole Nat Park
African barbets	Family Lybiidae	
Bristle-nosed Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco peli</i>	seen in several localities including Antwikwaa, Abrafo and Atewa
Naked-faced Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco calvus</i>	good looks at this species in Antwikwaa farmbush as well as Abrafo, Bobiri and Atewa
Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>	seen in Antwikwaa farmbush and Nsuta, Abrafo and Opra Forests
Red-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus atroflavus</i>	sightings at Antwikwaa farmbush and Atewa Forest
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>	seen in Nsuta, Ankasa, Bobiri and Atewa Forests
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>	seen along the Opra Forest access road
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	decent looks in Shai Hills Reserve and around Tono Dam
Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>	seen well in Abrafo Forest
Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>	two sightings - in Kakum and Atewa Forests
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>	fairly common in most farmbush habitats
Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>	seen on the first morning in Accra and then again along the Opra Forest access road
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>	great looks at Shai Hills and in the Mole Motel grounds
Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>	seen by some in Nsuta and Kakum Forests
Honeyguides	Family Indicatoridae	
Least Honeyguide	<i>Indicator exilis</i>	heard only in the Bobiri Forest
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>	heard and then brief, fly-by views for some at the Mognori River bridge
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	seen well along the Brugbani road and near the Mognori River
Woodpeckers	Family Picidae	
African Piculet	<i>Sasia africana</i>	great views of this sought-after species from the Kakum canopy walkway
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>	a single sighting along the Brugbani Road in Mole NP
Little Green Woodpecker	<i>Campethera maculosa</i>	a single sighting on the outskirts of Nsuta Forest
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>	seen well in the Abrafo Forest
Brown-eared Woodpecker	<i>Campethera caroli</i>	a good sighting in Atewa Forest
Fire-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus pyrrhogaster</i>	after many attempts this bird was finally seen in Atewa Forest
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	seen on a walk along the Samole Loop, Mole NP
Melancholy Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos lugubris</i>	good looks in Bobiri Forest
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>	two sightings in and around the Mole Motel grounds
Brown-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos obsoletus</i>	seen well in the broad-leaved woodlands along the Brugbani Road, Mole NP
Falcons	Family Falconidae	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	several sightings within the greater Accra City area and further west
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>	a single bird soaring over Tongo Hills showing all its identification features in flight

Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>	several sightings - near Ebi River, Mole Nat Park, Opra Forest and Atewa farmbush
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	a single bird flying and then perched in a Baobab in the Tongo Hills
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	a surprise sighting of two birds hunting over the outskirts of Kumasi
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	seen on seven days of this tour, mostly soaring
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	a good sighting of a soaring bird near the Mognori River and again in Kumasi
African & New World Parrots	Family Psittacidae	
Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	small flocks seen over Accra are probable escapees, a few birds were also heard over Ankasa
Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>	a small group was seen flying over Kakum Forest and another heard over Bonkroisa Forest
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	seen in several localities including Accra, Shai Hills, Mole National Park and Tono Dam
Old World Parrots	Family Psittaculidae	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	seen well along the Samole Loop in Mole NP
Red-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>	great looks at a family group feeding on wild figs along the Mognori River, also along Samole Loop
Broadbills	Family Eurylaimidae	
Rufous-sided Broadbill	<i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i>	good sightings of birds displaying in Ankasa Forest and heard again in Kakum Forest
Wattle-eyes, Batises	Family Platysteiridae	
African Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Megabyas flammulatus</i>	heard only, in the Ankasa Forest
Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>	seen very well in Antwikwaa and Bunso/Atewa farmbush areas
Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>	at least two pairs seen along the Samole Loop, Mole NP
West African Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira hormophora</i>	seen in the Ankasa, Abrafo and Atewa Forests
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	fairly common and seen in several localities
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira blissetti</i>	one sighting of this difficult species in an Antwikwaa lowland thicket
Helmetshrikes	Family Prionopidae	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	seen in Shai Hills Reserve and along the Mognori River
Red-billed Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops caniceps</i>	seen by some in Bobiri Forest and again by some in Atewa Forest
Bushshrikes and allies	Family Malaconotidae	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>	seen well near Mole airstrip
Orange-(Sulphur) breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>	mostly heard but seen by some in the Mole Motel grounds
Marsh Tchagra	<i>Bocagia minuta</i>	great looks outside the Delabamba Beach Resort near Shama
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	seen in farmbush habitats near Antwikwaa, Opra Forest and Atewa
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	seen near Winneba Lagoon and again in Mole NP
Sabine's Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus sabini</i>	good sightings from the Kakum canopy walkway and in Atewa Forest
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	seen throughout the tour, particularly common around Mole NP
Lowland Sooty Boubou	<i>Laniarius leucorhynchus</i>	sadly heard only in wetter areas of Antwikwaa and Atewa farmbush
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>	seen in a number of sites including Sakumono, Winneba and Mole NP
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	seen along the Brugbani Road in Mole NP and in the thorny woodland near Sapelinga
Cuckooshrikes	Family Campephagidae	
Blue Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina azurea</i>	great looks at this beauty from the Kakum canopy walkway
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>	seen in Shai Hills, Mole Nat Park and Mognori River
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga quiscalina</i>	heard only in Bobiri Forest
Shrikes	Family Laniidae	
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>	seen near the Mognori River and in the thorny woodland near Sapelinga
Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>	fairly common throughout
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	a single sighting in a clearing along the Brugbani Road, Mole NP
Orioles	Family Oriolidae	
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>	a few sightings within the Mole NP and near the Mognori River
Western Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrynchus</i>	seen in Ankasa, Kakum and Atewa Forests
Black-winged Oriole	<i>Oriolus nigripennis</i>	seen in Ankasa, Kakum, Abrafo and Atewa Forests
Drongos	Family Dicruridae	
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>	a pair seen by some along the Mognori River
Shining Drongo	<i>Dicrurus atripennis</i>	seen in Ankasa and Atewa Forests

Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	seen on most days in the drier parts
Velvet-mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>	good sightings of this large drongo in Ankasa, Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa Forests
Monarchs	Family Monarchidae	
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus nitens</i>	heard only in Abrafo Forest
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>	seen in most moist forests on tour
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	seen in Mole NP and again in a woodland south of Bolgatanga
Crows	Family Corvidae	
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>	seen in a number of locations but best at Shai Hills and near the White Volta, Sapelinga area
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	very common and seen on every day of the tour bar one
Rockfowl	Family Picathartidae	
	<i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i>	
White-necked Rockfowl		great views around the traditional colony in the Bonkro Forest
Nicators	Family Nicatoridae	
		infuriatingly heard only on several occasions - in the Ankasa, Abrafo and Atewa Forests
Western Nicator	<i>Nicator chloris</i>	
Larks	Family Alaudidae	
		a juvenile bird had us baffled for a while, seen in an open laterite site along the Brugbani Road
Rufous-rumped Lark	<i>Pinarocorys erythropygia</i>	
Sun Lark	<i>Galerida modesta</i>	several seen in the open laterite patches along Mole's Brugbani Road
Swallows, martins	Family Hirundinidae	
Square-tailed Saw-wing	<i>Psaldipraccus nitens</i>	seen over Ankasa and Atewa Forests
		seen in a number of places including Shama, Ankasa, Mole and Mognori River
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psaldipraccus obscura</i>	
Brown-throated (Plain) Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	a surprise sighting of a single bird foraging over the Winneba dams
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	seen almost daily
		good views at the Larabanga Mosque and north of Bolgatanga, also surprisingly at Linda Dor
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>	
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>	very common and seen on most days, particularly in towns and villages
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	seen at a number of rivers and other permanent wetlands in the north
Pied-winged Swallow	<i>Hirundo leucosoma</i>	a good sighting along the Mognori River
White-throated Blue Swallow	<i>Hirundo nigrita</i>	good scope views of a pair on the Pra River near Twifo Praso
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	fairly large flocks seen over Mole Nat Park and at Nasia wetland
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>	fairly common in the north
Red-breasted (Rufous-chested) Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>	seen collecting mud on the Opra Forest access road and again along a track near Bunso
		seen near Shama, along the Brenu Beach road and outside Akrofrom village
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	a good sighting at a waterhole east of Damango
		good sightings at two culverts near Ampenkro village en route to Twifo Praso
Preuss's Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon preussi</i>	
Fairy Flycatchers	Family Stenostiridae	
African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>	wonderful views of this little charmer along the Mognori River
Tits	Family Paridae	
White-shouldered Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus guineensis</i>	seen well at Mole Motel
Penduline Tits	Family Remizidae	
		a small flock seen by one member of the group in the dry farm bush north of Tono Dam
Yellow Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus parvulus</i>	
Treecreepers	Family Certhiidae	
		several brief looks at a busy bird in tall woodland along the Brugbani Road, Mole NP
African Spotted Creeper	<i>Salpornis salvadori</i>	
Bulbuls	Family Pycnonotidae	
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	the bird that gets the prize for 'seen on every day of the tour'
		several sightings in various forests including Ankasa, Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa
Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Stelgidillas gracilirostris</i>	
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>	seen in Kakum, and Atewa Forests and in the Bunso farm bush
Little Grey Greenbul (Grey)	<i>Eurillas gracilis</i>	a single sighting on an afternoon visit to Nsuta Forest
Ansorge's Greenbul	<i>Eurillas ansorgei</i>	seen from the Kakum canopy walkway

