



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Angola

*14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010*



**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott**

### **Trip Summary**

Our tour started off in Luanda. From the airport we made our way through the bustling Angolan capital, which showed signs of a growing economy with many new flashy buildings and lots of construction underway. After finally easing our way through the hectic traffic and out of the city we managed a brief stop along the mudflats and picked up Greater Flamingo and African Spoonbill. Our first major stop *en route* to Kissama National Park was the Kwanzo River and here we enjoyed great views of our first endemic, Bubbling Cisticola, and several Angola Swallows, plus the first of many Palmnut Vultures.

Kissama National Park protects an area of approximately 1.2 million hectares (about half the size of Kruger National Park). The habitat is predominantly vast areas of thicket studded with large *Acacia* trees and some very impressive Baobabs. On its northern border it is flanked by the vast wetlands and mangrove swamps of the Kwanzo River. A considerable number of mammals have been reintroduced to the park since their populations were decimated during the thirty years of war

which finally ended in 2002. On entering the park we stopped and opened the vehicle roof hatches, allowing us wonderful opportunities for game and bird viewing. We felt like we had the whole park to ourselves with very little traffic other than construction vehicles working on the roads. We spent considerable time birding the thickets around our camp and the gallery forest along the Kwanzo River. With the help of local guides we came up trumps with superb views of the shy and retiring Grey-striped Francolin, a highly sought-after endemic! Other notable species seen here included White-fronted Wattle-eye, Angola Batis, Red-backed Mousebird (must surely be the commonest endemic), a flock of Golden-backed Bishops, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, Black-bellied Bustard, Rüppell's Parrot, several flocks of Green Wood Hoopoes, Pallid Honeyguide, Bearded Woodpecker, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Swamp Boubou, Carp's Black Tit, Green Crombec and migrant Spotted Flycatcher.



From here we headed to the remote and seldom visited southern sector of the park. The drive south along a sandy track through wilderness gave us a real sense of adventure. It was very dry due to recent drought conditions; hence birding activity was particularly low. On finally arriving at our destination we set up camp near a dry riverbed and enjoyed a superb lunch. A hot afternoons birding session produced very little apart from a splendid Martial Eagle and a large troop of Samango Monkeys, and so that evening we doused our sorrows with some ice cold local beers! The following morning, however, seemed to burst into life and within ten minutes of leaving camp we were watching a splendid flock of the very rarely seen Gabela Helmetshrikes – our main target. You can just imagine the excitement! Our spirits thoroughly buoyed, we headed back for a scrumptious breakfast where we found Black Scimitarbill nearby.



Bidding farewell to Kissama, we then made our way to Gabela. On our journey south we saw Mottled and the bizarre Böhm's Spinetails, several majestic Bateleurs, a lovely pair of African Hawk-Eagle and Wattled Starling.

The great Kumbira forest, situated on the western side of Njelo Mountain, loomed out of the mist, appearing a lot closer than it proved to be. The entry road was very poor and slow going, and surprisingly we only got stuck once! With the help of expert 4x4 drivers we were quickly away and arrived at our camp site at dusk where we quickly erected camp, our home for the next three nights. In the morning we awoke to a splendid dawn chorus and were soon watching the stunning Red-crested Turaco sunning itself atop a large dead tree. Our time in these forests was particularly productive and we scored a good selection of sought-after species, including African Broadbill displaying, the stunning Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Gabela and Four-coloured (Perrin's) Bushshrikes, Yellow-throated Nicator, Falkenstein's and Pale-olive Greenbuls, Hartert's Camaroptera, Gabela Akalat, Forest Scrub Robin and Black-faced Canary. Notable absentees were Pulitzer's Longbill and Monteiro's Bushshrike – neither of which were heard calling. Other interesting species seen in the area included African Goshawk, Crowned Eagle – a pair displaying, Blue Malkoha, Trumpeter Hornbill, Western Tinkerbird, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-billed Barbets, Elliot's and Brown-eared Woodpeckers, Chestnut Wattle-



eye, Many-coloured Bushshrike, Pink-footed Puffback, Petit's Cuckooshrike, Dusky Tit, Red-tailed Bristlebill, Southern Hyliota, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, Brown-chested Alethe, Carmelite and Superb Sunbirds, Brown-capped Weaver, Red-faced Crimsonwing, Red-headed Bluebill and Orange-cheeked Waxbill.



It was hard to tear ourselves away from this endemic hotspot, and so reluctantly we made our way slowly back through the arduous entry road. Shortly after leaving the tow hitch broke off the back of the vehicle that was pulling the trailer and so we had to switch the trailer to another vehicle. Thankfully this didn't take too long, and whilst repairs were in progress we found the beautiful Green-headed Sunbird. Since this was a short tour we knew we had a very long drive down to the south, to the great Tundavala Escarpment. Most of the route was on recently tarred roads which were in good condition; however there was a really bad section which took at least four hours to complete. *En route* we saw an African Marsh Harrier that was well out of range, handsome Grey Kestrel and a pair of Small Buttonquails, which obligingly walked slowly across the road in front of us. After a mammoth journey we finally arrived at the Tundavala Escarpment to a gorgeous dawn. Everyone's spirits lifted as we were soon watching the beautiful Ludwig's Double-collared and Oustalet's Sunbirds. Then suddenly from nowhere an Angola Slaty Flycatcher appeared, shortly followed by Yellow-crowned Canary. This was very fortunate for Ily who had to then dash off to the airport to catch a flight back for a wedding.

Other species seen here included the striking Angola Cave Chat, several Short-toed Rock Thrushes, and the stunning Angola Sweet Waxbill.

The following day we took the road down to Namibe, which is a fascinating drive from the escarpment above 2000 metres to the northern Namib Desert coastline just 180 kilometres away. A significant number of near-endemics that are shared with just two countries, Namibia and Angola, occur along this route and were the main focus of our birding here. Some of the species seen included Pale Chanting Goshawk, majestic Augur Buzzard, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Bradfield's Swift, Monteiro's and Damara Red-billed Hornbills, Acacia Pied and Black-collared Barbets,



Carp's Black Tit, Benguela Long-billed and Gray's Larks, a family group of Bare-cheeked Babblers, Meves's and Pale-winged Starlings, Tractrac Chat and the dainty Cinderella Waxbill.



