



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Cameroon I

27th March – 16th April 2008



Trip report

Trip report compiled by Richard White

Tour Leaders: Richard White and Fraser Gear

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Trip summary:

Straddling West and Central Africa lies the diverse and bird-rich nation of Cameroon. This year our adventures here began free of expected logistical turbulence and without event; everybody's luggage arrived and there were no major flight delays, hooray!

Early on the first morning we explored a nearby, and rather degraded, patch of mangroves flanked by an equally degraded 'golf course' where Long-legged Pipit made its only trip appearance. Here we found our first Palmnut Vulture, Green-headed Sunbird, Carmelite and, for some, Mouse-brown Sunbird. We then made for Buea and after a good lunch continued coastward to Limbe Botanical Gardens. After a heated discussion with park staff over exorbitant entry fees (I won) we made our way into the gardens and began a very enjoyable afternoon's birding. Red-chested Goshawk with prey, Cassin's Flycatcher, the very smart Western Bluebill, Pale-fronted Negrofinch, Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatcher, Chestnut-winged Starling, Tit Hylia and Superb Sunbird all made welcome appearances. After a good meal and cold beer we got a good rest in advance of the following day's assault on Mount Cameroon.

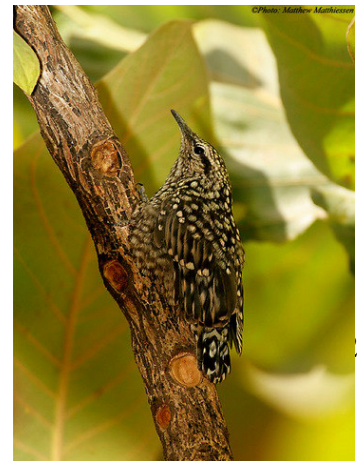
Mount Cameroon was good to us this day but it did not come without hard work! Beginning the well-trodden Guinness trail at first light we made for the forest birding the 'farmbush' en route finding Chubb's [Brown-backed] Cisticola, Blue-headed Coucal and Mountain Sawing as we climbed. Not long after entering the forest we had a party with the very endearing Oriole Finch, Cameroon Olive and Western Mountain Greenbul, Green Longtail and Cameroon Scrub Warbler seen well by all. We made for the grubby hiking camp just below the treeline, picking off Mountain Robin-Chat, African Hill Babbler, Cameroon Sunbird, the delightful Western Tinkerbird and Elliot's Woodpecker as we went. Higher up and amongst rolling mists we had great encounters with Cameroon Spierops and, for those ventured to the tree-line, scope views of Cameroon Pigeon.



The following day began in 'birdy' farmbush below the mountain and we found Black-faced Rufous-Warbler, Double-toothed and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Fuelleborn's Boubou and Green-throated Sunbird for our efforts. We then made our way back to Limbe where we enjoyed a windswept lunch and found Mottled Spinetail and Green Crombec.

It was then time to begin our explorations of the north and, after an eventless plane ride, we were meandering our way south through northern Cameroon to the fabulous Ngouandaba Ranch. A small setback with vehicle bearings was eased by enjoying a beer at a local tavern but did mean an after dark arrival at the ranch. The following morning we walked the woodlands around the lodge finding several Spotted Creeper, White-collared Starling, Brown Twinspot, African Scops Owl, Black Scimitarbill, a flock of *circa* 40 Abdim's Stork, Sun Lark and Yellow-bellied Hylia. A certain highlight for us all this day was finding the incredulous Standard-winged Nightjar, what a bird! The gallery forest in the area was however where we found a good number of our most memorable including an early morning Spotted Thrush Babbler, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, the delightful Ross's Turaco, Willcock's Honeyguide, Blackcap Babbler, Grey-headed Oliveback, White-crested Turaco and a pair of Bamenda Apalis. A drive on our last night yielded views of Long-tailed Nightjar, a surprise African Civet and a point blank, extended encounter with the very endearing Senegal Galago.

Turning north once again we made for the woodlands of Benoue National Park. We made a brief stop at a lake *en route* finding African Pygmy Goose, Yellow-billed Duck, Garganey, African Purple Swamhen and Yellow-throated Longclaw. Arriving in Benoue just after dark it came



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as no surprise that the electricity was out, there was no running water and worst of all, the beer warm. No matter – we made the best of the situation, enjoyed a meal and settled into our accommodations for the night. Our time in Benoue was tough initially but lightened with a sighting of Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, White-throated Francolin and plentiful views of Egyptian Plover. After a few hours vigil at a waterhole, waiting for an Adamawa Turtle Dove that didn't pitch, we took to the road and birded the woodland finding Streaky-headed Seedeater, Dorst's and Rufous Cisticolas. For the afternoon we took to the riverbed and it was not long before our target dove was spotted at a pool slaking its thirst, well done Chris! Ambling the riverbed back to camp we were entertained by Greater Honeyguide, Violet Turaco, Black-headed Gonolek, Heuglin's Masked Weaver, Moustached Grass Warbler and Black-faced Firefinch. Leaving Benoue we found Black-bellied Bustard and Lanner Falcon and made for the town of Maroua.

Leaving Maroua we made a short stop at a rocky site north of town where we found Chad Firefinch, Mocking Cliff Chat, Greyish Eagle Owl roosting, White-headed Barbet and Rock-loving Cisticola. We then moved on to some plains north of here where we embarked on what turned out to be a highly successful search for the much-wanted Quail Plover managing to find one confiding bird within an hour of searching, well done Andy! This delightfully patterned bird was one of the highlights of the trip and was enjoyed through the scope by all. Additional highlights in this area were Swallow-tailed Kite, Black and Rufous Scrub Robins, Cricket Warbler, Singing Bushlark, White-bellied Bustard and Tawny Pipit in display. We then continued on to Waza National park where we spent two nights at the lodge overlooking the plains.



In and around our lodge we saw Black-crowned Crane, Little Green Bee-eater, Black-tiled Waxbill, African Silverbill and Ethiopian Swallow while in the park Arabian Bustard, many Clapperton's Francolin, African Collared Dove, Red-necked Falcon and Cut-throat were notables. Exploring the woodlands south of the reserve was great but hard work with a handful of our targets remaining elusive. Our birding efforts did however yield sightings of Common Gonolek, Eurasian Wryneck, River Prinia and 2 flocks of the ever-popular Sennar Penduline Tit. We then began to make our way back south for the flight back to the capital. A

canceled flight however meant an unplanned extra night in the north, costing us some precious birding time, and saw us arriving in Bamenda at *circa* 4.00am. We got a few hours sleep and then tired, worn and anxious for new birds we began to explore the remaining wooded patches in the Bamenda highlands. Here we enjoyed a highly successful morning's birding enjoying great views of Bannerman's Weaver, Banded Wattle-eye, Bannerman's Turaco and Bangwa Scrub Warbler. Adding to the avian festivities was Tullberg's Woodpecker, Cameroon Mountain Greenbul, Black-collared Apalis and African Hill Babbler (this form sometimes split as Rwenzori Hill Babbler). We finished our productive day in the area with a sighting of a Fox Kestrel and 2 Neumann's Starlings.

