

Upper Guinea Special

2023A Trip Report



Rufous Fishing Owl © Michael Mills

*Text by Michael Mills
Photos by Don MacGillivray, Barry Wright & Michael Mills*

ITINERARY

5 Jan: Arrive Monrovia.

6 Jan: Monrovia to Mount Nimba.

7–11 Jan: Mount Nimba.

12 Jan: Mount Nimba to Monrovia.

13 Jan: To Tiwai Island in Sierra Leone.

14 Jan: Tiwai Island.

15 Jan: Tiwai Island to Gola Central.

16 Jan: Gola Central/Lalehun.

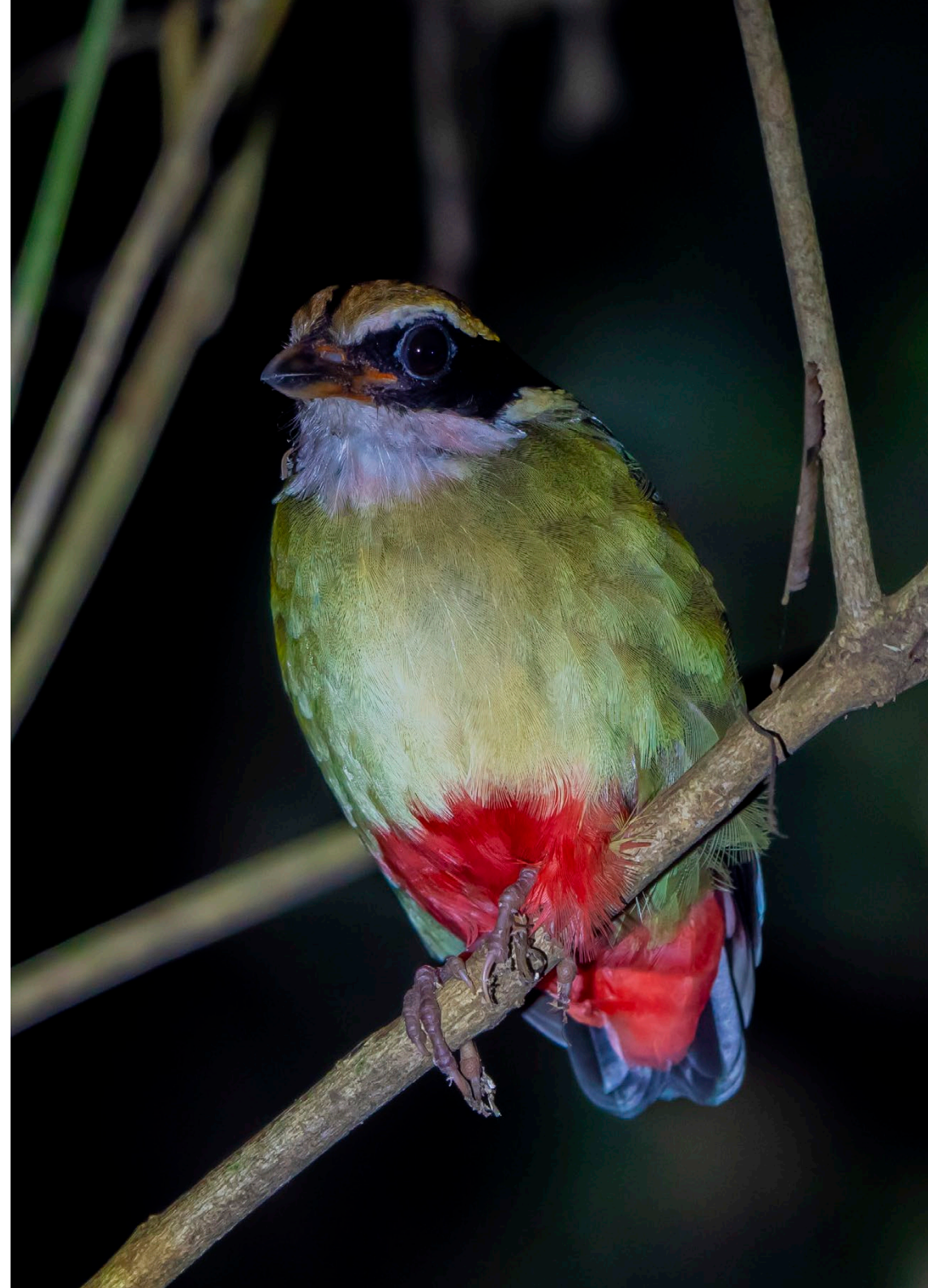
17 Jan: Gola Central to Makeni via Kanema.

