



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Angola: Endemics Overland Adventure *10th to 30th September 2011*



Angola Cave Chat by tour leader Markus Lilje

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott

Trip Summary

Since Rockjumper initiated birding tours to Angola in 2004, there have been remarkable changes in the country. Luanda is now one of the fastest growing cities in the world with many new office blocks and housing estates being built while the road network throughout the country has been vastly improved, with a great improvement even when compared to our last year's trip.

Our trip total of 570 species, including 523 in Angola in 19 days, reflects the immense birding potential of this fantastic country. The focus of the tour was certainly the rich assemblage of Angolan endemics and near-endemics, and participants were amazingly treated to all the Angolan endemics and good numbers of Namibian and Zambian near-endemics too boot.

We undertook one of the most comprehensive tours ever to Angola and it was also one of the most successful, with the most species ever recorded on an Angolan birding tour. Notable species seen include Finsch's, Grey-striped and Swierstra's Francolin, Hartlaub's Spurfowl, Rufous-bellied Heron, Bat Hawk, Red-necked Buzzard, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Grey Kestrel, African Hobby, Ludwig's Bustard, White-spotted Flufftail, Blue Crane, Black-rumped and Common Buttonquail, African Finfoot, Long-toed Lapwing, Greater Painted Snipe, Temminck's and Double-banded Courser, Royal Tern, Namaqua, Burchell's and Double-banded Sandgrouse, Afep and Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Red-fronted and Rüppell's Parrot, 6 species of Turaco including stunning Red-crested, Gabon Coucal, Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, 7 species of owl including African Grass Owl and African Barred Owlet, 5 species of Nightjar, the bizarre Böhm's Spinetail, 4 species of mousebird including Red-backed, Blue-throated Roller, Chocolate-backed and Half-collared Kingfisher, Black Bee-eater, Pale-billed, Monteiro's, Damara Red-billed and Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill, Anchieta's and Black-backed Barbet, 10 species of Woodpecker, African Broadbill displaying, Margaret's and Angola Batis, White-tailed Shrike, White-fronted and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Gabela Helmetshrike, Braun's, Gabela, Monteiro's, Many-coloured and Gorgeous (Perrin's) Bushshrikes were amongst 8 species of bushshrike seen, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Rufous-bellied and Miombo Tit, Cape Penduline Tit, Yellow-throated Nicator, Angola, Stark's and Benguela Long-billed Lark, Falkenstein's and Pale-olive Greenbul, the unusual Black-collared Bulbul, stunning Black-and-rufous Swallow, Red-throated Cliff Swallow, Rockrunner, endangered Pulitzer's Longbill, Lepe, Bubbling and Rock-loving Cisticola, Hartert's Camaroptera, Miombo Wren Warbler, Salvadori's and Green-capped Eremomela, Bare-cheeked Babbler, beautiful Spotted Creeper, Sharp-tailed Starling, Bocage's and Gabela Akalat, White-headed Robin-Chat, Angola Cave Chat, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, Forest and Miombo Scrub Robin, Miombo Rock Thrush, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Anchieta's, Mangrove, Ludwig's Double-collared and Oustalet's Sunbird, Orange-winged Pytilia, Brown and Dusky Twinspot, Landana Firefinch, Woodhouse's Antpecker, Angolan, Violet-eared, Black-faced, Grey and Cinderella Waxbill, Fülleborn's Longclaw, Long-legged Pipit and Black-faced Canary.



What was most unexpected was a flock of three Olivebacks which did not quite fit, but most closely resembled, White-collared Oliveback. No Oliveback species has until this year been known to occur within thousands of kilometers of Angola. Further investigation into these birds may prove that a cryptic species of Oliveback lurks in the northern scarp forests of Angola!

For more highlights and a detailed trip report read on

This year we started off our tour in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. After everyone had arrived and settled in at our comfortable lodge, we spent the afternoon enjoying some wonderful dry country birding. Some of the species we recorded around the lodge included confiding Red-billed Spurfowl, African Sacred Ibis, African Spoonbill, cute Pygmy Falcon, Speckled



Pigeon, a large flock of Bradfield's Swift, Ashy Tit, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Great Sparrow, tiny Scaly-feathered Weaver, beautiful Black-faced Waxbill and Long-billed Pipit.

The next morning we met up with our ground operations team and made an early start for the drive north to Etosha, stopping shortly after departure to admire an impressive Sociable Weaver colony. *En route* we also found White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures, Tawny Eagle, African Hawk-Eagle, a lovely flock of Burchell's Sandgrouse, White-backed Mousebird, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, South African Cliff Swallow and a family of Southern Pied Babbler, before finally arriving in the early afternoon at the fabulous Etosha National Park. Once we had settled in at Namutoni Camp we enjoyed a most memorable afternoon in the park. Some of the highlights during this time included sightings of Common Ostrich, Swainson's Spurfowl, Cape Teal, Southern Pochard, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Shikra, Red-necked Falcon, impressive Kori Bustard, Red-crested Korhaan and Greater Painted Snipe. We also enjoyed a number of great mammal sightings including a pride of Lions, herds of Elephant, a family group of comical Banded Mongoose, delightful Kirk's Dikdik, Springbok, Southern Oryx and the star sighting, a superb Black Rhinoceros.



The next morning we departed early for the drive to the Angolan Border. Leaving the park we found the unique Secretarybird and a splendid male Northern Black Korhaan. Fischer's Pan had water and so a good variety of waterbirds were present, including Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, Blacksmith Lapwing, Cape Shoveler, Hottentot Teal and South African Shelduck. A nice addition to our ever growing list was Double-banded Courser and a little later Temminck's Courser. A great farewell as we left the park was a wonderful flock of seven majestic Blue Cranes (a population of only thirty of this magnificent bird remains in Namibia).

We reached the border in good time; however, as is often the case, it's a slow process making the crossing. It took us two and a half hours to get through and with huge relief we crossed the Cunene River and found a nice place to make camp. We then enjoyed some superb birding around the Cunene River and our south Angola campsite. Highlights include four Rufous-bellied Herons, several flocks of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Pearl-spotted Owlet, numerous White-tailed Shrikes, Retz's Helmetshrike, stunning Crimson-breasted Shrike, Magpie Shrike, Cape Penduline Tit, Arrow-marked Babbler, Meves's and Burchell's Starling, Marico Flycatcher and Chestnut Weaver.



Our next site was the fabulous Tundavala escarpment. Here we enjoyed our first endemics of the trip and a great selection of species. An absolute highlight was seeing Swierstra's Francolin (seen by the entire group), which only a select few birders have seen before. Other star sightings included very close views of Lanner Falcon, Freckled Nightjar, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Black-collared Barbet, Brubru, a superb Rockrunner perched up in the open and calling, Tinkling Cisticola, Green-capped and nesting Salvadori's Eremomela, Hartlaub's Babbler, Kurrichane Thrush, lovely endemic Angola Cave Chat (see photo above taken during this tour), Short-toed Rock Thrush, Angola Slaty Flycatcher, Ludwig's Double-collared, Oustalet's and Variable Sunbirds,



Fan-tailed Widowbird, Red-billed and Jameson's Firefinch, beautiful Angolan and Orange-breasted Waxbill, and Buffy Pipit, which was also nesting.

A day trip to Namibe produced many memorable sightings including a number of species that are normally only seen in Namibia. Highlights were Black-chested Snake Eagle, Grey Kestrel, two Ludwig's Bustards, a flock of 86 Namaqua Sandgrouse, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Rüppell's Parrot, Red-backed Mousebird, Purple Roller, Half-collared Kingfisher, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Carp's Black Tit, Sabota, Benguela Long-billed and Stark's Lark, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Grey-backed Cisticola, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Pale-winged Starling, Mountain Wheatear, Tractrac Chat, Chat Flycatcher, Dusky Sunbird, Cape Sparrow, a party of four Cinderella Waxbills, a pair of confiding Fülleborn's Longclaw and a flock of Lark-like Buntings.



Making our way north we overnighted near Benguela. This proved to be very productive birding wise and we were treated to awesome scope views of Hartlaub's Spurfowl, dainty Common Buttonquail, a Verreaux's Eagle soaring overhead, Common Scimitarbill, Monteiro's Hornbill – surprisingly common here, fabulous pair of Pirit Batis, Barred Wren-Warbler near the northern limit of its range, smart male Red-headed Weaver, beautiful Violet-eared Waxbill and White-throated Canary.

An early departure saw us arriving at Mount Moco in the mid-afternoon. As we were headed into the wilderness once more with no supplies available for the next few days, we therefore stopped briefly en route – you may wonder why? – to stock up on a good supply of cold beers of course! After settling in to our camp we made a short journey into the grasslands and we quickly picked up the sought-after Angola Lark, striking Capped Wheatear and then quite amazingly a pair of the elusive Finsch's Francolin – what a fantastic start! We then embarked on an excursion to the Miombo woodlands, not expecting much in the late afternoon. However we were soon watching the gorgeous Black-and-rufous Swallow (bird of the trip for me!), a pair of African Marsh Harrier, Dark Chanting Goshawk, a lovely Schalow's Turaco, a Ruwenzori Nighthjar and another prize target, Anchieta's Barbet.

