

Ann and Roland go Birding in Ghana

December 14th – December 28th 2011

Travel

We travelled with Brussels Airlines flying from Manchester to Brussels then Brussels to Accra with a one-hour stop in Mali. Both flights were late on the way out but there were no problems on the way back. The seats were comfortable and there was quite a lot of space. We should have been returning on the 30th but our flight from Brussels to Manchester was cancelled so we had to cut our holiday short which meant we didn't get to the hippo sanctuary, the dam or the Egyptian Plover site ☹️ The cost was £1176.04 for the two of us.

Tour Company in Ghana

We used Kalu Afasi of Malimbe Tours (www.malimbetours.com). This is a small company. It is Ghanaian owned and we were very pleased with all the arrangements, cost etc. Kalu has phenomenal eyesight and hearing plus he is passionate about birds! He charged us 2300\$ each for a 14-day tour and we did not spend anything on top of that as all our needs were met. I did regret not having some money for shopping – not that there was much opportunity to shop but I would have liked to have bought a t-shirt at Kakum and it was a bit embarrassing having to ask Kalu for the money to go to the toilet!

We travelled in an air-conditioned 4-wheel drive vehicle. It was plenty large enough for the 4 of us and our driver, Willy, was a great guy.

Highly recommended!

Accommodation

Sakumono: N'Joy Hotel www.njoyhotelghana.com. Not quite as portrayed on the web-site but adequate. We had to make our own bed. Early breakfast provided.

Kakum: Hans Cottage Botel www.hansbotel.com. Fine. Meals slow in appearing but all freshly cooked. Early breakfast provided.

Axim: Axim Beach Hotel www.aximbeach.com. Fabulous! Good early breakfast provided.

Kakum: Rainforest Lodge www.rainforestlodgegh.com. Website flatters to deceive but room etc ok! Good food. Early breakfast provided.

Assin Fosso: Babevan Lodge. Adequate. Early breakfast provided.

Kumasi: Treasure Land www.treasurelandhotelghana.com. Again, the website flatters to deceive! The wi-fi didn't work but there were 2 computers in the reception area. The water

pressure in our room wasn't sufficient to make the shower work and the satellite TV gives you access to four channels but that is fairly standard. Early breakfast provided.

Mole: Mole Motel. Our room was adequate with a small patio overlooking the water-hole. We had warthogs, deer, monkeys and baboon outside ☺. The lighting was poor and there was little or no running water. We had to rely on buckets of cold water for washing and filling the toilet cistern. The fridge didn't work. The food was good. No breakfast. Coffee at 6h00.

Kumasi: Treasureland again. This time we got a suite! Very nice with 2 balconies but no hot water. No breakfast despite Kalu arranging it in advance.

Tafo: Royal Bleumich Hotel. We didn't actually stay here because they were having a party! We stayed at an un-finished hotel down the road! The rooms were very dingy but adequate and we were at last able to have a hot shower! Quite surreal. Ate our evening meal at the Bleumich but no breakfast at all.

Shai Hills: Shai hills Resort. Not good! We didn't even get a top sheet for the bed – just a piece of frayed material not as big as the bed! It was very dingy. The shower didn't work. No hot water. When we went for our evening meal they had nothing to offer us except breakfast and bread! I opted for the bread – two and a half slices. No butter or margarine but they did find some marmalade. Roland opted for the breakfast: spoonful of cold beans, small sausage, mini-omelette and bread. Two sachets of coffee (one of which had already been opened) and one tea-bag. ☹ Breakfast the next day was the same!

The Birds

In my diary I have listed each bird the first time we saw it only. Birds in bold are lifers. For those of you who do not wish to read all my waffle, there are bird lists at the end of the report. We have only included the birds we saw – if Kalu saw something but we missed it, we haven't included it. Nor have we included birds calling – except for the elusive Flufftail who led us a fair old dance! We saw a total of 301 birds of which 151 were lifers.

The Food

We like to eat local food. We enjoyed the Ghanain food and I especially liked the groundnut soup which is probably why I didn't lose any weight though I did more walking than ever before in my life! Fufu, Banku, Omo tuo, Red red and Jollof rice were found on most menus. Fufu (pounded cassava and plantain or pounded yam and plantain). Banku is cooked fermented corn dough and cassava dough. Omo tuo is pounded rice. Red red is a bean stew with fried ripe plantain. Soups are usually served with your choice of grasscutter (cane rat), chicken, guinea-fowl, fish or beef. The food is eaten with the fingers. Roland fully embraced this method and can recommend the Grasscutter but I stuck more to rice dishes and using a spoon/fork.

Diary

Wednesday, December 14th 2011

Up at 2h15 to drive to Manchester Airport! The flight to Brussels was half-an-hour late taking off. No idea why. Breakfast on plane. Brussels airport a nightmare. Flight to Accra also late partly because someone checked-in but didn't make the flight so their luggage had to be unloaded. Quick to come round with drinks. Three meals provided. Comfy seats. Plenty of space and leg-room. Free headphones but hard to see TV screens. An hour's stop at Bamako in Mali to offload and take on passengers. Uneventful flight. Queue at immigration but expected that. Kalu waiting for us in Arrivals. Went straight to our hotel in Sakumono. It took a while because of the traffic in Accra. No signage, terrible roads, scary driving! Hotel ok. Quite relieved! Hot running water etc and a big shower but bed not made up and everywhere a bit worn looking. TV rubbish. Good night's sleep.

Thursday, December 15th 2011

Breakfast at 6h00. Fried eggs, "toast", portion of Vache qui rit, flask of hot water and makings. Set off for Sakumono Lagoon. Saw lots of big posh houses. Apparently this is where the rich people live. We parked near the golf course and walked to the lagoon while Willy, our driver, sorted out the wheels on our transport. We were amused to see Randy the Lifeguard's services advertised by the swimming-pool in the complex! Kalu was also amused when we explained the meaning of the word Randy to him ☺

There were many people fishing for small tilapia in the lagoon. They live in a small village nearby.

Visability was not good and was to remain that way for a few days because of the Harmattan (a trade wind blowing from the Sahara). Otherwise it was hot and humid but not overpoweringly hot and there was a pleasant breeze. Insects/mosquitoes were not a problem. Quite the opposite!

