



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Cameroon

### Rockfowl, Rainforests & Sahel

*22<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014*



Grey-necked Rockfowl by David Hoddinott

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

## Tour Summary:

Our private 12-day tour of Cameroon was a most successful adventure; covering a selection of habitats enabled us to notch up a superb total of 381 species in just 11 days of birding. On top of this we found many specials including Grey-necked Rockfowl and Egyptian Plover...

Our tour started off with a morning visit to a small coastal patch of mangroves and gardens where we found a remarkable diversity of species. Some of the highlights included Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Blue-breasted and African Pygmy Kingfisher, a cute family of Little Bee-eaters, African Pied Hornbill, African



**Carmelite Sunbird by David Hoddinott**



**Stone Partridge by David Hoddinott**

quarry. It was then time to head for the airport to catch our flight north to Garoua.

It was a nice surprise to have the flight being on-time for once and after a comfortable journey we arrived in Garoua, where we were soon at our hotel enjoying dinner before settling down for a good night's rest.

An early start saw us heading to the Benoue River on the edge of town the following day, and here we enjoyed great sightings of Greater Painted-snipe, Crested Lark and several White-rumped Seedeaters.

Grey Woodpecker, beautiful and showy Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Yellow-throated Leaflove, Chattering Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis, a host of sunbirds including Mangrove, Reichenbach's, Green-headed and Olive-bellied, Black-necked Weaver, Grey-headed Nigrita and dainty Black-crowned Waxbill. Thereafter we had time for a quick visit to a nearby wetland where we found African Pygmy Goose, African Darter and confiding Simple Greenbul. After a delicious lunch we stopped by a regular site for Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher, where we quickly found our



**White-throated Francolin by David Hoddinott**

Our next destination was Benoue National Park, where the major habitat consists mainly of Guinea Savannah that supports a wonderful diversity of species. A further feature of interest in the park is the



**White-crested Turaco by David Hoddinott**

Kingfisher, Red-throated Bee-eater, huge Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Bearded Barbet, Fine-spotted, Golden-tailed and Brown-backed Woodpecker, Black-headed Gonolek, African Blue Flycatcher, Grey-rumped and Preuss's Swallow, Moustached Grass Warbler, Red-winged Grey Warbler, quaint Oriole Warbler, Blackcap Babbler, Yellow-bellied Hylia, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, White-crowned Robin-Chat, Heuglin's Wheatear, Pygmy and Beautiful Sunbird, Red-headed Weaver, elusive Grey-headed Oliveback, cracking Dybowski's Twinspot and Black-bellied and Black-faced Firefinch.

lazy Benoue River which, although very wide, supports just a trickle of water at this time of year. We enjoyed time exploring these areas and some of the highlights during our stay included family groups of Stone Partridge, a very cryptic White-throated Francolin, flocks of Abdim's and a lone Saddle-billed Stork, a fabulous White-backed Night Heron, Goliath Heron (rare in Cameroon), a pair of displaying African Hawk-Eagle, Senegal Thick-knee, smart White-crowned Lapwing, the highly sought-after Egyptian Plover, fantastic Four-banded Sandgrouse, rare Adamawa Turtle Dove, Senegal Parrot, stunning White-crested and Violet Turaco, a day-roosting African Scops Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, beautiful Abyssinian and Blue-bellied Rollers, Grey-headed



**Scissor-tailed Kite by Paul Ellis**

During our drives from Garoua to Benoue and back we recorded some great birds as well including



**Black-collared Apalis by David Hoddinott**

African Cuckoo-Hawk, a very unexpected Scissor-tailed Kite, several Fox Kestrel, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, White-headed Barbet, social Yellow-billed Shrike, the strange corvid, Piapiac, and Grey-backed Fiscal.

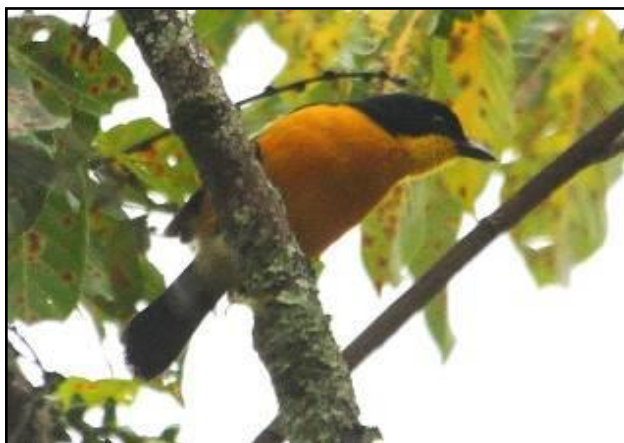
From Garoua we took the flight back to Douala via N'Djamena, Chad and Yaoundé. This took a while but we arrived in Douala not long after the expected time and were soon on our way to Edea, where we enjoyed a delicious dinner and overnighted at a comfortable hotel.