Moving east we made our way on rather rough roads to the highlands in the Mt Kupe area. On our first full day in this area was spent exploring the Bokassi Mountains in search of some of West Africa's rarest birds. It has to be said that our time in this area was disappointing and, not for lack of effort, we struggled to connect with many of the core species in this area. We made good time getting to the area arriving in the dark hours of the morning and having a beer with the chief as he blessed (or perhaps cursed!) our day in the mountains. Not long after leaving the village we were accosted by the 'toothbrush gang' who insisted that they



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'did not get along with the chief' and they too wanted money, whiskey and beer. Left with little choice, we bribed our way into the mountains enjoying a fabulous sighting of Grey-headed Broadbill as we entered the forest. Bar-tailed Trogon, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Gray Cuckooshrike, Yellow Longbill, Black-capped Woodland Warbler, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Black-necked Wattle-eye, Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher, Ursula's Sunbird for some, Pink-footed Puffback and Waller's Starling were notable birds for the day. Mt Kupe Bushshrike, our main target in the area, was however only heard and, despite several hours of attempting to get views, we left the forest empty handed. The next day was spend meandering up the near vertical Max's trail near the village and here our luck, in tandem with the day before, left us with a number of core species begging. However Yellow-billed Turaco, Bate's Swift, Yellow-billed Barbet, Forest Swallow, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, Black-capped Apalis, African Shrike-flycatcher, Bate's Paradise-Flycatcher, White-throated Mountain-Babbler (poor views), Gray-green Bushshrike and Chestnut-breasted and White-breasted Negrofinsches were seen. We got frustratingly close to two core species, Green-breasted Bushshrike and Crossley's Ground-Thrush, and despite being rather vocal, both failed to make an appearance!

It was then time for us to make the long and bumpy road to the village of Mundemba from where we would embark on our final adventure in Cameroon, exploring the riches of the magnificent Korup National Park. Wet by recent rains the roads were muddy and slippery and, augmenting frustrations experienced at the countless roadblocks, was a truck that had jack-knifed across the road blocking our journey. After a few hours the road was cleared and we were able to continue on to Mundemba arriving after dark in time for a good buffet meal and cold beers.

Our first day in Korup produced some great birds yet, as with most forests, the birding was trying and not everyone managed to see all birds. Walking the gentle trail in this tall forest was a humbling, but very special experience, and this majestic forest was a fitting place to conclude our journey in Cameroon. We kicked off with a Finfoot for Pete, Rock Pratincole on the river and then Pale-breasted Illadopsis as we entered the forest. We enjoyed some good flock birding finding, among others, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, White-bearded Greenbul, Cassin's Honeyguide and the very rare White-spotted Wattle-eye as a notable bonus. It was our afternoon search for the Grey-necked Picathartes however that was the main focus of this day and with darkening skies and a windy canopy we set off for our first attempt for this, surely one of Africa's most wanted birds. Rain had set in and negotiating our way to the site was challenging with the forest floor cloaked in darkness. Arriving at the site, it was with no small degree of excitement that we noticed recent nest building activity and we hunkered down as the rain began to subside for our afternoon vigil for the incredible Rockfowl. It was not long before a ghostly shadow flew in an alighted on the nest, holy crow, it was our bird! This creature did however not stay for more than a second before it was off and so we hunkered down again and waited for it to put in another appearance. Our additional vigil paid off and within an hour we had another, and far superior, encounter with the bird staying a few seconds longer this time! After an excited exchange of high fives and congratulations we set off back to camp to celebrate enjoying imported red wine, good camp food and a melody of music off Andy's iPod. The remainder of our time in Korup was peppered with good birds: Rachael's Malimbe was a very welcome find, Sabine's Spinetail, Bare-cheeked Trogon for some, an incredible sighting of a displaying Rufous-sided Broadbill, White-throated and Xavier's Greenbuls, African Forest Flycatcher, Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher and White-spotted Flufftail all did their part in livening up our birding time here. With the Rockfowl in the bag we left



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Korup in high spirits and began the long journey back to Douala breaking the journey overnight at Buea.

The last day of the tour was spent enjoying the forest near the Sanaga River. Unfortunately continued felling of the trees here means that the forest is fast disappearing but in the remaining patches we were still able to track down some great birds. The most notable find for us was Cassin's Malimbe, a very range restricted species, and we enjoyed sightings of more widespread, but delightful species like Great Blue Turaco, Bristle-nosed Barbet, White-thighed Hornbill, Swamp Greenbul and Yellow-browed Camaroptera. By way of mammal we had a large troop of Northern Talapoin, a seldom seen and very endearing primate, that were enjoyed by all. Finishing off the tour we found Gray Pratincole and a heap of African Skimmer on a sandbank and then on a pond on our way back to Douala and fair number of Hartlaub's Duck floating on a lily-studded pond. This was a great way to finish off the trip and once back in Douala we took time to enjoy a farewell dinner and enjoy a festive last meal together before we began our journeys home.

Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

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

Ostrich *Struthionidae*

Ostrich

2 birds in Waza NP.

Struthio camelus

Grebes *Podicipedidae*

Little Grebe (Dabchick)

3 birds at Dang Lake.

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

Pink-backed Pelican

10 birds at the mangroves in Douala.

Pelicanus rufescens

Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant

Seen in small numbers at several wetlands throughout.

Phalacrocorax africanus

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Gray Heron

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded at several wetlands throughout.

Ardea cinerea

Black-headed Heron

A fairly common species in the north.

Ardea melanocephala

Purple Heron

Our first sighting was of one at Limbe Botanical Gardens (BG). Further sightings were enjoyed at Dang Lake and Ngouandaba Ranch.

Ardea purpurea

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

Great (White) Egret

2 birds seen at each Dang Lake and the Sanaga.

Ardea alba

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

Little Egret

We found small numbers at several wetland sights in the south.

Egretta garzetta

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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 in a wetland as we departed Douala and at Ngouandaba Ranch.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Ubiquitous, conspicuous and regularly seen throughout.

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*

Small numbers recorded at La Digue, Limbe and Ngouandaba Ranch.

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 at La Digue and in the early morning at Ngouandaba Ranch.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

This unique species was several times throughout with our first encounter of 4 birds at La Digue.

Storks Ciconidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Our only sightings were in the Waza area where we encountered 20+.

African Openbill (~ed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*

We had circa 15 birds in the Waza area.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

A flock of at least 40 birds was seen at Ngouandaba Ranch with additional sightings of smaller numbers in Benoue NP.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

The 3 Brits that remained at Hippo Pool in Benoue NP managed to connect with this species.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Oddly enough, only a single bird was seen on the Waza plains.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

One of the great storks of the World! 1 bird was seen in Waza NP.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Small numbers of birds were noted during our days in the Ngouandaba area.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Seen in small numbers at several locations including Ngouandaba Ranch and Waza NP areas.

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 Ngouandaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Swans, Geese & Ducks Anatidae

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

4 birds at a waterhole near Waza NP.

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

20+ were seen at waterholes near Waza NP.

