



GHANA TOUR REPORT

23rd October to 12th
November 2016

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- White-throated Francolin
- Small Buttonquail
- Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle
- Cassin's Hawk-Eagle
- Long-tailed Hawk
- Red-thighed Sparrowhawk
- Nkulengu Rail
- White-crowned Lapwing
- Forbes's Plover
- Egyptian Plover
- Yellow-billed Turaco
- Black-throated Coucal
- Yellow-throated Cuckoo
- Fraser's Eagle Owl
- Akun Eagle Owl
- Brown Nightjar
- Black-shouldered Nightjar
- Standard-winged Nightjar
- Red-chested Owlet
- Chocolate-backed Kingfisher
- White-bellied Kingfisher
- Blue-moustached Bee-eater
- Black Bee-eater
- Rosy Bee-eater
- Red-throated Bee-eater
- Forest Wood-Hoopoe
- Black Dwarf-Hornbill
- White-crested Hornbill
- Willcock's Honeyguide
- Little Green Woodpecker
- Fox Kestrel
- African Grey Parrot
- Fernando Po Batis
- Red-billed Helmetshrike
- Marsh Tchagra
- White-breasted Cuckooshrike
- Purple-throated Cuckooshrike
- Yellow-headed Picathartes
- Western Nicator
- White-bibbed Swallow
- Preuss's Cliff Swallow
- Rufous-crowned Eremomela
- Capuchin Babbler
- Yellow-bellied Hyliota
- African Spotted Creeper
- Little Grey Flycatcher
- Forest Robin
- Pygmy Sunbird
- Black-bellied Seedcracker
- Quailfinch

SUMMARY:

Our extensive three week tour to fabulous Ghana visited a multitude of sites in search of some truly amazing birds, notching up a commendable trip total of 442 species. We visited all of the major coastal rainforests from Kakum National Park to the extensive forests of Ankasa. As we had plenty of time we had a chance to visit some lesser known sites such as Nsuta and Offinso Forests as well. We then drove inland to the drier environments of Mole National Park where a completely different suite of birds greeted us and continued further north to the border with Burkina Faso and Togo and the White Volta River where Egyptian Plovers breed. Of course Yellow-headed Picathartes takes some beating and it is always a fabulous experience to see these unusual birds, but there is so much more to this wonderful country and the variety of species is astounding.

Days 1 ARRIVAL

Despite British Airways trying their best to bump two of my group onto tomorrow's flight, thankfully everyone boarded the flight to Accra in Ghana. A reasonably pleasant 6 hour flight saw us touch down in Accra a little after 8pm where we were met by our guide Paul Mensah and transferred to a nearby hotel for the night.

Day 2 ACCRA – WINNEBA LAGOON – KAKUM NP (ABRAFO)

So this was it and after a relatively short night's sleep we were up for a 5.30am breakfast before driving some two hours to Winneba Lagoon. Our first trip birds appeared along the drive, nothing special but still nice to get the trip list started and we saw the common **Pied Crow**, **Piapiac**, **Western Grey Plantain-Eater**, **Yellow-billed Kites**, **Blue-breasted Kingfisher**, **Black-winged Red Bishop** and both **Palm & Little Swifts**. Upon arrival at the lagoon it was readily apparent that it was a very high tide and there were only a few small islands showing. However, a decent hour or so of scanning produced a few shorebirds such as **Marsh**, **Common** and **Curlew Sandpipers**, **Little Stint**, **Whimbrel**, **Common Greenshank**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Spur-winged Lapwing**. Ron then spotted a small group of **Collared Pratincoles** flying in to land on one of the islands, and we also saw a few **Western Reef Herons** dotted around the area and a **Striated Heron** flew by. A large tern flock held **Common**, **Sandwich** and a few **Royal Terns** and due to Richard's diligent searching a dark-backed gull was seen. Although it was rather distant on the far side of the lagoon and despite the heat haze it appeared to be an adult winter **Laughing Gull**, a very rare visitor to West Africa. The surrounding bushes were home to several **Copper** and **Splendid Sunbirds** and both species looked very nice when seen through the scope. Leaving here we headed to our lunch spot at Cape Coast, but first a quick comfort stop at a service station gave us views of **Yellow-mantled Widowbird**, **Senegal Coucal**, **Mosque Swallow**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, **Bronze Mannikin** and another group of **Piapiacs**. So not a bad morning and a good, gentle introduction to West African birds. Lunch was at a restaurant overlooking a fine sandy beach at Cape Coast and we had a nice meal with a cool, sea breeze before heading an hour to the Rainforest Lodge at Jukwa – our base for the next three nights to explore Kakum National Park.



Akun Eagle Owl

Our birding in Ghana really took off this afternoon with a walk along a track through what is called locally as farmbush habitat. It's basically secondary growth with a few taller trees left standing but it's always productive and we picked up most of our species by standing in one nice spot with a view down into a valley. Several **Superb Sunbirds** got the ball rolling, and then we saw **Western Olive**, **Blue-throated Brown** and **Collared Sunbird** feeding around the same tree. A **Speckled Tinkerbird** then flew in, a **Piping Hornbill** was scoped in a tall tree and **Lesser Striped Swallows** and **Fanti Saw-wings** flew over. A pair of **Black Bee-eaters** looked sexy in the scope and were followed by **Ussher's** and **Lead-coloured flycatchers**, **African Harrier-Hawk**, **African Pied Hornbill**, **Splendid Starling** and **Black-and-white Flycatcher**. I was particularly pleased to catch up with a

long-standing bogeybird – **African Cuckoo-Hawk**, ok it was an immature but whatever! There was also **Little Grey Greenbul**, a fine **Melancholy Woodpecker** spotted by Gail, and a cracking **Yellow-spotted Barbet**. Then we walked further along seeing a fine **Buff-throated Sunbird**, **Whistling Cisticola** and a **Pale Flycatcher**. Paul then led us to an open area where we waited for nightfall before calling in an awesome **Akun Eagle-Owl**, which I phone-scoped and never expected such a decent result especially in the low light. We ended the day with a **Long-tailed Nightjar** hovering in front of us before finding another one perched on the track as we walked back to the coach.

Day 3 KAKUM CANOPY WALKWAY

Must admit it did hurt when the alarm went off at 04:30am and with breakfast shortly after we were soon driving to Kakum National Park. How best to describe a morning's birding here is very difficult as there's always a steady flow



Kakum canopy walkway

of quality species and time passes all too quickly. Even walking to the start of the canopy walkway gave us **Green Crombec** and a delightful **Forest Robin** hopping along the trail in front of us. The canopy walkway is suspended some 40m above the forest floor and you get a great view of the surrounding area – as long as you can ignore the heart-pounding, bouncing and moving walkway between the solid platforms! Anyway, we had a great four hours here before the activity died and the heat got too much and our birdlist reads like a ‘Who’s Who’ of desirable species. So here goes: 3 **White-crested Hornbills**, a superb **Brown-cheeked Hornbill**, flyby **Tambourine Dove**, a pair of **Black Bee-eaters**, **Sabine’s Puffback**, **Speckled, Red-rumped** and **Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds**, **Fire-bellied Woodpecker**, **Yellow-spotted** and **Hairy-breasted Barbets**, **Yellowbill**, the rare **Willcock’s Honeyguide**, **Cassin’s Honeybird**, **Slender-billed, Ansorge’s, Spotted, Golden, Little Grey** and **Honeyguide Greenbuls**, 3 **Tit-Hylas**, **West African Wattle-eye**, **Violet-backed Hyliota**, **Rufous-crowned Eremomela**, **Sharpe’s Apalis**, **Yellow-browed** and **Olive-green Cameroptera**, **Grey Longbill**, **Copper-tailed Starling**, **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike**, **Blue Cuckooshrike**, **Western Black-headed** and **Black-winged Orioles**, **Grey-headed**, **Chestnut-breasted** and **White-breasted Negrita**, **Red-headed Malimbe**, **Velvet-mantled Drongo**, **Preuss’s Weaver**, **Maxwell’s Black Weaver**, **Little Green**,

Green, **Blue-throated Brown**, **Collared** and **Superb Sunbirds**. Phew! Lunch and a siesta back at the hotel were very much appreciated.

