



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Cameroon I

*Picathartes, Rainforests & Sahel*

25<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2007



Cricket Warbler: By Keith Valentine

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader Keith Valentine**

**Top 10 birds of the tour as voted by participants:**

1. Fernando Po Oliveback
2. Cricket Warbler
3. Mt. Kupe Bushshrike
4. Rufous-sided Broadbill
5. Gray-necked Rockfowl
6. African Piculet
7. Bannerman's Turaco
8. Rachel's Malimbe
9. Dybowski's Twinspot
10. Banded Wattle-eye

## Tour Summary

What a pleasure it was traveling in Cameroon this year. The country that is notorious for logistical problems was unusually smooth and this no doubt added to the great enjoyment experienced by everyone on the trip. Cameroon is always a birding mecca and it is undoubtedly the best destination in West Africa to see the greatest diversity of birds and this was proven again on this trip.

Our first prime birding spot was the broad Sanaga River. On our drive we made a roadside stop and located the scarce Hartlaub's Duck and Long-legged Pipit. The Sanaga River produced the fabulous Gray Pratincole, White-headed Lapwing, Preuss's Swallow, Orange Weaver, the shy African Finfoot and a pair of African Skimmer while closer to Douala a stop at the La Digue mangroves gave us Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher and Mouse-brown Sunbird.

Boarding an airplane for Garoua was more of a distant hope for us before arriving in Cameroon as we had planned to take trains because of extremely unreliable air transport. It need not be said that when we arrived in Garoua by plane we had the hugest smiles on our faces and were ready for the journey south to the amazing Ngaoundaba Ranch. The ranch was once again incredible as we racked up a mind-blowing array of specials in quick time. The riverine forests produced the adorable Red-headed Lovebird, stunning White-crested and Ross's Turaco, rare Willcock's Honeyguide, Leaf-love, Red-winged Gray Warbler, the scarce endemic Bamenda Apalis, highly vocal Oriole Warbler, Gray-winged, Snowy-crowned and White-crowned Robin-Chat, secretive (Spotted) Thrush and Blackcap Babbler and the highly localized White-collared Starling. Our forays at night yielded Pennant-winged, Standard-winged and Black-shouldered Nightjar while the surrounding tall broadleaved woodlands were buzzing with mixed flocks and some of the more interesting species included Brown-backed Woodpecker, Sun Lark, White-breasted and Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, Gambaga Flycatcher, Spotted Creeper, White-winged Black Tit, scarce Red-faced Pytilia, Brown and Dybowski's Twinspot, beautiful Gray-headed Oliveback and Brown-rumped Bunting.

On our drive north to Benoue National Park a stop at Dang Lake produced African Pygmy-Goose, Collared Pratincole and Lesser Jacana. Night drives gave us the highly sought after Bronze-winged Courser and African Scops-Owl. Our ideally set camp in Benoue gave us excellent access to the riverine and woodland habitats alike. Star riverine species were the unrivalled Egyptian Plover, Red-necked Falcon, rare Adamawa Turtle-Dove, Violet Turaco, Bearded Barbet, Swamp Flycatcher, striking Black-headed Gonolek and Black-faced Firefinch. The woodlands gave up White-throated Francolin, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Dorst's and Rufous Cisticola, Red-winged Prinia, Yellow-bellied Hylia and Heuglin's Wheatear to our quest.

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, Rock-loving Cisticola, coveys of noisy Stone Partridge, Rufous Scrub-Robin and the very rare and little known Rock Firefinch. The plains around Mora were extensively searched however no sign of the nomadic Quail Plover was to be found. Other species of interest included White-bellied Bustard, Black-headed Lapwing, Golden Nightjar (seen at night), Long-tailed Nightjar, Singing Bushlark, Red-pate Cisticola, intricately marked Cricket Warbler and Black Scrub-Robin. Waza National Park was very, very hot and the surrounding woodland was extremely dry. There was also very little standing water present and so many species of birds and large mammals were attracted to the last remaining ponds inside the reserve. The couple of waterholes that we visited had many herons, egrets, ducks and storks milling about and making for quite a spectacle. Other species seen in and around Waza National Park included Egyptian and Rueppell's Vulture, Clapperton's Francolin, Pallid, Montagu's and Western Marsh Harrier, Fox Kestrel, many graceful Black Crowned Crane, the highly sought after Arabian Bustard, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Common Gonolek and River Prinia.

Moving back to the south, we traveled down to the Sanaga River again as a number of people were not present for our initial exploration of this area. On this occasion we visited an area of logged forest on the south bank of the river where an incredible, fruiting tree attracted huge numbers of forest species. We spent a couple of hours just watching the different species coming and going and then all excitement broke loose as a Red-bellied Malimbe was spotted, a seriously good bird. Other cracking ticks included Yellowbill, Black Bee-eater, Red-billed Dwarf and Black-casqued Hornbill, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Cassin's and Red-vented Malimbe and Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch. We enjoyed a great look at a Beecroft's Anomalure just before sunrise and just after sunrise had a Red-chested Goshawk fly overhead. The Sanaga River itself held very similar species to the visit at the start of the tour.

The Bamenda Highlands hold some of Cameroon's most threatened birds and with so little habitat left we found the target species concentrated in a few of the remaining gullies. A full day was spent in these highlands where the birding was phenomenal and we had great success in locating the specials. We managed to track down no fewer than three pairs of the highly endangered Banded Wattle-eye and enjoyed brilliant scope views of the beautiful Bannerman's Turaco late in the afternoon. Other goodies were Bannerman's and Brown-capped Weaver, skulky Bangwa Scrub-Warbler, striking Yellow-breasted Boubou, Red-necked Buzzard, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Elliot's Woodpecker, Mountain Wagtail, Cameroon Mountain Greenbul, restless Green Longtail, African Hill Babbler, Pectoral-patch Cisticola, Black-collared Apalis and dazzling Cameroon Sunbird, while on the escarpment above the town of Bamenda we found a pair of the localized Neumann's Starling.

Next up were the awesome areas of Mt. Kupe and Bokassi. These two mountains are the only known locality for the very rare Mt. Kupe Bushshrike. Negotiating the steep trails in this area is tricky but well worth it and our efforts were rewarded with views of a spectacular pair of Mt. Kupe Bushshrike on the Bokassi range and another pair of birds on the Shrike Trail, Mt. Kupe. Many other cracking birds also call these mountains home and we had brilliant looks at a number of them including near endemics such as Ursula's Sunbird, Cameroon Pigeon, Cameroon Olive and Gray-headed Greenbul and Black-capped Woodland-Warbler. The Bokassi range requires less effort to get into the higher forests where some of the high elevation specials can be located and here we found Tullberg's Woodpecker, Gray Cuckooshrike, Black-necked Wattle-eye, White-throated Mountain-Babbler, Luehder's Bushshrike and Black-billed Weaver. The drive up to the Bokassi range saw some of us obtaining views of a single Brown Nightjar, a very scarce and little known species of forest nightjar.

Max's and Shrike Trails at Mt. Kupe are notoriously steep, however the climb up is well worth it when you consider that we picked up Yellow-billed Turaco, African Piculet, African Forest Flycatcher, White-bellied Robin-Chat, outstanding Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, secretive Crossley's Ground-Thrush, Large-billed Puffback and Red-billed Helmetshrike. The 'farm bush' was as usual very productive with many great birds being found. Top of the list was the rare Fiery-breasted Bushshrike but other interesting species such as White-spotted Flufftail, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Cassin's Honeyguide, Gabon Woodpecker, Forest Swallow, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, Violet-backed Hylia, Yellow-footed and Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, West African Batis, Bates' Paradise-Flycatcher, diminutive Tit-Hylia, Tiny Sunbird, Mackinnon's Fiscal, Preuss' Weaver and White-breasted Negrofinch were all found.