Venturing into the miombo woodlands and scarp forests was rather depressing to say the least – as



there just isn't much of it left. It seems the constant burning of the grasslands has taken its toll on these remnant forest patches and it's a wonder that birds still survive here at all. We left early after a good breakfast for the walk up Mount Moco. The walk looked rather daunting at first but soon we were finding wonderful birds, which made the fairly steep hike become a whole lot easier. Regular stops to admire the view of our camp way down below also ensured that the walk was comfortable for all. Some of the interesting species seen included delightful Western Tinkerbird, Black-backed Barbet, Red-throated Wryneck, Bennett's and Olive Woodpecker, a superb female of the highly localized Margaret's Batis, Tropical Boubou, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Rufous-bellied and Miombo Tits, Cabanis's Greenbul, Grey Apalis, African Hill Babbler, cryptic Spotted Creeper,



stunning Bocage's Akalat showing well for all, Miombo Rock Thrush, Dusky Twinspot – surprisingly common, more Angolan Waxbills, and Black-faced and Yellow-crowned Canary. A further sortie into the grasslands yielded a great surprise in the form of three wonderful African Grass Owls, Marsh Tchagra, a splendid Black-collared Bulbul, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler and displaying Fan-tailed Grassbird.

Leaving Mount Moco we made our way to Kumbira Forest. Although not that far it was a fairly slow and tedious drive due to major road construction, with the final section of road being rather rough and uneven which meant we only arrived at dusk. Relieved to finally be there and very excited to be staying in this mega birding hotspot, we quickly set about putting up camp and then relaxed with a cold beer and delicious meal before a good night's rest.



In the morning we were awoken to the wonderful chorus of bird song. Over the next couple of days we amassed a fantastic selection of species including Grey-striped Francolin (flushed on several occasions), African Hobby, a pair of Verreaux's Eagle, Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, stunning Red-crested Turaco, elusive Gabon Coucal, Spotted Eagle-Owl, a splendid male Narina Trogon, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-billed Barbets, smashing views of Brown-backed Honeybird, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Brown-eared and Elliot's Woodpeckers, African Broadbill displaying, Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Gorgeous (Perrin's) Bushshrike (at one point we watched an incredible four birds calling from one tree; perhaps a territorial dispute between two pairs), an obliging pair of Gabela Bushshrike, Petit's and Purple-throated Cuckooshrikes, Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, restless African Blue Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Yellow-throated Nicator (a good number and certainly one of the best places to see this typically tricky species), Falkenstein's and endemic Pale-olive Greenbul (after a concerted effort the latter showed very well), Hartert's Camaroptera, Southern Hylia, endemic Gabela Akalat, Forest Scrub Robin, Red-headed Malimbe, Red-headed Bluebill and Grey Waxbill. And then, as we were leaving the forest those of us in the first vehicle stopped briefly to wait for the second vehicle to catch up, when suddenly a Pulitzer's Longbill was heard calling on the right and at the same time a Monteiro's Bushshrike called on the left – an undoubted highlight for all of us! What a bit of luck, considering that we had been searching for these species for two days already! We therefore quickly got together and tracked down the longbill before tracking down the bushshrike, meaning that we left the forest totally elated and with a full suite of endemics under our belt! What a joyful relief!



Travelling further north we overnighted near N'Dalatando at Tombingo Forest. An afternoon and early morning yielded a whole new set of birds, including a fabulous Bat Hawk, African Goshawk, flocks of Red-fronted Parrot, African Wood Owl, African Pied and Piping Hornbill, Naked-faced Barbet, Green-backed and Yellow-crested Woodpecker, African Shrike-flycatcher, Bocage's Bushshrike, Black-winged Oriole, Honeyguide Greenbul, Green Hylia, Yellow-browed Camaroptera, Rufous-crowned Eremomela, Chestnut-winged Starling, Sooty Flycatcher, and Grey-chinned, Green-throated and Superb Sunbird.



Our next port of call was the fabulous Calandula area with its broad-leaved miombo woodlands, gallery forest and wetlands. Here we recorded another African Hobby, this time catching alates, a delightful pair of White-spotted Flufftail, African Finfoot, Meyer's Parrot, a pair of stunning Ross's Turaco, Levallant's, Black and African Cuckoo, African Scops Owl, African Barred Owlet, Broad-billed Roller, Grey-headed Kingfisher, a flock of four Pale-billed Hornbill, localized Anchieta's Barbet, Square-tailed Drongo, Lepe, Whistling and Chirping Cisticola, Miombo Wren-Warbler, flocks of Sharp-tailed Starling, Miombo Scrub Robin, stunning Anchieta's Sunbird and Fawn-breasted Waxbill. The key target, however, was the highly localized and unusual White-headed Robin-Chat, which after some patience and perseverance showed particularly well. We managed to locate a pair at the nest and scoped them from a distance, giving us great views whilst ensuring no disturbance to them. Only a select few birders have been lucky enough to see this species and so we counted ourselves very fortunate indeed!



Leaving the miombo woodlands we made our way back into the northern scarp forests south of Uige and camped near Damengola Forest. Some of the highlights of our stay here included superb scope views of Afep Pigeon, Great Blue and Guinea Turaco, Blue-headed Coucal, African Emerald and Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, Speckled Mousebird, Blue-throated Roller, a very confident Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, Black and Blue-breasted Bee-eater, a large flock of Black-casqued Wattle Hornbill, Red-rumped Tinkerbird (very few records for the region), Cassin's Honeybird, a pair of Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, Chestnut Wattle-eye, superb Many-coloured Bushshrike, Velvet-mantled Drongo, Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher, Simple Greenbul, Swamp Palm Bulbul (a new provincial record), Banded Prinia, Lowland Masked Apalis, Splendid and Narrow-tailed Starling, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, Yellow-mantled Weaver, Crested Malimbe, Brown Twinspot, Woodhouse's Antpecker, and White-breasted and Chestnut-breasted Nigrita. Our key target was of course Braun's Bushshrike and we had mesmerizing views of a pair of this spectacular species, which was far more confident than expected. Another unexpected highlight was finding a group of three Olivebacks. On another occasion whilst walking along a forest track we suddenly found ourselves face-to-face with a Forest Buffalo, which was obviously startled by our presence and had almost nowhere to go. Fortunately it veered off the road at the last moment leaving us with hearts racing but so excited to have seen this lovely mammal!



Our final destination was Kissama National Park where we recorded an interesting selection of species. These included Little and Black Sparrowhawk, Black-bellied Bustard, Spotted Thick-knee, Rüppell's Parrot, Senegal Coucal, Fiery-necked Nighjar, Mottled and Böhm's Spinetail, Lilac-breasted Roller, Swallow-tailed and Olive Bee-eater, Angola Batis, Carp's Black Tit, Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush and a host of endemics, including White-fronted Wattle-eye, Gabela Helmetshrike, Monteiro's Bushshrike and Golden-backed Bishop.

Eventually making our way to the Cuanza River, we enjoyed some final birding finding White-fronted Plover, Collared Pratincole, a flock of about one thousand Royal Tern, several Palmnut Vultures, including one eating a Common Tern, Mangrove Sunbird and Long-legged Pipit.



Thereafter we had time to freshen up before heading to the Luanda airport for our departure flights home.

This had been a most memorable trip and would not have been possible without such a wonderful group of enthusiastic participants and an excellent ground operations team. Thank you very much to everyone! Markus and I are greatly looking forward to sharing many more wonderful adventures with all of you!

Photo credits: Cinderella Waxbill by David Hoddinott, Gabela Bushshrike, Black Rhino & Angola Slaty Flycatcher by Markus Lilje, Hartlaub's Spurfowl by David Hoddinott, Margaret's Batis, Red-crested Turaco, White-headed Robin-Chat, Braun's Bushshrike & Woodhouse's Antpecker by Markus Lilje.

BIRDS (a total of 570 species recorded, 523 in Angola)

Birds: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2011. IOC Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Version 2.9 generated on 2011-07-10. When the taxonomy differs from that of Clement's, the Clement's name will be written in brackets or differences will be explained in a note below the species.

E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic

Ostriches Struthionidae

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

We had wonderful views of several in Etosha 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

Finsch's Francolin *Scleroptila finschi*

We flushed a pair of this localized species near Mount Moco.

Grey-striped Francolin (E) *Pternistis griseostriatus*

A very tricky species to see well. We were lucky to flush several of these shy birds near Kumbira Forest. A little known Angolan endemic.

Swierstra's Francolin (E) *Pternistis swierstrai*

After a great deal of searching we were all rewarded with good views of a pair which flushed and showed well for the whole group near Tundavala.

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

We had magnificent views of two near Benguela, this was at the northern edge of its range.

Red-billed Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis adspersus*

We enjoyed good views of up to ten daily in northern Namibia and several more in southern Angola.

Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis afer*

This is Angola's most widespread and commonly seen francolin. We recorded this striking species in good numbers in Kissama NP.

Swainson's Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis swainsonii*

We had good views of one in Etosha National Park, Namibia.



Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

We had a sighting of thirty at a wetland near Queve Falls and a further ten at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Four were seen at Fischer's Pan in Etosha NP and a further one at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

We had good views of one near our south Angola camp, just north of the Cunene River.

Knob-billed (Comb) Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

We had good scope views of one at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Small numbers were seen near Windhoek and in Etosha NP.

South African Shelduck

Tadorna cana

A flock of five was seen at Fischer's Pan, Etosha NP.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

We enjoyed great views of hundreds at Fischer's Pan, Etosha NP.

