



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Cameroon

### *Rockfowl, Rainforests & Sahel*

*11<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009*



Grey-necked Rockfowl – Mathew Matthiessen

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott**

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## Tour Summary

Our trip total of 605 species in 21 days reflects the immense birding potential of Cameroon. Whilst the focus of the tour was certainly the rich assemblage of Central African specialties, we did not neglect the interesting diversity of mammals. Participants were treated to an amazing 92 families of birds, including a staggering array of rare, elusive, localized and stunning species. These included Hartlaub's Duck, Scissor-tailed Kite, Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, Arabian Bustard, all 3 flufftails seen, African Finfoot, Black Crowned Crane, Quail-plover, Brown-chested Lapwing, Greater Painted Snipe, Egyptian Plover, Grey Pratincole, African Skimmer, Adamawa Turtle Dove, Bannerman's Turaco, Black-throated Coucal, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Red-chested Owlet, Golden, Standard-winged & Pennant-winged Nightjars, Bates's Swift, Bare-cheeked Trogon, Blue-headed Bee-eater, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, all 3 Broadbills displaying, a stunning African Pitta displaying, Masked Shrike, magnificent Grey-necked Rockfowl watched for twenty minutes, Rufous-rumped Lark, Bamenda Apalis, Spotted Thrush-Babbler, Spotted Creeper, White-collared Starling, Orange-tufted Sunbird, Woodhouse's Antpecker and Rock Firefinch amongst many others. Some of the mammalian highlights included fantastic views of Guereza Colobus, Patas Monkeys, Golden Jackal, Sand Fox, Spot-necked Otter, African Palm Civet, African Wild Cat, Hippopotamus, Kanki, Tsessebe and Roan Antelope.

For more highlights and a detailed trip report read on .....

Our fabulous adventure through this bird rich country started off at the great Sanaga River. Our early morning forays into the surrounding humid tropical forests produced numerous species, notably Grey Parrot, impressive Great Blue Turaco feasting on a fruiting tree, spectacular Red-billed Dwarf and White-crested Hornbills, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, the tiny African Piculet, Brown-eared Woodpecker, White-bibbed Swallow, nesting Preuss's Cliff Swallow, a family group of Rufous-crowned Eremomela, rare Cassin's Malimbe and a stunning Black-bellied Seedcracker. Along the river and at nearby flooded areas we found the soughtafter Hartlaub's Duck, a magnificent male African Finfoot, several Grey Pratincole and a large flock of African Skimmer. What a start to the trip!!!



Leaving the Sanaga we took a flight to Garoua, where we were all very relieved to have arrived in this northern town as the flights are often unreliable. A very excited bunch of birders then headed off to the birding Mecca of Ngaoundaba Ranch. The diversity of habitats with an incredible array of species, pleasant climate at over a thousand metres above sea level, comfortable accommodations and friendly staff made this a truly magnificent birding experience. Our excursions to the crater lake produced a confiding Little Bittern, Black Crake and African Rail with a smart Red-necked Buzzard flying overhead. The mosaic of gallery forests produced

many specials including White-spotted Flufftail, scarce endemic Bamenda Apalis, Oriole Warbler in full song, shy Spotted Thrush-Babbler, beautiful White-collared Starling and the striking understory skulkers Grey-winged and White-crowned Robin-Chats. During our strolls through the magnificent broad-leafed woodland we found Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Brown-chested Lapwing, a pair of Temminck's Courser, stunning White-crested and Ross's Turacos, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Double-toothed Barbet, Sun Lark, Yellow-bellied Hyliota and highly soughtafter Spotted Creeper. In rank vegetation near the lodge we came across numerous seedeaters including Grey-headed Oliveback, Brown and Dybowski's

Twinspots, Black-bellied and Bar-breasted Firefinches and Black-crowned Waxbill. Our night drives produced the cute African Scops and Greyish Eagle-Owls and magnificent male Standard-winged Nightjar in full regalia.

Sadly we had to leave this magical place, but more great birds lay ahead and we travelled to Benoue National Park stopping at a roadside wetland en route that produced several superb African Pygmy Goose, migrant Garganey and Marsh Widowbird. Benoue was once again teeming with birds and mammals and our stay was made all the more comfortable this year with running water, electricity and air-conditioning. During our excursions into the surrounding woodland we encountered several flocks of the quaint Stone Partridge, great scope views of a covey of White-throated Francolin, majestic Bateleur, African Hawk-Eagle, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Senegal Parrot, copulating Blue-bellied Roller, scarce Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Eurasian Wryneck, Fine-spotted, Golden-tailed and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Red-winged Warbler, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Heuglin's Wheatear, Pygmy Sunbird and Heuglin's Masked Weaver. Along the Benoue River we had some great sightings including Abdim's Stork, a juvenile Western Banded Snake Eagle, Greater Painted Snipe, exquisite Egyptian Plover, localized Adamawa Turtle Dove, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Violet Turaco, Red-throated Bee-eater and smart Black-faced Firefinch. Some of the mammals we encountered included the striking Guereza Colobus, Hippopotamus wallowing in the large pools in the Benoue River, Giraffe, richly coloured Red-flanked Duiker, Oribi, rare Kanki and numerous Kob.



Heading north to Maroua we stopped for several beautiful Northern Carmine Bee-eater, a pair of Fox Kestrel and Chestnut-bellied Starling. Traveling north of Maroua we stopped at a rocky outcrop where we were pleased to find White-headed Barbet, Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin, Rock Firefinch and a pair of delightful Lavender Waxbill. The dry scrubby plains to the north were already warming up and after a lengthy search we finally managed to track down the elusive and bizarre Quail-plover. Further surveys in the area produced several splendid Scissor-tailed Kite, unusual Cricket Longtail and many Black Scrub-Robin. At dusk after an extensive search we had all but given up, when suddenly Jim spotted some eyeshine and it turned out to be the magical Golden Nightjar, what an end to another magnificent day!

Next we were off to the far north, where temperatures soared well above forty degrees Celsius and so some of us spent the heat of the day relaxing in the swimming pool. We spent a wonderful day exploring the woodlands and waterholes in Waza National Park finding Common Ostrich, several



coveys of Clapperton's Francolin, large flocks of Knob-billed Duck and Spur-winged Goose, Saddle-billed and Marabou Storks, African Spoonbill, Black Heron, Great White Pelican, Egyptian, Rüppell's and Lappet-faced Vultures, Arabian Bustard, mesmerizing flocks of Black Crowned Crane totaling over five hundred, Black-headed Lapwing, Spotted Redshank, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, rare Rufous-rumped Lark, River Prinia, Grasshopper Buzzard and superb male Masked Shrike. Our exciting night drives in the area produced Long-tailed

Nightjar, Western Barn Owl and magnificent Golden Jackal, Egyptian Mongoose and Sand Fox.

Leaving the sweltering north we traveled to the cool highlands of Bamenda. Our full day here was exceptional with a constant procession of new birds including many specials. Our first stop was at a tongue of remnant forest where we found Tullberg's Woodpecker, handsome Yellow-breasted Boubou, Black-collared Apalis, Cameroon Greenbul, retiring Bangwa Forest Warbler, Abyssinian Hill Babbler, near-endemic Bannerman's Weaver, Mountain Wagtail and finally the smart and endemic Banded Wattle-eye showing well for all.

Moving on to a patch of better forest we located the beautiful Bannerman's Turaco which gave us great scope views, a vocal African Cuckoo, African Black Swift overhead, Western Tinkerbird, a pair of Black-headed Batis, Mackinnon's Shrike and scarce White-bellied Tit. The surrounding grasslands produced Pectoral-patch Cisticola, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Neumann's Starling, rare Orange-tufted Sunbird, and very localized Cameroon Pipit which is sometimes lumped with African Pipit.

From Bamenda we made our way to the fabulous Mount Kupe and Bokassi mountains for a four night stay. Our first day was spent in the Bokassi area and although a rather bumpy drive was necessary to get there, and after a ritual with the local chief, we were still in the forest just after dawn. The Bokassi area allows one easier access into the higher forests and we were soon finding great birds including a displaying African Broadbill, a Red-thighed Sparrowhawk flew over allowing good views of this low density species, Bar-tailed Trogon, Black-winged Oriole, Green Longtail, Grey-headed and Cameroon Olive Greenbuls, Yellow Longbill and the tiny Black-capped Woodland Warbler. In the nearby secondary growth we found Fan-tailed Grassbird and Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike amongst numerous forest edge species.

The rest of our time was spent on Mount Kupe and although the trails are steep in places we walked slowly, all the while picking up great forest species including Red-chested Goshawk, both White-spotted and Buff-spotted Flufftail – the latter showed particularly well and walked right out to the edge of a trail giving great views for all, splendid Guinea and Yellow-billed Turacos, Blue Malkoha, secretive Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, confiding Red-chested Owlet, Green-backed, Gabon and Elliot's Woodpeckers, displaying Grey-headed Broadbill, a female Shrike-flycatcher, stunning Black-necked and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes, Fernando Po Batis, Fiery-breasted Bushshrike, Bates's Paradise Flycatcher, Forest Swallow, Black-capped Apalis, social White-throated Mountain Babbler, Waller's and Narrow-tailed Starlings, beautiful Crossley's Ground Thrush, Brown-chested Alethe, Bocage's Akalat, Yellow-footed and Sooty Flycatcher and Cameroon and Ursula's Sunbirds. Whew! at times we didn't know which way to look there were so many birds around.



