

## Mammals seen during a birding trip around Ghana, 11-26 February, 2023

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We were guided by Kwame Brown of Adventure Birding Tours, who was extremely capable at finding and identifying birds by sight and sound. The mammals we found were incidental to the main birding – no special efforts were made.

### Itinerary, February 2023

11th - Arrival in Accra

12th - Shai Hills Reserve & Sakumono Lagoon

13th - Atewa Range Forest Reserve

14th - Atewa Range Forest Reserve - Kumasi

15th - Oपुरo Forest - Mole National Park

16th–17th - Mole National Park

18th - Mole NP - Kumasi

19th - Bobiri Forest & Butterfly Sanctuary - Picathartes Site

20th–22nd - Kakum National Park, Abrafo forest, Antwikwaa forest and surrounds

23rd - Nsuta Forest Reserve

24th–25th - Ankasa

26th - Ankasa - Accra

### Mammals seen

1. Northern Lesser Galago *Galago senegalensis* – c. 20 during a night drive at Mole on 17th.
2. Demidoff's Dwarf Galago *Galagoides demidoff* – several seen and heard in a logging area adjacent to Kakum National Park on 20th and 22nd.
3. West African Potto *Perodicticus potto* – one distantly at Atewa on 13th; two at Kakum National Park on 21st.
4. Spot-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus petaurista* – the only individual seen sufficiently well to identify in a group of monkeys at the canopy walkway, Kakum, on 21st.
5. Green Monkey *Chlorocebus sabaeus* – regularly seen at Mole National Park on 16th-18th.
6. Tantalus Monkey *Chlorocebus tantalus* – small numbers at Shai Hills on 12th.
7. Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas* – small numbers at Mole National Park on 16th-17th.
8. Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* – common at Shai Hills on 12th; regularly seen causing trouble around the motel at Mole National Park on 16th-18th.
9. Pel's Flying Squirrel *Anomalurus pelii* – one after dark at Kakum National Park on 21st.
10. Fire-footed Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus pyrropus* – one at Kakum on 22nd; one at Ankasa on 25th.
11. Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* – one at Mole on 16th.
12. Small Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus punctatus* – one at Ankasa on 24th.
13. Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium* – two at Shai Hills on 12th; one at Bobiri on 19th.
14. Forest Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri* – seen regularly at Nsuta and Ankasa.

15. Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus* – one at Oपुरo Forest on 15th; several at Mole National Park on 16th-17th.
16. Emin's Pouched Rat *Cricetomys emini* – one individual at the Kakum National Park visitor centre after dark on 21st appeared to be this species.
17. Western Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* – heard regularly at night at Atewa, Kakum and Ankasa.
18. African Savanna Elephant *Loxodonta africana* – up to nine seen together at Mole National Park on 16th-18th. IUCN range maps suggest these are *L. cyclotis*, but this would be atypical habitat and their size instead suggested *L. africana*. There is some suggestion online that this population represents an intergrade/hybrid population.
19. Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* – small numbers at Mole National Park around the motel on 16th-18th.
20. Red-flanked Duiker *Cephalophus rufilatus* – one at Mole National Park on 17th.
21. Black Duiker *Cephalophus niger* – one disturbed up from resting on the ground during the day at Ankasa on 24th.
22. Roan Antelope *Hippotragus equinus* – a group of about six at Mole National Park on 16th.
23. Kob *Kobus kob* – one group at Shai Hills on 12th; regularly seen at Mole National Park on 16th-18th.
24. Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* – seen at Oपुरo Forest on 15th; regularly seen at Mole National Park on 15th-18th.
25. African Civet *Civettictis civetta* – one on the road at night in Ankasa on 24th.
26. Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* – one at night in Mole on 17th.
27. Common Cusimanse *Crossarchus obscurus* – small groups at Ankasa on 24th and 25th.
28. Gambian Mongoose *Mungos gambianus* – two groups seen in Mole on 17th.
29. African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat *Eidolon helvum* – many leaving roosts in Accra on 26th.
30. Egyptian Tomb Bat *Taphozous perforatus* – a sizeable colony seen in Sayu cave, Shai Hills, on 12th.
31. Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* – one at Mole National Park during the day on 16th.

### **Mammals not seen well enough to identify**

Apart from the usual unidentified bats and small rodents...

Forest primates were much more often heard than seen, with shotgun cartridges everywhere except Kakum suggesting the reason for their shyness. Fairly sure we heard Lowe's Monkey, but never saw them.

Two pairs of genets were seen at Mole on 17th, but neither time well enough to identify (between Common and Pardine, though I suspect the latter).

A number of other squirrels were seen, but we were rather tied in knots at times by incorrect local guidance given on names (and our own lack of preparation), so some have remained unidentified (perhaps many of which were Green Bush Squirrel since we didn't knowingly see this common species!)