

GHANA

Mar 17, 2012 to Apr 2, 2012
Phil Gregory & James Ntakor

Ghana has really come to the fore in recent years with some outstanding birds and the chance to see many of the Upper Guinea endemics that are unavailable elsewhere at this time, so it was great to return to West Africa in 2012. Ghana is a vibrant, lively country that looks to be doing well; the roads are passable and the country is clearly keen to develop tourism, so you don't get hassled at police roadblocks. Its big attraction is some sizeable blocks of the greatly threatened Upper Guinea forest that are still fairly intact, and access to the edges of the Sahel zone in the far north.

The Accra/Tema area offers a fine introduction, with some nice dry-country species at Shai Hills, including the much sought-after Blue-bellied Roller, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Vieillot's Barbet, and White-crowned (Mocking) Cliff-Chat, plus Palearctic shorebirds at Sakumono lagoon and both Black Heron and Western Reef Heron. Winneba Plains gave us Senegal Plover, Guinea Turaco, migrant Woodchat Shrike and Red-winged Warbler, whilst a nearby small lily pond had African Pygmy-Goose and a bonus Allen's Gallinule.

Kakum Walkway is quite an experience in itself, and a super way to see many forest species including Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Forest Wood-hoopoe, Rosy Bee-eater, Large-billed (Sabine's) Puffback, Sharpe's Apalis, Golden Greenbul, and Violet-backed Hylia. Other great birds nearby included Black Bee-eater, Red-vented Malimbe and Buff-throated, Blue-throated Brown, Fraser's, Olive-bellied, Tiny, and Johanna's sunbirds. We also did well with woodpeckers, seeing Little Green, Melancholy, and Buff-spotted, plus a fine male African Piculet, whilst barbets included Red-rumped, Speckled, and Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, and both Bristle-nosed and Naked-faced barbets. An unexpected mega was Yellow-footed Honeyguide at Aboabo (Kakum North) too, with the rare Tessmann's Flycatcher not long after.

Our next stop was over at Ankasa NP in the far west, and this was memorable for great views of Hartlaub's Duck, Dwarf Bittern, White-bellied Kingfisher, Black-casqued and Yellow-casqued hornbills, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Yellow-bearded and Swamp Palm greenbuls, and (almost!) a Rufous-winged Illadopsis, plus Mouse-brown and Reichenbach's sunbirds nearby and a Carmelite Sunbird at our hotel.

White-necked Picathartes (Rockfowl) is the flagship species, and there is a terrific site that is being looked after by the local villagers and where your chances of seeing this legendary bird are very good. Our tour this year had a 2-hour wait on the newly constructed benches, then just as the wind began rising, a Picathartes hopped in and down over the boulders. In the end, we had great views of at least 4 birds coming in to shelter from the storm, again a neat piece of stage management as we were due to leave imminently! It was a happy group that set off to Kumasi that evening.

Heading up-country we got into a much drier habitat from Kumasi northwards, with Mole NP a very diverting stop for several nights. Star birds here included the incredible male Standard-winged Nightjar in flight with pennants raised, a Plain Nightjar at the airstrip, White-throated Francolin, the much-desired and hard to find Forbes's Plover, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Oriole Warbler, the elusive Black-faced Firefinch and Lavender Waxbill. African Elephants bathing were also very nice.



A streamer-tailed Abyssinian Roller surveys its surroundings from an exposed perch at Mole National Park. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

Heading still further north we got Fox Kestrel and Rock-loving Cisticola at a sacred shrine area, then got into some far-northern species like Chestnut-bellied, Long-tailed, and Copper-tailed starlings, Yellow-billed Oxpeckers on cattle and best of all, the great prize: Egyptian Plover right on the Burkina Faso border, where there were at least 6 fine adults on a sandbar.

Going back south, the fascinating Bobiri butterfly sanctuary gave us the scarce Preuss's Weaver, Blue Cuckooshrike, Bristle-nosed and Naked-faced barbets, White-headed Wood-hoopoe, plus some fantastic butterflies--this tiny site has over 420 species recorded, an astonishing diversity. Nearby Atewa gave us the rare Yellow-throated Cuckoo as our last major addition, and a couple of us saw Blue-headed Bee-eater, plus West African Batis, Blue-headed Coucal, Maxwell's Black and Grosbeak weavers, and Black-and-white Flycatcher.

I would like to dedicate this trip report to the late Nick Samson, who I know would have loved the tour and undoubtedly had great pleasure in planning for it. What a shame it was not to be. RIP.

It was again a memorable Ghana tour, and thanks to James, Charles and Appiah from Ashanti African Tours for their hard work and good humor. Also to Sharon at FG HQ who coped well with a couple of unexpected twists at the start. Many thanks, as well, to a fun and entertaining group who had a great introduction to this terrific West African destination! Thanks to John for being generous with his scope, and to Bill for his butterfly enthusiasm, which added a new dimension to the trip--see the appendices for the full list. I hope to share adventures with you again, and look forward to Ghana 2013.

--Phil Gregory

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/gha12LIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna viduata*) – Seen at Sakumono Lagoon, a few in Mole NP and then over 1000 at Tono Dam.

HARTLAUB'S DUCK (*Pteronetta hartlaubii*) – One was seen briefly our first visit at Ankasa but was very wary. However it was much better next morning when we could get there early, with 4 birds seen including one perched up nicely in a huge tree. This is a hard species to see and this is a good site for it.

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE (*Plectropterus gambensis gambensis*) – About 40 up at Tono Dam were the only sightings.

AFRICAN PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus auritus*) – Great views of 2 males and a female of this little gem on a small farm bush lily pond, always a terrific bird to get.

Numididae (Guineafowl)

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL (*Numida meleagris*) – Common in Mole NP.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

WHITE-THROATED FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus albogularis buckleyi*) – Once again this year we were able to lure one in at a site James had at Mole NP, it walked very close and showed quite well.

FOREST FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus lathamii*) – This was heard from the walkway at Kakum late one afternoon. [*]

DOUBLE-SPURRED FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus bicalcaratus*) – The common spurfowl in the bush areas, with small numbers at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

STONE PARTRIDGE (*Ptilopachus petrosus*) – Heard at Shai Hills, and seen nicely at Mole NP where one perched up a tree gave moderate photo opportunities, and several others were seen.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LITTLE GREBE (LITTLE) (*Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*) – Just 2 at Sakumono Lagoon, these were Phil's first from Ghana.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK (*Ciconia episcopus*) – Very nice looks at 6 of them at the waterhole in Mole NP, and seen each day there from the camp.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

LONG-TAILED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax africanus*) – Seen at Sakumono Lagoon and a few at Tono Dam only.

Scopidae (Hamerkop)

HAMERKOP (*Scopus umbretta*) – Small numbers, all in the drier regions, and a couple of their huge nests were seen in Mole NP.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

DWARF BITTERN (*Ixobrychus sturmii*) – Again this year we flushed one at Ankasa ponds, and had a good view as it perched up briefly. Unexpected, but two years running now for this elusive species.

GRAY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) – Twelve at Sakumono, then singles in Mole NP.

BLACK-HEADED HERON (*Ardea melanocephala*) – A couple at Sakumono and singles in Mole.

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*) – One at Tono Dam, perched up in a dead tree.

GREAT EGRET (AFRICAN) (*Ardea alba melanorhyncha*) – Ten at Sakumono and odd birds at Ebi River near Axim.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia brachyrhyncha*) – Very few, singles at Sakumono and a couple at the White Volta.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*) – Ten at Sakumono and odd birds in the north.

WESTERN REEF-HERON (WESTERN) (*Egretta gularis gularis*) – Just 4 at Sakumono, all dark phase birds with white chins.

BLACK HERON (*Egretta ardesiaca*) – Only seen at Sakumono, where we saw a dozen, with some feeding in the famous umbrella wing -shading pose.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Seen almost every day of the trip, this is the western taxon which is split by the IOC from the Eastern birds.

SQUACCO HERON (*Ardeola ralloides*) – Three at Sakumono, a couple at the pygmy goose ponds and 5 at the White Volta.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – Four day records of singles, with the first at Mole NP.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – One subadult in Mole NP.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Eight at Sakumono were an unexpected trip addition.

SPOT-BREASTED IBIS (*Bostrychia rara*) – We heard the rather goose-like honking in the distance from the Kakum walkway late one afternoon, and Bill got a far-distant flying bird, what a shame they were not closer as this would have been a real mega. [*]

HADADA IBIS (*Bostrychia hagedash*) – Only at Mole NP where we saw 4 birds.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

AFRICAN CUCKOO-HAWK (*Aviceda cuculoides*) – One at the Mognori River was a good find, then we had a super adult at Bobiri, which perched up for scope views of what is obviously a Baza, strange that that name has not been used for this species (which used to be called the even worse Cuckoo Falcon)

EUROPEAN HONEY-BUZZARD (*Pernis apivorus*) – Two at Aboabo, then one at Bobiri, they winter in West Africa.

BAT HAWK (*Macheiramphus alcinus alcinus*) – Carol got us onto a falcon really late one afternoon at Atewa, and it



The fabulous canopy walkway at Kakum gave us great bird's-eye views of Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Rosy Bee-eater, Golden Greenbul, and many more. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

proved to be the back end of a fast disappearing Bat Hawk, a shame we had just got onto the bus!

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Just two day records, from Shai Hills, then Winneba and another single from Mole.

BLACK KITE (BLACK) (*Milvus migrans migrans*) – This is the European migrant form, which we saw at the White Volta and then at Tono Dam. Split by Ferguson-Lees and Christie in the raptor reference and the IOC, and the South Africans split them decades back, I don't know why the Clements checklist still ignores it.

BLACK KITE (YELLOW-BILLED) (*Milvus migrans parasitus*) – Now split by all bar Clements, we saw this almost every day of the trip.

AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) – A single adult at the Mole waterhole was unexpected and a Ghana tick for Phil.

PALM-NUT VULTURE (*Gypohierax angolensis*) – Great looks at Kakum and a fine adult soaring over at Atewa farmbush.

HOODED VULTURE (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) – Small numbers, they have crashed from their former abundance but you still see a handful most days, probably not for much longer given what is happening to vultures planet-wide.

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (*Gyps africanus*) – Sadly only seen in Mole NP with 2 one day and 4 the next, the future does not look bright for them.

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*) – Just one adult at Mole NP on two days, a large striking and now threatened species.

BEAUDOUIN'S SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus beaudouini*) – Hmm, well a bird hovering by the road at the White Volta looks as if it was one of these, but we blew it off as a Red-necked Buzzard as it looked to have a red tail, and of course it promptly drifted off and was not seen so well again.

BANDED SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus cinerascens*) – One eagle soaring over at Mole may well have been this species as Bill and James saw a tail band and grayish color, but it looked rather Aquiline to me on a distant badly lit view and I have not added it to my Ghana list.

BATELEUR (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) – Another striking raptor that is in steep decline, we saw handful in Mole NP, with 2 one day and 4 the next, mostly immatures.

EURASIAN MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*) – Three at Sakumono and one over farmbush near Tamale.

AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK (*Polyboroides typus*) – Seven day records, with 2 birds seen on for days and an adult talon-grappling and plummeting downwards with an imm. at Bobiri.

LIZARD BUZZARD (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*) – Four day records, the first at Winneba and two in Accra on the last day.

DARK CHANTING-GOSHAWK (*Melierax metabates*) – Nice views at Tono Hills, Tongo Dam (2) and the White Volta, the rump on these birds just looks pale grey.

GABAR GOSHAWK (*Micronisus gabar*) – One seen very briefly at Mole, then a very nice adult at Tono Dam.

RED-CHESTED GOSHAWK (*Accipiter toussenelii*) – One at Atewa on the last morning, which gave scope views so we could see the tail spots. Amazingly Clements actually splits this from African Goshawk.

SHIKRA (*Accipiter badius*) – Four day records of singles in flight, the first at Shai Hills.

BLACK GOSHAWK (*Accipiter melanoleucus*) – We saw this twice at Aboabo, maybe two birds, but neither gave prolonged views.

LONG-TAILED HAWK (*Urotriorchis macrourus*) – This a my Ghana bogey-bird, and I am almost sure the odd raptor Joe spotted at Ankasa was this species- it sure looked like it had a long rounded tail but it was foreshortened by being head on and it naturally did not turn so we could confirm it- aargh!

GRASSHOPPER BUZZARD (*Butastur rufipennis*) – Five day records from the north, starting at Mole where we had some very nice views but only very small numbers.

