



The dainty Sierra Leone Prinia was voted as Bird of the Trip (Mark Van Beirs)

SIERRA LEONE

15 – 29 JANUARY 2019

LEADER: MARK VAN BEIRS

The delicate Sierra Leone Prina, the exquisite Gola Malimbe, the rarely-seen Turati's Boubou, the very smart Emerald Starling, the jewel-like Crimson Seedcracker and the extraordinary White-necked Rockfowl (or Yellow-headed Picathartes) were without a doubt the most favoured birds of our January 2019 Sierra Leone tour. Searching for Upper Guinea Forest endemics in this much maligned country is more difficult than in Ghana, due to the much less developed roads and tourist infrastructure. Most of the highly desired species require some hard work, but a number of these endemics can only be seen in Sierra Leone. The country is one of the poorest countries in the world, and is in the West mainly known through the brutal civil war of the nineteen nineties, the frightening Ebola crisis of 2014-2016 and its infamous blood diamonds. But Sierra Leone has several beautiful, well-preserved National Parks and protected areas and our local outfitter took very good care of us. We had a terrific time birding the diverse habitats of this little-known country and some of the other highlights of our tour included Hartlaub's Duck, Blue Quail, White-backed Night Heron, Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, Red-necked Buzzard, African Finfoot, Forbes's Plover, Great Snipe, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Great Blue, Guinea and Yellow-billed Turacos, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Brown Nightjar, Blue-throated Roller, Chocolate-backed and Blue-breasted Kingfishers, Blue-moustached Bee-eater, Black Bee-eater, Brown-cheeked, Yellow-casqued and White-crested Hornbills, Fire-bellied and Melancholy Woodpeckers, Timneh Parrot, Black-collared Lovebird, West African Wattle-eye, Green-tailed Bristlebill, Western Bearded Greenbul, White-bibbed and West African Swallows, Oriole Warbler, Finsch's Rufous Thrush, White-tailed Alethe, White-browed Forest and Ussher's Flycatchers, Forest Robin, Grey-chinned



We had a fantastic time observing the antics of the peculiar and wonderful White-necked Rockfowl (Mark Van Beirs)

(Yellow-chinned) and Buff-throated Sunbirds, Red-vented Malimbe, Yellow-winged Pytilia, Dybowski's Twinspot, Cameroon Indigobird and Gosling's Bunting. Mammals were regularly encountered and our encounters with Potto, Campbell's, Diana, King Colobus and West African Red Colobus Monkeys will long be remembered. 269 bird species and mammals were recorded.



A colourful Oriole Warbler and a female Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike enlivened our first walk (Mark Van Beirs)

The tour started in earnest with an introductory morning walk in a stretch of nice farmbrush near Sierra Leone's international airport. The highlight was of course our excellent encounter with several Turati's Boubous, as this restricted range speciality can only be seen on this particular tour. Several birds emitted their distinctive booming calls and three individuals showed very well, although they kept playing hide and seek within the dense vegetation. A pair of spectacular, well-voiced Oriole Warblers performed ever so beautifully. While strolling about amongst the cassava gardens and the palm-studded thickets we also observed Double-spurred Francolin, Western Cattle Egret, a dark morph Western Reef Heron, African Harrier-hawk, Shikra, Yellow-billed Kite, Red-eyed, Laughing and Blue-spotted Wood Doves, African Green Pigeon, Western Plantain-eater, Senegal Coucal, a female Diederik Cuckoo, African Palm Swift, Woodland and African Pygmy Kingfishers, White-throated Bee-eater, Piping Hornbill, a cracking close up Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, African Grey Woodpecker, a pair of adorable Brown-throated Wattle-eyes, Black-crowned Tchagra, a female Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Fork-tailed Drongo, Pied Crow, Common Bulbul, Simple Greenbul, Square-tailed and Fanti Saw-wings, Splendid and Violet-backed Starlings, Northern Black Flycatcher, Splendid and Copper Sunbirds and Village Weaver. We heard the distinctive song of a Yellow-crowned Gonolek at the edge of a belt of mangrove and found several acrobatic Green Bush Squirrels. After a tasty lunch, prepared by our own cooks, we hit the road and drove inland to Makeni, the largest town of the Northern Province. We made a few stops in areas of open savanna, where several Grasshopper Buzzards and a party of seven attractive Forbes's Plovers attracted our attention. The scope views of these two alluring species were much appreciated. We also noted Black-headed Heron, Great Egret, Black-winged Kite, Long-crested Eagle, Lizard and Red-necked Buzzards, African Wattled Lapwing and Common Kestrel next to an excellent selection of Palearctic migrants like Squacco Heron, Montagu's Harrier (a female), Green Sandpiper, Blue-cheeked and European Bee-eaters, Sand Martin, Whinchat and Western Yellow Wagtail.



The unique Great Blue Turaco always offers a wonderful sight (Mark Van Beirs)

The following day was spent in the open woodland, riparian thickets and grasslands in the surroundings of the spectacular Bumbuna waterfalls. It took a while to find the gorgeous Emerald Starling, and when we located a pair they looked very much smarter than the field guide had promised! Truly magnificent creatures! Although we had the impression the passerines didn't really want to show today, we did pick up a good selection of species. Fantastic Great Blue and lovely Guinea Turacos allowed cracking views at close range. Other new birds for the tally included Brown Snake Eagle, Western Marsh Harrier, Common Sandpiper, Vinaceous Dove, Broad-billed Roller, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Black Scimitarbill, lots of African Pied Hornbills (of the race *semifasciatus*), Speckled Tinkerbird, Vieillot's Barbet, Grey Kestrel, Lanner Falcon, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Northern Fiscal, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Yellow-throated and Red-tailed Leafloves, a terrific White-bibbed Swallow, West African Swallow, Garden Warbler, African Thrush, Cassin's and European Pied Flycatchers, Mangrove, Grey-chinned (of the distinctive, nominate yellow chinned race), Olive and Variable Sunbirds, Vieillot's Black Weaver (of the splendid race *castaneofuscus*), Red-billed Firefinch, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Cameroon Indigobird, Pin-tailed Whydah, Yellow-throated Longclaw and Gosling's Bunting. A couple of Striped Ground Squirrels represented the mammal department.