We spent a couple of hours walking along the sand with dragonflies flitting about our feet. We noted the following birds:

Green Wood-hoopoe

Common Bulbul

Laughing Dove

Pied Crow

Shikra

Yellow-billed Shrike

Bronze Mannekin

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow

Senegal Coucal

Western-grey Plantain-eater

Brown Babbler

Village Weaver

African Wattled Lapwing

Mosque Swallow

Little Egret

Grey Heron

Black-tailed Godwit

African Grey Hornbill

Spur-winged Lapwing

Black Heron

Black-winged Stilt

Plain-backed Pipit

Black Kite

Yellow-billed Kite

Zitting Cisticola

Marsh Sandpiper

Great Egret

Common Greenshank

Pied Kingfisher

Western Marsh Harrier

Common Ringed Plover

Long-tailed Cormorant

Common Redshank

Grey Plover

Yellow Wagtail

White-faced Whistling-duck

Kittlitz's Plover

Squacco Heron

Ethiopian Swallow

Common Sandpiper

Curlew Sandpiper

African Jacana

African Harrier Hawk

Northern Pintail

Glossy Ibis

Gabar Goshawk

Senegal Eremomela

Yellow-crowned Gonolek

The Zitting Cisticola was amazing – he sat out for many-a-while giving excellent photo opportunities! Remarkably little zitting and yes, I know the name has changed but I much prefer this one!

We then made our way back to the hotel and had an hour there while Kalu and Willy sorted out our transport. We had a little wander down the street and found a sewage stream with fabulous dragon-flies, butterflies and lizards galore. Kept us entertained until it was time to leave for Hans Cottage Botel. En route we stopped at the Café d'Eric for a meal Here we were introduced to banku, fufu and grasscutter. Roland plumped for the grasscutter (Cane rat) I was a little more conservative in my choice of an omelette! We had to wait quite a while for the food and we were soon to learn that this was the norm as food is cooked from fresh. Don't be misled by the vast choice though – most of the dishes aren't available! My omelette was my third choice and was served with bread, French butter and French jam..... Two hooded vultures came and sat on the toilet block roof and were still there when we left – handsome creatures. We watched a lizard with a scorpion – he was very careful how he handled it! All nice and relaxing, pleasantly warm, all you could want! Happy to be back in Africa.

After lunch we went off to Winneba Plains and the road to Mankoadze for a walk. We added the following to our list here:

White-throated bee-eater

African Pied Wagtail

Bar-breasted Firefinch

Northern Red Bishop

Red-eyed Dove

Copper Sunbird

Lizard Buzzard

Black-shouldered Kite

Splendid Sunbird

Barn Swallow

Whinchat

Blue-spotted Wood Dove

Compact Weaver

Black-crowned Tchagra

Green-backed Camaroptera

Vinaceous Dove

Double-spurred Francolin

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Red-necked Buzzard

Green Turaco

As we travelled about we were fascinated by the sights, sounds and smells of Ghana – the markets, the roads, goats, houses, all of it! The loads that people carried on their heads absolutely amazed me. I have seen it before but never had I seen a man carrying a television on his head or a lady with a sewing-machine! And no, not the modern lightweight versions! Can you imagine walking about with a machete or a handbag on your head in England! ☺

Hans Cottage was better than we had expected from reports we had already read – nice big clean room, huge bed, separate toilet (a real throne), shower and washbasin..... Everywhere we stayed provided us with soap and towels and there was always a fan, fridge, TV and air-conditioning. Not many channels on the TVs but as we don't watch it anyway, we weren't too disappointed.

After our evening meal we collapsed into bed having set our alarm for 4h10!

Friday, December 16th 2011

Breakfast was at 5h00: egg, toast, passion-fruit juice. Fresh, organic passion fruit juice – delicious! Then it was time to set off for Kakum and the dreaded walkway Would we manage it OK? Willy had tried it but was too frightened to go across Not very reassuring. We left him on the car park listening to his music and set off on the trail with our young guide in tow. He was a student, a really nice lad and very informative about the trees etc in the forest. It was a fair walk to the canopy – plenty of steps to do my knees in – and just as I was beginning to despair, we were there and I was on it! Help! No time to prepare myself and it was so, so wobbly ... It seemed miles to the first stop ... we all got there safely and spent the next few hours scanning the treetops for birds and any other wildlife that was present. How do you describe the experience fully? It was so lovely, suspended above the undergrowth with a 360 degree view of the surrounding forest shrouded in early morning mist ... Beyond our wildest dreams indeed. So still and then you feel the warmth of the sun on your back and the birds start singing, the butterflies appear and you feel at one with the world. Magic. We stayed on the first platform for a couple of hours before moving down to the second one for about an hour and then the third one. It was lunchtime before we made our way along the other three walkways and back down to the car park. We'd done it and had added the following new birds to our list:

Collared Sunbird

African Green Pigeon

Rufous-crowned Eremomela

African Pied Hornbill

Velvet-mantled Drongo

Red-headed Malimbe

Red-rumped Tinkerbird

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher x2

Honeyguide Greenbul
White-breasted Negrofinch
Yellow-billed Turaco
Copper-tailed Glossy Starling
Blue Cuckoo-shrike
Forest Wood-hoopoe
Black-winged Oriole
Green Sunbird
African Palm Swift
Yellow-mantled Weaver
Violet-backed Hyliota
Splendid Glossy Starling
Chestnut-capped Flycatcher
Yellowbill
Fire-bellied Woodpecker
Chestnut-winged Starling
Blue-throated Roller
Slender-billed Greenbul
Speckled Tinkerbird
Little Grey Greenbul
Chestnut Wattle-eye
Sabine's Puffback
Little Green Woodpecker
Ansorge's Greenbul
Buff-throated Sunbird
Blue-headed Wood Dove
Sharp's Apalis

Back at Hans Cottage, we had a wander round the grounds looking out for birds and crocodiles. There were plenty of both about! I'm not sure whether I was pleased or not that the pedaloos were out of order – although some of the crocs were reputed to be tame, the majority weren't and pedalling about in crocodile-infested waters sounded a bit risky to me!

Striated Heron
Tawny-flanked Prinia
Cattle Egret
Woodland Kingfisher

We had lunch near the crocodile patio – people kept coming along to snap them and one couple went into the area to stroke one and have their photo taken. Unfortunately, when I wanted to do this there were none around ☹️ There was a colony of village weavers above

the patio – noisy, noisy – wonderful to watch! All too soon it was time to head back to the walkway – the walk was a struggle, the walkway easier! We stayed until sunset.

Olive-bellied Sunbird

Common Swift

Palm-nut Vulture

Brown-cheeked Hornbill

White-crested Hornbill

Black-casqued Hornbill

Western Olive Sunbird

We were treated to some entertainment after tea tonight. Nuff said. Went off to bed and other music started up. It actually lasted all night – started off lively but more hymn-like by morning. Turned out it was a wake. Loud though it was, it didn't keep us awake!