Hartlaub's Duck *Pteronetta hartlaubii*

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Seen at only one site on the tour (after leaving the Sanaga River) where we saw 10 birds.

African Pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus*

We enjoyed good scope views of 5 at Dang Lake.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anus undulata*

We recorded at 8 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 6 birds at Dang Lake.

Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Alviceda cuculoides*

A single bird was sighted soaring over the forest as we emerged from the treeline on Mt. Cameroon.

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

This species is was seen in small numbers in the north of the country.

Scissor-tailed Kite *Echelictinia riocourii*

A beautiful and graceful species indeed that was first seen near the town of Mora. We had additional sightings near Waza including a confiding mating pair seen well by all.

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 at La Digue.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

This widespread species was seen at Ngouandaba and Benoue.

(African) White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

The common vultures in savanna areas, sightings were enjoyed at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue and Waza NPs.

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

Some of the group had a brief view of one bird as it took flight in Benoue NP.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

We had sightings of singletons en route to Ngouandaba, at Benoue NP and 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.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

One female was seen on the plains near Mora.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded several times on tour, most regularly in the south.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

A singleton was seen in Limbe BG and an additional bird in Ngouandaba Ranch.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

We had pairs on 3 occasions in the Waza area.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

We had a singleton in Benoue and enjoyed additional sightings in the Waza area.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii*

This forest *Accipiter* was seen well with prey in Limbe BG and again in Nyassoso where it was in full display.

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 seen by Rich and Andy only at Ngouandaba Ranch.

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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 seen on two occasions the base of Mt. Cameroon.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

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

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

This was seen by Andy only on our first afternoon in the Waza area.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

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

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

We enjoyed several sightings in Waza NP.

Booted Eagle *Aquila pennatus*

A single bird was well seen in flight over a rocky slope in the Mora area.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*

A single bird was observed by some of the group on Mt. Cameroon. Not seen by the leaders.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Benoue NP 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 seen en route to and in Waza NP with a further sighting 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*

Seen by the back van en route to Maroua with an additional sighting near Mora and the scope views of another single in the Bamenda highlands on our way back to the hotel.

Gray Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

We en route to and at Nguandaba Ranch and had an additional sighting at Benoue NP.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

We had a wonderful sighting of a perched bird at Waza NP. An uncommon bird in Cameroon.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

We had two birds perched in a tower leaving Benoue and an additional 2 in the Bamenda highlands.

Pheasants & Partridges *Phasianidae*

White-throated Francolin *Francolinus albogularis*

We were fortunate to 4 birds on our first morning outing in the woodlands at Benoue NP. These birds were particularly confiding and allowed for some great viewing.

Scaly Francolin *Francolinus squamatus*

This species was seen on several occasions but very frustratingly never stuck around long enough for a good look!

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 Waza.

Guineafowl *Numididae*

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

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Commonly observed in the Waza area.

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

Buttonquail *Turnicidae*

Quail-plover

Ortyxelos meiffrenii

What a wonderful bird indeed! After an hour of searching we connected with a single confiding bird on the plains north of Mora – a certain trip highlight!

Cranes *Gruidae*

Black Crowned-Crane

Balearica regulorum

This very handsome bird is delightfully common in Waza NP with peak numbers of 30 seen on one day.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots *Rallidae*

White-spotted Flufftail

Sarothrura pulchra

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

Red-chested Flufftail

Sarothrura rufa

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

African Rail

Rallus caerulescens

We heard a single bird calling at Ngouandaba Ranch.

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

One was seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Purple Swamphen

Porphyrio Porphyrio

We had good views of 2 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*).*

Finfoots *heliornithidae*

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis

Pete and Fraser tracked managed to get brief views of one as it disappeared around a bend in the Mana River at the entrance to Korup NP.

Bustards *Otididae*

Arabian Bustard

Ardeotis arabs

After a brief search we found one of these highly sought-after Bustards in Waza NP.

White-bellied Bustard

Leupodotis senegalensis

We had *circa* 8 birds during our Quail Plover trek near Mora with subsequent encounters in the same area.

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

We had a single bird, a female, as we left Benoue NP.

Jacanas *Jacanidae*

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

This widespread and characteristic wader was conspicuous in several wetlands on tour.

Avocets & Stilts *Recurvirostridae*

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

This widespread species was seen at Ngouandaba ranch.

Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

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Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

Chris managed to see 2 of these on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

We had 2 birds on the plains north of Mora.

Courasers & Pratincoles *Glareolidae*

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptus*

This remarkably beautiful bird, certainly one of the world's most striking shorebirds, was encountered with on the Benoue River in Benoue NP. We managed a total of 8 birds on our first day.

Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis*

Seen on the Mana River on our way into Korup NP.

Gray Pratincole *Glareola cinerea*

At least 8 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 seen at Benoue NP.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*

We enjoyed many sightings of this bird in the arid areas near Mora, a very attractive bird indeed.

White-headed Lapwing (Plover) *Vanellus albiceps*

We had at least a dozen of these birds in Benoue NP.

Wattled Lapwing (Plover) *Vanellus senegallus*

This grassland-dwelling lapwing was only seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we saw 2 pairs in as many days.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

We found *circa* 8 birds 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*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

We had a singleton on the shoreline at Limbe BG.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One was seen at Dang lake and we had a pair on the Benoue River.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

We had 1 Dang Lake, 1 in Benoue NP and a further sighting near Waza NP.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

A common migrant; seen at La Digue, Limbe BG and Benoue NP.

Terns *Sternidae*

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*

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

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

We had 1 bird in flight at La Digue.

Skimmers *Rynchopidae*

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*

We encountered 80 plus on the Sanaga River.

Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

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A morning and afternoon drinker, this bird was easy to observe on our day in Waza NP with at least 80 birds sighted.

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*

Rich and Andy saw a handful of these in Benoue NP.

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 2, including a scoped bird, above the treeline on Mount Cameroon. A pretty endemic that requires hard work to see.

Lemon Dove *Columba larvata*

One bird exploded off the forest floor on Mount Cameroon.

European Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

We had a single bird in Waza NP.

Adamawa Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*

A rare and localized species; after spending a luckless morning trying to nail down this species we were treated to great views of 2 birds in the Benoue riverbed.

African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

This rather pale *Streptopelia* was encountered regularly in the Waza NP area. Up to 20 were seen during our day in the park.

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen only at Waza NP where we recorded *circa* 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 10 birds on our first day.

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 heard several birds 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 in a 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*

Rode-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Rich and Andy had 3 en route to Maroua and the group got views of a pair in woodland south of Waza NP.

Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*

These very endearing parrots were very thin on the ground this year. Only Frank and Fraser had a sighting of 3 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

(African) Gray Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*

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So much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird! Small groups were seen in flight on our first day, near Korup Park and at the Sanaga River.

Senegal Parrot

Poicephalus senegalus

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, we found up to 8 daily in Benoue NP.

Turacos *Musophagidae*

Great Blue Turaco

Corythaeola cristata

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds and certainly a highlight for Pete! This huge frugivore was glimpsed while driving in the Mundemba area but seen very well at the Sanaga River where we had 3.