RED-NECKED BUZZARD (*Buteo auguralis*) – A good trip for this species, we saw them at Shai Hills and Winneba, then



The greens and reds in the plumage of many turacos, such as this Yellow-billed, are produced by two pigments, turacin and turacoverdin, unique to the Turaco family. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

at Aboabo and Mole.

WAHLBERG'S EAGLE (*Hieraetus wahlbergi*) – One odd dark bird at Mongo R in Mole NP must have been this species, it just looked unusually broad tailed.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

EURASIAN KESTREL (EURASIAN) (*Falco tinnunculus rufescens*) – Just one in Accra late on the last day, the final addition to the trip list. This is the dark West African taxon.

FOX KESTREL (*Falco alopex*) – Great views of 2 at Tongo Hills, one came right overhead.

GRAY KESTREL (*Falco ardosiaceus*) – Just three singles in the south, the first at Winneba.

RED-NECKED FALCON (*Falco chicquera*) – This was a lucky pick-up at Tono Dam where a fine adult flew right past us.

EURASIAN HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*) – Phil saw one at the Alexis Hotel in Accra and we had another at Sakumono that day. A hobby sp. at Atewa may have been this too.

AFRICAN HOBBY (*Falco cuvierii*) – One at Shai Hills and then another perched up nicely at Antikwaa, this is quite a scarce species.

LANNER FALCON (*Falco biarmicus*) – Three day records of singles, from Mole NP and then Tono Dam.

Otididae (Bustards)

STANLEY BUSTARD (*Neotis denhami denhami*) – One walked across th track at Mole NP and gave pretty good views, this is the nominate race, a real Denham's Bustard. It was a Ghana tick for Phil and a lucky find. The Stanley Bustard is actually the South African taxon.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WHITE-SPOTTED FLUFFTAIL (*Sarothrura pulchra*) – A fine male crept past us on the way to Antikwaa and most folks got a look at it. Heard later at Atewa and seen by a couple there after James made another attempt.

BLACK CRAKE (*Amaurornis flavirostra*) – Seen at the pygmy-goose pond, and then one by the Mognori R in Mole NP, in forest thickets.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (AFRICAN) (*Porphyrio porphyrio madagascariensis*) – One at Sakumono and one at the lily pond, split by the IOC.

ALLEN'S GALLINULE (*Porphyrio alleni*) – An immature at the pygmy-goose pond was quite puzzling, but the bluish tint to the back and the reddish legs gave it away, a very good trip bird.

EURASIAN MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Six at the Pygmy goose ponds, and now split from the American version.

Heliornithidae (Finfoots)

AFRICAN FINFOOT (*Podica senegalensis*) – Shame about this as James saw one briefly at Ankasa and we all missed it- sorry Joe!

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

SENEGAL THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus senegalensis*) – Seen at Sakumono, Winneba and Mole NP, also on the Pra River. Odd how Water Thick-knee seems to be rare here and this one occupies its habitat.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Vanellus spinosus*) – Seen at Sakumono, Mole NP and the White Volta, max. 6 birds.

BLACK-HEADED LAPWING (*Vanellus tectus tectus*) – Just 2 on the White Volta at Bawku.

SENEGAL LAPWING (*Vanellus lugubris*) – Four birds at Winneba were a very exciting find of an uncommon and elusive migrant.

WATTLED LAPWING (*Vanellus senegallus*) – A few at Sakumono and Mole, also on the riverine wetlands.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – Four at Sakumono.



Ghana is an amazing place for bee-eaters; this gorgeous Red-throated Bee-eater was just one of 9 species seen on the trip! (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

COMMON RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*) – Twenty at Sakumono and one way inland on the White Volta at Bawku.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (NORTHERN) (*Charadrius dubius curonicus*) – Two on the White Volta at Bawku were a good trip bird.

FORBES'S PLOVER (*Charadrius forbesi*) – We worked hard for this elusive nomad in Mole, and finally got 2 on our last effort, giving great views.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-WINGED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*) – About 50 at Sakumono were the only record.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

AFRICAN JACANA (*Actophilornis africanus*) – Widespread in small numbers in the wetlands.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Six at Sakumono and three other sightings with 4 on the White Volta at Bawku.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*) – Just one at the saltlick in Mole NP.

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*) – Ten at Sakumono and one with a flock of Greenshank on the White Volta at Bawku.

COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) – Ten at Sakumono and I counted 54 at Bawku, with odd birds at other wetland sites.

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*) – Widespread, with 15 at Sakumono and 6 on the White Volta wetlands the maxima.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*) – One on the Ebi River near Axim.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*) – Bad views of 3 amongst the stilts at Sakumono.

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*) – Five at Sakumono on the first afternoon were all we saw.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*) – Five at Sakumono were the only record.

COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*) – One on the wetland by the White Volta bridge was unexpected.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

EGYPTIAN PLOVER (*Pluvianus aegyptius*) – One of the trip megas, we had great looks at 6 of them on the White Volta at Bawku and saw 3 bobbing and displaying. The white underwing has a black lightning flash across it, conspicuous when the wings are drooped. Split out by most as a separate family these days and they are certainly very distinctive.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE (*Glareola pratincola*) – One on the wetland by the White Volta bridge.

ROCK PRATINCOLE (*Glareola nuchalis liberiae*) – Very nice looks at 3 of them on the rocks at the Pra River at Twifo Praso, this is the chestnut-collared West African taxon.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BLACK TERN (EURASIAN) (*Chlidonias niger niger*) – Thirty at Sakumono were the only sighting. Split from American Black Tern by many these days too.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – Five at Sakumono.

SANDWICH TERN (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) – Just one at Sakumono, sadly without Royal Tern this trip.

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

FOUR-BANDED SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles quadricinctus*) – A pair up at Tono Dam, the male showed quite well.



The road to Ankasa was just a little muddy! (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

- ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) – Widespread in the the main towns, but many may be pet doves kept for meat. [I]
- SPECKLED PIGEON** (*Columba guinea guinea*) – One at the White Volta bridge wetland seemed way south, and we had a few around Bolgatanga with 20 at Tono Dam.
- AFEP PIGEON** (*Columba uncinata*) – Heard at Bobiri but not very responsive. [*]
- MOURNING COLLARED-DOVE** (*Streptopelia decipiens*) – We spent ages chasing this at Tono Dam, then saw them easily at the Egyptian Plover site!
- RED-EYED DOVE** (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) – Widespread but only in small numbers.
- VINACEOUS DOVE** (*Streptopelia vinacea*) – Quite common in Mole NP.
- LAUGHING DOVE** (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) – Seen almost every day of the trip.
- BLACK-BILLED WOOD-DOVE** (*Turtur abyssinicus*) – Six day records of singles with up to 3 at Mole.
- BLUE-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE** (*Turtur afer*) – Seen at Shai Hills, Abrafo and Atewa.
- TAMBOURINE DOVE** (*Turtur tympanistria*) – Widespread but heard much more than seen.
- BLUE-HEADED WOOD-DOVE** (*Turtur brehmeri*) – One called close by at Aboabo but did not come in, then we managed to get one at Atewa on the final morning, a spectacular chestnut dove with a bluish head.
- NAMAQUA DOVE** (*Oena capensis*) – A couple near the White Volta bridge, then up to 10 at Tono Dam and Bawku. Last trip we only saw one bird so they are quite erratic in numbers.
- BRUCE'S GREEN-PIGEON** (*Treron waalia*) – Seven at Mole NP and John saw one at Tono Dam.
- AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON** (*Treron calvus*) – Widespread in small numbers, and seen very well.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

- ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula krameri*) – Five flew over at Mole NP, nice to see wild ones.
- GRAY PARROT** (*Psittacus erithacus erithacus*) – Just one over at Aboabo, sadly in bad light too.
- RED-FRONTED PARROT** (*Poicephalus gulielmi*) – Fairly common at Kakum where we saw up to 20 on one day, and again at Atewa. One was seen nicely perched up at Mole NP too.
- SENEGAL PARROT** (*Poicephalus senegalus*) – Small numbers from the Accra region, and seen perched at Tono Dam.

Musophagidae (Turacos)

- GREAT BLUE TURACO** (*Corythaeola cristata*) – This huge Alice in Wonderland type bird was seen and heard very well at Ankasa, with 3 one day and 4 the next.
- GUINEA TURACO** (*Tauraco persa*) – Very nice looks at one in the savanna at Winneba, a relief as this was hard last trip. [E]
- YELLOW-BILLED TURACO** (*Tauraco macrorhynchus*) – We saw these on some 5 days with singles, twos and threes being seen, and had great looks at some at Kakum, I had forgotten just how violet the body plumage is, much less green than Guinea Turaco. [E]
- VIOLET TURACO** (*Musophaga violacea*) – Very nice looks at Shai Hills where they were feeding on figs, then again at Winneba and finally up at Mole.
- WESTERN PLANTAIN-EATER** (*Crinifer piscator*) – A few around the Accra area and odd records from Mole and Atewa.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

- LEVAILLANT'S CUCKOO** (*Clamator levaillantii*) – One at Mole NP.
- GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO** (*Clamator glandarius*) – A fine adult flew in and perched up for us at Tono Dam.
- THICK-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Pachycoccyx audeberti brazzae*) – This was a surprise, with one calling then coming in and sitting up nicely at Mole NP, with another flying over calling at the Mognori River the next day. Always a very scarce



One of the most sought-after birds in Ghana, a beautiful Blue-bellied Roller shows off its striking wing pattern. (Photo by guide Phil Gregory)

and elusive species and a good trip addition, they resemble hawk-cuckoos in flight.

RED-CHESTED CUCKOO (*Cuculus solitarius*) – Heard at the Picathartes site only, I have yet to see this species in Ghana. [*]

BLACK CUCKOO (*Cuculus clamosus gabonensis*) – Nice looks at one at Bobiri where they were calling well, this was the red chested gabonensis taxon..

AFRICAN CUCKOO (*Cuculus gularis*) – One seen well at Mognori R in Mole NP, and another near Tamale, and heard calling at Tono Dam. Grey cuckoos at Bobiri were either this or Common Cuckoo.

OLIVE LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Cercococcyx olivinus*) – Very vocal at Kakum, and Bill and Joe saw one fly-by from the walkway as i tried to lure it in. Also heard at Ankasa.

YELLOW-THROATED CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx flavigularis*) – A trip mega and one of the last additions, we heard one calling at Atewa but it flew over and vanished out of sight. Luckily it later began calling again, answered by another, and we ended up with great scope looks at two males of this rare species, an excellent trip addition.

KLAAS'S CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx klaas*) – Seen at Kakum and Antikwaa and heard at various sites.

AFRICAN EMERALD CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx cupreus*) – A female at Ankasa and another at Atewa, and heard at Ankasa and Kakum.

DIDERIC CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx caprius*) – Seen at Antikwaa and Abrafo but scarce this trip.

YELLOWBILL (*Ceuthmochares aereus*) – These were quite vocal and showed nicely at Kakum and Ankasa. Note this is split by the IOC as Blue Malkoha, it has some different calls and bluer plumage than the Green Malkoha of East and South Africa.

BLACK-THROATED COUCAL (*Centropus leucogaster*) – Heard at Abrafo and Aboabo, but too distantly to lure. [*] [*]

BLUE-HEADED COUCAL (*Centropus monachus*) – Good views along the track to Atewa, where they were very vocal, and also seen at Aboabo.

SENEGAL COUCAL (*Centropus senegalensis*) – Widespread in small numbers.

Strigidae (Owls)

AFRICAN SCOPS-OWL (*Otus senegalensis*) – We almost got to see one at Mole airstrip but it was too well hidden; Phil heard it below the lodge as well. [*]

NORTHERN WHITE-FACED OWL (*Ptilopsis leucotis*) – Bill got to hear this at Mole airstrip while I was grappling with the African Scops tape. [*]

PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET (*Glaucidium perlatum*) – A great look at one in daylight at Mole NP.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

BROWN NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus binotatus*) – On called at dusk from the walkway, but was uninterested in my playback. [*]

PLAIN NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus inornatus*) – A male on Mole airstrip gave moderate views and was seen briefly at rest. The white in the tail is quite distinctive, and it was a long overdue lifer for Phil.

STANDARD-WINGED NIGHTJAR (*Macrodipteryx longipennis*) – One of the birds of the trip, James had a site where they flew over the road at dusk and we had an amazing male go over with the plumes held high above it, tumbling briefly at one point. Another was seen later and there were a couple of females also. Fantastic.

Apodidae (Swifts)

MOTTLED SPINETAIL (*Telacanthura ussheri*) – Two at Abrafo, then two unexpectedly up at Tono Dam.

