



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Cameroon

Rockfowl, Rainforests & Sahel

12th March to 2nd April 2013



Green-breasted Bushshrike in the Bakossi Mountains by Paul Ellis

Trip report compiled by Tour Leaders: David Hoddinott & Glen Valentine

Tour Summary:

With its wealth of endemics, diverse habitats that includes vast tracts of pristine lowland and montane rainforest, semi desert and guinea savanna, combined with having a bird list of over 900 species, it is easy to understand why Cameroon holds the very prestigious title of being one of Africa's premier birding destinations! A multitude of very rarely seen west and central African species as well as a host of Sahelian specialties can be most easily seen in this birding mecca country and we were treated to unbeatable encounters with many of these much desired avian gems during our tour. Despite the Waza area being temporarily out of commission, we still managed to rack up a very impressive total of 572 species, which included noteworthy mega ticks such as the strange Grey-necked Rockfowl (Picathartes), Quail-plover, Cricket Warbler, Scissor-tailed Kite, immaculate Egyptian Plover, Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, Cassin's Hawk-Eagle, Fox Kestrel, White-spotted



Grey-necked Rockfowl by Paul Ellis

Flufftail, Greater Painted-snipe, Adamawa Turtle Dove, handsome and extremely localized Bannerman's Turaco, Fraser's Eagle-Owl, outstanding Standard-winged Nightjar, very rare Black Spinetail, Chocolate-backed and African Dwarf Kingfishers, impressive Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill, miniscule African Piculet, Banded, Black-necked and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes, Fiery-breasted and Green-breasted Bushshrikes, stunning Blue Cuckooshrike, dazzling Yellow-breasted Boubou, 24 species of greenbul, Mountain Sawwing, Forest and White-bibbed Swallows, Tit Hylia (Africa's smallest bird), Bangwa Forest Warbler, Bamenda Apalis, Oriole Warbler, Spotted Thrush-Babbler, White-throated Mountain Babbler, Neumann's and White-collared Starlings, Heuglin's Wheatear, rarely seen Gambaga Flycatcher, an incredible 26 species of sunbird, Bannerman's and Preuss's Weavers, Cassin's and mind-blowing Rachel's Malimbés, Woodhouse's Antpecker, delightful and extremely range-restricted Shelley's Oliveback, Yellow-winged Pytilia, Brown and Dybowski's Twinspots, Black-faced and Rock Firefinches, sensational Black-bellied Seedcracker, and scope views of all three possible broadbills (Rufous-sided, Grey-headed and African) displaying! Incredible birding indeed! Here is a summary of our adventures and sightings...



Egyptian Plover by Paul Ellis

Our mammoth three week birding adventure kicked off in the humid lowlands of Douala, where a visit to the nearby coastline at La Digue produced an array of exciting introductory species. These included

Carmelite, Mangrove, Green-headed and Reichenbach's Sunbirds, Blue-breasted Kingfisher, Chattering Cisticola, White-chinned Prinia, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Yellow-throated Leaflove, an out-of-range Western Olivaceous Warbler, Western Reef Heron, Royal Tern over the estuary, Blue-spotted Wood Dove and our first of many Grey Parrots. A visit to the nearby Douala Airport gave us the target species, Long-legged Pipit, and in the afternoon a short walk through the suburbs near the Ibis Hotel yielded the rather localized Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher. A wonderful beginning to the tour with some lovely species encountered!

Everyone had finally arrived after a few delayed flights through Europe due to icy conditions, and so we boarded our first internal flight out of Douala to the town of Garoua in central Cameroon, the gateway to the famous Ngaoundaba Ranch and bird-filled Benoue National Park. Before heading to the airport we had an hour to explore the area around our hotel one last time and this turned up a few nice birds including Blue-headed Coucal, Black-and-white Mannikin and Grey-headed Nigrita. Arriving in Garoua around midday we were welcomed by a sensational wall of heat, but we soon loaded up our air-conditioned vehicles and began the long drive to Ngaoundere. En route a few short birding stops provided us with noteworthy and extremely



Reichenbach's Sunbird by Glen Valentine

attractive species: White-crested Helmetshrike, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Fine-spotted and African Grey Woodpeckers, Northern Puffback, spectacular African Blue Flycatcher, aptly-named Beautiful Sunbird, Western Plantain-eater, Senegal Parrot, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Abyssinian Roller, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Red-throated Bee-eater and the incredible White-crested Turaco in the late afternoon. Arriving at the ranch in the early evening we enjoyed a hearty dinner and a good rest before the long and action-packed day ahead of us.



Standard-winged Nightjar by Paul Ellis

Ngaoundaba Ranch absolutely pumps with birds and we turned up a mind-blowing 148 species on our first full day here! The various habitats, from moist gallery forest to dry, mixed woodland and rank grass, reedbeds and open water, harbour an impressive list of desirable species and we managed to get to grips with most of these during our time in this bird-rich wonderland. Highlights during our two full

days here included Hartlaub's Duck (at the extreme northern limit of its range), Grasshopper Buzzard, African Hobby in flight overhead, White-spotted Flufftail, outstanding White-crested and Ross's Turacos, Standard-winged Nightjar sporting its flamboyant standards on the day roost and on night drives, stately Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Ruppell's Vulture, gaudy Double-toothed Barbet, Green-backed and Brown-backed Woodpeckers, Black Scimitarbill, Senegal Batis, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Woodchat Shrike, Piapiac, Sun Lark, secretive and shy Red-tailed Leaflove, Melodious Warbler, Red-winged Grey Warbler, the endemic and often tricky Bamenda Apalis, vociferous Oriole Warbler, Blackcap Babbler, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Western Violet-backed, Splendid and Copper Sunbirds, Spotted Creeper, Sooty Chat (a rare and localized bird in Cameroon), the highly range-restricted and striking White-collared Starling, Grey-winged Robin-Chat, the scarce and seldom-seen Gambaga Flycatcher, Yellow-winged Pytilia and gorgeous Brown and Dybowski's Twinspots. Phew, what an impressive list!

Next up was the extensive Benoue National Park and its wonderful woodland and riverine habitats a little further north of Ngaoundere. En route to the park we made a few short stops and one stop in particular produced incredible views of Black-bellied Bustard in flight, as well as Grey Kestrel and African Grey Woodpecker; while another short detour provided us with cracking views of White-crowned Cliff Chat and also produced Black-crowned and Orange-cheeked Waxbills and two unexpected Little Bitterns. We also scoped the nearby Dang Lake which turned up a vagrant male Eurasian Teal, several Yellow-billed Ducks and a few Winding Cisticolas, while the adjacent thickets harboured Bar-breasted Firefinch and non-breeding Marsh Widowbirds.

The camp at Benoue has improved tremendously over the years and is now a rather comfortable place to be based, and enjoying a cold beer while over-looking the Benoue River and



Blue-bellied Roller by Paul Ellis



Guareza Colobus by Glen Valentine

watching a Bat Hawk hunting overhead has got to rank as a highly memorable and enjoyable experience indeed! The camp itself and adjacent Benoue River gave us White-crowned and Snowy-crowned Robin-Chats, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Yellow-winged and Red-winged Pytilias, Swamp Flycatcher, smashing Black-headed Gonolek, African Hawk-Eagle, boldly-patterned Spur-winged and White-crowned Lapwings, Senegal Thick-knee, the fabulous Pel's Fishing Owl, African Scops Owl on a day roost, Violet Turaco and our first of many Preuss's Cliff Swallows, not to mention the exceptionally attractive Egyptian Plover and the localized, uncommon and easily missed Adamawa Turtle Dove. The expansive, dry woodlands that dominate the reserve turned up a whole different but no less interesting and noteworthy suite of birds, including White-throated and Double-spurred Francolins, Stone Partridge, handsome Bateleur, Dorst's and Rufous Cisticolas, Red-winged Warbler, Black-faced and Black-bellied Firefinches, Pearl-spotted Owlet,

Bearded Barbet, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Yellow-billed Shrike, African Golden Oriole, White-shouldered Black Tit, Bronze-tailed and Long-tailed Glossy Starlings, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, Black-headed, Little and Red-headed Weavers, and Cabanis's Bunting.

Our most enjoyable time in Benoue was unfortunately over and it was time to venture even further north to the town of Maroua and the "Quail-plover plains" north of Mora. A midday stop at the Benoue River near Garoua proved a very hot but extremely productive one and added some excellent birds that included Greater Painted-snipe, Black-rumped Waxbill, Black-faced Quail-Finch on the deck, Sedge and Great Reed Warblers, White-rumped Seedeater, Crested Lark and Booted Eagle. Later in the afternoon we made a few worthwhile roadside stops that gave us several distinctly dry-country species, namely Red-pate Cisticola, Chestnut-bellied Starling, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, the scarce and rather nomadic Heuglin's Wheatear, Pygmy Sunbird, Speckle-fronted and White-billed Buffalo Weavers, Cut-throat, African Silverbill, Green-winged Pytilia and a few unexpected African Collared Doves.



Quail-plover by Paul Ellis

Finally the dry, sparsely vegetated plains north of Mora beckoned and an early start ensured that we reached this legendary area soon after dawn to maximise our chances of seeing the area's many avian specialties. We did however make one stop along the way for a handsome Fox Kestrel perched up right next to the road! Awesome and a huge relief as we'd missed this raptor earlier on in the trip at its more reliable area south of Garoua. North of Mora, we pulled over, donned our packs, filled up with water and lined up to begin the march into the surrounding wilderness on our Quail-plover quest. One of the first birds we encountered was one of the region's most acclaimed species, the often-tricky Cricket Warbler (Longtail), a pair of which showed incredibly well for a prolonged period at close range – what a superb start! Soon afterwards we were enjoying good numbers of Black Scrub Robin as well as

several Montagu's Harrier, White-bellied Bustard and Tawny Pipit, a single Golden-breasted Bunting, good numbers of Common Whitethroat, Red-pate Cisticola, Black-headed Lapwing and a distant Scissor-tailed Kite, which was later to be seen soaring above our heads at point blank range – a splendid raptor indeed! However, the search continued for the very difficult and bizarre Quail-plover. Hours went by and the ever increasing heat intensified, but we pushed on and finally at around 10 am the scream of "Quail-plover!" broke the air! Mark had flushed this tiny "buttonquail" from under his feet and it buzzed away a short distance before alighting back into the surrounding sandy scrub. We hurried over to



Scissor-tailed Kite by Paul Ellis

where the bird landed and it flushed once more. Eventually the bird was spotted in the open on the ground but it hastily made its way under a dense bush where it obviously felt well hidden and camouflaged, but here we were able to put our scopes on this miniscule creature and absorb its beautiful and intricate plumage until we finally walked away utterly content with our views! A highly memorable experience indeed!

