



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Cameroon

Rockfowl, Rainforests & Sahel I

6th to 27th March 2011



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Trip report compiled by Tour Leader Keith Valentine

Top 10 Birds as voted by participants:

1. Grey-necked Rockfowl
2. Bannerman's Turaco
3. Egyptian Plover
4. Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye
5. Grey-headed Broadbill
6. Vermiculated Fishing Owl
7. Bat Hawk
8. Scissor-tailed Kite
9. African Dwarf Kingfisher
10. Shelley's Oliveback

Tour Summary

Cameroon just keeps getting better and better with ever improving logistics, significantly upgraded transport, better lodgings and a plethora of species that continue to delight the now growing number of birders who make the effort to visit this premier birding destination. Once again the array of highlights that were observed on the tour makes for mouth-watering reading. The star bird of the country put on a magnificent performance this year as our group was simply blown away by a 1 hour and 10 minute show put on by no less than five Grey-necked Rockfowls in the depths of Korup National Park! Other specials including Hartlaub's Duck, Scissor-tailed Kite, White-spotted Flufftail, Black Crowned Crane, Egyptian Plover, Grey Pratincole, Bannerman's Turaco, Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, Fraser's Eagle-Owl, Vermiculated Fishing Owl, Bates's Swift, Bare-cheeked Trogon, African Dwarf, White-bellied and Shining-blue Kingfishers, Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, African Piculet, displaying Rufous-sided and Grey-headed Broadbills, Green-breasted and Fiery-breasted Bushshrikes, Masked Shrike, Bamenda Apalis, Banded, White-spotted and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes, Spotted Thrush-Babbler, White-throated Mountain Babbler, Mount Cameroon Spierops, White-collared Starling, White-fronted Black Chat, Yellow-footed Flycatcher, all 27 possible sunbird species, Preuss's Weaver, Cassin's Malimbe, Woodhouse's Antpecker, Yellow-winged Pytilia, Dybowski's Twinspot, Shelley's Oliveback and Rock Firefinch were also right up at the top of many peoples lists!

Douala was the starting point for our Cameroon adventure and we made an early morning visit with a few member of the group to La Digue where we located a few good sunbirds such as Carmelite, Reichenbach's and Mangrove. In the afternoon we made our way down to the Sanaga River picking up the attractive Hartlaub's Duck on the way. Later on we birded the Sanaga River and were successful in finding the rivers two major attractions, Grey Pratincole and African Skimmer. The following morning we made our way to an area of forest to the south of the Sanaga River where numerous good birds were located. The area's major target, Cassin's Malimbe, showed extremely well late in the morning, while other top species including African



Piculet, Blue Cuckooshrike, Purple-headed Starling, Johanna's and Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds, Grey-throated and Bristle-nosed Barbets, Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Black Bee-eater, Blue-throated Roller, Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Crested Guinea fowl and Tit Hylia were all enjoyed.

The following day we struck out to the north of Cameroon in high spirits as the flights were working and we already had some seriously good birds under the belt from our short spell of birding in the rainforest zone. On arrival in Garoua we immediately visited a nearby area securing good views of Black-faced Quailfinch, Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark and Crested Lark. The drive south to Ngaoundere always produces a few good birds and this year was no exception as roadside stops added Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Heuglin's Wheatear, Fine-spotted Woodpecker, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Violet Turaco and the stunning Bearded Barbet.

Our base for the next two nights was a hotel in the town of Ngaoundere since the roadworks continue along the road passing by Ngaoundaba Ranch. The ranch itself is currently being used as a base by the road construction crew; however the birding at this site is still exceptional. We enjoyed a fabulous day's birding here, covering both the gallery forest and broad-leaved woodland biomes. The former is home to a number of highly localized and prized species and we were hugely successful in our quest to secure good views of these. On arrival we enjoyed great scope views of White-collared Starling and things only got better from there as we ticked off Red-headed Lovebird, Red-winged Grey Warbler, Bamenda Apalis, Red-tailed Leaflove, the unique Oriole Warbler, Ross's and White-crested Turaco's, delicate Grey-headed Oliveback, Grey-winged Robin-Chat and, towards the end of the day, the prized Spotted Thrush-Babbler. The woodlands at the ranch also hold a good number of specials and highlights included White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Yellow-bellied Hylia, striking Blue-bellied Roller, Senegal Parrot, Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Black Scimitarbill, Brown-backed Woodpecker, rare Yellow-winged Pytilia and Black-bellied Firefinch.



The following morning we began our drive north and found ourselves almost immediately stopping for a large group of Piapiacs that showed very well. Our first scheduled stop of the morning was at Dang Lake where Marsh Widowbird, Winding Cisticola, Bar-breasted Firefinch, Garganey, African Pygmy Goose, African Swamphen and a surprise Gull-billed Tern were all easily located. Lesser Jacana proved to be a little trickier to find; however we finally secured good looks just before we were set to leave the site. A short stop at the escarpment near Ngaoundere secured views of Western Black-headed Batis and Bronze-tailed Starling, while at another roadside stop we were enthralled by a large breeding colony of Red-throated

Bee-eaters. This stop also gave us Greater Honeyguide, Vieillot's Barbet and Moustached Grass Warbler. We arrived in Benoue National Park at lunch time and spent the afternoon birding the woodland along the entrance road to the camp. This was highly productive and added some cracking birds such as Four-banded Sandgrouse, Stone Partridge, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Senegal Batis, Rufous Cisticola and Spotted Creeper. We finished off the evening with a wonderful pair of Whitethroated Francolin which crossed the road in front of us. Later on a night drive



produced wonderful views of African Scops and Northern White-faced Owls, Senegal Galago in large numbers, Common Genet and Marsh Mongoose.

The following day was spent exploring the reserves two key habitats, the riverine woodland along the Benoue River and the broad-leaved savannas. Star bird for the day was undoubtedly Egyptian Plover, which gave us fabulous views! We found at least eight birds on the various sandbars including a few tiny chicks. The Benoue River and its adjacent tall woodland also produced Grey Kestrel, Black-headed Gonolek, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Giant Kingfisher, White-crowned Lapwing, Senegal Thick-knee, scoped Yellow-throated Leaflove and Swamp Flycatcher. Small pools in the river often attract drinking seedeaters and we had some wonderful views of the shy Grey-headed Oliveback and Black-faced Firefinch. Benoue's Guinea Woodlands are home to a wealth of first class birds and our strategy of walking the woodland in search of roving flocks paid off as we racked up some good species that included West Africa Seedeater, Dorst's Cisticola, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, scarce White-fronted Black Chat, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Heuglin's Masked Weaver and Cabanis's Bunting. In the evening our vigil for Bat Hawk at the camp was successful when out of nowhere one suddenly appeared and plucked a bat right out of the sky in front of us! Our night drive then produced brief views of a male Standard-winged Nightjar and more sightings of Senegal Galago, Scrub Hare and Marsh Mongoose. The general mammal viewing in Benoue is pretty good and Guereza Colobus, Olive Baboon, Hippo, Bushbuck, Bush and Red-flanked Duikers, Kob and Roan Antelope were all easily located.

With our flight schedules trimming some time off in the north of the country we were forced to leave Benoue early as we needed to get all the way to Waza for our day in the far north. We did however do a bit of roadside birding on the drive and Fox Kestrel, Lanner Falcon, Montagu's Harrier, Gabar Goshawk, Black-headed Lapwing, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Chestnut-bellied Starling and Black Scrub Robin were all seen well. A short stop in the afternoon at a rocky area to the north of Maroua yielded a roosting Greyish Eagle-Owl, White-headed Barbet, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Green Bee-eater, Red-pate Cisticola, White-crowned Cliff-Chat and Speckle-fronted Weaver. One of the mammalian highlights of the Waza area is the localized Sand Fox and a night drive into camp saw us obtaining superb views of this wonderful fox. The night drive also produced Long-tailed Nightjar and Wild Cat before we crashed into bed for a well earned rest.

The Waza area is home to a number of key birds, yet with only one day here we were certainly pushed for time. Nonetheless, we still managed a good spread of birds although we just weren't able to dedicate solid enough efforts for some of the trickier species. We scheduled a small amount of time for visiting each of the key sites including Waza National Park and a few micro habitats outside the reserve. The morning began close to our camp where species including Scissor-tailed Kite, River Prinia, African Silverbill, an unexpected Western Bonelli's Warbler, Black-bellied Bustard, European Turtle and African Collared Doves, Masked Shrike, White-rumped Seedeater and Black-rumped Waxbill all made for a good start. We then entered the national park where its waterholes attract large volumes of birds ranging from raptors and seedeaters to



waterfowl and waders. Highlights from our morning's explorations included Clapperton's Francolin, huge numbers of White Stork and Black Crowned Crane, Secretarybird, a plethora of vultures that included Egyptian, Lappet-faced, Rueppell's and White-headed, Anteater Chat, Cut-throat and Sahel Paradise Whydah. In the afternoon we explored a few areas a little further afield from our camp where we managed to add the highly desirable Cricket Longtail, Southern Grey Shrike, Singing Bush Lark and White-billed Buffalo Weaver to the rapidly growing list. The following morning we made our way through to Maroua for our onward flight to Douala. Unfortunately this flight was rather badly delayed, however we did manage to squeeze a little birding in before arriving at the Maroua Airport, which saw us catching up with the special Rock Firefinch and beautiful Lavendar Waxbill.

Mt. Cameroon beckoned us this morning with wonderful clear skies that allowed for impressive views of the entire 4000m mountain which is so often clouded over. Our number one target for today was the extremely localized Mount Cameroon Spierops that is confined only to the treeline of this isolated mountain. The walk up to the treeline always seems to get delayed as the birding on the forested slopes is just too good! A combination of quality birds and mouth-watering endemics make this one of the most memorable birding days in the country and species such as Shelley's Oliveback, Yellow-breasted Boubou, Green Longtail, Mount Cameroon Spierops, Mountain Saw-wing, Mountain Robin-Chat, Cameroon Sunbird, Elliot's Woodpecker and Western Tinkerbird went a long way in confirming this. Other birds that were thoroughly enjoyed included Tullberg's Woodpecker, Red-necked Buzzard, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Yellow-billed Turaco, Mountain Sooty Boubou, Mackinnon's Shrike, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Cameroon Olive Greenbul, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Banded Prina, Buff-throated Apalis, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Black-billed Weaver, Oriole Finch and Thick-billed Seedeater. Unfortunately our mountain adventure ended on a rather sad note as an ankle injury suffered on the descent of the mountain put an end to one of our group member's further travels in Cameroon. The following day he was already making his way back to Douala and connected with a flight out of the country that very same evening.