Saturday, December 17th 2011

Early breakfast again then off to Atewa instead of the canopy to avoid the Saturday crowds. I enjoyed watching the birds leaving egret island while drinking my coffee. It was a long drive and quite misty when we got there. Unfortunately the mist got worse so we could barely see the trees, never mind the birds! Conditions did improve slowly and we had a pleasant walk along the edge of the forest in what was mostly an agricultural area: cocoa and maize. There is evidence of de-forestation as the workers cut down more trees but since there is apparently no penalty for this except maybe confiscating a machete, it is bound to continue. The locals also cut down and uproot palms to make palm wine though they do plant a replacement palm.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher

Green Crombec

Little Greenbul

Red-faced Cisticola

Black-headed Weaver

Western Nicator

Klass's Cuckoo

Black Bee-eater

Swamp Greenbul

Grey-headed Negrofinch

Red-fronted Parrot (flying)

Carmelite Sunbird

Blue-billed Malimbe

African Yellow White-eye

Rosy Bee-eater (flying)

Vieillot's Black Weaver

African Paradise Flycatcher

It was about 12 when we left Atewa and on the way back we stopped at Twifo Praso to have a look at the river and admire the bridge which is an old railway viaduct but now used by pedestrians and traffic despite the rotting planks etc. There were illegal goldminers hard at work in the river and we also saw an absolutely huge black snake on the far bank of the river! Glad it was a long way away!

Rock Pratincole

White-throated Blue Swallow

We had parked next to one of the Mormon churches – they are all over the place! There is also a Temple in Accra. We also saw lots of Christian churches (big business, commented our hosts) and mosques though these were mostly in the north. Orphanages too are apparently big business.

Lunch was back at Hans Cottage. We were unable to order a meal because there was a small group who had booked a buffet and they were busy with them but they did bring us each a plateful from the buffet! Expensive at 18cdis but we got a complimentary ice-cream. Strange stuff but not unpleasant. We had only just finished when it was time to set off again, this time for the beach. No, not to swim or relax but to look for birds! We saw

Grey parrot (flying)

Royal Tern

Ruddy Turnstone

Sanderling

Whimbrel

The beach was lovely and there were little boys by the roadside selling crabs. We couldn't linger, however, as we had to hurry off to Brimsu waterworks. This was a nice spot with a big lake still as a mill-pond. The words "It needs materials and money to produce good water. Pay your water bills regularly" were written on the side of the dam wall and we spotted the following new birds

Piping Hornbill

Giant Kingfisher (flying)

Mottled Spinetail

The sun was setting as we arrived back at the car and went off back the way we had come with a spotlight to look for nightjars. Our first find was a gorgeous little tree frog which I managed to pick up though I don't think he was too keen. Excitement over, we didn't have to wait long before we saw a Long-tailed Nightjar. Lovely bird and time to go back to the

hotel for food and even more stunning entertainment!! We were stopped at the gate by a man in a policeman's helmet telling us to slow down and look carefully as the baby crocodile was trying to cross the road! I had already seen this and taken photos of it – so cute but by heck, what teeth! As for the entertainment - never in all my life have I heard anything so bad – I don't know which was worse: the music or the "singing"! We bid a hasty retreat....

Sunday, December 18th 2011

Woken very early this morning by a group of youngsters going down the road complete with drums and whistles and much lusty singing. Turned out it was one of the local fitness groups greatly encouraged by politicians in the run-up to the elections. Lots of freebies to be had! Were ready for breakfast by 5 but still hadn't arrived by 5.30 so went without. Visibility was much better at Kakum today but the birding was slow and not helped by the arrival of approximately 100 noisy Seventh day Adventists on a day out! Much noise (from the adults) and much trepidation all round. We just sent as many as we could down the short-cut back to the start! Our only new birds were

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Red-vented Malimbe

Golden Greenbul

Common Fiscal

Usher's Flycatcher

Ayre's Hawk Eagle

Least Honeyguide

Our next stop was Brenu Beach for lunch. Had to wait ages and ages for our food. Not cheap but a wonderful beach! We investigated one or two nearby birding spots but without any success and carried on to Axim. Wow! Like a dream come true for me! Lovely little round huts dotted about with wonderful views over the sea... Very romantic! We walked down to the picture-postcard beach and looked for birds on the rocks. Nothing new but there were some lovely crabs and hundreds of tiny winkles plus some lovely shells. Unfortunately we had to wait over an hour for our food but we were assured that this was very unusual. I had a tuna sandwich and Roland had a huge fish which he said was delicious. Time for bed – the waves pounding on the shore sounded like the wind howling round us. Weird. What a pity we only had the one night there.....

Monday, December 19th 2011

A buffet breakfast was all ready and waiting for us at 5.00a.m.! Very impressive and very nice. We were presented with a plate of fruit each along with a vegetable omelette,

pineapple juice and could help ourselves to the rest. I discovered the secret of the strange toast – it is not done in a toaster but in a sort of mini-oven. We were soon on our way to Ankasa Forest, a mere 50 minutes away, stopping only to admire some **orange weavers** on the way. Some great roads, especially the last bit! We had to abandon our car in the forest when the mud became too bad and continue on foot with our machete-armed guide! Now what can I say about the mud? Well, it was deep, sticky and slippery. By deep, I mean Roland sank in it up to his knee at one point and there were really deep lorry tracks with standing water in them. If it wasn't for the lorries the road would be ok. They use it because they are building a new bridge further ahead but what a mess! I bet they don't put it right when they have finished either. We walked and walked and walked. I thought we would never stop for lunch or a rest but we did, eventually. Well, Roland and I had our packed lunch (tuna butties, cold chips and ketchup) while Kalu prowled round on a fruitless search for a flufftail. Time to turn round and walk back faster than we had come! It was a long way but we were delighted with the birds, butterflies and grasshoppers we had seen not to mention the ant tunnel. We had already seen several armies of ants criss-crossing the trails but this army had built a roof over their path so it was like a path with a canopy over it! Ants are amazing creatures and you certainly wouldn't want some of the ones we met to be crawling on you! Kalu described them as "wicked" and gave them a wide berth!

A word of warning – even in the dry season it rains most afternoons in Ankasa and wellies are a must along with something waterproof to protect books, cameras etc.

Cassin's Flycatcher

Tambourine Dove

Square-tailed Saw-wing

Rufous-sided Broadbill

Finsch's Flycatcher- thrush

Cassin's Spinetail

Black Spinetail

Bristle-nosed Barbet

Broad-billed Roller

Shining Drongo

Yellow-spotted Barbet

Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch

African Emerald Cuckoo

Crested Malimbe

Tit-hylia

Red-billed Hornbill

Sabine's Spinetail

Blue-breasted Kingfisher

Hartlaub's Duck x1

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher

African Finfoot x1

Instead of going back to Hans Cottage for the night, we stayed at the Rainforest Lodge which was very nice and had lovely food. There was an impressive storm just as we went to bed but it didn't keep us awake!

