



**BIRDING
AFRICA**
THE AFRICA SPECIALISTS

Upper Guinea Special

Liberia and Sierra Leone

2020 Tour Report



Rufous Fishing Owl © Tertius Gous

**Text by Michael Mills - Photos by Markus Lagerqvist,
Tertius Gous and Callan Cohen**

SUMMARY

The first ever birding tour to Liberia and our first Upper Guinea Special Tour (Liberia and Sierra Leone, combined) provided some spectacular birds and birding in this little-known region.

We started off in Liberia at Mount Nimba, where we comfortably accessed some of the best tropical forest on the continent. We found three groups of Sierra Leone Prinia, which required almost no walking, and enjoyed fantastic views of the rarely-seen Black-headed Rufous Warbler. The scarce Nimba Flycatcher was seen well twice and we found Gola Malimbe nest building on a day trip from our air-conditioned hotel. Other highlights included Little Grey Flycatcher, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Sharpe's Apalis, Kemp's Longbill and Buff-throated Sunbird. From here we made the jaw-rattling journey to Sapo National Park via Zwerdu, visiting both the north and west of the park. The lowland forest birding was spectacular and we saw Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Gola Malimbe (six times!), Red-fronted Antpecker, Timneh Parrot, Akun Eagle-Owl, Grey Ground Thrush, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler and

Lowland Akalat, before returning to Monrovia. From Monrovia we made the easy journey to eastern Sierra Leone, crossing the border without hassle, and finding a lovely male Crimson Seedcracker on our way to Tiwai Island. Our first full day at Tiwai produced arguably the best 24 hours of the trip, starting off with a displaying White-crested Tiger Heron and ending with half-hour-long views of Rufous Fishing Owl and point-blank views of African Pitta. We also saw Spotted Honeyguide. The birding at Gola forest was rather disappointing, although we did see Yellow-headed Picathartes, Latham's Forest Francolin on a night roost and Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler. Our final stint of birding was done in the savannas of northern Sierra Leone, with Emerald Starling and Yellow-winged Pytilia in the Tingi Hills and Emerald Starling, Turati's Boubou, Togo Paradise Whydah and the rarely-seen Baumann's Greenbul at Bambuna.

Black-headed Rufous Warbler © Tertius Gous



Latham's Forest Francolin © Tertius Gous

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

DATES

11 January to 3 February 2020

ITINERARY

11 Jan: Arrive Monrovia
12 Jan: Monrovia to Mount Nimba
13-17 Jan: Mount Nimba
18 Jan: Mount Nimba to Zwerdu
19 Jan: Zwerdu to Sapo National Park
20-22 Jan: Sapo National Park
23 Jan: Sapo to Monrovia
24 Jan: Monrovia to Tiwai Island
25 Jan: Tiwai Island
26 Jan: Tiwai Island to Gola East

27 Jan: Gola East

28 Jan: Gola East to Gola North

29-31 Jan: Gola North

1 Feb: Gola North to Kono/Koidu

2 Feb: Tingi Hills; late afternoon to Makeni

3 Feb: Bumbuna area; afternoon to Lungi

PARTICIPANTS

Michael Mills
 Callan Cohen
 Tertius Gous
 Julian Francis
 Markus Lagerqvist
 Gus Mills



Watching for Sierra Leone Prinia on top of Mount Nimba © Callan Cohen (above)

Nimba Flycatcher © Tertius Gous (below).



Gola Malimbe © Tertius Gous



REPORT

Our tour kicked off on the eastern side of Monrovia, and the following morning we enjoyed our first birds in the lodge grounds, including West African Wattle-eye, Sabine's Puffback, Red-chested Goshawk, White-browed Forest Flycatcher and Grey-headed Bristlebill (the early arrivals had already seen Red-cheeked Wattle-eye the day before). After breakfast we started our journey north towards Mount Nimba on a newly-paved road. Towards Ganta we paused for a leg stretch at a roadside pond where African Pygmy Goose was found and Tiny Sunbird fed in some flowering trees. We arrived in time for some introductory birding, before settling into our hotel for the next six nights.

Mount Nimba, sub-Saharan Africa's highest mountain west of Mount Cameroon, holds some of the richest forests on the continent that were the subject of an intensive ornithological study 50 years ago before iron-ore mining wrecked the top of the mountain. Mining operations ceased some time ago and moved to some of the nearby mountains, and since then the habitat on Mt

Nimba has recovered somewhat and the East Nimba Nature Reserve was proclaimed to protect the habitat. Unfortunately most of the surrounding lowland forest falls outside of the reserve and is being hacked away, and many of the early, mouth-watering finds come from these forests that are no longer pristine.

Still, Nimba offers spectacular birding with easy access to the habitats at the top of the mountain, and must rank as the place in the world requiring the least effort to see the localised Sierra Leone Prinia. It was to this species that we first turned our attention, and on our first morning we found a party of these furtive little birds which gave reasonable views. Wider exploration turned up another two groups, but they were generally uncooperative so we were pleased to have had reasonable looks on our first attempt. The surrounding lowlands are home to another tricky species, the fantastic Black-headed Rufous Warbler, and on our second morning we enjoyed spectacular views of this rarely-seen specialty, finding another two pairs later. Our third day was

Sierra Leone Prinia © Tertius Gous



Yellow-bearded Greenbul © Tertius Gous

focussed on tracking down another rarity bearing the mountain's name, Nimba Flycatcher, and late in the afternoon we enjoyed some good views of a singing bird, with another bird the next morning giving even better views. The fourth speciality of the area is the striking Gola Malimbe, and on our final day in the area we made a day trip to see this special bird, with two males found nest building after about a three kilometre walk; so much easier than seeing them in Gola in Sierra Leone.