BLACK SPINETAIL (*Telacanthura melanopygia*) – One over Kakum walkway, it's a scarce and elusive species.

SABINE'S SPINETAIL (*Rhaphidura sabini*) – Two at Ankasa were the only sighting.

CASSIN'S SPINETAIL (*Neafrapus cassini*) – Two at Abrafo Forest, then one at Bobiri, it's literally a flying wing with almost no tail, a bit like a stealth bomber. Sorry I didn't realize you hadn't seen this one Tom!

COMMON SWIFT (*Apus apus*) – Good numbers this trip with over 150 some days around Kakum and Ankasa, and a few up at Tono Dam.

LITTLE SWIFT (*Apus affinis*) – Common and widespread, seen on most days with a particular affinity for bridges and road culverts.

WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT (*Apus caffer*) – Just 4 at a pit-stop near Takoradi en route to Ankasa, it's scarce in Ghana.

AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT (*Cypsiurus parvus*) – Common and widespread, especially in the north.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

- MALACHITE KINGFISHER** (*Corythornis cristatus*) – A couple of singles in Mole and one on the White Volta at Bawku.
- WHITE-BELLIED KINGFISHER** (*Corythornis leucogaster*) – Great views of one at Ankasa after a lengthy wait, we eventually got it in the scope, this tiny tricky species is a major prize.
- AFRICAN PYGMY-KINGFISHER** (*Ispidina picta*) – 5 day records, with good views up at Mole and Ankasa.
- CHOCOLATE-BACKED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon badia*) – This is a great bird, and we had a real beauty singing at Abrafo Forest and showing very well.
- GRAY-HEADED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon leucocephala*) – A few at Mole, another lovely bird.
- WOODLAND KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon senegalensis*) – One of the characteristic sounds of Ghana, heard on most days and seen at various sites. Oddly there were some at the Ankasa ponds in heavy forest habitat, and sympatric with Blue-breasted Kingfisher there, the first time I'd seen them actually together.
- BLUE-BREASTED KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon malimbica*) – One at Ankasa showed beautifully, always an elusive species and nice to see it so well. It was heard at Mole, Bobiri and Atewa too.
- GIANT KINGFISHER** (*Megaceryle maximus*) – One along the Ebi River was a nice pick up, with another on the Mognori River at Mole NP.
- PIED KINGFISHER** (*Ceryle rudis*) – Surprisingly few, we saw them at Sakumono Lagoon, Tono Dam and at Mole NP.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

- BLACK BEE-EATER** (*Merops gularis gularis*) – This gorgeous species sat out in full view in good light at Antikwaa, they really have to be seen like this to be appreciated. We also had one at Ankasa and one near the Picathartes village.
- BLUE-HEADED BEE-EATER** (*Merops muelleri mentalis*) – Frustrating, Bill and I saw one fly across at Atewa and I heard it call, but it promptly vanished and we could not refind it. Elusive, the best area was further up it seems.
- RED-THROATED BEE-EATER** (*Merops bulocki*) – Widespread in Mole NP, a very beautiful bird.
- LITTLE BEE-EATER** (*Merops pusillus*) – A few records from the north and at Abrafo.
- SWALLOW-TAILED BEE-EATER** (*Merops hirundineus chrysolaimus*) – One at Shai Hills was a nice addition, and we saw another on the way into Mole NP.
- WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER** (*Merops albicollis*) – This migrant was widespread and we saw them at most sites in small numbers.
- EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** (*Merops apiaster*) – Two day records from Mole NP but only flying high overhead. [b]
- ROSY BEE-EATER** (*Merops malimbicus*) – One of the trip priorities, we had flight views at Kakum, then finally nailed 23 of them perched at Ebekawopa Forest at Abrafo The pink and grey combination is very attractive when seen well. [E] [E]
- NORTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATER** (*Merops nubicus*) – This big showy species was seen at the White Volta wetlands, then twice at Mole NP, max. 4 birds.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

- ABYSSINIAN ROLLER** (*Coracias abyssinicus*) – Four day records from the north, with multiple sightings and good views in Mole NP.
- RUFOUS-CROWNED ROLLER** (*Coracias naevius*) – Three day records from the north, from Mole and the Bolgatanga area, but not seen in good light.
- BLUE-BELLIED ROLLER** (*Coracias cyanogaster*) – A trip priority, we lucked into 5 at Shai Hills which showed very well. It's a West African special and by no means easy to find as they have local movements.
- BROAD-BILLED ROLLER** (*Eurystomus glaucurus*) – A few sightings from Mole NP after one by the Alexis Hotel at Tema.
- BLUE-THROATED ROLLER** (*Eurystomus gularis*) – Two from Aboabo and one at Bobiri were all we saw.

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

- EURASIAN HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*) – One flying over at Mole looked quite dark and may have been an African Hoopoe, split by most these days.

Phoeniculidae (Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills)

- GREEN WOODHOOPOE** (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) – Nice looks at Shai Hills and Mole NP.
- WHITE-HEADED WOODHOOPOE** (*Phoeniculus bollei*) – Two at Bobiri had rather smudgy buffy faces, a useful trip bird.
- FOREST WOODHOOPOE** (*Phoeniculus castaneiceps*) – This was a lucky pick-up at Kakum, one of the smallest members of the family and never easy to find.

BLACK SCIMITAR-BILL (*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*) – Two at Mole, one being fed by the other.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

WHITE-CRESTED HORNBILL (*Tockus albocristatus*) – This can be really hard to see well, and has a great wild yelping call. Joe and Bill saw one briefly from the walkway where it was calling in the undergrowth, and we had 2 at Abrafo that came in quietly with a mixed bird flock and gave great looks.

BLACK DWARF HORNBILL (*Tockus hartlaubi*) – A Tom-only bird which he saw at the Picathartes site and at Ankasa whilst waiting for the rest of us to emerge from the trails.

RED-BILLED DWARF HORNBILL (*Tockus camurus*) – Scarce this trip, we managed one at Ankasa which came in to check out the tape. It has the most amazing call, one of the best of the family.

NORTHERN RED-BILLED HORNBILL (*Tockus erythrorhynchus*) – A few up in the far north.

AFRICAN PIED HORNBILL (*Tockus fasciatus*) – Widespread in the south and centre.

AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL (*Tockus nasutus*) – Widespread in the non-rainforest areas.

PIPING HORNBILL (*Ceratogymna fistulator*) – Just a few, seen at Abrafo and Ankasa.

BLACK-AND-WHITE-CASQUED HORNBILL (*Ceratogymna subcylindrica subcylindrica*) – This was a surprise at Ankasa, flying over the power line cut, and my first from Ghana where it seems scarce.

BROWN-CHEEKED HORNBILL (*Ceratogymna cylindrica*) – An Upper Guinea endemic, I was worried as we dipped at Kakum, but luckily got one late afternoon at Abrafo forest. Rare and declining, like all the forest hornbills. [E]

BLACK-CASQUED HORNBILL (*Ceratogymna atrata*) – This magnificent bird was at Ankasa, where we had some 4 birds at a fruiting tree near the power line cut.

YELLOW-CASQUED HORNBILL (*Ceratogymna elata*) – Large, endemic, rare and elusive, we lucked onto a pair with the Black Casqued Wattled Hornbills at Ankasa and got good scope views. [E]

Lybiidae (African Barbets)

YELLOW-BILLED BARBET (*Trachyphonus purpuratus*) – A nice view of one at Aboabo.

BRISTLE-NOSED BARBET (*Gymnobucco peli*) – Some of us saw this at Antikwaa and Ankasa, but some only got it right at the end at Bobiri.

NAKED-FACED BARBET (*Gymnobucco calvus*) – Good views at Kakum and Antikwaa, then again at Bobiri.

SPECKLED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*) – Seen well at Kakum from the walkway.

RED-RUMPED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus atroflavus*) – A very responsive bird at Aboabo, and seen nicely at Atewa on the last morning.

YELLOW-THROATED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus subsulphureus chrysopygus*) – A good look at Aboabo, the local race lacks a yellow throat. Also seen at Atewa.

YELLOW-RUMPED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*) – Seen nicely at Abrafo near the mixed bird flock.

YELLOW-FRONTED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*) – Seen at Shai Hills and then at the Tongo Hills in the far north.

YELLOW-SPOTTED BARBET (*Buccanodon duchaillui*) – Two from Kakum walkway.

HAIRY-BREASTED BARBET (*Tricholaema hirsuta*) – Seen at Antikwaa, and then at Aboabo, this is the nominate race which is sometimes split from the central African birds.

VIEILLOT'S BARBET (*Lybius vieilloti*) – Seen well at Shai Hills and some saw it at Tono Dam, a savanna species.

DOUBLE-TOOTHED BARBET (*Lybius bidentatus*) – Seen nicely at Shai Hills.

BEARDED BARBET (*Lybius dubius*) – Seen at Shai Hills where it is sympatric with Double-toothed, and again at Mole NP and Tono Dam.

Indicatoridae (Honeyguides)

YELLOW-FOOTED HONEYGUIDE (*Melignomon eisentrauti*) – One of the megas of the trip, a honeyguide flew through at Aboabo and I saw James get very interested. We had a brief look at it perched, where James saw the yellow feet but all I got was the very white belly, so I was bit distressed when it then disappeared. Happily we found another about a half hour later, sitting up nicely and allowing scope views- this seemed to be some sort of immature as it had pink feet and a pinkish lower mandible, and seemed less conical billed than Lesser or Thick-billed though about that size. A lifer for Phil, a rare and little known restricted range species. [E]

THICK-BILLED HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator conirostris*) – One at Antikwaa was typically dark beneath, but this and Lesser sure are similar and I do wonder if they really are specifically distinct.

LESSER HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator minor*) – Fine views of a calling bird with pale underparts at Mole, with another seen

later that day by some.

GREATER HONEYGUIDE (Indicator indicator) – This showed nicely at Mole after a bit of effort with the tape.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

AFRICAN PICULET (Sasia africana) – Great views of a male at Aboabo, poking about low down in the shrubs, and some saw another at Bobiri later on.

LITTLE GREEN WOODPECKER (Campethera maculosa) – One flew in right above us on the Kakum walkway but it was impossible to get a good view at that angle! Heard at Bobiri and Atewa but did not come in. [E]

BUFF-SPOTTED WOODPECKER (Campethera nivosa) – Seen at Abrafo and Ankasa, then very nicely at Atewa.

BROWN-EARED WOODPECKER (Campethera caroli) – One showed very well at Ankasa.

CARDINAL WOODPECKER (Dendropicos fuscescens) – Three at Shai Hills were unexpected and it was heard at Mole NP.

MELANCHOLY WOODPECKER (Dendropicos lugubris) – A great view of one at Aboabo, seeing the heavy black streaks beneath. [E]

FIRE-BELLIED WOODPECKER (Dendropicos pyrrhogaster) – A good trip for this large species, seen at Kakum, Ankasa, Aboabo and Atewa. [E]

GRAY WOODPECKER (Dendropicos goertae) – Seen well at Mole NP.

BROWN-BACKED WOODPECKER (Dendropicos obsoletus) – A female on the way in to Mole NP was a good pick-up.

Calyptomenidae (African and Green Broadbills)

RUFOUS-SIDED BROADBILL (Smithornis rufolateralis) – A trip highlight was this one displaying at Ankasa, jumping up off a vine and doing a small circular flight accompanied by the "brrrr" call and a fluffed out white back.

Platysteiridae (Wattle-eyes and Batises)

BLACK-AND-WHITE SHRIKE-FLYCATCHER (Bias musicus) – Seen well at Bobiri and then at Atewa, I greatly prefer the old name of Vanga Flycatcher for what is a very distinct species, with only the male being pied.

BROWN-THROATED WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira cyanea) – Seen at Kakum, Abrafo and the Mognori R. and named after the brown-throated females.

CHESTNUT WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira castanea) – Seen from the walkway where a juv. was being fed, and at Ankasa, with one at Bobiri later.

RED-CHEEKED WATTLE-EYE (Platysteira blissetti) – Frustrating, we herd one singing in a thicket but it was not overly interested, and then the Blue-shouldered Robinchat intervened. Next year maybe.... [E*]

SENEGAL BATIS (Batis senegalensis) – Seen well at Shai Hills and then at Mole NP, this is the savanna Batis here. [E]

WEST AFRICAN BATIS (Batis occulta) – One was seen high up in the canopy at Kakum on two occasions, then we had one at Atewa that many folks got onto in similar circumstances, but I was more interested in the Yellow-throated Cuckoo singing nearby.

Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)

WHITE HELMETSHRIKE (Prionops plumatus) – Oddly we had two sightings of singles of what is usually a flock species, one in Mole NP and then one from the road near Bolgatanga.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED HELMETSHRIKE (Prionops caniceps) – Five birds deep in the forest at Ankasa and showing well, after only hearing it at Antikwaa.

Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and Allies)

BRUBRU (Nilaus afer) – One fine adult in Mole NP was a Ghana tick for Phil.

NORTHERN PUFFBACK (Dryoscopus gambensis) – Seen at Shai Hills and Mole NP.

LARGE-BILLED PUFFBACK (Dryoscopus sabini) – Sabine's Puffback really does have a large heavy hooked bill, it looks like a vanga, and this was the first time I'd seen the distinctive buffy female. A pair showed very well at Kakum and we heard it at Bobiri.

MARSH TCHAGRA (Tchagra minutus) – Great views of pair in farmbush at Brenu Beach. Often split from the central African Anchieta's Tchagra these days.

BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA (Tchagra senegalus) – Seen at Shai Hills and Mole, and heard at various sites.

BROWN-CROWNED TCHAGRA (Tchagra australis) – Heard again at Atewa farmbush, i have yet to see this species in Ghana. [*]

COMMON GONOLEK (Laniarius barbarus) – This striking colorful bird was seen on 4 days, the first at our hotel at

Tema.

SOOTY BOUBOU (*Laniarius leucorhynchus*) – Heard at Abrafo in riparian scrub, but missed by us as it flew out and over the road. [*]

SULPHUR-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*) – Two seen in Mole NP, the one at the waterhole was quite obliging.

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

WHITE-BREASTED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina pectoralis*) – A single in Mole NP was a good find of a scarce species.

BLUE CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina azurea*) – Good views of males at Kakum and then Bobiri, in good light too so they really were blue.

RED-SHOULDERED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Campephaga phoenicea*) – A fine male in Mole NP, always a good find.

PURPLE-THROATED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Campephaga quiscalina*) – A male at Bobiri for some of us, then a female at Atewa.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

COMMON FISCAL (*Lanius collaris*) – Curiously local in Ghana, we saw them along the coastal strip and at Atewa.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE (*Lanius senator*) – A scarce migrant in Ghana, we saw an adult at Winneba and another at the White Volta wetland. [b]

YELLOW-BILLED SHRIKE (*Corvinella corvina*) – Only seen at Tono Dam this trip, with a flock of 6 birds.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

AFRICAN GOLDEN ORIOLE (*Oriolus auratus*) – Two in Mole NP included a fine adult male.

WESTERN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE (*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*) – Good views of two at Bobiri.

BLACK-WINGED ORIOLE (*Oriolus nigripennis*) – Seen nicely at Kakum, Ankasa and Bobiri, this is a western special.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

SQUARE-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus ludwigii*) – One along the Mognori R. in Mole NP.

SHINING DRONGO (*Dicrurus atripennis*) – Heard at Abrafo, and seen nicely in the forest at Ankasa.

FORK-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus adsimilis*) – A few in Mole NP.

VELVET-MANTLED DRONGO (*Dicrurus modestus*) – Quite common in the rainforest areas.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

BLUE-HEADED CRESTED-FLYCATCHER (*Trochocercus nitens*) – Heard at Aboabo but taped out these days. [*]

BLACK-HEADED PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone rufiventer*) – Some good looks at this in the rainforest areas.

AFRICAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone viridis*) – Seen at Shai Hills, and also in Mole where a stunning white morph male was by the Mognori River.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

PIAPIAC (*Ptilostomus afer*) – A few along the coast by Accra then up at Mole and Bolgatanga.

PIED CROW (*Corvus albus*) – Seen almost every day.

Picathartidae (Rockfowl)

WHITE-NECKED ROCKFOWL (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*) – The star of the show, it took 2 hours of silent waiting on the new benches below the rock face before one hopped in seeking shelter from the gathering storm, followed by at least 3 others, one of which went up into one of the clay cup nests. The walk out as the rain began and the light faded was bearable as a result. A terrific memory and undoubtedly one of the birds of the trip. [E]

Nicatoridae (Nicators)

YELLOW-SPOTTED NICATOR (*Nicator chloris*) – Now in their own family, we heard it at the forest sites and got fine views of one along the forest edge at Aboabo in Kakum North, much to John's relief, as he missed the one at Abrafo earlier. More usually called Western Nicator.

Alaudidae (Larks)

SUN LARK (*Galerida modesta*) – This short-tailed streak-breasted species was seen several times in Mole NP where it was found in the dry laterite pan sections.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – Quite a few around Kakum, Tono Dam and Atewa, getting ready to head back north.

RED-CHESTED SWALLOW (*Hirundo lucida*) – Just one sighting this trip, at the White Volta wetland, though I also reckon I saw 2 at the Egyptian Plover site which vanished before we could confirm them. This West African special is much bluer above than Barn Swallow, whiter below with a narrow dark band below the red throat.

ETHIOPIAN SWALLOW (*Hirundo aethiopica*) – Two on wires by the road near Accra were the only ones of the trip, they seem sparse in Ghana.

WHITE-THROATED BLUE SWALLOW (*Hirundo nigrita*) – This very distinctive dumpy shining blue swallow was seen over the river at Twifo Praso, the only place we saw it. We saw 5 birds, with some great flight views.

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW (*Hirundo smithii*) – A few at Mole and Bolgatanga.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (WEST AFRICAN) (*Cecropis daurica domicella*) – Two at Tongo Hills, and one at Tono Dam, this is the unstreaked West African race and is sometimes split as West African Swallow.

LESSER STRIPED-SWALLOW (*Cecropis abyssinica*) – Small numbers in the drier areas.

MOSQUE SWALLOW (*Cecropis senegalensis*) – About 10 in a loose group in Mole NP, it is scarce in Ghana and this was our only definite sighting.

PREUSS'S SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon preussi*) – The guides had a road culvert near Twifo Praso where this uncommon species was nesting, and it gave excellent views.

COMMON HOUSE-MARTIN (*Delichon urbicum*) – I think John saw this on one day in the south?

SQUARE-TAILED SAWWING (*Psalidoprocne nitens*) – Very sparse, we had 5 at Ankasa, then a couple at Atewa, it seems to be very much a forest species.

FANTI SAWWING (*Psalidoprocne obscura*) – The deeply forked rather long tail is very distinctive, but we only saw them briefly at the Mognori River in Mole NP.

Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)

AFRICAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Elminia longicauda*) – Now in their own family, this lovely bird showed very well at the river in Mole NP, and there was another by the stream at the Saltlick Loop.

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

WHITE-SHOULDERED BLACK-TIT (*Melaniparus guineensis*) – One by the camp at Mole which most folks missed, then a couple later at the Mognori River area.

DUSKY TIT (*Melaniparus funereus*) – Two at Bobiri were a useful addition of this forest species.

Remizidae (Penduline-Tits)

FOREST PENDULINE-TIT (*Anthoscopus flavifrons*) – This was amazing this year after a BVD for a few of us last trip, this time we even got one in the scope! Three of them were quite active along the forest edge at Antikwaa, we were dead lucky.

TIT-HYLIA (*Pholidornis rushiae*) – A good trip for an uncommon and elusive diminutive species, much more richly colored below than the central African birds. We had 3 at Abrafo, then sightings at Aboabo and Atewa.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

SLENDER-BILLED GREENBUL (*Stelgidillas gracilirostris*) – Seen at the main forest blocks, and perches out whilst perched high up.

GOLDEN GREENBUL (*Calyptocichla serina*) – A West African special, we saw it only at Kakum this trip.

COMMON BRISTLEBILL (*Bleda syndactylus*) – Seen at Ankasa and heard at Kakum.

GRAY-HEADED BRISTLEBILL (*Bleda canicapillus*) – Once again, only heard at Ankasa and Kakum, these are tough to see. [E]

SIMPLE GREENBUL (*Chlorocichla simplex*) – One showed well at Abrafo and again at Atewa, the white throat is quite distinctive.

HONEYGUIDE GREENBUL (*Baeopogon indicator*) – One at Kakum as we walked in out the first day, and heard at Bobiri.

YELLOW-THROATED GREENBUL (*Atimastillas flavicollis*) – Seen well in the thickets by the Mognori River at Mole NP.

SWAMP GREENBUL (*Thescelocichla leucopleura*) – More usually called Swamp Palm Greenbul after its favorite habitat,

we saw this at Ankasa and then again at Bobiri and Atewa, they are quite vocal.

RED-TAILED GREENBUL (*Criniger calurus*) – This was seen at Kakum, Ankasa and Atewa, a distinctive species.

WESTERN BEARDED-GREENBUL (*Criniger barbatus*) – Reverting to type this trip, we heard it at Abrafo and Ankasa but never got decent looks [E*]

YELLOW-BEARDED GREENBUL (*Criniger olivaceus*) – Calling at Ankasa and seen quite well after some struggle. This is the only site for it in Ghana. [E] [E]

GRAY GREENBUL (*Eurillas gracilis*) – Seen at Atewa on the last day only, more usually called Little Grey Greenbul.

ANSORGE'S GREENBUL (*Eurillas ansorgei*) – One showed quite well at Atewa on the last day.

PLAIN GREENBUL (*Eurillas curvirostris*) – Seen at Abrafo and then Atewa, often known as Cameroon Sombre Greenbul.

YELLOW-WHISKERED GREENBUL (*Eurillas latirostris*) – Elusive, an imm. was seen quite well at Kakum, and it was heard at Atewa.

LITTLE GREENBUL (*Eurillas virens*) – Common by voice, but actually seeing them was quite tricky! Most folks eventually caught up with it at Antikwaa or Atewa.

ICTERINE GREENBUL (*Phyllastrephus icterinus*) – These were seen well at Ankasa where they seemed quite frequent in the deeper forest.

WHITE-THROATED GREENBUL (*Phyllastrephus albigularis*) – Seen at Antikwaa and glimpsed on the first morning at Kakum where one was calling in a thicket on the way in.

COMMON BULBUL (*Pycnonotus barbatus*) – Seen on almost every day of the trip.

Macrosphenidae (African Warblers)

GREEN CROMBEC (*Sylvietta virens flaviventris*) – Seen at Abrafo and Aboabo.

LEMON-BELLIED CROMBEC (*Sylvietta denti hardyi*) – I do reckon this was the bird we saw at Bobiri, but I was uncertain of the one at Atewa next day which was in bad light and silent.

NORTHERN CROMBEC (*Sylvietta brachyura brachyura*) – One at Shai Hills, and one at Tono Dam, this is the savanna crombec.

KEMP'S LONGBILL (*Macrosphenus kempii*) – One was calling very close by at Abrafo in the bird flock there and was seen by a few folks, then one at Aboabo was actually quite obliging and sat up in a hole in the thicket for a while. It's a West African special and hard to see at all, I have yet to see a yellow eye! [E]

GRAY LONGBILL (*Macrosphenus concolor*) – Seen well on several occasions at Kakum and Ankasa and heard at Bobiri and Atewa.

Cettiidae (Bush-Warblers and Allies)

CHESTNUT-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Erythrocercus mccallii*) – These active little birds showed well at Kakum, and again at Bobiri and Atewa.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) – A couple of sightings in Mole NP, where they were singing. [b] [b]

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) – One at Kakum and also at Bobiri. [b]

Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)

MELODIOUS WARBLER (*Hippolais polyglotta*) – One was seen quite well in Mole NP.

SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) – One was at Tono Dam, exactly like on the last trip! [b] [b]

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

BLACK-CAPPED APALIS (*Apalis nigriceps nigriceps*) – Just one at Atewa which was tricky to get onto.

YELLOW-BREASTED APALIS (*Apalis flavida caniceps*) – Seen in Mole NP.

SHARPE'S APALIS (*Apalis sharpii*) – This Upper Guinea endemic was tough from the walkway, and was heard at Bobiri and Ankasa. [E] [E]

GREEN-BACKED CAMAROPTERA (GRAY-BACKED) (*Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata*) – Widespread, vocal and seen nicely at various sites. I still prefer the old name of Bleating Bush Warbler.

YELLOW-BROWED CAMAROPTERA (*Camaroptera superciliaris*) – A great view of one at Antikwaa, singing well, and another at Ankasa.

OLIVE-GREEN CAMAROPTERA (*Camaroptera chloronota*) – Seen well at Kakum by most as we walked out one day, and heard at all the main forest sites with its loud ringing call.