Tuesday, 20th December 2011

Breakfast was omelette, toast and jam. Usual early start! Today we were off to Natilla Road, to walk along the edge of the forest and through farmland. We had a very pleasant walk, spotting many familiar birds and finding the following new ones:

Sooty Boubou

Violet-backed Starling

Simple Leaflove

Grey Longbill

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher

Puvel's Illiadopsis

Orange-cheeked Waxbill

African Pygmy Kingfisher

Green-headed Sunbird

African Thrush

Dideric's Cuckoo

Fanti Saw-wing (perched)

We also had good views of perching Rosy bee-eaters whereas previously we had only seen them in flight.

Lunch was at the Rainforest Lodge then we drove to our next hotel, the Babevan at Assim Foso before making our way to the picathartes site. I had been worrying for weeks beforehand about the two particular challenges ahead of me. One was the canopy walkway and the other was this walk. Would I be able to manage it? I knew it was an hour's walk there and that the last bit was very steep and rocky... It was very hot and humid that day and even more so in the forest. We followed a narrow track littered with obstacles (tree roots, rocks etc) and then came to a **very** steep bit. And I mean steep! Kalu and the guide led the way followed by Roland, then by me. If Roland hadn't been there helping me, I don't think I would have made it! My legs just aren't long enough and my knees too weak! (What a wimp!) But make it to the top of this almost perpendicular slope I did. Phew! Now for the last bit ... I looked up and there wasn't another steep bit of rock to clamber up, we had done it – we had got to the top! OK, there were the big rocks but they were a doddle and we were soon sitting uncomfortably waiting for these strange birds to appear. We hadn't long to

wait...One soon came hopping along and was really quite close but I couldn't twist myself round sufficiently to take a photo. I just sat, enraptured by this beautiful, awkward bird as it hopped its way slowly upwards before gliding back down to the path and hopping away. Soon, another one appeared out of the gloom. Or was it the same one? Who knows? Who cares? This time I attempted a photo – it hasn't turned out well but it doesn't matter because it is MY photo of a **Yellow-headed Picathartes**! So ungainly yet so beautiful. Such excellent views then with a noiseless glide it was gone. We waited a minute or two more then left feeling elated. But not for long as I now had to get **down** that dratted slope. Again with Roland's patience and help, I managed it. I am told that some people resort to climbing up on all fours and then coming down on their backside – I didn't quite have to resort to that and anyway, what would my manicurist have said?? It was getting dark and the forest was already gloomy so we had to get out before sunset. We managed it. Just. Phew! What a relief. I had faced my two challenges – now I could enjoy the rest of my time without worrying about them. That was, of course, before Kalu told us of the walk to find the Blue-headed bee-eater.... Nightmare!

A note on the Picathartes – I am horrified at the reported behaviour of some of the visitors to this site – feeling in the nests for eggs or young ones for example. It is evident by the numbering of the nests that there have been a lot of birds living here and it is so sad that in the few years since this site was discovered, the numbers have plummeted. All due to human intervention.

We had our evening meal at the Babevan. There wasn't a lot of choice. Roland asked the lady there to cook him something Ghanain of her choice, whatever she felt her speciality was. His face was a picture when it arrived: fish and chips with tomato ketchup! And so to bed.....

Wednesday, 21st December 2011

The keep-fitters were out in force nice and early this morning! We didn't need our alarm clock to wake us up. I actually thought it was a group of drunkards in the bar when I first heard them...

Breakfast was on time and off we went to Aboabo, stopping to look at **Preuss's Cliff Swallows** on the way. Very nice. We parked up and watched a Pied Crow tearing up then eating a piece of plastic before setting off on our walk. Dread to think what his insides must be likePied Hornbills everywhere! A few old friends and the following new birds:

Naked-faced Barbet

White-spotted Flufftail calling but impossible to find

Thick-billed Honeyguide

African Piculet

Superb Sunbird

Green Hylia

Yellow-browed Camaroptera

We also had excellent views of not one but **five** Usher's Flycatchers having a whale of a time and a right good feed together!

We just had a short walk this morning followed by an early lunch and the long drive to Kumasi on variable roads and with lots of interesting driving! We were staying on the outskirts of Kumasi, at the Treasureland Hotel. It looked very nice from the outside and in reception but the rooms weren't on a par. Entirely adequate though apart from the lack of water pressure necessary to make the shower work and with a nice but small balcony with one chair. The next block to ours was unfinished – the first two floors were fully operational but it looked as though the rest of the work had been abandoned a while back. We were soon off again, this time to Bobiri Forest. I was looking forward to the butterfly sanctuary but it's just a study centre. The forest is the sanctuary and there are, indeed, hundreds of butterflies in the forest and an arboretum. We parked and went for a late afternoon walk, thunder rumbling around us. Willy decided to join us which was good because it felt more of a team and he carried my rucksack! 😊 Unfortunately, he is a city boy and can't tell one bird from another and whilst he enjoyed it for a while, he soon got bored with all the standing about and got very fidgety! There was very little about apart from lots of butterflies – at one point we walked through a cloud of yellow ones 😊 Our only new bird was a **Bat Hawk**. We lingered on until sunset and then some, waiting for nightjars and owls. Our patience was only rewarded once with views of a **Brown nightjar** which I unfortunately missed as I had taken my glasses off to clean them – they kept steaming up in the heat and humidity!

Back to Treasureland for food and bed. They have a vast menu but what they actually have is a different story!

Thursday, 22nd December 2011

Up early. How unusual. Breakfast was ready. There were Bulbuls, Doves, Bronze-winged Mannekins, a **Rock martin** and Red-chested swallows outside the hotel.

We set off for Mole at 7h00. It was a long drive on a variety of road surfaces through many police checks and stoppages at toll booths. At all of these there were crowds of women selling fruit, drinks and other foodstuffs. Kalu and Willy bought some bananas, oranges and pineapples to eat later. Delicious. We got stuck in a traffic jam when leaving Kumasi – a lorry had overturned, right across the road and chaos ensued! There was one policeman (in a thick overcoat) and a few helpful people trying to steer the traffic round the scene of the accident but it was slow-going! We stopped once at the Kintampo rest area: restaurant, café, toilets and a variety of Ghanain fast food stalls with a large parking area near the Waterfalls. I had to ask Kalu for 30 pesos to go to the toilet but at least it was nice and

clean! There were a few cars with trailers on containing goats and a hugely piled-up lorry with a couple perched right on top! Poor things. Destined for Christmas dinner, apparently, food and livestock being cheaper “up north”. Sounds familiar! From this point on we could see the countryside becoming increasingly arid and more like the African bush we know. There were also lots of small bush fires. We saw lots of people sitting by the roadside selling yams and charcoal – how soul-destroying to sit there day-after-day. I count my blessings yet again. We also saw lots of cows but there was not much fat on them. As we crossed the Black Volta we saw children collecting plastic by the roadside – they get paid for doing this but I shouldn’t imagine they earn very much. Most if not all of the villages we pass have huge problems with plastic-litter though some have created dumps and keep their area tidy. One of the biggest problems is the plastic bags that contain fresh water which are just discarded once they are empty and blow all over the place. Plastic is indeed a mixed blessing! We also saw lots of children in school uniform on our travels, some on their way to/from school but others obviously nicking off! Primary education is compulsory in Ghana but not enforced and no books or stationary are provided. It was a long journey up to Mole – we didn’t arrive until about 16h30. We stopped a couple of times and saw

Western Black-headed Oriole

Dark Chanting Goshawk

White Helmet-shrike

Grasshopper Buzzard – several of sitting on the road waiting for tea next to a bush fire!