There were plenty of other birds on offer too and we racked up a long list of species. Highlights included several lekking male Standard-winged Nightjar, brilliant views of a grey-morph Plain Nightjar, a pair of secretive Blue-moustached Bee-eater, several scarce Little Grey Flycatcher, and the regional endemics Ahanta Francolin, Melancholy Woodpecker, Little Green Woodpecker, Rufous-bellied Wattle-eye, Western Yellow-billed Barbet, Western Square-tailed Drongo, Western Bearded Greenbul, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Kemp's Longbill, Sharpe's Apalis, Finsch's Flycatcher Thrush, Ussher's Flycatcher, Western Forest Robin and Buff-throated Sunbird. Other species recorded include Double-spurred Francolin, Sabine's Spinetail, Alpine Swift, Pallid Swift, Guinea Turaco, Western Plantain-eater, Black-throated Coucal, European Honey Buzzard, Crowned Eagle, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Blue-throated Roller,

Grey-headed Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater, White-throated Bee-eater, Naked-faced Barbet, Speckled Tinkerbird, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Cassin's Honeybird, Common Kestrel, West African Batis, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Lowland Sooty Boubou, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Blue Cuckooshrike, Shining Drongo, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Little Grey Greenbul, Ansorge's Greenbul, Plain Greenbul, Golden Greenbul, Spotted Greenbul, Swamp Palm Bulbul, Red-tailed Leaflove, Red-tailed Greenbul, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Lesser Striped Swallow, Grey Longbill, Green Crombec, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Green Hylia, Tit Hylia, Black-capped Apalis, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Olive-green Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Blackcap Illadopsis, Brown Illadopsis, Fraser's Forest Flycatcher, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Grey-winged Robin-Chat (heard), African Stonechat, Little Green Sunbird, Yellow-chinned Sunbird, Red-vented Malimbe, Blue-billed Malimbe, Crested Malimbe, White-breasted Nigrita, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Common Waxbill, Long-billed Pipit and Gosling's Bunting (second record for Liberia).

After some final birding in the Nimba area we started the longer-than-expected journey to Sapo National Park, with a night in Zwerdu en route. Although the distances were small and the roads dry, the road surfaces were atrocious and we spent many hours grinding our way to the fantastic lowland forests of Sapo. En route a lunch stop turned up Fanti Drongo which was mobbing a Fraser's Eagle-Owl, a little taste of what was to come.

Finally we arrived at Sapo, and now entered camping mode for the next five nights, split between the north and west of the park. Our first camp site was positioned on the edge of a forest clearing, and while setting up camp we were entertained and distracted by numerous birds. Western Pied Hornbill, Western Piping Hornbill,

Brown-cheeked Hornbill, Black-casqued Hornbill and Yellow-casqued Hornbill were joined by Timneh Parrot and Fire-bellied Woodpecker to welcome us, and as the sun set a pair of Spot-breasted Ibis passed by in the half light. After dusk the night sounds of African Palm Civets, Western Tree Hyrax and Hammer-headed Fruit-Bat started up around us and the cacophony of mammals was joined by Akun Eagle-Owl, which showed fantastically in the torch beam. The next day and a bit we took our time to explore the surrounding forest, with our main aim of finding White-breasted Guineafowl. Although we heard them once and found a recently-hatched egg shell, we failed to lay eyes on this species, probably very shy due to hunting pressure. Still a good selection of other species was found, including Latham's Forest

Akun Eagle-Owl © Tertius Gous



Fraser's Eagle-Owl © Tertius Gous

Francolin, Lowland Akalat, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, African Dwarf Kingfisher, Brown-eared Woodpecker, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Dusky Crested Flycatcher at the nest, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Pale-breasted Illadopsis, White-tailed Alethe, Olivaceous Flycatcher, more Gola Malimbés and, on the walk out, a pair of preening Red-fronted Antpeckers. We now relocated to the western edge of the park (with Magpie Mannikin en route), and here spent a rather quiet day exploring the swamp forests around the Sinoe River. White-throated Blue Swallow and Cassin's Flycatcher were active along the river itself. The highlight of the morning, although we only saw

it in flight, was a Grey Ground Thrush that called (contact call) persistently and flew past us giving brief views. We also glimpsed Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo and Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, both quite vocal, and partly won a tussle with a party of Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler, with everyone laying eyes on them in the end. Sadly our time at Sapo had come to an end and we completed our loop back to Monrovia with another bum-numbing journey, broken by views of Rock Pratincole, Preuss's Cliff Swallow, Chestnut-and-black Weaver and Orange Weaver, before spending a night in the lap of luxury near Monrovia (well-deserved after five nights in a tent).



Rock Pratincole © Tertius Gous

The next phase of the trip now began, as we made the easy trip west from Monrovia to the border with Sierra Leone, a tar road taking us all the way. Although immigration formalities took some time there we no issues and we crossed the border before making the short journey to Tiwai Island, a lovely male Crimson Seedcracker sitting up for the scope in a roadside swamp along the way.