The next morning we left early for the Sanaga River and were soon watching a large flock of African Skimmers fishing across the still waters, a

magical sight! It took a bit longer to find the desired and stunning Grey Pratincole, but once we did we soon noticed dozens of them and they allowed good scope views. White-crowned Lapwing, Woolly-necked Stork, White-fronted Plover and a lone Spur-winged Goose were also in attendance. The surrounding area was productive and we quickly found a large flock of Preuss's Swallow, several Red-headed Quelea, a pair of Blue-headed Coucal, and then a magnificent Black-bellied Seedcracker which put on a great show. Leaving the river we found the splendid White-bibbed Swallow before making our way to the nearby forest. Although our visit was brief we picked up some great birds including Lizard Buzzard, Mottled Spinetail, the immaculate Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Speckled Tinkerbird, obliging Western Nicator, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, and a Chestnut-breasted Nigrita drinking from a puddle in the road. The star sighting however was finding a calling Zenker's Honeyguide, a very rarely-seen species. Delighted with this, we set off to Kribi where we relished our lunch at the beach.



**Brown Twinspot by David Hoddinott**



**Yellow-breasted Boubou by Glen Valentine**

Hornbills, smart Red-rumped Tinkerbird, Yellow-billed Barbet, Cassin's Honeybird, Green-backed, Brown-eared and Gabon Woodpecker, a male Rufous-sided Broadbill displaying, White-spotted Wattle-eye, a fabulous flock of Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike, superb Blue Cuckooshrike, Sabine's Puffback, Forest Penduline Tit, a host of greenbills including Ansorge's, Xavier's and White-bearded and confiding Yellow-lored Bristlebill, Violet-backed Hyliota, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Yellow-footed Flycatcher, Cassin's Malimbe and an unexpected Long-legged Pipit. The absolute highlight though was of course watching Grey-necked Rockfowl around their roosting site. What a show they gave us and we enjoyed spending an hour with these amazing pre-historic looking birds!

Moving on to Campo Ma'an National Park, we enjoyed a fabulous two full day's birding in this superb lowland rainforest. After some recent rain the activity in the forest was good and we enjoyed many memorable sightings. Some of the star sightings included migrant European Honey Buzzard, Afep Pigeon, amazing scope views of Black-collared Lovebird, flocks of Grey Parrot, Great Blue Turacos (which put on a great show – at one time we had five individuals in a tree only thirty metres away!), Blue Malkoha, Sabine's and Cassin's Spinetail hunting overhead, Blue-throated Roller, Red-billed Dwarf, White-thighed and huge Black-casqued



**Shelley's Oliveback by Paul Ellis**

Leaving the rainforest we next travelled to the Bamenda highlands, a lovely change from the hot and humid lowlands. En route we stopped at La Digue once more in search of the fabulous Carmelite Sunbird. It did not disappoint and we enjoyed superb views of a male, female and juvenile, as well as a fabulous pair of obliging Black Crake. Further along the journey a comfort stop yielded magnificent views of the often rather shy Brown Twinspot.



**Bannerman's Weaver by David Hoddinott**

The Bamenda highlands, although severely degraded, still yielded a remarkable variety of species including all the specials. Notable sightings were a male Western Marsh Harrier, several Red-necked Buzzard, scope views of African Hobby, stunning Bannerman's Turaco, a day roosting Greyish Eagle-Owl, Black-shouldered Nightjar, Willcock's Honeyguide, tricky Banded Wattle-eye, Yellow-breasted Boubou, Mackinnon's Shrike, Sun Lark, Cameroon and Cameroon Olive Greenbul, confiding Bangwa Forest Warbler, Green Longtail, Black-collared Apalis, Ruwenzori Hill Babbler, Neumann's Starling, Mountain Robin-Chat, Cameroon, Splendid and Orange-tufted Sunbird, Bannerman's, Baglafaecht, Brown-capped and

Black-billed Weaver, Shelley's Oliveback, Red-faced Crimsonwing and African (Cameroon) Pipit.

This then brought an end to our wonderful adventure and we headed back to Douala to catch our return flights home. This had been a most memorable trip and would not have been possible without such a wonderful group of enthusiastic participants. Thank you very much to everyone! I am greatly looking forward to sharing many more wonderful adventures with all of you!

### **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 4.1 generated on 2014-03-10. 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 381 species!)**

##### **Guineafowl Numididae**

###### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

Up to ten observed daily in Benoue NP.

*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 in Benoue NP which included excellent sightings near the roadside.

##### **Pheasants & Allies Phasianidae**

**White-throated Francolin** *Peliperdix albogularus*

We had magnificent views of one in the woodland at Benoue NP.

**Double-spurred Francolin** *Pternistis bicalcaratus*

This francolin was encountered at Benoue NP.

### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

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

We had great views of one at the Sanaga River.

**African Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus auritus*

We had fantastic views of six at a roadside wetland near the Sanaga River.

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anus undulata*

We recorded one at Lake Awing, Bamenda. This is a very range restricted bird in West Africa, only occurring in this area in Cameroon and marginally in neighboring Nigeria.

### Storks Ciconiidae

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*

We had good views of four soaring high overheard near the town of Campo.

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

We had wonderful views of two birds in Benoue NP.

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

Several small flocks of these intra-African migrants were seen in Benoue NP and our final sighting was of ten at Yaounde airport.