After scoping a nice **Magpie Manakin** across the road from the hotel we left at 3.30pm and returned to the canopy walkway, which was not unexpectedly much quieter than this morning. But we still picked up a few trip birds such as **Lanner**, **Palm-nut Vulture**, a cracking **Yellow-billed Turaco** and an immature **European Honey Buzzard**. We stayed until dusk when a **Brown Nightjar** was heard below us but failed to respond to the tape, so we returned to the coach and headed back to the hotel.

Day 4 ANTIKWA

We birded the Antikwa section of Kakum NP first thing this morning. Once again (as everyday is) it was very hot and humid, but there were more clouds and mist than on previous days but the rain kept off until we were back at the hotel for lunch. So we began with an adult **African Hawk-Eagle** before Paul called in a skulky **Puvell’s Illadopsis** in a roadside thicket. Not everyone saw it well but it gave brief views to most of us. Then we crossed the road and walked to a small swampy area underneath the bushes and called in a **White-spotted Flufftail**. This showed reasonably well as it walked under the tangle of vines and creepers hanging over the water. A **Grey-headed Bristlebill** was also at the same spot but wasn’t very obliging, although the **Blue-billed Malimbe** Ron spotted posed nicely. As we walked back to the road a **Lowland Sooty Boubou** began calling and this too skulked in the densest section of some bushes but despite this we managed to see it sufficiently well to tick it! Then we drove a little further before walking a short distance during which we found a pair of **Green Crombecs** displaying and feeding in an area of low bushes close to the track, as well as **Diederik Cuckoo**, **Olive-bellied Sunbird**, **Viellot’s Black Weaver**, **Black-necked Weaver** and a flyover **Red-chested Goshawk**. Another short drive took us further into this farmbrush habitat but this area also had some much taller trees. Around a fruiting tree were numerous **Bristle-nosed** and a few **Naked-faced Barbets**, plus a couple of showy **Swamp Palm Bulbuls**. However a soaring **Cassin’s Hawk-Eagle** showed wonderfully well right over our heads and was on view for several minutes so we could study its plumage in full. There was also a few **Orange-cheeked Waxbills** feeding with a flock of **Black-and-white Mannikins** beside the track, a **Red-vented Malimbe** at the top of a tree and another pair of **Blue-billed Malimbe’s**. We then walked back to the coach and set off towards the Pra River, stopping along the way to have a look at a large colony of **Preuss’s Cliff Swallows**. These pretty little birds were nesting underneath a road culvert and gave point-blank views as they flew in and out. Down at the

river I was rather relieved to find a few **White-bibbed Swallows** feeding over the water, as they hadn't been seen here recently due to the high water levels. A couple of pairs of **Rock Pratincoles** were also here, a **Cassin's Spinetail** flew over and a **Mangrove Sunbird** was also here.

In the afternoon we went to another section of open forest and this turned out to be a rather productive session. We found **Blue-headed Coucal**, **Simple Leaflove**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra** and **Red-bellied Paradise-Flycatcher**. Richard played a blinder by calling a **Black Sparrowhawk** flying over and then finding a **Guinea (Green) Turaco** we had been searching for. Another abortive owling session followed and we were happy to return to the hotel for some nice cold drinks and another decent dinner.

Day 5 ABRAFO – BRENU BEACH ROAD

Breakfast at 5am as usual and then we headed back to the Abrafo section of Kakum NP where the first bird of the day was a **Red-chested Goshawk** flying over giving much better views than yesterday. We followed this with an obliging **Red-tailed Greenbul**, **Green Turaco**, **Fanti Saw-wing**, **Ussher's Flycatcher** and **Black Bee-eater**. The trail we took this morning went through excellent forest but was rather quiet, however we gained in



Rufous-sided Broadbill

quality what we lacked in quantity and it doesn't get much better than a displaying **Rufous-sided Broadbill** that we watched for a good ten minutes. A few little flurries of activity in the canopy above us produced **Johanna's** and **Fraser's Sunbirds**, female **Sabine's Puffback**, **Red-bellied Paradise-Flycatcher**, brief **Western Bearded Greenbul**, **Cameroon Sombre (Plain) Greenbul**, and a perched **Icterine Greenbul**. Eventually, after much searching we tracked down a calling **Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** to its perch high overhead and managed to scope the little beauty. There was also **Black-and-white Flycatcher**, **Honeyguide Greenbul**, **Western Black-headed Oriole** and **West African Wattle-eye**. Leaving this patch of forest we

walked along the main path and scoped 35+ **Rosy**

Bee-eaters in a large tree. What cracking birds they are and we spent quite some time watching them before returning to the coach, but not before admiring a pair of **Vieillot's Barbets**. Driving back to the hotel, we stopped beside a small pool where an **African Pygmy Kingfisher** was spotted and as we watched this a **Blue-breasted Kingfisher** also appeared.

Lunch was at 12 o'clock and we left the hotel to go birding at Brenu Beach Road at 1.30pm. We stopped at the Ashanti office to meet the friendly staff before arriving at Brenu Beach Road at 3.00pm and boy was it hot. We lingered in the air-conditioned coach for a while before venturing outside! Despite the heat, Paul managed to locate a **Marsh Tchagra** and this bird gave amazing views as it perched on a bare branch for a while before joining the female a little further away. Wow! We then saw a pair of **Lanners** flying over, **Green-headed Sunbird** and a couple of **Little Bee-eaters**. A puddle in the road was drawing in lots of birds and we managed to see **Bronze Mannikins**, **Orange-cheeked Waxbills**, **Black-rumped Waxbills** and a few **Bar-breasted Firefinches** coming on to drink. Walking along the road and we picked up a **Wilson's Indigobird**, **Singing Cisticola**, **African Wattled Lapwing**, **African Hobby**, **Grey Kestrel** and a **Yellow-crowned Gonolek** that seemed to be predated a colony of **Village Weaver** nests. With the sun setting we returned to the coach, seeing a rare **Pied-winged Swallow** and headed to our next accommodation at Sekondi for a two-night stay.

