

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO GHANA
In search of Picathartes

08 – 22 March 2014



Leader: Robert Ntakor

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A Client's Diary by Mimi, Brian and Simon

Saturday 8 March

A small but select group of three met up at Heathrow Terminal 5 for the lunchtime BA flight to Accra. The six and a half hour flight departed nearly an hour late but made up time so we landed pretty much on schedule. Immigration was slow but we did not have to wait long for the bags or to change money. Andrew, our deputy guide and Michel our driver were waiting for us and we were soon speeding off to Tena for the night. No food available but the beer was very welcome before heading for bed

Sunday 9 March

SAKUMONO LAGOON TO RAINFOREST LODGE

Robert joined us for breakfast at 7am. Little did we know that we'd actually had a lie-in that morning. Our first taster of what was to come was a spell at the coastal Sakumona Lagoons, first from the coast road and later from a dilapidated lakeside country club. Egrets and herons were numerous including several Black Herons umbrella fishing. Pied Kingfishers, Collared Pratincoles were seen and a Yellow-throated Longclaw was in the grass. Two large Monitor Lizards were on an island in the middle of the lagoon amongst a flock of White-faced Whistling Duck. Spur-winged Plover and Black-winged Stilt were amongst commoner waders. A Yellow-billed Shrike perched on wires close to the bus and a Senegal Eremomela was in a tree by the club.

The drive through Accra was the first of many interesting drives – people selling snacks, clothing, and drinks at every traffic light and carrying their stocks on their heads. The villages on our way to Kakum were full of fruit and vegetable stalls, where we picked up a huge bag of pineapples for the Rainforest Lodge. Lunch was at Hut d'Eric and our first chance to sample the local cuisine – based on fish, beef or chicken with spicy sauce and a choice of rice, plantain, yams or cassava.

We arrived late afternoon at Rainforest Lodge on the edge of the Kakum National Park, our base for the next five nights. We made the most of the last daylight and went out along a road behind the hotel for a little local exploration. This gave an introduction to the birds of the area such as White-throated Bee-eater, African Pied Hornbill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Olive-bellied and Copper Sunbirds and Yellow-crowned Gonolek. We returned to the lodge for dinner, beer, checklist and into bed by 9pm.

Monday 10 March

KAKUM NATIONAL PARK- CANOPY WALKWAY

We were up at 5 am (which was the norm from now on) and off to the National Park centre before sunrise. The day's main highlight was the famous treetop walkway. Mimi opted out and enjoyed a morning of personal tuition with Andrew on the local birds and butterflies, and getting down to some serious watercolour painting.

The first bird of the day was seen when it was barely light, a White-throated Greenbul, a bird best seen at this time of day when it is most active.

Brian, Simon and Robert spend about five hours on the walkway viewing from the various platforms built around the giant trees. During this time many species were seen at close quarters. A Congo Serpent Eagle was spotted perched at the top of a tree which flew overhead when Robert played its own call back to it. Male and female Little Green Woodpeckers were seen closely from one of the platforms. A Preuss's Golden-backed Weaver was spotted by Simon while supposedly looking at a Black-winged Oriole. Birds were at all levels. Yellowbills and Yellow-billed Turaco moving in the trees below us, Yellow-mantled Weavers, Shrike Flycatcher, Blue-throated Rollers at eye level, Sharpe's Apalis and Cassin's Honeybird in the trees above us. Swifts and swallows included Sabine's Spinetail, Fanti Saw-wing and Ethiopian Swallow. Five more Greenbuls were seen Little, Cameroon Sombre, Slender-billed, Golden and Honeyguide and eight sunbirds Green, Little Green, Fraser's, Blue-throated Brown, Olive, Buff-throated, Collared and Johanna's, to name only a few of the birds seen in a memorable morning's birdwatching.

After lunch and a short break it was back to the reserve centre to explore some of the forest paths with Robert, Simon and Brian covering some more of the walkway and Andrew and Mimi walking slowly back to the centre looking at butterflies and plants this time. The forest and walkway were both very quiet in the afternoon. Some of the species from the morning were seen again. Hornbills were heard returning to roost but were not seen.

