

Wild West Africa: Ghana Birding Safari | Species List

October 7 – 24, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



Guide Paul Mensah, with Peg Abbott of Naturalist Journeys and six participants: Carol, Bev, Ty, Lise, Steve and Valerie

Compiled by Peg Abbott

eBird Trip List Link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/167223>

An incredible inaugural journey for Naturalist Journeys, our local partner Ashanti African Tours and fabulous local guide Paul Mensah helped us streamline a wonderful 18-day trip. We started with a cultural day in Accra then headed out to the wilds. The journey was challenging as we logged a number of hot, muddy miles and had some long road days, but we were thrilled to find so many species new to us all. The forests of Ghana were extraordinary and birds prolific. Seeing the fabled West African tropical forest was a highlight in itself. Finding 20 species of hornbill and 13 barbets speaks to the pristine quality of the habitat. We had 4 species of turacos, 5 species of bee-eaters, 11 species of cuckoos, 9 kingfisher species, and 19 colorful species of sunbirds, wow! Trip highlights for everyone included Ghana's famous White-necked Rockfowl (*Picathartes*) that put on a wonderful show, and to our delight a pair of Egyptian Plover, an elegant shorebird, that flew in close to our perch, then stayed close so we could appreciate it fully. We found a number of endemics, several regional specialties and a few birds we just called "special" as they can be so hard to find, like the Red-fronted Antpecker we found building a nest! We splurged and stayed at the elegant Zaina Lodge in Mole NP, and this and the relatively new lodge (completed just before the pandemic) at Ankasa both provided much appreciated creature comforts and respite from the climate. Visiting a school and bringing them some supplies brought joy. We marveled at the color and vibe of Ghana street life – one long endless market seems to adorn most highways. We worried about logging going on in or near some of the reserves, so much pressure on this habitat. The people of Ghana won our hearts over, so welcoming and helpful, sincere. A very successful trip and we will return!

BIRDS: 332 Species in 76 Families

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae — (4)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* — (3) We had good views at several wetlands, groups feeding.

African Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus auritus* — (1) At Bokro Marsh, two were tucked in with a dozen or more White-faced Whistling Ducks, our only sighting.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* — (1) Seen at Mole NP in the pond below Zaina Lodge

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* — (1) Seen on a travel day up to Mole NP in the afternoon.

GUINEAFOWL: Numididae — (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* — (3) Seen daily while in Mole NP, small groups.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae — (1)

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus* — (3) This loud species started out elusive for us, but a return trip to Shai

Hills let us see them coming out on the road to peck at seeds. They perched in trees as they flushed, and we got some good photos. We found them again in Mole NP.

PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS: Phasianidae — (3)

(WA) Latham's Francolin *Peliperdix lathamii* — **(1 HO)** We had to be content with Heard Only, on our lush forest hike through Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

(WA) Ahanta Francolin *Pternistis achantensis* — **(1 HO)** Another heard only, this time in the lower mining concession area of the Atewa Mountains, downslope in some agricultural edge habitat.

(WA) Double-spurred Spurfowl *Pternistis bicalcaratus* — **(2)** Our most cooperative partridge family member, we saw them both Shai Hills and Mole NP.

GREBES: Podicipedidae — (1)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — **(1)** Seen only at Bokro Marsh, one individual.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (11)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* — **(9)** Common along the highway and in cities, villages.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* — **(2)** Such a lovely big dove, we saw them in the village area outside of Mole NP.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* — **(12)** One of the most common species, we enjoyed its lovely call almost everywhere, absent from Ankasa.

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* — **(5)** First seen in the Shai Hills, we found them again in Mole NP.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* — **(15)** Very common and widespread. We saw one nesting off the porch at Zaina Lodge.

Black-billed Wood-Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* — **(3)** Seen daily around Zaina Lodge and in Mole NP, the only location we had them.

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur afer* — **(10)** We heard them often, and took time to admire them in the scope a few times for the fine details.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris* — **(6)** We heard them, Paul was good to point out the rhythm and staccato of all the dove calls. At Ankasa we saw them well.

Blue-headed Wood-Dove *Turtur brehmeri* — **(2)** We spotted a few in the muddy road tracks at Ankasa Reserve, secretive species so a great find.

Bruce's Green-Pigeon *Treron waalia* — **(1)** We had excellent looks at this species on our walk near the airstrip in Mole NP, the tsetse flies held off for us to get out and wander and view.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus* — **(10)** In the forests of West Africa we found them regularly, such a beautiful species, this was a treat.

TURACOS: Musophagidae — (4)

(WA) Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa* — **(2)** We had two good sightings, both in guide Paul's yard!

(WA) Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus* — **(8)** This spectacular species was more often heard than seen, but we had wonderful views of a pair flying below us from the Canopy Walkway in Kakum.

(WA) Violet Cuckoo *Musophaga violacea* — **(1)** Seen only in the Shai Hills, but we had views of them flying, and then later perched in a fruiting tree.

(WA) Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator* — **(10)** What a great, charismatic bird to be common! They often posed on our hotel grounds, we saw them regularly on travel days, and on various outings.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (11)

Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster* — (8) We heard them SO many days, at Ankasa so close and yet so far... then coming down from our hike in Atewa, there was one right off the road, it crossed the road and stayed low and we got wonderful views!

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* — (9) Seen well in the Shai Hills and Mole NP and a few other locations heard.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* — (2) We saw this species at Atwikwaa at the forest edge with farm scrub habitat, then again at Rainforest Lodge.

Blue Malkoha *Ceuthmochares aereus* — (8) Also called Yellowbill, we had really great sightings of this bird again and again. We watched it feed and fly and learned its calls, a delightful big cuckoo to observe.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* — (1) Just one sighting, at the end of a very long travel day to Mole NP it was a treat, roadside, just perched on fencing and vegetation.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* — (3) Seen on our walks in Kakum NP and later on in the trip at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary and the Atewa Mountains, all lush forested areas.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* — (5) More commonly encountered than Dideric, we had good views at several locations, Kakum, Mole and the Atewa Mountains. The two species overlapped at times.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* — (10) This was a trip highlight for Lise, who admired its beauty while studying ahead for the trip. It was a stunning species, such clean and bright plumage. Thankfully it was loud, and we were able to scope it on several occasions.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus* — (2) Heard only, in Ankasa Reserve by the guard station, and at Kwabena Forest.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* — (1) Seen by most of the group on the walk at Kwabena Sam Forest accessed from the Picathartes Lodge area. The light morph of the species.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* — (2) Seen at Kwabena Sam Forest, and then seen on the final morning at our hotel near the Atewa Mountains.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae — (1)

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus* — (1) We had just great looks at this nocturnal species, several individuals sitting on the road as we drove out of the Shai Hills after our afternoon of birding. The posed for us and our photographers were happy!

SWIFTS: Apodidae — (6)

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* — (2) Seen from the lodge flying above Rainforest Lodge, good views both times we stayed there.

