



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Cameroon

### Rockfowl, Rainforests & Sahel

*19<sup>th</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012*



Arabian Bustard by Markus Lilje

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader Markus Lilje**

#### **Top 10 Birds as voted by participants:**

1. Egyptian Plover
2. Pel's Fishing Owl
3. Grey-necked Rockfowl
4. Arabian Bustard
5. Nkulengu Rail
6. Bannermann's Turaco
7. Quail-plover
8. Dybowski's Twinspot
9. Mount Kupe Bushshrike, Shelley's Oliveback, Brown Twinspot, Rufous-sided Broadbill

Rockjumper Birding Tours



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## Tour Summary

Cameroon has always been one of the more challenging birding countries in the world and still clings onto this tag, although things certainly seem to be getting better and better. Logistics, transport and lodgings especially are constantly improving and there are of course all the same species that have been attracting interested birders here for a long time. All this combines to attract ever-more birders willing to make the effort to visit and explore this premier birding destination that sports a fantastic variety of habitats, spanning from the tropical south to sub-sahelian semi-desert in the north.

Once again, the array of highlights that were observed on our tour makes for mouth-watering reading. Possibly the bird that is generally considered to be the top bird in Cameroon – the incredible Grey-necked Rockfowl – put on a performance, as it hissed and moved around a nesting site after a late afternoon shower. Some of the many other specials included Nkulengu Rail, Bare-cheeked Trogon, Egyptian Plover, Pel's Fishing Owl, Hartlaub's Duck, Arabian Bustard, Scissor-tailed Kite, Black Crowned Crane, Lesser Jacana, Grey Pratincole, Bannerman's Turaco, Bates's Swift, Quail-plover, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Yellow and Black-casqued Wattled Hornbills, Sjostedt's Barred Owlet, Grey-headed and Rufous-sided Broadbill, 6 bushshrike species around Mt Kupe, Banded, Black-necked and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes, Spotted Thrush-Babbler, White-throated Mountain Babbler, Mount Cameroon Spierops, White-collared Starling, Yellow and Forest Penduline Tits, White-fronted Black Chat, Yellow-footed Flycatcher, 27 sunbird species, Yellow-mantled and Brown-capped Weavers, Standard-winged Nightjar, Cassin's Malimbe, Yellow-winged and Red-winged Pytilias, Brown and Dybowski's Twinspots, and Shelley's Oliveback!

We began our 3-week adventure in the south of the country, Douala, from where we struck out to Edea, to the east, where we began birding in earnest. The first stop was a small road-side pool, where a



good start was finding a pair of the very sought-after and attractive Hartlaub's Duck, here at probably the most reliable site for this species. Along the Sanaga River we were successful in finding the river's two major attractions, Grey Pratincole and African Skimmer, both occupying the sandbars in good numbers. Other birds in the area were African Finfoot and White-fronted Plover along the river, with great views of the miniscule Tit-hylia, Yellow-billed Barbet, beautiful Black Bee-eater and Rufous-capped Eremomela in the forest nearby. We had more

time than usual in this vicinity and were able to visit a small area of fast-degrading 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 in the end. Other top species including Blue Cuckooshrike, Red-headed Malimbe, Gabon Woodpecker, White-tailed Rufous Thrush, Velvet-mantled Drongo and the lovely Yellow-mantled Weaver were also found in the same area. Additional birds that showed well were African Pied, Piping and White-thighed Hornbills, Grey-throated Barbet, Ansorge's and Plain Greenbuls, and Yellow-browed and Olive-grey Camaropteras. After a very successful start to this tour in the humid south, we then headed back to Douala for a late flight to Garoua in the north of the country, for this very different, drier section of the itinerary.



Early the following day we struck out in a southerly direction towards Ngaoundere, where we spent the next 2 nights. The drive always produces a few good birds and this time was no exception, as roadside stops added Fox Kestrel, Yellow Penduline Tit, Purple Starling, Sun Lark, Violet Turaco, Ring-necked Parakeet, Black-bellied Firefinch, Senegal Batis, Red-necked Falcon, Bearded Barbet, Piapiac, Heuglin's Wheatear, Senegal Coucal, Rufous Cisticola, Brown Babbler, Brown Snake Eagle, Spotted Creeper, Western Violet-backed Sunbird and Senegal Eremomela. At Dang Lake, on the northern outskirts of Ngaoundere, we also found a number of great additions, including African Hobby, Marsh Widowbird, Black Crake, African Swamphen and Yellow-throated Longclaw.

Our base for the next two nights was a hotel in the town of Ngaoundere, since the roadworks continue along the Ngaoundaba Ranch road, and the birding at this site was exceptional. We enjoyed a fabulous day's birding here, covering the gallery forest, wetland edge and broad-leaved woodland biomes. The first of these is home to a number of highly localized and prized species and we were very successful in our quest to secure good views of many of them. Soon after our arrival at the fast-greening area, we enjoyed views of Little Bittern, Hartlaub's Duck, African Rail, White-collared Starling, Broad-billed Roller, Grey-headed Oliveback, Copper Sunbird, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, European Pied Flycatcher, Red-winged Grey Warbler, Red-tailed Leaflove, Ross's and White-crested Turacos, as well as the very localised Bamenda Apalis. After a short lunch break we headed to the much more open broad-leaved woodland, where we added Standard-winged Nightjar, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Gambaga Flycatcher, Splendid Sunbird and African Golden Oriole. Toward the end of the day the prized Spotted Thrush-Babbler also put in a great appearance, showing well at very close quarters. We also found Black-cap Babbler and a fantastic male Standard-winged Nightjar put in a great showing, displaying its wing extensions in flight and on the ground. As it was getting dark we added Greater Painted Snipe and Black-crowned Night Heron before driving back to our hotel.



After finding and enjoying great views of Greyish Eagle-Owl near our hotel, we headed north again from Ngaoundere. Our first scheduled stop of the morning was at Dang Lake, to try find a few species we may have missed 2 days before. We added distant Garganey and then a number of flight views of the very special Lesser Jacana, which is very tough to see here due to all the tall vegetation. We also enjoyed good views of a number of other water-associated species here. Some quick stops added a few other species including Green-backed Woodpecker, the very strange Yellow-billed Shrike, Lesser Blue-eared Starling and Double-toothed Barbet, and we enjoyed great views of Red-throated Bee-eater around one of the colonies in the area. We arrived in Benoue National Park at around lunchtime and spent the afternoon birding the woodland along the entrance road to the camp and along the river itself. This was highly productive and we added some cracking birds such as White-throated Francolin, Stone Partridge, White-headed Vulture, Senegal Parrot and Abyssinian Ground Hornbill in the woodland. Adamawa Turtle Dove, Greater Painted Snipe, Greater Honeyguide, Oriole Warbler, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat and West African Seed-eater all came in to pools of water along the fast-drying Benoue River. Later, on a night drive, we were treated to views of numerous Senegal Galagos, an Egyptian



Mongoose, Blotched Genet, Red-flanked Duiker and after much effort, a glimpse of an African Scops Owl (we finally managed fantastic views of one on the second night drive).



The following days were spent exploring the reserve's two key habitats, the riverine woodland along the Benoue River and the broad-leaved savannas. One of the most anticipated birds of the trip was undoubtedly Egyptian Plover, which gave us fabulous views on the river's sandy banks. A great surprise was finding a Pel's Fishing Owl perched above one of the little puddles, where we spent time waiting for thirsty birds to come for a drink. Black-headed Gonolek, Giant Kingfisher, White-crowned Lapwing, Senegal Thick-knee and Swamp Flycatcher were all showing in the riverine woodland around the

Benoue. The river itself had African Openbill, a surprising Rock Pratincole and perched African Fish Eagle nearby. The pools alone were worth hours of watching and waiting, with Cabanis's Bunting, Red-winged and Yellow-winged Pytilias, Dybowsky's Twinspot, Black-bellied and Bar-breasted Firefinch and African Blue Flycatcher being just a few of the interested parties. The area boasts great Guinea Woodlands, which 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. These included Brown-backed Woodpecker, Black-faced Firefinch, scarce White-fronted Black Chat, fantastic Emin's Shrike, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Moustached Grass Warbler, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Black-bellied Bustard, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Alpine Swift overhead, Bearded Barbet and Heuglin's Masked Weaver. The mammal viewing in Benoue was quite good too, with good numbers of Kob as well as Oribi, Bush Duiker, Guereza Colobus, Olive Baboon, great views of Hippo and Bushbuck, and a fantastic Serval right on the side of the road, in addition to the other species mentioned above.

Back briefly in Garoua, we went looking for some targets near the Benoue River that flows near the town. Here we secured good views of Black-faced Quailfinch, Crested Lark, many Ethiopian Swallows, a young Allen's Gallinule, Black Crake, Red-throated Pipit, White-rumped Seed-eater, the very widespread Zitting Cisticola and a surprise Isabelline Shrike.



The final area we explored in the northern portion of this wonderfully diverse country was the Waza National Park and surroundings. This area lies much further to the north, in the southern band of the Sahel belt, and is home to a number of key birds for the country, which we put in a good effort to find. We started off well in the area around



Mora, getting great views of 2 of the top targets in the north: Quail-plover and Cricket Warbler on a walk in very open scrubby habitat. Both these species can be very difficult to find at times, although we were not required to spend much time on either of the two this time. We also added Southern Grey Shrike, Yellow-crowned Gonolek, Black-headed Lapwing, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Golden-breasted Bunting, White-bellied Bustard and the elegant Scissor-tailed Kite in the same area. Many other birds kept us busy in the dry north and we added many more species during our time here – both inside and near the national park. The very tricky Savile's Bustard – recorded on a Rockjumper tour for the first time in 2011, the majestic Arabian Bustard, River Prinia, African Silverbill, European Turtle and many African Collared Doves, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Sub-alpine Warbler, Western Barn Owl, Anteater Chat, Cut-throat Finch, Clapperton's Francolin and Black-rumped Waxbill all put in an appearance.



Because of the extreme aridity of this area the few waterholes are always a huge attraction and we recorded Marabou, Woolly-necked Stork, Black Crowned Crane, a surprise Great White Pelican, Lappet-faced, Ruerrell's and White-backed Vultures, dozens of Black-headed Herons and tens of thousands of Red-billed Quelea among a number of the smaller species mentioned above. Mammals were again in evidence and we recorded Red-fronted Gazelle, Roan, Golden Jackal, Topi and, on night drives, we had Sand Fox, Small-spotted Genet, Egyptian and Marsh Mongooses and another Serval. Heading south towards Maroua, we stopped at a large rocky outcrop where we managed to squeeze in some birding and found the special Rock Firefinch, White-headed Barbet, Rock-loving Cisticola, White-crowned Cliff Chat and, for one participant, the beautiful Lavender Waxbill. In Maroua we then caught a flight back south to Douala to get started with our explorations of the forests in that part of the country.

From Douala we drove to Edea, our base for exploring the towering Mount Cameroon nearby, adding White-bibbed Swallow on the way there. We were treated to views of much of the mountain, often covered by clouds, which rises 4000m above the ocean nearby. Our number one target for the day was the extremely localized Mount Cameroon Spierops that is confined to the treeline of this isolated massive. The 8km walk, passing through a variety of changing habitat zones, up to the treeline invariably seems to get delayed since the birding on the forested slopes of the mountain is great – and this day was no exception. This is always one of the most memorable



birding days in the country and specials such as Shelley's Oliveback, Brown-chested Alethe, Red-chested Flufftail, Yellow-breasted Boubou, Green Longtail, Mount Cameroon Spierops, Mountain Saw-wing, Bar-tailed Trogon, Mountain Robin-Chat, Cameroon Sunbird and Black-capped Woodland Warbler went a long way in confirming this. Other birds that were thoroughly enjoyed include Yellow-billed Turaco, Mountain Sooty Boubou, Grey Apalis, Mackinnon's Shrike, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Elliott's and Tullberg's Woodpeckers, White-throated Bee-eater, Red-chested Cuckoo, Thick-billed Honeyguide, Pink-footed Puffback, Grey Cuckooshrike, Cameroon Olive Greenbul, Banded Prinia, Red-faced Crimsonwing, Black-billed Weaver, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler and Oriole Finch. After a long and very productive day, we were all happy to get back to the hotel for a well-deserved rest, before heading into the tropical forests further west.