As dusk fell we returned to the reserve entrance but the Fraser's Eagle Owl did not appear at its usual spot. We returned to the Rainforest Lodge for dinner, more beer and the checklist, today there were two lists – ground level and tree level!

Tuesday 11 March

ABRAFO FOREST NEAR KAKUM NATIONAL PARK

Michel and the minibus had been called off to another job and we were well served by 'Uncle' and a small coach for the rest of the trip. What luxury – no need to fight for window seats, but something of a challenge for Uncle who had to turn the coach round in the narrowest places. It attracted quite a lot of attention from the villages we passed – everyone seemed to think this was a new bus service.

Both the morning and afternoon sessions were based in the Abrafo forest. The morning started overcast which making the birds very quiet and reluctant to get up, but activity increased as did the temperature. A Rufous-sided Broadbill and a Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill were seen well after going off the main track into the forest. Western Bearded and Yellow-bearded Greenbills were compared. Other birds included Melancholy (Gabon) and Fire-bellied Woodpeckers, African (Red-chested) Goshawk and Black Bee-eater. The walk back to the coach mid-morning was quiet until there was a burst of activity that included Blackcap Illadopsis, Crested and Blue-billed Malimbis. The heat brought out magnificent dragonflies and butterflies and the frogs in the forest pools.

A lunchtime swim did much to revive us before setting off for afternoon session, which again was generally quieter than the morning. It was hot and thunder rumbled in the background for most of the afternoon. Shining Drongo and Copper-tailed Glossy Starling were seen. A Long-tailed Hawk was seen gliding over the forest and a Brown-cheeked Hornbill seen presumably going to roost. We returned to the coach to try for Fraser's Eagle Owl. We waited patiently in the gathering darkness and were about to try the playing the call when an owl was heard. We were rewarded with good view of a Fraser's Eagle Owl after a quick sprint through the forest by torchlight, coping with trailing vegetation and trying to avoid the frogs that had emerged from their pools. On the way back to the lodge we had wonderful views of a Long-tailed Nightjar resting on the warm road in front of the coach.

Wednesday 12 March

ANTWIKWA, TWIFO-PRASO & GYAWARE ROAD (Kakum national Park)

The morning's programme started at Antwikwa, the original park HQ and now accommodation for the park wardens and their families. Robert and Andrew were clearly known by everyone here, having spent many years with the Wildlife Service.

The morning began cool and misty and although the mist cleared quickly as the sun got up, it was some time before we could see any distance, so we had time to take in our surroundings – small farms growing bananas, plantain, citrus fruits, palm oil nuts and cocoa, much of which is locally processed. People walked past on their way to the day's work carrying a variety of equipment on their heads – wood, machetes, tools, chain saws, oil cans and plastic bottles.

The forest was more open here but a Kemp's Longbill seen by Mimi stayed well-hidden. Bristle-nosed and Naked-faced Barbets were compared as they were in the same tree. Swamp Palm Bulbul, Simple Leaflove and Dusky-blue Flycatcher were seen. White-spotted Flufftails were heard calling but could not be located.

From here we stopped at Twifo-Praso to look at a colony of Preuss's Cliff Swallows and then on to the bridge over the river Pra. The murky waters suggested a lot of soil erosion further upstream. Once again there was lots of local colour to add to the bird interest. The village had a wide range of businesses mostly connected with keeping vehicles on the road. The local carpenter and coffin maker was helping a customer to get a huge white and silver coffin into a rather small car. Children too small for school and wearing oversized

clothes watched us with interest; women carrying babies on their backs carried huge piles of wood on their heads using a mobile phone at the same time.

The bridge was a disused railway bridge now a main road for cars, bicycles and people -probably a good thing the railway closed years ago – the rails seem to be all that kept the bridge together. The target species, White-throated Blue Swallow, was seen perched on the bridge supports. A Rock Pratincole, Senegal Thick-knee and Common Sandpipers were on islands in the river.