- RED-FACED CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola erythropters erythropters*) – Vocal and widespread, seen at Antikwaa and Twifo Praso.
- SINGING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola cantans swanzii*) – We finally got to see them at Tono Dam, having heard them at Winneba and Abrafo.
- WHISTLING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola lateralis lateralis*) – One seen well at Abrafo and one at Atewa farmbush.
- ROCK-LOVING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola aberrans admiralis*) – Two on the boulders at Tongo Hills after quite a bit of searching; now split from Lazy Cisticola of further south and east. A very distinctive species too, with the tail often cocked up.
- WINDING CISTICOLA (WINDING)** (*Cisticola galactotes amphilectus*) – Seen at the Pygmy Goose pond and the White Volta wetland, also at Tono Dam.
- SIFFLING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola brachypterus brachypterus*) – Seen at Brenu Beach, and at Tono Dam, where things that look like Rufous Cisticola are we think some immature or non-breeding plumage form of Shortwing (Siffling) Cisticola.
- ZITTING CISTICOLA** (*Cisticola juncidis uropygialis*) – Just one at Tono Dam.
- ORIOLE WARBLER** (*Hypergerus atriceps*) – Nice views of two birds in Mole NP, they were singing well and this was a neat addition to the trip list. I even got a photo of the one at the waterhole.
- TAWNY-FLANKED PRINIA** (*Prinia subflava*) – A few seen in the north and at Abrafo.
- RED-WINGED PRINIA** (*Prinia erythroptera erythroptera*) – Nice looks at 3 of this uncommon species at Winneba Plains, it is not actually a prinia and Red-winged Warbler is the preferred name.
- SENEGAL EREMOMELA** (*Eremomela pusilla*) – Seen at Shai Hills, then at Mole and finally Tono Dam.
- RUFOUS-CROWNED EREMOMELA** (*Eremomela badiceps fantiensis*) – Nice looks at Kakum on two days.

Sylviidae (Old World Warblers)

- GREEN HYLIA** (*Hylia prasina*) – One of the characteristic sounds of the forest, heard at all the wet forest sites and seen at Aboabo, Bobiri and Ankasa.

Zosteropidae (Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies)

- AFRICAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE** (*Zosterops senegalensis*) – Three day records, from Mole, Tono Dam and Atewa farmbush.

Pellorneidae (Fulvettas and Ground Babblers)

- BLACKCAP ILLADOPSIS** (*Illadopsis cleaveri cleaveri*) – James saw one at Ankasa but none of us could pick it up! [E]
- RUFOUS-WINGED ILLADOPSIS** (*Illadopsis rufescens*) – Almost, Bill did glimpse them at Ankasa and we should have seen this as it was so close, but it was higher up than we expected and we muffed it! Darn, maybe 2013. [E]
- PUVEL'S ILLADOPSIS** (*Illadopsis puvelli puvelli*) – Heard very close at Abrafo, and again at Atewa, but stayed well out of sight.
- PALE-BREASTED ILLADOPSIS** (*Illadopsis rufipennis extrema*) – We did get to see this one at Ankasa.
- BROWN ILLADOPSIS** (*Illadopsis fulvescens gularis*) – Heard at Ankasa and again at Atewa where some of us glimpsed it flitting by. These Illadopsis are tough, the song and call is really the best feature anyway! The latter bird is presumably race moloneyana, and looks and sounds different to the western gularis....

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes)

- BLACKCAP BABBLER** (*Turdoides reinwardtii*) – Seen well in Mole NP after it was heard close by at Shai Hills [E]
- BROWN BABBLER** (*Turdoides plebejus*) – Seen by most at Sakumono Lagoon, then again at Tono Dam.

Hylotidae (Hyliotas)

- VIOLET-BACKED HYLIIOTA** (*Hyliota violacea nehrkorni*) – Seen at Kakum, and Abrafo, then one at Atewa, a useful pick up of an endemic family.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

- PALE FLYCATCHER** (*Bradornis pallidus*) – A good trip for them, seen by the road at Abrafo, then at Tono Dam and Atewa farmbush
- NORTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER** (*Melaenornis edolioides edolioides*) – Two at Shai Hills, and a few in Mole NP.
- AFRICAN FOREST-FLYCATCHER** (*Fraseria ocreata prosphora*) – Just one seen at Antikwaa, it's an uncommon species.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa striata*) – Singles on 5 days at Shai Hills, Mole NP and Atewa farmbush. [b]

- USSHER'S FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa ussheri*) – Seen at Kakum Walkway and then at Antikwaa where I almost got a photo of one low down- usually they are way up in the canopy. Finally 2 at Aboabo. [E]
- SWAMP FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa aquatica aquatica*) – One by the waterhole in Mole NP, much less well-marked than the Ugandan birds.
- LITTLE FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa epulata*) – Usually called Little Grey Flycatcher, there was one at Kakum walkway, an elusive and low-density species.
- DUSKY-BLUE FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa comitata aximensis*) – Seen at Antikwaa and then Aboabo before one at Atewa farmbush.
- TESSMANN'S FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa tessmanni*) – One of this rather rare species was atop a bush at Aboabo and was a lifer for Phil, this seems to be one of the few regular sites for it. [E]
- CASSIN'S FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa cassini*) – One was flycatching over the river at Ankasa, it is very much a riparian species.
- GRAY-THROATED TIT-FLYCATCHER** (*Myioparus griseigularis*) – Heard from the walkway at Kakum but impossible to see in the dense undergrowth. [*] [*]
- GRAY TIT-FLYCATCHER** (*Myioparus plumbeus*) – Two in the mixed flock at Mole NP HQ, another uncommon species.
- FIRE-CRESTED ALETHE (WHITE-TAILED)** (*Alethe diademata diademata*) – Heard at Ankasa and seen briefly at Abrafo Forest, this is often split as White-tailed Alethe these days.
- BLUE-SHOULDERED ROBIN-CHAT** (*Cossypha cyanocamptor*) – One showed quite well in the thickets at Abrafo, and was whistling some of the bars from Beethoven's Ninth (thanks to John for that reference!) Sadly it coincided with a Red-cheeked wattle-eye singing and kind of distracted us, but it's a tough bird to see and this was a good sighting.
- SNOWY-CROWNED ROBIN-CHAT** (*Cossypha niveicapilla*) – Seen very well at Winneba and again in Mole NP.
- WHITE-CROWNED ROBIN-CHAT** (*Cossypha albicapilla*) – One along the Mognori River at Mole, showing quite well in the riparian scrub. A Ghana tick for Phil.
- BROWN-CHESTED ALETHE** (*Pseudalethe poliocephala*) – Bill and I saw one at Ankasa, the rusty-maroon back was quite puzzling for a while..
- FOREST ROBIN (WESTERN)** (*Stiphornis erythrothorax erythrothorax*) – This was a nightmare at Ankasa, wittering away in the undergrowth but impossible to see, but driving out there was one feeding along the track edge late pm- I was tempted to run it over!
- EUROPEAN PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) – Seen at Shai Hills and Mole NP and included a couple of smart pied males [b]
- COMMON REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) – I saw a female by the lodge at Mole, then next day we found another out in dry scrub near the Mognori River. This was amazingly enough a lifer for James, it seems to be very scarce in Ghana. [b]
- WHINCHAT** (*Saxicola rubetra*) – Seen by the hotel at Tema, then at Brenu Beach, Mole NP and the White Volta wetland. [b]
- MOCKING CLIFF-CHAT** (*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris coronata*) – This led us a dance at Shai Hills but we finally got to see a pair on the cliffs. This is the white-crowned form and is sometimes split.
- Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)*
- FINSCH'S FLYCATCHER-THRUSH** (*Neocossyphus finschii*) – One at Kakum Walkway, and heard at Ankasa and Bobiri.
- WHITE-TAILED ANT-THRUSH** (*Neocossyphus poensis*) – Heard at Abrafo, and one along the track at Ankasa, my first Ghana sighting.
- AFRICAN THRUSH** (*Turdus pelios*) – Seen at Shai Hills and Mole NP.
- Sturnidae (Starlings)*
- LESSER BLUE-EARED GLOSSY-STARLING (LESSER)** (*Lamprotornis chloropterus chloropterus*) – One in Mole was again this trip the only sighting, though John saw one at Tono Dam.
- BRONZE-TAILED GLOSSY-STARLING** (*Lamprotornis chalcurus*) – The birds at the Alexis Hotel in Tema were I think this species, and we also saw 4 of them in Mole NP plus 7 up at Tono Dam, where we could see rump and tail colour.
- SPLENDID GLOSSY-STARLING** (*Lamprotornis splendidus*) – A few around Tema, then finally some nice looks at this large species at Bobiri, much scarcer than on the previous trips.
- PURPLE GLOSSY-STARLING** (*Lamprotornis purpureus*) – Uncommon this trip, with one at the Alexis Hotel Tema,

then one at Mole with 5 at Tono Dam. The large eye, long bill and rather flat head help to separate it out.

LONG-TAILED GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis caudatus*) – A showy species with very long tail, we saw a couple in Mole, then had a few up at Tono Dam.

CHESTNUT-BELLIED STARLING (*Lamprotornis pulcher*) – A far northern special, an attractive quite subtle species with a whitish wing flash. We saw about 7 around Tono Dam.

COPPER-TAILED GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis cupreocauda*) – Very good views of a single then two at Antikwaa and then a single at Ankasa, with finally a couple at Atewa farmbush. Short-tailed and broad-winged so quite distinctive, the illustration in Birds of Ghana is so dark as to be unrecognizable! [E] [E]

VIOLET-BACKED STARLING (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*) – Great looks at a few in Mole, including the gorgeous amethyst males. Also called Plum-colored or Amethyst Starling, both of which are better names!

CHESTNUT-WINGED STARLING (*Onychognathus fulgidus*) – A good trip for this, we saw them several times in Kakum, starting with 3 at the walkway then 8 at Antikwaa, with 2 more later.

Buphagidae (Oxpeckers)

YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER (*Buphagus africanus*) – Twelve were on livestock up near the White Volta Egyptian Plover site, with one cow in particular being very attractive to the birds. Then surprisingly 2 were at the White Volta wetlands, this species disappears once dipping for ticks starts and has vanished from huge tracts of its range. Oxpeckers are now classified as an endemic African family too, hopefully Clements will eventually catch-up.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

SCARLET-TUFTED SUNBIRD (*Deleornis fraseri*) – 2 from Kakum walkway, then a nice look at one at Ankasa and 2 at Atewa. Scarlet-tufted is a poor and confusing name as these tufts don't show, Fraser's Sunbird is preferable and is the usual name.

MOUSE-BROWN SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes gabonicus*) – A couple at the Ebi River en route to the quaintly named Half Assini, a good trip bird.

LITTLE GREEN SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes seimundi*) – Several sightings from Kakum and some good views of this nondescript small species. Also seen at Aboabo.

GREEN SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes rectirostris*) – Nice looks at males at Kakum and then both sexes from Atewa, a subtle species.

COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Hedydipna collaris*) – Small numbers from Kakum, Atewa and Mole.

PYGMY SUNBIRD (*Hedydipna platura*) – This was a nice find at Mole, where we saw an adult male complete with the long tail, it's a real northern special. There was a female at Tono Dam later.

REICHENBACH'S SUNBIRD (*Anabathmis reichenbachii*) – A fine blue-headed adult showed well for everybody at a site near Ankasa, this one seems to have come onto the radar these days and it's a very striking bird with the sexes alike and the undertail coverts a pale yellow.

GREEN-HEADED SUNBIRD (*Cyanomitra verticalis*) – We missed this in 2011, but this year saw it at Sakumono, Abrafo and Mole NP.

BLUE-THROATED BROWN SUNBIRD (*Cyanomitra cyanoalaema*) – This quite large long-tailed sunbird was seen well at Kakum and Abrafo, then at Atewa farmbush where we had scope views of a fine male.

WESTERN OLIVE SUNBIRD (*Cyanomitra obscura*) – Seen at Kakum and Ankasa but more often heard.

BUFF-THROATED SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra adelberti*) – This is a spiffy bird, and we had two at Kakum walkway with catch-up views later at Atewa farmbush, where we scoped a terrific male.

CARMELITE SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra fuliginosa*) – I discovered more or less by chance that our hotel near Ankasa was actually a good site for this rare bird in Ghana. Luckily the torrential rain let up, and my foray out as the light failed got me a fine female in a flowering tree by the entrance. I was able to summon most of the group and most folks caught up with it, a lifer for me as well.

SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*) – A few sightings in Mole NP, with some fantastic males.

OLIVE-BELLIED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris chloropygius*) – Seen at Kakum and Antikwaa and then at Bobiri.