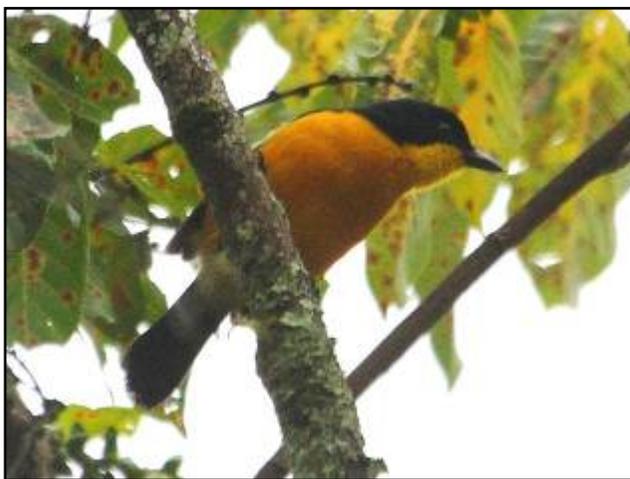
With the major target species in the bag, we began making our way back to the vehicles, concertedly meandering through a dry, vegetated riverbed in the hope of perhaps flushing the rare and little known Golden Nightjar. Alas, it was not to be, though some of the group did obtain views of a Yellow-crowned Gonolek...I guess you cannot get them all. After a well-deserved break and lunch during the heat of the day, we started our journey back to Maroua, with a few scheduled stops along the way proving most worthwhile and yielding some very good birds. These included Western Bonelli's and Western Olivaceous Warblers, Common Redstart, Blue-naped Mousebird and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-



Shelley's Oliveback by Paul Ellis

Lark, while at a large, rocky outcrop a few Green Bee-eaters entertained us along with another pair of Fox Kestrel, rather furtive Lavender Waxbill, African Silverbill, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Rock-loving Cisticola, White-headed Barbet, White-crowned Cliff Chat and the range-restricted Rock Firefinch.

Leaving the north of Cameroon, we made our way back down to the south of the country taking a few more flights than expected along the way. Eventually after landing in N'djamena and Yaounde we arrived in steamy Douala in the late afternoon and boarded our mini-buses to the nearby town of Buea. However, traffic was horrendous and we only arrived at our hotel in the late evening. The next day would be one of the toughest but most rewarding days of the tour as we hiked up Mt. Cameroon through lush, montane forest to the area just above the treeline in search of the main target bird on the mountain, the endemic Mount Cameroon Speirops. As we trudged up and up through the initial stretches of farm-bush and secondary forest we picked up many specialties that included Green



Yellow-breasted Boubou by Glen Valentine

Longtail, Chubb's Cisticola, Mackinnon's Shrike, Banded Prinia, Brown-chested Alethe, Mountain Robin-Chat, Yellow-billed Turaco, Petit's Cuckooshrike, White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, Cameroon and Western Greenbuls, Cameroon and Northern Double-collared Sunbirds, Black-billed Weaver, Red-faced Crimsonwing, Thick-billed Seedeater, Black-capped Woodland Warbler, Grey Apalis, African Hill Babbler, Mountain Sooty Boubou, White-throated Bee-eater and Naked-faced Barbet. Carrying on higher up into the luxuriant swathes of forest that blanket much of the mountain within the Mount Cameroon National Park, we started finding the really juicy targets, namely Shelley's Oliveback, Oriole Finch, Western

Tinkerbird, Tullberg's and Elliot's Woodpeckers, Yellow-breasted Boubou, Waller's Starling, Mountain Saw-wing and, eventually, the much sought-after Mount Cameroon Speirops at the treeline. Near the base of the mountain some of the group also managed to obtain brief views of a male Red-chested Flufftail in the late afternoon. We were all shattered by the time we reached our hotel but were also ecstatic with the many cracking birds encountered, and the aching limbs heeled quickly after a couple of ice cold beverages!

After an extremely rewarding day on Mt. Cameroon we departed on our long journey further west to the tiny village of Mundemba, stopping on the way at the productive Limbe Botanical Gardens. Here we added a few difficult and key species including Pale-fronted Nigrita, Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher for everyone, Western Bluebill and Black-bellied Seedcracker, as well as enjoying views of Grey-headed Nigrita, Green-headed, Reichenbach's, Mangrove and Superb Sunbirds, Spotted and Cassin's Flycatchers and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. The drive from Kumba to Mundemba was a long and slow one due to endless road-blocks and the rough, pot-holed and muddy road. We did however manage to squeeze in a few short birding stops and these produced some great birds including Grey Parrot and Sabine's Spinetail overhead, Great Blue Turaco cavorting in the forest canopy and a magnificent male Yellow-casqued Wattle Hornbill – sensational!



African Dwarf Kingfisher Paul Ellis

The verdant rainforest of the legendary Korup National Park lay ahead and we were to have the rare fortune of spending two and half days in the park, searching for the many very special but tough species that inhabit this ancient and pristine forest. Arriving at the Mana River in the early morning we spent a while at the river since the dense overhead conditions meant a delayed start to the morning's bird activity. A pair of Hartlaub's Duck was a nice surprise en route to the park and several Rock Pratincoles eventually showed well as they hawked insects over the river in the post-dawn gloom. A



Blue Cuckooshrike by Paul Ellis

single Bates's Swift was a lovely bonus too and a few Piping and Yellow-casqued Wattle Hornbills also provided some excitement. Birding the dark, damp forest interior trails of Korup was hard work and slow-going, but we slowly kept the list ticking and eventually managed to get to grips with a good suite of specialized and highly desired lowland forest species during our time in the park. These included Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher, Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, Green Hylia, the unbelievably bright Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Western Nicator, Blue Cuckooshrike, Icterine, Xavier's, Eastern Bearded, White-bearded and Red-tailed Greenbuls, Yellow-lored Bristlebill, Fire-

crested Alethe, Forest Robin, Yellow-footed and White-browed Forest Flycatchers, Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher, Fraser's and Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds, Black Cuckoo, delightful Chocolate-backed and African Dwarf Kingfishers, Blue-headed Wood Dove, incredibly shy Bare-cheeked Trogon, exquisite Rachel's, Blue-billed and Crested Malimbés, Buff-spotted Woodpecker and the often elusive Woodhouse's Antpecker.



White-chinned Prinia by Glen Valentine

Of course the highlight of any trip to Korup is the chance of seeing one of nature's strangest and most wanted birds, the obscure Grey-necked Rockfowl (*Picathartes*). Fortunately we were in luck and the recent heavy rain meant that the Rockfowl were visiting "Picathartes knoll". After a wait of around an hour and a half at the fabled cave we were treated to excellent views of this near-mythical species!

On our return from the caves back to the camp we were also delighted to hear and then locate a calling and displaying male Rufous-sided Broadbill in the lower canopy. Although the light was fading quickly we still managed to obtain good scope views of this sometimes tricky species.

After our time in Korup we birded the very productive secondary forest along the Mundemba road on our way to Nyasoso and this yielded a fabulous suite of lowland forest species: Bates's Swift, White-crested Hornbill, Speckled, Red-rumped and Yellow-throated Tinkerbirds, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Gabon Woodpecker, Blue Cuckooshrike, Slender-billed, Little, Ansorge's, Plain, Spotted and White-bearded Greenbuls, Black-capped Apalis, Yellow-browed and Olive-green Camaropteras, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Purple-headed Starling, Sooty Flycatcher, Little Green and Grey-chinned Sunbirds, Red-vented, Red-headed and Crested Malimbés, and White-breasted and Grey-headed Nigritas. Other more widespread but noteworthy species encountered in this bird-rich area included European Honey Buzzard, Red-necked Buzzard, Lanner Falcon, Eurasian Golden Oriole and African Finfoot. As we continued along the drive to Nyasoso we came across two rather scarce species, the delightful Black-headed Waxbill and radiant Shining Blue Kingfisher. The region had experienced a great deal of rain recently and so the final stretch of road leading up to Nyasoso was in terrible condition and treacherous to say the least. Our driver's did exceptionally well though and managed to conquer challenge after challenge, but eventually we encountered a stretch of road that was even too much for the expertise of Antwaan and we got bogged down to the axle. However, our second driver, Nicolas took on the other side of the road and managed to get through. Eventually we made it to our accommodation at the base of Mt. Kupe where Antwaan met us an hour later after



African Blue Flycatcher by Glen Valentine

being towed out by a local 4x4. Classic Cameroon and fun and games in the heart of Africa!

Our first day in the Mt. Kupe area saw us heading up through the very productive farm-bush habitat on the lower slopes of Max's Trail. Here we were delighted to add such sought after species as Preuss's Weaver, Guinea Turaco, Black Bee-eater, Black Sparrowhawk, Red-chested Goshawk, Yellow-billed Barbet, African Piculet, a sublime male Grey-headed Broadbill, African Shrike-flycatcher, Fernando Po Batis, tiny Black-necked Wattle-eye, Bocage's Bushshrike, female Petit's Cuckooshrike, Bates's Paradise Flycatcher, Golden and Honeyguide Greenbuls, Square-tailed Saw-wing, Black-throated Apalis, a pair of Southern Hyliota (an almost mythical bird in Cameroon!), Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Tiny Sunbird and Chestnut-breasted Nigrita to the ever-growing list. We also enjoyed excellent views of rather confiding Yellow-footed Flycatcher, Banded Prinia, Black-capped Apalis, Rufous-crowned Eremomela and an electric male African Emerald Cuckoo. In the afternoon we ventured a short distance along Nature Trail which produced a superb Cassin's Hawk-Eagle that showed well in the scope and then in flight, a pair of the scarce Yellow-crested Woodpecker, Sooty Flycatcher, West African and Forest Swallows, Green Crombec, Green-throated Sunbird and a Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat amongst other more common species during intermittent rain. An excellent day with loads of cracking birds, which pumped us up for our following day's adventure into the Bakossi Mountains.