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

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

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

We enjoyed great scope views of one in Benoue NP.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer*

Otani had good views of a flock of thirty at N'Djamena, Chad.

### Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers were seen daily in Benoue NP and a further two en route to Campo Ma'an NP.

### Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

**White-backed Night Heron** *Gorsachius leuconotus*

We had wonderful scope views of one in Benoue NP.

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

Three were seen along a small tributary of the Sanaga River.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

We enjoyed a good sighting of one at a roadside pan en route to Sanaga River and another one 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.*

**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 two in Benoue NP and three at the Sanaga River.

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

A fairly common species in the north, several were seen en route to Benoue NP.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*

We had fair views of one in Benoue NP.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

One of this familiar species was seen at Douala airport.

*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.*

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Three were seen at La Digue and a further two at the Sanaga River.

*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.*

### Hamerkop Scopidae

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This unique species was easily seen in Benoue NP.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

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

Seen at wetlands throughout the country. A few were seen at La Digue and a further few at the Benoue River.

### Anhingas, Darters Anhingidae

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*

One was seen at a roadside wetland near the Sanaga River and another on a large river en route to Campo Ma'an NP.

*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.*

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

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

Up to four were seen during the drive from Garoua to Benoue NP.

*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 one thirty kilometres south of Garoua, unusual this far south. This was voted as one of the top birds of the trip!

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

A distinctive raptor recorded daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

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

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

Two were seen in Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides*

We had great views of one en route from Benoue to Garoua.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

We had good views of twenty at Garoua.

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

We enjoyed scattered sightings of this impressive raptor throughout with great sightings of one in Benoue NP.

**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 the Sanaga River with further sightings of several in the Bamenda highlands.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

We found one melanistic individual during the drive from Garoua to Benoue NP as well as several normal grey individuals.

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

Two were seen in the woodlands in Benoue NP.

*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.*

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A superb male was seen en route during the drive from Douala to Bamenda.

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

One was seen during the drive from Garoua to Benoue.

**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 was heard calling in Benoue NP.

**Grasshopper Buzzard** *Butastur rufipennis*

We enjoyed two sightings of this species en route from Garoua to Benoue NP.

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

This handsome buzzard was noted at a number of localities on the tour, we had magnificent sightings en route from Garoua to Benoue with further sightings in the Bamenda highlands.

### Falcons, Caracaras Falconidae

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

This widespread, familiar raptor was seen daily 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 up to eight during the drive from Garoua to Benoue NP.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

We had good views of two en route from the Sanaga River to Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*

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

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

We had great views of two during the drive from Garoua to Benoue NP.

### Flufftails Sarothruridae

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

This secretive, forest rallids hooting call was heard in Campo Ma'an NP.

### Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae



**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra*

A pair was seen very well at La Digue, Douala.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

We observed two at a roadside wetland near Bamenda.

### 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 the Benoue River, Garoua with further sightings in Benoue NP.

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

We enjoyed great sightings of a pair with two young in Garoua. A very attractive species.

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

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

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

We had wonderful scope views of two birds in Benoue NP.

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

We enjoyed good scope views of one 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 birds near Garoua.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

A widespread and characteristic wader, conspicuous in wetlands. We found one at La Digue and a further two at the Benoue River.

### Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

One was seen in Benoue NP and a further one 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 the Benoue River at Garoua.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

We had great scope views of three at the Sanaga River.

### Coursers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

**Collared Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

We had good views of one flying high overhead whilst calling at the Benoue River, Garoua.

**Rock Pratincole***Glareola nuchalis*

A total of 4 birds were seen on a large river en route to Campo Ma'an NP.

**Grey Pratincole***Glareola cinerea*

At least 30 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 150 birds on the Sanaga River.

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

We had spectacular views of a pair at the roadside 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 with further sightings in Benoue NP.

**Afep Pigeon***Columba unicincta*

We had good scope views of one at Campo Ma'an NP where at least four birds were seen.

**Adamawa Turtle Dove***Streptopelia hypopyrrha*

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

**Mourning [Collared] Dove***Streptopelia decipiens*

At least six birds were seen at the Benoue River, Garoua.

**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 Benoue area with peak numbers of fifty daily in Benoue NP.

**Laughing (Palm) Dove***Spilopelia senegalensis*

A familiar species and in Cameroon recorded regularly at Garoua

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

The common wood dove of the dry, northern savanna, up to twenty seen daily in Benoue NP

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

Not uncommon in secondary growth in the moister south. We had fantastic views of two at La Digue.

**Tambourine Dove***Turtur tympanistria*

A forest equivalent of the wood doves, we encountered one near the Sanaga River and another at Campo Ma'an NP.

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

A deep forest species restricted to West Africa. We heard several in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Namaqua Dove***Oena capensis*

A fairly common species in the dry north, we saw two during the drive from Garoua to Benoue NP.

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

Small numbers were seen en route from Garoua to Benoue NP. 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. Seen well in Benoue and Campo Ma'an NP's

### Parrots Psittacidae

#### **Black-collared Lovebird**

*Agapornis swindernianus*

We had wonderful scope views of four in Campo Ma'an NP. Seeing this rare species perched was yet another highlight of the tour!