Blue-bellied Roller

Grey Woodpecker

Violet Turaco

Abyssinian Roller

Piapiac

As we arrived at Mole we saw a Roan Antelope and both Patas and Green Vervet monkeys. We were allocated a room overlooking one of the water-holes. Our view was a little obstructed by vegetation but we were moat certainly not complaining especially when we had monkeys, baboons, deer and warthogs right outside!!! Our room was big and the bathroom had the dimmest light we had ever seen! Or not seen, as the case may be! We did get it changed for a brighter one which meant we could actually see to use the buckets of water provided for our use. The water is allegedly turned on twice a day but during our time there we never had enough water for a shower and were only able to refill our buckets using a jug and water from the basin. The water was for washing and refilling the toilet cistern ☺ All a bit inconvenient but we have stayed in worse places! We watched the sunset from the viewing platform. It wasn’t the best but we got to see **Helmetted Guineafowl**, Hammerkop and Senegal Thick-knee for the first time plus lots of animals so we were very happy! We didn’t have too much choice for tea as food has to be ordered in advance but what we had was nice. We then went out looking for owls and nightjars without success. I

know it was naughty but we fed some banana skins to the warthog directly outside our room. Sometimes you just can't resist, can you?

Back on the subject of light bulbs – apparently the Ghanaian government has issued an edict saying that bright bulbs must be handed in and exchanged for lower wattage ones because there is an energy crisis. We certainly came across more dingy lights than bright ones! Another warning – fridges! Please don't assume that because there's one in your room that it will function properly! The ones we tried froze everything we put in there!

Friday, 23rd December 2011

Ready for breakfast at 6h00 but only coffee available. Not to worry, we were impatient to get going and were soon on our way complete with our gun-armed guide! From the way he was handling it I'm not sure it was loaded though he was quick to reassure us that it was. Even more scary. Although we set off in our vehicle we didn't drive far but we certainly walked a lot!! Mostly in circles, I think, in the vicinity of the small water-hole. At one point there was an elephant close by that I wanted to look at. I asked the guide if it was safe to go but was called back because I had flushed a **White-backed Night Heron**. Oops. We saw over 60 species of birds during the course of the morning but only the following were new:

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu – at the hotel

Long-tailed Glossy Starling

Fork-tailed Drongo

Red-throated Bee-eater

European Pied Flycatcher

Woolly-necked Stork

Red-billed Firefinch

Lesser Blue-eared Starling

Grey-headed Kingfisher

Little Weaver

Pin-tailed Whydah

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah 😊

Wilson's Indigobird

Northern Puffback

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Purple Starling

Hadada Ibis

Shining-blue Kingfisher

Beautiful Sunbird

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Wire-tailed Swallow

Red-winged pytilia

Senegal Parrots flying

Swamp Flycatcher

Black-crowned Night Heron

Bush Petronia**Pygmy Sunbird****White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike**

Willow Warbler

Blackcap Babbler

Northern Black Flycatcher

Fine-spotted Woodpecker

Black-billed Wood Dove

Malachite Kingfisher

Bateleur

Senegal Lapwing

Black Crake

Gambaga Flycatcher

Black-rumped Waxbill

Black-headed Heron

Saddle-billed Stork

There were plenty of animals about (antelope, deer, warthog, monkeys etc) and we also saw an elephant wallowing in one of the waterholes from the elephant-viewing platform. I couldn't see it at first. How can you miss an African elephant? Well, being a bit thick, I mistook the elephant's back for an island..... He must have been HUGE! Willy was absolutely made up as he had never seen an elephant before – it was great to see how happy he was. I hope his photos of the animals turned out well but we are sending him some of ours too including one of him beaming away! An excellent morning.

Lunch was good but it was a pity Willy wasn't there to see a baboon leap onto our table and pinch a bottle of salad cream! We didn't know they were likely to do that so be warned! Luckily it wasn't a camera or our bins.....

We spent a bit of time animal-watching from the viewing platform and saw a family of elephants: mum, dad, baby walking about, drinking etc which was good then two others came along which was even better! Unfortunately I did not manage to get up close and personal with an elephant on this trip (Kalu does BIRDS, not elephants!) but it was not the best time of year to see them as it is the breeding season. Normally there are elephants hanging about near the hotel but they weren't there for us.

We went out again 15h30 and stayed out until 19h00. In that time we added

White-fronted Black Chat

Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark

Sun Lark

Forbes's Plover

African Blue Flycatcher

Standard-winged Nightjar

Long-tailed Nightjar

to our list whilst being attacked by enthusiastic flies!

We also had lovely views of African Roan Deer in the daylight and a Hyena, Genet's cat and Hare in the dark.

We had excellent views of the nightjars when we found them on the road in the light from the car. We got out for a better look. Kalu wasn't keen on this because we had just been watching a hyena but the guard said it was safe so out we jumped! It was fantastic watching them flying up, catching something and landing again. Like glow worms spiralling in the dark. As we set off again, one of the Long-tailed Nightjars decided to keep pace with us using the cars' headlights to hunt by!

We hadn't been in long when Kalu and Willy came back for us – they had spotted an owl on their way to the cafeteria! Unfortunately another vehicle scared it away just before we got there. ☹

Before retiring for the night we stopped to look at the fires raging on the horizon – we had seen smoke during the day. The red glow spread a long way.

Christmas Eve 2011

Coffee at 6h00 for a 6h30 start. Lots of walking again mostly over dried-out mashed up mud. It was very quiet and we were disappointed not to see more birds but that's how it is sometimes. We walked to the area around the elephant watering-hole and then over to the bigger one before walking back up the escarpment to the motel. Shortly after setting out on foot, we heard a gunshot. Our guide reported it. It was seemingly a poacher. They do get them in the park, mostly looking for antelope. We didn't come across any elephants but there was plenty of other wildlife about and it was so lovely to be on foot and wandering about freely in such a setting. We did avoid the crocodiles though and we might not have found it quite so enchanting had a cobra or a spitting python or something equally unpleasant arrived on the scene! We returned to the motel at about 11h30 having clocked up the following:

Red-necked Falcon

White-crowned Robin Chat

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver

Oriole warbler

White-headed Vulture

White-backed Vulture
Stone Partridge
Water Thick-knee
Green Sandpiper
Greater Painted-snipe
African Hobby
Yellow-fronted Canary
Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting

We particularly enjoyed watching the vultures – there were loads of them: a full set!