We spent a morning at Limbe's well-known botanical gardens. Although small in size, the gardens hold a good variety of species and is an especially good site for a few tricky birds that are hard to find elsewhere on the tour. These included Pale-fronted Nigrita, the stunning Western Bluebill and Western Reef Heron, all of which we saw very well. Green-throated Sunbird was also found in the lush gardens and we added a few other species to the list, including Cassin's Flycatcher, Grey Parrot, Black-bellied Seedcracker, Woodland Kingfisher and Brown-throated Wattle-eye.

Next we headed to one of the most fascinating and promising regions of the tour, as we drove through Kumba and Ekondo Titi and finally onwards to Mundemba, which was our launching pad for accessing Korup NP the following day. The drive through the above-mentioned area always throws up some really great species and this day was certainly no exception, with Forest Penduline Tit being the most exciting find, although it did not stay for long after showing well briefly and flying overhead on two occasions. Other great birds included many Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbills, a perched Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Great Blue Turaco, a flock of Bates's Swift, Swamp Palm Bulbul, Sooty Flycatcher and the very shy Blue-headed Wood Dove.



After a fairly short night in Mundemba, we prepared ourselves for 3 days of forest camping in the heart of Korup National Park. Following a drive and then the walk over the Manas River Bridge, our initial stroll in the forest towards the Rengo Rock camp was highly productive. This forest is a great example of the Congo basin lowland rainforest, which is sadly being put under more and more pressure by logging activities, oil palm plantations and the bushmeat trade. The main target in this forest is, without a doubt, the Grey-necked Rockfowl that nest on large boulder overhangs inside the reserve. It was to one such site that we headed during the latter part of the first afternoon, where, after a short shower, we were privileged to witness one of these birds display and hiss around its nesting rocks – surely an experience that

will stay with everyone for a long time!

Throughout our stay in the forest we went on a number of walks, covering all the trails that wind through the forest around our camp. During the 2 days we spent here we managed to find a good number of the special birds that the area is known for, including an amazing pair of the near-mythical



Nkulengu Rail, Rufous-sided Broadbill, Bare-cheeked Trogon, all three occurring species of illadopsis, Forest Robin, Fire-crested Alethe, Eastern Bearded and many other Greenbuls, Forest Swallow resting in a rockfowl nest, Yellow-lored and Red-tailed Bristlebills, Fraser's Sunbird, Crested, Blue-billed, Red-headed and Red-vented Malimbos, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher and White-tailed Rufous Thrush. Other species including Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Blue-headed Wood Dove, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Blue-headed and Dusky Crested Flycatchers, White-browed Forest Flycatcher, African Dwarf Kingfisher and Sjosted's Owllet are right up there with many of Korup's most sought-after birds and we worked hard to find these specials, sometimes located in mixed feeding flocks – many of them interior forest specialties! We had a fair amount of rain while we were in the forest, which hampered our walking around on a few occasions, but generally we were very successful while walking through this dense forest, with its generally low density of birds and flocks.

The remaining tracts of lowland rainforest in the Mundemba area hold a staggering variety of species and we had a bit more time to explore these areas during an afternoon and a morning. We enjoyed excellent views of African Finfoot, Palmnut Vulture, Black-throated Coucal, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Preuss's Cliff Swallow, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Sabine's Spinetail, Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, Gabon Woodpeckers, Yellow-mantled Weaver, a number of malimbe species, White-bellied Nigrita, Shining Blue Kingfisher, a posing Western Nicator and Cassin's Honeybird.

In the afternoon we then continued on towards the fabulous Mt. Kupe and Mt. Bakossi region, adding a few more montane forest birds to our list before entering the small village of Nyasoso, our home for the next 3 nights. The Kupe and Bakossi mountains are situated in southwestern Cameroon and always



provide some of the best birding in the country. These forested slopes are home to a multitude of superb endemics and we managed to secure numerous sightings of some very sought-after birds in tricky conditions. On our first day in the area we transferred to two 4x4 vehicles for our drive up into the Bakossi range. Here we then walked through tall grassland and secondary growth before entering the really good primary montane forest – this lower section was very productive for us and we obtained good views of Fan-tailed Grassbird, Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Orange-tufted Sunbird and Bocage's Bushshrike. In the primary forest itself going can be very tough, with very low bird density and some very steep and slippery trails. We did end up concentrating most of our efforts on a ridge in the forest, which provided a more even walking experience. We were also fortunate to find one or two flocks during the course of the day, but they can almost inexplicably disappear as quickly as they appeared just minutes before. Some of the specials we found in the area included both Mt Kupe and

Green-breasted Bushshrike, Crossley's Ground Thrush, White-bellied Robin-Chat, Ursula's Sunbird, White-throated Mountain Babbler, Sabine's Puffback, Spotted Honeyguide, Grey-headed Greenbul, Dark-backed Weaver, Black-winged Oriole and Petit's Cuckooshrike. All-in-all we had a very successful day with many of the tough species of the area giving good views, before we once again headed back to Nyasoso on the bumpy roads.



The remainder of our time in the Nyasoso area was spent exploring both the farmbrush and primary forest portions of Mt. Kupe itself. The lower slopes were constantly alive with activity and highlights included Black-and-white Shrike Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, the rare Fiery-breasted as well as Luehder's Bushshrikes, west African Batis, Yellow-spotted Barbet, Fraser's Rufous Thrush,



Bates's Paradise Flycatcher, Red-chested Goshawk, Klaas's Cuckoo, Tiny Sunbird, Yellow-footed and Dusky-blue Flycatchers, an unexpected Woodhouse's Antpecker, Levillant's Woodpecker, African Piculet, Red-eyed Puffback, Honeyguide Greenbul, Tit Hylia, Purple-headed Starling, Black-capped Apalis, Guinea Turaco and Chestnut-breasted Nigrita. The primary forest higher up on the slopes of Mt. Kupe holds a number of extremely special birds although access is via some rather steep trails. We did spend an afternoon in this habitat and managed to obtain some stunning views of great birds: namely Grey-headed Broadbill, Yellow-bellied and Black-necked Wattle-eyes, and Bocage's Akalat. A few of the participants that ventured out for a night walk were handsomely rewarded with a young Fraser's Eagle-Owl calling overhead with great determination.

The follow morning we began our journey to another of Cameroon's endemic rich areas, the Bamenda Highlands. On the way we picked up Slender-billed Weaver and Blue-breasted Bee-eater soon after leaving, and later added Common Nightingale, Great Reed Warbler and White-faced Whistling Duck. Although the Bemanda highlands are home to one of the densest human populations in the country and most of the natural vegetaion has been replaced, a few individuals birds still manage to hang on and we were here to try to find these special species. Some fantastic birding awaited us as we enjoyed an exceptional array of endemic and exceptional species that were all seen extremely well. Bird of the day was without doubt the highly endangered Bannerman's Turaco, of which we secured great views. Other endemics including Banded Wattle-eye, Bannerman's Weaver and Bangwa Scrub Warbler, which we finally managed to track down and see very well. In addition we enjoyed Neumann's Starling, Black-collared Apalis, nesting Brown-capped Weaver, Orange-tufted Sunbird, Thick-billed Seed-eater, Oriole Finch, African Black Duck, Yellow-breasted Boubou, African Black Swift, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Pectoral-patch Cisticola and Dark-capped Yellow Warbler.



All that remained for us now was the drive back to Douala, but even here we managed to find a number of additional species for our list, including Singing Cisticola, Fan-tailed Widowbird, Marsh Tchagra and a wonderful Ovambo Sparrowhawk. In Douala we then managed to squeeze in a short visit to La Digue, where after some time the birds seemed to be more obliging and we found Carmelite and Mangrove Sunbirds as well as flying Pink-backed Pelican and Royal Tern to end with.





Yet again this was another extremely successful tour through the incredible African birding mecca of Cameroon. The quality and number of the birds seen as well as some of the sightings were simply remarkable, we had a whole lot of the most desirable species on the African continent, here on a single tour! Thank you to everyone for putting in the big effort and long hours, making this trip such a huge success!!

**Photo Credits:** Arabian Bustard, Speckled Tinkerbird, Bamenda Apalis, Egyptian Plover, Black-headed Lapwing, Red-billed Quelea flock, Shelley's Oliveback, Grey-necked Rockfowl, White-throated Mountain Babbler, Bannermann's Turaco and Marsh Tchagra all taken on Rockjumper Tours in Cameroon by Markus Lilje.

## **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 2.8. 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**

**(616 species – of which 11 were only heard)**

#### **Ostriches Struthionidae**

**Common Ostrich**

*Struthio camelus*

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

#### **Guineafowl Numididae**

**Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

Commonly observed in the national parks of Benoue and Waza in the north.

#### **New World Quail Odontophoriae**

**Stone Partridge**

*Ptilopachus petrosus*

We had superb views of this small partridge in Benoue NP and north of Maroua.

#### **Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**

**Forest Francolin**

*Peliperdix lathamii*

This very shy and uncommon bird was heard and briefly seen in Korup forest.

**White-throated Francolin**

*Peliperdix albogularis*

A total of 4 birds were seen over 2 days in Benoue NP's woodland.

**Scaly Francolin**

*Pternistis squamatus*

Brief views of this forest bird were had on Mount Cameroon, more heard in Bamenda.

**Double-spurred Francolin**

*Pternistis bicalcaratus*

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

**Clapperton's Francolin**

*Pternistis clappertoni*

We had very good views of a number of birds in Waza NP.

#### **Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**



**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*

A few birds were seen in the Dschang Lake grassy edge, as well as on the way to Douala on the last day.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*

Big numbers were recorded at Dang Lake, with a few others at small pools in Waza NP.

**Hartlaub's Duck** *Pteronetta hartlaubii*

We had 2 birds at a site near the Sanaga River, on the way to Edea, before we were surprised by a further 2 birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa*

2 birds were seen at lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*

We recorded a few birds at Dschang on a lake after first views near Ngaoundere, on Dang Lake.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

We recorded 3 distant birds at Dang Lake.

**Grebes Podicipedidae****Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A single bird on Dang Lake, more on a lake in Dschang and Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

**Storks Ciconiidae****Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*

Around 9 birds were seen in the dryig waterbodies in Waza NP.

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Huge numbers of this species were seen in the Waza NP area, others in Benoue NP.

**Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*

We recorded this species on 4 days of the tour, highest numbers on the day at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Wooly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

Seen well in Waza NP, with others seen well on the way to Mundemba.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

A few birds were seen as they came in to roost from the road traversing Waza NP, another at a waterhole in the same park.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

We recorded a few of these huge birds in and around the fast-disappearing waterholes in Waza NP.

**Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae****African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Small numbers in Waza NP and La Digue.

**Hadeda Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

A few birds seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

**Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae****Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

A single bird was seen on the edge of the Benoue River, another in the reeds of Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

Good numbers were seen briefly at Ngaoundaba Ranch, more north of Waza NP, where they flushed out of trees near some drying waterholes.



**Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

A number of birds were seen at scattered locations throughout the tour.

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*

Small numbers were seen at a number of locations during the tour, including at Dschang, Dang Lake, Ngaoundaba and Waza NP.

**Western Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

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

NOTE: This group is split 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, with singles recorded in Waza NP and in the Bamenda area.

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

Recorded on 5 days during the tour, with highest numbers in Waza NP.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

A good site for this species is at Dang Lake, we also had one at the Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Great Egret***Ardea alba*

Recorded on 5 days of the tour, including sightings at Dang Lake.

**Intermediate Egret***Egretta intermedia*

We had single birds on 2 days of the tour, both near Douala.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

Best numbers along the Sanaga River, with others at La Digue.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef *E. gularis* and Madagascar's Dimorphic Egret *E. dimorpha* into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

**Western Reef Heron***Egretta gularis*

A few birds were seen along the stream in the Limbe Botanical gardens.

**Hamerkop Scopidae****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

This unique African species was best seen along the river in Benoue NP and near Ngaoundere.

**Pelicans Pelecanidae****Great White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Uncommon in Cameroon, we were surprised by one in Waza NP's waterholes.

**Pink-backed Pelican***Pelecanus rufescens*

As the above species, this is uncommon in Cameroon, one circled overhead at La Digue.

**Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae****Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant***Microcarbo africanus*

Seen at numerous wetlands throughout the country.



### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

- African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides*  
A single bird was seen on the Mundemba road, where it showed well.
- European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*  
A few birds were seen in flight in the Edea area, other small numbers in the Bamenda area.
- Black-winged(shouldered) Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*  
Most common in the more open areas in northern Cameroon.
- Scissor-tailed Kite** *Chelictinia riocourii*  
This is one of the undoubted specials of the far north. We found good numbers to the north of Mora.
- Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius*  
This ubiquitous, fork-tailed raptor was found in good numbers throughout the country and was recorded on most days.  
*NOTE: See above.*
- African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*  
Not a common bird in West Africa, a pair was seen perched in some large trees along the Benoue River.
- Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*  
Recorded in the wetter south with regularity.
- Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*  
A birds that was just recorded once in Waza NP, where we had a single bird in flight.
- Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*  
The smallest of all vulture species, we had good views in the Garoua area.
- White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*  
Recorded in Benoue and in Waza NPs.
- Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon)** *Gyps rueppellii*  
3 birds showed well near a waterhole in Waza NP, where we could enjoy good views.
- White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*  
Benoue NP delivered 2 birds on 2 days.
- Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus*  
A very impressive large bird that was recorded in small numbers in the Waza area, near waterholes.
- Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*  
2 birds were seen well, if a little distantly in Waza NP.
- Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*  
2 birds were seen in open woodland to the south of Garoua.
- Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens*  
A single very shy bird was glimpsed a few times in woodlands of Benoue NP.
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*  
This very distinctive species was seen on a few occasions, gliding over the woodlands of the north, mainly Benoue NP.
- Western (Eurasian) Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*  
Surprisingly common in the north of the country, where we had it on 6 days.
- Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*  
A single bird was seen quartering over Waza NP grasslands.
- Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*  
More common than the previous species, also recorded in the grasslands of Waza NP and near Garoua.
- African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)** *Polyboroides typus*  
This is a distinctive raptor, which was abundant during this Cameroon tour.



**Dark Chanting Goshawk***Melierax metabates*

Fairly common in and around Waza.

**Gabar Goshawk***Micronisus gabar*

A few birds were seen around the waterholes in the Waza NP area on this tour.

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

4 birds were seen in the Mundemba area, where their distinctive calls were more often heard.

*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***Accipiter badius*

This species was seen on 2 occasions, both in woodland near Ngaoundere.

*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.***Red-thighed Sparrowhawk***Accipiter erythrops*

A single bird was seen in the Bamenda highlands, near Lake Awing.

**Ovambo Sparrowhawk***Accipiter ovampensis*

A single bird was seen very well, in flight and then perched on the way between Bamenda and Dschang on the final day.

**Lizard Buzzard***Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

This was fairly common on this tour, with records on 6 different days!

**Grasshopper Buzzard***Butastur rufipennis*

Sometimes an abundant species in northern Cameroon – a handful of birds were seen south of Garoua.

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

This handsome buzzard was seen on a few occasions, with records around Benoue NP and Ngaoundaba Ranch as well as the Bamenda area.

**Tawny Eagle***Aquila rapax*

Small numbers at scattered sites in the north of the country.

**Cassin's Hawk-Eagle***Aquila africana*

We had fantastic views of a single bird on the Mundemba road, this species is only seldom seen perched.

**African Hawk-Eagle***Aquila spilogaster*

A single bird was seen briefly by some in Benoue NP.

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

Seen on 2 days in the north.

**Booted Eagle***Hieraaetus pennatus*

One bird was seen near Edea, with another in the Mora area.

**Martial Eagle***Polemaetus bellicosus*

Uncommon in Cameroon, where we had a single bird in flight just north of Ngaoundere.

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

5 birds were seen during the tour, including 2 in the Bamenda area.

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

This widespread, familiar raptor was seen well on a few days including in the Bamenda highlands area.

*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 bird was seen in flight a few times and then finally scoped well, all south of Garoua.

**Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*

Single birds were seen, first at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again on the way to Nyasoso from Mundemba.

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

We had great sightings on the first day in the north, with scoped views south of Garoua.

**African Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Amazingly, this scarce and sought-after bird was seen on 3 consecutive days, with best views of a single bird hunting over Dang Lake.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

Fairly frequently encountered in the north, with 8 different birds recorded over 5 days.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

A single bird was seen near Edea on the first day, where it was feeding on its prey on a power pylon.

### Bustards Otididae

**Arabian Bustard** *Ardeotis arabs*

This highly-sought species was seen exceptionally well, when we had 2 birds in Waza NP, including one that came extremely close to the vehicle, giving great photographic opportunities.

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

A total of around 10 birds were seen in a scrubby open area to the north of Mora.

**Savile's Bustard** *Lophotis savilei*

After a lot of searching in an area where we have now seen this bird a few times, we finally managed to flush 2 different birds that were seen well in flight.

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

A female was flushed in the wooded grassland of Benoue NP, where it had been heard on the previous day.

### Flufftails Sarothruridae

**White-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura pulchra*

As is so often the case with this family, this bird frustrated us, calling on virtually every day we had in the south and often coming to within a few metres of us without showing up. One was briefly glimpsed by some participants.

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

Again this bird displayed typical sneakiness, everyone saw the grass move on the lower slopes of Mt Cameroon, only a few lucky participants caught a glimpse of this tricky species.

### Finfoots Heliornithidae

**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis*

This is always a big target bird, tough to find on any tour; we had brief views of one near the Sanaga river and then recorded it on 2 consecutive days near Mundemba, where we had prolonged scope views.

### Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

**Nkulengu Rail** *Himantornis haematops*

Undoubtedly one of the star birds of the tour – we disturbed 2 birds that must have been feeding very near the track inside Korup NP, they flew up and gave some fairly good views, showing off bright red legs. One of Africa's most hard-to-find large birds.



**African Rail** *Rallus caerulescens*

Heard only at the Ngaoundaba Ranch wetland.

**Black Crane** *Amaurornis flavirostra*

Very good numbers were seen at the Crater Lake at Ngaoundaba Ranch and at Dang Lake.

**African (Purple) Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had good views of a number of birds at Dang Lake, showing off their unusual colour.

*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.*

**Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni*

In 2011 this was new for Rockjumper in Cameroon, we had a glimpse at Ngaoundaba Ranch and then a surprisingly relaxed juvenile near Garoua.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

We had very good numbers at a lake in Dschang, a few others in the Bamenda area of central Cameroon.

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

Great views of these cranes were had near some of the waterholes in Waza NP, about 60 in total.

**Buttonquail Turnicidae****Quail-plover** *Ortyxelos meiffrenii*

This rare, unique and incredibly sought-after bird was one of the highlights of the trip for many. As is often the case with this bird, it required some effort to finally get seen – in this case it first ran on the ground and then flushed, showing its contrasting upperwing. We could finally enjoy scope views near Mora in the north of the country.

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

This fairly widespread African species was more often seen than heard, with good views finally in the Benoue riverbed.

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

This species is largely nocturnal and we were fortunate to flush 2 birds near the road south of Garoua and had great views later in some woodland south of Waza NP.

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

A very widespread bird, we recorded one individual in Waza's drying waterholes.

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

The northern counterpart of the familiar Blacksmith Lapwing, this species was seen along the Benoue River, with others at Dang Lake and in Waza NP.

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

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

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

A few birds were seen along the Sanaga river, with others showing well later in Benoue NP.

**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*

Around 4 birds were seen well in an open field near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

A widespread freshwater species, recorded along the Benoue river insed the National Park.

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

3 very distant birds were seen on the sandbanks in the Sanaga river.

### Egyptian Plover Pluvianidae

**Egyptian Plover** *Pluvianus aegyptus*

This beautifully-marked bird was seen extremely well along the Benoue River in Benoue NP, we had very close encounters with this bird and were able to watch it performing its strange hopping feeding behaviour. Always one of the favourite species on this trip.

### Painted Snipes Rostratulidae

**Greater Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

Another great wader, this beauty was seen extremely well at the Ngaoundaba Ranch and again along the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

**Lesser Jacana** *Microparra capensis*

An uncommon bird throughout its range, everyone had good flight views of a few birds at Dang Lake.

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

A widespread and characteristic species, it was conspicuous in wetlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Dang Lake with scattered sightings elsewhere.

### Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Single birds were seen twice in the La Digue area of Douala.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

A few birds were seen along the Sanaga river and in the La Digue area.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Fairly common in the north, with most sightings in Benoue NP.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

This was another fairly common species around water in the north of Cameroon.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Widespread in small numbers throughout, most were seen in Benoue and in the Mundemba area.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

2 distant birds were seen on sandbars in the Sanaga River.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

7 birds showed near the Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae





**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis*

We had a surprise sighting in Benoue NP, with other sightings from the hanging bridge, crossing into Korup NP, including an adult with a very young chick.

**Grey Pratincole** *Glareola cinerea*

On our visit to the Sanaga River we had a good number of these beautiful pratincoles on the sand bars.

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

We encountered a fantastic flock of over 100 birds on the Sanaga River sand bars, where they would fly around in fantastically tight flocks, before again settling down on the sand.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus*

2 birds were seen on the final day of the tour in the La Digue area of Douala.

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

A mid-morning drinker, we had good numbers of these birds as they came in to drink and feeding near the roads in Waza NP.

**Four-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles quadricinctus*

We had good views of a few birds in Benoue NP.

**Pigeons & Doves Collumbidae****Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Common in Douala and other large towns.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

This large and well-marked species is common in the north.

**Cameroon Olive Pigeon** *Columba sjostedti*

This is a very low-density species that can be very difficult to find - we had good but brief flight views of this species on the Bakossi mountains.

**European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

We had big numbers of these birds in the tall woodland just south of the Waza area.

**Adamawa Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*

A very tricky regional endemic – we had 2 birds in Benoue NP, including one that showed well in tall woodland near the river.

**African Collared Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

This pale *Streptopelia* was encountered in the far north of Cameroon, where they were fairly common.

**(African) Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*

Small numbers in the woodlands to the south of Waza and inside Waza NP.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Small numbers were seen fairly frequently at scattered locations throughout the tour.

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

This is the common species of the woodland in northern Cameroon. Often seen in the Ngaoundaba area and Benoue NP.