From the mountains we traveled to the vast and humid lowland tropical forest of Korup National Park. The excitement mounted as this was to be our destination to find the key bird of the trip, the near-mythical Grey-necked Rockfowl. On entering the park we found Rock Pratincole on the Mana River and then made the walk in through this magnificent primary forest to our camp for a two night stay. Our time in Korup was particularly productive with many specialist forest species showing well including Blue-headed Wood Dove, after an extensive search great views of Bare-cheeked Trogon, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher in a mixed species flock with the stunning Rachel's Malimbe,

unobtrusive Blue-headed Bee-eater, a confiding pair of Yellow-crested Woodpecker, a displaying Rufous-sided Broadbill, magnificent Africa Pitta in full display – this rivaled the rockfowl for bird of the trip, Blue Cuckooshrike, Blue-headed and Dusky Crested Flycatchers, Grey-necked Rockfowl - a stunning twenty minutes with these pre-historic looking birds, Xavier's Greenbul, Eastern Bearded and White-bearded Greenbuls, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Fraser's and scarce White-browed Forest Flycatchers and sought after Woodhouse's Antpecker.

Near Mundemba we picked up a number of other great birds including Red-fronted Parrot, a splendid and for once confiding Black-throated Coucal, Purple-headed and Chestnut-winged Starlings, Johanna's Sunbird, Bates's Swift, Shining-blue Kingfisher and Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill.

Leaving the hot and humid lowlands, we traveled to the refreshing highlands of Mount Cameroon. Although a fairly long walk up the mountain is necessary to get to the tree line, it was well worth it with superb views of Scaly Francolin, a particularly obliging Red-chested Flufftail, Cameroon Olive Pigeon, elusive Mountain Sooty Boubou, Mountain Saw-wing, confiding Evergreen Forest Warbler, Mount Cameroon Speirops, Cameroon Mountain Robin, delightful Shelley's Oliveback and smart Oriole Finch.

Our final stop was the Limbe Botanical Gardens where we picked up all our targets: a splendid male Western Bluebill, Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher, Pale-fronted Nigrita and Superb and Carmelite Sunbirds. This brought an end to a fantastic tour and we then headed back to Douala for our return flights home.

**Photos:** Egyptian Plover by Matthew Matthiessen, White-throated Francolin and Scissor-tailed Kite by Keith Valentine, Standard-winged Nightjar by David Shackelford.

## Annotated List of Bird and Mammal species recorded

**Birds:** Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Version 2.1 generated on 2009-05-13. When the taxonomy differs from that of Clement's, the Clement's name will be written in brackets or differences will be explained in a note below the species.

### BIRDS (605)

#### Ostrich Struthionidae

##### Common Ostrich

*Struthio camelus*

Recorded only at Waza National Park with great sightings of two birds being seen on a day

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

#### Guineafowl Numididae

##### Helmeted Guineafowl

*Numida meleagris*

Commonly observed in Benoue and Waza NP's

*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.) Few authorities recognize these splits.*

### Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

#### **Stone Partridge**

*Ptilopachus petrosus*

This species was encountered first in Benoue NP with our highest day count of 20 birds seen at a rocky outcrop near Mora.

#### **White-throated Francolin**

*Peliperdix albogularis*

We had magnificent scope views of a family group of three in the woodland at Benoue NP.

#### **Scaly Francolin**

*Pternistis squamatus*

A family group of six including chicks was seen on the lower slopes of Mount Cameroon.

#### **Double-spurred Francolin**

*Pternistis bicalcaratus*

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

#### **Clapperton's Francolin**

*Pternistis clappertoni*

Only seen at Waza NP where they were regularly encountered with up to 30 seen daily.

#### **Common Quail**

*Coturnix coturnix*

We had great views of one in Waza National Park.

### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

#### **White-faced Whistling-Duck**

*Dendrocygna viduata*

Our only sighting was of 40 in Waza NP.

#### **Spur-winged Goose**

*Plectropterus gambensis*

Our first sighting was of 50 at Dang Lake and finally a large flock of 200 birds was seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.

#### **Knob-billed Duck**

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Several large flocks totaling 225 were seen at waterholes in Waza NP.

*NOTE: Comb Duck, S.sylvicola which occurs in South America has been split from Knob-billed Duck, S.melanotos which occurs in Africa and Asia.*

#### **Hartlaub's Duck**

*Pteronetta hartlaubii*

This highly sought-after species was seen at only one site near the Sanaga River, where we observed a total of 21.

#### **African Pygmy Goose**

*Nettapus auritus*

We enjoyed good scope views of 8 at Dang Lake.

#### **Yellow-billed Duck**

*Anus undulata*

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

#### **Garganey**

*Anas querquedula*

A flock of ten was seen at Dang Lake, several males were in stunning breeding plumage.

### Grebes Podicipedidae

#### **Little Grebe**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Three were seen at Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

### Storks Ciconiidae

#### **Yellow-billed Stork**

*Mycteria ibis*

Up to 25 were seen at waterholes in and around Waza National Park.

#### **African Openbill**

*Anastomus lamelligerus*

Up to 30 were seen in Waza NP.

#### **Abdim's Stork**

*Ciconia abdimii*

A small flock of these intra-African migrants (8 birds) was seen at Ngaoundaba and a further 3 in Benoue NP.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

We had wonderful sightings of five at La Digue and several more in Waza NP.

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

One of the great storks of the World! 4 were seen in Waza NP.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Up to 200 were seen in Waza NP.

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

A flock of twenty was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further thirty at a waterhole in Waza NP.

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

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

A flock of 11 was seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.

### Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

We had superb scope views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Two were seen pre-dawn at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

One was seen along the Benoue River in Benoue NP and another in Korup NP.

NOTE: This species group is often treated as 3 species, the nominate Striated Heron, *B. striata*, Green Heron, *B. virescens* of North America and Lava Heron, *B. sundevalli* of the Galapagos.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

Seen at Dang Lake where at least 2 birds were present. We had a further 10 at a waterhole in Waza NP.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

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

NOTE: This group is split by some authorities into 2 species, the nominate Western Cattle Egret, *B. ibis* and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret *E. coromandus*.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers in Waza NP.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*

A fairly common species in the north, noted in abundance in Waza NP. An estimate of 100 was seen on our full day in this special park.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

**Western Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

This familiar species was seen at several localities including 3 in Waza NP.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split into Western Great Egret, *A. alba* of the Americas, Africa & Europe and Eastern Great Egret, *A. modesta* of East Asia and Australasia. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.

**Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

This species was found at Dang Lake and again in Waza NP.

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*

We enjoyed a wonderful sighting of a flock of seven at a waterhole in Waza NP.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Up to 100 were seen at La Digue with scattered sightings elsewhere.

*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 Heron** *Egretta gularis*

Several were seen at La Digue and the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

### Hamerkop Scopidae

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This unique species was easily seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

### Pelicans Pelecanidae

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

We enjoyed wonderful views of a flock of 47 at a waterhole in Waza NP.

### Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae

**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus*

Seen at wetlands throughout the country. The largest group was at Dang Lake.

### Anhingas & Darters Anhingidae

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*

One was seen at a pond en route to the Sanaga River.

*NOTE: Darter is sometimes split into three species, African Darter, A.rufa, Oriental Darter, A.melanogaster and Australasian Darter, A.novaehollandiae. Clements does not yet accept these splits.*

### Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

One was seen near Mundemba.

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

Small numbers were seen south of Maroua and near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into Black-winged Kite, E.caeruleus of Africa and Asia and Black-shouldered Kite, E.axillaris of Australasia.*

**Scissor-tailed Kite** *Chelictinia riocourii*

First seen near the town of Mora, much to the delight of all. We saw a total of 4 in Northern Cameroon.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

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

*NOTE: Some authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius.*

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Not a very common bird in West Africa, one was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further one at a waterhole in Waza NP.

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

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

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*

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

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites except one large flock of 47 seen at Garoua.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*

A small flock of six was seen in Benoue NP with a further flock of six in Waza NP.

**Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon)** *Gyps rueppellii*

A flock of twelve was seen in Waza NP.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus*

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

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*

We enjoyed good sightings of four in Waza NP.

**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*

We had great sightings of two during the drive from Ngaoundaba to Maroua.

**Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*

We were fortunate to find one juvenile near the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

The "tightrope-walker" of the raptor world is a handsome species that we first saw in the woodland belt in Benoue NP, further sightings of 1 were seen in Waza NP.

**Congo Serpent Eagle** *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*

We heard one calling in Korup NP.

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites including 3 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 5 at Dang Lake.

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

1 male seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch, another at Benoue NP and 2 females in Waza NP, smart birds indeed

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

A distinctive raptor recorded most regularly in the south with peak numbers of 8 seen during the drive from Bamenda to Nyasoso.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

Up to ten recorded daily in the Mora and Waza areas

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

We found small numbers in the Mora and Waza areas.

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

This forest *Accipiter* was seen twice at forest edge in the Mt. Kupe area and later seen displaying over Korup NP.

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

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

Seen in the woodlands of Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

**Red-thighed Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter erythropus*

We had great views of one flying over the forest at Bokassi. This is a rarely encountered species of the rainforest and seems to be at far lower densities than its southern sister species Little Sparrowhawk, *A. minullus*

**Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

First seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with scattered sightings elsewhere

**Long-tailed Hawk** *Urotriorchis macrourus*

Michael heard one calling near Mundemba.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

We enjoyed good views of one near the Sanaga River with scattered sightings elsewhere.

**Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*

We enjoyed many sightings of this species especially in Benoue and Waza NP's.

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

This handsome buzzard was noted at a number of localities on the tour, our highest daily count was of 2 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in the Bamenda highlands.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

We enjoyed good views of at least 4 birds on our day in Waza NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

We had good views of 2 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 2 in Benoue NP.

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

We had a good view of a pair over woodland in Benoue NP.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

We had a good sighting of one in Waza NP.

**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii*

We had fantastic views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

Our first sighting was of one en route from Benoue NP to Garoua with further sightings of 4 in Waza NP.

### Falcons & Caracaras Falconidae

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

This widespread, familiar raptor was first seen in Waza NP with further sightings in the Bamenda highlands.

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

**Fox Kestrel** *Falco alopex*

We had superb views of two south of Garoua.

**Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*

We had great views of one in Benoue NP.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

One was seen in Waza NP.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*

One was seen at a rocky outcrop near Mora.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

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

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

We had magnificent scope views of one near Mundemba.

### Bustards Otididae

**Arabian Bustard** *Ardeotis arabs*

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

**White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis*

We had great views of three near Mora.

NOTE: Some authorities split the Southern African form into Barrow's Korhaan, *E.barrowii*. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

**Black-bellied Bustard***Lissotis melanogaster*

A single bird was found in Waza NP.

**Flufftails Sarothruridae****White-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura pulchra*

This secretive, forest rallids hooting call was heard in several forests and a few members of the group had views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A further one was seen at Mount Kupe.

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

This secretive species was seen exceptionally well on a forest trail at Mount Kupe.

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

This marsh dwelling rallid was oddly enough heard in some rank vegetation at the base of Mount Cameroon where we were afforded fantastic views of a male.

**Finfoots Turnicidae****African Finfoot***Podica senegalensis*

We had magnificent views of a male on two consecutive days near the Sanaga River and later enjoyed a further pair near Mundemba.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae****Nkulengu Rail***Himantornis haematopus*

We heard one calling in the early morning in Korup NP.

**African Rail***Rallus caerulescens*

Although widespread on the continent this can be a tough species to see. We were fortunate to see one briefly at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

Several were seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further two at a stream next to our accommodation in Mundemba.

**African Swamphen***Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had good views of 1 bird at Dang Lake.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognized as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become African Swamphen (*P. madagascariensis*.) Other forms to be recognized may include Indian Swamphen (*P. poliocephalus*.) Philippine Swamphen (*P. pulverulentus*) and Eastern Swamphen (*P. melanotus*). Clements does not as yet accept these splits.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

One was seen at a waterhole in Waza NP with a further sighting of three at a wetland near Bamenda, our final sighting was of one at a small pond near the Sanaga River.

**Lesser Moorhen***Gallinula angulata*

One was seen at a small wetland near the Sanaga River.

**Cranes Gruidae****Black Crowned Crane***Balearica pavonina*

This very handsome bird is delightfully common in Waza NP with peak numbers of 500 seen on one day.

**Buttonquail Turnicidae**

**Quail-plover***Ortyxelos meiffrenii*

This rare and incredible bird was one of the highlights of the trip for many. After a two-hour search in the hot dry savannah south of Waza we finally located one.

**Stone-curlews & Thick-knees Burhinidae****Senegal Thick-knee***Burhinus senegalensis*

Our only sighting was of two in Benoue NP.

**Spotted Thick-knee***Burhinus capensis*

Encountered in the Waza NP area with a total of 2 birds being seen.

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

We had wonderful views of ten at a waterhole in Waza NP.

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

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Plover, these vociferous birds were first seen at Dang Lake and later encountered in small numbers in Waza NP.

**Black-headed Lapwing***Vanellus tectus*

Our first sighting was of 3 at the Garoua airport. We enjoyed many sightings of this bird in the arid areas near Mora and in Waza NP. A very attractive bird.

**White-crowned Lapwing***Vanellus albiceps*

First seen at the Sanaga River where 3 were seen and later a further 2 were found in Benoue NP.

**African Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus*

We found a pair near Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further four in Waza NP.

**Brown-chested Lapwing***Vanellus superciliosus*

A spectacular male in full breeding plumage was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

We enjoyed great scope views of one at La Digue.

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

We found 4 on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

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

Only encountered on the Sanaga River where we found 3.

**Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae****Egyptian Plover***Pluvianus aegyptus*

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

**Painted Snipes Rostratulidae****Greater Painted Snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

This brilliant bird was sighted on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

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

A widespread and characteristic wader, conspicuous in wetlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Dang Lake

**Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae**

- Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*  
We had great scope views of six at La Digue
- Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*  
We enjoyed a wonderful sighting of 22 at a waterhole in Waza NP.
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*  
We had great views of 2 at a waterhole in Waza NP.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*  
A large flock of 30 was seen at La Digue and one at the Sanaga River.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*  
Several were seen at waterholes in Waza NP.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*  
Seen at Dang Lake, Benoue NP and Waza NP
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
A common migrant, 20 seen at La Digue with scattered sightings elsewhere
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*  
One bird was seen at a waterhole in Waza NP.
- Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*  
We had good views of a flock of 8 at a waterhole in Waza NP.

**Couriers & Pratincoles Glareolidae**

- Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii*  
We enjoyed great scope views of a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*  
12 of these birds were found in the Waza area.
- Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis*  
A total of 6 birds were seen on the Mana River on our way into and out of Korup NP.
- Grey Pratincole** *Glareola cinerea*  
20 of these beautiful pratincoles were scoped on sandbars on the Sanaga River.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**

- African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*  
We encountered a fantastic 100+ birds on the Sanaga River.
- Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*  
Up to 20 were seen flying in the bay at La Digue

**Sandgrouse Pteroclididae**

- Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*  
A day drinker, this bird was easy to observe in Waza NP and surrounds with at least 20 birds being seen on our full day in the reserve
- Four-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles quadricinctus*  
At Benoue NP we were treated to awesome views of 10 birds as they flushed at our feet and landed nearby for extremely close views.

**Pigeons & Doves Collumbidae**

- 
- Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*  
Common in Douala and other large towns
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*  
A common species in the north, first encountered at Garoua and seen at all localities north of there
- Cameroon Olive Pigeon** *Columba sjostedti*  
We had 2 of these birds on our day on Mount Cameroon.
- European (Eurasian) Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*  
We encountered 500 of these birds in *Acacia* woodland next to a waterhole in Waza NP.
- Adamawa Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*  
We enjoyed fantastic views of 2 in Benoue NP. A rare species.
- African Collared Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*  
This rather pale *Streptopelia* was encountered in Waza NP where we had good views of five.
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*  
Seen only in the Waza area where we recorded a total of 3 birds.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*  
A fairly common widespread species, especially notable in more wooded areas and around towns
- Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*  
This richly marked dove was common in the Ngaoundaba and Benoue areas with peak numbers in Benoue NP.
- Laughing (Palm) Dove** *Stigmatopelia 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 good numbers in Benoue NP
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*  
Not uncommon in secondary growth in the moister south.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*  
A forest equivalent of the wood doves, we encountered this bird in the Bamenda highlands, the only sighting.
- Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*  
A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. We found one in Korup NP.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*  
A fairly common species in the dry north, especially in Waza NP where 20+ were seen in a day
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*  
Small numbers were seen at Benoue NP with a day total of 20 birds noted on our first day there. We were treated to great views of a small flock feeding in a large fruiting fig tree.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*  
Commoner in the south of the country, where good numbers were noted throughout

### Parrots Psittacidae

- Red-headed Lovebird** *Agapornis pullarius*  
We observed this species in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch. We counted a total of 2 of these very endearing parrots.
- (African) Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*  
So much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird! Small groups were seen near the Sanaga River and up to 10 seen near Mundemba.
- Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi*  
A pair of these magnificent birds was seen exceptionally well near Mundemba.

**Senegal Parrot***Poicephalus senegalus*

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, we found a number in Benoue NP.

**Turacos Musophagidae****Great Blue Turaco***Corythaeola cristata*

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore was first seen near the Sanaga River where we enjoyed excellent views of 5 birds feeding in a fruiting tree.

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

A pair was seen 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).*

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

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

**White-crested Turaco***Tauraco leucolophus*

A few birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again in Benoue NP. A spectacular bird!

**Bannerman's Turaco***Tauraco bannermani*

One of these stunning endemics was seen in the Bamenda Highlands where we enjoyed superb scope views of a particularly confiding individual.

**Violet Turaco***Musophaga violacea*

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

**Ross's Turaco***Musophaga rossae*

We encountered a couple of these beautiful birds in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Western (Grey) Plantain-eater***Crinifer piscator*

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

**Cuckoos Cuculidae****Black-throated Coucal***Centropus leucogaster*

A huge, elusive West African coucal. A single bird was seen exceptionally well near Mundemba.

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

**Senegal Coucal***Centropus senegalensis*

The most commonly encountered coucal throughout with peak numbers of five seen during the drive from Maroua to Waza NP.

**Blue-headed Coucal***Centropus monachus*

Our first sighting was of a pair at the Sanaga River with further sightings at Mount Kupe and Bokassi.

**Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)***Ceuthmochares aereus*

We had good views of one near the Sanaga River and a further two at Mount Kupe.