Day 6 NSUTA FOREST

Just under an hour away from our guesthouse is Nsuta Forest, a seldom-visited piece of reasonably extensive forest. It's being logged these days and probably not as good as it used to be, yet we found a number of new birds here this morning. Arriving around 6.30am we walked along a side track that took us far into the forest

and we got the ball rolling with a cracking **Finsch's Rufous Thrush** that came in several times allowing everyone to get on it. Then a few **Cassin's Spinetails** flew low over the treetops and we had a pretty decent look at them before they disappeared behind the tall trees. We followed this with scope views of the often-tricky **Yellow-billed Barbet**, **Square-tailed Saw-wing** and a great **Western Nicator**. A **Dusky-blue Flycatcher** then posed nicely before we headed along a narrow trail where a few of the group got on a **Kemp's Longbill**. Whilst tinkering with this bird a **Tessmann's Flycatcher** flew in right in front of us. Back on the main track we stopped to scan from an open area at the top of a hill and enjoyed nice looks at several **Sabine's Spinetails**, a couple **Red-fronted Parrots** flew right past us, a **Blue-throated Roller** flew overhead, a **Blue-headed Wood-Dove** flew by and a pair of *Gabonensis* **Black Cuckoos** were called in. Walking downhill we came across a flock of superb **Red-billed Hemet-Shrikes** and they lingered near us for some time giving great views through the scope. We then decided to walk back towards the coach as the temperature began to soar and we were seeing more butterflies than birds. A good decision as it turned out, as a pair of scarce **Black Dwarf Hornbills** were seen. Then a **Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher** showed briefly and a cracking **African Emerald Cuckoo** flew in and landed overhead. One of the best birds of the morning was the diminutive **African Piculet** that posed repeatedly over the track. We ended our morning session with **Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** and **Crested Malimbe** before returning to the sanctuary of our air-conditioned coach....!



Fraser's Eagle Owl

We returned to the forest in the late afternoon where a tree full of **Great Blue Turacos** was the highlight. We also saw **Copper-tailed Starling** and a few commoner species before waiting for the sun to set. Once it was sufficiently dark we called in a fantastic **Fraser's Eagle-Owl** to round off yet another great day.

Day 7 NSUTA FOREST - ANKASA

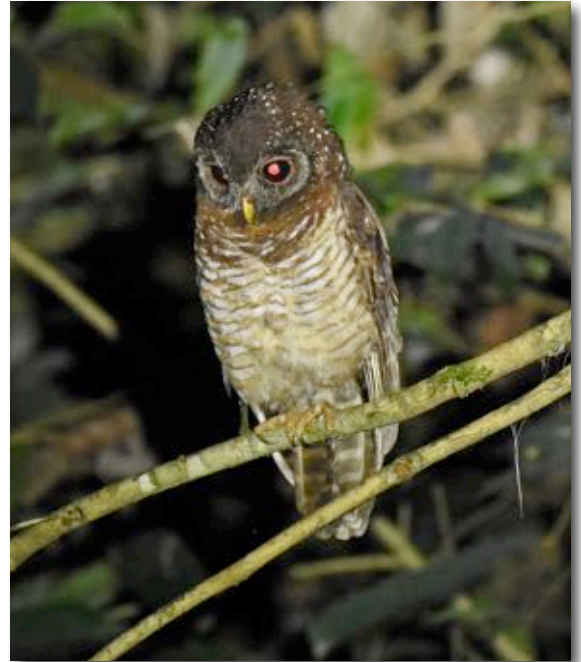
We returned to Nsuta Forest and walked along the main road but it was very quiet so decided to head along the trail we took yesterday. We did get a pair of active **Fraser's Forest Flycatcher** along the road but nothing else. Once we were along the trail a **White-crested Hornbill** was perched on a dead stump and showed very well in the scope. Then a **Yellow-billed Turaco** was seen, followed by **Dusky-blue Flycatcher**, and a little later a **Grey-throated Flycatcher** showed in a dark area of canopy. Further on we saw **Grey Longbill** and **Spotted Greenbul**, before bird of the day, a fantastic **Red-thighed Sparrowhawk** flew by and landed in a large tree allowing us just long enough to get a scope on it. Wow! We couldn't really top that but a large tree held a pair of **Chestnut-capped Flycatchers** and a singing **Black-capped Apalis**, with a pair of **Sabine's Puffbacks** closer and a **Tiny Sunbird** feeding right in front of us. After this little flurry of activity we began walking back to the coach, stopping to scope a pair of obliging **African Piculets** over the track and Anthony and I saw a **Black Dwarf Hornbill** along the way as well.

We left after lunch and headed towards our next base at Ankasa, but along the way we stopped at a small roadside marsh to view a colony of **Orange Weavers**. There was also a fine **Black-bellied Seedcracker** on view constantly as it collected nesting material right in front of us. And it was about now that the heavens opened and we had some really heavy rain that ruined our chances of finding **Reichenbach's Sunbird** so proceeded to Ankasa, arriving around 4pm. Our arrival was greeted by a pair of scarce **Cassin's Flycatchers** along the river and for those of us that waited later a cracking **Shining-blue Kingfisher** perched below the bridge.

Day 8 ANKASA

Our full day in Ankasa forest was a little disappointing as bird activity was very low and most of the birds weren't tape responsive at all. However, a number of new birds were nailed and we began with a few **Blue-headed Wood-Doves** along the track as we drove around 7 kilometres deeper into the forest in a couple of jeeps. As we began walking a pair of **Western Bearded Greenbuls** showed reasonably well before we reached the first pond. Here a **White-bellied Kingfisher** was present but not seen by everyone and a **Yellow-billed Turaco** called overhead. Further on a pair of **Hartlaub's Ducks** flew off as we reached the second pond and then from here an uphill walk took us to an open area where a **Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** was scoped. The third pond didn't have anything of note so we walked back, and then spent quite a long time trying to get on a calling **Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill**. It was calling from the canopy of a huge tree but several of the group caught a sight of it before it flew away.

We were having lunch brought to us at the old camp and along the way a **Black-throated Coucal** flew across the track in front of us, and a **Blue-throated Roller** was scoped on some pylons. We rested for several hours over lunch and then walked back to the ponds but the afternoon was even quieter, although a few people caught up with a **White-tailed Alethe** that a few of us had seen earlier. Back near our camp at the river a **Shining-blue Kingfisher** appeared again and a **Giant Kingfisher** was seen by Ron. After dinner an **African Wood Owl** was spotlighted at the edge of camp and was a great way to end the day.



African Wood Owl

Day 9 ANKASA – RAINFOREST LODGE



Zoothera Birding group at Ankasa

We took the riverside trail near camp this morning and the highlight was a fantastic **Yellow-throated Cuckoo** teed up in the scope – such a scarce bird and very poorly known. A flock high up in the canopy held several **Yellow-bearded Greenbuls** and a **Shining Drongo**, whilst **Rufous-winged Illadopsis** and **White-tailed Ant-Thrush** were only heard. After this little rush of new birds there wasn't anything else to report and after walking a few kilometres along the main track we returned to camp early and packed our belongings in readiness for our journey back to the Rainforest Lodge at Kakum. Over lunch, Richard found an antswarm which held several **White-tailed Alethe**, **Rufous-winged Illadopsis** and even a skulking **Nkulengu Rail**, a **Shining-blue Kingfisher** was also seen by a few of us,

whilst John saw a **White-bellied Kingfisher** along the stream, as the rest of us were drinking coffee back at camp! After lunch we left Ankasa and saw Both **Reichenbach's** and **Brown Sunbirds** at the usual stake-out. The drive to Rainforest Lodge at Jukwa gave us our first **Red-necked Buzzard** of the tour.

Day 10 ABRAFO - BONKRO

We had a few hours to check out the Abrafo section of Kakum NP again. A **Red-faced Cisticola** showed well, and there were numerous **White-throated Bee-eaters** with several flocks flying around, with some perching in

full view nearby and a **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** also posed nicely over the track. But we spent probably way too long trying to get decent views of **Red-cheeked Wattle-eye** that seemed to have a knack of eluding us pretty much every time we thought it was just about to come into view. A few of the group had reasonable sightings but it wasn't a satisfactory experience overall. But what a stunning little bird! There was also a few other previously seen species such as **Black Bee-eater**.....