**Laughing (Palm) Dove** *Stigmatopelia senegalensis*

A familiar species; in Cameroon recorded fairly regularly only from Ngaoundaba ranch and northwards.

**Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*

The common wood dove of the dry, northern savanna, found in fairly good numbers in the Ngaoundaba area and in Benoue NP, as well as a few birds further north.

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

Not uncommon in secondary growth in the moister south, where it was seen on a number of days, also near Ngaoundaba Ranch area.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

A forest equivalent of the wood doves, we had views on a few days in the Nyasoso area.

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

A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. Heard calling on a number of occasions inside Korup NP, where we also had views of this species a few times.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

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

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

A few birds were seen well in the broad-leaved woodland between Garoua and Ngaoundere.

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*

Fairly common throughout much of the country, often seen in fruiting trees.

### Parrots Psittacidae

**Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

This often scarce bird was seen on 3 days during the tour, in woodlands in the northern Cameroon.

**Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*

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

**Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, we found a number in and around Benoue NP, where a number of birds were seen in flight.

### Turacos Musophagidae

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore was seen well on a few occasions near Mundemba and in the Edea area.

**Guinea Turaco** *Tauraco persa*

This species was seen very well in the Mt. Kupe area, where we found a number of birds that allowed for great views for everyone.

*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 Mount Cameroon. This subspecies has a wonderful red-tipped crest.

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

Seen on 2 days in the north - at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

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

We had fantastic views of 3 birds in the Bamenda Highlands. Undoubtedly one of the birds of the tour, this is one of the most critically endangered birds in West Africa, due to its fast-disappearing habitat, and a flagship species for conservation in the region.

**Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*



Another stunning turaco species, we had views a number of birds in and around Benoue NP.

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

A few birds were first heard and then seen well in the forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

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

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

**Black-throated Coucal** *Centropus leucogaster*

This shy coucal was seen incredibly well on the road back from Mundemba.

*Note: Some authorities split this species into Black-throated Coucal, C. leucogaster that we heard and occurs in West Africa and Neumann's Coucal, C. neumanni that occurs in Central Africa. Neither Clements nor the IOC accept this split.*

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*

We had this species on 5 days during the northern section of the tour, fairly common around Waza.

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

Fairly frequently seen in the south in small numbers.

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

This secretive species was seen fairly frequently, near Edea, at Ngaoundaba Ranch as well as in the Mundemba area.

*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 large cuckoo was seen on the edge of the forest near Nyasoso.

**Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Heard at the Sanaga river, before we saw one male in the village of Nyasoso, near the school.

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

This bird was seen near the Nyasoso area after we heard it frequently in the Benoue and Ngaoundaba area.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

The Nyasoso area produced 2 sightings of this stunning species, it was heard in the Edea area.

**Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx mechowi*

This uncommon species was heard in the forest in the Bakossi mountains.

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

We heard this shy cuckoo calling many times during the day in the Bakossi Mountains.

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*

This was heard frequently in the Korup forest, before we finally had great views of one bird on the Mundemba road.

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

A single bird was seen during the walk up Mt. Cameroon, many more were heard in Mundemba and Korup NP areas.

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*

A single bird was seen to the south of Garoua and we later had great views in the Bamenda highlands, near Lake Awing, after we heard it.

### Barn Owls Tytonidae

**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Waza NP is a great place for this species – we saw single birds on three consecutive days here.



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 invested a fair amount of time into locating this species in the woodland of Benoue NP. After following calls and just getting a brief glimpse on the first night, we managed to locate and get great views of a single bird.

#### **Greyish Eagle-Owl**

*Bubo cinerascens*

Seen on two consecutive days at our Ngaoundere hotel, where everyone had good views of a bird that showed well on a day roost.

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*

During a night walk in the Nyasoso area we heard and then tracked down this very special bird, we enjoyed good views of a sub-adult at close range.

#### **Pel's Fishing Owl**

*Scotopelia peli*

We were very fortunate to get very good views of this amazing owl in the riverine woodland in Benoue NP.

#### **Pearl-spotted Owlet**

*Glaucidium perlatum*

2 birds were seen in the woodland in Benoue NP.

#### **Sjostedt's Barred Owlet**

*Glaucidium sjostedti*

A single one of these rare owlets was seen in Korup NP, after we put in a lot of effort to locate it in the forest canopy and it kept staying frustratingly out of range.

### Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae

#### **Long-tailed Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus climacurus*

In a small patch of thicket north of Waza NP we flushed about 8 of these birds, after getting others in the area just to the south.

#### **Standard-winged Nightjar**

*Macrodipteryx longipennis*

The male of this species is always one of the sought-after birds on a Cameroon trip, we did well to find a single male, sporting great standards, as well as 2 females, all in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area, where we managed to get great close-up views of all of them.

### Swifts Apodidae

#### **Mottled Spinetail**

*Telacanthura ussheri*

Some participants spotted this species over the Korup forest canopy.

#### **Sabine's Spinetail**

*Rhaphidura sabini*

A single bird was seen on the Mundemba road, in a swift flock.

#### **Cassin's Spinetail**

*Neafrapus cassini*

2 birds were seen on consecutive days, flying over the broken canopy of some forest in the Edea area.

#### **African Palm Swift**

*Cypsiurus parvus*

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

#### **Alpine Swift**

*Tachymarptis melba*

Very uncommon in Cameroon, with 2 birds being seen well, gliding over Benoue NP.

#### **Common Swift**

*Apus apus*



Single birds were seen in the Ngaoundere area, with a flock later near Nyasoso.

**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*

A scarce bird in West Africa, we saw small flock of around 20 birds in the Bamenda highlands.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

The common swift throughout the country.

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

A swift of the lowland forest zone of the south, we had great views of this species near Mundemba, where we recorded this uncommon bird on a number of occasions.

### Mousebirds Coliidae

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*

We encountered this widespread species regularly in open and secondary habitat in central and southern Cameroon, not seen in either very dry areas or in true forest.

**Blue-naped Mousebird** *Urocolius macrourus*

Small numbers were seen fairly well in the far north of Cameroon around Mora and Waza NP.

### Trogons Trogonidae

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

A single bird was seen and glimpsed by some participants – another shy and sought-after species, that is more often heard than seen and required a lot of tracking down.

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

Birds were seen on 2 days, with the first sighting being of a female on Mt. Cameroon and the second being a bird in the Bakossi mountains.

### Rollers Coraciidae

**Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller** *Coracias naevius*

This widespread species is not common in Cameroon, but was seen a few times to the north of Garoua.

**Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*

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

**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis*

A single very distant bird was seen over Korup forest from the Rengo Rock viewpoint.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

2 birds were scoped and seen well on the morning of our day at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

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

One of the few birds we saw during a particularly quiet afternoon walk in Korup NP.

**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*

This stunning kingfisher was first seen near Edea, with good views of other birds in Ngaoundaba Ranch and the Benoue NP areas as near Nyasoso.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small woodland kingfisher showed best in Benoue NP.

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

We enjoyed good views of this species in Ngaoundaba Ranch and then in riverine woodland in Benoue NP.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*



Another stunning kingfisher that was recorded at very scattered sites throughout the southern and central parts of the tour.

**African Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ispidina lecontei*

As we were about to leave Korup, we finally heard and then saw this tiny insectivore very well.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

This beautiful little bird was encountered frequently and recorded on half of the days of the tour.

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

Another very tricky species of the forest, 2 tiny birds were seen along small streams in the Korup forest.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

We recorded this brightly coloured species at La Digue, Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP, with 2 further sightings in the south.

**Shining-blue Kingfisher** *Alcedo quadribrachys*

A single bird was seen from a bridge on our third attempt here – scoped views for all participants.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

Seen on 4 days during the tour, with birds in Benoue NP and the Bamenda area among others.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Seen well in the Ngaoundere and Benoue NP areas, with 2 more birds on the final day of the tour.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

**Black Bee-eater** *Merops gularis*

A gem even among this beautiful family, 3 birds were seen near the Sanaga River with a further 2 showing up on the final morning we had in the Nyasoso area.

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

A few birds were seen at a few scattered locations, generally in moister areas.

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

3 birds showed well after we spent some time looking for them in an area outside Nyasoso.

**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 the savannah belt around Ngaoundere and Benoue NP.

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

Very common around Mt. Cameroon, before we had many other sightings in the forested southern regions.

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

This lovely lime green bee-eater was recorded in fairly good numbers in the far north of our tour.

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

A migrant in this area, that was seen and heard in the Bamenda region.

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

After a single birds was spotted south of Garoua, more birds were seen well in the Waza NP area.

### Hoopoes Upupidae

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

A number of birds were sighted in the Waza NP area, others further south in woodland habitats.

*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*

We saw this species on 6 days in the north, with best views in Benoue and Waza NPs.

#### **Black Scimitarbill**

*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

Often a hard one to find, we had views of this usually solitary species in Benoue and Waza NPs.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

#### **African Pied Hornbill**

*Tockus fasciatus*

Common throughout forested areas in southern Cameroon

#### **African Grey Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

The common savanna hornbill in Cameroon, frequently seen in the drier northern woodland areas.

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

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands, mainly in the Waza area on this tour.

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

*Tockus camurus*

2 birds were seen in Korup NP, where they are a shy species, more often heard than seen.

#### **Piping Hornbill**

*Bycanistes fistulator*

Another common forest species that was recorded at most southern sites.

#### **White-thighed Hornbill**

*Bycanistes albotibialis*

Seen well on 2 consecutive days in the Sanaga River/Edea area.

#### **Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill**

*Ceratogymna atrata*

A single bird flew over the road to Edea, before we had better views in and near Korup NP.

#### **Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill**

*Ceratogymna elata*

We did well with this species, recording a number of them on the Mundemba road and then mainly hearing them in Korup NP.

### Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

#### **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**

*Bucorvus abyssinicus*

A pair of these huge ground birds was seen well in Benoue NP, as they strode through the woodlands.

### African Barbets Lybiidae

#### **Grey-throated Barbet**

*Gymnobucco bonapartei*

This bird was commonly encountered in the logged areas around the Sanaga River.

#### **Naked-faced Barbet**

*Gymnobucco calvus*

A fairly common forest species, we saw many on Mt. Cameroon and the base of Mt. Kupe.

#### **Speckled Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

We had fantastic views of this small barbet in the Sanaga River area, where it fed on small berries.

#### **Western bird**

*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

A single bird came in briefly on Mt Cameroon, where some got a sighting of it.

#### **Red-rumped Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus atroflavus*

A single distant bird was seen briefly, mostly in flight, while we heard many in the southern forests.

#### **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 birds near Mundemba.



**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus bilineatus*

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

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

We had a few good sightings of this small species in the Ngaoundere and Benoue areas.

**Yellow-spotted Barbet***Buccanodon duchaillui*

A beautiful Barbet, heard often and seen on 5 days of the tour in the southern forests.

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

This forest barbet was only heard on the Mundemba road.

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 sightings near Ngaoundere and in Benoue and near Waza NPs.

**White-headed Barbet***Lybius leucocephalus*

2 birds showed up at the last possible moment north of Garoua, on the way to the airport.

**Double-toothed Barbet***Lybius bidentatus*

A single bird was seen by one participant in dense woodland near Ngaoundere; similar to the next species.

**Bearded Barbet***Lybius dubius*

Often most easily found in fruiting trees, as they were on this tour in the Benoue NP region.

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

Another species that was very frequently heard, 2 birds were seen in the Edea/Sanaga area and again near Nyasoso – a very handsome and different-looking barbet.

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

A tricky little honeyguide that showed twice: at Rengo Camp inside the Korup NP forest and on the Mundemba Road, where we had better views.

