

Upper Guinea Special

2023B Trip Report



White-crested Tiger Heron © Gerlinde Taurer

*Text by Michael Mills
Photos by Gerlinde Taurer and Michael Mills*

ITINERARY

23 Jan: Arrive Freetown.

24 Jan: Freetown.

25 Jan: Freetown to Makeni.

26 Jan: Bumbuna area.

27 Jan: Makeni to Gola Central.

28 Jan: Gola Central.

29 Jan: Gola Central to Tiwai Island.

30 Jan: Tiwai Island.

31 Jan: Tiwai Island to Monrovia in Liberia.

1 Jan: Monrovia to Mount Nimba.

2–6 Jan: Mount Nimba.

7 Jan: Mount Nimba to Monrovia.

Nkulengu Rail © Michael Mills and *African Pitta* © Gerlinde Taurer



REPORT

Our second-ever Upper Guinea Special tour was a resounding success. In just over two weeks we visited Freetown, Bumbuna, Gola Central and Tiwai Island in Sierra Leone, and Mount Nimba in Liberia. Participants enjoyed an unfamiliar level of comfort (compared with previous tours to the region), without compromising on key birds. Top ten birds as voted for by participants were: (1) White-crested Tiger Heron, (2) African Pitta, (3) Rufous Fishing Owl, (4) Gola Malimbe, (5) Black-headed Rufous Warbler, (6) Yellow-headed Picathartes, (7) Nkulengu Rail, (8) Yellow-footed Honeyguide and Nimba Flycatcher, and (10) Red-cheeked Wattle-eye and Sierra Leone Prinia.

Emerald Starling © Gerlinde Taurer



We started off at Freetown in Sierra Leone, where the golf course produced Oriole Warbler, Western Reef Heron, Turati's Boubou and Mottled Spinetail. The old botanical gardens turned up some very confiding Dybowski's Twinspots, and forests on the Western Peninsula gave us our first taste of Upper Guinea forest birding with Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Western Bearded Greenbul, White-tailed Alethe, Brown-chested Alethe, Grey-headed Bristlebill, White-tailed Ant Thrush, Finsch's Flycatcher-Thrush and White-browed Forest Flycatcher, before we made our way to the savannas of the Makeni/Bumbuna area. En route we made several stops, finding Black-



Rufous Fishing Owl © Gerlinde Taurer

headed Quail-Finch, Black-backed Cisticola, Forbes's Plover and Grasshopper Buzzard.

A very productive day was spent in the Bumbuna area, where the main targets—Cameroon Indigobird, Jambandu Indigobird, Togo Paradise Whydah and Emerald Starling—came easily. Here too we found Yellow-winged Pytilia, Fanti Saw-wing, Melodious Warbler, Red-winged Warbler, Standard-winged Nightjar, Baumann's Olive Greenbul, Senegal Batis, Black Scimitarbill and Gosling's Bunting.

Next we made our way to Gola Central, with stops along the way turning up Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, Little Green Woodpecker and Crimson Seedcracker. A productive day and morning at Lalehun turned up some sought-after goodies such as Lagden's Bushshrike, Fire-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-headed Picathartes, Western Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, (glimpses of) Green-tailed Bristlebill, Forest Scrub Robin, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, Narina Trogon, Blackcap Illadopsis, Western Piping Hornbill,



Rock Pratincole © Michael Mills

Willcocks's Honeyguide, Brown-cheeked Hornbill, Rufous-winged Illadopsis, Timneh Parrot and an incredible Latham's Forest Francolin on its roost.

The next day we made our way to the fabulous Tiwai island, and by mid-afternoon we found ourselves out on a boat 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. Manoeuvring the bigger boat through the narrow passages wasn't easy, but bodies in the water steered

the boat into a good position to admire the owl and get us back to the main river. After dark we struck out on the various trails, finding 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, Nkulengu Rail on its roost, Congo Serpent Eagle, an incredible encounter with White-crested Tiger Heron, Rock Pratincole, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Western Yellow-spotted Barbet, Spotted Honeyguide, Black Spinetail, Fanti Drongo and Western Forest Robin.

Now it was time to head to Liberia, as we crossed the border seamlessly and over-nighted near Monrovia (with Black-shouldered Nightjar). The next morning we spent some productive time on the edge of the city, where highlights included good views of Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, Buff-throated Sunbird and Lowland Sooty Boubou, before driving north towards the Guinea border.