Plain Greenbul	<i>Eurillas curvirostris</i>	seen from the Kakum canopy walkway and then again in the Antwikwaa farmbush
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>	one seen on the hike through the Atewa Forest
Golden Greenbul	<i>Calyptocichla serinus</i>	good sightings from the Kakum walkway and in the Abrafo, Bobiri and Atewa Forests
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>	a single sighting at the Kakum Forest entrance gate
Spotted Greenbul	<i>Ixonotus guttatus</i>	seen once in the Abrafo forest
Simple Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla simplex</i>	nicely seen in Ankasa with additional sightings in Abrafo and Atewa
Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>	seen on a walk along the Samole Loop, Mole NP
Swamp Palm Bulbul	<i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i>	good views in Nsuta and Bobiri Forests, also seen in Antwikwaa and Bunso farmbush
Icterine Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus icterinus</i>	two sightings in Ankasa Forest
Red-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda syndactylus</i>	heard only in the dense undergrowth of Ankasa Forest
Green-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda eximius</i>	heard only in Ankasa Forest
Grey-headed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda canicapillus</i>	seen by some in a thicket along the Opra Forest access road
Western Bearded Greenbul	<i>Criniger barbatus</i>	seen fairly well for a skulker in Ankasa and Bobiri Forests
Red-tailed Greenbul	<i>Criniger calurus</i>	seen along the Opra Forest access road
Yellow-bearded Greenbul	<i>Criniger olivaceus</i>	a single sighting in the Ankasa Forest
Crombecs, African warblers	Family Macrosphenidae	
Moustached Grass Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>	seen well along the Brugbani road, Mole NP
Kemp's Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus kempii</i>	heard only in dense tangles in Atewa Forest
Grey Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus concolor</i>	a group of five birds seen well in Atewa Forest
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	seen in Shai Hills Reserve and in the Mole Nat Park
Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>	sightings at Ankasa Forest, Antwikwaa farmbush and Bobiri Forest
Lemon-bellied Crombec	<i>Sylvietta denti</i>	a reasonable sighting in the Atewa/Bunso farmbush
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>	several sightings in Ankasa, Kakum, Antwikwaa, Opra and Atewa
Tit Hylia	<i>Pholidornis rushiae</i>	seen in the Nsuta Forest and Atewa Forests and twice in the Bunso farmbush area
Yellow Flycatchers	Family Erythrocercidae	
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocercus mccallii</i>	first seen from Kakum walkway and again in Bobiri Forest
Leaf warblers and allies	Family Phylloscopidae	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	scattered sightings in woodland throughout the tour
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	seen well along the Opra Forest access road and on the Samole Loop in Mole
Reed warblers and allies	Family Acrocephalidae	
Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>	a single bird seen in a mixed feeding flock in the dry farmbush at Tono Dam
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	one seen by some near the Samole Loop and another in the woodlands along Brugbani road
Cisticolas and allies	Family Cisticolidae	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>	often heard in dense marshy habitats but seen well in Shama, Antwikwaa and Bunso farmbush
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>	seen at Winneba Lagoon and Brenu Beach Road,
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>	a single sighting in the Antwikwaa farmbush
Rock-loving Cisticola	<i>Cisticola emini</i>	after a good search eventually seen in the Tonga Hills
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola marginatus</i>	seen well at Sakumono and Winneba lagoons and at Nasia wetlands in the north
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>	nice views of this species in the grassland habitat of Shai Hills Reserve
Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>	good looks at this little fellow in tall, rank grass below the Tono Dam wall
Rufous Cisticola	<i>Cisticola rufus</i>	seen well in the tall woodlands along Mole's Brugbani road
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	several birds displaying over grassy marshland near Sakumono lagoon
Dorst's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola guinea</i>	a bird in non-breeding plumage responded well to playback in open shrubland south of Mole NP
Black-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola eximius</i>	two birds seen in the tall, dry, marshy grassland of Tono Dam
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	fairly common throughout
Red-winged Warbler	<i>Heliolais erythropterus</i>	seen well at Brenu Beach Road in the south and Tono Dam farmbush in the north
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>	seen on walk along the Samole Loop in Mole NP
Black-capped Apalis	<i>Apalis nigriceps</i>	a single sighting in Atewa Forest