We had two nights at Tiwai, where the focus of our time was on the picturesque Moa River accessed during three trips on boat and canoe. Our first trip was a bit short and failed to turn up anything of note, but on our first morning (and second boat trip) we hit the jackpot with a displaying White-crested Tiger Heron that kept us enthralled until first light. Our third trip turned up spectacular views of the scarce Rufous Fishing Owl, which was admired at length. Other birds seen along the river included Hartlaub's Duck, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, African Finfoot, Brown Nightjar (heard only), Egyptian Plover, Rock Pratincole, White-throated Blue Swallow, Mangrove Sunbird, White-browed Forest Flycatcher and Cassin's Flycatcher. The forest on the island was fairly quiet, but we did see

manage to see Black Sparrowhawk, African Wood Owl, Western White-crested Hornbill, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, African Dwarf Kingfisher, Spotted Honeyguide, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Forest Chestnut-winged Starling, Western Forest Robin, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Maxwell's Black Weaver and, best of all, an incredible African Pitta on a night roost. Nkulengu Rail called after dark but the undergrowth was too dense to reach the roost site.

From Tiwai we made our way to the nearby Gola Forest, pausing for supplies in Zimmi where House Sparrow (perhaps the first record for Sierra Leone) was resident around the fuel station. Our first stop was at Gola East, where a day spent in beautiful forest turned up little new other than Hairy-breasted Barbet and our best views of White-tailed Alethe. The adjacent farmbrush was more productive though and here we found Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, White-throated Greenbul, Puvel's Illadopsis and Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler. After dark we spotted Western Crested Guineafowl roosting.

Moving onto Gola North we started off with a picathartes vigil, with one bird coming to the inactive breeding colony in the evening, the walk back producing a female, and then a striking male, Latham's Forest Francolin on the roost. The next day we made the long hike into the centre of Gola North, aiming to camp on the edge of the primary forest. Black-shouldered Nightjar gave good views around our lodgings before we set off on the nine kilometre hike along a well-maintained trail. Birding was slow in the understorey, but a few active ant swarms turned up some memorable birds, the best of which were White-bellied

Kingfisher (for some) and Brown-chested Alethe. A day in the primary forest produced Long-tailed Hawk, Narina Trogon, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Rufous-bellied Wattle-eye, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Forest Scrub Robin and Gola Malimbe. Lagden's Bushshrike called a couple of times but refused to show. The final bit of birding at Gola North was in the more productive farmbrush, and a few hours here produced Cassin's Spinetail, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Western Yellow-billed Barbet, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Timneh Parrot, Copper-tailed Starling, Buff-throated Sunbird and Johanna's Sunbird.

Spotted Honeyguide © Tertius Gous



The end of the trip was now near and the final bit of birding was focussed on the savannas of northern Sierra Leone, which made a nice change from the forest-biased birding we had been doing for the past two weeks. Certainly birds were much easier to see. On our way north to Kono we paused at the rice fields near Kanema, seeing Little Ringed Plover, Forbes's Plover and Black-backed Cisticola during our short visit. North of Kono in the Tingi Hills we enjoyed a very productive couple of hours, quite quickly finding the much-desired Emerald

Starling, with about ten birds seen. Other species in the surrounds included Vieillot's Barbet, African Grey Woodpecker, Senegal Batis, Tropical Boubou, Western Square-tailed Drongo (in gallery forest), White-shouldered Black Tit, Fanti Saw-wing, Senegal Eremomela, Splendid Sunbird, Yellow-winged Pytilia, Black-bellied Firefinch, Red-billed Firefinch and Magpie Mannikin. We also spent some time looking for Togo Paradise Whydah, but drew a blank.

Emerald Starling © Tertius Gous



Fanti Saw-wing © Tertius Gous

Our final stop of the trip was at Bumbuna, where Standard-winged Nightjar was seen pre-dawn and Turati's Boubou seen well shortly after dawn. Here the open farmbrush was very productive and we found a fantastic male Togo Paradise Whydah in full breeding plumage and several Cameroon Indigobirds. Other species recorded included Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher, Fanti Saw-wing, Melodious Warbler, Red-winged Warbler, Senegal Eremomela, Emerald Starling, Olive-naped Weaver, Red-headed Quelea and African Firefinch.

The final bird of note, just before we started our drive to the airport for the end of the tour, was the little-known Baumann's Olive Greenbul, a species we had spent hours looking for over the previous two weeks. It took a bit of persuasion, but after some persistence we managed to lure one bird from its thickets for good views. Hurrah!!

Thanks to Aloysius, Paul, Ben, Graham, Ken, Alimamy and Sheka for their assistance and hard work during the trip.

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

Numididae

White-breasted Guineafowl *Agelastes meleagrides* --- Heard at Sapu North, where a recently-hatched egg was found

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* --- Good numbers in the Bumbuna area (*galeatus*)

Western Crested Guineafowl [Crested Guineafowl] *Guttera [pucherani] verreauxi* --- Two on a roost at Gola East (*verreauxi*)

Phasianidae

Latham's Forest Francolin *Peliperdix lathamii* --- Brilliant night-time views of a female on the ground and a male in a tree at Gola North. Also seen more briefly at Sapu North and Gola North (*lathamii*)

Ahanta Francolin *Pternistis achantensis* --- Two reasonable day-time views at Nimba, and heard at Bumbuna (*ahantensis*)

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus* --- Seen at Mt Nimba and Bumbuna and heard in the Tingi Hills (*thornei*)

Anatidae

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii* --- Excellent views at Tiwai, and also seen at Sapu North, Nimba and Bumbuna

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* --- Three on a lake in the Ganta area of Liberia

Caprimulgidae

Brown Nightjar *Veles binotatus* --- Heard at Tiwai where we were too busy looking at White-crested Tiger Heron and Rufous Fishing Owl to find it

