

**An update on the birds of Kakum National Park
and Assin Atandaso Resource Reserve, Ghana**

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A report prepared for the Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission, Accra





Dowsett-Lemaire F. & Dowsett R.J. 2011. An update on the birds of Kakum National Park and Assin Atandaso Resource Reserve, Ghana. *Dowsett-Lemaire Misc. Rep.* 75: 13 pp.

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by Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire & Robert J. Dowsett

Acknowledgements.

Three short visits to Kakum in 2008-2010 were encouraged by the Executive Director Nana (Mike) Adu-Nsiah and the park's manager, Daniel Kwamena Ewur. These were primarily to deliver binoculars and field guides to some of the wildlife guards with an interest in birds, and to accompany them in the field for short training sessions.

Summary.

This report has to be read in conjunction with Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett (2005). Details are given here of the occurrence of 12 species that are either new or confirmations for the Kakum list since 2005. The overall total of birds known is at least 244 species, of which 156 are restricted to the Guineo-Congolian biome. Of those the Rufous Fishing Owl *Scotopelia ussheri* is an important new discovery. Information is presented for a number of uncommon species, as well as many new regional records for Assin Atandaso (Attandanso) from Aboabo. Kakum and Assin Atandaso are important reserves for the conservation of a number of rare or threatened species, especially White-breasted Guineafowl *Agelastes meleagrides* (still recorded in small numbers), Rufous Fishing Owl and most large frugivorous hornbills (Brown-cheeked and Piping *Bycanistes cylindricus* and *B. fistulator*, Yellow-casqued and Black-casqued *Ceratogymna elata* and *C. atrata*) which are still fairly common but very threatened in south-west Ghana generally. The precise status of several Globally Threatened species is not well known, e.g. Yellow-bearded Greenbul *Criniger olivaceus* and Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens*. Some other rare species (in Ghana) are locally common in Kakum, e.g. Black-collared Lovebird *Agapornis swindernianus* is common in the south and south-east of the park.

INTRODUCTION

On 30 November-2 December 2008 we camped for three nights at Aboabo (5°34'N, 1°23'W), on the edge of the Assin Atandaso Resource Reserve, to the north of Kakum National Park. The Aboabo area is accessible from the road of Twifo Praso to Assin Fosu. A track crosses the forest from north to south along *c.* 4 km to reach the village and camp of Aboabo. We watched birds mainly along the road, and took a short walk in a swampy section of forest near the village.

We returned to the area in the evening of 29 December 2009, and left on 1 January 2010. On this second visit we walked about 2 km inside (eastwards) to an area of dense forest on 30 December; the rest of the time was spent along the road. Camp leader Eric Bukari (also called Abubaka) has a good knowledge of birds (including bird calls) and provided several records of interest.

On 24-25 August 2010 we paid a brief visit to Krua camp (5°22'N, 1°17'W), on the south-eastern edge of Kakum. We were accompanied by John Nyame (camp leader).

The forest around Aboabo has a very open canopy and some degraded areas from past logging. There are denser sections away from the road. Large trees include *Antiaris*, *Calpocalyx brevibracteatus*, *Celtis mildbraedii*, *Cylicodiscus*, *Entandrophragma*, *Klainedoxa*, *Lophira*, *Milicia excelsa*, *Parinari excelsa*, *Petersianthus*, *Piptadeniastrum*, *Tieghemella*, *Triplochiton*. There is an enormous *Copaifera salikounda* east of the road.

The forest in the south of Kakum (canopy walkway) and on the western side (Antwikwa) was not

revisited, apart from brief observations near the office (Abrafo) and tourist centre, on 30 November 2008, 29 December 2009 and also on 23-24 February 2008. Kakum remains the most frequently visited forest park by tourists, and several bird tours and private individuals always spend a few days in the south of the park, as well as north of Aboabo. Many records of various uncommon birds have been reported since 2005 (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2005), thus an update is considered necessary, although not all records could be verified and the list is of necessity still incomplete. Records by other observers come from a variety of sources, such as trip reports posted on Internet and pers. comm. by Robert Ntakor and others.

THE AVIFAUNA

Where relevant, the conservation status is given after the species' name in bold, it is based on BirdLife International (2008). Species recorded by ourselves are marked with an*.

1. New species records for Kakum and Assin Atandaso

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubi*. This species is apparently still present in Kakum, along the Obuo and Kakum rivers (E. Bukari).

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*. One of this rare intra-African migrant seen over Aboabo by A. Riley *et al.* in May 2002 and Mar 2003. Not a forest species.

Common (Eurasian Grey) Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. One (a grey bird) at Antwikwa on 24 Apr 2010 (N. Borrow).

Rufous Fishing Owl *Scotopelia ussheri*. **Endangered**. R. Ntakor flushed one from a *Raphia* palm on the Afia stream, Antwikwa, Feb 2007. E. Bukari has seen this owl in *Raphia* swamp forest in Assin Atandaso.

Western Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis*. Heard in Kakum in Feb 2003, and seen well at Aboabo, Mar 2003 (A. Riley *et al.*).

African Piculet *Sasia africana*. Several observations in very degraded vegetation north of Aboabo since 2006 (R. White; Rockjumper tours; N. Borrow etc.), including an occupied nest on 13 Nov 2009 (R. Summers), with pair entering a hole 12-15 m high in a dead limb hanging down.