The magnificent lowland forests of Korup National Park were awaiting us and we were not to be disappointed. The birding can be tricky as species are generally shy and secretive however with a bit of work and luck we found a considerable number of highly desirable specials. The magical Gray-necked Rockfowl was sighted on two consecutive days as a couple of birds were seen near a known nesting site. Other forest highlights included the shy Black-throated Coucal, White-bellied and Dwarf Kingfisher (for some), White-crested and Yellow-casqued Hornbill, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, brilliant displaying Rufous-sided Broadbill, Blue Cuckooshrike, a host of greenbul species including Eastern Bearded and White-bearded, White-browed Forest Flycatcher, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Blackcap and Brown Illadopsis, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, scarce Woodhouse's Antpecker and the rare Rachel's Malimbe (seen nest building). Huge ant swarms attracted Green-tailed Bristlebill, White-tailed Ant-Thrush, Brown-chested and Fire-crested Alethe and Forest Robin, while at the Mana River crossing into Korup we found Rock Pratincole.

Our last key destination was West Africa's highest mountain, Mount Cameroon. We took the entire day to make our assault on this volcanic massif. The weather was near to perfect throughout and we ascended all the way up to the treeline in order to have a shot at our main target, the Mt. Cameroon Spierops, which we had no trouble in locating. Other highlights for us here included Peregrine Falcon, Bartailed Trogon, Western Tinkerbird, Mountain Sawwing, White-tailed Warbler, Mountain Robin-Chat and Mountain Sooty Boubou. Other specials included Banded Prinia, Cameroon Scrub-Warbler, Orange-tufted Sunbird, and superb Fernando Po Oliveback at point blank range, Black-headed Waxbill, Black-bellied Seedcracker, Red-faced Crimson-wing, Oriole Finch and Thick-billed Seed-eater. Both the Spierops and Sawwing are entirely endemic to this mountain!

Today was our final day in Cameroon. Leaving this fabulous mountain we traveled to the lush Limbe Botanical Gardens where we found some fine birds including Western Reef Heron, Reichenbach's

Sunbird, and the beautiful Western Bluebill before traveling back to Douala where we enjoyed a fine dinner together before our evening flights home.

Black-throated Wattle-eye, White-throated Francolin, Clapperton's Francolin, Scissor-tailed Kite, Yellow-breasted Boubou & Fernando Po Oliveback: By Keith Valentine

## **Annotated List of Bird Species recorded**

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

### **Grebes *Podicipedidae***

**Little Grebe (Dabchick)**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Our first sighting was of 5 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.

### **Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae***

**Gray Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers, two seen at La Digue and a single at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

A fairly common species in the north, noted in abundance in Waza NP.

**Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea*

Our first sighting was of one en route to the Sanaga River. Further sightings were enjoyed at Dang Lake.

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

**Great (White) Egret**

*Ardea alba*

This familiar species was seen at La Digue, Limbe and Dang Lake.

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

**Intermediate Egret**

*Egretta intermedia*

A single bird was found at a small wetland between Douala and Edea.

**Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

We found small numbers at La Digue and the Sanaga River.

*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 only sighting was of 2 dark morph birds at the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

*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*

This species was noted at dang Lake and again at Waza NP.

**Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*

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

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

**Striated (Green-backed) Heron**

*Butorides striatus*

Recorded in small numbers at a few wetlands with our first sighting 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*  
Seen in the early morning at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### Hamerkop *Scopidae*

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*  
This unique species was easily seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

### Storks *Ciconidae*

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*  
Our only sighting was of a single at a waterhole in Waza NP.

**African Openbill (~ed Stork)** *Anastomus lamelligerus*  
Huge numbers were noted at the waterholes in Waza NP.

**Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*  
A flock of at least 30 birds was seen in Benoue NP.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*  
At least 25 birds were found at the waterholes in Waza NP

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*  
One of the great storks of the World! 7 birds were seen in Waza NP.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*  
Birds were noted in large numbers at Waza NP and at Dang Lake and Benoue NP.

### Ibises & Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*  
Our highest count was of 20 odd seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Other birds seen included 6 at Dang Lake and at least 15 at Waza NP.

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 20 birds at Dang Lake with a further sighting of 6 at the Benoue River.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*  
Our first sighting was of 20 at Dang Lake with a further 40 birds at a waterhole in Waza NP.

**Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
A total of 7 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 6 birds.

**African Pygmy-goose** *Nettapus auritus*  
We enjoyed good scope views of 10 at Dang Lake.

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anus undulata*  
We recorded at 50 birds 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 5 birds at a waterhole in Waza NP including a few males in full breeding plumage.

**Osprey Pandionidae****Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

Our first was a single bird perched in a lone tree in desert scrub far from water near Mora while a second bird was sighted at the Sanaga River, slightly more traditional habitat.

**Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae****African Cuckoo-Hawk***Alviceda cuculoides*

A single bird was sighted near riverine woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**European Honey-buzzard***Pernis apivorus*

One was seen en route from Mt. Kupe to Kumba.

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

This species is common and widespread in the north of the country.

**Scissor-tailed Kite***Echelictinia riocourii*

A beautiful and graceful species that was first seen near the town of Mora, much to the delight of the whole group. 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. We had a pair in Benoue NP.

**Palm-nut Vulture***Gypohierax angolensis*

Recorded in the wetter south with regularity. First seen south of the Sanaga.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

This widespread species was seen in the Mora area.

**Egyptian Vulture***Neophron percnopterus*

We had a total of 3 birds during our 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*

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

**Banded Snake-Eagle***Circaetus cinerascens*

This is an uncommon species in the area. We had a single in flight near Benoue NP.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

The "tightrope-walker" of the raptor world is a handsome species that we saw in Waza NP.

**Western (European) Marsh-Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

We enjoyed a couple of sightings of this migrant near Ngaoundere and again in the Waza area.

**Pallid Harrier***Circus macrourus*

We enjoyed a lovely male and female in the Waza area.

**Montagu's Harrier***Circus pygargus*

One female was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch while a beautiful male was sighted in the Waza area.

**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)***Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded most regularly in the south with a highest count of 5 birds at Mt. Kupe.

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk***Melierax metabates*

Recorded in small numbers in the Mora and Waza areas.

**Gabar Goshawk***Micronisus gabar*

We had two great sightings of 8 birds in the Waza area including a couple of superb melanistic birds.

**Red-chested Goshawk***Accipiter toussenelii*

This forest *Accipiter* was seen once when a single bird flew over our heads and called in the early morning near the Sanaga River.

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

**Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)** *Accipiter badius*

This species was regularly seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

*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.*

**Black Goshawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

This stunning *Accipiter* was regularly seen in the Mt. Kupe 'farm bush'.

**Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*

This good-looking raptor was easily seen near Mora and in Waza NP.

**Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis*

This handsome buzzard was noted at many widespread localities on the tour.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

We enjoyed at least 25 birds on our day in Waza NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Aquila wahlbergi*

We had good views of 2 while at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

A single bird was seen while we were at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Booted Eagle** *Aquila pennatus*

A single bird was well seen in flight in the Mora area.

**Cassin's Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus africanus*

A single bird was observed and heard calling above forest in the Bokassi Range.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Ngaoundaba Ranch and Waza NP were the two areas where we found this stunning species.

### Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae*

**Eurasian (Common/Rock) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

This widespread, familiar raptor was first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings 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 views of 2 at a waterhole in Waza NP with another single bird being located in the Bamenda highlands.

**Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera*

Single birds were found in Benoue NP. An uncommon bird in Cameroon.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*

A single bird was observed in flight in the 'farm bush' at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

We enjoyed wonderful views of a theatrical pair while having lunch on Mt. Cameroon.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

We had a few sightings in Waza NP, Mt. Kupe and 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*

This species was seen at the edge of riverine forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Double-spurred Francolin** *Francolinus bicalcaratus*

This francolin was commonly encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Clapperton's Francolin** *Francolinus clappertoni*

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

**Stone Partridge***Ptilopachus petrosus*

This species was encountered first in Benoue NP with several more 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.