18 Jan: Bumbuna area.

19 Jan: Makeni to Freetown.

20 Jan: Freetown.

Congo Serpent Eagle (below) and African Pitta (right) © Michael Mills



REPORT

Our inaugural Upper Guinea Special tour was a resounding success. In 16 days we visited Mount Nimba in Liberia, and Tiwai, Gola Central, Bumbuna and Freetown in Sierra Leone. Participants enjoyed an unfamiliar level of comfort (compared with previous tours to the region), without compromising on key birds.

We started off at Monrovia in Liberia, where in the surrounds of our hotel we found Grey-headed Bristlebill, White-browed Forest Flycatcher, Carmelite Sunbird and West African Wattle-eye. A short stint of birding on the outskirts of Monrovia the next morning produced little of interest, before we drove north to the Guinea border.

Sierra Leone Prinia © Barry Wright



From our air conditioned hotel we spent five full days exploring various parts of Mount Nimba and surrounds. The 'big four' made us work hard, with Black-headed Rufous Warbler and Nimba Flycatcher only being found on day five, but found they were. At least Sierra Leone Prinia and Gola Malimbe gave themselves up more easily, with good views obtained on our first attempts.

A strong supporting cast of other birds at Nimba included Forest Wood Hoopoe, Buff-throated Sunbird, Standard-winged Nightjar, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Long-tailed Hawk, Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Brown-cheeked Hornbill, Blue-moustached Bee-eater,



Standard-winged Nightjar © Don MacGillivray

Western Yellow-spotted Barbet, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Double-toothed Barbet, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Cassin's Honeybird, Willcocks's Honeyguide, Little Green Woodpecker, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Melancholy Woodpecker, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Fiery-breasted Bushshrike, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Sabine's Puffback, Red-billed Helmetshrike, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Blue Cuckooshrike, Western Square-tailed Drongo, Dusky Tit, Baumann's Olive Greenbul, Western Bearded Greenbul, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher,

Tit Hylia, Black-capped Apalis, Sharpe's Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Violet-backed Hyliota, Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush, White-tailed Alethe, Little Grey Flycatcher, Ussher's Flycatcher, Yellow-chinned Sunbird, Johanna's Sunbird, Preuss's Weaver, Red-vented Malimbe, fantastic views of the tricky Red-fronted Antpecker, and Long-billed Pipit. Excellent views of a Tree Pangolin were the mammalian highlight of Nimba, before it was time to head back to Monrovia for a night. A wetland not far from the city held quite a few African Pygmy Goose, plus Allen's Gallinule and Orange Weaver.



Blackcap Illadopsis © Michael Mills

The next day we easily crossed the land border into Sierra Leone, and by the late afternoon we were settled into our accommodation on Tiwai island and found ourselves out on canoes on the Moa River. It didn't take long before we came face-to-face with our main target, the fantastic Rufous Fishing Owl, on its roost in a dense grove of palm trees. The pressure was off, and we could now enjoy the great variety of birds that were on offer. After dark we struck out on the various trails, finding Nkulengu Rail on its roost, followed by an incredible

African Pitta perched at eye level. During the rest of our time at Tiwai, highlights included African Finfoot, Egyptian Plover, Western Black Dwarf Hornbill, Brown Nightjar, a superb encounter with Congo Serpent Eagle, White-backed Night Heron, Yellow-casqued Wattle Hornbill, Black-casqued Wattle Hornbill, Western Piping Hornbill, White-crowned Lapwing, Rock Pratincole, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Spotted Honeyguide, Timneh Parrot, Fanti Drongo and Western Forest Robin.