*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 observed and occurs in West and Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**Levaillant's Cuckoo***Clamator levaillantii*

One was seen in the garden or our hotel near the Sanaga River.

**Dideric Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had great scope views of a female at Mount Kupe.

**Klaas's Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

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

**African Emerald Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we saw a resplendent male at the Sanaga River and a further one en route from Nyasoso to Mundemba

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

A very shy and elusive species, far more often heard than seen however we managed to get brief views of one on Mount Kupe.

**Black Cuckoo***Cuculus clamosus*

We heard several in Korup NP.

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

We heard this species at Bokassi.

**African Cuckoo***Cuculus gularis*

We enjoyed superb scope views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

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

We enjoyed great views of 3 birds near our camp in Waza.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this into Western Barn Owl, T.alba which is widespread and the one we observed and Eastern Barn Owl, T.javanica of SE Asia and Australasia. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

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

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

**Greyish Eagle-Owl***Bubo cinerascens*

We enjoyed good views of this species near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Fraser's Eagle-Owl***Bubo poensis*

We heard one calling near Mount Kupe

**Vermiculated Fishing Owl***Scotopelia bouvieri*

We heard a pair calling in Korup National Park.

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

We heard this species in Korup NP.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet***Glaucidium perlatum*

We found this vocal species during the day at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Red-chested Owlet***Glaucidium tephronotum*

We enjoyed magnificent scope views of one on Mount Kupe.

**Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae****Brown Nightjar***Veles binotatus*

We had brief views of one near Bokassi.

**Golden Nightjar***Caprimulgus eximius*

We enjoyed superb views of one near Mora, this was one of the many great highlights of the trip!

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

We had good but brief views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

We had a fantastic sighting of three of these beautiful birds near Waza.

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

One of the world's most bizarre birds. We obtained views of many males with full standards on our night drives at Ngaoundaba Ranch and later enjoyed good views of both males and females during the day.

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

During our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch we managed to flush several female birds.

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

We found 2 at La Digue

**Black Spinetail***Telacanthura melanopygia*

Ben was very lucky to see one flying over a clearing in Korup NP.

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

Our first sighting was of distant views of 2 birds at Bokassi and later we had superb views of one near Mundemba.

**Cassin's Spinetail***Neafrapus cassini*

We had brief views of one near Mundemba and another at the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful throughout most of the tour with the bird being recorded throughout

**Common Swift***Apus apus*

Loose flocks of up to sixty were seen flying over Korup NP.

**African Black Swift***Apus barbatus*

A scarce bird in West Africa, we saw a flock of at least 10 birds near rocky habitat in the Bamenda Highlands close to Lake Awing.

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

The common urban swift throughout the country

**White-rumped Swift***Apus caffer*

A flock of five was seen at Mount Kupe.

**Bates's Swift***Apus batesi*

A swift of the forest zone of the south, we saw up to 10 birds during the drive to Mundemba.

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

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa but nonetheless encountered 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 began to encounter small numbers of this species between Maroua and Waza NP. Day counts never exceeded 10 of this fast flying and oddly marked bird.

**Trogon Trogonidae****Bare-cheeked Trogon***Apaloderma aequatoriale*

3 of these spectacular birds were seen on our walks in Korup NP. Much time and effort was put into trying to get good views of this species for everyone in the group and after patience and persistence we managed great views for all.

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

We enjoyed a good sighting of this beautiful bird in the Bokassi mountains.

**Rollers Coraciidae**

- Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller** *Coracias naevius*  
We had great views of one during the drive from Benoue NP to Maroua.
- Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*  
A common roller recorded throughout the dry north of the country.
- Blue-bellied Roller** *Coracias cyanogaster*  
Two birds were seen in open woodland in Benoue NP.
- Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis*  
Two were seen during our time in Korup NP
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*  
We enjoyed views of small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

- Chocolate-backed Kingfisher** *Halcyon badia*  
We had cracking views of one in a mixed species flock in Korup NP.
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*  
We had our highest total of 6 birds in Benoue NP and had further sightings in the north of the country.
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*  
Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small, savannah kingfisher was found in woodland in Benoue NP.
- Blue-breasted Kingfisher** *Halcyon malimbica*  
This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was first seen at La Digue with further sightings in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*  
Not uncommon in open habitat in the south often perching on telephone wires next to the road.
- African Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ispidina lecontei*  
One was seen very briefly as it flew rapidly past us in Korup NP.
- African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*  
This beautiful little bird was first seen near the Sanaga River, we recorded them again at various widely scattered localities.
- White-bellied Kingfisher** *Alcedo leucogaster*  
This species was heard on a few occasions as it went cruising down the various small streams in Korup NP.
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*  
We recorded this species at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.
- Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadibrachys*  
We had good views of one near Mundemba.
- Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*  
The Goliath of the kingfisher world. Seen at Benoue NP and again at a couple of the large rivers near Mundemba
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*  
The world's commonest kingfisher was first seen at the Sanaga River and small numbers at several sites on the tour.

**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

- Blue-headed Bee-eater** *Merops muelleri*  
We found a single of these rare and highly sought after bee-eaters in Korup NP.

**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

Small numbers were seen at the Sanaga River and further sightings of several in Benoue NP.

**Blue-breasted Bee-eater***Merops variegatus*

A pair of these beauties was seen at Bokassi.

**Red-throated Bee-eater***Merops bulocki*

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

**White-throated Bee-eater***Merops albicollis*

This species which breeds in the Sahelian savanna and winters in the Equatorial forest belt was first recorded near the Sanaga River. Many were found countrywide.

**Green Bee-eater***Merops orientalis*

This lovely lime green bird was recorded daily in the Mora and Waza areas.

**European Bee-eater***Merops apiaster*

We saw good numbers flying over the forest in Korup National Park.

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater***Merops nubicus*

Another magnificent bee-eater, we were fortunate to see 12 on our drive from Waza to Maroua.

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

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

Two were sighted during the drive from Maroua to Waza.

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

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

This bird was recorded at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Black Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

A total of 2 birds were seen in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area with a further sighting of a pair in woodland in Benoue NP.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae****African Pied Hornbill***Tockus fasciatus*

Common throughout forested areas in Cameroon

**African Grey Hornbill***Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Cameroon, with small numbers (3+ daily) being seen in the drier northern part of the country. First recorded en route from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch

**Northern Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands in the Waza area where we recorded up to five daily

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into five species, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, T.erythrorhynchus which we observed, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Tdamarensis of N.Namibia, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, T.rufirostris of Southern Africa, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, T.ruahae – endemic to Tanzania and Western Red-billed Hornbill, T.kempi of Senegambia. Clements does not as yet accept these splits.*

**Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill***Tockus camurus*

This normally scarce species was sighted at the Sanaga River and again in Korup NP.

**White-crested Hornbill** *Tropicranus albocristatus*  
We enjoyed magnificent views of a pair in secondary forest near the Sanaga River.

**Piping Hornbill** *Bycanistes fistulator*  
Small numbers were seen daily at the Sanaga River and near Mundemba.

**White-thighed Hornbill** *Bycanistes albotibialis*  
A total of 3 were seen at the Sanaga River with further sightings near Mundemba.

**Yellow-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna elata*  
We had fantastic views of several during our stay in Korup NP, including a couple of them perched.

### Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

**Abyssinian Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus abyssinicus*  
We were extremely fortunate to find a pair walking through tall woodland in Benoue NP. This is a scarce species in Cameroon.

### African Barbets Lybiidae

**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus*  
A common forest species, we saw at least 5 on Mount Cameroon, 10 in Korup NP and 10+ birds on Mt Kupe.

**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*  
This scruffy bird was seen in forests and forest edge. We found 3 at the Sanaga River, 2 at the base of Mt. Kupe and several near Mundemba.

**Western Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*  
We had wonderful scope views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus atroflavus*  
We enjoyed scope views of one near the Sanaga River.

**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*  
This species is similar to its more familiar yellow-rumped cousin but with a more rapid tempo to its “tinking” call. This species was often heard and we had good views of 1 en route to the Sanaga River and a couple more near Mundemba.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*  
A common forest-edge species. Small numbers were seen in the Bamenda highlands and at Mt. Kupe.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*  
A savanna species first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and we obtained great views of several during the drive from Maroua to Waza.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet** *Buccanodon duchaillui*  
A rather beautiful Barbet, heard at several forested sites in the south. We obtained great views of two near the Sanaga River and several more in Korup NP.

**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta*  
This forest barbet was first seen on Mount Kupe with a further sighting in Korup NP.

**Viellot's Barbet** *Lybius vieilloti*  
A bird of more open woodland, our first sighting was of a pair in Benoue NP with further sightings near Mora.

**White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus*  
This localized and often elusive barbet was seen very well at a Rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

**Double-toothed Barbet** *Lybius bidentatus*  
A total of 3 birds were seen during our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Bearded Barbet** *Lybius dubius*

This species was sighted at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

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

This elusive forest barbet that was heard on several occasions

### Honeyguides Indicatoridae

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

We had superb views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*

One was seen in Benoue NP

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of a single bird in Benoue NP.

### Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

We enjoyed fantastic views of one in Benoue NP

**African Piculet** *Sasia africana*

This diminutive and endearing species was first seen near the Sanaga River with further sightings on Mt Kupe.