Sharpe's Apalis	<i>Apalis sharpii</i>	seen at Ankasa, Kakum and Atewa Forests
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>	good looks at this strange warbler at Shama, Mognori River and at its nest above a stream in Mole
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	common throughout the tour more often heard than seen but good looks at Nsuta, Antwikwaa and Atewa
Yellow-browed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera supercilialis</i>	heard only in Kakum and Atewa Forests
Olive-green Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera chloronota</i>	quite common with good sightings at Sakumono, Mole NP and Tono Dam
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>	seen by some from Kakum walkway and again in Atewa Forest
Rufous-crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>	
White-eyes	Family Zosteropidae	
African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	good sightings in Mole Nat Park and along the Mognori River
Ground-Babblers	Family Pellorneidae	
Blackcap Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis cleaveri</i>	seen briefly by some in dense undergrowth in Ankasa Forest
Rufous-winged Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis rufescens</i>	heard only in Ankasa Forest
Pale-breasted Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis rufipennis</i>	this illusive species was seen by some in Ankasa Forest
Typical Babblers	Family Leiothrichidae	
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>	sadly, only heard by the group in Mole NP and Mognori River
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>	another frustrating 'heard only' in Sakumono and in Mole
Hyliotas	Family Hylotiidae	
Violet-backed Hyliota	<i>Hyliota violacea</i>	excellent looks from the Kakum canopy walkway
Chats, Old World Flycatchers	Family Muscicapidae	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	seen in Shai Hills and Mole Nat Park
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>	good looks along a watercourse near the Samole Loop in Mole Nat Park
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>	great views around the river bordering the Ankasa Forest
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa comitata</i>	seen in several places including Nsuta, Ankasa, Kakum and Atewa
Ussher's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>	good views from the Kakum walkway and the saw the 'old friend' again in Atewa Forest
African (Fraser's) Forest Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>	seen well in Antwikwaa and Atewa farmbrush
Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus griseigularis</i>	seen once in the Atewa Forest
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>	several sightings in Mole NP
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>	fairly common in Mole Nat Park and surrounds
White-tailed (Fire-crested) Alethe	<i>Alethe diademata</i>	yet another bird that called well but never showed, heard in Ankasa, Bobiri and Atewa
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>	a few birds seen outside the hotel in Shama
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapillus</i>	two sightings in Mole Nat Park
Forest Robin	<i>Stiphrornis erythrothorax</i>	a bird hopping along the forest floor in Ankasa was a great find a good sighting near Sapeling. A lifer for Williams and his 700th bird for Ghana
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	at least three sightings in the broad-leaved woodlands of Mole NP
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	two birds seen on a walk along the Mognori River
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	briefly showed at Shai Hills but well enough to see how much both sexes differ from Mocking CC!
White-crowned Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea coronata</i>	a pair seen nicely in an open laterite patch along the Brugbani Road, Mole NP
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Oenanthe albifrons</i>	a single sighting at Mole Motel
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>	
Thrushes	Family Turdidae	
White-tailed Ant Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>	unfortunately another heard only in the forests of Abrafo and Atewa
Finsch's Rufous (Flycatcher) Thrush	<i>Stizorhina (Neocossyphus) finschi</i>	this taxonomic conundrum was seen well in Ankasa and Kakum
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	fairly common and widespread seen and heard in most habitats
Starlings	Family Sturnidae	
Copper-tailed Starling	<i>Hylopsar cupreocauda</i>	flocks seen in Antwikwaa farmbrush and again in Atewa Forest several birds vocalising in a fruiting tree near a drainage line on the Brugbani Road, Mole NP
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	a pair outside the Erata Hotel in Accra and then several more seen at Mognori and Tono Dam
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>	quite common in the south and seen on most days spent there
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>	good sightings near the Mole waterhole opposite the Motel
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	several sightings of this impressive species in Mole NP and in the far-
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>	