Brown-throated Wattle-eye by Glen Valentine

Our full day in the Bakossi Mountains left us with many memorable experiences. After a challenging morning in the mud and drizzle we eventually arrived at the tiny village at the base of Bakossi and after completing the "ceremony" we were on our way up the trail and into the verdant forests that blanket the slopes of these fabled mountains; the home of many very rare and special birds, most notably the near-mythical Mt. Kupe Bushshrike! We had numerous target species for the day and we got stuck into these right away, with excellent views of African Broadbill, Orange-tufted Sunbird, Red-thighed Sparrowhawk and a surprise group of Woodhouse's Antpecker under the belt before even entering the forest!



African Emerald Cuckoo by Glen Valentine

We then managed to locate a few small bird parties that gave us Cameroon, Cameroon Olive and Grey-headed Greenbuls, Ursula's Sunbird, Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Pink-footed Puffback, Black-winged Oriole, Brown-capped Weaver and a magnificent Green-breasted Bushshrike that sat out in the open for ages whilst we admired it in the scope! What a stonking bird! In addition, the forest edge held

Blue-breasted Bee-eater and a few secretive Red-faced Crimsonwings.

After a picnic lunch in the shade we continued with our quest for Mount Kupe Bushshrike. A flock of White-throated Mountain Babblers was a wonderful post-lunch treat and then, while trying for a very responsive but extremely shy and nervous Crossley's Ground Thrush, the unmistakable call of the bushshrike was heard from the upper reaches of a gully just down the trail. We made our way to the area where the bushshrike was calling and patiently waited for the birds to come closer, but they remained high up the gully. After a long wait and sporadic coaxing we decided that the only way we'd see this creature was to dive into the forest and haul our way up the steep slope towards the bird. Unfortunately this proved fruitless for most of the group except one, who managed to get a good but brief view as it hopped into view on a low, bare branch. Alas, the rest of us only managed close vocalizations of this mega and we were forced to head back down the mountain empty-handed. A male Bar-tailed Trogon and a Bocage's Akalat provided some consolation while we were up on the ridge and an Afep Pigeon that flew past our heads upon reaching the village was a pleasant bonus!

Most of our final day in the Mt. Kupe area was spent along the infamous and ridiculously steep Shrike Trail in the hope of tracking down Mt. Kupe Bushshrike. The initial stretches of the trail were insanely steep and with our heads down and mission in mind we hauled our way up to the altitude where the bushshrike can be found. Short stops along the way to catch our breath yielded a few nice birds such as the sensational Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, which showed fabulously well, and a Black-cap Illadopsis that popped up briefly on a few occasions. Eventually we reached the



Bannerman's Turaco by Paul Ellis

bushshrike area and the quest began... Amazingly, soon after entering the birds' range we heard the bushshrike close-by and positioned ourselves in preparation. The bird was extremely responsive and flew straight towards us, landing only meters away but only for a split second before disappearing into the surrounding dense forest. However, it came in once more and popped up behind a leaf to show its head for a few seconds and then, like a ghost, it vanished never to be seen again! What a shy, frustrating and uncooperative bird! We waited around the general area for quite some time waiting for lunch to arrive and also hung around after lunch, but without any sound or sight of the bird. We eventually packed up the mission and headed back down the treacherous trail to spend the remainder of the afternoon along the base of Max's Trail. We did add Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo and Fraser's Rufous Thrush to the list before reaching the bottom and were happy to have made it back to the base of Mt. Kupe relatively unscathed and in one piece. The late afternoon along Max's Trail gave us wonderful views of a male Red-eyed Puffback, a pair of Chestnut Wattle-eye and Gabon Woodpecker, and also added Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher. Some of the group opted out of the Shrike Trail assault and instead birded the Max's Trail farm-bush, where they enjoyed wonderfully close views of Black-faced Rufous Warbler and Brown Illadopsis among many other brilliant species!

The final leg of this mammoth birding trip was approaching – but before returning to Douala we ventured off into the Bamenda Highlands in search of some of Cameroon's most beautiful, localized and threatened endemics. These included the spectacular Bannerman's Turaco, Banded Wattle-eye,

Bannerman's Weaver and Bangwa Forest Warbler – all of which were found relatively easily and showed incredibly well! Other highlights included a vast suite of very special and noteworthy species, namely Oriole Finch, Mountain Wagtail, Orange-tufted and Cameroon Sunbirds, African (Cameroon) and Long-billed (Bannerman's) Pipits, Sun Lark, Fraser's Eagle-Owl on the day roost, Eurasian Wryneck, Elliot's Woodpecker, Western Black-headed Batis, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, exquisite Red-faced Crimsonwing, Yellow-breasted Boubou, seldom-seen White-bellied Tit, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Chubb's and Pectoral-patch Cisticolas, intensely-coloured Black-collared Apalis, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Mountain Robin-Chat, Baglafaecht, Brown-capped and Black-billed Weavers, Thick-billed Seedeater, the scarce African Cuckoo-Hawk and better views of Cameroon Olive Greenbul. The other highlight of our trip into the Bamenda Highlands was finding a lovely male Neumann's Starling at its usual spot along the escarpment above town. A splendid time was had in the highlands with sublime weather and climate and magical views of all the specials! What a pleasure!



Fraser's Eagle-Owl by Paul Ellis

Finally, our trip took us to the lowland forests around the Sanaga River to the south and east of Douala. The long drive coupled with unprecedented traffic in Douala meant a very late lunch and late afternoon arrival in Edea. We did however have a little bit of time in the late afternoon to scan the large sandbar along the Sanaga where African Skimmers and Grey Pratincoles congregate in their hundreds – a spectacular sight indeed!

Our final morning of the tour was enjoyed in the now rather secondary forest on the south bank of the Sanaga River. Here we added a few new species that included Cassin's Malimbe, the rarely seen Black Spinetail, regal White-thighed Hornbill, miniscule Tit Hylia and Grey-throated Barbet. We also enjoyed sightings of familiar but notable species such as Yellow-billed and Yellow-spotted Barbets, Gabon Woodpecker, Ansorge's and Spotted Greenbuls, Blue-billed Malimbe, Red-headed Quelea, stellar perched views of Purple-headed Starling and several perched Grey Parrots. The Sanaga River also yielded our only Orange Weavers and White-bibbed Swallows of the trip.

Alas, our time in Cameroon was up and it was time to head back to Douala for a final checklist and beer at the now familiar Ibis Hotel before departing our separate ways. Thank you to everyone for an extremely memorable and enjoyable birding adventure to Cameroon – David and I both look forward to seeing you all again soon!

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. IOC Version 3.3 generated on 2013-03-10. 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 (total: a fabulous 572 species!)

Guineafowl Numididae**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

Up to twenty observed daily in Benoue NP and a single sighting of ten near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

NOTE: The nominate *N. m. meleagris* (Helmeted Guineafowl) of East Africa, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western *N. m. galeata* (West African Guineafowl – the form we recorded in Cameroon) and the southern *N. m. mitrata* (Tufted Guineafowl.) Few authorities recognize these splits.

New World Quail Odontophoridae**Stone Partridge***Ptilopachus petrosus*

This species was encountered first in Benoue NP which included excellent sightings near the roadside. We also observed four at a rocky outcrop near Mora.

Pheasants & Allies Phasianidae**Latham's (Forest) Francolin***Peliperdix lathamii*

One ran across the trail in Korup NP and was seen by the leader only. It was heard calling shortly thereafter but this shy species refused to reveal itself again.

White-throated Francolin*Peliperdix albogularis*

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

Scaly Francolin*Pternistis squamatus*

A family group of three was seen flying briefly on the lower slopes of Mount Cameroon.

Double-spurred Francolin*Pternistis bicalcaratus*

This francolin was commonly encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP. A single bird was also seen on the escarpment above the town of Bamenda.

Clapperton's Francolin*Pternistis clappertoni*

Some participants were fortunate to see one briefly in the Mora area.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**Spur-winged Goose***Plectropterus gambensis*

We had great views of five at the crater lake on Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Hartlaub's Duck*Pteronetta hartlaubii*

We had magnificent sightings of a pair at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further one was seen on a small stream near Korup NP.

Yellow-billed Duck*Anus undulata*

We recorded 50 at Dang Lake near Ngaoundere. This is a very range restricted bird in West Africa, only occurring in this area in Cameroon and marginally in neighboring Nigeria.

Eurasian Teal*Anas crecca*

We had superb views of a single male at Dang Lake, Ngaoundere.

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

Six were seen at Dang Lake and a further five at Lake Awing in the Bamenda highlands.

Storks Ciconiidae**African Openbill***Anastomus lamelligerus*

We had wonderful views of two birds at the Benoue River near Garoua.

Abdim's Stork*Ciconia abdimii*

Several flocks totaling 80 of these intra-African migrants were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A further one was seen in Benoue NP and our final sighting was of one near the Sanaga River.

Woolly-necked Stork*Ciconia episcopus*

One was seen in Benoue NP and a further two at the Sanaga River.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**[African] Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

One was seen at La Digue, Douala and a further 15 at the Douala airport.

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

Hadada Ibis*Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers were seen daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP and a single bird at the Mana River in Korup NP.

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

We had a good sighting of two at a small pond near Ngaoundere.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Fifteen were seen at dusk at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

We enjoyed several sightings during the tour including three in Benoue NP.

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

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

Our first sighting was of one at La Digue and a further four at Dang Lake.

Western Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

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

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

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

A well-known, widespread heron, but rather scarce in Cameroon, we recorded one at the Sanaga River.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

A fairly common species in the north, up to four seen daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

We had great views of two at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

This familiar species was seen (singletons) at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Dang Lake.

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

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We had good views of four at the Douala airport.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

Up to 15 were seen 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*

Two were seen at La Digue, Douala and a further three at the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Hamerkop Scopidae**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

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

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

Seen at wetlands throughout the country. The largest group was of ten near Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Anhingas, Darters Anhingidae**African Darter***Anhinga rufa*

One was seen flying over the road near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

Ospreys Pandionidae**[Western] Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

We had good scope views of one at La Digue, Douala.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

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

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

Scissor-tailed Kite*Chelictinia riocourii*

We had great views of three near the town of Mora, much to the delight of all. This was voted as one of the top birds of the trip.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)*Polyboroides typus*

A distinctive raptor recorded most regularly in the south with peak numbers of 15 seen during the drive from Mundemba to Nyasoso.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

Recorded in the wetter south with regularity. First seen at La Digue, Douala.