From our air conditioned hotel we spent five full days exploring various parts of Mount Nimba and surrounds. The 'big four' came relatively easily, with Black-headed Rufous Warbler seen on our first morning, Sierra Leone Prinia on the first afternoon, Gola Malimbe on day two and Nimba Flycatcher first thing in the morning of day three. This gave us ample time for general birding and we added handsomely to our bird lists, with a supporting cast of forest birds including Forest Wood Hoopoe, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Crowned Eagle, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Congo Serpent Eagle, Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Blue-

moustached Bee-eater, West African Batis, Double-toothed Barbet, Black Bee-eater, Cassin's Honeybird, 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, Western Bearded Greenbul, Yellow-bearded Greenbul, Lemon-bellied Crombec, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Tit Hylia, Black-capped Apalis, Sharpe's Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Compact Weaver, Black-capped Apalis, Vieillot's Barbet, Ussher's Flycatcher, Yellow-chinned Sunbird, Johanna's Sunbird, Kemp's Longbill, Red-vented Malimbe, an excellent encounter with Yellow-footed Honeyguide, Western Least Honeyguide, and Long-billed Pipit, before it was time to head back to Monrovia for the end of the tour. A wetland not far from the city held quite a few African Pygmy Goose, plus Allen's Gallinule and Orange Weaver, before we bade our farewells to West Africa.

Rufous-sided Broadbill © Michael Mills



BIRDS RECORDED

Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*—Seen by some (*galeatus*)

Odontophoridae

Stone Partridge *Ptilopachus petrosus*—Seen in flight at Bumbuna (*petrosus*)

Phasianidae

Latham's Forest Francolin *Peliperdix lathamii*—Incredible views of a female at Gola Central, and brief views at Nimba (*lathamii*)

Ahanta Francolin *Pternistis ahantensis*—Heard at Nimba (*ahantensis*)

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

Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*—Seen

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*—Two at Tiwai and two near Monrovia

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*—Seen at Monrovia

Long-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus climacurus*—Heard at Monrovia (*sclateri*)

Standard-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus longipennis*—Day-time views at Bumbuna

Apodidae

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

Black Spinetail *Telacanthura melanopygia*—Fantastic views of a flock at Tiwai

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*—Seen well at Nimba

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

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 Bumbuna and heard elsewhere (*buffoni*)

Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus*—Heard widely (*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 (*flavirostris*)

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*—Seen

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

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*—Widespread records

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*—Widespread records

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*—Brief views at Nimba

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*—One at Nimba (Leader Only)

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 tympanistria*—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 a few times and seen by Ola (*pulchra*)

Heliornithidae

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

Rallidae

Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus*—Fantastic views at Tiwai

African Crake *Crex egregia*—One flushed at Kanema, and one at Nimba

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*—Seen a few times

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

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

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

Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus [r.] ruficollis*—Seen at Nimba (*capensis*)

Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*—Heard at Monrovia (*buettikoferi*)

Charadriidae

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

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris*—One at Monrovia (Leader Only)

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

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

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*—Seen at Kanema (*curonicus*)

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

Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius*—A pair at Tiwai

Rostratulidae

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*—A pair seen at Kanema

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

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

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—Seen at Freetown

Ciconiidae

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

Phalacrocoracidae

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

Threskiornithidae

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

Ardeidae

White-crested Tiger Heron *Tigrionis leucolopha*—An incredible encounter at Tiwai

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus*—Brief 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*)

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 and near Monrovia

Little Egret *Egretta [g.] garzetta*—Seen at Kanema (*garzetta*)

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

Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*—Seen near Makeni

Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*—One near Makeni (*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*—A couple of sightings (*batesi*)

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*—Seen in Sierra Leone

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus beaudouini*—Good flight views of one en route to Kanema

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*—One at Bumbuna

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*—One near Makeni

Congo Serpent Eagle *Circaetus spectabilis*—Distant views at Tiwai, and very good views at Nimba (*spectabilis*)

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*—Seen well at Nimba

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

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*—Several near Makeni

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*—One at Nimba

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

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

Red-chested Goshawk [African Goshawk] *Accipiter [tachiro] toussenelii*—A couple of brief sightings (*macrocelides*)

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

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*—One at Freetown (*temminckii*)

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*—One at Yekepa (*aeruginosus*)