(WA) Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini* — (2) Seen flying above us, high, near the guard station and later by our lodge at Ankasa Reserve.

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini* — (1) Seen at the guard station, above a small clearing, at Ankasa Reserve, with Sabine's Spinetail for a good comparison.

Common Swift *Apus apus* — (2) Seen by the group at Kwabena Sam Forest.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* — (11) Very common, often near bridges and water but also wet agricultural areas, widespread.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* — (15) Very common, seen frequently.

FLUFFTAILS: Sarothruridae — (1)

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* — (1) Paul had a small pond staked out near Atwikwaa for us to find this secretive species. It gave us fair views among many tangled roots, pretty good for this species!

RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (2)

Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus* — (1) Paul rated this one high in his category of “Special sighting” as outside of Ankasa Reserve it is difficult to see. We were so fortunate that the guards saw a family group go up to roost. With little effort we were rewarded with fine scope views, right above the park road!

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra* — (1) One individual was seen at Bokro Marsh, walking along the pond margin.

FINFOOTS (1)

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* — (1) Seen only by Carol from her porch overlooking the river during a mid-day break at Ankasa Lodge, she heard a splash and looked up, was able to watch it climb onto a perch, then swim away. wow! Several others walked along the river trying to find it but not with luck.

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae — (1)

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* — (2) Seen in the drier areas of the Shai Hills and Mole NP.

EGYPTIAN PLOVER: Pluvianidae — (1)

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* — (1) ***Special sighting** This bird was high on our list to see, and we put in the time to find it. Actually we found it with ease, we just had to put up with more driving. Lise spotted it in a busy riverbank area of the village of Daboya on the White Volta River that was running strong. Thankfully the high water had come down to reveal a few sandy areas and disturbed by the local ferry, a pair flew in quite close for us to view. They stayed for some time and we were elated.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (1)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* — (1) Seen only at Winneba Lagoon, 24 of them, always so elegant!

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (5)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* — (1) Seen at Winneba Lagoon at the estuary, about 30 individuals.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* — (2) One individual seen at Winneba Lagoon over by the old boat at the edge of the estuary, and another later at Butre Estuary.

Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* — (2) Seen below the escarpment of Zaina Lodge around the ponds while in Mole NP.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (1) Seen at Winneba Lagoon, one lone individual.

Forbes’s Plover *Charadrius forbesi* — (1) ***Special sighting** Special this was, as Paul had braved clouds of Tsetse flies for us to try to spot it. We finally honked the bus horn for him to give up and turning the bus around, there it was, in with a few Vinaceous Doves – we got fine views after all!

JACANAS: Jacanidae — (1)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* — (3) Seen at Winneba Lagoon, Bokro Marsh and at the pond under the Mole Motel, just one or two individuals each sighting.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (6)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* — (1) Winneba Lagoon, 18 were counted feeding avidly at a far distance.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — (1) Winneba Lagoon, about 35 in a tight group with the Curlew Sandpipers.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* — (1) Winneba Lagoon, numerous, 75+ estimated.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* — (1) Winneba Lagoon, equal numbers to Ruddy Turnstone, about 35.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — (3) Seen at Labadi Lagoon in Accra, Winneba Lagoon and along the Pra River.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (1) Winneba Lagoon, at least 40 individuals

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae — (1)

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* — (1) A wonderful lineup of this handsome species, 7 in total, was seen on the wide Pra River, perched up on a log on a small island we viewed from shore. Good scope views.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (3)

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* — (1) Winneba Lagoon, about a dozen mixed in with the more numerous Common Tern flock.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* — (1) Winneba Lagoon, at least 150 individuals, resting on the sand and flying and feeding.

(WA) West African Crested Tern *Thalasseus albididorsalis* — (1) *Special sighting Winneba Lagoon, two individuals we could scope off to one edge of the big Common Tern flock.

STORKS: Ciconiidae — (1)

African Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia microscelis* — (2) Seen below Zaina Lodge at the ponds, and flying, Mole NP.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (1)

Long-tailed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* — (3) Seen in saltwater wetland areas, at Labadi Lagoon in Accra, at Butre Estuary, and Winneba Lagoon.

HAMERKOP: Scopidae — (1)

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* — (4) Seen first on a travel day, going into Mole NP, then seen there on several days. Our closest views were at one of the ponds going into see the Egyptian Plover along that roadway.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (7)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea* — (4) Seen daily in the Mole NP area, best views watching two feed below us in fields near the pond below the Mole Motel.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* — (1) A large colony was nesting in huge trees of the village at Daboya where we saw the Egyptian Plover.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (1) One individual, seen the last morning we had breakfast at Zaina Lodge, Mole NP.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* — (1) Seen at Winneba Lagoon.

Western Reef-Heron *Egretta gularis* — (3) Seen at a bridge crossing in Accra on our cultural day, then seen in good number and quite close at Winneba Lagoon, and seen again at the grasslands leaving Ankasa Reserve.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* — (14) Common and widespread.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* — (2) Seen on the Samole Loop Road at Mole NP, both times we were on it.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae — (1)

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* — (2) Seen well in Mole NP where we almost got stuck with high water everywhere, likely on a nest. Seen on two days there and heard from Zaina Lodge.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (18)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* — (2) Seen outside of Accra, and then seen later near Rainforest Lodge.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* — (7) One of the more frequent raptors seen at the Shai Hills, Kakum NP and near the Atewa Mountains.

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* — (4) We had great views walking the road out from Headquarters at Kakum NP, where a pair was nesting. It was great to see one fly across the road, carrying a big palm nut. We then had super looks near the ponds below the escarpment of Zaina Lodge.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* — (1) Great views of a pair seen from the parking area as we assembled for the day's outing from Zaina Lodge into Mole NP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* — (4) Seen on the travel day going into Mole NP, on two days in the park, and then in travel between Bobiri and the Atewa Mtns.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* — (1) Six were seen on the Samole Loop in Mole NP

Congo Serpent-Eagle *Dryotrionchis spectabilis* — (2) *Special sighting Seen by the group on the Kwabena Forest day.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* — (1) One individual, in flight, seen on our last day in Mole NP.

(WA) Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle *Circaetus beaudouini* — (1) *Special sighting Seen on highway power lines going into Mole NP, we dove out of the bus to get to the scopes and it flew, but those with the high perch not yet out of the bus got good views, not the normal pattern of best sighting!

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* — (1) Seen well in the Shai Hills, perched.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Aquila africana* — (1) A pair was seen flying above the guard station in Ankasa Reserve, it flew repeated circles overhead, nice!

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* — (4) First seen in the Shai Hills, we got great views of this intent raptor, often sitting prominently on phone wires or tree perches as we came and went from Mole NP.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates* — (1) Seen between Mole NP and the White Volta River, perched.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* — (2) Incredible views at Kakum NP when one flew in close to our group birding the road from headquarters late afternoon. Also seen one day in Mole NP.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* — (3) Seen in Accra near our hotel, at Tema, and then at Mole NP.

