

# Ashanti African Tours

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Experience the Yellow Headed Picathartes during all our birdwatching tours in Ghana



## Ghana Trip Report

March 1st to 16th 2008 by Robert Ntakor of  
Ashanti African Tours

### Tour Leader

Robert Ntakor

### Tour Participants

Ruth Miller

Alan Davis

Iain Campbell

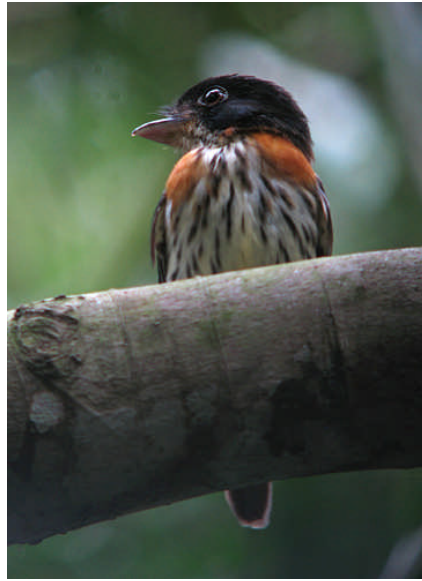
Sam Woods

### Tour Organiser

Mark Williams of Ashanti African Tours

### Top 10 Birds Seen on the Trip

- Yellow – headed Picathartes
- Pel's Fishing Owl
- Chocolate – backed Kinfisher
- Standard – winged Nightjar
- Black Bee-eater
- African Finfoot
- Rufous – sided - Broadbill
- Black Dwarf Hornbill
- Red – Billed Dwarf Hornbill
- Long - tailed Hawk



Rufous Sided Broadbill Sam Woods March 2008 Tour

## Tour Highlights

This was a 16 day tour covering the entire vegetational zones of Ghana, from the coastal wetlands through the lowlands evergreen rainforest, the transitional woodlands, the high mountainous ranges to the Guinea savannah of the far Northern Ghana.

During the trip, two top National Parks were visited, with other wildlife protected areas. Beside these, other special areas were also visited where special top birds were picked. In total there were 12 full days of birdwatching in two sections of four average hours each, i.e. morning and evenings. We had about 3 hours of afternoon break when activities are down. The rest of the days were used for driving from one destination to another with some stopovers at special places for special birds.

This tour was special because two of our guests were going for the world record for number of bird species seen in one single calendar year for their **“BIGGEST TWITCH”**. By the end of the trip, a successful result was achieved having recorded the highest number of bird species seen in a 16 day birdwatching tour of Ghana. In all a total of 405 different bird species were recorded excluding only heard, with about 250 new species for the list of the couple chasing the **“Biggest Twitch”**. These include the dream birds of every Ashanti African birdwatching trip, “the stunning Yellow – headed Picathartes” and the next of kin, Pel’s Fishing Owl. Other species are the extraordinary male Standard – winged Nightjar, the eye catching Rufous – sided Broadbill, the special Black Bee – eater, the Oriole warbler, the stinging Long – tailed Hawk, the two distinguished Dwarf Hornbills, the African Finfoot and most Upper Guinea endemic species.

Other great highlights of the trip were the sight of some quality mammals such as the biggest land moving animal, “African Elephant” seen at a close range of about 20m, a lot of Kobs, Water and Bush bucks, Baboons and other monkeys and the most friendly Warthogs.



*Pel's Fishing Owl Mole National Park*

## *Detailed Itinerary of Daily Activities*

### **Day 1** 01/03/08

Arrival of guests, at the Kotoka International Airport at about 8:00pm, we checked them into their hotel, went through the itinerary and introduce them to some Ghanaian culture to keep them abreast with their new environment. The first night was spent in Accra, the capital of Ghana in a hotel closer to the first birding destination.

### **Day 2** 02/03/2008

This day marked the beginning of the much awaited dream of Ghana birds. With much expectation, they had the only early breakfast of the trip at 7:00am after which we picked them to the first site of birdwatching in Ghana, the Sakumono Lagoon. This was one of the coastal wetlands visited. At the lagoon, they had no problem identifying the birds since most of them were European winter migrants. After spending about 3 hours: from 7:30am – 10:30am, we had recorded about 40 species including a pair of collared pratincoles, couples of Black Herons doing their usual umbrella fishing, many Terns and Plovers. Also in the surrounding bushes, we were offered a pair of Yellow – crowned (common) Gonolek, the first plantain – eater for the group i.e. the Western Grey Plantain – eater, a group of Purple Glossy Starling and Fine – Spotted Woodpecker.

We left the lagoon and started our first long drive westwards to the Central Region. Our next destination was the capital of the Central Region, which used to be the seat of the colonial administration, Cape Coast. We stopped to have lunch at Winneba, and we also visited the

Winneba planes where we found our first Lizard Buzzard and Grey Kestrel and some Warblers. We continued the drive and stopped again at a small lily pond where we again found a Pygmy – Goose. We arrived at our destination at about 5:30pm where we stayed at Hans Cottage Hotel, a hotel on a small lake with Nile crocodiles. We retired to bed at about 9:00pm with about 80 bird species recorded for the day.