With increased infrastructure, friendly people, good National Parks that are slowly re-introducing wildlife, and better roads, hopefully this will encourage more birders to visit this bird-rich endemic haven. Exploring Angola was a fabulous adventure that combined incredible birding, some superb scenery and really great company. This remarkable

trip through a seldom visited country drew to a close when we made our way to the airport for our return flights home.

**Photo credits:** Gabela Helmetshrrike by Jon Hornbuckle, Gabela Forest by Adam Riley, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush by Jon Hornbuckle, Yellow-bellied and White-fronted Wattle-eyes by David Hoddinott, Benguela Long-billed Lark by Jon Hornbuckle and Cinderella Waxbill by David Hoddinott

**BIRDS (279 species recorded)**

**Birds:** Gill, F. and M.Wright. 2010. IOC Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Version 2.9 generated on 2010-10-01. 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.

E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic

**Ostriches Struthionidae****Common Ostrich***Struthio camelus*

We had wonderful views of several in Kissama National Park.

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

We had good views of large flocks in Namibia and smaller numbers in southern Kissama NP, Angola.

**Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae****Grey-striped Francolin (E)***Pternistis griseostriatus*

We were lucky to observe one of these elusive and shy birds at Kissama NP. A little known Angolan endemic.

**Hartlaub's Spurfowl (Francolin) (NE)***Pternistis hartlaubi*

One was heard calling on the Leba Scarp.

**Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)***Pternistis afer*

This is Angola's most widespread and commonly seen francolin. We first recorded this striking species in Kissama NP, with a further one seen on our day trip down to Namibe.

**Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae****Yellow-billed Duck***Anas undulata*

We had good views of one flying overhead, near the Leba Scarp.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

We had good scope views of fifty on the mudflats en route from Luanda to Kissama.

**Storks Ciconiidae****Woolly-necked Stork***Ciconia episcopus*

Two birds were seen at a floodplain en route from Kissama to Conda.

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

Three birds were seen near Luanda.

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

**African Spoonbill***Platalea alba*

One was seen on the mudflats en route from Luanda to Kissama.

### Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

**Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

We found one in Kissama NP and another during the day trip to Namibe.

**[Western] Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

A flock of six was seen in Luanda with scattered sightings elsewhere.

*NOTE: This group is sometimes split into 2 species, the nominate Western Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret (E. coromanda). This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

One bird was seen *en route* to Kissama NP and a further two between Kissama and Conda.

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

Two birds were seen near the Leba escarpment.

**Goliath Heron***Ardea goliath*

We had good views of one flying over the wetland in Kissama NP.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

We had good views of one near the Kwanzo River.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

One bird was seen *en route* to Kissama NP.

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

### Hamerkop Scopidae

**Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

Our first sighting was of one near Conda with further sightings near the Leba escarpment and during the Namibe day trip.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

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

We saw one during the drive from Kissama to Conda.

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

**Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

Small numbers of this widespread raptor were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

*NOTE: Most authorities have split this into three species Black-winged Kite (E. caeruleus) of the Old World, Black-shouldered Kite (E. axillaris) of Australasia and White-tailed Kite (E. leucurus) of the New World.*

**African Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

Our first sighting was at the Kwanzo River. Several were seen in Kissama NP and a final sighting was made *en route* to Conda.

**Palmnut Vulture***Gypohierax angolensis*

This attractive vulture was first described from specimens originating in Angola, hence its scientific name. Our first was seen *en route* to Kissama NP. Common in Angola and we enjoyed almost daily sightings throughout the tour.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

We had good sightings of two in Kissama NP.

**Black-chested Snake Eagle***Circaetus pectoralis*

We had good views of one in Kissama NP and another during the drive to Namibe.

**Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

We enjoyed good views of one in Kissama NP.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

Two birds were seen in Kissama NP and a further four *en route* to Conda.

**African Marsh Harrier***Circus ranivorus*

One bird was seen between Conda and Tundavala, this is a rarely recorded species in Angola.

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

Our first sighting was in Kissama NP with almost daily sightings thereafter.

**Pale Chanting Goshawk***Melierax canorus*

We enjoyed good views of two near Namibe. This is near the northern limit of its range.

**Gabar Goshawk***Micronisus gabar*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP.

**African Goshawk***Accipiter tachiro*

This attractive forest raptor was seen on all three days we birded at Kumbira Forest.

*NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk (A. tousseneli).*

**Shikra***Accipiter badius*

One bird was seen en route from Kumbira Forest to Tundavala.

*NOTE: We recorded the Southern Shikra A. b. polyzonoides which some authorities consider distinct from Northern Shikra A. b. sphenurus. 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.*

**Little Sparrowhawk***Accipiter minullus*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP.

**Lizard Buzzard***Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Five of these attractive raptors were seen during the tour, most of the sightings around Kumbira Forest.

**Augur Buzzard***Buteo augur*

Three of this widespread species were seen on the Leba Escarpment.

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

We enjoyed superb views of a pair in southern Kissama NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle***Aquila wahlbergi*

We had good scope views of one during the Namibe day trip.

**Martial Eagle***Polemaetus bellicosus*

We had magnificent views of a sub-adult in Kissama NP.

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

Several of these floppy crested raptors were seen at Kumbira Forest.

**Crowned Eagle***Stephanoaetus coronatus*

A superb pair was initially heard calling and then seen flying over Kumbira Forest.

**Falcons Falconidae****Rock Kestrel***Falco rupicolus*

Our first sightings were of two in Kissama NP with further good sightings on our day trip to Namibe.

*NOTE: Clements has not split the distinctive Rock Kestrel, F. rupicolus of southern and central Africa, from the more widespread migrant Common Kestrel, F. tinnunculus. This split is accepted by most authorities.*

**Grey Kestrel***Falco ardosiaceus*

Our first sighting was of one en route from Kissama to Conda with a further sighting of one on the drive from Conda to Tundavala.