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

This very handsome bird is delightfully common in Waza NP with peak numbers of 50 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 some people had views of a single bird at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Buff-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura elegans*

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

**Red-chested Flufftail***Sarothrura rufa*

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

**Nkulengu Rail***Himantornis haematopus*

A species that is very rarely seen. We heard a single bird giving its odd beating bongo drum like call one morning in Korup NP.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

One was seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Purple Swamphen***Porphyrio Porphyrio*

We had good views of 20 odd birds at Dang Lake.

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

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

A single bird was observed at the Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

**Finfoots heliornithidae****African Finfoot***Podica senegalensis*

We were fortunate to encounter a single bird at a tributary of the large Sanaga River.

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

After much searching we bumped into 2 of these large and highly sought-after Bustards in Waza NP.

**White-bellied Bustard***Leupodotis senegalensis*

This species was observed during our Quail Plover trek near Mora.

**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 30 at Dang Lake.

**Avocets & Stilts *Recurvirostridae*****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

This widespread species was seen at Waza NP.

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

We enjoyed excellent views of a single bird along the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

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

This remarkably beautiful bird was encountered with regularity on the Benoue River in Benoue NP. We managed a total of 4 birds on our first walk.

**Bronze-winged Couraser***Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

This species is one of the more sought-after and unpredictable species in the family and we enjoyed a cracking sighting of one in the middle of the road while entering Benoue NP.

**Collared Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

Good views were had of 20 birds cruising about over Dang Lake.

**Rock Pratincole***Glareola nuchalis*

6 birds were seen on the Mana River on our way into Korup NP.

**Gray Pratincole***Glareola cinerea*

At least 20 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 Benoue NP 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 indeed.

**White-headed Lapwing (Plover)***Vanellus albiceps*

First seen at the Sanaga River where a pair were found and then later seen again in Benoue NP.

**Wattled Lapwing (Plover)***Vanellus senegallus*

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

**Black-bellied Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

An uncommon species in Cameroon that was sighted at the La Digue mudflats.

**Common Ringed Plover***Charadrius hiaticula*

We found 11 at the La Digue mudflats.

**Three-banded Plover***Charadrius tricollaris*

We found a number on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

**White-fronted Plover***Charadrius marginatus*

Only encountered on the Sanaga River where we found a single bird.

**Sandpipers & Allies *Scolopacidae*****Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago*

This migrant was found at Dang Lake where a single bird was observed feeding in flooded vegetation.

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

We found 3 at La Digue.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

This familiar species was encountered at several locations.

**Green Sandpiper***Tringa ochropus*

One was seen on the Benoue River near the town of Garoua.

**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

Seen at several localities in small numbers. Peak numbers of 10 were seen at Dang Lake.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A common migrant seen at several water bodies throughout.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Up to 3 were seen on sandbars in the Sanaga River.

### **Terns *Sternidae***

**Royal Tern** *Sterna maxima*

Our only sighting was a couple of birds seen in flight at La Digue.

### **Skimmers *Rynchopidae***

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*

We encountered 5 birds on the Sanaga River.

### **Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae***

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*

A morning and afternoon drinker, this bird was easy to observe on our day in Waza NP with at least 8 birds sighted.

### **Doves & Pigeons *Collumbidae***

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Common in Douala and other large towns.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

A common species in the north.

**Cameroon Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

We had 6 of these birds in flight while birding in the Bokassi range.

**Adamawa Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*

We enjoyed fantastic views of 2 birds coming down to drink and feed on the sandbanks of the Benoue River in Benoue NP. A rare and localized species.

**African Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

This rather pale *Streptopelia* was encountered regularly in the Waza NP area. Up to 25 were seen during our day in the park.

**African Mourning Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen only at Waza NP where we recorded a total of 5 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 throughout the north.

**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 Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur afer*

Not uncommon in secondary growth in the moister south with highest daily count of 5 birds at the Sanaga River.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

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

**Blue-headed Wood-Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*

A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. We had a single bird on a forest trail in Korup NP.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

A fairly common species in the dry north, especially in Waza NP.

**Bruce's Green-Pigeon** *Treron waalia*

Small numbers were seen at Benoue NP and 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 regularly throughout.

### Parrots, Macaws & Allies *Psittacidae*

**Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius*

We observed this species in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch. We counted a total of 5 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 6 seen near Mundemba.

**Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, we found up to 4 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 at the Sanaga River. We had further sightings in Korup NP.

**Guinea (Green) Turaco** *Tauraco persa*

Small numbers were 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 stunning species that was enjoyed at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

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

A commonly heard turaco of the forest interior, our first sighting on Mt. Kupe with further sightings at Bokassi and Mt. Cameroon. This subspecies has a wonderful red-tipped crest.

**Bannerman's Turaco** *Tauraco bannermanni*

This is one of Cameroon's most famous species and one of the most endangered. We had fantastic scope views of this stunning endemic in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*

Another stellar turaco, we had superb views of 3 birds at Benoue NP.

**Ross's Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*

We encountered 5 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 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again at Mt. Kupe.

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*

A species that was heard at a number of forest sites throughout.

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

We managed to see a single bird of the gabonensis race on Mt. Kupe.

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

A single bird was sighted at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*

At Lake Awing we had a sighting of a single bird.

**Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx olivinus*

Generally uncommon and a very difficult species to see, we found two birds calling and had flight views of one of them.

**Klaas' Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

This brood parasite, favoring the cup nests of woodland birds, was heard at several locations and seen well at Mt. Kupe.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

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

**Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had great views of one just outside Nyasosso.

**Yellowbill (Green Coucal/Malkoha)** *Ceuthmochares aereus*

This peculiar, malkoha-like cuckoo was seen at several forest sites including the Sanaga River, Mt. Kupe, Bokassi Mountains and Korup NP.

*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 singleton of this huge, elusive West African Coucal was briefly seen at a forest clearing in Korup NP.

*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.*

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

The most commonly encountered coucal in the north.

### Barn Owls *Tytonidae*

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

We enjoyed views of a single bird in the late afternoon at Waza.

### Typical Owls *Strigidae*

**African Scops-Owl** *Otus senegalensis*

We enjoyed incredible views of this tiny owl at Benoue NP.

**Grayish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*

We managed to locate a single bird on a night drive outside Waza NP.

**African Wood-Owl** *Strix woodfordii*

We heard this species several times in Korup NP.

**Pearl-spotted Owllet** *Glaucidium perlatum*

We heard this bird on several occasions in the north of the country.

### Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae*

**Brown Nightjar** *Caprimulgus binotatus*

This is a very scarce and little known species. On our drive up to the Bokassi Mountains a single bird was seen flying in front of the vehicle. The leader did not see this species.

**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 just after sunset.

**Black-shouldered Nightjar** *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

At Ngaoundaba Ranch one bird was seen near the Crater Lake.

**Long-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus climacurus*

We found a single bird after sunset at Mora where the species was first heard calling.

**Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

During our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch we found a male bird on our night excursion that was seen by some of the party.

**Standard-winged Nightjar** *Macrodipteryx longipennis*

We found only females of this species while at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### Swifts *Apodidae*

**Sabine's Spinetail***Rhaphidura sabini*

Our only sighting was of 3 of these distinctive and rather striking birds near the village of Mundemba.

**African Palm-Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful throughout most of the tour with the birds being recorded in good numbers almost everywhere.

**Common Swift***Apus apus*

A single flock of up to thirty birds was seen at the Sanaga River.

**African Swift***Apus barbatus*

A scarce bird in West Africa, we saw a flock of at least 15 birds near rocky habitat in the Bamenda Highlands close to Lake Awing.

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

This common urban swift was seen at most localities throughout the tour.

**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 20 birds during our time at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**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.

**Trogon Trogonidae****Bar-tailed Trogon***Apaloderma vittatum*

We enjoyed a sighting of this beautiful bird while on the walk up Mt. Cameroon.

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

Usually a rather difficult bird however we managed great scope views of a pair near Mundemba.

