

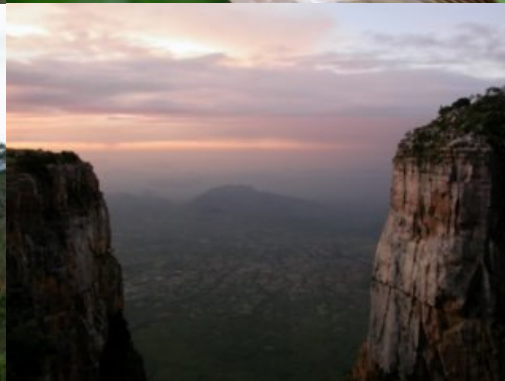
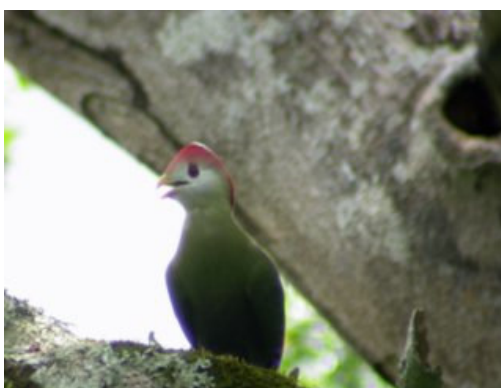


# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Angola

6<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004



*Red-crested Turaco, Gabela Forest  
Gabela Forest*

*Angola Cave Chat, Tundavala*

*All photos by Adam Riley*

*Gabela Akalat, Gabela Forest  
Tundavala Escarpment*

*Red-backed Mousebird, near Lubango*

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**Tour Leaders - Adam Riley, Pedro Vaz Pinto & Allan Kirby.**  
**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Adam Riley**

## **Trip Summary**

Rockjumper Birding Tours is indeed proud to have arranged and guided the first birding tour ever to have been undertaken in Angola. We can obviously boast that it was the most successful Angolan tour of all time! However, we did exceptionally well, finding all possible endemics on our route and observing many birds that very few birders have ever seen. One of our major highlights and achievements was that of finding two flocks of Angola Helmetshrikes, only ever seen by two birders, and we obtained the first sound recordings and photos of this mythical species.

Our tour started in Luanda, where we ticked off our first Angolan endemic, Red-backed Mousebird (and for some people their 6<sup>th</sup> and final mousebird species!) right in the airport parking lot. A visit to the Kwanzo River was unfortunately rather rushed but we did pick up some good forest edge and wetland species and another lifer for the group, the Bubbling Cisticola. We then proceeded to our bungalows in Kissama NP, situated on a ridge with fabulous views over the Kwanzo Floodplain. We had two full days in this lovely park and recorded some very sought-after species. After a long battle, we all obtained superb views of Gray-striped Francolin, one of Angola's least recorded endemics. Other endemics and near endemics we saw in Kissama included the two parties of Angola Helmetshrike mentioned above, the cute Angola Batis, Rueppell's Parrot, Violet Woodhoopoe and Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush. Other goodies were Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, the stunning Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, Narina Trogon, Black Scimitarbill and Black-tailed Waxbill. We also studied large flocks of very uniquely shaped swifts foraging overhead which some ornithologists believe are Fernando Po Swifts. The near-endemic White-fronted Wattle-eye kept us sweating until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour when we finally taped in a beautiful male just before sunset.

Our next stop was Kumbira Forest on the Gabela Scarp. This region is an IBA of moist evergreen forests holding many of our most wanted Angolan endemics. The road to our campsite tested the drivers' 4x4 skills but *en route* we found Golden-backed Bishop (unfortunately in non-breeding plumage) and another surprise White-fronted Wattle-eye. As we entered the forest, the strident calls of a Pulitzer's Longbill caught our attention and within a few minutes we had ticked off this mega as well as the stunning Red-crested Turaco, a pair of nesting Red-faced Crimsonwings, Bannerman's Sunbird and Blue-headed Crested-Monarch! Our next full day was a resounding success with some very enjoyable birding. Specials seen included the stunning Gabon Coucal, African Broadbill (observed displaying in the scope!), Yellow-necked and Pale-olive Greenbul, Hartert's Camaroptera, Forest Scrub-Robin, Pink-footed Puffback, the lovely Gabela Bushshrike as well as Many-colored, Perrin's (Four-colored) and the very rare Monteiro's Bushshrikes, Western Tinkerbird, Hairy-breasted Barbet, Brown-eared and Elliot's Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Nicator, Masked and Black-throated Apalis, both species of Hyliota, Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatcher, Dusky Tit, Carmelite and Montane Double-collared Sunbird, Brown-capped Weaver, Red-headed Malimbe, Red-headed Bluebill, Orange-cheeked Waxbill and Black-faced Canary. By evening we realized we had nearly cleaned up all the specials in one day and only one endemic remained, the enigmatic Gabela Akalat! It really didn't help that the call of this bird was unknown. The following morning, we carefully placed the group at a likely spot in the forest and sure enough, a confiding Gabela Akalat appeared on cue for all to see, and thus allowing us to break camp a day early! On leaving this area, the surrounding grasslands provided us with Brown Twinspot and the endemic Pale-billed Firefinch. Other travel birds today included the strange Black-collared Bulbul, Red-necked Buzzard, Lepe Cisticola and at sunset, a male Pennant-winged Nightjar.

Our next destination was Cangandala National Park, an area of climax Miombo woodland and also the site where the fabled Giant Sable was soon after our visit rediscovered by one of our leaders, Pedro Vaz Pinto (with the use of triggered cameras placed during our tour.) The birding was slower than we had hoped for here but we did score some very sought-after species including Thick-billed Cuckoo, Slender-tailed Cisticola (for lucky Clayton only) Finsch's Francolin, African Cuckoo-Hawk, Ovampo Sparrowhawk, Pale-billed Hornbill, the elusive Anchieta's Barbet, Black-backed Barbet, Chirping and Angola Cisticola, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Miombo Scrub-Robin, Hartlaub's Babbler, White-winged Black Tit, Anchieta's Tchagra, Retz's Helmetshrike, Red-headed Quelea and Marsh Widowbird.

After a long drive back to Luanda, we flew south to Lubango and had 2 days to explore the escarpments and arid country surrounding this pleasant southern city. Once again we did exceptionally well and many of the key targets were obtained with relative ease. We had numerous close encounters with the lovely Angola Cave-Chat as well as the very rare Angola Slaty-Flycatcher, Bocage's Akalat, Oustalet's Sunbird, African Hawk-Eagle, Schalow's Turaco, Pallid Honeyguide, Angola and Red-throated Swallow, Fuelleborn's Longclaw, Striped Pipit and Greencap Eremomela. The highly sought-after Cinderella Waxbill gave us a head-ache but again, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour we located a pair and obtained good views. Many species previously considered to be Namibian specials were also seen in this southern part of Angola including Hartlaub's Francolin, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Damara Hornbill, Bradfield's Swift, Benguela Lark, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Damara Rock-jumper, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Tractrac Chat, White-tailed Shrike, Carp's Black and Ashy Tit and Dusky Sunbird.

Exploring Angola was a fabulous adventure combined with incredible birding, some of the most stunning scenery in the world and great company. Besides the whole group getting dozens of lifers, we made some important scientific discoveries about the birds of Angola and their distributions.