*Tessmann's Flycatcher *Muscicapa tessmanni*. **Data Deficient**. The distinctive song of this species was heard near Aboabo on 31 Dec 2009. There have been several observations of this species in the Aboabo area, including a tape-recording and photographs by R. Summers (Rockjumper, Nov 2009). N. Borrow (Birdquest) observed a family of four on 28 Apr 2010, and also heard the song on the edge of the park at Abrafo, 23 Apr 2010.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*. Rarely reported at forest edges in the south, e.g. one in Nov 2009 (D. Hoddinott).

Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens*. **Near Threatened**. Must occur locally in Kakum, as C. Chappuis's published recording (Chappuis 2000, and *in litt.* 2009) comes from Kakum.

Bates's Sunbird *Nectarinia batesi*. Very small sunbird that poses identification problems. Reported as well seen from the canopy walkway on occasion (several observers, including A. Riley).

Pale-fronted Negrofinch *Nigrita luteifrons*. Observed at Aboabo in good conditions, through a telescope (W. Apraku *et al.* in 2008) and seen from the canopy walkway (Kakum) in Mar 2009 (R. Ntakor *et al.*).

Green Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*. Seen on the edge of the road, Aboabo, by W. Apraku in 2008.

2. Notes on selected species

More information is available for a number of uncommon species, including those of conservation concern. New regional records (Aboabo) are also included.

Spot-breasted Ibis *Bostrychia rara*. Apart from the Afia stream (Antwikwa), further reports have come from the canopy walkway (Dec 2009, G. Valentine, 25 Feb 2010, C. Townend), the Obuo river and Assin Atandaso (E. Bukari), and also the eastern side (J. Nyame & M. Adams).

- *European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. Many records of this Palaearctic winter visitor for Kakum and Aboabo from Nov-Apr, with extreme dates so far second week of Oct 2008 (Kakum, X. Vandevyvre) and 3 May 2010 (two flying over Antwikwa, N. Borrow).
- Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*. A further observation from the canopy walkway by N. Borrow in May 2008. One was seen at Aboabo in Sep 2010 (K. Valentine).
- *Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*. One sitting on a nest in a distant tree, near the tourist centre, 30 Nov 2008. Recorded from Assin Atandaso (E. Bukari).
- *Congo Serpent Eagle *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*. One singing near Abrafo, 6h40, on 24 Feb 2008, and another, counter-singing with it later, 7h30-7h45. One singing early morning near Aboabo (6h05-6h22, daybreak at 5h40), and a second one further between 7h20-7h30, 1 Dec 2008. One singing 8h50, north of Aboabo, 1 Jan 2010. One singing forest edge near Krua camp, 6h45-6h50, 25 Aug 2010. Overall heard singing in Kakum in Aug-Sep and from Nov to May (pers. obs., A. Hester, D. Hoddinott, K. & G. Valentine, N. Borrow *et al.*).
- *African Harrier Hawk *Polyboroides typus*. Reported to eat palm nuts (*Elaeis*) by E. Bukari.
- *Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*. A pair near Aboabo, 1 Jan 2010. And there are other records, e.g. by C. Goblet & J.-M. Daulne (Mar 2008).
- Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*. Reported by R. Ntakor from Aboabo. There have been several records from Abrafo (canopy walkway).
- *Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus*. Is frequently seen or heard in the Aboabo area.
- Ayres's Hawk Eagle *Hieraetus ayresii*. An immature of this uncommon species in the south, 4 May 2010 (N. Borrow).
- *Cassin's Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*. Is regularly encountered in the Aboabo area.
- *Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*. We heard it near Aboabo (over dense forest) on 30 Dec at 11h05, and it was heard nearer the road in Aug 2007 (D. Shackelford). J. Nyame saw one hunting a Black-and-white Colobus, dragging it to the ground to kill it. It has also been seen hunting Olive Colobus (cf. R. Ntakor in Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2005).
- *African Hobby *Falco cucullatus*. One at Aboabo, 1 Dec 2008.
- White-breasted Guineafowl *Agelastes meleagrides*. **Vulnerable**. R. Ntakor disturbed two on the way to the canopy walk in Jun 2006. All experienced guards questioned know this bird, although have seen it irregularly, with a maximum of 8 seen near the Nemini stream in the south in about 2000 by M. Adams.
- Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*. Is considered as more common than last, including in Assin Atandaso (E. Bukari).
- African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*. Is also known from the Kakum river (E. Bukari).
- *Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*. Occasionally heard near Aboabo in Dec 2009 and 2010, but may be rather quiet after the rains stop. Afep Pigeon *C. uncinata* is said to be much scarcer in Kakum generally (E. Bukari).
- Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*. **Near Threatened**. Still frequent (in small numbers) in the south, but rarely recorded near Aboabo (e.g. N. Borrow, May 2008). Still trapped in or around Kakum, e.g. 8 were confiscated in 2010 from poachers (J. Nyame).
- *Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gularis*. Regularly recorded around Aboabo, as in the south.
- Brown-necked Parrot *Poicephalus robustus*. Some dates of this irregular visitor have been provided: several at Kakum in Feb 2003 (A. Riley), two at Antwikwa on 22 Feb 2007 (K. Valentine), six on 9 Mar 2003 (A. Riley), two on 19 Apr 2009 (N. Borrow), two in Sep 2010 (G. Valentine), one in Oct 2008 (X. Vandevyvre). Overall Sep-Oct and Feb-Apr.
- Black-collared Lovebird *Agapornis swindernianus*. Common in a small area in the south-east (especially near Krua camp, E. Bukari) and occasionally reported from the canopy walkway. Seen taking fruits or seeds of *Antiaris* and *Celtis mildbraedii* (R. Ntakor). Never recorded at Aboabo (E. Bukari).
- *Great Blue Turaco *Corythaëola cristata*. Present but uncommon in the Aboabo area: thus heard on 29 Dec 2009 and 1 Jan 2010.
- *Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*. Many records from both Kakum and Aboabo area, by ourselves and others, of this dry-season visitor from December to early April, with a late date on 28 Apr (2010), by