**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

We recorded a couple of birds at Benoue NP and at the Sanaga River.

**White-bellied Kingfisher***Alcedo leucogaster*

This bird resembles something of a flying bullet and we had a single bird whiz past us at incredible speed while in Korup NP.

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher***Ispidina (Ceyx) picta*

This beautiful little bird was first seen in secondary growth next to the Sanaga River, further sightings were enjoyed at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Dwarf Kingfisher***Ispidina lecontei*

A few people managed to get onto a perched bird in Korup NP.

**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher***Halcyon badia*

Easy to hear but difficult to see in the rainforest canopy.

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

We had our highest total of 7 birds in the Benoue NP and had further sightings of smaller numbers in the Ngaoundaba area.

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

Not uncommon in open habitat in the south often perching on telephone wires next to the road.

**Blue-breasted Kingfisher***Halcyon malimbica*

This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was seen in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

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

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

The Goliath of the kingfisher world. A pair was well seen 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 were at Benoue NP.

### **Bee-eaters *Meropidae***

#### **Black Bee-eater**

*Merops gularis*

We enjoyed fantastic views of 4 birds near the Sanaga River.

#### **Red-throated Bee-eater**

*Merops bulocki*

The northern equivalent of the more familiar White-fronted Bee-eater and every bit as beautiful. We had great views daily in Benoue NP.

#### **Little Bee-eater**

*Merops pusillus*

Small numbers were seen at the Sanaga River.

#### **Blue-breasted Bee-eater**

*Merops variegates*

An uncommon species in Cameroon, we found 3 birds in an open field in the Bamenda highlands.

#### **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 Waza NP.

#### **Green Bee-eater**

*Merops orientalis*

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

#### **European Bee-eater**

*Merops apiaster*

A single bird was seen flying above Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

#### **Northern Carmine Bee-eater**

*Merops nubicus*

Another magnificent bee-eater, we had good views of them at the Benoue River near Garoua and again in Waza NP.

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

### **Rollers *Coraciidae***

#### **Abyssinian Roller**

*Coracias abyssinica*

A common roller recorded throughout the dry north of the country, highest count of 40+ at Waza NP.

#### **Broad-billed Roller**

*Eurystomus glaucurus*

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

### **Hoopoes *Upupidae***

#### **Eurasian Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

Birds were noted at Benoue NP and 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.*

### **Hornbills *Bucerotidae***

#### **White-crested Hornbill**

*Tockus albocristatus*

A tricky species to see in the forest interior, however, we had a couple of birds respond excellently to a tape recording and were seen well.

#### **Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill**

*Tockus camurus*

Another tricky species to see well in the forest and we were fortunate to get great looks at a couple of birds at a fruiting tree in forest at the Sanaga River. A single bird was also found while in Korup NP.

#### **Red-billed Hornbill**

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands, 50+ seen in the Waza area.

#### **African Pied Hornbill**

*Tockus fasciatus*

Common throughout forested areas in Cameroon.

#### **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 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Piping Hornbill** *Ceratogymna fistulator*

Easily seen at the Sanaga River, smaller numbers were recorded outside Korup NP.

**White-thighed Hornbill** *Ceratogymna albotibialis*

A single bird was seen at the Sanaga River.

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

We had good views of a pair of these huge hornbills at the Sanaga River. Their wing beats can be easily heard as they cruise above the forest canopy.

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

A total of 4 birds were encountered during our stay in Korup NP.

**Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We only heard this species' booming call while at Benoue NP. This is a scarce species in Cameroon.

### Barbets *Capitonidae*

**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus*

A common forest species that was encountered at all forest sites in the south of Cameroon.

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

A scruffy, bird in forests and forest edge. We found 2 at the Sanaga River.

**Western Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We got outstanding views of a single bird up at the treeline on Mt. Cameroon.

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

This can be a tricky species to get good views of however we found a very responsive individual in the 'farm bush' at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*

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

**Yellow (Golden) -rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A common forest-edge species. Small numbers were seen and heard at various forest sites throughout.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

A savanna species first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and we all obtained great views of 2 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 at the Sanaga River and on Mt. Kupe.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta*

This forest barbet was seen once at a fruiting tree in forest on the south bank of the Sanaga River.

**Viellot's Barbet** *Lybius vieilloti*

A bird of more open woodland, our first sighting was of 3 birds at Benoue 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 3 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 with an additional sighting at the rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet that was heard regularly throughout the Mt. Kupe Bokassi region.

### Honeyguides *Indicatoridae*

**Spotted Honeyguide** *Indicator maculatus*

A single bird was sighted by some on the Shrike Trail, Mt. Kupe at close range. This species was not seen by the leader.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of one bird that was initially located by its distinctive call at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

This species was sighted at Ngaoundaba Ranch in gallery forest.

**Willcock's Honeyguide***Indicator willcocksi*

We initially had 2 birds in gallery forest that were seen briefly however we had another bird in the Bamenda highlands that showed much better.

**Cassin's Honeyguide***Prodotiscus insignis*

A single bird was brilliantly seen at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae****African Piculet***Sasia africana*

This diminutive and endearing species was brilliantly sighted on Max's Trail, Mt Kupe.

**Fine-spotted Woodpecker***Campethera punctuligera*

This lovely woodpecker was seen very well on a couple of occasions in mixed flocks in Benoue NP.

**Green-backed Woodpecker***Campethera cailliautii*

We had superb views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch in gallery forest.

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

This species was seen twice on our day in the Bokassi Mountains.

**Buff-spotted Woodpecker***Campethera nivosa*

This diminutive and rather dark woodpecker was seen a number of times in mixed species flocks within Korup NP.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

Our first sighting was of one in the Bamenda highlands with a further sighting on Bokassi.

**Gabon Woodpecker***Dendropicos gabonensis*

At least 6 birds were seen in the 'farm bush' at the base of Mt. Kupe.

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

**Elliot's Woodpecker***Dendropicos elliotii*

1 of these fine woodpeckers was seen in the Bamenda highlands with a further 2 on Mount Cameroon.

**Gray Woodpecker***Dendropicos goertae*

Several individuals located at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and Bamenda highlands.

**Brown-backed Woodpecker***Picoides obsoletus*

We enjoyed sightings of a few birds while birding the broadleaved woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch. This is a scarce, dry country species.

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

This elusive species was frustratingly only heard on Mt. Kupe.

**Rufous-sided Broadbill***Smithornis rufolateralis*

We enjoyed a superb view of this fantastic bird in full display while inside Korup NP.

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

We had wonderful views of 1 near Mora.

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark***Eremopterix leucotis*

A fairly common species of the dry north, at least 25 birds were seen on outings from Maroua to Waza NP.

**Crested Lark***Galerida cristata*

We had great views of a number of birds near the Benoue River and again near Mora.

**Sun Lark***Galerida modesta*

We found 3 birds in burnt grassland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

A single bird was seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.

**Rock Martin***Ptyonoprogne (Hirundo) fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen in small numbers in Benoue NP.

**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 Palearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.*

**Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica*

We saw very good numbers of this species in the Waza area.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers seen in Benoue NP and at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

*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*

2 of these beautiful birds were seen in Douala.

**Lesser Striped-Swallow** *Hirundo abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow that is very common in Cameroon.

**Rufous-chested Swallow** *Hirundo semirufa*

We found a pair of birds during the drive from Nyassosso to Mundemba.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis (Hirundo) senegalensis*

A couple of birds were noted at the Sanaga River.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*

We had good views of two in Waza NP.

**Preuss' (Cliff-) Swallow** *Hirundo preussi*

Commonly encountered at the Sanaga River, we found a large colony of up to 100 birds with further sightings in Mundemba.

**Forest Swallow** *Hirundo fuliginosa*

We recorded a total of 13 birds in the Bokassi and Mt Kupe areas.

**Square-tailed Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*

We found one near Mt. Kupe.