## BIRDS (365 species recorded)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements Birds of the World: A Checklist 5th Edition (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to July 2005.

E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic

### Grebes Podicipedidae

#### **Little Grebe (Dabchick)**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

One bird was seen at a roadside pan on our drive to Malanje.

### Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

#### **Gray Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

Two birds were seen *en route* to Kissama NP and another between Sumbe and Conda .

#### **Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

Two birds were seen *en route* to Kissama NP and a single in Luanda.

#### **Great (White) Egret**

*Ardea alba*

Our only sighting was of two birds at Kissama NP.

*NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

#### **Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

Four birds were seen *en route* to Kissama NP.

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

**Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Commonly recorded throughout Angola and seen at most sites visited.

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

**Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

Two birds were seen near Conda town with a further sighting of two birds at a wetland in Cangandala National Park.

**Hamerkop Scopidae****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

Our first sighting was at the Kwanzo River with further sightings at Gabela, near Malanje and Tundavala.

**Storks Ciconidae****African Openbill (-ed Stork)***Anastomus lamelligerus*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP.

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

Eight birds were seen at a floodplain en route to Kumbira Forest.

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

We were lucky to find one bird at the Kwanzo River.

**Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae****Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Two birds were seen in Luanda at the start of the tour with a further sighting of two on our return to Luanda at the end of our tour and a single at Namibe.

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

**Hadada Ibis (Hadedda)***Bostrychia hagedash*

One was seen near Kumbira Forest.

**Ducks & Geese Anatidae****White-faced Whistling-Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

The distinctive whistles of this duck were only heard at night in flight over Kumbira Forest.

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

One bird was seen at a wetland in Cangandala NP.

**Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae****African Cuckoo-Hawk***Aviceda cuculoides*

One bird was seen at Cangandala and another between Kondo and Dondo.

**European Honey Buzzard***Pernis apivorus*

One bird was observed in Kissama NP.

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

Small numbers of this widespread raptor were seen at a scattered sites especially during drive days.

NOTE: Clements has split the two species Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) of the Old World and White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) of the New World. This split is not universally accepted.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Singles seen between Malanje and Luanda and between Lubango and Namibe.

NOTE: The Black Kite subspecies (*M. m. parasitus*), which we observed on the tour, is split by some authorities into a separate species called the Yellow-billed Kite.

**African Fish-Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

Our first sighting was at the Kwanzo River. Two were seen in Kissama NP and a final sighting was made at Kumbira Forest.

**Palmnut Vulture**

*Gypohierax angolensis*

This attractive vulture was first described from specimens originating in Angola, hence its scientific name. Our first was seen on the beach at the mouth of the Kwanzo River. Ten sightings were recorded in the Kissama NP over two days and another 15 sightings were logged on drive days between Dondo and Malanje and Malanje to Luanda.

**(African) White-backed Vulture**

*Gyps africanus*

Four birds seen on the drive between Sumbe and Kondo.

**Brown Snake-Eagle**

*Circaetus cinereus*

Two birds seen soaring over Kumbira.

**Bateleur**

*Terathopius ecaudatus*

Two birds were seen in Kissama NP (Kawa) but we most regularly recorded this species in and around Cangandala NP. Scope views of a close perched individual in the park was memorable.

**African Marsh-Harrier**

*Circus ranivorus*

One bird seen at Quibala between Conda and Dondo, this is a rarely recorded species in Angola.

**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)**

*Polyboroides typus*

First bird seen at Kissama NP. Twice observed at Kumbira Forest and again between Conda and Dondo.

**Lizard Buzzard**

*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Four of the attractive raptors were seen during the tour, firstly on the edge of Kumbira Forest, two on the drive between Conda and Dondo and our final sighting in Cangandala NP.

**Gabar Goshawk**

*Melierax gabar*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP.

**African Goshawk**

*Accipiter tachiro*

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

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

**Shikra**

*Accipiter badius*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP.

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

**Little Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter minullus*

One bird was seen at Kissama NP with another sighting near Malanje.

**Ovambo Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter ovampensis*

We were lucky to find this scarce species in Cangandala NP.

**Black Goshawk (Black Sparrowhawk)**

*Accipiter melanoleucus*

This fearsome large raptor was seen in Kumbira Forest.

**Common Buzzard**

*Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Two birds were seen in Kissama NP.

NOTE: Steppe Buzzard (*B. b. vulpinus*) is sometimes considered distinct from the nominate Eurasian Buzzard.

**Red-necked Buzzard**

*Buteo auguralis*

This attractive Western African species was first seen near Gabela town, with another bird seen very well near Lukala whilst we were attending to a vehicle breakdown.

**Augur Buzzard**

*Buteo augur*

This widespread species was seen only once, on the Tundavala Escarpment.

**Wahlberg's Eagle**

*Aquila wahlbergi*

Our first sighting was at Kissama NP with another en route to Kumbira Forest.

**African Hawk-Eagle**

*Hieraaetus spilogaster*

A juvenile of this uncommonly recorded species was observed on the Leba Scarp as we descended the great escarpment between Lubango and Namibe.

**Long-crested Eagle**

*Lophaetus occipitalis*



One of these floppy crested raptors was seen at Kumbira Forest.

### **Falcons & Kestrels      Falconidae**

#### **Eurasian (Rock/Common) Kestrel**

*Falco tinnunculus rupicolis*

One was seen in Luanda, one en route to Cangandala and four at the Tundavala escarpment and two on our day trip to Namibe.

*NOTE: Clements has not split the distinctive Rock Kestrel F. t. rupicolis of southern and central Africa, from the more widespread Eurasian Kestrel. This split is accepted by other authorities.*

#### **Peregrine Falcon**

*Falco peregrinus*

A single bird was seen en route from Dondo to Malanje and two were observed (including a juvenile) on the Leba Scarp.

### **Francolins & Quails      Phasianidae**

#### **Crested Francolin**

*Fringillidae sephaena*

This widespread African species was heard above the Leba Scarp.

#### **Finsch's Francolin (NE)**

*Fringillidae finschi*

One bird was flushed in Cangandala NP with others heard at Tundavala.

#### **Gray-striped Francolin (E) *Fringillidae griseostriatus***

We were lucky to observe three of these elusive and shy birds at Kissama NP, after a lot of hard work! We all obtained excellent views after an extended taping session. An almost unknown Angolan endemic.

#### **Hartlaub's Francolin (NE)**

*Fringillidae hartlaubi*

We were treated to superb scope views of a very tape responsive male as it sat on a rock and called its lungs out, on the Leba Scarp. This is one of Namibia's most difficult specials and was a lifer for many in the group who had previously dipped this bird in Namibia. A very strange, diminutive francolin.

#### **Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl)**

*Fringillidae afer*

This is Angola's most widespread and commonly seen francolin. We first recorded this striking species in Kissama NP, with later scattered records throughout the areas we visited in Angola. Several subspecies were observed striking differences were observed as we moved across the country.

### **Guineafowl *Numididae***

#### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

One bird was seen en route to Kissama NP with a further sighting near Malanje and we heard it in Cangandala NP.

*NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris Helmeted Guineafowl, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western (N. m. galeata) West African Guineafowl and the southern, which we recorded, (N. m. mitrata) Tufted Guineafowl. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

#### **(Crested Guineafowl)**

*(Guttera pucherani)*

A beautiful feather was found in a dry river bed at Kissama NP.