TINY SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris minullus*) – A fine male then a female at Kakum, it's an uncommon and easily missed species.

BEAUTIFUL SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris pulchellus*) – Lovely views in Mole NP of this long-tailed species.

SPLENDID SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris coccinigastrus*) – Six males and two females at Shai Hills, then at Winneba, Abrafo, Brenu Beach and even in Mole NP, a good trip for this striking species.

JOHANNA'S SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris johannae*) – This proved tricky, we had 2 at Antikwaa that were not very co-operative, then 2 females at Atewa, and some saw a male at Aboabo.

SUPERB SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris superbus*) – Five at Antikwaa and then a female at Atewa, this is a large long-billed forest species, and aptly named.

COPPER SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris cupreus*) – Seen at Shai Hills, Winneba Plains and then a whole lot in Mole NP, quite striking when seen in good light.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*) – Yellow Wagtails of uncertain taxon were seen at Mole and Brenu Beach.

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (GRAY-HEADED) (*Motacilla flava thunbergi*) – A few at the White Volta wetlands were of this taxon.

WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (BLUE-HEADED) (*Motacilla flava flava*) – A few at Brenu Beach, then in Mole NP and at the White Volta wetlands.

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla aguimp*) – Eight day records, but always just singles.

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*) – Three at Shai Hills were unexpected and a Ghana tick for Phil. [b]

RED-THROATED PIPIT (*Anthus cervinus*) – Two fine birds at the White Volta wetlands, coming into summer plumage and a lifer for James.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza tahapisi*) – Three at Tongo Hills were the only records.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY (*Serinus mozambicus*) – A few sightings from Mole NP.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

NORTHERN GRAY-HEADED SPARROW (*Passer griseus*) – Widespread, seen round Tema, Mole NP, Bolgatanga and Kumasi.

BUSH PETRONIA (*Petronia dentata*) – A couple of sightings in Mole NP.

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

CHESTNUT-CROWNED SPARROW-WEAVER (*Plocepasser superciliosus*) – A couple around the park HQ at Mole, an uncommon bird

RED-VENTED MALIMBE (*Malimbus scutatus*) – Great looks at Aboabo, the only place we saw it.

GRAY'S MALIMBE (*Malimbus nitens*) – Seen at Kakum and nest building low over the pond at Ankasa, where they were very shy. [N]

CRESTED MALIMBE (*Malimbus malimbicus*) – Seen at Abrafo and then at Aboabo, quite elusive.

RED-HEADED MALIMBE (*Malimbus rubricollis*) – Three at Kakum and some saw it at Bobiri.

LITTLE WEAVER (*Ploceus luteolus*) – Seen in Mole NP and at Tono Dam.

BLACK-NECKED WEAVER (*Ploceus nigricollis brachypterus*) – Seen at Antikwa, Abrafo and Atewa, this race is very unlike the dark-backed Eastern African birds.

ORANGE WEAVER (*Ploceus aurantius aurantius*) – A small colony nesting in a hotel garden at Ezizama town on the Twifo Praso trip, a good stake out.

VITELLINE MASKED-WEAVER (*Ploceus vitellinus*) – A male was by the hotel at Tema but I think Phil was the only one to see it.

VIEILLOT'S WEAVER (*Ploceus nigerrimus castaneofuscus*) – This chestnut and black bird is amazingly different to the entirely black birds of east and central Africa. They were widespread around Kakum, Aboabo and at Atewa.

VILLAGE WEAVER (BLACK-HEADED) (*Ploceus cucullatus cucullatus*) – Quite common in the farmbush areas, this race has a chestnut nape.

BLACK-HEADED WEAVER (*Ploceus melanocephalus capitalis*) – Only seen once in Mole NP this trip.

YELLOW-MANTLED WEAVER (*Ploceus tricolor*) – Seen nicely at Kakum where a pair were nesting by one of the platforms, and also seen at Aboabo, Bobiri and Atewa. [N] [N]

MAXWELL'S BLACK WEAVER (*Ploceus albinucha albinucha*) – A couple at Atewa, a useful pick up of a primarily western species.

PREUSS'S WEAVER (*Ploceus preussi*) – Great to see two creeping along lichen-covered branches at Abrafo, it's a sparse and easily missed bird. We also saw one at Aboabo and another at Bobiri. They act much like Brown-capped Weavers of east and central Africa. [E] [E]

RED-BILLED QUELEA (*Quelea quelea*) – Some non-breeding birds were at Tongo Hills then 30 at Tono Dam, which looked very odd.

ORANGE BISHOP (*Euplectes franciscanus*) – I hate this name, why can't he just leave it as Northern Red Bishop, as it's not orange? A female at Brenu Beach was with Black-winged Bishops and told by the smaller size and smaller bill.

BLACK-WINGED BISHOP (*Euplectes hordeaceus*) – We'd seen a lot of non-breeding bishops and whydahs at Abrafo and Mole which were essentially unidentified, although a flock at Mole did have a male with some hints of color appearing.

YELLOW-SHOULDERED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes macroura macroura*) – Some non-breeding birds were at Winneba, Abrafo and Brenu Beach, luckily they show yellow at the shoulder.

GROSBKAW WEAVER (*Amblyospiza albifrons capitalba*) – Several flocks totaling about 150 birds were at Atewa farmbush

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

GRAY-HEADED NEGROFINCH (*Nigrita canicapillus*) – More often heard than seen, but we had some great looks in the forest areas and it was nesting at Atewa. [N]

CHESTNUT-BREASTED NEGROFINCH (*Nigrita bicolor*) – Seen at Ankasa, then really well at Atewa farmbush

WHITE-BREASTED NEGROFINCH (*Nigrita fusconotus*) – Two singles at Atewa were the only sightings.

LAVENDER WAXBILL (*Estrilda caerulescens*) – Nice looks at the Mole NP HQ and also by the saltlick loop.

ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL (*Estrilda melpoda*) – Seven day records, the first at Shai Hills and Winneba then a few at Brenu Beach, Tono Dam and 4 at Atewa.

BLACK-RUMPED WAXBILL (*Estrilda troglodytes*) – Seen briefly at Brenu Beach, then much better at Tongo Hills then Tono Dam.

WESTERN BLUEBILL (*Spermophaga haematina*) – A terrific male by the track at Ankasa pond 3 was quite responsive and showed well eventually. [E]

BLACK-BELLIED SEEDCRACKER (*Pyrenestes ostrinus*) – One flew over at Aboabo but I don't think any of us got enough plumage to count it.

RED-CHEEKED CORDONBLEU (*Uraeginthus bengalus*) – Quite common at Mole NP and Tono Dam.

RED-WINGED PYTILIA (*Pytilia phoenicoptera*) – A fantastic look at 3 at the saltlick loo, which all froze with their tails held up in a kind of ballerina pose when a hornbill flew over.

RED-BILLED FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta senegala*) – Seen at Mole NP and Tono Dam.

BAR-BREASTED FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta rufopicta*) – Two at the Pygmy Goose pond, then a few at Mole.

BLACK-FACED FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta larvata*) – There was a male and female at the saltlick loop, which James tracked by call and which eventually showed nicely in the riparian scrub, after an epic chase where we kept losing them! This was a lifer for Phil.

AFRICAN FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta rubricata*) – One at Abrafo and a couple at Atewa farmbush.

BLACK-FACED QUAILFINCH (*Ortygospiza atricollis atricollis*) – Good looks at the White Volta wetland, where they were sheltering from the sun in the lee of large leaves in the wet grassland. Those we saw well had no white throats, but this seems variable. The taxonomy of quailfinch is debatable with some recognizing 3 species and others only one.

BRONZE MANNIKIN (*Spermestes cucullatus*) – A few at Shai Hills, then at Kakum and Atewa.

BLACK-AND-WHITE MANNIKIN (*Spermestes bicolor*) – Small numbers, from Antikwaa and Atewa, with 30 at the latter site.

Viduidae (Indigobirds)

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH (*Vidua macroura*) – Very few, one or two males had attained breeding dress, and the female/non-breeders are fairly distinctive. Seen at Abrafo and in Mole NP.

MAMMALS

STRAW-COLORED FRUIT BAT (*Eidolon helvum*) – Dozens over at Accra on departure day, also seen at Kumasi.

EPAULETED BAT SP. (*Epomops franqueti*) – At least 4 Franquet's Singing Fruit Bat were again roosting in dense foliated trees at a lunch stop in Tamale. Identification tentative as two species are very similar, but they are an interesting almost greenish-yellow animal with a very odd head shape and tubular nostrils.

YELLOW-WINGED BAT (*Lavia frons*) – One flushed from mangoes at Tono Dam and very brightly colored.

PRINCE DEMIDOFF'S BUSHBABY (*Galago demidoff*) – Heard at Kakum as we walked out at dusk. [*]

- LESSER WHITE-NOSED GUENON** (*Cercopithecus petaurista*) – One of what is often called Spot-nosed Monkey showed well at Kakum from the walkway.
- MONA MONKEY** (*Cercopithecus mona*) – One was at Kakum in the feeding group seen from the walkway.
- GREEN MONKEY** (*Cercopithecus sabaues*) – A few at Shai Hills and Mole NP, this is a split from Vervet Monkey.
- PATAS MONKEY** (*Erythrocebus patas*) – 3 at Mole NP were the only sighting.
- OLIVE BABOON** (*Papio anubis*) – A few at Shai Hills and quite common at Mole NP.
- OLIVE COLOBUS** (*Procolobus verus*) – This rare monkey was seen from the walkway, with 3 animals feeding in fruit bushes below us.
- SCRUB HARE** (*Lepus saxatilis*) – One at Mole airstrip.
- STRIPED GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Xerus erythropus*) – One was seen at Mole NP.
- FOREST GIANT SQUIRREL** (*Protoxerus stangeri*) – Joe saw this at Aboabo.
- SLENDER-TAILED SQUIRREL** (*Protoxerus aubinnii*) – One by the Pygmy Goose pond in a lone surviving forest giant tree.
- AFRICAN STRIPED SQUIRREL SP.** (*Funisciurus substriatus*) – This is the wonderfully named Kintampo Rope Squirrel, and a restricted range endemic to a small area in Ghana and surrounding countries. We again had great views of one up a tree by the river in Mole NP.
- FIRE-FOOTED ROPE SQUIRREL** (*Funisciurus pyrropus*) – This animal has a great name but is quite hard to see, some got brief views of it at Bobiri. and heard it at Atewa
(*Paraxerus poensis*) – This species is locally known as Green Squirrel and we saw it at Mole.
- RED-LEGGED SUN SQUIRREL** (*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*) – This was seen at Kakum and Ankasa.
- SCALY-TAILED FLYING SQUIRREL SP.** (*Anomalurus peli*) – This amazing creature was one of the best sightings of the trip, from the Kakum Walkway late in the afternoon. It appeared on the trunk of a tree and clung there for ages, a great black above and white below "flying squirrel" with a white tail, looking almost rectangular as it had its gliding flaps spread, Best of all, not only is it rare and seldom seen, it is in a new family the Anomaluridae, with the English name of Pel's Anomalure. Mammal listers will be really gripped with this one, if only I'd had my camera.....
- GIANT POUCHED RAT** (*Cricetomys emini*) – Smoked split giant rats were on sale as bushmeat near Winneba, they don't look terribly appetizing I must say.
- LARGE-SPOTTED GENET** (*Genetta tigrina*) – A genet sp. ran over the track at Mole one night, but their taxonomy is unsettled and we saw it poorly. We did see a woman holding one up for sale as bushmeat near Atewa.
- AFRICAN ELEPHANT** (*Loxodonta africana*) – These were fabulous Mole, where 6 came to bathe in the waterhole and one sort of jumped in with a tremendous splash. We saw 10 next day from the lodge, with some right below us in the waterhole there, how can anyone kills such wonderful sentient creatures? Yet here we are, in the terminal twilight of the great Pleistocene megafauna, doomed by the insatiable Chinese demand for ivory.
- TREE HYRAX SP.** (*Dendrohyrax dorsalis*) – Heard at Kakum as walked out at dusk. [*]
- WARTHOG** (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) – Tame and approachable by the lodge at Mole. I love the way they kneel to graze.
- BUSHBUCK** (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) – A few were seen nicely in Mole NP.
- RED-FLANKED DUIKER** (*Cephalophus rufilatus*) – Great views of one in the track at Mole NP, after one raced by at Winneba, it has a dark back and reddish flanks.
- BUSH (GRAY) DUIKER** (*Sylvicapra grimmia*) – One was seen briefly at Mole.
- DEFASSA WATERBUCK** (*Kobus defassa*) – These were uncommon in Mole and only a few bucks were seen.
- KOB** (*Kobus kob*) – The common antelope in Mole.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Bird of the trip was undoubtedly the White-necked Picathartes, what an experience that was and what a thrill to get it so well! Egyptian Plover was also way up there. It's a great tour for kingfishers, hornbills, and sunbirds too, with Chocolate-backed,

Blue-breasted and White-bellied kingfishers being standouts and as for the calls of Red-billed Dwarf and White-crested hornbills, they are quite amazing. No wonder the sunbirds are richly endowed with superlatives like Splendid, Superb and

plain old Beautiful, we did really well for them this trip. Red-winged Pytilia posing like ballerinas was also memorable, and Black and Rosy Bee-eaters were just fantastic, what a shame the Blue-headed disappeared so quickly! The Beethove's Ninth Robin-chat was also a memoarble experience.