European Honey Buzzard*Pernis apivorus*

Four were seen near Mundemba, one near Mount Kupe and another near the Sanaga River.

African Cuckoo-Hawk*Aviceda cuculoides*

We had great views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

We had good views of twenty at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further twenty during the drive from Maroua to Garoua.

White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

Small numbers were seen daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon)*Gyps rueppellii*

A single bird was seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Brown Snake Eagle*Circaetus cinereus*

We had great sightings of one during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundere.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

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

Bat Hawk*Macheiramphus alcinus*

We had incredible views of one in Benoue NP, including superb scope views.

Crowned (Hawk-)Eagle*Stephanoeatus coronatus*

An adult was seen briefly displaying over the canopy in Korup NP.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

We enjoyed scattered sightings of this impressive raptor throughout with great sightings of one en route to Ngaoundere.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

We had good views of three at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

One of these small eagles was seen at Garoua and another near Mora.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*

We had great views of one soaring low overhead near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Aquila africana*

We had superb scope views of one at Mount Kupe and a brief sighting of another in the Bokassi Mountains.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*

We had good views of a pair soaring, in Benoue NP.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Our first sighting was of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch and later we enjoyed several more near the Sanaga River with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

We found one melanistic individual during the drive from Benoue to Maroua and one normal grey form during the drive from Maroua to Garoua.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

We had good views of one during the drive from Benoue to Maroua.

Red-chested Goshawk *Accipiter toussenelii*

This forest *Accipiter* was seen well but briefly at forest edge in the Mt. Kupe area and again in the Bamenda highlands.

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

Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk) *Accipiter badius*

Four were seen in the woodlands during the drive from Benoue to Maroua.

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

Red-thighed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythropus*

We had good scope views of one at Bokassi.

Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk) *Accipiter melanoleucus*

We had great scope views of one near Mount Kupe.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Two males were seen well near Mora, smart birds indeed!

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

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

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Not a very common bird in West Africa, one juvenile was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a superb adult scoped in Benoue NP.

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

We enjoyed a number of sightings of this species at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Red-necked Buzzard *Buteo auguralis*

This handsome buzzard was noted at a number of localities on the tour, we had magnificent sightings near the Sanaga River with further sightings in the Bamenda highlands.

Falcons, Caracaras Falconidae

Common (Eurasian/Rock) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

This widespread, familiar raptor was first seen at Douala with further sightings en route to the Sanaga River and in the Bamenda highlands.

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

Fox Kestrel *Falco alopex*

We had superb views of one near Mora.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

We had great views of several near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

One was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

One was seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

We had several sightings, including two during the drive from Benoue to Maroua.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

We had good views of one near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bustards Otididae

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

We had great views of five near Mora.

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

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

A splendid male was seen flying over the road right next to us near Ngaoundaba Ranch and a female was seen in Benoue NP.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

This secretive, forest rallids hooting call was heard in several forests and two males were seen at separate localities near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Buff-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans*

We heard one calling from a distance whilst on the trail on Mount Cameroon.

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa*

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

Finfoots Heliornithidae

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*

We had magnificent views of a female near Mundemba.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Nkulengu Rail *Himantornis haematopus*

We heard several calling in Korup NP.

African Rail*Rallus caerulescens*

Although widespread on the continent this can be a tough species to see. We had great views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black Crane*Amaurornis flavirostra*

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

African Swampen*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had good views of two birds at Dang Lake.

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

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

We observed three at Lake Awing, Bamenda.

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

This rare and incredible bird was one of the highlights of the trip for many. After a lengthy search in the hot dry savannah near Mora we finally located one.

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

We had good views of at least four in Benoue NP.

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

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

Black-headed Lapwing*Vanellus tectus*

We enjoyed good sightings of this bird in the arid areas near Mora. A very attractive species.

White-crowned Lapwing*Vanellus albiceps*

First seen in Benoue NP with a further sighting of two at the Sanaga River

[African] Wattled Lapwing*Vanellus senegallus*

We found a pair near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Grey (Black-bellied) Plover*Pluvialis squatarola*

We had good views of one at La Digue, Douala.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

We had good views of six birds at Douala airport.

White-fronted Plover*Charadrius marginatus*

We enjoyed good scope views of two at the Sanaga River.

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

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

Painted-snipes Rostratulidae**Greater Painted-snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

We had cracking views of two males near Garoua.

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

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

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

We had good views of 10 at La Digue, Douala and a further two at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

A flock of twelve was seen at La Digue, Douala and a further three at the Sanaga River.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

Up to three were seen along the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

A couple was seen near our hotel in Douala with further sightings at scattered sites.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

A common migrant, seen at La Digue with scattered sightings elsewhere

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

A total of 10 birds were seen on the Mana River on our way into Korup NP.

Grey Pratincole*Glareola cinerea*

103 of these beautiful pratincoles were scoped on sandbars on the Sanaga River.

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

We encountered a great flock of 59 birds on the Sanaga River.

Royal Tern*Thalasseus maximus*

Six were seen flying in the bay at La Digue, one gave superb views.

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

We had distant views of twenty six birds in Benoue NP.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**Rock Dove***Columba livia*

Common in Douala and other large towns

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

A common species in the north, first encountered at Garoua and seen at all localities north of there

Afep Pigeon*Columba unicincta*

Some participants had good views of one at Bokassi.

Adamawa Turtle Dove*Streptopelia hypopyrrha*

We enjoyed fantastic views of three in Benoue NP. A rare species.

African Collared Dove*Streptopelia risoria*

This rather pale *Streptopelia* was encountered near Maroua where we had good views of three.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

A fairly common widespread species, especially notable in more wooded areas and around towns

Vinaceous Dove*Streptopelia vinacea*

This richly marked dove was common in the Ngaoundaba and Benoue areas with peak numbers of fifty daily in Benoue NP.

- Laughing (Palm) Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*
A familiar species and in Cameroon recorded regularly only from Ngaoundaba north
- Black-billed Wood Dove** *Turtur abyssinicus*
The common wood dove of the dry, northern savanna, found in small numbers in Benoue NP
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
Not uncommon in secondary growth in the moister south.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
A forest equivalent of the wood doves, we encountered two along the Mundemba road.
- Blue-headed Wood Dove** *Turtur brehmeri*
A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. We found one in Korup NP.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
A fairly common species in the dry north, we found six in the Maroua area.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
Small numbers were seen en route from Garoua to Ngaoundere. We were treated to great views of a small flock feeding in a large fruiting fig tree.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*
Commoner in the south of the country, where good numbers were noted throughout

Parrots Psittacidae

- Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
We had great views of one bird in woodland during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundere.
- (African) Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*
So much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird! Small groups were seen near the Sanaga River and up to 16 seen near Mundemba.
- Senegal Parrot** *Poicephalus senegalus*
A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, we found up to four at both Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP.

Turacos Musophagidae

- Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*
Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore was heard near the Sanaga River and we enjoyed excellent views of several birds on the Mundemba road.
- Guinea (Green) Turaco** *Tauraco persa*
Two birds were seen very well on Mt.Kupe.
Note: This species used to be lumped under the Green Turaco (T. persa), now split into four full species the others being Knysna Turaco T. corythaix, Livingstone's Turaco (T. livingstonii) and Schalow's Turaco (T. schalowi).
- Yellow-billed (Verreaux's) Turaco** *Tauraco macrorhynchus*
A commonly heard turaco of the interior forests. We had awesome views of several on Mount Cameroon and scattered sightings elsewhere.
- White-crested Turaco** *Tauraco leucolophus*
A few birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in Benoue NP. A spectacular bird!
- Bannerman's Turaco** *Tauraco bannermani*
Three of these stunning endemics were seen in the Bamenda Highlands where we enjoyed superb scope views of a particularly confiding individual.
- Violet Turaco** *Musophaga violacea*
Another stellar turaco, we had superb views of four birds in Benoue NP.
- Ross's Turaco** *Musophaga rossae*

We encountered at least two of these beautiful birds in the gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western (Grey) Plantain-eater *Crinifer piscator*

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

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Black-throated Coucal *Centropus leucogaster*

A huge, and very elusive West African coucal. We heard this species on numerous occasions near Mundemba.

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

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

The most commonly encountered coucal throughout with peak numbers of three seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

We had good views of a pair in Douala and another at the Sanaga River.

Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill) *Ceuthmochares aereus*

We had good views of two at Ngaoundaba Ranch and another at the Sanaga River.

Note: Some authorities split this species into Green Malkoha, C. australis that occurs in East and Southern Africa and Blue Malkoha, C. aereus that we observed and occurs in West and Central Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

A calling bird was seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further two near Mount Kupe.

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had good views of two at La Digue, Douala and a few more at Mount Kupe.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

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

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we saw a resplendent male at Mount Kupe and another at the Sanaga River.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*

We heard one calling in the Bokassi Mountains.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx olivinus*

A very shy and elusive species, far more often heard than seen, we heard one calling on Mount Kupe and saw it briefly.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

We had great scope views of two in Korup NP, of the distinctive *gabonensis* race.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

We heard this species near Ngaoundaba Ranch and again at Bokassi and Mount Kupe.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

We enjoyed good views of four at Ngaoundaba Ranch and superb views of one at Bamenda.

Barn Owls Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

We had superb views of one during our night drive at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

Typical Owls Strigidae

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

We enjoyed great views of one of these tiny owls in Benoue NP.

Fraser's Eagle-Owl *Bubo poensis*

We had outrageous views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

Pel's Fishing Owl *Scotopelia peli*

We had magnificent views of an adult in Benoue NP.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

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

Sjöstedt's [Barred] Owlet *Glaucidium sjostedti*

Two were heard calling in Korup NP.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Standard-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis*

One of the world's most bizarre birds. We obtained views of several males with full standards during the day and on our night drives at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swifts Apodidae

Black Spinetail *Telacanthura melanopygia*

We had good views of four near the Sanaga River.

Sabine's Spinetail *Rhaphidura sabini*

We enjoyed good views of two on the Mundemba road.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful throughout most of the tour, especially in the north

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

We had good views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Small numbers were seen flying over Korup NP and approximately one hundred at the Sanaga River.

African [Black] Swift *Apus barbatus*

Up to thirty were seen in the Bamenda highlands.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

The common urban swift throughout the country, seen on many days

Bates's Swift *Apus batesi*

A swift of the forest zone of the south, we had good views of one near Korup NP.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa but nonetheless encountered regularly in open and secondary habitat from Benoue NP south.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Seemingly replacing the Speckled Mousebird in the far north, we had good views of at least eight birds during our time in the Mora area.