Yellow-headed Picathartes

However, we were all distracted somewhat by the afternoon's excursion to see **Yellow-headed Picathartes**. Arriving at the village around 2.15pm we walked through the nearby forest and up a steep trail into the hills, which took us about half an hour. Upon arrival we positioned ourselves on the bamboo benches and waited. Well we didn't have too long to wait as within fifteen minutes this much-wanted species came into view and we spent a fantastically enjoyable half an hour watching it preening, stretching and feeding about 30 yards in front of us. What a bird this is and one of the highlights of most people's birding career.

Day 11 BOBIRI FOREST

Just a short 45 minute drive from our hotel in Kumasi was Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, an excellent patch of lowland forest. We walked along the wide track through excellent habitat notching up our first **Forest Chestnut-winged Starlings**. Then we took quite a while but eventually tracked down a calling **Red Dwarf-Hornbill** that had been so good at eluding us, but we got it. As soon as we had scored this cracker, a **Red-chested Owlet** called from behind us and there it was, perched in the open underneath the canopy of a low tangle of leaves and vines. What a delightful little bird and we were able to watch it at leisure. Walking further along the track and at long last, the much-wanted **Long-tailed Hawk** flew across in front of us, before circling us a few times. It only gave flight views but what an exquisite bird with an extraordinarily long tail as its name suggests! We also had **Cameroon Sombre Greenbul**, **African Cuckoo-Hawk** and **White-crested Hornbill**. We also came across a few mixed feeding flocks, with old friends such as **Sabine's Puffback**, **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher**, **Yellow-mantled** and **Preuss's Weavers**, **Western Black-hooded Oriole** etc. We also tried calling in **Brown Illadopsis** without luck, and also only heard **Buff-spotted Woodpecker**, **Magpie Mannikin** and **Afep Pigeon**. Diving out of the forest a **Blue-billed Firefinch**, **Pin-tailed Whydah**, **Bronze Mannikin** and **Wilson's Indigobird** were seen.

After lunch we returned to the forest in the late afternoon and turned up a few corkers. We saw a couple of **Brown-necked Parrots** flying low over the canopy and a fine **African Grey Parrot** flying past us as well. Then, as we were walking along the track at about 5pm a large bird walked across in front of us in a shady section under some bamboo – **Nkulengu Rail**.!!! I think it was true to say everyone was stunned, when we realised what we had just seen. A mega tick! And then at dusk we spotlighted a surprisingly small **Brown Nightjar** flying through the trees and over our heads to round off a quality afternoon session.

Day 12 OFFINSO – MOLE NATIONAL PARK

Early this morning we found ourselves at Offinso Forest, which turned out to be a very good couple of hours birding before the long trek north to Mole National Park. It was very busy with lots of bird activity and we began with displaying **Pin-tailed Whydahs**, **African Grey Woodpecker** and **Whistling Cisticola** perched and in the scope before

leaving the parking area. The habitat here is much drier than we'd been used to, with more open forest and secondary growth, subsequently there was a much different suite of birds here. A pair of **African Hobbies** sat in a large tree looked rather nice through the scopes, whilst a reasonably showy **Puvel's Illadopsis** was seen by everyone this time. We followed a wide track further into the forest seeing **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Orange-cheeked Waxbill**, **African Firefinch**, **Broad-billed Roller**, a pair of **Black-and-white Flycatchers**, **Klaas's Cuckoo** and **Pied Flycatcher**, as well as more commoner species. Then as we rounded a corner an **African Civet** was walking along in front of us. Unfortunately it had an injured leg and that's why we had such good views but it was a beautiful animal to watch for a few minutes before it slipped away into the grassland. At 10am we turned around and headed back to the coach and boy was it hot with the sun beating down on us from a cloudless blue sky. Yet we weren't finished as we heard the skulky **Capuchin Babbler** call nearby and after a bit of manoeuvring some of us had a reasonable view. Once they had disappeared we carried on walking with only a **Blue-bellied Roller** of note before reaching the sanctuary of our air-conditioned coach.

It was a long, tedious drive as we travelled north towards Mole National Park, but also interesting to see how the habitat changes from the wetter forest to more open bush country the further north we drove. And there were some good birds seen along the road including **Black-headed Heron**, **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**, **Abyssinian Roller**, **Lizard Buzzard**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Grasshopper Buzzard** and **Long-tailed Glossy Starling** to name a few. And it was just getting dark as we reached our lodge so we'll have to wait until the morning to see what the view is like.

Day 13 MOLE NATIONAL PARK

After our usual 5am breakfast we set off into Mole National Park in our coach along the Samole Loop, complete with an armed guard. We drove down from the escarpment our lodge is situated on and into the bush country where bird activity was high – how delightful..!! The first bird of the day was a party of three **Stone Partridges** sitting on the track in front of the coach, and not a bad way to begin. A little further along a female **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill** was seen perched in a tree, looking rather cumbersome. Our first walk of the morning was fascinating with birds everywhere and right in front of us we saw **Bush Petronia**, **Little Weaver**, **Northern Puffback**, a group of **Senegal Eremomela**, **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu**, and a **Willow Warbler**. We followed a sandy track towards some taller trees where a **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** performed well, **Northern Black Flycatcher** was perched at the top of a tree and a pair of **Oriole Warblers** were seen by everyone. I think we were all

amazed at the sheer numbers of **Red-throated Bee-eaters** here, as they were literally everywhere and we enjoyed great views of them. A flock of **White-throated Bee-eaters** were also seen flying overhead. We then drove a little further before walking again and this time we saw a cracking **Violet Turaco** perched in a bare tree, **Beautiful Sunbird**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Hadada Ibis**, and a singing **Yellow-fronted Canary**. Another short drive and we saw **Callithrix Monkey** and our first **Kob** from the coach before spending some time from a viewing platform overlooking a pool and marshy area. Our first **Helmeted Guineafowl** were seen on the walk in, along with a pair of **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weavers**. The trees around the platform held **Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Brubru**, **Swamp Flycatcher**, brief **African Blue Flycatcher**, and a bright **African Golden Oriole**. We walked around the side of the marsh seeing **Senegal Thick-Knee**, more **Hadada Ibis**, **African Wattled Lapwings**, and flyover **Bateleur** and **White-backed Vultures**. Then we drove on to a shady area to look for firefinches, with just a few of the group seeing **Black-Bellied Firefinch**. There was also **Hamerkop**, **Double-spurred Francolin**, **Senegal Batis**, **Wire-tailed Swallow** and a **Lead-coloured Flycatcher** in the surrounding area.



Red-throated Bee-eater

So by now it was almost 10.30am and exceedingly hot so we drove back to the lodge to freshen up and cool down. There's a great viewpoint at the lodge where you can look down on a large water hole and some scanning from here turned up a nice variety of birds with **Grey-headed Kingfisher** posing nicely and Anthony spotted a perched **White-headed Vulture**. There was also a **Woolly-necked Stork**, **Black-headed Weaver**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, and flyover **Martial Eagle** and **African Hawk-Eagle** as well.