From Tiwai we made our way to Gola Central, pausing at some farm bush along the way to find Lowland Sooty Boubou. A productive day and morning at Lalehun turned up some sought-after goodies, such as Lagden's Bushshrike, Yellow-headed Picathartes, Western Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, (glimpses of) Green-tailed Bristlebill, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, Narina Trogon, Cassin's Spinetail, Yellow-throated Cuckoo, Western Yellow-billed Barbet, Kemp's Longbill, Blackcap Illadopsis, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler, Copper-tailed Starling and White-tailed Ant Thrush.

Moving on from Gola, a roadside stop at a swamp turned up excellent views of a pair of nest-building Crimson Seedcracker, plus Magpie Mannikin, before the rice paddies at Kanema produced Black-backed Cisticola and Forbes's Plover. As we neared Makeni we found our first Cameroon Indigobird.

Birding the next day at Bumbuna was very productive, with more Cameroon Indigobirds, a single male Jambandu Indigobird, full-plumaged Togo Paradise Whydah and Emerald Starling among the highlights. Here too we found Yellow-winged Pytilia, Fanti Saw-wing, Melodious Warbler,

Lagden's Bushshrike © Michael Mills





Black-backed Cisticola (above) and Pohle's Fruit Bat (right) © Michael Mills

Red-winged Warbler and Gosling's Bunting, before moving onto Freetown for the end of the tour, finding Black-faced Quail-Finch, Grasshopper Buzzard and Turati's Boubou at roadside stops. At Freetown the golf

course produced Oriole Warbler, Western Reef Heron, Turati's Boubou and Mottled Spinetail, before it was time to bid our farewells to West Africa.

BIRDS RECORDED

Odontophoridae

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*—Heard at Bumbuna (*petrosus*)

Phasianidae

Latham's Forest Francolin *Peliperdix lathamii*—One flushed at Gola Central, and many heard at night at Tiwai (*lathamii*)

Ahanta Francolin *Pternistis ahantensis*—Good flight views at Nimba (*ahantensis*)

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus*—Seen at Mt Nimba and Bumbuna (*thornei*)

Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*—Seen

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*—Three seen in flight at Nimba

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*—Quite common on a wetland near Monrovia

Caprimulgidae

Brown Nightjar *Veles binotatus*—Good views at Tiwai

Black-shouldered Nightjar [Fiery-necked Nightjar] *Caprimulgus [pectoralis] nigriscapularis*—Heard at Monrovia (Leader Only)

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*—Seen at Monrovia (*sclateri*) (Leader Only)

Standard-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus longipennis*—Brilliant day-time views at Nimba and Bumbuna

Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri*—Seen well at Freetown (*ussheri*)

Cassin's Spinetail *Neafrapus cassini*—Good views at Gola Central

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus [p.] parvus*—Seen widely (probably *brachypterus*)

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

Common Swift *Apus apus*—Seen widely (*apus*)

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*—Seen a few times

Little Swift *Apus affinis*—Scattered sightings (*aerobates*)

Musophagidae

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaëola cristata*—Seen

Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa*—Seen at Nimba (*buffoni*)

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus*—Seen at Nimba (*macrorhynchus*)

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

Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster*—Heard at Nimba and Tiwai (*leucogaster*)

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

Blue Yellowbill [Yellowbill] *Ceuthmochares [a.] aereus*—Widespread sightings (*flavivirostris*)

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*—A few sightings

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*—Seen at Gola Central (*flavivirostris*)

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*—Widespread records

Yellow-throated Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*—Great views at Gola Central

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*—Widespread records

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*—Heard at Gola Central

Columbidae

Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*—Seen

Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques*—Seen well at Nimba

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*—Widespread

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*—Seen at Bumbuna

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*—Seen (*senegalensis*)

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

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris*—Widespread sightings

Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri*—Seen at Nimba and heard elsewhere (*infelix*)

African Green Pigeon *Treron [c.] calvus*—Seen regularly in small numbers (*sharpei*)

Sarothruridae

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

Heliornithidae

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*—Good views at Tiwai (*senegalensis*)

Rallidae

Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus*—Seen on the roost at Tiwai

