



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Cameroon

10th – 30th April 2006



Gray-necked Rockfowl by participant Matthew Matthiessen

Tour Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

Tour Leaders: David Hoddinott & Keith Valentine

Top 10 birds of the trip voted by the participants.

1. Gray-necked Rockfowl
2. Quail-plover
3. Egyptian Plover
4. Golden Nightjar
5. Bannerman's Turaco
6. Standard-winged Nightjar
7. Cricket Warbler
8. Gray-headed Broadbill
9. Hartlaub's Duck
10. African Piculet

Trip Summary

Cameroon is the prime destination in West Africa to see the greatest diversity of birds special to this faunally rich region. The tour was a great success in this regard, most of the key species were seen well and, despite a few logistical complications (strikes at some airports), we managed to visit all the key sites timeously. 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.

Our first stop was La Digue that produced a good selection of birds including a number of species not seen elsewhere on the trip including Long-legged Pipit, Yellow-breasted Apalis and Carmelite and Mouse-brown Sunbirds. We even had a surprise sighting of a rare vagrant, an American Golden-Plover.



Our next site was the Sanaga River area. En route we stopped at a small roadside pond where we saw good numbers of the rare Hartlaub's Duck and Senegal Thick-knee. Once at the wide Sanaga we found the beautiful Gray Pratincole, White-headed Lapwing, White-fronted Plover and African Skimmer on exposed sandbanks. We birded the forests nearby where we saw Black Goshawk, the stunning Black Bee-eater, huge White-thighed and Black-casqued Hornbills, Blue Cuckooshrike, a host of greenbuls including Golden, Spotted and Swamp, the very seldom seen Olivaceous Flycatcher, Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatcher, diminutive Tit-Hylia, the very rare Cassin's and Red-vented Malimbe, Red-headed Quelea and Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch.

The following day we traveled north to the "mega birding hotspot" of Ngaoundaba Ranch. We spent one and a half days birding the magnificent broadleaved woodlands and gallery forest of the ranch. Here we found an endless array of wonderful birds, with the likes of Abdim's Stork, Red-necked Buzzard, Ayre's Hawk-Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, the seldom seen Brown-chested Lapwing, Red-headed Lovebird, stunning White-crested and Ross's Turaco, African Scops-Owl, males of both the bizarre Pennant-winged and Standard-winged Nightjars, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, striking Red-throated and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, Blue-bellied Roller, Black



Scimitarbill, impressive Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill, Double-toothed Barbet, scarce Green-backed and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Sun Lark, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Leaf-love, Red-winged Gray Warbler, the strange Oriole Warbler, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, the shy Gray-winged and White-crowned Robin-Chats, the elusive and localized Thrush Babbler, Spotted Creeper, Beautiful, Splendid and Copper Sunbirds, Yellow-billed Shrike, Piapiac, Bronze-tailed Glossy and sought after White-collared Starling. A good diversity of shy seedeaters were all seen well, including Gray-headed Oliveback, Red-faced Pytilia, Brown and Dybowski's Twinspot and African Quailfinch. Whew, it really was incredible birding !

Thereafter we traveled north towards Benoue stopping briefly at Dang Lake that produced Yellow-billed Duck – rare in West Africa, Garganey, Purple Swamphen, African Pygmy-goose and finally a splendid Lesser Jacana.





Moving on to Benoue National Park we spent a good deal of time along the Benoue River and its extensive Guinea woodlands, where we managed to bag the specials in the very limited time we had in the area. These included Egyptian Plover, certainly one of the most beautiful and highly sought after shorebirds in the world, coveys of Stone Partridge, an obliging pair of White-throated Francolin, the crepuscular Bat Hawk, fig eating Bruce's Green-Pigeons, stunning Violet Turacos, Bearded Barbet, Black-headed Gonolek, Yellow Penduline-Tit, Streaky-headed (West African) Seedeater and Cabanis' Bunting. After an extensive search we were finally rewarded with superb views of a single Adamawa Turtle-Dove.

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 White-headed Barbet, White-crowned Cliff-Chat, Rock-loving Cisticola and the very rare Rock Firefinch, only just discovered in Cameroon in 2005 (independently by Rockjumper Birding Tours and another group). Waza National Park produced some memorable sightings including small numbers of Ostrich, Saddle-billed Stork, Scissor-tailed Kite, Black Crowned Crane, Arabian Bustard, Egyptian, Lappet-faced and Rueppell's Vultures, Dark Chanting-Goshawk, a stately Secretarybird, Fox Kestrel, Clapperton's Francolin, Black-headed Lapwing, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, River Prinia, Rufous and Black Scrub-Robins, Long-tailed and Chestnut-bellied Starlings, African Silverbill and Northern Paradise-Whydah. South of Waza we found the magnificent Quail-plover one of the real highlights of the trip. We enjoyed exceptional scope views of one doing the "Chameleon walk" which presented some good photographic opportunities. The same area also produced several Singing Bushlarks, the much sought-after Cricket Longtail and a spectacular Golden Nightjar (only discovered in 2003 in Cameroon) that was seen amazingly well during the day ! This was another real highlight of the tour.



Moving back to the south, we traveled to West Africa's highest mountain, Mount Cameroon. We took the entire day to make our assault on this volcanic massif. The weather was perfect and we ascended all the way up to the treeline, a hard walk but well worth it! Highlights for us here included the elusive and endemic Cameroon Pigeon, Lemon Dove, stunning Yellow-billed Turaco, Western Tinkerbird, Least Honeyguide, Elliot's Woodpecker, Mountain Sawwing and Cameroon Mountain Greenbul. We were briefly interrupted by an army ant swarm that held a very confiding Brown-chested Alethe, White-tailed Warbler, Mountain Robin-Chat and Mountain Sooty Boubou. Other specials included Banded Prinia, Green Longtail, Cameroon Scrub-Warbler, African Hill Babbler, Cameroon and the rare Orange-tufted Sunbird, the endemic Cameroon Spierops, beautiful Yellow-breasted Boubou, the fabulous Green-breasted Bushshrike eating a chameleon, Fernando Po Oliveback, a stunning pair of Red-faced Crimson-wing and Oriole Finch. Both the Spierops and Sawwing are entirely endemic to this mountain!

Leaving this fabulous mountain we traveled to the lush Limbe Botanical Gardens where we found some fine birds including Reichenbach's Sunbird, Pale-fronted Negrofinch and the beautiful Western Bluebill. Our anticipation and excitement mounted as we headed towards Korup NP, this of course due to our quest of finding the highly sought after Gray-necked Rockfowl. We 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 and a fleeting Shining-blue Kingfisher.



Our time in Korup was well spent and we managed to bag White-spotted Flufftail, Rock Pratincole, Blue-headed Wood-Dove, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Lesser Bristlebill, Xavier's, White-bearded and Eastern Bearded Greenbul, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Fire-crested Alethe, Yellow and Gray Longbill, White-browed Forest-Flycatcher, Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher, Pale-breasted Illadopsis and Woodhouse's Antpecker before we got to camp. The final hours of the day were spent waiting for the Rockfowl at the Picathartes Knoll colony. During our silent wait for these elusive birds, we experienced a huge thunderstorm that lasted for about an hour. Glancing around I could see many despondent faces and our prospects did not look good. We continued to wait as "die-hard birders" like to do and fortunately, the rain subsided and the sun burst through. After another 20 minutes, which

felt like an eternity, suddenly, there was motion. Everyone was nudging each other to signal which direction the birds had been seen. The next 25 minutes we sat in absolute awe as 5 of these magical creatures jumped from vines to rocks and even onto their nests, right in front of us. They were displaying and calling all the while, it truly was a phenomenal birding experience that everyone will cherish for the rest of their lives. Even our local guide who has been doing birding trips here for 10 years had never witnessed such a sighting! Other species seen during our stay in Korup included African Forest-Flycatcher, Forest Robin, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, the elusive Bare-cheeked Trogon, stunning Blue-headed Bee-eater, Blue-throated Roller, magnificent Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye and Dusky Crested-Flycatcher.

Next we traveled towards Nyassosso, our base from which we explored Mt Kupe and the Bokassi Mountains. The Mundemba-Nyassosso road produced some great birds amongst them the impressive Great Blue Turaco, the giant Yellow-casqued Hornbill, the dazzling Shining-blue Kingfisher, a calling Black Cuckoo, a pair of seldom seen Black-throated Coucals, Bates' Swift, Mountain Wagtail, Black-capped Apalis, Cassin's Flycatcher, Yellow-mantled Weaver and Black-bellied Seedcracker.