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

This bird was seen drinking in Benoue NP, with another that showed in the Bamenda highlands.

**Thick-billed Honeyguide***Indicator conirostris*

Around 3 birds were seen and heard in the forests of Mt Cameroon, an uncommon species.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

Usually more common than the previous species, seen well at the Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Spotted Honeyguide***Indicator maculatus*

This bird never showed for a long time at either sighting; in the Bakossi Mountains and near Nyasoso.

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of a number of birds in Benoue NP, where they frequently came down to drink.

**Lyre-tailed Honeyguide***Melichneutes robustus*

This is a very sought-after species that we may well have found with more time...it was heard doing its display flight over the forest in Korup NP.

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

Africa's only piculet was seen very well on two occasions – on the first day in the Edea forests and then a pair at very close range in the Nyasoso farmbrush.





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

This woodpecker was seen on a number of occasions in Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

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

Uncommon in Cameroon, where it was seen in a mixed flock with the previous species.

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

Another very tricky species of which we had a single bird in the woodland just north of Ngaoundere.

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

This montane species was located first on Mt. Cameroon and then in the Bakossi Mountains.

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

We had fantastic close views of one bird in Nyasoso farmbush, after earlier views in Korup NP forests.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

After numerous birds were heard, we finally got views on Mt Cameroon and the Nyasoso areas.

**Gabon Woodpecker***Dendropicos gabonensis*

A small forest species that was seen well on this tour in the Edea area, Korup and Nyasoso.

*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.*

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

A very good-looking species, seen on Mt Cameroon and in the Bamenda Highlands.

**African Grey Woodpecker***Dendropicos goertae*

Small numbers were seen almost daily in the Benoue and Waza areas in the north.

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

Often a hard bird to find, although on this tour we had a number of good views in the drier woodlands around Ngaoundere and Benoue NP.

**Broadbills Eurylaimidae****African Broadbill***Smithornis capensis*

This is the least common of the three possible broadbill species in the country – we heard one in the Bakossi Mountains.

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

We were fortunate to find 4 different birds in the Bakossi and Mount Kupe areas; this is always one of the big targets for the tour in Cameroon.

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

Amazingly one of the participants found one when it got in the way of our Nkulengu Rail in Korup NP! On the following day we heard another individual.

**Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae****Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher***Bias musicus*

This characterful, hammer-headed flycatcher was observed well in the Mt. Kupe area, where male and female birds were seen on 4 consecutive days, including the very distinctive butterfly flight.

**Senegal Batis***Batis senegalensis*

Recorded on a number of occasions in the woodlands of Benoue NP and near Ngaoundere.

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

A single male was seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

*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*

This is sometimes a very tricky species – two birds were seen in the farbrush on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe, where they showed for extended periods.

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

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

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

One of Cameroon's most threatened endemics. We found 4 birds in the Bamenda Highlands' forest fragments, getting good views.

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophyia castanea*

This is the most common of the wattle-eyes that occurs in forest habitat and we recorded them in the Sanaga River area as well as around Korup NP.

**Black-necked Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophyia chalybea*

After much work and patience, hearing the bird very nearby for 2 days, some participants managed brief views in the Mount Kupe forests.

**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye** *Dyaphorophyia concreta*

This is a really stunning, but rather restless bird, which we had exceptional luck with as we located a pair on the lower reaches of Mt. Kupe, getting really good views.

### Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*

We had great views of several high-contrast flocks at Ngaoundaba Ranch and around 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 seen species. Most guests were fortunate enough to get good views of this bird on Mt. Kupe's lower slopes, where a single bird showed on our final morning.

**Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*

After just hearing this bird at Ngaoundaba Ranch, we managed good views in Benoue NP.

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

A very rare and seldom-seen species, we were fortunate to record a single bird on Mount Kupe, where it showed fairly well for a few of the participants after skulking around at close quarters in a flock in the Bakossi Mounains.

**Mount Kupe Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus kupeensis*

Possibly one of the biggest targets in the country - seen well by one of the guests in the Bakossi Mountains after it called at very close quarters for a while.

**Many-coloured Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus multicolor*

Another top bird in Cameroon – a single bird called and showed well on Mt. Kupe.

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

A total of 3 birds were seen over 2 days in the Kodmin and Mt. Kupe areas, where they inhabit canopies of taller trees.

**Orange (Sulphur)-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species that was heard only in the riverine thickets in Benoue NP.



**Marsh Tchagra***Bocagia minuta*

An uncommon species in Cameroon, where we found a responsive bird on the final day as we headed back towards Douala.

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

A single bird showed well after frustratingly moving through thick undergrowth as we returned to Kodmin village after a day in the Bakossi Mountains.

**Black-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra senegalus*

This bird was seen for around a week in the north of the country, where it is fairly common in the dry thickets, particularly in Benoue and Waza NPs.

**Sabine's Puffback***Dryoscopus sabini*

A pair was seen briefly in a large feeding flock in the Bakossi Mountains.

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

A pair surprised us on Mt. Cameroon, before we had more good views in Bakossi and Mt. Kupe forests.

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

This proved a tricky species on this tour – we recorded it on 2 days in the Mt. Kupe forests.

**Northern Puffback***Dryoscopus gambensis*

This bird is another fairly common inhabitant of the drier woodland in the north of Cameroon.

**Mountain Sooty Boubou***Laniarius poensis*

Single birds were found on Mt. Cameroon and in the Bakossi mountains.

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

**Lühder's Bushshrike***Laniarius luehderi*

A fairly commonly heard species in the farmbush habitat on Mt. Kupe, where we managed good views on the first afternoon.

**Tropical Boubou***Laniarius aethiopicus*

Seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again north of Ngaoundere, it likes thickets in these areas.

*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.*

**Yellow-crowned (Common) Gonolek***Laniarius barbarus*

On this tour it proved surprisingly easy, with at least 4 different areas producing sightings: north of Mora, and in 2 different locations in the Waza area – seen well, showing off its stunning plumage.

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

This beautiful bird was seen in the gallery forest along the Benoue River in Benoue NP, after we only glimpsed it at Ngaoundaba ranch.

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

Good numbers of these stunning and sometimes confiding shrikes were seen well on Mount Cameroon and in the Bamenda highlands – an endemic to the region.

**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

Small numbers of these widespread birds were located on 3 days in Benoue NP and just north.

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae****Grey Cuckooshrike***Coracina caesia*

Uncommon in Cameroon, we recorded these smart birds on Mount Cameroon and at Bokassi.

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

A pair was seen well near Ngaoundere, with more at Ngaoundaba Ranch on the following day; a beautiful and uncommon broad-leafed woodland species.

**Blue Cuckooshrike***Coracina azurea*

This striking lowland rainforest species was scoped in degraded forest near the Sanaga River, where 2 birds were seen.

**Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga phoenicea*

Gallery forest at the Ngaoundaba Ranch produced the first birds, before 2 more were seen in the Bakossi Mountains.

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

A single male was recorded on Mount Cameroon, with at least 6 further birds showing around Mt Kupe and Bakossi forest areas.

### Shrikes Laniidae

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

Only 2 birds were seen in open woodland near Benoue NP, where they crossed the road and were then found again and showed well in the scope for everyone.

**Emin's Shrike** *Lanius mackinnoni*

A top bird for any tour – a lovely pair was seen, loosely associated with a flock in the Benoue NP, they allowed a fairly close approach and great scope views.

**Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

A surprise bird for the tour – one was seen in the dry shrubs near the Benoue River, near Garoua.

**Mackinnon's Shrike** *Lanius mackinnoni*

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

**Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*

A total of 4 birds were seen in the dry woodlands in the far north of the country.

**Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis*

A widespread species but not encountered often on our tour, we had a few in the Bamenda highlands after first views in the Ngaoundere area.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

A single bird showed well in the far north of the country, where we enjoyed good views of this migrant.

**Masked Shrike** *Lanius nubicus*

Another bird that was only seen in the north, when we found 3 birds in a dry thickets just south of the Waza accommodations, also a migrant from eastern Europe.

### Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus*

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

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

Seen once briefly during our walk on Mount Cameroon, before it was heard in Korup NP.

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

Mount Kupe and Bakossi produced the first sightings, 2 more seen in the Bamenda highlands.

### 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 fairly often in Korup NP and surroundings, with further good sightings coming from Bakossi.

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar and ubiquitous bird. Good numbers were seen in Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP areas.

**Velvet-mantled Drongo** *Dicrurus modestus*

This recently split forest equivalent of the Fork-tailed Drongo was found near the Sanaga River and later in the Korup NP area.

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

### Monarchs Monarchidae

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

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

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

Heard only at Limbe Botanical Gardens, despite much time and effort.

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

Good views of this bright species were had in Korup NP and in the primary forest of Mt Kupe and Bakossi, it is possibly one of the most common flock members in these areas.

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

5 birds were seen over 3 days in the farmbrush around the base of Mount Kupe and in the Bakossi area.

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed good numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP; a very widespread species.

### Crows & Jays Corvidae

**Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer*

We had very good numbers of these birds on the way from Garoua to Ngaoundere, and on the next day nearer to Ngaoundaba Ranch – a special and very different corvid.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

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

### Rockfowl Picathartidae

**Grey-necked Rockfowl** *Picathartes oreas*

This was undoubtedly always one of the biggest highlights on the tour. A single bird showed up very late on the first day of the time we had in Korup NP, showing very well near our hide-out.

### Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

**African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, which constantly fans its tail as it feeds, 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 brief views of a single bird in the understory in Korup NP.

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

We had very good views of a few birds on Mt. Cameroon, with later sightings on Mt Kupe and Bakossi as well as in the Bamenda highlands, where one bird showed exceptionally well.

### Tits & Chickadees Paridae



**White-shouldered Black Tit** *Parus guineensis*

We found a few birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the Benoue NP area as we drove south.

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

**White-bellied Tit** *Parus albiventris*

Not a common species in Cameroon, where we encountered 2 birds near Lake Awing.

**Penduline Tits Remizidae****Yellow Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus parvulus*

A tiny bird that we saw very well in very dry woodland just south of Garoua, an uncommon species.

**Forest Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus flavifrons*

One of the biggest surprises of the tour – a single bird showed well but briefly on the road to Mundemba.

**Nicator Nicatoridae****Western Nicator** *Nicator chloris*

This vociferous songster was seen very well along the Mundemba Road, while we heard it very frequently in the same area, in Korup NP and Mt. Kupe.

**Larks Alaudidae****Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*

We had good views near the Benoue River and again near Mora of a few birds in fallow fields.

**Sun Lark** *Galerida modesta*

We had great views of 2 confiding birds, just south of Garoua on the first day in the north of the country.

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

This is a fairly common species of the dry north, with good numbers seen in and around Waza NP after first views of around 10 birds in dry woodland south of Garoua.

**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*

Encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

*NOTE: See above.*

**Cameroon (Mountain) Greenbul** *Arizelocichla montanus*

This rather uncommon species was seen briefly on Mt Cameroon and better in the Bamenda highlands.

**Western (Mountain) Greenbul** *Arizelocichla tephrolaema*

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 had great close-up views of this species that is more commonly seen in the canopy, while near the Sanaga River.

**Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens*

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

**Ansorge's Greenbul** *Eurillas ansorgei*

We got very good close up views of this species coming into fruit in the Sanaga River area.

**Plain Greenbul** *Eurillas curvirostris*

A single bird was seen in the Sanaga River degraded forest.

**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Eurillas latirostris*

Our first record was of a bird in the Sanaga River area; more were seen later in Korup and Nyasoso areas.

**Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*

This vocal species was seen briefly after much persistence in the forest in the Mt. Kupe farm bush.

**Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus*

Fairly common in forest canopy near the Sanaga and in the Korup and Mt. Kupe areas.

**Simple Greenbul** *Chlorocichla simplex*

Heard at close range and briefly seen by some participants in the thickets near the Sanaga River.

**Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)** *Atimastillas flavicollis*

A few birds were seen briefly at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Swamp Palm Bulbul (Greenbul)** *Thescelocichla leucopleura*

4 very vocal birds were seen well in some large palms on our way to Mundemba.

**Red-tailed Leaflove** *Phyllastrephus scandens*

Another bird more often heard than seen – we had glimpses in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Cameroon Olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus poensis*

A single bird was seen quite well but briefly during our walk up Mt. Cameroon.

**Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

A fairly commonly flock species, encountered in Korup NP and again on Mt Kupe.

**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*

After hearing this species, one responded briefly to its call and some participants caught a glimpse.

**Grey-headed Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*

Around 15 birds were seen in the Bakossi and Kupe Mountains over 2 days; endemic to the area.

**Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus*

A single bird was seen, showing well in the Korup forest, where more were heard during our time there.

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

Commoner than the previous species in Cameroon, we had excellent sightings of good numbers of this species, with everyone getting good views, a first bird was seen near the Sanaga River.

*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. It was heard fairly frequently and we saw a few birds well.

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

We found a number of birds that showed quite well, but were very active in Korup NP, where they are often in mixed feeding flocks.



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

Another Congo forest special, which we heard and saw well during our time near the Sanaga River.

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

This species, which is often associated with forest edge, was seen briefly on Mt. Cameroon and again around the base of Mt. Kupe, where many birds showed well.

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

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

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

Biggest numbers seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, with further sightings in the Mt. Kupe and Bakossi areas, Douala and the Bamenda highlands.

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

About 6 birds showed very well, flying very close to us above the Benoue River inside the National Park.

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

4 birds were seen well over fast-drying waterbodies in the Waza area.

**Banded Martin***Riparia cincta*

A single bird was seen in the open areas of Waza NP.

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

A common species during the tour.

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 at scattered locations – seen on 9 days of the tour.

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

Biggest numbers were recorded at La Digue, with more along the Benoue River.

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

**White-bibbed(-throated Blue) Swallow** *Hirundo nigrita*

2 birds were seen briefly as we crossed a bridge, heading towards Mount Cameroon.

**Rock Martin***Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

This dark hirundine was seen in small numbers in the Bamenda highlands, north of Maroua and on Mt Cameroon.

**Lesser Striped Swallow***Cecropis abyssinica*

A widespread African swallow that is fairly common in much of Cameroon.

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

5 days produced sightings of this species, scattered locations included Sanaga and benoue Rivers as well as the Mundemba area.

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

Around 5 birds were seen in the far north around Waza NP.

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 easily the most common aerial feeder on the tour, with huge numbers on the Mundemba road and near the Sanaga River.

**Forest Swallow** *Petrochelidon fuliginosa*

We had a great experience with this species – at least 6 of them sat together on a single rockfowl nest in the late afternoon as we waited for the nest-builder in Korup NP.

### Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae

**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

This attractive warbler, a denizen of rank grass, was seen very well on the day inside Benoue NP.

**Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker, this bird was heard frequently in southern forests, where we saw one bird in Korup NP.

**Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*

Another commonly heard species that was seen well in Korup.

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of the northern woodlands, where it was commonly seen.

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, the open forest at the Sanaga river and at Mt Kupe.

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

A very tricky little forest species that was briefly seen by one of the participants.

### Cettia bush warblers & allies Cettidae

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

We were fortunate to record this distinctive canopy species on three days of the tour on the Mundemba road and the Bakossi area.

**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina*

One of the most frequently heard birds of the forest zone, seen near the Sanaga River, on the Mundemba road and in the Mt Kupe area.

**Tit Hylia** *Pholidornis rushiae*

This, Africa's smallest bird, was seen first near the Sanaga River and again in the farmbush of Mt. Kupe.

### Leaf warblers & allies Phylloscopidae

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

Another regional endemic, after a single bird was seen on Mt Cameroon, we recorded more in the great forests around Kodmin and Mt Kupe.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Commonly recorded on the tour, with highest numbers in the north and scattered sightings in the south.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

We got some great views of birds on Mt. Cameroon and then in the Bakossi and Mt. Kupe areas.

### Reed warblers & allies Acrocephalidae

**Greater Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

Good views of a number of these normally skulking birds, Ngaoundaba Ranch and near Nyasoso.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

A single bird showed very well in some scrubby habitat near the Bamenda highlands.



**Sedge Warbler***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

We had a few birds during the tour – Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and along the Mundemba Road.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Seen and heard in the Ngaoundere area and on the last day on the way to Douala.

**Dark-capped (African) Yellow Warbler***Chloropeta natalensis*

This is a particularly uncommon species in the country and we were fortunate to good but brief views of a single bird in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Western Olivaceous Warbler***Iduna opaca*

2 birds were finally seen after much searching in the thorny woodland to the north of Waza NP.

**Grassbirds & allies Megaluridae****Fan-tailed Grassbird***Schoenicola brevirostris*

Another uncommon species in Cameroon, we enjoyed great views of a single bird in the grasslands near the village of Kodmin.

**Little Rush Warbler***Bradypterus baboecala*

3 incredibly shy and skulking birds were coaxed out of hiding to give reasonable views on the outskirts of the town of Nyasoso.

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

We were very fortunate to get great views of a bird that sang just metres away on Mt Cameroon, where we obtained good views and heard many more.

**Bangwa Forest (Scrub) Warbler***Bradypterus bangwaensis*

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

**Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae****Red-faced Cisticola***Cisticola erythrops*

A fairly distinctive species that was sighted in tall grass in the riverine woodland belt along the Benoue River.

**Singing Cisticola***Cisticola cantans*

We had great views of a single calling bird on the Bemenda highlands, as we headed back to Douala.

**Whistling Cisticola***Cisticola lateralis*

Seen well on 2 days in the Benoue NP and Ngaoundaba Ranch areas.

**Chattering Cisticola***Cisticola anonymus*

Common in small numbers were seen at scattered locations throughout the southern part of the tour.

**Chubb's Cisticola***Cisticola chubbi*

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

*NOTE: Some authorities split the West 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.*

**Rock-loving Cisticola***Cisticola emini*

2 birds were seen fairly well on the rocky slopes of a mountain to the north of Maroua.

**Winding Cisticola***Cisticola marginatus*

Single birds were seen around the edges of both Dang and Dschang Lakes.

*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.*

**Stout Cisticola***Cisticola robustus*

A few birds were seen in moist scrubby habitat on the way to Douala on the final day.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

6 birds were seen over 2 days in the Benoue NP, where they like a grassland/woodland mosaic.

**Red-pate Cisticola** *Cisticola ruficeps*

The common small cisticola of the arid northern stunted woodlands.

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

3 birds were seen well in the open woodlands in Benoue NP.

**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*

Another bird that enjoys Benoue's grassy woodlands, where we found them on 3 consecutive days.

**Rufous Cisticola** *Cisticola rufus*

Seen on 3 days, with first records in Guinea Savannah in the Benoue NP area.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

2 birds were seen well in the cultivated area along the Benoue River – the most widespread cisticola.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*

Seen in very dry grassland in Waza NP.

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

A very good area to look for this species is in short grassland near Lake Awing, where we heard and saw a number of these tiny birds.

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

Very common in the northern and central parts of Cameroon.

**River Prinia** *Prinia fluviatilis*

This species is virtually indistinguishable from the previous species, except by call. We recorded it well in the Waza NP area.

**Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*

A very vocal but shy species that was seen fleetingly on Mt Cameroon and in the Mt. Kupe/ bakossi areas.

**White-chinned Prinia** *Schistolais leucopogon*

More widespread and common than the previous species, with birds seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, near Ngaoundere and in Limbe Botanical gardens.

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

We had good views of a single bird in Benoue NP, this is often a tricky species.

**Green Longtail** *Urolais epichlorus*

Good numbers of around a dozen birds were seen well on Mt Cameroon.

**Black-collared Apalis** *Oreolais pulchra*

A beautiful Apalis, we saw at least 8 birds on our day in the Bamenda highlands.

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

We enjoyed very good views of a few pairs of this smart species at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

**Cricket Longtail** *Spiloptila clamans*

2 birds were seen after only a brief search of the habitat for this species; a highly sought-after anywhere.

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

Ngaoundaba Ranch provided us with views of a few of this widespread species.

**Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*

Heard only on Mout Cameroon.

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

Another lovely species that never came close enough for us to see it – heard in the Mt. Kupe farmbrush.



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

3 birds were seen well in the upper reaches of the Mount Kupe farm bush, another stunning apalis species.

**Bamenda Apalis***Apalis bamendae*

A gallery forest species that was only heard and then seen at the Ngaoundaba Ranch, a special endemic.

**Grey Apalis***Apalis cinerea*

Mt Cameroon, the Bakossi mountains and Bamenda highlands provided views of this canopy species.

**Oriole Warbler***Hypergerus atriceps*

This unusual creature was seen well in riverine vegetation in Benoue NP, where they also came to drink in the drying puddles and riverbed.

**Grey-(Green-)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 often bold species was very well seen near the Sanaga River and again along the Mundemba Road.

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

This species was often heard, a very responsive bird showed well in the Sanaga River area and we had another in the Bakossi forests.

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

Another skulking vocalist that showed well but briefly in the Bakossi Mountains.

**White-tailed Warbler***Poliolais lopesi*

A montane species that is endemic to the southwestern mountains of Cameroon, which can be very tricky to find. 2 birds were seen very briefly in the Bakossi Mountains.

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

An uncommon species in Cameroon, a single bird was recorded in the dry scrub to the north of Mora.

**Senegal Eremomela***Eremomela pusilla*

A common species recorded in broad-leaved woodlands during the first part of the northern section of the tour, around Ngaoundere and in Benoue NP.

*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 were lucky with this species on this tour, getting good views near the Sanaga River, the Mundemba Road and the Nyasoso areas.

### **Fulvettas & Ground Babblers Pellorneidae**

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

A noisy and restless species that is very tough to see well. We were lucky to get good views of 2 excited birds in gallery forest at the Ngaoundaba Ranch.

**Blackcap Illadopsis***Illadopsis cleaveri*

2 birds were showing very well briefly on a log, during our walk out of Korup NP.

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

Single birds were seen on all three days we were in Korup NP, never showing very well.



**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens*  
Another very shy bird that was seen briefly in a feeding flock in Korup NP.

### Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

**White-throated Mountain Babbler** *Kupeornis gilberti*  
A few of these special and range-restricted birds were seen well in the high-lying Bakossi forests.

**Blackcap Babbler** *Turdoides reinwardtii*  
Another shy bird that we did very well with, getting views in the Ngaoundaba Ranch area and then later again in riverine thickets in Benoue NP.

**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 had good views of this species on Mt. Cameroon.  
*Note: This species is sometimes split from African Hill Babbler, P. abyssinica. Clements does not accept this split.*

**African Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe atriceps*  
This is a black-headed version of the previous species that was seen in relict forest patches in the Bamenda highlands.

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*  
A single bird was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, with 4 more in forest on the Bamenda Highlands.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*  
A single bird was seen well in dense woodland in the Bamenda highlands

**Common (Greater) Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*  
We had good views of this species in the far north in Cameroon, where they were fairly frequently seen.

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*  
A single female was seen briefly by some in the acacia woodland north of Waza NP.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**Mount Cameroon Spierops** *Spierops melanocephalus*  
This Mount Cameroon endemic showed well once we reached the area around the treeline. A total of around 10 birds were seen by all who got to the area.