African Black Duck

Anas sparsa

We had superb views of several at a crater lake south of Uige.

Cape Shoveler

Anas smithii

We had superb views of six at Fischer's Pan, Etosha NP.

Red-billed Teal

Anas erythrorhyncha

Small numbers were seen at Fischer's Pan, Etosha NP and a flock of thirty near our south Angola camp just north of the Cunene River.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

We had good views of three at Fischer's Pan, Etosha NP.

Southern Pochard

Netta erythrorhynchus

We had good views of twenty at Fischer's Pan, Etosha NP.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

One was seen at a dam near Tundavala and several more at the crater lake south of Uige.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus

We had good views of one hundred and twenty on the mudflats en route from Kissama to Luanda.

Storks Ciconiidae

African Openbill

Anastomus lamelligerus

A flock of six was seen in southern Angola en route to Lubango and a further four at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

One bird was seen near Windhoek, Namibia.

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

A flock of four was seen at our lodge near Windhoek, Namibia.



Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

We had superb views of four at a crater lake near Damengola Forest.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

We found one along the Cunene River in Angola and a further one at a wetland near Kinjila village (Calandula).

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

We had good views of at least six at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Rufous-bellied Heron*Ardeola rufiventris*

We had superb views of four along the Cunene River in Angola.

[Western] Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

This cosmopolitan species was seen at scattered sights throughout Angola.

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*

We recorded small numbers at scattered sights in Angola including good views of one on the Cuanza River.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

We recorded small numbers daily in southern Angola.

Goliath Heron*Ardea goliath*

We had fantastic views of two along the Cunene River in Angola.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

We had good views of small numbers including three at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

We had good views of three at Lobito.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We had superb views of one at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

Our first sighting was of one near the Cunene River with a few sightings elsewhere.

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*

Seen daily in small numbers in southern Angola and only a few scattered sightings in the north.

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

We had great views of fifteen at Lobito.

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

We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the trip with a peak count of a dozen at the wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

White-breasted Cormorant*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

We had great views of one flying over a dam at our lodge near Windhoek, Namibia.

Darters Anhingidae**[African] Darter***Anhinga rufa*

Our first sighting was of two flying along the Cunene River in Angola with a couple further sightings.

NOTE: The resident African form P. rufa is sometimes lumped with the Asian P. melanogaster and the enlarged species called Darter. Clements uses the latter treatment of lumping these forms.

Secretarybird Sagittariidae

Secretarybird

Sagittarius serpentarius

We had fantastic sightings of four individuals in Etosha NP. A fabulous species in a monotypic family.

Ospreys Pandionidae

[Western] Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

We had superb views of one at the Cuanza River Mouth.

NOTE: Clements does not accept this split, it is lumped with Eastern Osprey P. cristatus as: Osprey P. haliaetus.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Bat Hawk

Macheiramphus alcinus

We had fabulous views of one at Tombingo Forest, near N'Dalatando.

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.

Yellow-billed (Black) Kite

Milvus aegyptius

Small numbers were encountered at a few sites. Our highest count was fifteen at a termite eruption near Kinjila village.

NOTE: This species is now accepted by most authorities. It has been split from Black Kite, M. migrans

African Fish Eagle

Haliaeetus vocifer

Our first sighting was of one along the Cunene River. We enjoyed several more sightings including one at the Cuanza River Mouth.

Palmnut Vulture

Gypohierax angolensis

This attractive vulture was first described from specimens originating in Angola, hence its scientific name. Common in Angola and we enjoyed almost daily sightings throughout the tour with peak numbers of up to fifteen daily in Kissama NP.

White-backed Vulture

Gyps africanus

We had fabulous views of six en route from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

Lappet-faced Vulture

Torgos tracheliotus

We had good views of two en route from Windhoek to Etosha NP and another in Etosha NP.

Black-chested Snake Eagle

Circaetus pectoralis

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

Brown Snake Eagle

Circaetus cinereus

We enjoyed good views of two near Benguela and further sightings near Kinjila.

Western Banded Snake Eagle

Circaetus cinerascens

Our first sighting was of a pair during the drive from Tundavala to Benguela and another was seen near Kinjila.

Bateleur

Terathopius ecaudatus

We enjoyed almost daily sightings throughout the trip with good views of several in Kissama NP.

African Marsh Harrier

Circus ranivorus

Two birds were seen near Mount Moco, this is a rarely recorded species in Angola.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)

Polyboroides typus

Our first sighting was near Tundavala with almost daily sightings thereafter.



Dark Chanting Goshawk*Melierax metabates*

We had wonderful views of two during the drive from the Cunene River to Lubango and a further one near Mount Moco.

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 was seen en route from the Cunene to Lubango and another en route to Mount Moco

African Goshawk*Accipiter tachiro*

This attractive forest raptor was seen on several days including good views at Tombingo Forest and later seen in display flight at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

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

Shikra*Accipiter badius*

One bird was seen en route from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

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*

Several of these tiny raptors were seen in Kissama NP.

Black Sparrowhawk*Accipiter melanoleucus*

Some of us had good views of one in Kissama NP.

Lizard Buzzard*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

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

Red-necked Buzzard*Buteo auguralis*

We enjoyed a couple sightings at Mount Moco with further sightings at Damengola Forest south of Uige.

Augur Buzzard*Buteo augur*

Five of this widespread species were seen at the Tundavala Escarpment.

Tawny Eagle*Aquila rapax*

Seven were seen during the drive from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

Verreaux's Eagle*Aquila verreauxii*

Our first sighting was of one near Benguela and later we enjoyed superb views of a pair at Kumbira Forest.

African Hawk-Eagle*Aquila spilogaster*

We enjoyed superb views of one en route from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

Wahlberg's Eagle*Aquila wahlbergi*

We had good views of one en route from Mount Moco to Kumbira Forest and another near Kinjila Village, just north of Calandula.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle*Hieraaetus ayresii*

We had cracking views of two en route from Lubango to Benguela.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

We had wonderful sightings of 13 individuals at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Falcons Falconidae**Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus*

Some of us had good views of one en route from the airport to our lodge near Windhoek, Namibia.

Rock Kestrel*Falco rupicolus*

We had a number of sightings throughout the trip with good views of two at Tundavala.

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 near the Leba Escarpment with a further sighting of one en route from Tundavala to Benguela.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

We had superb views of two in Etosha NP.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

One was seen at our camp near Damengola Forest.

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*

We had superb views of one as we were leaving Kumbira Forest and another catching alates near Kinjila village north of Calandula.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

We had cracking views of eight during the trip including superb sightings at Tundavala.

Bustards Otididae

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

We had cracking views of a dozen in Etosha NP.

Ludwig's Bustard *Neotis denhami*

We had superb views of two during our day trip to Namibe.

Red-crested Korhaan *Lophotis ruficrista*

At least ten were seen in Etosha NP, some only a few metres away allowing awesome views. We also heard this species calling in southern Angola just north of the Cunene River.

Northern Black (White-quilled) Korhaan *Afrotis afraoides*

We had good views of one near Windhoek and another stunning male in Etosha NP.

Black-bellied Bustard (Korhaan) *Lissotis melanogaster*

Up to three were seen near Mount Moco and a further two were seen in Kissama NP.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

We had simply magnificent views of a pair near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa*

We heard one calling at a marsh near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

Finfoots Heliornithidae

African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*

We had wonderful views of one at a wetland near Kinjila and another in a crater lake near Damengola Forest.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*

We had good views of three at a wetland near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

We had wonderful views of three at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Up to seven were seen daily in Etosha NP with a further sighting of four at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Cranes Gruidae

Blue Crane *Grus paradisea*

We had amazing views of seven birds on the Andoni plains, Etosha NP.

Buttonquail Turnicidae



- Common (Kurrichane/Small) Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus*
We had good views of three near Benguela and a further one near Mount Moco.
- Black-rumped Buttonquail** *Turnix nanus*
We had good views of a pair near Mount Moco.

Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Burhinidae

- Spotted Thick-knee (Dikkop)** *Burhinus capensis*
We saw a pair in southern Angola en route to Lubango and a further six in Kissama NP.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae

- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
We found up to one hundred in Etosha NP. A further six were seen during the day trip to Namibe and another three near Benguela.
- Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*
We had wonderful views of ten in Etosha NP.

Plovers Charadriidae

- Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris*
We had great scope views of three at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.
- Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus*
At least twenty were seen in Etosha NP with further sightings of four in Southern Angola en route from Calueque to Cahama.
- Senegal Lapwing** *Vanellus lugubris*
Some of us heard one calling from our camp in southern Kissama NP.
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*
Small numbers were seen in Etosha NP with a further two seen en route from Calueque to Cahama.
- African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*
We had superb views of four near Mount Moco.
- Grey (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
We had superb scope views of one at the Cuanza River mouth.
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*
Some of us saw one at the Cuanza River mouth.
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*
A couple was seen in Etosha NP and a further two near Kissama NP.
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*
One was seen at our lodge near Windhoek and a further four during the day trip to Namibe.
- White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*
We had superb scope views of one at the Cuanza River mouth.

Painted Snipes Rostratulidae

- Greater Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*
We had superb sightings of four in Etosha NP.