In the Mount Kupe and Bokassi areas we enjoyed the cooler climate, a respite from the hot North and humid Korup NP. It's great birding too and we found a good selection of exciting forest specials including Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, Ayres' and Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Scaly Francolin, Guinea Turaco, a superb male Bar-tailed Trogon, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-billed Barbet, Spotted, Thick-billed, Willcock's and Cassin's Honeyguides, the diminutive African Piculet, Tullberg's and Gabon Woodpeckers, Gray-headed Broadbill, Forest Swallow, Gray and Petit's Cuckooshrike, Sjostedt's and Gray-headed Greenbuls, Black-throated and Masked Apalis, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Black-capped Woodland Warbler, the cute Yellow-footed Flycatcher, Bocage's Akalat, White-bellied Robin-Chat, the striking Black-necked Wattle-eye, rare West African Batis, Bates' Paradise-Flycatcher, the unusual and endemic White-throated Mountain Babbler, Johanna's and Ursula's Sunbird, Red-eyed, Pink-footed and Large-billed Puffbacks, Luehder's and Gray-green Bushshrikes and Green-backed Twinspot.

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 arriving in the afternoon we quickly found the beautiful endemic Bannerman's Turaco, one of which was particularly confiding and allowed for great scope views. The following morning was fantastic as we picked up the specials in quick-time, first great looks at Banded Wattle-eye, then a stunning pair of Bannerman's Weaver and finally Bangwa Scrub-Warbler. Other species seen here included



Ovampo Sparrowhawk, Mottled Swift, Pectoral-patch Cisticola and Black-collared Apalis. Near the town of Bamenda we located Red-rumped Swallow and a pair of Neumann's Starlings.

Thereafter we traveled back to Douala where we enjoyed a fine dinner together before our evening flights home. This was the end of another great African adventure with Rockjumper Birding Tours!

Photo's: Gray Pratincole, Quail Plover by Matthew Matthiessen, Gray-necked Rockfowl by Niels Poul Dreyer, Egyptian Plover by Ketil Knudsen and Golden Nightjar by David Hoddinott.

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 (574 species)

Ostrich *Struthionidae*

Ostrich

Struthio camelus

Recorded only at Waza National Park with a total of 4 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

Our first sighting was of one at Dang Lake and later small numbers were seen at Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant

Phalacrocorax africanus

Seen at wetlands throughout the country. The highest number was of forty birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Anhinga & Darter *Anhingidae*

Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

Seen at only one locality on the tour, two seen flying along the ocean whilst enjoying lunch at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers, two seen at La Digue and a further two seen on the boat trip to Mundemba.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

A fairly common species in the north, noted in abundance in Waza NP. An estimate of 40 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 Dang Lake where we found a total of 6.

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 La Digue where we found 5.

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.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Fairly common in wetlands throughout, we found a total of 20 at La Digue.

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 first sighting was of one dark morph bird at the Limbe Botanical Gardens and several more seen 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 first sighting was of two at a roadside wetland near the Sanaga River with a highest count of 3 at the Benoue River.

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 of 3 at La Digue.

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*

One was seen flying over the swimming pool at Waza.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Seen at several localities throughout with our highest count of 4 birds during the drive from Ngaoundaba Ranch to Benoue NP.

Storks Ciconidae

African Openbill (~ed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*

5 birds were seen at the Benoue River and a further 4 in Waza NP.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

A flock of at least 30 birds was seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further flock of 10 in Benoue NP.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Two were seen in Benoue NP.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

One of the great storks of the World ! One was seen in Waza NP.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae



Sacred Ibis*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Our highest count was of 12 seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Swans, Geese & Ducks *Anatidae*

White-faced Whistling-Duck*Dendrocygna viduata*

We had our first sighting of four at Dang Lake with a further sighting of fifty at a waterhole in Waza NP.

Spur-winged Goose*Plectropterus gambensis*

Our first sighting was of 3 at Dang Lake, a further 2 at the Benoue River and finally a large flock of 271 birds was seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.

Comb Duck*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

A total of forty were seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.

Hartlaub's Duck*Pteronetta hartlaubii*

Seen at only one site on the tour near the Sanaga River, our highest count in two visits there was of 11 birds.

African Pygmy-goose*Nettapus auritus*

We enjoyed good scope views of 5 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*

We recorded a pair at Dang Lake.

Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures *Accipitridae*

European Honey-buzzard*Pernis apivorus*

One was seen at the Sanaga River and a further 6 in Korup NP.

Bat Hawk*Macheiramphus alcinus*

A single bird seen in flight at Benoue NP.

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

First seen near Ngaoundere, also near Waza NP and finally in the Bamenda Highlands.

Scissor-tailed Kite*Echelictinia riocourii*

First seen near the town of Mora, much to the delight of all. We saw a total of 8 in Northern Cameroon.

Black [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, several were seen in Benoue NP, one seen around the waterholes in Waza NP and finally one on the boat trip.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

Recorded in the wetter south with regularity. First seen south of the Sanaga with our highest daily count of 8 on the day we traveled from Limbe to Mundemba.

Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

Commonly encountered in the drier north especially near towns. Several were seen near Garoua.

Egyptian Vulture*Neophron percnopterus*

An adult was seen on our full day in Waza NP.

(African) White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

The common vultures in savanna areas, sightings were enjoyed at Ngaoundaba Ranch 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!

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

We had good views of first, one male and then a pair in Benoue NP.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

The "tightrope-walker" of the raptor world is a handsome species that we first saw in the woodland belt in Benoue NP, further sightings of two were seen in 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 near the Sanaga River.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus macrourus*

One female was seen on the drive from Maroua to Waza.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded most regularly in the south with a highest count of 3 birds near the Sanaga River.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

4 birds seen daily in the Sanaga River area.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Recorded in small numbers in the Mora and Waza areas.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

We had two sightings near Mora and a further two in Waza NP including a superb sighting of a melanistic bird.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii*

This forest *Accipiter* was seen once in Limbe Botanical Gardens.

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

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk) *Accipiter badius*

One was seen on our last day in the Bamenda highlands.

NOTE: We recorded the Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus that 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.

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*

One was seen briefly in the forest during our day on Bakossi.

Ovampo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

One juvenile was scoped in the Bamenda highlands.

Black Goshawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

One adult was seen near the Sanaga River.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

Our first sighting was of several at Ngaoundaba Ranch with several more seen near Mora and in 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 during the drive from Mundemba to Nyasosso.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

We enjoyed at least 6 birds on our day in Waza NP.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

We had good views of 2 during the drive from Ngaoundaba to Benoue NP.



African Hawk-Eagle*Hieraaetus spilogaster*

Two birds were seen, one en route from Ngaoundaba to Benoue NP and another on the Benoue River in Benoue NP. The latter sighting was fantastic as we watched one trying to catch a Helmeted Guineafowl.

Ayres' Hawk-Eagle*Aquila ayresii*

We had fantastic sightings of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch and several more at Bakossi.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle*Spizaetus africanus*

We enjoyed great views of one bird at a forest site near the Sanaga River and a further one in Korup NP.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

Small numbers were seen at several sites including Ngaoundaba Ranch and two were seen particularly well during the drive from Mt.Kupe to Bamenda.

Crowned Hawk-Eagle*Stephanoaetus coronatus*

One was seen displaying in the distance in the Bokassi Mountains.

Secretarybird Sagittariidae**Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

We were lucky to see this stately but rather odd bird in Waza NP. A special bird as it is in a Monotypic family.

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

This widespread, familiar raptor was first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with peak numbers of up to five daily in the Bamenda highlands.

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*

We had superb scope views of one at a rocky outcrop near Waza NP.

Gray Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

We had great scope views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Red-necked Falcon*Falco chicquera*

We were fortunate to find a wonderful pair in Benoue NP. An uncommon bird in Cameroon.

Red-footed Falcon*Falco vespertinus*

We had great views of two females in Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Eurasian Hobby*Falco subbuteo*

One was seen near our hotel in Bamenda.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

We had two sightings, a pair in Waza NP and a further 2 in the Bamenda highlands.

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

We were fortunate to find a pair in the woodland at Benoue NP. These birds were particularly confiding and allowed for some great photographic opportunities.

Scaly Francolin*Francolinus squamatus*

A total of 7 were seen on our full day at Bakossi and a further one was seen 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 10 birds in the Benoue NP.



