



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Cameroon

12th March – 1st April 2005



Tour Report compiled by Tour Leader Richard White

Tour Leaders: Adam Riley & Richard White

Trip summary:

Cameroon is widely regarded as the best destination in West Africa to see the greatest diversity of birds special to this part of Africa. The tour was a great success in this regard, most of the key species were seen well and, despite many logistical complications (Air Cameroon was grounded during our stay), we managed to visit all the key sites timeously. The lack of air transport meant we would have to rely on the unreliable Cameroon rail service and this ended up costing us a few days birding, particularly in the Mt Kupe and Benoue areas. On the bright side we were seldom



plagued by rain, that can so often spoil a days birding in the tropics, and were lucky that the north was not quite as hot as it can sometimes be.

Most of the group arrived a day early and so, not wanting to waste time in the city we spent the day of the 11th birding around the Sanaga River area. En route we stopped at a small roadside pond where we saw good numbers of Hartlaub's Duck and African Pygmy Goose. Once at the Sanaga we found the beautiful Grey Pratincole on sandbanks and birded the forests south of the river where we found Cassin's Hawk Eagle and Cassin's Malimbe, an endemic to this corner of the continent.

Our first destination, with the group fully intact, was West Africa's highest mountain, Mount Cameroon. We took the entire day to make our assault on this volcanic wonder in perfect weather and made our way all the way up to the treeline, quite a feat for a group of jetlagged birders! Highlights for us here included Cameroon Spierops, Mountain Sawwing, Cameroon Mountain Greenbul, Cameroon Scrub Warbler, African Hill Babbler, Cameroon Sunbird and Fernando Po Oliveback.



Not far from the mountain are the surprisingly well-kept Limbe Botanical Gardens. We arrived here in a biblical downpour that was fortunately short lived. The gardens were the only place we saw Pale-fronted Negrofinch and we got good views of Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher. We then sped along the Atlantic Coast in motorboats towards the Isangale River that would take us within easy reach of the village of Mundemba, gateway to Korup National Park. This gave us a glimpse of life here in the quaint fishing villages that dotted the shores. Of interest for us was a massive roost of African Skimmer, many

Shining-blue Kingfisher and sightings of African Finfoot as they dashed to escape our wake. Our time in Korup was well spent and we managed to bag Rufous-sided Broadbill and Bare-cheeked Trogon before we got to camp. The final hours of the day were spent waiting for the Picathartes and just before light faded we were blessed with a single bird that most of the group saw well. Time spent on the banks of the scenic rivers that crisscross the park was rewarded with the rare White-browed Forest-Flycatcher and Blue-headed Bee-eater. On the walk out we were treated to the incredible Long-tailed Hawk.

In the Mount Kupe area we birded Max's trail and the Bokassi Mountains. The birding here was very enjoyable with White-throated Mountain Babbler, a surprise White-naped Pigeon, Cameroon Pigeon, Bar-tailed Trogon and Grey-headed Broadbill being seen on our first days birding. The steep Max's Trail was very birdy and we had scope views of the brightly plumaged Crossley's Ground Thrush, Black-necked Wattle-Eye and African Piculet. Dodging ants at an ant swarm we picked out Brown-chested and Fire-crested Alethe and White-tailed Ant Thrush.



The Bamenda Highlands hold some of Cameroon's most threatened birds and with so little habitat left we found the target species a little challenging. After a whole morning we had still



not managed to locate some of our main targets. With great sightings of the endemic Bannerman's Turaco and Bangwa Scrub Warbler in the bag we reluctantly left the area. An afternoon return finally yielded Bannerman's Weaver, thanks to Mark who, along with Wiel and Ron, decided to skip lunch in town and continue searching. In our absence they also managed to see the Banded Wattle-Eye and after a frantic search in the same area we were still left with naught. A final search the following morning rewarded our hard efforts with a pair of these highly sought after and very range restricted birds. En route back to the capital we enjoyed great views of White-throated Blue Swallow on the Sanaga River.

Then began the long journey to the more relaxed, Muslim north. Our train ambled through the night and delivered us tired and worn out at Ngaoundere. The birding in broadleaved woodlands at and around Ngaoundaba Ranch area was superb with the likes of Gambaga Flycatcher, White-collared Starling, Schlegel's Francolin, White-crested Turaco, Blue-bellied Roller, Red-headed Lovebird, displaying Standard-winged and Pennant-winged Nightjars, Brown and Dybowski's Twinspots, Bamenda Apalis and Thrush Babbler.



Benoue National Park held some excellent birds for us. We wandered the guinea woodlands and the riverbed and managed to bag most of the specials in the very limited time we had in the area. Egyptian Plover, certainly one of the most beautiful shorebirds in the world, Violet Turaco, Black-headed Gonolek, Yellow Penduline Tit and White-throated Francolin were some of the top birds.

From Benoue we made our way into the hot and dry Sahelian Savannah belt. This remarkable area is punctuated with rugged mountains where we found the distinctive white-capped form of Cliff Chat and Rock-loving Cisticola. We found large numbers of Black Crowned Crane, Little Grey Woodpecker (a very good find!), Arabian Bustard, Sennar Penduline Tit and for some the bird of the trip, Quail Plover. At dusk we searched for Golden Nightjar, that had been seen two years previously, and were very lucky to find a single bird. The rest of the tour from here became an effort to get south back to Douala in time for our flights back home. After two full days of travel we arrived back in the south ready for the journey homeward.

Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist* 5th Edition (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with current updates.

BIRDS (585 species)

Ostrich *Struthionidae*



Ostrich*Struthio camelus*

Recorded only at Waza National Park with a total of 6 birds being seen on a day.

NOTE: The subspecies S. c. molybdophanes of dry East Africa is regarded by some authorities as a distinct species; Somali Ostrich. The form we observed would remain with the nominate Common Ostrich S. camelus. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe (Dabchick)***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Small numbers were seen at Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands with a total of 5 birds being seen on that day.

Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae**Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant***Phalacrocorax africanus*

Seen at wetlands throughout the country. The highest number was of three birds on the Atlantic coast near Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Anhinga & Darter Anhingidae**Darter***Anhinga melanogaster*

Seen at only two localities on the tour, firstly one bird seen en route to the Sanaga River and secondly two birds seen on the Isangale River on our way to Ekondo Titi.

Pelicans Pelecanidae**Great (Eastern) White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

One of the stranger sightings on the tour, a total of 4 birds were seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.

Pink-backed Pelican*Pelecanus rufescens*

A total of 6 birds were resting on the shoreline, seen from our boat ride on the Atlantic not far from the Isangale River mouth.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae**Gray Heron***Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers throughout Cameroon, with the highest count being 10+ in Waza National Park.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

A fairly common species in the north, noted in abundance in Waza NP. An estimate of 200+ seen on our full day in this special park.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Our first sighting was of one en route to the Sanaga River. Further sightings were enjoyed at several other wetland sites with highest day count of three at Dang Lake.

NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron.

Great (White) Egret*Ardea alba*

This familiar species was seen at several localities throughout the tour with our highest count of 6 on a sandbar on the Atlantic coast.



NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World *A. a. egretta* which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Generally the least common of the three white, aquatic egrets and only seen on the Sanaga River.

NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret *E. brachyrhyncha* (which is what we recorded in Ghana), Plumed Egret *E. plumifera* and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Fairly common in wetlands throughout, we found a total of 20 on the Isangale River with further sightings at Benoue NP and Lagdo Lake.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef *E. gularis* and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret *E. dimorpha* into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis*

Our highest count of this species was of about 40 dark morph birds on our boat trip on the Atlantic and Isangale River.

NOTE: Clements used to lump Little, Western Reef *E. gularis* and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret *E. dimorpha* into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

(Common) Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Seen at a number of water bodies throughout Cameroon, our highest count was of 8 individuals on the Isangale River with further sightings on the Sanaga River, Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and Waza NP.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen throughout, especially in association with herds of cattle.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret *E. coromanda*. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron *Butorides striatus*

Recorded in small numbers at a few wetlands with our first sighting en route to the Sanaga River.

NOTE: This species group is treated by Clements as 3 species, the nominate Striated Heron, *B. virescens* Little Green Heron of North America and *B. sundevalli* Lava Heron of the Galapagos. Other authorities lump all three forms into a single species, called Green-backed Heron (as per Handbook of Birds of the World.)

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

At least 20 were seen flying over the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch at dusk.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

This species was heard calling at the swamp at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Seen at several localities throughout with our highest count of 6 birds on the Isangale River.

Storks Ciconidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Our only sighting was of a single bird in Waza NP.

African Openbill (~ed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*



3 birds were seen in Benoue NP and a total of twenty were seen on the Benoue River near Garoua.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

A flock of at least 10 birds was seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch .

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Our first sighting was of two *en route* to Buea from Douala, a further singleton was seen between Bamenda and Yaounde.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Five birds were seen in Waza NP.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Three were seen in Waza NP, including two juveniles.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

A flock of 15 was seen near the town of Maroua and we picked up smaller numbers in Benoue NP and Waza NP.

Ibises & Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Our highest count was of 15 seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch, a further two were seen in Waza NP.

NOTE: The Malagasy T. e. bernieri and Aldabran T. e. abbotti are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis T. bernieri

Olive Ibis *Bostrychia olivacea*

One was seen in the late afternoon flying over a bridge in the Mundemba area. A lucky find!

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers were seen near Mundemba, Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Swans, Geese & Ducks *Anatidae*

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

A large flock of 36 birds was seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubi*

Seen at only one site on the tour near the Sanaga River, our highest count in two visits there was of twelve birds.

African Pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus*

A total of 4 birds for the entire tour. Two were seen en route to the Sanaga in a small pond and a further two at Dang Lake.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anus undulata*

We recorded 4 at Dang Lake near Ngaoundere. This is a very range restricted bird in West Africa, only occurring in this area in Cameroon and marginally in neighboring Nigeria.

Garganey *Anus querquedula*

Seen at only two sites on the tour. We recorded 6 at Dang Lake and 20 at Waza NP with some spectacular males in full plumage.



Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

African Cuckoo-Hawk*Aviceda cuculoides*

Two birds were seen on the Isangale River.

European Honey-buzzard*Pernis apivorus*

Two birds were seen in flight in the Mt Kupe area.

Bat Hawk*Macheiramphus alcinus*

A single bird seen in flight at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further singleton at Benoue NP.

Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite*Elanus caeruleus*

First seen in the Bamenda Highlands and then recorded further north near Ngaoundere and at Waza NP.

Scissor-tailed Kite*Echelictinia riocourii*

First seen at the Quail Plover site much to the delight of all. We saw a total of a dozen birds this day between this site and Waza NP, an incredibly elegant and beautiful raptor that was high on the groups 'must see' list.

[Yellow-billed Kite]*Milvus [migrans] aegyptius*

This ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor was found in good numbers throughout the country and recorded on most days of the tour.

*NOTE: Many authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius. Clements does not as yet accept this split.***African Fish-Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

Not a very common bird in West Africa, one was heard in Benoue NP and two were seen around the waterholes in Waza NP.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

Recorded in the wetter south with regularity. First seen south of the Sanaga with our highest daily count of 20 on the day we traveled from Limbe to Mundemba.

Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

Commonly encountered in the drier north especially near towns.

Egyptian Vulture*Neophron percnopterus*

A total of 4 were seen on our full day in Waza NP.

(African) White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

The common vulture in savanna areas, sightings were enjoyed in the Ngaoundere area and in Waza NP.

Rueppell's Griffon (Vulture)*Gyps rueppellii*

Only two birds were seen in Waza NP.