Jacanas Jacanidae

- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*
At least six were seen in Etosha NP with further sightings of ten at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

- Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*



We had good views of two at the Cuanza River mouth.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

We had great scope views of one at the Cuanza River mouth.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

One was seen in Etosha NP and another at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

We enjoyed a number of scattered sightings throughout the trip including good views of two at the Cuanza River mouth.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

We had good views of at least four at the Cuanza River mouth.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

We had superb views of four during the day trip to Namibe.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

We had good views of two during the day trip to Namibe and a further one at the Cuanza River mouth.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

We had good views of one in Etosha NP and another was seen en route from Mount Moco to Kumbira Forest.

Courasers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*

We had superb views of three en route from Etosha NP to the Angola border.

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus*

We had good views of one in Etosha NP.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

We had superb views of several near Kissama NP and a further nine flying over the Cuanza River.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Grey-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

A flock of up to seventy was seen in Etosha NP.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

We had good views of twenty four at the Cuanza River mouth.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

We had superb views of eight at the Cuanza River mouth.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

At least one thousand were seen at the Cuanza River mouth, a memorable sighting indeed!

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

We had great views of ten at the Cuanza River mouth.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

At least six birds were seen at the Cuanza River mouth.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

We had good views of one at Fischer's Pan, Etosha NP.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Namaqua Sandgrouse *Pterocles namaqua*

We had fantastic views of a flock of eighty six during our day trip to Namibe.

Double-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles bicinctus*

We had awesome views of several in Etosha NP and a further six near our south Angola camp, just north of the Cunene River.

Burchell's Sandgrouse *Pterocles burchelli*



We had superb views of ten at a small waterhole en route to Etosha NP.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

- Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Commonly encountered in most larger towns and cities.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
We had good views of one flying over a dam at our lodge near Windhoek.
- Afep Pigeon** *Columba uncinata*
We had superb scope views of one perched and several others flying overhead at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.
- Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba iriditorques*
We had great scope views of one in Kumbira Forest.
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*
One was heard by some during the day trip to Namibe.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Several were seen during the day trip to Namibe and at least eight seen near Kinjila village with scattered sightings elsewhere.
- Ring-necked (Cape Turtle-) Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*
Widespread and common throughout Angola (particularly in the drier woodlands) with a highest count of twenty birds en route to Lubango.
- Laughing (Palm) Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis*
Only recorded in western Angola in small numbers.
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*
Recorded at Kissama NP and *en route* to Namibe.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
Peak numbers of four were seen near Kinjila village, just north of Calandula.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
We recorded small numbers near Kinjila and Damengola.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
We recorded small numbers just north of the Cunene River and two during the Namibe day trip.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus*
This attractive frugivore was seen at most forest sites throughout the trip.

Parrots Psittacidae

- Rosy-faced Lovebird (NE)** *Agapornis roseicollis*
We enjoyed wonderful sightings of forty in Angola at the Cunene River and a further one during the day trip to Namibe.
- Red-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus gulielmi*
Up to thirty were seen at Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando and a further six at Damengola Forest.
- Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri*
We had great views of six in Etosha NP and a further two near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.
- Rüppell's Parrot (NE)** *Poicephalus rueppellii*
Several birds were seen in Kissama NP and a further one during the Namibe day trip. A localized species endemic to Namibia and Angola.

Turacos Musophagidae

- Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata*
We had good views of two of these impressive birds at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.
- Guinea Turaco** *Tauraco persa*



After some effort we had great views of six at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi*

We had superb views of five of these stunning birds sporting their elongated crests, at Mount Moco.

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.

Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae*

We had superb views of a pair near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

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

Small numbers were seen just north of the Cunene River and 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 numerous sites and some of us were fortunate to see one at Kumbira Forest.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

We had good views of three in Kissama NP.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

We had cracking views of one near Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Coppery-tailed Coucal *Centropus cupreicaudus*

We had a great sighting of a pair near Mount Moco.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

We had three sightings of this species at scattered localities, our best sighting was of two at Kinjila. *NOTE: Clements does 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.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

We had a great sighting of an adult in Lubango.

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

We had good views of one at a wetland near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

This smart green cuckoo was seen at a number of forest sites including Kumbira Forest.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

This forest and forest edge species was seen at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowi*

We heard one calling at Damengola Forest and after a good deal of patience we managed to entice it into view.

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

We had good but brief views of one near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

We heard this species on a number of occasions.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

We had good views of one near Calandula.

Barn Owls Tytonidae

[Western] Barn Owl *Tyto alba*



One was heard at Kumbira Forest.

NOTE: Some authorities split Western Barn Owl, *T. alba* from Eastern Barn Owl, *T. delicatula* of Australasia.

African Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*

We had simply incredible views of three birds which flushed out of long grass and flew straight towards us at Mount Moco.

Owls Strigidae

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

We had superb views of one near Kinjila village, just north of Calandula.

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus*

We had superb views of one in Kumbira Forest.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*

We enjoyed superb views of a pair at Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

We had wonderful views of two at our south Angola camp just north of the Cunene River. We saw a further one near Benguela and another two in Kissama NP.

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense*

We had superb scope views of one near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufigena*

We heard one calling close to our camp in Etosha NP.

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*

A bird was heard and seen in Kissama NP.

Ruwenzori Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*

We had great views of one near Mount Moco.

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma*

We had good views of one at Tundavala.

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

We had good views of one at our south Angola camp, just north of the Cunene River.

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 three en route from Lubango to Benguela and a further one in Kissama NP.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Fairly common in any area where large palms occur and recorded almost daily.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

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

Common Swift *Apus apus*

We had good views of hundreds at the town of Quibala.

Swift sp (NE) *Apus sp.*

We recorded small numbers of huge dark swifts near Mount Moco, Kumbira Forest and daily over Kissama NP and around Luanda. These swifts are quite distinctive, huge, all dark swifts with notched inner wings. They appear the size of Mottled Swift but are somewhat darker and have a different call. Further investigation may reveal yet another new species of swift.



“Lunda” Swift*Apus sp.*

We observed a flock of large dark brown swifts near the Cuanza River mouth.

These swifts breeding on buildings in Luanda (and probably cliffs elsewhere in the area) are quite distinctive being all dark brown and are similar in size to African Swift. 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 thirty at the Tundavala Escarpment.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

Seen at many localities, particularly large numbers (300) were recorded at the Cunene River.

White-rumped Swift*Apus caffer*

We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout the tour with good views of several in Kissama NP.

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

We had good views of small numbers at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Red-backed Mousebird (E)*Colius castanotus*

We had superb sightings of many including good views of eight at Tundavala. The commonest of the Angolan endemics.

White-backed Mousebird*Colius colius*

Two were seen during the drive from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

Red-faced Mousebird*Urocolius indicus*

Flocks of these social mousebirds were fairly common, first seen around Tundavala with further sightings in the dry country of Kissama NP.

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

We enjoyed superb scope views of a male at Kumbira Forest.

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

We had great views of three during the drive from the Cunene River to Tundavala.

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.

Blue-throated Roller*Eurystomus gularis*

We had cracking views of several at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Broad-billed Roller*Eurystomus glaucurus*

We had great views of one near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

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

We had superb scope views of this beauty in Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Grey-headed Kingfisher*Halcyon leucocephala*

We had great views of one which seemed to appear from a nest hole near Kinjila, north of Calandula.



Brown-hooded Kingfisher*Halcyon albiventris*

We had a number of good sightings including two near Damengola Forest.

Striped Kingfisher*Halcyon chelicuti*

We enjoyed several sightings including good views in Kissama NP.

Blue-breasted Kingfisher*Halcyon malimbica*

This large forest kingfisher was heard in dense mangroves along the Cuanza River and again near Kinjila.

Woodland Kingfisher*Halcyon senegalensis*

We had great sightings of one during the Namibe day trip and others near the Cuanza River.

African Pygmy Kingfisher*Ispidina picta*

This woodland haunting kingfisher was well seen in Kumbira Forest with further sightings at Damengola Forest.

Malachite Kingfisher*Corythornis cristatus*

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

Half-collared Kingfisher*Alcedo semitorquata*

We had superb views of one during the day trip to Namibe and another at a wetland near Kinjila, north of Calandula.

Giant Kingfisher*Megaceryle maxima*

We had great sightings of one at the Cunene River and another at the Cuanza River.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

Small numbers were seen at a wetland on the outskirts of Luanda and a further six at the Cuanza River mouth.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Black Bee-eater***Merops gularis*

Up to six were seen in the Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater*Merops hirundineus*

Small numbers were seen in Southern Angola en route to Lubango and at least five in southern Kissama NP.

Little Bee-eater*Merops pusillus*

Seen almost daily throughout Angola.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater*Merops variegatus*

We had good views of two near Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

White-fronted Bee-eater*Merops bullockoides*

Six were seen by some during the drive from Etosha to the Angola border.

Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater*Merops superciliosus*

Up to fifteen were seen daily in Kissama NP.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

Seen at scattered sites including a flock in Kissama NP.

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

We had good views of a few in southern Angola en route to Lubango and a further two near Kinjila.

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***Phoeniculus purpureus*

Two were seen en route from the Cunene to Cahama and small numbers were seen daily in Kissama NP.

Black Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

One bird was seen well in Kissama NP.

Common Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

We had good views of three near Benguela.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**Crowned Hornbill***Tockus alboterminatus*

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

African Pied Hornbill*Tockus fasciatus*

We had great sightings of up to ten at Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando and again daily sightings at Damengola Forest south of Uige.