*NOTE: The West African form is sometimes split off as Western Crested Guineafowl (G. edouardi).*

### **Rails, Gallinules & Coots      Rallidae**

#### **Buff-spotted Flufftail**

*Sarothrura elegans*

The hooting of this species was a constant evening sound during our stay at Kumbira Forest, but none were close enough to track down.

#### **Red-chested Flufftail**

*Sarothrura rufa*

This secretive species was heard calling from wetlands near Kondo and in Cangandala NP.

#### **Streaky-breasted Flufftail**

*Sarothrura boehmi*

This seldom recorded species was calling from a wetland in Cangandala NP.

**African (~Water/Cape) Rail***Rallus caerulescens*

Another tough rallid only heard calling from wetlands in Cangandala NP.

**Bustards    Otididae****Red-crested Bustard (Korhaan)***Eupodotis ruficrista*

This dry country species was heard calling from thick bushveld on the plains towards Namibe.

**Black-bellied Bustard (Korhaan)***Eupodotis melanogaster*

Two males were seen in aerial display in Kissama NP, *en route* to Sumbe.

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

A single seen at a wetland *en route* to Malanje and 3 seen at another wetland between Cangandala NP and Malanje.

**Stilts & Avocets    Recurvirostridae****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

A pair was seen on the floodplain *en route* to Kumbira Forest.

**Thick-knees    Burhinidae****Spotted Thick-knee (Dikkop)***Burhinus capensis*

Six birds were seen at night as we drove into Kissama NP.

**Plovers & Lapwings    Charadriidae****Common Ringed Plover***Charadrius hiaticula*

One bird was seen at a coastal lagoon *en route* to Kissama NP.

**(Common) Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

One bird was seen at a coastal lagoon *en route* to Kissama NP.

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

Two birds were seen at a coastal lagoon *en route* to Kissama NP.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

We recorded four birds *en route* to Kissama NP, one *en route* to Kumbira Forest and one more near Malanje.

**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

We observed six at a wetland *en route* to Kumbira Forest and a single between Cangandala and Malanje.

**Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

A single was seen *en route* to Namibe.

**Little Stint***Calidris minuta*

Twelve birds observed at coastal lagoons *en route* to Kissama NP.

**Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris ferruginea*

Two birds were seen at a wetland *en route* to Kumbira Forest.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

A flock of thirty were seen at a wetland *en route* to Kumbira Forest.

**Terns    Sternidae****Sandwich Tern***Sterna sandvicensis*

Ten birds were seen off Sumbe.

**Royal Tern***Sterna maxima*

Four birds were seen off Sumbe.

**Common Tern***Sterna hirundo*

Two birds were seen at the Kwanzo River.

### Doves & Pigeons *Columbidae*

**Rock (Feral) Pigeon**

*Columba livia*

Common in urban centers.

**Red-eyed Dove**

*Streptopelia semitorquata*

Widespread and common in Angola, with many seen throughout the moister woodlands.

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

*Streptopelia capicola*

Widespread and common throughout Angola (particularly in the drier woodlands) with a highest count of fifty birds seen *en route* to Sumbe.

**Laughing (Palm) Dove**

*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Only recorded in western Angola at Luanda, Kissama NP and Namibe.

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove**

*Turtur chalcospilos*

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

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove**

*Turtur afer*

Singles seen at Kumbira Forest and near Dondo.

**Tambourine Dove**

*Turtur tympanistria*

One seen *en route* to Kumbira Forest.

**Namaqua Dove**

*Oena capensis*

One bird was seen *en route* to Conda .

**African Green-Pigeon**

*Treron calva*

This attractive frugivore was seen in small numbers at Kumbira Forest, Cangandala NP and sites between these areas.

### Parrots *Psittacidae*

**Rueppell's Parrot (NE)**

*Poicephalus rueppelli*

Two birds seen at Kissama NP and another two north of Sumbe. A localized species endemic to Namibia and Angola.

**Rosy-faced Lovebird (NE)**

*Agapornis roseicollis*

Three of these attractive little parrots were seen *en route* to Namibe.

### Turacos *Musophagidae*

**Great Blue Turaco**

*Corythaeola cristata*

The echoing calls of this fabulous forest bird were heard near N'Dalatando.

**Schalow's Turaco**

*Tauraco schalowi*

This beauty was first heard in Cangandala, where we were unable to obtain views, however, we eventually secured superb sightings at Tundavala and Leba (where we all marveled at scope views!)

*Note: This species used to be lumped under the Green Turaco (T. persa), which is now split into four full species, the others being Knysna Turaco (T. corythaix), Livingstone's Turaco (T. livingstonii) and Schalow's Turaco (T. schalowi).*

**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 with a total of 12 seen on our full day of birding at this forest.

**Gray Go-away-bird (Lourie)**

*Corythaixoides concolor*

Several birds were observed in Kissama NP and another pair *en route* to Namibe.

### Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

**Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo**

*Oxylophus jacobinus*



A total of seven of these large cuckoos were seen in Kissama NP with a few other sightings during travel days.

**Thick-billed Cuckoo***Pachycoccyx audeberti*

Two birds (an adult and a juvenile) were heard and seen in Cangandala NP. A highly sought after broad-leafed woodland species that is known to parasitize Retz's Helmetshrikes.

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

Several birds were seen in Kissama NP with birds heard in and near Cangandala NP.

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

One bird was taped in and seen very well by the whole group along a dry riverbed in Kissama NP. This represented a new record for the park and a major range extension for this usually very secretive species.

**Klaas' Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

This small green cuckoo was seen at Kumbira Forest and the Leba Scarp with several birds heard at other sites.

**African Emerald Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx cupreus*

This forest and forest edge species was heard only at several localities, including Kissama NP and Kumbira Forest.

**Dideric (Diderick) Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx caprius*

One bird was seen at Dondo with several heard at other sites including Kissama NP.

**Yellowbill (Green Malkoha/Coucal)***Ceuthmochares aereus*

This skulking species was seen well in Kumbira Forest and heard in Kissama NP. This is Africa's only Malkoha.

*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.*

**Black Coucal***Centropus grillii*

A total of four birds including a stunning male in full breeding plumage were seen at wetlands in Cangandala NP.

**Gabon Coucal***Centropus anselli*

We were very lucky to see this elusive species at Kumbira Forest. A giant of a coucal and a very sought after bird. Arguably the most beautiful of all the world's coucals!

**Coppery-tailed Coucal***Centropus cupreicaudus*

One bird was seen between Conda and Dondo and another in Cangandala NP, another very large coucal.

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

We had five sightings of this species at scattered localities, with most sightings in Cangandala NP.

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

## Typical Owls      *Strigidae*

**African Wood-Owl***Strix woodfordii*

A single bird was taped in and seen well at Kumbira Forest.

## Nightjars & Allies      *Caprimulgidae*

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

A bird was heard at Kissama NP.

**Square-tailed (Mozambique/Gabon) Nightjar***Caprimulgus fossii*

A bird was seen at sunset close to Dondo.

**Pennant-winged Nightjar***Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

Some of the group had great views of a displaying male and a female near Dondo. One of Africa's strangest birds!

### Swifts      Apodidae

#### **Bat-like (Boehm's) Spinetail**

*Neafrapus boehmi*

One bird was seen at Cangandala NP, unfortunately, it skimmed low over the tree-tops and soon disappeared.