Clapperton's Francolin*Francolinus clappertoni*

Only seen at Waza NP where they were regularly encountered with up to 20 seen daily.

Stone Partridge*Ptilopachus petrosus*

This species was encountered first in Benoue NP with our highest day count of 10 birds. Several more were seen at a rocky outcrop near Mora.

Guineafowl Numididae**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

Commonly observed in Benoue NP and Waza NP.

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 one of the highlights of the trip for many. After a two-hour search in the hot dry savannah south of Waza we finally located two individuals. The bird flushed and landed within 20 feet of the group allowing for superb prolonged scope views. We even observed it doing its fascinating “Chameleon” walk.

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

This very handsome bird is delightfully common in Waza NP with peak numbers of 40 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 our first brief views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Later we were treated to superb 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.

African Rail*Rallus caerulescens*

Although widespread on the continent this can be a tough species to see. We heard one calling at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

One was seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 2 were seen at the Benoue River.

Purple Swampphen*Porphyrio Porphyrio*

We had good views of two 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 Swampphen (*P. madagascariensis*.) Other forms to be recognised may include Indian Swampphen (*P. poliocephalus*.) Philippine Swampphen (*P. pulverulentus*) and Eastern Swampphen (*P. melanotus*).



Bustards *Otididae*

Arabian Bustard

Ardeotis arabs

We were fortunate to encounter 2 of these large Bustards in Waza NP.

White-bellied Bustard

Leupodotis senegalensis

This species was first observed during our Quail Plover trek.

Jacanas *Jacanidae*

Lesser Jacana

Microparra capensis

We had scope views of a distant bird at Dang Lake.

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

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

Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

Our first sighting was of a pair at a roadside pan near the Sanaga River with further encounters of small numbers in Benoue NP.

Spotted Thick-knee

Burhinus capensis

Encountered in the Waza NP area with a total of 3 birds being seen on our full day in the park.

Couriers & 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.

Rock Pratincole

Glareola nuchalis

3 birds were seen on the Mana River on our way into Korup NP. One of these birds was seen at its nest that contained one egg.

Gray Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

A dozen 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 first seen at Dang Lake and later encountered in small numbers in Waza NP.

Black-headed Lapwing

Vanellus tectus

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

White-headed Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus albiceps

First seen at the Sanaga River where up to 8 were seen and later peak numbers of up to 12 in Benoue NP.

Wattled Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus senegallus

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was only seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we saw a single bird.

Brown-chested Lapwing

Vanellus superciliosus



Two birds were seen during our night walk at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

We were very fortunate to find this rare vagrant at La Digue near Douala.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

We found one during our boat trip to Mundemba.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

We found 3 on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

Only encountered on the Sanaga River where we found two.

Sandpipers & Allies *Scolopacidae*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

We found 6 at La Digue and a further 2 during the boat trip to Mundemba.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

This familiar species was encountered at several locations with peak numbers of 6 birds at La Digue, on the Atlantic shoreline and again on the Benoue River near Garoua.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One was seen on the river in Benoue NP.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Seen at several localities in small numbers. Peak numbers of 4 were at Dang Lake.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

A common migrant seen at several water bodies throughout, our highest count was of 20 birds on the boat trip to Mundemba.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Up to 8 were seen on sandbars in the Sanaga River.

Terns *Sternidae*

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*

On our Atlantic boat trip we encountered at least 6 of these birds, most of which were concentrated in a large tern roost.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

We had superb views of 6 during our boat trip on the Atlantic ocean.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

We found one during the boat trip on the Atlantic.

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 50+ birds on the Sanaga River but our skimmer highlight was certainly a roost of 500+ 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 30 birds being seen on that day.

Doves & Pigeons *Collumbidae*

- Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Common in Douala and other large towns.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
A common species in the north, first encountered near Benoue NP and seen at all localities north of here.
- Afep Pigeon** *Columba uncinata*
Some of the participants saw five on the Mundemba road.
- Cameroon Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
We had 5 of these birds on our day on Mt. Cameroon, 3 in the Bokassi Mountains and a final 2 in the Bamenda highlands of which we obtained wonderful scope views.
- Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata*
We had brief views of one on Mt. Cameroon.
- Eurasian Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
We encountered 20 of these birds in a small *Acacia* next to a waterhole in Waza NP.
- Adamawa Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*
We enjoyed fantastic views of one in Benoue NP. A rare species.
- African Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*
This rather pale *Streptopelia* was encountered in small numbers in the Waza NP area. Up to 10 were seen during our day in the park.
- African Mourning Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*
Seen only near Garoua where we recorded a total of 3 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 with peak numbers of 100+ in Waza NP.
- 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 2 birds on 3 days.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
A forest equivalent of the wood-doves, we encountered this bird in flight at the Sanaga River and in the Bamenda highlands.
- Blue-headed Wood-Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*
A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. We had great scope views of several birds in Korup NP.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
A fairly common species in the dry north, especially in Waza NP where 20+ were seen in a day.
- Bruce's Green-Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
Small numbers were seen at Benoue NP with a day total of 10 birds noted on our first day there. We were treated to great views of a flock feeding in a large fruiting fig tree.
- African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calva*



Commoner in the south of the country, small flocks were seen daily at the Sanaga River. Our highest total was of a dozen birds during the drive from Mundemba to Nyassosso.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies *Psittacidae*

Red-headed Lovebird

Agapornis pullarius

We observed this species in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch. We counted a total of 6 of these very endearing parrots.

(African) Gray Parrot

Psittacus erithacus

So much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird! Small groups were seen near the Sanaga River and up to 10 seen near Mundemba.

Red-fronted Parrot

Poicephalus gularis

We had brief views of two near Mundemba.

Senegal Parrot

Poicephalus senegalus

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, we found up to 6 daily in Benoue NP.

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, near the Sanaga River. We then managed to get excellent views of 8 birds on the Mundemba road.

Guinea (Green) Turaco

Tauraco persa

Small numbers were regularly seen in the Bokassi Mountains and on Mt.Kupe.

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 peak numbers of 4 in Benoue NP.

Yellow-billed (Verreaux's) Turaco

Tauraco macrorhynchus

A commonly heard turaco of the interior forests, our first sighting was of stunning views of one on Mount Cameroon. Thereafter we encountered several daily in the Bokassi Mountains and on Mt.Kupe. This subspecies has a wonderful red-tipped crest.

Bannerman's Turaco

Tauraco bannermanni

5 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 pair of these beautiful birds in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western (Gray) Plantain-eater

Crinifer piscator

Seen in small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

We had close encounters of two at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

We had superb scope views of one at the Sanaga River and heard this species at several other forest sites.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

We managed to see a single bird of the gabonensis race on the Mundemba road.



African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

At least two birds were seen daily in Benoue NP.

Klaas' Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

This brood parasite, favoring the cup nests of woodland birds, was heard at several locations and seen well at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again in Benoue NP.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we saw a female on Mt. Kupe.

Yellowbill (Green Coucal/Malkoha) *Ceuthmochares aereus*

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was seen at several forest sites including the Sanaga River, Ngaoundaba Ranch, with largest numbers of 3 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. A pair was seen incredibly well on the Mundemba road where we obtained crippling scope views of this species.

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 2 birds seen in Benoue NP. Other sites where we saw the bird included the acacia thickets between Waza and Mora.

Barn Owls Tytonidae**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

We enjoyed views of 5 birds on our nightdrive in Waza NP. Two were also found roosting during the day in the Waza area.

Typical Owls Strigidae**African Scops-Owl** *Otus senegalensis*

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

Vermiculated Fishing-Owl *Scotopelia bouvieri*

This species was heard during our stay in Korup NP.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii*

We heard this species several times in Korup NP.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

We heard this bird on several occasions and finally had superb views of two in Benoue 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. This obliging individual allowed for some great photographic opportunities.

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

At Ngaoundaba Ranch one bird was seen near the crater lake at dawn and at least one heard at Nyassosso.



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 partial 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 several displaying males and females on our night drives at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

We enjoyed good sightings of 3 birds at the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

Our first sightings were of two daily at the Sanaga River. A total of 7 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.

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

We had wonderful views of 2 in the Bamenda highlands.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Loose flocks of up to thirty daily were seen at the Sanaga River, small numbers were also seen daily at Korup NP.

African Swift *Apus barbatus*

A scarce bird in West Africa, we saw a flock of at least 50 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. Large flocks were seen at roadside bridges near the Sanaga River.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Small numbers were seen daily in Benoue NP.