We returned back to the Forest Lodge for some chillout time and a swim. In the afternoon we took a walk along Gyaware Road close to the village on the edge of the national park where Andrew comes from. The area was again open with trees and bushes mixed in with farmed areas. In contrast to the previous two days the birds were numerous and active. There were flocks of small birds with Bar-breasted Firefinch in with the Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Bronze and Black-and-white Mannikins. A Red-rumped Tinkerbird and Dideric Cuckoo posed for photographs in a tree against a clear blue sky. As dusk fell flocks of White-throated Bee-eater numbering into the hundreds came into roost in trees next to the track. By a small pond Vieillot's Black Weaver were building nests while frogs battled in the water.

Thursday 13 March

BRENU BEACH ROAD, BREMSO RESERVIOR

Our last full day at Kakum took us off to savannah habitat towards Cape Coast, much dryer and more sparsely vegetated than the park. There were some open areas of water and streams which attracted the birds. As we left the coach Oriole Warblers were calling. The three species of Tchagra: Black-crowned, Brown-crowned and most importantly Marsh were seen in the same area. Cistocolas were represented by Red-faced and Singing but a splash of colour was added by a Red-winged Prinia, and a Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike. We spotted an Osprey, Wood Warbler and a Spotted Flycatcher all probably on their way to Europe for the summer. After the forest the birding was easy going, with birds easily visible on the tops of trees or in bushes close to the road. Mark Williams, the big boss of the ground agents, met us on the road and chatted to us about the trip and his plans for future tours. A Finfoot was seen on a stream briefly twice but despite Andrew's best cross-country searching activities was not seen again.

It was a long drive back to the Forest Lodge for lunch. A definite feeling of the end of the stay was now apparent. The chill cabinet with the drinks was almost empty and much of the menu not available. It was back to another part of the road to Cape Coast for the remainder of the day, this time to a small reservoir surrounded by trees. A Giant Kingfisher was spotted by Mimi. Everything was very quiet now but a group of 10 Piping Hornbills fly into a tree showing well. We waited until dusk for owls and nightjars without luck but a Bat Hawk flew quickly through. We headed back for an early checklist and dinner since we had a long travelling day next.

Friday 14 March

ABOABO – PICATHARTES TO KUMASI

A day of real highlights. The cooler misty morning started with some birding at the north end of the national park at Aboabo. We had a wonderful close view of an African Pygmy Kingfisher that sat motionless on a branch for a long time. It turned out to have flown into the windscreen of another tour vehicle and had stunned itself. The couple in that vehicle had picked it up thinking it had been killed and had the experience of holding the bird while it came to. They had put it into the bush where we found it and eventually flew off. A Black (Great) Sparrowhawk flew over the tree tops. Several new species for the trip were seen including White-headed Woodhoopoe, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Forest Chestnut-winged Starling and Little Grey Flycatcher. A Grey Longbill was more difficult to see as it moved through the tangled vegetation. A Red-vented Malimbe completed the set of Malimbés.

The lunch stop was in an amazing restaurant at Assin Fosu. Was it still decorated for Christmas we wondered, or perhaps a party was expected? The chairs were huge leather 'thrones' in which it was very difficult to sit sufficiently upright to eat.

The sense of expectation increased as we took the hour's drive along increasingly narrower tracks to the village near the Picathartes site. We had to cross a small river where some of the local children were waiting to be splashed by the wash made by the coach. We then had to negotiate a fallen tree with just enough space

for the coach to get under. Finally we reached the little village. The children were very excited to see the coach arrive, and were completely fascinated by Brian's white hair and white beard. They crowded round him, pointing, pat their own heads and tugging at pretend beards. We told them he was Father Christmas!

Time was not on our side and not even a Black Bee-eater could delay us as the light began to fade and we had a swift walk through the forest to the escarpment. The Picathartes can appear as early as 4 o'clock so there was no time for hanging about. A couple of the villagers were with us to help us over fallen trees and up the final scramble to the makeshift benches where we sat to wait. We'd all got walking boots and trekking poles and they'd just wore flip-flops. One walked all the way with a bottle of water balanced on his head. We had a couple of good but rather brief views within minutes of arriving. The birds make no sound at all, they just appear like ghosts, and disappear without a sound. Brian's view was obscured by trees so while Andrew and Mimi made a start on the return trip Robert, Simon and Brian stayed on hoping for a better view and a photograph. Sadly, by the time another bird appeared it was almost dark and too dark for a decent photograph.