#### **(African) Grey Parrot**

*Psittacus erithacus*

So much better to see them in the wild than as the usual cage bird! Two were seen flying over at La Digue and thereafter we enjoyed daily sightings of up to 50 in Campo Ma'an NP.

#### **Senegal Parrot**

*Poicephalus senegalus*

A parrot of drier savanna and woodland, we found several in Benoue NP including great scope views of a pair.

### Turacos Musophagidae

#### **Great Blue Turaco**

*Corythaeola cristata*

Arguably one of Africa's most spectacular birds, this huge frugivore was seen exceptionally well in Campo Ma'an NP.

#### **Yellow-billed (Verreaux's) Turaco**

*Tauraco macrorhynchus*

A commonly heard turaco of the interior forests. We had good but brief views of two in Campo Ma'an NP.

#### **White-crested Turaco**

*Tauraco leucolophus*

Three birds were seen very well in Benoue NP. A spectacular bird!

#### **Bannerman's Turaco**

*Tauraco bannermani*

One of these stunning endemics was seen in the Bamenda Highlands.

#### **Violet Turaco**

*Musophaga violacea*

Another stellar turaco, we had superb views of four birds in Benoue NP.

#### **Western (Grey) Plantain-eater**

*Crinifer piscator*

Seen in small numbers daily in Benoue NP

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

#### **Senegal Coucal**

*Centropus senegalensis*

The most commonly encountered coucal throughout with good views at La Digue and in Benoue NP.

#### **Blue-headed Coucal**

*Centropus monachus*

We had good views of a pair at the Sanaga River.

#### **Blue Malkoha (Yellowbill)**

*Ceuthmochares aereus*

We had good views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

#### **Diederik Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had good views of one at the Benoue River, Garoua.

#### **Klaas's Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx klaas*

This brood parasite, favoring the cup nests of woodland birds, was heard at several locations and seen well at Benoue NP.

#### **African Emerald Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Generally more shy and less common than its congeners, we heard one at the Sanaga River.

#### **African Cuckoo**

*Cuculus gularis*

We enjoyed good views of two in Benoue NP and a further three in the Bamenda highlands.

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

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

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

We had awesome views of one perched up on a rocky escarpment at Bamenda.

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

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

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Black-shouldered Nightjar***Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

We enjoyed brief views of one during the day in the Bamenda highlands.

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

We had superb views of two birds at the Sanaga River.

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

We enjoyed good views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

We had stunning views of three in Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Plentiful throughout most of the tour, especially in the north

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

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

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

Not as common as elsewhere in Africa but nonetheless encountered regularly in open and secondary habitat in the Bamenda highlands.

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

A common roller recorded throughout the dry north of the country. Another spectacular species!

**Blue-bellied Roller***Coracias cyanogaster*

A single bird was seen in Benoue NP.

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

We had great views of three birds near Campo Ma'an NP.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Chocolate-backed Kingfisher***Halcyon badia*

We had cracking scope views of one at the Sanaga River.

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

We had our highest total of four birds in Benoue NP.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

Rather drabber than its spectacular cousins, this small, savannah kingfisher was found in woodland at Benoue NP.

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

This forest equivalent of the Woodland Kingfisher was first seen at La Digue, Douala with a further sighting in Benoue NP.

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

Not uncommon in open habitat in the south often perching on telephone wires next to the road.

**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 8 during the trip.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus*

We enjoyed a superb sighting of one near Campo Ma'an NP.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

The Goliath of the kingfisher world. Seen in Benoue NP and again at Bamenda

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

The world's commonest kingfisher was seen in Benoue NP.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

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

Small numbers were seen at La Digue and the Sanaga River.

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

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

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

This species which breeds in the Sahelian savanna and winters in the Equatorial forest belt was seen near Campo Ma'an NP.

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

Thirty were seen flying over Campo Ma'an NP.

### Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Three were recorded in Benoue NP.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

**African Pied Hornbill** *Tockus fasciatus*

Common throughout forested areas in Cameroon including two birds seen at La Digue.

**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 Benoue NP.

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

A common hornbill of dry woodlands in the far north. We recorded three during the drive from Garoua to Benoue NP.

*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*

A flock of four of this scarce species was seen very well in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Piping Hornbill** *Bycanistes fistulator*

Up to twenty were seen daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

**White-thighed Hornbill** *Bycanistes albotibialis*

Up to six were seen daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Black-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna elata*

We had wonderful views of several daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

We were extremely fortunate to find three walking through tall woodland in Benoue NP. This is a scarce species in Cameroon.

**African Barbets Lybiidae****Speckled Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

This scruffy bird was seen in forests and forest edge. We found several in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Red-rumped Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We enjoyed cracking views of one near Campo Ma'an NP.

**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 one was seen in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

A common forest-edge species. We heard one calling in the Bamenda highlands.

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

A savanna species which was seen very well in Benoue NP

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

A rather beautiful Barbet, heard at several forested sites in the south. We obtained great views of a few in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

This forest barbet was seen very well in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

This localized and often elusive barbet was seen very well en route from Garoua to Benoue NP.