Black Kite *Milvus [m.] migrans*—One near Makeni (*migrans*)

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

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

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*—Several sightings

Strigidae

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus [s.] scops*—Good views at Nimba

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

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*—Heard (*nuchalis*)

Trogonidae

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

Phoeniculidae

Forest Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*—Seen at Nimba (*castaneiceps*)

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*—Seen at Bumbuna (*aterrimus*)

Bucerotidae

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

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*—Roadside views near Makeni (*nasutus*) (Leader Only)

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 well at Gola Central

Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*—Heard at Gola Central

Yellow-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*—Several good sightings in Sierra Leone, plus one at Nimba

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

Western White-crested Hornbill [White-crested Hornbill] *Horizocerus [a.] albocristatus*—Good views at Tiwai (*albocristatus*)

Coraciidae

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*—Seen near Makeni

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis*—Good views at Gola Central and 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*—Seen 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 briefly (probably *ferrugina*)

White-bellied Kingfisher *Corythornis leucogaster*—Heard at Gola Central, and one for Ken at Nimba (*bowdleri*)

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

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*—Brief views at Tiwai (*quadribrachys*) (Leader Only)

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

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

Meropidae

Blue-moustached Bee-eater *Merops mentalis*—Seen at Nimba

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

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 near Gola and Nimba

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

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

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

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

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti*—Seen well at Nimba (*rubescens*)

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

Western Yellow-billed Barbet [Yellow-billed Barbet] *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] goffinii*—Brief views at Nimba

Indicatoridae

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

Yellow-footed Honeyguide *Melignomon eisentrauti*—A good encounter at Nimba

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

Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis*—Seen well at Nimba (*exilis*)

Thick-billed Honeyguide [Lesser Honeyguide] *Indicator [minor] conirostris*—Heard at Freetown

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

Picidae

Little Green Woodpecker [Green-backed Woodpecker] *Campethera [cailliautii] maculosa*—Seen near Gola Central (*maculosa*)

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

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*—Heard (*lafresnayi*) (Leader Only)

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

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

Falconidae

Common Kestrel *Falco [t.] tinnunculus*—Seen at Monrovia (*rufescens*)

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*—Seen at Bumbuna and Nimba

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

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*—One near Makeni, and one at Nimba

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

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

Psittacidae

Timneh Parrot [Grey Parrot] *Psittacus [erithacus] timneh*—Great views at Gola Central; also at Tiwai

Calyptomenidae

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

Pittidae

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

Platysteiridae

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*—Seen at Bumbuna

West African Batis [Fernando Po Batis] *Batis [poensis] occulta*—Seen well 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*—Good looks at Gola Central

Red-cheeked Wattle-eye *Platysteira blissetti*—Great views at Monrovia

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 well at Nimba (*multicolor*)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*—Seen at Bumbuna (*sulfureopectus*)

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta*—Heard at Bumbuna (*minuta*)

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*—Heard (*ussleri*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*—Heard (*senegalus*)

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

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

Lowland Sooty Boubou *Laniarius leucorhynchus*—Seen at Monrovia and Nimba

Turati's Boubou *Laniarius turatii*—Seen at Freetown

Vangidae

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

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

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

Campephagidae

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*—Seen

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

Blue Cuckooshrike *Cyanograucalus azureus*—
Seen well at Nimba

Laniidae

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

Oriolidae

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

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*—Seen at Bumbuna (*auratus*)

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 several times

Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens*—Seen briefly (*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 sightings

Picathartidae

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

Stenostiridae

Dusky Crested Flycatcher *Elminia nigromitrata*—Heard and seen by Graham at Gola Central (*colstoni*)

Nicatoridae

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris*—Heard

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*)

Ansoerge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*—Seen (*ansorgei*)

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

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

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serinus*—Good views at Nimba

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

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*—Seen

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*—
Recorded widely

Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas [f.] flavicollis*—Seen well at Bumbuna

Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*—Seen

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

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

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

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus [a.] albigularis*—Heard (Leader Only)

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

Green-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda eximius*—Brief views 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

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*)

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

Red-throated Rock Martin [Rock Martin] *Ptyonoprogne [fuligula] rufigula*—seen at Nimba (*bansoensis*)

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

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

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*—
Seen

Macrosphenidae

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

Kemp's Longbill *Macrosphenus kempii*—Seen

at Nimba (*kempii*)