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*  
Regularly encountered in moist habitat, we found good numbers at many scattered locations.  
*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.*

### Hyliotas Hylotiidae

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster*  
We recorded small numbers of these birds in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

**Southern Hyliota** *Hyliota australis*  
2 birds were seen in the farmbrush at Mt. Kupe – the precise identity of these birds is still somewhat of a mystery, but are thought to be this species currently.



### Treecreepers Certhiidae

#### **Spotted Creeper**

*Salpornis spilonotus*

We had fantastic views of 5 birds in total while birding in woodland at Benoue NP area – occasionally this is treated as a monotypic family.

### Starlings Sturnidae

#### **Purple-headed (Glossy) Starling**

*Hylopsar purpureiceps*

We recorded a pair of this forest species on 2 days in the farmbrush on Mt Kupe slopes.

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

*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Seen in small numbers in the dry woodlands in the north of Cameroon.

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

*Lamprotornis chloropterus*

We found good numbers of this species in woodlands near Ngaoundere.

#### **Bronze-tailed (Glossy) Starling**

*Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had superb views of this species in broad-leaved woodland near Ngaoundere's escarpment.

#### **Splendid (Glossy) Starling**

*Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling was seen on a number of days during our tour.

#### **Purple (Glossy) Starling**

*Lamprotornis purpureus*

Very good numbers were seen in the woodland north of Ngaoundere, where we had them over 4 days.

#### **Long-tailed Glossy Starling**

*Lamprotornis caudatus*

Seen well in the far north of the country, where we got some great views of this special species.

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

*Lamprotornis pulcher*

The common starling in dry woodland south of Waza NP.

#### **Violet-backed Starling**

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Seen on 3 consecutive days in the area around Ngaoundere, always a big favourite for its colours.

#### **Chestnut-winged Starling**

*Onychognathus fulgidus*

After we had a pair in Limbe area, we found more birds in the Bakossi/ Mt Kupe areas.

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

*Onychognathus walleri*

5 birds were seen on Mt Cameroon, with another sighting of 2 birds in the Bamenda area.

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

*Onychognathus neumanni*

About 8 birds were seen very well, feeding on a group of fruiting trees above the city of Bamenda.

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

*Poeoptera lugubris*

4 birds were briefly seen in flight in the slopes of Mt Cameroon.

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

*Grafisia torquata*

A regional speciality, which we saw well on a few occasions in the Ngaoundaba Ranch grounds.

### Oxpeckers Buphagidae

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

*Buphagus africanus*

A few birds were seen in the far north on animals in Waza NP, 2 more birds were seen on some domestic animals in the Bamenda area.

### Thrushes Turdidae

#### **White-tailed Rufous (Ant) Thrush**

*Neocossyphus poensis*

We were surprised by great views of one bird in the open Sanaga forest, with other birds seen in the deep forest in Korup NP later.

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



About 7 birds were seen over 4 days in Korup and the Bakossi and Mt Kupe forests, where it feeds in the canopy.

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

We got a very close but brief look of a single bird, with many more heard in the forests around the Mt Kupe and Bakossi areas.

**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*

Only about 3 birds were seen attending antswarms in Korup NP, where others were heard too.

*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*

2 birds were very relaxed and showed in the open on the walk on Mt Cameroon, usually shy and skulking.

### Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**Forest Robin** *Stiphornis erythrothorax*

A tiny and shy forest interior species that was seen well by most participants in Korup NP.

*NOTE: Forest Robin is sometimes split into up to 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.*

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

3 birds were seen in the Bakossi Mountains and the lower slopes of Mount Kupe.

**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

While birding the woodland south of Waza NP, a single bird was seen, a second bird showed up later in the Dschang area, near the lake.

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

2 birds were seen in the canopy in the Bakossi forests.

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

Very good views of this regional specialty were enjoyed on Mount Cameroon and the Bamenda Highlands.

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

This shy bird was heard only a number of times around Ngaoundaba Ranch, we could not get it to show itself though.

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

This bird proved to be quite common and showed very well in benoue NP and Mt Kupe/ Bakossi and the Bamenda Highlands.

**White-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha albicapilla*

A very large *Cossypha*, that showed very well around waterpoints near the Benoue River.

**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia galactotes*

Fairly common in the far north, with records over 3 days.

**Black Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*

This bird is a wonderfully common and beautiful bird in the northern parts of Cameroon, where we encountered good numbers during our birding north of Mora.

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Surprisingly common, with single birds spotted near Ngaoundere and then more in the far north.



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- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*  
Seen in good numbers in a nd around Benoue NP and the Bamenda Highlands.
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*  
3 birds were seen high up on Mt Cameroon, with good numbers in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Heuglin's Wheatear** *Oenanthe heuglini*  
A total of around 8 birds were seen well, mainly around Benoue NP and the dry areas north of Mora.
- Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
Small numbers were seen in the far northern portion of our tour.
- Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*  
We encountered small numbers in open habitat in Benoue NP.
- (Northern) Anteater Chat** *Myrmecocichla aethops*  
We encountered a family group of around 8 birds near Waza NP.
- White-fronted Black Chat** *Pentholaea albifrons*  
This is a very scarce bird in Cameroon and we were extremely fortunate to find a pair that showed very well in woodland at Benoue NP.
- White-crowned (Mocking) Cliff Chat** *Thamnolaea coronata*  
3 birds were seen in very rocky slope habitat just to the north of Maroua.
- White-browed Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria cinerascens*  
A single bird was seen briefly along one of the rivers in Korup NP.
- Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides*  
A common species in the Guinea Savannah to the south of Garoua.
- Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*  
This proved a common species in dry Guinea Savannah during the tour and we recorded it on 7 days.
- Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*  
A migrant from Eurasia, seen in Benoue NP and in Limbe Botanical Gardens.
- Gambaga Flycatcher** *Muscicapa gambagae*  
A single bird was seen well at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica*  
4 birds were seen in their typical waterside habitat along the river in Benoue NP.
- Cassin's Flycatcher** *Muscicapa cassini*  
Another riverside inhabitant, this time in forest habitat. Birds were seen well in Limbe Botanical Gardens and from the Mundemba bridge.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*  
A common forest-edge species encountered in Benoue NP, on Mt. Cameroon and in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Yellow-footed Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sethsmithi*  
Always a favourite, this endearing little bird was seen very well a few times on Mt. Kupe.
- Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata*  
A quiet, inconspicuous bird, we had great views around the farmbrush on Mt. Kupe.
- Sooty Flycatcher** *Muscicapa infusate*  
Sometimes an uncommon species – seen well on the Mundemba Road, at our forest campsite in Korup NP and near Nyasoso.
- Grey Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*  
2 birds were seen very well during our drive along the Mundemba Road, heading towards Mt Kupe.
- European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
A few birds were seen well in the Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP areas.
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### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

- Fraser's (Scarlet-tufted) Sunbird** *Deleornis fraseri*  
A confusing species that often looks more like a greenbul or a warbler than a sunbird; we had good views inside Korup forest and on the Mundemba road.
- Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird** *Anthreptes gambonicus*  
We spent a lot of time waiting for this bird to show up in the gardens of La Digue, when a pair finally appeared, they gave us good and extended views, feeding on flowers.
- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*  
A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we found good numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch, near Ngaoundere and in Benoue NP.
- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*  
A few birds were seen on the Mundemba Road; rather plain and nondescript.
- Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*  
A common species of degraded forest in the Edea and Mundemba Road areas.  
*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*  
Another common forest species – seen at many of the sites in the south of the country.
- Pygmy Sunbird** *Hedydipna platura*  
A fairly common sunbird of the dry north when the trees are in flower, we recorded it daily here.
- Reichenbach's Sunbird** *Anabathmis reichenbachii*  
A regional speciality, seen along the Sanaga River, Limbe and the La Digue part of Douala.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*  
Seen at scattered sites with more open forest/ woodland habitat; first record at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*  
A very large sunbird that was seen in fair numbers along the Mundemba Road.
- Cameroon Sunbird** *Cyanomitra oritis*  
Our first sighting of this lovely species was of a number of birds on Mt. Cameroon, in Bakossi and the Bamenda Highlands.
- Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*  
This is fairly common in the southern forests, a fairly drab and long-billed sunbird.  
*NOTE: The Olive-Sunbird species complex is sometimes split into two full species, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird C. olivacea and the form which we recorded in Cameroon, Western Olive-Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence or lack thereof, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various subspecies within the complex.*
- Carmelite Sunbird** *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*  
This rather striking sunbird, restricted to coastal areas, was seen at the last minute in the La Digue gardens.
- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*  
Birds were seen on 3 days: in Limbe Botanical Gardens, on the Mundemba Road and in Dschang.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
Frequently seen in woodland south of Garoua, where we had great views of this beauty.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*  
This is a typical forest edge species, seen at scattered sites during the southern portion of the tour.
- Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus*  
Good views of three birds were enjoyed on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe.
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi*



Seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and near Ngaoundere as well as on Mt Cameroon.

**Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*

This exquisite sunbird is found only in the drier northern savanna, where we enjoyed good sightings.

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

This is a rather uncommon species throughout its range; we were fortunate to locate a few birds in Bakossi and Bamenda highlands.

**Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*

Birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and later in the Benoue NP, where they showed well.

**Johanna's Sunbird** *Cinnyris johannae*

A species that reaches its eastern range limit here – seen on 2 days in Korup NP and the Mundemba Road.

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*

First seen near the Sanaga River, with later sightings around the Mundemba area.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*

Small numbers were around the Ngaoundere region and to the north of Maroua.

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

Around 5 birds showed well in the forest at the top of the Bakossi Mountains.

**Bates's Sunbird** *Cinnyris batesi*

A single bird showed briefly on the last morning in the Nyasoso area.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*

Single birds were seen near Dang Lake and again on the way to the Bamenda Highlands.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

**Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser superciliosus*

Our sightings of this species were in Benoue NP and surrounds, seen well.

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*

Cameroon's commonest sparrow was abundant 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*

Fairly common in the north of the country, most birds seen north of Ngaoundere.

### Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

**White-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis albirostris*

This massive weaver was seen in dry scrub north of Maroua around their obvious nests.

**Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*

This is an attractive little weaver was seen very well and in good numbers in far northern Cameroon.

**Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*

This species was seen in small numbers at a few higher-lying sites: at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the Bamenda highlands.

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

This range restricted and endangered bird was seen very well in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Slender-billed Weaver** *Ploceus pelzelni*

A single breeding-plumage male was seen very well in the general Nyasoso area.

**Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*

This diminutive dry-country weaver was seen fairly frequently in the northern savannah belt.