Black-shouldered Nightjar [Fiery-necked Nightjar] *Caprimulgus [pectoralis] nigriscapularis* --- Super views at Gola North, and also seen at Mt Nimba

Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus* --- Incredible views of a grey-morph bird on Mt Nimba

Standard-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus longipennis* --- Brilliant views of several males lekking at Nimba, and also seen at Bumbuna

Apodidae

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola North

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini* --- Seen at Gola North

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus [parvus] parvus* --- Seen widely in Sierra Leone (probably *brachypterus*)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* --- Seen on top of Mt Nimba (*melba*)

Common Swift *Apus apus* --- Seen widely in Liberia and Sierra Leone (*apus*)

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* --- Seen on top of Mt Nimba (subspecies not determined)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* --- Scattered sightings in Liberia and Sierra Leone (*aerobates*)

Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaëola cristata* --- Widespread sightings

Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa* --- Seen at Mt Nimba, Tingi Hills and Bumbuna (*buffoni*)

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus* --- Seen widely (*macrorhynchus*)

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea* --- Heard at Bumbuna

Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator* --- Seen at Nimba and Bumbuna

Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster* --- Seen at Mt Nimba and heard elsewhere (*leucogaster*)

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* --- Widespread sightings (*senegalensis*)

Blue Yellowbill [Yellowbill] *Ceuthmochares [aereus] aereus* --- Widespread sightings

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* --- Seen at Gola North (*flavirostris*)

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* --- Widespread records

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* --- Widespread records

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi* --- Heard and seen very briefly at Sapu HQ (a proposed split as Whistling Long-tailed Cuckoo *C. lemaireae*)

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus* --- Heard and seen very briefly at Sapu HQ, and heard at Gola

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* --- Heard in Liberia and Sierra Leone (*gabonensis*)

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* --- Heard at Gola East

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* --- One seen well in the Tingi Hills

Columbidae

Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* --- Seen

Afep Pigeon *Columba unicincta* --- Heard at Sapu North and Gola North

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques* --- Heard very regularly and seen once

Lemon Dove *Columba larvata* --- Heard at Gola North and seen briefly at Mt Nimba (*inornata*)

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* --- Widespread

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* --- Seen at Tingi Hills and Bumbuna

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* --- Seen at Yekepa and Zimmi (*senegalensis*)

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* --- Widespread sightings

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* --- Widespread sightings

Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri* --- Incredible views at Sapu North and Nimba, and heard elsewhere (*infelix*)

African Green Pigeon *Treron [calvus] calvus* --- Seen regularly in small numbers (*sharppei*)

Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* --- Heard several times (*pulchra*)

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa* --- Heard at Bumbuna (*bonapartii*)

Heliornithidae

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* --- Great views at Tiwai (*senegalensis*)

Rallidae

Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus* --- Heard at Tiwai and Gola, but from inaccessible sites

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* --- Seen at Kanema

Charadriidae

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* --- Several at Kanema (*curonicus*)

Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi* --- Great views of several at Kanema

Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* --- One at Tiwai

Jacaniidae

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* --- Seen a couple of times

Scolopacidae

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* --- A couple of sightings

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* --- Seen at Kanema

Glareolidae

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* --- Seen in good numbers at Tiwai, and also between Sapu and Monrovia (*liberiae*)

Ciconiidae

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* --- One at Tiwai (*lamelligerus*)

African Woolly-necked Stork [Woolly-necked Stork] *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis* --- Seen at Sapo and Gola

Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* --- Seen at Yekepa and Tiwai (*africanus*)

Threskiornithidae

Spot-breasted Ibis *Bostrychia rara* --- Heard and seen by some flying at dusk at Sapo North

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* --- Seen at Tiwai (*brevirostris*)

Ardeidae

White-crested Tiger Heron *Tigriornis leucolopha* --- Incredible views of a displaying bird at Tiwai

Striated Heron *Butorides [striata] striata* --- Seen at Nimba and Sapo (*atricapilla*)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* --- Seen at Kanema

Western Cattle Egret [Cattle Egret] *Bubulcus [ibis] ibis* --- Widespread sightings

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* --- One at Lungu after the tour officially ended

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* --- One between Sapo and Monrovia (*purpurea*)

African Great Egret [Great Egret] *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos* --- Seen at Kanema

Yellow-billed Egret [Intermediate Egret] *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* --- Seen at Kanema and Tingi

Little Egret *Egretta [garzetta] garzetta* --- Seen once by Julian (*garzetta*)

Accipitridae

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* --- Widespread and common (*pectoralis*)

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* --- Widespread sightings

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* --- Three sightings in Liberia

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* --- Great views at Gola North, and also seen in the Sapo area by some (*batesi*)

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* --- Seen at Kanema and Tingi

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* --- One for Callan near Yekepa (*anderssoni*)

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* --- Seen at Nimba, heard at Sapo and Gola

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Aquila africana* --- Seen at Nimba

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* --- Widespread sightings (*monogrammicus*)

Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus* --- Good views of one at Gola North

Red-chested Goshawk [African Goshawk] *Accipiter [tachiro] toussenelii* --- Seen at Libassa, Nimba and en route to Zwerdu, and heard at Gola North (*macroscelides*)

Shikra *Accipiter badius* --- Seen at Monrovia and Lungu (*sphenurus*)

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus* --- Seen by Callan and Tertius between Sapo and Monrovia

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* --- Seen at Sapo North, Tiwai and Tingi (*temminckii*)

Yellow-billed Kite [Black Kite] *Milvus [migrans] aegyptius* --- Widespread sightings (*parasitus*)