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus*

We had cracking views of one during our day trip to Namibe.

**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

A single stately bird was seen in Kissama NP.

**Bustards Otididae****Black-bellied Bustard (Korhaan)***Lissotis melanogaster*

Two males were seen in Kissama NP.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

We had good views of one during the day trip to Namibe.

**Buttonquail Turnicidae****Common (Kurrichane) Buttonquail***Turnix sylvaticus*

We had superb views of a pair as they walked across the road near Conda.

**Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Burhinidae****Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)***Burhinus vermiculatus*

We heard this species calling during the drive from Conda to Tundavala.

**Plovers Charadriidae****African Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus*

We had superb views of one near the Leba Escarpment.

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

One was seen on the mudflats en route from Luanda to Kissama NP.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Sternidae****Royal Tern***Thalasseus maximus*

Up to twenty were seen off Porto Amboim.

**Common Tern***Sterna hirundo*

One bird was seen off Porto Amboim.

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

Common in Luanda.

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

Several were seen in Kissama NP and a further two during the day trip to Namibe.

**Ring-necked (Cape Turtle-) Dove***Streptopelia capicola*

Widespread and common throughout Angola (particularly in the drier woodlands) with a highest count of twenty birds seen in Kissama NP.

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

Only recorded in western Angola at Luanda and Namibe.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove***Turtur chalcospilos*

Recorded at Kissama NP and *en route* to Namibe.

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

Only heard at Kumbira Forest.

**African Green Pigeon***Treron calvus*

This attractive frugivore was seen in small numbers at Kumbira Forest and during the Namibe trip.

**Parrots Psittacidae****Rosy-faced Lovebird (NE)***Agapornis roseicollis*

One of these attractive little parrots was seen near Namibe.

**Rüppell's Parrot (NE)***Poicephalus rueppellii*

Several birds were seen in Kissama NP and a further six during the Namibe day trip. A localized species endemic to Namibia and Angola.

**Turacos Musophagidae****Red-crested Turaco (E)***Tauraco erythrolophus*

We had excellent views of this, the most spectacular of the Angolan endemics, at Kumbira Forest. A fabulous bird indeed and commonly encountered in the forest, more often heard than seen.

**Grey Go-away-bird (Lourie)***Corythaixoides concolor*

Up to thirty birds were observed in Kissama NP and another *en route* to Namibe.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae****Gabon Coucal***Centropus anselli*

A very elusive species which we heard at Kumbira Forest.

**Senegal Coucal***Centropus senegalensis*

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

**White-browed Coucal***Centropus superciliosus*

We had three sightings of this species at scattered localities, our best sighting was of one *en route* from Kissama to Conda.

*NOTE: Clements and IOC do not recognize the split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus. We recorded the latter form.*

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

This skulking species was seen well in Kumbira Forest.

*NOTE: Yellowbill is sometimes split into two species, Green Malkoha (C. australis) occurring in southeastern Africa and Blue Malkoha (C. aereus) of Central and Western Africa. We observed the latter form. Clements does not recognize this split.*

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

This smart green cuckoo was seen at Kissama NP and Kumbira Forest.

**African Emerald Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx cupreus*

This forest and forest edge species was heard only at Kumbira Forest.

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

We heard one calling from our camp in Kumbira Forest.

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

One adult was seen in Kissama NP.

**African Cuckoo***Cuculus gularis*

We heard this species near Conda.

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

One was heard and seen briefly at the Leba Escarpment.

**Owls Strigidae****African Wood Owl***Strix woodfordii*

A pair was heard calling near our camp in Kumbira Forest.

**Nightjars Caprimulgidae****Rufous-cheeked Nightjar***Caprimulgus rufigena*

We had good views of three during the drive from Conda to Tundavala.

**Fiery-necked Nightjar***Caprimulgus pectoralis*

A bird was heard and seen at Kissama NP.

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

We had superb views of several in Kissama NP.

**Böhm's (Bat-like) Spinetail***Neafrapus boehmi*

We enjoyed superb views of several in Kissama NP.

**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Fairly common in any area where large palms occur and recorded almost daily, with highest counts of 20+ in Kissama NP.

**Alpine Swift***Tachymarptis melba*

Thirty of these huge swifts were seen at the Tundavala Escarpment and several more on the Leba Scarp.

**Mottled Swift***Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

We observed a flock at the Tundavala Escarpment.

**Swift sp (NE)***Apus sp*

We recorded up to thirty of these enigmatic swifts daily over Kissama NP. These swifts breeding on buildings in Luanda (and probably cliffs elsewhere in the area) are very distinctive, huge, all dark swifts with notched inner wings. Sinclair et al attribute these swifts to Fernando Po Swift *A. sladeniae* that Clements considers a form of African Swift *A. barbatus*. Their calls and appearance clearly differs from typical African Swifts, but they also do not match the description for Fernando Po Swift either. No specimens of these swifts seem to have ever been collected and further work would certainly be fruitful and maybe even proving these to be a new species.

*NOTE: Clements does not recognize the split of Fernando Po Swift A. sladeniae from the widespread African Swift A. barbatus.*

**Bradfield's Swift (NE)***Apus bradfieldi*

We had a nice flock of fifteen at the Leba Escarpment.

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

Seen at many localities, particularly large numbers were recorded during the drive from Kissama NP to Conda.

**White-rumped Swift***Apus caffer*

We found several near Luanda and a further pair in Kissama NP.

**Mousebirds Coliidae****Red-backed Mousebird (E)***Colius castanotus*

We had superb sightings of many including several at the airport in Luanda. The commonest of the Angolan endemics.

**Red-faced Mousebird***Urocolius indicus*

Flocks of these social mousebirds were fairly common in the dry country of Kissama NP and *en route* to Namibe.

**Trogon Trogonidae****Narina Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

One was heard calling at Kumbira Forest.

**Rollers Coraciidae****Lilac-breasted Roller***Coracias caudatus*

Several of these stunning birds were seen in Kissama NP. One of Africa's trademark birds!