Pale-billed Hornbill*Tockus pallidirostris*

Up to four were seen in the woodland near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

African Grey Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

One was seen en route from the Cunene River to Lubango and another en route from Lubango to Benguela.

Monteiro's Hornbill*Tockus monteiri*

We had superb views of several during the drive from the Cunene River to Lubango and several more during the day trip to Namibe. A few were also seen near the northern edge of their range near Benguela.

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

A single of this dark-eyed, white faced hornbill was seen in dry country near Namibe. We also recorded two during the drive from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

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. kempfi of Senegambia. Clements does not recognize these splits.

Southern Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus rufirostris*

We recorded several during the drive from Windhoek to Etosha NP and a further two just north of the Cunene River in Angola.

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.

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

Piping Hornbill*Bycanistes fistulator*

We had great views of several at Tombingo Forest south of N'Dalatando and up to twenty daily at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Trumpeter Hornbill*Bycanistes bucinator*

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

Black-casqued Wattled Hornbill*Ceratogymna atrata*

We had fabulous views of up to sixteen daily in Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae**Southern Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Some of the group heard this species calling in the woodlands near Kinjila, north of Calandula.

African Barbets Lybiidae**Naked-faced Barbet***Gymnobucco calvus*

We had superb views of up to thirty at Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando and a further twenty at Damengola Forest south of Uige.

Anchieta's Barbet *Stactolaema anchietae*

We had superb scope views of one of these sought after birds near Mount Moco and a further one in the woodland near Kinjila village, north of Calandula.

Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*

We had good views of one at Tombingo Forest and a further two in Damengola Forest.

Western Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We had great scope views of one on Mount Moco.

Red-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus atroflavus*

We had superb scope views of one in Damengola Forest. This species has only recently been found to occur in the northern scarp forests around Uige.

Yellow-rumped (Golden-rumped) Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

This widespread species was seen at Kumbira Forest, Tombingo Forest and near Kinjila village.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

This dry woodland species was seen at Tundavala and Kinjila.

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

Four 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*

A couple was seen during the day trip to Namibe and a few more seen near Benguela and a final sighting of one bird in Kissama NP.

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*

We had great views of one at Tundavala.

Black-backed Barbet *Lybius minor*

We had fair views of one at Mount Moco and good views of a pair near Kumbira Forest.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

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

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis*

We had cracking views of one in Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus*

Our first sighting was en route from Tundavala to Benguela, with another excellent view of one in Kumbira Forest and finally one near Kinjila.

Pallid Honeyguide *Indicator meliphilus*

One was seen briefly at Mount Moco.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*

We enjoyed superb views of one in Kumbira Forest.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We enjoyed good views of one at our south Angola camp just north of the Cunene River and another at Kissama NP.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis*

We had superb views of one at Mount Moco.

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii*



Our first sighting was of great views of one en route from Calueque to Cahama. This was followed by a pair on Mount Moco and another at Kinjila.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*

One bird was seen very well during our day trip to Namibe.

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii*

Our first sightings were in Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando and a further two were seen at Damengola Forest south of Uige.

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli*

Our first sighting was of one in Kumbira Forest followed by one in Tombingo Forest and a final sighting of one in Damengola Forest.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

This woodland woodpecker was observed on the day trip to Namibe and in Kissama NP.

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus*

We had great scope views of a male near Kinjila, north of Calandula.

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Dendropicos xantholophus*

We enjoyed great sightings at Tombingo Forest, near N'Dalatando and at Damengola Forest.

Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii*

We enjoyed good views of four in Kumbira Forest and several more at Damengola Forest.

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus*

We had great views of a pair on Mount Moco.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*

Another highlight 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 six separate sightings of what is often a very tricky species to see.

Wattle-eyes, Batises Platysteiridae

African Shrike-flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus*

We enjoyed superb views of two females and a male at Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando and a further pair at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

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

We had superb views of a pair at Damengola Forest.

Margaret's Batis (NE) *Batis margaritae*

We had incredible views of a female on Mount Moco.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

Our first sighting was of two at Tundavala followed by two near Mount Moco and finally four at Kinjila, north of Calandula.

Pirit Batis *Batis pririt*

We had amazing views of two pairs near Benguela.

Angola Batis (NE) *Batis minulla*

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

White-tailed Shrike (NE) *Lanioturdus torquatus*

This stunning dry-country bird was commonly encountered during the drive from Calueque to Cahama where we recorded 25, with further sightings on our day trip to Namibe. 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 seven individuals in Kissama NP.



Black-throated Wattle-eye*Platysteira peltata*

We had great views of two at Mount Moco, a further one at Kumbira Forest and several near Kinjila.

Chestnut Wattle-eye*Platysteira castanea*

We had good views of a male in Kumbira Forest. There seem to be few records this far south. Another male was seen at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye*Platysteira concreta*

An impressive nine were seen in Kumbira Forest, a real beauty that showed extremely well for the whole group. A further one was seen in gallery forest in southern Kissama NP.

Helmetsrikes Prionopidae**White-crested Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

We enjoyed wonderful views of a small flock of three en route from Calueque to Cahama and several flocks in Kissama NP.

Retz's Helmetshrike*Prionops retzii*

We had good views of three en route from Calueque to Cahama.

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 a flock of six in a dry riverbed in southern Kissama NP.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae**Monteiro's Bushshrike (NE)***Malaconotus monteiri*

We had magnificent views of this smart bushshrike in Kumbira Forest and another in southern Kissama NP. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

Grey-headed Bushshrike*Malaconotus blanchoti*

This huge woodland bushshrike was first seen during our day trip to Namibe with a further sighting near Mount Moco and another at Kinjila.

Many-coloured Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus multicolor*

This stunning and rather localized species was observed in Damengola Forest. We were fortunate to see it after a great deal of searching at many sites.

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

Our first sighting was of one at Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando with a further sighting of a pair at Damengola Forest.

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. We observed an incredible four in one tree, perhaps two pairs in territorial dispute.

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.

Marsh (Anchieta's) Tchagra*Bocagia minuta*

Our first sighting was of one at Mount Moco. We enjoyed several more in the grasslands near Damengola Forest.

Brown-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra australis*

Small numbers were seen daily in Kissama NP.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegalus*

A couple was seen near Mount Moco and a further two at Kinjila.



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*

Seen virtually daily in small numbers throughout the trip.

Braun's Bushshrike (E)*Laniarius brauni*

A magnificent pair was seen exceptionally well at Damengola Forest. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip and was voted bird of the trip! A species which has been seen by only a handful of birders!

Gabela Bushshrike (E)*Laniarius amboimensis*

This attractive endemic was seldom heard in Kumbira Forest, we were fortunate to see a pair during our two days in this remote 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.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius major*

We enjoyed good views of six at Mount Moco.

Swamp (Gabon) Boubou*Laniarius bicolor*

A common bird to hear but sometimes a very difficult species to observe, we had good sightings near Benguela and again in Kissama NP.

Crimson-breasted Shrike (Gonolek)*Laniarius atrococcineus*

We had good views of four near our south Angola camp just north of the Cunene River.

Brubru*Nilaus afer*

We had good views of one at Tundavala of the distinctive *affinis* race which lacks any rufous and another near Benguela.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**White-breasted Cuckooshrike***Coracina pectoralis*

Two were seen in the miombo woodland near Kinjila.

Black Cuckooshrike*Campephaga flava*

We had good views of several in the Kinjila area.

Petit's Cuckooshrike*Campephaga petiti*

Pairs were seen in Kumbira Forest and again in Kissama NP. The females are particularly distinctive.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike*Campephaga quiscalina*

Our first sighting was of a pair in Kumbira Forest. We enjoyed further sightings of this normally scarce species at Tombingo Forest and again in Damengola Forest.

Shrikes Laniidae**Magpie Shrike***Urolestes melanoleucus*

Two birds were seen during the drive from Calueque to Cahama.

Southern White-crowned Shrike*Eurocephalus anguitimens*

One was seen during the day trip to Namibe, two near Benguela and finally two in Kissama NP.

Northern Fiscal (Shrike)*Lanius humeralis*

We had good views of six during the drive from Kinjila to Damengola Forest.

NOTE: Common Fiscal has recently been split by IOC. Northern Fiscal, L. humeralis occurs in Sub-saharan Africa south to Southern Africa. Southern Fiscal, L. collaris is virtually restricted to Southern Africa. We recorded both species during this tour. Clements does not accept this split.

Southern Fiscal (Shrike)*Lanius collaris*

We recorded small numbers 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

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus*

We had superb sightings of five near Mount Moco.

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

This widespread woodland species was observed a number of times including good views of several in Kumbira Forest.

Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis*

We had superb scope views of several at Tombingo Forest and again in Damengola Forest.

Drongos Dicruridae

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*

We saw two birds in the gallery forest at Kinjila, Calandula.

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

This species was seen virtually daily throughout the trip.

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

Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus*

We had good views of six in Damengola Forest.

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 had good views of several at Damengola Forest.

Bates's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone batesi*

Three were seen in Kumbira Forest.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

We enjoyed several sightings near Benguela and again at Kinjila.

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 20+ around Luanda.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

This lovely bird was regularly encountered in Kumbira Forest.

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*

We had good views of two on Mount Moco and another in Damengola Forest.

Tits Paridae

White-winged Black Tit *Parus leucomelas*

One was seen by some at Mount Moco and another near Damengola Forest.