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* --- Seen by Tertius at Tiwai and between Sapo and Monrovia

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis* --- A couple roadside between Makeni and Freetown

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo [auguralis] auguralis* --- Seen at Nimba and between Kono and Makeni

Strigidae

Greyish Eagle-Owl [Spotted Eagle-Owl] *Bubo [africanus] cinerascens* --- One for Callan near Yekepa

Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo [poensis] poensis* --- Brilliant day-time views between Ganta and Zwerdu, and heard at Sapo HQ

Akun Eagle-Owl *Bubo leucostictus* --- Great night-time views at Sapo North

Rufous Fishing Owl *Scotopelia ussheri* --- One was watched at length at Tiwai

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* --- Good views at Tiwai, heard at Sapo North (*nuchalis*)

Red-chested Owlet *Glaucidium tephronotum* --- Heard at Sapo North (*tephronotum*)

Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* --- Good views at Gola North, heard at Sapo (*constantia*)

Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps* --- Heard and seen by Callan at Nimba (*castaneiceps*)

Bucerotidae

Western Pied Hornbill [African Pied Hornbill] *Lophoceros [fasciatus] semifasciatus* --- Many good sightings

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Lophoceros camurus* --- Seen at Sapo North and Gola North

Western Piping Hornbill [Piping Hornbill] *Bycanistes [fistulator] fistulator* --- Seen at Sapo North, Tiwai and Gola

Brown-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes cylindricus* --- Seen at Sapo North, Tiwai and Gola

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata* --- Seen at Sapo North and Gola

Yellow-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata* --- Seen at Sapo North, Tiwai and Gola

Western White-crested Hornbill [White-crested Hornbill] *Horizocerus [albocristatus] albocristatus* --- Seen well at Tiwai, and also at Sapo North, and heard elsewhere (*albocristatus*)

Coraciidae

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo, Tiwai and Tingi (*gularis*)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* --- Widespread sightings (*afer*)

Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* --- Good views at Sapo, Tiwai and Gola

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* --- Seen at Nimba, Tingi and Bumbuna (*leucocephala*)

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* --- Heard at Bumbuna (*chelicuti*)

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* --- Seen at Tiwai and Bumbuna (*torquata*)

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* --- Widespread sightings (probably *fuscipileus*)

African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei* --- Super views at Sapo North, Tiwai and Gola

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* --- Seen at Gola North and Tingi (probably *ferrugina*)

White-bellied Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster* --- Several heard and one seen briefly at Gola North (*bowdleri*)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis [cristatus] cristatus* --- Seen once each in Liberia and Sierra Leone (*galeritus*)

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys* --- Seen at Tiwai and Gola East (*quadibrachys*)

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* --- Seen at Nimba and Tiwai (probably *gigantea*)

Meropidae

Blue-moustached Bee-eater *Merops mentalis* --- A pair seen well at Nimba

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* --- Very common at Nimba, and also seen at Sapo, Gola and Tingi (*gularis*)

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* --- Widespread sightings in savanna (*pusillus*)

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* --- Widespread sightings

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* --- Seen at Tiwai and Gola East (probably *chrysocercus*)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* --- Heard at Bumbuna

Lybiidae

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli* --- One for Callan at Nimba

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco [calvus] calvus* --- Seen at Nimba and Tingi and heard at Sapo (*calvus*)

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* --- Widespread sightings (*scolopaceus*)

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus* --- Heard widely, seen at Nimba

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* --- Heard widely, seen at Nimba (*chrysopygus*)

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus [bilineatus] bilineatus* --- Widespread sightings (*leucolaimus*)

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* --- Heard widely, seen a few times (this is a proposed split Western Yellow-spotted Barbet *B. dowsetti*)

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta* --- Heard at Nimba, seen at Gola East (*hirsuta*)

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti* --- Seen at Tingi (*rubescens*)

Western Yellow-billed Barbet [**Yellow-billed Barbet**] *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] goffinii* --- Good views at Nimba and Gola East

Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* --- Very good views at Nimba (*flavodorsalis*)

Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola North (*willcocksii*)

Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis* --- Heard at Nimba (*exilis*)

Spotted Honeyguide *Indicator maculatus* --- Good views at Tiwai (*maculatus*)

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* --- One at Bumbuna

Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* --- One for Callan at Nimba (*torquilla*)

Little Green Woodpecker [**Green-backed Woodpecker**] *Campethera [cailliautii] maculosa* --- First seen at Nimba

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa* --- Seen a few times, including roosting in a hole at night (*nivosa*)

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli* --- Seen in Liberia and Sierra Leone (*arizela*)

Fire-bellied Woodpecker *Chloropicus pyrrhogaster* --- Good views in Liberia and Sierra Leone

Melancholy Woodpecker [**Gabon Woodpecker**] *Dendropicos [gabonensis] lugubris* --- Good views at Nimba; also seen at Tiwai and heard at Sapo

African Grey Woodpecker (**Grey Woodpecker**) *Dendropicos [goertae] goertae* --- Seen at Tingi and Bumbuna (*goertae*)

Falconidae

Common Kestrel *Falco [tinnunculus] tinnunculus* --- One at Mt Nimba and Zwerdu (probably *rufescens*)

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* --- One on Mt Nimba (*subbuteo*)

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* --- Seen at Tingi (*abyssinicus*)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco [peregrinus] peregrinus* --- Seen by Michael at Nimba (subspecies not determined)

Psittacidae

Timneh Parrot [**Grey Parrot**] *Psittacus [erithacus] timneh* --- Good views at Sapo and Gola North; heard at Tiwai