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, we struggled to see this species on Mt Cameroon but were treated to a better sighting on Mt. Kupe. This subspecies has a wonderful red-tipped crest.

Bannerman's Turaco

Tauraco bannermanni

This is one of Cameroon's most notable species and one of the most endangered. We had fantastic scope views of this stunning endemic in the Bamenda Highlands where we found 4 birds.

Violet Turaco

Musophaga violacea

Another stellar turaco, we had super scope views of 1 bird at Benoue NP.

Ross's Turaco

Musophaga violacea

We encountered at least 2 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.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

Those who lingered on the walk down Mt. Cameroon were treated to a sighting of one of these.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

This species was heard at several forest sites.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus

We heard this species from Rengo Rock in Korup NP – it refused to react to playback!

Common Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

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

African Cuckoo

Cuculus gularis

1 was seen by some in Benoue NP while the group got views of another singleton as we made our way out of the Bamenda Highlands.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

This brood parasite, favoring the cup nests of woodland birds, was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and on Max's Trail.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we only managed to hear this species in Korup and at the Sanaga River.

Yellowbill (Green Coucal/Malkoha)

Ceuthmochares aereus

This peculiar, malkoha-like, bird was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, the Sanaga River, Mt. Kupe 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.

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

We had 2 birds during our ascent of Mt. Cameroon.

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.

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Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

The most commonly encountered coucal in the north.

Barn Owls *Tytonidae*

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Some of the group 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 Ngouandaba Ranch, thanks Chris!

Northern White-faced Owl

Ptilopsis lucotis

This species responded to playback at Ngouandaba but, frustratingly, it did not come into view.

Grayish Eagle-Owl

Bubo cinerascens

Fraser did well to locate a bird roosting in rocks during our morning in the Mora area.

Pearl-spotted Owlet

Glaucidium perlatum

We heard this bird on several occasions in the north of the country and its presence, on more than one occasion, drew in target birds much to the delight of the group.

Sjostedt's Owlet

Glaucidium sjostedti

Jan heard this bird in Korup NP while the rest of us were sleeping.

Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae*

Long-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus climacurus

We found a single bird during our nightdrive at Ngouandaba and we further had a couple of birds during nocturnal searches on the plains north of Mora.

Standard-winged Nightjar

Macrodipteryx longipennis

Surly one of the world's most stunning night birds – we flushed and then scoped a single bird during daylight hours at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swifts *Apodidae*

Mottled Spinetail

Tellacanthura ussheri

Seen first near Douala and again at Limbe BG.

Sabine's Spinetail

Rhaphidura sabini

Our only sighting was of 1 bird near Rengo Rock in Korup NP.

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

We had scattered sightings of flocks several times on tour.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

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

White-rumped Swift

Apus caffer

We had 2 birds fly over camp in Benoue NP and an additional sighting for some en route to Maroua.

Bates' Swift

Apus barbatus

We had at least 1 bird in the Mt. Mupe area.

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.

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

Seemingly replacing the Speckled Mousebird in the far north, we encountered small numbers near Maroua.

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Trogons Trogonidae

Bare-cheeked Trogon

Apaloderma aequatoriale

Some of the group managed, after much effort, to get views of this beautiful bird in Korup NP.

Bar-tailed Trogon

Apaloderma vittatum

We enjoyed a sighting of this stunner in the Bokassi Mountain and near Mt. Kupe.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Malachite Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata

We recorded this delightful species several times on tour.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Ispidina (Ceyx) picta

This beautiful little bird is quite common in Cameroon and we enjoyed sightings at several sites from Benoue south.

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

Easy to hear but difficult to see in the rainforest canopy; we heard this bird first, oddly enough, on Max's trail and again, more typically, in Korup NP.

Gray-headed (Chestnut-bellied) Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala

We had had several sightings of this good looking bird in Benoue NP and 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 Nguoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and in woodland south of Waza NP.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

The Goliath of the kingfisher world; singletons were seen in Limbe BG and in Benoue NP.

Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis

The world's most widespread kingfisher was seen at Dang Lake and in Benoue NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Red-throated Bee-eater

Merops bulocki

The northern equivalent of the more familiar White-fronted Bee-eater and every bit as beautiful; seen en route to Nguoundaba and daily in Benoue NP.

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

Small numbers were seen at La Digue and Benoue and Waza NPs.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater

Merops variegates

An uncommon species in Cameroon, we found 2 birds shortly after exiting the forest at Bokassi.

White-throated Bee-eater

Merops albicollis

This species which breeds in the Sahelian savanna and winters in the Equatorial forest belt was seen regularly in the south and at Waza NP.

Green Bee-eater

Merops orientalis

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

European Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

Seen on our full day on Mount Cameroon.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicus

The back bus had a sighting near Garoua while we all enjoyed sightings of these magnificent birds at a roadside stop en route north and in the Waza area.

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

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A common, but beautiful, roller recorded throughout the dry north of the country.

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*

We had a frustratingly brief encounter with this bird in on our hasty morning rush to get to Hippo Pool in Benoue NP.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

We enjoyed views of small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP and, oddly enough, at Rengo Rock in Korup 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.

Woodhoopoes *Phoeniculidae*

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

We had this gregarious species in Benoue NP and near Waza NP.

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopermastus aterrimus*

We enjoyed this species at Ngoanadaba and south of Waza NP.

Hornbills *Bucerotidae*

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus*

This is a tricky species to see well; we heard this species in Korup NP.

Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands; seen regularly in Benoue and the Waza areas.

African Pied Hornbill *Tockus fasciatus*

Seen en route to Mundemba and at the Sanaga River.

African Gray Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Cameroon; seen daily in the north.

Piping Hornbill *Ceratogymna fistulator*

Easily seen at the Sanaga River and in Korup NP.

White-thighed Hornbill *Ceratogymna albotibialis*

Some of the group managed to see this species en route to Mundemba while we all had sightings at the Sanaga River.

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

Jan had a sighting of this species in Korup NP. Both this and the following species are canopy hornbills favoring tall forest and can be tough to see well.

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

Chris had a sighting of this species in Korup NP.

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

This is a scarce species in Cameroon; we had a good sighting of three birds in Benoue NP.

Barbets *Capitonidae*

Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus*

We had regular encounters on Mount Cameroon and in the Bokassi areas .

Bristle-nosed Barbet *Gymnobucco peli*

We had a half dozen of these near the Sanaga River.

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

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A scruffy, bird in forests and forest edge; we had sightings at Mt Kupe and in Korup NP.

Western Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We got outstanding views of a single bird on Mt. Cameroon.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

This can be a tricky species to get good views of; we heard this bird in Korup NP.

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*

Seen by some at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

A rather beautiful Barbet, heard at several forested sites in the south. We obtained good views of several near Mt Cameroon and at Bokassi, Mt Kupe and the Sanaga.

Vieillot’s Barbet *Lybius vieilloti*

A bird of more open woodland, we had sightings near Mora and Waza NP.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen very well at a Rocky outcrop north of Maroua. **Double-toothed Barbet**

Lybius bidentatus

2 birds were seen well near Mt Cameroon.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

An elusive forest barbet that was seen on Mt. Kupe and heard in Korup and at the Sanaga.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of a bird in the dry riverbed on our afternoon in Benoue NP.