**Mountain Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*

A total of 20 of this range restricted species were seen on our day on Mt Cameroon.

**Petit's Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne petiti*

This species was first seen at the Sanaga River with further sightings throughout Cameroon.

### Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird, we saw our only birds in Benoue NP.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

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

**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

One was seen near Mundemba and a further 2 in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Long-legged Pipit** *Anthus pallidiventris*

We had great views at La Digue and again between Douala and Edea.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Excellent views were had of several birds daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and the Bamenda highlands.

### 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 a single bird on our first morning in Korup NP while it was pouring with rain.

**Gray Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia*

We recorded 4 of these smart birds at Bokassi and another 3 on Mt. Cameroon.

**Petit's Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga petiti*

We had a couple of sightings on Bokassi Mountain and Mt. Kupe.

**Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike** *Campephaga phoenicea*

We enjoyed some great sightings at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### **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*

A single bird was found in the Bamenda highlands while we enjoyed 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 throughout.

**Gray Greenbul**

*Andropadus gracilis*

We had a total of 3 birds in forest along the Sanaga River.

**Plain Greenbul**

*Andropadus curvirostris*

We found a couple at the Sanaga River.

**Slender-billed Greenbul**

*Andropadus gracilirostris*

A single bird was sighted from a good vantage point overlooking forest at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul**

*Andropadus latirostris*

A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had good sightings of 3 birds in forest along the Sanaga River.

**Western Mountain Greenbul**

*Andropadus tephrolaemus*

This common, although range restricted species was quite common on Mount Cameroon where we saw a total of 30 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 seen at Mt. Kupe.

**Spotted Greenbul**

*Ixonotus guttatus*

We secured excellent views of up to 5 birds in secondary forest south of the Sanaga River and later found more in Korup NP.

**Simple Greenbul**

*Chlorocichla simplex*

We found one at the Sanaga River.

**Yellow-throated Greenbul**

*Chlorocichla flavicollis*

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

**Swamp (~Palm) Greenbul**

*Thescelocichla leucopleura*

This species was only heard near the Sanaga River.

**Leaflove**

*Phyllastrephus scandens*

After a little effort we finally saw a pair of these noisy creatures in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Cameroon Olive Greenbul**

*Phyllastrephus poensis*

We had our only sighting of 5 birds on Mt. Kupe.

**Grey-headed Greenbul**

*Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*

We enjoyed great sightings of 12 in the Bokassi Mountains.

**Icterine Greenbul**

*Phyllastrephus icterinus*

This was the most frequently encountered greenbul in Korup NP with a total of 10+ seen during our time there.

**Xavier's Greenbul**

*Phyllastrephus xavieri*

Very similar to the previous species but with a different call, we had good numbers during our stay in Korup NP.

**Common (Red-tailed) Bristlebill**

*Bleda syndactyla*

3 were noted attending ant swarms in Korup NP.

**Lesser Bristlebill***Bleda notata*

Commoner than it's congener in Cameroon, we encountered 4 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 and seen well in the Mt. Kupe area.

**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 number of fantastic sightings during our stay there.

**White-bearded Greenbul***Criniger ndussumensis*

Another Congo forest special, we saw a total of 2 birds during our stay at Korup NP.

**Thrushes & Allies Turdidae****Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush***Neocossyphus fraseri*

We had good views of a pair of birds in the 'farm bush' below Mt. Kupe.

**White-tailed Ant Thrush***Neocossyphus poensis*

Our first sighting was 2 birds on Mt. Kupe. Thereafter we enjoyed good sightings of several in Korup NP.

**Crossley's Ground Thrush***Zoothera crossleyi*

Some of the group had good views of this secretive but vocal species on the Shrike Trail, Mt Kupe.

**Black-eared Ground-Thrush***Zoothera Cameronensis*

This mega was unfortunately only seen by a single member of the group in Korup N.P where it was sighted at extremely close range at a huge ant swarm. This species was not seen by the leader.

**African Thrush***Turdus pelios*

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

**Brown-chested Alethe***Alethe poliocephala*

We had great encounters with several on Mt.Kupe and Korup N.P.

**Fire-crested Alethe***Alethe diademata*

This species was not uncommon in Korup NP especially around ant swarms. At least 7 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 erythrops*

This moist grassland and swamp dwelling cisticola was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Singing Cisticola***Cisticola cantans*

A single bird was seen by some of the group on our drive from Maroua to Garoua. This species was not seen by the leader.

**Whistling Cisticola***Cisticola lateralis*

We heard one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Chattering Cisticola***Cisticola anonymus*

A secondary growth and scrub species, we encountered 2 at La Digue, near Mundemba and at the base of Mt. Cameroon.

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

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

**Rock-loving Cisticola***Cisticola aberrans*

5 birds were seen on rocky hillsides north of Maroua.

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 20 birds, were seen in arid scrub between Maroua and Waza NP.

**Dorst's Cisticola** *Cisticola dorsti*

We had a single bird of this recently described species in Benoue NP.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes*

We found 3 at Dang Lake.

**Rufous Cisticola** *Cisticola rufus*

We had a pair of birds in open broadleaved woodland in Benoue NP.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

2 birds were found at the edge of the Benoue River near Garoua.

**Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*

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

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we recorded this species in small numbers at many widespread localities.

**River Prinia** *Prinia fluviatilis*

In plumage it is very similar to the previous species but different in call. We had at least a half dozen in woodland south of Waza.

**White-chinned Prinia** *Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon*

This confiding, gregarious species was first observed at Ngaoundaba Ranch 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 4 birds on Mt. Kupe.

**Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)** *Heliolais erythroptera*

2 birds were seen well in open woodland in Benoue NP.

**Red-winged Gray Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*

A pair was observed in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Green Longtail** *Urolais epichlora*

We enjoyed excellent encounters with this species on Mt Cameroon where we found at least 15. We encountered further flocks in the Bokassi Mountains and in the Bamenda highlands.

**Cricket Warbler** *Spiloptila clamans*

We found a group of 3 of these charismatic and highly sought-after birds around Mora. The birds were brilliantly scoped and seen exceptionally well by at close range.

**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 3 birds on Mt. Kupe.

**Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*

This is one of the most beautiful apalises. We observed 1 bird at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*

We had superb views of 4 in the Bokassi Mountains.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

This widespread, woodland apalis is not very common in Cameroon. We observed a pair at La Digue and a single bird in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*

We enjoyed this species on Max's Trail, Mt. Kupe.

**Bamenda Apalis** *Apalis bamendae*

A gallery forest species that is endemic to Cameroon and was brilliantly seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch where 3 birds were found.

**Gray Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

We had sightings of 10 birds on the Bokassi Mountains.

**Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*

4 of these unusual creatures were located in riverine vegetation at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**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.

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 on Mt. Kupe.

**Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota*

This species was only heard at the base of Mt. Kupe.

### Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

**African Bush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

This bird was clearly heard and then seen 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 always a difficult species to see. On Mt Cameroon we managed to get amazing views of a bird that was continuously calling and moving above around our bootlaces. Incredible!

**Bangwa Scrub-Warbler** *Bradypterus bangwaensis*

We managed to get good 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*

We enjoyed brilliant views of 4 on Mt. Kupe.

**Moustached Grass-Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

At least 5 birds were found at a wonderfully 'fresh' smelling stream area in Garoua near the Benoue River.

**Great Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

A single bird was sighted in bush below our accommodations at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Greater Swamp-Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

We had a pair of birds on Mt. Kupe.

**Western Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais opaca*

Another Palaearctic migrant, at least 10 birds were seen near Mora.

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

**White-tailed Warbler** *Poliolais lopezi*

We had fantastic views of a single bird on Mt. Cameroon.

**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.

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*

Awesome views were had of this species at the Sanaga River and Mt. Kupe.

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We found 2 at the Sanaga.

**Lemon-bellied Crombec** *Sylvietta denti*

We found a single bird at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, our first one was seen at Benoue NP and a further 2 were found outside Waza NP.

**Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker, however we found 3 birds 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 at Korup NP and Bokassi.

**Black-capped Woodland-Warbler** *Phylloscopus herberti*

Our first sighting of this little gem was of 4 in the Bokassi Mountains with further sightings in the Mt. Kupe area.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

We had good views on numerous occasions in the woodlands of Ngaoundaba and Benoue NP.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

We found a single bird at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster*

We recorded a single stunning bird while birding flocks in Benoue NP.

**Violet-backed Hyliota** *Hyliota violacea*

We enjoyed 2 birds in the 'farm bush' below Mt. Kupe. This species is very uncommon in Cameroon.

**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.

### Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

**Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*

We found 2 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 sighting of a single bird on Shrike Trail, Mt. Kupe.

**White-browed Forest-Flycatcher** *Fraseria cinerascens*

A rare and seldom encountered bird, we had excellent views of a pair together with a juvenile while waiting next to a stream in Korup NP.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

This species was encountered at Bokassi and Mt. Kupe.

**Gambaga Flycatcher** *Muscicapa gambagae*

A thinly distributed and uncommon bird, we were fortunate to encounter 2 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 a single bird on Bokassi.

**Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica*

1 bird was seen on the Benoue River.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

A common forest-edge species with 15 recorded from Mt Cameroon, 2 from Bokassi and 5 from the Bamenda highlands.

**Yellow-footed Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sethsmithi*

A scarce species of flycatcher that we obtained superb views of 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 cassinii*

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

**Gray-throated Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus griseigularis*

A single bird was observed in Korup NP.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

We saw good numbers in the woodlands around Ngaoundaba and Benoue NP.

**Forest Robin** *Stiphornis erythrothorax*

We enjoyed great views of 2 in Korup NP.

**White-bellied Robin-Chat** *Cossyphicula roberti*

Max's Trail, Mt. Kupe was where we enjoyed a single bird in the forest understorey.

**Mountain Robin-Chat***Cossypha isabellae*

We had excellent views of this near-endemic on Mount Cameroon with at least 5 birds seen.

**Grey-winged Robin-Chat***Cossypha polioptera*

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

**Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat***Cossypha niveicapilla*

A single bird was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and near Mt. Kupe.

**White-crowned Robin-Chat***Cossypha niveicapilla*

A very large and showy *Cossypha*, much enjoyed by all. We had 2 sightings in riverine bush at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Rufous Scrub-Robin***Cercotrichas galactotes*

We came across 10 of these birds during our walks in dry scrub near Mora and at the rocky outcrop outside Maroua.

**Black Scrub-Robin***Cercotrichas podobe*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, we encountered at least 25 during our birding north of Maroua.

**Whinchat***Saxicola rubetra*

We had good views of a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**African (Common) Stonechat***Saxicola torquata*

This widespread species was seen well on the Bamanda highlands.

**Northern Wheatear***Oenanthe oenanthe*

We only saw this species in the Waza area where we found 2 birds.

**Heuglin's Wheatear***Oenanthe heuglini*

We encountered this uncommon intra-African migrant once at Benoue NP.

**Familiar Chat***Cercomila familiaris*

We encountered a total of 7 birds in the rocky areas next to the Benoue River.

**Northern Anteater Chat***Mermecocichla aethops*

We encountered a small group of 3 birds on the road to Waza NP north of Maroua.

**Sooty Chat***Myrmecocichla nigra*

One of the members of the group had two sightings of birds in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area. An uncommon species in Cameroon. Not seen by the leader.

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

These characterful, hammer-headed flycatchers were observed once Mt.Kupe area when a pair were seen and heard.

**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.

**Banded Wattle-eye***Platysteira laticincta*

One of Cameroon's most threatened endemics. We found a fantastic 3 pairs in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye***Platysteira castanea*

Small numbers were seen daily during our stay in Korup NP with our first sightings coming from Shrike Trail, Mt. Kupe.

**Black-necked Wattle-eye***Platysteira chalybea*

This beautiful little bird was seen in the Bokassi Mountains where we found a single in a mixed species flock. A restless creature that is tough to observe well.

**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye***Platysteira concreta*

Another stunning and restless bird, we enjoyed good views of this yellow gem on Shrike Trail, Mt Kupe.

**Senegal Batis***Batis senegalensis*

A total of 4 birds were seen on the tour at both Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**West African Batis***Batis occulta*

We had great views of a pair from a great vantage point overlooking the forest canopy at the base of Mt.Kupe, a seldom seen canopy species.

### Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher***Erythrocercus mccallii*

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 10 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher***Elminia albiventris*

We had good views of 2 birds on Mount Cameroon with further sightings in the Bokassi area.

**Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher***Trochocercus nitens*

Also a fairly lively bird but rather shy and often difficult to see in the open, we found 3 birds in Korup NP.

**Black-headed 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 one at La Digue.

**Bates' Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone batesi*

We had a good sighting in the Mt.Kupe area on numerous occasions.

**African Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed good views of several at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the Bamenda highlands.

### Rockfowl *Picathartidae*

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

This incredible species is one of the most desirable birds in Cameroon. After a fairly lengthy wait at a known site we were rewarded with brief but good views on two successive days.

### Babblers *Timaliidae*

**Blackcap Illadopsis***Illadopsis cleaveri*

This is a tricky species to see well as it spends much time creeping about on the forest floor. We found a total of 3 birds in Korup NP and ended up getting great views.

**Pale-breasted Illadopsis***Illadopsis rufipennis*

This species was only heard in Korup NP.

**Brown Illadopsis***Illadopsis fulvescens*

We found 5 birds in thick undergrowth during our time in Korup NP.

**African Hill Babbler***Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

At least 7 of this usually shy forest babbler were seen on our day at Mt Cameroon. A further 2 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 all managed to get good views of 2 of these special birds in a patch of gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Blackcap Babbler***Turdoides reinwardtii*

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

**Brown Babbler***Turdoides plebejus*

We enjoyed superb views at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP on numerous occasions.

**White-throated Mountain Babbler***Kupeornis gilberti*

We saw a single of 6 birds in the Bokassi Mountains.

### Chickadees & Tits *Paridae*

**White-shouldered Black Tit***Melaniparus guineensis*

We found 2 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 2 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 in tall broadleaved woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

### Penduline Tits *Remizidae*

#### **Yellow Penduline-Tit**

*Anthoscopus parvulus*

Some of us lucked onto a single bird in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **Tit-hyllia**

*Pholidornis rushiae*

We found 2 birds in the Mt.Kupe area. This is Africa's smallest bird.

### Sunbirds & Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

#### **Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird**

*Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri*

We had good sightings in Korup NP and Mt. Kupe of this confusing species that often looks more like a greenbul than a sunbird.

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.

#### **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**

*Anthreptes longuemarei*

A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we found a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a beautiful male in Benoue NP.

#### **Little Green Sunbird**

*Anthreptes seimundi*

Seen at the Sanaga River and at the base of Mt. Kupe.

#### **Green Sunbird**

*Anthreptes rectirostris*

We saw a couple of birds south of the Sanaga and thereafter it was seen commonly on Mt.Kupe.

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

#### **Collared Sunbird**

*Hedydipna (Anthreptes) collaris*

This is a very widespread species on the continent. We found this species on many days of the tour.

#### **(Southern) Pygmy Sunbird**

*Hedydipna (Anthreptes) platura*

We saw many 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 3 birds. After a little searching 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 La Digue, 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 on three occasions in Korup NP.

#### **Cameroon Sunbird**

*Cyanomitra oritis*

Our first sighting was of 10 birds in the Bamenda Highlands with further sightings of several birds at Bokassi, Mt.Kupe and on Mount Cameroon.

#### **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 the Sanaga River, 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.

#### **Green-throated Sunbird**

*Chaclomitra rubescens*

Our first sighting was of one female at Edea. We managed to find several more of these beauties at Limbe BG.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird***Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis*

A single bird was seen in Benoue NP.