After the previous day's serious exercise the following day was spent taking a relaxing stroll around the Limbe Botanical Gardens before transferring to the small town of Mundemba, the gateway to Korup National Park. Although small in size the Limbe Botanical Gardens hold a good variety of species and is an especially good site for finding a few tricky forest birds, including Pale-fronted Nigrita, the stunning Western Bluebill and Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher. Besides these we also enjoyed a number of sunbirds that included Carmelite, Green-headed, Superb, Green-throated and Reichenbach's, while a dark morph Western Reef Heron was also

seen. It was then time to get a few kilometers under the belt as we made our way through the bustling town of Kumba and onwards through Ekondo Titi and finally to Mundemba, where we spent the night and prepared ourselves for our three nights of forest camping in the heart of Korup National Park.

It was with much excitement that we entered Korup National Park fully geared for the adventure that lay ahead. Our initial walk into camp was highly productive and within a few minutes of being in the forest we were already ticking off Pale-breasted Illadopsis, Forest Robin and Fire-crested Alethe.



Careful birding on the walk in also secured views of Brown Illadopsis, Chestnut Wattle-eye, Yellow, Grey and the rare Kemp's Longbills, Eastern Bearded Greenbul and Yellow-lored Bristlebill. In the afternoon we left in high spirits for our Rockfowl rendezvous, but just on arriving at the site it began to rain, first only a little then coming down in buckets, meaning that we were soon getting soaked even though we were sitting inside a cave! As it turned out, however, the rain proved to be the magic ingredient because as soon as the shower stopped the Rockfowl arrived on the scene, first one bird, then two, and before long we were being completely blown away with the spectacle that was unfolding before our eyes. In total five birds were seen as they jumped about on the boulders and vines in front of us and up into their nests that were glued onto the edge of the cave, giving their almost prehistoric hissing calls as we watched. The entire show lasted an amazing 1 hour and 10 minutes, simply unbelievable!

Two full days were spent in Korup National Park walking the various trails that filtered into the forest from our camp. During these walks we encountered a number of quality mixed flocks that produced a lovely assortment of superb species that included Woodhouse's Antpecker, White-spotted Wattle-eye, White-bearded, White-throated and Yellow-whiskered Greenbuls, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Fraser's Sunbird, Crested Malimbe, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, White-tailed Rufous Thrush and Brown-chested Alethe. Species such as Bare-cheeked Trogon, White-spotted Flufftail, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Rufous-sided Broadbill, African Dwarf, White-bellied and Chocolate-backed Kingfishers, Red-billed Dwarf and Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbills, Cassin's Spinetail, Blue-headed and Dusky Crested Flycatchers, Blackcap Illadopsis, White-browed Forest Flycatcher and Blue-billed Malimbe are right up there with many of Korup's most sought-after species and we certainly counted ourselves lucky to have found so many of these interior forest specialties!

The remaining tracts of lowland rainforest in the general Mundemba area hold a staggering variety of species and an afternoon and morning spent birding this area gave us the opportunity to pick up a few highly desired specials. We enjoyed excellent views of Shining Blue Kingfisher, Gabon Woodpecker, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Red-vented Malimbe, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Great Blue and Yellow-billed Turacos, Western Nicator, Honeyguide Greenbul, Bates's Sunbird, Golden Greenbul, European Honey Buzzard, Western Oriole and Tit Hylia, while more brief views were had of White-crested Hornbill and Black-bellied Seedcracker. In the afternoon we then continued on towards the fabulous region of Mt. Kupe and Bakossi, adding Slender-billed Weaver, Blue-breasted Bee-eater and Guinea Turaco to the list before cruising into the small village of Nyassoso before sunset.

The two mountains of Kupe and Bakossi situated in south-western Cameroon provided us with some of the best birding in the region. These forested slopes are home to a multitude of superb endemics and we managed to secure numerous sightings of some very fine birds. On our first day in the area we transferred to 4x4 vehicles for our drive up into the Bakossi range. Here our starting point was not too far away from the primary forest and some of the first birds of the morning included the much wanted Green-breasted Bushshrike, White-throated Mountain Babbler, Petit's Cuckooshrike and



Dusky-blue Flycatcher near the start of the trail. As we continued further up we added more great birds such as Red-faced Crimsonwing, White-breasted Nigrita, Black-throated Apalis, Orange-tufted Sunbird, Brown-capped Weaver and a stunning male Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike. On reaching the primary forest we immediately ventured off on one of the trails that allowed access to some of Bakossi's best habitat. While the trails in the area are quite steep, they are well worth the effort and during our morning's birding we racked up some stunning specials that included the difficult White-tailed Warbler, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Ursula's Sunbird, the large Grey-headed Greenbul, Black-capped Woodland Warbler, Black-winged Oriole, Tullberg's and Elliot's Woodpeckers, Shining Drongo, Pink-footed Puffback and Grey Cuckooshrike. Unfortunately our afternoon's birding in the primary forest was cut short by a rain shower that settled over Bakossi; however our walk back down the mountain produced a lovely Preuss's Weaver, Bocage's Bushshrike and Red-eyed Puffback as the inclement weather lifted slightly.

The remainder of our time in the Nyassoso area was spent exploring both the farm bush and primary forest on Mt. Kupe. The lower slopes were constantly alive with activity and highlights included Black-and-white Shrike Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Black-capped Apalis, the rare Fiery-breasted Bushshrike, Waller's and Narrow-tailed Starlings, Red-necked Buzzard, Fernando Po Batis, Yellow-billed Barbet, Black Sparrowhawk, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Wood Warbler, Black and Olive Long-tailed Cuckoos, Cassin's Honeybird, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Bates's Paradise Flycatcher, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Tiny Sunbird, Chestnut-breasted Nigrita and Mountain Wagtail. The primary forest on Mt. Kupe holds a number of extremely special birds although access is via some rather steep trails. We nevertheless spent a little time in this habitat and managed to obtain some stunning views of Grey-headed Broadbill, Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, White-tailed Warbler, Black-capped Woodland Warbler and Yellow-footed Flycatcher.



The follow morning we began our journey to another of Cameroon's endemic rich areas, the Bamenda Highlands. Here some fantastic birding awaited us as we enjoyed an exceptional array of endemics and specials that were all seen extremely well. Bird of the day was without doubt the highly endangered Bannerman's Turaco and the views and photographs that we got of this species were simply mind blowing! Other endemics including Banded Wattle-eye, Bannerman's Weaver, Cameroon Greenbul and Bangwa Scrub Warbler also showed extremely well, while in addition we enjoyed Neumann's Starling, Black-collared Apalis, extraordinary views of Grey-chested Babbler, Oriole

Finch, Elliot's Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Boubou, Black-billed Weaver, Pectoral-patch Cisticola and Dark-capped Yellow Warbler. There were also a couple of surprises in store for us as we added Dybowski's Twinspot and Fraser's Eagle-Owl to our list.

All in all this was another brilliant tour through the incredible birding mecca of Cameroon. Logistics were once again smooth, which is always saying something in West Africa, while the quality of the birds and the sightings were simply phenomenal. Thank you to everyone for making this tour such a huge success. Markus and I had a fabulous time birding with every one of you!



Photo Credits: Grey-necked Rockfowl & Blue-bellied Roller by Markus Lilje, Four-banded Sandgrouse by Keith Valentine, Scissor-tailed Kite, Blue-billed Malimbe & Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye by Markus Lilje, Bannerman's Turaco by Keith Valentine.

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 2.2. 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 (558 species)

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Commonly observed in the national parks of Benoue and Waza.

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.

Crested Guineafowl

Guttera pucherani

A huge surprise was finding 3 of these shy and seldom observed birds in an area of degraded forest along the Sanaga River.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Stone Partridge

Ptilopachus petrosus

We had superb views of this small partridge on all of our days in Benoue NP.

White-throated Francolin

Peliperdix albogularis

We had a magnificent sighting of a pair of birds when they were initially heard calling before crossing the road in front of us providing superb views in the woodlands of Benoue NP.

Scaly Francolin

Pternistis squamatus

This species was heard calling in the Bamenda highlands.

Double-spurred Francolin

Pternistis bicalcaratus

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

Clapperton's Francolin

Pternistis clappertoni

Only seen in the Waza area where a few birds were sighted daily.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Our only sighting was of 6 birds at Dang Lake.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

A few of these large geese were sighted at Dang Lake.

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 12 birds.

African Pygmy Goose

Nettapus auritus



At Dang Lake near Ngaoundere we enjoyed superb views of this gorgeous species when a pair was located at a secluded lily covered pond.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anus undulata*

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

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A flock of 8 was seen at Dang Lake, several males were in stunning breeding plumage.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Singles were seen at Dang Lake near Ngaoundere and at a small roadside wetland near the Sanaga River.

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

A single bird sighted along the Sanaga River was the only time this species was recorded on the tour.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Sighted twice on the tour, first at the Benoue River near Garoua and again in Waza National Park.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

A single bird was sighted in flight at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

We recorded three birds at one of the waterholes at Waza National Park.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Huge numbers were sighted at one of the waterholes in Waza NP.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

At one of the waterholes in Waza National Park we found a few of these pied ibis.

Olive Ibis *Bostrychia olivacea*

This rare species was heard calling in flight during a late evening walk in Korup National Park.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Singles were sighted along the Sanaga River and again along the Benoue River in Benoue 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*

A single bird sighted at Dang Lake was the only time this species was seen on the route.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

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

NOTE: This group is split the IOC into 2 species, the nominate Western Cattle Egret, B. ibis and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromandus. Clements does not accept this split.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, recorded in small numbers in Waza NP and along the Sanaga and Benoue Rivers.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*



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

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Dang Lake.

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 Ngaoundaba Ranch and at Dang Lake.

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

Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret *Egretta intermedia*

A single bird was sighted at La Digue on the first day of the tour.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

We recorded this familiar species along the Sanaga River and in Waza National Park.

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*

A single dark phase bird was sighted offshore from Limbe BG.

NOTE: See above.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

This unique African species was easily seen at La Digue, Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*

Seen at numerous wetlands throughout the country.

Anhingas & Darters Anhingidae

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Our only sighting was a single bird seen at a small wetland area en route to the Sanaga River.