The surroundings of the imposing Bumbuna Falls held several good birds; this Vieillot's Black Weaver posed well (Mark Van Beirs)

Most of the following day was taken up by driving the terrible, dusty, corrugated track to the village of Mansonia, situated at the base of the Loma Mountains, where we arrived just after dusk. The competent staff put up our individual excellent tents, prepared a nice dinner and took good care of us. The highlight of the day was a fabulous male Crimson Seedcracker, which showed brilliantly as it was collecting nesting material at the edge of a marshy area. What a very smart West African endemic! A singing Moustached Grass Warbler posed at length allowing excellent scope views. A skulking Olive-green Camaroptera uttered its amazingly loud song and showed briefly. Other goodies included Woolly-necked Stork, Palm-nut Vulture, European Honey Buzzard, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Little Bee-eater, Little and Little Grey Greenbuls, Common House Martin, Lesser Striped and Preuss's Cliff Swallows, Eurasian Reed Warbler, African Yellow White-eye, Red-headed Quelea, African Pied Wagtail and Yellow-fronted Canary.



This Moustached Grass Warbler allowed scope studies; African Pied Wagtails were unusually scarce (Mark Van Beirs)

Next morning, we birded a stretch of open woodland dotted with dense riverine thickets near the village. Our outing proved to be very birdy and great fun. New birds kept coming fast as Red-chested Goshawk, Klaas's Cuckoo, Striped Kingfisher, Double-toothed Barbet, Little Green Woodpecker, Willow Warbler, Senegal Eremomela, Ussher's Flycatcher, Splendid Sunbird, Black-necked Weaver, Yellow-winged Pytilia and

Orange-cheeked Waxbill all performed well. In late morning we started the walk up the mountains to Camp 1, a mere six kilometres away... The winding trail was narrow and fairly steep and took us first through farmbrush and then through beautiful hill forest. At one stage a bushfire raged very close to us, and we got rather worried for a while as the crackling and wooshing sounds of the burning vegetation approached a bit too close for comfort. The afternoon birding was typically rather quiet. We arrived at the well-positioned camp at the edge of an idyllic stream just before dusk. The walk produced interesting species like Western Bronz-naped Pigeon, two Levaillant's Cuckoos, Narina Trogon, Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, Western Oriole, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Ansorge's Greenbul, Black-capped Apalis (typically high in the canopy), Finsch's Rufous Thrush, a showy White-tailed Alethe and White-breasted Nigrita.



The restricted range White-tailed Alethe gave a sterling performance (Mark Van Beirs)

Hours before dawn we started to walk up towards the montane forest edge where our main target makes its living. We arrived just as the sun was lighting up imposing Mount Bintumani, which, at 1,945m is the highest mountain in West Africa west of Mount Cameroon. Sadly most of the grasslands at the higher elevations had recently been burned, so most of the forest edge vegetation which is favoured by the dainty Sierra Leone Prinia had been destroyed. It took us four long hours before we managed to connect with this speciality and even then not everyone got to see this much wanted species. A real pity, after all that hard work. While wandering along the edges and through the grasslands we picked up two parties of magnificent, delightful Dybowski's Twinspots. We heard the grating calls of an Ahanta Francolin and saw Hooded Vulture, lots of Gosling's Buntings and several African Stonechats (of the race *nebularum*, which is restricted to the highlands of Sierra Leone and Mount Nimba). Migrants were well represented as we saw Willow Warblers, Eurasian Blackcap, lots of European Pied Flycatchers and good numbers of Tree Pipits. We also encountered a Rock Hyrax amongst an isolated patch of boulders. In the afternoon we slowly made our way down through the montane forest. As it had been extremely dry lots of big crumbling leaves made walking quietly impossible. New species included Yellow-billed Turaco, two gorgeous Blue-moustached Bee-eaters,

several Naked-faced Barbets at their breeding trunk and a tiny, hyper nervous Green Crombec. Of the much wanted Black-headed Rufous Warbler not a sniff...



Mount Bintumani shines in the early morning light; a Gosling's Bunting keeps an eye over its territory (Mark Van Beirs)

We broke up camp just before dawn and slowly descended along the narrow trail through the verdant montane forest. Halfway down we witnessed the terrible damage the recent forest fire had caused. So totally irresponsible, and that in a National Park! In the forest we noted Blue-headed Wood Dove and Slender-billed, Yellow-whiskered and Western Bearded Greenbuls. We heard the loud, nasal, trumpeting calls and the heavy wing beats of Yellow-Casqued Hornbills, but never managed to see these hulking birds. Lower down, in the farmbrush we found a Thick-billed Honeyguide and an obliging Grey Longbill. We arrived in the village at midday and after a scrumptious lunch (spiced up with a powerful hot sauce), we briefly birded a particular thicket and ... found a very nice, beautifully obliging pair of Sierra Leone Prinias. Fantastic! We observed these very localized gems for a while and thought of all the effort we had put into trying to find this restricted range species high up on the mountain. A very happy group boarded the vehicles for the afternoon drive along the awful track to the town of Koidu, where much-appreciated luxuries like a hot shower, cold drinks and a soft bed waited for us. While being shaken and stirred about we observed up a pair of gorgeous Hartlaub's Duck, a Black Sparrowhawk and a Blackcap Babbler.