#### **African Palm-Swift**

*Cypsiurus parvus*

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

NOTE: The nominate African form of the Palm-Swift is considered to be distinct from the Malagasy form *C. p. gracilis* by some authorities. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

#### **Alpine Swift**

*Tachymarptis melba*

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

#### **Common Swift**

*Apus apus*

A flock of a hundred birds were seen on the trip to Malanje.

NOTE: The Fernando Po Swift (*A. sladeniae*) is often separated by authorities as a distinctive species from the much more widespread Black Swift (*Apus barbatus*) which we observed several times during our tour. Clements does not currently recognize this split

#### **Fernando Po Swift (NE)**

*Apus [barbatus] sladeniae*

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

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

#### **Bradfield's Swift (NE)**

*Apus bradfieldi*

A flock of at least a dozen of these southern swifts was seen north of Sumbe and over 200 observed on the Leba Scarp.

#### **Little Swift**

*Apus affinis*

Seen at many localities, particularly large numbers were recorded at Kissama NP and at Malanje.

#### **White-rumped Swift**

*Apus caffer*

Recorded at a number of sites with the highest count of thirty between Malanje and Luanda.

### Mousebirds      Coliidae

#### **Red-backed Mousebird (E)**

*Colius castanotus*

This Angolan endemic was first seen at the airport in Luanda soon after the group arrived and thereafter seen on most days throughout the tour, except in the south. The commonest of the Angolan endemics.

#### **Red-faced Mousebird**

*Urocolius indicus*

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

### Trogon      Trogonidae

#### **Narina Trogon**

*Apaloderma narina*

Three birds were seen at a dry riverbed in Kissama NP, a first record for the park.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

One of the brilliant river-dwelling kingfishers was seen near Kumbira Forest and another between Cangandala and Malanje.

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

This woodland haunting kingfisher was heard in Kissama NP and another seen en route to Kumbira Forest.

**Gray-headed Kingfisher***Halcyon leucocephala*

One bird was seen en route between Dondo and Malanje.

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

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

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

First sighted at the Kwanzo River with two birds seen in Kissama NP and its distinctive call heard in Cangandala NP.

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher***Halcyon albiventris*

One bird was seen *en route* to Kumbira Forest and another bird heard in Cangandala NP.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

First recorded in Luanda with further sightings in Kissama NP and en route to Cangandala NP.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

One bird was seen at the Kwanzo River with a further two between Cangandala and Malanje.

**Bee-eaters Meropidae****Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

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

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

Four birds were found in Kissama NP, a single in Cangandala NP and one further sighting en route to Namibe.

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

A flocks of 6 of the stream-lined birds seen at Namibe.

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

First recorded in Kissama NP with further sightings in and around Cangandala NP.

**Rollers Coraciidae****European Roller***Coracias garrulus*

One bird was seen in Cangandala NP.

**Lilac-breasted Roller***Coracias caudata*

First seen in Kissama NP with further sightings from Cangandala NP. One of Africa's trademark birds!

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

**Broad-billed Roller***Eurystomus glaucurus*

This attractive species was seen daily in small numbers in Cangandala NP.

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

Six birds were seen in Kissama NP.

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.

### Woodhoopoes     Phoeniculidae

#### **Violet Woodhoopoe (NE)**

*Phoeniculus damarensis*

Two were seen in Kissama NP and superb views obtained of another family group of three on the Leba escarpment.

#### **Black Scimitar-bill**

*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

One bird was seen well in Kissama NP with a further sighting in Cangandala NP.

### Hornbills     Bucerotidae

#### **Damara Hornbill (NE)**

*Tockus [erythrorhynchus] damarensis*

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

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

#### **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (NE)**

*Tockus leucomelas*

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

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

#### **Crowned Hornbill**

*Tockus alboterminatus*

Our first sighting was of one bird en route to Kissama NP with further sightings throughout Angola with the exception of Cangandala NP.

#### **African Gray Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

One bird was seen briefly in Kissama NP.

#### **Pale-billed Hornbill**

*Ceratogymna pallidirostris*

Two birds were seen in Cangandala NP, a localized and sought-after Miombo species

#### **Piping Hornbill**

*Ceratogymna fistulator*

One bird was seen at forest edge en route to Malanje.

### Barbets     Capitonidae

#### **Anchieta's Barbet (NE)**

*Stactolaema anchietae*

Two of these attractive and very localized birds were seen at Cangandala NP, after an extensive search & thanks to Allan's spotting. We enjoyed good scope views.

#### **Western Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus coryphaeus*

We had a great scope view and several others heard at Kumbira Forest.

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

*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Three birds were seen at Kumbira Forest with several others heard.

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

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

This dry woodland species was heard in Cangandala NP and seen on the Tundavala Escarpment.

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

*Tricholaema hirsuta*

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

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

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

*Tricholaema leucomelas*

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

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

*Lybius torquatus*

One seen at Dondo and a pair also seen at Tundavala.

**Black-backed Barbet***Lybius minor*

We were very lucky to find an adult and a juvenile in Cangandala NP. We had superb views on two occasions of this very localized and highly sought-after species

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

This strange forest barbet with a deep hooting call was seen well at Kumbira Forest and again heard near N'Dalatando.

**Honeyguides      Indicatoridae****Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

Heard only at Kissama NP.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

One bird was seen at Kissama NP with another heard en route to Cangandala and at the Leba Scarp.

NOTE: The Thick-billed Honeyguide (*I. conirostris*) of West and Central Africa forms a superspecies with the more widespread Lesser Honeyguide (*I. minor*) which we observed during our tour. This taxonomic split is recognized by Clements.

**Pallid Honeyguide***Indicator meliphilus*

We were fortunate to find one bird at Tundavala, an uncommonly recorded honeyguide.

**Woodpeckers & Wrynecks      Picidae****Bennett's Woodpecker***Campethera bennetti*

One bird was seen in Cangandala NP.

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

One bird was seen in Kissama NP with others heard in Cangandala NP.

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

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

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

This woodland woodpecker was observed in Kissama and Cangandala NPs.

**Elliot's Woodpecker***Dendropicos elliotii*

We enjoyed extended scope views of a bird in Kumbira Forest and at least three others were heard calling.

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

One of the highlights of the trip was of a male performing its circular display flight, in Kumbira Forest. We had the scope trained on it and obtained superb views. Many others were heard calling in the forest.

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

One heard en route to Conda and another one seen 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

**Flappet Lark***Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

We were lucky to find birds in display flights in Cangandala NP and between Dondo and Malanje.

**Fawn-colored Lark***Mirafra africanoides*

One bird was found in Kissama NP.

NOTE: The Ethiopian subspecies (*M. a. macdonaldi*) is sometimes considered to belong to a distinct species; Foxy or Abyssinian Lark (*M. alopex*).

**Sabota Lark (NE)***Mirafra sabota*

Two of these southern larks seen between Leba and Namibe.



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

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

*Certhilauda benguelensis*

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

**Spike-heeled Lark (NE)**

*Chersomanes albofasciata*

A total of six of the very pale desert form seen in the dunes south of Namibe.

## Swallows

## Hirundinidae

**Rock Martin**

*Hirundo fuligula*

Six birds were seen on the Tundavala Escarpment and a dozen at the Leba Scarp.

NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form *H. f. fuligula* would remain as Rock Martin (including the birds we saw in Angola) and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin (*H. pusilla*). Palearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin (*H. obsoleta*). Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.

**Barn Swallow**

*Hirundo rustica*

Seen on most days of the tour with a high count of one hundred seen en route from Dondo to Cangandala.