Long-tailed Hawk *Urotrionchis macrourus* — (3) *Special sighting We heard the piercing calls at Ankasa Reserve, then the group at Kwabena Forest had spectacular looks at a pair, one a gray morph, and then we had another in the garden area of the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* — (14) Very common and widespread.

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* — (1-HO) Heard only by the large pond in Mole NP, we were distracted by the Pearl-spotted Owlet find and then it was gone.

OWLS: Strigidae — (4)

Grayish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens* — (3) Our first views at the Shai Hills on our night drive were most memorable, just incredible to see this big owl so well. Also seen in Mole NP on two different days.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* — (3) Our first view not far from the pond in Mole NP caused a stir as it responded to a call and many small birds flew in, keeping us busy sighting and sorting. We then had ridiculously fine views in small shrubs just off the pool and patio at Zaina Lodge each morning there.

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum* — (1-HO) After a slog of a hike trying to spot this small owl, we heard one much of the night calling across the creek from our cabins at Ankasa Lodge.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii* — (1-HO) Heard from our cabins at Ansaka Reserve the first night we arrived there.

WOODHOOPES AND SCIMITARBILLS: Phoeniculidae — (3)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* — (2) Seen around the Erata Hotel, and then later at a roadside

stop near Larabanga.

White-headed Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei* — (1) Seen by the group at Kwabena Forest

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* — (1) Seen in Mole NP actively poking and probing to feed in a tree, fairly low to the ground.

GROUND-HORNBILLS: Bucorvidae — (1)

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* — (3) One of the more memorable birds of the trip, splendid views coming and going from Zaina Lodge. Two different pairs, perched up in trees along the road to roost at sunset were so memorable; but we did not want to cause them to fly so we did not pause.

HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae — (10)

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Lophoceros camurus* — (1) ***Special sighting** Excellent sightings of three individuals high in the canopy at Ankasa Reserve.

West African Pied Hornbill *Lophoceros fasciatus* — (11) Common, bold, and widespread, we saw them often. A high count on one eBird list was 10.

African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* — (6) Seen in wooded terrain, in the Shai Hills and Mole NP, then again at the roadside stop at Larabanga.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* — (2)

Western Long-tailed (White-crested) Hornbill *Horizocerus albocristatus* — (4) Seen very well at Ankasa Reserve, on several occasions, then also Kwabena Forest and Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, all places with lush forests.

Western (Black) Dwarf Hornbill *Horizocerus hartlaubi* — (1) ***Special sighting** Spotted by Lise who was thrilled, suspecting first it was a woodpecker. Paul got it in the scope for high five's all around.

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata* — (1) ***Special sighting** Two were seen in the morning from the Canopy Walkway, Kakum NP, then in the afternoon we had seven individuals, all flying to roosts, wonderful!

(E) Yellow-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata* — (1) Two pair were seen in the afternoon from the Canopy Walkway in Kakum NP, returning to roosts we got to watch them fly across a large forested area, though distant they were at eye-level, so memorable!

(UGE) Brown-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes cylindricus* — (2) Wonderful views of a pair flying, from the Canopy Walkway in Kakum NP, both morning and afternoon.

Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator* — (4) First seen flying over the road at the Ebi Mangrove wetland stop en route to Ankasa Reserve.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (9)

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys* — (1) A wonderful sighting by keen-eyed Paul, we had been standing on the bridge at the entrance to Ankasa Reserve, taking it all in and noting several species when he spied this gem just inches above the water. Perched, it was motionless and could only be seen in a narrow window due to low hanging leaves. We gasped at its color and beauty.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* — (3) Confiding, we had good looks in Mole NP at a small pond, and then cracking views our last morning at the ponds of the mining concession on the road going into the Atewa Mountains.

White-bellied Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster* — (1) Seen very well, with some effort, at the small pond we had so many wonderful sightings at in at a low spot on the road in Ankasa Reserve. It perched several times, tricky as it stayed in dense vegetation.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* — (4) We first saw this species at a roadside bridge we had stopped to see Pruess's Swallows in profusion. It was there as we ooh and aahed at the swirling cloud of swallows, then we noticed it and it flew from our admiring eyes.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* — (2) We saw this species right at dusk, though it had been calling a lot it took us awhile to find and get it in the scope. Terrific views of a sought-after species, nice! We heard it again in the Atewa Mountains on our big hike the last full day.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* — (8) A very common roadside bird, often perched on phone wires, widespread.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* — (6) Heard on several days, we saw it at Ankasa Reserve and in the Atewa Mountains.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* — (1) Seen in the Shai Hills our first day, good views.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* — (2) Seen at Labadi Lagoon in Accra, then at Winneba Lagoon.

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae — (5)

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* — (3) We marveled at such good looks, eye-level of this bird on the Canopy Walkway at Kakum NP. We saw it again walking a trail of the NP, and another at Atwikwaa on the forest edge.

(WA) Blue-moustached Bee-eater *Merops mentalis* — (1) *Special sighting We walked up a fairly decent old road into the Atewa Mountains with this as our main hoped for species. Paul heard one before it landed, and got the scope ready. We all got super views as it kept returning to the same perch. This was against gray sky, so we were even more thrilled when he got the scope on a pair lower in vegetation. Against dark leaves we could see all the colors well.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bullocki* — (3) Quite common in Mole NP, what a beautiful bird! They were present in good numbers at some locations, we noted 25-30 at times.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* — (4) Seen at the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, then seen in the mining concession at the base of the road into the Atewa Mountains where they were fairly tame at the small ponds alongside the road.

(WA) Rosy Bee-eater *Merops malimbicus* — (2) *Special sighting Seen on both visits to Paul's yard near Rainforest Lodge. He said they are just coming in and we saw them in flight, lovely birds!

ROLLERS: Coraciidae — (3)

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevius* — (3) We saw this species in and around Mole NP, the first one was spotted on a highway utility wire and we stopped the bus to admire it.

(WA) Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster* — (1) We saw this species well in the Shai Hills, calling and flying, then perched at several spots as we watched it over the grassland.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* — (6) A forest bird, we saw them best at Kakum NP and Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

AFRICAN BARBETS: Lybiidae — (13)

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus* — (3) This highly vocal barbet was heard at Kakum NP repeatedly but we could never coax it out. After a glimpse in the morning, a return to Kwabena Forest in the afternoon scored excellent views of one perched in the open, much appreciated by all.

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli* — (2) We had excellent views of this species, in the scope, on our walk at Atwikwaa along the edge of farm and forest. There were three, working prominently in a dead snag for very clear views.

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus* — (4) At Kakum NP we found a lone individual then that same day watched a group of 5 of this species working intently on a hole, visiting it often, though in the end they moved off. Perhaps just thinking about nesting... We saw them again at Kwabena Forest, and a final time at Atewa, another lush forest species.