Trogon Trogonidae

Bare-cheeked Trogon *Apaloderma aequatoriale*

A very shy and elusive species in Korup NP, we had good but brief views of two males.

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum*

Some of us enjoyed good views of this beautiful bird in the Bokassi mountains.

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller *Coracias naevius*
We had great views of one during the drive from Benoue NP to Maroua.

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*
A common roller recorded throughout the dry north of the country. Another spectacular species!

Blue-bellied Roller *Coracias cyanogaster*
A total of seven birds were seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*
We enjoyed great scope views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Chocolate-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon badia*
We had cracking scope views of one in Korup NP and another was seen in the forest at Bokassi.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*
We had our highest total of 5 birds in Benoue NP and had further sightings almost daily in the north of the country. A pair was also seen during the drive from Mount Kupe to Bamenda.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*
Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small, savannah kingfisher was found in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*
This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was first seen at La Digue, Douala with further sightings at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*
Not uncommon in open habitat in the south often perching on telephone wires next to the road.

African Dwarf Kingfisher *Ispidina lecontei*
We enjoyed cracking scope views of one in Korup NP.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*
This beautiful little bird was first seen at La Digue, we recorded them again at various widely scattered localities. This must be the best country to see this species; we observed a total of 27 during the trip.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*
We recorded this species at La Digue, Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Shining-blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys*
We had splendid views of one en route to Nyasoso.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*
The Goliath of the kingfisher world. Seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Benoue NP and again at a couple of the large rivers near Mundemba

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
The world's commonest kingfisher was first seen at the Sanaga River and small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Blue-moustached Bee-eater *Merops mentalis*
We heard these rare and highly sought after bee-eaters in Korup NP.

NOTE: Some authorities split the Upper Guinea M. muelleri from the Lower Guinea to East Africa M. mentalis. This is a recent split accepted by IOC.

Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*
We had superb views of an adult on Mount Kupe.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*
Small numbers were seen at the Sanaga River and one shortly after leaving Nyasoso.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater*Merops variegatus*

We had stunning views of one at Bokassi and a further two near Nyasoso.

Red-throated Bee-eater*Merops bulocki*

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

White-throated Bee-eater*Merops albicollis*

This species which breeds in the Sahelian savanna and winters in the Equatorial forest belt was first recorded at Mount Cameroon with further sightings on the Mundemba road.

Green Bee-eater*Merops orientalis*

Four of these lovely lime green birds were recorded near Mora.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

Six were seen flying over Korup NP and a further fourteen seen flying over the Bamenda highlands.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater*Merops nubicus*

Another magnificent bee-eater, some of us were fortunate to see two on our drive from Maroua to Garoua.

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

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

Eight were sighted during our day in the Mora area.

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

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae**Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

Ten were recorded in Benoue NP.

Black Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

Three were seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

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

Common throughout forested areas in Cameroon

African Grey Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

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

Northern Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A common hornbill of dry woodlands in the far north. We recorded several including good views of one during the drive from Garoua to Ngaoundere.

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

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill*Tockus camurus*

This scarce species was sighted once in Korup NP.

White-crested Hornbill*Tropicranus albocristatus*

We enjoyed magnificent views of one in secondary forest on the Mundemba road.

Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

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

White-thighed Hornbill*Bycanistes albotibialis*

A total of four were seen at the Sanaga River and one in Korup NP.

Yellow-casqued Hornbill*Ceratogymna elata*

We had wonderful views of several during our stay in Korup NP, including a couple of them perched.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae**Abyssinian Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus abyssinicus*

We were extremely fortunate to find one walking through tall woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A further pair was seen by some in Benoue NP. This is a scarce species in Cameroon.

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

We had wonderful views of six birds at a nesting colony near the Sanaga River.

Naked-faced Barbet*Gymnobucco calvus*

A common forest species, we saw at least four on Mount Cameroon, and several more on Mt Kupe.

Speckled Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

This scruffy bird was seen in forests and forest edge. We found two at the Sanaga River and several near Mundemba.

Western Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus coryphaea*

After frustratingly only hearing this species on numerous occasions at Mount Cameroon we finally managed wonderful views of one feeding in a mistletoe

Red-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We enjoyed cracking views of one near Mundemba.

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 several in Korup NP, along the Mundemba road and near the Sanaga River.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A common forest-edge species. Small numbers were seen at many sites including in the Bamenda highlands and at Mt. Cameroon.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

A savanna species which was seen in small numbers daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch

Yellow-spotted Barbet*Buccanodon duchaillui*

A rather beautiful Barbet, heard at several forested sites in the south. We obtained great views of several along the Mundemba road and at Mount Kupe.

Hairy-breasted Barbet*Tricholaema hirsuta*

This forest barbet was seen on the Mundemba road and at Mount Kupe.

Vieillot's Barbet*Lybius vieilloti*

A bird of more open woodland, our first sighting was of great scope views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further pair was seen in Benoue NP.

White-headed Barbet*Lybius leucocephalus*

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen very well at a rocky outcrop north of Maroua.

Double-toothed Barbet*Lybius bidentatus*

A superb pair was seen during our stay at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bearded Barbet*Lybius dubius*

We enjoyed great views of a pair in Benoue NP.

Yellow-billed Barbet*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

This elusive forest barbet was seen exceptionally well at Mount Kupe and near the Sanaga River.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae**Willcock's Honeyguide***Indicator willcocksi*

We heard one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

One was seen in Benoue NP

Spotted Honeyguide*Indicator maculatus*

We had brief views of one along the Mundemba road.

Greater Honeyguide*Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of a single bird at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

We enjoyed fantastic views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

African Piculet*Sasia africana*

This diminutive and endearing species was seen on Mount Kupe.

Fine-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera punctuligera*

This lovely woodpecker was seen very well in Benoue NP.

Green-backed Woodpecker*Campethera cailliautii*

We had good views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Tullberg's Woodpecker*Campethera tullbergi*

We had great views of two at Mount Cameroon and another at Bokassi.

Buff-spotted Woodpecker*Campethera nivosa*

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

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

Our first sighting was at Ngaoundaba Ranch with further sightings on Mount Kupe.

Gabon Woodpecker*Dendropicos gabonensis*

We had superb scope views of one along the Mundemba road and several more at Mount Kupe.

Yellow-crested Woodpecker*Dendropicos xantholophus*

We had superb scope views of a pair on Mount Kupe.

Elliot's Woodpecker*Dendropicos elliotii*

We had great views of a pair on Mount Cameroon and one female in the Bamenda highlands.

African Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

Several individuals were located at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Brown-backed Woodpecker*Dendropicos obsoletus*

We enjoyed fabulous views of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a pair in Benoue NP. A scarce, dry country species.

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

We had fantastic views of a two males, one of which was seen displaying in secondary growth in the Bokassi Mountains.

Grey-headed Broadbill*Smithornis sharpei*

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

Rufous-sided Broadbill*Smithornis rufolateralis*

A magnificent male was seen displaying in Korup NP

Wattle-eyes, Batises Platysteiridae

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

We had superb views of two males and a female on Mount Kupe.

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

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

Senegal Batis *Batis senegalensis*

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

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri*

We found a female of this species in the Bamenda highlands.

Fernando Po Batis *Batis poensis*

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

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea*

Stunning males were seen on the Mundemba road and a pair on Mount Kupe.

Banded Wattle-eye *Platysteira laticincta*

One of Cameroon's most threatened endemics. We found a superb pair in the Bamenda Highlands.

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

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

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira concreta*

Another stunning and restless bird, we had good but brief views of one in Korup NP and later enjoyed superb views of a male on Mount Kupe. A stunning species!

Black-necked Wattle-eye *Platysteira chalybea*

This beautiful little bird was seen exceptionally well on Mount Kupe.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

We had great views of a flock of eight, en route from Garoua to Ngaoundere and another small flock at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

NOTE: This species is being considered for a 3-way split. P. p. cristatus would become Curly-crested Helmetshrike, P. p. poliocephalus would become Southern Helmetshrike and the nominate P. p. plumatus, the form we recorded would become Straight-crested Helmetshrike. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Fiery-breasted Bushshrike *Malaconotus cruentus*

After a patient search we enjoyed fabulous views of this stunning species. Another highlight of the trip!

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

We had superb views of two at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Green-breasted Bushshrike *Malaconotus gladiator*

We had what can only be described as phenomenal views of this huge bushshrike at Bokassi. We watched for an incredible full ten minutes as the bird perched unperturbed nearby. All my previous sightings have always been very brief. A most memorable highlight!

Mount Kupe Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus kupeensis*

After a great deal of effort we all saw this rare and endangered species at Mount Kupe. Most of us however only saw it very briefly. We also had a brief sighting of one at Bokassi.

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

We had good views of a pair at Mount Kupe and another at Bokassi.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A widespread African savanna species that was first seen en route from Garoua to Ngaoundere with further sightings in Benoue NP

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

Two birds were sighted at Bokassi.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

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

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

We were treated to good views of a pair in the Bokassi Mountains and another on Mount Kupe.

Red-eyed Puffback *Dryoscopus senegalensis*

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

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Restricted to the north, we found several in Benoue NP.

Mountain Sooty Boubou *Laniarius poensis*

One was seen exceptionally well on Mt. Cameroon

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

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

We heard this species on many occasions at Mount Kupe and in the Bokassi Mountains. Our intensive search was finally rewarded with good views of one near Nyasoso.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major*

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

NOTE: Some authorities have split this into 3 species, Tropical Boubou, L. major the one we observed, Ethiopian Boubou, L. aethiopicus of Ethiopia and nw Somalia and East Coast Boubou, L. sublacteus of coastal Kenya, NE Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Yellow-crowned Gonolek *Laniarius barbarous*

We had good but brief views of this magnificent species in scrub near Mora.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

One of these beautiful birds was seen in the gallery forest on the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Yellow-breasted Boubou *Laniarius atroflavus*

A total of 10 of these stunning and confiding shrikes were seen well on Mount Cameroon and a further 3 in the Bamenda highlands.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Two birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a single bird was sighted in Benoue NP.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia*

We recorded one of these smart birds at Bokassi and another at Mount Kupe.

White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina pectoralis*

Two were seen very well at Ngaoundaba Ranch, a beautiful and uncommon broad-leafed woodland species.