N. Borrow at Aboabo.

- *Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*. One or two heard near Aboabo, Nov-Dec (2008-09). Also late Mar 2008 (C. Goblet & J.-M. Daulne).
- *Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*. One or two heard near Aboabo (Dec), and there are other records.
- *Sandy Scops Owl *Otus icterorhynchus*. One was heard distantly at 18h10, Aboabo, 1 Dec 2008.
- *Fraser's Eagle Owl *Bubo poensis*. Immature (high whistles) heard at Aboabo in both early Dec 2008 and late Dec 2009. Adult giving the rolled call about 1 km from Aboabo camp, 30 Dec 2009. One immature also heard near tourist centre, 23 to 24 Feb 2008.
- *Akun Eagle Owl *Bubo leucostictus*. On 30 Nov 2008 (Aboabo) a pair was already duetting (short ascending whistle and staccato rattle, mate answering with short rattle) at 16h35 on a dull afternoon. Male singing in same area the next evening ("roh" notes).
- *Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum*. A few present in forest near Aboabo.
- *Brown Nightjar *Caprimulgus binotatus*. Also heard near Krua camp (Aug 2010, two singing 18h30) and Aboabo (a distant one, Dec 2008).
- *Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis nigriscapularis*. Singing in moonlight in farmbush at forest edges, Krua camp, 24 Aug 2010. Song also heard in farmbush near Aboabo (E. Bukari).
- Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*. A few, seen well over forest, 26 Mar 2008 from canopy walkway, and 30 Mar 2008 at Aboabo (C. Goblet et J.-M. Daulne). About 6, late Nov 2009, over Kakum (R. Summers), and at least 200 on 23 Nov 2009 (J. Lidster).
- *Bates's Swift *Apus batesi*. One seen at Aboabo, 1 Dec 2008. Over 20 seen at Aboabo in Mar 2003 seems a very unusual number, even more so over 40 at Antwikwa (A. Riley *et al.*).
- *White-bellied Kingfisher *Alcedo leucogaster*. One in a small patch of moist *Raphia*, Aboabo.
- *Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*. Several at Aboabo.
- *White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*. This non-breeding migrant from the Sahel is generally common from early Nov to May. We have not traced any Oct records, and it has been noted as common until third week of May by N. Borrow. No data for Jun but there have been no tours either in that month.
- *Rosy Bee-eater *Merops malimbicus*. A few in the Aboabo area (Dec); also noted by C. Goblet & J.-M. Daulne on 30 Mar 2008. More common in the south of Kakum, where recorded frequently from Nov to Mar (many observers), with extreme dates from the second week of Oct (2008, X. Vandevyvre) to early Apr (2010, K. Behrens). One record of bird(s) heard over Kakum on 5 Aug 2007 (D. Shackelford) seems exceptionally early.
- *Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus*. Easily overlooked in Dec, as virtually silent. Thus, on two visits to Aboabo, only one song heard on 31 Dec (2009), at 9h20.
- *Black Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus hartlaubi*. Often seen in the Aboabo area. A nest attended by male, 22 Apr 2010 (N. Borrow).
- *Piping Hornbill *Bycanistes fistulator*. Very widespread in Kakum, and especially common in the south (including Krua camp and Antwikwa), but uncommon around Aboabo, mainly in the forest interior.
- *Brown-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes cylindricus*. **Near Threatened**. Frequent in Kakum (many observers, up to 2010), and also heard near Aboabo (Dec 2009 pers. obs., and a few other mentions).
- *Yellow-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*. **Near Threatened**. Frequent in Kakum (especially near Abrafo, many observers), heard at Krua camp (Aug 2010) and also encountered inside dense forest near Aboabo (Dec 2009).
- Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*. Frequent in Kakum (many observers). Probably more common than last in the south. Present in Assin Atandaso (E. Bukari).
- *Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchailloi*. Aboabo: widespread, but less numerous than in the south of Kakum.
- *Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*. Several reports from the Aboabo area. Seen in display flight north of Aboabo, 2 Dec 2009.
- Yellow-footed Honeyguide *Melignomon eisentrauti*. **Data Deficient**. Continues to be seen occasionally from the canopy walkway (e.g. 2006 and 2007 by D. Hoddinott *et al.*).