Carp's Tit (NE) *Parus carpi*

This Namibian and Angolan endemic was first *en route* to Namibe where we enjoyed great views of one. A further three were seen very well in Kissama NP.

Dusky Tit *Parus funereus*

We enjoyed good views of up to ten 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.



Rufous-bellied Tit *Parus rufiventris*

We had great views of two of these striking birds on Mount Moco.

Miombo Tit *Parus griseiventris*

We had good views of one on Mount Moco.

Ashy Tit *Parus cinerascens*

We had good views of one at our lodge near Windhoek.

Penduline Tits Remizidae**Cape Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus minutus*

We had superb views of a pair just north of the Cunene River.

Nicator 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.

Angola Lark (NE) *Mirafra angolensis*

We had wonderful views of five in the grasslands around Mount Moco.

Eastern Clapper Lark *Mirafra fasciolata*

Some of us had good views of one flying across the Andoni plains in Etosha NP.

Fawn-coloured Lark *Calendulauda africanoides*

Some of us had brief views of one in Etosha NP.

Sabota Lark (NE) *Calendulauda sabota*

We had good views of three during the day trip to 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*

Six 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.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

We had good views of three at Mount Moco.

Stark's Lark *Spizocorys starki*

We had superb scope views of two during the day trip to Namibe.

Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix verticalis*

A large flock of about one hundred was seen during the day trip to Namibe.

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.

Slender-billed Greenbul*Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

We had good views of this canopy species at Tombingo Forest and several more in Damengola Forest.

Little Greenbul*Eurillas virens*

This usually common forest edge greenbul was only seen once, in Kumbira Forest and a further two at Kinjila.

Yellow-whiskered Bulbul*Eurillas latirostris*

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

Honeyguide Greenbul*Baeopogon indicator*

He had good but brief views of one in Tombingo Forest.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul*Chlorocichla flaviventris*

This large noisy greenbul was seen during our day trip to Namibe and also observed in good numbers in Kissama NP.

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

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

Simple Greenbul*Chlorocichla simplex*

We had great scope views of one in Damengola Forest.

Yellow-throated Leaflove*Atimastillas flavicollis*

We had good views of three in the gallery forest at Kinjila.

Swamp Palm Bulbul*Thescelocichla leucopleura*

We had superb views of three during the drive from Quitexe to Damengola Forest.

Pale-olive Greenbul (NE)*Phyllastrephus fulviventris*

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

Cabanis's Greenbul*Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

After a good deal of effort we finally got good views of three on Mount Moco.

Red-tailed Bristlebill*Bleda syndactylus*

We heard a couple in Kumbira Forest.

Black-collared Bulbul*Neolestes torquatus*

We had good scope views of one near Mount Moco. A highly sought after species and not common anywhere.

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

Small numbers of these forest edge swallows were seen around Kumbira Forest, Mount Moco and at Kinjila.

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

Grey-rumped Swallow*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

We had good views of several at Tundavala and a couple more at Kinjila.

Brown-throated Martin*Riparia paludicola*

We had good views of six from our camp near Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Banded Martin*Riparia cincta*

Some of us had good views of one near Damengola Forest and all of us enjoyed good views of three in Kissama NP.

Angola Swallow*Hirundo angolensis*

We had good views of several near Mount Moco with many more seen daily near Kinjila.



White-throated Swallow*Hirundo albigularis*

Markus saw two at one of the river crossings shortly after leaving Kinjila, Calandula.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

We had good views of two at Tundavala.

Black-and-rufous Swallow*Hirundo nigrorufa*

We had superb views of this magnificent swallow at Mount Moco. We observed a pair flying into a muddy gully with treeferns where we suspected breeding. What a beauty and certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

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*

Several were seen at Tundavala and at least ten at Mount Moco.

Lesser Striped Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

Another commonly seen hirundine, we had virtually daily sightings throughout the trip.

Red-breasted Swallow*Cecropis semirufa*

We had superb views of four in Etosha NP.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

We had good views of two at Camabatela.

Red-throated Cliff Swallow*Petrochelidon rufigula*

We had wonderful views of many at various bridge crossings in northern Angola. The best sighting was of a large flock of two hundred shortly after leaving Kinjila.

South African Cliff Swallow*Petrochelidon spilodera*

We had good views of one at a waterhole en route from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

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

We had wonderful views of several at Mount Moco.

Rockrunner (Damara Rock-jumper) (NE)*Achaetops pycnopygius*

We had fabulous scope views of one calling at Tundavala, another bird previously considered to be a Namibian special!

Yellow Longbill*Macrosphenus flavicans*

We heard this species at Tombingo Forest and again at Damengola Forest.

Pulitzer's Longbill*Macrosphenus pulitzeri*

We had fair views of one and heard another in Kumbira Forest. This is a very rare and localized species.

Long-billed (Cape) Crombec*Sylvietta rufescens*

This drier country crombec was observed near Benguela and again in Kissama NP.

Green Crombec*Sylvietta virens*

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

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

Seen well and commonly heard in Kumbira Forest. A species which is far more often heard than seen. We obtained further views in Tombingo Forest and Damengola Forest.

Leaf warblers and allies Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

This newly arrived migrant was seen well by all in Kissama NP.

Reed warblers and allies Acrocephalidae**Greater Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus rufescens*

We heard one calling at a wetland near Kinjila.

Dark-capped Yellow Warbler*Iduna natalensis*

We found one at Mount Moco, another near Kinjila and our final sighting was of one near Damengola Forest.

Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae**Fan-tailed Grassbird***Schoenicola brevirostris*

We had superb views of two at Mount Moco and another near Damengola Forest.

Evergreen Forest Warbler*Bradypterus lopezi*

We heard one on Mount Moco.

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae**Lepe Cisticola***Cisticola lepe*

We had good views of two near Kinjila.

NOTE: This species is often split from Red-faced Cisticola C. erythropus. Clements does not accept this split.

Whistling Cisticola*Cisticola lateralis*

We had good views of three in miombo woodland near Kinjila.

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 at Kumbira Forest.

Rock-loving Cisticola*Cisticola emini*

We had good views of one on Mount Moco of the endemic *bailunduensis* subspecies. It was feeding in scrub on the forest edge more like the behaviour of Lazy Cisticola, *C. aberrans*.

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola chiniana*

This widespread species was seen during our day trip to Namibe and also near Benguela.

Tinkling Cisticola*Cisticola rufilatus*

We had good views of six at Tundavala.

Grey-backed Cisticola*Cisticola subruficapilla*

We had good views of one near Namibe.

Wailing Cisticola*Cisticola lais*

Several birds were seen on grassy hillsides at Tundavala and up to twenty on Mount Moco.

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

Chirping Cisticola*Cisticola pipiens*

We had good views of one at a wetland near Kinjila.

Croaking Cisticola*Cisticola natalensis*

We had superb scope views of two at Mount Moco.

Short-winged (Siffling) Cisticola*Cisticola brachypterus*

This tiny woodland species was observed near Mount Moco and again near Damengola Forest.

Neddicky (Piping Cisticola)*Cisticola fulvicapilla*

We had good views of two near Kinjila.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

Two of this widespread species were seen in Kissama NP.

Desert Cisticola*Cisticola aridulus*

We had good views of two in Etosha NP.



- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*
First seen near Tundavala with further sightings near Mount Moco.
- Black-chested Prinia (NE)** *Prinia flavicans*
This dry country species was seen on the plains approaching Namibe and near Benguela.
- Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii*
We had good but brief views of several in Damengola Forest, south of Uige.
- White-chinned Prinia** *Schistolais leucopogon*
We had great views of three near Kinjila.
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
We had great views of several at Benguela and others in Kissama NP.
- Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*
We had cracking views of one in Damengola Forest, south of Uige.
- Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*
We had cracking views of two at Kumbira Forest, an attractive central African species.
- Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*
Up to ten were seen daily at Kumbira Forest, a vocal canopy species.
- Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*
Six were seen on Mount Moco.
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
First recorded at Tundavala with further sightings at Damengola Forest, south of Uige.
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 and a few other sightings in Kissama NP.
- Yellow-browed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera superciliaris*
We had great views of a pair at Tombingo Forest and another at Damengola Forest.
- Miombo Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes undosus*
We had great views of one near Kinjila.
- Barred Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes fasciolatus*
We had good views of two near Benguela and another just north of the Cunene River.
- Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*
We had great views of several near Benguela.
- Salvadori's Eremomela** *Eremomela salvadorii*
We had good views of one at Tundavala where it was seen nest building.
- Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops*
We had cracking views of four at Tundavala and several more on Mount Moco.
- Burnt-necked Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis*
We had good views of one in Etosha NP.
- Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps*
A flock of four was seen in Tombingo Forest and a further six in Damengola Forest.

Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

- Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens*
Seen briefly in Kumbira Forest and later better views near Kinjila, a skulking understorey species.

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*
We had great views of three near our south Angola camp, just north of the Cunene River.
- Hartlaub's Babbler** *Turdoides hartlaubii*



We had good views of one at Tundavala and a further two were seen during the day trip to Namibe.

Southern Pied Babbler *Turdoides bicolor*

We had cracking views of four en route from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

Bare-cheeked Babbler (NE) *Turdoides gymnogenys*

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

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

We had cracking views of one on Mount Moco.

Chestnut-vented Warbler (NE) *Sylvia subcaerulea*

This common dry country species was seen in Etosha NP.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*

We had good views of several at Mount Moco with scattered sightings thereafter.