At lunch-time we were again treated to the sight of elephants round the water holes. It was tempting to go back down the escarpment to view them closer up but I don't think you're allowed to just wander off without an armed guide! We ate our pineapple instead – lovely and juicy. Really sweet with no core in the middle.

Our last trip into Mole started at 15h30 and it was just before leaving that we discovered a craft and a convenience store in the Information Centre. Not that we had any money to spend but it would have been nice to have had a look around! We went off for a wander round the savannah and to do battle with the flies but they weren't as bad as the previous day! Honestly, Willy! It was very quiet on the bird front and we could only add the following new birds to our list:

Rufous-crowned Roller
Senegal Batis
Spotted Flycatcher
Red-winged Warbler

Our evening spotting brought us views of rabbits and we again had great fun looking for nightjars! We even got a new one: **Freckled Nightjar**! No owls though. We really weren't having much luck at all with owls – even the Pel's Fishing Owl had gone missing from his usual spot. No doubt a dastardly conspiracy against us. We had a gecko in our room tonight. ☺ No exotic holiday is complete without our own gecko!

Christmas Day 2011

Pineapple for breakfast and coffee at 6h00. Feeling distinctly grubby. Last sit watching the water hole. Children singing in the village. A lot of birds bobbing about by six-thirty so this delayed our start and made for a pleasant interlude. There were:

White-shouldered Black Tit
Familiar Chat
Lesser Honey-guide

Lead-coloured Flycatcher

Speckled Pigeon.

I would have liked to stay for another hour as the world was waking up but we had a date with a car and Kumasi! The roads were much quieter than on the way up because it was Christmas Day and there were nowhere near as many police checks. A lot of the shops were closed and most of the churches we saw were full to overflowing. People were dressed in their best clothes, relaxing and socialising and many of the churches had organised their own celebrations. We stopped at the same place near the Kintampo Falls. We thought of going to visit them but Kalu said there were about 150 steps so we decided against especially since they risked not being very spectacular in the dry season! We bought more bananas at the same toll booth as on the way up and were recognised by one of the girls there. We saw a lorry that had toppled over into the ditch by the side of the road. Quite a lot of vehicles seem to end up there! We got to our hotel about 15h30. This time we got a posh suite! Very nice until we found out there was no hot water! We had a little living-room with a desk, TV and a settee, a nice-looking bathroom and a large bedroom with a balcony at either end: one looked out at the back and the other not surprisingly looked out to the front! We watched some bulbuls displaying. Very impressive, we thought, but the two ladies concerned didn't look too impressed. Made the nearby doves go randy but anything and everything sets them off!

Late afternoon saw us at Bobiri again. We went back to Kalu's owl watching spot but again we were totally unlucky. There were plenty of parrots flying about and we saw a Grey Kestrel, Bruce's Green Pigeon and a Bearded Barbet but not much else. I am puzzled as to why an area of trees and bushes which harboured a great variety of birds has been cleared to make room for bamboo. Admittedly they are very nice bamboo (named species) but I would have thought they were of little benefit to the butterflies and birds plus they are growing so tall now that you can't see into the trees behind! We hung about for ages and our patience was rewarded with excellent views of a flying squirrel. Kalu was disappointed not to have been able to show us an owl but we were bowled over by the squirrel!

Back at the hotel there was a bit of a mix-up over the food we had ordered in advance but we got fed eventually!

Boxing Day 2011

Up at 4h00. No breakfast. Roland went downstairs to investigate but as there were no lights on, he came back up. We discovered later that there was actually someone sitting down there in the dark. Why we do not know! Anyway we couldn't hang about because Kalu wanted to be at Bobiri no later than 6h15 to look for **Afep's Pigeon**. We looked hard for that pigeon. We spent three-quarters of an hour waiting for it! We were finally rewarded with views of it but just as I had got the scope on it and had a brief look, it flew off! Typical. It

had been misty when we first arrived and was getting increasingly mistier but we carried on walking as it was bound to clear eventually. And it did but it soon became apparent that Kalu was unwell. He battled on but did not object when we suggested returning to the vehicle. Besides Afep's Pigeon, we also saw

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill

Hairy-breasted Barbet

Long-tailed Hawk – flying

Red-tailed Greenbul

White-throated Greenbul

We had an early lunch at Anita's Hotel near Kumasi. We had spotted it a couple of times because it was all lit-up and looked posh with its flashing palms etc! It was very nice inside the restaurant. The food was expensive (36cd) but the service, presentation and quality were excellent. Roland had tilapia with banku whilst I plumped for the ginger spicy chicken with fried rice. Much recommended. There was a gift shop but I resisted it and we set off for Atewa. I was exhausted – I registered the presence of paddy fields then fell fast asleep! We arrived at the Royal Bleumich around 15h30. It looked OK but they were having a party so took us to another hotel where it would be more peaceful. This was actually an unfinished hotel with no-one there bar the watchman and us! Surreal. The local police arrived just after us and a terrible row arose between them and the watchman who had apparently witnessed an accident outside the previous evening but refused to give a statement. It would seem that someone he knew had driven his car into the ditch and come back to collect it in daylight but he wouldn't grass on him and the police wanted some money off the driver. They went off after much shouting and came back with their Commandant all very exciting! Don't know if it was ever resolved of course. All this time it was chucking it down. In a way I was relieved because I felt that Kalu needed to rest. He decided to abandon his plans to go to the arboretum and to look for Blue-headed Bee-eater because he couldn't be sure of the state of the roads or conditions underfoot. There was hardly likely to be much about in the torrential rain anyway. Personally I was right chuffed that I had got out of going up the hill to see the Bee-eater. Kalu had already said that it was difficult going up and terrible coming down and I had seen the height of the hill too! It was nice to have a bit of a rest, catch up on my notes and listen to some music. Just a pity that the people sitting watching TV in reception had to have it on so loud! Eventually it stopped raining so Roland and I managed to escape for a while and go for a walk on our own. Unfortunately we hadn't got far when the heavens opened again and Willy appeared with the car. Being stubborn we insisted on walking back ourselves. At least it was warm rain. Tea was at the Bleumich. It wasn't wonderful and the music was deafening – they were setting up the disco inside but were going to move it outside later. It was still early when we got back to our ghost hotel but there was nothing to do! The TV was rubbish, the reception was really poor and the electric light was almost as bad as at Mole! An early night then

Tuesday, December 27th 2011

Sheer bliss! Hot water! A working shower! Much appreciated at 4h30! There was no breakfast of course but we did have some fruit juice thanks to Willy. Today we were birding along the road – easy walking! We drove to the Kobi area for this walk. Lots of old friends and absolutely stunning views of a Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher in the sun but nothing new, unfortunately. We enjoyed the walk and are always happy to see the same birds more than once as we stand a better chance of remembering them plus you often get a better view second time round! A Little Greenbul, for example, was sitting out on a twig for all to see whereas they are usually flitting about in the depths of the undergrowth!