**Bearded Barbet***Lybius dubius*

We enjoyed great views of several in Benoue NP.

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

This elusive forest barbet was seen briefly in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

We had good views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Zenker's Honeyguide***Melignomon zenkeri*

We had stunning views of one calling near the Sanaga River. This species is very rarely seen and was another highlight of the trip.

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

We enjoyed scope views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

One was seen in Benoue NP

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

We obtained good views of two birds drinking in Benoue NP.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****African Piculet***Sasia africana*

This diminutive and endearing species was heard on several occasions in Campo NP and only seen by the leader.

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

This lovely woodpecker was seen very well in Benoue NP.

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

We had great scope views of one in Benoue NP.

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

We had good views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

This diminutive and rather dark woodpecker was seen in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Brown-eared Woodpecker** *Campethera caroli*

Two were seen in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicus fuscescens*

We enjoyed superb views of a male in the Bamenda highlands.

**Gabon Woodpecker** *Dendropicus gabonensis*

We had superb scope views of two in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Yellow-crested Woodpecker** *Dendropicus xantholophus*

We had superb scope views of a pair in Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicus goertae*

Two birds were located at our hotel in Douala and a third was seen at La Digue.

**Brown-backed Woodpecker** *Dendropicus obsoletus*

We enjoyed fabulous views of one in Benoue NP. A scarce, dry country species.

#### Broadbills Eurylaimidae

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

A magnificent male was seen displaying in Campo Ma'an NP

#### Wattle-eyes, Batises Platysteiridae

**Chestnut Wattle-eye** *Platysteira castanea*

Both male and females were seen in Campo Ma'an NP.

**White-spotted Wattle-eye** *Platysteira tonsa*

After some patience and perseverance we were rewarded with fabulous views of a male in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

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

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

The most frequently encountered Wattle-eye on our trip and seen very well at La Digue.

#### Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

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

We had great views of a flock of five in Benoue NP.

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

#### Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

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

A widespread African savanna species that was heard in Benoue NP

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

The most widely distributed tchagra that was seen well near Bamenda.

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

We had superb views of a male in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Restricted to the north, we heard one in Benoue NP.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major*

We heard a pair calling 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.

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

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

**Yellow-breasted Boubou** *Laniarius atrofasciatus*

A total of 6 of these stunning and confiding shrikes were seen well in the Bamenda highlands.

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

One bird was heard calling in Benoue NP.

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

**Blue Cuckooshrike** *Coracina azurea*

We had great views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

### Shrikes Laniidae

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

A flock of six birds was seen during the drive from Garoua to Benoue NP. An unusual, gregarious species.

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

We encountered a total of two birds in the Bamenda highlands.

**Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides*

We had good views of three whilst en route from Garoua to Benoue NP.

**Northern (Common) Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis*

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

### Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus*

One was seen in Benoue NP.

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

Up to four birds were seen daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

### Drongos Dicruridae

**Shining Drongo** *Dicrurus atripennis*

This forest interior drongo was seen very well on several occasions in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

A familiar, ubiquitous bird. A few were seen in Benoue NP.

### Monarchs Monarchidae

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

We heard one calling in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

We had fantastic sightings of one near our hotel in Douala.

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

We had daily sightings of this striking species in Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*



We enjoyed good views of several including sightings at La Digue and in Benoue NP where we also observed a splendid male black-and-white morph individual.

**Crows, Jays Corvidae**

**Piapiac**

*Ptilostomus afer*

Small numbers were seen en route from Garoua to Benoue NP.

**Pied Crow**

*Corvus albus*

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

**Rockfowl Picathartidae**

**Grey-necked Rockfowl**

*Picathartes oreas*

We had simply amazing views of four in Campo Ma'an 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 several sightings in Benoue NP.

**White-bellied Crested Flycatcher**

*Elminia albiventris*

We had great views of one in the Bamenda highlands.

**Tits, Chickadees Paridae**

**White-shouldered Black Tit**

*Parus guineensis*

We heard one calling 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*

**Penduline Tits Remizidae**

**Forest Penduline Tit**

*Anthoscopus flavifrons*

We had good scope views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Nicators Nicatoridae**

**Western Nicator**

*Nicator chloris*

This vociferous songster was seen near the Sanaga River and again in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Larks Alaudidae**

**Crested Lark**

*Galerida cristata*

We had great views of two near the Benoue River, Garoua.

**Sun Lark**

*Galerida modesta*

We found a single bird in the Bamenda highlands.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**

**Common Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus barbatus*

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

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

**Cameroon (Mountain) Greenbul**

*Arizelocichla montana*

Two were seen during our time in the Bamenda highlands.

**Western (Mountain) Greenbul**

*Arizelocichla tephrolaema*

This common, although range restricted species was quite common in the Bamenda Highlands.