African Crake *Crex egregia*—A couple flushed at Kanema

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*—Seen a few times

African Swampfen [Swampfen] *Porphyrio [porphyrio] madagascariensis*—Seen near Monrovia

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*—Seen near Monrovia

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—Seen near Monrovia (*meridionalis*)

Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*—Seen at Tiwai

Charadriidae

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*—Seen at Tiwai

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*—Seen near Makeni (*senegallus*)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—Seen at Monrovia

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*—Seen by some at Monrovia

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*—Several by Michael at Kanema (*curonicus*)

Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi*—Great views of several at Kanema and near Makeni

Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*—A pair at Tiwai

Jacanidae

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

Scolopacidae

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius [p.] phaeopus*—Seen at Freetown

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*—Seen at Kanema (*gallinago*)

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—A few sightings

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*—Seen at Freetown

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*—Seen at Kanema

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—Seen at Freetown

Glareolidae

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*—Seen in good numbers at Tiwai (*liberiae*)

Laridae

African Royal Tern [Royal Tern] *Thalasseus [maximus] albididorsalis*—Seen at Freetown

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—Seen at Freetown

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*—Seen at Monrovia

Ciconiidae

African Woolly-necked Stork [Woolly-necked Stork] *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis*—Seen several times

Phalacrocoracidae

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

Threskiornithidae

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*—Heard at Tiwai (*brevirostris*)

Ardeidae

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus*—Good views at Tiwai

Striated Heron [Green Heron] *Butorides [s.] striata*—Seen a couple of times (*atricapilla*)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*—Seen a couple of times

Western Cattle Egret [Cattle Egret] *Bubulcus [i.] ibis*—Widespread sightings

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*—Seen (*cinerea*)

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*—Seen

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—Seen (*purpurea*)

African Great Egret [Great Egret] *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos*—Seen

Yellow-billed Egret [Intermediate Egret] *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha*—Seen

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*—Seen at Freetown

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*—Many at Freetown (*gularis*)

Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*—Seen (Leader Only)

Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*—One near Monrovia (*caeruleus*)

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

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*—Widespread sightings

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*—A couple of sightings

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides*—Seen at Nimba and Gola Central (*batesi*)

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*—Seen at Freetown

Congo Serpent Eagle *Circaetus spectabilis*—Incredible views at Tiwai (*spectabilis*)

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*—Seen near Makeni

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

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

Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrourus*—Good views at Nimba

Shikra *Accipiter badius*—Seen at Freetown (*sphenurus*)

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*—Flight views at Nimba and Tiwai (*erythropus*)

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*—Good views at Makeni (*temminckii*)

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*—Seen near Makeni (*aeruginosus*)

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

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

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*—Several sightings

Strigidae

Rufous Fishing Owl *Scotopelia ussheri*—Excellent views at Tiwai

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*—One at Nimba, and heard at Tiwai (*nuchalis*)

Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*—Seen at Gola Central (*constantia*)

Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*—Good views at Nimba (*castaneiceps*)

Bucerotidae

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

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Lophoceros camurus*—Seen at Gola Central

Western Piping Hornbill [Piping Hornbill] *Bycanistes [f.] fistulator*—Seen at Tiwai and Gola Central

Brown-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes cylindricus*—Seen at Nimba and Tiwai

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*—Seen at Tiwai

Yellow-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*—Good views at Tiwai and Gola Central

Western Black Dwarf Hornbill [Black Dwarf Hornbill] *Horizocerus [h.] hartlaubi*—Good views at Tiwai

Western White-crested Hornbill [White-crested Hornbill] *Horizocerus [a.] albocristatus*—Heard (*albocristatus*)

Coraciidae

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*—Seen by some

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*—Heard at Tiwai (*gularis*)

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

Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*—Good views at Tiwai

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*—Numerous sightings (*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 *fuscopileus*)

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*—Seen well (probably *ferrugina*)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis [c.] cristatus*—Seen (*galeritus*)

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*—Seen (probably *gigantea*)

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*—Seen (*rudis*)

Meropidae

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

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*—Common at Nimba (*gularis*)

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*—Heard at Bumbuna (*chrysolaimus*)

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 (*chrysocercus*)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*—Seen near Makeni