Willcock’s Honeyguide *Indicator willcocksi*

We had great views of a bird harassing a Pearl-spotted Owlet and an additional sighting of 2 in Korup NP.

Cassin’s Honeyguide *Prodotiscus insignis*

Jan had a sighting of one in Korup NP and an additional one was seen on the Sanaga River.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Spotted by Andy and seen well by the group in the woodlands south of Waza NP.

African Piculet *Sasia africana*

Only some of the group managed to lock onto this species on our ascent of Mt Cameroon.

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 one at Bokassi.

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

This species was seen once in Bamenda and again in the Bokassi Mountains.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa*

2 of these diminutive and rather dark woodpeckers were seen in Korup NP.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

We had several sightings in the Mt Cameroon area and a further sighting at Nguoundaba Ranch.

Gabon Woodpecker *Dendropicos gabonensis*

We only managed to hear this species on Mt Kupe.

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

Elliot’s Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

We had 2 birds on Mt Cameroon and a further sighting in the Bamenda highlands.

Gray Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

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

Brown-backed Woodpecker

Picoides obsoletus

We enjoyed sightings of a bird en route to Benoue and an additional one in Benoue. This is a scarce, dry country species.

Broadbills *Eurylaimidae*

Gray-headed Broadbill

Smithornis sharpei

This elusive species was scoped and seen well by all in the Bokassi mountains.

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 encounters of 2 birds near Mora.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix leucotis

A fairly common species of the dry north, at least 12 birds were seen on outings from Maroua to Waza NP.

Sun Lark

Galerida modesta

We found 1 bird in burnt grassland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)

Riparia riparia

2 birds were seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.

Grey-rumped Swallow

Pseudohirundo grisiopyia

Andy *et al* had 3 birds in Benoue NP.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne (Hirundo) fuligula

This dark hirundine was seen by some en route to Waza NP.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Small numbers seen throughout Cameroon.

*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.*

Lesser Striped-Swallow

Hirundo abyssinica

A widespread African swallow that is 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

We had a single bird in Buea.

Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica

We had good views of two in Waza NP.

Preuss' (Cliff-) Swallow

Hirundo preussi

We found good numbers en route to Mundemba with further sightings at the Sanaga River.

Forest Swallow

Hirundo fuliginosa

We recorded a single bird at Mt Kupe and Tom enjoyed a great sighting of these birds coming in to roost in *Picathartes* nests in Korup NP.

House Martin

Delichon urbica

Jan had a sighting of this bird in Benoue NP.

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Square-tailed Sawwing

Psalidoprocne nitens

We found 1 near Mt. Kupe.

Mountain Sawwing

Psalidoprocne fuliginosa

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

Petit's Sawwing

Psalidoprocne petiti

This is the most regularly encountered sawwing in 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 Palaearctic migrant recorded at most wetland sites throughout Cameroon.

Mountain Wagtail

Motacilla clara

A pair was seen well in the road as we left the Mt Kupe area.

Yellow-throated Longclaw

Macronyx croceus

This meadowlark-like bird was seen well at Dang Lake where we had 3.

Plain-backed Pipit

Anthus leucophrys

This widespread pipit was sighted once in a dry field at Ngouandaba.

Long-legged Pipit

Anthus pallidiventris

We had great views of at La Digue.

Tawny Pipit

Anthus campestris

We had 2 birds, one of which was in display, on the plains near Mora.

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

We had a bounty of sightings of this species, initially at Mt Cameroon with good numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and the Bamenda highlands.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

Gray Cuckooshrike

Coracina caesia

We recorded 1 of these smart birds at Bokassi.

Petit's Cuckooshrike

Campephaga petiti

We had a 1 bird at Mt. Kupe.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

Common Bulbul

Pycnonotus barbatus

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

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

Cameroon Mountain Greenbul

Andropadus montanus

We had 2 birds in the Bamenda highlands, this is a range restricted endemic and a welcome find.

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 2 birds in forest along the Sanaga River.

Ansorge's Greenbul

Andropadus ansorgei

We heard this species in Korup NP.

Slender-billed Greenbul

Andropadus gracilirostris

A single bird was sighted atop a tree at the Sanaga River.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Andropadus latirostris

A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had a sighting of 2 birds on our trying day in the Bokassi Mountains.

Western Mountain Greenbul

Andropadus tephrolaemus

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

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

We had a flock of these restless birds in Korup NP and the front van enjoyed an additional flock the following day en route to Buea.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*

We found one in farm bush near Mt Cameroon.

Yellow-throated Greenbul *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

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

Swamp (~Palm) Greenbul *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

We connected with a pair of these wonderfully animated greenbuls at the Sanaga River.

Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens*

These noisy creatures proved extremely tough to see in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Better views desired by some if not all!

Cameroon Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poensis*

We had sightings of small numbers at Mt Cameroon, Bakossi and Mt. Kupe.

Grey-headed Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*

As with the above species, if anything, more frequent. Mt Cameroon, Bakossi and Mt Kupe.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

Circa 8 birds were seen on our full day in Korup NP.

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 a very vocal pair, that showed for some, in Korup NP.

Lesser Bristlebill *Bleda notata*

We found small numbers in Korup NP, an ant swarm attendee that is often low down.

NOTE: The Green-tailed Bristlebill complex is often split into 3 species, Lesser Bristlebill, Bleda notata 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 at several forest sites and glimpsed at Korup NP.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

We found several near the Sanaga River and in Korup NP.

Eastern-bearded Greenbul *Criniger chloronotus*

We struggled to bag this Congo forest endemic this year and only some of the group managed to see this species in Korup NP.

White-bearded Greenbul *Criniger ndussumensis*

Another Congo forest special, we saw a total of 3 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 Korup NP.

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*

We enjoyed a sighting of this species in Korup NP.

Crossley's Ground Thrush *Zoothera crossleyi*

This species proved very tricky to find at Mt Kupe and, although heard, failed to reveal itself.

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 heard this species at Bokassi and in Korup N.P.

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*

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This species was heard at Mt Kupe and seen poorly by some in Korup NP. Our failing to connect with a single ant swarm in forested Cameroon heightened the challenge of seeing this, and indeed other, species well.

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

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Singing Cisticola

Cisticola cantans

Fraser found a very vocal and responsive pair of these creatures in farmbrush in the Bamenda area.

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, at the base of Mt. Cameroon, near Mundemba and the Sanaga.

Chubb's (Brown-backed) Cisticola

Cisticola chubbi

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

Rock-loving Cisticola

Cisticola aberrans

2 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

Not uncommon in arid scrub between Maroua and Waza NP.

Dorst's Cisticola

Cisticola dorsti

We had at least 2 of this recently described species in Benoue NP.

Rufous Cisticola

Cisticola rufus

We had 3 birds in open broadleaved woodland in Benoue NP.

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 and in Waza.