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

This lovely woodpecker was seen very well in Benoue NP.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*

This species was seen on several occasions in Benoue NP. A localized species in Cameroon

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

We had superb views of two at Mt.Kupe.

**Tullberg's Woodpecker** *Campethera tullbergi*

This species was seen once in the Bamenda highlands.

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

This diminutive and rather dark woodpecker was seen in a mixed species flock in Korup NP.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Our first sighting was at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in the Bamenda highlands.

**Gabon Woodpecker** *Dendropicos gabonensis*

We found one near the Sanaga River and several more at Mt.Kupe.

**Yellow-crested Woodpecker** *Dendropicos xantholophus*

We had superb scope views of a pair in Korup NP.

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

We found a female at Bokassi and a male at Mt.Kupe.

**African Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae*

Several individuals located in Benoue NP and near Maroua.

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

Our first sighting was of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in Benoue NP. A scarce, dry country species.

### Broadbills Eurylaimidae

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis*

We had fantastic views of a male displaying in secondary growth in the Bokassi Mountains.

**Grey-headed Broadbill** *Smithornis sharpei*

We put in a great deal of effort for this scarce species and eventually had outstanding views of a male displaying on Mt. Kupe.

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

A magnificent male was seen displaying in Korup NP

### Pittas Pittidae

**African Pitta**

*Pitta angolensis*

We were extremely fortunate to find a spectacular male displaying in Korup NP. This bird displayed long enough for everyone to get good views. A rare find and one of the many great highlights of the trip!

### Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae

**(African) Shrike-flycatcher**

*Megabyas flammulatus*

We had good views of a female on Mt. Kupe

**Black-and-white (Shrike) Flycatcher** *Bias musicus*

This characterful, hammer-headed flycatcher was observed on several occasions in the Mt. Kupe area.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya castanea*

Small numbers were seen at the Sanaga River and daily during our stay in Korup NP.

**Black-necked Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya chalybea*

This beautiful little bird was first seen in the Bokassi Mountains and later we were treated to fantastic views of four on Mt. Kupe

**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophya concreta*

Another stunning and restless bird, we had a mind-blowing encounter with several on Mt. Kupe

**Senegal Batis** *Batis senegalensis*

This species was seen on the tour at both Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Western Black-headed Batis** *Batis erlangeri*

We found this species at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Fernando Po Batis** *Batis poensis*

We had great scope views of 1 on Mt. Kupe, a seldom seen canopy species.

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

The most frequently encountered Wattle-eye on our trip and seen throughout the country.

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

One of Cameroon's most threatened endemics. We found at least 4 in the Bamenda Highlands.

### Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

**White-crested Helmetshrike**

*Prionops plumatus*

We had great views of several flocks at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

*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 recognize these splits.*

### Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

**Fiery-breasted Bushshrike**

*Malaconotus cruentus*

This is another very scarce and seldom recorded species. We had brief views of one on Mt. Kupe

**Bocage's (Gray-green) Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus bocagei*

We had good views of one on Mt. Kupe and another at Bokassi.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species that was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*

A single bird was sighted in Benoue NP.

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

The most widely distributed tchagra that was seen well at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Sabine's Puffback** *Dryoscopus sabinii*

We heard this species on two occasions on Mt. Kupe.

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

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

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

This bird was heard initially and then later seen at Mt. Kupe.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Restricted to the north, we found a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch and 2 in Benoue NP.

**Mountain Sooty Boubou** *Laniarius poensis*

One was seen in the Bokassi Mountains and later we enjoyed great views of one on Mt. Cameroon

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

**Lühder's Bush Shrike** *Laniarius luehderi*

A patient search produced good views of one in the Bokassi Mountains.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

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

*NOTE: Some authorities have split this into 3 species, Tropical Boubou, L.aethiopicus the one we observed, Somali Boubou, L.erlangeri of Somalia and Zanzibar Boubou, L.sublacteus of NE Tanzania and Zanzibar*

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

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

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

A total of 8 of these stunning and confiding shrikes were seen well in the Bamenda highlands and a further 4 on Mount Cameroon.

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

Single birds were sighted at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

**Grey Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia*

We recorded 1 of these smart birds at Bokassi.

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

A pair was seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch, a beautiful and uncommon broad-leafed woodland species.

**Blue Cuckooshrike** *Coracina azurea*

We had wonderful scope views of one in Korup NP.

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

We were fortunate to see a stunning male at Bokassi.

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

We found one at Bokassi and a further one during the drive from Nyasoso to Mundemba.

### Shrikes Laniidae

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

We encountered 6 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch during our stay there and a further 15 in Benoue NP. An unusual, gregarious species.

**Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal)***Lanius mackinnoni*

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

**Southern Grey Shrike***Lanius meridionalis*

We saw 4 of these palearctic migrants in dry scrub North of Maroua.

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

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

**Woodchat Shrike***Lanius senator*

This smart shrike was first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with a further sighting north of Maroua.

**Masked Shrike***Lanius nubicus*

We enjoyed a superb sighting of an adult male in full breeding plumage near Waza NP.

**Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae****African Golden Oriole***Oriolus auratus*

Seen easily in the tall woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

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

One was seen in Korup NP.

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

We recorded one in the Bokassi Mountains.

**Drongos Dicruridae****Square-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus ludwigii*

We located 1 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. Good numbers 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 Mt.Kupe and in Korup NP.

NOTE: Some authorities split this species from Fork-tailed Drongo *D. adsimilis*.

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

This species was first seen at Mt.Kupe with a further sighting of one near Mundemba.

**Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone rufocinerea*

We had a fantastic sighting of a single bird in the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

**Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone rufiventer*

Our first sighting was of two near the Sanaga River with further sightings in Korup NP.

**Bates's Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone batesi*

We had a good sighting of one on Mt.Kupe

**African Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed good views of 3 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Crows & Jays Corvidae****Piapiac***Ptilostomus afer*

Small numbers were seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

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

### Rockfowl Picathartidae

#### **Grey-necked Rockfowl**

*Picathartes oreas*

For most participants this was the bird of the trip. We waited patiently at the site in Korup NP and were rewarded when four birds came in to the nesting area. They showed exceptionally well jumping up onto vines and perching on nearby rocks giving us a truly magnificent show! This was Ben's final family, fantastic stuff!!!

### Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

#### **African Blue Flycatcher**

*Elminia longicauda*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, which constantly fans and wags its tail, we had sightings in many localities in the south with our highest day total of 6 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **Dusky Crested Flycatcher**

*Elminia nigromitratus*

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

#### **White-bellied Crested Flycatcher**

*Elminia albiventris*

We had good views of 3 birds at Bokassi with further sightings on Mount Cameroon.

### Tits & Chickadees Paridae

#### **White-shouldered Black Tit**

*Parus guineensis*

We found one in Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 4 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*

#### **White-bellied Tit**

*Parus albiventris*

We had superb views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

### Nicators Nicatoridae

#### **Western Nicator**

*Nicator chloris*

This vociferous songster was first seen near the Sanaga River with a further sighting at Mt.Kupe.

### Larks Alaudidae

#### **Rufous-rumped Lark**

*Pinarocorys erythropygia*

We had a magnificent sighting of one in burnt grassland near Waza NP, a superb find by Michael.

#### **Crested Lark**

*Galerida cristata*

We had great views of 3 near the Benoue River with further looks around Mora.

#### **Sun Lark**

*Galerida modesta*

We found 2 birds in burnt grassland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**

*Eremopterix leucotis*

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

### 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.*

- 
- Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor*  
Commonly encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we saw at least twenty.
- Cameroon (Mountain) Greenbul** *Andropadus montanus*  
First seen in the Bamenda highlands with further sightings at Bokassi and on our ascent of Mount Cameroon
- Western (Mountain) Greenbul** *Andropadus tephrolaemus*  
This common, although range restricted species was quite common on Mount Cameroon where we saw a total of 40 birds. We enjoyed further sightings at Mt.Kupe and in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Little Greenbul** *Andropadus virens*  
This, the commonest forest edge greenbul was heard at all forest sites and seen on several occasions at the Sanaga River, near Mundemba and at Mt. Kupe.
- Ansorge's Greenbul** *Andropadus ansorgei*  
We enjoyed good views of one at Mt.Kupe.
- Plain Greenbul** *Andropadus curvirostris*  
We enjoyed great views of one near Mundemba.
- Slender-billed Greenbul** *Andropadus gracilirostris*  
The common greenbul of forest canopy, we found several at Mt.Kupe and one near Mundemba.
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Andropadus latirostris*  
A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had a good sighting of 1 near the Sanaga River and several more on Mt. Kupe.
- Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*  
This species was seen twice at Mt.Kupe.
- Sjostedt's Greenbul** *Baeopogon clamans*  
We heard this species in Korup NP.
- Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus*  
We secured excellent views of 8 birds in secondary forest south of the Sanaga River and later had more sightings on the Mundemba road.
- Simple Greenbul** *Chlorocichla simplex*  
We had good views of one near the Sanaga River and a further one near Nyasoso.
- Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)** *Chlorocichla flavicollis*  
Small numbers were seen daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.
- Swamp Palm Bulbul** *Thescelocichla leucopleura*  
We had superb views of a pair at Bokassi
- Red-tailed Leaflove** *Pyrrhurus scandens*  
Three were seen briefly in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Cameroon Olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus poensis*  
We found a pair in the undergrowth in the Bokassi Mountains.
- Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*  
Fairly commonly encountered in Korup NP
- Xavier's Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus xavieri*  
Very similar to the previous species but with a different call, we had great views in Korup NP.
- Grey-headed Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*  
We enjoyed great sightings of 3 in the Bokassi Mountains and a further 3 on Mt. Kupe.
- Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus*  
We heard this species in Korup NP.