Lunch was at the Linda Dor Restaurant, a huge place near Bansa then we made for the Shai Hills, stopping off only once at a pond to look for Allen's Gallinule but could only see a Common Moorhen. Upon arrival at Shai Hills we collected our guide, Christopher and set off for the dam. He didn't have either a machete or a gun! Just past the entrance there is a big pen containing four ostrich: 2 male and 2 female. There are no other caged animals there. Again, we saw lots of by now familiar birds and notched up these too:

European Bee-eater

Croaking Cisticola

Northern Crombec

Black Scimitarbill

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

We also saw Baboons, a Rat, a Cob and a Bushbuk in the reserve.

Willy and Kalu dropped us off at the hotel then went home to see their families. We went and asked for towels and a sheet at reception. These duly arrived: no problem with the towels but the sheet was nothing but a torn, badly-frayed piece of cloth which had possibly seen a previous life as a duvet cover! The shower didn't work but we had cold water from the wash basin. Off we went for tea. Bad news. They only had rice and maybe chicken. Even worse news – they didn't even have that. What do you have we asked? Bread or breakfast was the repl. I plumped for the bread and that's exactly what I got two and a half slices of bread. They had no butter, no cheese but did find some marmalade for me. Roland got cold beans, a small hot-dog type sausage, a mini-omelette and bread. To drink we got 1 teabag, a flask of hot water and 2 sachets of coffee, one of which had already been opened! We were accustomed to the flask of hot water and the makings but they could have been a bit more generous! We made our way back to our dingy room with still rumbling tummies!

Wednesday, December 28th 2011

Our last day ☹️

Up at 5, breakfast at 6. Kalu and Willy were asleep on the car park! They had set off from home early to avoid the Accra traffic which can put hours onto your journey and eat up the petrol. It was a shame to wake them but we had made arrangements to get into Shai Hills early and had to go. We did a few hours birding on foot in a different area from yesterday and found

Double-toothed Barbet

Common Wattle-eye

Striped Kingfisher

Vieillot's Barbet

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike

Mocking Cliff Chat

White morph Paradise Flycatcher

Short-winged Cisticola

Flappet Lark

We then drove up to the dam but couldn't find our target bird and had to be satisfied with the discovery of crocodile poo!

Next we went off to the Bat Cave which we had expressed an interest in. It was a very long drive then we had to climb up a hill. Not too bad though I needed a bit of help but having arrived at the cave, I wasn't allowed to go any further! Only Roland and Christopher went in. The rest of us stayed outside and chatted. The stench was horrid. Roland enjoyed his visit and took lots of photos. The way down was much harder than the way up!

I was to see more bats later, though near the airport where there is a massive colony of fruit bats. The skies turn black around 5 when they take to the air en masse. The same can be seen in Kumasi apparently.

Shai Hills is very interesting from a historical point of view too and the guides can tell you all about that. See www.wildlifeghana.com for details on all the reserves in Ghana.

Our trip was nearly over. All that remained to do was have lunch and then we would be deposited at the airport in plenty of time for our flight. It was a slow journey to the restaurant due to the heavy traffic and the dire state of the road in parts. It gave us a last chance to look at the roadside shops where you can buy absolutely anything from a chicken to a 3-piece suite! We were especially pleased to see a fantasy coffin shop! We had seen plenty of shops selling coffins, some plain but mostly quite elaborate but had to wait til we got to Accra to see one of these. It was a shame we couldn't stop to take photos and have a proper look at the shop! In Accra, you can have any coffin you want. See

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/4215923.stm or

<http://goafrika.about.com/od/peopleandculture/ss/Ghana-Fantasy-Coffins.htm>

Lunch was OK but a bit sad and at the airport we didn't have a proper chance to say goodbye as you can only stop for 3 minutes. At least it avoids any sentimentality but had we known we could have expressed our thanks fully over lunch. We were very happy with our trip to Ghana we saw 301 different species of birds of which were lifers. Kalu was a dedicated guide and Willy went out of his way to be helpful. A great team. It would have been nice to have had just a little bit longer to throw a few extras in but Kalu would probably have used that time for even more birding! 😊 Anyway, you have to leave something for next time.....

RECORD OF FRESH BIRDS SEEN DAILY

15th Lake Sakumo

African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
African Harrier Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Brown Babbler	<i>Turdoides plebejus</i>
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Green Wood-hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>

Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
Senegal Eremomela	<i>Eremomela pusilla</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Western Grey Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans parasitus</i>