Lybiidae

(Common) Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco [c.] calvus*—Seen at Nimba (*calvus*)

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

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus*—Seen at Nimba

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*—Seen at Nimba (*chrysopygus*)

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

Western Yellow-spotted Barbet [Yellow-spotted Barbet] *Buccanodon [duchailui] dowsetti*—Seen at Nimba

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*—Seen at Nimba (*hirsuta*)

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*—Seen at Nimba (*bidentatus*)

Western Yellow-billed Barbet [Yellow-billed Barbet] *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] goffinii*—Seen at Gola Central

Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*—Good views at Nimba (*flavodorsalis*)

Willcocks's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksii*—Seen at Nimba (*willcocksii*)

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

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

Picidae

Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera*—Heard (*punctuligera*) (Leader Only)

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

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa*—Seen (*nivosa*)

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli*—Seen (*arizela*)

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

Melancholy Woodpecker [Gabon Woodpecker] *Dendropicos [gabonensis] lugubris*—Good views at Nimba

African Grey Woodpecker [Grey Woodpecker] *Dendropicos [g.] goertae*—Seen at Freetown (*goertae*)

Falconidae

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*—Seen at Nimba

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*—One at Nimba (*subbuteo*)

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*—One at Nimba

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*—Seen at Makeni (*abyssinicus*)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco [p.] peregrinus*—Seen at Freetown

Psittacidae

Timneh Parrot [Grey Parrot] *Psittacus [erithacus] timneh*—Seen at Tiwai

Calyptomenidae

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis*—Seen at Nimba (*rufolateralis*)

Pittidae

African Pitta *Pitta [a.] angolensis*—Incredible night-time views at Tiwai (*pulih*)

Platysteiridae

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

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*—Seen (*cyanea*)

Western Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye [Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye] *Platysteira [c.] concreta*—Brief views at Gola Central

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *Platysteira blissetti*—Brief views at Gola Central

Malaconotidae

Fiery-breasted Bushshrike *Malaconotus cruentus*—Great views at Nimba

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

Lagden's Bushshrike *Malaconotus lagdeni*—Good views at Gola Central (*lagdeni*)

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor*—Seen at Nimba (*multicolor*)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*—Heard (*sulfureopectus*)

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*—Seen near Makeni (*minuta*)

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*—Seen at Monrovia (*ussheri*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*—Seen near Makeni (*senegalus*)

Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabini*—Seen (*sabini*)

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*—Seen (*gambensis*)

Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*—Seen at Gola Central

Turati's Boubou *Laniarius turatii*—Seen three times, including in Freetown

Vangidae

Red-billed Helmetshrike *Prionops [c.] caniceps*—Seen well (*caniceps*)

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*—Seen (*flammulatus*)

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

Campephagidae

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*—Seen

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

Blue Cuckooshrike *Cyanograucalus azureus*—Seen at Nimba

Laniidae

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

Oriolidae

Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus brachyrynchus*—Widespread sightings (*brachyrynchus*)

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*—Heard at Gola Central

Dicruridae

Western Square-tailed Drongo [Square-tailed Drongo] *Dicrurus [ludwigii] occidentalis*—Seen at Nimba

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*—Widespread sightings

Northern Fork-tailed Drongo [Fork-tailed Drongo] *Dicrurus [adsimilis] divaricatus*—Seen at Bumbuna

Fanti Drongo [Velvet-mantled Drongo] *Dicrurus [modestus] atactus*—Seen at Tiwai

Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens*—Seen (*reichenowi*)

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone [r.] rufiventer*—Seen (*nigriceps*)

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone [v.] viridis*—Seen (probably *viridis*)

Corvidae

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*—Widespread

Picathartidae

Yellow-headed Picathartes *Picathartes gymnocephalus*—Seen at Gola Central

Stenostiridae

Dusky Crested Flycatcher *Elminia nigromitrata*—Heard at Gola Central (*colstoni*)

Paridae

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

Nicatoridae

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*—Seen

Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus [b.] barbatus*—Widespread sightings (*inornatus*)

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*—Seen (*gracilirostris*)

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

Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis*—Seen (*extrema*)