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

**Angola Swallow**

*Hirundo angolensis*

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

**Greater Striped-Swallow**

*Hirundo cucullata*

A total of ten seen on the Leba Scarp.

**Lesser Striped-Swallow**

*Hirundo abyssinica*

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

**Mosque Swallow**

*Hirundo senegalensis*

Two birds were seen between Dondo and Cangandala.

**Red-throated (Cliff-) Swallow (NE)**

*Hirundo rufigula*

This localized species was an unexpected and very welcomed find on the Leba Scarp.

**(White-headed Sawwing)**

*(Psalidoprocne albiceps)*

This species is only known in this country from far north-eastern Angola. We obtained brief sightings of what were suspected to be this species near Kumbira Forest, but considering the range extension, I have decided to count this species as only potential until better views can be obtained.

**Black Sawwing**

*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

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

NOTE: The "black" sawwing complex, which occurs throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, has recently been lumped into a single species by Clements *P. pristoptera*.

## Wagtails, Pipits & Longclaws Motacillidae

**African Pied Wagtail**

*Motacilla aguimp*

Four birds were seen en route to Kumbira Forest with another sighted near Malanje.

**Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail**

*Motacilla clara*

Three birds were seen at Seven Bridges crossing near Kumbira Forest and a single on our final morning on Tundavala Escarpment.

**Fuelleborn's Longclaw**

*Macronyx fuellebornii*

Four birds were seen in grasslands at Tundavala, we obtained superb views of this sought-after species.

**Striped Pipit**

*Anthus lineiventris*

We were lucky to find four birds at Tundavala, where they were very vocal and showy. An uncommonly recorded rock-dwelling pipit

**Plain-backed Pipit***Anthus leucophrys*

Only recorded at Tundavala where a single was seen.

**African (Grassveld) Pipit***Anthus cinnamomeus*

Ten birds were found in the grasslands of the Tundavala area.

*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.*

**Tree Pipit***Anthus trivialis*

Two of these Palearctic migrant birds were found at Tundavala.

**Cuckoo-shrikes    Campephagidae****Petit's Cuckoo-shrike***Coracina petiti*

Pairs were seen at Kissama NP and Kumbira Forest. The females are particularly distinctive. We were surprised to record this forest species at Kissama NP and it was the first record for the park.

**Black Cuckoo-shrike***Campephaga flava*

Three birds were seen in Cangandala NP.

**Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike***Campephaga quiscalina*

Two birds were seen at Kumbira Forest.

**Bulbuls                      Pycnonotidae****Common (Dark-capped/Black-eyed) Bulbul***Pycnonotus barbatus (tricolor)*

Recorded daily at all locations visited in Angola, highest count of 100+ 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 South Africa, P. tricolor has been split as Dark-capped Bulbul by some authorities. Clements does not recognize this split.*

**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.

**Little Greenbul***Andropadus virens*

This usually common forest edge greenbul was absent in Kumbira Forest but its cheerful notes were heard during our brief stop in the forests near N'Dalatando.

**Yellow-whiskered Bulbul***Andropadus latirostris*

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

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

This was once of the commonest birds in Kumbira Forest and we recorded in excess of 30 on our full day in the forest.

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

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

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

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

**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.

**Black-collared Bulbul (NE)***Neolestes torquatus*

Thanks to Pearl's great spotting, we stopped along an open stretch of road *en route* to Cangandala for an unidentified bird, which turned out to be this very sought-after species. We all enjoyed scope views of a very obliging individual. An unusual species on uncertain taxonomic affinities.

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

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

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

**Groundscraper Thrush***Psophocichla litsipsirupa*

One bird was seen in Cangandala NP, an unusual record.

*NOTE: Ethiopian Thrush (P. l. simensis) is considered a distinct species by several authorities. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Kurrichane Thrush***Turdus libonyanus*

One bird was seen on the Tundavala escarpment.

**African Thrush***Turdus pelios*

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

**(Brown-chested Alethe)***(Alethe poliophrys)*

One of only two species that Pedro caught in his nets at Kumbira Forest that we did not observe in the field (the other being Green-backed Twinspot), this is a very elusive ant-following understorey species.

**Cisticolas & Allies****Cisticolidae****Lepe (Red-faced) Cisticola (E)***Cisticola [erythroptus] lepe*

Several birds were seen and heard along streams en route to an in Cangandala NP.

*NOTE: Lepe Cisticola (C. e. lepe) endemic Angola is often regarded as a separate species from Red-faced Cisticola. This split is not accepted by Clements.*

**Bubbling Cisticola (NE)***Cisticola bulliens*

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

**Rattling Cisticola***Cisticola chinianus*

This widespread species was only heard in Kissama NP.

**Wailing Cisticola***Cisticola lais*

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

*NOTE: This species is often split from Lynes Cisticola C. l. distincta which occurs in East Africa.*

**Chirping Cisticola***Cisticola pipiens*

At least four seen daily in wetlands of Cangandala NP.

**Angola (Stout) Cisticola (E)***Cisticola [robustus] angolensis*

Two birds were seen in Cangandala NP.

*NOTE: Angola Cisticola (C. r. angolensis) endemic to Angola is often regarded as a separate species from Stout Cisticola. This split is not accepted by Clements.*

**Croaking Cisticola***Cisticola natalensis*

This large cisticola was also seen in Cangandala NP

**Slender-tailed (Pearson's) Cisticola (NE)***Cisticola melanurus*

A single bird seen by Clayton near our camp in Cangandala NP, a very scarce Angolan specialty.

**Siffling Cisticola***Cisticola brachypterus*

This tiny woodland species was observed daily from open areas outside Kumbira Forest all the way east to Cangandala NP.

*NOTE: The sub-species of Cloud Cisticola C. t. textrix we observed may be given full species status in time as its call and heavily streaked chest are different from forms further north in South Africa.*

**Zitting (Fan-tailed) Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

Heard *en route* from Dondo to Malanje, a widespread African and Eurasian species.

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

First heard singing and then four birds seen in grasslands on the Tundavala Escarpment.

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

First seen on the edge of Kumbira Forest with others recorded at most sites visited thereafter, a common scrub bird.

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

This dry country species was only heard on the plains approaching Namibe.

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

We had good looks at three birds at Kumbira Forest, an attractive central African species.

**Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata*

Two of these beautiful lowland forest warblers were seen in Kumbira Forest, a range extension from all pre war literature.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flava*

Several birds were seen in Kissama and Cangandala NPs.

*NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into three or more species. Clements does not as yet recognise any split. The form we recorded would remain in the nominate grouping.*

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

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

**Gray Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*

One bird was observed at Kumbira Forest and we had superb views of a pair at the Tundavala Escarpment. The latter birds of subspecies *grandis* have paler heads than the eastern form of Gray Apalis which roused suspicions of Brown-headed Apalis, but this was not the case.

**Gray-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata*

First recorded at Kissama NP with further sightings at Cangandala NP and Tundavala.

*NOTE: Most authorities now recognise the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the gray-backed forms C. brevicaudata. We encountered the gray-backed form in scrubby habitat throughout Angola. Hartert's Camaroptera (C. b. harterti) of Angola is a further possible split from this group. Clements still lumps these forms.*

**Hartert's Camaroptera (E)** *Calamonastes [brachyura] harterti*

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

*NOTE: Refer to note above.*

### Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

**African Bush- (Little Rush-/African Sedge-) Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

Heard only at a wetland in Cangandala NP.