- *Spotted Honeyguide *Indicator maculatus*. One seen flying across the road at Aboabo, 1 Dec 2008. Very few records from the south of Kakum (Moyer 1995), thus one heard singing from the canopy walkway on 4 May 2010 (N. Borrow) is worth mentioning.
- *Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii*. One singing midday in forest around the office, 29 Dec 2009: when we arrived at 12h00 it was singing in a *Piptadeniastrum*; stopped calling for just over 30 minutes then sang nearer the office (tree not seen) then sang back in the *Piptadeniastrum* at 14h10, after which we left. There is just one record from Aboabo, one singing, Nov 2009 (R. Summers).
- *Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli*. Observed in a mixed party in dense forest east of Aboabo, 30 Dec 2009.
- *Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga quiscalina*. Noted in Dec 2009 near Aboabo, and there are other records (e.g. C. Goblet & J.-M. Daulne). Much less common than Blue Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina azurea*.
- *Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*. The rarest of the six *Andropadus* at Aboabo, encountered only in denser forest in the interior, 30 Dec 2009.
- *Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*. A few in open canopy and emergents in the Aboabo area.
- *Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*. Quite a few records of this species in the south of Kakum. No records traced for Aboabo.
- *Green-tailed Greenbul *Bleda eximius*. **Vulnerable**. Heard once or twice near Aboabo.
- Yellow-bearded Greenbul *Criniger olivaceus*. **Vulnerable**. Occasionally reported by bird tours in the south of Kakum. Not recorded from Aboabo but could be expected to occur in denser forest in the interior of Assin Atandaso.
- *White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*. Aboabo: more common than Icterine Greenbul *P. icterinus* in the degraded sections of forest near the road. Icterine Greenbul is found mainly in denser forest in the interior.
- *Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*. Occasionally recorded near Aboabo.
- Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Recorded north of Aboabo on 30 Mar 2008 (C. Goblet & J.-M. Daulne) and 22 Nov 2009 (P. van der Wielen). Extreme dates for Kakum (canopy walkway) are from December, to as late as 3 May 2009 (P. Atkinson).
- Olivaceous Flycatcher *Muscicapa olivascens*. A breeding record of this discreet species by N. Borrow (Abrafo), of one feeding a fledgling on 21 May 2008.
- *Bioko Batis *Batis poensis*. Recorded in the Aboabo area (singing Dec), also by N. Borrow *et al.*
- Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya blissetti*. Has recently (2009) been recorded also in thickets at Antwikwa (R. Ntakor).
- *Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens*. Common in tangles in the Aboabo area.
- *Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri*. Recorded in the Aboabo area by several observers (including N. Borrow and ourselves).
- *Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis*. Very local in the Aboabo area, one singing in a mixed party in dense forest in the interior, 30 Dec 2009.
- Forest Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons*. This discreet species was confirmed for the Aboabo area by N. Borrow (Apr 2010). Also noted at Antwikwa by R. White (Mar 2006) and A. Hester (2008).
- Green Sunbird *Anthreptes rectirostris*. Confirmed to occur at Aboabo by D. Hoddinott, 2009.
- *Little Green Sunbird *Nectarinia seimundi*. Occasionally recorded from Aboabo.
- *Tiny Sunbird *Nectarinia minulla*. Located by its song in the Aboabo area, Dec 2009.
- *Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* and *W. Black-headed Oriole *O. brachyrhynchus*. Both orioles are common in the Aboabo area.
- *Red-billed Helmet Shrike *Prionops caniceps*. Several observations around Aboabo.
- *Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*. Very local in the Aboabo area, as the forest near the road is too degraded. Found in denser forest inside, in a mixed party, 30 Dec 2009, pair with a fluffy fledgling.
- *Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*. This non-breeding migrant was seen near the tourist centre on 30 Nov 2008, with over 50 birds feeding on figs of *Ficus exasperata*. About 15 at Aboabo, same date, and some small flocks also moving through the Aboabo area on 1 Dec 2008. There are many records of flocks in Nov-Dec, and overall dates are from 25 Sep (2005, A. Hester) and 27 Oct (2003, flock at Abrafo,

Jos Wanten) to mid-March (over 50 on 8-9 Mar, Kakum and small flocks 12 Mar 2009 Aboabo, D. van den Schoor); but only single records in Jan-Feb.

*Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*. Aboabo: fairly common in forest understorey and tangles generally, probably more so than Blue-billed Malimbe *M. nitens*. Canopy weavers (Yellow-mantled *Ploceus tricolor*; Maxwell's Black *P. albinucha*, Red-headed *Malimbus rubricollis* and Red-vented Malimbies *M. scutatus*) are all common at Aboabo.

*Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch *Nigrita bicolor* and *White-breasted Negrofinch *N. fusconota*. Several records from the Aboabo area.

Red-fronted Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons*. **Near Threatened**. Recent records of this very discreet species include a family group at Aboabo (a new locality), and a pair at Abrafo, both by N. Borrow in May 2010. Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*. Recorded from low bush near Aboabo by C. Goblet & J.-M. Daulne, Mar 2008.

3. Selected marginal species

These are recorded from farmbush or thickets outside the reserve, and not included in species totals:

*Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*. Recorded from farmbush outside forest: as near the tourist centre, and Krua camp.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. One of this Palearctic migrant seen in farmbush at Antwikwa, Mar 2009 (R. Ntakor *et al.*).

*Snowy-crowned Robin Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*. Heard in low bush outside forest near the tourist centre, 30 Nov 2008. The date of 23 May (2008) of one heard by N. Borrow near Aboabo is late and suggests it may breed locally in farmbush.

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*. Not recorded from the forest but from secondary thickets several km north of Aboabo, by A. Hester (Jul 2008).

Capuchin Babbler *Phyllanthus atripennis*. Recorded from farmbush in the region of Aboabo (R. Ntakor).

Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*. Found in thickets north of Aboabo by C. Goblet & J.-M. Daulne. Heard opposite Abrafo on the way to Pra Suhien by N. Borrow in Apr 2010, in thick bush on the edge of farmbush. So rather marginal.