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*—Good views

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

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

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*—Seen at Gola Central and 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 rufiae*—Seen well at Nimba (*ussleri*)

Phylloscopidae

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*—Seen at Nimba

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

Acrocephalidae

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

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*—Brief views at Bumbuna

Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*—Seen at Makeni (*erythrops*)

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

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

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola [galactotes] marginatus*—Seen near Gola Central and Nimba (*amphilectus*)

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

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

Black-backed Cisticola *Cisticola eximius*—Good views 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 Freetown and Nimba

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*—Good views at Freetown

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

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 and Nimba (*johnsoni*)

Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens*—Great views at Gola Central

Puvel's Illadopsis *Illadopsis puveli*—Heard, and seen by Graham, at Gola Central and Nimba (*puveli*)

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

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*—Glimpses at Tiwai (*gularis*)

Leiothrichidae

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

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*)

Sturnidae

Copper-tailed Starling *Hyllopsar cupreocauda*—Seen at Monrovia and Nimba

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

Emerald Starling *Lamprotornis iris*—Good views at Bumbuna

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

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

Turdidae

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*—Seen well at Freetown (*poensis*)

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

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

Muscicapidae

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

Forest Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucosticta*—Seen well by some at Gola Central, heard at Nimba (*colstoni*)

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

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*—Seen at Nimba (*plumbeus*) (Leader Only)

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

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

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

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*—Seen at Gola Central (*nigrorum*)

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

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*—Seen at Gola Central and Nimba (*aximensis*)

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

Brown-chested Alethe *Chamaetylas poliocephala*—Seen well at Freetown (*poliocephala*)

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

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

Western Forest Robin [Forest Robin] *Stiphrornis [e.] erythrothorax*—Seen at Gola Central, Tiwai and Nimba

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

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula [h.] hypoleuca*—Seen at Freetown and 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 Freetown

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

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

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

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

Reichenbach's Sunbird *Anabathmis reichenbachii*—One at Monrovia

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*—Seen (*verticalis*)

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

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

Buff-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra adelberti*—Some good views (*adelberti*)

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

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

Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*—Seen at Freetown, Bumbuna and Nimba

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae*—Seen well (*fasciatus*)

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*—Seen well (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 and Nimba (tricolor)

Compact Weaver *Ploceus superciliosus*—Seen 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*—Seen at Freetown

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

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*—Seen at Gola Central and Nimba (nigrifrons)

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

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*—Seen at Nimba (hordeaceus)

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

Estrildidae

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus*—Seen (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*—Seen near Kanema (coccineus)

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

Dybowski's Twinspot *Euschistospiza dybowskii*—Seen well at Freetown

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*—Seen at Freetown (rufopicta)

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*—Seen by Tom at Nimba (senegala)

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta [r.] rubricata*—Seen at Bumbuna, Makeni and Nimba (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*—Good views at Nimba

Viduidae

Jambandu Indigobird *Vidua raricola*—One male in plumage at Bumbuna

Cameroon Indigobird *Vidua camerunensis*—Nice looks at males at Bumbuna

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*—Seen

Togo Paradise Whydah *Vidua togoensis*—Two males 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*—One near Makeni

Fringillidae

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

Emberizidae

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

Congo Serpent Eagle © Gerlinde Taurer





Dybowski's Twinspot, Western Bearded Greenbul and Black Spinetail © Michael Mills





Singing Cisticola and Nimba Flycatcher © Michael Mills



Chestnut-and-black Weaver and White-browed Forest Flycatcher © Michael Mills





Johanna's Sunbird and White-tailed Alethe © Michael Mills



Blackcap Illadopsis and Rufous-winged Illadopsis © Michael Mills





Western White-crested Hornbill and Eurasian Scops Owl © Michael Mills



Western Forest Robin © Michael Mills and *Cassin's Hawk-Eagle* © Gerlinde Taurer





Many-coloured Bushshrike and Gosling's Bunting © Michael Mills



Fiery-breasted Bushshrike with egg and Chestnut-capped Flycatcher © Gerlinde Taurer





Ussher's Flycatcher and Vieillot's Barbet © Michael Mills



Mottled Spinetail © Gerlinde Taurer and *West African Batis* © Michael Mills





Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, African Finfoot and Chocolate-backed Kingfisher © Gerlinde Taurer