A smart Hartlaub's Duck at a small marsh; the tiny Green Hylia usually lives high in the canopy (Mark Van Beirs)

As our agent had to arrange a number of practicalities, we started fairly late after a tasty sitdown breakfast with attending Northern Grey-headed Sparrows. Another long drive along yet another atrocious track took us towards Kenema, the second largest town of Sierra Leone and the place where the Ebola epidemic had started in 2014. A good stop in a stretch of forested farmbrush proved quite productive. We kept our binoculars and telescope focused on an abundantly flowering Bombax tree and identified a terrific selection of sunbirds, which included Little Green, a cracking Buff-throated, Collared, Blue-throated Brown, Splendid and Olive and also a Maxwell's Black Weaver coming to sip the sweetness of the red flowers. We scoped an unusually friendly Green Hylia and a Sharpe's Apalis and a Yellow-browed Camaroptera flitted about. A party of smart Blue-billed Malimbos came through and we observed Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Melancholy Woodpecker, Black-winged Oriole and White-breasted Nigrita. The dusty drive also gave us Common and Little Swifts. In late afternoon we birded some ricefields near Kenema town where several Great Snipe



The much-wanted Forbes's Plover performed at length (Mark Van Beirs)

performed quite well. We flushed a rarely seen Blue Quail and admired no fewer than ten Forbes's Plovers. Squacco Heron, Great and Intermediate Egrets, Black Crane, African Jacana, Wood Sandpiper and Black-and-white Mannikins were also added to the tally.



Yellow-casqued Hornbills were decidedly common in the Gola Forest; West African Red Colobus Monkeys are often quite curious (Mark Van Beirs)

Next morning we drove to the central portion of the famous Gola National Park. A couple of stops in farmbrush yielded several noteworthy species. A Blue-throated Roller was found in a distant tree, while two Broad-billed Rollers were posing in a nearby canopy. An exceedingly smart Black Bee-eater performed at close range and we also noted Wahlberg's Eagle, Western Oriole, Swamp Palm Bulbul, Olive-bellied Sunbird and Red-vented Malimbe. In mid-morning we arrived at the Park's headquarters, where we were given simple rooms. It didn't take long to get organized and we soon found ourselves walking along a wide forest trail towards a known, quite distant colony of the fabled White-necked Rockfowl (or Yellow-headed Picathartes). A lovely Red-thighed Sparrowhawk flew past and sat high on an open branch for excellent views! Imposing Yellow-casqued Hornbills escorted us along the trail and were especially noticeable at the Picathartes rock. A dainty male West African Wattle-eye perched unobtrusively in the mid canopy and we also saw Honeyguide, Spotted and Icterine Greenbuls, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Fraser's Sunbird and a party of West African Red Colobus Monkeys. In late afternoon we reached the rocky hill and positioned ourselves with a strategic view over the cave. After a bit of waiting several of these bizarre, highly attractive and immaculately-looking birds hopped into view and gave a truly sterling performance. Magical, much cherished moments. Definitely one of the highlights of the tour! A happy group returned through the dark forest to our accommodation.

To get to our next destination we had to walk far into the Gola Forest National Park, to a stretch of beautiful, virtually untouched primary rainforest, where the rare, very attractive and much cherished Gola (or Ballmann's) Malimbe makes its home. Before getting to the forest proper we had to cross a stretch of farmbrush where we obtained good looks at the restricted range Timneh Parrot, both perched and in flight. This recent split from African Grey Parrot is Endangered as it is heavily poached for the birdcage trade. A Whistling Cisticola sat up for nice looks. For most of the morning we walked along a fairly well laid out, old logging track. Enormous Yellow-casqued Hornbills escorted us all the way betraying their presence by their



It doesn't happen often that an Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo stays put for lengthy scope views; Piping Hornbills were regularly noted (Mark Van Beirs)

loud braying and honking and their heavy wingbeats. We taped a pair of shy, but unusually well-behaved Green-tailed Bristlebills into view and encountered our first flock led by alert Shining Drongos. We picked up new birds like Many-coloured Bushshrike, Red-tailed Greenbul and Rufous-crowned Eremomela and observed a large troop of monkeys holding Diana Monkey, King Colobus and West African Red Colobus. In early afternoon we reached the habitat of the Malimbe and although we saw several nests, we had to wait for



The semifasciatus race of the African Pied Hornbill is quite distinctive; a gorgeous Fireball Lily (Mark Van Beirs)

a big bird party to come through, before we managed to get to grips with the gorgeous Gola Malimbe. A pair of these colourful birds was easily picked out from amongst the many soberly-plumaged greenbuls. The views were excellent, but all too short, sadly. While waiting about we also saw Superb Sunbird and Grey-headed Nigrita. Our tents were pitched at the edge of a lovely stream and at night we heard African Wood Owl and a distant Fraser's Eagle Owl.