The mammal of the trip has to be the just astonishing Pel's Anomalure that we saw from the walkway at dusk, what a shame not everyone was there to see it.

A Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) was seen at Ankasa.

Nile Crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*) were seen at Mole, with a couple of quite large ones in the waterholes there, with the elephants totally unconcerned.

Various agamid lizards were showing off at Kakum and Mole, the males with blue heads and orangey bodies.

Many smoked Giant Pouched Rats being held up for sale by the road, which nobody elected to sample.

A tomb bat (*Taphrozous* sp.) was seen at Mole one dusk, and Peter's dwarf epauletted fruit-bat (*Micropteropus pusillas*) were seen in riparian scrub at Mole with 10 animals by a dry creek.

One of the favorite things of the trip was reading the sayings on the back of the taxis and buses and the names on the stalls lining streets. Most of these were in the Christian south and the exuberant imagination was very evident. A few favorites:

God Loves Furniture

Life wiLL Never Be the Same Beauty Salon

Merciful God Vulcanization

Ghana Butterflies, March 17-April 2, 2012

This checklist covers most of the butterflies seen on our fantastic two-week Ghana survey. All of the butterflies listed were photographed, with the exception of those marked "S" for sight record only. They were identified using Torben Larsen's excellent two-volume book, *Butterflies of West Africa* (Apollo Books, 2005). Some of my photographs remain unidentified, so the actual number of species seen was somewhat higher. Thanks to all of the other participants, as well as to Phil, James, and especially Charles, for pointing me toward many butterflies I would have otherwise missed, and also for everyone's great company.

–Bill Benner, tour participant.

Papilionidae (Swallowtails)

MOCKER SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio dardanus*)— At AboAbo.

APPLE GREEN SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio phorcas*)—Both males and females were flying on our first full day in the Shai Hills. (S)

BROAD-BANDED GREEN SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio chrapkowskoides*)— A female photographed on our last day in Atewa Forest; several green-banded males also flew past.

WESTERN EMPEROR SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio menestheus*)— This was the large swallowtail with the broad pale bands that perched in the open sunny glade on our last morning in Atewa.

CITRUS SWALLOWTAIL (*Papilio demodecus*)— One perched beautifully opened on the ground at Kakum; I think John got a good photo also.

VEINED SWALLOWTAIL (*Graphium leonidas*)— First encountered at Ankasa.

LONG-TAILED STRIPED SWORDTAIL (*Graphium liponesco*)— This obligate forest species was also photographed at

Ankasa—an injured specimen that someone found on the muddy road.

Pieridae (Whites and Sulphurs)

AFRICAN EMIGRANT (*Catopsilia florella*)—This common species is the only large, completely white butterfly in Ghana, and we saw it from Accra to Bolgatonga, though it was never numerous.

COMMON GRASS YELLOW (*Eurema hecabe*)—Another widespread species, this was the small, low-flying yellow with the black forewing tips.

SCARLET TIP (*Colotis danae*)—This easily recognizable butterfly is the only “orange-tip” with red, rather than orange, forewing tips. A few of them were flying in the dry, burned fields around Tono Dam—one of only a very few species of butterflies that we saw that entire day, compared to the much higher diversity in the humid, forested south.

ROUND-WINGED ORANGE TIP (*Colotis euipe*)—Seen our first full morning, at Shai Hills. Both John and I noted the orange forewing tips completely surrounded by black. (S)

TINY ORANGE TIP (*Colotis evagore*)—Seen at Mole.

CALYPSO CAPER WHITE (*Belanois calypso*)—One of the many beautiful butterflies at Bobiri. The underside is beautifully patterned.

AFRICAN SPIRIT (*Leptosia alcesta*)—A small white with black forewing spot, also at Bobiri.

Lycaenidae (Hairstreaks, Blues, Coppers, Liptenids, and Carnivorous Butterflies)

WESTERN PEARLY (*Eresiomera bicolor*)—This little black and red butterfly sat on a vertical branch at Bobiri for a very long time, waving its wings slowly open and closed, while I tried in vain to get a good, sharp photograph. Dr. Larsen suggests that this behavior might be part of signaling behavior to ants. The subfamily Lipteninae to which this butterfly belongs has 200+ West African species, all with a fascinating life history. Like many Lycaenids, they associate with ants, but in this case, the ants are not providing food—perhaps protection from predators? In any case, the caterpillars actually graze on blue-green algae growing on the bark and stems on which they live, the only butterflies in the world known to do so.

FURRY EPITOLA (*Stempfferia michelae*)—Photographed at AboAbo, perched on an arching twig overhanging the road.

COMMON FALSE HEAD (*Oxylides faunus*)—One of a suite of small, whitish hairstreak species with fantastically long tails with the colorful local name of “Playboy”. Despite this one’s name, we didn’t positively record it until our very last day at Atewa, though we saw other “Playboy” species almost every day, except in the far north.

COMMON HAIRSTREAK (*Hypolycaena philippus*)—This “Playboy” was first photographed at the Winneba Grasslands, and then again at Mole, but we probably encountered it elsewhere as well. Without a photo, it was difficult to identify the “Playboys” to species in the field.

DUBIOUS FAIRY HAIRSTREAK (*Hypolycaena dubia*)—Another “Playboy”, this species is supposed to be one of the most common of the group. Photographed at Atewa.

LARGE FAIRY HAIRSTREAK (*Hypolycaena antifaunus*)—Another common “Playboy”, first photographed at Kakum on our way back from the canopy walkway.

COMMON FAIRY HAIRSTREAK (*Hypolycaena hatita*)—A “Playboy” first encountered at Ankasa. Note that “common” seems to be a theme throughout this butterfly list. Joe and I joked throughout the trip about how many times I would ID a butterfly and go to read about it, always hoping for something rare and exciting, only to read some variation on, “the most common butterfly in Ghana”! Just like with the birds, common species are common, and they turn out to be the ones most likely to be seen on a regular basis.

WESTERN FAIRY PLAYBOY (*Paradeudorix eleala*)—This was the “Playboy” on the road at Bobiri with the missing forewing, that allowed us to see the brilliant blue upperside.

COPPERY CILIATE BLUE (*Anthene princeps*)—A small blue encountered several times during our travels.

LEADEN CILIATE BLUE (*Anthene amarah*)—Another small blue; this one has the distinction of being the only butterfly photographed and positively ID'ed the whole day of our long drive from Bolgatonga back to Kumasi. It was ovipositing on an Acacia-looking shrub by the roadside when we stopped at the Quail-finch spot.

COMMON CILIATE BLUE (*Anthene larydas*)—This was the extremely abundant blue that we saw everywhere, with the dark, scribbled-looking underside. There were hundreds flying along the track at Bobiri, for example. Occasionally we saw a male basking with wings open on a road, revealing gorgeous velvety purple upper wings.

LOWLAND BRANDED BLUE (*Uranotaema falckensteini*)—A small blue identified in a photo I took of one of the massive “puddle party” swarms along the roadside at Bobiri.

PIED BLUE (*Phylaria cyara*)—Another, very pretty, blue butterfly from the same puddle party at Bobiri.

COMMON ZEBRA BLUE (*Leptotes pirithous*)—This is one of four identical small blues that can only be distinguished by dissecting their genitalia. However, this is the most common of the four, and per Larsen, usually represents three-quarters or more of the individuals in any one location, so I am listing it here as this species. It was amongst the swarm of butterflies viewed along the Mognori River bank in the morning during our unsuccessful search for Shining Blue Kingfisher.

SMOKY BEAN CUPID (*Euchrysops malathana*)—Another small blue, photographed at Antikwaa Forest as well as at AboAbo.

WHITE-TIPPED CUPID (*Eicochrysops Hippocrates*)—A small, tailed blue photographed at Bobiri.

TAILED MEADOW BLUE (*Cupidopsis jobates*)—This is a butterfly primarily of the Sahel savannah and the far north, so it was somewhat surprising to see it at Mole. Photographed in the afternoon along the Salt Lick Loop.

LIBERIAN GINGER WHITE (*Oboronia liberiana*)—This wonderful little blue looks more like a white, with white, rounded wings and beautifully stenciled dark margins. Photographed at AboAbo.

PALE BABUL BLUE (*Azonus mirza*)—Another commonly encountered little blue, seen first at Antikwaa, and then at several other forest sites.

WHITE-BANDED BABUL BLUE (*Azonus isis*)—This little blue, on the other hand, was seen only at Ankasa.

Nymphalidae (Brush-footed Butterflies)

AFRICAN BEAK (*Libythea labdaca*)—Probably the most abundant butterfly on our trip, at least in certain places. For example, most of the medium-sized butterflies that were swarming along the roads at Bobiri were this species, as were the scattered clouds of butterflies we encountered in Bonkro, the Picathartes village. This species is both irruptive and at least somewhat migratory, and we seemed to be present for a peak in its population cycle.

COMMON TIGER (*Danaus chrysippus*)—This common butterfly is the West African equivalent of our Monarch. Seen in most places, most days, though never in large numbers.

AFRICAN BLUE TIGER (*Tirumala petiverana*)—In contrast to most of the butterflies we encountered, this danaid is actually more likely in the savannah, though we found it at Antikwaa.

AFRICAN PALMFLY (*Elymniosis bammakoo*)—Great Latin name! This is a mimic of toxic *Acraea* butterflies. Photographed at Ankasa.

LIGHT BUSH BROWN (*Bicyclus dorothea*)—This common species was seen in multiple spots, except open savannah. A pale gray, nicely stenciled satyr.

VELVET BUSH BROWN (*Bicyclus istaris*)—Uncommon, and in Ghana, found only in the Atewa Hills, where I was lucky enough to photograph it on our last day. A truly local specialty.

BLACK BUSH BROWN (*Bicyclus martius*)—A beautiful rich, dark brown to blackish satyr with silvery intricate wing

margins. Also seen at Atewa.

WESTERN HALLELESIS (*Hallelesis halyma*)—A somewhat common wood-nymph, seen in a couple of different places.

COMMON RINGLET (*Ypthima doleta*)—Another widespread satyr, though not really common anywhere.

BAMBOO CHARAXES (*Charaxes boueti*)—These were the large tailed orange striped butterflies that were feeding in the rotten fruit bait stand in the Bobiri garden. We saw other *Charaxes* species flying in other forested places during our tour, but I was never able to get photos, so they remain unidentified. *Charaxes* is a large and diverse genus of butterflies in West Africa. This species, as its name suggests, uses bamboos as host plants.

COMMON BLUE CHARAXES (*Charaxes tiradates*)—The only other *Charaxes* positively ID'ed, this one was also photographed in the bait stand at Bobiri.

WHITE-BANDED PALLA (*Palla decius*)—There are only four species of the large, beautiful Pallas in West Africa, and I managed to photograph two of them. This one was also at Bobiri.

USSHER'S PALLA (*Palla ussheri*)—Seen and photographed at Ankasa.

AFRICAN LEAF BUTTERFLY (*Kallimoides rumia*)—Though there are many Ghanaian butterflies that appear to be leaf mimics, this butterfly looks superficially closest to the diverse group of Oriental leaf butterflies that people tend to associate with the name. Its affinities are uncertain, however, and it's thought to be of ancient lineage. Photographed on our last day in the Atewa Hills.

COMMON COMMODORE (*Precis pelarga*)—Photographed at AboAbo, this pretty butterfly is found throughout the region in forest as well as northward into the more forested Guinea savannah.