Hyliotas Hyliotidae

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*

One was seen by some participants near Mount Moco.

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.

Treecreepers Certhiidae

Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*

We had cracking views of one obliging individual on Mount Moco.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

A number were seen in Etosha NP and several were seen in Kissama NP.

Cape (Red-shouldered) Starling *Lamprotornis nitens*

Commonly seen in western and southern Angola with highest daily count of 100+ between Calueque and Cahama.

Splendid Starling *Lamprotornis splendidus*

Small numbers were seen in Tombingo and Damengola Forests.

Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii*

This dry country, long-tailed starling was seen *en route* to Namibe and *en route* to Benguela.

Burchell's Starling *Lamprotornis australis*

At least ten were seen on the drive from Calueque to Cahama.

Sharp-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis acuticaudus*

We had awesome views of up to thirty daily in the woodlands near Kinjila.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

We enjoyed good sightings near Tundavala and in Kumbira Forest.

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*

We had cracking views of a pair at Tombingo Forest and several more in Damengola Forest.

Pale-winged Starling (NE) *Onychognathus naboroupp*

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

Narrow-tailed Starling *Poeoptera lugubris*



We had superb views of six in forest en route from Camabatela to Quitexe.

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 one in Kumbira Forest.

Groundscraper Thrush

Psophocichla litsipsirupa

Our first sighting was of two en route from Calueque to Cahama. We later had good views of one near Mount Moco.

African Thrush

Turdus pelios

At least ten birds were seen in Kumbira Forest, with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Kurrichane Thrush

Turdus libonyana

Some of us had superb views of two at Tundavala.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Bocage's Akalat

Sheppardia bocagei

We were very fortunate to have the most amazing views of two of these skulkers on Mount Moco. A beautiful bird indeed and another highlight of the trip.

Gabela Akalat (E)

Sheppardia gabela

Supposedly one of the most difficult of the Gabela Scarp specials. We were fortunate to all get cracking views of one of this shy and retiring species in Kumbira Forest.

White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat

Cossypha heuglini

We had good views of five at Tundavala and a further four at Kinjila.

Red-capped (Natal) Robin-Chat

Cossypha natalensis

One of these smart birds of forest edge and understory, was seen in Kumbira Forest.

White-headed Robin-Chat (NE)

Cossypha heinrichi

At least three birds were seen near Kinjila where this species was discovered. This highly localized and incredibly beautiful bird was seen very well by all. We were fortunate to find a pair nesting and so were able to scope them at the nest from a distance, thus ensuring no disturbance to the birds. Only a handful of birders have had the privilege of seeing this bird and so we counted ourselves extremely fortunate to have been able to visit the site and see this wonderful gem! This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

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. On our final morning Markus was able to get superb photos and we have included one in the trip report for you to enjoy.

Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush (NE)

Cichladusa ruficauda

Our first sighting was during our day trip to Namibe and we enjoyed a further sighting near Benguela. Finally this localized species was seen daily in small numbers in Kissama NP.

Forest Scrub Robin

Erythropygia leucosticta

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

Miombo Scrub Robin

Erythropygia barbata

We had cracking views of two in woodland near Kinjila.

White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub Robin

Erythropygia leucophrys

We had good views of three near Benguela and a further two in Kissama NP.



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*

One of these semi-desert species was seen on the dry plains *en route* to Namibe.

African Stonechat*Saxicola torquatus*

We had good views of several at Tundavala and many more at Mount Moco.

Capped Wheatear*Oenanthe pileata*

We had superb views of two near Mount Moco.

Mountain Wheatear (NE)*Oenanthe monticola*

This species was quite common on the dry coastal plain near Namibe. The birds observed belonged to the endemic coastal Angolan race *albipileata*. A further three were seen at Mount Moco of the endemic highland race *nigricauda*.

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 and at Mount Moco.

Sooty Chat*Myrmecocichla nigra*

We had good views of one at Mount Moco and several more near Kinjila.

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

Four birds were seen in the Tundavala area, 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 IOC or Clements.

Miombo Rock Thrush*Monticola angolensis*

A superb male showed well for all, on Mount Moco.

Angola Slaty Flycatcher (E)*Dioptrornis brunneus*

We were treated to incredible views of two of these endemic flycatchers on the Tundavala Escarpment and a further two on Mount Moco. This is a little known species.

Southern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis pammelaina*

We had good views of several at Mount Moco and a further two at Kinjila.

Pale Flycatcher*Bradornis pallidus*

Two were seen in the Tundavala area and a further one near Kinjila.

Chat Flycatcher (NE)*Bradornis infuscatus*

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

Marico Flycatcher*Bradornis mariquensis*

At least ten were seen during the drive from Calueque to Cahama.

Spotted Flycatcher*Muscicapa striata*

This Palearctic migrant was seen near Damengola Forest.

Ashy (Blue-Grey) Flycatcher*Muscicapa caerulescens*

We had good views of several in Kumbira Forest and again in Tombingo Forest, N'Dalatando.

African Dusky Flycatcher*Muscicapa adusta*

We had great scope views of one on Mount Moco.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher*Muscicapa comitata*

We had stunning views of three in Damengola Forest.

Sooty Flycatcher*Muscicapa infuscate*

We had superb views of one in Tombingo Forest, south of N'Dalatando.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher*Myioparus plumbeus*

We had good views of one at Kinjila and another in Kissama NP.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

- Anchieta's Sunbird** *Anthreptes anchietae*
A superb pair was seen near Kinjila. This striking species was highly sought-after and another real highlight of the trip!
- Mangrove (Mouse-brown) Sunbird** *Anthreptes gabonicus*
We had superb views of three in mangroves near the Cuanza River mouth.
- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei*
We had wonderful views of several daily in the Kinjila area.
- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi*
We found a pair in Kumbira Forest and a further pair in Damengola Forest.
- Grey-chinned Sunbird** *Anthreptes rectirostris*
Small numbers were seen daily at Kinjila and Damengola Forest.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
We had good sightings of several in Kumbira Forest.
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis*
Two were seen well in Kumbira Forest and another near Damengola Forest.
- Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*
We had great views of two in Damengola 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.
- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens*
We had wonderful views of several in Tombingo Forest and at Kinjila.
- Amethyst (African Black) Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*
We had a fabulous six sightings near Kinjila.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Several were seen during the drive to Namibe and again in Kissama NP.
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*
We had superb views of three males at Mount Moco.
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius*
We had three sightings from forest edge in Kumbira Forest.
- Miombo Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris manoensis*
Some of us were fortunate to see one in miombo woodland en route from Lubango to Benguela.
- Ludwig's (Montane) Double-collared Sunbird (NE)** *Cinnyris ludovicensis*
Several were seen on the Tundavala Escarpment and a further six on Mount Moco. Two isolated races of this species exist, the nominate from montane forests of Western Angola and *whytei* from montane Malawi and ne Zambia.
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*
We had superb views of ten during the drive from Calueque to Cahama.
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*
We enjoyed wonderful sightings in Kumbira Forest and Kissama NP. At the latter site it was particularly common.
NOTE: The form N. e. tsavoensis of Kenya is sometimes split off as Tsavo Sunbird.
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus*
We enjoyed several sightings at Tombingo Forest and again in Damengola Forest.
- Oustalet's (Angola White-bellied) Sunbird (NE)** *Cinnyris oustaleti*



We enjoyed superb views of three birds at Tundavala and a further three at Mount Moco. This is another very localized species.

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 and near Benguela.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

We had good views of six in the Tundavala area and several more at Mount Moco.

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus*

We had great views of six during the day trip to Namibe.

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus*

We had great views of two near Kinjila.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

Several of these noisy, dry country weavers were seen in the arid plains east of Namibe. We also observed many of their messy grass nests near Benguela.

Sociable Weaver *Philetairus socius*

We had good views of fifteen at a colony near our lodge, near Windhoek.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

This introduced species was seen in small numbers at scattered towns and villages throughout.

Great Sparrow *Passer motitensis*

We had good views of several at our lodge near Windhoek.

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus*

We had good views of five during our drive to Namibe.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

We had good views of three in Camabatela.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*

We found several dark faced individuals near Benguela and two more 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.

Yellow-throated Petronia *Gymnoris superciliaris*

We had good views of several at Tundavala, a couple at Mount Moco and two at Kinjila.

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

Four birds were seen in Kissama NP.

Scaly-feathered Weaver *Sporopipes squamifrons*

We had wonderful views of fifteen at our lodge near Windhoek and a further two in Etosha NP.

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

We had good views of a female in Kumbira Forest.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

One was seen at Tundavala, a further two at Mount Moco and finally one at the Cuanza River.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

This species was particularly common in Kumbira Forest where we recorded up to 8 daily.

Holub's Golden-Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

First recorded at Tundavala with further sightings *en route* to Namibe and at Mount Moco.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

We had good views of a male at the Cuanza River mouth.