African Harrier-hawks were seen on almost every day of the tour; the attractive Lizard Buzzard is usually quite fearless (Mark Van Beirs)

At dawn we were already standing guard at one of the Gola Malimbe nests, and soon enough a pair of these crackers started to build and reconstruct their home, allowing us perfect scope views of their black and yellow finery. Wow wow wow! We admired these jewels for 20 minutes or so while they were busy working on their intricate nest. We had the whole day to cover the 11 kilometres back to civilisation, so we took it easy and concentrated on finding new birds. A Forest Robin behaved unusually well and a singing Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo gave uncharacteristically superb scope views. A pair of Fire-bellied Woodpeckers performed nicely and a tiny Black-collared Lovebird was found in a big flock, which also held other new birds like Blue Malkoha, Plain Greenbul, Grey-headed Bristlebill, Tiny Sunbird and Chestnut-breasted Nigrita. Harris was lucky enough to spot a Long-tailed Pangolin walking along a branch in the canopy of a forest giant. In late afternoon we reached the farmbush where Helmeted Guineafowl, 17 Piping Hornbills, Grey-backed Camaroptera and a lovely Johanna's Sunbird were identified. After a refreshing cold shower and some good food, some of us took a short night walk, which produced great looks at an African Wood Owl.

We spent the first hours of the following day in the farmbush at the edge of the Gola Forest, where a pair of imposing Brown-cheeked Hornbills stole the show as they posed so well in the top of a large dead tree. Buff-spotted Woodpecker, African Shrike-flycatcher, Ashy Flycatcher, Red-headed Malimbe and Grey-headed Nigrita also made their way to the list. As the sun was heating up, we boarded our vehicles and drove along yet another atrocious track southwards to the famous Wildlife Sanctuary island of Tiwai. The long and dusty journey produced several Woolly-necked Storks and lots of African Harrier-hawks. In mid-afternoon we finally arrived at the Moa river dock. A short boat trip took us to the well-organized tented camp where we settled in. As the temperature was getting a bit more comfortable, we explored the tranquil river by boat and found Hadada Ibis, Reed Cormorant, a pair of smart White-crowned Lapwings, some attractive Rock

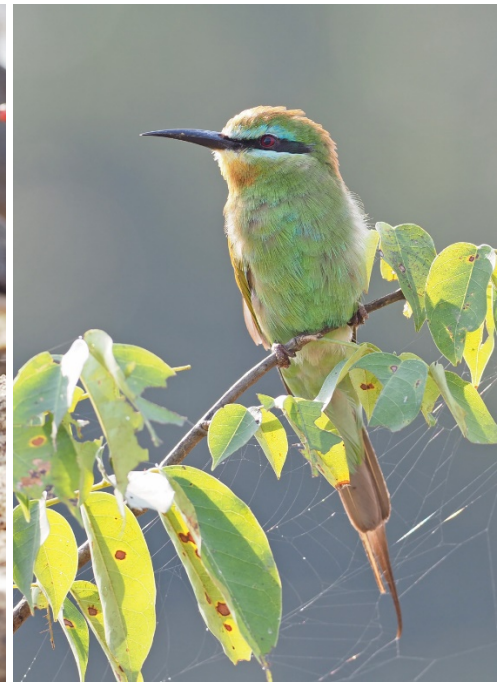
Pratincoles (of the distinctive race *iberiae*), Cassin's Flycatchers and a Mangrove Sunbird. Along the shore we also saw recent spoor of the fabled Pygmy Hippopotamus.



The Moa River at the Tiwai Wildlife Sanctuary offers excellent birding (Mark Van Beirs)

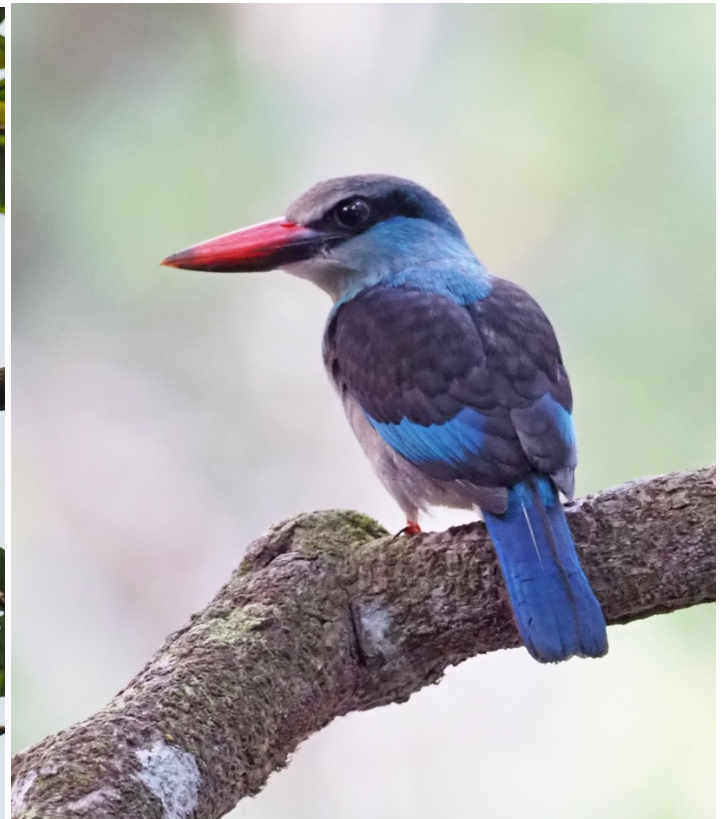
On our first morning at Tiwai we walked along a narrow trail through the virtually impenetrable forest. Birding was quite frustrating, as the vegetation was so very dense, but we did manage to observe Woolly-necked Stork at its nest, a friendly Spotted Honeyguide, Western Nicator, Blackcap Illadopsis, Yellow-mantled Weaver and Crested Malimbe. We heard the loud hooting song of a Black-throated Coucal and managed good looks at attractive Diana, King Colobus and West African Red Colobus Monkeys. After a break in the heat of the day, we boarded a couple of kayaks and explored the many palm-dotted rocky islands and islets amongst the rapids, checking roosts for the much wanted Rufous Fishing Owl. Our local man seemed quite confident in being able to find it, but, sadly, we only encountered fairly recent droppings. A pair of Hartlaub's Duck flew past and at dusk a Brown Nightjar started to sing at the camp. After dark the kayaks took us along the shore line of Tiwai to try to locate a furred or plumaged gem. We saw spoor of Pygmy Hippo and observed a couple of Pottos.