*NOTE: The Ethiopian C. c. lorti might be split as Blue-breasted Roller.*

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Brown-hooded Kingfisher***Halcyon albiventris*

One bird was seen *en route* from Kissama NP to Conda.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

We enjoyed several sightings in Kissama NP.

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

This large forest kingfisher was heard in dense forest along the Kwanzo River.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

We had great sightings of three in Kissama NP.

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

This woodland haunting kingfisher was well seen in Kissama NP and another seen at Kumbira Forest.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus*

One of the brilliant river-dwelling kingfishers was seen during our trip to Namibe.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*

One was seen in Kissama NP and a further one during the trip to Namibe.

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

Seen on many days of the tour throughout Angola, with our first sighting of several birds at the Kwanzo River.

**Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*

Several were seen in Kissama NP and a further six of the stream-lined birds en route to Namibe.

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

A flock of ten was recorded in Kissama NP.

### Hoopoes Upupidae

**African (Eurasian) Hoopoe** *Upupa africana*

We had good views of one during the trip to Namibe.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar (U. marginalis) and Eurasian U. epops. The white-winged African form is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe (U. senegalensis) with the fourth species, the one we observed, being African Hoopoe (U. africana). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.*

### Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

**Green Wood Hoopoe (NE)** *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kissama NP.

**Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

Two birds were seen well in Kissama NP.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

**Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus*

We enjoyed good sightings daily whilst in Kissama NP and Kumbira Forest.

**Monteiro's Hornbill** *Tockus monteiri*

We had superb views of a pair during the drive to Namibe.

**Damara Red-billed Hornbill (NE)** *Tockus damarensis*

A single of this dark-eyed, white faced hornbill was seen in dry country near Namibe.

*NOTE: Some authorities split the Red-billed Hornbill complex into 5 full species, nominate Northern from northern Tanzania to Mali, Damara T. damarensis of northern Namibia and southern Angola, Southern T. rufirostris of southern and south-central Africa, Tanzanian T. ruahae of central Tanzania and Western T. kempii of Senegambia. Clements does not recognize these splits.*

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (NE)** *Tockus leucomelas*

Up to ten daily were seen in Kissama NP and others in the dry area en route to Namibe. We took particular note of these strange looking Angolan birds.

*NOTE: The diminutive Angolan dry-country form of this widespread species may represent a new species of hornbill based on differences in soft parts, plumage and vocalization.*

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator*

We had good views of four in Kumbira Forest. This species appears to be rarely recorded in the area.

### African Barbets Lybiidae

#### **Western Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We had great scope views of one at Kumbira Forest and enjoyed another at the Leba Escarpment.

#### **Yellow-rumped (Golden-rumped) Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Two birds were seen at Kumbira Forest.

#### **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

This dry woodland species was seen on the Tundavala Escarpment.

#### **Hairy-breasted Barbet**

*Tricholaema hirsuta*

Two birds were seen with others heard at Kumbira Forest. The Kumbira birds represent an isolated population not recorded in any pre war literature.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into two species, the nominate form restricted to Upper Guinea and Streaky-throated Barbet T. flavipunctata of west-central Africa. We recorded the latter form.*

#### **Acacia Pied Barbet (NE)**

*Tricholaema leucomelas*

One bird was heard in Kissama NP and another seen in dry woodlands near Namibe.

#### **Black-collared Barbet**

*Lybius torquatus*

We had great views of three en route to Namibe.

#### **Yellow-billed Barbet**

*Trachyphonus purpuratus*

This strange forest barbet with a deep hooting call was seen well at Kumbira Forest.

### Honeyguides Indicatoridae

#### **Greater Honeyguide**

*Indicator indicator*

We enjoyed good views of one at Kissama NP.

#### **Pallid Honeyguide**

*Indicator meliphilus*

We had great scope views of one bird in Kissama NP, an uncommonly recorded honeyguide.

### Woodpeckers Picidae

#### **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**

*Campethera abingoni*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP.

#### **Brown-eared Woodpecker**

*Campethera caroli*

Four of these stunning forest woodpeckers were seen in Kumbira Forest.

#### **Cardinal Woodpecker**

*Dendropicos fuscescens*

This woodland woodpecker was observed in Kissama NP.

#### **Bearded Woodpecker**

*Dendropicos namaquus*

We had great scope views of a male in Kissama NP.

#### **Elliot's Woodpecker**

*Dendropicos elliotii*

We enjoyed good views of two in Kumbira Forest.

### Broadbills Eurylaimidae

#### **African Broadbill**

*Smithornis capensis*

One of the highlights of the trip was of a male performing its circular display flight, in Kumbira Forest. We had the scope trained on it and obtained superb views. We enjoyed three separate sightings and also heard this species in the southern sector of Kissama NP.

### Wattle-eyes, Batises Platysteiridae

#### **Chinspot Batis**

*Batis molitor*

One was seen by Jon at Tundavala.

#### **Angola Batis (NE)**

*Batis minulla*

Several birds were seen in Kissama NP with several others at Kumbira Forest, a lovely little batis with a very pretty song.

**White-tailed Shrike (NE)** *Lanioturdus torquatus*

This stunning dry-country bird was commonly encountered on the Leba Scarp and the plains below, with eight individuals seen in a few hours. Another species traditionally regarded as only to be seen in Namibia.

**White-fronted Wattle-eye (E)** *Platysteira albifrons*

We had to work a little for this one, but as is often the case once you see the first one then there seem to be loads around. We enjoyed sightings of six in Kissama NP.

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

We had good views of a male and female in Kumbira Forest. There seem to be few records this far south.

**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye** *Platysteira concreta*

Up to five were seen daily in Kumbira Forest, a real beauty that showed extremely well for the whole group.

### Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

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

We enjoyed wonderful views of several flocks in Kissama NP.

**Gabela (Angola) Helmetshrike (E)** *Prionops gabela*

This was arguably the prize find of our tour, a species previously only seen by a select few people. We found one flock of five of these attractive Helmetshrikes in a dry riverbed in Kissama NP.

### Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

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

This huge woodland bushshrike was heard during the drive to Namibe.

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

This stunning and rather localized species was observed in Kumbira Forest where we had great sightings of one.

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

This attractive species with a very distinctive call was first seen in Kissama NP with further sightings at Kumbira Forest.

**Gorgeous (Perrin's) Bushshrike (NE)** *Telophorus viridis*

Another shockingly beautiful bushshrike that was observed in Kumbira Forest. This localized form occurs only in remote parts of Africa and is difficult to observe.

*NOTE: This species is currently lumped by Clements with Four-coloured Bushshrike (T. quadricolor) of East and Southern Africa. Most authorities regard these birds as separate species.*

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

Two birds were seen in Kissama NP and a further two during the trip to Namibe.

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

This generally uncommon forest puffback was pleasantly common in Kumbira Forest and we enjoyed good views on numerous occasions.

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla*

First seen in Kissama NP, thereafter at all other major sites visited.

**Gabela Bushshrike (E)** *Laniarius amboimensis*

This attractive endemic was commonly heard in Kumbira Forest and two were seen during our full day in the forest.

*NOTE: This species of the Gabela or Southern Angolan scarp and Braun's Bushshrike L. brauni were lumped with the similar Luehder's Bushshrike L. luehderi. This three way split is now recognized by most authorities.*

**Swamp (Gabon) Boubou** *Laniarius bicolor*

A common bird to hear but sometimes a very difficult species to observe, we had sightings at Kissama NP and the Leba Scarp.

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

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

Pairs were seen in Forest. The females are particularly distinctive.

### Shrikes Laniidae

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

We had superb views of a female carrying nesting material at Kumbira Forest.

**Common Fiscal (Shrike)** *Lanius collaris*

We recorded several near the Leba Escarpment with further sightings of the race *subcoronatus* during the trip to Namibe.

*NOTE: The form L. marwitzi is sometimes split off as Uhehe Fiscal occurring in East Africa.*

### Orioles Oriolidae

**Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*

This widespread woodland species was observed in Kissama NP with further sightings at Kumbira Forest.

### Drongos Dicruridae

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

First seen in Kissama NP with further sightings *en route* to Namibe.

*NOTE: The forest dwelling Velvet-mantled Drongo, D. modestus of East and West Africa is now split from Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis.*

### Monarchs Monarchidae

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

A male of this scarce, skulking bird was seen at Kumbira Forest.

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

We saw several in Kumbira Forest, these cute flycatchers do seem to hybridize with the next species along the forest edge.

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed several sightings at Kumbira Forest.

### Crows, Jays Corvidae

**Cape (Black) Crow** *Corvus capensis*

Two seen during the drive to Namibe.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

Regularly seen in small numbers throughout Angola with highest count of 40+ on the drive from Lubango to Namibe.

### Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

**African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda*

This lovely bird was regularly encountered in Kumbira Forest.

**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda*

Some participants saw one in the southern sector of Kissama NP.

### Tits Paridae

**Carp's Tit (NE)***Parus carpi*

This Namibian and Angolan endemic was first seen in Kissama NP and later below the Leba Scarp en route to Namibe where we found a pair.

**Dusky Tit***Parus funereus*

We enjoyed good views of up to eights birds daily at Kumbira Forest, a scarce bird this far south. These distinctive birds belong to a long-isolated race *gabela* restricted to the Gabela Scarp forests.

**Nicators Nicatoridae****Yellow-throated Nicator***Nicator vireo*

We enjoyed excellent views of this very attractive diminutive Nicator at Kumbira Forest. This is one of the Angolan specials as it is very rarely seen anywhere outside of Angola, however in Kumbira it is very common, vocal and easy to see.

**Larks Alaudidae****Rufous-naped Lark***Mirafra africana*

We enjoyed good scope views of one at Tundavala.

*NOTE: The Rufous-naped Lark is divided by Clements into twenty-three subspecies throughout most of Africa. Several of the northern forms have been proposed as full species including Sharpe's Lark M. sharpii of Somalia and Malbrant's Lark M. malbranti of Central Africa.*

**Sabota Lark (NE)***Calendulauda sabota*

One of these southern larks was seen between Leba and Namibe.

*NOTE: The western races of Sabota Lark are sometimes considered a separate species, Bradfield's Lark M. bradfieldi and the form we saw in Angola would fall into this grouping. This split is not recognized by most authorities.*

**Benguela Long-billed Lark (NE)***Certhilauda benguelensis*

Eight of these extremely localized larks (only occurring in seldom visited far-northern Namibia and southern Angola) were observed in the gravel plains east of Namibe.

**Spike-heeled Lark (NE)***Chersomanes albofasciata*

Seven of the very pale desert form was seen in the desolate areas south of Namibe.

**Gray's Lark (NE)***Ammomanopsis grayi*

We were very fortunate to see five birds near Namibe. This is a localized endemic to Namibia and Angola.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae****African Red-eyed (Black-fronted) Bulbul (NE)** *Pycnonotus nigricans*

This dry country southern bulbul was recorded in the scrub at the base of the Leba Scarp en route to Namibe.

**Dark-capped (Black-eyed) Bulbul***Pycnonotus tricolor*

Recorded daily at all locations visited in Angola, highest count of 50+ on the edge of Kumbira Forest.

*NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species Common Bulbul P. barbatus. The form that we saw in Angola, P. tricolor has been split as Dark-capped Bulbul by some authorities. Clements does not recognize this split.*

**Little Greenbul***Eurillas virens*

This usually common forest edge greenbul was only seen once, in Kumbira Forest.

**Yellow-whiskered Bulbul***Eurillas latirostris*

Three birds were seen in Kumbira Forest where its chattering call was commonly countered.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul***Chlorocichla flaviventris*

This large noisy greenbul was observed in Kissama NP and on the Leba Scarp.

**Falkenstein's (Yellow-necked) Greenbul***Chlorocichla falkensteini*

This was one of the commonest birds in Kumbira Forest and we recorded in excess of 10 on our full day in the forest.