### **Day 3 03/03/2008**

Three nights were spent at the Hans Cottage Hotel, while we exploited the Kakum Canopy walk, the trails in the forest and other special areas around the park for some top quality birds. On our first morning, we had our first early start and late breakfast (but with Ashanti African Tours, you will always have early morning Tea, Coffee or hot chocolate with biscuits). We set off for the Upper Guinea rainforest at Kakum National Park. As usual, the canopy walkway was our first stop. We spent the first 4 hours of the day scanning the forest canopies of Kakum from the walkway platforms at about 40m above the forest floor. On our arrival at the walkway bridges, we had our warm welcome to the rainforest by the White Crested Hornbill with its grey hair like the blessed old man of the forest, on one of the bridge cables. Earlier on, we had found the first Malimbe of the forest; the Gray's Malimbe. Soon after getting on the walkway, we added the other three species, Red Vented, Crested and Red – headed Malimbés, to finish the set of Malimbés in the forest.

From the walkway, we also found a troop of monkeys made up of the Mona, Lesser spot – Nosed and Olive Colobus. By the end of the morning section, we had picked some upper Guinea endemic and specials like Sharp's Apalis, Sabin's Puffback, some Sunbirds, the Cassin's and Sabin's Spintails were both picked flying low above us on the walkway platforms. The Cassin's Hawk and Congo Serpant Eagles, Forest Woodhoopoes, Rosy – Bee eaters, Black Sparrow Hawk, a Violet Backed Hyliota were also recorded in Kakum. We had our late breakfast at the rainforest cafe at the Kakum National Park visitor center and two hours afternoon rest before starting off again, this time on some trails at about 3:30pm and ended up on the walkway again in the evening. The day's trip ended with the special rainforest canopy Brown Nightjar which responded to a playback call from one of the canopy towers. Earlier, we had picked the stunning Rufous – sided Broadbill, Forest Robin, Finsch's Forest Flycatcher, Red – billed Helmetshrike, our first Grey and Red – fronted Parrot and a group of heavy flying Black Casqued Wattled – Hornbills which also stopped on a tree top to give us a good scope view.

### **Day 4 04/03/2008**

Our next destination today in Kakum National Park was at one of the camps on the Western boundary called Antwikwaa. At this place we targeted open vegetation and farm bush species and also looked for forest edge species. Though not as busy like the canopy walkway on the day before, we were still entertained by birds like the Superb Black Bee-eater, the only Cuckoo Hawk of the trip, Crown Eagle displaying, a good number of sunbirds like the great Superb Sunbird, the Buff – throated Sunbird and the Blue – throated Roller. We returned to our hotel for lunch and went for the target of the day at a small reservoir near the hotel and found the world's additives – a fantastic female African Finfoot standing out on a dead log at the edge of the water showing its outrageous bright orange feet.

A short break to see the Cape Coast Castle gave our guest a reminder of West Africa in colonial era. After this short diversion, we went to a small wetland near Elmina where we picked the Shining – blue Kinfisher whilst being entertained by around 100 Preuss's Swallows coming into roost. We returned to our hotel for our final evening at Hans Cottage after exhausting the day with some quality species.

### **Day 5 05/03/2008**

Still at Kakum National Park, we went to the canopy in the morning to try our luck with some of the species we missed on our first visit, we got blessed with a plain Nightjar on the way to Kakum as our vehicle flashed it in the headlights sitting on the road. Though the walkway was not very

different from the first day, we only looked for quality birds not already seen and when hope seemed to be lost, Mark found the much sought after Chocolate – backed Kingfisher sitting in full view below the canopy walkway platform. No sooner had we seen this than the Fire – bellied Woodpecker, Fraser’s Sunbird, Honey – guide Greenbul, Chestnut Wattle – eye and Buff – Spotted Woodpeckers were also picked. We came down at 10:30am, had our late breakfast and then set off for the main target of the trip. With excitement growing, we headed to the nesting site of the recently rediscovered Yellow – headed Picathartes we are actively supporting a community based project which is protecting 7 nesting sites in the area, Ashanti African Tours were the first birding company to take visitors here.

This bird which is one of the only two in their family and a West African endemic was believed to be extinct in Ghana. The main problem for seeing this remarkable bird is they are mainly found in unstable political countries, Ghana offers the best opportunity to see this species as its site is only an hour’s walk into the rainforest with moderate difficulty. As always, we got there at exactly 3:30pm in the afternoon. Our hearts were pumping with the anticipation of seeing this wonderful bird, our eyes constantly scanning the thick vegetation surrounding the huge rock face where their nests are found. Our guests faces light up when the first Rockfowl came into view, With its naked yellow head and black ear muffs, one bird flashed and went out again leaving question marks on the faces of our quest’s will we see another? Our 100% record of all our guests getting excellent views filled us with the confidence more will come and like a dream come true, four birds came hopping from branch to branch one after the other and entertained us for about 30 minutes. You could sense the excitement of our guest’s, no one put down their binoculars for a second during the 30 minutes a definite highlight of their world birding to date.