4. Species requiring confirmation

Ibis *Bostrychia* sp. In August 2010, Mohamed Adams informed us that, in addition to the familiar Spot-breasted Ibis, he had come across an ibis with a deeper voice, on the Obuo stream. Whether this was Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* or Olive Ibis *B. olivacea* (the latter not yet confirmed from Ghana) could not be established. It seems the area of the Obuo stream would repay a visit by a competent ornithologist.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*. Unlike what was written in Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett (2005) R. Ntakor (pers comm. 2010) no longer believes he has ever heard this species in Kakum. One was perhaps heard by A. Hester at Abrafo in Nov 2004, but the observer was uncertain. One mention for Aboabo in 2008 was also considered uncertain (J.-M. Daulne pers comm.).

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus*. It is uncertain whether there are any records of this rare hornbill, apparently confined to the transition zone. It was perhaps seen from the canopy walkway on 10 Jan 2006 (*per* R. Cruse), but R. Cruse did not see it himself and their local guide lacked experience. Four were reported from Antwikwa by P. Cardy in Jan 2008, but the more likely Brown-cheeked or Piping Hornbills *B. fistulator* were not mentioned on that trip. Confusions with Brown-cheeked and Piping Hornbills, which are regularly encountered at Kakum, cannot be excluded. Frequent visitors to Kakum like R. Ntakor have never seen this hornbill. Two noted by J. Pienaar (Rockjumper) from canopy walkway in Nov 2008 have not been substantiated.

Yellow-necked Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus*. **Vulnerable**. One hunter has reported seeing this bird or its nests on rocks near the Obuo stream (*per* E. Bukari). Wildlife guards have not been able to check

this, as the hunter then took fright and declined to show them the area. This ought to be followed up. Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*. This flycatcher is recorded from some rivers outside Kakum (e.g. the Pra, R. Ntakor *et al.*) and could well occur on the Kakum river on the south-eastern edge of the park, as the river there is 8-10 m wide (pers. obs.) and appears locally suitable for this flycatcher.

Other species which one would expect to occur in Kakum but unrecorded to date include White-browed Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens*, for which suitable habitat exists along some streams (e.g. Afia stream at Antwikwa).

5. Breeding records

These are additional to those presented in Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett (2005):

Black Dwarf Hornbill. Nest attended by male on 22 Apr 2010, Aboabo (N. Borrow).

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*. Feeding two fledglings on 13 Oct 2008, Antwikwa (X. Vandevyvre): suggests egg-laying Aug.

Olivaceous Flycatcher. Feeding a fledgling c. 20 May 2008, Kakum (N. Borrow): suggests egg-laying Mar.

Tessmann's Flycatcher. Feeding two recently fledged young, 28 Apr 2010, Aboabo (N. Borrow): egg-laying Mar.

*Collared Sunbird *Anthreptes collaris*. Feeding full-grown fledgling, 1 Dec 2008: egg-laying Oct.

*Buff-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia adelberti*. Feeding fledgling on 30 Dec 2009 Aboabo, egg-laying Nov.

*Shining Drongo. Feeding a fluffy fledgling 30 Dec 2009, Aboabo, tail not fully grown: suggests egg-laying Nov.

*Splendid Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*. Nest-building on 1 Dec 2009.

*Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*. Nest-building 1 Jan 2010, Aboabo.

*Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*. Feeding fledgling in farmbush, Krua camp, 24 Aug 2010: egg-laying Jun-Jul.

Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*: nest-building seen from canopy walkway, early Aug 2007 (D. Shackelford).

6. Species of conservation concern

The level of threat of a few species has been modified by BirdLife International (2008), following which 12 species now occur in Kakum: White-breasted Guineafowl (Vulnerable), Grey Parrot (Near Threatened), Rufous Fishing Owl (Endangered; we recommend this be downgraded to Vulnerable, given that this owl is more widespread than hitherto supposed), Brown-cheeked Hornbill (Near Threatened), Yellow-casqued Hornbill (Near Threatened), Yellow-footed Honeyguide (Data Deficient, but fairly widespread in south-west Ghana), Green-tailed Bristlebill (Vulnerable, but this widespread bulbul should be downgraded to Near Threatened), Yellow-bearded Greenbul (Vulnerable), Tessmann's Flycatcher (Data Deficient, but widespread in semi-evergreen forest in south-west Ghana), Rufous-winged Illadopsis (Near Threatened), Copper-tailed Glossy Starling (Near Threatened), Red-fronted Antpecker (Near Threatened).

CONCLUSION

The total number of species accepted for Kakum and Assin Atandaso approaches 244, but these include a number of marginal species encountered in farmbush near the tourist centre or at Antwikwa. The number of Guineo-Congolian biome-restricted species is 156, with several additions since 2005: *Pteronetta hartlaubi*, *Scotopelia ussheri*, *Indicator exilis*, *Sasia africana*, *Muscicapa tessmanni*, *Illadopsis rufescens*, *Nectarinia batesi* and *Nigrita luteifrons*. Of the new records, it is particularly reassuring that the Rufous Fishing Owl has been confirmed to occur as well as Rufous-winged Illadopsis, as these two species are generally uncommon or local in south-west Ghana. The status of both in Kakum remains poorly known. It is also noteworthy that White-breasted Guineafowl, an Upper Guinea endemic which is highly threatened in south-west Ghana, is still recorded in

small numbers. Kakum is also important for the conservation of Grey Parrot and all four species of large frugivorous hornbills (Brown-cheeked and Piping, Yellow-casqued and Black-casqued), which are still fairly common.