Anson's Greenbul *Eurillas ansoni*—Seen (*ansonii*)

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris*—Seen (*leonina*)

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

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*—Seen (*leucurus*)

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*—Seen

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*—Recorded widely

Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*—Seen

Red-tailed Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens*—Seen at Nimba and Bumbuna (*scandens*)

Baumann's Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus baumanni*—Seen at Nimba

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus [i.] icterinus*—Seen

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus [a.] albigularis*—Seen at Tiwai

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*—Heard (*syndactylus*)

Green-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda eximius*—Glimpses at Gola Central

Grey-headed Bristlebill *Bleda canicapillus*—Good views (*canicapillus*)

Western Bearded Greenbul *Criniger barbatus*—Good views (*barbatus*)

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*—Seen (*verreauxi*)

Yellow-bearded Greenbul *Criniger olivaceus*—Seen well at Nimba and Gola Central

Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens*—Seen (*nitens*)

Fanti Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne obscura*—Seen at Bumbuna and Freetown

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*—Seen

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

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*—Seen (*lucida*)

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*—Seen near Ganta (*aethiopica*) (Leader Only)

White-throated Blue Swallow *Hirundo nigrita*—Good views at Tiwai

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*—Seen (*puella*)

Red-breasted Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*—Seen near Monrovia (*gordoni*)

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis [d.] daurica*—Seen at Bumbuna (*kumboensis*)

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

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*—Seen

Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*—Seen (*mentalis*)

Kemp's Longbill *Macrosphenus kempii*—Seen at Gola Central (*kempii*)

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*—Good views

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta [b.] brachyura*—Seen at Freetown (*brachyura*)

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*—Heard (*flaviventris*)

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*—Seen at Nimba (*hardyi*)

Erythroceridae

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mcallii*—Seen at Nimba (*nigeriae*)

Hylidae

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

Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rushiae*—Seen at Nimba (*ussleri*)

Phylloscopidae

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*—Seen at Nimba

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

Acrocephalidae

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*—Heard

Eurasian Reed Warbler [Common Reed Warbler] *Acrocephalus [s.] scirpaceus*—Heard

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*—Seen well at Bumbuna

Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*—Heard near Makeni (*erythrops*)

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*—Seen at Makeni (*swanzii*)

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*—Seen (*lateralis*)

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola [galactotes] marginatus*—Seen at Kanema (*amphilectus*)

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*—One at Nimba and several near Makeni (*strangei*)

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*—Seen (*brachypterus*)

Black-backed Cisticola *Cisticola eximius*—Good views at Kanema and near Makeni (*occidens*)

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

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus*—Seen near Makeni (*erythropterus*)

Sierra Leone Prinia *Schistolais leontica*—Good views at Nimba

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*—Good views at Nimba (*nigriceps*)

Sharpe's Apalis *Apalis sharpii*—Good views at Nimba

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*—Good views at Freetown

Grey-backed Camaroptera [Bleating Camaroptera] *Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata*—Seen (probably *tinctoria*)

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*—Seen

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera [c.] chloronota*—Seen (*kelsalli*)

Black-headed Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus cerviniventris*—Nice looks at Nimba

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela [p.] pusilla*—Seen at Freetown

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps*—Seen at Nimba (*fantiensis*)

Pellorneidae

Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri*—Great views at Gola Central (*johnsoni*)

Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens*—Seen by all at Gola Central

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis [r.] rufipennis*—Brief views at Gola Central (*extrema*)

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*—Heard (*gularis*)

Leiothrichidae

Grey-hooded Capuchin Babbler [**Capuchin Babbler**] *Turdoides [a.] atripennis*—Seen at Gola Central

Sylviidae

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*—Seen (subspecies not determined)

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*—Seen (subspecies not determined)

Zosteropidae

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

Hylotiidae

Violet-backed Hyliota *Hyliota violacea*—One at Nimba (*nehrkorni*)

Sturnidae

Copper-tailed Starling *Hylopsar cupreocauda*—Seen at Gola Central

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*—Seen at Nimba (*chrysonotis*)

Emerald Starling *Lamprotornis iris*—Nice scope views at Bumbuna

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

Turdidae

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*—Seen at Gola Central (*poensis*)

Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush [**Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush**] *Stizorhina [fraseri] finschi*—Seen at Nimba

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*—Seen (*chiguancooides*)

Muscicapidae

White-tailed Alethe *Alethe diademata*—Good views at Nimba

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

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*—Brief views at Nimba (*parelii*)

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*—Heard (*plumbeus*)

Nimba Flycatcher *Melaenornis annamarulae*—Good views at Nimba

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*—Seen at Makeni (*edolioides*)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa [s.] striata*—Seen at Nimba (subspecies not determined)

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*—Seen at Tiwai

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

Ussher's Flycatcher *Muscicapa ussheri*—Seen at Nimba

Brown-chested Alethe *Chamaetylas poliocephala*—Seen by Sue (*poliocephala*)

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*—Heard at Nimba (*nigriceps*)

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*—Seen at Monrovia

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapillus*—Seen at Freetown (*albicapillus*)

Western Forest Robin [**Forest Robin**] *Stiphornis [e.] erythrothorax*—Seen well at Tiwai

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*—Heard (probably all *megarhynchos*)

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula [h.] hypoleuca*—Common at Nimba, but all females (probably all *hypoleuca*)

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*—Seen

African Stonechat [**Common Stonechat**] *Saxicola [t.] torquatus*—Seen at Nimba (*nebularum*)

Nectariniidae

Fraser's Sunbird *Deleornis [f.] fraseri*—Seen (*idius*)

Mangrove Brown Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus*—Seen at Tiwai and Freetown

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*—One at Bumbuna (*longuemarei*)

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*—Seen at Nimba (*kruensis*)

Yellow-chinned Sunbird [**Grey-chinned Sunbird**] *Anthreptes [r.] rectirostris*—Good views

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

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*—Seen (*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*—Some good views (*adelberti*)

Carmelite Sunbird *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*—Good views at Monrovia (*aurea*)

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

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus*—Seen at Nimba and Monrovia (*minullus*)

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*—Seen at Freetown

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

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*—Seen (*ashantiensis*)

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*—Seen (*venustus*)

Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—Seen in Liberia

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer [g.] griseus*—Seen (*griseus*)

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*—Seen

Ploceidae

Olive-naped Weaver [**Black-necked Weaver**] *Ploceus [nigricollis] brachypterus*—Seen

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*—Seen near Monrovia (*aurantius*)

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*—Widespread sightings (*cucullatus*)

Chestnut-and-black Weaver [**Vieillot's Black Weaver**] *Ploceus [nigerrimus] castaneofuscus*—Seen

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

Pruss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*—Seen well at Nimba

Gola Malimbe *Malimbus ballmanni*—Seen by all at Nimba

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

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

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*—Seen at Tiwai (*bartletti*)

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

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*—Seen at
Bumbuna

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes
macroura*—Seen near Makeni (*macroura*)

Estrildidae

Red-fronted Antpecker *Parmoptila
rubrifrons*—Excellent views of a male at
Nimba

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*—
Seen at Nimba (*uropygialis*)

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor*—
Seen briefly (*bicolor*)

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus*—
Seen (*emiliae*)

Yellow-winged Pytilia *Pytilia hypogrammica*—
Seen well at Bumbuna

Crimson Seedcracker *Pyrenestes sanguineus*—
Excellent views near Kanema (*coccineus*)

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*—
Brief views (*haematina*)

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*—
Seen (*senegala*)

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta [r.] rubricata*—
Seen at Bumbuna and Makeni (*polionota*)

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

Common Waxbill *Estrilda [a.] astrild*—Seen at
Nimba (*kempi*)

Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava
subflava*—Seen at Bumbuna and near Makeni
(*subflava*)

Black-faced Quailfinch [Quailfinch]
Ortygospiza [a.] atricollis—Several near
Makeni (*ansorgei*)

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

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura [b.]
bicolor*—Seen (*bicolor*)

Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides*—
Seen near Kanema

Viduidae

Jambandu Indigobird *Vidua ruficollis*—Good
looks at one male in plumage at Bumbuna