DIADEM or FALSE TIGER (*Hypolimnas misippus*)—One of the most widely distributed butterflies in the world, this species is a mimic of the Common Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*), much as the Viceroy imitates the Monarch in North America. In most of the Common Tiger's range, however, it has orange hindwings, but in West Africa, the hindwings are white. The False Tiger retains the orange hindwings, however, so in Ghana, it's not such a great mimic. Common on our first day in the Shai Hills. (S)

BLUE DIADEM (*Hypolimnas salmaccis*)—A large, beautiful butterfly seen in multiple locations, but first photographed at AboAbo in Kakum National Park.

LILAC BEAUTY (*Salamis cacta*)—Another large, handsome butterfly, encountered multiple times during our last couple of days at Bobiri and the Atewa Hills. Larsen considers the Atewa Hills the richest area of butterfly diversity in Ghana.

WESTERN BLUE BEAUTY (*Salamis cytora*)—This gorgeous butterfly was first photographed at AboAbo, but also seen elsewhere. I think several folks got to enjoy the beautiful shading from purple to orange on the upper forewing.

AFRICAN BLUE TIGER (*Tirumala petiverana*)—In contrast to most of the butterflies we encountered, this danaid is actually more likely in the savannah, though we found it at Antikwaa.

AFRICAN PALMFLY (*Elymniosis bammakoo*)—Great Latin name! This is a mimic of toxic *Acraea* butterflies. Photographed at Ankasa.

FOREST MOTHER-OF-PEARL (*Protogoniomorpha parhassus*)—I think this butterfly wins the longest name contest. It is another spectacular species that we saw multiple times. This is the large, whitish butterfly with the angular wings that would perch up about eye-level or above along the forest trails. Larsen says that wrapping a white handkerchief around a pebble and tossing it up in the air can lure them down to investigate.

DARK BLUE PANSY (*Junonia oenone*)—I think everyone got a look at this handsome butterfly with the bold purplish blue patches in the hindwing that perched for us in multiple roadside locales. This genus of butterflies is closely related to our Buckeyes.

YELLOW PANSY (*Junonia hierta*)—A butterfly of the Guinea savannah. Some of you may have noticed this butterfly flying around low to the ground as we wandered the bush at Mole; its pale tan underside blended with the savannah when its

wings were closed, but when it landed with wings open, the bright orange and yellow patches were very pretty.

LITTLE COMMODORE (*Junonia sophia*)—Seen and photographed at Antikwaa, and also at Ankasa.

BROWN PANSY (*Junonia stygia*)—Another of the fascinating collection of butterflies at Bobiri.

SOLDIER PANSY (*Junonia terea*)—Per Larsen, “one of the most common and widespread African butterflies.” We certainly encountered it at many sites, everywhere except in the far north, and it accompanied us on many trails.

AFRICAN MAP BUTTERFLY (*Cyrestis camillus*)—This medium to largish butterfly strongly resembles our Zebra Swallowtail, but is a nymphalid, not a swallowtail. The only map butterfly in Africa; the genus is more diverse in the Orient. Seen our last couple of days at Bobiri (where it was common) and the Atewa Hills.

AFRICAN JOKER (*Byblia anvatarata*)—Another widespread African butterfly, photographed at Kakum. I am a bit puzzled about this ID—the upperside photos clearly show a *Byblia* species, and there are only two to choose from, but my underside photos look very different from either. It may be that the dry-season forms differ from what is illustrated, which is sometimes the case with butterflies. Maybe more to follow...

ANGULAR GLIDER (*Harma theobene*)—The last photographed and identified butterfly of the trip, in the Atewa Hills. It is a fairly large, pretty butterfly with two-toned rusty and white wings.

COMMON YELLOW GLIDER (*Cymothoe egesta*)—The big, bold butterflies in the genus *Cymothoe* are widespread and diverse in Ghana. We undoubtedly encountered others that I failed to identify. This species was photographed at Kakum

COMMON GLIDER (*Cymothoe caenis*)—Seen beautifully at Bobiri, this large glider is mostly white, with black penciling near the wing margins.

JODUTTA GLIDER (*Cymothoe jodutta*)—Another species restricted to forest, seen at Ankasa and AboAbo.

COMMON RED GLIDER (*Cymothoe coccinata*)—This is the medium sized all-red butterfly that Phil was excited to see again in the Atewa Hills. Quite wary, and difficult to get a good photograph, so my ID is slightly tentative, but this is the most common Red Glider and the one most likely to be expected. A gorgeous butterfly.

BLUE SAILER (*Pseudoneptis bugandensis*)—This species looks very much like a *Neptis* but ain't (see below). The flight pattern and general jizz is the same, but the wing bands are bluish rather than pure white. Photographed at Bonkro walking in toward the Picathartes site.

FALSE DIADEM (*Pseudacraea lucretia*)—One of the few non-mimetic species in a mostly mimetic genus. Multiple individuals photographed at Bobiri.

NEMETES SAILER (*Neptis nemetes*)—The Sailers are a large genus of almost identical-appearing black-and-white butterflies with elongated heliconia-like wings that sail along and then land with spread wings on leaf tips along the trails—hence, “sailer”, not “sailor”. It was impossible to identify them without a photo, and even then, ID's involved lots of sorting through 39 different species! This one was photographed at AboAbo in northern Kakum National Park.

VARIABLE SAILER (*Neptis nysiades*)—The first *Neptis* encountered and photographed—from the walkway at Kakum. I can't believe I actually walked out on to the walkway from the tree stand and leaned over to get a closer photo of this butterfly.

SCARCE CLUBBED SAILER (*Neptis nicobule*)—Restricted to better quality forest, and seen only at AboAbo.

CONSTRICTED CLUB-DOT SAILER (*Neptis troundi*)—Photographed at AboAbo as well as at Bobiri. It is possible that some of my photos might also pertain to *N. agouale*, which is supposed to be more common, but I am fairly confident in my assessment. *Neptis* identification is not easy.

COMMON PATHFINDER (*Catuna crithea*)—There are four species of Pathfinders in Ghana; they are the marbled-looking brown and cream butterflies that fly low along the ground up and down the forested paths, and we saw them commonly. It requires a photo to ID them, at least for me. I photographed this one at Ankasa. The fourth species, *C. niji*, is an Ankasa specialty, but sadly I didn't locate it there.

OBERTHUR'S PATHFINDER (*Catuna oberthueri*)—Also seen and photographed at Ankasa.

LARGE PATHFINDER (*Catuna angustatum*)—While not as range-restricted as *C. niji*, this is still the scarcest of the three common Pathfinders, and I was happy to photograph this one in the Atewa Hills.

GUINEAFOWL (*Hamanumida daedalus*)—This delightful butterfly looks just like its name! spangled all over with small white spots. I saw it amongst the crowd of butterflies from the bridge overlooking the Mognori River during our morning stop there, and managed to get a couple of photos.

FOREST GLADE NYMPH (*Aterica galena*)—Multiple individuals seen of this medium sized dark butterfly with the large white wing spots, at Bobiri.

WESTERN NYMPH (*Euriphene coerulea*)—Photographed at Ankasa. There are a number of *Euriphene* species in Ghana, medium-sized forest dwellers with cryptic undersides, and I have other photographs of *Euriphene* that I have not been able to ID yet.

HEWITSON'S FORESTER (*Bebearia tentyris*)—*Bebearia* is a large genus with about 50 West African species, mostly large forest-floor species. We encountered quite a few, only some of which I was able to photograph and ID. This one was seen well at Bobiri.

ABSOLON FORESTER (*Bebearia absolon*)—This species was photographed a couple of times, at Abrafo and AboAbo. It superficially resembles the Pathfinders.

COMMON PALM FORESTER (*Bebearia cocalia*)—Seen at Ankasa. Palms are its host plant.

SOPHUS FORESTER (*Bebearia sophus*)—According to Larsen, “the most common and widespread of the genus.” Also photographed at Ankasa.

WESTERN FANTASIA (*Bebearia phantasina*)—A forest species photographed both at Kakum and Ankasa. This genus of butterflies is another of the leaf-mimic types that is quite well camouflaged when perched on the forest floor or low vegetation.

LARGE TRUE FORESTER (*Euphaedra sarcoptera*)—The genus *Euphaedra* is another large assemblage of African butterflies, with over 75 species in West Africa. They are large forest-floor-dwelling species that feed on fruit and other decaying matter, not flowers. They are generally larger than the *Bebearia* species, and are often spectacularly beautiful. I photographed this one in the Atewa Hills and showed the picture to some folks right away—Barbara accused me of Photoshopping it first! It is a fantastically gorgeous butterfly.

ELEUS ORANGE FORESTER (*Euphaedra eleus*)—Also photographed in the Atewa Hills, this is a big orange and black butterfly.

COMMON BLUE-BANDED FORESTER (*Euphaedra harpalyce*)—This is one of the more widespread of the genus; I photographed it in the Abrafo Forest. I also have some other *Euphaedra* photos that I haven't yet been able to identify to species.

WESTERN BLUE-BANDED FORESTER (*Euphaedra eupalus*)—This species with the white dots on the underwing was photographed on our first day in Kakum National Park.

DUDGEON'S ACRAEA (*Acraea pseudopaea*)—This butterfly is found in Ghana only in the Atewa Hills, and so I was happy to have photographed and seen it there—a local specialty.

LARGE SPOTTED ACRAEA (*Acraea zetes*)—This is the largest genus of African butterflies, and about 60 species live in West Africa, though their center of diversity and radiation is in East Africa. All are toxic, containing cyanide chemicals, and they often act as models for various mimetic species. They are closely related to the *Heliconias* of the Neotropics. This species was the one we saw commonly (some even copulating) in the Shai Hills on our first full day of birding.

COMMON GLASSY ACRAEA (*Acraea quirina*)—Photographed in the Atewa farm bush in the evening light. This species has transparent wings with red bases—very pretty.

ORANGE BEMATISTES (*Acraea tellus*)—This species is not supposed to occur west of Nigeria and the Dahomey Gap, but my photos pretty clearly seem to show this species. If so, it is one of the rarest butterflies we encountered, and I was very lucky to see it. Photographed in the Atewa Hills.

COMMON LEOPARD FRITILLARY (*Phalanta phalanta*)—This is a savannah butterfly, supposedly somewhat common, but I only photographed it once, again at our White Volta Quail-finch spot, this time on our way north from Mole to Bolgatonga. I think we saw it at other places, though, but it never alighted long enough for me to get a photograph.

Hesperiidae (Skippers)

STRIPED POLICEMAN (*Coeliades forestan*)—This large dark skipper with the big white spot in the hindwing, that looked so much like our Silver-spotted Skipper, is apparently one of the most widespread butterflies in West Africa. I have some great photos of this butterfly perched on James!

CLOUDED FLAT (*Tagiades flesus*)—Seen and photographed at Antikwaa and again at AboAbo. This is a spread-winged skipper. Skippers in general seemed very scarce on this trip, and maybe they are not as common in West Africa in general. It is the nymphalids that seem to have radiated wildly in Ghana, versus the large hesperid radiation we have in the eastern U.S.

COMMON ELF (*Eretis melania*)—Seen at Antikwaa and again in the Atewa farm bush. Interestingly, it is more a species of Guinea savannah, but it apparently penetrates open areas of forest as well. This is another spread-winged skipper, photographed at Atewa on the side of a log while we were waiting for evening birds.

COMMON FOREST SYLPH (*Ceratrachia phocion*)—This pretty little two-toned skipper with the dark forewings and yellow hindwings was seen dangling from a flower in Atewa forest on our last day. Despite being common, Larsen says it is absent from Volta and Togo, so perhaps I was lucky to see it at Atewa—at the edge of its range?

MAESSEN'S FOREST SYLPH (*Ceratrachia maesseni*)—This congener is apparently not at all common, and is nearly a Ghana endemic, and it was certainly lucky to find this one in the Atewa Hills. It too was hanging from a flower, and took off just as I snapped its picture, so that my only photo shows it streaking away, but luckily still identifiable.

COMMON PATHFINDER SKIPPER (*Pardaleodes edipus*)—"The most common skipper in the West African forest zone", says Larsen. Photographed at AboAbo.

SCARCE PATHFINDER SKIPPER (*Pardaleodes sator*)—Uncommon, as its name would suggest, and, like many of the rarer butterflies seen on this great trip, it was found in the Atewa Hills on the final day.

LESSER MILLET SKIPPER (*Pelopidas mathias*)—This apparently common skipper is a butterfly of the savannah. It was another species found in the puddle party on the bank of the Mognori River in Mole, below the bridge.

TWIN-SPOT SWIFT (*Borbo fanta*)—Photographed perched in the garden at Bobiri. A fairly big skipper with a clean row of white spots on the hindwing underside.

Totals for the tour: 431 bird taxa and 29 mammal taxa