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

At least ten were seen 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 Kumbira Forest and Kissama NP. Africa's commonest and most widespread weaver.
- Vieillot's Black Weaver** *Ploceus nigerrimus*
Small numbers were seen in Kumbira Forest with large numbers seen at Damengola Forest.
- Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus*
We had great views of two during the drive from Calueque to Cahama.
- Yellow-mantled Weaver** *Ploceus tricolor*
We had superb views of three in Damengola Forest.
- Compact Weaver** *Ploceus superciliosus*
We had superb scope views of two near Kumbira Forest.
- Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*
First seen in Kumbira Forest with further sightings near Kinjila and peak numbers of ten in Kissama NP.
- Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*
Two birds were seen in Kumbira Forest, a beautiful forest dwelling weaver, here at its most southerly range extension.
- Red-headed Malimbe** *Malimbus rubricollis*
We had superb views of a few in Kumbira Forest and daily sightings in Tombingo Forest.
- Crested Malimbe** *Malimbus malimbicus*
We had wonderful views of six in Damengola Forest.
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*
We had good views of two including a stunning male near Benguela.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*
Hundreds were seen during the drive from Calueque to Cahama and one in Kissama NP.
- Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*
At least twenty were seen at a wetland near Kinjila.
- Golden-backed Bishop (NE)** *Euplectes aureus*
We had good views of up to one hundred daily in Kissama NP.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*
A couple was seen at Mount Moco.
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*
We had great scope views of three at Tundavala.
- Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura*
One was seen in a wetland near Damengola Forest.
- Marsh Widowbird** *Euplectes hartlaubi*
A flock of six was seen at a wetland near Kinjila.
- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*
We had superb views of twenty near Kumbira Forest.
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*
A flock of sixty was seen in rank grassland near Mount Moco.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

- Woodhouse's Antpecker** *Parmoptila woodhousei*
We had fantastic views of three in Damengola Forest.
- White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus*
We had superb views of up to six daily in Damengola Forest.
- Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita bicolor*
We had superb views of several daily in Damengola Forest.
- Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus*



We enjoyed excellent views of several birds in Kumbira Forest.

Oliveback species *Nesocharis sp.*

Probably the find of the trip was a small group of three Olivebacks in Damengola Forest. They most closely resembled White-collared Oliveback, however some differences were noted. Further investigations may reveal a cryptic species lurking in the northern scarp forests of Angola.

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afra*

We had good scope views of a pair near Mount Moco.

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

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

Red-headed Finch *Amadina erythrocephala*

We had stunning views of ten at the Angolan border.

Red-faced Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza reichenovii*

Some of us obtained superb 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*

One male of these stunning birds was seen in Kumbira Forest.

Brown Twinspot *Clytospiza monteiri*

We had cracking views of four near Damengola Forest, south of Uige.

Dusky Twinspot *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*

Up to twenty of these beauties were seen at Mount Moco. This must be one of the best sites to observe this shy and highly localized species.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

We had superb scope views of a pair at Tundavala.

Landana (Pale-billed) Firefinch (E) *Lagonosticta landanae*

Two birds were seen near Conda and a further two near Kinjila, an uncommon Angolan endemic.

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*

A pair was seen at Tundavala and several more near Kumbira Forest.

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

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

Violet-eared Waxbill *Uraeginthus granatinus*

Several birds were seen at Tundavala with further sightings near Benguela. A stunning seedeater!

Angola (Yellow-bellied) Waxbill (E) *Coccygia bocagei*

At least twenty of these lovely waxbills were seen at Tundavala and a further forty at Mount Moco.

NOTE: The isolated Angolan race is very distinctive and has recently been split from Yellow-bellied Waxbill, C. quartinia. Clements does not yet accept this split.

Grey (Black-tailed) Waxbill *Estrilda perreini*

We had superb scope views of one in Kumbira Forest and a further two in Damengola Forest.

Cinderella Waxbill (NE) *Estrilda thomensis*

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

Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola*

We had superb views of twenty near Kinjila.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*

Up to twenty were seen feeding on grass seeds at Kumbira Forest and smaller numbers near Kinjila

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

A small flock of six was seen during the drive to Namibe with further sightings in Kumbira Forest.

Black-faced Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos*

We had superb views of six in Etosha NP.

Orange-breasted (Zebra) Waxbill *Amandava subflava*



Our first sighting was of six at Tundavala and a further eight at Mount Moco and finally small numbers daily near Kinjila.

Bronze Mannikin (Munia) *Lonchura cucullata*

We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout.

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

Small groups were recorded in Kumbira Forest with peak numbers at Damengola 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.

Indigobirds, Whydahs Viduidae

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

We had good views of six near Kumbira Forest with further sightings near Damengola Forest.

Shaft-tailed Whydah *Vidua regia*

Two were seen during the drive from Calueque to Cahama.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

We had good views of one at Tundavala.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

We had good views of three on the Cunene River and a further one on the Lucala River.

Fülleborn's Longclaw *Macronyx fuellebornii*

A pair 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 en route from Windhoek to Etosha NP.

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.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*

We had superb views of one at our lodge near Windhoek.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

One was seen near Mount Moco and another near Kinjila.

Long-legged Pipit *Anthus pallidiventris*

We had great views of two at the Cuanza River mouth.

Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris*

Some of us had good views of one at Tundavala.

Finches Fringillidae

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*

Four were seen at Mount Moco.

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 not recognise this split.

Black-faced Canary (NE) *Crithagra capistrata*

This localized canary was seen first at Kumbira Forest with a further sighting of a pair at Mount Moco.

Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis*

Small numbers were seen at Tundavala.

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 two at Tundavala and several more near Kumbira Forest.

Yellow Canary*Crithagra flaviventris*

Small numbers were seen at our lodge near Windhoek and a further six during the day trip to Namibe.

Brimstone (Bully) Canary*Crithagra sulphurata*

Two birds were seen at Tundavala and a further six at Mount Moco.

White-throated Canary*Crithagra albogularis*

We had good views of five near Benguela, near the northern limit of its range.

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae**Lark-like Bunting***Emberiza impetuani*

We had superb scope views of twenty near Namibe.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting*Emberiza tahapisi*

Up to sixteen were seen at Tundavala.

Golden-breasted Bunting*Emberiza flaviventris*

We had scattered sightings throughout with good views of two in Kissama NP.

Cabanis's Bunting*Emberiza cabanisi*

One was seen in the miombo woodland near Mount Moco.

MAMMALS (33 species)**Chacma Baboon***Papio ursinus*

We had great views of ten near Benguela.

Vervet Monkey*Cercopithecus aethiops*

These inquisitive monkeys visited our camp in Kissama NP on a daily basis.

Samango (Blue/Gentle) Monkey*Cercopithecus mitis*

At least six of these smart monkeys were seen in Kissama NP.

Red-tailed Monkey*Cercopithecus ascanius*

We had good views of three in Damengola Forest.

Scrub Hare*Lepus saxatilis*

We had good views of one on our night drive in Kissama NP.

Congo Rope Squirrel*Funisciurus congicus*

We had good views of one near Benguela.

Gambian Sun Squirrel*Paraxerus cepapi*

We had good views of two in Kumbira Forest.

Black-backed Jackal*Canis mesomelas*

We had excellent views of one in Etosha NP.

Banded Mongoose*Mungos mungo*

Up to fifteen were seen at our camp in Etosha NP.

Dwarf Mongoose*Helogale parvula*

Three were seen during the day trip to Namibe.

Ichneumon (Egyptian/Large Grey) Mongoose*Ichneumia albicauda*

One was seen in Kissama NP.

Slender Mongoose*Herpestes sanguinea*

We had good views of one in Kissama NP.

Yellow Mongoose*Cynictis penicillata*

We had great views of several around our lodge near Windhoek.

Lion*Panthera leo*

We had wonderful views of a pride of five in Etosha NP.

Rock Elephant Shrew

One was seen by Phil and another by Markus at Tundavala.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax (Dassie) *Heterohyrax brucei*

Several were seen near Benguela.

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

We had awesome views of seventy in Etosha NP.

Common Zebra *Equus quagga*

At least fifteen were seen in Etosha NP.

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*

We had amazing views of one near Namutoni camp, Etosha NP. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

Up to ten were seen daily in Etosha NP.

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis*

We had great views of five in Kissama NP. At least eight were seen in Etosha NP.

Forest Buffalo *Syncerus caffer nanus*

We had an amazing encounter with one en route from Quitexe to Damengola Forest. A very lucky find indeed!

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*

We had great views of up to a dozen daily in Kissama NP.

Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

We had good sighting of several in Kissama NP. Small numbers were also seen in Etosha NP.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx*

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

Bush (Common/Grey) Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia*

Two were seen in Kissama NP.

Blue Duiker *Cephalophus monticola*

We had good views of three in Kissama NP.

Kirk's Dikdik *Madoqua kirkii*

At least twenty of these cute antelope were seen in Etosha NP.

Springbok *Antidorcas marsupialis*

We had amazing views of at least one hundred in Etosha NP.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*

Up to one hundred were seen in Etosha NP.

Kongoni (Hartebeest) *Alcelaphus buselaphus*

We had good views of two at our lodge near Windhoek.

Southern Oryx *Oryx gazelle*

Up to twenty were seen in Etosha NP.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus*

We had good views of one in Kissama NP and up to sixty in Etosha NP.

REPTILES

Striped Skink *Mabuya striata*

We saw at least six in Etosha NP.

Water (Nile) Monitor *Varanus niloticus*

Some of us had great views of two along the Cuanza River.

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*



We had great views of one at a wetland near Kinjila.

Boomslang

Dispholidus typus

We had superb views of a female near Kinjila.

Forest Vine Snake

Thelotornis sp.

We had superb scope views of one in Kumbira Forest.

Horned Viper

Bitis sp.

We had amazing views of one near Benguela.

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