White-chinned Prinia

Prinia (Schistolais) leucopogon

This confiding, gregarious species was first observed at Limbe, Ngaoundaba Ranch, Bokassi and Mt.Kupe.

Banded Prinia

Prinia bairdii

This snappy looking bird showed very well in farmbrush near Mt Cameroon. We also heard this species on Mt Cameroon and Mt Kupe.

Red-winged Prinia (Warbler)

Heliolais erythroptera

A group of 4 of this species showed up in at a roadside stop in dry woodland en route to Ngaoundaba from Garoua.

Red-winged Gray Warbler

Drymocichla incana

This handsome bird is easy to see well in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch; we enjoyed 10+ during our time there.

Green Longtail

Urolais epichlora

We enjoyed excellent encounters with this species on and near Mt Cameroon and had additional sightings in the Bokassi Mountains and in the Bamenda highlands.

Cricket Warbler

Spiloptila clamans

We had a very close encounter with one of these very attractive and sought-after birds north of Mora.

Black-collared Apalis

Apalis pulchra

We had stunning views of at least 2 of these dapper creatures in the Bamenda highlands.

Black-capped Apalis

Apalis nigriceps

On our wet, afternoon decent of Max's Trail a few of the group managed to connect with this species.

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida

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This widespread, woodland apalis is not very common in Cameroon. We had our best sightings of a few of these in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*

One of these was seen by some of the group in the Bokassi mountains.

Bamenda Apalis *Apalis bamendae*

A gallery forest species that is endemic to Cameroon and was brilliantly seen, after much labor, at Ngaoundaba Ranch where 2 birds were found. A very memorable moment indeed, all the more so as the same flock yielded additional gems, like Oriole Warbler and Willcock's Honeyguide!

Gray Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

We had 2 birds on Mt Cameroon and additional sightings near Bamenda and Mt Kupe.

Oriole Warbler *Hypergerus atriceps*

We had 2 of these unusual creatures in riverine vegetation at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Very vocal and often tough to see well, this is one of Africa's star birds!

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 heard several times in Korup NP and we then managed to get incredible views of a single bird at the Sanaga showing off its blue skin patches!

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

This species was only heard at several forest sites.

Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

African Bush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

This bird was seen well in moist farmbush near Mount Cameroon.

Cameroon Scrub- (Evergreen Forest) Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi*

This is always a difficult species to see. On Mt Cameroon we managed to get good views of a bird that was continuously calling and moving!

Bangwa Scrub-Warbler *Bradypterus bangwaensis*

Easier to see than this Cameroonian congeners, we had encounters with 2 birds in the Bamenda highlands. A range restricted species endemic to western Cameroon and neighboring eastern Nigeria.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*

We enjoyed views of 2 birds in dense farmbush near Mt Cameroon.

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

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was seen at Benoue NP.

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 heard in bush below our accommodations at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Melodius Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

We spent time with this tricky species in Mangroves at La Digue.

White-tailed Warbler *Poliolais lopezi*

Jan *et al*, on their earlier descent of Max's trail, were rewarded with more than one sighting of these shy creatures.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*

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

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

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

This, the commonest and most widespread forest crombec, is tiny and inconspicuous, except by call. One showed well for most of the group at Limbe.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

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The crombec of dry woodland, seen at Benoue NP and near Waza NP.

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker, however most of the group managed to get good views of a bird in the Bokassi area. We further heard this species on several occasions 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.

Black-capped Woodland-Warbler *Phylloscopus herberti*

We encountered this species several times in the Bokassi Mountains and in the Mt.Kupe area.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

We had good views of several birds at scattered localities throughout.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

We found a single bird on day one of the tour and had an additional sighting en route to Maroua.

Yellow-bellied Hylia *Hylia flavigaster*

We recorded several of these while birding flocks at both Ngouandaba and Benoue NP. Cameroon.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

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

Greater Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Chris had one of these at Benoue NP while the group managed a bounty of sightings north of Mora.

Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

We found at least 2 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Northern (Western) Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Small numbers were seen daily in Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African Forest-Flycatcher *Fraseria ocreata*

We had a memorable sighting of a pair at the bee infested Rengo Rock lookout.

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 one of the last new trip birds; seen at the Sanaga on our last day.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

We had at least 3 birds during our full day in Benoue NP.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

A common forest-edge species with at least 5 recorded from Mt Cameroon and surrounds with additional sightings in the Bamenda highlands.

Yellow-footed Flycatcher *Muscicapa sethsmithi*

A scarce species of flycatcher that we saw several times at the at Mt Kupe.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

We enjoyed good sightings in farmbush near Mt Cameroon and at Mt.Kupe.

Cassin's (Gray) Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. We had sightings of this species at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Collared Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

Seen by Frank only at Ngouadaba.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

We had this species on our travel day from Ngaoundaba to Benoue NP.

Bocage's Acalat *Sheppardia bocagei*

Andy alone managed to see this shy species on Max's trail, well done Andy!

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

The in the forest understorey at Bokassi was where we enjoyed a sighting of one of these striking birds.

Mountain Robin-Chat *Cossypha isabellae*

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We had excellent views of several of this near-endemic on Mount Cameroon.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*

This shy and beautiful bird was seen very well by most of the group at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

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

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

A very large and showy *Cossypha*, much enjoyed by all. We had a sightings at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Rufous Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

We came across this species several times between Mora and Waza NP.

Black Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

A regularly seen and very beautiful bird, we had this species in similar habitat to the above species.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

We had good views of several at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African (Common) Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

This widespread species was seen at Mt Cameroon, the Bamanda highlands and near Mt Kupe.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

We saw this species once in Waza NP.

Familiar Chat *Cercomila familiaris*

We found this species in a rocky area next to the Benoue River.

Northern Anteater Chat *Mermecocichla aethops*

This species was seen several times north of Maroua.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

A pretty denizen of rocky areas, we managed to find a pair north of Mora.

Wattle-eyes *Platysteiridae*

African Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus*

We had 3 of these at the base of Mt Kupe.

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

Ian had a pair of these characterful, hammer-headed, flycatchers as he descended Max's trail.

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.

Banded Wattle-eye *Platysteira laticincta*

One of Cameroon's most threatened endemics. We had several encounters in the Bamenda Highlands in a memorable morning in degraded habitat.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*

Small numbers were seen in Korup NP with our first sighting 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*

Chris was lucky to connect with this bird in Korup NP.

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*

In excess of 6 birds were seen at both Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

Seen buy some on the ravel day from Benoue to Maroua.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

African Blue-Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail, we had sightings in many locales in the south.

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

We had good views of 3 birds on Mount Cameroon with further sightings in the Bokassi and Mt Kupe areas.

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

Also a fairly lively bird but rather shy and often difficult to see in the open, we found 2 birds in Korup NP.

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

We had one in the Bokassi area and had a further sighting in Korup NP.

Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufocinerea*

We had sightings on both of our visits to Limbe BG.

Bates' Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone batesi*

We had a good sighting of one bird in the Mt.Kupe area.

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed good views of several at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue.