Bates' Swift *Apus batesi*

A swift of the forest zone of the south, we saw up to 20 birds during the drive from Mundemba to Nyassosso.

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 10 birds during our full day on Mount Cameroon.

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 10 of this fast flying and oddly marked bird.

Trogon Trogonidae**Bare-cheeked Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

Two of these spectacular birds were seen on our walks in Korup NP. Time and effort was rewarded with good views for all.

Bar-tailed Trogon*Apaloderma vittatum*

We enjoyed two sightings of this beautiful bird in the Bokassi mountains.

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

Usually a rather difficult bird, no exception for us we had to work really hard. Our first sighting was a brief fly-by for some on the boat trip. We finally managed great scope views for all, of one near Mundemba.

Malachite Kingfisher*Alcedo cristata*

We recorded one at Dang Lake and a further two on the Benoue River.

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 3 birds during the trip from Mundemba to Nyassosso.

Dwarf Kingfisher*Ispidina lecontei*

We heard this species on several occasions in Korup NP.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher*Halcyon badia*

We had wonderful views of one in Korup NP, thanks to Mathews keen eyes.

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

We had our highest total of 6 birds in the Benoue NP and had further sightings of smaller numbers in the Ngaoundere area.

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 drive to the Sanaga River.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher*Halcyon malimbica*

This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was seen in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again on the Isangale River. We also had a single bird at 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. One was seen daily at the Sanaga River and a pair in Benoue NP.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

The world's commonest kingfisher was seen in small numbers at several sites on the tour. Peak numbers of ten were seen at the Sanaga River.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Black Bee-eater***Merops gularis*

We enjoyed fantastic views of five birds near the Sanaga River, a great find by John G. A single bird was also seen in Korup NP.

Blue-headed Bee-eater*Merops muelleri*

We had fantastic views of 2 of these rare and highly sought after bee-eaters along a stream 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, up to 30 were seen daily in Benoue NP.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Small numbers were seen at the Sanaga River and further sightings of several in 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 20 birds were seen near Mundemba and the Bamenda highlands.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

This lovely lime green bird was recorded daily in the Mora area.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

Another magnificent bee-eater, we were fortunate to see at least 12 flying over the Benoue River close to Garoua.

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 20+ between Benoue and Maroua.

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevia*

We had superb scope views of one during the drive from Benoue NP to Maroua.

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*

Two birds were seen in open woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

We enjoyed views of small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

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 5 birds were seen in the Waza area.

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 only at Benoue NP where we found a small family group of three.

Black Scimitar-bill (Woodhoopoe) *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

A total of 2 birds were seen in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**White-crested Hornbill** *Tockus albo cristatus*

We heard this species in Korup NP.

Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands, 20+ seen during the drive from Waza NP to Maroua.



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 20 were seen around Mundemba.

African Gray Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Cameroon, with small numbers (5+ daily) being seen in the drier northern part of the country. First recorded en route from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Piping Hornbill*Ceratogymna fistulator*

A total of 30 birds seen at the Sanaga River, smaller numbers were recorded at Korup NP. **White-thighed Hornbill**

Ceratogymna albotibialis

A total of 8 were seen at the Sanaga River.

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

We had good views of one female at the Sanaga River.

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

We had views of 5 birds during our stay in Korup NP, however our best sighting was of a pair on the Mundemba road.

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill*Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We were extremely fortunate to see one flying over the crater lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch. This is a scarce species in Cameroon.

Barbets Capitonidae**Naked-faced Barbet***Gymnobucco calvus*

A common forest species, we saw at least 6 on Mount Cameroon, a half dozen in Korup NP and 10+ birds on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Bristle-nosed Barbet*Gymnobucco peli*

We had good views of eight birds at the Sanaga River.

Speckled Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A scruffy, bird in forests and forest edge. We found 2 daily at the Sanaga River. We saw one in Korup NP and another on Mt. Kupe.

Western Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We got good views of a pair on Mt Cameroon.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus atroflavus*

Although heard fairly regularly in forested areas of the south, some of us only obtained brief views of two at the Sanaga River. We were however treated to superb scope views of one on 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 two birds at the Sanaga River.

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 we obtained great views of one at Benoue NP.

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

A rather beautiful Barbet, heard at several forested sites in the south. We obtained great views of several in Korup NP and on Mt. Kupe.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

This forest barbet was seen once in the Bokassi mountains.

Viillot's Barbet*Lybius vieilloti*

A bird of more open woodland, our first sighting was of a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch. At least 7 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 a Rocky outcrop north of Maroua. **Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus*

A total of 4 birds were seen during our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bearded Barbet *Lybius dubius*

A pair of these beautiful birds was seen feeding in a fruiting fig tree in Benoue NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet, seen on consecutive days at the Sanaga River with our only other sighting on Mt Kupe.

Honeyguides *Indicatoridae*

Spotted Honeyguide *Indicator maculatus*

One was well found by Dodge on Mt.Kupe.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of two in Benoue NP.

Thick-billed Honeyguide *Indicator conirostris*

Some of us had superb views of one in the farm bush on Mt.Kupe.

Willcock's Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksi*

Ketil was fortunate to find one on Mt.Kupe.

Least Honeyguide *Indicator exilis*

We found one on Mount Cameroon.

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

Two birds were seen in the Bakossi Mountains.

Woodpeckers & Allies *Picidae*

African Piculet *Sasia africana*

This diminutive and endearing species was first seen at the Sanaga River. Later we found 5 on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe where we all obtained superb views.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera punctuligera*

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

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*

We had good scope views of a pair in Benoue NP.

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii*

We had superb views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch and another was seen on Mt.Kupe.

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

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

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa*

This diminutive and rather dark woodpecker was seen once in Korup NP.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Our first sighting was of one in Benoue NP with further sightings of small numbers at Bokassi and Mt.Kupe.

We had a nice sighting of one at its nest in a telephone pole near Mt.Kupe

Melancholy Woodpecker *Dendropicos lugubris*

At least 3 were seen in the farm bush on Mt.Kupe.

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

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*



3 of these fine woodpeckers were seen during our day on Mount Cameroon. One female was also seen in the Bamenda highlands.

Gray Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

Several individuals located in Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and south of Waza NP.

Brown-backed Woodpecker*Picoides obsoletus*

Our first sighting was of one en route to Ngaoundaba Ranch with a further sighting of one at the Ranch. A scarce, dry country species.

Broadbills *Eurylaimidae***Gray-headed Broadbill***Smithornis sharpei*

Whilst some of us searched for the elusive bushshrike Lorna picked up a wonderful pair of this highly sought after species, we all dashed back and had great scope views. We had one further sighting of a pair on Mt.Kupe.

Larks *Alaudidae***Singing Bushlark***Mirafra cantillans*

We had wonderful views of 4 near Mora.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

A fairly common species of the dry north, at least 20 birds were seen on outings from Maroua to Waza NP.

Crested Lark*Galerida cristata*

We had great views of 2 near the Benoue River.

Sun Lark*Galerida modesta*

We found 4 birds in burnt grassland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swallows *Hirundinidae***Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)***Riparia riparia*

At least 10 birds were recorded near the Benoue River.

Gray-rumped Swallow*Hirundo griseopyga*

We found a flock of 10 in Benoue NP.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogne (Hirundo) fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen in small numbers in the Bamenda highlands.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers seen throughout Cameroon with our first sightings at the Sanaga River.

*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 two near the Benoue River with peak numbers of forty daily at our lodge near Waza NP.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers seen in Benoue NP.

*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*
One of these beautiful birds was seen flying near the Sanaga River and a further 6 seen at the Mana River near Korup NP.
- Lesser Striped-Swallow** *Hirundo abyssinica*
A widespread African swallow that is fairly common in Cameroon. We found small numbers at the Sanaga River, Benoue NP and Nyassosso.
- Rufous-chested Swallow** *Hirundo semirufa*
We found small numbers near the Sanaga River and during the drive from Mundemba to Nyassosso.
- Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis (Hirundo) senegalensis*
Two were seen during the drive from Ngaoundaba to Benoue NP.
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*
We had good views of two in Waza NP and later our best views of several perched near the town of Bamenda.
- Preuss' (Cliff-) Swallow** *Hirundo preussi*
Commonly encountered at the Sanaga River, we found a large colony of up to 100 birds.
- Forest Swallow** *Hirundo fuliginosa*
We recorded a total of 13 birds in the Bokassi and Mt Kupe areas.
- House Martin** *Delichon urbica*
We had fantastic views of one during our lunch at Waza, well found by Ketil.
- Square-tailed Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*
We found one near Mt.Kupe.
- Mountain Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*
A total of 5 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 at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings at Mt.Kupe, Bokassi and the Bamenda highlands.

Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*
A common and familiar African bird, we saw our first bird at the Sanaga River and small numbers daily in Benoue NP.
- Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
A common Palaearctic migrant recorded at most wetland sites throughout Cameroon. We found several of the *feldegg* race at the Benoue River.
- Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*
One was seen near Mundemba and a further 4 in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*
We found 2 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Long-legged Pipit** *Anthus pallidiventris*
We had great views of one at La Digue near Douala.
- Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
Excellent views were had of several birds daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

- White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina pectoralis*
A pair was seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch, a beautiful and uncommon broad-leafed woodland species.
- Blue Cuckooshrike** *Coracina azurea*



We had wonderful views of a pair near the Sanaga River and a further one on Mt.Kupe.

Gray Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia*

We recorded 3 of these smart birds at Bokassi.

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*

We found one female on Mt.Cameroon and a further 4 in the Mt.Kupe and Bokassi area.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

We were fortunate to see a total of 4 birds, two during our wanderings at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further two in Benoue NP.

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*

3 were seen on our ascent of Mount Cameroon with a further sighting of one on Bokassi.

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.

Gray Greenbul *Andropadus gracilis*

One was seen by Greg in Korup NP.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*

This canopy species was seen in small numbers at the Sanaga River and on Mt.Kupe.

Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

We found one at the Sanaga River and another near in Korup NP.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*

The common greenbul of forest canopy, we found 4 at the Sanaga River and one in Korup NP.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris*

A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had good sightings of 3 birds in Korup NP.

Western Mountain Greenbul *Andropadus tephrolaemus*

This common, although range restricted species was quite common on Mount Cameroon where we saw a total of 20 birds. We enjoyed further sightings at Bokassi, Mt.Kupe and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*

We had superb views of 2 near the Sanaga River.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*

This bird was unfortunately only heard at the Sanaga River and during our day at Mt.Kupe.

Sjostedt's Greenbul *Baeopogon clamans*

Two were seen by some of the participants at Mt.Kupe.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

We secured excellent views of up to 13 birds in secondary forest south of the Sanaga River and later heard more in Korup NP and Mt.Kupe.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*

We found one at the Sanaga River.

Yellow-throated Greenbul *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Small numbers were seen daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and in the Bokassi area.

Swamp (~Palm) Greenbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

We found two near the Sanaga River.



- Leaflove** *Phyllastrephus scandens*
After much effort we finally saw a group of 5 of these noisy creatures in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Cameroon Olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus poensis*
We had our first sighting on Mt. Cameroon where we saw 2 birds, thereafter we found small numbers at Bokassi.
- Grey-headed Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*
We enjoyed great sightings of 7 in the Bokassi Mountains.
- Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*
This was the most frequently encountered greenbul in Korup NP with a total of 20+ 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*
Two were noted attending ant swarms in Korup NP.
- Lesser Bristlebill** *Bleda notata*
Commoner than it's congener in Cameroon, we encountered our first one at the Sanaga River and a further 12 in Korup NP, often in association with ant swarms.
NOTE: The Green-tailed Bristlebill complex is often split into 3 species, Lesser Bristlebill, Bleda notatus which occurs in West Africa and is the one we observed, Green-tailed Bristlebill, B. eximius which occurs in the Upper Guinea area and Yellow-eyed Bristlebill, B. ugandae which occurs in Uganda and the DRC.
- Yellow-spotted (Western/Common) Nicator** *Nicator chloris*
This vociferous songster was heard on several occasions in Korup NP.
- Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*
We found several near the Sanaga River and in Korup NP.
- Eastern-bearded Greenbul** *Criniger chloronotus*
Korup NP is arguably the best site in the world to bag this Congo forest endemic. We managed a fantastic sighting of 2 birds during our stay.
- White-bearded Greenbul** *Criniger ndussumensis*
Another Congo forest special, we saw a total of 5 birds during our stay at Korup NP.

Thrushes & Allies *Turdidae*

- Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush** *Neocossyphus fraseri*
Our first sighting was of brief views of one in Korup NP, later we had good views of a single bird on Mt. Kupe.
- White-tailed Ant Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis*
Our first sighting was of one near the Sanaga River. Thereafter we enjoyed good sightings of several in Korup NP and again at Bokassi.
- Crossley's Ground Thrush** *Zoothera crossleyi*
We heard this species several times in the Bokassi mountains.
- 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 heart-stopping encounters with one on Mt. Cameroon, it was totally oblivious to us as it attended an ant swarm. Later we enjoyed further excellent views of several on Mt. Kupe and at Bokassi.
- Fire-crested Alethe** *Alethe diademata*
Our first sighting was of 2 near the Sanaga River. Thereafter not uncommon in Korup NP especially around ant swarms. At least 6 were seen here.
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 erythropus*
This moist grassland and swamp dwelling cisticola was first seen en route from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch. Thereafter we encountered small numbers daily in Benoue NP.
- Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis*
We heard one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Chattering Cisticola** *Cisticola anonymus*
A secondary growth and scrub species, we encountered 3 at La Digue and near Mundemba where we found up to 6 daily.
- 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*
One bird was seen on rocky hillsides north of Maroua.
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*
A total of 16 birds, were seen in arid scrub between Maroua and Waza NP.
- Dorst's Cisticola** *Cisticola dorsti*
Two birds were seen well north of Maroua and a further one in Benoue NP.
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes*
We found 2 at Dang Lake.
- Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*
One of this tiny species was seen in Waza NP.
- Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*
One bird was 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 Benoue NP and near Maroua.
- River Prinia** *Prinia fluviatilis*
In plumage almost identical to the previous species but different in call. We had at least a dozen of this species in woodland south of Waza.
- White-chinned Prinia** *Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon*
This confiding, gregarious species was first observed near the Sanaga River with further sightings at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Bokassi and Mt.Kupe.
- Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*
This snappy looking bird showed very well on the way up Mt Cameroon. We obtained good views of another 3 birds on Mt.Kupe.
- Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)** *Heliolais erythroptera*
A single bird was seen well en route from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Red-winged Gray Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*
Small numbers of this smart species were observed daily during our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Green Longtail** *Urolais epichlora*
Our first encounter with this species was on Mt Cameroon where we found at least 10. We encountered further flocks in the Bokassi Mountains and on Mt.Kupe.
- Cricket Warbler** *Spiloptila clamans*
We found at least 3 of this charismatic and highly sought-after species North of Maroua. One of the birds was scoped and seen exceptionally well by all.
- Black-collared Apalis** *Apalis pulchra*



A beautiful apalis that we had stunning views of in the Bamenda highlands. We saw at least 5 birds during our time there.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*

A canopy apalis, we found a pair on the Mundemba road and several more on Mt.Kupe

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni*

This is one of the most beautiful apalises. We observed at least 6 birds during our walks in the Bokassi Mountains.

Masked Apalis *Apalis binotata*

We had superb views of 5 in the Bokassi Mountains, small numbers were also seen on Mt.Kupe.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

This widespread, woodland apalis is not very common in Cameroon. We observed a pair at La Digue.

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*

We had superb views of a 3 near the Sanaga River.

Bamenda Apalis *Apalis bamendae*

A gallery forest species that was seen very briefly at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Gray Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

We had sightings of 5 birds on Mt Cameroon and a further 10 in the Bokassi Mountains.

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*

Two of these unusual creatures were located in riverine vegetation at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A further one was also seen 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 twice in Korup NP.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

We had good views of one on 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 good views of a single bird.

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 in the Bokassi mountains. We later enjoyed superb views of 3 on Mt.Kupe.

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

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was seen in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

Eurasian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

We found 3 birds in riverside vegetation at the Benoue River.

Greater Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens*



We had two sightings of this species, our first sighting was fantastic views of one at La Digue and a further two on Mt.Kupe.

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais opaca*

Another Palaearctic 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*.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

We found a total of 8 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

White-tailed Warbler *Poliolais lopezi*

We had fantastic views of a female on Mt.Cameroon, it was seen attending an ant swarm. Later we saw a male and female in the Bokassi Mountains.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*

A common species recorded in woodlands from Ngaoundaba Ranch north where we enjoyed a day total of 10+ birds.

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

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We found our first one at the Sanaga River and 3 more were seen in the Bokassi Mountains.