On our second day at the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, we decided to split up as half of the group went on a Chimpanzee hike to the south of the island. They heard our near relatives after quite a walk, but the Chimps remained unseen in the dense forest. The others took a motorized boat trip on the Moa river. The dense mist sabotaged the first hour of the day, but as the sun was burning away the shroud, we picked up Little Egret, an immature African Finfoot, Senegal Thick-knee, lots of Rock Pratincoles, very smart Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, an unobtrusive White-browed Forest Flycatcher, well-behaved Campbell's Monkeys and a pair of Green Monkeys. We were shown several shady coves where the Fishing Owl was known to live, but we had to make do with recent droppings... sniff. As the level of the river was still quite high, sandbanks were virtually absent, which meant that the much-desired Egyptian Plover had not arrived yet. In



Rock Pratincoles of the West African race liberiae show a rufous nape; a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater along the river (Mark Van Beirs)

late morning and early afternoon we walked along a wide trail through fairly open forest where we connected with several excellent species. An unusually-looking White-crested Hornbill sat up for great looks in the mid canopy and a Chocolate-backed Kingfisher was scoped in the top of a forest giant. We played with a skulking Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, which eventually showed to all and heard a nearby Latham's Francolin. In late afternoon we took another kayak trip amongst the many palm studded islands and although the Owl remained a ghost, we found a smashing White-backed Night Heron, Blue-breasted, African Pygmy



Chocolate-backed and Blue-breasted Kingfishers showed very well at Tiwai (Mark Van Beirs)

and Shining-blue Kingfishers and several rather furtive Sooty Mangabeys. The shady waterways are a heaven for the Pygmy Hippo and we saw quite a bit of proof of their existence, but to see this enigmatic mammal one would need a lot of luck. The day ended with a nightwalk that produced three Pottos and a posing Demidoff's Dwarf Galago. We also heard the distinctive owl-like calls of an African Palm Civet. Our final day in Sierra Leone was taken up by the uneventful drive to the International Airport. Sierra Leone had delivered the goods, but it had taken a fair amount of hard work.



Western Grey Plantain-eaters can be quite obliging (Mark Van Beirs)



The Black Bee-eater is a truly exquisite bird (Mark Van Beirs)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

CR = Critically Endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened

BIRDS

Total of bird species recorded: 269

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii* Several excellent encounters with Africa's only forest-based duck.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* We found a few in the Gola Forest farmbrush.

Latham's Francolin ◊ (L Forest F) *Peliperdix lathamii* (H) Heard at close range on Tiwai Island.

Ahanta Francolin ◊ *Pternistis ahantensis* (H) Heard in the Loma Mountains.

Double-spurred Francolin *Pternistis bicalcaratus* Good looks in the farmbrush near Lungi Airport.

Blue Quail *Excalfactoria adansonii* A female was flushed in the Kenema ricefields.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* 11 sightings, also at the nest.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* We only saw this vociferous species at Tiwai.

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus* Great looks at a nice adult on a Tiwai boat trip.



Squacco Heron; Western Cattle Egrets (Mark Van Beirs)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Seven observations. Both residents and migrants could be involved.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Common.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* A single bird was seen in the Makeni grasslands.

Great Egret (Western G E) *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos* Several sightings.
Intermediate Egret *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* Three in the Kenema ricefields.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A single bird was found at Tiwai.
Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* Two sightings of dark morph birds.
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* A handful along the Moa River at Tiwai.
African Darter *Anhinga rufa* A single in flight at Tiwai.
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Two observations in the Kenema grasslands.
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogone) *Polyboroides typus* The most common raptor. 67 observations.



Palm-nut Vulture; Red-necked Buzzard (Mark Van Beirs)

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* Especially obvious at Tiwai.
European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* A single on the way to the Loma Mountains.
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* CR Eight observations.
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* A single bird was noted in the Bumbuna Falls area.
Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* (H) NT We heard the distinctive calls in the Gola Forest.
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* Two observations near Kenema.
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* A single bird was seen on our way to the Gola Forest.
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* Three sightings of this cutie.
Red-chested Goshawk ◊ *Accipiter toussenelii* A single bird showed in the Loma Mountains.
Shikra *Accipiter badius* Several in the Lungi and Kenema area.
Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus* Fantastic looks in the Gola Forest.
Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) *Accipiter melanoleucus* A single upon leaving the Loma Mountains.
Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* A female was seen in the Bumbuna area.
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* A female was identified in the Makeni grasslands.
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Regular observations.
Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis* Five were attending grassfires near Makeni.
Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis* Ten observations of this neat bird of prey.
White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* (H) We heard it at a couple of places in the Loma Mountains.
African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* An immature showed quite well at Tiwai.
Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Two observations in the Kenema ricefields.

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* A single showed well along the Moa River at Tiwai.
White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps* Several were noted along the Moa River at Tiwai.
African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Eight were foraging in the Makeni grasslands.
Forbes's Plover ◊ *Charadrius forbesi* Seven near Makeni and 12 in the ricefields near Kenema!
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Two sightings in marshy areas.
Great Snipe ◊ *Gallinago media* NT Three birds showed rather well in the Kenema ricefields.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Regular along the Moa River at Tiwai.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Singles near Makeni and at Tiwai.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Seven birds were seen at the Kenema ricefields.