Lappet-faced Vulture*Torgos tracheliotus*

Two of these globally threatened vultures were observed in Waza NP. This is Africa's largest vulture, an impressive animal indeed!

Short-toed Snake-Eagle*Circaetus gallicus*

One was seen in the Bamenda Highlands and a further individual was seen at the Quail Plover site.

*NOTE: This superspecies, consisting of three species, Short-toed C. gallicus, Beaudouin's C. beaudouini and Black-breasted C. pectoralis Snake-Eagle, is often considered a single species, which is then named Short-toed Snake-Eagle.***Brown Snake-Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

A single bird was seen perched on a telephone pole during the drive from Ngaoundere to Benoue NP.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

The “tightrope-walker” of the raptor world is a handsome species that we first saw in the woodland belt en route to Benoue NP, further sightings of single birds were seen in Benoue NP and at Waza NP.

Western (European) Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

We enjoyed regular sightings of this migrant at various sites, especially wetlands, throughout the tour. Our first sighting was enjoyed on Mount Cameroon.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

A single bird was seen at the Quail Plover site.

Montagu’s Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Several birds were seen in the north of the country, we saw our highest number of 4 birds between the Quail Plover site and Waza NP.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded most regularly in the south with a highest count of 6 birds en route from Mundemba to Mt Kupe.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Two birds were seen in the Sanaga area with two further sightings at Limbe Botanical Gardens and Benoue NP.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Only recorded in the Waza NP area with a highest daily count of 4 birds.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

We had four sightings at Benoue NP.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii*

This forest *Accipiter* was seen twice in Korup NP and once in Ngaoundaba area.

NOTE: Most authorities consider this species to be a West African form of African Goshawk A. tachiro.

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk) *Accipiter badius*

Our first sighting was of a bird at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a second was noted on the drive from Waza to Maroua.

NOTE: We recorded the Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus which some authorities consider distinct from the southern African Southern Shikra A. b. polyzonoides. These forms may also be split from the Asian nominate A. b. badius and other Asian forms. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

Ovampo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

One was seen on the drive from Ngaoundaba Ranch to Benoue NP.

Long-tailed Hawk *Urotriorchis macrorurus*

We were very fortunate to find this rare and spectacular raptor on our walk out of Korup NP.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

We counted a total of 3 birds in the Ngaoundere area.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

A very pale form of this bird was seen well in flight at Waza NP.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

This handsome buzzard was noted at many localities on the tour, our highest daily count was of three birds in the Ngaoundaba area.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

Our first sighting was of two birds in the Ngaoundere area and we enjoyed at least 12 birds on our day in Waza NP.

Wahlberg’s Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

This raptor was seen only once en route between Maroua and Waza NP.

African Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

Two birds were seen in flight on our way through to Ngaoundaba Ranch after our epic train ride north.



Booted Eagle*Hieraaetus pennatus*

A single bird was seen in flight and then perched near Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle*Spizaetus africanus*

We enjoyed crippling views of one bird at a forest site south of the Sanaga River and a juvenile was seen en route from Mundemba to Mt Kupe.

Crowned Hawk-Eagle*Stephanoaetus coronatus*

Unfortunately we only managed to hear this massive raptor, once in Korup NP and again in the Bokassi Mountains.

Secretarybird *Sagittariidae***Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

We were lucky to see this stately but rather odd bird in Waza NP.

Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae***Eurasian (Common/Rock) Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

This widespread, familiar raptor was only seen three times during our tour. First recorded at the chaotic train station in Yaounde.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this species into Common Kestrel, *F. tinnunculus* which we observed and occurs in East and West Africa and Rock Kestrel, *F. rupicolus* which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.*

Fox Kestrel*Falco alopex*

This species was only recorded twice during our tour with our best views of a soaring bird at Lagdo Lake.

Gray Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

Seen on four occasions on the tour with our highest day count of two birds in Benoue NP.

Red-necked Falcon*Falco chicquera*

We were fortunate to find a single bird perched during our afternoon walk at Ngaoundaba ranch. An uncommon bird in Cameroon.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

Several birds were seen on tour, our first sighting was of 1 in the Bamenda highlands with further sightings enjoyed at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the extreme north near and in Waza NP.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

We had two sightings, probably the same bird, flying near the village of Nyassosso.

Pheasants & Partridges *Phasianidae***White-throated Francolin***Fringillidae albogularis*

We were fortunate to find one bird in the woodland at Benoue NP.

Schlegel's Francolin*Fringillidae schlegelii*

A true Cameroon special that is very difficult to observe elsewhere. We were fortunate to encounter a pair very close to the road at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

(Latham's) Forest Francolin*Fringillidae lathamii*

This secretive francolin was flushed off the trail in Korup NP. This is a very difficult bird to see well.

Scaly Francolin*Fringillidae squamatus*

Heard at several localities with 8 birds finally seen on two occasions in the Bamenda highlands.



Double-spurred Francolin*Francolinus bicalcaratus*

This francolin was commonly encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP with our highest day count of 20 birds in the Ngaoundaba area.

Clapperton's Francolin*Francolinus clappertoni*

Only seen at Waza NP where they were regularly encountered.

Stone Partridge*Ptilopachus petrosus*

This species was encountered first in Benoue NP with our highest day count of 6 birds.

Guineafowl Numididae**Black Guineafowl***Agelastes niger*

Four birds quickly disappeared off the trail into the forest and were only glimpsed by a few, Korup NP.

Helmeted Guineafowl*Numida meleagris*

Commonly observed in Benoue NP and Waza NP. Mark found the first covey whilst walking in the woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) of East Africa, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl – the form we recorded in Cameroon) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl.) Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Buttonquail Turnicidae**Quail Plover***Sortyxelos meiffrenii*

This rare and incredible bird was the highlight of the trip for many. After a two-hour search in the hot dry savannah south of Waza we finally located a single bird. The bird flushed and landed within 20 feet of the group allowing for superb prolonged views.

Cranes Gruidae**Black Crowned-Crane***Balearica regulorum*

This very handsome bird is delightfully common in Waza NP with peak numbers of over 130 birds seen on one day.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae**White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

This secretive, forest rallid's hooting call was heard in several forests and we had views of one in Korup NP.

Buff-spotted Flufftail*Sarothrura elegans*

This secretive species was unfortunately only heard in a scrubby field in Nyassosso.

Red-chested Flufftail*Sarothrura rufa*

This marsh dwelling rallid was oddly enough heard in some rank vegetation at the base of Mount Cameroon.

Nkulengu Rail*Himantornis haematopus*

The strange nocturnal duet of these secretive forest rallids was heard in Korup NP.



African Rail*Rallus caerulescens*

Although widespread on the continent this can be a tough species to see. A pair was seen on consecutive mornings by those who got up extra early at the edge of the scenic Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

A total of 6 birds were seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Purple Swamphen*Porphyrio Porphyrio*

We had brief views of a bird at Dang Lake.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognised as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become African Swamphen (P. madagascariensis.) Other forms to be recognised may include Indian Swamphen (P. poliocephalus,) Philippine Swamphen (P. pulverulentus) and Eastern Swamphen (P. melanotus).

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Two birds were seen at the Hartlaub's Duck site en route to the Sanaga River.

Finfoots *Heliornithidae***African Finfoot***Podica senegalensis*

We first encountered this bird, thanks to Jim Snr's keen eye, on a backwater en route to Buea. A total of three were seen on the Isangale River.

Bustards *Otididae***Arabian Bustard***Ardeotis arabs*

We were fortunate to encounter one of these large Bustards in Waza NP.

White-bellied Bustard*Leupodotis senegalensis*

This species was first observed during our Quail Plover trek. We also saw small numbers close to Waza NP.

Black-bellied Bustard*Lissotis melanogaster*

We managed to flush one of these birds whilst looking for Sudan Golden Sparrow in arid woodland south of Waza NP.

Jacanas *Jacanidae***African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

A widespread and characteristic wader, conspicuous in wetlands throughout the tour. Highest daily count of 20+ at Dang Lake.

Painted-Snipe *Rostratulidae***Greater Painted-snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

One of these beautifully patterned birds was seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Stilts & Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

Black-winged Stilt*Himantopus himantopus*

A total of 8 birds were encountered around waterholes in Waza NP.

Thick-knees *Burhinidae***Senegal Thick-knee***Burhinus senegalensis*

Encountered only at Benoue NP with two birds seen on our first afternoon there and a singleton the following morning.

Spotted Thick-knee*Burhinus capensis*

Our first sighting was of a single bird flushed up whilst looking for Golden Nightjar. Encountered in the Waza NP area with a total of 4 birds being seen on our full day in the park.

Coursers & Pratincoles *Glareolidae***Egyptian Plover***Pluvianus aegyptus*

This remarkably beautiful bird was encountered with regularity on the Benoue River in front of Camp in Benoue NP. We managed a total of 6 birds on our first walk. The birds were further encountered on the same river near the town of Garoua.

Temminck's Courser*Cursorius teminkii*

We came across a bird on a single egg in burnt grassland on our drive into Ngaoundaba Ranch. The bird did not flush allowing for superb views and photographic opportunities.

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole*Glareola pratincola*

A single bird was seen on the Benoue River at Benoue NP and another near the town of Garoua.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis*

One bird was seen on the Mana River on our way out of Korup NP.

Gray Pratincole*Glareola cinerea*

Ten of these beautiful pratincoles were scoped on sandbars on the Sanaga River.

Plovers & Lapwings *Charadriidae***Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)***Vanellus spinosus*

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were common at Waza NP and were further encountered at Benoue NP, and Dang Lake.

Black-headed Lapwing*Vanellus tectus*

We enjoyed many sightings of this bird in the arid areas south and in Waza NP. A very attractive bird.

White-headed Lapwing (Plover)*Vanellus albiceps*

This was only encountered on the Benoue River in front of our camp.

Wattled Lapwing (Plover)*Vanellus senegallus*

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was found in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Little Ringed Plover*Charadrius dubius*

Two birds were recorded on the Benoue River at Benoue NP.

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris*

A pair was seen on the Benoue River close to camp.

White-fronted Plover*Charadrius marginatus*

First encountered on the Sanaga River and later on the Isangale River we found a total of 6 birds.



Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Bar-tailed Godwit*Limosa lapponica*

100 birds were sighted on a sandbar off the Atlantic coast near the Isangale River mouth.

Whimbrel*Numenius phaeopus*

We found a total of twenty of this species on the rocky shore in front of Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Eurasian Curlew*Numenius arquata*

2 birds were sighted on a sandbar off the Atlantic coast near the Isangale River mouth.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

This familiar species was encountered at several locations with peak numbers of 8 birds on the Atlantic shoreline and again on the Benoue River near Garoua.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

First encountered on the river in Benoue NP where a total of 8 were seen.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

As with Green Sandpiper but in smaller numbers.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

A common migrant seen at several water bodies throughout, our highest count was of 20 birds on the Sanaga River.

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

A single flock of 200 birds was sighted on a sandbar on the Benoue River near Garoua.

Gulls Laridae

Lesser Black-backed Gull*Larus fuscus*

4 birds were noted flanking a large Tern roost on the Atlantic coast.

Gray-headed Gull*Larus cirrocephalus*

3 birds were seen well at Lagdo Lake.

Terns Sternidae

Caspian Tern*Sterna caspia*

Two birds were seen on our boat trip along the Atlantic coast.

Royal Tern*Sterna maxima*

On our Atlantic boat trip we encountered at least 500 of these birds, most of which were concentrated in a large tern roost.

Black Tern*Chlidonias niger*

A dozen of these birds were seen from our boat ride on the Atlantic.