Being surrounded by hundreds of villages, Kakum is subjected to incessant poaching activities, and the efforts of the wildlife guards are insufficient to keep on top of the situation. Monkeys and other mammals are getting scarcer, and poaching may be or may become a problem for the larger bird species such as Guineafowls and frugivorous hornbills.

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CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KAKUM NATIONAL PARK

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The English names used generally follow the field guides by Borrow & Demey (2001, 2004. *Birds of Western Africa*. London: Christopher Helm). Abbreviations used: Res. = Resident; PM = Palearctic (Eurasian) migrant; AM = Intra-African migrant; Irreg.= Irregular visitor. "Marginal" means present in farmbush and at forest edges only. The status of many species is poorly known, as we do not have reliable observations for all times of year.

| Species | Status..... | Observations |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| White-crested Tiger Heron <i>Tigriornis leucolopha</i> | Res | |
| Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | AM (marginal)..... | |
| Spot-breasted Ibis <i>Bostrychia rara</i> | Res..... | |
| Hartlaub's Duck <i>Pteronetta hartlaubi</i> | Res..... | |
| African Cuckoo Hawk <i>Aviceda cuculoides</i> | Res..... | |
| European Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | PM..... | |
| Bat Hawk <i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i> | Res..... | |
| Yellow-billed Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i> | AM (marginal)..... | |
| Palm-nut Vulture <i>Gypohierax angolensis</i> | Res..... | |
| Hooded Vulture <i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i> | Res. (marginal)..... | |
| Congo Serpent Eagle <i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i> | Res..... | |
| African Harrier Hawk (Gymnogene) <i>Polyboroides typus</i> | Res..... | |
| Black Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i> | Res..... | |
| Red-thighed Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter erythropus</i> | Res..... | |
| African Goshawk <i>Accipiter tachiro</i> | Res..... | |
| Long-tailed Hawk <i>Urotriorchis macrourus</i> | Res..... | |
| Red-necked Buzzard <i>Buteo auguralis</i> | AM/Res..... | |
| Wahlberg's Eagle <i>Aquila wahlbergi</i> | AM (marginal)..... | |
| Ayres's Hawk Eagle <i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i> | Res..... | |
| Cassin's Hawk Eagle <i>Spizaetus africanus</i> | Res..... | |
| Long-crested Eagle <i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i> | Res. (marginal)..... | |
| Crowned Eagle <i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i> | Res..... | |
| African Hobby <i>Falco cuvierii</i> | Res..... | |
| Latham's Forest Francolin <i>Francolinus lathamii</i> | Res..... | |
| Ahanta Francolin <i>Francolinus ahantensis</i> | Res..... | |
| White-breasted Guineafowl <i>Agelastes meleagrides</i> | Res. (rare)..... | |
| Crested Guineafowl <i>Guttera pucherani</i> | Res..... | |
| Nkulengu Rail <i>Himantornis haematopus</i> | Res..... | |
| White-spotted Flufftail <i>Sarothrura pulchra</i> | Res..... | |
| Grey-throated Rail <i>Canirallus oculus</i> | Res. (rare)..... | |
| African Finfoot <i>Podica senegalensis</i> | Res..... | |
| Afep Pigeon <i>Columba unicincta</i> | Res. (rare)..... | |
| Western Bronze-naped Pigeon <i>Columba (delegorguei) iriditorques</i> | Res..... | |
| Red-eyed Dove <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i> | Res. (marginal)..... | |
| Blue-spotted Wood Dove <i>Turtur afer</i> | Res. (marginal)..... | |
| Tambourine Dove <i>Turtur tympanistreria</i> | Res..... | |
| Blue-headed Wood Dove <i>Turtur brehmeri</i> | Res..... | |
| African Green Pigeon <i>Treron calvus</i> | Res..... | |
| Grey Parrot <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> | Res..... | |
| Brown-necked Parrot <i>Poicephalus robustus</i> | Irreg..... | |
| Red-fronted Parrot <i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i> | Res..... | |
| Black-collared Lovebird <i>Agapornis swindernianus</i> | Res..... | |