**Moustached Grass-Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

We had excellent views of several birds near Malanje and in Cangandala NP.

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

We were treated to superb, extended scope views of a singing bird on the Leba Scarp, another bird previously considered to be a Namibian special!

**Greater Swamp-Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens*

Hear only in wetlands of Cangandala NP.

**African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis*

One was seen in farm bush in Kumbira Forest with a further sighting at Candangala NP.

**Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops*

We enjoyed views of three birds at a patch of Miombo woodland on the Tundavala Escarpment.

**Green Crombec**

*Sylvietta virens*

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

**Cape (Long-billed) Crombec**

*Sylvietta rufescens*

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

**Pulitzer's Longbill (E)**

*Macrosphenus pulitzeri*

We had excellent views of this scarce endemic at Kumbira Forest, it was almost the very first bird seen at Kumbira! This species was only known from a few specimens until recently, and now that its distinctive vocalization is known, it has proved to be not an uncommon tangle-dwelling bird.

**Green Hylia**

*Hylia prasina*

Seen once well and commonly heard in Kumbira Forest.

**Willow Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

This newly arrived migrant was observed in small numbers at the Kwanzo River and Tundavala

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota**

*Hyliota flavigaster*

Four birds were seen in Kumbira Forest.

**Southern (Mashona) Hyliota**

*Hyliota australis*

A total of four of these paler hyliotas were also seen at Kumbira Forest, allowing for comparison with the previous species.

**Fan-tailed Grassbird (Broad-tailed Warbler)** *Schoenicola brevirostris*

A single of this distinctive rank-grass dwelling warbler was observed in Cangandala NP.

NOTE: This African species is sometimes lumped with the Indian Broad-tailed Warbler (*S. platyura*).

**Rufous-vented Warbler (Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler) (NE)** *Parisoma subcaeruleum*

This common dry country species was heard calling from the bushes *en route* to Namibe.

### **Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***

**Chat Flycatcher (NE)**

*Bradornis infuscatus*

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

**Angola Slaty-Flycatcher (E)**

*Melaenornis brunneus*

We were treated to incredible views of a pair of these endemic flycatchers on the Tundavala Escarpment. This is a little known species and we were fortunate also to hear its sweet and soft song.

**Southern Black-Flycatcher**

*Melaenornis pammelaina*

Our only sighting was in Cangandala NP.

**Spotted Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa striata*

This Palearctic migrant was first seen in Kissama NP and small numbers were also seen at several other sites including Tundavala.

**African Dusky Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa adusta*

Small numbers of this dull flycatcher were observed at Tundavala.

**Ashy (Blue-Gray) Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa caerulescens*

Heard only at Kissama NP and thereafter several seen at Kumbira Forest and a single in Cangandala NP.

**Bocage's Akalat (NE)**

*Sheppardia bocagei*

We were very fortunate to observe at close quarters and for extended periods two of the attractive birds at Tundavala.

**Gabela Akalat (E)**

*Sheppardia gabela*

One of the most difficult of the Gabela Scarp specials, we were fortunate to all get good views of this very unusual species in Kumbira Forest. Our stake-out along one of the tracks rewarded us all with good views provided we were patient! The call of this species is still unknown.

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

*Cossypha heuglini*

Heard only in Kissama NP but a pair were observed on the Leba Scarp.



**Red-capped (Natal) Robin-Chat***Cossypha natalensis*

Small numbers of this forest edge and understorey species were seen and others heard in Kumbira Forest.

**Angola Cave-Chat (E)***Xenocopsychus ansorgei*

We enjoyed excellent scope views of a pair of these stunning songsters on the Tundavala Escarpment, but this was bettered the following day when we had intimate encounters with four individuals on the Leba Scarp. This is arguably Angola's most striking endemic and certainly one of the trip favourites.

**Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush (NE)***Cichladusa ruficauda*

This localized species was common in Kissama NP, with one even on a nest inside our breakfast boma! Others were seen during roadside stops *en route* to Sumbe and Malanje.

**Forest Scrub-Robin***Cercotrichas leucosticta*

We heard this lovely songster along a riverbed in Kissama NP (a new park record) but obtained superb views in Kumbira Forest. This difficult forest species is by far easiest seen in Angola.

**Miombo Scrub-Robin***Cercotrichas barbata*

Three birds were seen singing in the canopy of the climax Miombo woodlands in Cangandala NP, but they were at all times shy and difficult to observe.

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

Three birds were seen in Kissama NP, others heard in Cangandala NP and finally three seen on the Leba Scarp. A species of drier country than the previous two.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would remain as White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African (C. l. zambesiana) would become Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African (C. l. leucoptera) would become White-winged Scrub-Robin. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.*

**Kalahari Scrub-Robin (NE)***Cercotrichas paena*

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

**African Stonechat***Saxicola torquata*

Two birds were seen in Cangandala NP, others *en route* to Luanda and another pair on the Tundavala Escarpment

*NOTE: Clements recognises the split of African (S. torquata) and Common (S. rubicola) Stonechats (the latter a Palearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form (S. t. albofasciata) that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.*

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

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

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

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

**Familiar Chat***Cercomela familiaris*

This rock-loving species was observed on the Leba Scarp.

**Sooty Chat***Myrmecocichla nigra*

Four birds were seen *en route* Cangandala and others in Cangandala NP.

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

This little bird really made us work! After hours of searching throughout Kissama NP, we finally lucked into a stunning male at a riverbed north of Sumbe. The following day *en route* to Kumbira we were amazed to see another bird in roadside scrub!

**Black-throated Wattle-eye***Platysteira peltata*

A total of four birds were seen along riverine forest in Kumbira Forest.

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

A stunning male was seen at Kissama NP, a real beauty that showed extremely well for the whole group.

**Angola Batis (NE)***Batis minulla*

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

**Chinspot Batis***Batis molitor*

This species was observed in Cangandala NP and the Tundavala Escarpment. The birds in Cangandala were rather unusual as they occupied climax Miombo forest (Chinspot Batis is usually occupies more open woodlands, unlike Margaret's) and had a song that exactly matched Margaret's Batis, but in appearance were Chinspot Batis. They even responded strongly to tape of Margaret's Batis! Further studies here might reveal something interesting.

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

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

**Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*****African Blue-Flycatcher***Elminia longicauda*

This lovely bird was regularly encountered in Kumbira Forest.

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

Two of these scarce, skulking birds were seen at Kumbira Forest.

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

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

**African Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

Seen at several localities throughout Angola with highest daily count of 6 in Kissama NP.

NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which includes the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Gray-headed Paradise-Flycatcher (*T. plumbeiceps*). Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males. Clements does not as yet recognize this split

**Babblers *Timalidae*****Brown Illadopsis***Illadopsis fulvescens*

Heard only at Kumbira Forest, a skulking understorey species.

**Hartlaub's Babbler (NE)***Turdoides hartlaubii*

Two birds were seen in Cangandala NP and one at Lubango.

**Tits *Paridae*****White-winged Black-Tit***Melaniparus leucomelas*

Four of these attractive birds were seen in Cangandala NP.

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

This Namibian and Angolan endemic was seen below the Leba Scarp *en route* to Namibe where we found a pair.

**Dusky Tit***Melaniparus griseiventris*

We enjoyed good views of six birds 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.