Rockfowl *Picathartidae*

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

This incredible species is arguably the most desirable bird in Cameroon. After a fairly lengthy wait we were rewarded with good views of a bird at a nest. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

Babblers *Timaliidae*

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis*

This species was seen well by some in Korup NP.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

Jan and Chris managed to see one in thick undergrowth during our time in Korup NP.

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

At least 4 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.

Thrush Babbler *Ptyrticus turdinus*

A noisy and restless species that is very tough to see well. After a frustrating first couple of attempts we were treated to a great sighting of a group of birds in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*

We had views of this species in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Brown Babbler *Turdoides plebejus*

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

White-throated Mountain Babbler *Kupeornis gilberti*

After failing to connect, rather surprisingly, with this species in the Bokassi area we managed a brief and frustrating encounter with a small group high up on Max's trail.

Chickadees & Tits *Paridae*

White-shouldered Black Tit *Melaniparus guineensis*

We found small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and 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 *circa* 6 birds in tall broadleaved woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Penduline Tits *Remizidae*

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Sennar Penduline-Tit

Anthoscopus punctifrons

We were blessed with 2 sightings of this species south of Waza NP, a tiny and sought-after little gem and a welcome find!

Yellow Penduline-Tit

Anthoscopus parvulus

Some of the group saw a pair in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Tit-hylia

Pholidornis rushiae

Oddly enough we found this bird at Limbe BG where we enjoyed great views of a flock of three. This is Africa's smallest bird.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters Nectariniidae

Scarlet-tufted (Fraser's) Sunbird

Deleornis (Anthreptes) fraseri

We had good sightings in Korup NP 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

This bird showed well for some but no for long at La Digue near Douala.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird

Anthreptes longuemarei

A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we had two separate encounters, females both, in the Benoue area.

Green Sunbird

Anthreptes rectirostris

We saw a couple of birds in farmbrush near Mt Cameroon.

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 only on our day up Mt Cameroon.

(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

We had this species was at La Digue and at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Green-headed Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) verticalis

We had this pretty sunbird on several days in scattered locations in the south.

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 at least 2 on Mount Cameroon birds with additional sighting in the Bamenda Highlands.

Western Olive Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) obscura

This bird's call is a common forest sound in the south where we enjoyed several sightings.

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

Carmelite Sunbird

Chaclomitra fuliginosa

We had a single of these special and rather handsome birds at La Digue.

Green-throated Sunbird

Chaclomitra rubescens

We managed just one sighting of this creature, found feeding in a flowering *Erythryna* near Mt Cameroon.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Cyanomitra (Nectarinia) senegalensis

This is very striking sunbird; we enjoyed several sightings in dry woodland from Nguoundaba north.

Olive-bellied Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) chloropygia

This is a common forest edge species, seen in farmbrush at several sites in the south.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) preussi

As with the above species but typically at higher altitudes.

Beautiful Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) pulchella

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

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Orange-tufted Sunbird

Cinnyris bouvieri

We had a brief encounter in the farm bush on Mt. Cameroon with only some of the group managing to see this species.

Splendid Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) coccinigaster

We had excellent views at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Superb Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) superbus

We managed 2 good sightings in Limbe and had an additional sighting on Max's trail.

Variable Sunbird

Cinnyris venustus

We had good views in the woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Ursula's Sunbird

Cinnyris ursulae

A tricky species to find, some of the group saw 2 birds in the Bokassi area, not seen by the leader.

Copper Sunbird

Cinnyris (Nectarinia) cuprea

A very smart looking bird indeed, we had at least 4 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Cameroon Spierops

Spierops melanocephalus

This Mount Cameroon endemic was fairly easily encountered just below the tree line where we had several encounters of *circa* 6 birds.

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

We had a singleton in the woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus brachyrhynchus

Sightings were had in Bokassi and in Korup NP.

Black-winged Oriole

Oriolus nigripennis

We had a single bird on our day up Mt Cameroon.

Shrikes Laniidae

Southern Grey Shrike

Lanius meridionalis

This species was seen in the dry scrub north of Mora.

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)

Lanius mackinnoni

We encountered small numbers daily in the high lying area in the west.

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

Seen by some of the group at Ngaoundaba and further north near Maroua.

Yellow-billed Shrike

Corvinella corvina

We encountered this unusual and gregarious species in the Ngaoundaba area.

Bushshrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

Brubru

Nilaus afer

Often heard in the right habitat but seen only once at Ngaoundaba.

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 seen on several occasions in the Bokassi Mountains and Mt. Kupe.

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Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

We were treated to great views of 3 in the Bokassi Mountains.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra that was seen well on several occasions in the north.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

A total of 5 birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Common (Yellow-crowned) Gonolek *Laniarius barbarus*

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

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

At least 3 of these beautiful birds were seen in the gallery forest on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Yellow-breasted Boubou *Laniarius atroflavus*

This species was not uncommon in forested areas on Mt Cameroon and in the Bamenda highlands.

Mountain Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis*

We had good views of this species in thick farmbrush near Mt Cameroon and at Bokassi.

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

Grey-green Bushshrike *Telophorus bocagei*

We had one of these on our day up Max's trail.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

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

Many-colored Bushshrike *Telophorus multicolor*

This shy bird was unfortunately only heard on Max's 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 despite hearing it for an extended period we failed to secure a sighting.

Green-breasted Bushshrike *Malaconotus gladiator*

This species was only heard, frustratingly close, on Max's Trail and could not be coaxed into view.

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

This is an uncommon bird in Cameroon, we managed a great sighting at Ngouandaba Ranch.

Helmetsrikes & 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.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*

We located a single bird in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*

This forest interior drongo was seen well in Korup NP.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird. 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 at the Sanaga.

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*

Seen from the bus by most of the group as we journeyed north of Ngouandaba.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

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

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Starlings *Sturnidae*

- Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
This species was encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the Waza area.
- Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
We had good views in Benoue NP including birds feeding in a fruiting fig tree.
- Splendid Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus*
We had 2 pairs at Ngouandaba and an additional sighting near Bamenda.
- Purple Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureus*
Another stunning starling, small numbers were seen at Benoue NP.
- (Northern) Long-tailed Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis caudatus*
We had good numbers of these 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 and Benoue NP.
- (Forest) Chestnut-winged Starling** *Onychognathus fulgidus*
We had a flock of 4 perched at Limbe BG.
- Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*
We had 2 birds in flight at Mt Cameroon.
- Neumann's Starling** *Onychognathus neumanni*
This rather localized bird was seen only as we exited the forest in the Bokassi area where we found 3 birds.
- White-collared Starling** *Grafisia torquata*
This is a very special bird to the Ngaoundaba Ranch area and we saw at least 6 birds during our full day there.
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*
We found at least 10 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.

Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*

- White-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis albirostris*
We had several of these birds between Waza NP and Maroua.
- 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*
We encountered a small number of these from Benoue north.
- Bannerman's Weaver** *Ploceus bannermani*
This range restricted and endangered bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands where we saw *circa* 4 birds. This is a handsome was a major target and we did to have such a rewarding encounter with this species.
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*
This bird was seen by some in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*
This is a very endearing weaver and was one of the few rewards received for exploring a non-existent patch of mangroves near Limbe!
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*

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This is a diminutive dry-country weaver and was seen near Benoue NP and Waza NP.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Small numbers were seen at Limbe BG and Benoue NP.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

This snappy-looking weaver of forest edge, was seen at Limbe and 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 2. A further sightings was had in the Bamenda highlands.