The day finished with a long three hour drive to Kumasi, our overnight stop on the way to Mole National Park. Kumasi is Ghana's second biggest city and its lights on the horizon were a welcome sight. Robert had phoned our menu orders through in advance (chicken, beef or fish as usual) so it was a welcome shower, a quick dinner and then bed!

Saturday 15 March

DRIVE TO MOLE FROM KUMASI

It was a positively leisurely start and a chance to walk round the grounds of the hotel before breakfast. There were few birds around but some interesting Christmas decorations in the trees.

Today was a long driving day but had a lot of local colour as well as a couple of leg stretching/birding stops on the way. The drive through Kumasi was fascinating – large street markets, people selling everything and anything at traffic lights – food, soap, bottled water, mobile phones, Sat Navs, windscreen wipers. There were markets specialising in refurbished electrical equipment especially fridges, markets full of car spares – engines, gearboxes, body panels. We also passed a huge funeral party – coach loads of beautifully dressed people in black and red gathering in a square. Robert explained that this kind of celebration is customary if the deceased has been a key figure in the community. A lot of money is spent on funerals of family elders and families try to out-do each other.

We stopped for 30 minutes at Offinsu Forest to look for Blue-headed Bee-eater and one was seen perched in a tree. Little Grey Greenbul, Cameroon Sombre and Red-tailed Greenbuls were also seen. There were some amazing large and colourful butterflies flying around us too.

We had an unscheduled lunch stop when the coach's air conditioning ground to a halt. Andrew and the driver headed off to get it fixed while the rest of the group spent several hours watching football on the TV. The further north we drove the drier and more sparse the landscape became. We left behind the little farms and the fruit growing for land down to rough pasture and piles of charcoal sold on the roadside – this is needed for fuel but is having a devastating impact on the local habitat. The northern part of Ghana is predominantly Moslem so the further north we went, the more village mosques we saw.

Inevitably the arrival at Mole National Park was very late and we were all very dusty and tired. The last stretch after leaving the tarmac road seemed never ending. Menu choices once again had been phoned through in advance.

In the dark it wasn't possible to see what a wonderful spot the Mole Motel was. It had a certain holiday feeling with tables around the swimming pool and guests sitting around drinking beer.

Sunday 16 March

MOLE DAY 1 Samole Loop, Brughani Wood, Office Loop

Breakfast was at 5.30 and as the sun rose we could see what a wonderful location Mole Motel was, perched on an escarpment overlooking a water hole, with the forest stretching away as far as one can see. Baboons skipped around scavenging for anything around and a family of warthogs made the place their own. Mole

National Park was the first wildlife protected area in Ghana but in the centuries before that it was one of the main trading routes for goods and slaves from Mali down to the coast.

We were out on the road by 6am with Moses our armed guard as an addition to the party - just in case of rogue elephants, he says. It was definitely no cooler for being higher up and it was generally too hot for birds and people to do much by 11am. The morning walk around the Samole Loop was very productive. It was the end of the dry season and there had been a lot of vegetation burning and many of the trees had few leaves. The bonus for us was that the birds were very easy to see, walking through the scrub was easy and there were good clear views of Hooded and Palm Nut Vultures, Bateleurs and Shrikas. The common bee-eater was now Red-throated which were numerous, African Pied Hornbill had been replaced by Northern Red-billed and African Grey Hornbills. We walked to and around a large dried waterhole though a Cattle Egret remained there. There was a large mixed party of birds feeding on insects which included Senegal Coucal, Oriole Warbler, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Northern Black Flycatcher and Red-throated Bee-eater. A Bearded Barbet hid in a bush. A pair of Red-headed Lovebirds gave flight views only. We returned to the road and saw two Brown Babblers before returning to the coach.