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*

One was seen by a few participants on Mt.Kupe.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, our first one was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 3 seen between Maroua and Waza NP.

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker, however we were treated to good views of several, our first one was at the Sanaga River with several more seen in Korup NP.

Gray Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

Another secretive species that was seen three times in Korup NP.

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 near the Sanaga River, Korup NP, Bokassi and Mt.Kupe.

Black-capped Woodland-Warbler *Phylloscopus herberti*

Our first sighting of this little gem was of two in the Bokassi Mountains with further sightings in the Mt.Kupe/Bokassi area.

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*

We recorded a total of 5 of these stunning birds in two days at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One bird was seen on our full day at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Greater Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

This bird was seen in small numbers in the arid plains north of Maroua, we encountered 3 during our search for the Quail Plover. A Palaearctic migrant.

Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

We found 5 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 2 in Benoue NP.

Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Small numbers were seen daily in Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

African Forest-Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*



We had a good but brief sighting of a pair in Korup NP.

White-browed Forest-Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens*

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

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

We found 11 birds, most were seen in Ngaoundaba Ranch with the remainder in Benoue NP.

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae*

A thinly distributed and uncommon bird, we were fortunate to encounter 1 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 7 birds near Mundemba.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

3 birds were seen on the Benoue River.

Olivaceous Flycatcher *Muscicapa olivascens*

We found one near the Sanaga River.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

A common forest-edge species with 6 recorded from Mt Cameroon, 4 from Bokassi, 4 from Mt.Kupe and 5 from the Bamenda highlands.

Yellow-footed Flycatcher *Muscicapa sethsmithi*

A pair of this shy forest flycatcher was first seen in Korup NP. We later obtained superb views of 6 on Max's Trail on Mt.Kupe.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

A quiet, inconspicuous bird, we enjoyed good sightings in the Bokassi and Mt.Kupe areas.

Cassin's (Gray) Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. Our first sighting was of 1 near the Sanaga River, a further 1 was seen in Limbe Botanical Gardens and finally 2 near Mundemba village.

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*

We found 1 on the Mundemba road and a pair on Mt.Kupe.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

We saw 5 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch, 1 in Benoue NP and 1 south of Waza NP. These included sightings of some stunning males in full breeding plumage.

Forest Robin *Stiphornis erythrothorax*

After an extensive search and glimpses here and there we were finally rewarded with stunning views of 2 in Korup NP.

Bocage's Akalat *Sheppardia bocagei*

A shy forest understory species. We had great views of 2 in the Bokassi Mountains.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

We enjoyed a total of 9 sightings in the Bokassi and Mt Kupe areas.

Mountain Robin-Chat *Cossypha isabellae*

We had excellent views of this endemic on Mount Cameroon with at least a dozen sightings, a further 2 were seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*

This shy and beautiful bird was seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

Seen in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and on Mt.Kupe.

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*



A very large and showy *Cossypha*, much enjoyed by all. We had 5 sightings in riverine bush near Ngaoundaba Ranch and 4 confiding birds were seen at a small shaded pool on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Rufous Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

We came across 7 of these during our walks in dry scrub near Mora.

Black Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, we encountered at least 12 during our birding north of Maroua.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

We had good views of up to 40 daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African (Common) Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

This widespread species was seen well at Mount Cameroon where we found 6 birds.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

We only saw this species in the Waza NP area where we found 1 adult.

Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglini*

We encountered this uncommon intra-African migrant once during the drive from Benoue NP to Maroua.

Familiar Chat *Cercomila familiaris*

We encountered a total of 4 birds in the rocky areas next to the Benoue River.

Northern Anteater Chat *Mermecocichla aethops*

We encountered a small group of 3 birds next to a culvert (possible breeding site) on the road to Waza NP north of Maroua.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*

We found one at Ngaoundaba Ranch. An uncommon species in Cameroon.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

This stunning subspecies was first found during the drive from Ngaoundaba Ranch to Dang Lake, one more was seen on a rocky outcrop 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 seen once on Mt.Kupe.

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

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were observed in small numbers in the Bokassi and Mt.Kupe area.

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 8 birds on Mt Cameroon.

Banded Wattle-eye *Platysteira laticincta*

One of Cameroon's most threatened endemics. We found at least 2 in the Bamenda Highlands. **Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Platysteira castanea*

Small numbers were seen daily during our stay in Korup NP.

Black-necked Wattle-eye *Platysteira chalybea*

This beautiful little bird was seen in the Bokassi Mountains where we found a pair and once on Max's Trail where we enjoyed superb views. A restless creature that is tough to observe well.

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira concreta*

Another stunning and restless bird, our first sighting was of 3 in Korup NP and later we had superb views of several in the Bokassi mountains and on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*



A total of 6 birds were seen on the tour at both Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

West African Batis*Batis occulta*

We had great views of one on Mt.Kupe, a seldom seen canopy species.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae***Chestnut-capped Flycatcher***Erythrocerus mcallii*

We had wonderful views of 3 on Mt.Kupe.

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 Ngaoundaba - Benoue travel day.

Dusky-crested Flycatcher*Elminia nigromitrata*

We had superb views of 2 in the understorey in Korup NP.

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

We had good views of 2 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 good sightings of 2 in Korup NP.

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

Our first sighting was of one near the Sanaga River with further sighting in Korup NP and the Bokassi/Mt.Kupe area.

Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatcher*Terpsiphone rufocinerea*

We had good sightings of two birds near the Sanaga River.

Bates' Paradise-Flycatcher*Terpsiphone batesi*

We had a good sighting of 2 birds at Bokassi and a further 2 on Mt.Kupe.

African Paradise-Flycatcher*Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed good views of several at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP. A particularly stunning sighting was of the spectacular black and white morph, in the *Eucalyptus* plantation at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Rockfowl *Picathartidae***Gray-necked Rockfowl (Red-headed Picathartes)***Picathartes oreas*

For most participants this was the bird of the trip. We waited at the site in Korup NP during a thunderstorm and once the storm had stopped and after waiting for a further hour we were treated to a magnificent spectacle of 5 birds jumping on the rocks and vines just a few metres in front of us. We even observed several jumping onto their nests and calling loudly, it was truly a magical experience that we enjoyed for a full 25 minutes. 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 by Greg in Korup NP.

Puvel's Illadopsis*Illadopsis puveli*

Two were seen in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis*Illadopsis rufipennis*

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

African Hill Babbler*Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

At least 8 of this usually shy forest babbler were seen on our day at Mt Cameroon. A further 5 were seen in the Bamenda highlands.

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

Gray-chested Illadopsis *Kakamega poliothorax*

This species was heard in the Bamenda Highlands.

Thrush Babbler *Ptyrticus turdinus*

A noisy and restless species that is very tough to see well. We eventually all managed to get great views of 2 of these special birds in a patch of gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*

After only hearing this species at Ngaoundaba Ranch, we were treated to great views of 2 in Benoue NP.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*

We enjoyed superb views of 4 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 3 in Benoue NP.

White-throated Mountain Babbler *Kupeornis gilberti*

We saw several groups of this wonderful and unique bird in the Bokassi mountains totaling 20 birds on our two visits.

Chickadees & Tits Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*

We found 4 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 9 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 spilonotus*

We had fantastic views of 6 birds including a juvenile in woodland near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Yellow Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*

We were very fortunate to find 4 of these endearing and elusive birds in Benoue NP.

Tit-hylia *Pholidornis rushiae*

We had wonderful views of 5 near the Sanaga River and later enjoyed several sightings on Mt.Kupe and in the Bokassi Mountains. This is Africa's smallest bird.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters Nectariniidae

Scarlet-tufted (Frasers') Sunbird *Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri*

A confusing species that often looks more like a greenbul than a sunbird. We had our first sightings of 2 near the Sanaga River with further sightings of up to 10 birds daily in Korup NP.

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

Mouse-brown (Gabon) Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus*

We had stunning views of 2 at La Digue near Douala and later one on the boat trip to Mundemba.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemarei*

A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we found a pairs at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi*



We found 2 on the Mundemba Road.

Green Sunbird*Anthreptes rectirostris*

We saw one bird south of the Sanaga and thereafter it was seen commonly on Mt.Kupe and at Bokassi.

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 10 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. After an extensive search we were finally rewarded with great views of several.

Green-headed Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis*

We had superb sightings of single birds on each day at the Sanaga River, thereafter small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

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

This forest sunbird was seen twice in Korup NP.