Heuglin's Weaver *Ploceus heuglini*

At least a dozen of this sought after species was seen well at Benoue NP.

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.

Forest Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*

This pretty, bicolored bird was only seen at Bokassi where we had a small flock.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

Singletons of this very handsome forest weaver were observed high up on Mt. Cameroon and in the Bamenda area.

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

We had superb scope views 1 bird 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 and very good looking bird that is only found within a limited range; we were very lucky to find a pair in Korup NP.

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

One of these was seen by some of the group in Korup NP.

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

A secretive species that forages in thick tangles, we found small numbers in Korup NP, an uncommon interior species.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

As with the above species but more common.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

We had 2 of these striking weavers in Benoue NP.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

We found the "African avian locust" in big numbers in Waza NP and had smaller numbers at Nguoundaba and Benoue NP.

Black-winged Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

We found a group near Mt Cameroon and in Benoue NP.

Orange Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

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

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

We found 4 on the upper slopes of Mount Cameroon with a further encounter 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 at Nguoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi*

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

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

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- White-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita fusconota*
3 birds were seen at the base of Mt Kupe.
- Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch** *Nigrita bicolor*
One was seen at the base of Mt Kupe and we had an additional sighting at the Sanaga River.
- Pale-fronted Negrofinch** *Nigrita lutifrons*
We connected with this species at Limbe and in farmbush near Mt Cameroon.
- Gray-headed (-crowned) Negrofinch** *Nigrita canicapilla*
This, the most common negrofinch, was seen and heard at most sites in the south.
- Fernando Po (Little/Shelly's) Oliveback** *Nesocharis shelleyi*
This beautiful little bird was refreshingly common on Mt Cameroon where we saw 6 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 2 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further singleton in Benoue NP.
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*
We had many of these beautifully colored birds in the Waza area.
- Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*
A remarkably beautiful bird. We were treated to incredible views of a very confiding individual at Limbe BG.
- Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*
We had a very memorable encounter at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A beautifully patterned finch.
- Dybowski's Twinspot** *Clytospiza dybowskii*
This scarce species was seen by Andy only 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*
Encountered at Benoue NP where we found 4.
- Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*
This scarce firefinch was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we had in excess of 10.
- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*
We had a single sighting of a small group at Ngouandaba Ranch.
- Black-faced Firefinch** *Lagonosticta larvata*
A rare Firefinch, our sighting of a small group came from woodland in Benoue NP.
- Chad Firefinch** *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*
We found what looked like this bird (rather than Rock Firefinch) in a rocky area north of Mora.
- Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*
This is a common and delightful bird of savanna and was seen regularly throughout northern Cameroon.
- Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda 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 Waza NP area only.
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*
This, Africa's most widespread waxbill, was observed in the Bamenda, Bokassi and Mt Kupe areas.
- Black-crowned Waxbill** *Estrilda nonnula*
This is an attractive species that was found to be common from Ngaoundere area southwards.
- African Silverbill** *Lonchura cantans*
This species was seen a couple of times in the Waza area including at Waza Camp.
- 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 at Limbe BG and near Mt. Kupe.
- 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*

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2 birds were found coming down to drink at waterholes in Waza NP.

Indigobirds *Viduidae*

Pin-tailed Whydah

Vidua macroura

This familiar bird, which parasitizes small seedeaters, was seen only at Mundemba and at the breakfast stop at Edea.

Northern Paradise Whydah

Vidua orientalis

Non-breeding plumage birds 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 at least 12 birds. A further 10 was seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

Sreaky-headed Seedeater

Serinus gularis

1 bird was seen well in Benoue NP.

White-rumped Seedeater

Serinus leucopygius

Pete saw a couple of these in camp at Waza NP.

Yellow-fronted Canary

Serinus mozambicus

This species was seen in small numbers near Mt Cameroon, Ngaoundaba Ranch and in 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

3 birds were seen at a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

Cabinis' Bunting

Emberiza cabanisi

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

Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

Seen by Andy only between Maroua and Waza NP.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

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

Colobid Monkeys *Colobidae*

Guereza Colobus

Colobus guereza

We had some delightful encounters with these dapper primates in Benoue NP.

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.

Northern Talapoin

Miopithecus ogouensis

This is range restricted and very endearing monkey not often seen by tours to Cameroon. We were lucky to connect with a big troop near the Sanaga River.

Patras Monkey

Erythrocebus patas

We recorded up to a dozen daily whilst in the Waza area. This colourful monkey is largely terrestrial.

Tantalus Monkey

Cercopithecus tantalus

We observed this species at Benoue NP where we found 4.

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Lorsids *Loridae*

Senegal Galago

Galago senegalensis

We had an incredibly confiding individual, allowing a close approach, during our night drive at Nkouandaba.

Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*

Straw-colored Fruit Bat

Eidolon helvum

Many were seen outside our hotel in Douala.

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 by some of the group near Waza NP.

Green Squirrel

Paraxerus poensis

We had sightings of this species in gallery forest at Nkouandaba and at Bamenda.

Red-legged Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus rufobrachium

Seen at Limbe BG, Bokassi and the Sanaga.

Porcupines *Hystricidae*

Crested Porcupine

Hystrix cristata

We did well to see this delightful creature on our night drive at Benoue NP.

Dogs & Allies *Canidae*

Side-striped Jackal

Canis adustus

We had a good sighting of one of these at Benoue NP.

Mongoose *Herpestidae*

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguinea

Some of the group saw a group of these en route to Maroua.

White-tailed Mongoose

Ichneumia albicauda

We had one of each of our nightdrives in Benoue and Nkouandaba.

Genets and Civets *Viverridae*

Common Genet

Genetta genetta

We had a single animal on our nightdrive in Benoue NP.

African Civet

Civettictis civetta

We were very fortunate to get a sighting of this strange creature during our nightdrive at Nkouandaba.

Hyraxes *Procavidae*

Black-necked Hyrax

Procavia johstoni

This species was seen at the entrance to Waza NP.

Hippopotamuses *Hippopotamidae*

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

At least 8 were observed in the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Pigs *Suidae*

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

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A familiar savanna animal that we found in Benoue NP and Waza NP.

Giraffes *Giraffidae*

Giraffe

Giraffe cameoleopardus

We had 2 of these wonderful beasts on our full day in Benoue 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 2 were seen daily in Benoue NP.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebi

At least 6 were found in Benoue NP

Kob

Kobus kob

This was a particularly common mammal in Benoue NP where daily totals exceed 20. We observed smaller numbers in Waza NP.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

We found 3 in Benoue NP.

Red-fronted Gazelle

Gazella rufifrons

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

Tsessebe

Damaliscus lunatus

We observed many of these during our time in the Waza area.

Roan Antelope

Hippotragus equinus

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

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumper.co.za
Website: www.rockjumper.co.za