By 10.30 it was too hot for the birds (and for us) so we headed for the shade of the viewing platform overlooking the waterhole. We spent a delightful two hours watching elephants, Kob and warthogs while a crocodile patrolled the waterhole. There was a large flock of White-faced Whistling Duck, Cattle Egrets and Hadada Ibis with the elephants. African Jacana, Senegal Thick-knee and Wattled Lapwing were by the waterhole with a Black Crake making a typical brief appearance. The new kingfishers were Grey-headed and Malachite. A Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike was in the trees above the hide. We returned to the motel for lunch.

The afternoon outing was into Brugbani Woods on foot with the coach slowly following us along the road. The occasional park safari vehicle passed us. The occupants seemed rather surprised to see us on foot. Like most afternoons it was fairly quiet but there was mammal activity to compensate – Kob and Waterbuck walking quietly through the trees. White-shouldered Black Tits were seen. Sun Larks, Helmeted Guineafowl and Stone Partridges were in the open flat areas but there was no sign of Forbes Plover. A White-headed Vulture was perched at the top of a tree.

The nightjars on the warm road after dark were spectacular. Twenty individuals from four species either sitting on the road or flying away from us - Long-tailed, Plain, Red-necked and Standard-winged Nightjars. A fantastic end to a good day rounded off by a couple of cold beers.

Monday 17 March

MOLE DAY 2 Mognar Village and Mole River

This morning took us to an area of dry scrub on the banks of the Mole River. We passed the Mognar village outside the park gates just as all the children were walking or cycling to school, all smartly dressed in their school uniforms. The chores for the day were well underway with the women carrying buckets of water from the village pump on their heads. We also passed the latest bunch of Wildlife Service recruits on a training run and thanked goodness we were in our nice air-conditioned bus.

We parked the coach by a construction site for a new bridge. Once completed and the road surfaced it would open up the north part of the country. Needless to say it was being constructed by the Chinese using local labour. Not a hard hat in sight!

As we walked to the river Violet Turacos were seen perched and in flight. At the river there was a mix of active birds going back and forth across the river. Several White crowned Robin-chats were joined to two of the smaller Snowy-crowned Robin-chats. Blue breasted and Pygmy Kingfishers, Heuglin's Masked Weavers, Red-throated Bee-eaters and Square-tailed Drongo were also present. Moving away from the river a Wahlberg's Eagle flew over. Greater and Lesser Honeyguides were present closely together. We walked over to a small lake where Purple Heron and Little Bittern were seen. In the trees close to the lake were White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike and African Blue Flycatcher. As we returned to the coach a Grasshopper Buzzard was seen in a tree. We returned to the Mole Motel for lunch, a swim and siesta.

The afternoon followed a similar pattern to the previous day visiting the same areas looking for Forbes Plover but again without luck. We search through a wood and found White-fronted Black Chats. The White-headed Vulture was in the same tree again. Close by were an Abyssinian Roller and Green Wood-Hoopoe. After dark we looked for nightjars again but unsurprisingly there were much fewer than the night before though Long-tailed and Plain were seen again. A Greyish Eagle Owl flew across the road and perched in a tree. We returned to the motel and as water was still coming out of the taps we managed to get a shower.

Tuesday 18 March

MOLE DAY 3 Brugbani road, Samole loop

This was our last day in Mole before beginning the long drive back to Accra. This morning was the final hunt and last chance for the Forbes Plover, a very smart dry land plover, one of the key species for the trip. We scoured the dry arid scrub, much of it burned but showing green shoots of regeneration. Some of the birds around were carrying nesting material in readiness for the rainy season when much of the nesting takes place. The plover's call was reminiscent of calls of the marshes and seashore of the UK and it seemed very strange to hear it in such an arid area. Although we could hear the plover calling, it was a while before we managed a good sight of it. A single bird flew in landing close to us and even ran towards us before flying of again. Relief all round.