Blue Cuckooshrike *Coracina azurea*

We had brief scope views of one in Korup NP and later enjoyed magnificent eye-level views of a pair on the Mundemba road.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

A male was seen at Bokassi, a leader only sighting.

Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti*

We found one at Mount Cameroon and several at Mount Kupe.

Shrikes Laniidae

Yellow-billed Shrike *Corvinella corvina*

Up to twenty were seen daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch. An unusual, gregarious species.

Mackinnon's Shrike (Fiscal) *Lanius mackinnoni*

We encountered a total of five on Mount Cameroon. Small numbers were also seen daily in the Mt.Kupe/Bokassi areas.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

We had good views of one whilst en route from Maroua to Garoua.

Northern (Common) Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

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

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

This smart shrike was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again near Maroua.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

We had good views of at least six on the Mundemba road.

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

Several were seen easily in the tall woodlands at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western (Black-headed) Oriole *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*

One was seen on the Mundemba road.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*

We recorded several in the Bokassi Mountains.

Drongos Dicruridae

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*

We located one in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Shining Drongo *Dicrurus atripennis*

This forest interior drongo was seen in Korup NP.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

A familiar, ubiquitous bird. Good numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*

This recently split forest equivalent of the Fork-tailed Drongo was found along the Mundemba road.

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

Monarchs Monarchidae

Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens*

We enjoyed great views of a male in Korup NP.

Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufocinerea*

We had fantastic sightings of a pair at their nest near our hotel in Douala and several more in the Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

We had daily sightings of this striking species in Korup NP.

Bates's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone batesi*

We had a good sighting of one at Mt.Kupe.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed good views of several at Ngaoundaba Ranch including several of the black-and-white morph.

Crows, Jays Corvidae

Piapiac*Ptilostomus afer*

Small numbers were seen near Ngaoundere and at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

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

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

We had amazing views of one in Korup NP. Yet another major highlight of the tour!

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**African Blue Flycatcher***Elminia longicauda*

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

White-bellied Crested Flycatcher*Elminia albiventris*

We had good views of three birds on Mount Cameroon and two at both Mount Kupe and Bokassi.

Tits, Chickadees Paridae**White-shouldered Black Tit***Parus guineensis*

We found several at Ngaoundaba Ranch and again in Benoue NP.

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

White-bellied Tit*Parus albiventris*

We had superb views of three in the Bamenda highlands.

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

This vociferous songster was seen in Korup NP.

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

We had great views of two near the Benoue River.

Sun Lark*Galerida modesta*

We found 6 birds in burnt grassland at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further four in the Bamenda highlands.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

A fairly common species of the dry north, at least 8 birds were seen on an outing near Mora.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**Common Bulbul***Pycnonotus barbatus*

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

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

Dark-capped Bulbul*Pycnonotus tricolor*

Commonly encountered at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we saw up to fifty daily.

Cameroon (Mountain) Greenbul*Arizelocichla montana*

Three were seen during our walk on Mount Cameroon.

Western (Mountain) Greenbul*Arizelocichla tephrolaema*

This common, although range restricted species was quite common on Mount Cameroon where we saw a total of 50 birds. We enjoyed further sightings at Mt. Kupe and in the Bamenda Highlands.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

The common greenbul of forest canopy, we had good views of two on the Mundemba road.

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens*

This, the commonest forest edge greenbul was heard at all forest sites and seen on several occasions at the Sanaga River, near Mundemba and at Mt. Kupe.

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*

We enjoyed good views of two daily on the Mundemba road and several near the Sanaga River.

Plain Greenbul *Eurillas curvirostris*

We had good views of two birds along the Mundemba road.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris*

A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had a good sighting of one at Mt. Kupe.

Golden Greenbul *Calyptocichla serinus*

We had great scope views of two at Mount Kupe.

Honeyguide Greenbul *Baeopogon indicator*

This species was seen well once at Mount Kupe and once at Bokassi.

Sjostedt's Greenbul *Baeopogon clamans*

A low density and rather shy species. We heard this species in Korup NP.

Spotted Greenbul *Ixonotus guttatus*

We secured excellent views of 4 birds along the Mundemba road and a further 6 in secondary forest south of the Sanaga River.

Simple Greenbul *Chlorocichla simplex*

We had brief views of one on Mount Kupe.

Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul) *Chlorocichla flavicollis*

Small numbers were seen at La Digue and Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Red-tailed Leaflove *Phyllastrephus scandens*

Two were seen well but briefly in gallery forest at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cameroon Olive Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poensis*

We found several in the undergrowth in the Bokassi Mountains and later enjoyed good views of another at Bokassi.

Icterine Greenbul *Phyllastrephus icterinus*

At least three birds were encountered in Korup NP

Xavier's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus xavieri*

Very similar to the previous species but with a different call, we had great views in Korup NP.

Grey-headed Greenbul *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*

We enjoyed great sightings of several in the Bokassi and Mount Kupe Mountains.

Yellow-lored (Lesser) Bristlebill *Bleda notatus*

Commoner than its congener in Cameroon, we encountered several daily in Korup NP, often in association with ant swarms.

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

Eastern Bearded Greenbul *Criniger chloronotus*

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

Red-tailed Greenbul *Criniger calurus*

We found two in the canopy of Korup NP.

White-bearded Greenbul*Criniger ndussumensis*

Another Congo forest special, we saw up to six daily during our stay in Korup NP and a further two near the Sanaga River.

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

We enjoyed good views of several perched at Mount Kupe.

Mountain Saw-wing*Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*

A total of 4 of this range-restricted species, a near endemic to Cameroon, were seen on our day on Mt Cameroon.

Black Saw-wing*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

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

Grey-rumped Swallow*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

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

Sand Martin*Riparia riparia*

We found at least two in Benoue NP and another near the Sanaga River.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers were seen throughout Cameroon.

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

Ethiopian Swallow*Hirundo aethiopica*

Small numbers were seen at many scattered sites throughout the trip with our first sightings at La Digue.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers were seen in Benoue NP.

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

White-bibbed Swallow*Hirundo nigrita*

We enjoyed wonderful views of two at the Sanaga River.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

One was seen at a rocky outcrop near Mora and several in the Bamenda highlands.

Common House Martin*Delichon urbicum*

Four were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Lesser Striped Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

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

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

We had wonderful views of six along the Mundemba road and several near the Sanaga River.

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

We enjoyed superb views of one near Mount Kupe.

Preuss's [Cliff] Swallow*Petrochelidon preussi*

Commonly encountered at the Sanaga River and Mundemba

Forest Swallow*Petrochelidon fuliginosa*

We had superb views of two birds at Mount Kupe.

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

Two of these attractive warblers, a denizen of rank grass, were seen en route from Mount Kupe to the Bamenda highlands.

Yellow Longbill*Macrosphenus flavicans*

A real skulker, however we were treated to good views of one in Korup NP.

Grey Longbill*Macrosphenus concolor*

We heard several in Korup NP.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, our first sighting was at Ngaoundaba Ranch with a further encounter in Benoue NP.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

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

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis**Green Hylia***Hylia prasina*

Its "HEE-lia!" call was one of the common background sounds at all the forest sites on the tour. We had good views of one in Korup NP.

Tit Hylia*Pholidornis rushiae*

We had superb views of two near the Sanaga River.

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

Our first sighting of this little gem was of four on Mount Cameroon with further sightings in the Bokassi and Mount Kupe Mountains.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

Two were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Western Bonelli's Warbler*Phylloscopus bonelli*

We had great views of four during our time in the Mora area.

Wood Warbler*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Small numbers were seen at many scattered sites with a total of ten seen on the tour. One singing bird was watched intently at Limbe Botanical Gardens.

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

We had a good sighting of one at Ngaoundaba Ranch and brief views of another at Mount Kupe.

Great Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

We enjoyed superb views of one near Garoua.

Sedge Warbler*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

We found two near Garoua.

Eurasian Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

We had good views of one along the Benoue River in Benoue NP.

Dark-capped Yellow Warbler*Iduna natalensis*

Some of us had great views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

Western Olivaceous Warbler*Iduna opaca*

Another Palearctic migrant, we found one at La Digue and another two at Mora.

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

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

We enjoyed good scope views of one near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Grassbirds & allies Locustellidae

Little Rush (African Bush) Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

We had superb views of one on Mount Cameroon and heard another at Mount Kupe.

Evergreen Forest (Scrub) Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi*

This can be a difficult species to see. We only heard it on Mount Cameroon.

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 neighboring eastern Nigeria.

Fan-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola brevirostris*

We heard one calling near Bokassi.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

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

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

We had great views of one near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

We enjoyed good views of two near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Chattering Cisticola *Cisticola anonymus*

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

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

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

Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola emini*

We had great views of two on a rocky hillsides north of Maroua.

NOTE: Some authorities split Rock-loving Cisticola, *C. emini* that we observed and occurs in West and East Africa from Lazy Cisticola, *C. aberrans* that occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet accept this split.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

We found a pair at Dang Lake and several more whilst en route from Mount Kupe to Bamenda.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

We had good scope views of one near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Red-pate Cisticola *Cisticola ruficeps*

A total of 8 birds, were seen in arid scrub in the Mora area.

Dorst's Cisticola *Cisticola guinea*

We had good views of one in Benoue NP.