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- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*  
Small numbers were seen frequently throughout, particularly in Benoue and Nyasoso areas.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*  
Numbers were seen around the country at scattered locations.
- Black-billed Weaver** *Ploceus melanogaster*  
A very distinctive weaver, this forest fringe bird was seen well on Mt. Cameroon and the Bamenda Highlands.
- Heuglin's Masked Weaver** *Ploceus heuglini*  
We had very good views of a few birds in the Benoue NP area.
- 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.*
- Viillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*  
Flocks of this distinctive species were noted at all localities in the southern lowlands of Cameroon.
- Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*  
This lovely, uncommon species was seen in the Sanaga River area and then along the Mundemba Road.
- Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*  
This bicolored bird was seen in good numbers on Mt Cameroon and the Bakossi mountains.
- Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*  
A few birds showed well in the Bamenda highlands, where we had birds nest-building.
- Cassin's (Black-throated) Malimbe** *Malimbus cassini*  
3 birds were seen very well just metres away as we were about to leave the Sanaga River forest.
- Red-vented Malimbe** *Malimbus scutatus*  
First seen in the degraded forest near the Sanaga, with more seen later on the Mundemba Road.
- Blue-billed (Gray's) Malimbe** *Malimbus nitens*  
A few birds were seen in Korup NP and the Mundemba Road, often around mixed flocks.
- Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*  
Another malimbe we found near the Sanaga River, with more records later around Korup and the Mundemba Road.
- Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*  
This is a fairly common species, although we only recorded a small number of birds inside Korup NP and on the Mundemba road.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*  
This species was encountered on a few days in and around Benoue NP.
- Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*  
2 birds were seen well in the tall grass, sporting pink cheeks.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*  
This, maybe the most abundant bird in the world was seen in huge numbers in Waza NP.
- Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordaeceus*  
Shown well in the Benoue NP area as well as in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Northern Red (Orange) Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*  
Seen near Dang Lake and in Waza NP around the waterholes.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*  
A number of birds were found on Mount Cameroon and later in the Bamenda Highlands.
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**Fan-tailed Widowbird***Euplectes axillaris*

Non-breeding birds sporting orange shoulder patches showed well near a stream on the way to Douala.

**Yellow-mantled Widowbird***Euplectes macrourus*

Good numbers of these birds were seen coming in to waterholes around the Benoue NP area.

**Marsh Widowbird***Euplectes hartlaubi*

2 birds were seen in the scrubby edge around Dang Lake, where everyone had good views.

### Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

**Woodhouse's Antpecker***Parmoptila woodhousei*

A big surprise was getting this species in the farmbush on the lower slopes of Mt. Kupe, where one of the participants spotted it and it gave good views.

**White-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)***Nigrita fusconotus*

We had good views on a number of days at scattered location in the south of the country.

**Chestnut-breasted Nigrita (Negrofinch)***Nigrita bicolor*

This attractive seedeater was seen first in the Sanaga River area, with others showing later in Mount Kupe's farmbush.

**Pale-fronted Nigrita (Negrofinch)***Nigrita luteifrons*

3 separate sightings were enjoyed in the Sanaga River area, Limbe Botanical Gardens and at Nyasoso.

**Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch)***Nigrita canicapillus*

This is the most common and widespread nigrita, widespread sightings in the south.

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

This beautiful little bird was noted a few times on Mt. Cameroon where we had great views.

**Grey-headed Oliveback***Nesocharis capistrata*

Sometimes tougher to see than the previous species, it showed incredibly well at Ngaoundaba Ranch and coming in to waterholes along the Benoue River.

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

This uncommon species was well seen in Benoue NP, where it came down to water in a drying riverbed.

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

Another very special seedeater that was seen well, coming down to water in Benoue NP.

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

Seen well in good numbers in the far north of the country, where we had it on 4 consecutive days.

**Cut-throat Finch***Amadina fasciata*

2 birds south of Garoua before we had good numbers of this great little bird near the Waza NP.

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

2 birds were seen well on Mt. Cameroon, where they were feeding on the edge of the path.

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

We did very well with this species – seeing it on 3 days with great views at the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

**Western Bluebill***Spermophaga haematina*

Seen in Limbe and in the Kodmin area.

**Brown Twinspot***Clystospiza monteiri*

This species was seen well near Dang Lake and again at the Ngaoundaba Ranch; seen in scrubby habitat.

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

This species is highly sought-after and we had really good views where they came down to water in Benoue NP.

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

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

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

We had a number of superb sightings of this bird, with highest numbers at a few sites just north of Ngaoundere, Dang Lake allowed for the closest approach.

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

Good numbers of this very widespread species were seen in the far north of Cameroon.

**Rock Firefinch** *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*

We had an amazing number of these birds – maybe around 30 that showed on rocky slopes, north of Garoua.

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

An uncommon firefinch, which is best observed in Benoue NP, where the local race has all-grey underparts. We did very well to total good views of 4 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 single bird was seen by some just north of Maroua.

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

This was a common species of forest edge and scrub throughout all but the dry north.

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

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

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

A small flock of these widespread birds was seen in scrubby habitat near Lake Awing.

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

This is an attractive species that was found to be fairly 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. Much less common than the previous species, seen near the Sanaga River and La Digue.

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

We had some amazing views of this tiny species near the banks of the Benoue River where they came to drink and showed very well.

**African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*

Seen well in the dry north of Cameroon, where they often came down to drink at the waterholes.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*

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

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

Seen on a number of days in the southern parts of the country, first seen at the Sanaga River.

*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 seen near the Sanaga River and on the Mundemba Road.

**Sahel (Northern) Paradise Whydah** *Vidua orientalis*

2 non-breeding birds were seen near waterholes in Waza NP, where they came to drink.

**Exclamatory (Long-tailed) Paradise Whydah** *Vidua interjecta*

2 birds were seen in Benoue NP, where they showed well, but were in non-breeding plumage.

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Huge numbers of these Palearctic migrants were seen well throughout the tour.

**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

A single bird was seen on the day we spent around the Bamenda Highlands.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

A few birds were seen on the tour – along the Sanaga River and along the Benoue River.

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

A single bird was seen fairly well in the grass on the edge of Dang Lake.

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus cameroonensis*

4 birds were seen in the grasslands near Lake Awing in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*

We found this species in the very dry shrubland to the north of Mora.

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

The first 3 birds were seen on the grasslands at the Douala airport.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Good numbers were seen in the woodland around Benoue NP and Ngaoundaba Ranch in particular.

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

5 birds, some in good plumage were seen well near Garoua along the banks of the benoue River.

### Finches Fringillidae

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

We had good looks at this rather plain and non-descript seedeater in the Garoua and Waza areas.

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

This species was seen in small numbers on 9 scattered days during the tour.

**West African Seedeater** *Crithagra gularis*

3 of these uncommon birds were seen coming down to water in the almost dry riverbed in Benoue NP.

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

2 birds were seen at the tree line on Mt Cameroon, with others in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Oriole Finch** *Linurgus olivaceus*

This beautiful and endearing species was seen very well on Mt. Cameroon, with a few more seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

### Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

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

We had great views of birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP, before we had more good views on the rocky slopes just north of Maroua.

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

This widespread species is uncommon here - we had great views on 2 days in the far north.



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

2 birds were seen well during our drive south from Garoua in open burnt woodland.

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

A total of 6 birds were seen in 2 days in Benoue's Guinea Savannah.

**Mammals (38 species)**

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

**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.

**Drill***Mandrillus leucophaeus*

This endangered species was heard only, fairly close in the Korup NP.

**Patas Monkey***Cercopithecus patas*

A few of these long-limbed communal monkeys were seen in the open areas of Waza NP.

**Tantalus Monkey***Cercopithecus tantalus*

We observed this species on 2 days in the Benoue NP area.

**Mona Monkey***Cercopithecus mona*

A well-marked species that was seen near the hartlaub's Duck pond and later on the Mundemba Road.

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

This species was heard calling daily in Korup NP.

**Galagos Galagonidae****Senegal Galago***Galago senegalensis*

This is common northern woodland galago, which was seen well a few times in Benoue NP.

**Thomas's Galago***Galago thomasi*

A bushbaby of deep forest, seen on our walk back from the Rockfowl in Korup NP.

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

Seen well and in good numbers in the general area of the Ibis Hotel in Douala.

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

A single was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and another 2 showed well in the far north, hanging in an Acacia.

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

We had a good number of these dark reddish rats in the forest undergrowth on the way up Mt Cameroon.

### Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

#### **Scrub Hare**

*Lepus saxatilis*

Seen on a number of occasions at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Beoue NP, all at night.

### Squirrels Sciuridae

#### **Striped Ground Squirrel**

*Euxerus erythropus*

A few were seen very briefly in and near Waza NP.

#### **Lady Burton's Rope Squirrel**

*Funisciurus isabella*

Seen briefly both in forest near the Sanaga River and on the Mount Cameroon day.

#### **Green Squirrel**

*Paraxerus poensis*

This rather plain squirrel was seen frequently in the south of Cameroon.

#### **Red-legged Sun Squirrel**

*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*

A large and fairly distinctive species that was seen near the Sanaga and in Ngaoundaba gallery forest.

#### **African Giant Squirrel**

*Protoxerus stangeri*

Seen on 2 days in the Korup forest area.

### Dogs & Allies Canidae

#### **Common (Golden) Jackal**

*Canis aureus*

5 were seen well in the far north, inside and near Waza NP.

#### **Sand Fox**

*Vulpes pallida*

This is a species classified as data deficient – we got incredible views near Waza NP during short night drives we did in the area.

### Mongoose Herpestidae

#### **Egyptian Mongoose**

*Herpestes ichneumon*

A species that is not seen often at all, we had 2 sightings – in Benoue and Waza NPs – both during nightdrives.

#### **Banded Mongoose**

*Mungos mungo*

We had good views of a few large colonies in the dry woodland in Waza NP.

#### **Marsh Mongoose**

*Atilax paludinosus*

2 animals were seen well during a nightdrive out of our Waza accommodation.

#### **White-tailed Mongoose**

*Ichneumia albicauda*

Amazingly another large nocturnal mongoose species in the Waza NP area that was seen well during one of our drive here.

### Genets & Civets Viverridae

#### **Common Genet**

*Genetta genetta*

We had a total of around 10 of these nocturnal omnivores during our 2 nightdrives in the Waza NP area. This is an amazing density of these widespread animals.

#### **Blotched Genet**

*Genetta tigrina*

2 individuals were seen in Benoue NP during nightdrives – a very tricky group to identify well.

### Cats Felidae





**African Wild Cat***Felis sylvestris*

We were lucky again to see 2 of these cats in the Waza NP area, unfortunately it is impossible to say if they have some domestic cat genes, but both of these animals we saw had the typical wild cat features.

**Serval***Felis serval*

Not commonly seen in Cameroon – we again managed 2 sightings – one incredible close and open view in Benoue NP and later another the tall grass of Waza NP. A beautiful and elegant cat.

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

Common at the Hippo pools site in Benoue NP, where they are great to watch in scenic surroundings.

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

This is a rather familiar savanna species that we found in very small numbers in Benoue NP.

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

These bizarre animals were seen well on 5 consecutive days in the Benoue and Waza NPs.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae****Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

2 or 3 animals were seen near the Benoue River, where they hide incredibly well in the thickets.

**Bush Duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

A few of these very widespread and common members of the mainly forest-dwelling duiker group were seen in Benoue NP.

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

Good numbers were seen in Benoue NP, a well-marked and distinctive species.

**Oribi***Ourebia ourebi*

Around 4 of these small antelope were recorded in the more open and grassy areas of Benoue NP.

**Kob***Kobus kob*

This was a particularly common mammal in Benoue NP where daily totals exceed 20 during all the days we spent in the area.

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

A handful of these dainty animals were seen fairly well, although they were always in a hurry to get away from our vehicle and they were mainly seen running.

**Topi (Tsessebe)***Damaliscus lunatus*

We observed this distinctive antelope a few times in Waza NP, with good numbers seen from the main road that skirts the park's border.

**Roan Antelope***Hippotragus equinus*

A very large and sought-after species that prefers tall grass, we recorded a few animals in both Benoue and Waza NPs.



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**Rockjumper Birding Tours CC**

**Worldwide Birding Adventures**

Registration number 2001/059480/23

**PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa**

**Tel: +27 33 394 0225**

**Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225**

**Email: [info@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:info@rockjumperbirding.com)**

**Alternative Email: [rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com](mailto:rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.rockjumperbirding.com](http://www.rockjumperbirding.com)**