**Yellow-lored (Lesser) Bristlebill** *Bleda notatus*

Commoner than it's congener in Cameroon, we encountered up to 4 daily in Korup NP, often in association with ant swarms.

*NOTE: The Green-tailed Bristlebill complex is often split into 3 species, Yellow-lored Bristlebill, Bleda notatus which occurs in West Africa and is the one we observed, Green-tailed Bristlebill, B.eximius which occurs in the Upper Guinea area and Yellow-eyed Bristlebill, B.ugandae which occurs in Uganda and the DRC.*

**Eastern Bearded Greenbul** *Criniger chloronotus*

Korup NP is arguably the best site in the world to bag this Congo forest endemic. We managed a couple of fantastic sightings during our stay.

**Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*

We found 3 near the Sanaga River and one at Mount Kupe.

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

Another Congo forest special, we saw up to five daily during our stay in Korup NP.

**Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae****Square-tailed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*

One was seen in Korup NP.

**Mountain Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*

A total of 5 of this range-restricted species, a near endemic to Cameroon, were seen on our day on Mt Cameroon.

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne petiti*

First seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings at Mt.Kupe, Bokassi and the Bamenda highlands

**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

Our first sighting was of one near Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in Benoue NP.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

We found a flock of ten near Garoua.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers seen throughout Cameroon with our first sightings near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

**Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica*

Good numbers were observed in the Waza area.

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

Small numbers were seen in Benoue NP.

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

**White-bibbed Swallow** *Hirundo nigrita*

One was seen at the Sanaga River.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

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

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

One was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and another near Garoua.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow that is fairly common in Cameroon. We found small numbers throughout the country.

**Red-breasted (Rufous-chested) Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*

We found small numbers at Benoue NP and during the drive from Mundemba to Nyasoso.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*

Two were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

We enjoyed good views of six near Mount Kupe.

**Preuss's Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon preussi*

Commonly encountered at the Sanaga River and Mundemba

**Forest Swallow** *Petrochelidon fuliginosa*

We recorded a total of 3 birds on Mt Kupe.

### Cettia bush warblers & allies Cettidae

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher** *Erythrocerus mccallii*

We had wonderful views of 3 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. We had good views of two near the Sanaga River and a further two on Mount Kupe.

### Leaf warblers & allies Phylloscopidae

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

Our first sighting of this little gem was of 2 in the Bokassi Mountains with further sightings in the Mt.Kupe area.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A single bird was sighted at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Good numbers were seen daily at Mount Kupe and Mount Cameroon.

### Reed warblers & allies Acrocephalidae

**Greater Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

We had a good sighting of two in Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further two near Mount Kupe.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

We found a couple of birds near Garoua.

**Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis*

We had good views of one in the Bamenda highlands and another at Bokassi.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*

Another Palaearctic migrant, we found one at La Digue.

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

### Grassbirds & allies Megaluridae

**Fan-tailed Grassbird** *Schoenicola brevirostris*

We had great but brief views of one at Bokassi.

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

Some of us enjoyed good views of one near Mount Kupe.

**Evergreen Forest Warbler** *Bradypterus lopezi*

This can be a difficult species to see. On Mt Cameroon we eventually managed to get fantastic views of one.

**Bangwa Forest Warbler** *Bradypterus bangwaensis*

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

### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

#### **Red-faced Cisticola**

*Cisticola erythrops*

This moist grassland and swamp dwelling cisticola was seen at Benoue NP.

#### **Singing Cisticola**

*Cisticola cantans*

We had good views of several at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **Whistling Cisticola**

*Cisticola lateralis*

We enjoyed good views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

#### **Chattering Cisticola**

*Cisticola anonymus*

A secondary growth and scrub species, we encountered them regularly in the south.

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

*Cisticola chubbi*

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

#### **Rock-loving Cisticola**

*Cisticola emini*

We had great views of one on a 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.*

#### **Winding Cisticola**

*Cisticola marginatus*

We found a single bird at a large marshy area between Bamenda and Nyasoso.

#### **Red-pate Cisticola**

*Cisticola ruficeps*

A total of 8 birds, were seen in arid scrub between Maroua and Waza NP.

#### **Dorst's Cisticola**

*Cisticola dorsti*

Three birds were seen near Mora. A recently discovered species and little known.

#### **Rufous Cisticola**

*Cisticola rufus*

We found 4 of these rather uncommon and localized cisticolas in woodland in Benoue NP.

#### **Zitting Cisticola**

*Cisticola juncidis*

We found two displaying in Waza NP

#### **Pectoral-patch Cisticola**

*Cisticola brunnescens*

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

#### **Tawny-flanked Prinia**

*Prinia subflava*

Another noisy and familiar African warbler, we recorded this species in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and near Maroua.

#### **River Prinia**

*Prinia fluviatilus*

In plumage almost identical to the previous species but different in call. We had at least 5 in the Waza area.

#### **Banded Prinia**

*Prinia bairdii*

This snappy looking bird showed very well on Mt.Kupe.

#### **White-chinned Prinia**

*Schistolais leucopogon*

This confiding, gregarious species was observed at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Bokassi.

#### **Red-winged Warbler**

*Heliolais erythropterus*

We enjoyed superb views of two in Benoue NP.

#### **Green Longtail**

*Urolais epichlorus*

Our first encounter with this species was at Bokassi with further sightings at Mount Kupe and on Mount Cameroon.

#### **Black-collared Apalis**

*Oreolais pulchra*

A beautiful apalis that we had stunning views of in the Bamenda highlands. We saw at least 4 birds during our time there.

**Red-winged Grey Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*

A pair of this smart species was observed at Ngaoundaba Ranch with a further sighting in Benoue NP.

**Cricket Longtail** *Spiloptila clamans*

We found a couple of these charismatic and highly sought-after birds North of Maroua. One of the birds was scoped and seen well by all.

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

This widespread, woodland apalis is not very common in Cameroon. We observed 3 at La Digue, 1 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and 1 in Benoue NP.

**Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*

We had good views of 2 at Bokassi.

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

This is one of the most beautiful apalises. We observed at least 3 birds during our walks in the Bokassi Mountains and a further 2 on Mt. Kupe.

**Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*

A canopy apalis, we had good views of a pair on Mt. Kupe.

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

We found two pairs on Mt. Kupe.

**Bamenda Apalis** *Apalis bamendae*

A gallery forest species and an endemic to Cameroon, we found one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

We had sightings of 2 in the Bamenda highlands and a further 2 in the Bokassi Mountains.

**Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*

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

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in wooded habitat at many localities on the tour. We had almost daily sightings.

*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 lumps these two groups.*

**Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris*

This handsome warbler was first seen at the Sanaga River where we had great views of a pair and later another was seen on Mount Kupe.

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

This species was heard at the Sanaga River and Mt. Kupe.

**Black-faced Rufous Warbler** *Bathmocercus rufus*

This species was heard on several occasions and seen well on Mt. Kupe.

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

We heard one calling on Mount Kupe.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*

We had good views of a pair near Mora.

**Senegal Eremomela** *Eremomela pusilla*

A common species recorded in woodlands from Ngaoundaba Ranch north where we enjoyed a day total of 20+ birds.

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

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

Our first sighting was of a flock of five near the Sanaga River and later a single bird at the base of Mt. Kupe.

**Family Uncertain Incertae sedis****Moustached Grass Warbler***Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was seen en route to Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Yellow Longbill***Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker, however we were treated to good views of one at Bokassi.

**Kemp's Longbill***Macrosphenus kempii*

One was seen briefly in Korup NP.

**Grey Longbill***Macrosphenus concolor*

Our first sighting was of one near the Sanaga River with further sightings in Korup NP.

**Northern Crombec***Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, our first one was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in the Waza area.

**Green Crombec***Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We found two near the Sanaga River and one at Mount Kupe.

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

One was seen briefly at Mount Kupe.

**Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae****Blackcap Illadopsis***Illadopsis cleaveri*

2 birds were seen on Mount Kupe.

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

We heard this species in the forest understory in Korup NP.

**Brown Illadopsis***Illadopsis fulvescens*

Up to six were seen in Korup NP.

**Ruwenzori Hill Babbler***Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

We had good views of 3 in the Bamenda highlands and at least 5 of this usually shy forest babbler were seen on our day at Mt Cameroon.

*Note: This species is sometimes split from African Hill Babbler, P.abyssinica. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**Spotted Thrush-Babbler***Ptyrticus turdinus*

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

**Blackcap Babbler***Turdoides reinwardtii*

Another tricky species to see well, we found a couple in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Brown Babbler***Turdoides plebejus*

We enjoyed superb views of many groups at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

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

We saw several groups of this wonderful and unique bird on Mt. Kupe.

**Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae****Eurasian Blackcap***Sylvia atricapilla*

We heard one singing in the Bamenda highlands.

**Common (Greater) Whitethroat***Sylvia communis*

Up to twenty were seen in the arid plains north of Maroua.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

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

Not uncommon in moist habitat we found good numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

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

**Mount Cameroon Spierops** *Spierops melanocephalus*

This Mount Cameroon endemic showed particularly well once we reached the treeline. A total of 30 birds were seen and included many separate sightings. We were really lucky as this can be a very tricky species to find.