Rufous Cisticola *Cisticola rufus*

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

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

We had good views of one near Garoua.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens*

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

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

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

- Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*
This snappy looking bird showed very well on Mt. Cameroon and at Mount Kupe.
- White-chinned Prinia** *Schistolais leucopogon*
This confiding, gregarious species was observed at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Limbe Botanical Gardens.
- Red-winged Warbler** *Heliolais erythropterus*
We enjoyed good views of a pair in Benoue NP.
- Green Longtail** *Urolais epichlorus*
Our first encounter with this species was at Mount Cameroon with a further two seen at Bokassi.
- Black-collared Apalis** *Oreolais pulchra*
A beautiful apalis that we had stunning views of in the Bamenda highlands. We saw at least 6 birds during our time there.
- Red-winged Grey Warbler** *Drymocichla incana*
Up to four of this smart species were observed daily at Benoue NP.
- Cricket Warbler** *Spiloptila clamans*
We found a pair of these charismatic and highly sought-after birds North of Maroua.
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
This widespread, woodland apalis is not very common in Cameroon. We observed a pair at La Digue.
- Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*
This is one of the most beautiful apalises. We observed at least 3 birds during our walks in the Bokassi and Mount Kupe Mountains.
- Black-capped Apalis** *Apalis nigriceps*
A canopy apalis, we had good views of a pair on Mt. Kupe and another pair on the Mundemba road.
- Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*
Two were seen by some on Mount Cameroon.
- Bamenda Apalis** *Apalis bamendae*
A gallery forest species and an endemic to Cameroon, we found one at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*
We had sightings of two on Mount Cameroon and a further one in the Bamenda highlands.
- Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*
Two of these unusual creatures were located in riverine vegetation at Ngaoundaba Ranch where we enjoyed amazing scope views.
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in wooded habitat at many localities on the tour. We had almost daily sightings.
NOTE: Most authorities now recognize the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms C. brevicaudata. We encountered the grey-backed form in Cameroon. Clements lumps these two groups.
- Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris*
This handsome warbler was first seen in Korup NP where we had brief views of one and later another was seen well on the Mundemba road.
- Olive-green Camaroptera** *Camaroptera chloronota*
This species was seen briefly on the Mundemba road.
- Black-faced Rufous Warbler** *Bathmocercus rufus*
This species was seen by some on Mt. Kupe.
- Senegal Eremomela** *Eremomela pusilla*
A common species recorded in woodlands from Ngaoundaba Ranch north where we enjoyed a day total of 10 birds.
NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped into the East African E. pusilla (Green-backed Eremomela.) The enlarged species is called Green-backed Eremomela.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela*Eremomela badiceps*

We had several sightings of small flocks along the Mundemba road and at Mount Kupe.

Ground Babblers Pellorneidae**[Spotted] Thrush-Babbler***Ptyrticus turdinus*

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

Blackcap Illadopsis*Illadopsis cleaveri*

One bird was seen on Mount Kupe.

Pale-breasted Illadopsis*Illadopsis rufipennis*

We had great views of three in Korup NP.

Brown Illadopsis*Illadopsis fulvescens*

Two were seen well in Korup NP.

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

We saw a flock of this wonderful and unique bird at Bokassi.

Blackcap Babbler*Turdoides reinwardtii*

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

Brown Babbler*Turdoides plebejus*

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

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae**African Hill Babbler***Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

We had great views of six on Mount Cameroon.

Ruwenzori (African) Hill Babbler*Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

We had good views of two in the Bamenda highlands.

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

Garden Warbler*Sylvia borin*

We had superb views of one on Mount Cameroon and another at Bokassi.

Common (Greater) Whitethroat*Sylvia communis*

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

White-eyes Zosteropidae**[Mount] Cameroon Spierops***Zosterops melanocephalus*

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

African Yellow White-eye*Zosterops senegalensis*

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

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

Dapple-throat & allies Arcanatoridae**Grey-chested Babbler (Illadopsis)***Kakamega poliothorax*

Several of these elusive birds were heard calling at Bokassi.

Hyliotas Hylotiidae**Yellow-bellied Hyliota***Hyliota flavigaster*

We recorded a pair of these stunning birds, in woodland at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis*

We had cracking views of three on Mount Kupe. Further research into this isolated population in Cameroon may reveal a cryptic new species. (These “Southern Hyliotas” have now been seen a number of times on Mount Kupe and at Bokassi, favoring the large *Albizia* like flatcrowns)

Treecreepers Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori*

We had fantastic views of two birds while birding in woodland near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

NOTE: Spotted Creeper has recently been split into Indian Spotted Creeper *S. pilonotus* and African Spotted Creeper *S. salvadori*. This split is not as yet accepted by Clements.

Starlings Sturnidae

Purple-headed Starling *Hypopsar purpureiceps*

We saw three flying over Korup NP and later stunning views of six near the Sanaga River.

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

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

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

We found small numbers around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Bronze-tailed (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis chalcurus*

We had superb views of three in Benoue NP.

Splendid (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

This spectacular, large starling was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Mundemba.

Purple (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis purpureus*

Another stunning starling, small numbers were seen en route to and in Benoue NP.

Long-tailed Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis caudatus*

Good numbers of this impressive species were seen in our wanderings in the woodlands of Benoue NP.

Chestnut-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis pulcher*

Up to 20 of these beauties were seen daily in the dry scrubland north of Maroua.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This stunning bird was seen in woodlands around Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*

One was seen at Bokassi and a further two near Mount Kupe.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri*

We had great views of one on Mount Cameroon.

Neumann's Starling *Onychognathus neumanni*

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

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*

A total of twenty were seen at Mount Kupe.

White-collared Starling *Grafisia torquata*

This is a real special to the Ngaoundaba Ranch area where we enjoyed great scope views of a striking pair. A total of six birds were seen during our time at the ranch.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

Four were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further three in the Bamenda highlands.

Thrushes Turdidae

[Fraser's] Rufous (Flycatcher-) Thrush *Stizorhina fraseri*

We had good views of one on Mt.Kupe.

Crossley's Ground Thrush *Geokichla crossleyi*

We heard this shy species at Bokassi where we also had brief views of one.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

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

Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe castanea*

We had great views in Korup NP especially around ant swarms. At least 5 were seen here.

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

Brown-chested Alethe *Pseudalethe poliocephala*

We had good but brief views of one on Mount Cameroon.

Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscipidae

Forest Robin *Stiphornis erythrothorax*

This is a shy species, some of us enjoyed good views of one in Korup NP.

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

Bocage's Akalat *Sheppardia bocagei*

Two birds were seen briefly at Bokassi.

White-bellied Robin-Chat *Cossyphicula roberti*

One was seen well but briefly on Mount Kupe, a leader only sighting.

Mountain Robin-Chat *Cossypha isabellae*

We had excellent views of this endemic in the Bamenda highlands and on Mount Cameroon with at least 20 birds being found at the latter site.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*

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

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

Seen in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and in the Bamenda highlands

White-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha albicapillus*

A very large and showy *Cossypha*, much enjoyed by all. We had a total of 8 birds in riverine bush at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Erythropygia galactotes*

Up to three were seen daily in dry scrub north of Maroua.

Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

A wonderfully common and beautiful bird, we encountered at least 15 during our birding north of Maroua.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

We had good views of an adult male near Mora.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

We had good views of up to 30 at Ngaoundaba Ranch with scattered sightings elsewhere.

[African] Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

This widespread species was seen very well on Mount Cameroon and in the Bamenda highlands where we recorded a dozen.

Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglini*

We encountered one of these uncommon intra-African migrants en route from Benoue to Maroua.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

We saw up to three of this migrant species in the Mora area.

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris*

We encountered several birds in the rocky areas in Benoue NP and another near Mora.

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra*

We had great scope views of two near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

White-crowned (Mocking) Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea coronata*

We had wonderful views of a male near Ngaoundere and another male near Mora.

White-browed Forest Flycatcher *Fraseria cinerascens*

We were very lucky to encounter an adult near a stream in Korup NP. A rare and seldom encountered bird.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

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

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

We found two at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

One was seen in the Limbe Botanical Gardens and another near the Sanaga River.

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae*

We had great views of three birds near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Swamp Flycatcher *Muscicapa aquatica*

Two birds were seen attending to a nest with chicks in Benoue NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini*

A sprightly bird restricted to the vicinity of water, often hawking insects directly above it. Our sightings were of 2 in Limbe Botanical Gardens and another in Korup NP.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

A common forest-edge species with three seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch, up to eight from Mount Cameroon and a further four from Bamenda highlands

Yellow-footed Flycatcher *Muscicapa sethsmithi*

We obtained superb views of a pair in Korup NP and several on Mt. Kupe.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata*

A quiet, inconspicuous bird, we enjoyed good sightings in the Bokassi and Mount Kupe areas.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata*

We had good views of one on the Mundemba road and another at Mount Kupe.

Grey-throated Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus griseigularis*

We had good views of one in Korup NP.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus*

We had good views of two in Benoue NP.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

We saw up to eight birds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and several more in Benoue NP.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

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

A confusing species that often looks more like a greenbul than a sunbird, we enjoyed good sightings in Korup NP.

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

Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird *Anthreptes gabonicus*

We had stunning views of two at La Digue.

- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*
A beautiful and very short-billed Sunbird, we found up to three daily at Ngaoundaba Ranch.
- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*
We saw small numbers daily on the Mundemba road and at Mount Kupe.
- Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*
We had good views of several on the Mundemba road and at Mount Kupe.
NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two forms, the Eastern Grey-chinned Sunbird A. tephrolaemus and the nominate Western Yellow-chinned Sunbird.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
This is a very widespread species on the continent. We saw several at Mt. Kupe and at the Sanaga River
- Pygmy Sunbird** *Hedydipna platura*
We saw good numbers of these beautiful, long-tailed sunbirds at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.
- Reichenbach's Sunbird** *Anabathmis reichenbachii*
We saw this species at three sites. La Digue, Limbe Botanical Gardens and the Sanaga River.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*
We had superb sightings at Ngaoundaba Ranch, Limbe Botanical Gardens and one at Mt. Kupe.
- Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanoalaema*
This forest sunbird was seen along the Mundemba road and at Bokassi.
- Cameroon Sunbird** *Cyanomitra oritis*
Our first sighting was of cracking views of a male on Mt. Cameroon with further sightings in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*
This bird's call is a common forest sound in the south. Small numbers were seen daily at Mount Kupe, Bokassi and Bamenda.
NOTE: The Olive-Sunbird species complex is sometimes split into two full species, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird C. olivacea and the form which we recorded in Cameroon, Western Olive-Sunbird. There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack there-of, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various subspecies within the complex.
- Carmelite Sunbird** *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*
This rather striking sunbird, restricted to coastal areas, was seen very well at La Digue.
- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*
We enjoyed several sightings at Mount Kupe.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Seen daily in small numbers at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*
This is a typical forest edge species, seen at the Sanaga River, La Digue and near Mundemba.
- Tiny Sunbird** *Cinnyris minullus*
We had great views of a male at Mount Kupe.
- Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi*
We found eight on Mt. Cameroon and a further three in the Bamenda Highlands.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*
This exquisite sunbird is found only in the drier northern savanna, we enjoyed sightings en route to Ngaoundere and several daily in Benoue NP.
- Orange-tufted Sunbird** *Cinnyris bouvieri*
We were fortunate to find two stunning males of this rare bird at Bokassi.
- Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*
Up to four stunning males were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and one male at Mount Kupe.
- Johanna's Sunbird** *Cinnyris johanna*

A single female was sighted at Mount Kupe, a scarce species.