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

Secretarybird Sagittariidae

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*

We enjoyed fantastic views of this iconic African species when three birds were found during our drive in Waza National Park.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides*

This was a lovely surprise on our ascent of the Bamenda highlands when a single bird was seen very well from the roadside.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Singles were seen extremely well near Mundemba and at Mt. Kupe.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*

Generally scarce throughout its range, we were fortunate to watch this species hunting and catching a bat in mid air above camp Buffle Noir in Benoue NP.



Black-winged Kite*Elanus caeruleus*

Small numbers were seen near Garoua, in the Waza area and the Bamenda highlands.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split into Black-winged Kite, *E.caeruleus* of Africa and Asia, White-tailed Kite, *E.luecurus* of the Americas and Black-shouldered Kite, *E.axillaris* of Australasia. Both Clements and the IOC accept these splits.

Scissor-tailed Kite*Chelictinia riocourii*

This is one of the undoubted specials of the far north. We found a total of 14 birds in Northern Cameroon, which provided for excellent views.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

A few of these migrants were sighted in the Waza area.

NOTE: Some authorities treat the resident African subspecies of this raptor as a separate species, Yellow-billed Kite *M.aegyptius*. This is not accepted by Clements.

Yellow-billed Kite*Milvus aegyptius*

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

NOTE: See above.

African Fish Eagle*Haliaeetus vocifer*

Not a common bird in West Africa, with two birds being seen in Benoue NP.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

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

Egyptian Vulture*Neophron percnopterus*

A total of 6 birds were found including adults and juveniles on our full day in Waza NP.

Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

Singles were sighted at Ngaoundaba and again near Maroua.

White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

Small numbers were found in Benoue and Waza NP's.

Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon)*Gyps rueppellii*

At least 6 birds were seen in Waza NP where we got really close views at one of the waterholes.

Lappet-faced Vulture*Torgos tracheliotus*

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

Brown Snake Eagle*Circaetus cinereus*

We had good views of two separate birds on our drive from Ngaoundere to Benoue.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

The "tightrope-walker" of the raptor world is a handsome species that was seen in the woodland belt in Benoue NP.

Congo Serpent Eagle*Dryotriorchis spectabilis*

We heard one calling during the early part of the morning in Korup NP.

Western Marsh Harrier*Circus aeruginosus*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites including 2 at Dang Lake, 1 male along the Sanaga River and 1 at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Montagu's Harrier*Circus pygargus*

Good views of at least 6 birds were had in the Waza area including both males and females.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)*Polyboroides typus*

This is a distinctive raptor, which was commonly recorded in Cameroon, especially in the south.

Dark Chanting Goshawk*Melierax metabates*

A smart looking species that was recorded in Benoue and Waza NP's.

Gabar Goshawk*Micronisus gabar*

We found small numbers in the Waza area and initially south of Garoua.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii*

A single juvenile bird was well scoped during the late evening at Nyassoso.

NOTE: This species is still occasionally lumped by some authorities with the more common and widespread African Goshawk A. tachiro. Both Clements and the IOC accept this split.

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk) *Accipiter badius*

We found this species on a few occasions in the Benoue area.

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. Neither Clements nor the IOC recognizes any of these splits.

Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

This uncommon species was seen well in flight over woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk) *Accipiter melanoleucus*

While in the Nyassoso area we found at least three birds over 2 days including adults and juvenile birds.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

We enjoyed good views on three occasions, first at the Sanaga River and again at Benoue and Mt. Kupe.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

This distinctive species was seen on a number of occasions in the far north of Cameroon in the Benoue, Garoua and Waza areas.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

This handsome buzzard was noted just twice on tour with a perched bird at Mt. Cameroon and a good flight view on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

A rare visitor to the Lake Chad basin during the summer months. We were fortunate to have very good close views of this species around one of the waterholes in Waza NP.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

We enjoyed good views on our day in Waza NP.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Another rare visitor to the Lake Chad area in summer and also seen in Waza NP, this time an immature bird where the white band in the upper and under wing were obvious in flight.

Cassin's Hawk Eagle *Aquila africana*

This uncommon species was found on three occasions during our time in Cameroon, first on Mt. Cameroon then at Mt. Kupe with our final views over La Digue.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

A single pale phase bird was seen in the Waza area.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*

We had a fantastic view of a single bird in flight at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

This distinctive eagle was seen initially on our drive between Garoua and Ngaoundere with further views at Mt. Cameroon, Mundemba and Bakossi.

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

A single bird was sighted performing its distinctive display flight at Rengo Rock in Korup 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 and La Digue.

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

Fox Kestrel *Falco alopex*

This superb species was seen extremely well to the south of Garoua where a total of 6 birds were found and brilliantly scoped.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

A single bird was sighted along the Benoue NP in Benoue NP.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Strangely this species was sighted only once on tour when a single bird was seen south of Garoua.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

We had a single bird cruising about above the treeline on Mt. Cameroon.

Bustards Otididae

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

A single female bird was sighted near our camp in the Waza area.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

This secretive, forest rallids hooting call was heard on a few occasions and we had a single close sighting in Korup NP.

Buff-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans*

This forest dwelling rallid was seen briefly on our walk up Mt. Cameroon unfortunately tape playback could not lure this secretive species back into view.

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 heard this species calling at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

Several were seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch and at Dang Lake.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had good views of around 8 birds 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 any of these splits. The IOC accepts African Swamphen *P. madagascariensis* and Purple Swamphen *P. porphyrios*.*

Cranes Gruidae

Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*

This is an extremely handsome bird which is quite common in Waza NP and we enjoyed good numbers here.



Stone-curlews & Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

Our only sightings were of two birds along the Sanaga River and the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Spotted Thick-knee

Burhinus capensis

This species is largely nocturnal and we were fortunate to encounter a single bird at dusk in the Waza area.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus spinosus

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Lapwing, these vociferous birds were first seen at the Benoue River near Garoua with further views at Dang Lake and Waza NP.

Black-headed Lapwing

Vanellus tectus

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

White-crowned Lapwing

Vanellus albiceps

A total of 3 of these beautiful birds were seen along the Sanaga River with additional views on the sandbanks of the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

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

White-fronted Plover

Charadrius marginatus

Only encountered on the Sanaga River where we found 3 birds on one of the large sand bars.

Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover

Pluvianus aegyptus

This remarkably gorgeous bird was seen extremely well along the Benoue River in Benoue NP. We managed a total of 8 birds, which were seen at close range and in flight.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Lesser Jacana

Microparra capensis

We had pretty good views in the end of this extremely localized species in Cameroon at Dang Lake, 2 birds were seen in total.

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

A widespread and characteristic wader, conspicuous in wetlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Dang Lake. We also found one in Waza NP and initially we had a single bird along the Sanaga River.

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

We found just one bird at La Digue.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

A few birds were sighted along the Sanaga River while our first views were at La Digue.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Singles were found at the Benoue River in the national park and at Garoua with our final looks coming from a wetland in the Waza area.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Seen at Dang Lake, the Benoue River and Waza NP.



Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

A common migrant that was seen at La Digue, Benoue NP and the river outside Mundemba.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

Singles were found along the Sanaga River and at a small roadside wetland in the Waza area.

Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae**Rock Pratincole***Glareola nuchalis*

A total of 4 birds were seen on the Mana River on our way into Korup NP where they gave superb flight and perched views.

Grey Pratincole*Glareola cinerea*

On our visits to the Sanaga River we found hundred's of these beautiful pratincoles which made for great scope views.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**African Skimmer***Rynchops flavirostris*

We encountered a fantastic 200 odd birds on the Sanaga River.

Gull-billed Tern*Gelochelidon nilotica*

A very scarce species in Cameroon which was sighted at Dang Lake.

Royal Tern*Thalasseus maximus*

We had 2 birds which were seen flying in the bay at La Digue, one of which was seen at fairly close range.

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

A day drinker, this bird was found just once when a single came down to drink at a small roadside wetland in the Waza area.

Four-banded Sandgrouse*Pterocles quadricinctus*

An undoubted highlight of our time in Benoue was locating a group of four of these uncommon sandgrouse at the side of the road, which provided superb 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.

European (Eurasian) Turtle Dove*Streptopelia turtur*

We encountered four of these birds coming down to drink at a couple of the waterholes in Waza NP.

African Collared Dove*Streptopelia roseogrisea*

This rather pale *Streptopelia* was encountered in Waza NP where they are suitably common.

Mourning Collared Dove*Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen only in the Waza area with 2 birds located in total.

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 the Ngaoundaba area and in Benoue NP.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove*Turtur afer*

Not uncommon in secondary growth in the moister south.

Tambourine Dove*Turtur tympanistris*

A forest equivalent of the wood doves, we encountered this species along the Mundemba Road and briefly in the Bamenda Highlands.

Blue-headed Wood Dove*Turtur brehmeri*

A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. Heard calling on a number of occasions inside Korup NP and seen well by some feeding at the edge of one of the trails. We later had a few fly over views along the Mundemba Road.

Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

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

Bruce's Green Pigeon*Treron waalia*

Small numbers were seen at Benoue NP however our best views were enjoyed on our first day at a stop at one of the drainage lines as we were heading south from Garoua.

African Green Pigeon*Treron calvus*

Commoner in the south of the country, where good numbers were noted throughout.

Parrots Psittacidae**Rose-ringed Parakeet***Psittacula krameri*

We had good flight and perched views of this savanna species in woodland to the south of Maroua

Red-headed Lovebird*Agapornis pullarius*

We observed this beautiful species in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

(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, La Digue, Korup NP and near Mundemba.

Senegal Parrot*Poicephalus senegalus*

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

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

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore was first seen well on a few occasions near Mundemba after it was initially heard calling in Korup NP.

Guinea Turaco*Tauraco persa*

This species was seen very well on Mt.Kupe and Bakossi.

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 Turaco*Tauraco macrorhynchus*

A commonly heard turaco of the interior forests, we enjoyed great sightings on Mt.Kupe, Bakossi, Mount Cameroon and along the Mundemba Road. This subspecies has a wonderful red-tipped crest.

White-crested Turaco*Tauraco leucolophus*

A few birds were seen well at Ngaoundaba Ranch while some members of the group were fortunate to have additional sightings in Benoue NP. A spectacular bird!

Bannerman's Turaco *Tauraco bannermani*

A single of these stunning endemics was seen in the Bamenda Highlands. Undoubtedly one of the birds of the tour, we enjoyed superb close views of a particularly confiding individual. This is one of the most critically endangered birds in West Africa and a flagship species for conservation in the region.