Skimmers Rynchopidae

African Skimmer*Rynchops flavirostris*

We encountered at least 6 birds on the Sanaga River but our skimmer highlight was certainly a roost of 300+ birds on the Atlantic coast.



Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse*Pterocles exustus*

A morning drinker, this bird was easy to observe on our first morning in Waza NP with at least 300 birds being seen on that day.

Four-banded Sandgrouse*Pterocles quadricinctus*

We encountered at least 150 of this species at a waterhole in Waza NP just after dark.

Doves & Pigeons *Collumbidae*

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)*Columba livia*

Common in Douala and other large towns.

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

A common species in the north, first encountered in Benoue NP and seen at all localities north of here.

Cameroon Pigeon*Columba guinea*

We had three of these birds on our day in the Bokassi Mountains. Unfortunately we only managed flight views of this range restricted bird.

White-naped Pigeon*Columba albinucha*

We were very lucky to enjoy prolonged scope views of a bird in the Bokassi Mountains. A beautiful pigeon and rather rare in West Africa.

Eurasian Turtle-Dove*Streptopelia turtur*

We encountered a pair of these birds in a small *Acacia* next to a waterhole in Waza NP.

African Collared-Dove*Streptopelia roseogrisea*

This rather pale *Streptopelia* was encountered in good numbers in the Waza NP area.

African Mourning Dove*Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen only in Waza NP and near Garoua where we recorded a total of 6 birds.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

A fairly common widespread species, especially notable in more wooded areas and around towns.

Vinaceous Dove*Streptopelia vinacea*

This richly marked dove was common in the Ngaoundaba and Benoue areas.

Laughing (Palm) Dove*Streptopelia senegalensis*

A familiar species and in Cameroon recorded regularly only from Ngaoundaba north.

Black-billed Wood-Dove*Turtur abyssinicus*

The common wood-dove of the dry, northern savanna, found in Benoue NP and Waza NP.

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove*Turtur afer*

Not uncommon in secondary growth in the moister south with highest daily counts of 4 birds on 2 days.

Tambourine Dove*Turtur tympanistria*

A forest equivalent of the wood-doves, we encountered this bird in flight at several forest sites.

Blue-headed Wood-Dove*Turtur brehmeri*

A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. One bird was seen in flight by Jim Holmes Jnr and Jim Holmes Snr, near a forest patch on the Sanaga River.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

A fairly common species in the dry north, especially in Waza NP where 150+ were seen in a day.

Bruce's Green-Pigeon *Treron waalia*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with a day total of 3 birds noted on our first day there.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calva*

Commoner in the south of the country, we further encountered several birds at Ngaoundaba and Benoue. Our highest total was of a dozen birds on Mount Cameroon.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies *Psittacidae*

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Jim Jnr's keen eye picked up a couple of birds in flight just south of Waza NP, this was the only sighting of the trip.

Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*

We observed this species on two consecutive days at Ngaoundaba Ranch. We counted a total of 10 of these very endearing parrots in that time.

(African) Gray Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

So much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird! Big groups were seen near the Sanaga River and 100+ seen near Mundemba.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, our first encounter was of 3 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch whilst our highest total was of eight birds in the Benoue area.

Turacos *Musophagidae*

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata*

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore was first seen, and not very well, in Korup NP. We then managed to get excellent views of 8 birds all loaded into one tree near Mundemba, quite a sight!

Guinea (Green) Turaco *Tauraco persa*

Two were seen on our day in the Bokassi Mountains.

Note: This species used to be lumped under the Green Turaco (T. persa), now split into four full species the others being Knysna Turaco T. corythaix, Livingstone's Turaco (T. livingstonii) and Schalow's Turaco (T. schalowi).

White-crested Turaco *Tauraco leucolophus*

A few birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and at Benoue NP.

Yellow-billed (Verreaux's) Turaco *Tauraco macrorhynchus*

A commonly heard turaco of the interior forests, our first sighting was of two birds cavorting in the canopy on the walk up Mount Cameroon. This subspecies has a wonderful red-tipped crest.

Bannerman's Turaco *Tauraco bannermanni*

Six of these stunning endemics were seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*

Another stellar turaco, we had superb views of four birds at Benoue NP.

Ross's Turaco *Musophaga violacea*

We encountered a total of 5 of these beautiful birds in the gallery forests at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western (Gray) Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*



First seen by Mark through a greasy window on the memorable train ride north. Our highest count was a total of 12 birds on our full day at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

We had close encounters of a single bird on the lower slopes of Mount Cameroon.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

We unfortunately only heard this bird, first in the Bokassi Mountains and again at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

We managed to see a single bird whilst attempting to control an unruly customs official at Ekondo Titi.

African Cuckoo

Cuculus gularis

At least three birds were seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo

Cercococcyx olivinus

This elusive forest resident was seen very well on Max's trail.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

This brood parasite, favoring the cup nests of woodland birds, was heard at several locations and seen well around the cabins at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we first saw this wonderful bird at the Sanaga River where two were observed at different locations.

Yellowbill (Green Coucal/Malkoha)

Ceuthmochares aereus

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was seen at several forest sites with largest numbers of 4 birds in the Bokassi Mountains.

Note: Some authorities split this species into Green Malkoha, C. australis that occurs in East and Southern Africa and Blue Malkoha, C. aereus that we saw and occurs in West and Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Black-throated Coucal

Centropus leucogaster

A huge, elusive West African coucal. One bird was seen briefly by half the group close to Mundemba.

Note: Some authorities split this species into Black-throated Coucal, C. leucogaster that we heard and occurs in West Africa and Neumann's Coucal, C. neumanni that occurs in Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

This large swamp-dwelling coucal was first observed at the Sanaga River, we enjoyed sightings of single birds at several other localities in the south.

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

The most commonly encountered coucal in the north with a total of 3 birds seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Other sites where we saw the bird include the Benoue River near Garoua and Lagdo Lake.

Barn Owls Tytonidae

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

We enjoyed views of two birds on our nightdrive in Waza NP.

Typical Owls Strigidae



African Scops-Owl*Otus senegalensis*

We enjoyed incredible views of this tiny owl at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Grayish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinerascens*

This large owl came incredibly close at Lagdo Lake much to the delight of Ron and Wiel who had stayed behind after several luckless minutes to see if the bird would make an appearance.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

We heard this bird on several occasions during our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Marsh Owl*Asio capensis*

One bird was seen in flight during the nightdrive in Waza NP.

Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae***Golden Nightjar***Caprimulgus eximius*

This rare bird has only ever been seen by a handful of birders. After searching the site where the bird was discovered as a new bird for Cameroon in 2003 we were extremely fortunate to locate a single bird.

Black-shouldered Nightjar*Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

At Ngaoundaba Ranch one bird was seen at the crater lake at dusk and at least one heard by Ron that morning.

Freckled Nightjar*Caprimulgus tristigma*

At least one bird was heard very close to our cabins at Lagdo Lake.

Long-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus climacurus*

We heard this species calling at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Pennant-winged Nightjar*Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

A spectacular nightjar indeed. During our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch we managed to flush one female and on our night excursion saw a male with full pennants.

Standard-winged Nightjar*Macrodipteryx longipennis*

One of the world's most bizarre birds and certainly one of the highlights of our tour. We obtained great views of a male during the day and several displaying males and females on our night drives at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swifts *Apodidae***Mottled Spinetail***Telacanthura ussheri*

We enjoyed good sightings of 6 birds at the Limbe Botanical Gardens and saw a further two birds on our day at the Sanaga River.

Sabine's Spinetail*Rhaphidura sabini*

A total of sixteen of these distinctive and rather striking birds were seen in Korup NP and near the village of Mundemba.

African Palm-Swift*Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful throughout most of the tour with the bird being recorded in good numbers almost everywhere save the Mt Kupe/Bokassi areas.

Common Swift*Apus apus*

A loose flock of about 200 birds was seen from Rengo Rock in Korup NP with a further 10 being seen at Limbe Botanical Gardens.



African Swift*Apus barbatus*

A scarce bird in West Africa, we saw a flock of at least 30 birds near rocky habitat in the Bamenda Highlands close to Lake Awing.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

The common urban swift, seen at most localities south of Ngaoundere.

Horus Swift*Apus horus*

This is a rather localized species in West Africa and we were fortunate to find 4 birds near a probable breeding site in an erosion gully on our way to Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bates's Swift*Apus batesi*

A swift of the forest zone of the south, we saw up to 40 birds during our stay in Korup and recorded smaller numbers near the Sanaga River and around Mundemba.

Mousebirds *Coliidae***Speckled Mousebird***Colius striatus*

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa but nonetheless encountered fairly regularly in open and secondary habitat from Benoue NP south. Our highest day count was of a dozen birds during our full day in the Bamenda highlands.

Blue-naped Mousebird*Urocolius macrourus*

Seemingly replacing the Speckled Mousebird in the far north, we began to encounter small numbers of this species between Maroua and Waza NP. Day counts never exceeded 6 of this fast flying and oddly marked bird.

Trogons *Trogonidae***Bare-checked Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

One of these spectacular birds was seen on our walk into Korup NP. Time and effort was rewarded with good views for all.

Bar-tailed Trogon*Apaloderma vittatum*

We enjoyed a sighting of this beautiful bird in the Bokassi mountains, thanks Ron!

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae***Shining-blue Kingfisher***Alcedo quadribrachys*

Usually a rather difficult bird, we were fortunate to locate at least 10 of these stunning kingfishers on our boat ride up the Isangale River.

Malachite Kingfisher*Alcedo cristata*

We recorded two at the crater lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch and had further sightings of two birds on the Benoue River in front of our camp.

White-bellied Kingfisher*Alcedo leucogaster*

One bird was seen at a small stream on our walk to the camp in Korup NP.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher*Ispidina (Ceyx) picta*

This beautiful little bird was first seen in secondary growth next to the Sanaga River, we recorded a day total of 4 birds on our day around Limbe Botanical Gardens with further sightings at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei*

Three of these elusive birds were seen in Korup NP.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*

The tough-to-see species was unfortunately only heard in Korup NP.

Gray-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

We had our highest total of 4 birds in the Ngaoundere area and had further sightings of smaller numbers in Benoue NP.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

Not uncommon in open habitat in the south often perching on telephone wires next to the road. We had a total of 4 birds on our day around Limbe and the Isangale River.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*

This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was seen in the gallery forest on the Isangale River, on this day we counted a total of 15 birds. We also had single birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small, savannah kingfisher was heard at Benoue NP.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

The Goliath of the kingfisher world. Only one bird was seen by Mark and Ron during a midday break at Benoue NP camp.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

The world's commonest kingfisher was seen in small numbers at several sites on the tour. Our first sighting was of a single bird at the Hartlaub's Duck pond near Edea. Small numbers were recorded at Ngaoundaba Ranch and on the Benoue River.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*

One bird was seen on our walk in to the camp at Korup NP.

Blue-headed Bee-eater *Merops muelleri*

We had fantastic views of two of these rare and highly sought after bee-eaters along the streams in Korup NP.

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*

The northern equivalent of the more familiar White-fronted Bee-eater and every bit as beautiful. We had our first sighting of 6 birds on our way to Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

We had 6 birds on our first day at the Sanaga River and further sightings of 4 birds at Benoue NP.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

This species which breeds in the Sahelian savanna and winters in the Equatorial forest belt was first recorded near the Sanaga River. Other sightings were at Limbe Botanical Gardens, Mt Kupe, the Bokassi mountains and peak numbers of 50 birds were seen near Mundemba.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

This lovely lime green bird was recorded daily in the Waza NP area with our highest daily count of 10 birds.



Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

Another magnificent bee-eater, we were fortunate to see at least 50 flying over the Benoue River close to Garoua. We were treated to an unusual sight of one bird hitching a ride on a goat as we made our way south from Waza NP.

NOTE: Some authorities lump this form with Southern Carmine Bee-eater M. nubicoides and use the name Carmine Bee-eater M. nubicus.

Rollers Coraciidae**Abyssinian Roller***Coracias abyssinica*

A common roller recorded throughout the dry north of the country, highest count of 25+ between Maroua and Waza NP.

Blue-bellied Roller*Coracias cyanogaster*

Single birds were seen on 2 consecutive days in open woodland in the Ngaoundere area.

Broad-billed Roller*Eurystomus glaucurus*

We enjoyed views of 8 birds at dusk over the crater lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blue-throated Roller*Eurystomus gularis*

Replaces Broad-billed Roller in closed forest environments, we recorded 1 in Korup NP.

Hoopoes Upupidae**Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

A total of 9 birds were seen in the Waza NP and Maroua areas.

NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar U. marginalis and Eurasian U. epops. The most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African. Further confusion arises in the placement of the senegalensis form within this grouping with most authorities placing it with the dark-winged africana group, however, Stevenson & Fanshawe place it with the white-winged Eurasian nominate grouping.

Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae**Green Woodhoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

This bird was recorded at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and Waza NP, our highest count was of 6 birds at the Ranch.

Black Scimitar-bill (Woodhoopoe)*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

A total of three birds were seen in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**White-crested Hornbill***Tockus albocristatus*

Three of these bizarre-looking, long-tailed hornbills, were seen on our journey between Mundemba and Nyassosso.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus camurus*

Unfortunately we only heard this diminutive hornbill in Korup NP and again on our drive between Mundemba and Nyassosso.

Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands, 25+ seen around Waza NP.

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*

Common throughout forested areas in Cameroon. Daily counts of at least 10 birds were enjoyed at the Sanaga River, Limbe Botanical Gardens and at least a dozen were seen around Mundemba.

African Gray Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Cameroon, with large numbers (10+ daily) being seen in the drier northern part of the country. First recorded at Ngaouadaba Ranch.

Piping Hornbill *Ceratogymna fistulator*

A total of 20 birds seen at Korup NP, smaller numbers were recorded at the Sanaga River, Limbe Botanical Gardens and Mundemba.

White-thighed Hornbill *Ceratogymna albotibialis*

One bird seen briefly at Rengo Rock in Korup NP. Mark and Pat saw a further one from the train window north of Yaounde.

Black-casqued (Wattled-) Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*

We had views of one bird from Rengo Rock in Korup NP and two birds in flight en route to Nyassosso from Mundemba.

Yellow-casqued (Wattled-) Hornbill *Ceratogymna elata*

We had views of 6 birds during our stay in Korup NP and a further one near Mundemba.

Barbets *Capitonidae*

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus*

A common forest species, we saw at least a dozen on Mount Cameroon, a half dozen in Korup NP and 10 birds on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A scruffy, bird in forests and forest edge. We saw only one of these during our stay in Korup NP.

Western Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We got good views of one bird on our ascent of Mt Cameroon.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

Although heard fairly regularly in forested areas of the south the bird was only seen in the Bokassi Mountains and Mt Kupe.

Yellow-throated Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

Similar to its more familiar yellow-rumped cousin but with a more rapid tempo to its "tinking". This forest barbet was often heard and we had good views of one bird near Mundemba.

Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A common forest-edge species. Small numbers were seen and heard at the Sanaga River, Mt Cameroon, Mundemba and Mt Kupe.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

A savanna species first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again at Benoue NP. Our highest day count was of 4 birds close to Lagdo Lake.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

A rather beautiful Barbet, heard at several forested sites in the south with our highest day count of birds seen being 3 birds on our day in the Bokassi Mountains.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

This forest barbet was seen once in Korup NP.

Vieillot's Barbet *Lybius vieilloti*

A bird of more open woodland, our first sighting was of a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch. At least 10 birds were recorded on our day birding between Maroua and Waza NP.



White-headed Barbet*Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen very well at the Cliff Chat site north of Maroua. Two birds were noted investigating a nesting hole in a large fig.

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

A total of 3 birds were seen during our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bearded Barbet*Lybius dubius*

One of these beautiful birds interrupted our al fresco breakfast (a jam and baguette feast) in Benoue NP and another was seen well at Lagdo Lake.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet, unfortunately this bird was only heard in the Mt Kupe area.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

We obtained views of one bird in Benoue NP.

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

One bird showed nice and close to us as we walked a small riverbed in Benoue NP.

Willcock's Honeyguide*Indicator willcocksi*

We obtained brief views of a single bird in Mt Kupe and were then treated to superb views of two birds in the Bamenda Highlands.

Cassin's Honeyguide (Western Green-backed Honeybird) *Prodotiscus insignis*

One bird was seen briefly and rather high up at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae**Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

A wonderful find! Wiel located one for the group at the Golden Nightjar site, great views were had by all. Another was located and only briefly seen in Waza NP.

African Piculet*Sasia africana*

This diminutive and endearing species was seen first by Jim Snr in Korup NP, then once on our way up to the Bokassi Mountains and again on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera punctuligera*

This lovely woodpecker was seen very well in a mixed flock in Benoue NP and again in Waza NP.

Tullberg's (Fine-banded) Woodpecker*Campethera tullbergi*

This species was seen a total of four times on our day in the Bokassi Mountains and once on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

This diminutive and rather dark woodpecker was seen whilst attempting to locate Bare-cheeked Trogon in Korup NP.

Little Gray Woodpecker*Dendropicos elachus*

An uncommon and difficult bird to find indeed. We were very fortunate to come across a pair in dry woodland south of Waza NP. Thanks Jim Jnr!

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

Our highest daily total was of 4 birds up Mount Cameroon, we enjoyed further sightings of pairs at Limbe BG, Bokassi and the Bamenda Highlands.

Melancholy Woodpecker*Dendropicos lugubris*

Only one was seen at a forested site south of the Sanaga River.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped in Gabon Woodpecker D.gabonensis.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

This fine woodpecker was seen on our way up Mount Cameroon.

Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Several individuals located in the Bamenda Highlands with further sightings of a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch and of singletons south of Waza NP.

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Picoides obsoletus*

Two birds were found at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A scarce, dry country species.

Broadbills *Eurylaimidae*

Grey-headed Broadbill *Smithornis sharpei*

Whilst some of us enjoyed an obligatory 7am beer with the chief at Bokassi others enjoyed this elusive and sought after bird! No gripping please.

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis*

The purring call of this unusual bird was heard as we made our way to Rengo camp in Korup NP. We had what can only be described as phenomenal views of a male displaying. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra cantillans*

The bird was first observed at the Quail Plover site south of Waza and again in Waza NP.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

A fairly common species of the dry north, at least 40 birds were seen on outings from Maroua to Waza NP.

Sun Lark *Galerida modesta*

A single bird was seen very well on burnt grassland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Bank Swallow (Sand Martin) *Riparia riparia*

At least 10 birds were recorded in the vicinity of waterholes in Waza NP.

Gray-rumped Swallow *Hirundo griseopyga*

Two birds were seen in flight in the Ngaoundaba area.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne (Hirundo) fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen only once in rocky areas south of Waza NP.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common throughout Cameroon and seen on most days of the tour.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow H. rustica and the New World Barn Swallow H. erythrogaster. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive H. r. savignii which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palaearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*



The first sighting was of a single bird around a building in Nyassosso. The bird was far commoner around Waza with 60+ being recorded in a day.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers seen over a small river close to Ngaoundaba Ranch and again near the Benoue River.

NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form which would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow which would be H. filifera. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

White-throated Blue Swallow *Hirundo nigrita*

3 of these beautiful birds were seen flying over a bridge over the Sanaga River on our way to Yaounde from Bamenda.

Lesser Striped-Swallow *Hirundo abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow that is fairly common in Cameroon.

Rufous-chested Swallow *Hirundo semirufa*

Two were seen by the early risers at the hotel in Bamenda. Further sightings were of one en route to Yaounde and two in the Ngaoundere area.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis (Hirundo) senegalensis*

Another large and attractive swallow. We observed this species on the first days outing next to the Sanaga River.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Two birds were observed in the Bamenda Highlands and a total of 6 were seen in the Ngaoundere area.

Preuss' (Cliff-) Swallow *Hirundo preussi*

Commonly encountered south of Ngaoundere, especially near bridges and often in big numbers.

Forest Swallow *Hirundo fuliginosa*

We first encountered this species in Korup NP. We recorded a total of 15 birds at Bokassi and last encountered the bird, in smaller numbers, at the base of Mt Kupe.

Square-tailed Sawwing *Psalidoprocne nitens*

Those who arrived early had brief views of two birds in flight next to the Sanaga River.

Mountain Sawwing *Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*

A total of 10 of this range restricted species, a near endemic to Cameroon, were seen on our day on Mt Cameroon.

Petit's Sawwing *Psalidoprocne petiti*

First seen next to the Sanaga River and noted as common around Mt Kupe with a day count of 30 birds in that area. We also saw this species, in smaller numbers, at Ngaoundaba Ranch

Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird, we saw our first bird at the Sanaga River, another single bird at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a pair on the Benoue River.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A common Palearctic migrant recorded at most wetland sites throughout Cameroon.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

Two were found on a small stream at Mt Kupe with a further sighting in the Bamenda Highlands.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*



This meadowlark-like bird was seen only twice on tour. Firstly we found the bird in anthropogenic grassland in the Bamenda highlands and secondly a bird in display flight in an open area at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Long-legged Pipit*Anthus pallidiventris*

This is a specialist bird of clearings in rainforest and a rather range-restricted species. We found a pair of these birds in a school field close to the unforgettable Yesterday Snack Motel.

Tawny Pipit*Anthus campestris*

1 bird was seen well by the whole group at the Quail Plover site.

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

Excellent views were had of three birds on our way up Mt Cameroon. Our highest count was of 15 birds in the *Eucalyptus* plantations in the Bamenda highlands.

Red-throated Pipit*Anthus cervinus*

We enjoyed excellent views of a pair, in full breeding plumage, in a small grassy area next to a waterhole in Waza NP. A very smart pipit indeed.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae***White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike***Coracina pectoralis*

One male was seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch, a beautiful and uncommon broad-leaved woodland species.

Gray Cuckooshrike*Coracina caesia*

We recorded small numbers of this smart bird on Mt Cameroon, at Bokassi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga phoenicea*

We were fortunate to see a total of 4 birds during our wanderings at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga quiscalina*

We enjoyed views of a male and female on our walk up Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***Common Bulbul***Pycnonotus barbatus*

A ubiquitous species and recorded on most days of the trip, with high daily tallies.

NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognized as distinct species within the super-species.

Cameroon Mountain Greenbul*Andropadus montanus*

Two were seen on our ascent of Mount Cameroon with a further sighting of three birds seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

Little Greenbul*Andropadus virens*

This, the commonest forest edge greenbul was heard at all forest sites and seen on several occasions at the Sanaga River, near Mundemba and at Mt Kupe.

Ansorge's Greenbul*Andropadus ansorgei*

This canopy species was unfortunately only heard at a forest site south of the Sanaga River.

Plain Greenbul*Andropadus curvirostris*

Two birds were found at Mount Kupe.