**Olive-bellied Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia*

This is a typical forest edge species, seen at the Sanaga River and at Mt. Kupe.

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

We saw a total of ten birds, 10 were seen on Mt Cameroon with a single in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Beautiful Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella*

This exquisite sunbird is found only in the drier northern savanna, we enjoyed our sightings at Benoue NP.

**Orange-tufted Sunbird***Cinnyris bouvieri*

We were fortunate to find a pair of these rare birds in the 'farm bush' on Mt. Cameroon.

**Splendid Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) coccinigaster*

Excellent views at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Superb Sunbird***Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus*

We managed to find this bird in several localities, at Bokassi, Mt. Cameroon and Mt. Kupe.

**Variable Sunbird***Cinnyris venustus*

We had good views in the woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Ursula's Sunbird***Cinnyris ursulae*

A tricky species to find as one really needs to get high on Mt. Kupe, we managed to find 2 birds, one on Max's Trail and the other on Shrike Trail.

**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 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**White-eyes Zosteropidae****Cameroon Spierops***Spierops melanocephalus*

This Mount Cameroon endemic was fairly easily encountered once the tree line was reached. A pair was seen in a small mixed species flock.

**African Yellow White-eye***Zosterops senegalensis*

We had good sightings of many birds daily in the woodlands around 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 2 of these passage migrants at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**African Golden Oriole***Oriolus auratus*

Seen on numerous occasions in the woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Western Black-headed Oriole***Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

A pair of birds was seen at Mt. Kupe.

**Black-winged Oriole***Oriolus nigripennis*

We recorded at total of 4 birds in the Bokassi/Mt Kupe areas.

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

We saw 1 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 found small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the Bamenda highlands.

**Woodchat Shrike***Lanius senator*

We enjoyed 2 sightings of this good-looking Palearctic migrant on several occasions near Mora.

**Yellow-billed Shrike***Corvinella corvina*

We encountered 10 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch during our stay there. An unusual, gregarious species.

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

Single birds were found in the woodlands of Ngaoundaba and Benoue NP.

**Northern Puffback***Dryoscopus gambensis*

Restricted to the north, we found a number at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Red-eyed Puffback***Dryoscopus senegalensis*

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

**Pink-footed Puffback***Dryoscopus angolensis*

We were treated to great views of several in the Bokassi Mountains and at the base of Mt. Kupe.

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

This species was initially heard and then seen on the Shrike Trail, Mt. Kupe.

**Black-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra senegala*

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

**Luehder's Bush Shrike***Laniarius luehderi*

We found a single bird skulking in thick vines at Bokassi.

**Tropical Boubou***Laniarius aethiopicus*

A total of 3 birds were seen 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 single during the heat of the day.

**Black-headed Gonolek***Laniarius erythrogaster*

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

**Yellow-breasted Boubou***Laniarius atroflavus*

3 of these stunning and confiding shrikes were seen well on Mount Cameroon, we had further sightings of 8 in the Bamenda highlands.

**Sooty Boubou***Laniarius leucorhynchus*

This species was heard in Korup NP.

**Mountain Sooty Boubou***Laniarius poensis*

A total of 4 birds were seen on Mount Cameroon.

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

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike***Telophorus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species, one was seen after a bit of work at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Many-colored Bushshrike***Telophorus multicolor*

This shy bird was unfortunately only heard on the Shrike Trail, Mt. Kupe and could not be coaxed into view.

**Mt. Kupe Bushshrike***Telophorus kupeensis*

One of Africa's most sought after species. We worked hard for this mega and our efforts were rewarded with sightings of two pairs. Our first pair was in the Bokassi Mountains and later we found another pair on Shrike Trail, Mt. Kupe. This endemic is one of the most frequently missed species on the route and we were very fortunate with our encounters.

**Fiery-breasted Bushshrike***Malaconotus cruentus*

This is another very scarce and seldom recorded species. We were very fortunate to find a single bird at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Green-breasted Bushshrike***Malaconotus gladiator*

This species was only heard on Mt. Cameroon and could not be coaxed into view.

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

We had a few wonderful flocks at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

*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.*

**Red-billed Helmetshrike***Prionops caniceps*

This species was encountered on Mt. Kupe when 6 birds were found. The birds looked incredibly similar, plumage wise, to Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike *Prionops rufiventris*, however the two species are not supposed to overlap. According to Birds of Africa the birds we encountered on Mt. Kupe are Red-billed Helmetshrike, race *harterti*, in which the gray on the crown extends below the eye similar to Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike. The amount of rufous/chestnut color is consistent with *harterti* and apparently parts of the call are very similar to Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike. Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike has never been recorded north of the Sanaga River. The birds we had were Red-billed Helmetshrike, *harterti* race.

### Drongos *Dicruridae*

#### **Square-tailed Drongo**

*Dicrurus ludwigii*

We located a few birds in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **Shining Drongo**

*Dicrurus atripennis*

This forest interior drongo was seen well in Korup NP and in the Bokassi Mountains.

#### **Fork-tailed Drongo**

*Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird. Many 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 on Bokassi.

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

### Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae*

#### **Piapiac**

*Ptilostomus afer*

A couple of birds were seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch and also near Garoua.

#### **Pied Crow**

*Corvus albus*

A common and familiar crow, recorded in good numbers daily.

### Starlings *Sturnidae*

#### **Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling**

*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

This species was encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling**

*Lamprotornis chloropterus*

We found small numbers in Benoue NP.

#### **Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling**

*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had good views of a pair in fruiting fig tree outside Benoue NP.

#### **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 15 of these were seen in our wanderings in the woodlands of Benoue and south of Waza NP, no doubt one the most impressive of Africa's starlings.

#### **Chestnut-bellied Starling**

*Lamprotornis pulcher*

Up to 30 seen daily in the dry scrubland north of Maroua.

#### **Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling**

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This stunning bird was seen in woodlands around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **(Forest) Chestnut-winged Starling**

*Onychognathus fulgidus*

A single bird was sighted in the Mt. Kupe area.

#### **Waller's Starling**

*Onychognathus walleri*

This is a slightly smaller bird than the previous species, we found a pair at Bokassi.

#### **Neumann's Starling**

*Onychognathus neumanni*

This rather localized bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands where we enjoyed great views of a two pairs.

#### **Narrow-tailed Starling**

*Poeoptera lugubris*

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

#### **White-collared Starling**

*Grafisia torquata*

This is a very special bird to the Ngaoundaba Ranch area and we saw 5 birds during our time there.

#### **Yellow-billed Oxpecker**

*Buphagus africanus*

We found at least 30 on various antelope species 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*

**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 a drive in Benoue NP with further views 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 5 birds in the area.

**Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Small numbers of this species were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*

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

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

Small numbers were seen around Mt. Cameroon and Limbe BG.

**Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*

This snappy-looking weaver of forest edge, was in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Black-billed Weaver** *Ploceus melanogaster*

This dapper bird of forest fringes was seen at Mt Cameroon where we found a total of 5. Further sightings were had at Bokassi and in the Bamenda highlands.

**Orange Weaver** *Ploceus aurantius*

This species was seen near the Sanaga River.

**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.*

**Vieillot's (Black) Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*

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

**Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*

A forest canopy species, we only saw a single female in the 'farm bush' below Mt. Kupe.

**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*

This is a beautiful and scarce species of the canopy that was seen from a good vantage point over looking the forest at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*

This handsome forest weaver was observed in the Bokassi Mountains where we saw 2 birds with a further sighting of 1 in the Bamenda Highlands and 2 on Mt. Cameroon.

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

We had superb scope views 3 birds near the Sanaga River. There are few accessible sites to see this species and we were lucky to find this rare bird.

**Rachel's Malimbe***Malimbus racheliae*

A rare bird that is only found within a limited range. We were very lucky to find a pair nest building in Korup NP.

**Red-vented Malimbe***Malimbus scutatus*

A male of this scarce species was seen near the Sanaga River.