We left early to make sure the birds are not disturbed much and also ensure that they have enough time to prepare to roost. We returned to our hotel at around 7:30pm to finish the day with a well deserved beer, no prize for guessing what the main topic of discussion was over dinner.

#### **Day 6 06/03/2008**

Still around Kakum, we made our final visit to the northern part of the National Park. At Aboabo, we usually walk on a dirt road that cuts through the forest. This is one of the easier birding areas around Kakum National Park. As usual, there were many birds, but because we had already seen most at the canopy walkway and Antwikwaa, we only chased the quality ones. By the end of the morning section, when we retired for our late breakfast, we had recorded and added up to our list some great birds like the Black – Capped Apalis and Brown Illadopsis both of which were lured from their hide out by a tape, Red – thighed Sparrow Hawk, African Goshawk and the beautiful long tailed hawk posed before our telescopes.

We also found Kemps Longbill and the Blue – headed Crested Flycatcher. Later the Golden – backed Weaver showed well after frantically searching for it in a tree with thick vegetation after hearing it call. Black Cuckoo, White – headed Woodhoopoe and Tit – Hylia sealed the morning. As usual Aboabo did not disappoint with some excellent species seen by all.

In the afternoon a 4 hour drive to Kumasi, the home of the Ashanti’s and land of culture. Whilst in Kumasi, we visited the Owabi Reservoir where we got our second African Finfoot, African Pygmy Goose and had our first Giant Kingfisher the biggest of Africa’s Kingfishers.

#### **Day 7 07/03/2008**

This day was dedicated to driving as we headed off to the northern woodland savannah and Ghana’s premier National Park. On the way to Mole National Park, we picked the Blue – bellied Roller, a couple of Bearded Barbets, a small flock of Green woodhoopoes, Pearl spotted owl which responded to the tape when we tried to use it to get some passerines. We got to Mole before sunset and that allowed us to spend some time at the terrace overlooking the two waterholes at the bottom

of the escarpment from the Mole Motel where we spent four nights during our time at Mole national park.

Amongst the afternoon highlights were the Helmeted Guinea fowl, which is very common and its counterpart the Double – Spurred Francolin. We also had Bruce’s Green Pigeon, African Hobby and the eye – catching Abyssinian Roller. Mammals were a plenty with Bushbuck, Waterbuck and the warthog common on eye sight. Later in the night as we had dinner, we were entertained by a Freckled Nightjar around the swimming pool.

### **Day 8 – 10 08/03/2008 – 10/03/2008**

During our time at Mole National Park we spent 3 days and 4 nights. Our birding consisted of 2 scheduled birding walks during the 3 days each i.e. a morning section which starts at 6:00am to 10:00am and late afternoon which was from 3:30pm to 7:30pm. During the mid day heat we enjoyed some rest time with the option of short walks around the hotel and scanning for raptors from the shaded terrace and restaurant area around the pool.

For our first morning, just like all the mornings in Mole, we first met at the terrace to have our usual early morning Tea, Coffee or hot chocolate and biscuits at 5:30am before setting off at 6:00am. Whilst enjoying our morning refreshments at the terrace overlooking the waterholes, we saw the Hadada Ibis and the strange looking Hamerkop. Then appearing in the water was a grey thing that looked like an island but turned out to be the African Elephant cooling itself down in the waterhole. Our armed guide led us to the waterholes at the bottom of the hill where we picked a couple of Waxbills, Pytilias and Finche’s. A flash of violet wing in the woods turned out to be the Violet Turaco which can be found only in the savannah zones. As we walk through the few patches of green bushes, we heard the Oriole Warbler and with a little search and tape, we found this great African Warbler which is usually included in the top 10 species due to its explicit frosted black head and golden body. There was countless numbers of Red – throated Bee – eaters. Just before the end of the first morning section, we added the Northern Crombec, White – Shouldered Black – Tit, Common Wattled – eye and African Paradise Flycatcher. Later in the afternoon it was rather quite as we added only a few species.

The next morning, we continued our exploitation with our first owl of the trip when one of our guests saw the grayish Eagle Owl sitting on the ground just in front of her room and called the rest to see it. The owl expedition continued as we searched for the almighty Pel’s Fishing Owl. Being rated as the second most sought after bird on this trip, it was subjected to a tireless search through bushes and trees in an area of the park we know it to roost. Indeed this owl gave us a tough time and almost killed our hope, but with our experience and persistence we finally found this incredible bird and were greatly rewarded. Just before we gave up, a last look into one of the trees on the river bank showed us this awesome bird looking down on us. It was a breathtaking for our guests when they heard that the owl has been found. The remainder of the morning was spent on this great ginger owl.