Cameroon Sunbird*Cyanomitra oritis*

Our first sighting was of 6 birds on Mount Cameroon with further sightings of several birds at Bokassi, Mt.Kupe and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Western Olive Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura*

This bird's call is a common forest sound in the south. We had daily sightings in Korup NP and had further sightings at Bokassi 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 rather striking sunbird, restricted to coastal areas, was only seen at La Digue where we had great views of a male.

Green-throated Sunbird*Chaclomitra rubescens*

Our first sighting was of one male at the Sanaga River. We managed to find several more of these beauties at Limbe BG and Mt Kupe.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird*Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

A total of 8 birds were seen in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Olive-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

This is a typical forest edge species, a total of 4 seen at the Sanaga River with further sightings at Mt.Kupe and Bokassi.

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 Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP. Point blank views were enjoyed by those who wandered the restaurant grounds in Garoua.

Orange-tufted Sunbird*Cinnyris bouvieri*

We were fortunate to find one of these rare birds in the farm bush on Mt.Kupe.

Splendid Sunbird*Cinnyris (Nectarinia) coccinigaster*

First seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with several further sightings at scattered localities throughout the trip. We enjoyed splendid views of one in full sunlight in the Bokassi foothills.

Johanna's Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) johannae*

One was seen in the Bokassi foothills, a scarce species.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus*

We managed to find this bird in several localities, our first sighting was at the Sanaga River with further sightings at Bokassi and Mt.Kupe.

Ursula's Sunbird *Cinnyris ursulae*

Two birds were seen well on Bokassi Mountain.

Bates' Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) batesi*

One of this nondescript species was seen at Mt Kupe.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea*

A total of two birds were seen, one at Ngaoundaba Ranch and another at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

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. A total of 5 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 up to 10 daily at Bokassi, Mt Kupe and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

NOTE: The birds we saw in the forests of Mt.Kupe and Bokassi are sometimes split off as Forest White-eye, Z.stenocricotus.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

We recorded 9 of these passage migrants at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further two at Benoue NP.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

Two were seen well near Benoue NP.

Western Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

Small numbers were seen daily at the Sanaga River and we had one further sighting at Mt.Kupe.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*

We recorded at total of 6 birds in the Bokassi/Mt Kupe areas.

Shrikes Laniidae

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

We saw 2 of these palearctic migrants in dry scrub North of Maroua.

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal) *Lanius mackinnoni*

We encountered small numbers daily in the Mt.Kupe/Bokassi areas and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

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

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

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

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*



We encountered 4 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch during our stay there and a further flock of 7 in Benoue NP. An unusual, gregarious species.

Bushshrikes & Allies *Malaconotidae*

Northern Puffback

Dryoscopus gambensis

Restricted to the north, we found 4 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a male in Benoue NP.

Red-eyed Puffback

Dryoscopus senegalensis

This bird was heard initially and then later seen on several occasions in the Bokassi Mountains.

Pink-footed Puffback

Dryoscopus angolensis

We were treated to great views of several in the Bokassi Mountains.

Large-billed (Sabine's) Puffback

Dryoscopus sabini

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

Black-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra senegala

The most widely distributed tchagra, that was seen well in Benoue NP.

Brown-crowned Tchagra

Tchagra australis

We heard one at Bokassi and later Dodge & Lorna saw one in the Bokassi foothills.

Luehder's Bush Shrike

Laniarius luehderi

We had very brief views of one on Mt.Kupe, however later we enjoyed great views of a pair at Bokassi.

Tropical Boubou

Laniarius aethiopicus

A total of 4 birds were seen in at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Common (Yellow-crowned) Gonolek

Laniarius barbarus

This brilliantly coloured bush-shrike was seen well in woodland south of Waza NP where we found a beautiful pair.

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

6 of these stunning and confiding shrikes were seen well on Mount Cameroon, we had further sightings of 7 in the Bamenda highlands.

Mountain Sooty Boubou

Laniarius poensis

A total of 3 birds were seen on Mount Cameroon with further sightings in the Bokassi Mountains.

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

Grey-green Bushshrike

Telophorus bocagei

We had good views of two in the Bokassi Mountains.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike

Telophorus sulfureopectus

A widespread African savanna species, one was heard in Benoue NP.

Green-breasted Bushshrike

Malaconotus gladiator

We enjoyed great views of one on Mt.Cameroon, this particular individual was seen eating a Chameleon. A further 2 were seen particularly well in the Bokassi Mountains.

Helmetshrikes & Allies *Prionopidae*

White Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatus

We had 2 wonderful flocks, 6 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 7 in Benoue NP. 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 ludwiggii*

We located a singleton in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Shining Drongo*Dicrurus atripennis*

This forest interior drongo was seen well in Korup NP where we found at least 3 in mixed species flocks.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird. 13+ 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 at the Sanaga River and again on Mt. Kupe.

*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*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch where at least one of the birds was a juvenile with a pink bill. We also found several in the Benoue area.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

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

Starlings *Sturnidae*

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

This was the common starling species seen in the far north near Waza NP.

Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chloropterus*

We found small numbers around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had good views of this bird at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

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 3 were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and peak numbers of up to 20 in the Bamenda highlands.

Purple Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis purpureus*

Another stunning starling, small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

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

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

Chestnut-bellied Starling*Lamprotornis pulcher*

Up to 40 seen daily in the dry scrubland north of Maroua.

Purple-headed Glossy-Starling*Lamprotornis purpureiceps*

We had brief views of 3 near the Sanaga River, however we were treated to superb scope views of a further 3 near Mundemba.

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

This stunning bird was seen in woodlands around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

(Forest) Chestnut-winged Starling*Onychognathus fulgidus*

Small numbers were seen in the Bokassi and Mt. Kupe areas.

Waller's Starling*Onychognathus walleri*

This is a slightly smaller bird than the previous species, we found a pair at Bokassi and several more in the Bamenda highlands.

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 enjoyed great views of a pair.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*

This bird was viewed on two occasions on Mt.Kupe.

White-collared Starling *Grafisia torquata*

This is a special to the Ngaoundaba Ranch area. We saw 3 birds during our time there.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

We found 2 on a Roan Antelope in Waza NP.

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.

Bush Petronia *Petronia dentata*

Very common in the north of the country, with up to 50+ birds recorded daily from Ngaoundaba Ranch north.

Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

This massive weaver was seen just south of Maroua where we found 2 near a nesting colony.

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 30+ birds in our first day in the extreme north province.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

Our first sighting of one was during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch. We found a further 3 in dry scrub north of Maroua.

Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani*

This range restricted and endangered bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands. We counted a total of 6 birds in the area.

Baglafecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafecht*

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. Our first sighting was of one at La Digue, a further three were seen near Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

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

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

This snappy-looking weaver of forest edge, was first seen near the Sanaga River with further sightings at Limbe Botanical Gardens, Mt.Kupe and Bokassi areas.

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*



This dapper bird of forest fringes was first seen at Mt Cameroon where we found a total of 6. Further sightings were had at Mt.Kupe and in the Bamenda highlands.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

This beautiful bird was seen near the Sanaga River.

Heuglin's Masked-Weaver *Ploceus heuglini*

We found 3 during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

Up to 20 were seen daily during our stay in Benoue NP.

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*

A forest canopy species and a very beautiful weaver indeed, we saw one during a walk on the Mundemba road.

Forest Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*

This pretty, bicolored bird was first seen on Mt.Cameroon and thereafter small numbers were seen daily in the Bokassi and Mt.Kupe areas.

Preuss' Weaver *Ploceus preussi*

Two of these canopy weavers were seen by some on Mt.Kupe.

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 3 in the Bamenda Highlands.

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

We had superb scope views of a pair near the Sanaga River, the all black female was seen particularly well. There are few accessible sites to see this species and we were lucky to find this rare bird.

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

A male was seen near the Sanaga River and later we found small numbers on the Mundemba road.

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

A secretive species that forages in thick tangles, we found a total of 6 in Korup NP, an uncommon interior species.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

This is a fairly common species and was seen in small numbers near the Sanaga River and again in Korup NP.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*

Some of us saw one male in partial breeding plumage near the Sanaga River.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

We found the "African avian locust" in big numbers, 1000+ in one day, in Waza NP.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

We had great views of 2 males one in full breeding plumage, during the drive from Mundemba to Nyassosso.

Orange Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Small numbers of non-breeding birds (20) were seen amongst flocks of red-billed quelea at the leaking taps at our lodge near Waza NP.