- Slender-billed Greenbul** *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*  
The common greenbul of forest canopy, we had good views of up to three daily in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens*  
This, the commonest forest edge greenbul was heard at all forest sites and seen near Campo Ma'an NP.
- Ansorge's Greenbul** *Eurillas ansorgei*  
We enjoyed good views of two in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Plain Greenbul** *Eurillas curvirostris*  
We had good views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Eurillas latirostris*  
A greenbul of forest undergrowth and mid-storey, we had good sightings of two in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Golden Greenbul** *Calyptrorhynchus serinus*  
We had great views of up to three daily in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator*  
This species was heard in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Sjostedt's Greenbul** *Baeopogon clamans*  
A low density and rather shy species. We heard this species in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Spotted Greenbul** *Ixonotus guttatus*  
We secured excellent views of up to twenty daily in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Simple Greenbul** *Chlorocichla simplex*  
We had superb views of two at a roadside wetland en route to the Sanaga River.
- Yellow-throated Leaflove (Greenbul)** *Chlorocichla flavicollis*  
Small numbers were seen at La Digue.
- Swamp Greenbul** *Thescelocichla leucopleura*  
We had brief views of one flying overhead in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Cameroon Olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus poensis*  
We found several in the undergrowth in the Bamenda highlands.
- Icterine Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus icterinus*  
At least three birds were encountered in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Xavier's Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus xavieri*  
Very similar to the previous species but with a different call, we had great views in Campo Ma'an NP.
- White-throated Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus albigularis*  
We had good views of two in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Red-tailed (Common) Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus*  
One was seen briefly in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Yellow-lored (Lesser) Bristlebill** *Bleda notatus*  
Commoner than its congener in Cameroon, we enjoyed great views of three in Campo Ma'an NP.  
*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.*
- Red-tailed Greenbul** *Criniger calurus*  
We found two in the canopy of Campo Ma'an NP.
- White-bearded Greenbul** *Criniger ndussumensis*  
Another Congo forest special, we saw up to six daily during our stay in Campo Ma'an NP.

### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

- Square-tailed Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne nitens*  
We enjoyed good views of several daily in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*  
Two were seen in the Bamenda highlands.

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

Small numbers were seen in Benoue NP.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

We found one at the Benoue River, Garoua.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Small numbers were seen throughout Cameroon.

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

**Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica*

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 fair views of two at the Sanaga River.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Four were seen in the Bamenda highlands.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

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

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

We had wonderful views of two near the Sanaga River and a further six near Campo Ma'an NP.

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

Commonly encountered at the Sanaga River and in Benoue NP

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

One of these attractive warblers, a denizen of rank grass, was seen in Benoue NP.

**Grey Longbill** *Macrosphenus concolor*

We had great views of two near the Sanaga River and heard several in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

The crombec of dry *Acacia* woodland, we had good views of one in Benoue NP.

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens*

The commonest and most widespread forest crombec, though small and inconspicuous (except by call). We heard it daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

Its "HEE-lia!" call was heard in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Leaf Warblers & allies Phylloscopidae****Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One was seen in Benoue NP.

**Reed Warblers & allies Acrocephalidae**

**Greater Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

We had a good sighting of one at the Sanaga River.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

We found two near the Benoue River, Garoua.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

We had good views of one along the Benoue River, Garoua.

**Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis*

We heard one in the Bamenda highlands.

**Western Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna opaca*

Another Palaearctic migrant, we found two in Benoue NP.

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

### Grassbirds & allies Locustellidae

**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.

### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

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

**Chattering Cisticola** *Cisticola anonymus*

A secondary growth and scrub species, we encountered them regularly in the south including good views at La Digue.

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

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

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus*

We found six birds along the Benoue River, Garoua.

**Rufous Cisticola** *Cisticola rufus*

We found two 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*

Two 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 en route from Garoua to Benoue NP.

**Green Longtail** *Urolais epichlorus*

We enjoyed good views of three in the Bamenda highlands.

**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.

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

This widespread, woodland apalis is not very common in Cameroon. We observed a pair at La Digue.

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

A canopy apalis, we had good views of a pair at the town of Campo.

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

We had sightings of four in the Bamenda highlands.

**Oriole Warbler** *Hypergerus atriceps*

One of these unusual creatures was located in riverine vegetation in Benoue NP.

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

The bleating calls of this common bird were heard in wooded habitat at several localities on the tour. We enjoyed great sightings at La Digue.

*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 seen very well at the Sanaga River.

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

This species was heard calling at Campo Ma'an NP.

**Senegal Eremomela** *Eremomela pusilla*

A common species recorded in woodland in Benoue NP where up to six seen daily.

*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*

One was seen in Campo Ma'an NP, a leader only sighting.

**Ground Babblers Pellorneidae****Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens*

Two were seen well in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae****Blackcap Babbler** *Turdoides reinwardtii*

Another tricky species to see well, we found a family group of five in the gallery forest in Benoue NP.

**Brown Babbler** *Turdoides plebejus*

We enjoyed superb views of four in Benoue NP.

**Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae****Ruwenzori (African) Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe atriceps*

We had good views of eight in the Bamenda highlands.

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

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

One was seen in scrub near the Benoue River, Garoua.

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

We found two in Benoue NP and a further six in the Bamenda highlands.

*NOTE: The birds 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*

One of these highly elusive birds was heard calling in the Bamenda highlands.

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

We recorded a pair of these stunning birds, in woodland in Benoue NP.