Violet Turaco *Musophaga violacea*

Another stellar turaco, we had superb views of 3 birds in Benoue NP and 1 in riverine woodland just outside the reserve.

Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae*

We encountered just 1 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*

This shy coucal was unfortunately heard only along the Sanaga River on our first birding day.

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. Neither Clements or the IOC accept this split.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

The most commonly encountered coucal throughout the northern part of the country.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

This secretive species was heard on a number of occasions however we did have great views of singles along the Sanaga River and at Bakossi.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus*

Heard fairly regularly throughout Cameroon. We had good views near the Sanaga River and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Note: Some authorities such as the IOC 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 levaillanti*

This species was sighted only briefly in the farm bush at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

This widespread species was only heard at La Digue.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

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

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we saw a resplendent male at Mt. Kupe, along the Sanaga River and along the Mundemba Road.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

This is a very shy and elusive species, far more often heard than seen however we managed to get good views of one on Mt. Kupe as it responded repeatedly to its call and flew past us at eye level on a few occasions.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

A single bird was seen well in the farm bush at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*



We heard this species at Mt. Bakossi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

African Cuckoo*Cuculus gularis*

Two birds were seen very well while birding at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further views obtained for some in the Bamenda Highlands.

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

A single extremely vocal bird was sighted at our camp at Waza.

NOTE: Some authorities like the IOC split this species into Western Barn Owl, T.alba, which is very widespread and is also 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 Benoue NP.

Northern White-faced Owl*Ptilopsis leucotis*

A single of these birds was seen extremely well on a night drive in Benoue NP.

NOTE: Some authorities still lump Southern White-faced Owl P. granti with this species. The two species do not overlap in range and are usually split these days. Both Clements and the IOC accept the two species as being valid.

Greyish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinerascens*

This species was sighted briefly at our hotel in Ngaoundere before we had a superb view of one bird on a day roost at a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

NOTE: At one stage this species was lumped with Spotted Eagle-Owl B. africanus, which occurs in Southern Africa. All leading authorities now accept both birds as species in their own right.

Fraser's Eagle-Owl*Bubo poensis*

This was one of the most unexpected sightings of the tour when a single bird was flushed from a day roost in the Bamenda Highlands. This is an extremely elusive species of forest owl.

Vermiculated Fishing Owl*Scotopelia bouvieri*

Initially heard calling in Korup NP however for those who got out of bed we enjoyed a superb view of this rare and highly desirable species near our camp.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

We found this vocal species during the day at Benoue NP.

Sjostedt's Barred Owlet*Glaucidium sjostedti*

This rare owlet was heard only during an evening walk in Korup NP.

Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae**Freckled Nightjar***Caprimulgus tristigma*

This is a very uncommon and seldom recorded species in Cameroon, which we sighted in Benoue NP after it was initially heard calling.

Long-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus climacurus*

We had a decent sighting of one of these beautiful birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch, two in Benoue NP and again near Mundemba at dusk.

Standard-winged Nightjar*Macrodipteryx longipennis*

We located a single male on a night drive in Benoue NP, which unfortunately only showed for a brief period of time before disappearing on us.

Swifts Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail*Telacanthura ussheri*

On our final day of birding we found a small group at La Digue, which showed extremely well.

Sabine's Spinetail*Rhaphidura sabini*

On the first day of our tour we had brief views of 2 birds in flight along the Sanaga River.

Cassin's Spinetail*Neafrapus cassini*

A large extremely distinctive species that was seen from Rengo Rock in Korup NP.

African Palm Swift*Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful throughout most of the tour with many birds being recorded.

Common Swift*Apus apus*

A number of flocks were sighted near Mundemba and the Sanaga River.

African Black Swift*Apus barbatus*

A scarce bird in West Africa, we saw at least 6 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*

This species was encountered in the Benoue area.

Bates's Swift*Apus batesi*

A swift of the lowland forest zone of the south, we had good views of this species near Mundemba and in Korup NP.

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

We encountered this widespread species 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 found a few birds near a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

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

One of Korup NP's best species however tough to see, we were fortunate that one member of the group located this species perched in the undergrowth while it was calling which allowed for good views for most of the group.

Rollers Coraciidae**Abyssinian Roller***Coracias abyssinicus*

A common and beautiful roller that was recorded throughout the dry north of the country.

Blue-bellied Roller*Coracias cyanogaster*

We were fortunate to find a number of birds in the broadleaved woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Blue-thoated Roller*Eurystomus gularis*

We had a couple of magic views of this uncommon forest roller in forest near the Sanaga River and again in Korup NP.

Broad-billed Roller*Eurystomus glaucurus*

We enjoyed views of small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and surprisingly a single bird from Rengo Rock in Korup NP.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher

Halcyon badia

We enjoyed extraordinary close views of this forest kingfisher in Korup NP. A number of other birds were heard calling in the area as well.

Grey-headed Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala

We had our highest total of at least a dozen birds in Benoue NP with our first sightings coming from Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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 well at La Digue with further views in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch and one in the depths of Korup NP.

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

We enjoyed superb views of this stunning and difficult to observe species during our time in Korup NP.

African Pygmy Kingfisher

Ispidina picta

This beautiful little bird was first seen near the Sanaga River while we later recorded many more at various widely scattered localities.

White-bellied Kingfisher

Alcedo leucogaster

This species can be exceptionally difficult to see well and we were fortunate to have perched views of this sought after species in Korup NP.

Malachite Kingfisher

Alcedo cristata

We recorded this brightly coloured species at La Digue, Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Shining-blue Kingfisher

Alcedo quadibrachys

We had good views of two birds near Mundemba.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima

The Goliath of the kingfisher world was sighted at close range along the small stream adjacent to Limbe Botanical Gardens while our first sightings came from the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis

The world's commonest kingfisher was seen at the Sanaga River, Ngaoundaba Ranch and at Benoue NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Black Bee-eater

Merops gularis

A striking species that was well seen near the Sanaga River and again in Korup NP.

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

Small numbers were seen at the Sanaga River and again near Limbe.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater

Merops variegatus

A few of these beauties were located between Kumba and Nyassoso where great views were enjoyed.

Red-throated Bee-eater

Merops bullocki



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 however our most memorable sighting was at a colony just to the north of Ngaoundere. .

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 with another group sighted later on near Nyassoso.

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*

This lovely lime green bee-eater was recorded in the Mora and Waza areas.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

Another magnificent bee-eater, we were fortunate to find a single bird in the Waza area while our first views were of a few birds between Garoua and Ngaoundere.

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*

A number of birds were sighted in the Waza area with our initial views coming from Benoue NP.

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. The IOC accepts the splits of Madagascar, African and Eurasian Hoopoes.

Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

A single group was sighted in Benoue NP where we observed them calling and tail swaying in response to tape playback.

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

A total of 2 birds were seen in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area, this is a rather uncommon species throughout its range.

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 at Ngaoundaba Ranch

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands in the Waza area where we recorded good numbers 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, the IOC however does.

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus*

This normally scarce species was heard on a number of occasions while walking the forested trails in Korup NP. We also managed to get decent looks at 2 birds that responded very well to playback in Korup NP. Our best sighting however was finding a single bird on a night roost in Korup NP.



White-crested Hornbill*Tropicranus albocristatus*

This stunning species was unfortunately only briefly seen as it cruised over the road we were walking near Mundemba.

Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

Small numbers were seen daily at the Sanaga River and near Mundemba and Korup NP.

White-thighed Hornbill*Bycanistes albotibialis*

A few were seen at the Sanaga River with further birds heard in Korup NP.

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill*Ceratogymna atrata*

Superb views were enjoyed of this fantastic hornbill near the Sanaga River with further looks in Korup NP.

Yellow-casqued Wattled 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 this species in Benoue NP when a single bird was found. This is a very scarce species in Cameroon.

African Barbets Lybiidae**Grey-throated Barbet***Gymnobucco bonapartei*

Before this tour this species had not been seen by us in Cameroon so it was quite a surprise to find a few groups in logged forest south of the Sanaga River.

Bristle-nosed Barbet*Gymnobucco peli*

We had lovely views of this species in forest near the Sanaga River when two birds were located sporting their prominent bristle nose tufts.

Naked-faced Barbet*Gymnobucco calvus*

A common forest species, we saw many on Mt. Cameroon, Korup NP and Mt. Kupe.

Speckled Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

This scruffy bird was seen at the forest edge near Mundemba.

Western Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We had wonderful close views of one particularly vocal bird on Mt. Cameroon.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus atroflavus*

This species was heard calling on many occasions and we enjoyed good scope views on day 1 of the tour 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 single birds near the Sanaga River, Mt. Kupe and near Mundemba.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A common forest-edge species throughout the forest and dense woodland zones.

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 at the Sanaga River, Mt. Kupe and along the Mundemba Road.



Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

This forest barbet was seen well on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe with our first views coming from the forested areas to the south of the Sanaga River.

NOTE: Ryan & Sinclair split the eastern form of this species as Streaky-throated Barbet (*T. flavipunctata*), which we recorded in Cameroon. This is however not widely accepted by other authorities.

Vieillot's Barbet*Lybius vieilloti*

This is a bird of more open woodland, with good sightings being secured near Ngaoundere and again in Benoue NP and near Waza.

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 single bird was found in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bearded Barbet*Lybius dubius*

This can sometimes be a tricky species to locate and we were fortunate to find 4 odd birds at a roadside stop near the boundary of Benoue NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

This species distinctive call was a regular background sound in most forest environs. We eventually had fair views on Mt. Kupe.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae**Cassin's Honeybird***Prodotiscus insignis*

This, the smallest honeyguide in the region was sighted no less than 3 times with views coming from the Sanaga area, Mt. Cameroon and Mt. Kupe.

Willcock's Honeyguide*Indicator willcocksi*

We had a single bird that showed briefly at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Thick-billed Honeyguide*Indicator conirostris*

We had good views on two occasions of this uncommon species at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of a single male at the escarpment near Ngaoundere.

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

This diminutive and endearing species was seen extremely well in cleared forest near the Sanaga River.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera punctuligera*

This lovely woodpecker was seen on a number of occasions in Benoue NP.

Tullberg's Woodpecker*Campethera tullbergi*

This montane species was located when singles were found in a mixed flock in forest on the Bakossi range while our initial views came from Mt. Cameroon.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

This diminutive and rather dark woodpecker seems to favour tangles and vines in the forest mid stratum and was seen on a few occasions in mixed flocks along the Mundemba Road.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicus fuscescens*

Our first sighting was at Benoue NP with further sightings in the Bamenda highlands, Mt. Kupe and Mt. Cameroon. The forest form curiously has a plain, all green back in West Africa.