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

We found 20 on the upper slopes of Mount Cameroon and a further 3 in the Bamenda Highlands.

Yellow-shouldered Widowbird *Euplectes macrourus*

Our first sighting was of one seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings of 8 in Benoue NP.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*

We found 4 birds in non-breeding plumage at Dang Lake.



Grosbeak Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*
We found 3 birds in the farm bush at the base of Mt.Kupe.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Woodhouse's Antpecker *Parmoptila woodhousei*
We had wonderful views of 9 birds in Korup NP, a further one was seen on Mt.Kupe.

White-breasted Negrofinch *Nigrita fusconota*
Small numbers were seen on Mt Kupe.

Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch *Nigrita bicolor*
This attractive seedeater was seen briefly on several occasions. We found 2 near the Sanaga River and had a further sighting on Mt.Kupe.

Pale-fronted Negrofinch *Nigrita luteifrons*
3 birds were seen at Limbe BG where we had amazing views of a single bird very low down. We also found 2 at Bokassi.

Gray-headed (-crowned) Negrofinch *Nigrita canicapilla*
The commonest negrofinch. It was seen at the Sanaga, Limbe BG, near Mundemba and in the Bokassi and Mt.Kupe areas. Its sad whistled song was a constant background sound in lowland forests of the south.

Fernando Po (Little/Shelly's) Oliveback *Nesocharis shelleyi*
This beautiful little bird was refreshingly common on Mt Cameroon where we saw at least 20 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 6 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 10 in Benoue NP.

Red-winged Pytilia *Pytilia phoenicoptera*
One bird was seen by Greg at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*
A total of 14 birds were seen on our day from Maroua to Waza NP. A widespread and beautifully marked finch.

Red-faced Pytilia *Pytilia hypogrammica*
We had superb views of 3 birds in woodland near Ngaoundaba Ranch. A rare and seldom recorded species.

Green-backed Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*
Some of us had superb views of one in the farm bush on Mt.Kupe.

Red-faced Crimson-wing *Cryptospiza reichenovii*
We had stunning views of 2 birds seen by all participants on Mt Cameroon.

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*
We had very brief views of 3 near the Sanaga River and later enjoyed a wonderful sighting of one near Mundemba.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*
A remarkably beautiful bird. We were treated to incredible views of a very confiding pair at Limbe BG, well found by Lorna.

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri*
A total of 5 birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A beautifully patterned finch.

Dybowski's Twinspot *Clytospiza dybowskii*
First seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and later a pair was seen at Benoue NP.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*
We had a superb sighting of 8 birds drinking at Benoue NP.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*



Commonly encountered at Benoue NP where we found up to 10 daily.

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*

This large firefinch was first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Our highest total was of 15 birds near a small pool in Benoue NP.

Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata*

A rare Firefinch, our first sighting was of a pair en route from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 4 were seen in woodland in Benoue NP.

Rock Firefinch *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*

We found just 2 on our first visit to a rocky slope north of Maroua and a further 12 at the same site a few days later. A rare species that was thought to be endemic to Nigeria. It was only discovered in the Maroua area in 2005 by simultaneously by Rockjumper Birding Tours and another tour group.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

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

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpada*

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*

This species was only seen in the Waza NP area with up to 20 birds around the cabins at Waza campment.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Africa's most widespread waxbill was observed only on our last day in the Bamenda highlands where we saw 2 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. We found a small flock near Mundemba and a further 3 near Bokassi.

African Quailfinch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

We found a small flock of 6 near Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further flock near the Benoue River.

African Silverbill *Lonchura cantans*

Up to 30 were seen daily near Waza NP.

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 was seen near the Sanaga River with further sightings of 30 near Nyassosso.

*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.*

Indigobirds *Viduidae*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

This familiar bird, which parasitises small seedeaters, was seen in small numbers first near the Benoue River with further sightings near Mundemba.

Northern Paradise Whydah *Vidua orientalis*

2 birds in non-breeding plumage were seen in Waza NP.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies *Fringillidae*

Oriole Finch *Linurgus olivaceus*



This beautiful and endearing critter was seen exceptionally well on Mt Cameroon where we found 6 birds. A further one was seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

White-rumped Seedeater *Serinus leucopygius*

We found 6 near the Benoue River and a couple near Waza NP.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*

This species was seen in small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Streaky-headed Canary *Serinus gularis*

This is a rare bird in West Africa. We found 2 near 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 on Mt.Cameroon, Bokassi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Buntings *Emberizidae*

Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

One bird was seen in Benoue NP and another at a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

Cabanis' Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi*

One of these beautiful broad-leafed woodland birds was 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, where we had great scope views of one.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*

We saw at least 20 during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch and small numbers daily in Benoue NP.

Patas Monkey *Erythrocebus patas*

Our first sighting was of one during the drive from Ngaoundaba Ranch to Benoue NP. We recorded up to 25 daily whilst in the Waza area. This colourful monkey is largely terrestrial.

Tantalus Monkey *Cercopithecus tantalus*

We observed this species first at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we recorded 5 and then again at Benoue NP where we found 8.

Mona Monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans*

The participants that arrived early had good views of 2 near the Sanaga River.

Lorisids *Loridae*

Senegal Galago *Galago senegalensis*

We had good views of 2 during our night drive in Benoue NP.



Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*

Straw-colored Fruit Bat *Eidolon helvum*
Many were seen outside our hotel in Douala.

Gerbils *Gerbillinae*

Lesser Egyptian Gerbil *Gerbillus gerbillus*
We found two during a night drive near Waza NP.

Hares & Rabbits *Leporidae*

Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis*
Small numbers seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Squirrels *Sciuridae*

Striped Ground Squirrel *Euxerus erythropus*
One was seen near Waza NP.

Lady Burton's Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus Isabella*
We enjoyed good views of one on Mt. Cameroon.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*
We found 2 during our time at the Sanaga River.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*
We had wonderful views of one in Korup NP.

Dogs & Allies *Canidae*

Common (Golden) Jackal *Canis aureus*
A beautiful *Canid* that was seen very well during a night drive near Waza NP and again in Waza NP.

Sand Fox *Vulpes pallida*
During our night drive at Waza we were treated to fantastic views of 2.

Mongoose *Herpestidae*

Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*
We had wonderful views of two during a night drive near Waza NP.

White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda*
We enjoyed great views of one during our night drive in Benoue NP.

Genets & Civets *Viverridae*

Common Genet *Genetta genetta*
We found one during our nightdrive near Waza NP.



Cats *Felidae*

Wild Cat

Felis sylvestrus

This cat, believed to be the ancestor of all domestic tabby cats, was first tamed by the Egyptians 5000 years ago. We found it once during our night drive near Waza NP.

Serval

Felis serval

We had superb views of one during our night drive near Waza NP.

Hyraxes *Procavidae*

Black-necked Rock Hyrax

Procavia johstoni

We found one on a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

Hippopotamuses *Hippopotamidae*

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

At least 8 were observed in the Benoue River near Garoua and we had further sightings of up to 20 daily in Benoue NP.

Pigs *Suidae*

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

A familiar savanna animal that we found in Benoue NP where we found 4 and later a further 8 were seen in Waza NP.

Giraffes *Giraffidae*

Giraffe

Giraffe cameoleopardus

We had at least 10 of these wonderful beasts on our full day in Waza NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates *Bovidae*

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

At least 2 of these striking antelope were seen daily in Benoue NP.

Bush Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

Small numbers were seen in Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Red-flanked Duiker

Cephalophus rufilatus

Up to 2 were seen daily in Benoue NP.

Ogilby's Duiker

Cephalophus ogilbyi

Two were seen by some participants in Korup NP.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebia

We had wonderful views of 3 in Benoue NP.

Kob

Kobus kob

This was a particularly common mammal in Benoue NP where daily totals exceed 50. We observed smaller numbers in Waza NP.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

We found 2 in Benoue NP.



Red-fronted Gazelle

Gazella rufifrons

This dainty and incredibly quick creature was seen only in Waza NP where we observed 2.

Topi

Damaliscus lunatus

We observed at least 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 20 during our full day in Waza NP.

Annotated List of Reptiles Species recorded

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

We had wonderful views of 3 enormous adults in Benoue NP. Two were seen spinning and ripping a carcass apart. We were witness to the incredible power of these amazing reptiles.

Red-headed Rock Agama

Agama agama

We found 3 in Douala.

Flap-neck Chameleon

Chamaeleo dilepsis

One was seen at Mt.Kupe.

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