

## **Birds**

Lifers are indicated in bold type. Over 520 species were seen of which 260 were new birds for me.

Endemics are pre-fixed with (E)

Comments in red against lifers and other interesting species

Heards are not counted (but commented upon where notable)

### **STRUTHIONIFORMES: Struthionidae**

**Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*)** - Note that Sinclair splits Ostrich into 2 species namely Somali Ostrich (*Struthio molybdophanes*) and Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*). The one seen in Cameroon is the latter

### **PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

### **PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Long-tailed Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*)

### **CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Black-headed Heron (*Ardea melanocephala*)

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*)

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis*)

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*)

### **CICONIIFORMES: Scopidae**

Hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*)

### **CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**

Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)

African Openbill (*Anastomus lamelligerus*)

Abdim's Stork (*Ciconia abdimii*)

Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*)

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

**Saddle-billed Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*)** – unfortunately just one rather scabby juvenile bird at Waza

Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*)

### **CICONIIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)

Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*)

African Spoonbill (*Platalea alba*)

### **ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**

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

Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*)

Comb Duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)

**Hartlaub's Duck (*Pteronetta hartlaubii*)** – several giving good views on a roadside pool somewhere near Douala

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

### **FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae**

European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

**African Swallow-tailed Kite (*Chelictinia riocourii*)** – fantastic views of this brilliant bird at Waza

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

African Fish-Eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*)

Palm-nut Vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*)

Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)

Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)

White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*)

Rueppell's Griffon (*Gyps rueppellii*)

Lappet-faced Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) – several of these beasts were seen at very close range by a waterhole in Waza

Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus calligus*)

**Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus beaudouini*)** – somewhere between Garoua and Benoue on the 14th

Brown Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus cinereus*)

**Western Banded Snake-Eagle (*Circaetus cinerascens*)** – a perched female near the lake at Ngaoundaba ranch gave close and prolonged views

Western Marsh-Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)

African Harrier-Hawk (*Polyboroides typus*)

Lizard Buzzard (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*)

Dark Chanting-Goshawk (*Melierax metabates*)

Gabar Goshawk (*Micronisus gabar*)

**Red-chested Goshawk (*Accipiter toussenelii*)** – great views of one perched by the bridge at Korup

Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)

**Black Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter melanoleucus*)** – a fly by at Nyasoso

Grasshopper Buzzard (*Butastur rufipennis*)

**Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)** – one showed well in flight near Maroua

**Red-necked Buzzard (*Buteo auguralis*)** – first one was at Mount Cameroon with others seen later at various other sites

Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*)

Wahlberg's Eagle (*Aquila wahlbergi*)

**African Hawk-Eagle (*Aquila spilogaster*)** – one in flight at Ngaoundaba ranch

Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*)

**Ayres' Hawk-Eagle (*Aquila ayresii*)** – one perched in a tree near Nyasoso (at the start of the nature trail) gave good views

Long-crested Eagle (*Lophaetus occipitalis*)

**Cassin's Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus africanus*)** – seen in flight near the Yaoundé picathartes site and then later at Mount Kupe

## FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) – one bird of the small, dark “rufescens” race was seen on Ijum Ridge in the Bamenda highlands

**Fox Kestrel (*Falco alopecx*)** – one perched up on a rocky outcrop during the first stop on the road from Garoua to Maroua on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It then gave good flight views

Grey Kestrel (*Falco ardosiaceus*)

**Red-necked Falcon (*Falco chicquera*)** – point blank views of one perched low in a tree between Waza and Maroua. A really smart little falcon

Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*)

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

## GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

**White-throated Francolin (*Francolinus albogularis*)** – stunning views of two birds that strolled past us at Benoue. Apparently we can now grip-off one of the main men in Birding Africa.....

Scaly Francolin (*Francolinus squamatus*)

Double-spurred Francolin (*Francolinus bicalcaratus*)

**Clapperton's Francolin (*Francolinus clappertoni*)** – not uncommon in Waza

Stone Partridge (*Ptilopachus petrosus*)

## GALLIFORMES: Numididae

**Black Guinea fowl (*Agelastes niger*)** – great views of one wandering along the path at Korup (only 30 metres from the bridge)

Helmeted Guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*)

## GRUIFORMES: Turnicidae

**Quail-plover (*Ortyxelos meiffrenii*)** – eventually ! Bush-bashing on the 11<sup>th</sup> was just starting to become tedious when we finally flushed one at Mora. It was then watched with another bird on the ground doing its strange bobbing routine. In a recent Birdquest report Nik Borrow compares it to “a cross between a Jack Snipe and a chameleon” which sounds spot-on to me ! At least 2 were seen when we revisited the site two days later.

## GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

Black Crowned-Crane (*Balearica pavonina*)

## GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

**White-spotted Flufftail (*Sarothrura pulchra*)** – brilliant views of one at Ngaoundaba ranch  
**Buff-spotted Flufftail (*Sarothrura elegans*)** – Wow ! One of the highlights of the trip. In order to gain permission to climb Mount Kupe the following day, Michael had to meet the Nyasoso elders. During this meeting, which lasted over 2 hours, a Buff-spotted Flufftail called constantly nearby much to Michael's frustration. Without knowing exactly where the bird was an excited group of birders left Lucy's guesthouse the next night to stroll round Nyasoso listening for the flufftail. After climbing through someone's garden and fighting through a field of maize we surrounded the palm tree that the bird was singing from. The lights were switched on the lights and suddenly there it was within touching distance. Brilliant.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

## GRUIFORMES: Otididae

Arabian Bustard (*Ardeotis arabs*) – not a lifer but still an awesome bird. Stunning, walk-away views of one drinking at a Waza waterhole

**White-bellied Bustard (*Eupodotis senegalensis*)** – 4 flushed at the Quail-Plover site at Mora on the 11th

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae

African Jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*)

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Rostratulidae

Greater Painted-snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*)

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee (*Burhinus senegalensis*)

**Spotted Thick-knee (*Burhinus capensis*)** – one seen on a spot-lighting drive near the Waza camp

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae

**Egyptian Plover (*Pluvianus aegyptius*)** – a pair seen distantly on the river at Garoua

**Rock Pratincole (*Glareola nuchalis*)** – at least 4 on rocks near the Korup bridge

**Grey Pratincole (*Glareola cinerea*)** – loads of these beauties (30+) on the Sanaga River sand banks

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Spur-winged Plover (*Vanellus spinosus*)

Black-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus tectus*)

**White-headed Lapwing (*Vanellus albiceps*)** – first seen along the river at Benoue and later at the Sanaga river

Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus senegallus*)

Three-banded Plover (*Charadrius tricollaris*)

White-fronted Plover (*Charadrius marginatus*)

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

## CHARADRIIFORMES: Sternidae

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) – potential split according to some (?)