**Ashy Tit (NE)***Melaniparus cinerascens*

This uncommon dry country species was observed on the plains east of Namibe, at the far north of its range extension.

**Sunbirds *Nectarinidae*****Collared Sunbird***Anthreptes collaris*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP, several seen at Kumbira Forest and finally a pair nest building at N'Dalatando.

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

One male was seen at the Kwanzo River on the first day of the tour, and a pair were later seen at Kumbira Forest.

**Bannerman's Sunbird (NE)***Cyanomitra bannermani*

This lovely and range-restricted bird was only seen once at Kumbira Forest, thanks to Betty's spotting

**Western Olive-Sunbird***Cyanomitra obscura*

Fairly common at Kumbira Forest with a further sighting at N'Dalatando.

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

**Carmelite Sunbird***Chalcomitra fuliginosa*

Another sought-after species, we obtained superb views of a pair that were found at a nest in Kumbira Forest.

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

Our first sighting was in Kumbira Forest with further sightings at Cangandala NP and Lubango.

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

One bird was seen near Luanda with several others seen in Kissama NP.

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

We had four sightings from forest edge in Kumbira Forest.

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

Two birds were seen at Kumbira Forest and six on the Tundavala Escarpment and a pair at Leba Scarp. We had superb views of this colorful sunbird. Two isolated races of this species exist, the nominate from montane forests of Western Angola and *whytei* from montane Malawi and ne Zambia.

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

First seen at the Kwanzo River with further sightings at Kissama NP and en route to Kumbira and Cangandala.

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

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

We enjoyed superb views of several birds at Tundavala.

**White-breasted Sunbird***Cinnyris talatala*

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

**Variable Sunbird***Cinnyris venustus*

Two birds were seen in Cangandala NP and six on the Leba Scarp.

**Dusky Sunbird (NE)***Cinnyris fuscus*

This desert sunbird was quite common in the dry country *en route* to Namibe.

**Copper Sunbird***Cinnyris cupreus*

First seen en route to Kumbira Forest with most sightings coming from birds foraging in the swamps of Cangandala NP.

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

Seen at Kumbira Forest, near Cangandala and Tundavala area.

**Old World Orioles Oriolidae****Eurasian Golden Oriole***Oriolus oriolus*

A female was seen at Kissama NP, an excellent record for the park.

**African (Eastern) Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*

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

**Black-winged Oriole.** *Oriolus nigripennis*

This forest edge oriole was only heard during our brief stop in the forests near N'Dalatando.

### Shrikes Laniidae

**Lesser Gray Shrike** *Lanius minor*

One bird was seen *en route* to Kumbira Forest.

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

First seen *en route* to Cangandala with further sightings in Cangandala NP and the Lubango area.

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

**White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus anguitimens*

A pair of these attractive shrikes was observed in Kissama NP.

### Bush-Shrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

One bird was seen at Kissama NP and another heard at Tundavala.

NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru *N. afer*, Black-browed Brubru (*N. nigritemporalis*), Angola Brubru (*N. affinis*) and Southern Brubru (*N. brubru*). Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

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

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

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

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

**Anchieta's [Marsh] Tchagra** *Tchagra [minuta] anchietae*

This attractive marsh and rank-grass dwelling tchagra was first seen near Conda, but our best and most numerous encounters were in the swamps of Cangandala NP.

NOTE: Most authorities split the southern Anchieta's Tchagra *T. anchietae* from the more northern Marsh Tchagra *T. minuta*. Clements does not recognize this split.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegala*

First seen at Dondo with further sightings at Cangandala NP and at Tundavala.

NOTE: Moroccan Tchagra *T. s. cucullata* of north-west Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Angola. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.

**Brown-crowned (Three-streaked) Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*

One bird was seen each at Kissama NP and at Kumbira Forest.

**Gabela Bushshrike (E)** *Laniarius amboinensis*

This attractive endemic was commonly heard in Kumbira Forest and a total of four were seen during our full day in the forest.

NOTE: This species of the Gabela or Southern Angolan scarp and Braun's or Orange-breasted Bushshrike *L. amboinensis* were lumped with the similar Luehder's Bushshrike *L. luehderi* by Clements, but this three way split has been recognized.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Frequently heard in Cangandala NP and a single seen.

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

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

**Sulphur-breasted (Orange-breasted) Bushshrike** *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

This attractive species with a very distinctive call was heard at many sites including Kissama NP, Kumbira Forest and Cangandala NP but our best observations were on the Leba Scarp.

**Many-colored Bushshrike***Telophorus multicolor*

This stunning and rather localized species was observed in Kumbira Forest where we had sightings of an unprecedented four individuals.

**Four-colored (Perrin's) Bushshrike (NE)***Telophorus viridis*

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

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

**Gray-headed Bushshrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

This huge woodland bushshrike was seen in Cangandala NP and Tundavala.

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

One of the star birds of Kumbira Forest was this beautiful and massive bushshrike, a real prize on any birder's list! Besides occurring in Angola, there have been three records from Cameroon. We obtained decent views of at least 3 birds in the forest after a long and extended chase!

**Helmetshrikes *Prionopidae*****Retz's Helmetshrike***Prionops retzii*

We regularly encountered small flocks in the Miombo woodlands of Cangandala NP and estimated over 50 individuals seen over 2 days.

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

This was arguably the prize find of our tour, a species previously only ever seen by two people with only two brief records in the past 50 years. We found not one but two flocks of these attractive Helmetshrikes in a dry riverbed in Kissama NP. We also obtained the first sound recordings of this species and photographic evidence. Their calls were similar to the closely related Retz's Helmetshrike but more melodious.

**Drongos *Dicruridae*****Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

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

*NOTE: Older versions of Clements lump the forest dwelling Velvet-mantled Drongo (D. modestus) of East and West Africa within Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis but the split has been recognized in recent Clements updates as well as by most other authorities.*

**Crows & Ravens *Corvidae*****Cape (Black) Crow***Corvus capensis*

A single seen in the higher grasslands near Lubango.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

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

**Starlings *Sturnidae*****Wattled Starling***Creatophora cinerea*

A small flock were seen in Cangandala NP.

**Cape (Red-shouldered) Glossy-Starling***Lamprotornis nitens*

Commonly seen in western and southern Angola with highest daily count of 100+ in Kissama NP.

**Meves' Glossy-Starling***Lamprotornis mevesii*

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

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

First seen at Kissama NP with further sightings at Conda, Cangandala NP and Tundavala.

**Pale-winged Starling (NE)***Onychognathus nabouroup*

Another dry country starling seen on the Leba Scarp *en route* to Namibe.



### Old World Sparrows    *Passeridae*

**House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

This introduced species was seen in Luanda upon arrival.

**Great Rufous Sparrow***Passer motitensis*

This southern dry-country sparrow was observed *en route* to Namibe.

*NOTE: The Rufous Sparrow complex P. motitensis has been split into four full species Great Rufous Sparrow P. motitensis of southern Africa; Kenya Rufous Sparrow P. rufocinctus of East Africa; Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi of Ethiopia and Uganda; and Kordofan Rufous Sparrow P. cordofanicus endemic to Sudan.*

**(Northern) Gray-headed Sparrow***Passer griseus*

Four birds were seen on the outskirts of Kumbira Forest with a further two near Malanje.

**Southern Gray-headed Sparrow***Passer diffusus*

Four birds were seen in Kissama NP.

*NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the South African form being given the name P. diffusus. This species was confusingly called Cape Sparrow by Clements but he fixed this error in a recent update.*

### Weavers & Allies    *Ploceidae*

**Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver***Bubalornis niger*

Ten birds were seen at nests in Kissama NP.

**Scaly Weaver (Scaly-feathered Finch)***Sporopipes squamifrons*

Three of these dry country weavers were seen in the arid plains east of Namibe.

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser mahali*

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

**Spectacled Weaver***Ploceus ocularis*

One bird was seen in Kissama NP.

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

Six birds were seen at the Kwanzo River and higher numbers recorded in Kumbira Forest

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

First recorded at the Kwanzo River with further sightings at Kissama NP, Cangandala NP and at Tundavala.

**Orange Weaver***Ploceus aurantius*

One of the beautiful weavers was seen at the Kwanzo River on the first day of the tour.

**Southern Masked-Weaver***Ploceus velatus*

Four of these small yellow weavers were seen in 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*

Nesting colonies were found near Kumbira Forest and especially near rivers during travel days. Africa's commonest and most widespread weaver.

**Vieillot's Weaver***Ploceus nigerrimus*

Only found in Kumbira Forest where four individuals were recorded daily.

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

Twelve birds were seen during our full day in Kumbira Forest and four on the following morning.

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

Two birds were found in Kumbira Forest, a beautiful forest dwelling weaver, here at its most southerly range extension.

**Red-headed Malimbe***Malimbus rubricollis*

We enjoyed good views of a pair nesting in Kumbira Forest, a rarely seen bird, here at its most southerly range extension.

**Red-headed Quelea***Quelea erythrops*

An estimated one thousand birds were seen roosting at a wetland in Cangandala NP. Most were out of breeding plumage but traces of red were noticeable on some of the males.

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

Fifty birds were seen *en route* to Kumbira Forest and a further twenty *en route* to Malanje.

**Black-winged Bishop***Euplectes hordeaceus*

At least 30 birds were seen *en route* to Malanje and another 10 on the return trip.

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

Two birds were seen near Conda, unfortunately not in their stunning breeding dress.

**Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped Widow)***Euplectes capensis*

We enjoyed superb views of several birds in higher lying grasslands near Kumbira Forest and *en route* to at Malanje.

**Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird***Euplectes axillaris*

Six birds were seen at Tundavala.

**Yellow-shouldered Widowbird***Euplectes macrourus*

20 seen *en route* to Malanje with several others seen on the return trip.

**White-winged Widowbird***Euplectes albonotatus*

Seen at many sites throughout the tour with a high count of one hundred *en route* to Malanje.

**Red-collared Widowbird***Euplectes ardens*

First seen near Kumbira Forest with a further sighting near Dondo.

**(Hartlaub's) Marsh Widowbird***Euplectes hartlaubi*

Four birds were seen at marshes in Cangandala NP.

**Waxbills & Allies****Estrildidae****Gray-crowned Negrofinch***Nigrita canicapillus*

We enjoyed excellent views of several birds in Kumbira Forest.

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

Six birds were seen *en route* to Cangandala.

**(Green-backed Twinspot)***(Mandingoa nitidula)*

Two individuals were trapped in Pedro's nets during our stay in Kumbira Forest, we all obtained excellent in-hand views of this beauty.

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

We obtained superb views of a pair of these stunning seedeaters attending a nest on the edge of Kumbira Forest. This is usually a very difficult bird to observe.

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

Two of these stunning birds were seen in Kumbira Forest.

**Brown Twinspot***Clytospiza monteiri*

A male was seen whilst we explored grasslands near Conda. This species has not been recorded in the area for a very long time and only occurs here as a far-isolated population.

**African (Blue-billed) Firefinch***Lagonosticta rubricata*

This widespread African species was seen on the Leba Scarp and at Tundavala.

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

A total of five birds were seen at Conda, an uncommon Angolan endemic.

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

Three birds were seen at Tundavala.

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

First seen at Kissama NP with further sightings throughout Angola. Highest daily count was 20+ from Kissama NP.

**Violet-eared Waxbill***Uraeginthus granatina*

Four of these beautiful arid-zone species were seen in the dry country *en route* to Namibe.

**Black-tailed (Lavender) Waxbill***Estrilda perreini*

Good views were had of several birds at Kumbira Forest and en route to Cangandala. One of the most attractive of all the waxbills.

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

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

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill***Estrilda quartinia*

Two of these lovely waxbills were seen very briefly above the Leba Scarp. The isolated Angolan race is very distinctive and a good candidate for splitting.

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

Small flocks of this attractive central African species were seen feeding on grassy seeds Kumbira Forest and en route to Malanje.

**Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild*

Small flocks were observed at Kumbira Forest and other sites especially during travel days.

**Zebra (Orange-breasted) Waxbill***Sporaeginthus subflavus*

We obtained excellent views of a dozen of these colorful waxbills feeding with other seedeaters on the Tundavala Escarpment on our final morning.

**Bronze Mannikin (Munia)***Spermestes cucullatus*

First seen at Kumbira Forest with further sightings at most other sites in Angola, a very common seedeater.

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

Small groups of 10+ recorded at Kumbira Forest and en route to Malanje.

NOTE: Clements has recently lumped the two-way split of the southern and eastern Brown-backed Mannikin (*L. nigriceps*) and the northern and western nominate group.

**Indigobirds****Viduidae****Variable Indigobird***Vidua funerea*

Some members of the group observed two of these birds near Kumbira Forest.

**Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

Small numbers of these abundant parasitic breeders seen at scattered sites through Angola with first records coming from Kissama NP.

**Canaries, Siskins & Allies****Fringillidae****Yellow-crowned Canary***Serinus flavivertex*

Six birds were seen at the Tundavala escarpment.

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

**Black-faced Canary (NE)***Serinus capistratus*

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

**Black-throated Canary***Serinus atrogularis*

A pair of these canaries was 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*). Several endemic Ethiopian forms are sometimes lumped into the nominate *S. atrogularis* group including Yellow-throated Canary (*S. flavigula*), Salvadori's Canary (*S. xantholaemus*) and Yellow-rumped Canary (*S. xanthopygius*).

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

First recorded at Kissama NP with further sightings at many scattered sites throughout Angola.

**Brimstone (Bully) Canary***Serinus sulphuratus*

Two birds were seen at Tundavala.

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

Ten birds were seen at Tundavala and another ten on the Leba Scarp.

**Golden-breasted Bunting***Emberiza flaviventris*

Two of these stunning birds were seen at the Tundavala.

**MAMMALS (8 species)****Vervet Monkey***Cercopithecus aethiops*

These inquisitive monkeys visited our camp in Kissama NP on a daily basis. One other was seen en route to Malanje.

**Samango (Blue/Gentle) Monkey***Cercopithecus mitis*

Several of these scarce monkeys were seen in Kissama NP.

**Scrub Hare***Lepus saxatilis*

One was seen at night near Dondo.

**Gambian Sun Squirrel***Paraxerus cepapi*

Several were seen in Kissama NP and Kumbira Forest.

**Smith's Bush Squirrel***Xerus inauris*

4 were seen in Kissama NP.

**Egyptian Mongoose***Ichneumia albicauda*

1 was seen in Kissama NP.

**Rock Hyrax (Dassie)***Procavia capensis*

1 seen near Dondo.

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

2 were seen in Kissama NP.

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