The afternoon session proved to be a mixed bag as we headed to an open area to look for **Forbes's Plover**, which failed to materialise. We were a bit preoccupied with the Tsetse Flies but our new head nets did prove to be useful. However, there were several **Sun Larks** present to provide our first tick of the afternoon. It was then that we experienced a freaky tropical storm that came out of nowhere, turned the sky black very quickly, had gale force winds and driving rain, thunder & lightning – the works. So that put paid to any 'nightjarring' here and we drove off. Luckily the storm passed and we headed to another open area, arriving at the perfect time as it had just got dark. We found 2 **Long-tailed Nightjars**, an **African Scops-Owl** and a **Scrub Hare**, but the biggest surprise was a **Common Buttonquail** spotlighted from the coach. Just what it was doing here out in the open I haven't a clue but we were thankful that our luck was changing! It was just a shame the calling **Northern White-faced Scops-Owl** failed to show. Driving back to the lodge there were 2 different **Greyish Eagle-Owls** and a **White-tailed Mongoose**. Other animals seen today were **Common Warthog**, **Olive Baboon** and a **Waterbuck**.

Day 14 MOLE NATIONAL PARK

Headed to the old airstrip, one of the more famous birding sites around this vast area. In fact we spent quite some time here as the light got better and we enjoyed some nice scope views of **Senegal Parrot**, a singing **African Moustached Warbler** eventually showed well in the tall grass, a cracking male **Pygmy Sunbird** appeared and a **Black-crowned Tchagra** was seen in song flight. Then a trio of **Bearded Barbets** flew into a bare tree and we thoroughly enjoyed the scope views of these charismatic birds and we finished here with a gang of noisy **Brown Babblers**. Then we walked out onto the dirt road and found **Fine-spotted Woodpecker**, **Black-billed Wood-Dove** and **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** before hopping onto the coach and driving a little way. We hadn't got far when a pair of **Black Scimitarbills** were seen, prompting a hasty exit for more nice views. Then we birded around the bridge at the bottom of the road where an **Oriole Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Apalis** appeared in the same field of view, and a gang of vociferous **Green Wood-Hoopoes** came in to check us out. Then we walked into the forest and had a mad few minutes with **Spotted Creeper**, a pair of **Yellow-bellied Hyliota**, a pair of **White-shouldered Black Tits** and **Senegal Batis** all coming in to the owlet call. We walked up to a nearby creek, seeing a **Wahlberg's Eagle** along the way, and also had **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **African Blue Flycatcher**, **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** and a very bold **Levaillant's Cuckoo** before heading back to the lodge for a rest.



Forbes's Plover

With just a **Bateleur** seen over lunch we headed back into the National Park at 3.15pm and hadn't really gone far before a superb **White-breasted Cuckooshrike** was spotted from the coach. After a bit of a wait we walked up the hillside and had close views of a pair as they tried to hide in a large tree. What a great bird! And there was also a **Martial Eagle** overhead. Moving on and a **White-fronted Black-Chat** was next up, a much-wanted lifer for yours truly. Along the sandy track we were driving along there was **Double-spurred Francolin**, **Stone Partridge** and a few **Four-banded Sandgrouse**, with **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** also new. Our local guides checked a few open areas for the elusive **Forbes's Plover** without luck, but we did see **Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling** and a pair of **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills**. Upon reaching the same area as yesterday

afternoon we were all amazed to find 5 **Forbes's Plovers** (see photo on previous page) right out in the very same area we had traipsed around yesterday. What a bird and one we'd almost given up on seeing. We were definitely on a roll and tried our luck with **White-throated Francolin**. After a tense wait when the bird kept calling just out of sight. we eventually had two views of it crossing the sandy track in front of us. Then with the sun setting it was night-bird time and what a result as we found 2 **Standard-winged Nightjars**, 13 **Long-tailed Nightjars** and 4 **Greyish Eagle-Owls**.

Day 15 MOLE NP – TONGO HILLS

After packing our luggage onto the coach and having breakfast we headed to the disused airstrip for a few hours birding this morning. We didn't get anything new but had some nice looks at some previously seen species. Then we headed away from the national park and drove north through increasingly arid savannah, stopping at a small village to scope some **Red-chested Swallows** sat on telegraph wires. And that was the format for most of the days birding, simply stopping to check any interesting birds as we sped northwards towards Bolgatanga. So our frequent stops produced **Grasshopper Buzzard**, **Lizard Buzzard**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Red-necked Falcon**, **Long-crested Eagle** and **Western Marsh Harrier**. Lunch was taken at a nice hotel in a



Standard-winged Nightjar

small town before continuing our journey. We did spend half an hour at Nasia Bridge which gives a good view of a large lake on one side and a small marsh on the other. A pair of **African Pygmy Goose** were star attractions here, but we also enjoyed nice looks at a male **Black-headed Weaver**, **Black-rumped Waxbill**, **Yellow-crowned Bishop**, flocks of **Red-billed Quelea** coming down to drink, and a brief **Black Crake**. There was also **Great** and **Intermediate Egrets**, **Black-winged Kite**, distant **Spur-winged Goose**, and others. Just along the road we had to stop the coach when a fabulous **Exclamatory Paradise-Whydah** was seen flying parallel to the road and we jumped out to get fantastic views as it flew around, well dancing in the sky would be more accurate with an extraordinary long tail – what a sight! Then it took another hour and a half to reach the Tongo Hills, a scenic area of large boulders and rocks and our arrival at 4.30pm was perfect as the heat of the day had passed. There were plenty of **Gosling's Buntings** (a recent split from Cinnamon-breasted Bunting), a few **White-rumped Swifts**, but the 3 **Fox Kestrels** we found took some beating and in many people's top 5 birds to see on the tour. But we couldn't locate **Rock-loving Cisticola** so will have to return. It was just a short drive to the nearby town of Bolgatanga where we spent the next two nights.

Day 16 WHITE VOLTA – TONO DAM

Our destination this morning was the White Volta and its resident **Egyptian Plovers**, but first we had a few stops to make along the way. After negotiating the worst road of the entire tour, a back-breaking, pot-holed torturous 'road' we stopped in what proved to be surprisingly quiet bush country. Along the way we'd seen **Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling**, a colony of **White-billed Buffalo-Weavers**, **Yellow-billed Shrike**, **Rufous-crowned Roller**, **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers** cavorting on their cattle and **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**. As I said, the bush country was quiet with just **Viellot's Barbet**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, and another **Exclamatory Paradise-Whydah**. Driving towards the river we saw a few **Chestnut-bellied Starlings** and this was one of the major target species from our time in the north of the country. And there was also **West African Swallow**, **Village Indigobird** and **African Silverbill** to admire as well. Walking down to the river a **Lizard Buzzard** posed nicely but by now everyone only had one bird on their mind. Sure enough on an exposed sandbank there were 4 magical **Egyptian Plovers**, resplendent in all of their glory and a species to rival the picathartes for its 'wanted value'. We spent quite some time watching and photographing them and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience,

taking into account our close proximity to Burkina Faso and Tongo just a stone's throw away. Oh and the pair of **White-crowned Lapwings** present on the same sandbank weren't too bad either! In all we counted 8 **Egyptian Plovers** in the area but eventually we had to drag ourselves away as it was a bone-shaking 2.5 hour drive back to the hotel. We also saw **African Mourning Dove**, **Piapiac** and **Red-billed Firefinch** this morning as well.

In the afternoon we birded the Tono Dam causeway area getting great views of a **Quailfinch** feeding on the ground, along with **Gabar Goshawk**, **Speckle-fronted Weaver** and a **Spotted Thick-knee**.