**Red-bellied Malimbe***Malimbus erythrogaster*

This is a very seldom recorded species and very uncommon throughout its range. We were completely blown away when we located a single bird at a fruiting tree on the south bank of the Sanaga River.

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

A secretive species that forages in thick tangles, we found a total of 8 in Korup NP, an uncommon interior species.

**Crested Malimbe***Malimbus malimbicus*

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

**Red-headed Weaver***Anaplectes rubriceps*

This species was sighted in the tall woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Red-billed Quelea***Quelea quelea*

We found the "African avian locust" in big numbers in Waza NP.

**Black-winged Bishop***Euplectes hordeaceus*

We found two large groups in the Bamenda highlands and near Mundemba.

**Orange Bishop***Euplectes franciscanus*

Large numbers of non-breeding birds (100) were seen amongst flocks of red-billed quelea at Waza NP.

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

We found 10 on the upper slopes of Mount Cameroon and a further 15 in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Fan-tailed Bishop***Euplectes axillaries*

A single bird beginning to come into breeding plumage was seen at the base of Mt. Cameroon.

**Yellow-shouldered Widowbird***Euplectes macrourus*

We enjoyed good views of a number of birds coming down to drink at the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

**Marsh Widowbird***Euplectes hartlaubi*

We found a number of birds in non-breeding plumage at Dang Lake.

**Waxbills & Allies *Estrildidae*****Woodhouse's Antpecker***Parmoptila woodhousei*

We had wonderful views of 4 birds in Korup NP.

**White-breasted Negrofinch***Nigrita fusconota*

A single pair was seen at the base of Mt Kupe.

**Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch***Nigrita bicolor*

This attractive seedeater was seen well near the Sanaga River.

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

This, the most common negrofinch, was seen at the Sanaga, Limbe BG, near Mundemba and in the Bokassi and Mt.Kupe areas.

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

This beautiful little bird was refreshingly common on Mt Cameroon where we saw 10 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 3 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further pair in Benoue NP.

**Red-winged Pytilia***Pytilia phoenicoptera*

A pair was sighted in Benoue NP by one of the Participants. Not seen by the leader.

**Green-winged Pytilia***Pytilia melba*

A total of 7 birds were seen in the Waza area. A widespread and beautifully marked finch.

**Red-faced Pytilia***Pytilia hypogrammica*

We had superb views of 4 birds of this rare and seldom recorded species in woodland near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Red-faced Crimson-wing** *Cryptospiza reichenovii*

We had brief views of a single bird on Mt Cameroon.

**Black-bellied Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

We had a single bird at the base of Mt. Cameroon.

**Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*

A remarkably beautiful bird. We were treated to incredible views of a very confiding pair at Limbe BG, with further views near Mt. Kupe.

**Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*

A total of 6 birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A beautifully patterned finch.

**Dybowski's Twinspot** *Clytospiza dybowskii*

This scarce species was brilliantly seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We had superb sightings throughout the woodlands of Ngaoundaba and 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 scarce firefinch was first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in Benoue NP.

**Black-faced Firefinch** *Lagonosticta larvata*

A rare Firefinch, our sightings came from drinking birds in woodland in Benoue NP.

**Rock Firefinch** *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*

We found just 2 on our visit to a rocky slope north of Maroua. A rare species that was thought to be endemic to Nigeria. It was only discovered in the Maroua area in 2005.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

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

**Lavender Waxbill** *Estrilda caerulescens*

A single bird was sighted in woodland adjacent to Benoue NP. Not seen by the leader.

**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*

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

**Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*

This species was seen in the Garoua area and in the Waza NP area with up to 15 birds around the cabins at Waza camp.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

Africa's most widespread waxbill was observed only once on the trip south of Garoua.

**Black-crowned Waxbill** *Estrilda nonnula*

This is an attractive species that was found to be common from 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 at the base of Mt. Cameroon.

**African Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

We found a small flock of 6 near the Benoue River adjacent to the town of Garoua.

**African Silverbill** *Lonchura cantans*

This species was seen a couple of times in the Waza area.

**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*

Seen near Mt. Kupe and again at Mundemba, Mt. Cameroon and Limbe BG.

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

**Cut-throat** *Amadina fasciata*

At least 8 birds were found coming down to drink at waterholes in Waza NP.

### Indigobirds Viduidae

**Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

This familiar bird, which parasitises small seedeaters, was seen in small numbers throughout.

**Northern Paradise Whydah***Vidua orientalis*

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

**Siskins, Crossbills & Allies *Fringillidae*****Oriole Finch***Linurgus olivaceus*

This beautiful and endearing bird was seen exceptionally well on Mt Cameroon where we found 12 birds. A further 3 was seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

**White-rumped Seedeater***Serinus leucopygius*

We found 20 near the Benoue River and a single near Waza NP.

**Yellow-fronted Canary***Serinus mozambicus*

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

**Thick-billed Seed-eater***Serinus burtoni*

Small numbers of this odd seedeater were seen on Mt. Cameroon and in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Buntings *Emberizidae*****Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

Birds were seen in Benoue NP and another at a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

**Brown-rumped Bunting***Emberiza affinis*

This scarce species was sighted on two occasions in the Ngaoundaba woodlands.

**Cabanis' Bunting***Emberiza cabanisi*

One of these beautiful broad-leafed woodland birds was seen by some of the group near 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.

**Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*****Olive Baboon***Papio anubis*

We saw at least 10 during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch and around 30 in Benoue NP.

**Patas Monkey***Erythrocebus patas*

We recorded up to 30 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 2 and then again at Benoue NP where we found 12.

**Putty-nosed Monkey***Cercopithecus nictitans*

We had good views of this species together with another 3 species of monkey in a huge mixed feeding group.

**Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*****Straw-colored Fruit Bat***Eidolon helvum*

Many were seen outside our hotel in Douala.

**Large-winged Bats *Megadermatidae*****Yellow-winged Bat***Lavia frons*

We enjoyed a couple of these in Benoue NP.

**Horseshoe Bat***Rhinolophus sp*

We had good views of 20 odd in Benoue NP.

**Rats & Mice *Muridae*****Rusty-nosed Rat***Oenomys hypoxanthus*

A single was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Hares & Rabbits *Leporidae*****Scrub Hare***Lepus saxatilis*

Small numbers seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the Waza area.

**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 2 near the Sanaga River.

**Anomalures *Anomaluridae*****Beecroft's Anomalure***Anomalurus beecrofti*

We enjoyed a fantastic view of a single cruising through forest edge near the Sanaga River.

**Dogs & Allies *Canidae*****Common (Golden) Jackal***Canis aureus*This *Canid* 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 a single sighting of this rare species.

**Hyraxes *Procaviidae*****Western Tree Hyrax***Procavia johstoni*

This species was heard often in the forested south.

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

At least 10 were observed in the Benoue River near Garoua and we had further sightings of up to 12 daily in Benoue NP.

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

A familiar savanna animal that we found in Waza NP.

**Giraffes *Giraffidae*****Giraffe***Giraffe cameoleopardus*

We had at least 50 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 in Benoue NP.

**Bush Duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

A single was sighted in Benoue NP.

**Red-flanked Duiker***Cephalophus rufilatus*

Up to 4 were seen daily in Benoue NP.

**Bohor Reedbuck***Redunca redunca*

At least 30 were found 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**

We found 10 in Benoue NP.

*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

**Red-fronted Gazelle**

This dainty and incredibly quick creature was seen only in Waza NP where we observed 3.

*Gazella rufifrons*

**Tsessebe**

We observed at least 40 of these during our time in the Waza area.

*Damaliscus lunatus*

**Kanki**

A single was sighted in the tall broadleaved woodlands in Benoue NP.

*Alcelaphus major*

**Roan Antelope**

This graceful and large antelope was much appreciated by the group. We saw a total of 25 during our full day in Waza NP.

*Hippotragus equinus*

THE END

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