Senegal Thick-knee; Rock Pratincoles (Mark Van Beirs)

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* Common and showy along the Moa River at Tiwai (*iberiae*).
Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*
Western Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba iriditorques* Just one observation. Regularly heard.
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common.
Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* We only recorded it in the Bumbuna area.
Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* A single bird in the Lungi farmbush.
Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* Common in farmbush along our route.
Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris* Regular observations.
Blue-headed Wood Dove *Turtur brehmeri* Great looks in the Loma and Gola areas. Often heard.
African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* Regular.
Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata* Many excellent sightings along our itinerary.
Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa* Great observations at Bumbuna. Regularly heard.
Yellow-billed Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus* Fairly common in the Loma and Gola areas.
Western Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator* Regular observations at Lungi and Bumbuna.
Black-throated Coucal ◊ *Centropus leucogaster* (H) Heard nearby on Tiwai.
Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* Fairly common in farmbush.
Blue Malkoha *Ceuthmochares aereus* Just three sightings.
Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* Three nice encounters in the Loma and Gola Forests.
Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* A female showed well at Lungi. Heard in the Loma farmbush.
Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Several nice encounters in farmbush.
African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* (H) Regularly heard.
Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus* Perfect scope studies in the Gola Forest.
Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis* (H) We heard the distinctive call in the Gola Forest.
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* Super looks at the Gola Forest HQ. Heard elsewhere.
Brown Nightjar ◊ *Veles binotatus* Brief looks at a singing bird on Tiwai.
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Regular encounters.
Common Swift *Apus apus* A handful of sightings of this Palearctic visitor.



Guinea Turaco; Diederik Cuckoo (Mark Van Beirs)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* A few were seen near Koidu.

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* Two showed all too briefly in the Loma Mountains. Heard elsewhere.

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus* A single bird in the distance in the Makeni grasslands.

Blue-throated Roller *Eurystomus gularis* Several excellent observations.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Ten encounters; Always nice.



Chocolate-backed Kingfisher; Grey-headed Kingfisher (Mark Van Beirs)

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia* Perfect scope views on Tiwai.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* Six observations.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* Only seen in the woodland at the base of the Gola Mountains.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* Good looks at two on Tiwai.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* Singles in open woodland.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* Two sightings of this lovely species.

White-bellied Kingfisher ◊ *Corythornis leucogaster* (H) We heard one in the Gola Mountains.
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* Four observations of this widespread species.
Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys* Two were seen on the Tiwai boatrips.
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Two showed well on our way to the Loma Mountains.
Blue-moustached Bee-eater ◊ *Merops mentalis* NT Scope views of two in the Loma Mountains.
Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis* Fantastic close up views in the Gola Forest.
Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Regular.
White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* The most commonly encountered bee-eater.
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* Regular sightings of this smart-looking Palearctic migrant.
European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Just a few over the Makeni grasslands.
Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* A single bird was seen in the Bumbuna area.
African Pied Hornbill ◊ (West African P H) *Lophoceros [fasciatus] semifasciatus* Regular.
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill (D H) *Lophoceros camurus* (H) We heard one in the Gola Forest.
Piping Hornbill ◊ (Western P H) *Bycanistes fistulator* Fairly common.
Brown-cheeked Hornbill ◊ *Bycanistes cylindricus* VU Several excellent encounters in the Gola Forest.
Yellow-casqued Hornbill ◊ (Y-c Wattled H) *Ceratogymna elata* VU Common at Gola and Tiwai.
White-crested Hornbill *Horizocerus albocristatus* A terrific sighting on Tiwai.
Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus* Regularly seen in the Loma Mountains.
Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* Seven sightings of this unobtrusive species.



Red-rumped Tinkerbird; Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (Mark Van Beirs)

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus* Good looks at one near Koidu. Heard elsewhere.
Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus* Good looks at one in the Loma Mountains.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Common.
Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* (H) Regularly heard in the Loma Mountains and at Gola.
Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti* Good looks at several at Bumbuna and in the Loma Mountains.
Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* Two birds performed well at the base of the Loma Mountains.
Yellow-billed Barbet ◊ (Western Y-b B) *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] goffinii* (H) Heard at Gola.
Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris* One showed in the Loma Mountains farmbush.
Spotted Honeyguide ◊ *Indicator maculatus* Perfect looks on Tiwai.
Little Green Woodpecker ◊ *Campethera maculosa* Good looks at one in the Loma Mountains.
Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa* One showed well in the Gola farmbush.
Fire-bellied Woodpecker ◊ *Chloropicus pyrrhogaster* Five observations of this smart species.
Melancholy Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos lugubris* A couple of sightings of this Upper Guinea endemic.
African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae* Several at Lungi and one in the Loma Mountains.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* A single bird was noted in the Makeni grasslands.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* Brief looks at one in the Bumbuna area.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* Two observations of this impressive falcon.

Timneh Parrot ◊ *Psittacus timneh* EN Ten at Gola and a single at Tiwai.

Black-collared Lovebird *Agapornis swindernianus* Scope views of a foraging bird in the Gola Forest.

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis* (H) One was heard in the Gola Forest.

West African Wattle-eye ◊ *Platysteira hormophora* Regularly recorded.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W) *Platysteira cyanea* Good looks at a pair at Lungi.

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira concreta* (NL) Harris saw one in the Loma Mountains.

Many-colored Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor* Good looks in the Gola Forest.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* A single at Bumbuna.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Good looks at a pair in the Lungi farmbush.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* Three encounters in farmbush.