| Species | Status..... | Observations |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Green Turaco <i>Tauraco persa</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Yellow-billed Turaco <i>Tauraco macrorhynchus</i> | Res | |
| Great Blue Turaco <i>Corythaeola cristata</i> | Res | |
| Levaillant's (Striped) Cuckoo <i>Clamator levaillantii</i> | AM | |
| Thick-billed Cuckoo <i>Pachycoccyx audeberti</i> | Res | |
| Red-chested Cuckoo <i>Cuculus solitarius</i> | Res | |
| Black Cuckoo <i>Cuculus clamosus</i> | Res | |
| Common (Eurasian Grey) Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | PM (rare) | |
| Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo <i>Cercococcyx olivinus</i> | Res | |
| African Emerald Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i> | Res | |
| Yellow-throated Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx flavigularis</i> | Res | |
| Klaas's Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i> | Res | |
| Didric Cuckoo <i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Yellowbill (Green Coucal) <i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i> | Res | |
| Black-throated Coucal <i>Centropus leucogaster</i> | Res | |
| Sandy Scops Owl <i>Otus icterorhynchus</i> | Res | |
| Fraser's Eagle Owl <i>Bubo poensis</i> | Res | |
| Akun Eagle Owl <i>Bubo leucostictus</i> | Res | |
| Red-chested Owlet <i>Glaucidium tephronotum</i> | Res | |
| Rufous Fishing Owl <i>Scotopelia ussheri</i> | Res | |
| African Wood Owl <i>Strix woodfordii</i> | Res | |
| Brown Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus binotatus</i> | Res | |
| Black-shouldered Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus p. nigriscapularis</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Black Spinetail <i>Telacanthura melanopygia</i> | Res | |
| Sabine's Spinetail <i>Rhaphidura sabini</i> | Res | |
| Cassin's Spinetail <i>Neafrapus cassini</i> | Res | |
| African Palm Swift <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i> | PM | |
| Pallid Swift <i>Apus pallidus</i> | PM | |
| Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| African White-rumped Swift <i>Apus caffer</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Bates's Swift <i>Apus batesi</i> | Res | |
| Narina's Trogon <i>Apaloderma narina</i> | Res | |
| Shining-blue Kingfisher <i>Alcedo quadibrachys</i> | Res | |
| White-bellied Kingfisher <i>Alcedo leucogaster</i> | Res | |
| African Dwarf Kingfisher <i>Ceyx lecontei</i> | Res | |
| African Pygmy Kingfisher <i>Ceyx pictus</i> | AM (marginal) | |
| Chocolate-backed Kingfisher <i>Halcyon badia</i> | Res | |
| Blue-breasted Kingfisher <i>Halcyon malimbica</i> | Res | |
| Woodland Kingfisher <i>Halcyon senegalensis</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Giant Kingfisher <i>Megaceryle maxima</i> | Res | |
| Black Bee-eater <i>Merops gularis</i> | Res | |
| White-throated Bee-eater <i>Merops albicollis</i> | AM | |
| European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i> | PM | |
| Rosy Bee-eater <i>Merops malimbicus</i> | AM | |
| Blue-throated Roller <i>Eurystomus gularis</i> | Res | |
| White-headed Wood Hoopoe <i>Phoeniculus bollei</i> | Res | |
| Forest Wood Hoopoe <i>Phoeniculus castaneiceps</i> | Res | |
| White-crested Hornbill <i>Tropicranus albocristatus</i> | Res | |
| Black Dwarf Hornbill <i>Tockus hartlaubi</i> | Res | |
| Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill <i>Tockus camurus</i> | Res | |
| African Pied Hornbill <i>Tockus fasciatus</i> | Res | |
| Piping Hornbill <i>Bycanistes fistulator</i> | Res | |
| Brown-cheeked Hornbill <i>Bycanistes cylindricus</i> | Res | |

| Species | Status..... | Observations |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| Black-casqued Hornbill <i>Ceratogymna atrata</i> | Res..... | |
| Yellow-casqued Hornbill <i>Ceratogymna elata</i> | Res..... | |
| Naked-faced Barbet <i>Gymnobucco calvus</i> | Res..... | |
| Bristle-nosed Barbet <i>Gymnobucco peli</i> | Res..... | |
| Yellow-spotted Barbet <i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i> | Res..... | |
| Speckled Tinkerbird <i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i> | Res..... | |
| Yellow-throated Tinkerbird <i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i> | Res..... | |
| Red-rumped Tinkerbird <i>Pogoniulus atroflavus</i> | Res..... | |
| Hairy-breasted Barbet <i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i> | Res..... | |
| Vieillot's Barbet <i>Lybius vieilloti</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Yellow-billed Barbet <i>Trachylaemus purpuratus</i> | Res..... | |
| Cassin's Honeybird <i>Prodotiscus insignis</i> | Res..... | |
| Yellow-footed Honeyguide <i>Melignomon eisentrauti</i> | Res..... | |
| Spotted Honeyguide <i>Indicator maculatus</i> | Res..... | |
| Lesser Honeyguide <i>Indicator minor</i> | Res..... | |
| Western Least Honeyguide <i>Indicator exilis</i> | Res..... | |
| Willcocks's Honeyguide <i>Indicator willcocksii</i> | Res..... | |
| African Piculet <i>Sasia africana</i> | Res..... | |
| Little Green Woodpecker <i>Campethera maculosa</i> | Res..... | |
| Buff-spotted Woodpecker <i>Campethera nivosa</i> | Res..... | |
| Brown-eared Woodpecker <i>Campethera caroli</i> | Res..... | |
| Gabon Woodpecker <i>Dendropicops gabonensis</i> | Res..... | |
| Fire-bellied Woodpecker <i>Thripias pyrrhogaster</i> | Res..... | |
| African Broadbill <i>Smithornis capensis</i> | Res. (rare, marginal) | |
| Rufous-sided Broadbill <i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i> | Res..... | |
| Square-tailed Saw-wing <i>Psalidoprocne nitens</i> | Res..... | |
| Fanti Saw-wing <i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Mosque Swallow <i>Hirundo senegalensis</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Lesser Striped Swallow <i>Hirundo abyssinica</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Barn (Eurasian) Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | PM..... | |
| Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike <i>Campephaga quisqualis</i> | Res..... | |
| Blue Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina azurea</i> | Res..... | |
| Little Greenbul <i>Andropadus virens</i> | Res..... | |
| Little Grey Greenbul <i>Andropadus gracilis</i> | Res..... | |
| Ansorge's Greenbul <i>Andropadus ansorgei</i> | Res..... | |
| Cameroon Sombre Greenbul <i>Andropadus curvirostris</i> | Res..... | |
| Slender-billed Greenbul <i>Andropadus gracilirostris</i> | Res..... | |
| Yellow-whiskered Greenbul <i>Andropadus latirostris</i> | Res..... | |
| Golden Greenbul <i>Calyptocichla serina</i> | Res..... | |
| Honeyguide Greenbul <i>Baeopogon indicator</i> | Res..... | |
| Spotted Greenbul <i>Ixonotus guttatus</i> | Res..... | |
| Simple Leaflove <i>Chlorocichla simplex</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Swamp Palm Bulbul <i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i> | Res..... | |
| Icterine Greenbul <i>Phyllastrephus icterinus</i> | Res..... | |
| White-throated Greenbul <i>Phyllastrephus albigularis</i> | Res..... | |
| Red-tailed Bristlebill <i>Bleda syndactylus</i> | Res..... | |
| Green-tailed Bristlebill <i>Bleda eximius</i> | Res..... | |
| Grey-headed Bristlebill <i>Bleda canicapillus</i> | Res..... | |
| Western Bearded Greenbul <i>Criniger barbatus</i> | Res..... | |
| Red-tailed Greenbul <i>Criniger calurus</i> | Res..... | |
| Yellow-bearded Greenbul <i>Criniger olivaceus</i> | Res..... | |
| Common Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Western Nicator <i>Nicator chloris</i> | Res..... | |
| White-tailed Ant Thrush <i>Neocossyphus poensis</i> | Res..... | |