After the usual late breakfast and the afternoon rest, we again topped our list in the late afternoon with the Blue - bellied Roller, Snowy Crown Robin Chat, Red – billed Hornbill and Sulphur – breasted – Bush Shrike. In the evening we went to the Mole Airstrip for the amazing Standard Winged Nightjar and found one male displaying. After enjoying excellent views of the nightjar we heard the voice of our third owl of the day and called it to tape. With a quick response, the brilliant Northern White – faced Owl came and posed for our spotlight in excellent view for all to enjoy giving us a good ending to an excellent days birding with some quality species seen well by all.

Again as usual, we started day 3 in Mole which was our final full days birding in this great National Park. With our usual morning start, we continued our exploitation alongside another river. Today was a little slower as most of the species were already found and recorded. We dedicated the day for top quality birds and by the end we had added the superb Northern Carmine Bee – eater, White – Crowned Robin Chat, Red – shouldered Cuckoo –Shrike, White Breasted Cuckoo – Shrike,

Yellow – penduline – Tit, Black Scimitarbill and Squar – tailed Drongo, Spotted Creeper and White bellied and Stanley (Denham’s) Bustards. We were again entertained by the display of yet another three male Standard – winged Nightjars at the Airstrip. Indeed it was a great finish to our birding at Mole National Park.

**Day 11 11/03/2008**

This day was another long drive day still moving further north. We headed to the Upper East Region of Ghana. Our next destination was Bolgatanga, the capital of the youngest region in the country.

We never regret driving this 5 hour journey, we made a brief stop on the way and added Fox Kestrel, Rock Loving Cisticola and the Chestnut – backed Sparrow Lark to our ever growing lists. Also on the way we had good looks at a Grasshopper Buzzard, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Rufous Crown Roller and White – Crested Helmetshrike

**Day 12 12/03/2008**

This was another full birding day in the northern savannah land of the Upper East at Tono. A 30 minutes drive from our hotel took us to this lakeside woodland savannah vegetation. Producing an interesting mixture of both woodland and wetland species, we began to count the Spotted – thick – knee, Comb Duck, Bearded Barbet and Spur – winged Goose. We also found our first Vieillot’s Barbet. We had our usual morning break and continued later in the day with Long – tailed Glossy Starling, Chestnut – bellied Starling, Montagues Harrier and closed the day with a Long – tailed Nightjar.

**Day 13 13/03/2008**

A day dedicated to driving picking up some species already seen which was nice to get second and sometimes better looks at some of the species and refreshing them in our minds.

**Day 14 14/03/2008**

Back to the south – central Ghana, we revisited the rainforest to try our luck on the species we missed back at Kakum National Park, Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary was our first stopover. Exhausting the morning section, our target was the Red – Billed Dwarf – Hornbill which gave us the run around a little but later gave up and showed well. We also had yet another look at a group of the Red – billed Helmet – Shrikes. The Western Bronze – Naped Pigeon and Afep Pigeon were a blessing for the morning walk. Other species were Africa’s smallest woodpecker with the African Piculet and Gabon Woodpecker.

Later in the day, we made a short walk in open cultivated land near Atewa where we added species like Viellots Weaver, Black – and White Manikins, Compact Weavers, White – throated Bee – eaters and the gorgeous Western Bluebill to the day’s list

**Day 15 15/03/2008**

This morning we boarded our 4x4’s and drove to the top of the Atewa – Range Rainforest. This forest protects one of the only two examples of Ghana’s upland evergreen rainforests. As an important area for both birds and butterflies, the reserve also provided its fair share of quality species. Among the cracking ones were the Yellow – billed Turaco, Golden Greenbul, Yellow – spotted and Hairy – breasted Barbets, Dusky Tit, the upper guinea endemic Copper – tailed Glossy Starling and the Western Black- headed Oriole. Our loop then joined the tail when we returned to Accra for the final night of the trip.

**Day 16 16/03/2008**

This was the final day and destination of the trip. Still holding to our late breakfast, we drove to Shai Hills which is the only fenced wildlife reserve in Ghana. This reserve is made up of woodland savannah and Rocky Mountains. Our main target here was another two rock loving species. With a

good position at the base of the cliff, we began to scan the bare rocks above for sign of movements. As soon as we started scanning with the scope we were rewarded with the stunning mocking cliff chat.

Our search continued to produce good results like the Croaking Cisticola, Double – toothed Barbet and Blackcap Babbler. We left Shai Hills and made a last stop at the Sakumono Lagoon where we topped up the list with Roseat and Royal Terns, African Spoonbill and Eurasian Mash Harrier.

The trip far exceeded our guest's expectations with 405 species in 16 days a record for Ghana birdwatching. Aside this the couple chasing the **BIGGEST TWITCH** also added more than 200 new species to their record attempt list, impressive as they had already birded in Ethiopia before coming to Ghana. Their top 5 species were the Yellow Headed Picathartes, Pel's Fishing Owl, Chocolate Backed Kingfisher, Standard winged Nightjar and Black Bee- eater.