The rest of the morning was spent revising birds we'd already seen and still finding new ones. Flappet Larks demonstrated why they get their name. We searched around a small water hole where there was a flock of small birds coming in to drink including Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu and Red-winged Pytilia. A Rufous-crowned Roller was seen. The last stop of the morning was at the salt lick. It was now very hot here but there were still birds active. A Pearl-spotted Owlet was perched clearly in a tree and nearby were Broad-billed Rollers. A couple of Melodious Warblers were seen.

It was back to the motel in the late morning for a swim before lunch. The elephants at the waterhole have much the same idea – not moving much in the mid-day heat and going into the water to cool off.

After a relaxing couple of hours we headed into the forest behind the waterhole visible from the motel. There was considerably more wildlife in this part of the forest than we had seen before, primarily because of the proximity of water. Black Scimitar-bills were seen distantly. We had a fairly close encounter with a group of elephants who crossed the track not far in front of us. We retreated to the safety of the coach and enjoyed the views from there and then returned to the viewing platform by the waterhole where the silence was only broken by the splashing of catfish and the crocodile. The same range of birds was seen as in the previous visit. A Spur-winged Plover was an addition to the waders. A Bar-breasted Firefinch and a Yellow White-eye were seen. There was a large flock of Helmeted Guinea-fowl present. A Shinning Blue Kingfisher was spotted just before it got too dark to see.

Wednesday 19 March

DRIVE FROM MOLE to KUMASI

It was a relatively relaxed departure from Mole and we stopped at the 500 year old Larabanga mosque. It is the oldest mosque in West Africa and one of only a few mud mosques left in the whole of Africa. It has a capacity of 300 and is used every Friday when people from the village and surrounding area come for weekly prayers. There was another mosque in the village used for daily prayers.

Red-chested Swallows were on a wire in the village. A Dark-chanting Goshawk was seen as we bounced along the red coloured dusty road.

The only other stop in the day was at the Kintampo waterfall and at a resthouse for lunch and then on to Kumasi for the night. Despite a day spent travelling we did have a reasonable bird list at the end of the day.

Thursday 20 March

BOBIRI FOREST – ATEWA FARM BUSH

We had an early breakfast to make the most of the morning before another long drive. We visited a forest reserve on the edge of Kumasi which has been set up primarily for butterflies.

The tracks were wide so seeing birds on the tops of the trees was easy. At first the weather was rather dull and overcast so not much activity to start with. This soon changed and the birds rapidly became more active. We were particularly pleased to find White-crested and Black Dwarf Hornbills, Forest Wood-hoopoe and Blue Cuckoo-shrike. The other birds were those seen while at Kakum but Magpie Manakins were new. Once the sun came out the forest was transformed by thousands of butterflies of all sizes and colours, settling on the vegetation, drinking from the puddles and filling the air with colour. After lunch at the Royal Basin Hotel we headed off for the next leg of the journey. A quick bit of roadside running repairs to the air conditioning delayed us slightly but we still managed to have a short time in the Atewa Forest.

We arrived around 4pm and almost immediately it started to rain, the first of the tour. It lasted less than 10 minutes but it did cause an African Hobby to land in a tree much to Brian's delight in particular. We watched from the entrance to the track up the hill. Splendid Glossy Starling, Woodland Kingfisher and Blue-throated Brown Sunbird were seen.

The final stop was our hotel at Koriforida – a definitely smart place for our last night,

Friday 21 March

ATEWA HILL TOP and back to Accra

We made an early start to return to the forest of last night for the last birdwatching period of the tour. The hotel didn't do early breakfasts so we stopped at a roadhouse on the way. The breakfast was fine but the service was so slow that we had missed most of the early morning activity in the forest by the time we got there. Fortunately we had already seen the Blue headed Bee-eater earlier in the tour as we did not have the time to get far enough up the track to the areas where it was found. We moved slowly up the track for a couple of hours. Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, Green Crombec and Grosbeak Weaver were new species. A Kemp's Longbill was a catch up bird for some. On the way down Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher was seen, more or less the last bird of the trip.