**Pale-olive Greenbul (NE)***Phyllastrephus fulviventris*

We had superb views of a pair of this little known Angolan near-endemic at Kumbira Forest. It is far more attractive than illustrations show.

**Red-tailed Bristlebill***Bleda syndactylus*

We had good but brief views of two in Kumbira Forest.

**Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae****Black Saw-wing***Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Small numbers of these forest edge swallows were seen around Kumbira Forest and the Tundavala Escarpment.

*NOTE: The "black" saw-wing complex, which occurs throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, has recently been lumped into a single species by most authorities.*

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Two were seen during the drive from Conda to Tundavala.

*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is found throughout the world and generally regarded as a single species. Some authorities agree that the Old World H. rustica should be split from the New World H. r. erythrogaster. Also, there is an isolated population in the Egyptian delta (H. r. savignii) that some authorities regard as a separate species, the Egyptian Swallow.*

**Angola Swallow***Hirundo angolensis*

First recorded at the Kwanzo River with further sightings at Conda and Lubango area.

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

We had good views of one at Kawa Camp in Kissama NP.

**Rock Martin***Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Several were seen on the Tundavala and Leba Escarpments.

*NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, two potential species exist. The southern African nominate form P. fuligula would remain as Rock Martin (including the birds we saw in Angola) and the north African birds would become Pale Crag Martin, P. obsoleta. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Greater Striped Swallow***Cecropis cucullata*

One was seen on the Leba Scarp.

**Lesser Striped Swallow***Cecropis abyssinica*

Another commonly seen hirundine, first recorded at Kissama NP and our last sighting was at Lubango.

**Crombecs, African warblers Macrosphenidae****Rockrunner (Damara Rock-jumper) (NE)***Achaetops pycnopygius*

We heard one calling on the Leba Scarp, another bird previously considered to be a Namibian special!

**Long-billed (Cape) Crombec***Sylvietta rufescens*

This drier country crombec was observed in Kissama NP and the Tundavala Escarpment.

**Green Crombec***Sylvietta virens*

First seen at Kissama NP where we were surprised to find this forest edge species in very open habitat, and we had numerous further sightings in Kumbira Forest. A real little cutie!

**Cettia bush warblers and allies Cettiidae****Green Hylia***Hylia prasina*

Seen once well and commonly heard in Kumbira Forest.

**Leaf warblers and allies Phylloscopidae****Willow Warbler***Phylloscopus trochilus*

This newly arrived migrant was first observed at Kumbira Forest with further sightings at Tundavala.

**Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae****Bubbling Cisticola (NE)***Cisticola bulliens*

Another of Angola's near-endemics, this cisticola was commonly encountered in moist woodlands and scrub throughout western and central Angola. We observed our first of these noisy birds on our first day at the Kwanzo River.

**Rattling Cisticola***Cisticola chiniana*

This widespread species was seen below the Leba Escarpment.

**Wailing Cisticola***Cisticola lais*

Several birds were seen on grassy hillsides at Tundavala where they are very common and vocal.

*NOTE: This species is often split from Lynes's Cisticola C. distinctus which occurs in East Africa.*

**Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola***Cisticola brachypterus*

This tiny woodland species was observed once outside Kumbira Forest.

**Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

One was seen near the Leba Escarpment.

**Wing-snapping (Ayres') Cisticola***Cisticola ayresii*

Two birds seen in grasslands on the Tundavala Escarpment.

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

First seen in Kissama NP with a further sighting near Kumbira Forest.

**Black-chested Prinia (NE)***Prinia flavicans*

This dry country species was seen on the plains approaching Namibe.

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

Several birds were seen in Kissama NP.

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

We heard one calling at Kumbira Forest, an attractive central African species.

**Buff-throated Apalis***Apalis rufogularis*

Two birds were seen at Kumbira Forest, a vocal canopy species.

**Grey Apalis***Apalis cinerea*

One was seen in Kumbira Forest.

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

First recorded at Kissama NP with further sightings below the Leba Escarpment.

*NOTE: Most authorities now recognise 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 scrubby habitat throughout Angola. Clements still lumps these forms together with the recently recognized Hartert's Camaroptera, C.harterti.*

**Hartert's Camaroptera (E)***Camaroptera harterti*

We had excellent views of several birds in Kumbira Forest, where they are one of the most vocal and commonest forest understorey species.

**Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae****Brown Illadopsis***Illadopsis fulvescens.*

Heard and seen briefly in Kumbira Forest, a skulking understorey species.

**Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae****Bare-cheeked Babbler (NE)***Turdoides gymnogenys*

We had a wonderful sighting of four during our trip to Namibe.

**Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae****Chestnut-vented Warbler (NE)***Sylvia subcaerulea*

This common dry country species was seen near the Leba Escarpment.

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

We had good views of two at Kumbira Forest.

### Hyliotas Hyliotidae

#### **Southern (Mashona) Hyliota**

*Hyliota australis*

Several were seen at Kumbira Forest some individuals were pale and others showing particularly yellow underparts. None however showed white extending onto the tertials and secondaries as shown in Yellow-bellied Hyliota, *H. flavigaster*. More detailed study of the hyliotas in Kumbira Forest may produce some interesting results.

### Starlings Sturnidae

#### **Wattled Starling**

*Creatophora cinerea*

Several were seen in Kissama NP.

#### **Cape (Red-shouldered) Starling**

*Lamprotornis nitens*

Commonly seen in western and southern Angola with highest daily count of 50+ in Kissama NP.

#### **Meves's Starling**

*Lamprotornis mevesii*

This dry country, long-tailed starling was seen below the Leba Scarp *en route* to Namibe.

#### **Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling**

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

We enjoyed good sightings in Kumbira Forest where they appeared to be nesting.

#### **Pale-winged Starling (NE)**

*Onychognathus nabouroup*

Another dry country starling seen *en route* to Namibe where at least thirty counted.

### Oxpeckers Buphagidae

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

*Buphagus africanus*

We had great views of several during the drive to Namibe.