**Violet-backed Hyliota** *Hyliota violacea*

We had cracking views of a male in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Treecreepers Certhiidae****African Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis salvadori*

We heard one calling at our lunch stop en route from Garoua to Benoue NP.

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

**Starlings Sturnidae****Purple-headed Starling** *Hylopsar purpureiceps*

Up to six birds were seen daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

We found a small flock of six whilst en route from Garoua to Benoue NP.

**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 well on a couple of occasions in the Bamenda highlands.

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

Another stunning starling, up to twenty was seen during the drive from Garoua to 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.

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

This stunning bird was seen in woodlands in Benoue NP.

**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 male.

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

Three were seen in the Bamenda highlands.

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

We had good views of two in Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

This is a fairly common bird in Cameroon. We obtained views at many sites often in anthropogenic habitat and particularly good views were had in Benoue NP.

**Fire-crested Alethe** *Alethe castanea*

We heard this species in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

**Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscipidae****Fraser's (African) Forest Flycatcher** *Fraseria cinerascens*

We enjoyed superb views of three birds daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

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

We heard one calling in Benoue NP.

**Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides*

Two were seen in Benoue NP and a further two in the Bamenda highlands.

- Swamp Flycatcher** *Muscicapa aquatica*  
One bird was seen very well in Benoue NP.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*  
A common forest-edge species with two seen in the Bamenda highlands
- Yellow-footed Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sethsmithi*  
We obtained superb views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Sooty Flycatcher** *Muscicapa infuscata*  
We had good views of up to four daily in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Mountain Robin-Chat** *Cossypha isabellae*  
We had excellent views of this endemic in the Bamenda highlands where at least 2 birds were seen.
- Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat** *Cossypha niveicapilla*  
Seen in small numbers at Benoue NP 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 Benoue NP.
- Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*  
We had good views of one near Bamenda.
- [African] Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*  
This widespread species was seen very well in the Bamenda highlands.
- White-crowned (Mocking) Cliff Chat** *Thamnolaea coronata*  
We had wonderful views of a male and female near Bamenda.
- Heuglin's Wheatear** *Oenanthe heuglini*  
We encountered two of these uncommon intra-African migrants in Benoue NP.
- Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris*  
We encountered several birds in the rocky areas in Benoue NP.
- European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
We saw two in Benoue NP and a further two in the Bamenda highlands.

#### 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 Campo Ma'an 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 one at La Digue.
- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*  
We saw small numbers daily in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Grey-chinned (Green) Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*  
We had good views of two in Campo Ma'an NP.  
*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 one near the Sanaga River
- Pygmy Sunbird** *Hedydipna platura*  
We saw good numbers of these beautiful, long-tailed sunbirds in Benoue NP.
- Reichenbach's Sunbird** *Anabathmis reichenbachii*  
We saw this species at La Digue and Kribi where we enjoyed great sightings of several striking males.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*

We had superb sightings at La Digue.

**Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*

This forest sunbird was seen in the canopy in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Cameroon Sunbird** *Cyanomitra oritis*

We enjoyed five sightings in the Bamenda highlands.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*

Small numbers were seen daily in Campo Ma'an NP.

*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 good views of a female near the Sanaga River.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Seen daily in small numbers in Benoue NP

**Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*

This is a typical forest edge species, seen at La Digue and near the Sanaga River.

**Northern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris reichenowi*

We found several in the Bamenda Highlands.

**Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*

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

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

We were fortunate to find two stunning males of this rare bird in the Bamenda highlands.

**Splendid Sunbird** *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*

Two stunning males were seen in the Bamenda highlands.

**Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*

We found this beauty near Campo Ma'an NP.

**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*

A stunning male was seen in Benoue NP.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

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

One was seen in Benoue NP, a leader only sighting.

**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, two birds were seen in Benoue NP.

### Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

**Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Two birds were seen 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 5 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*  
Two were seen in Benoue NP.
- 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 seen very well in the Bamenda highlands.
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*  
This is one of Cameroon's most conspicuous birds, with large colonies found in many towns.  
*NOTE: This widespread African complex is also a candidate for multi-species splitting and the nominate subspecies which we recorded in Cameroon will remain within the nominate Village Weaver P. cucullatus group. These splits are not as yet recognized by Clements.*
- Vieillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*  
Flocks of this beautiful species were noted at all localities in the southern lowlands of Cameroon.
- Black-headed Weaver** *Ploceus melanocephalus*  
We found a flock of twenty non-breeding birds near Garoua and several in Benoue NP.
- Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*  
This attractive weaver was seen in the Bamenda highlands.
- Cassin's (Black-throated) Malimbe** *Malimbus cassini*  
We had superb views of 4 in Campo Ma'an NP. There are few accessible sites to see this species and we were lucky to find this rare bird.
- Blue-billed (Gray's) Malimbe** *Malimbus nitens*  
A secretive species that forages in thick tangles, we found a few daily in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*  
We were fortunate to find two in mixed species flocks in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*  
This is a fairly common species and was seen in small numbers in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*  
One stunning male was seen in Benoue NP.
- Red-headed Quelea** *Quelea erythrops*  
At least four birds were seen at the Sanaga River.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*  
Six birds were seen in the Bamenda highlands.
- Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura*  
We had good views of twenty in Benoue NP.

#### Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

- Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita bicolor*  
This attractive seedeater was seen well near the Sanaga River.
- Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus*  
The commonest nigrita. It was seen at La Digue.
- Shelley's (Fernando Po) Oliveback** *Nesocharis shelleyi*  
This beautiful little bird was a nice surprise in the Bamenda highlands where we enjoyed great views of two birds.
- Grey-headed Oliveback** *Nesocharis capistrata*  
We enjoyed wonderful views of three birds in Benoue NP and another surprisingly in the forest in the Bamenda highlands.
- Red-faced Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza reichenovii*  
We found one splendid male in the Bamenda highlands. Typically shy and rather uncommon.

- Black-bellied Seedcracker** *Pyrenestes ostrinus*  
We had superb views of a male at the Sanaga River.
- Western Bluebill** *Spermophaga haematina*  
A remarkably beautiful bird. We heard this species on consecutive days in Campo Ma'an NP.
- Brown Twinspot** *Clytospiza monteiri*  
We enjoyed a superb sighting of two whilst en route to Bamenda. A beautifully patterned finch.
- Dybowski's Twinspot** *Euschistospiza dybowskii*  
We had cracking views of one in Benoue NP.
- Black-bellied Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rara*  
This large firefinch was seen particularly well in Benoue NP where we observed at least six individuals.
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*  
Small numbers encountered in Benoue NP.
- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricate*  
We enjoyed good views of one near Bamenda.
- Black-faced Firefinch** *Lagonosticta larvata*  
A rare Firefinch, we had great views of 4 in Benoue NP.
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*  
This is a common and delightful bird of savanna and was seen in Benoue NP and again in the Bamenda highlands.
- Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda*  
This was a common species of forest edge and scrub throughout. We had great views of twenty at the Sanaga River.
- Black-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda troglodytes*  
This species was only seen near Garoua where we found six.
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*  
A flock of ten was seen during the drive from Douala to Bamenda.
- Black-crowned Waxbill** *Estrilda nonnula*  
This is an attractive species that was first seen at La Digue with further sightings near Bamenda.
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*  
We found this to be a ubiquitous species in scrub in most areas.
- Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*  
We enjoyed good views of one near the Sanaga River.  
*NOTE: This complex may be split two-ways, the southern and eastern Brown-backed Mannikin *L. nigriceps* and the northern and western nominate group, which would remain as Black-and-white Mannikin. The latter is the form we recorded in Cameroon. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

### Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*  
This familiar bird, which parasitises small seedeaters, was seen very well at the Benoue River, Garoua.

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

- Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*  
Small numbers were seen at La Digue and again at the Benoue River, Garoua.
- Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*  
We enjoyed great views of two in the Bamenda Highlands.
- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*  
A common and familiar African bird, we saw one in Benoue NP.
- African (Cameroon) Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus*

We had good views of several in the Bamenda highlands.

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

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

We had great views of 1 in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

We enjoyed great views of one in the Bamenda Highlands.

### Finches Fringillidae

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

We found five near the Benoue River, Garoua.

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

This species was seen in small numbers daily in Benoue NP and in the Bamenda highlands.

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

Small numbers of this odd seedeater were seen daily in the Bamenda highlands.

## **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 three in Benoue NP.

**Tantalus Monkey** *Cercopithecus tantalus*

We observed up to six daily in Benoue NP.

#### Lorisids Loridae

**Potto** *Perodicticus potto*

We enjoyed fabulous views of one during our night drive in Campo Ma'an NP.

#### Galagos Galagonidae

**Senegal Galago** *Galago senegalensis*

One was seen well during our night drive in Benoue National Park.

#### Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

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

We had fantastic views of thousands in Douala.

#### Squirrels Sciuridae

**Striped Ground Squirrel** *Euxerus erythropus*

One was seen in Benoue NP.

**African Pygmy Squirrel** *Myosciurus pumilio*

One was seen in Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Giant Squirrel** *Protoxerus stangeri*  
We had good views of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Mongoose Herpestidae**

**Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes ichneumon*  
We had great views of one en route to Campo Ma'an NP.

**Genets & Civet Viverridae**

**Common (Small-spotted) Genet** *Genetta genetta*  
We had a good sighting of one in Campo Ma'an NP.

**African Palm Civet Nandinidae**

**African Palm Civet** *Nandinia binotata*  
We had good but brief views of one during our night drive in Campo Ma'an NP.

**Hyraxes Procaviidae**

**Western Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax dorsalis*  
We heard this species on consecutive days in Campo Ma'an NP. It was surprising to hear this nocturnal species calling during the day on several occasions.

**Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae**

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius*  
At least 20 were observed in Benoue NP.

**Giraffes Giraffidae**

**Giraffe** *Giraffe camelopardus*  
We had great sightings of 2 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 6 daily were seen in Benoue NP.

**Kob** *Kobus kob*  
This was a fairly common mammal in Benoue NP where daily totals reached 30.

**REPTILES**

**Red-headed Rock Agama** *Agama agama*  
We had good views of many in Garoua and Benoue NP.

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*  
We had great views of 10 in Benoue National Park.

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