#### CHARADRIIFORMES: Rynchopidae

**African Skimmer (*Rynchops flavirostris*)** – several hundred of these on sandbanks along the Sanaga river.

#### PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)

**Four-banded Sandgrouse (*Pterocles quadricinctus*)** – missed these badly at Waza (lots of water so too many potential drinking pools) but made amends at Benoue when three landed on the road in front of the vehicle giving killer views

#### COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Speckled Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)

Eurasian Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

**Adamawa Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia hypopyrrha*)** – at least one at Benoue giving reasonable perched views

African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*)

African Mourning Dove (*Streptopelia decipiens*)

Red-eyed Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*)

Vinaceous Dove (*Streptopelia vinacea*)

Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)

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

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

Bruce's Green-Pigeon (*Treron waalia*)

African Green-Pigeon (*Treron calvus*)

#### PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

**Red-headed Lovebird (*Agapornis pullarius*)** – elusive little buggers. Eventually seen well at Ngaoundaba ranch

**Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)** – first seen in Douala and then loads at Korup including fantastic views of some birds "spinning" on branches and generally having a fun. This is the nominate race.

**Red-fronted Parrot (*Poicephalus gulielmi*)** – one at Mundemba was a really good find for this localised species

Senegal Parrot (*Poicephalus senegalus*)

#### CUCULIFORMES: Musophagidae

**Great Blue Turaco (*Corythaeola cristata*)** – Korup. Wow !

Guinea Turaco (*Tauraco persa*)

**White-crested Turaco (*Tauraco leucolophus*)** – Ngaoundaba ranch. Wow again.

**Yellow-billed Turaco (*Tauraco macrorhynchus*)** – first seen on Mount Cameroon and later at Mount Kupe. This is the race "verreauxii" which has the red-tipped crest

**(E) Bannerman's Turaco (*Tauraco bannermani*)** – one of the top birds of the trip. They took considerable effort but showed eventually at Ijum Ridge in the Bamenda highlands

Violet Turaco (*Musophaga violacea*)

**Ross' Turaco (*Musophaga rossae*)** – several at Ngaoundaba ranch

Western Plantain-eater (*Crinifer piscator*)

#### CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

**Black Cuckoo (*Cuculus clamosus*)** – fantastic views of a singing bird along the road near Mundemba. This is the race "gabonensis"

**African Cuckoo (*Cuculus gularis*)** – great views of a singing bird at Benoue. Several seen later in the trip

Klaas' Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx klaas*)

**Yellowbill (*Ceuthmochares aereus*)** – first seen at Ngaoundaba ranch. Sinclair split this into two species namely Blue Malkoha (*C. aereus*) and Green Malkoha (*C. australis*). The ones found in Cameroon are the latter. Borrow treats them as races only.

Blue-headed Coucal (*Centropus monachus*)

Senegal Coucal (*Centropus senegalensis*)

#### STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

**African Scops-Owl (*Otus senegalensis*)** – one responded really well to tape at Benoue

Northern White-faced Owl (*Ptilopsis leucotis*) – whilst eating in a restaurant in Maroua (?) the owner said that he had “a big owl” nesting in his house. The field guides came out and he picked out a Verreaux’s Eagle Owl but things just didn’t seem correct. Amazingly one of the local guys had a digital photo of the bird and it quickly became obvious that it was a White-faced Scops Owl. A quick play of the tape the next night and we were treated to fantastic, walk-away views of an adult feeding a fully-fledged chick. Awesome.

#### CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Long-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus climacurus*)

**Standard-winged Nightjar (*Macrodipteryx longipennis*)** – one of the top ten birds of the trip. A male with full standards was flushed in daylight at Benoue was quickly relocated until we bored of it (!). At least 2 more males were seen on a night drive at Ngaoundaba ranch

#### APODIFORMES: Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail (*Telacanthura ussheri*)

**Sabine's Spinetail (*Rhaphidura sabini*)** – great repeat views of this on a roadside stop between Yaounde and Douala

African Palm-Swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*)

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

Little Swift (*Apus affinis*)

#### COLIIFORMES: Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird (*Colius striatus*)

Blue-naped Mousebird (*Urocolius macrourus*)

#### TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

**Bare-cheeked Trogon (*Apaloderma aequatoriale*)** – last of the African trogons and probably the best. One calling bird eventually tracked down at Korup.

**Bar-tailed Trogon (*Apaloderma vittatum*)** – one at Bakossi gave cracking views

#### CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

**Shining-blue Kingfisher (*Alcedo quadribrachys*)** – distant views of one from a bridge near Mundemba and then one seen really well within Korup NP

Malachite Kingfisher (*Alcedo cristata*)

**White-bellied Kingfisher (*Alcedo leucogaster*)** – you know it’s good when the guide gets really excited !

Mind-numbingly good views by a small stream in Korup.

African Pygmy-Kingfisher (*Ispidina picta*)

Grey-headed Kingfisher (*Halcyon leucocephala*)

Blue-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon malimbica*)

Woodland Kingfisher (*Halcyon senegalensis*)

Striped Kingfisher (*Halcyon chelicuti*)

Giant Kingfisher (*Megaceryle maximus*)

Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*)

#### CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

**Blue-headed Bee-eater (*Merops muelleri*)** – cracking views of one flycatching (presumably bee-catching?) at Korup

**Red-throated Bee-eater (*Merops bulocki*)** – loads of these at Benoue along the river  
Little Bee-eater (*Merops pusillus*)  
White-throated Bee-eater (*Merops albicollis*)  
**Little Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*)** – two at Waza  
Northern Carmine Bee-eater (*Merops nubicus*)

#### CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Abyssinian Roller (*Coracias abyssinicus*)  
Rufous-crowned Roller (*Coracias noevius*)  
Blue-bellied Roller (*Coracias cyanogaster*)  
Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus glaucurus*)

#### CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

#### CORACIIFORMES: Phoeniculidae

Green Woodhoopoe (*Phoeniculus purpureus*)  
Black Scimitar-bill (*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*)

#### CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae

**White-crested Hornbill (*Tockus albocristatus*)** – crap views of a great bird at Korup. Shame.  
**Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill (*Tockus camurus*)** – stellar views of one of these along the road near Mundemba  
African Pied Hornbill (*Tockus fasciatus*)  
African Gray Hornbill (*Tockus nasutus*)  
**Piping Hornbill (*Ceratogymna fistulator*)** – first “proper” views were between Yaounde and Douala on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
**White-thighed Hornbill (*Ceratogymna albotibialis*)** - Korup  
**Black-casqued Hornbill (*Ceratogymna atrata*)** – one seen perched on the road out of Mundemba  
**Yellow-casqued Hornbill (*Ceratogymna elata*)** – several around Korup and Mundemba  
Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill (*Bucorvus abyssinicus*)

#### PICIFORMES: Capitonidae

**Yellow-billed Barbet (*Trachyphonus purpuratus*)** – One along the road in disturbed habitat near Mundemba. This is the race “purpuratus”. Very nice it was too.  
**Gray-throated Barbet (*Gymnobucco bonapartei*)** – seen by the path on the way to the picathartes rock near Yaounde. Seen on the way back down and found to be just as boring the second time around  
**Naked-faced Barbet (*Gymnobucco calvus*)** – first seen on Mount Cameroon and popped up occasionally elsewhere. Not sure what happened to Bristle-nosed on this trip.....  
**Western Green Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*)** – Mount Cameroon only  
**Red-rumped Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus atroflavus*)** – one seen on one of the stops between Yaounde and Douala  
**Yellow-throated Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus subsulphureus*)** – one at a very quick stop between Douala and Bamenda on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*)** – Mount Cameroon and then at a few other sites during the trip  
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*)  
**Yellow-spotted Barbet (*Buccanodon duchaillui*)** – one seen in the patch of forest at Baba 2  
**Hairy-breasted Barbet (*Tricholaema hirsute*)** – Korup. Sinclair splits Hairy-breasted Barbet into two species namely *T. hirsuta* (Hairy-breasted) and *T. flavipunctata* (Streaky-throated). The ones seen on this trip were the latter and are as dull as ditchwater compared to the lovely Hairy-breasted's found elsewhere  
Vieillot's Barbet (*Lybius vieilloti*)  
**White-headed Barbet (*Lybius leucocephalus*)** – seen between Garoua and Maroua on the 11<sup>th</sup> and then again on the way south in the same area on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There seems to be several races across Africa and this one is “adamauae”

Double-toothed Barbet (*Lybius bidentatus*) – doesn't matter how many times you see this and the next species. They are still awesome!  
Bearded Barbet (*Lybius dubius*)

**PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae**

**Willcock's Honeyguide (*Indicator willcocksi*)** – seen in both Benoue and Korup  
**Thick-billed Honeyguide (*Indicator conirostris*)** – Mount Cameroon only  
Lesser Honeyguide (*Indicator minor*)  
Greater Honeyguide (*Indicator indicator*)

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

**African Piculet (*Sasia africana*)** – it took me ages to get onto one of these. Great views at Korup  
Fine-spotted Woodpecker (*Campethera punctuligera*)  
**Tullberg's Woodpecker (*Campethera tullbergi*)** – finely managed to nail one in the Bakossi mountains  
Cardinal Woodpecker (*Dendropicos fuscescens*)  
**Gabon Woodpecker (*Dendropicos gabonensis*)** – several together along the nature trail at the base of Mount Kupe. This is the race "reichenowi". Sinclair actually splits the race "lugubris" found much further west as a different species – Melancholy Woodpecker (*Dendropicos lugubris*)  
**Yellow-crested Woodpecker (*Dendropicos xantholophus*)** – 3 together showed well at the start of Max's trail at Mount Kupe  
**Elliot's Woodpecker (*Dendropicos elliotii*)** – seen on Mount Cameroon, Ijum Ridge and Mount Kupe. These were all of the highland race "johnstoni"

**PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae**

**African Broadbill (*Smithornis capensis*)** – one gave brilliant views in the Green-breasted Bush Shrike forest near Bamenda  
**Gray-headed Broadbill (*Smithornis sharpie*)** – brief but good looks of one on Mount Kupe. Amazingly we also found a broadbill's nest later in the day by the footway. The nest contained eggs so we waited at a discrete distance to see if one of the parents would return but unfortunately they didn't.

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark (*Eremopterix leucotis*)  
Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)  
**Sun Lark (*Galerida modesta*)** – several at Ngaoundaba

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

**Square-tailed Saw-wing (*Psalidoprocne nitens*)** – first seen at Mount Cameroon. Subsequently seen on five other days.  
**Mountain Saw-wing (*Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*)** – Restricted to the Cameroonian and Nigerian highlands - it appears that Mount Cameroon is the place for this baby. Several gave reasonable flight views and then one landed within 10 metres of us midway up the mountain and simply wouldn't go away. Stonking views  
Black Saw-wing (*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*) – the birds seen were of the race "petiti" sometimes split as Petit's Saw-wing  
**Grey-rumped Swallow (*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*)** – a few at Benoue on the 15th  
Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)  
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
**White-throated Blue Swallow (*Hirundo nigrita*)** – superb birds. A couple perched at the Sanaga River and then another 2 near Mundemba  
Ethiopian Swallow (*Hirundo aethiopica*)  
Rock Martin (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*)  
House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)  
Lesser Striped-Swallow (*Cecropis abyssinica*)  
**Rufous-chested Swallow (*Cecropis semirufa*)** – Douala area  
Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica*)  
**Preuss' Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon preussi*)** – first seen near Yaoundé. This species, according to Michael, is common wherever seen in large numbers.  
**Forest Swallow (*Petrochelidon fuliginosa*)** – seen from the Mount Kupe rock look-out point (along the nature trail)

## PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

African Pipit (*Anthus cinnamomeus*)  
Long-billed Pipit (*Anthus similis*)  
Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)  
Plain-backed Pipit (*Anthus leucophrys*)  
**Long-legged Pipit (*Anthus pallidiventris*)** – one seen along the road into Mundemba  
Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)  
African Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla aguimp*)  
Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)  
Mountain Wagtail (*Motacilla clara*)