Gabon Woodpecker*Dendropicus gabonensis*

A pair of birds was scoped on our first day along the Sanaga River while we enjoyed fabulous close looks at a single bird at a nesting cavity along the Mundemba Road.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped with the Upper Guinea endemic Melancholy Woodpecker (D. lugubris). At present both Clements and the IOC accept the split.

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Dendropicos xantholophus*

We had an amazing number of this scarce species on the tour with 4 birds being found on our first day in the Sanaga forests while a further pair was seen well at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

Good views were had of this montane forest species on Mt. Cameroon, Bakossi and again in the Bamenda Highlands.

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Good numbers were seen in Benoue NP.

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Picoides obsoletus*

Our first sighting came from Ngaoundaba Ranch with further views in Benoue NP. This is generally a scarce, broad-leaved woodland species.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Grey-headed Broadbill *Smithornis sharpei*

We enjoyed unprecedented numbers of this scarce species along both Max's and Shrike trails on Mt. Kupe. One of the birds of the trip!

Rufous-sided Broadbill *Smithornis rufolateralis*

A magnificent male was seen displaying in the depths of Korup NP.

Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae

Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher *Bias musicus*

This characterful, hammer-headed flycatcher was observed well in the Mt. Kupe area.

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*

This species was seen on the tour in the woodlands of Benoue NP.

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri*

On the escarpment near Ngaoundere we located three of these birds in a mixed flock.

NOTE: The Black-headed Batis complex has been split into two species by the IOC. Western Black-headed Batis B. erlangeri being very widespread through West and Central Africa and Eastern Black-headed Batis B. minor confined to coastal East Africa. Clements does not accept this split.

Fernando Po (West African) Batis *Batis poensis*

We managed to locate a pair of these scarce birds in the farm bush on Mt. Kupe, a seldom seen canopy species.

NOTE: Clements considers this species and West African Batis B. occulta to be two valid species. The IOC does not accept this split.

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 3 of these beauties in the Bamenda Highlands.

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophyia castanea*

Small numbers were seen at the Sanaga River, Korup NP and Bakossi.

White-spotted Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophyia tonsa*



This beautiful and seldom recorded species was located in a mixed flock on one of the forest trails leading further north in Korup NP.

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Dyaphorophya concreta*

This is a really stunning however rather restless bird, which we had exceptional luck with as we located a single bird on a nest on Max's Trail, Mt. Kupe.

Helmetshrikes 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 and the IOC do not as yet recognize these splits.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Fiery-breasted Bushshrike *Malaconotus cruentus*

This is a very scarce and seldom recorded species. We had a good sighting of this bird on Mt. Kupe, however the bird did not show itself for very long.

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

We enjoyed superb views of this woodland species at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Green-breasted Bushshrike *Malaconotus gladiator*

This is a rare species, which is seldom seen. We located a single bird on the lower slopes of Bakossi, which we initially heard calling before we had some of the most unimaginable views possible.

Many-coloured Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus multicolor*

This is another skulking and seldom seen bushshrike, which we found on Mt. Kupe. This species was located as it was calling for a period of time before a few members of the group got brief views.

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

We had good views of a few birds at Bakossi and Mt. Kupe.

Orange (Sulphur)-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species that was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

The most widely distributed tchagra that was seen well in Benoue NP and in the Waza area.

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

This scarce species was seen by a few people in a mixed flock on the Bakossi Mountains.

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

A few males and females were found on Bakossi and Mt. Kupe where we were treated to great views.

Red-eyed Puffback *Dryoscopus senegalensis*

This farm bush on both Bakossi and Mt. Kupe produced good views of this species.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Restricted to the north, we found a few at Ngaoundaba Ranch and good numbers in Benoue NP.

Mountain Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis*

Two birds were found on Mt. Cameroon and gave good looks while additional birds were heard at Bakossi and Mt. Kupe.

NOTE: This is a fairly recent Clements split from Fuelleborn's Boubou, L. fuelleborni, which is also accepted by the IOC.

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

This species was heard calling on a few occasions and was only sighted briefly on Mt. Kupe by some of the participants.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*



Seen only at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

NOTE: Some authorities like the IOC and Clements 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*

A couple of these beautiful birds were seen in the gallery forest along the Benoue River in Benoue NP although only briefly.

Yellow-breasted Boubou *Laniarius atroflavus*

Good numbers of these stunning and confiding shrikes were seen well in the Bamenda highlands and on Mount Cameroon.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

A single bird was located in Benoue NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia*

We recorded one of these smart birds at Bokassi.

White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina pectoralis*

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

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*

This striking lowland rainforest species was scoped in degraded forest south of the Sanaga River with further views obtained in Korup NP.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

We were fortunate to find 2 stunning males on the tour, first in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch and then on the lower slopes of Bakossi.

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*

We found a few birds at Bokassi and also at Mt. Kupe.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quisqualina*

This species is highly under reported on our Cameroon tours and we were fortunate to get good views of a female of this species in the farm bush on Mt. Kupe.

Shrikes Laniidae

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*

We encountered good numbers of these conspicuous birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP. An unusual, gregarious species.

Mackinnon's Shrike *Lanius mackinnoni*

We encountered small numbers daily in the Mt.Kupe/Bokassi areas, in the Bamenda Highlands and on the lower slopes of Mt. Cameroon.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

We saw just 1 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 in the Bamenda highlands and once on our drive from Ngaoundere to Benoue NP.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

We enjoyed two superb sightings of adult males near Waza NP.



Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

At least 5 of these summer visitors were found in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African Golden Oriole

Oriolus auratus

This gorgeous species was seen easily in the tall woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole

Oriolus brachyrhynchus

We enjoyed good views of a few birds in the mountains of Kupe and Bakossi with a further sighting of 2 near Mundemba.

Black-winged Oriole

Oriolus nigripennis

We recorded just 1 bird that was caught up in mixed feeding flock in the Bokassi Mountains.

Drongos Dicruridae

Square-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus ludwigii

This is a widespread African species which was only encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch on this tour.

Shining Drongo

Dicrurus atripennis

This forest interior drongo was seen just briefly in Korup NP with further good sightings coming from Bakossi.

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 in forest near the Sanaga River.

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

Monarchs Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher

Trochocercus nitens

This species was seen extremely well in Korup NP where it prefers areas of dense tangles and thickets inside the forest.

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

Good views of this bright species were had in Korup NP and in the primary forests on Mt. Kupe and Bakossi.

Bates's Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone batesi

We had two good sightings of 4 birds in total on Mt. Kupe.

African Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone viridis

We enjoyed good views at La Digue, Ngaoundaba Ranch, Mt. Cameroon and in the Bamenda highlands of this widespread species.

Crows & Jays Corvidae

Piapiac

Ptilostomus afer

A large group of around 40 birds including some pink-billed juveniles was sighted in the town of Ngaoundere.

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

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



Rockfowl Picathartidae

Grey-necked Rockfowl

Picathartes oreas

This was undoubtedly the biggest highlight and number 1 bird for everyone on the tour. We did have to sit through a rain shower and deal with water flowing through the cave and onto our heads however we could not move for fear of scaring away any potential birds that may have been around. After roughly a one hour wait the first bird came in and not before too long we were being entertained royally by not one but five of these incredible birds. The entire show lasted for exactly 1 hour and 10 minutes, possibly the longest viewing that any group of visitors have ever had!

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 and in the north at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Dusky Crested Flycatcher

Elminia nigromitratus

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

White-bellied Crested Flycatcher

Elminia albiventris

We had good views of 6 birds on Mt. Cameroon and additional good looks at Bakossi of this highly active species.

Tits & Chickadees Paridae

White-shouldered Black Tit

Parus guineensis

We found good numbers in mixed species flocks at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

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

Nicator Nicatoridae

Western Nicator

Nicator chloris

This vociferous songster was sighted in Korup NP, along the Mundemb Road and at Mt. Kupe.

Larks Alaudidae

Singing Bush Lark

Mirafra cantillans

This species was seen by just one participant in the dry scrub north of Mora.

Crested Lark

Galerida cristata

We had great views near the Benoue River of a few birds in fallow fields.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix leucotis

This is a fairly common species of the dry north, with good numbers near and around Waza NP, our initial views came from the Benoue River further south.

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. Clements does not accept the African splits from this species.

Dark-capped Bulbul

Pycnonotus tricolor

Commonly encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch.



NOTE: See above.

Cameroon (Mountain) Greenbul *Andropadus montanus*

This rather uncommon species was seen well in the Bamenda highlands.

Western (Mountain) Greenbul *Andropadus tephrolaemus*

This common, although range restricted species was abundant on Mount Cameroon. We later enjoyed sightings at Mt. Kupe, Bakossi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

We only found this species on one occasion along the Mundemba Road.

Little Greenbul *Andropadus virens*

This, the most common forest edge greenbul was heard at all forest sites and seen on numerous occasions.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*

We got very good close up views of this species of greenbul which sports a ginger vent along the Mundemba Road.

Plain Greenbul *Andropadus curvirostris*

We enjoyed great views of 3 birds at forest edge near the Sanaga River.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Andropadus latirostris*

A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had a good sighting of 1 bird in Korup NP.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serina*

We enjoyed a superb viewing of this uncommon forest species when two separate birds were found along the Mundemba Road.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*

This vocal species was seen extremely well and was scoped at length along the Mundemba Road.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

We secured excellent views of this lovely species in secondary forest south of the Sanaga River and later had more sightings on the Mundemba road and in Korup NP.

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and at a roadside stop between Nyassoso and Bamenda.

Red-tailed Leaflove *Pyrrhurus scandens*

Three birds were seen in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cameroon Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poensis*

We found pairs and small groups in the undergrowth of forests on Mt. Cameroon, Bakossi and Mt. Kupe.

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.

White-throated Greenbul *Phyllastrephus albigularis*

While birding a mixed flock we located 2 of these birds in Korup NP.

Grey-headed Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*

We enjoyed great sightings in the Bokassi Mountains of this rather unique and large greenbul.

Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*

We had good views of this bright species associated with ant swarms in Korup NP.

Yellow-lored (Lesser) Bristlebill *Bleda notatus*

Commoner than it's congener in Cameroon, we had excellent sightings 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. Clements and the IOC accept the splits of *Bleda notatus* and *Bleda eximius*.