Chestnut-bellied Starling	<i>Lamprolornis pulcher</i>	north
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	seen well in the arid thorny woodlands of the Sapelinga area
Chestnut-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>	good looks in various spots in Mole NP
Oxpeckers	Family Buphagidae	one sighting of a group feeding in a fruiting tree in the Atewa Forest
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	seen only on domestic stock animals outside Mole NP and in the Sapelinga area
Sunbirds	Family Nectariniidae	
Fraser's Sunbird	<i>Deleornis fraseri</i>	reasonable views of this 'skulking' sunbird in Abrafo Forest
Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>	seen at the second attempt at Ebi River mangroves
Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>	a single sighting on the Samole Loop, Mole NP
Little Green (Seimund's) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>	seen in Kakum and Bobiri Forests
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	probably the most widespread sunbird in Ghana, seen in most wooded habitats
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platyura</i>	good looks at Mognori River and Sapelinga, the males weren't in full breeding plumage
Reichenbach's Sunbird	<i>Anabathmis reichenbachii</i>	excellent views of this very localised species at the 'water lily pond' near Bokro
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>	a good looking male seen in Nsuta Forest
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanaolaema</i>	seen in Ankasa and Bobiri Forests
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	widespread and often encountered in most forests
Buff-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>	great sightings at Ankasa bridge and again on the Opra Forest access road
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	fairly common in the north with good views in Mole, also a surprise sighting in Sakumono
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>	seems to prefer the farmbrush habitats, seen well in Antwikwaa, Abrafo and Opra access road
Tiny Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris minullus</i>	nice looks at a male sitting on the Kakum walkway cables
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	fairly common in Mole NP and surrounds and a few seen in the far-north
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>	good sightings from Accra, Shai Hills, Winneba, Brenu Beach Road and a few other spots
Johanna's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris johannae</i>	both males and females seen well in Ankasa and Kakum Forests
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>	nice views in Ankasa, Kakum and Atewa Forests
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>	seen in several locations throughout the tour
Old World Sparrows	Family Passeridae	
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>	good views near Mole Waterhole, along the Mognori River and near Sapelinga
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	seem to be restricted to two villages near Cape Coast and no other town or settlement on our route
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	very common throughout, particularly around human settlements
Bush Petronia	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>	seen well at the Mole airstrip
Weavers, Widowbirds	Family Ploceidae	
White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>	good views near Sapelinga
Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>	a single bird seen by some in the dry farmbrush north of Tono Dam
Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	flocks seen flying over and settling in tall marsh grass in the Atewa/Bunso farmbrush
Slender-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>	good looks at several males building nests at a colony near the town of Mankessin
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	quite common in Mole NP
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	seen fairly frequently in locations including Accra, Winneba, Brenu Beach road, Abrafo farmbrush
Orange Weaver	<i>Ploceus aurantius</i>	great views at the 'water lily pond' near the Bokro turn-off
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>	nice looks at males building their 'onion-shaped' nests at a waterhole east of Damango town
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	many sightings throughout
Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>	seen at a number of sites including Shama Village, Antwikwaa, Bobiri and Atewa farmbrush

Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>	nicely seen at Kakum, Bobiri and Atewa Forests
Maxwell's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus albinucha</i>	seen reasonably well in Atewa Forest
Compact Weaver	<i>Ploceus superciliosus</i>	good views in the grassy banks of a stream in the Bunso farmbush area
Red-vented Malimbe	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>	seen well in Nsuta, Ankasa and Bobiri Forests
Blue-billed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>	a single sighting in the Abrafo Forest
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>	picked up in Nsuta, Ankasa and Kakum Forests
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>	seen in Kakum and Bobiri Forests
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	one sighting in the dry woodlands north of Tono Dam
		first seen in Antwikwaa and then good breeding males in the Bunso farmbush
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>	scattered sightings in the north
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	non-breeding birds in Antwikwaa and then some stunning males displaying in Bunso and Atewa
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>	non-breeding birds seen in the north - Nasia wetlands, Tono Dam and Mole MP
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>	non-breeding birds seen in Shama, Antwikwaa and in the far-north
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macroura</i>	
Waxbills, Munias & Allies	Family Estrildidae	
White-breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>	one sighting from Atewa Forest
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>	several good looks from Ankasa, Kakum, Abrafo, Bobiri and Atewa
Grey-headed Nigrita	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>	seen well in the Nsuta, Ankasa and Kakum and Atewa Forests
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	good numbers coming into drink at a waterhole near Sapelinga
		fairly decent looks for some of this stunning little bird in a marsh in the Bunso farmbush
Black-bellied Seedcracker	<i>Pyrenestes ostrinus</i>	sadly, heard only in Nsuta farmbush and again the Bunso/Atewa farmbush area
Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>	seen by some on a walk along the Mognori River
Black-bellied Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rara</i>	several sightings in the south - including Winneba, Shama Village, Antwikwaa farmbush etc
Bar-breasted Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rufopicta</i>	fairly common in the north with good views in Mole NP
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	seen in the company of Mannikins along the Abrafo Forest access road
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	several good views in Mole NP and further north
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	seen well in Tongo Hills and again at Tono Dam
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>	the most widespread waxbill species in Ghana and seen well in several locations
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	seen at a roadside stop near Fufulso junction and again on a walk near Tono Dam
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	good views of the black-faced sub-species at Nasia wetland
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>	good numbers coming into drink at a waterhole near Sapelinga
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>	common throughout
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	nice views in several places including Abrafo, Antwikwaa, Bunso and Atewa farmbush
Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Lonchura bicolor</i>	seen well in the Bunso and Atewa farmbush areas
Magpie Mannikin	<i>Lonchura fringilloides</i>	
Indigobirds, Whydahs	Family Viduidae	
Wilson's Indigobird	<i>Vidua wilsoni</i>	seen on the outskirts of Accra and a at Sakumono Lagoon
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	Commonly recorded throughout
Wagtails, Pipits	Family Motacillidae	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	several sightings of at least three sub-species - first seen at Sakumono Lagoon
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	many sightings throughout
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>	good looks at Shai Hills Reserve
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>	seen well on the cut grass outside the Frenchman's Guesthouse, Ankasa
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	good sightings of at least three birds at Shai Hills
Finches	Family Fringillidae	
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	frequently encountered, particularly in the north
Buntings	Family Emberizidae	
Gosling's Bunting	<i>Emberiza goslingi</i>	seen in Tongo Hills and just south of Bolgatanga
		after a good search, eventually got them on the Brugbani Road laterite patches
Brown-rumped Bunting	<i>Emberiza affinis</i>	

Mammal Species recorded on the Field Guides Kania private tour to Ghana - April 2018

HYRACOIDEA

Western Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	heard at night in most of the large forests
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PROBOSCIDEA

African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	a few bulls seen in Mole Nat Park
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PRIMATES

Potto	<i>Perodicticus potto</i>	three spotlighted at the Kakum Forest entrance gate
Demidoff's Dwarf Galago	<i>Galagoides demidoff</i>	heard only in the Ankasa and Abrafo Forests
Lowe's Mona Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus lowei</i>	seen in Ankasa and Kakum Forests
Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus petaurista</i>	seen in Kakum Forest and at the Brenu Beach road
Green Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus sabaues</i>	a few seen in Shai Hills Reserve
Tantalus Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus tantalus</i>	several troops seen in Mole Nat Park
Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	several troops seen in Mole Nat Park

Olive Baboon, Anubis Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	several troops seen in Mole Nat Park
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RODENTIA

Fire-footed Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus pyrrhopus</i>	seen in Ankasa Forest and in the Antwikwaa farmbush area
Kintampo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus substriatus</i>	one seen at the Mognori River bridge
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>	one seen at the bridge near the Ankasa Forest entrance
Green Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus poensis</i>	seen at Mole Motel and on the Samole loop
Slender-tailed Squirrel	<i>Protoxerus aubinnii</i>	two seen from the Kakum canopy walkway
Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	seen at Brenu Beach road and at the Mole Motel
Pel's Anomalur (Flying Squirrel)	<i>Anomalurus pelii</i>	at least three seen from the canopy walkway in Kakum Forest

LAGOMORPHA (hares)

Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	a few flushed during walks in various places
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CHIROPTERA (bats)

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	seen in a large colony near Kumasi and individuals flushed out of trees in Mole
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>	seen at the Gariba hotel in Tamale
Hammer-headed Fruit Bat	<i>Hypsignathus monstrosus</i>	a few seen and heard in the Nsuta Forest
Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>	seen at Sakumono Lagoon and on a walk near the Samole Loop, Mole NP
Slit-faced Bat Sp.	<i>Nycteris sp.</i>	seen in a hollow log on the trail in the Picathartes forest

CARNIVORA

African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	spotlighted in Mole NP
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	spotlighted in Mole NP
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	spotlighted in Mole NP
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	seen at the Brenu Beach road

SUIDAE (pigs)

Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	several groups seen in Mole Nat Park
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ARTIODACTYLA

Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	the defassa subspecies seen in Mole Nat Park
Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>	many seen in Shai Hills Reserve and Mole NP
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	one seen crossing the road in Mole NP
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	one seen in Shai Hills Reserve and several in Mole NP