### Thrushes Turdidae

#### **Fraser's Rufous Thrush**

*Stizorhina fraseri*

We had great scope views of two in Kumbira Forest.

#### **African Thrush**

*Turdus pelios*

Several birds were seen daily in Kumbira Forest, where they were not uncommon in open forest and forest edge.

#### **Brown-chested Alethe**

*Pseudaethe poliocephala*

We had brief views of one in Kumbira Forest, a shy understorey species.

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscipidae

#### **Gabela Akalat (E)**

*Sheppardia gabela*

One of the most difficult of the Gabela Scarp specials, we were fortunate to all get good views of a pair with nesting material of this very unusual species in Kumbira Forest.

#### **White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat**

*Cossypha heuglini*

Several were observed below the Leba Scarp.

#### **Red-capped (Natal) Robin-Chat**

*Cossypha natalensis*

One of these forest edge and understorey species was seen in Kumbira Forest.

#### **Angola Cave Chat (E)**

*Xenocopsychus ansorgei*

We enjoyed excellent scope views of one of these stunning songsters on the Tundavala Escarpment. This is certainly one of Angola's most striking endemics and one of the trip favorites.

#### **Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush (NE)**

*Cichladusa ruficauda*

This localized species was common in Kissama NP. A further one was seen during our drive to Namibe.

#### **Forest Scrub Robin**

*Erythropygia leucosticta*

We heard this lovely songster daily in Kumbira Forest and after some effort obtained excellent views of several. Angola is certainly one of the best places to see this elusive species.

**White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia leucophrys*

Three birds were seen in Kissama NP. A species of dry country.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African E. leucophrys group would remain as White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African (E. zambesiana) would become Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African (E. leucoptera) would become White-winged Scrub-Robin. Few authorities accept these splits.*

**Kalahari Scrub Robin (NE)** *Erythropygia paena*

We obtained excellent views of this semi-desert species on the dry plains *en route* to Namibe.

**Mountain Wheatear (NE)** *Oenanthe monticola*

This species was quite common on the dry coastal plain near Namibe. The birds were observed belonged to the endemic coastal Angolan race *albipileata*.

**Tractrac Chat (NE)** *Cercomela tractrac*

Another desert species seen on the plains close to Namibe, we counted two individuals.

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

This rock-loving species was observed on the Tundavala Escarpment.

**Short-toed Rock Thrush (NE)** *Monticola brevipes*

Three birds were seen in the Tundavala area and another three on the Leba Scarp, an attractive southern species.

*NOTE: Some authorities regard the localized race from northern South Africa, called Pretoria Rock Thrush (M. pretoriae), to be distinct from the nominate Western populations. We observed the nominate form. This split is not accepted by Clements.*

**Angola Slaty Flycatcher (E)** *Dioptrornis brunneus*

We were treated to incredible views of one of these endemic flycatchers on the Tundavala Escarpment. This is a little known species.

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*

We had good views of one during the drive to Namibe.

**Chat Flycatcher (NE)** *Bradornis infuscatus*

Three of these large desert flycatchers were observed *en route* to Namibe.

**Marico Flycatcher** *Bradornis mariquensis*

One was seen by Daniel on the Leba Escarpment.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

This Palearctic migrant was seen in Kissama NP.

**Ashy (Blue-Grey) Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*

We had good views of several at Kumbira Forest.

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

We heard this species during the drive to Namibe.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*

We had good sightings of several in Kumbira Forest.

**Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*

One female was seen at Kumbira Forest.

**(Western) Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*

Fairly commonly seen at Kumbira Forest.

*NOTE: The Olive Sunbird species complex is sometimes split into two full species, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird C. obscura and the form in East and West Africa, Western Olive Sunbird (C. olivacea). There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack thereof, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various subspecies within the complex.*

**Carmelite Sunbird** *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*

Another sought-after species, we obtained good views of a male in Kumbira Forest.

**Amethyst (African Black) Sunbird***Chalcomitra amethystina*

We had two sightings in Kumbira Forest.

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

Several were seen in Kissama NP and during the drive to Namibe.

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

We had three sightings from forest edge in Kumbira Forest.

**Ludwig's (Montane) Double-collared Sunbird (NE)** *Cinnyris ludovicensis*

Several were seen on the Tundavala Escarpment and a pair at the Leba Scarp. Two isolated races of this species exist, the nominate from montane forests of Western Angola and *whytei* from montane Malawi and ne Zambia.

**Purple-banded Sunbird***Cinnyris bifasciatus*

We enjoyed wonderful sightings in Kissama NP and at Kumbira Forest.

*NOTE: The form N. e. tsavoensis of Kenya is sometimes split off as Tsavo Purple-banded Sunbird.*

**Superb Sunbird***Cinnyris superbus*

We enjoyed daily sightings of several in Kumbira Forest.

**Oustalet's (Angola White-bellied) Sunbird (NE)** *Cinnyris oustaleti*

We enjoyed superb views of three birds at Tundavala.

**White-bellied (-breasted) Sunbird***Cinnyris talatala*

This widespread southern counterpart of the previous species was commonly encountered in the dry lowlands *en route* to Namibe.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae****White-browed Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser mahali*

Six of these noisy, dry country weavers were seen in the arid plains east of Namibe and we also observed many of their messy grass nests.

**House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

This introduced species was seen in Luanda upon arrival and in Kissama NP.

**Cape Sparrow***Passer melanurus*

We had good views of two males during our drive to Namibe.

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

We had good views of several in Kissama NP.

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow***Passer diffusus*

Several birds were seen in Kissama NP.

*NOTE: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the South African form being given the name P. diffusus.*

**Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae****Red-billed Buffalo Weaver***Bubalornis niger*

Two birds were seen in Kissama NP.

**Black-necked Weaver***Ploceus nigricollis*

This species was particularly common in Kumbira Forest where we recorded up to 20 daily.

**Holub's Golden-Weaver***Ploceus xanthops*

First recorded in Kissama NP with further sightings en route to Namibe.