After lunch there was no escaping the fact that the trip was now over and all that remained was to get to the airport at Accra in good time. Robert erred on the side of caution and allowed plenty of time. During the week the drive to the airport can take as much as five and a half hours but even though it was a Friday we did the journey in a little over two hours. There was plenty of time to have a last beer with Robert and Andrew and say our final farewells.

Saturday 22 March

The return journey went smoothly and we arrived back at Heathrow on time. The temperature at Heathrow was 5°C, only about 30°C colder than we had had in the last two weeks but at least it was not freezing or raining.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Robert and Andrew for finding and showing us the birds and looking after us so well during the tour. The carrying of telescopes and the supplies of water, biscuits and fruits during the days out were much appreciated. Thank you to all at Ashanti Tours and Ornitholidays for organising a most enjoyable and rewarding trip. Thank you all for writing the report.

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June 2014

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

Little Grebe	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>
Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticora</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides stratus</i>
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Western Reef Egret	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
African Cuckoo Hawk (Falcon)	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans parasitus</i>
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
African White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Congo Serpent Eagle	<i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i>
African Harrier Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Western Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
African (Red-chested) Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro m.</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Black (Great) Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
Long-tailed Hawk	<i>Urotriorchis macrourus</i>
Grasshopper Buzzard	<i>Butastur rufipennis</i>
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>
Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Francolinus bicalcaratus</i>
White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra (heard)</i>
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Forbes's Plover	<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>

Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>
Bruce's Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afar</i>
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Rock [Feral] Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>
Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gularis</i>
Red-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis pullarius</i>
Yellow-billed Turaco	<i>Turaco macrorhynchus</i>
Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>
Western Grey Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Oxylophus levaillantii</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Klaas's' Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Yellowbill	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
Blue-headed Coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>
Grayish Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo (africanus) cinerascens</i>
Fraser's Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo poensis</i>
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
Long-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus climacurus</i>
Plain Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>
Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>
Standard-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx longipennis</i>
Sabine's Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura sabini</i>
Black Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura melanopygia</i>
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>
Cassin's Spinetail	<i>Neafrapus cassini</i>
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx picta</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadribrachys</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maximus</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Black Bee-eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>
Blue-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops mullerii</i>
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>

White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Rosy Bee-eater	<i>Merops malimbicus</i>
Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Blue-bellied Roller	<i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>
Blue-throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
Forest Wood-hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus castaneiceps</i>
White-headed Wood- hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus bollei</i>
Green Wood-hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Black Wood-hoopoe	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>
White-crested Hornbill	<i>Tockus albocristatus</i>
Black Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Tockus hartlaubi</i>
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Tockus camurus</i>
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
African Pied Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>
African Gray Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
Piping Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna fistulator</i>
Brown-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes cylindricus</i>
Black- casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna atrata</i>
Bristle-nosed Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco peli</i>
Naked-faced Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco calvus</i>
Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>
Red-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus atroflavus</i>
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>
Hairy-breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>
Vieillot's Barbet	<i>Lybius vieilloti</i>
Bearded Barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>
Cassin's Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus insignis</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
African Piculet	<i>Sasia Africana</i>
Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>
Little Green Woodpecker	<i>Campethera maculosa</i>
Buff-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nivosa</i>
Melancholy/Gabon Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos lugubris</i>
Fire-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos pyrrhogaster</i>
Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>
Rufous-sided Broadbill	<i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i>
Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>
Sun Lark	<i>Galerida modesta</i>
Square-tailed Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne nitens</i>
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
Lesser-striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Preuss's Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon preussi</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
White-throated Blue Swallow	<i>Hirundo nigrata</i>
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common (House) Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
White-breasted Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina pectoralis</i>