(WA) Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* — (4) We watched a pair high in the canopy from one of the

platforms at Kakum NP, heard them in Ankasa Reserve and spotted them again in the Atewa Mountains, our final morning.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus* — (3) We first encountered them at Kakum NP where we worked hard to finally see one well from the platform. We had good looks in Ankasa walking the road and locating one from its call. Heard again on the walk in Atewa Mountains.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* — (5) Seen on two days in Kakum NP.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* — (3) Seen very well our first day in the Shai Hills, then we had one in the garden area of Rainforest Lodge and one our final morning in the mining concession pond area on the road into the Atewa Mountains

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* — (1) Seen only on our first day in the Shai Hills.

(WA) Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* — (6-HO) Consistently heard only, in lush forests of Kakum, Ankasa and Atewa.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta* — (6) We got repeated good looks at this species, out in the open at several locations.

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti* — (3) We saw this species in the Shai Hills and then again, our last morning we watched a pair in the scope for some time at the entrance to the road to the Atewa Mountains.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* — (4) We saw this species above our bus in the carpark of the National Museum and Gallery in Accra, then again in the Atewa Mountains.

(WA) Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius* — (2) We had this species noted for the Shai Hills and then found two as we walked into the Mole Airstrip area.

HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae — (1)

Cassin's Honeyguide *Prodotiscus insignis* — (5) We first saw this species from one of the Canopy Platforms in Kakum NP and watched it feed in the canopy of massive trees. We then found them in all other lush tropical forested areas we birded.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (4)

(WA) Melancholy Woodpecker *Chloropicus lugubris* — (2) We had good scope views of a pair of this species, working on a prominent dead snag and foraging in adjacent trees as we walked along the road at Atwikwaa on the forest edge while at Kakum NP.

(WA) Fire-bellied Woodpecker *Chloropicus pyrrhogaster* — (2) Bev caught a glimpse of this species as we headed for the first canopy platform but we could not re-find it. The group going to see Picathartes the first day heard it distinctly as well.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa* — (1) Seen on our walk from Rainforest Lodge, then seen again as we walked into the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

(WA) Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera* — (1) We saw this species while birding the Mole Airstrip, we walked along some agricultural fields on a path between them, and one called and then stayed for a long time in a small dead tree. We had a fine study of its plumage and time to photograph.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (3)

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (6) Seen going into Winneba Lagoon, seen from the grounds of Rainforest Hotel, and seen on several travel days. Also on a utility tower going into the lower areas of the Atewa Mountains.

Gray Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* — (6) A pair was seen near Rainforest Lodge. We had sightings by the bee-eater nesting site and pond, of one flying above, and then a couple of sightings over near the Atewa Mountains.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* — (3) The group walking past Paul's house up the hill had looks at an individual,

then we saw them on travel days to and from Mole NP.

OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae — (1)

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* — (2) Seen on both days in Mole NP, several times, but the most memorable were two flying over the airstrip at close range.

NEW WORLD AND AFRICAN PARROTS: Psittacidae — (3)

Gray Parrot *Psittacus erithacus* — (2) We saw this species at two locations. eBird lists it as an escapee.

Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gulielmi* — (3) We heard them at Bonkro Village by the marsh, and then saw them at Kwabena Forest and again at the Atewa Mountains in lush forest areas.

(WA) Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus* — (4) Fairly common in both the Shai Hills and Mole NP, seen repeatedly in both locations.

AFRICAN AND GREEN BROADBILLS: Calyptomenidae — (1)

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis* — (1) One of the trip highlight birds, we saw it coming down from the Canopy Walkway in Kakum NP and were able to watch it in display, calling, leaping, twisting and fluttering its wings, fantastic. It had chosen a prominent perch and kept returning to it, working it up and down as a dance floor. Quite remarkable to see.

CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae — (3)

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* — (1) One individual observed in Mole NP.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina* — (1) Two were seen well in Bobiri when we were almost to the Visitor Center, they were in a mixed flock and feeding, flying a lot. Being so active it took some patience but we all saw them well, lovely bird.

(WA) Blue Cuckooshrike *Cyanograucalus azureus* — (2) Seen by the group that went into Kwabena Forest.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae — (1)

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* — (5) Seen in four of the five lush forest areas, Kakum NP, Ankasa Reserve, Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary and the Atewa Mountains. Best views were of three circling around us as we stood in a clearing in the morning at Bobiri, otherwise we saw lone individuals.

WATTLE-EYES AND BATISES: Platysteiridae — (4)

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea* — (4) Seen well on our first walks in Shai Hills, then we had them at Paul's garden, walking to his home from Rainforest Lodge, then seen again in Mole NP.

(UGE) West African Wattle-eye *Platysteira hormophora* — (2) Heard early on in the trip but seen well on one of our last days on the hike in the Atewa Mountains.

(WA) Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *Platysteira blissetti* — (1) ***Special sighting** We worked hard for this one, it was calling persistently and we persisted. It was Paul that zoomed in on it low in shrubbery, we'd been checking the canopy! Once we figured out it was low, it worked its way across a small clearing, tough to work based on observer position but seen well by most of the group. We had a second chance at it on the way down.

(WA) Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis* — (1) Great looks at a pair in the morning before breakfast, walking the grounds at Zaina Lodge. They were on a log pile at eye-level, nice!

VANGAS AND ALLIES: Vangidae — (3)

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* — (1) A noisy, active gang of this species was seen on our day in the Shai Hills, seven in total.

(WA) Red-billed Helmetshrike *Prionops caniceps* — **(2) *Special sighting** Seen at the Visitor Center area of Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, one group just shy of there and another on the grounds. We found a group as we hiked up the road going up into the Atewa Mountains on our last full day as well.

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus* — **(3)** A striking bird, we found them early on as we walked the forest edge at Atwikwaa in Kakum NP. We found them again in the lower area of mining activity and ponds at the start of the Atewa Road.

BUSHSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Malaconotidae — (8)

Brubru *Nilaus afer* — **(1)** Seen at the owlet pandemonium event at Mole NP, the only sighting of the trip.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* — **(4)** Seen at the Shai Hills, on our walk from Rainforest Lodge and again in Mole NP, typically seen as pairs, the female quite different in plumage from the males.

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabini* — **(2)** A canopy dweller, we found them from the platform at Kakum NP and then again at Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta* — **(1) *Special sighting** Really great views of this species up on reeds, posing for some time. We were at the lower reaches of the Atewa Road before starting our climb into the mountains.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* — **(4)** Seen in relatively drier areas at Shai Hills and Mole NP, low in shrubbery and as singles or pairs.

(WA) Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus* — **(4)** This gorgeous, colorful species was first seen in someone's yard as we were stuck in traffic in Tema! One was then seen on the very hot grassland habitat stop the day we left Ankasa Reserve. We then got to see it in more wild settings at Mole NP.

(WA) Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus* — **(2) *Special sighting** Quite a local species, we caught up to Carol who had seen it the day before during a rain storm in the same area, the mining concession at the start of the Atewa Mountain road.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus* — **(2)** We had good looks at an individual walking back from Paul's home and garden to the Rainforest Lodge, in a vine tangle at close range. We heard this species as well in Mole NP.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae — (3)

(WA) Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis* — **(1)** One individual seen at Bonkro Village on the day birding out from Picathartes Lodge.