### Sugarbirds & allies Promeropidae

**Grey-chested Babbler** *Kakamega poliothorax*

Dave was fortunate to see one in the Bamenda highlands.

### Hyliotas Hyliotidae

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

We recorded a pair of these stunning birds, daily in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

### Treecreepers Certhiidae

**Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis spilonotus*

We had fantastic views of 5 birds in total while birding in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

### Starlings Sturnidae

**Purple-headed Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureiceps*

We saw 4 flying over at Mount Kupe and later superb scope views of two near Mundemba.

**Greater Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

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

**Lesser Blue-eared (Glossy) Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus*

We found small numbers around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Bronze-tailed (Glossy) Starling** *Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had superb views of twenty at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Splendid (Glossy) Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling was seen near Mundemba and again at Bokassi.

**Purple (Glossy) Starling** *Lamprotornis purpureus*

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

**Long-tailed Glossy Starling** *Lamprotornis caudatus*

Good numbers were seen in our wanderings in the woodlands of Benoue and south of Waza NP.

**Chestnut-bellied Starling** *Lamprotornis pulcher*

Up to 10 were seen daily in the dry scrubland north of Maroua.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This stunning bird was seen in woodlands around Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

**Chestnut-winged Starling** *Onychognathus fulgidus*

A pair of birds was located in the Mundemba area.

**Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*

We enjoyed good views of 6 at Bokassi and one on Mount Cameroon.

**Neumann's Starling** *Onychognathus neumanni*

One of the giants of the starling world, this impressive bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands where we enjoyed great views of one.

**Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptera lugubris*

Small numbers were seen at Mount Kupe and a further 5 on Mount Cameroon.

**White-collared Starling** *Grafisia torquata*

This is a real special to the Ngaoundaba Ranch area where we enjoyed great scope views of a striking male.

### Oxpeckers Buphagidae

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

Birds were found in Benoue NP and again up at Waza NP with peak numbers of 8 seen in the Bamenda highlands.

### Thrushes Turdidae

**White-tailed Rufous (Ant) Thrush** *Neocossyphus poensis*

We had brief views of 1 at Bokassi and a further 2 in Korup NP.

**Fraser's Rufous (Rufous Flycatcher) Thrush** *Stizorhina fraseri*

We had fantastic views of one on Mt. Kupe.

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

We enjoyed good but brief views of this shy species at Mount Kupe.

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

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

**White-tailed Alethe** *Alethe diademata*

We had great views in Korup NP especially around ant swarms. At least 4 were seen here.

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

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

We enjoyed excellent views of one on Mount Kupe and several more in Korup NP.

### Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**Gabon Forest Robin** *Stiphornis gabonensis*

This is a shy species and we enjoyed stunning views of 2 in Korup NP.

*NOTE: Forest Robin is sometimes split into 5 species. Western Forest Robin, S.erythrothorax of West Africa, Olive-backed Forest Robin, L.pyrrholaemus of SW Gabon, Gabon Forest Robin, S.gabonensis of Gabon & Cameroon – the one we observed, Eastern Forest Robin, S.xanthogaster of Central Africa and Sangha Forest Robin, S.sanghensis of Central African Republic.*

**Bocage's Akalat** *Sheppardia bocagei*

A shy forest understory species. We had great views of 2 on Mt. Kupe.

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

One was seen in the Bokassi Mountains and another at Mt Kupe.

**Cameroon Mountain Robin** *Cossypha isabellae*

We had excellent views of this endemic in the Bamenda highlands and on Mount Cameroon with at least 4 birds being found.

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

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

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- Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla*  
Seen in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch
- White-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha albicapilla*  
A very large and showy *Cossypha*, much enjoyed by all. We had a total of 7 birds in riverine bush at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.
- Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin** *Erythropygia galactotes*  
Up to six were seen daily in dry scrub north of Maroua.
- Black Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*  
A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, we encountered at least 21 during our birding north of Maroua.
- Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
We found three in the Maroua area with our best views of a superb male at the Maroua airport.
- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*  
We had good views of 10 at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings in the Waza area.
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*  
This widespread species was seen very well in the Bamenda highlands where we recorded 10, a further one was seen on Mount Cameroon.
- Heuglin's Wheatear** *Oenanthe heuglini*  
We encountered this uncommon intra-African migrant once near Ngaoundaba Ranch and once in Benoue NP.
- Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
We only saw this species in the Waza area where we found several birds.
- Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*  
We encountered a total of 3 birds in the rocky areas in Benoue NP.
- (Northern) Anteater Chat** *Myrmecocichla aethops*  
We encountered a family group of 5 birds near Waza NP.
- Fraser's (African) Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria ocreata*  
We enjoyed fantastic views of several in Korup NP.
- White-browed Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria cinerascens*  
We were very lucky to encounter a pair next to a stream in Korup NP. A rare and seldom encountered bird.
- Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides*  
Small numbers were seen daily in Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.
- Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*  
We found 5 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 4 in Benoue NP.
- Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica*  
4 birds were seen in Benoue NP.
- Cassin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini*  
A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. Our sightings were of 1 near Mundemba village.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*  
A common forest-edge species with 2 from Bamenda highlands, 1 at Bokassi and 3 from Mt Cameroon
- Yellow-footed Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sethsmithi*  
We obtained superb views of 5 birds at various points on Mt. Kupe.
- Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata*  
A quiet, inconspicuous bird, we enjoyed good sightings in the Bokassi and Mount Kupe areas.
- Sooty Flycatcher** *Muscicapa infuscata*

A swallow-like bird often seen perched on dead snags high above the forest canopy, we found 2 at Mount Kupe.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*

We had good views of one near the Sanaga River.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

We saw several birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

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

A confusing species that often looks more like a greenbul than a sunbird, our first sighting was near the Sanaga River with further sightings in Korup NP.

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

**Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird** *Anthreptes gabonicus*

We had stunning views of 6 at La Digue.

**Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*

A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we found one in Benoue NP.

**Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*

We found several in the Mt. Kupe area.

**Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*

This species was seen commonly on Mt. Kupe and at Bokassi.

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

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*

This is a very widespread species on the continent. We saw pairs south of the Sanaga and at Bokassi and Mt. Kupe.

**Pygmy Sunbird** *Hedydipna platura*

We saw good numbers of these beautiful, long-tailed sunbirds at all destinations from Benoue NP north.

**Reichenbach's Sunbird** *Anabathmis reichenbachii*

We saw this species at two sites. First sightings were at La Digue where we saw 4 birds and later one was seen at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*

We had superb sightings at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Mt. Kupe and in the Bamenda highlands.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanoaema*

This forest sunbird was first seen near the Sanaga River with further sightings in Korup NP.

**Cameroon Sunbird** *Cyanomitra oritis*

Our first sighting was of 2 birds in the Bamenda Highlands with further sightings of several birds at Mt. Kupe and 3 on Mt. Cameroon.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*

This bird's call is a common forest sound in the south. We had daily sightings in Korup NP, Mt. Cameroon, Bokassi and Mt. Kupe.

*NOTE: The Olive-Sunbird species complex is sometimes split into two full species, 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 thereof, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various subspecies within the complex.*

- Carmelite Sunbird** *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*  
This rather striking sunbird, restricted to coastal areas, was first seen at La Digue where we had great views of two and a further one was seen in the Limbe Botanical Gardens.
- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*  
We enjoyed several sightings including good views near Mount Kupe and Mundemba.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
Seen daily in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*  
This is a typical forest edge species, seen at La Digue and near Mundemba.
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi*  
We found two in the Bamenda Highlands and a further 6 on Mt. Cameroon.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*  
This exquisite sunbird is found only in the drier northern savanna, we enjoyed sightings in Benoue NP.
- Orange-tufted Sunbird** *Cinnyris bouvieri*  
We were fortunate to find one of these rare birds, a stunning male in the Bamenda highlands.
- Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*  
One stunning male was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Johanna's Sunbird** *Cinnyris johannae*  
A single female was sighted at the forest edge on the Mundemba road, a scarce species.
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*  
We found a superb pair in the Limbe Botanical Gardens.
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*  
Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.
- Ursula's Sunbird** *Cinnyris ursulae*  
This can be a tough bird to find and is a near endemic to the country; we had good views of a pair on Mount Kupe
- Bates's Sunbird** *Cinnyris batesi*  
We had superb scope views of two on the lower slopes of Mt.Kupe.
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*  
One male was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*  
Our first sighting was of two in Benoue NP. We found a further 5 in dry scrub north of Maroua.
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*  
Cameroon's commonest sparrow was plentiful throughout the country even in Urban areas.  
*NOTE: The Grey-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** *Gymnoris dentata*  
Common in the north of the country, with up to 50+ birds recorded daily from Ngaoundaba Ranch north.

### Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

- White-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis albirostris*  
This massive weaver was seen in dry scrub north of 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.

**Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*

One superb male was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Bannerman's Weaver** *Ploceus bannermani*

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

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*

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

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

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

This snappy-looking weaver of forest edge was first seen near the Sanaga River with further sightings at Mt. Kupe.

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

This dapper bird of forest fringes was first seen in the Bamenda highlands with further sightings on Mt Cameroon.

**Heuglin's Masked Weaver** *Ploceus heuglini*

We were fortunate to have good looks at a male in Benoue NP.

**Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus*

Up to thirty were seen around our accommodations near Waza 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.