Slender-billed Greenbul*Andropadus gracilirostris*

The common greenbul of forest canopy, was seen only once not far from the village of Mundemba

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul*Andropadus latirostris*

A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had a sighting of two birds unusually high up on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Western Mountain Greenbul *Andropadus tephrolaemus*

This common, although range restricted species was quite common on Mount Cameroon where we saw a total of 12+ birds. We enjoyed further sightings at Bokassi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*

This bird was unfortunately only heard on our day at Bokassi.

Sjostedt's Greenbul *Baeopogon clamans*

This bird was first heard at Picathartes knoll and one was later seen briefly close to Mundemba.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

We secured excellent views of 7 birds in a bamboo thicket south of the Sanaga River and later saw a total of 10 between Mundemba and Mt Kupe.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*

A secondary growth species, a pair were seen near our 'hotel' in Mundemba and again at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swamp (~Palm) Greenbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

A group of 4 of this large noisy greenbul was seen from the memorable 'beach' at Ekondo Titi and a pair was seen at Bokassi.

Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens*

We saw a group of 4 of these noisy creatures in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cameroon Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poensis*

We saw two pairs of this near endemic in the Mt Kupe/Bokassi area.

Grey-headed Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*

Our first sighting of this good-looking greenbul was of a pair up Mt Cameroon and later we saw about 6 birds in the Bokassi Mountains and a further 3 on Max's Trail.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

During our time in Korup NP we counted 10+ of this species.

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

This was the most frequently encountered greenbul in Korup NP with a total of 50+ seen during our time there.

Xavier's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus xavieri*

Very similar to the previous species but with a different call, we had our best sighting in the early stages of our walk to Rengo Camp. We noted a total of 6 birds seen during our stay in Korup NP.

Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactyla*

A pair was noted attending an ant swarm in Korup NP.

Green-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda notata*

Commoner than its congener in Korup NP, we counted about 20 of this species especially in association with ant swarms, many of which were young birds.

Yellow-spotted (Western/Common) Nicator *Nicator chloris*

This vociferous songster was often heard in Korup NP with two birds being seen very well. Another was seen near the village of Mundemba.

Eastern-bearded Greenbul *Criniger chloronotus*

Korup NP is arguably the best site in the world to bag this Congo forest endemic. We managed a total of 4 birds in our stay.

White-bearded Greenbul *Criniger ndussumensis*

Another Congo forest special, we saw a total of 20 birds during our stay at Korup NP.



Thrushes & Allies *Turdidae*

Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush*Neocossyphus fraseri*

We had views of a single bird attending an ant swarm just before we exited Korup NP.

White-tailed Ant Thrush*Neocossyphus poensis*

We enjoyed a single bird attending a large ant swarm on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Crossley's Ground Thrush*Zoothera crossleyi*

This is a truly beautiful bird, far brighter in life than illustrated in any of the field guides. We had a heart-stopping encounter with this special bird on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe. This was certainly one of the highlights of our morning on this productive trail.

African Thrush*Turdus pelios*

This is a fairly common bird in Cameroon. We obtained views at many sites often in anthropogenic habitat.

Brown-chested Alethe*Alethe poliocephala*

We had excellent views of three birds in forest on Max's Trail in association with ants.

Fire-crested Alethe*Alethe diademata*

Not uncommon in Korup NP especially around ant swarms. At least 20 were seen here and we noted another two in the ant swarm on Max's Trail.

NOTE: The East African form is sometimes split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe of West Africa, becoming A. castanea.

Cisticolas & Allies *Cisticolidae*

Red-faced Cisticola*Cisticola erythrops*

This moist grassland and swamp dwelling cisticola was seen on our day between Limbe and Ekondo Titi and heard at several other sites including Mt Kupe and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Chattering Cisticola*Cisticola anonymus*

A secondary growth and scrub species, we encountered small numbers daily on the first 4 days of the tour with our highest daily count of 6 birds on Mount Cameroon.

Chubb's (Brown-backed) Cisticola*Cisticola chubbi*

We encountered this noisy and conspicuous bird in small groups on the forest edge on Mt Cameroon, Bokassi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Rock-loving Cisticola*Cisticola aberrans*

5 birds were seen on rocky hillsides north of Maroua and a further two were recorded around our hotel at Lagdo Lake.

NOTE: Some authorities split Rock-loving Cisticola, C. emini that we observed and occurs in West and East Africa from Lazy Cisticola, C. aberrans that occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Red-pate Cisticola*Cisticola ruficeps*

At least a dozen birds, in non-breeding plumage, were seen in arid scrub on our day between Maroua and Waza NP.

Dorst's Cisticola*Cisticola dorsti*

Two birds were seen briefly in woodland in Benoue NP.

Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

The world's most widespread Cisticola. One bird was seen by the 'back' van on our day in Waza NP.

Desert Cisticola*Cisticola aridulus*

A pair of this tiny species was seen in Waza NP.



Pectoral-patch Cisticola*Cisticola brunnescens*

Two birds were seen in anthropogenic grassland in the Bamenda Highlands.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we recorded this species in small numbers in the Bamenda Highlands. At Ngaoundaba Ranch we saw at least a half dozen and at Benoue NP and Maroua we had sightings of single birds.

River Prinia*Prinia fluviatilis*

In plumage almost identical to the previous species but different in call. We had small numbers of this species in woodland south of Waza and in Waza NP itself.

White-chinned Prinia*Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon*

This confiding, gregarious species was observed at Limbe Botanical Gardens, where we saw 4 birds, and again at Bokassi and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Banded Prinia*Prinia bairdii*

This snappy looking bird showed very well on the way up Mt Cameroon. We obtained good views of another bird at Bokassi.

Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)*Heliolais erythroptera*

A single, rather vocal bird was seen well in woodland at Benoue NP.

Red-winged Gray Warbler*Drymocichla incana*

Two pairs of this smart species were observed during our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Green Longtail*Urolais epichlora*

Our first encounter with this species was of a pair in the forest canopy on Mt Cameroon. We encountered another pair on our day in the Bokassi Mountains.

Cricket Warbler*Spiloptila clamans*

We found a pair of this charismatic and highly sought-after species at the Quail Plover site north of Maroua. One of the birds was observed carrying nesting material.

Black-collared Apalis*Apalis pulchra*

A beautiful apalis that was refreshingly common in the Bamenda highlands. We saw at least a dozen birds during our full day there.

Black-capped Apalis*Apalis nigriceps*

A canopy apalis, 4 birds were seen well as we made our way down Max's Trail.

Black-throated Apalis*Apalis jacksoni*

This is one of the most beautiful apalises. We observed 5 birds during our walk in the Bokassi Mountains.

Yellow-breasted Apalis*Apalis flavida*

This widespread, woodland apalis is not very common in Cameroon. We observed 4 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Buff-throated Apalis*Apalis rufogularis*

We were fortunate to secure a sighting of 4 birds on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Bamenda Apalis*Apalis bamendae*

A gallery forest species seen in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Gray Apalis*Apalis cinerea*

We had sightings of single birds at Mt Cameroon, Bokassi and Bamenda.

Oriole Warbler*Hypergerus atriceps*

Two of these unusual creatures were located in riverine vegetation on our way to Ngaoundaba Ranch. The bird was also heard in gallery growth in Benoue NP.

Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in wooded habitat at many localities on the tour with sightings at the Sanaga River, Limbe BG, Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue and Waza NP's.

*NOTE: Most authorities now recognize the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms *C. brevicaudata*. We encountered the grey-backed form in Cameroon. Clements still lumps these two groups.*

Yellow-browed Camaroptera

Camaroptera superciliaris

This handsome warbler was seen once in Korup NP and again, with better views this time, near the village of Mundemba.

Olive-green Camaroptera

Camaroptera chloronota

Another skulking camaroptera, its piercing calls were heard in Korup NP, and we eventually had excellent views of one near Mundemba. We further heard the bird in the Bokassi Mountains and Mt Kupe.

Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

African Bush Warbler

Bradypterus baboecala

This bird was clearly heard in rather odd habitat (i.e. away from a wetland) on the lower slopes of Mount Cameroon.

Cameroon Scrub- (Evergreen Forest) Warbler

Bradypterus lopezi

This is a difficult species to see. On Mt Cameroon we eventually managed to get excellent views of a single bird, poor views were had of another two.

Bangwa Scrub-Warbler

Bradypterus bangwaensis

We managed to get great views of this rather confiding and handsome *Bradypterus* in the Bamenda highlands. A range restricted species endemic to western Cameroon and neighboring eastern Nigeria.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler

Bathmocercus rufus

Some of the group had great views of this very smart black and rufous warbler at an ant swarm on Max's Trail.

Moustached Grass-Warbler (African Moustached-Warbler) *Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was seen on our way in to Ngaoundaba Ranch and again the following morning on the edge of the crater lake at the Ranch.

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

This familiar Palearctic migrant was seen on two occasions, once near Ngaoundaba Ranch and again at Lagdo Lake near Garaoua.

Eurasian Reed-Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

One bird was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Greater Swamp-Warbler

Acrocephalus rufescens

We had two sightings of this species, first, for the early arrivals, on the Sanaga River and later at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western Olivaceous Warbler

Hippolais opaca

Another Palearctic migrant, two birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

*NOTE: Clements has recently split this species into Western Olivaceous Warbler *H. opaca* and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *H. pallida*.*

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Hippolais pallida

One was seen by Mark, Ron and Wiel in the Bamenda Highlands.

Buff-bellied Warbler

Phyllolais pulchella

This *Acacia*-inhabiting species was observed in a mixed flock in Benoue NP and again in woodland south of Waza NP.



White-tailed Warbler*Poliolais lopezi*

We saw a pair of these birds briefly on our way up Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela*Eremomela icteropygialis*

2 birds were seen well in an *Acacia* at the Quail Plover site.

Senegal Eremomela*Eremomela pusilla*

A common species recorded in woodlands from Ngaoundaba Ranch north where we enjoyed a day total of 15+ birds.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into the East African E. pusilla (Green-backed Eremomela.) The enlarged species is called Green-backed Eremomela.

Rufous- (Brown-) crowned Eremomela*Eremomela badiceps*

One bird showed very well on our first afternoon in the Mt Kupe area.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We saw 3 birds on our first trip to the Sanaga River and a further 1 at Limbe BG.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, seen only north of Maroua to Waza NP. Daily tallies never exceeded 2 birds.

Kemp's Longbill*Macrosphenus kempii*

We had brief views of this rare and elusive warbler at Korup NP.

Yellow Longbill*Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker, we had views of one bird in Korup NP.

Gray Longbill*Macrosphenus concolor*

Another secretive species that was seen once in Korup NP and twice on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Green Hylia*Hylia prasina*

Its "HEE-lia!" call was one of the common background sounds at all the forest sites on the tour, with sightings of 2 birds at Bokassi.

Black-capped Woodland-Warbler*Phylloscopus herberti*

We had two birds on each of our two days in the Mt Kupe/Bokassi area.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

Seen sporadically at scattered locations in the south. Our highest day count was of 6 birds on our day between Limbe and Mundemba. A Palearctic migrant.

Common Chiffchaff*Phylloscopus collybita*

One bird was identified on Mt Cameroon.

Wood Warbler*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

A single bird was seen on Mount Cameroon. A Palearctic migrant.

Yellow-bellied Hylia*Hylia flavigaster*

We recorded a total of 8 birds in two days at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a single at Benoue NP. 2 birds, of what are believed to be this species, were seen at Bokassi, this is uncharacteristic habitat and altitude for this species.

Garden Warbler*Sylvia borin*

2 birds were seen on our full day at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Greater Whitethroat*Sylvia communis*

This bird was common in the arid plains north of Maroua, we encountered at least 20 on this day with the greatest concentration occurring at the Quail Plover site. A Palearctic migrant.

Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***Pale Flycatcher***Bradornis pallidus*

Our first sighting was of two at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings at Benoue NP and north of Maroua.

Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

At least 4 of these were seen in the Ngaoundaba area.

White-browed Forest-Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens*

We were very lucky to encounter a single bird while waiting next to a stream in Korup NP. A rare and seldom encountered bird.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Only 3 birds observed throughout the trip. We had our first encounter near Mundemba and found a further two at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae*

A thinly distributed and uncommon bird, we were fortunate to encounter 4 birds in the Ngaoundaba area.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata*

A swallow-like bird often seen perched on dead snags high above the forest canopy, we found one bird on our way up Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

Four birds were seen on the Benoue River.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

A common forest-edge species with 6 recorded from Mt Cameroon, 2 from Limbe BG and 6 from the Bamenda highlands.

Yellow-footed Flycatcher *Muscicapa sethsmithi*

A pair of this shy forest flycatcher was seen very well on our descent of Max's Trail. Jim Jnr saw one the previous day in the Bokassi mountains.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

A quiet, inconspicuous bird, one was seen at Bokassi.

Cassin's (Gray) Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. 4 birds were seen on our Limbe-Mundemba travel day, two seen in Korup NP and 2 near Mundemba village.

Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

This active species was seen on three occasions in Korup NP.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

We saw 2 birds daily on consecutive days at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further two at Benoue NP.

Forest Robin *Stiphornis erythrothorax*

Mark's wanderings at Korup NP were rewarded with views of this forest skulker.

Bocage's Akalat *Sheppardia bocagei*

Two were seen at the Bokassi Mountain with a further sighting of one on Max Trail, Mt Kupe.

White-bellied Robin Chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

Two seen on Bokassi Mountain and another heard at Mt Kupe.

Mountain Robin-Chat *Cossypha isabellae*

We had excellent views of this endemic on Mount Cameroon with a further sighting in the Bamenda Highlands.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*

This shy bird was unfortunately only heard at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*



One of these lovely birds was seen in the Bamenda Highlands with a further sighting of one on our travel day between Ngaoundaba and Benoue NP.

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

A very large and showy *Cossypha*, much enjoyed by all. A pair was seen well in riverine bush near Ngaoundaba Ranch and at the ranch itself. A total of 4 confiding birds were seen at once at a small shaded pool on the Benoue River at Benoue NP.

Rufous Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

We came across three of these during our hunt for Quail Plover.

Black Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, we encountered at least 20 on our first days birding north of Maroua and 12 and 8 the following two days in the Waza area.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

We had good views of our first one at Mt Cameroon and further north near Ngaoundaba Ranch counted in excess of 5 a day on several days.

African (Common) Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

This widespread species was seen well at Mount Cameroon and at a handful of other localities in the south of the country.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

We only saw this species in the Waza NP area where our highest day count was of 12 birds.

Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglini*

We encountered this uncommon intra-African migrant at the Quail Plover site where we found two birds and a further 6 on our full day in Waza NP.

Familiar Chat *Cercomila familiaris*

We encountered a total of 5 birds in the rocky areas next to the river in Benoue NP.

Northern Anteater Chat *Mermecocichla aethops*

We encountered a small group of 5 birds next to a culvert (possible breeding site) on the road to Waza NP north of Maroua.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

This stunning subspecies was found on a rocky slope north of Maroua.

NOTE: White-crowned Cliff-Chat T. c. coronata of West Africa is sometimes split from Mocking Cliff-Chat.

Wattle-eyes *Platysteiridae*

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabias (Bias) flammulatus*

This large, tail-wagging forest flycatcher was scoped from Rengo Rock in Korup NP where we located both a male and a female.

Black-and-white (Vanga) Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus*

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were observed on the lower slopes of Mt Kupe where we saw a male and female.

Brown-throated (Common) Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

The most frequently encountered Wattle-eye on our trip seen at all sites on the tour south of Benoue NP save the Bamenda Highlands. Our highest daily total was of 6 birds on Mt Cameroon.

Banded Wattle-eye *Platysteira laticincta*

One of Cameroon's most threatened endemics. We found two pairs on consecutive days (they may well have been the same pair) in the Bamenda Highlands. Thanks to Mark, Ron and Wiel for the extra work required to track these difficult critters down.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*



First seen by the early arrivals in a forest patch south of the Sanaga River and later seen in Korup NP.

White-spotted Wattle-eye *Platysteira tonsa*

A single bird was seen briefly in a mixed flock in the forest interior in Korup NP.

Black-necked Wattle-eye *Platysteira chalybea*

This beautiful little bird was seen once in the Bokassi Mountains and once on Max's Trail. A restless creature that is tough to observe well.

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira concreta*

Another stunning and restless bird, it was seen well by some in Korup NP and again on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*

A total of 8 birds were seen on the tour at both Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

Mark's keen eye picked up this bird at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

African Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail, we had sightings in many locales in the south with our highest day total of 6 on the Mundemba-Nyassosso travel day.

White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch) *Elminia albiventris*

We had superb views of 4 birds on Mount Cameroon with further sightings in the Mt Kupe/Bokassi area.

Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher (Monarch) *Trochocercus nitens*

Also a fairly lively bird but rather shy and often difficult to see in the open, we had a total of four in our wanderings in Korup NP.

Black-headed (Red-bellied) Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

We tallied up a total of about 10 of this species in the forest interior in Korup NP.

Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufocinerea*

We had good sightings of two birds at Limbe Botanical Gardens and for those who arrived early one on the south side of the Sanaga River.

Bates' Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone batesi*

We had a limited sighting of one bird at Bokassi and a superb encounter with two birds just before we saw the Crossley's Ground Thrush on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed views of one bird, the spectacular black and white morph, in the *Eucalyptus* plantation at Bamenda Highlands and views of the more familiar black and rufous morph at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Rockfowl *Picathartidae*

Gray-necked Rockfowl *Picathartes oreas*

For some participants this was the bird of the trip. We waited at the site in Korup NP fighting off sweatbees and the urge to stretch for close on two hours before a single bird showed itself. This near-mythical bird is one of the most sought after birds on the continent.



Babblers Timaliidae

Blackcap Illadopsis

Illadopsis cleaveri

One bird was seen briefly in Korup NP.

Puvel's Illadopsis

Illadopsis puveli

Unfortunately this bird was only heard in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis

Illadopsis rufipennis

2 birds were seen in the forest understorey in Korup NP.

Brown Illadopsis

Illadopsis fulvessens

As with the above species, 2 birds seen in the forest understorey in Korup NP.

African Hill Babbler

Pseudoalcippe abyssinica

At least 12 of this usually shy forest babbler were seen on our day at Mt Cameroon. A further 7 were seen in the Bamenda highlands.

Note: The birds we saw at Bamenda belong to the potential split, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Illadopsis atriceps.

Gray-chested Illadopsis

Kakamega poliothorax

Unfortunately this species was only heard in the Bokassi Mountains and Bamenda Highlands.

Thrush Babbler

Ptyrticus turdinus

A noisy and restless species that is very tough to see well. We eventually all managed to get views of this special bird in a patch of gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blackcap Babbler

Turdoides reinwardtii

We managed to see a group of 6 of these raucous birds at a river crossing before reaching Ngaoundaba Ranch, and another group of 6 at the Ranch.

Brown Babbler

Turdoides plebejus

We enjoyed superb views of several family groups at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and in woodland south of Waza NP.

White-throated Mountain Babbler

Kupeornis gilberti

We saw several groups of this wonderful and unique bird in the Bokassi mountains totaling 15 birds for the day.

Chickadees & Tits Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit

Melaniparus guineensis

Ngaoundaba Ranch was the only place we saw this bird in good number, 10 birds in two days. We saw a further two birds in a mixed flock in Benoue NP.

NOTE: Most authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The nominate dark-eyed M. l. leucomelas remains White-winged Black-Tit and the more northern and western yellow-eyed M. l. guineensis (the form we recorded in Cameroon) becomes White-shouldered Black-Tit. Clements has recently recognized this split.

Creepers Certhiidae

Spotted Creeper

Salpornis pilonotus

We had fantastic views of 4 birds in mixed species flocks in woodland before we arrived at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Penduline Tits Remizidae



Sennar Penduline-Tit*Anthoscopus punctifrons*

A Sahelian special that initially we battled to locate. Our luck turned considerably and we managed to find 5 pairs in total in woodland south of Waza NP.

Yellow Penduline-Tit*Anthoscopus parvulus*

We were very fortunate to find a pair of these endearing and elusive birds near their nest in Benoue NP.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird*Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri*

A confusing species that often looks more like a greenbul than a sunbird. A total of 12 birds were seen in Korup NP.

*NOTE: The species is sometimes lumped with the East African Gray-headed Sunbird *D. axillaris*.*

Mouse-brown (Gabon) Sunbird*Anthreptes gabonicus*

We found one bird in mangroves in front of Limbe BG.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird*Anthreptes longuemarei*

A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we found 2 pairs at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a single bird at Benoue NP.

Little Green Sunbird*Anthreptes seimundi*

For the early arrivals we managed to find one bird in the canopy of a forest patch south of the Sanaga River.

Green Sunbird*Anthreptes rectirostris*

We saw one bird south of the Sanaga and a further 4 feeding together on our descent of Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two forms, the Eastern Gray-chinned Sunbird *A. tephrolaemus* and the nominate Western Yellow-chinned Sunbird.*

Collared Sunbird*Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*

This is a very widespread species on the continent. We saw pairs south of the Sanaga, on Mt Cameroon, in Korup NP and at Bokassi.

(Southern) Pygmy Sunbird*Hedydipna (Anthreptes) platura*

We saw a total of 20 of these beautiful, long-tailed sunbirds at all destinations from Ngaoundaba Ranch north.

Reichenbach's Sunbird*Anabathmis reichenbachii*

The only place we recorded this species was at Limbe Botanical Gardens where we saw a total of 6 birds. This included a memorable sighting of one bird bathing on a leaf in moisture from a recent downpour.

Green-headed Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis*

We had superb sightings of a single bird at Mt Kupe and further sightings at Bokassi and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) cyanolaema*

This forest sunbird was seen 4 times in Korup NP including wonderful scope views of a male at Rengo Rock.

Cameroon Sunbird*Cyanomitra oritis*

Our first sighting was of two birds on Mount Cameroon with further sightings of several birds in the Bamenda Highlands.

Western Olive Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

This bird's call is a common forest sound in the south. We saw around 30 birds in Korup NP and had further sightings on Mt Cameroon, the Sanaga River and Mt Kupe.

*NOTE: The Olive-Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird *C. olivacea* and the form which we recorded in Cameroon, Western Olive-Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack there-of, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various subspecies within the complex.*

Carmelite Sunbird*Chaclomitra fuliginosa*

This fairly drab sunbird, restricted to coastal areas, was only seen in Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Green-throated Sunbird*Chaclomitra rubescens*

We managed to find three of these on the trip with a sighting of one at Limbe BG and one at Mt Kupe. However our best sighting was of one low down just before we entered the forest at Bokassi.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

A total of 4 birds were seen in woodland south of Waza NP and at Lagdo Lake.

Olive-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

This is a typical forest edge species, with a total of 6 seen in the Limbe BG and further sightings south of the Sanaga and near Mundemba.

Tiny Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) minullus*

We had a good sighting of this species at Rengo Rock and found a total of three in the Bokassi Mountains.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) preussi*

We saw a total of ten birds, 6 were seen on Mt Cameroon with the rest being recorded in the Bamenda Highlands.