Fork-tailed (Glossy-backed) Drongo *Dicrurus divaricatus* — **(3)** Seen in the drier areas of Shai Hills and Mole NP, also on the way to see the Egyptian Plover, roadside.

Velvet-mantled (Fanti) Drongo *Dicrurus atactus* — **(6)** Interesting as we saw them fairly often in four of the five lush forest areas, but not during the time at Ankasa. So Kakum NP, Kwabena Forest, and Boberi, at Boberi, and Atewa, they were in with a mixed flock including cuckooshrikes. High counts were 4 individuals, often seen as two.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae — (3)

Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* — **(1-HO)** This species was only heard on our hike into the Atewa Mountains.

Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer* — **(7)** We saw this species well, and were able to photograph it well, confiding. We saw it quite well walking up to Paul's home from Rainforest Lodge, and then had it regularly in Ankasa, Kwabena Forest and Atewa.

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* — **(2)** We heard it early on in the trip, but were able to see it on two of our outings in Mole NP, lone individuals.

SHRIKES: Laniidae — (2)

Yellow-billed Shrike *Lanius corvinus* — (2) A travel day bird, seen first near Tema to brighten up our traffic jam, in a rural area before the actual city. Then we saw it again going up to Mole, near Larabanga.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* — (9) Common and widespread, often seen on travel days or rural areas that we drove between outings.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (1)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* — (13) One of the most common birds, and abundant around villages and cities. We did not see them on the days we had full days in either Ankasa Reserve or Mole NP. Otherwise almost daily. The high count was 52, with several eBird checklists noting 20+.

ROCKFOWL: Picathartidae — (1)

(UGE) White-necked Rockfowl *Picathartes gymnocephalus* — (2) Most of the group went up on October 16, finding them right away at the rock area, where the guide shared that they had a nest around the rock, with chicks. The birds came in twice, and all got good looks. Steve and Peg went up Oct. 17 with a local guide, and waited quite awhile until one, and later the second came in. We also got very good views and a lot of behavior, the two following each other around and up finally into vines of their roost area. This is one crazy bird to observe, mainly due to the way it moves, like nothing else! Very odd little leaps and turns and quick!

HYLIOTAS: Hylotiidae — (1)

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* — (1) ***Special sighting** A write-in on our checklist, we were happy to find this species in Mole NP, it came as part of the commotion of the Pearl-spotted Owlet response team.

FAIRY FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae — (1)

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* — (1-HO) Heard only, this species was coming in to the water area where Eric almost got stuck, there were a lot of birds at one time, and this one we did not see but did hear clearly.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae — (1)

White-shouldered Black-Tit *Melaniparus guineensis* — (3) We first saw this species from the bus where we were enjoying a little air-conditioned cool down time between birding stints in the Shai Hills. We found it again in Mole NP, by the water area we almost got stuck in, a lone individual with a mixed flock and then again on the second full day in the park where we had a pair.

PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae — (1)

Forest Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons* — (1) ***Special sighting** We were able to scope this species as it built its massive nest high up in a more open part of the canopy, as we walked downhill after our birding in the Atewa Mountains. It was the first time in his birding that Paul had seen nest building, and it was fascinating to watch it weave and work a massive pile of fibers so high in the air.

LARKS: Alaudidae — (2)

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomena* — (1) Seen in the Shai Hills, a lone individual foraging on the ground.

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta* — (1) We found two individuals of this species when we went to look for Forbes Plover in Mole NP, they both like that low grass more open habitat.

NICATORS: Nicatoridae — (1)

Western Nicator *chloris* — (6) A very secretive species, we heard them more than we saw them, but with effort we got one sighted well in Ankasa Reserve. They were heard in the other lush forested areas we visited as well.

AFRICAN WARBLERS: Macrosphenidae — (4)

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* — (6) Fairly widespread, some of our best views were near Rainforest Lodge, but we found them at several locations, both open (Atwikwaa) habitat and lush habitat (Bobiri). Often in pairs, we had one group of three.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti* — (2) We saw this species first from the canopy platform where it looked so small in those massive trees. It was encountered again by the group at Kwabena Forest.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* — (2) Seen in Mole NP, near Zaina Hotel.

Gray Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor* — (4) Vocal, we heard it in several lush forest areas, with best views while at Kakum NP and on our hike day in the Atewa Mountains.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae — (18)

(WA) Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla* — (3) A bird of the drier habitats we explored while at the Shail Hills. Seen several locations in and around Mole NP.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* — (1) Seen only from the canopy walkway in Kakum NP.

Green-backed Camaroptera *brachyura* — (8) Widespread and common, we were often alerted by its cat-like calls and antics in the brush in a variety of habitats.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris* — (5) We first saw this species at Atwikwaa, walking at the edge of forest and farm, it was quite active in thick brush. We saw it at several other locations, including our final day in the Antewa Mountains where we got fine looks.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota* — (1-HO) This bird never stopped calling but we did not lure it out, encountered along the road walking into Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps* — (1) Always nice to get a new bird at the very end of a trip, we saw a pair foraging in the canopy as we walked up the road into the Atewa Mountains.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* — (2) We saw this species on two outings in Mole NP, both on the Samole Loop.

(UGE) Sharpe's Apalis *Apalis sharpii* — (3) A canopy specialist, we had good looks at this species from the first canopy platform at Kakum NP in the tree right over our heads (nothing like being 130 up in the air and still looking up into the canopy of 300+ year old trees stretching another 20 ft. higher!)

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* — (9) Widespread, often in pairs, vocal, in more open habitat throughout our journey.

Red-winged Prinia *Prinia erythroptera* — (2) The group going to the grassland habitat after leaving Ankasa saw this species well, singing. We then all had another along the edge of agricultural fields at the Mole Airstrip, the same spot we saw Fine-spotted Woodpecker so well. Seen on both days in Mole NP.

(WA) Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps* — (2) We heard and then finally saw this species in the Shai Hills with effort, then without effort had a great view along the road up from Rainforest Lodge.

Siffling Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* — (1) Bev photographed this species in the grasslands at Shai Hills, it was singing there.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* — (7) We had a focused search for these along the road up from Rainforest Lodge, felt satisfied we had good looks, and then saw them a number of locations with open brushy habitat in Mole NP and the lower reaches of Atewa.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* — (2) This bird keeps company with Red-winged Prinia, at least we had them in the same locations, the grassland coming from Ankasa Reserve and at the Mole NP airstrip area.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* — (1) We had very good looks at this bird, singing and teed up, while

walking the forest edge at Atwikwaa.

Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans* — (2) ***Special sighting** This species was a pre-breakfast regular sighting, likely the same individuals living in scrub habitat beneath the rock walls of Zaina Lodge on its escarpment. Normally found farther north, this was a great species to pick up at the Mole NP location.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus* — (1) A new bird on our very last morning was special, seen in the lower mining concession area of the Atewa Mountains on our last visit before returning to Accra, one individual.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* — (1) We had great looks and got photos of this species on one of our first outings in the Shai Hills.

(WA) Rufous Cisticola *Cisticola rufus* — (1) We had close encounters with a pair of this lovely species, singing, as we got out of the bus for a walk in the Shai Hills, the section where we also found so many bee-eaters for the first time, an open area where we walked, this pair perched up in scrub and small trees just off the road.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (9)

(WA) Square-tailed Sawwing *Psalidoprocne nitens* — (3) Seen on several days while in Ankasa Reserve.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* — (1) Seen only in the Shai Hills, against the rocky cliffs, a few individuals.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (11) Common and widespread, though in fewer numbers than Ethiopian Swallows, high counts were 10-12. Seen mostly in agricultural areas.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* — (11) Common and widespread, in villages as well as rural areas, often grouped on wired or around bridges. High counts reached 40.

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida* — (1) Seen in the grasslands at Brenu Beach

White-throated Blue Swallow *Hirundo nigrita* — (1) Seen along the Pra River, we looked for them on that big river as we looked for (and found) Rock Pratincole.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* — (3) Fairly common in Mole NP, the only location we saw them.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* — (1) Seen in Accra as we drove over to the Shai Hills.

(WA) Preuss's Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi* — (2) A large number were present and flying in and out from under a roadside bridge at Duabeng, in the Twifo area. Very impressive and very reminiscent of our Cliff Swallow.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae — (16)

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* — (6) Ghana is greenbul country, and this lush forest loving species was found in all five forested areas we frequented.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serinus* — (4) Seen on both days while in Kakum NP, at Kwabena Forest, and in a mixed flock in the Boberi Butterfly Sanctuary, fairly low near an opening where we got good views.

(WA) Gray-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus* — (3) This elusive species was seen on the walk from Rainforest Lodge up to Paul's home and for some, heard only, in Kwabena Forest, and at Boberi Butterfly Sanctuary where it came in very close and we saw s shape dash, barely qualifying as a "glimpse". Birding can be sporting...

Green-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda eximius* — (1-HO) Heard in the lush forests of the Bobiri Butterfly Reserve, though it never emerged from thick cover.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex* — (7) Widespread, but more in open habitats where we often saw them in pairs.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* — (4) Peg found the first one in the Anakasa gardens, viewing from her porch. She got some nice photos and Paul was surprised it was out in the open so much. Indeed, or next sightings were in lush forest there at Ankasa and Kwabena Forest, Atewa.

Yellow-throated Greenbul *Atimastillas flavicollis* — (1) Four individuals, perhaps a family group, seen walking the quiet road in Shai Hills, moving tree to tree feeding.

Swamp Greenbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura* — (3) This species delighted us, vocal, active, they seemed to

explode through low vegetation keeping up an endless chatter. We spied them from the canopy platform at Kakum, then we had them again at eye-level on the Atwikwaa.

(WA) Western Bearded-Greenbul *Criniger barbatus* — **(3)** Difficult to see but present and calling loudly at Ankasa, on the walk into the old guard station there we had three.

(UGE) Yellow-bearded Greenbul *Criniger olivaceus* — **(1)** A lone individual seen in Ankasa.

Gray Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis* — **(4)** Individuals and pairs were seen at Atwikwaa, Ankasa Reserve and the Atewa Mountains Reserve.

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris* — **(1)** Seen only on our walk along the forest edge at Atwikwaa.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* — **(5)** Seen in lush forested areas at Kakum, Kwabena and Antewa. We mostly saw them in pairs, on some walks, multiple pairs.

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* — **(9)** Widespread, often in pairs or small groups and vocal. They were found in varied habitat, more open and forested.

(WA) Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus* — **(2)** Seen on two different days while in Ankasa, the high count of three was on the walk into the guard station.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* — **(17)** One of the most regular and commonly sighted birds of the trip, a lovely songster that woke us up many a morning!

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae — (1)

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* — **(1)** Seen on our final hike day up into the Atewa Mountains, a lone individual.

HYLIAS: Cettiidae (2)

(WA) Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* — **(7)** Fairly common in forested areas.

(WA) Tit-hylia *Pholidornis rufiae* — **(4)** Paul described this as Africa's smallest bird and tiny they are. We watched a pair working on a nest from the canopy walkway in Kakum. We saw them again in Ankasa Reserve, Kwabena Forest and the Atewa Mountains.

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae — (1)

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocercus mccallii* — **(1)** This was a nice find, several pairs either off by themselves or with a mixed flock, on our walk into the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary. A single species family, so very nice to find.

WHITE-EYES AND YUHINAS: Zosteropidae — (1)

Northern Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* — **(2)** Our best views were right at Rainforest Lodge, where we had them in the prominent dead tree by the carpark, posing.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae — (1)

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus* — **(1)** We had fun watching this vocal and active flock fly across the Mole Airstrip never pausing in their busy feeding. We watched them poke and probe and thrash through the trees. How they feed and make that much commotion is something to behold, but typical of their clan.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (7)

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* — **(3)** Males and females have very different plumage and we got to see them both walking along the road at Shai Hills where they popped up in groups, in several places. They also flew in flocks of a dozen or more overhead. We then found them on a couple of days at Kakum NP and not again.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus* — (2) Seen in Kakum NP from the Canopy Walkway.

(UGE) Copper-tailed Starling *Hylopsar cupreocauda* — (1) Seen in Kakum NP as we walked past the office area and up into the forest one late afternoon. It was one of a mixed flock, moving fairly high in the canopy.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus* — (1) Seen on the open road in Mole NP where we encountered big numbers of bee-eaters our first morning.

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus* — (10) Widespread, often seen on travel days around human settlements, a large and brilliantly colored bird hard to miss!

Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* — (3) A small group seemed to come to the escarpment of Zaina Lodge from their roost, rest for a few minutes in a tree by the carpark and then take off for the more extensive forest below the escarpment. Seen all three mornings there but for just a few minutes.

Purple Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus* — (1) We saw four of this species up on wires just outside of Accra, the gift of a traffic pause!

THRUSHES: Turdidae — (2)

(WA) White-tailed Ant-Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis* — (1) Just a lone individual, low in roadside thick vegetation as we climbed into the Antewa Mountains, we surprised it and it hopped ahead for several times before diving further into the brush

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* — (2) Like book ends, we saw this species on our first full day in the Shai Hills, then one of our last mornings in the lower mining concession area of the Atewa Mountains.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscipidae — (16)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* — (1) We saw this species well, posing on small trees beside the road and our bus, driving into the Shai Hills.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica* — (1) Seen twice in the same morning in Mole, when we walked through some flooded forest.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini* — (2) A riverine species, in time we all got to see while birding at Ankasa Reserve, close to the lodge in the stream that divided it from the park.