### Pipit note!!

Sinclair also splits out Cameroon Pipit (*Anthus cameroonensis*) and Bannerman's Pipit (*A. bannermani*) from African Pipit and Long-billed Pipit respectively. We saw both of these at Ijum Ridge in the Bamenda Highlands. The evidence doesn't appear to be massively in favour of split so I'm not counting these at present

## PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

**White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina pectoralis*)** – at least one at Ngaoundaba ranch  
**Blue Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina azurea*)** – unfortunately one gave good but distant views high in the canopy at Korup. Would surely have been one of the birds of the trip had it been closer (?)  
**Grey Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina caesia*)** – a couple seen well in the Bakossi mountains  
**Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike (*Campephaga phoenicea*)** – a very wet female at Bakossi  
**Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike (*Campephaga quiscalina*)** – a female at Mount Kupe on the lower section of the nature trail

## PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul (*Pycnonotus barbatus*)  
**Dark capped bulbul (*Pycnonotus tricolour*)** – Sinclair split it, Borrow doesn't. Looks different to me !  
**Cameroon Mountain Greenbul (*Andropadus montanus*)** – This species is restricted to the Cameroonian and Nigerian highlands. Seen only on Mount Cameroon. [Borrow calls this Cameroon Montane Greenbul ]  
Little Greenbul (*Andropadus virens*)  
**Little Grey Greenbul (*Andropadus gracilis*)** - Korup  
**Slender-billed Greenbul (*Andropadus gracilirostris*)** – Mount Kupe (Max's trail) and later in Korup  
**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul (*Andropadus latirostris*)** – along the road out of Mundemba  
**Western Mountain-Greenbul (*Andropadus tephrolaemus*)** – Mount Cameroon, Bakossi and Bamenda  
**Golden Greenbul (*Calyptocichla serina*)** – great views of a perched bird on the road out of Mundemba  
**Honeyguide Greenbul (*Baeopogon indicator*)** – seen at one of the roadside stops between Yaounde and Douala on the 20th  
**Sjostedt's Honeyguide Greenbul (*Baeopogon clamans*)** – a few of these went absolutely ballistic in response to tape at Korup  
**Spotted Greenbul (*Ixonotus guttatus*)** – seen at one of the roadside stops between Yaounde and Douala on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A couple also watched along the road out of Mundemba  
**Simple Leaf-love (*Chlorocichla simplex*)** – cracking views of a perched bird seen from the bus between Yaounde and Douala (after the driver had been stopped for speeding by the police !)  
Yellow-throated Leaf-love (*Chlorocichla flavicollis*)  
**Swamp Palm Greenbul (*Thescelocichla leucopleura*)** – a small family party was watched along the very productive road out of Mundemba  
**Leaf-love (*Phyllastrephus scandens*)** – easy to hear, difficult to see at Ngaoundaba ranch  
**Cameroon Olive-Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus poensis*)** – well seen in the mega forest at Baba 2  
**Icterine Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus icterinus*)** - Korup  
**Xavier's Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus xavieri*)** - Korup  
**Grey-headed Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*)** – the way that all greenbuls should be – big, identifiable & easy to see (and rare)  
**Red-tailed Bristlebill (*Bleda syndactylus*)** – these are ace birds. Found alongside the next species in an ant-swarm frenzy at Korup  
**Lesser Bristlebill (*Bleda notatus*)** – Korup  
**Western Nicator (*Nicator chloris*)** – Mount Kupe (Max's trail)  
**Red-tailed Greenbul (*Criniger calurus*)** – Mount Kupe (Max's trail)  
**White-bearded Greenbul (*Criniger ndussumensis*)** - Korup

## PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

**Rufous Flycatcher-Thrush (*Neocossyphus fraseri*)** - Mount Kupe (Nature trail)  
**White-tailed Ant-Thrush (*Neocossyphus poensis*)** – one by a small stream in Korup (see notes against Fire-crested Alethe)  
**Crossley's Ground-Thrush (*Zoothera crossleyi*)** – stunning views for Joseph and I on Mount Kupe. Unfortunately the rest of the group only saw bits of it  
 African Thrush (*Turdus pelios*)  
**Brown-chested Alethe (*Alethe poliocephala*)** – this and the next species were feeding together around an ant-swarm along Max's trail on Mount Kupe. This one gave crippling views (including flashing underwing - presumably to startle prey ?)  
**Fire-crested Alethe (*Alethe diademata*)** – this species showed reasonably well at Mount Kupe (see previous species) This was, however, eclipsed in Korup when we found at least 4 birds feeding with various other ant-swarm species on rocks in the middle of a small stream

#### PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola (*Cisticola erythrops*)  
 Singing Cisticola (*Cisticola cantans*)  
 Whistling Cisticola (*Cisticola lateralis*)  
**Chattering Cisticola (*Cisticola anonymus*)** – Mount Cameroon and near Mundemba  
**Chubb's Cisticola (*Cisticola chubbi*)** first seen on Mount Cameroon and later at several other sites. This is the western race "discolor" often suggested as a separate species – Brown-backed Cisticola. Neither Borrow or Sinclair seem to accept this split  
**Rock-loving Cisticola (*Cisticola aberrans*)** – not surprisingly found on a rocky escarpment between Garoua and Maroua  
**Red-pate Cisticola (*Cisticola ruficeps*)** – frequent in the Maroua / Garoua / Waza area. My notebook says "very attractive" – heatstroke obviously kicking-in !  
**Dorst's Cisticola (*Cisticola dorsti*)** - Benoue  
 Winding Cisticola (*Cisticola galactotes*)  
**Croaking Cisticola (*Cisticola natalensis*)** - Benoue  
 Siffling Cisticola (*Cisticola brachypterus*)  
**Rufous Cisticola (*Cisticola rufus*)** - Benoue  
 Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*)  
**Pectoral-patch Cisticola (*Cisticola brunnescens*)** – these were great ! Tiny things buzzing around in the open on Ijum Ridge  
 Tawny-flanked Prinia (*Prinia subflava*)  
**River Prinia (*Prinia fluviatilis*)** – loads in Waza where they appeared to be slightly more common than the previous species. Quite distinctive (ish)  
**Banded Prinia (*Prinia bairdii*)** – Mount Cameroon  
 Red-winged Warbler (*Prinia erythroptera*)  
**White-chinned Prinia (*Schistolais leucopogon*)** – a really tidy bird first seen next to the lake at Ngaoundaba and then at a few sites after  
**Red-winged Gray Warbler (*Drymocichla incana*)** – good views at Benoue  
**Green Longtail (*Urolais epichlorus*)** – Mount Cameroon and then in the Kodmin / Bakossi area  
**Cricket Warbler (*Spiloptila clamans*)** – several of these fantastically marked birds were seen at the Quail-Plover site at Mora. One of the top ten birds of the trip  
**Black-collared Apalis (*Apalis pulchra*)** – looks nice in the field guides, absolutely gorgeous in reality. Loads of these along Ijum Ridge in the Bamenda Highlands. Definitely in my top ten birds of the trip  
**Black-capped Apalis (*Apalis nigriceps*)** – just a single female seen along Max's trail on Mount Kupe  
**Black-throated Apalis (*Apalis jacksoni*)** – one along Max's trail  
 Yellow-breasted Apalis (*Apalis flavida*)  
**Buff-throated Apalis (*Apalis rufogularis*)** – a female seen whilst awaiting to start the ascent to the Picathartes site near Yaounde was the only one of the trip  
**(E) Bamenda Apalis (*Apalis bamendae*)** – one of the first birds of the day at Ngaoundaba ranch where it appeared to be quite common  
**Grey Apalis (*Apalis cinerea*)** – Mount Cameroon only  
 Oriole Warbler (*Hypergerus atriceps*) – always good  
 Grey-backed Camaroptera (*Camaroptera brachyuran*)  
**Yellow-browed Camaroptera (*Camaroptera superciliaris*)** – quite possibly one of the quickest tangle birds I've ever watched. Several calling birds at very close range in Korup  
**Olive-green Camaroptera (*Camaroptera chloronota*)** – blip views in the Bakossi Mountains and at Mount Kupe. Would like to see better in the future

#### PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

**Little Rush-Warbler (*Bradypterus baboecala*)** – Mount Cameroon only

**Evergreen Forest Warbler (*Bradypterus lopezi*)** – this one was a proper bradypterus ! Noisy, difficult to pin down and even harder to see. Eventually gave superb, walk-away views though

**Bangwa Forest Warbler (*Bradypterus bangwaensis*)** – brilliant views of one singing near Lake Awing (near Bamenda)

**Black-faced Rufous-Warbler (*Bathmocercus rufus*)** – these are fab ! Noisy, colourful, etc, etc

**African Moustached Warbler (*Melocichla mentalis*)** – great views of this beast at Benoue

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

Eurasian Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Hippolais pallida*)

**African Yellow Warbler (*Chloropeta natalensis*)** – one singing bird in a grassy field on the descent from Ijum Ridge (sounds like a good title for a war film)

**White-tailed Warbler (*Poliolais lopezi*)** – appeared to be quite common in the Bakossi's but very skulky

Yellow-bellied Eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*)

Senegal Eremomela (*Eremomela pusilla*)

**Green Crombec (*Sylvietta virens*)** – first seen near Yaounde

**Lemon-bellied Crombec (*Sylvietta denti*)** – one bird calling very high in the canopy in Korup and giving occasional flight views

Northern Crombec (*Sylvietta brachyuran*)

**Green Hylia (*Hylia prasina*)** – one on a roadside stop between Yaounde and Douala

**Black-capped Woodland-Warbler (*Phylloscopus herberti*)** – great views of at least one in the Bakossi mountains on the 24th

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

Yellow-bellied Hylia (*Hylia flavigaster*)

**[*Hylia* sp -** there are mysterious Hylia's lurking in Cameroon ! The females of those at the foot of Mount Kupe have different coloured backs to those of Y-B Hylia ie grey versus brown. Needs a bit of investigation]

**Broad-tailed Warbler (*Schoenicola brevirostris*)** – one was found drying-out while we were doing likewise after the downpour at Bakossi ridge

Greater Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

Pale Flycatcher (*Bradornis pallidus*)

Northern Black-Flycatcher (*Melaenornis edoloides*)

**African (Fraser's) Forest-Flycatcher (*Fraseria ocreata*)** – big, fat, noisy flycatcher seen in Korup

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

**Gambaga Flycatcher (*Muscicapa gambagae*)** – probably one of the birds of the trip (though not on looks alone). Several calling birds watched for ages at Ngaoundaba ranch

**Sooty Flycatcher (*Muscicapa infusate*)** – one at the Picathartes site and one later in Korup

**Swamp Flycatcher (*Muscicapa aquatica*)** – one at Benoue

African Dusky Flycatcher (*Muscicapa adusta*)

**Yellow-footed Flycatcher (*Muscicapa sethsmithi*)** – smart little bird at Mount Kupe along Max's trail

**Dusky-blue Flycatcher (*Muscicapa comitata*)** – one near Kodmin (after the libation ceremony !)

**Cassin's Flycatcher (*Muscicapa cassini*)** – one seen just before the libation ceremony by a small stream. Several others on later dates – always by water

**Gray Tit-Flycatcher (*Myioparus plumbeus*)** - Benoue

European Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

**Mountain Robin-Chat (*Cossypha isabellae*)** – very range-restricted but there were loads of these on the footpaths on Mount Cameroon. This is the nominate race

**Gray-winged Robin-Chat (*Cossypha polioptera*)** – they were very difficult but eventually showed well at Ngaoundaba

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

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

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*) – this will always be Rufous Bush-Chat to me !

Black Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas podobe*)

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

African Stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*)

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

**Heuglin's Wheatear (*Oenanthe heuglini*)** – a few at Benoue

**Familiar Chat (*Cercomela familiaris*)** – first seen somewhere between Garoua and Maroua. Rubbish name – I wasn't familiar with them prior to this trip !

Blackstart (*Cercomela melanura*)

**Northern Anteater-Chat (*Myrmecocichla aethiops*)** – a few of these were bouncing around near the access road to Waza camp

**Sooty Chat (*Myrmecocichla nigra*)** – just one seen by the road between Benoue and Ngaoundaba ranch

**White-crowned Cliff-Chat (*Thamnolaea coronata*)** – this is split from Mocking Cliff-Chat (*Thamnolaea cinnameiventris*) by Sinclair but not by Borrow. Looks like one of the better splits to me.

#### PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae

(Wattle-Eyes were definitely on the menu on this trip with Brown-cheeked being the only miss)

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

**(E)Banded Wattle-eye (*Platysteira laticincta*)** – just one bird seen - brilliantly found by John at Lake Awing

**Chestnut Wattle-eye (*Platysteira castanea*)** – at least one popped up while we were watching the Yellow-bellied versions on Mount Kupe. Seen again in Korup

**White-spotted Wattle-eye (*Platysteira tonsa*)** - Korup

**Black-necked Wattle-eye (*Platysteira chalybea*)** - at least one seen in the Bakossi Mountains

**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye (*Platysteira concreta*)** – a few of these stunners were seen on Mount Kupe

Senegal Batis (*Batis senegalensis*)

Gray-headed Batis (*Batis orientalis*)

Black-headed Batis (*Batis minor*)

**Verreaux's Batis (*Batis minima*)** – we were exceptionally fortunate to get acceptable views of both this and the next species on one trip. This one was seen at the start of the trail up to the Picathartes near Yaounde

**West African Batis (*Batis occulta*)** – this is still lumped by Borrow with Bioko Batis (*B. poensis*) of which the nominate occurs only on Bioko. Sinclair splits it. This was seen at Mount Kupe

#### PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

**Chestnut-capped Flycatcher (*Erythrocerus mccallii*)** – Mount Kupe only

**African Blue-Flycatcher (*Elminia longicauda*)** – these are bloody lovely ! Seen on Mount Cameroon and then at several sites afterwards

**White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher (*Elminia albiventris*)** – Mount Cameroon

**Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher (*Trochocercus nitens*)** – fantastic birds seen really well in the Bakossi Mountains

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

**Bates' Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone batesi*)** – Mount Kupe (along the nature trail)

African Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone viridis*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Picathartidae

**Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*)** – **Yes !** Bird of the trip. One was watched at a site near Yaounde and it eventually settled on a disused nest. The whole experience of seeing these is phenomenal – the hike up the hill, the rain dripping down your neck as you wait, the movement of branches, the hiss, the irritation when someone coughs/talks/farts, the stumbling around in the dark, the party afterwards.....

#### PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

**Blackcap Illadopsis (*Illadopsis cleaveri*)** – reasonable views in the Bakossi mountains and then much better at Korup

**Pale-breasted Illadopsis (*Illadopsis rufipennis*)** – showed really well at Korup

**African Hill Babbler (*Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*)** – Mount Cameroon and then in the Bamenda highlands.

My understanding is that the ones on Mount Cameroon are of the race "monachus" and those at Bamenda are of the race "atriceps". The latter may be split as a full species – Ruwenzori Hill Babbler – though neither Borrow nor Sinclair does so in the field guides

**Spotted Thrush Babbler (*Ptyrticus turdinus*)** – not easy – it took an age to catch up with one at

Ngaoundaba. We later got crippling views of a different bird while looking for an Oriole-Warbler in the same area

Blackcap Babbler (*Turdoides reinwardtii*)

Brown Babbler (*Turdoides plebejus*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

White-shouldered Black-Tit (*Melaniparus guineensis*)

**PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**

Spotted Creeper (*Salpornis spilonotus*)

**PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae**

**Sennar Penduline-Tit (*Anthoscopus punctifrons*)** – at least two in Waza

**Yellow Penduline-Tit (*Anthoscopus parvulus*)** – a couple of these smart birds on one of the road stops between Garoua and Maroua

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

**Fraser's Sunbird (*Deleornis fraseri*)** – loads of these in Korup. Look a bit like small greenbuls – beware !

**Mouse-brown Sunbird (*Anthreptes gabonicus*)** – one in the mangroves by the river in Douala

Western Violet-backed Sunbird (*Anthreptes longuemarei*)

**Green Sunbird (*Anthreptes rectirostris*)** – the only sighting was on a roadside stop between Yaounde and Douala

Collared Sunbird (*Hedydipna collaris*)

**Pygmy Sunbird (*Hedydipna platura*)** – loads of these in the north including some very handsome, full-tailed males

**Reichenbach's Sunbird (*Anabathmis reichenbachii*)** – last day bird seen in Limbe Botanical Gardens

**Green-headed Sunbird (*Cyanomitra verticalis*)** – first seen by the Sanaga river and then at a few locations afterwards

**Cameroon Sunbird (*Cyanomitra oritis*)** – this gave point-blank views on Mount Cameroon on the first day

**Western Olive Sunbird (*Cyanomitra obscura*)** – this may just be a race and should perhaps be lumped with Eastern Olive Sunbird (*C.olivacea*)

**Carmelite Sunbird (*Chalcomitra fuliginosa*)** – in the mangroves next to the Wouri river near Douala

**Green-throated Sunbird (*Chalcomitra rubescens*)** – between Yaounde and Douala

Scarlet-chested Sunbird (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*)

**Olive-bellied Sunbird (*Cinnyris chloropygius*)** – first seen on a roadside stop between Yaounde and Douala

**Tiny Sunbird (*Cinnyris minullus*)** – perched next to the Blue-headed Bee-Eater at Korup. Cool

**Northern Double-collared Sunbird (*Cinnyris reichenowi*)** – Mount Cameroon. Seems to be a bit of a highland sunbird

Beautiful Sunbird (*Cinnyris pulchellus*)

**Orange-tufted Sunbird (*Cinnyris bouvieri*)** – Bakossi Mountains

Splendid Sunbird (*Cinnyris coccinigastrus*)

**Johanna's Sunbird (*Cinnyris johannae*)** – brilliant views of this lovely bird at Mount Kupe

**Superb Sunbird (*Cinnyris superbus*)** – first seen near Kodmin village after the libation ceremony.

Variable Sunbird (*Cinnyris venustus*)

**Ursula's Sunbird (*Cinnyris ursulae*)** – very range restricted. Just one seen – at Mount Kupe

**Bates' Sunbird (*Cinnyris batesi*)** – Korup. Very dull

Copper Sunbird (*Cinnyris cupreus*)

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

**(E) Mount Cameroon Speirops (*Speirops melanocephalus*)** – as predicted these mysteriously appeared on Mount Cameroon as soon as we got to 1800metres. Uncanny.