Eastern Bearded Greenbul *Criniger chloronotus*

Korup NP is arguably the best site in the world to bag this Congo forest endemic. We managed to find four birds which included fantastic sightings during our stay.

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

We found 2 near the Sanaga River in a mixed flock.

White-bearded Greenbul *Criniger ndussumensis*

Another Congo forest special, which we saw extremely well during our stay in Korup NP.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

Square-tailed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne nitens*

This species which is often associated with forest edge was seen very well at the base of Mt. Cameroon and again at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Mountain Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*

A total of 10 of this range-restricted species were seen on our day on Mt. Cameroon.

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne petiti*

First seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings at Mt. Kupe and Bakossi.

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

This species was sighted by just one participant in Benoue NP.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

A single bird was sighted near Garoua.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers were seen throughout Cameroon.

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 and Garoua areas.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, in Benoue NP and along the Sanaga.

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.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

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

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 pairs of birds at the Sanaga River and in Mundemba.

West African (Red-rumped) Swallow *Cecropis domicella*

Garoua, Benoue, Waza and Bamenda all produced sightings of this good looking species.

NOTE: The IOC has recently split the West African form of the widespread Red-rumped Swallow *C. daurica* as a separate species, West African Swallow *C. domicella*. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.



Preuss's Cliff Swallow*Petrochelidon preussi*

This species was commonly encountered at the Sanaga River and Mundemba.

Forest Swallow*Petrochelidon fuliginosa*

We recorded a few birds coming to roost at dusk inside the old nests of rockfowl in Korup NP and also had a few birds at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Cettia bush warblers & allies Cettidae**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher***Erythrocerus mccallii*

A group of these small, interesting flycatchers/warblers were found feeding actively near Mundemba; this was a superb sighting as they were extremely low down in the vegetation.

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 near the Sanaga River, Mt. Kupe and Mundemba.

Tit Hylia*Pholidornis rushiae*

This Africa's smallest bird was extremely well seen on a few occasions in forest along the Sanaga River, Mundemba Road and Mt. Kupe.

Leaf warblers & allies Phylloscopidae**Black-capped Woodland Warbler***Phylloscopus herberti*

Our sightings of this little gem were in mixed flocks on Bakossi and Mt. Kupe, which showed well.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

We found plenty of these common migrants at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and Mt. Cameroon.

Western Bonelli's Warbler*Phylloscopus bonelli*

This is a very scarce summer visitor to the northern most part of Cameroon and we were fortunate to find a single bird feeding in an acacia lined watercourse near Waza.

Wood Warbler*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Good numbers were seen daily at Mt. Kupe while our first sightings came from the Sanaga River.

Reed warblers & allies Acrocephalidae**Greater Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus rufescens*

We had a brief sighting of this vocal species at Mt. Kupe.

Sedge Warbler*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

This species was heard calling in the Bamenda Highlands.

Dark-capped Yellow Warbler*Chloropeta natalensis*

This is a particularly uncommon species in the country and we were fortunate to get exceptionally good views of a pair in the Bamenda Highlands around Lake Awing.

Western Olivaceous Warbler*Hippolais opaca*

We found this species at La Digue on or first day.

Grassbirds & allies Megaluridae**Little Rush Warbler***Bradypterus baboecala*

We had brief views of one in rank vegetation at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Evergreen Forest Warbler*Bradypterus lopezi*

This can be an extremely difficult species to see. On Mt Cameroon we eventually managed to get good views of 2 birds.

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 species was sighted in tall grass in the riverine woodland belt along the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Whistling Cisticola

Cisticola lateralis

At one of the roadside stop between Nyassoso and Bamenda we had a good view of this species.

Chattering Cisticola

Cisticola anonymus

A secondary growth and scrub species, we encountered them regularly in the south at Mt. Kupe, along the Mundemba Road and near the Sanaga River.

Chubb's Cisticola

Cisticola chubbi

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

NOTE: Some authorities split the western African form of this species into a separate species from the east African form and call it Brown-backed Cisticola. The IOC and Clements do not accept this split.

Winding Cisticola

Cisticola marginatus

We found this wetland species easily at Dang Lake.

NOTE: Several authorities have split this widespread African species into 5 full species. Races include marginatus, haematocephala, luapula, nominate galactotes and lugubris. The race occurring in Cameroon is marginatus and is split as Winding Cisticola. Clements does not recognize any of these races as full species however the IOC accepts them all.

Croaking Cisticola

Cisticola natalensis

We had good views of at least half a dozen birds in grassy woodland in Benoue NP.

Red-pate Cisticola

Cisticola ruficeps

Good numbers were seen in arid scrub between Maroua and Waza NP.

Dorst's Cisticola

Cisticola dorsti

This uncommon woodland species was seen in Benoue NP. Our views were fairly brief however we found it together with two other cisticola species where the key features could easily be compared.

Rufous Cisticola

Cisticola rufus

We found at least 9 of these rather uncommon and localized cisticolas in the woodlands of Benoue NP.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola

Cisticola brunnescens

6 birds were seen very well 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 fluviatilis

In plumage almost identical to the previous species but different in call. We had at least 4 different individuals in the Waza area.

Banded Prinia

Prinia bairdii

This snappy looking bird was seen in good numbers on Mt. Kupe and Bakossi while our first views were enjoyed on our hike up Mt. Cameroon.

White-chinned Prinia

Schistolais leucopogon

This confiding, gregarious species was observed at Mt. Kupe, Bakossi, Mt. Cameroon and along the Sanaga River.

Green Longtail

Urolais epichlorus



Our first encounter with this noisy bird was at Mt. Cameroon where this species was well seen. We had additional views on Mt. Kupe and Bakossi.

Black-collared Apalis *Oreolais pulchra*

A beautiful apalis that we had stunning views of in the Bamenda highlands. We saw at least 6 birds during our time there.

Red-winged Grey Warbler *Drymocichla incana*

We enjoyed excellent views of a pair of this smart species at Ngaoundaba Ranch with a further sighting of one along the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Cricket Longtail *Spiloptila clamans*

After only a brief search of the habitat for this species we were rewarded with a fantastic sighting at close range.

Lowland Masked Apalis *Apalis binotata*

Many were heard calling on our day walk up Mt. Cameroon unfortunately none of these birds were seen.

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni*

Super views were had of this good looking species on our walk up to the primary forest on the Bakossi range while additional views were also had at the base of Mt. Kupe.

Black-capped Apalis *Apalis nigriceps*

This species is rather uncommon throughout its range and we were fortunate to have such good views in the canopy and at eye level of this species on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe.

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*

We found a pair of highly agitated birds on Mt. Cameroon that almost came and sat on top of the cameras! We also found one on Bakossi. This species often shows its distinctive white outer tail feathers as it actively fans its tail while feeding or in flight.

Bamenda Apalis *Apalis bamendae*

A gallery forest species and an endemic to Cameroon, we found 4 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch, which showed very well.

Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

We had sightings of 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 many 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 however lumps these two groups.

Yellow-browed Camaroptera *Camaroptera superciliaris*

This bold species was very well seen at the Sanaga River. We even managed to get amazing views of the blue throat sacs inflating as the bird gave its call. Incredible!

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

This species was heard on a few occasions on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupea and was seen briefly at Bakossi.

Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*

This species was heard on several occasions and was briefly seen by a few members of the group in the Bakossi Mountains. This species is usually very responsive but proved to be surprisingly difficult to view this season.



White-tailed Warbler *Poliolais lopesi*

A montane species that is endemic to the south-western mountains of Cameroon which can be quite tricky to find. We had two sightings, both of them males, in the primary forest on Bakossi and on Mt. Kupe.

Senegal Eremomela *Eremomela pusilla*

A common species recorded in woodlands in Benoue NP. We enjoyed daily totals 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*

We had good views of this rather uncommon canopy species on Mt. Kupe on two separate occasions. 3 birds were seen in total.

Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and at the escarpment near Ngaoundere.

Yellow Longbill *Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker although extremely vocal, however we were treated to good views in Korup NP.

Kemp's Longbill *Macrosphenus kempii*

This is an extremely rare bird in Cameroon that was seen exceptionally well in Korup NP after it was initially located by call.

Grey Longbill *Macrosphenus concolor*

Fair numbers were sighted in mixed flocks in Korup NP, often heard calling.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, sighted at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and in the Waza area.

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens*

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

Lemon-bellied Crombec *Sylvietta denti*

This uncommon species was sighted by some of the participants in a mixed flock in Korup NP.

Fulvettas & Ground Babblers Pellorneidae**Spotted Thrush-Babbler** *Ptyrticus turdinus*

A noisy and restless species that is very tough to see well. After a good deal of effort we eventually managed to get great views of a pair of these highly sought-after birds in a patch of gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blackcap Illadopsis *Illadopsis cleaveri*

This retiring species was seen extremely well on two occasions in Korup NP.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis*

We had good views of a single calling bird on our first morning in Korup NP.

Brown Illadopsis *Illadopsis fulvescens*

We had a number of good views of this vocal species in Korup NP.

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

We found a few large groups totaling around 25 of these wonderful and unique birds on Bakossi.

Blackcap Babbler *Turdoides reinwardtii*

This can often be a tricky species to see well and we only had brief views 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.

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

Ruwenzori Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

We heard this bird in the Bamenda highlands while at least 20 of this sometimes 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 accept this split.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia Borin*

This rather plain migrant is often easily overlooked and was only sighted on our walk up Mt. Cameroon.

Common (Greater) Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Good numbers were seen in the arid plains north of Maroua and around Waza however our first views of this migrant were at our lunch stop in Garoua.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Mount Cameroon Spierops *Spierops melanocephalus*

This Mount Cameroon endemic showed particularly well once we reached the treeline. A total of 15 birds were seen. We were really lucky as this can occasionally be a very tricky species to find.

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*

Regularly encountered in moist habitat we found good numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP, Mt. Kupe, Bakossi and Mt. Cameroon.

NOTE: The birds we saw in the forests of Mt. Kupe and Bakossi are sometimes split off as Forest White-eye, Z. stenocricotus. This split is however not widely accepted.

Sugarbirds & allies Promeropidae

Grey-chested Babbler *Kakamega poliothorax*

We had remarkable views of this extremely shy species that is notorious for being very difficult to see well during our days birding in the Bamenda Highlands. Our initial encounter with this species was far more typical of the birds behaviour in primary forest on Bakossi.