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* --- Seen at Lungi after the official end of the tour (*krameri*)

Calyptomenidae

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis* --- Good views at Sapo and Gola (*rufolateralis*)

Pittidae

African Pitta *Pitta angolensis* --- Incredible night-time views at Tiwai (*pulih*)

Platysteiridae

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis* --- Seen at Tingi

West African Batis [**Fernando Po Batis**] *Batis [poensis] occulta* --- Seen at Nimba

West African Wattle-eye [**Chestnut Wattle-eye**] *Platysteira [castanea] hormophora* --- Seen several times

Rufous-bellied Wattle-eye [**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye**] *Platysteira [concreta] concreta* --- Great views at Nimba and Gola North

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *Platysteira blissetti* --- Seen at Libassa, and briefly at Gola East

Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* --- Heard at Bumbuna (*blanchoti*)

Lagden's Bushshrike *Malaconotus lagdeni* --- Heard at Gola North (*lagdeni*)

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor* --- Good views at Nimba, Sapo and Gola (*multicolor*)

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* --- Seen at Nimba (*ussheri*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* --- Seen at Tingi and Bumbuna (*senegalus*)

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabini* --- Widespread sightings (*sabini*)

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* --- Seen at Nimba and Tingi (*gambensis*)

Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola East

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius [aethiopicus] major* --- Seen at Tingi (*major*)

Turati's Boubou *Laniarius turatii* --- Two pairs seen well at Bumbuna

Vangidae

Red-billed Helmetshrike *Prionops caniceps* --- Seen well several times in forest (*caniceps*)

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* --- Seen at Nimba, heard in Sierra Leone (*flammulatus*)

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus* --- Seen at Bumbuna (*musicus*)

Campephagidae

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* --- Seen at Nimba, Tingi and Bumbuna

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina* --- Seen at Nimba (*quiscalina*)

Blue Cuckooshrike *Cyanograucalus azureus* --- Seen well at Nimba and Gola

Laniidae

Northern Fiscal [**Common Fiscal**] *Lanius [collaris] humeralis* --- Widespread sightings (*smithii*)

Oriolidae

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* --- Recorded at Bumbuna (*auratus*)

Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus* --- Widespread sightings (*brachyrhynchus*)

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* --- Heard at Sapo North

Dicruridae

Western Square-tailed Drongo [**Square-tailed Drongo**] *Dicrurus [ludwigii] occidentalis* --- Seen distantly at Nimba and again in the Tingi Hills

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis* --- Widespread sightings

Fanti Drongo [**Velvet-mantled Drongo**] *Dicrurus [modestus] atactus* --- Seen a few times

Rhipiduridae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* --- Seen at Nimba and Tiwai, heard at Sapo and Gola (*reichenowi*)

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone [rufiventer] rufiventer* --- Seen regularly in forest (*nigriceps*)

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* --- Seen at Nimba and Tingi (probably *viridis*)

Corvidae

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* --- Widespread sightings

Picathartidae

Yellow-headed Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus* --- Seen at Gola North

Stenostiridae

Dusky Crested Flycatcher *Elminia nigromitrata* --- Fantastic views at Sapu, where nesting; also heard at Gola and Nimba (*colstoni*)

Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis* --- Seen at Tingi

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus* --- Seen at Nimba (*funereus*)

Nicatoridae

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris* --- Widespread sightings

Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus [barbatus] barbatus* --- Widespread sightings (*inornatus*)

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* --- Seen widely in forest (*gracilirostris*)

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* --- Recorded widely (*erythroptera*)

Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis* --- Seen at Nimba, heard elsewhere (*extrema*)

Ansonge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansongei* --- Seen widely in forest (*ansongei*)

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris* --- Seen at Nimba and Sapu (*leonina*)

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* --- Recorded widely (*congener*)

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serinus* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola North

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola (*leucurus*)

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus* --- Recorded widely

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex* --- Recorded widely

Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura* --- Seen at Nimba and Sapu, heard elsewhere

Red-tailed Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens* --- Seen at Nimba, heard at Tingi (*scandens*)

Baumann's Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus baumanni* --- Good views at Bumbuna, where unexpected

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus [icterinus] icterinus* --- Seen widely in forest

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus [albigularis] albigularis* --- Seen at Gola East

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* --- Seen at Sapu and Gola (*syndactylus*)

Green-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda eximius* --- Seen at Gola

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus* --- Seen at Libassa and Tiwai, heard elsewhere (*canicapillus*)

Western Bearded Greenbul *Criniger barbatus* --- Widespread in forest (*barbatus*)

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapu and Gola (*barbatus*)

Yellow-bearded Greenbul *Criniger olivaceus* --- Good views at Nimba, Sapu and Gola

Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapu and Gola North (*nitens*)

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura* --- Seen at Tingi and Bumbuna

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* --- Recorded widely (probably all *rustica*)

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida* --- Seen at Lungi after the official end of the tour (*lucida*)

White-throated Blue Swallow *Hirundo nigrita* --- Good views at Sapu HQ and Tiwai

Common House Martin *Delichon [urbicum] urbicum* --- Seen at Nimba and Bumbuna (subspecies not determined)

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola (*puella*)

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa* --- Seen at Nimba (*gordoni*)

West African Swallow [Red-rumped Swallow] *Cecropis [daurica] domicella* --- Seen at Tingi and Bumbuna

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi* --- Seen between Sapu and Monrovia, near the airport at Monrovia, between Monrovia and the Sierra Leone border, and at Tingi

Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* --- Heard at Nimba, seen at Bumbuna (*mentalis*)

Kemp's Longbill *Macrosphenus kempii* --- Good views at Nimba (*kempii*)

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor* --- Seen at Nimba and Tiwai, heard elsewhere

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola North (*flaviventris*)

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola North (*hardyi*)

Erythroceridae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mcallii* --- Widespread sightings in forest (*nigeriae*)

Hylidae

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* --- Recorded widely in forest (*prasina*)

Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rushiae* --- Seen at Nimba, Gola North and Tingi (*ussheri*)

Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* --- Widespread sightings (subspecies not determined)

Acrocephalidae

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* --- One for Tertius at Bumbuna (probably *arundinaceus*)

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* --- Seen well at Bumbuna

Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* --- Heard at Tingi and Bumbuna (*erythrops*)

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* --- Heard at Tingi (*swanzii*)

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* --- Seen at Nimba, Gola North and Bumbuna (*lateralis*)

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola [galactotes] marginatus* --- Heard and seen by some at Kanema (*amphilectus*)

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* --- Seen at Nimba (*brachypterus*)

Black-backed Cisticola *Cisticola eximius* --- Good views at Kanema

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* --- Widespread sightings (probably *melanorhyncha*)

Sierra Leone Prinia *Schistolais leontica* --- Three groups found at Nimba, none easy to see

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus* --- Seen at Bumbuna, heard at Tingi (*erythropterus*)

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps* --- Good views at Nimba, heard elsewhere (*nigriceps*)

Sharpe's Apalis *Apalis sharpii* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola, heard elsewhere

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps* --- One for Callan at Lungi after the end of the tour

Grey-backed Camaroptera [Bleating Camaroptera] *Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata* --- Seen at Nimba and Bumbuna (probably *tincta*)

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola, heard elsewhere

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera [chloronota] chloronota* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola, heard elsewhere (*kelsalli*)

Black-headed Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus cerviniventris* --- Incredible views at Nimba

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela [pusilla] pusilla* --- Seen at Tingi and Bumbuna

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo and Gola North (*fantiensis*)

Pelloroneidae

Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo and Gola (*johnsoni*)

Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens* --- Seen at Sapo, heard at Nimba and Gola

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli* --- Seen well at Gola East (*puveli*)

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis [rufipennis] rufipennis* --- Seen well at Sapo and Gola (*extrema*)

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* --- Seen at Nimba, heard elsewhere (*gularis*)

Leiothrichidae

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus* --- Heard at Bumbuna (*platycirca*)

Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler [Capuchin Babbler] *Turdoides [atrypennis] atripennis* --- Seen at Gola HQ, Gola East and Tingi

Sylviidae

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* --- Common at Nimba; also at Bumbuna (subspecies not determined)

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* --- Seen at Nimba (subspecies not determined)

Zosteropidae

Northern Yellow White-eye [African Yellow White-eye] *Zosterops [senegalensis] senegalensis* --- Seen at Nimba and Tingi (probably all *demeryi*)

Sturnidae

Copper-tailed Starling *Hylopsar cupreocauda* --- Seen at Nimba, Tiwai and Gola North

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo and Lungi (*chrysonotis*)

Emerald Starling *Lamprotornis iris* --- Three seen well at Bumbuna and about eight at Tingi

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* --- Seen at Tingi and Bumbuna (*leucogaster*)

Forest Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus* --- Seen at Tiwai (*hartlaubii*)

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris* --- Seen at Nimba by Tertius

Turdidae

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo and Gola (*poensis*)

Finsch's Flycatcher Thrush [Rufous Flycatcher Thrush] *Stizorhina [fraseri] finschi* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo and Gola

Grey Ground Thrush *Geokichla princei* --- Brief views at Sapo, where heard for long periods (*princei*)

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* --- Seen at Libassa, Gola and Lungi (*chiguancooides*)

Muscicapidae

White-tailed Alethe [Fire-crested Alethe] *Alethe [diademata] diademata* --- Excellent views at Sapo, Tiwai and Gola

Forest Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucosticta* --- Seen at Sapo and Gola North (*colstoni*)

Fraser's Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata* --- Seen at Nimba (*prospora*)

White-browed Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens* --- Seen at Libassa and Tiwai (*cinerascens*)

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis* --- Heard at Sapo HQ (*parelii*)

Nimba Flycatcher *Melaenornis annamarulae* --- Two good sightings at Nimba

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* --- Seen at Bumbuna and Tingi (*edolioides*)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa [striata] striata* --- Seen at Nimba (subspecies not determined)

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* --- Seen at Nimba (*nigrorum*)

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini* --- Seen at Sapo and Tiwai

Olivaceous Flycatcher *Muscicapa olivascens* --- Good views at Sapo North (*olivascens*)

Little Grey Flycatcher *Muscicapa epulata* --- Good views at Nimba

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata* --- Seen at Nimba and Sapo (*aximensis*)

Ussher's Flycatcher *Muscicapa ussheri* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo and Gola

Brown-chested Alethe *Chamaetylas poliocephala* --- Seen at Sapo and Gola (*poliocephala*)

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera* --- Heard at Nimba

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla* --- Seen at Nimba

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapillus* --- Seen at Lungi after the official end of the tour (*albicapillus*)

Western Forest Robin [Forest Robin] *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] erythrothorax* --- Seen well at Nimba, Gola, Tiwai and Sapo

Lowland Akalat *Sheppardia cyornithopsis* --- Three sightings by single individuals, two at Sapo and one at Gola North (*houghtoni*)