**Lesser Masked Weaver***Ploceus intermedius*

We had good views of a male in Kissama NP and a further two during the drive to Namibe.

**Southern Masked Weaver***Ploceus velatus*

We had good views of a male during our lunch stop near Namibe.

*NOTE: Clements has recently accepted the split of northern Vitelline Masked-Weaver P. vitellinus from Southern Masked Weaver P. velatus.*

**Village (Spotted-backed) Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

Seen in Kissama NP, Kumbira Forest and along the Namibe road. Africa's commonest and most widespread weaver.

**Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*

First seen at Kissama NP with further sightings in Kumbira Forest.

**Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*

One bird was seen in Kumbira Forest, a beautiful forest dwelling weaver, here at its most southerly range extension.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

One was seen in Kissama NP and another at the Leba Scarp.

**Golden-backed Bishop (NE)** *Euplectes aureus*

We had good views of up to one hundred daily in Kissama NP.

### Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

**Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus*

We enjoyed excellent views of several birds in Kumbira Forest.

**Green-winged Pytilia (Melba Finch)** *Pytilia melba*

We had good views of one near Conda and a further pair during the drive to Namibe.

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

We obtained good but brief views of a pair of these stunning seedeaters in Kumbira Forest. This is usually a very difficult bird to observe.

**Red-headed Bluebill** *Spermophaga ruficapilla*

Two of these stunning birds were seen in Kumbira Forest.

**Landana Firefinch (E)** *Lagonosticta landanae*

Two birds were seen near Conda, an uncommon Angolan endemic.

**Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*

A pair was seen at the Leba Escarpment.

**Blue Waxbill (Blue-breasted Cordonbleu)** *Uraeginthus angolensis*

First seen at Kissama NP with further sightings during the drive to Namibe.

**Violet-eared Waxbill** *Uraeginthus granatinus*

Several birds were seen on the Leba Escarpment.

**Cinderella Waxbill (NE)** *Estrilda thomensis*

This was one of our most sought-after birds in Southern Angola and we were lucky to get decent views of a pair during the drive to Namibe. Before Angola opened up, this species was only possible along the Cunene River on the Namibia/Angola frontier.

**Angola Swee Waxbill** *Estrilda bocagei*

At least twenty of these lovely waxbills were seen at Tundavala. The isolated Angolan race is very distinctive and will be included in the next version 2.7 of the IOC checklist.

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

A pair of this attractive central African species was seen feeding on grass seeds at Kumbira Forest.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

Small flocks were observed at Kumbira Forest and during the drive to Namibe.

**Bronze Mannikin (Munia)** *Lonchura cucullata*

First seen at Kissama National Park with further sightings at most other sites in Angola, a very common seedeater.

**Black-and-white (Bicolored) Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*

Small groups of 10+ recorded at Kumbira Forest.

*NOTE: Clements does not accept the two-way split of the southern and eastern Red-backed Mannikin (L. nigriceps) and the northern and western nominate group.*

### Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

**Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

A pair was seen at the Leba Escarpment.

**Fülleborn's Longclaw**

*Macronyx fuellebornii*

One was seen in the grassland near the Leba Escarpment, we obtained superb scope views of this sought-after species.

**African (Grassveld) Pipit**

*Anthus cinnamomeus*

One bird was found in the grasslands near the Leba Escarpment.

*NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own right and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.*

**Plain-backed Pipit**

*Anthus leucophrys*

Only recorded at Tundavala where two were seen.

**Finches Fringillidae**

**Yellow-crowned Canary**

*Serinus flavivertex*

A pair was seen at the Leba Escarpment.

*NOTE: The Cape Canary species complex has been split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary *S. canicollis* and the form which occurs in East Africa and Angola has become Yellow-crowned Canary (*S. flavivertex*.) Clements does recognise this split.*

**Black-faced Canary (NE)**

*Crithagra capistrata*

This localized canary was seen in small numbers around the farm bush of Kumbira Forest.

**Black-throated Canary**

*Crithagra atrogularis*

A flock of six of these canaries was seen below the Leba Escarpment.

*NOTE: This species complex is sometimes split with the Angolan form remaining in the Black-throated Canary group as opposed to Reichenow's or Kenya Yellow-rumped Canary (*S. reichenowi*).*

**Yellow-fronted (Yellow-eyed) Canary**

*Crithagra mozambica*

We had good views of one at Kumbira Forest.

**Brimstone (Bully) Canary**

*Crithagra sulphurata*

Two birds were seen at Tundavala.

**White-throated Canary**

*Crithagra albogularis*

We had good views of two during the drive to Namibe.

**Buntings & Allies Emberizidae**

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza tahapisi*

Six birds were seen at Tundavala.

**Golden-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza flaviventris*

Our first sightings was of one in Kissama NP and a further one of these stunning birds was seen during the drive to Namibe.

**MAMMALS (11 species)**

**Chacma Baboon**

*Papio ursinus*

We had great views of ten during the drive to Namibe.

**Vervet Monkey**

*Cercopithecus aethiops*

These inquisitive monkeys visited our camp in Kissama NP on a daily basis. Two more were seen en route to Namibe.

**Samango (Blue/Gentle) Monkey**

*Cercopithecus mitis*

Many of these smart monkeys were seen in Kissama NP.

**Congo Rope Squirrel**

*Funisciurus congicus*

We had good views of two in Kumbira Forest.

**Egyptian Mongoose**

*Ichneumia albicauda*

1 was seen in Kissama NP.

**Yellow-spotted Hyrax (Dassie)***Heterohyrax brucei*

Several were seen on the Tundavala and Leba Escarpments.

**Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis*

We had great views of six in Kissama NP.

**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

We had great views of several in Kissama NP.

**Greater Kudu***Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

We had good sighting of two impressive males with large horns, in Kissama NP

**Eland***Taurotragus oryx*

Up to five of these huge antelope were seen in Kissama NP.

**Bush (Common/Grey) Duiker***Sylvicapra grimmia*

2 were seen in Kissama NP.

## REPTILES

**Water (Nile) Monitor***Varanus niloticus*

We had great scope views of two at the Queve Waterfall.

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