(E) Ussher's Flycatcher *Bradornis ussheri* — (4) A canopy loving species, we had good looks from Kakum NP's Canopy Walkway and then in the Kwabena Forest.

Pale Flycatcher *Agricola pallidus* — (3) Lone individuals seen in two edge habitats, Atwikwaa and the grasslands coming out of Ankasa Reserve.

African Forest-Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata* — (3) Seen in three lush places, Ankasa Reserve where on one walk we had two pair, a lone individual at Kwabena Forest, and on our hike up into the Atewa Mountains another pair.

(WA) Gray Tit-Flycatcher *Fraseria plumbea* — (2) Also called Lead Flycatcher, we had this species on two mornings in the lower mining concession area of the road up into the Atewa Mountains.

Olivaceous Flycatcher *Muscicapa olivascens* — (1) One individual seen near the entry, around the bridge area between the lodge and park at Ankasa Reserve.

Northern Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* — (2) Seen in Mole NP on two days, lone individuals each sighting.

(WA) White-tailed Alethe *Alethe diademata* — (3-HO) This one remained elusive, though its song is quite distinct, heard only in Kakum NP and Ankasa Reserve in lush forests.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla* — (2) Seen in two drier habitats, Shai Hills and Mole NP.

Orange-breasted Forest Robin *Stiphronis erythrorhax* — (2) On our first morning in Ankasa, a few of the group got a good look at this singing beauty. It belted out its lyrical song but mostly stayed deeply hidden, despite Paul's patient coaxing. He knew we wanted a better look, or for some just a look, but it did not

cooperate.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* — (2) Seen well in Mole NP, from the bus and while walking.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* — (1) Just one individual seen through the clouds of Tsetse Flies that plagued us each afternoon. Thankfully they were not bad in the morning or around our lodge but we hit just as rains had arrived and release loads of them!

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* — (1) A prize find, perched up on one of the rounded boulders in the Shai Hills, we scoped it and watched it move around the rocks, great views.

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* — (3) This confiding little species was common around Zaina Lodge in Mole NP.

SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae — (19)

Fraser's Sunbird *Deleornis fraseri* — (1) Seen in the canopy on our first morning walk in Ankasa Reserve, one individual, one sighting for the trip.

Mouse-brown Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus* — (1) Seen in the mangrove area we scanned when driving from Rainforest Lodge to Ankasa Reserve.

(WA) Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* — (4) Seen in the lush forest areas, both days in Kakum NP, then at Kwabena Forest, and our final day in the Atewa Mountains, hiking.

Green Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris* — (2) A forest species, we had a good look our first full morning in Ankasa, and then saw them again working flowering trees on the way up into the Atewa Mountains.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* — (10) Widespread and common using variable habitat.

(WA) Pygmy Sunbird *Hedydipna platyura* — (3) This was true to its name, but despite the small size we got excellent looks, especially at the Mole NP airstrip where a pair was using a tall tree and repeatedly returning to the same perches. We saw it another day in Mole, then on the way into the Egyptian Plover site.

Reichenbach's Sunbird *Anabathmis reichenbachii* — (4) We were really pleased to find this species when birding in the mangrove area of the Ebi River between Rainforest Lodge and Ankasa Reserve, but then found it common and confiding in the gardens at Ankasa where we saw it daily.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* — (3) Common in the garden at Rainforest Lodge and surroundings.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanoaema* — (4) Seen on several outings in Kakum, probably best seen from the Canopy Walkway as we looped around. We found it again fairly high up in the Atewa Mountains our final day while hiking.

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* — (8) One of the more common forest sunbirds, we would find loud groups in flowering trees. Seen well at Kakum NP, Ankasa, Kwabenga Forest, Boberi and Atewa.

Buff-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra adelberti* — (4) Best seen at Kakum NP and in the Atewa Mountains.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* — (2) Seen in different parts of Mole NP where it was the common sunbird, including some that were off the deck of the Zaina Lodge.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* — (10) Widespread and common, this very colorful hummingbird was a delight to observe. At Akasa Reserve it would feed in large hibiscus plants – very photogenic!

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus* — (3) First seen in Kwabenga Forest, we had a second chance on the ridge trail in the Atewa Mountains.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* — (1) We saw them at several stops in Mole NP, where the high count was four, a species that lives up to its name with a rainbow of color.

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus* — (9) A large, widespread hummingbird, we got great views, especially in garden settings.

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae* — (1) A controversial sighting, as it appeared at some distance, across a gorge from Paul's home, but it perched there well for observation. Other species used the area, especially

Copper Sunbird so it was hard to track when it flew over to our side.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* — (5) A forest species, we had them in our five major forest sites.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* — (11) One of the more common sunbirds, seen in a variety of habits trending to the more open areas. At times they would feed so close, we could see all details clearly.

WEAVERS: Ploceidae — (17)

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* — (3) Common at Mole NP, the only location of the trip. They were just off our patio at Zaina Lodge and inquisitive. We saw them at several locations of the park, daily there.

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus* — (2) We first saw this lovely species on our walk at the forest edge at Akwikwaa, two of them. We later saw them at the guard station of Ankasa Reserve area, in the bamboo thickets.

Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens* — (1) We saw them at the low lying wet area and pond we walked to in Ankasa, at the far side of the pond, on a small island. Good scope views. There were three of them.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* — (3) We saw them in lush forested areas, probably best seen in Atewa working some palms in a small clearing of the forest.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* — (5) One of the first birds seen from the Canopy Platform, we watched one investigating the former nest of an oriole not far away. We saw them both days at Ankasa, at Kwabena Forest and at Boberi Butterfly Sanctuary and Atewa.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* — (1) Seen only in Mole NP, we had four one morning on a walk.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* — (2) Seen in Mole on both full days there.

Olive-naped Weaver *Ploceus brachypterus* — (7) Not numerous but widespread, we had them at the Shai Hills, outside of Rainforest Lodge in the thicker hedge row of vegetation walking up the hill and at Boberi, both days at Atwewa.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius* — (1) Just seen from our stop at the Bonkro Marsh where a large construction project was pushing in on that lovely wetland pond which on eBird is called Butre Estuary.

Chestnut-and-black Weaver *Ploceus castaneofuscus* — (5) Seen on travel days and around Rainforest Lodge, often in groups, high count was 12.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* — (8) A social weaver at nest sites, they were widespread and in a mix of habitat. Tolerant of human settlements.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* — (4) A beautiful bird, we first saw them at Kakum NP, both days there. We then saw them at Kwabena Forest and Atewa, in small numbers, one to three seen at a time.

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha* — (4) Social and noisy, we had a group working below us first walking up to the canopy platform at Kakum, then looking down on them from above there. We saw them each day in Kakum, and then at Kwabena and Atewa.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* — (4) We first saw this beauty teed up by the roadside on a travel day, then on all days while at Mole NP.

Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* — (8) Widespread, we were pleased males had good color, the most memorable was the displaying one showing off just below Paul's home and garden near rainforest lodge, we all took a ridiculous number of photos of this bird.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer* — (2) We saw this species only at Mole NP but on both days there.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* — (3) We saw this species in more open areas, Shai Hills, near Rainforest Lodge, the grasslands coming out of Ankasa Reserve. High count on one checklist was four.

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae — (16)

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata* — (16) Very common and widespread, tolerant of human settlement, especially common around agriculture and open areas. The high count was 12 at the grassland stop coming from

Ankasa.

Magpie Mannikin *Spermestes fringilloides* — (1) We had a flock of six fly into the dead tree in the carpark of Rainforest Hotel, a great chance to observe them well. This was our only sighting.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor* — (6) Seen in the lower stretch of the road up to Atewa, feeding on the road.

Green-backed Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula* — (1) Seen at a dash, a very busy group of this species Paul identified at Kwabenga Forest. Quick views and the only location seen.

(WA) Red-fronted Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons* — (1) *Special sighting This was a trip highlight, to find this difficult to see bird pulling apart a nest from last year and making repeated trips to do that, we got superlative views, videos and photos. And it was at the low lying water area and pond we stood at for quite some time admiring kingfishers, it only came in just as we were leaving there!

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus* — (2) Seen both in the forest area of the canopy walkway and the forest edge at Atwikwaa in Kakum NP, the only location we had this species.

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor* — (8) Well represented at all of the five forested areas we visited, seen as lone birds or pairs, often in mixed flocks.

Gray-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus* — (9) Widespread and seen in the forests and forest edge, and around Rainforest Lodge and the rural settlements there. Seen as lone individuals or pairs, vocal, often attracted our attention to a mixed flock.

(WA) Lavender Waxbill *Glaucostrelda caerulescens* — (1) A small group was seen at the end of the patio at Zaina Lodge, flying up the escarpment to land in shrubs by the lodge, on one of the mornings there, seen by some of the group.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* — (6) Seen first at Kwabena Forest, we then saw them near the river area with nesting bee-eaters at Mole NP, and then we saw them each day we were at Atewa, mainly in the first part of the road at the mining concession area.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* — (2) Seen on both full days we were in Mole NP, 3-4 at a time, often feeding in low shrubs or on the ground.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina* — (5) First seen in Kakum NP, we also had really good looks at one starting to build a nest on the road up from Rainforest Lodge. We also had them daily in the Atewa Mountains area, on the lower part of the road at the mining concession area.

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus* — (1-HO) We heard this species below us, overlooking the area torn up by recent mining, in open habitat with low shrubs. It was calling regularly but we did not spot it and being our final day, the airport was calling – we had to be content with heard only on this beauty. Next time!

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* — (2) Seen on both days in Mole NP, the high count on one eBird checklist was 4.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* — (2) A few of the group saw them while walking out from Rainforest Lodge the morning of October 16, we then had two on the road as we walked in the rain around the lower Atewa Road towards the end of the trip.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta* — (8) Carol first spotted this beauty on the grounds of Hotel Alexis in Tema; we caught up with her as it was visible as we loaded the bus the next morning. We then had them on a number of locations, particularly in more open habitat.

Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata* — (1) A wonderful find, two, at the Mole NP airstrip that is now overgrown. We had good eye-level views in small trees.

WHYDAHs AND INDIGOBIRDS: Viduidae — (3)

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* — (9) First seen in the Shai Hills, we then saw them on our travel days, walking out from Rainforest Lodge, and on the lawn at Akasa Lodge. A male there was very showy and displayed

often for a group of females. From the patio at Mole NP we watched a male and many females down on the short cropped grass (from warthogs and bushbuck) surrounding the pond.

Exclamatory Paradise-Whydah *Vidua interjecta* — (1) A wonderful find, seen as we were driving in to the Mole Airstrip, 3 individuals. These were males with long tails, and we got good views of them perched, extraordinary birds!

(WA) Wilson's Indigobird *Vidua wilsoni* — (2) Seen in Mole NP on both days we visited a small river area with nesting bee-eaters and a viewing blind. We saw one the first day and two the second.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (3)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* — (2) Seen in Accra and also in the village outside of the Atewa Mountains at a gas station.

Northern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* — (13) Very common, widespread.

Sahel Bush Sparrow *Gymnoris dentata* — (2) Seen from the patio at Zaina Lodge, where there were several confiding pairs.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae — (3)

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* — (8) Seen in the Shai Hills, Kakum NP, at the Rainforest Lodge where they would congregate by the pool, at least 7 in that group, and then seen again in the lower stretch of the Atewa road.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* — (2) Seen in the Shai Hills, working along the tracks in the road and adjacent open grassland habitat.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* — (1) Just one bird, one sighting, up and singing for really good views in the Shai Hills.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (1)

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* — (4) Seen at Rainforest Lodge, perching up in the dead tree of the carpark. Then seen at just about every stop and from Zaina Lodge while in Mole NP.

MAMMALS: — (24)

BATS

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* — (2)

HYRAXES

Western Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* — (2-HO)

PROBOSCIDS

African Bush Elephant *Loxodonta africana* — (2)

PRIMATES

Lesser Spot-nosed Monkey (Guenon) *Cercopithecus petaurista* — (3)

Green Monkey (Vervet) *Chlorocercus sabaesus* — (4)

Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas* — (3)

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* — (4)

SQUIRRELS

GAMBIAN Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* — (1)

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*—(1)

Forest Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri* — (1)

Western Palm Squirrel *Epixerus ebii*— (2)

Slender-tailed Squirrel *Protoxerus aubinnii* — (1)

Stiped Ground Squirrel *Euxerus erythropus* — (3)

HARES

African Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis* — (1)

African Savanna Hare *Lepus microtis* — (1)

FRUIT BATS

Straw-colored Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum* — (6)

Hammer-headed Fruit Bat *Hypsignathus monstrosus* — (3)

GENETS AND CIVITS

Common Genet *Genetta* — (3)

HYENAS

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta* — (1)

MONGOOSES

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (11)

Dwarf Crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis* — (1)

West African Crocodile *Crocodylus suchus* — (1)

African Five-lined Skink *Trachylepis quinquetaeniata* — (3)

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia* — (2)

Peters's Rock Agama *picticauda* — (7)

Rainbow/Orange-headed Agama *Agama agama* — (5)

(WA) Senegal Chameleon *Chamaeleo senegalensis* — (1)

Savanna (Nile) Monitor *Varanus niloticus* — (1)

Crowned Bullfrog *Hoplobatrachus occipitalis* — (1-HO)

Forest Frog xxx — (1)

West African Mud Turtle (Swamp Terrapin) *Pelusios castaneus* — (1)

Common Kusimanse *Crossarchus obscurus* (1)

PIGS

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* — (3)

SPIRAL-HORNED BOVINES

Northern Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* — (2)

DUIKER

Red-flanked Duiker *Cephalophus natalensis* — (1)

KOBS

Kob *Kobus kob* — (5)