Hyliotas Hylotiidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*

We recorded small numbers of these stunning birds in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Treecreepers Certhiidae

Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*

We had fantastic views of 6 birds in total while birding in woodland at Benoue NP.

Starlings Sturnidae

Purple-headed (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureiceps*

A single bird was well scoped while birding the degraded forests to the south of the Sanaga River.



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 a few of these woodland starlings around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bronze-tailed (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had superb views of one bird on the escarpment near Ngaoundere.

Splendid (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling was initially seen near the Sanaga River while additional views were obtained at Ngaoundaba Ranch and near Mundemba.

Purple (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*

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

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*

A few of these spectacular birds were seen in the woodlands of Benoue NP and near Waza NP.

Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*

We enjoyed good numbers in the dry scrubland north of Maroua.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This stunning bird was seen in woodlands around Ngaoundaba Ranch, the male of which shows remarkable colours in direct sunlight.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*

Some members of the group had a sighting of this species along the Mundemba Road late one afternoon.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri*

We enjoyed good views of at least 6 birds at Mt. Kupe.

Neumann's Starling *Onychognathus neumanni*

Two of these rather localized birds were seen in the Bamenda Highlands where we enjoyed great views.

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeyoptera lugubris*

Seen well at Mt. Cameroon and at the base of Mt. Kupe.

White-collared Starling *Grafisia torquata*

This is a real special to the Ngaoundaba area and we had a total of around 6 birds while birding the area including flight and perched views.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

This distinctive species was found at Ngaoundaba Ranch and among a flock of sheep in the Bamenda Highlands.

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

We had great looks at 3 birds in Korup NP associated with large ant swarms.

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

After initially just hearing this species in Korup NP we had fantastic views of a single bird on Mt. Kupe.

Crossley's Ground Thrush *Zoothera crossleyi*

This rare, shy species was only heard calling in primary forest on Bakossi.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

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



Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe castanea*

We had great views of this often shy species in Korup NP; however around ant swarms this species becomes rather bold and obvious.

NOTE: The central African form is sometimes split from the nominate White-tailed Alethe A. diademata of West Africa, becoming A. castanea, which is the species that we observed. The IOC now accepts this split, Clements does not.

Brown-chested Alethe *Pseudalethe poliocephala*

At one of the large ant swarms in Korup NP we managed to get cracking views of this understorey skulker.

Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Forest Robin *Stiphornis erythrothorax*

This is a shy species however we managed to get a number of first class views in association with ant swarms 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 species we observed, Eastern Forest Robin, S.xanthogaster of Central Africa and Sangha Forest Robin, S.sanghensis of Central African Republic. These splits are currently not accepted by Clements or the IOC.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

While birding the primary forest at Bakossi and Mt. Kupe we located 2 of these localized birds, which showed well.

Mountain Robin-Chat *Cossypha isabellae*

We had excellent views of this endemic in the Bamenda highlands and on Mount Cameroon.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*

This shy and beautiful bird was seen just once in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

This species was seen on a few occasions at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapilla*

A very large *Cossypha*. We had a total of 3 birds that were seen in riverine woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin *Erythropygia galactotes*

At least 5 birds were seen extremely well in dry scrub north of Maroua.

Black Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

This is a wonderfully common and beautiful bird in this area of Cameroon where it certainly occurs at much higher densities than anywhere else in its range. We encountered good numbers during our birding north of Maroua.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

We had good views of 3 at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings at Mt. Cameroon and in the Bamenda highlands.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

This widespread species was seen very well in the Bamenda highlands, Bakossi and on Mount Cameroon.

Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglini*

We encountered this uncommon intra-African migrant on our drive between Garoua and Ngaoundere and later found a pair of birds 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 small numbers in rocky habitat in Benoue NP.

(Northern) Anteater Chat *Myrmecocichla aethops*

We encountered a family group of 4 birds near Waza NP.

White-rumped Black Chat *Pentholaea albifrons*

This is a very scarce bird in Cameroon and we were extremely fortunate to find a single bird in woodland at Benoue NP.

White-crowned Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea coronata*

A single of these beautiful birds was located at an area of rocky outcrops near Maroua, we later had a sighting of another male near Bamenda.

White-browed Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens*

Some of us were fortunate to encounter this species, which is always associated with streamside vegetation in Korup NP. This is a rather rare and seldom encountered bird outside Korup NP.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

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

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

We found a few birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

A single bird was seen by a few members of the group in the Limbe BG.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

Two birds were seen well in the riverside vegetation 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 2 near Mundemba village and a few at Limbe Botanical Garden.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

A common forest-edge species encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Bamenda highlands, Mt. Kupe and Mt. Cameroon.

Yellow-footed Flycatcher *Muscicapa sethsmithi*

We obtained superb views of 7 birds at various points on Mt. Kupe.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

A quiet, inconspicuous bird, we enjoyed a few sightings on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe and Bakossi.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infusate*

Our visit to the outcrop of Rengo Rock in Korup NP produced lovely scope views of 3 of these canopy flycatchers.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

Uncommon and rather furtive, we heard this species calling in Korup NP.

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 or warbler than a sunbird, our first sighting was in Korup NP with further sightings along the Mundemba Road.

NOTE: The species is sometimes lumped with the East African Grey-headed Sunbird D. axillaris. The IOC and Clements consider the two species to be valid.

Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus*

We had stunning views of 2 birds at La Digue. This species is purely associated with habitat in and around stands of mangrove.



Western Violet-backed Sunbird*Anthreptes longuemarei*

A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we found good numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Little Green Sunbird*Anthreptes seimundi*

A pair was sighted in forest near the Sanaga River. A rather plain, nondescript sunbird.

Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird*Anthreptes rectirostris*

This species was seen commonly on Mt. Kupe and near the Sanaga River.

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 found small numbers at Mt. Kupe, Korup NP, along the Mundemba Road and near the Sanaga River.

Pygmy Sunbird*Hedydipna platura*

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

Reichenbach's Sunbird*Anabathmis reichenbachii*

We saw this species at two sites. First sightings were at La Digue where we saw 2 birds and later a few were seen at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Green-headed Sunbird*Cyanomitra verticalis*

We had superb sightings at La Digue, Ngaoundaba Ranch, Limbe BG, Bakossi and Mt. Kupe.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird*Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

This forest sunbird was seen well south of the Sanaga River where an individual was scoped in the canopy.

Cameroon Sunbird*Cyanomitra oritis*

Our first sighting of this lovely species was of 6 birds on Mt. Cameroon with further sightings of several at Bakossi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Olive Sunbird*Cyanomitra olivacea*

This bird's call is a common forest sound in the south. We had daily sightings in Korup NP 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 there-of, 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 seen only at La Digue and Limbe BG where we had great views.

Green-throated Sunbird*Chalcomitra rubescens*

We enjoyed several sightings including good views near Mount Kupe, La Digue, Limbe BG and the Sanaga River.

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, the Sanaga River and along the Mundemba Road.

Tiny Sunbird*Cinnyris minullus*

Good views of a male were enjoyed at close range on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird*Cinnyris reichenowi*

We found decent numbers in the highlands of Bakossi, Mt. Cameroon and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Beautiful Sunbird*Cinnyris pulchellus*

This exquisite sunbird is found only in the drier northern savanna, we enjoyed sightings in Benoue NP and around Garoua.

Orange-tufted Sunbird*Cinnyris bouvieri*

This is a rather uncommon species throughout its range and we were fortunate to locate a single bird on our walk up to the primary forest on Bakossi, which showed very well.

Splendid Sunbird*Cinnyris coccinigastrus*

A number of stunning males were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Johanna's Sunbird*Cinnyris johannae*

A single female was sighted at the forest edge near the Sanaga River, this is a scarce species in Cameroon.

Superb Sunbird*Cinnyris superbus*

We enjoyed a few views of this lovely species along the Sanaga River, Limbe BG, Mundemba Road and at Mt. Kupe.

Variable Sunbird*Cinnyris venustus*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Ursula's Sunbird*Cinnyris ursulae*

This can be a tough bird to find and is a near endemic to the country; we had excellent views of three different birds in the Bakossi Mountains while an additional view was had on Mt. Kupe.

Bates's Sunbird*Cinnyris batesi*

Another tricky sunbird to locate in Cameroon however we were fortunate to get very close views of two of these sunbirds feeding at close range along the Mundemba Road.

Copper Sunbird*Cinnyris cupreus*

Two birds were found at Ngaoundaba Ranch including a wonderfully plumaged male while a second sighting was had at Dang Lake.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver*Plocepasser superciliosus*

Our sightings of this species were in Benoue NP.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow*Passer griseus*

Cameroon's commonest sparrow was plentiful throughout the country especially in urban areas.

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

Bush Petronia*Gymnoris dentata*

Common in the north of the country, with up to 20+ 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 around there obvious nests.

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 in good numbers from Maroua north.

Baglafaecht Weaver*Ploceus baglafaecht*

This species was well seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch when a pair was seen nest building at close range.



Bannerman's Weaver*Ploceus bannermani*

This range restricted and endangered bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands. We counted a total of 8 birds in the area.

Slender-billed Weaver*Ploceus pelzelni*

A few of this small species were seen breeding in rank grass in the general Nyassoso area.

Little Weaver*Ploceus luteolus*

This diminutive dry-country weaver was seen only once at our lunch stop in Garoua.

Spectacled Weaver*Ploceus ocularis*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and at Mt. Kupe.

Black-necked Weaver*Ploceus nigricollis*

This snappy-looking weaver of forest edge was first seen at La Digue with further sightings at Bakossi, Limbe BG and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black-billed Weaver*Ploceus melanogaster*

This dapper bird of forest fringes was first seen on Mt. Cameroon with additional views in the Bamenda highlands and Bakossi.

Heuglin's Masked Weaver*Ploceus heuglini*

We were fortunate to have good looks at around 10 birds in Benoue NP.

Vitelline Masked Weaver*Ploceus vitellinus*

Fair numbers were seen in and around the Benoue and Maroua areas.

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.

Dark-backed Weaver*Ploceus bicolor*

This pretty, bicolored bird was seen at Bakossi.

Preuss's Weaver*Ploceus preussi*

This is a very uncommon species, which we were fortunate to find on two occasions at Bakossi just after a rain storm and again on Mt. Kupe. Excellent views were enjoyed.

Brown-capped Weaver*Ploceus insignis*

We enjoyed good views of female bird feeding from a mossy tree limb on our walk up Bakossi.