*Black Bee-Eater Sam Woods Kakum National Park*

## Annotated List Of Bird Species Recorded.

### **BIRD LIST**

**Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow Clements, 6th edition updated 2007.**

**Birds that are marked with GO were seen by the guide only.**

**Birds that are marked with H were only heard.**

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

Long-tailed Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax africanus*

#### **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

Darter	Anhinga melanogaster
<b>HERONS, BITTERNs AND EGRETS: Ardeidae</b>	
Gray Heron	Ardea cinerea
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Black Heron	Egretta ardesiaca
Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Western Reef-Heron	Egretta gularis
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
<b>HAMERKOP: Scopidae</b>	
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta
<b>STORKS: Ciconiidae</b>	
Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumeniferus
<b>IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae</b>	
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
<b>DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae</b>	
White-faced Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
Comb Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos
African Pygmy-goose	Nettapus auritus
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta
Garganey	Anas querquedula
<b>HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae</b>	
African Cuckoo-Hawk	Aviceda cuculoides
European Honey-buzzard	Pernis apivorus
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus caeruleus
Black Kite	Milvus migrans
Palm-nut Vulture	Gypohierax angolensis
Hooded Vulture	Necrosyrtes monachus
White-backed Vulture	Gyps africanus
White-headed Vulture	Trionoceph occipitalis
Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus
Bateleur	Terathopius ecaudatus
Congo Serpent-Eagle	Dryotriorchis spectabilis
Western Marsh-Harrier	Circus aeruginosus
Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)	Polyboroides typus
Lizard Buzzard	Kaupifalco monogrammicus
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	Melierax metabates
Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus gabar
Red-chested (African) Goshawk	Accipiter toussenelii
Shikra	Accipiter badius
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk	Accipiter erythropus
Black Goshawk	Accipiter melanoleucus
Long-tailed Hawk	Urotriorchis macrourus
Grasshopper Buzzard	Butastur rufipennis
Red-necked Buzzard	Buteo auguralis
Tawny Eagle	Aquila rapax

Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus africanus</i>
Crowned Hawk-Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
<b>FALCONS: Falconidae</b>	
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>
Gray Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
<b>PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae</b>	
White-throated Francolin	<i>Fringolinus albogularis</i> <b>H</b>
Forest Francolin	<i>Fringolinus lathami</i> <b>H</b>
Ahanta Francolin	<i>Fringolinus ahantensis</i> <b>H</b>
Double-spurred Francolin	<i>Fringolinus bicalcaratus</i>
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>
<b>GUINEAFOWL: Numididae</b>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae</b>	
White-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
<b>FINFOOTS: Heliornithidae</b>	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
<b>BUSTARDS: Otidae</b>	
Stanley (Denham's) Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
<b>JACANAS: Jacanidae</b>	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
<b>AVOCETS AND STILTS: Recurvirostridae</b>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
<b>THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae</b>	
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
<b>COURSERS AND PRATINCOLES: Glareolidae</b>	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>
<b>PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae</b>	
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
<b>SANDPIPERS: Scolopacidae</b>	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>

Sanderling  
Little Stint  
Curlew Sandpiper  
Ruff

**TERNs: Sternidae**

Black Tern  
White-winged Tern  
Roseate Tern  
Common Tern  
Sandwich Tern  
Royal Tern

**SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae**

Four-banded Sandgrouse

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon  
Speckled Pigeon  
AfeP Pigeon  
Bronze-naped Pigeon  
Eurasian Turtle-Dove  
Red-eyed Dove  
Vinaceous Dove  
Laughing Dove  
Black-billed Wood-Dove  
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove  
Tambourine Dove  
Blue-headed Wood-Dove  
Bruce's Green-Pigeon  
African Green-Pigeon

**PARROTS: Psittacidae**

Rose-ringed Parakeet  
Red-headed Lovebird  
Gray Parrot  
Red-fronted Parrot  
Senegal Parrot

**TURACOS: Musophagidae**

Yellow-billed Turaco  
Violet Turaco  
Western Plantain-eater

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae**

Great Spotted Cuckoo  
Black Cuckoo  
African Cuckoo  
Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo  
Klaas' Cuckoo  
African Emerald Cuckoo  
Dideric Cuckoo  
Yellowbill  
Black-throated Coucal  
Senegal Coucal

**BARN-OWLS: Tytonidae**

Barn Owl

**OWLS: Strigidae**

Northern White-faced Owl  
Grayish Eagle-Owl  
Pel's Fishing-Owl

Calidris alba  
Calidris minuta  
Calidris ferruginea  
Philomachus pugnax

Chlidonias niger  
Chlidonias leucopterus  
Sterna dougallii  
Sterna hirundo  
Thalasseus sandvicensis  
Thalasseus maximus

Pterocles quadricinctus

Columba livia  
Columba guinea  
Columba unicincta  
Columba iriditorques  
Streptopelia turtur  
Streptopelia semitorquata  
Streptopelia vinacea  
Streptopelia senegalensis  
Turtur abyssinicus  
Turtur afer  
Turtur tympanistria  
Turtur brehmeri  
Treron waalia  
Treron calvus

Psittacula krameri  
Agapornis pullarius  
Psittacus erithacus  
Poicephalus gulielmi  
Poicephalus senegalus