Blue Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina azurea</i>
Little Greenbul	<i>Andropadus virens</i>
Little Gray Greenbul	<i>Andropadus gracilis</i>
Cameroon Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus curvirostris</i>
Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Andropadus gracilirostris</i>
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Andropadus latirostris</i>
Golden Greenbul	<i>Calyptocichla serina</i>
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>
Spotted Greenbul	<i>Ixonotus guttatus</i>
Simple Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla simplex</i>
Swamp Palm Bulbul	<i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i>
Icterine Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus icterinus</i>
White-throated Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus albigularis</i>
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
Western Nicator	<i>Nicator chloris</i>
Western Bearded Greenbul	<i>Criniger barbatus</i>
Red-tailed Greenbul	<i>Criniger calurus</i>
Yellow-bearded Greenbul	<i>Criniger olivaceus</i>
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha niveicapilla</i>
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapilla</i>
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla albifrons</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
Kemp's Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus kempii</i>
Grey Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus concolor</i>
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>
Rufous-crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>
Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>
Lemon-bellied Crombec	<i>Sylvietta denti</i>
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Violet-backed Hyliota	<i>Hyliota violacea</i>
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythropus</i>
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>
Whistling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lateralis</i>
Siffling [Short-winged] Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Red-winged Prinia [Warbler]	<i>Heliolais erythroptera</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Black-capped Apalis	<i>Apalis nigriceps</i>
Sharpe's Apalis	<i>Apalis sharpii</i>
Gray-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Yellow-browed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>
Fraser's Forest Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
Little Grey Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa epulata</i>
Dusky-blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa comitata</i>
Ussher's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocercus mccallii</i>
African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus nitens</i>
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>
Shrike Flycatcher	<i>Megabyas flammulatus</i>

Black-and-white Flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
Chestnut Wattle-eye	<i>Dyaphorophyia castanea</i>
Common Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>
Yellow-headed Picathartes	<i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i>
Blackcap Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis cleaveri</i>
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>
White-shouldered Black Tit	<i>Parus guineensis</i>
Forest Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus flavifrons</i>
Tit-hylia	<i>Pholidornis rushiae</i>
Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
Fraser's Sunbird	<i>Deleornis fraseri</i>
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Buff-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygia</i>
Tiny Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris minulla</i>
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchella</i>
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
Johanna's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris johannae</i>
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superba</i>
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris a cuprea</i>
Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Northern (Common) Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>
Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike	<i>Malaconotus sulfureopectus</i>
Marsh Tchagra	<i>Bocagia minutus</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Sabine's Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus sabini</i>
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Red-billed Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops caniceps</i>
Black-winged Oriole	<i>Oriolus nigripennis</i>
Western Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Shining Drongo	<i>Dicrurus atripennis</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Velvet-mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Forest Chestnut-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>
Copper-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis cupreocauda</i>
Purple Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>
Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalcurus</i>
Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
Splendid Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Bush Petronia	<i>Petronia dentata</i>
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>

Red-vented Malimbe	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>
Blue-billed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Heuglin's Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus heuglini</i>
Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>
Preuss's Golden-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus preussi</i>
Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythropis</i>
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macrourus</i>
Grey-headed Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>
Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>
White-breasted Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Red-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Bar-breasted Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rufopicta</i>
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>
Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>
Magpie Mannikin	<i>Spermestes fringilloides</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>

These lists represent those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.

Ornitholidays



Black Dwarf Hornbill



Blue-breasted Kingfisher



Blue-headed Bee-eater



Little Green Woodpecker



White-throated Bee-eaters



Yellowbill



African Pygmy Kingfisher



Lilac Beauty



Common Striped Swordtail



Larabanga



Kakum Walkway



Forbes's Plover



Palm-nut Vulture



Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill



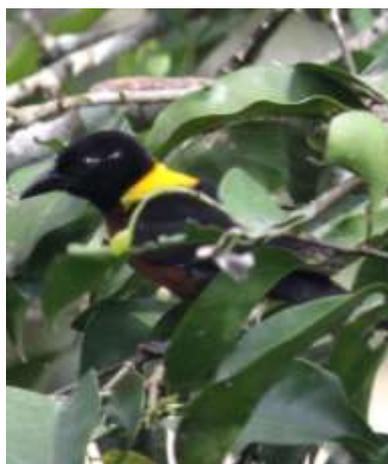
Shrike Flycatcher



Red-throated Bee-eater



Vieillot's Black Weaver



Yellow-mantled Weaver



Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike

Front cover: Yellow-headed Picathartes

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