Day 17 BOLGATANGA - KUMASI

This was a travelling day as we drove approximately 560kms back to Kumasi, but not before a very swift visit to the Tongo Hills where in just a few minutes we had great views of **Gosling's Bunting**, 5 **Fox Kestrels** and a **Rock-loving Cisticola**. But it was a long driving day, although we did stop for our one and only **Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle** perched on a roadside pylon and the only other new bird was a flyby **Namaqua Dove**. We eventually arrived at the hotel in Kumasi at 5.15pm.

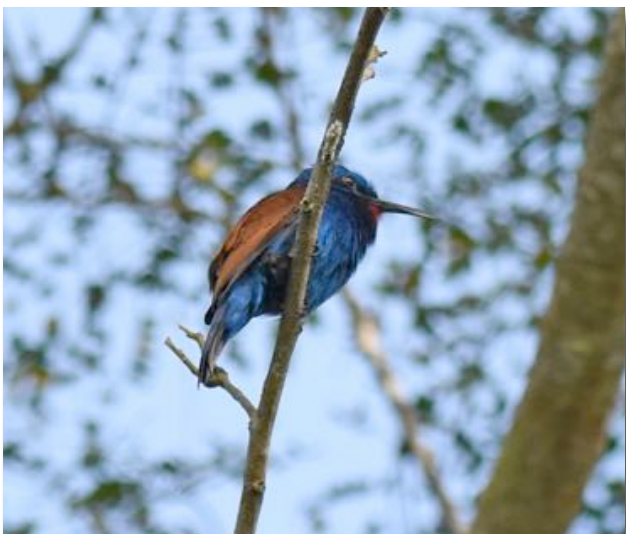
Day 18 BOBIRI FOREST - ATEWA

We spent a few hours back in Bobiri Forest this morning and found the birding to be really, really slow. There wasn't much bird activity and only a few 'old friends' calling, however our morning was saved as we drove out when a **Forest Wood-Hoopoe** was found. We had great views of it through the scope, calling repeatedly from the top of a bare tree. The only other birds of note were a **Cassin's Honeybird**, **Sharpe's Apalis**, **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher**, **Red-vented Malimbe** and **Yellow-mantled Weaver** with a few other previously seen species also seen.

We had a 2.5 hour drive to lunch and then visited the nearby Atewa farmbrush where several **Viellot's Black Weavers**, **Black-and-white Mannikin**, **Tit-Hylia**, **Square-tailed Saw-wing**, **Red-fronted Parrot**, **African Emerald Cuckoo**, **Klaas's Cuckoo**, **White-throated** and **Black Bee-eaters**, **Chestnut-breasted** and **White-breasted Nigritas**, and best of all a **Lemon-bellied Crombec** were seen.

Day 19 ATEWA

This was the day of the big hike up to Atewa ridge, a walk of around 3 miles uphill. This turned out to be one of our best day's birding of the entire tour as the forest, especially once we reached the ridge at around 740m, as we found quite a few new birds as well as some special species we'd seen earlier in the tour. It was a relatively gentle uphill walk and we began with **Cameroon Sombre Greenbul** before reaching the 'quarter way' point where rather surprisingly we found a pair of **Blue-moustached Bee-eaters** this low down the hill. And what a superb bird, showing amazingly close to begin with before relocating into the higher tree above us. We then struggled to see **Black-capped** and **Brown Illadopsis**, with only Chris seeing the former species and nobody getting on the latter. A **White-tailed Ant-Thrush** showed briefly before we reached the top of the hill, where a superb **Little Grey Flycatcher** posed along the track. The forest was very good up here with some huge trees and dense lower understorey where **Golden-backed Weavers** and **Rufous-crowned Eremomela** were seen, and we all saw a **Pale-breasted Illadopsis** quite well. A **Crowned Eagle** flew over but only heard a **Many-coloured Bush-Shrike** and **Olive**



Blue-moustached Bee-eater

Long-tailed Cuckoo. At lunch Ron found a flock with **Little Green Woodpecker** and **Narina Trogon**, although the rest of us searched we couldn't relocate the same flock. However we did find a couple other flocks with **Little Green Woodpecker**, **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** and **Rufous Flycatcher Thrush** being the best birds.

Walking back took several hours but along the way we had nice looks at **Sharpe's Apalis**, **Lemon-bellied Crombec**, **Chestnut-capped Flycatcher**, **Black-capped Apalis** and a **West African (formerly Bioko) Batis**. Upon reaching the coach we only had a short wait until dusk, when we spotlighted a superb **Black-shouldered Nightjar** that perched on a stump right next to the track. What a great way to end a fantastic day.

Day 20 ATEWA FARM BUSH – SHAI HILLS

We weren't expecting much from this morning but you can never tell. And so we were proved wrong as we had nice views of several **Red-headed Quelea** feeding in a small marshy area. There was also **Little Greenbul**, **Whistling Cisticola**, **Northern Grosbeak Weaver**, and both **Diederik** and **African Emerald Cuckoos**. Then we took a different track down to another marshy area where **West African Wattle-eye** was seen en-route. We were looking for **Compact Weaver**, a bird that had eluded us until this morning when we found a small group



Black-shouldered Nightjar

feeding, although it took a while for everyone to get on to the male. There was also **Marsh Tchagra**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **Western Bluebill**, **Little Bee-eater** and **Red-vented Malimbe** here as well. Our last stop produced a **Cassin's Hawk-Eagle** and for the hardy few that walked up the hill a little were rewarded with fine views of a **Black-throated Coucal**.

After lunch we drove towards Accra, stopping at Sakumono Lagoon but due to strong winds the birding here was difficult and most of the birds were distant. But we still saw **Northern Pintail**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Grey Plover**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Reed Cormorant**,

Squacco Heron, **Western Marsh Harrier** and others. We were glad of an early finish today and some extra time at the hotel for a change!

Day 21 SHAI HILLS – END OF TOUR

For our final morning's birding we visited the Shai Hills, a drive of around an hour from the hotel. Of course, breakfast was at the usual time of 5am – as it has been every morning, apart from one we had at 5.30am!. This is a nice, easy way to end the tour as its along a level, wide trail through the grassland and bushes. The first bird of note was **Blackcap Babbler**, followed by brief views of **Buff-spotted Woodpecker**. At some cliffs we saw 4 **White-crowned Cliff-Chats**, **Lead-coloured Flycatcher**, **Bearded Barbet**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Siffling Cisticola** and **Cardinal Woodpecker**. Moving on to the grassland there were many **Croaking Cisticolas**, but our views of a pair of **Red-necked Buzzards** take some beating as they displayed right over our heads. Chris had a brief view of **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat**, whilst a **Yellow-throated Longclaw** flew into a nearby tree and posed very nicely indeed. There was also a flock of **White-crested Helmet-Shrikes** moving through and **Yellow-mantled Widowbird**. At the bat caves Anthony spotted a **Barn Owl** roosting high up in some tall trees and we spent some time admiring this fine bird. As we drove back out a random stop produced **Greater Honeyguide** and **Plain-backed Pipit** to wrap up proceedings here.

And that was our birding finished. All we had to do was return to the hotel where we had plenty of time to pack before heading to the airport and enjoy our final dinner together. And then it was time to say our goodbyes to Paul who had been an absolutely fantastic guide and found us many truly stunning birds.