Tauraco macrorhynchus  
Musophaga violacea  
Crinifer piscator

Clamator glandarius  
Cuculus clamosus  
Cuculus gularis  
Cercococcyx olivinus **H**  
Chrysococcyx klaas  
Chrysococcyx cupreus  
Chrysococcyx caprius  
Ceuthmochares aereus  
Centropus leucogaster  
Centropus senegalensis

Tyto alba

Ptilopsis leucotis  
Bubo cinerascens  
Scotopelia peli

Pearl-spotted Owlet

**NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae**

Brown Nightjar

Plain Nightjar

Freckled Nightjar

Long-tailed Nightjar

Standard-winged Nightjar

**SWIFTS: Apodidae**

Sabine's Spinetail

Cassin's Spinetail

African Palm-Swift

Mottled Swift

Common Swift

Little Swift

White-rumped Swift

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

Shining-blue Kingfisher

Malachite Kingfisher

African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Dwarf Kingfisher

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Gray-headed Kingfisher

Woodland Kingfisher

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Striped Kingfisher

Giant Kingfisher

Pied Kingfisher

**BEE-EATERS: Meropidae**

Black Bee-eater

Red-throated Bee-eater

Little Bee-eater

White-throated Bee-eater

Rosy Bee-eater

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

**ROLLERS: Coraciidae**

Abyssinian Roller

Rufous-crowned Roller

Blue-bellied Roller

Broad-billed Roller

Blue-throated Roller

**WOODHOOPES AND SCIMITAR-BILLS: Phoeniculidae**

Green Woodhoopoe

White-headed Woodhoopoe

Forest Woodhoopoe

Black Scimitar-bill (Woodhoopoe)

**HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae**

White-crested Hornbill

Black Dwarf Hornbill

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill

Red-billed Hornbill

African Pied Hornbill

African Gray Hornbill

Piping Hornbill

Black-casqued Hornbill

Glaucidium perlatum

Caprimulgus binotatus

Caprimulgus inornatus

Caprimulgus tristigma

Caprimulgus climacurus

Macrodipteryx longipennis

Rhaphidura sabini

Neafrapus cassini

Cypsiurus parvus

Tachymarptis aequatorialis

Apus apus

Apus affinis

Apus caffer

Alcedo quadribrachys

Alcedo cristata

Ispidina picta

Ispidina lecontei

Halcyon badia

Halcyon leucocephala

Halcyon senegalensis

Halcyon malimbica

Halcyon chelicuti

Megaceryle maximus

Ceryle rudis

Merops gularis

Merops bulocki

Merops pusillus

Merops albicollis

Merops malimbicus

Merops nubicus

Coracias abyssinicus

Coracias noevius

Coracias cyanogaster

Eurystomus glaucurus

Eurystomus gularis

Phoeniculus purpureus

Phoeniculus bollei

Phoeniculus castaneiceps

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

Tockus albocristatus

Tockus hartlaubi

Tockus camurus

Tockus erythrorhynchus

Tockus fasciatus

Tockus nasutus

Ceratogymna fistulator

Ceratogymna atrata

**BARBETS: Capitonidae**

Yellow-billed Barbet  
Naked-faced Barbet  
Speckled Tinkerbird  
Red-rumped Tinkerbird  
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird  
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird  
Yellow-spotted Barbet  
Hairy-breasted Barbet  
Vieillot's Barbet  
Double-toothed Barbet  
Bearded Barbet

**HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae**

Cassin's Honeyguide  
Greater Honeyguide

**WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

African Piculet  
Fine-spotted Woodpecker  
Little Green Woodpecker  
Green-backed Woodpecker  
Buff-spotted Woodpecker  
Gabon Woodpecker  
Fire-bellied Woodpecker  
Gray Woodpecker  
Brown-backed Woodpecker

**BROADBILLS: Eurylaimidae**

Rufous-sided Broadbill

**LARKS: Alaudidae**

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark  
Sun Lark

**SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae**

Barn Swallow  
Wire-tailed Swallow  
Rock Martin  
Lesser Striped-Swallow  
Rufous-chested Swallow  
Red-rumped Swallow  
Preuss' Swallow

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae**

Plain-backed Pipit  
Red-throated Pipit  
Tree Pipit  
Yellow-throated Longclaw  
African Pied Wagtail  
Yellow Wagtail

**CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae**

White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike  
Blue Cuckoo-shrike  
Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike  
Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike

**BULBULS: Pycnonotidae**

Common Bulbul  
Little Greenbul  
(Little) Gray Greenbul  
Plain (Cameroon Sombre) Greenbul

Trachyphonus purpuratus  
Gymnobucco calvus  
Pogoniulus scolopaceus  
Pogoniulus atroflavus  
Pogoniulus bilineatus  
Pogoniulus chrysoconus  
Buccanodon duchaillui  
Tricholaema hirsuta  
Lybius vieilloti  
Lybius bidentatus  
Lybius dubius

Prodotiscus insignis  
Indicator indicator

Sasia africana  
Campethera punctuligera  
Campethera maculosa  
Campethera cailliautii  
Campethera nivosa  
Dendropicos gabonensis  
Dendropicos pyrrhogaster  
Dendropicos goertae  
Dendropicos obsoletus