Yellow-billed Shrike

Corvinella corvina

Yellow-crowned

Gonolek Laniarius barbarus

Zitting Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

15th Travel

Hooded Vulture

Necrosyrtes monachus

15th Winneba Plains

African Pied Wagtail

Motacilla aguimp

Bar-breasted

Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Black-crowned

Tchagra Tchagra senegalus

Black-shouldered Kite

Elanus caeruleus

Blue-spotted Wood Dove

Turtur afer

Compact Weaver

Ploceus superciliosus

Copper Sunbird

Cinnyris cupreus

Double-spurred Francolin

Francolinus bicalcaratus

Green Turaco

Tauraco persa

Green-backed Camaroptera

Camaroptera brachyura

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

Lizard Buzzard

Kaupifalco monogrammicus

Northern Red Bishop

Euplectes franciscanus

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

Red-necked Buzzard

Buteo auguralis

Splendid Sunbird

Cinnyris coccinigastrus

Vinaceous Dove

Streptopelia vinacea

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

16th Kakum Canopy

African Green Pigeon

Treron calvus

African Palm Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

African Pied Hornbill

Tockus fasciatus

Ansorge's Greenbul

Andropadus ansorgei

Black-winged Oriole

Oriolus nigripennis

Blue Cuckoo-Shrike

Coracina azurea

Blue-headed Wood Dove

Turtur brehmeri

Blue-throated Roller

Eurystomus gularis

Buff-throated Sunbird

Chalcomitra adelberti

Chestnut Wattle-eye

Dyaphorophya castanea

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher

Erythrocercus mccallii

Chestnut-winged Starling

Onychognathus fulgidus

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

Collared Sunbird

Hedydipna collaris

Copper-tailed Starling

Lamprotornis cupreocauda

Fire-bellied Woodpecker

Dendropicos pyrrhogaster

Forest Wood-hoopoe

Phoeniculus castaneiceps

Green Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rectirostris</i>
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>
Little Green Woodpecker	<i>Campethera maculosa</i>
Little Grey Greenbul	<i>Andropadus gracilis</i>
Red-headed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus rubricollis</i>
Red-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus atroflavus</i>
Rufous-crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>
Sabine's Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus sabinii</i>
Sharpe's Apalis	<i>Apalis sharpii</i>
Slender-billed Greenbul	<i>Andropadus gracilirostris</i>
Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>
Splendid Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>
Velvet-mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>
Violet-backed Hyliota	<i>Hyliota violacea</i>
White-breasted Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>
Yellowbill	<i>Ceuthmochares aereus</i>
Yellow-billed Turaco	<i>Tauraco macrorhynchus</i>
Yellow-mantled Weaver	<i>Ploceus tricolor</i>

16th Hans Cottage

Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis

16th Kakum Canopy

Black-casqued Hornbill

Ceratogymna atrata

Brown-cheeked Hornbill

Bycanistes cylindricus

Common Swift

Apus apus

Olive-bellied Sunbird

Cinnyris chloropygius

Palm-nut Vulture

Gypohierax angolensis

Western Olive Sunbird

Cyanomitra obscura

White-crested Hornbill

Tropicranus albocristatus

17th Attewa

African Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone viridis

African Yellow White-eye

Zosterops senegalensis

Black Bee-eater

Merops gularis

Black-headed Weaver

Ploceus melanocephalus

Blue-billed Malimbe

Malimbus nitens

Carmelite Sunbird

Chalcomitra fuliginosa

Dusky-blue Flycatcher

Muscicapa comitata

Green Crombec

Sylvietta virens

Grey-headed Negrofinch

Nigrita canicapillus

Klaas's Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

Little Greenbul

Andropadus virens

Red-faced Cisticola

Cisticola erythrops

Red-fronted Parrot

Poicephalus gulielmi

Rosy Bee-eater

Merops malimbicus

Swamp Greenbul

Thescelocichla leucopleura

Vieillot's Black Weaver

Ploceus nigerrimus

Western Nicator

Nicator chloris

17th Twifo Praso

Rock Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

White-throated Blue Swallow

Hirundo nigrita

17th Coast

Grey Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

Royal Tern

Sterna maxima

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Sanderling

Calidris alba

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

17th Brimsu Waterworks

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

Long-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus climacurus

Mottled Spinetail

Telacanthura ussheri

Piping Hornbill

Bycanistes fistulator

18th Kakum Canopy

Ayres's Hawk Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Golden Greenbul	<i>Calyptocichla serina</i>
Least Honeyguide	<i>Indicator exilis</i>
Red-vented Malimbe	<i>Malimbus scutatus</i>
Ussher's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa ussheri</i>
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul	<i>Andropadus latirostris</i>

19th Ankasa Forest

African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
Black Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura melanopygia</i>
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>
Bristle-nosed Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco peli</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
Cassin's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa cassini</i>
Cassin's Spinetail	<i>Neafrapus cassini</i>
Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>
Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush	<i>Stizorhina finschii</i>
Fraser's Forest Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>

Hartlaub's Duck	<i>Pteronetta hartlaubii</i>
Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
Rufous-sided Broadbill	<i>Smithornis rufolateralis</i>
Sabine's Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura sabini</i>
Shining Drongo	<i>Dicrurus atripennis</i>
Square-tailed Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne nitens</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Tit-hylia	<i>Pholidornis rushiae</i>
Yellow-spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>

20th Natilla Road

African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx pictus</i>
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Fanti Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne obscura</i>
Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>
Grey Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus concolor</i>
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>
Puvel's Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis puveli</i>
Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>
Simple Leaflove	<i>Chlorocichla simplex</i>
Sooty Boubou	<i>Laniarius leucorhynchus</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>

20th Picathartes

White-necked Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus*

21st Aboabo

African Piculet *Sasia africana*

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus*

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*

Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris*

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*

21st Bobiri

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*

Brown Nightjar *Caprimulgus binotatus*

22nd To Mole

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Piapiac	<i>Ptilostomus afer</i>
Red-chested Swallow	<i>Hirundo lucida</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
Violet Turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>
Western Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>
White Helmet-Shrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>

23rd Mole Morning

Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
Blackcap Babbler	<i>Turdoides reinwardtii</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Black-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>
Bush Petronia	<i>Petronia dentata</i>
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Exclamatory Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua interjecta</i>

Fine-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera punctuligera</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Gambaga Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa gambagae</i>
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
Long-tailed Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis caudatus</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>
Pygmy Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna platura</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
Red-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops bulocki</i>
Red-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia phoenicoptera</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>
Senegal Parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>

Shining-blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo quadibrachys</i>
Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>
White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina pectoralis</i>
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Wilson's Indigobird	<i>Vidua wilsoni</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>

23rd Mole Afternoon

African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>
Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Forbes's Plover	<i>Charadrius forbesi</i>
Standard-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx longipennis</i>
Sun Lark	<i>Galerida modesta</i>
White-fronted Black Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla albifrons</i>

24th Mole

African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>

Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Oriole Warbler	<i>Hypergerus atriceps</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Red-winged Warbler	<i>Heliolais erythropterus</i>
Rufous-crowned Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Senegal Batis	<i>Batis senegalensis</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Stone Partridge	<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
White-crowned Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha albicapilla</i>
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>

25th Mole

Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>
Lead-coloured Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
White-shouldered Black Tit	<i>Parus guineensis</i>

25th Bobiri

Bearded Barbet

Lybius dubius

Bruce's Green Pigeon

Treron waalia

Grey Kestrel

Falco ardosiaceus

26th Bobiri

Afep Pigeon

Columba unicincta

Hairy-breasted Barbet

Tricholaema hirsuta

Long-tailed Hawk

Urotriorchis macrourus

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill

Tockus camurus

Red-tailed Greenbul

Criniger calurus

White-throated Greenbul

Phyllastrephus albigularis

27th Shai Hills

Black Scimitarbill

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

Croaking Cisticola

Cisticola natalensis

European Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

Northern Crombec

Sylvietta brachyura

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Piniulus chrysoconus

28th Shai Hills

Common Wattle-eye

Platysteira cyanea

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

Flappet Lark

Mirafrā rufocinnamomea

Mocking Cliff Chat

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike

Campephaga phoenicea

Short-winged Cisticola

Cisticola brachypterus

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti

Vieillot's Barbet

Lybius vieilloti