Turati's Boubou ◊ *Laniarius turatii* Excellent looks at three birds in the Lungi farmbush. Very special!

Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus* (H) We heard one in the Lungi mangroves.

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* Good looks at a tail wagging female at Gola.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* A female showed well at Lungi.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Regular.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* (H) We heard it in the Bumbuna area.

Western Oriole (W Black-headed O) *Oriolus brachyrynchus* Regular encounters.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* Less common than previous species.

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis* The flock leader in the Gola Forest.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* A few in open areas.

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus* Small numbers in the forests.

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* Often heard. Good looks on Tiwai.

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer* Fairly common.



Pied Crow; Sierra Leone Prinia (Mark Van Beirs)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common where man occurs.

White-necked Rockfowl ◊ (Yellow-headed Picathartes) *Picathartes gymnocephalus* VU Fantastic looks!

Western Nicator *Nicator chloris* Good views of this nice songster on Tiwai.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* Very common.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* A few encounters.

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* Regular in farmbush. Often heard.

Little Grey Greenbul *Eurillas gracilis* A few nice sightings.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei* A couple of encounters in the forests.

Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G) *Eurillas curvirostris* A single at Gola.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* A few sightings. One of the sounds of the forest!

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator* A couple of observations.
Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus* Regular in the Gola Forest. Winglifting.
Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex* Several nice sightings in farmbush.
Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis* Good looks at several at Bumbuna.
Swamp Palm Bulbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura* Common and obvious at Tiwai.
Red-tailed Leaflove ◊ *Phyllastrephus scandens* A few in farmbush country.
Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus* Regular in the Gola Forest bird parties.
Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus* (H) Heard in the Gola Forest.
Green-tailed Bristlebill ◊ *Bleda eximius* NT Perfect looks at an unusually friendly pair in the Gola Forest.
Grey-headed Bristlebill ◊ *Bleda canicapillus* A couple of all too brief sightings in the Gola Forest.
Western Bearded Greenbul ◊ *Criniger barbatus* Regular encounters. Distinctive.
Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus* Fairly common in the forest flocks. Regularly heard.
Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens* A common farmbush species.
Fanti Saw-wing ◊ *Psalidoprocne obscura* A handful of sightings. Elegant.
Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant were noted.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Regular sightings.



White-bibbed Swallow (Mark Van Beirs)

White-bibbed Swallow (White-throated Blue S) *Hirundo nigrita* Many good looks at this beauty.
Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Several were seen in the Bumbuna area.
Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Just a few in villages.

West African Swallow *Cecropis domicella* Regular observations in the Loma Mountains.

Preuss's Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi* Just a few sightings.

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* Perfect scope views of a singing bird near Makeni.

Kemp's Longbill *Macrosphenus kempii* (H) We heard it in the Gola Forest.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor* Regularly recorded.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* We recorded the race *flaviventris*. Regularly heard.

Chestnut-capped Flycatcher *Erythrocerus mccallii* A small party was seen in the Gola Forest.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* Commonly heard. Several excellent observations.

Tit Hylia *Pholidornis rufiae* A couple of all too brief sightings.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* A handful of records of this Palearctic migrant.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (NL) Yvon saw one at Bumbuna.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Two were found in tall grass near Makeni.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* A singing bird in the Gola farmbush.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* (H) Amazingly, heard only.

Sierra Leone Prinia *Schistolais leontica* **EN THE BIRD OF THE TRIP.** After lots of effort fantastic views!

Red-winged Warbler *Heliolais erythropterus* (H) We heard it in rank growth at Gola.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps* Several nice scope sightings in the Loma Mountains.

Sharpe's Apalis *Apalis sharpii* One showed well near Koidu. Others were heard.

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps* Perfect views of two in the Lungi farmbush.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* A handful of records.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris* One showed all too briefly near Koidu.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota* Fair views of one near the Loma Mountains.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla* A few in the open woodland at the base of the Loma Mountains.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela *Eremomela badiceps* A party at Gola and a single bird on Tiwai.

Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri* A skulking bird on Tiwai. Regularly heard.

Rufous-winged Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufescens* (H) **NT** Heard at the base of the Loma Mountains.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis* A handful of heard only records.



Female Violet-backed Starling; White-browed Forest Flycatcher (Mark Van Beirs)

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens* (H) Heard on Tiwai.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii* A single encounter upon leaving the Loma Mountains.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* A few in the higher reaches of the Loma Mountains.
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Two sightings of this unobtrusive migrant.
African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* Regular sightings.
Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus* Several at Lungi and at Bumbuna.
Emerald Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis iris* This beauty showed well at Bumbuna and in the Loma Mountains.
Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Fairly common in farmbush country.
Finsch's Rufous Thrush ◊ *Stizorhina finschi* Five observations in the canopy at Loma and Gola.
African Thrush *Turdus pelios* A single sighting at Bumbuna.
White-tailed Alethe ◊ *Alethe diademata* Perfect looks in the Loma Mountains. Also recorded at Gola.
White-browed Forest Flycatcher ◊ *Fraseria cinerascens* Great looks along the river at Tiwai.