African Yellow White-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*)

**Forest White-eye (*Zosterops stenocricotus*)** – Mount Cameroon

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

African Golden Oriole (*Oriolus auratus*)

**Black-winged Oriole (*Oriolus nigripennis*)** – a couple in the Bakossi Mountains

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

Isabelline Shrike (*Lanius isabellinus*)  
Gray-backed Fiscal (*Lanius excubitoroides*)  
**Mackinnon's Shrike (*Lanius mackinnoni*)** – Mount Cameroon and Mount Kupe  
Common Fiscal (*Lanius collaris*)  
Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*)  
Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)  
Yellow-billed Shrike (*Corvinella corvine*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae

Brubru (*Nilaus afer*)  
Northern Puffback (*Dryoscopus gambensis*)  
**Red-eyed Puffback (*Dryoscopus senegalensis*)** – a nice male seen in the Bakossi's after the torrential downpour  
**Pink-footed Puffback (*Dryoscopus angolensis*)** – at least one in the Bakossi Mountains  
**Marsh Tchagra (*Tchagra minutus*)** – two gave good views during the descent from Ijum Ridge  
Black-crowned Tchagra (*Tchagra senegalus*)  
**Brown-crowned Tchagra (*Tchagra australis*)** – great views of a pair drying out after the Bakossi libation ceremony  
Tropical Boubou (*Laniarius aethiopicus*)  
Yellow-crowned Gonolek (*Laniarius barbarus*)  
**Black-headed Gonolek (*Laniarius erythrogaster*)** – superb birds seen easily in the riverside bushes at Benoue NP  
**Yellow-breasted Boubou (*Laniarius atroflavus*)** – fabulous birds seen on Mount Cameroon and then in the Bamenda Highlands  
**Mountain Sooty Boubou (*Laniarius poensis*)** – regularly seen on Mount Cameroon and then later in the Bakossi Mountains  
**Bocage's Bushshrike (*Telophorus bocagei*)** – really attractive birds with a few seen in degraded habitat around Kodmin  
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*)  
**Green-breasted Bushshrike (*Malaconotus gladiator*)** – CMF ! Michael had a contact who knew about a patch of forest near Baba 2 that was rumoured to contain these beasts. We were a little sceptical but the forest proved to be absolutely pristine and contained tons of birds including at least one of these monsters (walk-away scope views were had by all)  
Gray-headed Bushshrike (*Malaconotus blanchoti*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae

White Helmetshrike (*Prionops plumatus*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

**Square-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus ludwigii*)** – Ngaoundaba  
**Shining Drongo (*Dicrurus atripennis*)** – Korup only  
Fork-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*)  
**Velvet-mantled Drongo (*Dicrurus modestus*)** – seen really well below Kodmin village

#### PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Piapiac (*Ptilostomus afer*)

Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*)  
Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis chloropterus*)  
**Bronze-tailed Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis chalcurus*)** – this is a little bit tricky to identify but fortunately good views were obtained in good light  
**Splendid Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis splendidus*)** – seen at a variety of locations through the country  
Purple Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis purpureus*)  
Long-tailed Glossy-Starling (*Lamprotornis caudatus*)

**Chestnut-bellied Starling (*Lamprotornis pulcher*)** – common in the north

Violet-backed Starling (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*)

**Waller's Starling (*Onychognathus walleri*)** – one near Kodmin was the only one

**Neumann's Starling (*Onychognathus neumanni*)** – several on the cliffs below the Skyline Hotel at Bamenda. This is a fairly recent split from Red-winged Starling (*O. morio*)

**White-collared Starling (*Grafisia torquata*)** – several of these very smart birds seen around Ngaoundaba ranch.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker (*Buphagus africanus*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Grey-headed Sparrow (*Passer griseus*)

Bush Petronia (*Petronia dentate*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

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

**Speckle-fronted Weaver (*Sporopipes frontalis*)** – these are really smart birds when seen closely. Lots seen in the north in the Maroua / Garoua / Waza areas

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

**Red-vented Malimbe (*Malimbus scutatus*)** – Korup. Very smart

**Crested Malimbe (*Malimbus malimbicus*)** – Korup. Equally smart

Red-headed Weaver (*Anaplectes rubriceps*)

Baglafaecht Weaver (*Ploceus baglafaecht*)

**(E) Bannerman's Weaver (*Ploceus bannermani*)** – at least two of these on Ijum Ridge in the Bamenda highlands

Little Weaver (*Ploceus luteolus*)

**Black-necked Weaver (*Ploceus nigricollis*)** – seen on at least 6 dates with the 1<sup>st</sup> at Benoue

Spectacled Weaver (*Ploceus ocularis*)

**Black-billed Weaver (*Ploceus melanogaster*)** – Mount Cameroon and Bakossi

**Orange Weaver (*Ploceus aurantius*)** – a small colony of these was being established on the banks of the Sanaga river giving fairly distant views

Vitelline Masked-Weaver (*Ploceus vitellinus*)

**Heuglin's Masked-Weaver (*Ploceus heuglini*)** – Benoue only

**Vieillot's Black Weaver (*Ploceus nigerrimus*)** – one of the more common weavers on the trip. First seen at Mount Cameroon

Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*)

**Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*)** – a female in the Benoue area was the only one

**Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver (*Ploceus bicolour*)** – Bakossi only

**Brown-capped Weaver (*Ploceus insignis*)** – Mount Cameroon and the Bamenda Highlands.

**Red-headed Quelea (*Quelea erythrops*)** – a single dull individual on the lower slopes of Mount Cameroon

Red-billed Quelea (*Quelea quelea*)

Northern Red Bishop (*Euplectes franciscanus*)

Yellow Bishop (*Euplectes capensis*)

Grosbeak Weaver (*Amblyospiza albifrons*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

**Pale-fronted Negrofinch (*Nigrita luteifrons*)** – the last lifer of the trip with a pair being seen in Limbe Botanical Gardens on the final day

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

**Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch (*Nigrita bicolour*)** – absolutely point blank views of one coming down to a stream at Korup. Superb views of a normally reclusive species

**Shelley's (Little) Oliveback (*Nesocharis shelleyi*)** – this and the next species are absolutely fantastic little things. There were tons of these on that first day at Mount Cameroon

**Gray-headed (White-cheeked) Oliveback (*Nesocharis capistrata*)** – crippling views of one coming to drink by the river at Benoue