Beautiful Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella*

This exquisite sunbird is found only in the drier northern savanna, we enjoyed most of our sightings at Benoue NP. Point blank views were enjoyed by those who wandered the hotel grounds in Garoua.

Orange-tufted Sunbird*Cinnyris bouvieri*

Two birds were seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

Splendid Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) coccinigaster*

First seen in the Bamenda Highlands where we saw three birds and later we found 2 pairs at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Johanna's Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) johannae*

One of these scarce birds was seen on Max's trail, Mt Kupe.

Superb Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus*

We managed to find this bird in several localities in the south although never in great numbers. Memorable sightings were had at Korup NP and at Limbe BG.

Variable Sunbird*Cinnyris venustus*

First recorded at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in the Maroue and Waza areas.

Ursula's Sunbird*Cinnyris ursulae*

Four birds were seen well on Bokassi Mountain with a further sighting of two at Mt Kupe.

Bates' Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) batesi*

One of this nondescript species was seen at Mt Kupe on our first walk.

Copper Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea*

A total of three birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

White-eyes *Zosteropidae*

Cameroon Spierops*Spierops melanocephalus*

This Mount Cameroon endemic took a lot of legwork to find and eventually, after several near misses, good views were had by all. A total of 6 birds were seen, all close to the treeline above the camp.

African Yellow White-eye*Zosterops senegalensis*

Not uncommon in moist habitat we found a total of 6 on Mount Cameroon and enjoyed sightings of smaller numbers at Bokassi, Mt Kupe and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Old World Orioles *Oriolidae***Eurasian Golden Oriole***Oriolus oriolus*

We recorded 8 of these passage migrants at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African Golden Oriole*Oriolus auratus*

One was seen well although not for very long in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western Black-headed Oriole*Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Unfortunately this species was only heard in Korup NP.

Black-winged Oriole*Oriolus nigripennis*

Our first sighting was of a bird rather close up on Mt Cameroon. We recorded a total of 9 birds in the Bokassi/Mt Kupe area.

Shrikes *Laniidae***Southern Grey Shrike***Lanius meridionalis*

We saw 2 of these birds both at the Quail Plover site south of Waza NP.

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)*Lanius mackinnoni*

We encountered a pair at the forest edge near Max's Trail and a further 3 in the Bamenda Highlands.

Common Fiscal*Lanius collaris*

A widespread species but not encountered often on our tour, we encountered small numbers in the Bamenda Highlands and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Woodchat Shrike*Lanius senator*

We enjoyed excellent views of this good-looking Palearctic migrant on several occasions at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Yellow-billed Shrike*Corvinella corvina*

We encountered around 20 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch during our stay there. An unusual, gregarious species.

Bushshrikes & Allies *Malaconotidae***Brubru***Nilaus afer*

Another widespread African bird, a total of 5 birds was seen on our first afternoon in Benoue NP. *NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru N. afer, Black-browed Brubru N. nigritemporalis, Angola Brubru N. affinis and Southern Brubru N. brubru. Only the Northern Brubru occurs in Cameroon. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.*

Northern Puffback*Dryoscopus gambensis*

Restricted to the north, we found two of these, first at Ngaoundaba Ranch and then at Benoue NP.



Red-eyed Puffback*Dryoscopus senegalensis*

This bird was heard initially and then later seen on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Pink-footed Puffback*Dryoscopus angolensis*

We were treated to great views of this bird on Max's Trail and in the Bokassi Mountains. We saw a total of 6 birds on our day in Bokassi.

Large-billed (Sabine's) Puffback*Dryoscopus sabini*

Unfortunately this species was only heard on the Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Marsh Tchagra*Tchagra Minuta*

One bird was found in a swamp patch at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra, that was heard and/or seen at most locations in the north. We had sightings of 2 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and 4 in the Waza NP area.

Luehder's Bush Shrike*Laniarius luehderi*

Unfortunately, only heard calling at Mt. Kupe.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius aethiopicus*

A total of 7 birds were seen in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area. We had a memorable sighting of 4 very vocal birds in gallery forest on our way to Ngaoundere town.

Common (Yellow-crowned) Gonolek*Laniarius barbarus*

This brilliantly coloured bush-shrike was seen well in woodland south of Waza NP.

Black-headed Gonolek*Laniarius erythrogaster*

2 of these beautiful birds were seen in the gallery forest on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Yellow-breasted Boubou*Laniarius atroflavus*

About a dozen of these stunning and confiding shrikes were seen well on Mount Cameroon, Bokassi and Mt Kupe.

Mountain Sooty Boubou*Laniarius poensis*

A total of 4 birds were seen in the Bokassi Mountains.

This is a fairly recent Clements split from Fuelleborn's Boubou.

Grey-green Bushshrike*Telophorus bocagei*

Unfortunately this species was only heard in the Bokassi Mountains.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike*Telophorus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species, one was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with several more birds heard.

Green-breasted Bushshrike*Malaconotus gladiator*

Unfortunately this species was only heard in the Bokassi Mountains.

Gray-headed Bushshrike*Malaconotus blanchoti*

Two birds were seen very well, initially at Ngaoundaba Ranch and later at Benoue NP.

Helmetshrikes & Allies Prionopidae**White Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

We had 2 wonderful flocks of seven strong each at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A rather odd but beautiful bird.

NOTE: This species is being considered for a 3-way split. P. p. cristatus would become Curly-crested Helmetshrike, P. p. poliocephalus would become Southern Helmetshrike and the nominate P. p. plumatus, the form we recorded would become Straight-crested Helmetshrike. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

Drongos Dicruridae

Square-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus ludwigii*

Not a very common bird in Cameroon. We located a singleton in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Shining Drongo*Dicrurus atripennis*

This forest interior drongo was seen well in Korup NP.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird. 15+ were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Velvet-mantled Drongo*Dicrurus modestus*

This recently split forest equivalent of the Fork-tailed Drongo was found by the early arrivals in forest south of the Sanaga River and again by the whole group in forest at Bokassi.

NOTE: Older versions of Clements lump this species within Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis but the split has been recognized in recent Clements updates.

Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae*

Piapiac*Ptilostomus afer*

About 4 birds were seen taking shade in some palm fronds not far from Ngaoundere town on our way to the Ranch. At least one of the birds was a juvenile with a pink bill.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers on our first day and seen virtually daily thereafter.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

Wattled Starling*Creatophora cinerea*

This irruptive species is not common anywhere in West Africa and we were lucky to see it. We saw 30+ birds in a massive starling flock at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

This was the common starling species from Maroua north to Waza NP.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chloropterus*

This was the common starling around Ngaoundaba Ranch where on one day at least 1000 birds were seen.

Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had good views of this bird foraging on the ground at Ngaoundaba Ranch. We estimate a dozen birds seen on this day.

Splendid Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling was seen south of the Sanaga and on forest edge at Korup NP. In the north 15+ were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Purple Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis purpureus*

Another stunning starling, 100+ were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and at Benoue NP.

(Northern) Long-tailed Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis caudatus*

About 35 of these were seen in our wanderings in the woodlands at and south of Waza NP, no doubt the most impressive of Africa's long tailed starlings.

Chestnut-bellied Starling*Lamprotornis pulcher*

Up to twenty daily seen in the dry scrubland north of Maroua.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This stunning bird was seen in woodlands around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

(Forest) Chestnut-winged Starling*Onychognathus fulgidus*

4 birds were seen at Limbe BG, our only sighting of the tour.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri*

We managed a dozen of these on Mt Cameroon. This is a slightly smaller bird than the previous species.

Neumann's Starling *Onychognathus neumanni*

One of the giants of the starling world, this impressive bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands where we saw a total of 8 birds.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*

This bird was viewed on two occasions, both in flight so the fine tail could be appreciated, a small flock of 4 on Mt Cameroon and a flock of about 15 at Mt Kupe.

White-collared Starling *Grafisia torquata*

This is an absolute stunner and a real special to the Ngaoundaba Ranch area. We saw 10+ birds in our time there.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

This "specially modified" starling was found by Jim on some 'beef' as we sped north to Maroua from Benoue.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

(Northern) Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Cameroon's commonest sparrow was plentiful throughout the country even in Urban areas.

NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the Cameroonian form being retaining in the nominate grouping with the same nomenclature.

Sudan Golden Sparrow *Passer luteus*

A Sahelian special that is rather uncommon in Cameroon. We managed to find two birds, one a young male, in woodland south of Waza NP. This is certainly one of Africa's most beautiful Sparrows.

Bush Petronia *Petronia dentata*

Very common in the north of the country, with up to 20+ birds recorded daily from Ngaoundaba Ranch north.

Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

This massive weaver was first seen just south of Maroua and a group of about 10 birds was seen well north of Garoua.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

This is an attractive Sahelian species, at the edge of its range in Northern Cameroon. It was seen very well and in good number from Maroua north. We recorded 25+ birds in our first day in the extreme north province.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

One bird was seen at the Quail Plover site by some of the group.

Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani*

This range restricted and endangered bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands. We counted 15+ birds in the area.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Small numbers of this species were seen in the Bokassi Mountains, Bamenda Highlands and Ngaoundaba Ranch.



Slender-billed Weaver*Ploceus pelzelni*

This tiny species is restricted to the moister south in Cameroon, often close to the coast. Early arrivals were treated to views of two birds from a bridge over the Sanaga near the town of Edea.

Little Weaver*Ploceus luteolus*

This is a diminutive dry-country weaver and was seen in small numbers from Maroua to Waza NP.

Spectacled Weaver*Ploceus ocularis*

Singletons were seen on the first two days of the tour in the Sanaga area and at Mt Cameroon. At least a half dozen were noted in Limbe BG and we enjoyed further sightings at Mt Kupe and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black-necked Weaver*Ploceus nigricollis*

This snappy-looking weaver of forest edge, was first seen from the covered reception area at Limbe BG and again at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black-billed Weaver*Ploceus melanogaster*

This dapper bird of forest fringes was first seen at Mt Cameroon. Further sightings were had at Bokassi and Bamenda. The highest day total was of 4 birds at the first locale.

Orange Weaver*Ploceus aurantius*

This beautiful bird was seen from the bridge at Edea by the early arrivals.

Heuglin's Masked-Weaver*Ploceus heuglini*

One bird was seen at Ngaoundere and another at Benoue.

Village Weaver*Ploceus cucullatus*

This is one of Cameroon's most conspicuous birds, with large colonies found in many towns.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is also a candidate for multi-species splitting and the nominate subspecies which we recorded in Cameroon will remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by Clements.

Viillot's (Black) Weaver*Ploceus nigerrimus*

Flocks of this beautiful species were noted at all localities in the southern lowlands of Cameroon.

Yellow-mantled Weaver*Ploceus tricolor*

A forest canopy species and a very beautiful weaver indeed, we saw 2 of these in our time at Korup NP.

Forest Weaver*Ploceus bicolor*

This pretty, bicolored bird was seen in the Bokassi Mountains where we saw 10 birds and again on Max's trail.

Brown-capped Weaver*Ploceus insignis*

This handsome forest weaver was observed in the Bokassi Mountains where we saw 3 birds with a further sighting of one in the Bamenda Highlands.

Black-throated (Cassin's) Malimbe*Malimbus cassini*

The early arrivals saw one bird in forest south of the Sanaga River near Edea. There are few accessible sites to see this species and we were lucky to find this one bird.

Rachel's Malimbe*Malimbus racheliea*

Arguably the most beautiful Malimbe and a real Korup special. One bird was seen by part of the group during our time in that forest.

Gray's (Blue-billed) Malimbe*Malimbus nitens*

Two birds were seen briefly in Korup NP, an uncommon interior species.