Nick Bray

SYSTEMATIC LIST – GHANA OCT/NOV 2016

H – Heard Only L – Leader Only Sighting S – Single Observer Sighting

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Hartlaub's Duck	<i>Pteronetta hartlaubii</i>
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>

GALLIFORMES: Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
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GALLIFORMES: Odontophoridae

Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>
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GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Latham's Francolin (H)	<i>Peliperdix lathamii</i>
White-throated Francolin	<i>Peliperdix albogularis</i>
Ahanta Francolin (H)	<i>Pternistis achantensis</i>
Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Pternistis bicalcaratus</i>

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
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CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
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PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
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PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Little Bittern (S)	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Black Heron (L)	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>

PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae

Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
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SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
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SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

African Darter

*Anhinga rufa***ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Black-winged Kite

Elanus caeruleus

African Harrier-Hawk

Polyboroides typus

Palm-nut Vulture

Gypohierax angolensis

European Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

African Cuckoo-Hawk

Aviceda cuculoides

Hooded Vulture

Necrosyrtes monachus

White-backed Vulture

Gyps africanus

White-headed Vulture

Trigonoceps occipitalis

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle

Circaetus beaudouini

Brown Snake Eagle

Circaetus cinereus

Bateleur

Terathopius ecaudatus

Crowned Eagle

Stephanoaetus coronatus

Martial Eagle

Polemaetus bellicosus

Long-crested Eagle

Lophaetus occipitalis

Wahlberg's Eagle

Hieraaetus wahlbergi

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle

Aquila africana

African Hawk-Eagle

Aquila spilogaster

Lizard Buzzard

Kaupifalco monogrammicus

Gabar Goshawk

Micronisus gabar

Dark Chanting Goshawk

Melierax metabates

Long-tailed Hawk

Urotriorchis macrourus

Red-chested Goshawk

Accipiter toussenelii

Shikra

Accipiter badius

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk

Accipiter erythropus

Black Sparrowhawk

Accipiter melanoleucus

Western Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

Yellow-billed Kite

Milvus aegyptius

Grasshopper Buzzard

Butastur rufipennis

Red-necked Buzzard

*Buteo auguralis***GRUIFORMES: Sarothruridae**

White-spotted Flufftail

*Sarothrura pulchra***GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

Nkulengu Rail

Himantornis haematopus

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

African Swampfen

Porphyrio madagascariensis

Common Moorhen

*Gallinula chloropus***CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**

Common Buttonquail

*Turnix sylvaticus***CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

Spotted Thick-knee

*Burhinus capensis***CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Forbes's Plover	<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>

CHARADRIIFORMES: Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>
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CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae

African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
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CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae

Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>

PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae

Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>
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COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Afep Pigeon (H)	<i>Columba unicincta</i>
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon	<i>Columba iriditorques</i>
African Mourning Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>

Tambourine Dove
Blue-headed Wood Dove
Namaqua Dove
Bruce's Green Pigeon
African Green Pigeon

Turtur tympanistria
Turtur brehmeri
Oena capensis
Treron waalia
Treron calvus

MUSOPHAGIFORMES: Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco
Guinea (Green) Turaco
Yellow-billed Turaco
Violet Turaco
Western Grey Plantain-eater

Corythaeola cristata
Tauraco persa
Tauraco macrorhynchus
Musophaga violacea
Crinifer piscator

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal
Senegal Coucal
Blue-headed Coucal
Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)
Levaillant's Cuckoo
Diederik Cuckoo
Klaas's Cuckoo
Yellow-throated Cuckoo
African Emerald Cuckoo
Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo
Black Cuckoo
Red-chested Cuckoo
Common Cuckoo

Centropus leucogaster
Centropus senegalensis
Centropus monachus
Ceuthmochares aereus
Clamator levaillantii
Chrysococcyx caprius
Chrysococcyx klaas
Chrysococcyx flavigularis
Chrysococcyx cupreus
Cercococcyx olivinus
Cuculus clamosus
Cuculus solitarius
Cuculus canorus

STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl

Tyto alba

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

African Scops Owl
Northern White-faced Owl (H)
Greyish Eagle-Owl
Fraser's Eagle-Owl
Akun Eagle-Owl
African Wood Owl
Pearl-spotted Owlet (H)
Red-chested Owlet

Otus senegalensis
Ptilopsis leucotis
Bubo cinerascens
Bubo poensis
Bubo leucostictus
Strix woodfordii
Glaucidium perlatum
Glaucidium tephronotum

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Brown Nightjar
Black-shouldered Nightjar
Long-tailed Nightjar
Standard-winged Nightjar

Veles binotatus
Caprimulgus nigriscapularis
Caprimulgus climacurus
Caprimulgus longipennis

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail
Sabine's Spinetail
Cassin's Spinetail
African Palm Swift

Telacanthura ussheri
Rhaphidura sabini
Neafrapus cassini
Cypsiurus parvus

Common Swift *Apus apus*
Little Swift *Apus affinis*
White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller *Coracias naevius*
Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*
Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*
Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*
Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*
Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*
Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*
African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*
White-bellied Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster*
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*
Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*
Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

Blue-moustached Bee-eater *Merops mentalis*
Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*
Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*
Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*
White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*
Rosy Bee-eater *Merops malimbicus*

BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood-Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*
Green Wood-Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*
Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*
African Pied Hornbill *Lophoceros fasciatus*
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Lophoceros camurus*
Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator*
Brown-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes cylindricus*
Black Dwarf Hornbill *Horizocerus hartlaubi*
White-crested Hornbill *Horizocerus albocristatus*

PICIFORMES: Lybiidae

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>
Yellow-billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus insignis</i>
Willcocks's Honeyguide	<i>Indicator willcocksi</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>

PICIFORMES: Picidae

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>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Melancholy Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos lugubris</i>
Fire-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos pyrrhogaster</i>
African Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae

Red-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>
Brown-necked Parrot	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>
African Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

Rufous-sided Broadbill	<i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher	<i>Bias musicus</i>
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Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>
Fernando Po (Bioko) Batis	<i>Batis poensis</i>
West African (Chestnut) Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira hormophora</i>
Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira blissetti</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Red-billed Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops caniceps</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae

Many-coloured Bushshrike (H)	<i>Chlorophoneus multicolor</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike (H)	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Marsh Tchagra	<i>Bocagia minuta</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Sabine's Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus sabini</i>
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
Lowland Sooty Boubou	<i>Laniarius leucorhynchus</i>
Yellow-crowned Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

White-breasted Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina pectoralis</i>
Blue Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina azurea</i>
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga quiscalina</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>
Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>
Western (Black-headed) Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>
Black-winged Oriole	<i>Oriolus nigripennis</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Square-tailed Drongo (H)	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Shining Drongo	<i>Dicrurus atripennis</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Velvet-mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus nitens</i>
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Picathartidae

White-necked Rockfowl

*Picathartes gymnocephalus***PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae**

African Blue Flycatcher

*Elminia longicauda***PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

White-shouldered Black Tit

*Melaniparus guineensis***PASSERIFORMES: Nicatoridae**

Western Nicator

*Nicator chloris***PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix leucotis

Sun Lark

*Galerida modesta***PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Common Bulbul

Pycnonotus barbatus

Slender-billed Greenbul

Stelgidillas gracilirostris

Little Greenbul

Eurillas virens

Little Grey Greenbul

Eurillas gracilis

Ansorge's Greenbul

Eurillas ansorgei

Plain Greenbul

Eurillas curvirostris

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Eurillas latirostris

Golden Greenbul

Calyptocichla serinus

Honeyguide Greenbul

Baeopogon indicator

Spotted Greenbul

Ixonotus guttatus

Simple Greenbul

Chlorocichla simplex

Swamp Palm Bulbul

Thescelocichla leucopleura

Icterine Greenbul

Phyllastrephus icterinus

White-throated Greenbul

Phyllastrephus albigularis

Red-tailed Bristlebill (H)