Cameroon Indigobird *Vidua camerunensis*—
Nice looks at males in the Makeni area

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*—Seen

Togo Paradise Whydah *Vidua togoensis*—A
male in full plumage seen by all at Bumbuna

Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*—Seen

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

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*—
Seen

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

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*—Seen
(*gouldii*)

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*—Seen (*trivialis*)

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*—A few
near Makeni

Emberizidae

**Gosling's Bunting [Cinnamon-breasted
Bunting]** *Emberiza [tahapisi] goslingi*—Seen at
Makeni





Forbes's Plover & White-throated Bee-eater © M Mills, and Black Dwarf Hornbill © Don MacGillivray

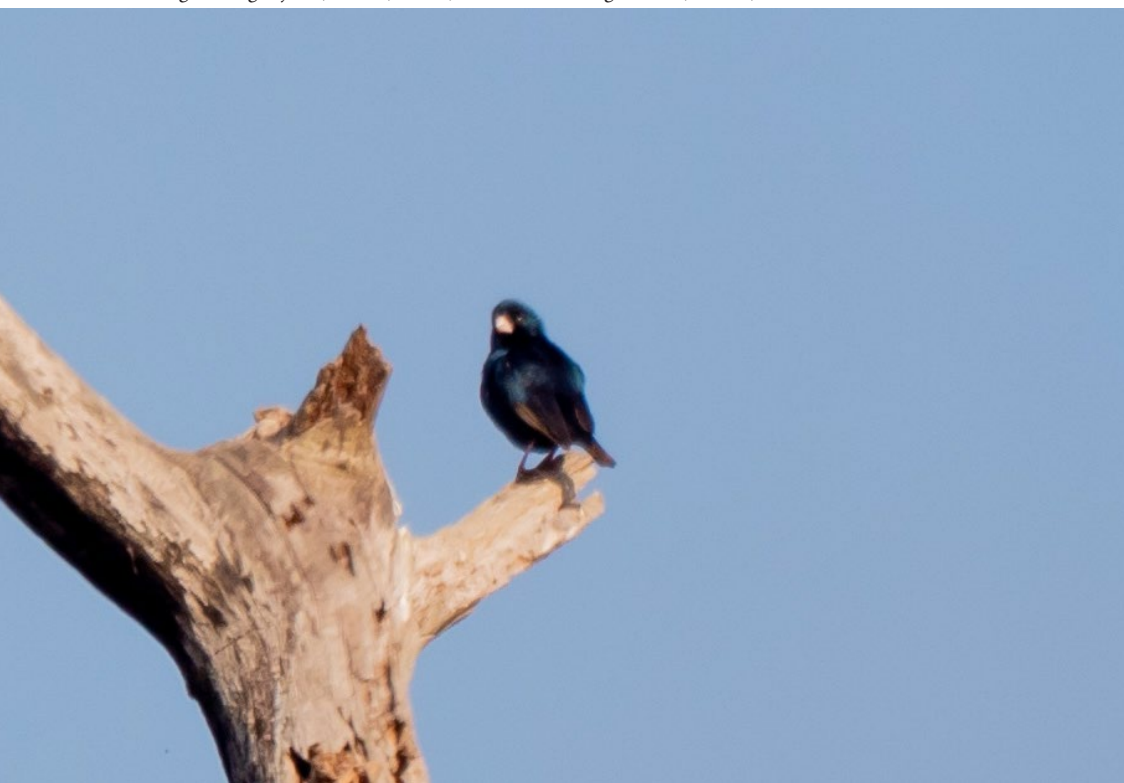




Standard-winged Nightjar (above) and Jambandu Indigobird (below) © Michael Mills



Gola Malimbe © Barry Wright (above) and Turati's Boubou © Michael Mills (below)





West African Wattle-eye (above) and Oriole Warbler (below) © Michael Mills



Western Bronze-naped Pigeon and Egyptian Plover © Don MacGillivray





White-throated Blue Swallow and Hairy-breasted Barbet © Don MacGilliray



Short-winged Cisticola and Blue-moustached Bee-eater © Don MacGillivray





Little Grey Flycatcher, Olive-bellied Sunbird and Nimba Flycatcher © Don MacGillivray