Northern Black Flycatcher; Grey-chinned Sunbird (Mark Van Beirs)

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* Three gave good looks in the Lungi farmbush.
Ashy Flycatcher (Blue-grey F) *Muscicapa caeruleascens* A single bird showed in the Gola farmbush.
Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini* Seen along the river at Bumbuna and at Tiwai.
Ussher's Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa ussheri* Singles were noted in the Loma Mountains and at Gola.
Forest Robin ◊ (Western F R) *Stiphornis [erythrothorax] erythrothorax* Excellent in the Gola Forest.
Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (H) Heard a few times in dense farmbush.
European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* 14 sightings of this Palearctic migrant.
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* This migrant was regularly seen in open grasslands.
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* The race *nebulorum* showed well in the Loma Mountains.
Fraser's Sunbird (Scarlet-tufted S) *Deleornis fraseri* A single was identified in the Gola Forest.
Mangrove Sunbird ◊ (Brown S) *Anthreptes gabonicus* A single at Bumbuna and regular at Tiwai.
Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* Two in a flowering Bombax tree near Koidu.
Grey-chinned Sunbird ◊ (Yellow-c S) *Anthreptes rectirostris* Good looks at two of the nominate race.
Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* Common.
Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* Regular encounters.
Olive Sunbird (Western O S) *Cyanomitra olivacea* Regular and unobtrusive.
Buff-throated Sunbird ◊ *Chalcomitra adelberti* Good looks at this beauty near Koidu and at Gola.
Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* A few observations.

Tiny Sunbird *Cinnyris minullus* A pair at the nest in the Gola Forest.
Splendid Sunbird *Cinnyris coccinogastrus* Several excellent sightings.
Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris johannae* Two males showed well in the Gola farmbush.
Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* A female was seen in the Gola Forest.
Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Common and noisy.
Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* Regular in farmbush on the first days of the tour.
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* A few in Koidu. Thin on the ground in Sierra Leone.
Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* Three observations in the Loma area.
Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* Common and noisy in villages all along our route.
Vieillot's Black Weaver ◊ (Chestnut-and-black W) *Ploceus [nigerrimus] castaneofuscus* Regular.
Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor* A single bird was seen in the forest on Tiwai.
Maxwell's Black Weaver ◊ *Ploceus albinucha* Singles in flowering Bombax near Koidu and at Gola.
Gola Malimbe ◊ *Malimbus ballmanni* EN A highlight! Terrific looks at this speciality deep in the Gola Forest.
Red-vented Malimbe ◊ *Malimbus scutatus* A few observations in the Gola Forest.
Blue-billed Malimbe *Malimbus nitens* Regular sightings.



Red-headed Malimbe; mushrooms (Mark Van Beirs)

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* One in the Gola Forest and regular at Tiwai.
Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* Three showed quite well on Tiwai.
Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops* Ten gave good looks in a patch of grassland on our way to Loma.
White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita fusconotus* Three observations in palm habitat.
Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (C-b Negrofinch) *Nigrita bicolor* A single bird was seen in the Gola Forest.
Grey-headed Nigrita (G-c Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus* A handful of observations.
Yellow-winged Pytilia ◊ *Pytilia hypogrammica* Two showed all too briefly at the Loma Mountains.
Crimson Seedcracker ◊ *Pyrenestes sanguineus* Splendid looks at a nest building male near Loma.
Dybowski's Twinspot ◊ *Euschistospiza dybowskii* Six showed very nicely in the Loma grasslands.
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Only seen at Bumbuna.
Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* A few in the Loma Mountains.
Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava* A single was noted at Bumbuna.
Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Regular.
Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor* Several nice encounters.
Cameroon Indigobird ◊ *Vidua camerunensis* Three males could be scoped at Bumbuna.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Regular at Bumbuna.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava* Regular in grasslands.
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Only seen at Bumbuna and at Tiwai.
Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* Two in the Bumbuna grasslands.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Common in the Loma Mountains grasslands.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* A few in farmbush country.

Gosling's Bunting ♦ *Emberiza gosling* One near Makeni and common higher up in the Loma Mountains.



The group in the Loma Mountains (Mark Van Beirs)

MAMMALS

Total of mammal species recorded: 18

Western Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* (H) Regularly heard in the Gola Forest.

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis* A single was observed in the Loma Mountains.

Potto (West African P) *Perodicticus potto* Five sightings at Tiwai.

Demidoff's Dwarf Galago *Galagoides demidovii* Good looks at one at Tiwai.

Sooty Mangabey (White-naped M) *Cercocebus atys* Brief looks at several at Tiwai.

Campbell's Monkey *Cercopithecus campbelli* Terrific views at Tiwai.

Diana Monkey (Roloway M) *Cercopithecus diana* Seen in the Gola Forest and at Tiwai.

Green Monkey (Callithrix M) *Chlorocebus sabaeus* Three showed along the river at Tiwai.

King Colobus (Western Pied C) *Colobus polykomos* One in the Gola Forest and a nice group at Tiwai.

West African Red Colobus (West African R C) *Procolobus badius* Common at Gola and at Tiwai.

Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes* (HNL) Heard at Tiwai.

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* A single was seen on Tiwai.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium* One was identified in the Gola Forest.

Green Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus poensis* Regular encounters.

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus* Six sightings, usually while driving.

African Palm Civet *Nandinia binotata* (H) One was heard on our nightwalk at Tiwai.

Long-tailed Pangolin *Uromanis tetradactyla* (NL) One was spotted by Harris in the Gola Forest.

African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat *Eidolon helvum* 5000+ were flying over Makeni at dusk.

We saw spoor of **Pygmy Hippopotamus *Choeropsis liberiensis*** on Tiwai, a latrine of an otter (probably **African Clawless Otter *Aonyx capensis***) on Tiwai and diggings of **Red River Hog *Potamochoerus porcus*** on Tiwai.

BIRD OF THE TRIP

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sierra Leone Prinia | 18 points |
| 2. White-necked Rockfowl | 10 points |
| 3. Gola Malimbe | 8 points |
| 4. Spotted Honeyguide | 4 points |
| Green-tailed Bristlebill | 4 points |



Campbell's Monkeys are restricted to southwestern West Africa (Mark Van Beirs)