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* --- Recorded at Nimba and Bumbuna (probably all *megarhynchos*)

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* --- Common at Nimba; also at Tingi (probably all *hypoleuca*)

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* --- Seen at Nimba, Tingi and Bumbuna

African Stonechat [Common Stonechat] *Saxicola [torquatus] torquatus* --- Seen at Nimba (*nebularum*)

Nectariniidae

Fraser's Sunbird *Deleornis [fraseri] fraseri* --- Widespread sightings in forest (*idius*)

Mangrove Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus* --- Seen at Tiwai and Gola East

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* --- Quite common at Nimba and also seen at Gola (*kruensis*)

Yellow-chinned Sunbird [Grey-chinned Sunbird] *Anthreptes [rectirostris] rectirostris* --- Seen at Nimba, Tiwai and Gola

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* --- Widespread sightings (*subcollaris*)

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* --- Recorded at Nimba, Tingi and Lungi (*verticalis*)

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* --- Widespread sightings in forest (*magnirostrata*)

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* --- Widespread sightings in forest (*guineensis*)

Buff-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra adelberti* --- Our best views were at Gola North, but also seen at Nimba (*adelberti*)

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* --- Widespread sightings (*kempi*)

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola (*minullus*)

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus* --- Seen at Tingi

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae* --- Widespread sightings in forest (*fasciatus*)

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* --- Seen at Nimba and Gola North (*ashantiensis*)

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* --- Seen at Nimba, Tingi and Bumbuna (*venustus*)

Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* --- Seen at Monrovia, Ganta and Zimmi

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer [griseus] griseus* --- Seen at Yekepa and Lungi (*griseus*)

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata* --- Seen at Tingi

Ploceidae

Olive-naped Weaver [Black-necked Weaver] *Ploceus [nigricollis] brachypterus* --- Seen at Nimba, Tingi and Bumbuna

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius* --- Seen between Sapo and Monrovia (*aurantius*)

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* --- Widespread sightings in forest (*cucullatus*)

Chestnut-and-black Weaver [Vieillot's Black Weaver] *Ploceus [nigerrimus] castaneofuscus* --- Seen between Sapo and Monrovia, and widely in Sierra Leone

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* --- Seen at Nimba and Tiwai (*tricolor*)

Maxwell's Black Weaver *Ploceus albinucha* --- Good views at Sapo, Gola and Tiwai (*albinucha*)

Gola Malimbe *Malimbus ballmanni* --- An incredible number of good sightings at Nimba (1), Sapo (6) and Gola (3)

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus* --- Several good sightings (*scutatus*)

Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens* --- Small numbers seen in forest

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* --- Small numbers seen in forest (*nigrifrons*)

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythroptus* --- Seen at Bumbuna

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* --- One at Bumbuna (*macroura*)

Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker *Parmoptila rubrifrons* --- A pair seen well at Sapo North

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus* --- Seen at Nimba (*uroptygialis*)

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor* --- Seen at Nimba, Sapo and Tiwai (*bicolor*)

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus* --- Seen in small numbers throughout (*emiliae*)

Yellow-winged Pytilia *Pytilia hypogrammica* --- Seen well at Tingi

Crimson Seedcracker *Pyrenestes sanguineus* --- A male seen well between Liberia and Tiwai (*coccineus*)

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina* --- Seen at Sapo and Gola (*haematina*)

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara* --- Seen at Tingi (*forbesi*)

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* --- Seen at Tingi and Lungi (*senegala*)

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta [rubricata] rubricata* --- Seen at Bumbuna and Tingi (*polionota*)

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* --- Seen at Nimba and Bumbuna (*melpoda*)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda [astrild] astrild* --- Seen at Nimba (*kempi*)

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* --- Widespread sightings (*cucullata*)

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura [bicolor] bicolor* --- Widespread sightings (*bicolor*)

Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides* --- Seen near Sapo and at Tingi

Viduidae

Cameroon Indigobird *Vidua camerunensis* --- A few seen at Bumbuna

Togo Paradise Whydah *Vidua togoensis* --- Great views of a male in full plumage at Bumbuna

Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* --- Seen at Nimba, Kanema, Tingi and Bumbuna (subspecies not determined)

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* --- Seen at Tiwai (*vidua*)

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* --- Seen at Bumbuna

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus [similis] similis* --- Seen well at Nimba (*bannermani*)

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* --- Seen in the Nimba area (*gouldii*)

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* --- Seen at Nimba, Tingi and Bumbuna (*trivialis*)

Fringillidae

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* --- Seen at Tingi (*caniceps*)

Emberizidae

Gosling's Bunting [Cinnamon-breasted Bunting] *Emberiza [tahapisi] goslingi* --- Seen at Nimba, Tingi and Bumbuna

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* --- One for Tertius at Tingi (*cabanisi*)

Standard-winged Nightjar © Tertius Gous







Sharpe's Apalis © Tertius Gous (above). *Searching for owls on the Moa River* © Callan Cohen (below).



Turati's Boubou © Tertius Gous (above). *Togo Paradise Whydah* © Tertius Gous (below).





Baumann's Olive Greenbul © Markus Lagerqvist (above). *Long-tailed Hawk* © Markus Lagerqvist (below).



Rufous-bellied Wattle-eye © Markus Lagerqvist (above). *Dusky Crested Flycatcher* © Tertius Gous (below).





Pale-breasted Illadopsis © Tertius Gous (above).

Forbes's Plover © Tertius Gous (below).



African Pitta © Tertius Gous