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

We had superb views of 4 near the Sanaga River. There are few accessible sites to see this species and we were lucky to find this rare bird.

Red-vented Malimbe*Malimbus scutatus*

We were fortunate to find three of these brilliant birds which were seen at extremely close range on the Mundemba Road.

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

A secretive species that forages in thick tangles, we found a single bird which gave excellent views at one of the river crossings where a nest had been built in Korup NP.

Red-headed Malimbe*Malimbus rubricollis*

We were fortunate to find 3 in a mixed species flock in degraded forest to the south of the Sanaga River.



Crested Malimbe*Malimbus malimbicus*

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

Red-headed Weaver*Anaplectes rubriceps*

This species was encountered in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Red-billed Quelea*Quelea quelea*

We found the “African avian locust” in fair numbers in Waza NP.

Black-winged Red Bishop*Euplectes hordaеceus*

A few birds in non-breeding plumage were sighted along the Sanaga River and near Nyassoso.

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop*Euplectes franciscanus*

Small numbers of non-breeding birds were seen north of Maroua and at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Yellow Bishop*Euplectes capensis*

A number of birds were found in the Bamenda highlands and on the upper slopes near the treeline of Mt. Cameroon.

Marsh Widowbird*Euplectes hartlaubi*

We found a few birds in non-breeding plumage at Dang Lake. The males still however show a distinctive orange shoulder patch in flight.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Woodhouse’s Antpecker*Parmoptila woodhousei*

We were extremely fortunate to find this species on 2 consecutive days in Korup NP associated with mixed feeding flocks. This is one of the reserves most special birds and is rare and seldom encountered.

White-breasted Nigrita*Nigrita fusconotus*

We enjoyed very good views of this species on the lower slopes of Bakossi and Mt. Kupe.

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita*Nigrita bicolor*

This attractive seedeater was seen on 2 occasions on Mt. Kupe.

Pale-fronted Nigrita*Nigrita luteifrons*

Our sightings of this scarce species were of 2 males which showed extremely well at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Grey-headed Nigrita*Nigrita canicapillus*

This is the most common and widespread nigrita, which was seen at Limbe BG, Mundemba and along the Sanaga River.

Shelley’s (Fernando Po) Oliveback*Nesocharis shelleyi*

This beautiful little bird was refreshingly common on Mt. Cameroon where we saw at least 6 individuals on our day there. Certainly one of the highlights of our tour through Cameroon.

Grey-headed Oliveback*Nesocharis capistrata*

Tougher to see than it’s congener although it enjoys a wider distribution in Cameroon. We encountered a few at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a single bird in Benoue NP, which gave great views.

Yellow-winged (Red-faced) Pytilia*Pytilia hypogrammica*

This rare species was well seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch during an afternoon walk through the woodland.

Green-winged Pytilia*Pytilia melba*

Good numbers were seen in the general Waza area. A widespread and beautifully marked finch.

Cut-throat (Finch)*Amadina fasciata*

We found 3 birds coming down to drink at one of the waterholes in Waza NP.

Red-faced Crimsonwing*Cryptospiza reichenovii*

We found 3 of these secretive birds on our day on Mt. Cameroon however our best views were undoubtedly on the lower slopes of Bakossi where two birds were seen feeding for a long period of time. Typically shy and rather uncommon throughout its range.

Black-bellied Seedcracker *Pyrenestes ostrinus*

This shy seedeater was briefly sighted on 2 occasions in areas of rank vegetation along the Mundemba Road.

Western Bluebill *Spermophaga haematina*

A remarkably beautiful bird. We were treated to brilliant views of 3 males in the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Dybowski's Twinspot *Euschistospiza dybowskii*

This species is very uncommon throughout its range and we had superb views of 2 birds in the Bamenda Highlands where this species was not expected at all!

Black-bellied Firefinch *Lagonosticta rara*

This large firefinch was seen well at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We had a superb sighting of 6 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further looks at Dang Lake and in Benoue NP.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Small numbers encountered in Benoue NP and north towards Waza.

Rock Firefinch *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*

We found a total of 10 on our visit to a rocky outcrop 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, which is best observed in Benoue NP. This is where we had great views of 2 birds.

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 gorgeous species that is fairly uncommon, we had very good views of a pair of birds during the heat of the day from a rocky outcrop near Maroua.

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 pair of birds near the Sanaga.

NOTE: The IOC has just recently accepted this species and Kantt's Waxbill E. kandti from East Africa as a separate species. Clements also accepts this split.

Black-faced Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

Good numbers were seen in agricultural land on the banks of the Benoue River near Garoua. We even enjoyed scope views on the ground!

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*

We recorded this species daily in and around Waza NP while our first views were outside our lunch restaurant in Garoua.



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 our hotel in Douala 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**Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

This familiar bird, which parasitises small seedeaters, was only seen in Mundemba.

Sahel (Northern) Paradise Whydah*Vidua orientalis*

This species occurs in the dry acacia woodlands associated with the Sahel, we were fortunate to find a single non-breeding male near one of the waterholes in Waza NP.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae**Western Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

Small numbers were seen regularly throughout Cameroon.

Mountain Wagtail*Motacilla clara*

A single bird was found at one of the small forest streams at the base of Mt. Kupe.

African Pied Wagtail*Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird but not common in Cameroon and only sighted along the Sanaga and Benoue Rivers.

Yellow-throated Longclaw*Macronyx croceus*

A total of 4 birds gave good views on the edge of Dang Lake.

African Pipit*Anthus cinnamomus*

This is a very interesting record as it is of the nominate form which is very rare in Cameroon. The other distinctive subspecies which is sometimes split off as Cameroon Pipit is much darker and confined to the highlands.

Plain-backed Pipit*Anthus leucophrys*

Two birds were seen well on the escarpment near Ngaoundere.

Long-legged Pipit*Anthus pallidiventris*

We found two birds on the paved runway of the airport in Douala while later on we found another pair at the roadside near Mundemba.

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

We found good numbers of this migrant at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and Mt. Cameroon.

Finches Fringillidae**White-rumped Seedeater***Crithagra leucopygia*

We had good looks at this rather plain seedeater in the Waza area.

Yellow-fronted Canary*Crithagra mozambica*

This species was seen in small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP with a few singles in the south as well.

West African Seedeater*Crithagra canicapilla*

A very scarce finch of the guinea savanna belt which we were fortunate enough to scope well on a woodland walk in the afternoon in Benoue NP.

*NOTE: The IOC has split this species from the Southern Africa near endemic Streaky-headed Seedeater *C. gularis*. Clements does not accept this split at this stage.*

Thick-billed Seed-eater *Crithagra burtoni*

Good numbers were recorded at Mt. Cameroon, Bakossi and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Oriole Finch *Linurgus olivaceus*

This beautiful and endearing species was seen exceptionally well in the Bamenda Highlands and on Mt. Cameroon.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

We found good numbers just north of Maroua.

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi*

2 of these beautiful broad-leafed woodland birds were seen in Benoue NP while later on at a roadside stop between Nyassoso and Bamenda we had great views of a single bird.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

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

MAMMALS (31 species)

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza*

This beautiful colobus was seen well along the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*

We saw this species regularly in Benoue NP and in the Waza area.

Patas Monkey *Cercopithecus patas*

We recorded a few whilst in the Waza area. This colourful monkey is largely terrestrial.

Tantalus Monkey *Cercopithecus tantalus*

We observed this species in the Ngaoundaba area and again in the Waza area.

Mona Monkey *Cercopithecus mona*

Near Mundemba we enjoyed really good views of a family group of around 10 individuals.

Putty-nosed Monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans*

This species was heard calling daily in Korup NP and was seen briefly in Korup. Our best views were on the higher slopes of Mt. Kupe when a small group was found and seen by some members of the group.

Galagos Galagonidae

Senegal Galago *Galago senegalensis*



Our night drives in Benoue NP produced a number of these shy creatures.

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Straw-coloured Fruit Bat

Eidolon helvum

Seen in good numbers in the general area of the Ibis Hotel in Douala with additional views of a large group near Bamenda.

Bats Pteropodidae

Epauletted Fruit-Bat

Epomophorus sp

We had one just outside the restaurant area at Benoue NP.

Yellow-winged Bat

Lavia frons

We had some decent views of this species along a drainage line near the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

Scrub Hare

Lepus saxatilis

Seen on night excursions at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and Waza.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Striped Ground Squirrel

Euxerus erythropus

We had good views in the area of Waza NP.

African Pygmy Squirrel

Myosciurus pumilio

A single of these small forest squirrels was sighted on our walk up Mt. Cameroon.

Lady Burton's Rope Squirrel

Funisciurus Isabella

While walking up to the primary forest at Bakossi we found one of these squirrels that showed quite well.

Green Squirrel

Paraxerus poensis

This rather plain squirrel was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch

Red-legged Sun Squirrel

Heliosciurus rufobrachium

We found this species on Bakossi, in the Bamenda Highlands and along the Sanaga River.

Anomalures Anomaluridae

Beecroft's Anomalure

Anomalurus beecrofti

On one of our night walks in Korup NP we encountered a single of these incredible flying squirrels.

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Sand Fox

Vulpes pallida

This is a scarce and localized species and we found 3 in the Waza area on two night drives that gave incredible views.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Marsh Mongoose

Herpestes ichneumon

We had great views of two in total during our night drives in Benoue NP.

Genets & Civets Viverridae

Common Genet

Nandinia binotata



A single of these beautifully patterned animals was seen on one of the night drives in Benoue NP.

Cats Felidae

Wild Cat

Felis sylvestrus

This cat, believed to be the ancestor of all domestic tabby cats, was first tamed by the Egyptians 5000 years ago. We had a good sighting of one on a night drive in the Waza area.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

We had great sightings of many daily in Benoue NP.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

This is a rather familiar savanna species that we found in Waza NP.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Giraffe

Giraffe cameoleopardus

We had good sightings of 5 in Benoue NP and on our full day in Waza NP we saw a few more.

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 Benoue NP.

Red-flanked Duiker

Cephalophus rufilatus

Good numbers were seen in Benoue NP.

Kob

Kobus kob

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

Red-fronted Gazelle

Gazella rufifrons

This dainty and incredibly quick antelope was seen only in Waza NP where some members of the group observed a single animal.

Tsessebe

Damaliscus lunatus

We observed a large group of these striking antelope in Waza NP.

Roan Antelope

Hippotragus equinus

This graceful antelope was seen in Waza NP while our first views were enjoyed in Benoue NP.

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