**Black-headed Weaver** *Ploceus melanocephalus*

We found a flock of thirty non-breeding birds in Benoue NP.

**Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*

This pretty, bicolored bird was seen daily in the Bokassi and Mt. Kupe areas.

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

This smart bird was first seen at Bokassi with a further 2 on Mount Cameroon.

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

We had superb views of 3 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** *Maimbus racheliae*

A rare and seldom recorded species of lowland forest, we were fortunate to find a pair in Korup NP.

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

This is another uncommon species. We found 4 on the Mundemba road.

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

A secretive species that forages in thick tangles, we found a pair along the Mundemba road.

**Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*

We were fortunate to find one in a mixed species flock in Korup NP.

- Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*  
This is a fairly common species and was seen in small numbers near the Sanaga River and again in Korup NP.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*  
This species was encountered in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.
- Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*  
Small flocks were seen near the Sanaga River and at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*  
We found the “African avian locust” in big numbers in Waza NP.
- Northern Red (Orange) Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*  
Small numbers of non-breeding birds (100) were seen amongst flocks of red-billed quelea in Waza NP.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*  
A flock of 20 was seen in the Bamenda highlands and a further 10 on the upper slopes of Mount Cameroon.
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*  
We found 3 at a roadside wetland en route from Bamenda to Nyasoso.
- Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macrourus*  
We had good views of 15 in Benoue NP.
- Marsh Widowbird** *Euplectes hartlaubi*  
We found 1 bird in non-breeding plumage at Dang Lake.

### Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

- Woodhouse’s Antpecker** *Parmoptila woodhousei*  
We had fantastic scope views of this elusive species in Korup NP.
- White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus*  
Small numbers were seen on Mt Kupe.
- Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita bicolor*  
This attractive seedeater was first seen near the Sanaga River with a further sighting at Mt.Kupe.
- Pale-fronted Nigrita** *Nigrita luteifrons*  
Our first sighting was at Mount Kupe with a further 1 at Limbe Botanical Gardens. A low density species
- Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus*  
The commonest nigrita. It was seen at Limbe BG and in the Bokassi and Mt.Kupe areas.
- Shelley’s (Fernando Po) Oliveback** *Nesocharis shelleyi*  
This beautiful little bird was refreshingly common on Mt Cameroon where we saw at least 10 individuals on our day there.
- Grey-headed Oliveback** *Nesocharis capistrata*  
Tougher to see than it’s congener although it enjoys a wider distribution in Cameroon. We first encountered 3 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 2 in Benoue NP.
- Red-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia phoenicoptera*  
We found one during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*  
A total of 8 birds were seen on our day from Maroua to Waza NP. A widespread and beautifully marked finch.
- Cut-throat Finch** *Amadina fasciata*  
We found one in Waza NP.
- Green (-backed) Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula*

We enjoyed superb views of 4 on Mt.Kupe.

**Red-faced Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza reichenovii*

We found one bird in the Bamenda highlands and another on Mt Cameroon. Typically shy and rather uncommon.

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

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

**Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*

A remarkably beautiful bird. We were treated to great views of a male in the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

**Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*

A total of 5 birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A beautifully patterned finch.

**Dybowski's Twinspot** *Euschistospiza dybowskii*

This species is uncommon throughout its range and we had superb views of 3 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*

This large firefinch was first seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. Our highest total was of 6 birds on a single day in Benoue NP.

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

We had a superb sighting of 5 birds in Benoue NP.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

Small numbers encountered in Benoue NP.

**Rock Firefinch** *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*

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

**Black-faced Firefinch** *Lagonosticta vinacea*

A rare Firefinch, we had great views of 6 in Benoue NP.

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

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

**Lavender Waxbill** *Estrilda caerulescens*

A pair of these beautiful birds was seen near Mora.

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

This was a common species of forest edge and scrub throughout.

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

This species was only seen in the Waza area where there were good numbers present.

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

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

**Black-headed Waxbill** *Estrilda atricapilla*

This is very similar to the previous species but with a dark vent and greyer underparts. We found a small flock on Mt. Cameroon.

**Black-faced Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis*

We found 2 near Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 2 near Garoua.

**African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*

Up to 80 were seen daily in and around Waza NP.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*

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

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*

First seen near the Sanaga River with further sightings near Mundemba and in Limbe Botanical Gardens

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

### Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

**Cameroon Indigobird** *Vidua camerunensis*

Dave found one male near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

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

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Small numbers were seen almost daily with peak numbers of 8 near Waza NP.

**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

We enjoyed superb views of one in the Bamenda Highlands.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird, we saw small numbers daily in Benoue NP.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*

We found 1 near Bamenda.

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus*

We had good views of one near Garoua.

NOTE: Cameroon Pipit, *A. cameroonensis* is sometimes split from African Pipit. We had superb views of one in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*

We had good views of one near Mora.

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

We had great views of 1 at La Digue.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

We found at least 15 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 6 in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

We had superb views of 2 near Garoua.

### Finches Fringillidae

**White-rumped Seedeater** *Crithagra leucopygia*

We found 4 near Garoua and up to 8 near Waza NP.

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*

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

**Thick-billed Seed-eater** *Crithagra burtoni*

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

**Oriole Finch** *Linurgus olivaceus*

This beautiful and endearing critter was seen exceptionally well on Mt Cameroon where we found 6 birds.

### Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*

We found 2 just north of Maroua.

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris*

This is a rare bird in Cameroon. We found a single bird on the flats north of Mora.

**Cabanis's Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi*

One of these beautiful broad-leafed woodland birds was seen in Benoue NP.

## Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

**Mammals:** nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. Kingdon *The Kingdon Fieldguide to African Mammals* (1997) Academic Press.

## MAMMALS

### Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

**Guereza Colobus** *Colobus guereza*

This beautiful primate was seen on several occasions in gallery forest in Benoue NP.

### Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

**Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis*

We saw up to six daily in Benoue NP.

**Patas Monkey** *Cercopithecus patas*

We recorded up to 40 daily whilst in the Waza area. This colourful monkey is largely terrestrial.

**Tantalus Monkey** *Cercopithecus tantalus*

We observed this species first at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we recorded 10 and then again at Benoue NP where we found 6.

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

This species was heard calling in Korup NP.

### Galagos Galagonidae

**Senegal Galago** *Galago senegalensis*

One was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

**Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatilis*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### Squirrels Sciuridae

**Striped Ground Squirrel** *Euxerus erythropus*

Two were seen near Waza NP.

**Thomas's Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus anerythrus*

We found one in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Green Squirrel** *Paraxerus poensis*

Two were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch

**Gambian Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus gambianus*

We had good views of 2 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Red-legged Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

We found 1 near the Sanaga River.

**African Giant Squirrel** *Protoxerus stangeri*

We found one in Korup NP.

### Dogs & Allies Canidae

**Common (Golden) Jackal** *Canis aureus*

A beautiful *Canid* that was seen very well in Waza NP, we found a total of 4 during our time there.

**Sand Fox** *Vulpes pallida*

This is a scarce and localized species and we were treated to fantastic views of 1 in the Waza area.

### Mustelids Mustelidae

**Spot-necked Otter** *Lutra maculicollis*

One was seen in Korup NP.

### Mongoose Herpestidae

**Egyptian Mongoose** *Herpestes ichneumon*

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

**White-tailed Mongoose** *Ichneumia albicauda*

We found two on our night drive near Waza NP.

### African Palm Civet Nandinidae

**African Palm Civet** *Nandinia binotata*

We had a wonderful sighting of one during our night drive near Mundemba.

### Cats Felidae

**Wild Cat** *Felis sylvestris*

This cat, believed to be the ancestor of all domestic tabby cats, was first tamed by the Egyptians 5000 years ago. We had a surprising sighting of one during the day in Waza NP.

### Hyraxes Procaviidae

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

We found 2 on a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

**Western Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

We heard this species at Mount Kupe.

### Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius*

At least 2 were observed in the Benoue River near Garoua and we had further sightings of up to 25 daily in Benoue NP.

### Pigs Suidae

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*

A familiar savanna animal that we found in Benoue NP where we found 4 and later a further 2 were seen in Waza NP

## Giraffes Giraffidae

**Giraffe***Giraffe cameoleopardus*

We had good sightings of 10 in Benoue NP and on our full day in Waza NP we saw 12.

## Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

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

**Bush Duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

Small numbers were seen in Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

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

Up to 7 daily were seen in Benoue NP.

**Ogilby's Duiker***Cephalophus ogilbyi*

One was seen briefly in Korup NP.

**Oribi***Ourebia ourebia*

We had wonderful views of several in Benoue NP.

**Kob***Kobus kob*

This was a particularly common mammal in Benoue NP where daily totals exceed 50. We observed up to 100 in Waza NP.

**Thomson's (Red-fronted) Gazelle***Gazella rufifrons*

This dainty and incredibly quick creature was seen only in Waza NP where we observed 6.

**Kanki (Hartebeest)***Alcelaphus buselaphus major*

One was sighted in the tall broadleaved woodlands in Benoue NP.

**Tsessebe***Damaliscus lunatus*

We observed up to 100 of these speedsters on our full day in Waza NP.

**Roan Antelope***Hippotragus equinus*

This graceful and large antelope was much appreciated by the group. We saw a total of 3 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](mailto:info@rockjumper.co.za)**  
**Website: [www.rockjumper.co.za](http://www.rockjumper.co.za)**