Smithornis rufolateralis

Eremopterix leucotis  
Galerida modesta

Hirundo rustica  
Hirundo smithii  
Ptyonoprogne fuligula  
Cecropis abyssinica  
Cecropis semirufa  
Cecropis daurica  
Petrochelidon preussi

Anthus leucophrys  
Anthus cervinus  
Anthus trivialis  
Macronyx croceus  
Motacilla aguimp  
Motacilla flava

Coracina pectoralis  
Coracina azurea  
Campephaga phoenicea  
Campephaga quiscalina

Pycnonotus barbatus  
Andropadus virens  
Andropadus gracilis  
Andropadus curvirostris

Slender-billed Greenbul  
Honeyguide Greenbul  
Simple (Leaflove) Greenbul  
Swamp Greenbul  
White-throated Greenbul

Icterine Greenbul  
Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill  
Green-tailed Bristlebill  
Gray-headed Bristlebill  
Yellow-spotted Nicator  
Red-tailed Greenbul

**THRUSHES: Turdidae**

Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush  
African Thrush  
Fire-crested Alethe

**CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae**

Red-faced Cisticola  
Singing Cisticola  
Whistling Cisticola  
Rock-loving Cisticola  
Winding Cisticola  
Croaking Cisticola  
Zitting Cisticola  
Tawny-flanked Prinia  
Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)

Black-capped Apalis  
Yellow-breasted Apalis  
Sharpe's Apalis  
Oriole Warbler  
Green-backed Camaroptera  
Yellow-browed Camaroptera  
Olive-green Camaroptera

**OLD WORLD WARBLERS: Sylviidae**

Moustached Grass-Warbler  
Senegal Eremomela  
Rufous-crowned Eremomela  
Green Crombec  
Lemon-bellied Crombec  
Northern Crombec  
Kemp's Longbill  
Gray Longbill  
Green Hylia  
Willow Warbler  
Common Chiffchaff  
Wood Warbler  
Violet-backed Hylia  
Blackcap  
Greater Whitethroat

**OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae**

Northern Black-Flycatcher  
African (Fraser's) Forest-Flycatcher  
Spotted Flycatcher  
Gambaga Flycatcher  
Ussher's Flycatcher  
Swamp Flycatcher

Andropadus gracilirostris  
Baeopogon indicator  
Chlorocichla simplex  
Thescelocichla leucopleura  
Phyllastrephus albigularis  
Phyllastrephus icterinus  
Bleda syndactylus  
Bleda eximius  
Bleda canicapillus  
Nicator chloris  
Criniger calurus

Neocossyphus finschii  
Turdus pelios  
Alethe diademata **GO**

Cisticola erythropus  
Cisticola cantans  
Cisticola lateralis  
Cisticola aberrans  
Cisticola galactotes  
Cisticola natalensis  
Cisticola juncidis  
Prinia subflava

Apalis nigriceps  
Apalis flavida  
Apalis sharpii  
Hypergerus atriceps  
Camaroptera brachyura  
Camaroptera superciliaris  
Camaroptera chloronota

Melocichla mentalis  
Eremomela pusilla  
Eremomela badiceps  
Sylvietta virens  
Sylvietta denti  
Sylvietta brachyura  
Macrosphenus kempii  
Macrosphenus concolor  
Hylia prasina  
Phylloscopus trochilus  
Phylloscopus  
Phylloscopus sibilatrix  
Hylia violacea  
Sylvia atricapilla  
Sylvia communis

Melaenornis edolioides  
Fraseria ocreata  
Muscicapa striata  
Muscicapa gambagae  
Muscicapa ussheri  
Muscicapa aquatica

Little Gray Flycatcher  
Dusky-blue Flycatcher  
Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher  
Gray Tit-Flycatcher  
European Pied Flycatcher  
Forest Robin  
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat  
White-crowned Robin-Chat  
Whinchat  
Mocking Cliff-Chat

**WATTLE-EYES: Platysteiridae**

Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye  
Chestnut Wattle-eye  
Red-cheeked Wattle-eye  
Senegal Batis

**MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae**

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher  
African Blue-Flycatcher  
Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher  
Black-headed (Red-bellied) Paradise-Flycatcher  
African Paradise-Flycatcher

**ROCKFOWL: Picathartidae**

White-necked Rockfowl (Yellow-headed  
Picathartes)

**BABLERS: Timaliidae**

Blackap Illadopsis  
Brown Illadopsis  
Blackcap Babbler  
Brown Babbler

**TITS: Paridae**

White-shouldered Black-Tit  
Dusky Tit

**PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae**

Yellow (-bellied) Penduline-Tit  
Tit-hylia

**SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae**

Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird  
Western Violet-backed Sunbird  
Little Green Sunbird  
Green Sunbird  
Collared Sunbird  
Pygmy Sunbird  
Green-headed Sunbird  
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird  
Western Olive Sunbird  
Buff-throated Sunbird  
Scarlet-chested Sunbird  
Olive-bellied Sunbird  
Tiny Sunbird  
Beautiful Sunbird  
Splendid Sunbird  
Johanna's Sunbird  
Superb Sunbird  
Copper Sunbird

**WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae**

Muscicapa epulata  
Muscicapa comitata  
Myioparus griseigularis  
Myioparus plumbeus **H**  
Ficedula hypoleuca  
Stiphornis erythrothorax  
Cossypha niveicapilla  
Cossypha albicapilla  
Saxicola rubetra  
Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

Platysteira cyanea  
Platysteira castanea  
Platysteira blissetti **H**  
Batis senegalensis

Erythrocerus mccallii  
Elminia longicauda  
Trochocercus nitens  
Terpsiphone rufiventer  
Terpsiphone viridis

Picathartes gymnocephalus  
**\*BIRD OF THE TRIP \***

Illadopsis cleaveri **H**  
Illadopsis fulvescens  
Turdoides reinwardtii  
Turdoides plebejus

Melaniparus guineensis  
Melaniparus funereus

Anthoscopus parvulus **GO**  
Pholidornis rufiae

Deleornis fraseri  
Anthreptes longuemarei  
Anthreptes seimundi  
Anthreptes rectirostris  
Hedydipna collaris  
Hedydipna platura  
Cyanomitra verticalis  
Cyanomitra cyanolaema  
Cyanomitra olivacea  
Chalcomitra adelberti  
Chalcomitra senegalensis  
Cinnyris chloropygius  
Cinnyris minullus  
Cinnyris pulchellus  
Cinnyris coccinigastrus  
Cinnyris johannae  
Cinnyris superbus  
Cinnyris cupreus

African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
<b>ORIOLES: Oriolidae</b>	
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>
Western Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>
Black-winged Oriole	<i>Oriolus nigripennis</i>
<b>SHRIKES: Laniidae</b>	
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Yellow-billed Shrike	<i>Corvinella corvina</i>
<b>BUSHSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Malaconotidae</b>	
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
Large-billed (Sabin's) Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus sabini</i>
Black-crowned (-headed) Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Common (Yellow-crowned) Gonolek	<i>Laniarius barbarus</i>
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
Gray-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
<b>HELMETSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Prionopidae</b>	
White Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Chestnut-bellied (Red-billed) Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops caniceps</i>
<b>DRONGOS: Dicuridae</b>	
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Shining Drongo	<i>Dicrurus atripennis</i>
Fork-tailed (Glossy-backed) Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Velvet-mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>
<b>CROWS: Corvidae</b>	
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
<b>STARLINGS: Sturnidae</b>	
Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
Splendid Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>
Purple Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>
Long-tailed Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>
Chestnut-bellied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis pulcher</i>
Copper-tailed Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis cupreocauda</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Chestnut-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus fulgidus</i>
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae</b>	
Gray-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Bush Petronia	<i>Petronia dentata</i>
<b>WEAVERS: Ploceidae</b>	
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
Red-vented Malimbe	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>
Gray's (Blue-billed) Malimbe	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>
Vieillot's (Black) Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>
Maxwell's Black (White-naped) Weaver	<i>Ploceus albinucha</i>
Preuss' (Golden-backed) Weaver	<i>Ploceus preussi</i>
Compact Weaver	<i>Pachyphantus superciliosus</i>

Black-winged Bishop  
 Yellow-shouldered (-mantled) Widowbird  
**WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae**  
 Pale-fronted Negrofinch  
 Gray-headed Negrofinch  
 Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch  
 White-breasted Negrofinch  
 Lavender Waxbill  
 Orange-cheeked Waxbill  
 Black-rumped Waxbill  
 Western Bluebill  
 Red-cheeked Cordonbleu  
 Red-winged Pytilia  
 Red-billed Firefinch  
 Bar-breasted Firefinch  
 Black-faced Firefinch  
 Black-bellied Firefinch  
 African (Blue-billed) Firefinch  
 Black-faced (African) Quailfinch  
 Bronze Mannikin  
 Black-and-white Mannikin  
**INDIGOBIRDS: Viduidae**  
 Pin-tailed Whydah  
**SEED EATERS: Fringillidae**  
 Yellow-fronted Canary  
**BUNTINGS: Emberizidae**  
 Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting  
 Cabanis' Bunting

Euplectes hordeaceus  
 Euplectes macroura  
 Nigrita luteifrons  
 Nigrita canicapillus  
 Nigrita bicolor  
 Nigrita fusconotus  
 Estrilda caerulescens  
 Estrilda melpoda  
 Estrilda troglodytes  
 Spermophaga haematina  
 Uraeginthus bengalus  
 Pytilia phoenicoptera  
 Lagonosticta senegala  
 Lagonosticta rufopicta  
 Lagonosticta larvata  
 Lagonosticta rara  
 Lagonosticta rubricata  
 Ortygospiza atricollis  
 Spermestes cucullatus  
 Spermestes bicolor  
 Vidua macroura  
 Serinus mozambicus  
 Emberiza tahapisi  
 Emberiza cabanisi