| Species | Status..... | Observations |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Finsch's (Rufous) Flycatcher Thrush <i>Stizorhina fraseri finschi</i> | Res | |
| Fire-crested (White-tailed) Alethe <i>Alethe diademata</i> | Res | |
| Brown-chested Alethe <i>Alethe poliocephala</i> | Res | |
| Forest Robin <i>Stiphrornis erythrothorax</i> | Res | |
| Blue-shouldered Robin Chat <i>Cossypha cyanocampter</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Forest Scrub Robin <i>Erythropgyia leucosticta</i> | Res. (rare) | |
| Rufous-crowned Eremomela <i>Eremomela badiceps</i> | Res | |
| Green Crombec <i>Sylvietta virens</i> | Res | |
| Lemon-bellied Crombec <i>Sylvietta denti</i> | Res | |
| Grey Longbill <i>Macrosphenus concolor</i> | Res | |
| Kemp's Longbill <i>Macrosphenus kempii</i> | Res | |
| Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | PM | |
| Violet-backed Hyliota <i>Hyliota violacea</i> | Res | |
| Green Hylia <i>Hylia prasina</i> | Res | |
| Whistling Cisticola <i>Cisticola lateralis</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Red-faced Cisticola <i>Cisticola erythrops</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Tawny-flanked Prinia <i>Prinia subflava</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Black-capped Apalis <i>Apalis nigriceps</i> | Res | |
| Sharpe's Apalis <i>Apalis sharpii</i> | Res | |
| Grey-backed Camaroptera <i>Camaroptera brachyura</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Yellow-browed Camaroptera <i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i> | Res | |
| Olive-green Camaroptera <i>Camaroptera chloronota</i> | Res | |
| Fraser's Forest Flycatcher <i>Fraseria ocreata</i> | Res | |
| Olivaceous Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa olivascens</i> | Res | |
| Little Grey Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa epulata</i> | Res | |
| Dusky-blue Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa comitata</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Ashy Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Tessmann's Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa tessmanni</i> | Res | |
| Ussher's Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa ussheri</i> | Res | |
| Grey-throated Flycatcher <i>Myioparus griseigularis</i> | Res | |
| Shrike Flycatcher <i>Megabyas flammulatus</i> | Res | |
| Black-and-white Flycatcher <i>Bias musicus</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Bioko Batis <i>Batis poensis</i> | Res | |
| Red-cheeked Wattle-eye <i>Dyaphorophya blissetti</i> | Res. (marginal) | |
| Chestnut Wattle-eye <i>Dyaphorophya castanea</i> | Res | |
| Chestnut-capped Flycatcher <i>Erythrocerus mccallii</i> | Res | |
| Dusky Crested Flycatcher <i>Elminia nigromitrata</i> | Res | |
| Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher <i>Trochocercus nitens</i> | Res | |
| African Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i> | AM | |
| Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher <i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i> | Res | |
| Brown Illadopsis <i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i> | Res | |
| Rufous-winged Illadopsis <i>Illadopsis rufescens</i> | Res | |
| Pale-breasted Illadopsis <i>Illadopsis rufipennis</i> | Res | |
| Blackcap Illadopsis <i>Illadopsis cleaveri</i> | Res | |
| Dusky Tit <i>Parus funereus</i> | Res. (rare) | |
| Forest Penduline Tit <i>Anthoscopus flavifrons</i> | Res | |
| Tit-hylia <i>Pholidornis rushiae</i> | Res | |
| Fraser's Sunbird <i>Deleornis fraseri</i> | Res | |
| Green (Yellow-chinned) Sunbird <i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i> | Res | |
| Collared Sunbird <i>Anthreptes collaris</i> | Res | |
| Little Green Sunbird <i>Nectarinia seimundi</i> | Res | |
| Bates's Sunbird <i>Nectarinia batesi</i> | Res | |
| Olive Sunbird <i>Nectarinia olivacea</i> | Res | |
| Blue-throated Brown Sunbird <i>Nectarinia cyanolaema</i> | Res | |