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus*

We found a superb male at Limbe Botanical Gardens, another on the Mundemba road and two at the Sanaga River.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

Small numbers were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Ursula's Sunbird *Cinnyris ursulae*

This can be a tough bird to find and is a near endemic to the country; we had marvelous views of a pair at Bokassi.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*

Several were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

We had good views of three in Benoue NP.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

We had superb views of a pair near Maroua.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Cameroon's commonest sparrow was plentiful throughout the country even in Urban areas.

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

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*

Common in the north of the country, with up to 50+ birds recorded daily from Ngaoundaba Ranch and Benoue NP.

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

This massive weaver was seen in dry scrub both south and north of Maroua where we also observed several nesting colonies.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

This is an attractive Sahelian species, at the edge of its range in Northern Cameroon. It was seen very well and in good numbers near Maroua.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Several birds were seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch and near Bamenda.

Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani*

This range restricted and endangered bird was seen only in the Bamenda Highlands. We counted a total of 4 birds in the area.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

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

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Several were seen very well at Mt. Kupe.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

This snappy-looking weaver of forest edge was first seen at La Digue with further sightings at Benoue NP.

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

This dapper bird of forest fringes was first seen very well at Mount Cameroon and later in the Bamenda highlands.

Orange Weaver *Ploceus aurantius*

We had great views of a pair at their nest on the Sanaga River.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Up to forty were seen in the Maroua 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 by Clements.

Viillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

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

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

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

Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*

We had superb views of one male on the Mundemba road.

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*

This pretty, bicolored bird was seen in the Bokassi area.

Preuss's Weaver *Ploceus preussi*

We had incredible views of one on Mt. Kupe.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

This smart bird was first seen at Bokassi with a further 2 in the Bamenda highlands.

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

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

Rachel's Malimbe *Malimbus racheliae*

A rare and seldom recorded species of lowland forest, we were exceptionally fortunate to find a magnificent pair nest building in Korup NP. This was one of the highlights of the trip!

Red-vented Malimbe *Malimbus scutatus*

This is another uncommon species. We found 8 on the Mundemba road.

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

A secretive species that forages in thick tangles, we found one in Korup NP, one along the Mundemba road and finally great views of one near the Sanaga River.

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

We were fortunate to find two in a mixed species flock along the Mundemba road.

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus*

This is a fairly common species and was seen in small numbers in Korup NP and along the Mundemba road.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

One female was seen in Benoue NP.

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops*

Small flocks were seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch and at the Sanaga River.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

Two birds in non-breeding plumage were seen whilst en route to Bamenda.

Black-winged [Red] Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

We had good views of twenty in Benoue NP.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Two were seen at Mt. Cameroon and a further ten in the Bamenda highlands.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura*

We had good views of 15 near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Marsh Widowbird*Euplectes hartlaubi*

We found 6 birds in non-breeding plumage at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further three at Dang Lake.

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

We had fantastic views of three of this elusive species in Korup NP and amazingly a further two at Bokassi.

White-breasted Nigrita*Nigrita fusconotus*

We had good views of two on the Mundemba road.

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita*Nigrita bicolor*

This attractive seedeater was seen well at Mt.Kupe.

Pale-fronted Nigrita*Nigrita luteifrons*

We found five in the Limbe Botanical Gardens. A low density species

Grey-headed Nigrita*Nigrita canicapillus*

The commonest nigrita. It was seen at Limbe BG and in the Bokassi and Mt.Kupe areas.

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

This beautiful little bird was refreshingly common on Mt Cameroon where we saw at least 15 individuals on our day there.

Red-winged Pytilia*Pytilia phoenicoptera*

We had good but brief views of one in Benoue NP.

Yellow-winged Pytilia*Pytilia hypogrammica*

We had good scope views of eight near Ngaoundaba Ranch and one in Benoue NP.

Green-winged Pytilia*Pytilia melba*

A total of 6 birds were seen on our day the Mora area. A widespread and beautifully marked finch.

Cut-throat (Finch)*Amadina fasciata*

We found five during the drive from Benoue to Maroua.

Red-faced Crimsonwing*Cryptospiza reichenovii*

We found two at Mt. Cameroon, three at Bokassi and a final sighting of two splendid males in the Bamenda highlands. Typically shy and rather uncommon.

Black-bellied Seedcracker*Pyrenestes ostrinus*

We had superb views of a male in Limbe Botanical Gardens.

Western Bluebill*Spermophaga haematina*

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

Brown Twinspot*Clytospiza monteiri*

A wonderful pair was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch. A beautifully patterned finch.

Dybowski's Twinspot*Euschistospiza dybowskii*

We had cracking views of two birds near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black-bellied Firefinch*Lagonosticta rara*

This large firefinch was first seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch. Our highest total was of 10 birds on a single day.

Bar-breasted Firefinch*Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We had superb sightings of 10 birds in Benoue NP.

Red-billed Firefinch*Lagonosticta senegala*

Small numbers encountered in Benoue NP.

Rock Firefinch*Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*

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

Black-faced Firefinch *Lagonosticta larvata*

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

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

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

Lavender Waxbill *Estrilda caerulescens*

One of these beautiful birds were seen near Mora.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*

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

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

This species was only seen near Garoua where we found two.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

A group of four was seen during the drive from Mt. Kupe to Bamenda.

Black-crowned Waxbill *Estrilda nonnula*

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

Black-headed Waxbill *Estrilda atricapilla*

This is very similar to the previous species but with a dark vent and greyer underparts. We found a few near Mt. Kupe.

Orange-breasted (Zebra) Waxbill *Amandava subflava*

We heard several calling at a wetland near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Black-faced Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

We found 6 drinking near Garoua. Another highlight of the trip!

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*

About 10 were seen near Maroua.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

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

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor*

First seen near our hotel in Douala, with further sightings near Mundemba and in Limbe Botanical Gardens

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

Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*

We had cracking views of three including a male in breeding plumage in Mora.

Cameroon Indigobird *Vidua camerunensis*

Small numbers were seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

This familiar bird, which parasitises small seedeaters, was seen near Ngaoundaba Ranch and at the Sanaga River.

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

Small numbers were seen at Garoua and twenty on the Sanaga River.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

We enjoyed scope views of one in the Bamenda Highlands.

African Pied Wagtail*Motacilla aguimp*

A common and familiar African bird, we saw a pair on the Benoue River.

Yellow-throated Longclaw*Macronyx croceus*

We found 3 near Ngaoundaba Ranch.

African (Cameroon) Pipit*Anthus cinnamomeus*

We had good views of two in the Bamenda highlands.

NOTE: Cameroon Pipit, A. cameroonensis is sometimes split from African Pipit.

Tawny Pipit*Anthus campestris*

We had good views of two near Mora.

Long-billed (Bannerman's) Pipit*Anthus similis*

We had great views of two birds in rocky grassland near Bamenda.

NOTE: Bannerman's Pipit, A. bannermani is sometimes split from Long-billed Pipit.

Plain-backed Pipit*Anthus leucophrys*

We had good views of two near Ngaoundaba Ranch, two at Mount Cameroon, 3 at Mount Kupe and finally several in the Bamenda highlands.

Long-legged Pipit*Anthus pallidiventris*

We had great views of 1 in Douala.

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

We found at least 30 at Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further 2 in the Bamenda Highlands.

Finches Fringillidae**Oriole Finch***Linurgus olivaceus*

This beautiful and endearing critter was seen exceptionally well on Mt Cameroon where we found 8 birds. A further stunning male was seen in the Bamenda highlands.

White-rumped Seedeater*Crithagra leucopygia*

We found one near Garoua.

Yellow-fronted Canary*Crithagra mozambica*

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

Thick-billed Seed-eater*Crithagra burtoni*

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

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

We found six just north of Maroua.

Golden-breasted Bunting*Emberiza flaviventris*

We had good views of two near Mora.

Cabanis's Bunting*Emberiza cabanisi*

One of these beautiful broad-leafed woodland birds was seen in Ngaoundaba Ranch and a further four in Benoue NP.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

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

MAMMALS

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae**Guereza Colobus***Colobus guereza*

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

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

We saw up to five daily in Benoue NP.

Tantalus Monkey*Cercopithecus tantalus*

We observed up to 20 daily in Benoue NP.

Galagos Galagonidae**Senegal Galago***Galago senegalensis*

Up to three were seen during each night drive in Benoue National Park.

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

We had fantastic views of thousands in Douala.

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

We had great views of one on Mount Cameroon.

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

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

Squirrels Sciuridae**Striped Ground Squirrel***Euxerus erythropus*

Two were seen in Benoue NP.

African Pygmy Squirrel*Myosciurus pumilio*

One was seen briefly in Korup NP.

Lady Burton's Rope Squirrel*Funisciurus isabella*

Two were seen on Mount Cameroon.

Green Squirrel*Paraxerus poensis*

One was seen at Ngaoundaba Ranch.

Cooper's Mountain Squirrel*Heliosciurus gambianus*

We had good views of 1 at Mount Cameroon.

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

We had great views of one in Benoue NP.

Genets & Civet Viverridae**Common (Small-spotted) Genet***Genetta genetta*

We had a good sighting of one in Benoue NP.

Hyraxes Procaviidae**Western Tree Hyrax***Dendrohyrax dorsalis*

We heard this species at Mount Kupe.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius

At least 14 were observed in Benoue NP.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Giraffe

Giraffe camelopardus

We had great sightings of 3 in Benoue NP.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

At least 3 of these striking antelope were seen in Benoue NP.

Bush Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

Two were seen in Benoue NP.

Red-flanked Duiker

Cephalophus rufilatus

Up to 7 daily were seen in Benoue NP.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebi

We had great views of one during a night drive in Benoue NP.

Kob

Kobus kob

This was a particularly common mammal in Benoue NP where daily totals reached 70.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

One was seen by some in Benoue NP.

REPTILES

Tropical House Gecko

Hemidactylus mabouia

One was seen at our hotel in Buea and another in Mundemba.

Rainbow Skink

Mabuya margaritifera

One of these smart reptiles was seen in Maroua.

Chameleon

Trioceros cristatus

We found a male and female of this stunning species in Korup NP.

Red-headed Rock Agama

Agama agama

We had good views of ten in the Mora area.

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

We had good views of three in Benoue National Park.

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