Crested Malimbe*Malimbus malimbicus*

This is a fairly common species and was seen in small numbers at Korup NP.

Red-headed Malimbe*Malimbus rubricollis*

This is another species that was seen only south of the Sanaga River near Edea where we saw two birds.



Red-billed Quelea*Quelea quelea*

We found the “African avian locust” first at Ngaoundaba ranch and then in big number, 1000+ in one day, in Waza NP.

Black-winged (Red) Bishop*Euplectes hordeaceus*

Small numbers seen at Limbe BG and Benoue NP.

Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped Widow)*Euplectes capensis*

We saw two on the upper slopes of Mount Cameroon and a further 6 in the Bamenda Highlands.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird*Euplectes macrourus*

1 bird was seen, in non-breeding plumage, on the lower slopes of Mt Cameroon.

Waxbills & Allies *Estrildidae*

White-breasted Negrofinch*Nigrita fusconota*

Heard in Korup NP and one seen by some of the group on Max’s Trail, Mt Kupe.

Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch*Nigrita bicolor*

This attractive seedeater was seen twice, on neither occasion very well, firstly at Limbe BG and again en route to Mt Kupe close to Mundemba.

Pale-fronted Negrofinch*Nigrita luteifrons*

4 birds were seen at Limbe BG, the only site on this tour for the bird. We had amazing views of a single bird very low down just before departing.

Gray-headed (-crowned) Negrofinch*Nigrita canicapilla*

The commonest negrofinch. It was seen at the Sanaga, Limbe BG and near Mundemba. Its sad whistled song was a constant background sound in lowland forests of the south.

Fernando Po (Little/Shelly’s) Oliveback*Nesocharis shelleyi*

A beautiful little bird was refreshingly common on Mt Cameroon where we saw at least 15 individuals on our day there.

Gray-headed Oliveback*Nesocharis capistrata*

Tougher to see than it’s congener although it enjoys a wider distribution in Cameroon. We first encountered a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch and then single birds at Benoue NP.

Red-winged Pytilia*Pytilia phoenicoptera*

One bird was seen by Jim Jnr and Mark in riverine vegetation at Benoue NP.

Green-winged Pytilia*Pytilia melba*

60+ birds were seen on our day from Maroua to Waza NP, mostly at the Quail Plover site. A widespread and beautifully marked finch.

Red-faced Pytilia*Pytilia hypogrammica*

3 birds were seen feeding on the ground in woodland not far from Ngaoundaba Ranch. A single bird was seen by Mark in Benoue NP.

Red-faced Crimson-wing*Cryptospiza reichenovii*

3 birds seen by only some participants on Mt Cameroon and another was recorded in the Bamenda Highlands.

Western Bluebill*Spermophaga haematina*

A remarkably beautiful bird. We glimpsed 2 on Mt Cameroon and then were treated to incredible views of a very confiding bird at Limbe BG.

Brown Twinspot*Clytospiza monteiri*

A total of two birds were seen in the Ngaoundaba area. A beautifully patterned finch.

Dybowski’s Twinspot*Clytospiza dybowskii*

First seen in the Bamenda Highlands where 3 were recorded and a singleton was located not far from Ngaoundere.



Bar-breasted Firefinch*Lagonosticta rufopicta*

On our first day at Ngaoundaba Ranch we found two birds and were then treated to a fantastic sighting of 5+ birds feeding at Benoue NP.

Red-billed Firefinch*Lagonosticta senegala*

Jim did well to find 4 of these at a lunch stop in Maroua and a further 6 were seen at Lagdo Lake.

Black-bellied Firefinch*Lagonosticta rara*

This large firefinch was first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Our highest total was of 6 birds near a small pool in Benoue NP.

Black-faced Firefinch*Lagonosticta larvata*

A rare Firefinch, 6 were seen in woodland in Benoue NP.

Rock Firefinch*Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*

2 of what are believed to be this species were seen on a rocky slope north of Maroua and a further 12 around our lodging at Lagdo Lake. This constitutes a new record for Cameroon.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu*Uraeginthus bengalus*

This is a common and delightful bird of savanna and was seen regularly throughout northern Cameroon.

Lavender Waxbill*Estrilda caerulescens*

Small parties of these stunning birds were seen north of Maroua.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill*Estrilda melpoda*

This was a common species of forest edge and scrub in the south and we recorded it up to Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda troglodytes*

The highest count was of 100+ birds around the cabins at Waza campment. This species was only seen in the Waza NP area.

Common Waxbill*Estrilda astrild*

Africa's most widespread waxbill was observed only on our first day in the Ngaoundaba area where we recorded 20+ birds.

Black-crowned Waxbill*Estrilda nonnula*

This is an attractive species that was found to be common from the Ngaoundere area southwards.

Black-headed Waxbill*Estrilda nonnula*

This is very similar to the previous species but with a dark vent and grayer underparts. Only two of these were recorded, once near Mundemba and once at Nyassosso.

African Silverbill*Lonchura cantans*

Several pairs were seen around the cabins at Campment Waza and at Lagdo Lake.

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura cucullata*

We found this to be a ubiquitous species in scrub in most areas except in the extreme north province.

Black-and-white Mannikin*Lonchura bicolor*

A small flock of six was seen close to our lunch stop in Edea on the first day of the tour.

*NOTE: This complex may be split two-ways, the southern and eastern Brown-backed Mannikin *L. nigriceps* and the northern and western nominate group which would remain as Black-and-white Mannikin. The latter is the form we recorded in Cameroon. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

Cut-throat (Finch)*Amadina fasciata*

One bird was seen in Waza NP on our afternoon drive.

Indigobirds *Viduidae***Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

This familiar bird, which parasitises small seedeaters, was seen in small numbers first near Mundemba and then at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Lagdo Lake.

Northern Paradise Whydah *Vidua orientalis*

20+ birds in partial breeding plumage were seen in Waza NP.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies *Fringillidae*

Oriole Finch *Linurgus olivaceous*

This beautiful and endearing critter is not uncommon at higher elevations in the south. We found a total of 6 on Mt Cameroon and 4 in the Bamenda Highlands.

White-rumped Seedeater *Serinus leucopygius*

10+ were seen at Waza NP, some of which were close to the cabins. We enjoyed exceptional views of a couple at our 'resort' at Lagdo Lake.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*

This species was first recorded at Limbe BG but was found to be more common and regular in the north where we saw the species in small numbers at most sites.

Streaky-headed Canary *Serinus gularis*

This is a rare bird in West Africa. We saw three drinking from a small pool on the Benoue River in the NP.

Considered by some authorities to be a separate species - West African Seedeater, S. canicapillus

Thick-billed Seed-eater *Serinus burtoni*

Small numbers of this odd seedeater were seen at Bokassi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Buntings *Emberizidae*

Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

One bird was seen at Benoue NP. We encountered 20+ birds at Lagdo Lake.

Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis*

One bird was located in the north of the country at Benoue NP.

Cabanis' Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi*

Two of these beautiful broad-leafed woodland birds were seen in Benoue NP.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows that of 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals' by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997.

Colobid Monkeys *Colobidae*

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza*

This beautiful primate was seen very well in gallery forest in Benoue NP. At least one was noted with a youngster, a total of 9 were seen here.



Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*

Olive Baboon

Papio anubis

We saw at least 25 in the Benoue area and recorded smaller numbers, especially in rocky areas, from Maroua north.

Patas Monkey

Erythrocebus patas

We recorded this species only in the Waza NP area where they were fairly common. Daily totals of 30+ were recorded. This colourful monkey is largely terrestrial.

Tantalus Monkey

Cercopithecus tantalus

We observed this species first at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we recorded 12 and then again at Benoue NP.

Putty-nosed Monkey

Cercopithecus nictitans

We had views of two on our walk to Rengo Camp on our first day in Korup NP.

Red-eared Monkey

Cercopithecus cephus erythrotis

We enjoyed 6 of these critters during the second wait for *Picathartes* at *Picathartes Knoll* in Korup NP.

Lorisids *Loridae*

Senegal Galago

Galago senegalensis

We had good views of one during our night drive at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*

Straw-colored Fruit Bat

Eidolon helvum

Many were seen outside our hotel in Douala and we enjoyed further sightings close to Bamenda.

Hares & Rabbits *Leporidae*

Cape Hare

Lepus capensis

One was observed in open, semi-arid habitat south of Waza NP.

Scrub Hare

Lepus saxatilis

Small numbers seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in woodland south of Waza NP.

Squirrels *Sciuridae*

Striped Ground Squirrel

Euxerus erythropus

One was observed by Jim Jnr at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African Pygmy Squirrel

Myosciurus pumilo

At least two of these tiny squirrels were observed in Korup NP.

Green Squirrel

Paraxerus poensis

We had good views of this squirrel at Limbe BG.

Cooper's Mountain Squirrel

Paraxerus cooperi

We enjoyed one of these on our way out of the Bamenda Highlands.

Dogs & Allies *Canidae*



Common (Golden) Jackal*Canis aureus*

A beautiful *Canid* that was not uncommon in Waza NP, we observed 8 during our day and night excursions there.

Sand Fox*Vulpes pallida*

On consecutive nights we spotted what was probably the same animal on the plains below our camp at Waza NP. This tiny and beautiful little fox responded incredibly well to 'smooching', on our second nights viewing it came to within 4 meters of our gob-smacked group.

Mongoose *Herpestidae***Banded Mongoose***Mungos mungo*

A group of 20 of these delightful little creatures was spotted on our morning drive in Waza NP.

White-tailed Mongoose*Ichneumia albicauda*

One of these beautiful beasts was seen well on the nightdrive in Waza NP.

Genets & Civets *Viverridae***Common Genet***Genettas genetta*

At least 6 were recorded on our nightdrive in Waza NP.

African Civet*Civettictis civetta*

One of these was seen by some of the group on our nightdrive at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cats *Felidae***Wild Cat***Felis sylvestris*

This cat, believed to be the ancestor of all domestic tabby cats, was first tamed by the Egyptians 5000 years ago. We found it common at Waza NP where we recorded 7 on our nightdrive.

Lion*Panthera leo*

We were very lucky to come across a small pride of three, an adult female, a young male and a young female, on our morning drive in Waza NP.

Hyraxes *Procavidae***Black-necked Rock Hyrax***Procavia johstoni*

This species was seen in small numbers in rocky areas north of Maroua.

Hippopotamuses *Hippopotamidae***Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibius*

At least 10 were observed in Benoue NP and we had further sightings of two on the Benoue River very close to Garoua.

Pigs *Suidae***Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

A familiar savanna animal that we found only in Waza NP.



Giraffes *Giraffidae*

Giraffe

Giraffe cameoleopardus

We had at least 30 of these wonderful beasts on our full day in Waza NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates *Bovidae*

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

Two of these striking antelope were seen on a stretch of dry riverbed in Benoue NP.

Red-flanked Duiker

Cephalophus rufilatus

One was seen briefly by some of the group in Benoue NP.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebia

One was seen on our first afternoon in Benoue NP.

Kob

Kobus kob

This was a particularly common mammal in Benoue NP where daily totals exceed 30. We observed smaller numbers in Waza NP.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

One was observed in Benoue NP.

Red-fronted Gazelle

Gazella rufifrons

This dainty and incredibly quick creature was seen only in Waza NP where we observed 4.

Topi

Damaliscus lunatus

We observed at last 40 of these on our full day in Waza NP.

Roan Antelope

Hippotragus equinus

This graceful and large antelope was much appreciated by the group. We saw a total of 12 during our full day in Waza NP.

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