**Red-faced Crimson-wing (*Cryptospiza reichenovii*)** – first seen in front of the Speirops "shed" on Mount Cameroon and then quite a few gave superb views at Ijum Ridge (apparently much commoner than usual)

Orange-cheeked Waxbill (*Estrilda melpoda*)

**Black-rumped Waxbill (*Estrilda troglodytes*)** – nice views of about 30 birds around a leaky pipe at Waza camp

Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*)

**Black-crowned Waxbill (*Estrilda nonnula*)** – seemed to be one of the commonest estrildids in Cameroon

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu (*Uraeginthus bengalus*)

**Dybowski's Twinspot (*Euschistospiza dybowskii*)** – one of the highlights of the trip was finding 3 of these little beauts in a small palm at Ngaoundaba ranch. Point blank, walk-away views of a superb bird

**Brown Twinspot (*Clytospiza monteiri*)** – this one gave us the run-around at Ngaoundaba ranch. We saw various bits of the bird at different times

**Yellow-winged Pytilia (*Pytilia hypogrammica*)** – brilliant views of a male bird at Ngaoundaba

Green-winged Pytilia (*Pytilia melba*)

Red-billed Firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegalensis*)

**Bar-breasted Firefinch (*Lagonosticta rufopicta*)** - Benoue

**Black-faced Firefinch (*Lagonosticta larvata*)** - Benoue

**Black-bellied Firefinch (*Lagonosticta rara*)** – stunning views of several of these at Benoue

**Rock Firefinch (*Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*)** – seen on a rocky escarpment somewhere between Garoua and Maroua

Cut-throat (*Amadina fasciata*)

**Black-faced Quailfinch (*Ortygospiza atricollis*)** – a small flock of these eventually showed well by the Benoue river at Garoua.

Bronze Mannikin (*Spermestes cucullatus*)

**Black-and-white Mannikin (*Spermestes bicolor*)** – finally seen properly in Douala by the river

African Silverbill (*Euodice cantans*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae

Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*)

**Sahel Paradise-Whydah (*Vidua orientalis*)** – at least one male in Waza – unfortunately minus a tail

Village Indigobird (*Vidua chalybeata*)

#### PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

**Oriole Finch (*Linurgus olivaceus*)** – loads of these on Mount Cameroon. Very smart birds

**White-rumped Seedeater (*Serinus leucopygius*)** – first seen near the buildings at Waza. Stunning ! Not !

Yellow-fronted Canary (*Serinus mozambicus*)

**Thick-billed Seedeater (*Serinus burtoni*)** – seen on Mount Cameroon near to the Speirops area

#### PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza tahapisi*)

**Cabanis' Bunting (*Emberiza cabanisi*)** – several nice birds around Benoue. We tried (unsuccessfully) to turn some of them into Brown-rumped Bunts

#### Top selected big misses

1. **Mt. Kupe Bushshrike (*Telophorus kupeensis*)** – The miss of the trip. No sight nor sound of any birds during our days at Kupe and Bakossi

2. **White-throated Mountain-Babbler (*Kupeornis gilberti*)** - Joseph saw two briefly along Max's trail on Mount Kupe but no-one else got onto them

3. **Cameroon Olive Pigeon (*Columba sjostedti*)** – we disturbed two large dark pigeons on Ijum Ridge but didn't get enough on them to tick them as COP's

4. **Blue-headed Wood-Dove (*Turtur brehmeri*)** – one fizzed across the path at Korup but couldn't be coaxed back into view

5. **Tit-Hylia (*Pholidornis rufica*)** – a bird I really wanted to see. Not a sniff !

6. **Cameroon Francolin (*Francolinus camerunensis*)** - it was never really on the menu but it would have been good

7. **African Emerald Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx cupreus*)** – this little b\*\*\*\*\*d continues to elude me (seen by others)

8. **Dusky Crested-Flycatcher (*Elminia nigromitrata*)** – really gave us the run-around in Korup. "Dark moving shadows" are not really tickable

9. **Crowned Eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*)** – we heard them displaying above the canopy in the Bakossi but nothing conclusive was seen

10. **Black Bee-Eater (*Merops gularis*)** – heard in the same spot as the Crowned Eagles but again no luck in getting on to them

11. **Black-throated Coucal (*Centropus leucogaster*)** – we tried to hoot one out of cover but then we got distracted by the Red-fronted Parrot

12. **Rufous-crowned Eremomela (*Eremomela badiceps*)** – the rest of the group were watching these while I tried to relocate the G/H Broadbill in the Bakossi Mountains. Doh !

13. **Pel's Fishing-Owl (*Scotopelia peli*)** – one was calling constantly from the other side of the river at Benoue but just didn't want to come and play with the tape

14. **Nkulengu Rail (*Himantornis haematopus*)** – we had one calling in a tree pre-dawn at Korup and so we sat at the base of the tree in order to watch it descend to a daytime roost site. It didn't.

#### Mammals and other stuff

One of these days I'll get into mammals in a big way. For now I'll just list them.

Guereza Colobus

Olive Baboon  
Patas Monkey  
Tantalus Monkey  
Crowned Monkey  
Scrub Hare  
Striped Ground Squirrel  
Coopers Mountain Squirrel  
Lady Burton's Rope Squirrel – **fab name**  
Common (Golden) Jackal  
Sand Fox  
Banded Mongoose – **these were really good. A party of about 50 individuals was watched at Waza**  
White-tailed Mongoose  
Rock Hyrax  
Common Warthog  
Giraffe – **a fantastic party of 21 animals at Waza and then a smaller, more elusive group at Benoue**  
Bushbuck  
Common (Grey) Duiker  
Red-flanked Duiker  
Kob  
Topi  
Roan  
Striped Hyena – **unbeatable views of this as it trotted along the side of the road.**

**In summary, the trip was fantastic and at some point in the future I think I'll go back to Cameroon to fill some gaps – I don't think we really did justice to the Bakossi Mountains and Korup NP due to the weather at the former and the relative lack of time at the latter.**

**I would strongly recommend Birding Africa.**

**The people on this trip were simply great and made it such an experience. I hope you all got back home ok and that you've recovered from your various illnesses**

**Cheers**

**Martin Wootton  
Cheshire, GB  
April 2008**