Bleda syndactylus

Green-tailed Bristlebill (H)

Bleda eximius

Grey-headed Bristlebill

Bleda canicapillus

Western Bearded Greenbul

Criniger barbatus

Red-tailed Greenbul

Criniger calurus

Yellow-bearded Greenbul

*Criniger olivaceus***PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Square-tailed Saw-wing

Psalidoprocne nitens

Fanti Saw-wing

Psalidoprocne obscura

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Red-chested Swallow

Hirundo lucida

Ethiopian Swallow

Hirundo aethiopica

Wire-tailed Swallow

Hirundo smithii

White-bibbed (WT Blue) Swallow

Hirundo nigrita

Pied-winged Swallow

Hirundo leucosoma

Common House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Lesser Striped Swallow

Cecropis abyssinica

Mosque Swallow

Cecropis senegalensis

West African Swallow

Cecropis domicella

Preuss's Cliff Swallow

Petrochelidon preussi

PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler

Melocichla mentalis

Kemp's Longbill

Macrosphenus kempii

Grey Longbill

Macrosphenus concolor

Green Crombec

Sylvietta virens

Lemon-bellied Crombec

Sylvietta denti

PASSERIFORMES: Erythroceridae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher

Erythrocerus mcallii

PASSERIFORMES: Incertae Sedis 1

Green Hylia

Hylia prasina

Tit Hylia

Pholidornis rushiae

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola

Cisticola erythrops

Singing Cisticola

Cisticola cantans

Whistling Cisticola

Cisticola lateralis

Rock-loving (Lazy) Cisticola

Cisticola aberrans

Winding Cisticola (H)

Cisticola marginatus

Croaking Cisticola

Cisticola natalensis

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola

Cisticola brachypterus

Zitting Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

Black-capped Apalis

Apalis nigriceps

Sharpe's Apalis

Apalis sharpii

Oriole Warbler

Hypergerus atriceps

Grey-backed Camaroptera

Camaroptera brevicaudata

Yellow-browed Camaroptera

Camaroptera superciliaris

Olive-green Camaroptera

Camaroptera chloronota

Senegal Eremomela

Eremomela pusilla

Rufous-crowned Eremomela

Eremomela badiceps

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

Blackcap Illadopsis

Illadopsis cleaveri

Rufous-winged Illadopsis

Illadopsis rufescens

Puvel's Illadopsis

Illadopsis puveli

Pale-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis rufipennis

Brown Illadopsis

Illadopsis fulvescens

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae

Capuchin Babbler

Phyllanthus atripennis

Brown Babbler

Turdoides plebejus

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye

*Zosterops senegalensis***PASSERIFORMES: Hyliotidae**

Yellow-bellied Hyliota

Hyliota flavigaster

Violet-backed Hyliota

*Hyliota violacea***PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**

African Spotted Creeper

*Salpornis salvadori***PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

Copper-tailed Starling

Hylopsar cupreocauda

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Lesser Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chloropterus

Splendid Starling

Lamprotornis splendidus

Purple Starling

Lamprotornis purpureus

Long-tailed Glossy Starling

Lamprotornis caudatus

Chestnut-bellied Starling

Lamprotornis pulcher

Violet-backed Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

Forest Chestnut-winged Starling

*Onychognathus fulgidus***PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae**

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

*Buphagus africanus***PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

White-tailed Ant Thrush

Neocossyphus poensis

Finsch's Rufous Thrush

Stizorhina finschi

African Thrush

*Turdus pelios***PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

White-tailed Alethe

Alethe diademata

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher

Fraseria ocreata

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus griseigularis

Grey (Lead-coloured) Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus plumbeus

Northern Black Flycatcher

Melaenornis edolioides

Pale Flycatcher

Melaenornis pallidus

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Swamp Flycatcher

Muscicapa aquatica

Cassin's Flycatcher

Muscicapa cassini

Olivaceous Flycatcher (S)

Muscicapa olivascens

Little Grey Flycatcher

Muscicapa epulata

Dusky-blue Flycatcher

Muscicapa comitata

Tessmann's Flycatcher

Muscicapa tessmanni

Ussher's Flycatcher

Muscicapa ussheri

White-crowned Robin-Chat

Cossypha albicapillus

Forest Robin

Stiphornis erythrothorax

European Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

White-crowned Cliff Chat

Thamnolaea coronata

White-fronted Black Chat

Oenanthe albifrons

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Fraser's Sunbird	<i>Deleornis fraseri</i>
Mangrove (Brown) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes gabonicus</i>
Little Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes seimundi</i>
Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
Reichenbach's Sunbird	<i>Anabathmis reichenbachii</i>
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>
Western Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Buff-throated Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra adelberti</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Olive-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>
Tiny Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris minullus</i>
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
Splendid Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris coccinigastrus</i>
Johanna's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris johannae</i>
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Bush Petronia	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

White-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis albirostris</i>
Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>
Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Orange Weaver	<i>Ploceus aurantius</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
Black-headed Weaver	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>
Maxwell's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus albinucha</i>
Compact Weaver	<i>Ploceus superciliosus</i>
Preuss's (Golden-backed) Weaver	<i>Ploceus preussi</i>
Red-vented Malimbe	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>
Blue-billed (Grey's) Malimbe	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	<i>Euplectes macroura</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

White-breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>
Grey-headed Nigrita	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>
Black-bellied Seedcracker	<i>Pyrenestes ostrinus</i>
Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>
Black-bellied Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rara</i>
Bar-breasted Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rufopicta</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
African (Blue-billed) Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Black-faced Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta larvata</i>
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Lavender Waxbill	<i>Estrilda caerulescens</i>
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Lonchura bicolor</i>
Magpie Mannikin	<i>Lonchura fringilloides</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae

Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Wilson's Indigobird	<i>Vidua wilsoni</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Exclamatory Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua interjecta</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Gosling's Bunting	<i>Emberiza goslingi</i>
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OTHER ANIMALS

Primates: *Primates*

Olive Baboon
Patas Monkey
Callithrix Monkey
Lowe's Monkey
Lesser spot-nosed Monkeys
Demidoff's Galago

Papio Anubis
Cercopithecus patas
Cercopithecus a sabaeus
Cercopithecus m lowei
Cercopithecus c petaurita
Galagoides demidoff

Bats: *Chiroptera*

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat
House Bat

Eidolon helvum
Scotophilus

Hares: *Lagomorpha*

Scrub Hare

Lepus saxatilis

Rodents: *Rodentia*

Striped Ground Squirrel
Fire-footed Rope Squirrel
Slender-tailed Squirrel

Euxerus erythropus
Funisciurus pyrropus
Protoerus aubinnii

Carnivores: *Carnivora*

Slender Mongoose
Gambian mongoose
White-tailed Mongoose
African Civet

Herpestes sanguine
Mungos gambianus
Ichneumia albicauda
Civettictis civetta

Even-toed Ungulates: *Artiodactyla*

Common Warthog
Bushbuck
Buffon Kob
Waterbuck

Phacochoerus africanus
Tragelaphus scriptus
Kobus kob
Kobus ellipsiprymnus



African Civet



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